Celebrating Jubilarians

Jubilee of Grace — 70 years

Notre Dame Sister Mary Ruth (Rose Emma) Riehle, S.N.D.

Notre Dame Sister Mary Ruth, (Rose Emma) Riehle of Milford, Ohio, first met the Sisters of Notre Dame as a student at St. Columban School in Loveland, Ohio. She attended Notre Dame Academy, Park Hills and professed her final vows as a Sister of Notre Dame on August 5, 1955. She earned her LPN at St. Francis School of Practical Nursing in Cincinnati, Ohio, and RN at the University of Ky. She ministered as a nurse at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Covington, Ky, St. Claire Medical Center in Morehead, Ky and the Sisters’ Lourdes Home in the Diocese of Covington. Sister Ruth said she sees Christ in those who are sick and elderly and enjoyed caring for them. After retirement, Sister Ruth tutored and cared for the library at St. Augustine School in Augusta, Ky, as well as the grounds at the St. Joseph Heights convent in Park Hills, Ky.

“Seventy years as a sister is a long time! God is so good to have brought me this far — I am very grateful.”

Iron Jubilee — 65 years

Notre Dame Sister Mary Agnes (Mary Angela) Delaney of Cincinnati, Ohio, felt a call to religious life at a young age. “You better talk to your father,” was the advice given by her mother when she expressed a desire to enter the aspirant school of the Sisters of Notre Dame at age thirteen. “Well, just remember, you can always come home,” was her reply Sister Ruth Agnes attended Notre Dame Academy, Park Hills as an aspirant while boarding at St. Joseph Heights. She attended Villa Madonna College and graduated in 1955. Later, she received her master’s degree in educational administration and special education from the University of Ky.

Sister Ruth Agnes served as teacher and principal in the inner-city, rural areas, in Appalachia, in Birmingham, Alabama, and at the Diocesan Catholic Children’s Home in Fort Mitchell, Ky. She also served in several schools and parishes in the Dioceses of Covington, Lexington, and Cincinnati.

Currently, Sister Ruth Agnes participates in the apostolate of prayer at the provincial house where she prays for the needs of family and friends, the Church and the world to God. “I have been truly blessed by the many individuals who have touched my life with their goodness and love during these past 65 years. I hold them ever in God’s love.”

Notre Dame Sister Mary Magdelyn Stritholt, originally of Cincinnati, Ohio, attended St. John’s grade school in Covington, Ky. While attending Notre Dame Academy, Park Hills, she entered the Aspirants School at St. Joseph Heights and remained for one year. She earned her B.A. and graduated in 1963 at Morehead State University. In 1965, she received her B.A. in education from Villa Madonna College. She also ministered in the healing ministry as a nurse aide for ten years. Sister Magdelyn received a B.A. in Educational Administration from Xavier University.

Sister Mary Magdelyn served as a teacher, primarily at the junior high level, and as principal and school secretary. She still keeps in touch with some of her former students. She also served as Village Coordinator at St. Charles Center and assisted with records in the SND Lourdes Hall Care Center and Uganda Mission Office.

Diamond Jubilee — 60 years

Notre Dame Sister Mary Carol (Karyn) Baglan of Carrollton, Ky., attended St. John Elementary School, Carrollton, Ky., and graduated from Notre Dame Academy, Park Hills. She received a B.A. from State Madonna College and her Masters of Education from Xavier University. She taught elementary school children for 20 years primarily in the Diocese of Covington, although five of those years were in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. She also ministered in the healing profession as a nurse aide for five years. She served as the secretary of the Worship Office for the Diocese of Covington for 11 years before becoming the provincial secretary for the Covington SND province for 10 years. Sister Mary Carol is marvelously gifted in the support of the community and the love of her family over these many years.

“May the Lord bless his people with peace and happiness and let them celebrate.” (Psalm 64:10)

Notre Dame Sister Mary Michyl (Phyllis) Habermehl of Augusta, Ky., was baptized at St. Augustine Church and received her elementary education at St. Augustine School, which was staffed by the Sisters of Notre Dame. She graduated from Augusta Independent School in 1954 and attended Morehead State University for one year, then worked at the Cincinnati Gas and Electric Company for approximately two years, and eventually entered the Sisters of Notre Dame. Sister Mary Michyl received her B.A. in elementary education at Villa Madonna College. She taught at St. John School in Covington, and several schools in Ohio and Alabama before serving as a childcare worker at the Diocesan Catholic Children’s Home for 14 years. In 1991, Sister Mary Michyl joined the provincial house community, serving in Lourdes Hall Care Center. As director of provincial transportation for the past 25 years, she is happy to be of service transporting sisters to various appointments.
Sister Mary Reineette Kroeger, S.N.D.

Notre Dame Academy, Park Hills and becoming an aspirant with the Sisters of Notre Dame. Sister Mary Reineette attended Villa Madonna College and received her master's degree from Xavier University. Her ministry extended across 47 years, which included 15 years of teaching in the Dioceses of Covington and Birmingham, Alabama, as well as 32 years as principal, ministering at St. Mark, Richmond, Ky.; St. Martin, Covington, Ohio; St. Joseph, Cold Spring, Ky. Sister Mary Reineette was also the diocesan school supervisor; and director of schools for the Sisters of Notre Dame. In 2009 Sister Kroeger was the co-founder and co-director of Notre Dame Urban Education Center in Covington. In 2018, Sister Mary Reineette retired and began volunteering at various agencies and on various committees in greater Cincinnati. She also began the Blessing Project, a Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation initiative that provides for those experiencing poverty and homelessness.

“My 60th Jubilee has given me the opportunity to reflect on the many gifts God has given me — my vocation as a Sister of Notre Dame, my sisters, my family and my friends. With a spirit of gratitude I have come to realize God is so good.”

Sister Mary Juanelle Thiel, S.N.D.

teaching in the Dioceses of Covington, Cincinnati, and Lexington. She also ministered in the Medical Records Department at St. Claire Regional Medical Center, Morehead, Ky., from 1994 to 2018. Presently Sister Mary Juanelle is enjoying her retirement. She is grateful for the many ways God's goodness has been revealed to her throughout the years.

“My grace of God’s loving presence continues to bless my life and the lives of those I touch.”

Benedictine Sister Mary Juanelle Thiels was bap-
tized at St. Aloysius Church in Covington and received her ele-
mentary education at Blessed Sacrament School, Fort Mitchell, Ohio; and Holy Cross School, Latvia. She followed her sister, Sister Marjorie Marie, in attending Notre Dame Academy Park Hills and also in entering the novitiate of the Sisters of Notre Dame after graduat-
ing high school. Sister Mary Juanelle attended Villa Madonna College and Xavier University.

Sister Andrea Vasquez, O.S.B.

one-person office at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church. Sister Andrea said she is kept very busy by her position as an administrative assistant.

“Never ever and to this day will I forget the grace, power, determination, and the challenge I felt standing in the center aisle in the presence of God, a chapel full of CDP’s, my relatives, and friends. The ceremony was spiri-
tually and emotionally moving.”

Divine Providence Sister Ellen Marie Eckerle entered the CDP community just after 8th grade, with hopes of becoming a nurse. That dream went by the wayside while she became a teacher. She found the work a chal-
enge but loved her community of Sisters at St. Aloysius. At length, she was bap-
tized at St. Aloysius Church in Covington and received her ele-
mentary education at Blessed Sacrament School, Fort Mitchell, Ohio; and Holy Cross School, Latvia. She followed her sister, Sister Marjorie Marie, in attending Notre Dame Academy Park Hills and also in entering the novitiate of the Sisters of Notre Dame after graduat-
ing high school. Sister Mary Juanelle attended Villa Madonna College and Xavier University.

Sister Mary Rabe, O.S.B.

to see the face of God in each other — and in the world.

Sister Mary values the ability of all her sisters, young, old and in between, to express opinions and have a voice as old and in-between, to express opinions and have a voice as old and in-between, to express opinions and have a voice as.

“May the grace of God’s loving presence continues to bless my life and the lives of those I touch.”

Benedictine Sister Andrea Vasquez currently resides in Pasco, Colorado where she is the one person in a Mt. Carmel Catholic Church. Sister Andrea said she is kept very busy by her position as an administrative assistant.

Her vocation has provided her with opportunities to meet and work with many wonderful bishops, priests, reli-
gious and laity. As a Benedictine she has been able to participate in many diverse ministries in many ways.

“I had no clue what it was about (when I first entered)! But, it has been a professionally fulfilling ministry in education, extending an act of mercy and know-

An important part of my vocation has been the under-
standing that God is present in all things. In one’s love for life, generous giving, openness to others, reaching out in empa-
thetic and compassionate (Continued on page 3)
Divine Providence Sister Emerita McGann has always had a heart for mission, and especially loved visiting the CDP’s in Madagascar and working and teaching with them there. She taught at Thomas More University (where she received her standing teacher award) and established the province’s development office — important work that she continues today. She loves the CDP community and strives to always give the best of herself.

“Marvel at the graces, the challenges, and the faithful and inspiring companions, that have been and are now helping me to become the story of my life! Thanks to the abiding presence of God, I am ready today because God has provided for me. He sent people into my life who have made a difference.”

Golden Jubilee — 50 years

Notre Dame Sister Mary Jana Foltz was born in Park Hills, Ky., and raised in Independence, Ky. She attended school at St. Cecilia in Independence and Notre Dame Academy, Park Hills. Sister Mary Jana graduated from nursing school as an LPN in 1966 and made her first profession of vows on August 9, 1970. She ministered at St. Charles Northwestern Home in Covington and St. Claire Medical Center in Morehead, Ky., until 1981, when she enrolled at Northern Kentucky University to get her RN degree. After graduating she worked in the SND Lourdes Hall Care Center as a nurse and director. She also worked with the service Visiting Angels. In 2008 she became the provincial house healthcare nurse, taking sister to doctor appointments, surgeries, and any other needs. Sister Mary Jana currently continues in this ministry and enjoys serving the sisters.

“Praise the Lord! Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, for His love is forever” (Psalm 106:7)

Notre Dame Sister Mary Jane Monahan grew up in Ludlow, Ky. and lived above the grocery store her parents owned. She and her siblings all got to work in the store. Sister Marla went to Notre Dame Academy and witnessed the joy of the Sisters of Notre Dame. She entered the community after graduation, studied mathematics at Thomas More College and at Northern Kentucky University, then taught math and religion at Notre Dame Academy, Park Hills and Bishop Manogue High School.
In enumerating several reasons for the Jubilee practice, "Terrio Miller" notes them to be "a singular, not only in the protection of the weak ... (TMA, n.13).

The "Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church" (2004) succinctly sums up the teaching of Pope John Paul II on the jubilee year and its relationship to Church social doctrine.

A crisis of truth and the Kingship of Christ

The readings for the Solemnity of Christ the King are: Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17; 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28; and Matthew 25:31-46.

This week I was in the company of two eminent thinkers via the podcast world. Dr. Ralph Martin — theologian, professor and Catholic evangelist and Dr. Larry Chang — the other, who is a director of the Dorothy Day Farm. They each shared a deep concern: That here is a crisis of truth in the Western World that MUST be confronted. And, that we must confront the fact that the crisis of truth at work in the world is having destructive effects in and on the Church.

The obvious sign that the crisis of truth is at work is that for each passing year, we grow more and more uncomfortable (or incapable) in affirming basic truths of our faith — those things necessary for discipleship and salvation. This is a problem we must take seriously as clergy and laity, given our under subjection to him. In so doing we become coworkers for the sick and the imprisoned. These are the essential task for the contemporary Christian “spirituality.”

The Catholic difference

French Catholics who brave Islamist murderers to practice the faith; young men preparing for a priestly vocation that may land them in “hot” crimes because they preach the Gospel, campus ministers who push back against political correctness; parents who insist that Catholic schools be “Catholic” in more than name; teenagers who won’t be bullied into denying Christ by their peers. We are truly surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses (Heb 12:1)

And among them, there are no more courageous Catholics than you, the men and women of “Courage.” Against fierce cultural and social pressures, you strive — with the help of grace, your pastors, and each other — to live the Catholic ethic of human love even as you experience same-sex attractions. Your steadfastness at fidelity bespeaks deep faith, a powerful hope, and authentic love.

Living chastely — living what John Paul II called the “integrity of love” — is not easy in our contemporaneous culture. For that culture pervasively insists that acts against our desires, whatever and freedom of association; “authenticity” while chastity is demeaned as repression or a dishonest betrayal of one’s self. You know that those are lies.

You also know that lies that come from the source the King called the “father of lies” (John 8:44). Against the grain of the times and the curve in you try to walk in the遴ねの中で。When Flannery O’Connor, you know that “the truth does not change according to our ability to stomach it emotionally.” So you seek reconciliation and forgiveness and recommit ourselves to living the integrity of love.

Just as importantly, you do not treat chastity as an ecclesiastical “point to prove” and not as a hobby. In the Church for a change in “policy,” because you know that what is at stake here is truth: a truth that rules for the happiness, genuine friendship, and, ultimately, beatitude. Working with the grace God makes available to you, you offer to God, every possible prayer and sacrifice for those who are in the Church, especially to those who imagine that “their” truth is truer than Christ’s.

One of the truths that rankles the modern ego is the fact that however much we love the imagery of the Good Shepherd we do not much care for our categorization as his sheep. Being sheep of the Good Shepherd means we accept the primacy of the will of the Good Shepherd as our guide and we eschew our preferred narratives and feelings, when they contradict his clear instruction.

Our trust has to be in the truth, proclaimed by the Psalmist, that “He guides me in right paths for His name’s sake.”

The clear implication is that I am not the best guide for you. If we do not live subject to His Kingship over us, Jesus makes it quite clear we will not enjoy his kingdom. That makes it quite clear we will not enjoy his kingdom. That makes it quite clear that I am not the best guide for you.

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Virus sprees in hot spots causing disruptions at more schools and parishes

**Messenger Staff Report**

As the Thanksgiving Day holiday approaches, the coronavirus is continuing to spread in the Diocese of Covington. This week, Holy Cross District High School, Notre Dame Academy and Newport Central Catholic High School have transitioned to remote learning, NCCHS plans to reconvene in-person instruction on Nov 30, while NDA will resume Nov 23 and HCDHS will stay remote until after the Thanksgiving holiday.

The Curia office saw its first positive case and several quarantines this week.

Also this week, two priests have tested positive for COVID-19 and two priests are quarantined because they were determined to be close contacts to a case. Additionally three deacons have tested positive for COVID-19. Due to these cases and quarantines, weekday Mass and all services and activities have been suspended at Blessed Sacrament Parish, Ft. Mitchell, St. Barbara Parish, Erlanger; St. John Mission, Deviding Ridge; St. Timothy Parish, Union and St. William Parish, Williamstown. Weekend Masses will be celebrated as scheduled.

Based on the details of each of the parish cases, parishioners are not determined to be close contacts, according to Laura Keener, diocesan COVID coordinator. Parishioners have been advised of the exposure at the parish and are encouraged to monitor for symptoms.

The diocese is reporting its highest number — 71 — of COVID positive cases in its schools. An additional 1,280 parish and are encouraged to monitor for symptoms. Based on the details of each of the parish cases, parishioners are not determined to be close contacts, according to Laura Keener, diocesan COVID coordinator. Parishioners have been advised of the exposure at the parish and are encouraged to monitor for symptoms.

According to Keener, “It’s not uncommon for one positive case of COVID-19 in the school to affect dozens of students. Our goal is to mitigate the spread of the virus whenever a case is reported and our schools are quarantining all students who are close contacts.” Mrs. Keener said.

A high point for the week came Monday, November 16, when Holy Trinity School, Bellevue, resumed in-person instruction. All students, faculty and staff who were cleared to return that day did make it back to the classroom. "We want to remind parishioners — especially our school families — that in order to sustain in-person instruction in our schools and uninterrupted celebration of Mass at our parishes, everyone needs to make the necessary sacrifices of staying home to the greatest extent possible. Even during the Thanksgiving holiday families are encouraged to meet and say a prayer of thanksgiving together virtually,” Mrs. Keener said.

For guidance from Team KY on how to stay safe over the Thanksgiving Day holiday see the graphic below.

**Coronavirus Report**

(As of Monday, Nov. 16)

**Active Positive Cases:** 75

**Total Ever Positive:** 179

**Recovered/Released from Quarantine:** 104

**Currently Self-Quarantined:** 79

**Close Contacts:** 724

**From Nov. 10 – Nov. 16:**

400 positive cases

1,301 total cases

**KYOVID-19 KY.GOV**

**Villa Hills**

Villa Madonna Academy Jr. High/High School, Villa Madonna Academy Elementary, Villa Hills

Villa Madonna Academy Elementary, Villa Hills

**St. Joseph Parish School of Religion, Cold Spring**

St. John Parish School of Religion, Carrollton

St. Joseph School, Webster

St. Joseph Preschool, Camp Springs

St. Joseph School, Cold Spring

St. Mary School, Alexandria

St. Patrick School, Maysville

St. Paul School, Florence

St. Philip School, Melbourne

St. Pius X School, Edgewood

St. Therese Parish, Southgate

St. Therese School, Southgate

St. Thomas School, Ft. Thomas

St. Timothy Parish School of Religion, Union

St. Timothy Parish, Union

St. Timothy School, Union

Sts. Peter and Paul School, California

Villa Madonna Academy Elementary, Villa Hills

Villa Madonna Academy Jr. High/High School, Villa Hills

**Schools/Parishes currently with quarantines:**

Bishop Brossart High School, Alexandria

Blessed Sacrament Parish, Ft. Mitchell

Blessed Sacrament School, Ft. Mitchell

Covington Catholic High School, Covington

Covington Latin School, Covington

Curia, Covington

Holy Cross District High School, Covington

Holy Cross Elementary School, Covington

Holy Spirit Child Development, Newport

Holy Trinity School, Bellevue

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Burlington

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish School of Religion, Burlington

Mary Queen of Heaven CCD, Erlanger

Mary, Queen of Heaven School, Erlanger

Newport Central Catholic, Newport

Notre Dame Academy, Covington

St. Henry District High School, Erlanger

St. Agnes School, Ft. Wright

St. Augustine School, Covington

St. Barbara Parish, Erlanger

St. Catherine of Siena Parish School of Religion, Ft. Thomas

St. Catherine of Siena Parish School, Ft. Thomas

St. Catherine of Siena School, Ft. Thomas

St. Cecilia Parish CCD, Independence

St. Cecilia School, Independence

St. Henry CCD, Erlanger

St. Henry School, Erlanger

St. John Parish School of Religion, Carrollton

St. Joseph School, Webster

Ft. Mitchell

St. Catherine of Siena Parish School of Religion, Ft. Thomas

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St. Patrick School, Maysville

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Sts. Peter and Paul School, California

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From Nov. 10 – Nov. 16: 400

Total ever: 1,301

**Lisa Amato**

WASHINGTON — Two women who lead groups that advise the U.S. bishops on their meeting agenda items, which are reviewed, discussed and approved by the 13-member National Advisory Council were pleased with the way many Catholic parishes adapted to Mass restrictions by livestreaming Masses or having outdoor confessions.

“I want to remind parishioners — especially our school families — that in order to sustain in-person instruction in our schools and uninterrupted celebration of Mass at our parishes, everyone needs to make the necessary sacrifices of staying home to the greatest extent possible. Even during the Thanksgiving holiday families are encouraged to meet and say a prayer of thanksgiving together virtually,” Mrs. Keener said.

For guidance from Team KY on how to stay safe over the Thanksgiving Day holiday see the graphic below.

**THANKSGIVING GUIDANCE**

Avoid in-person gatherings with people who do not live in your household.

Always wear a face covering or mask.

Maintain a social distance of at least 6 ft. or more.

Avoid large gatherings, especially those held indoors.

Do not host or attend crowded parades.

Avoid shopping in crowded stores before, on, or after Thanksgiving.

**Bishops encouraged to continue response to pandemic**

Carol Zimmermann

Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Two women who lead groups that advise the U.S. bishops on key issues, encouraged them Nov 30 to continue reaching out to Catholics during the pandemic.

In prerecorded remarks, Deborah Amato, chair of the National Advisory Council, and Suzanne Healy, chair of the council, described the advisory council, made up of laity and religious of all ages and from a variety of backgrounds, locations and professions, as the “church in miniature.” The council’s work is to review, discuss and advise the bishops on their meeting agenda items, which this year included practical and pastoral reflections on the COVID-19 pandemic.

In another look at the pandemic, she said the advisory council was pleased with the way many Catholic parishes adapted to Mass restrictions by livestreaming Masses or having outdoor confessions.

The group also expressed concerns about what the pandemic’s impact on Catholics’ belief in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist, and the financial impact on individuals and on Catholic schools.

“The faithful are hungry for hope and the sacraments; let’s go out and bring them home,” she told the bishops.

She emphasized the need to bring Catholics back to churches and to accompany them when they return. She also advised a national model that could be used to support small, suffering parishes, especially those with underserved populations.

Church will be like after the pandemic if Catholics will return to Mass; the pandemic’s impact on Catholics’ belief in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist, and the financial impact on individuals and on Catholic schools.

“The faithful are hungry for hope and the sacraments; let’s go out and bring them home,” she told the bishops.

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Turkeyfoot Trot adds fun challenge to include local businesses

VATICAN CITY — Young people representing their peers in Panama will hand the World Youth Day cross to young representatives from Poland at the end of Pope Francis’ Mass Nov. 22 for the feast of Christ the King.

The young hosts of World Youth Day 2019 in Panama originally were scheduled to give the cross and a Marian icon to Portuguese representatives at the end of Mass on Palm Sunday in April. But the COVID-19 pandemic and its travel restrictions made that impossible.

Just a few weeks later, the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life, which coordinates World Youth Day, announced that the Lisbon event would be pushed back a year to August 2022.

The pope’s Mass and the passing of the cross will be livestreamed.

Leaders of youth and young adult ministry from bishops’ conferences around the world and from Catholic movements will join the virtual celebration after meeting online Nov. 18-23 for a conference titled, “From Panama to Lisbon — Called to Missionary Synodality.”

Mr. Norton remembered as a faithful husband, father and friend

Monica Yeomans
Assistant editor

Michael Eugene Norton, of Madisonville, Tenn., father of Father Michael Brandon Norton, diocesan promoter of priestly vocations, died Oct. 17, surrounded by his wife and children at St. Thomas Hospital in Nashville.

Mr. Norton was born Oct. 6, 1954 in Hamilton Ohio to Carol E. and Ida Mae (Middleton) Norton. Besides Father Norton, he is survived by his wife, Kathy; his mother, Ida Mae Deere; his children: Arvon Norton, Andrew Norton and Brian (Heather) Williams; ten grandchildren; one great-grandchild; siblings Gary (Nancy) Norton; Greg (Margie) Norton; Brenda Koller; Ronnie (Janie) Norton and several nieces and nephews.

"My father was a man of strong virtue and strong convictions," said Father Norton. "When he set his mind to something he would sacrifice all to make it happen. This was evident in his relationship with my mother who was the love of his life. They had been married 40 years as of July."

"He was also a very devoted father. My father was a funny man who loved a good joke but even more loved to tell a good joke. He had this as a way to make people smile and laugh. He loved us a family and sacrificed so much to make my childhood and life so happy."

"I used to work for him at his metal fabricating shop during the summers and [school] breaks. I learned a lot from his amazing work ethic. He never missed a day at work but if he did he was probably in the hospital."

Father Norton remembered his father as someone who loved to help people if he could. "I remember spending some of my earlier childhood at my grandparents and great-grandparents houses while my father was repairing something that was falling apart. He loved to help the elderly and they loved him, too." He gave of his time and talents to many.

"He was such a great role model and he was my hero," said Father Norton. "His faults were nothing in comparison to individual parish conferences of St. Vincent de Paul."

Registration is available online only through the svdpnky.org home page. The price to register is $30 for adults and $25 for children 14 years or younger. For more information or to donate, contact Lou Settle at 436-7727 or lou.settle@svdpnky.org.
The Parish Kitchen is in need of new sleeping bags and blankets for its guests. Donations can be dropped off Monday–Friday at either Parish Kitchen, 1561 Madison Avenue, Covington, 8–11 a.m. or Catholic Charities, 3629 Church Street, Latonia, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

“Advent At Home” virtual directed retreat, Dec. 4. Join the Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg for prayer, spiritual direction and group sessions. Retreat enrichment resources will be sent by email, some links for articles and music will be provided. Free will donations are gratefully accepted. Contact Sister Dorothy at dorothyssosb@gmail.com or call 331-6324.

One more chapter!
In order to encourage reading, St. Joseph School, Cold Spring, has initiated the One More Chapter Reading Program. Students are challenged to spend time every day reading and to strive for one more chapter. Maureen Randle, reading specialist, asked students to create a drawing of one of the characters from a book they are reading and along with the book title place it on the wall outside her classroom. The painting on the wall is from the book of the month that the entire school is reading: “The Ghost-eye Tree.”

Blessed Sacrament salute
On Veteran’s Day, Ft. Mitchell leaders Mayor Hehman and Fire Chief Fuller presented Blessed Sacrament School with a new outdoor U.S. flag in a brief, COVID-conscious, outdoor ceremony. The BSS flag crew (five eighth-grade students), junior high social studies teacher Mr. Ingraham, PE teacher and U.S. Army veteran Mr. Taylor and Dan Steffen, principal, were honored to receive the flag and take part in this ceremony.

Sidewalk similes
Fourth grade students at Mary, Queen of Heaven School, Erlanger, learned about similes by using sidewalk chalk to draw pictures and write similes on the sidewalks of their campus.

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Thomas Aquinas' mystical experience

This is the fifth and last installment of “The Eucharist: The Source and Summit.” I hope that the articles and brief theological insights in these pages have brought comfort and a greater awareness that, as Cardinal Robert Sarah wrote in his recent letter to the Church, “God never abandons the humanity He has created, and that even the hardest trials can bear fruits of grace.” In this difficult year in which we have all suffered the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and have all experienced at least some time of Eucharistic fasting, we can renew our appreciation of the vital importance, beauty and immeasurable preciousness of the Eucharist and the Mass. Remember, as the name of this series reminds us, the Second Vatican Council said that the Eucharist is “the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed,” and “at the same time it is the font from which all her power flows” (Sacrosanctum Concilium, 10). Before you move on to the final articles there is one last reflection on the Eucharist and a particular saint that I’d like to share.

If you are anything like me, there is one saint that sometimes comes across as more than a little intimidating. His name is Thomas Aquinas. Now, I’ll admit that I turn to an explanation of his now and again to help me better understand a difficult concept, but reading him thoroughly and following him down his thought processes doesn’t usually make me feel smart — just the opposite, actually. After all, he is not only a Doctor of the Church, but the “Angelici Doctor,” as the Dominicans like to say. His works are vast and overwhelming and he can be a little difficult to relate to.

However, there is a story about Thomas Aquinas that changed my perspective on him forever and really sparked my imagination. In the Thurston and Attwater revision of Alban Butler’s “Lives of the Saints,” the event is described this way:

“On the feast of St. Nicholas (in 1273), St. Thomas Aquinas was celebrating Mass when he received a revelation that so affected him that he wrote and dictated no more, leaving his great work the ‘Summa Theologicae’ unfinished. To Brother Reginald (his secretary and friend) exhortations he replied, ‘The end of my labors has come. All that I have written appears to be as so much straw after the things that have been revealed to me.’ When later asked by Reginald to return to writing, Aquinas said, ‘I can write no more. I have seen things that make my writings like straw.’ ... Aquinas died three months later while on his way to the ecumenical council of Lyons.”

Thomas’ reaction to his experience is quite extraordinary. It is interesting to note that, traditionally, it is believed that Thomas Aquinas had his mystical experience at the moment he lifted the consecrated Host during Mass. But whether it was at that exact moment or not is beside the point.

While it’s true that we are not all called to be great theologians like St. Thomas Aquinas, great orators like St. John Chrysostom, brave authors like St. Catherine of Siena, world-changing missionaries like St. Teresa of Calcutta, or amazing mystics like Sts. Teresa of Avila and John of the Cross, we are all called to greatness and we are all called to sainthood.

Maybe we can’t all be brilliant like Thomas Aquinas, but that moment he had with the Lord belongs to each and every one of us — it is open to all of us. That is precisely what is waiting for us in the Eucharist. What the great doctor of the Church realized, close to the end of his life, is that there is nothing in the universe to compare to our Lord. This means that no amount of brilliant ideas we have, no amount of friends we win, no amount of awards we’re given, no amount of fame we acquire will ever be enough to fulfill us. This is because we were made for more. The things that can seem so important to us right now, when seen through eyes fixed on eternity, will not seem to be much more to us than straw.

This doesn’t mean that our lives don’t matter — just the opposite! This doesn’t mean that God doesn’t care about the things we care about — he does! Scholars, and Catholics in general, have never understood Aquinas’ comment to be a retraction or refutation of anything he wrote. If that was the case, Pope Leo XIII would not have encouraged a renewed interest in Thomistic theology and philosophy, and Aquinas would not have been named a Doctor of the Church. No, Thomas wasn’t saying that he had been wrong about God; instead, he was given a rare glimpse of how much our words and thoughts fall short in describing and understanding the glory of God. Knowing this helps us in our worship and to keep everything in proper perspective. Still, we can’t help but take the Eucharist for granted. If we could truly see what was before us then everything else, no matter how glorious, would seem worthless. Yet we don’t decide worth — God does. His love knows no bounds and he already decided that you were worth dying for. He is waiting for you right now. Don’t walk to him, run.

— David Cooley, Co-director and Office Manager, Office of Catechesis and Evangelization
The richness and beauty of the Eucharistic prayers

In his exhortation at the end of the Synod on the Eucharist in March 2007, Pope Benedict XVI said, “The spiritual life of the faithful can benefit greatly from a better appreciation of the richness of the Eucharistic prayer.” My own spiritual life has been greatly blessed by the observations and insights of parishioners who, having celebrated Mass, make a comment on one or more aspects of the Eucharistic prayer.

The origins of the Eucharistic prayers are found in the table prayers of Jewish meals and the prayer of blessing known as the berakah, which praised and blessed God. At feasts such as Passover, the inclusion of the Haggadah, integrated the special meaning of the feast as one that made present God’s liberating deeds from the past and applied its power to those celebrating the feast. Similarly, during the course of the Eucharistic prayer, Christ becomes uniquely and truly present, under the forms of bread and wine. But Christ’s saving action also becomes present again for us, here and now, in this time and place.

Jesus, while using traditional Jewish meal blessing prayers, gave new dimension with his words “This is my body.” “This is my blood,” and “Do this in memory of me.” However, in the earliest years of the Church, there were no liturgical books and improvised prayer with themes of praise, thanksgiving and supplication were used. Justin Martyr (c. 160 AD) writes: “bread and wine are brought, and the president in like manner offers prayers and thanksgivings, according to his ability and the people assent, saying, ‘Amen.’” By the 4th Century, the Eucharistic prayers gave way to written prayers.

The Preface is part of the Eucharistic prayer that comes before the “Holy, Holy, Holy” and begins with the dialogue: “The Lord be with you.” In the name of the people, the president of the liturgy and the people respond with: “And with your spirit.” The president of the liturgy proceeds to say: “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” After saying, “And with your spirit,” the president gives thanks for the work of salvation or for some special aspect of it in keeping with the day, feast or season. The text of the various prefaces is a statement of the special reason for offering the Eucharist. For example, there are various prefaces for the Blessed Virgin Mary and her role in salvation history. The people respond with prayers for the saints and the dead.

Jesus’ ‘Words of Institution’ that is, those words echoing Jesus himself at the Last Supper are found in all the current Eucharistic prayers — “…Take this, all of you, and eat of it. For this is my Body; which shall be given for you. Take a cup of wine and give thanks, and give it to all the disciples, saying, ‘This is my blood of the covenant, the blood of the new and eternal covenant, which shall be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.’” With very few exceptions, those words are found in all the ancient Eucharistic prayers of East and West, even if the exact wording differs slightly.

The Lord’s command to “Do this in memory of me” is the reason for “doing” the Eucharist. The earliest Christians understood the Passover as Jesus himself at the Last Supper are found in all the current Eucharistic prayers — “…Take this, all of you, and eat of it. For this is my Body; which shall be given for you. Take a cup of wine and give thanks, and give it to all the disciples, saying, ‘This is my blood of the covenant, the blood of the new and eternal covenant, which shall be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.’” With very few exceptions, those words are found in all the ancient Eucharistic prayers of East and West, even if the exact wording differs slightly.

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The traditional conclusion of the Eucharistic prayer is a (sung) statement of praise and thanksgiving in the form of a Trinitarian doxology. The assembly responds, “Amen.” Justin Martyr attests to the significance of the “amen,” writing: “When the prayer of thanksgiving ended, all the people present give their assent with an ‘Amen.’” The assembly assents to the Eucharistic prayer and make it their own in the Great Amen.

Father Joseph Gallenstein is pastor of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Alexandria.

Prayer for after receiving Holy Communion:

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.
Body of Christ, save me.
Blood of Christ, inebriate me.
Water from the side of Christ, wash me.
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.
O Good Jesus, hear me.
Within Thy wounds, hide me.
Separated from Thee let me never be.
From the malignant enemy defend me.
At the hour of death, call me.
To come to Thee, bid me.
That I may praise Thee in the company Of Thy Saints, for all eternity.

Amen.

Anima Christi, sanctifica me.
Corpus Christi, salva me.
Sanguis Christi, inebriata me.
Aqua lateris Christi, lava me.
Passio Christi, conferta me.
O bone Jesu, exaudi me.
Intra tua vulnera abscende me.
Ne permittas me separari a te.
Ab hostile maligno defende me.
In hora mortis meae voca me.
Et tube me venire ad te.
Ut cum Sanctis tuis laudem te in saecula saeculorum.

Amen.
Eucharistic hymns and Catholic theology

Father Stephen Bankemper

In this installment of our series on the Eucharist we turn to Eucharistic hymns. It is a vast topic, so must be severely limited in a short article. One sub-topic that has interested me for years is the question of how adequately the hymns we use express our Catholic theology. The shortness of space allows me only to begin to brush this subject, and so this article will be limited to a very brief discussion of how well a few of our commonly-used hymns express one aspect of our Eucharistic theology. I have chosen hymns from Breaking Bread; it is not the only worship aid/hymnal in use in the diocese, but it is often used.

Before I begin this exploration, let me note that people are often surprised when I raise this question. We commonly assume that the prayers we pray at Mass, for instance, and the songs we sing, accurately express what we believe. And we should assume that. One of the maxims of Catholic theology is the phrase “lex orandi, lex credendi” (“the law of praying, the law of believing”), which means, basically, that the words we pray shape what we believe. Knowing that, the Church takes great care that her official prayers are theologically correct. Surprisingly, she does not show the same care in the hymns that she allows to be used, and so the quality of the theology in our hymns, and its expression, ranges from excellent to questionable to poor to heretical; thankfully, there are few of the last, but they do exist.

Let us look at the song “Bread of Life.” By Rory Cooney. The first words we sing are the words of the refrain:

I myself am the bread of life.
You and I are the bread of life,
Torn and blessed, broken and shared by Christ
that the world might live.

On the most immediate level — what the words actually say — there is one of the worst hymns we could sing in the liturgy. I can assure you that I am not the bread of life, and — no offense — you also are not. There is one Bread of Life, and we know who it is.

Another hymn, “Bread For The World,” by Bernadette Farrell, comes a little closer to a more adequate expression of the idea that the Eucharist begets in us a “social” love. The refrain of her hymn reads:

Bread for the world; a world of hunger.
Wine for all peoples: people who thirst.
May we who eat be bread for others.
May we who drink pour out our love.

There is much that is still problematic in this hymn: for instance, there remains the idea, slightly less overt, that somehow we are ourselves what the world needs and longs for; Farrell does not mention Jesus Christ anywhere in the refrain. At least, though, she hints in the third and fourth lines at the need for us first to receive something before we can give to others.

In his hymn “Gift Of Finest Wheat,” Omer Westendorf comes closest in this group of three composers to expressing well the idea that the Eucharist impels us to go out to others. First, there is no ambiguity in the refrain as to the source of the bread of life:

Come give to us, O saving Lord,
the bread of life to eat.

This is where the problem begins, for there is no preparation, no context for them, second, that Cooney does not just write “I am the bread of life,” but “I myself am the bread of life.”

Without any preparation, it could be interpreted that I am not just forgetting God but consciously excluding God. What is the problem? The problem is that the liturgy is not the place for theological speculation, but for clear and direct expression of what is true. If the maxim lex orandi, lex credendi is valid, then when the Church is praying — especially in a time when the faithful are so inadequately catechized — she should be praying words that strengthen our faith, not weaken or confuse it.

Another hymn, “Adoro Te Devote” by St. Thomas Aquinas, but the words we have given them Bread from heaven/Having within it all sweetness.” Even if we do need hymns that remind us of the social responsibility the Eucharist impels on us, they should begin with the true Bread of Life and work outwards, so to speak.

It was not the purpose of this article to look at every aspect of the hymns mentioned, but hopefully our brief exploration has awakened an interest in looking more closely at the hymns we use. Perhaps one day someone in Rome or our bishops in this country will require more care in the creation of the hymnals that shape in some way the beliefs of our Catholic people.

Father Stephen Bankemper is pastor of St. Catherine of Sienna Parish, Fr. Thomas.

Let us end with a look at a hymn that, while not trying overtly to express the idea we have been discussing, might actually bring us to it in a more substantial way: The hymn is “Adoro Te Devote” by St. Thomas Aquinas, but the words at which we will look are from Gerard Manly Hopkins’ well-known translation of the hymn into English. The fifth verse reads:

O thou [the Host], our reminder of the Crucified,
Living Bread, the life of us for whom he died,
Lend this life to me, then; feed and feast my mind,
then selfless let us be,
to serve each other in your name
in truth and charity.

While there is more that Westendorf could have written to express how the Eucharist impels us to others, he at least is on the right track. There is no suggestion that when we go to others we bring only ourselves. Indeed, we hope to be “selfless;” and if we are selfless, then we must be bringing something else to others — who else but Jesus, who has given himself to us in the Eucharist?
Perpetual Adoration (24 hr) is held at the following parishes:
- All Saints Adoration Chapel, Walton (859) 485-4475**
  Open Monday 8 a.m.–Saturday 3 p.m.
- St. Agnes Parish, Ft. Wright, Divine Mercy Adoration Chapel
  (859) 431-1802**
  Open Sunday 7 a.m.–Saturday 3 p.m.
- St. Barbara Parish, Erlanger, Adoration chapel
  (859) 371-3100**
  Open 24 hours; 7 days per week
- St. Charles Parish, Florence
  Mon.-Sun. 8-10 p.m.
- St. Edward Parish, Cold Spring
  Mon.-Fri. 8-9 p.m.
- St. Joseph Parish, Creston Springs
  Mon.-Wed. 4-7 p.m., Thu. 8-9 p.m.
- St. Patrick Parish, Erlanger
  Mon.-Fri. 8-9 p.m.
- Holy Spirit Parish, Newport
  Mon.-Fri. 4-7 p.m., Sat. 8-9 p.m.

Adoration Schedule:
- Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington
  Tue. 9:30 a.m.–8 p.m.
- Blessed Sacrament Parish, Ft. Mitchell
  Wed. 10:30 a.m.–5 p.m.
- Divine Mercy Parish, Bellevue
  Mon. 3 p.m.–6:30 p.m.
- Holy Cross Parish, Latonia
  Mon. 7:30 a.m.–4 p.m.
- Holy Spirit Parish, Newport
  Tue. 7 a.m.-9 p.m.
- Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Burlington
  Mon. 8-9 p.m.
- Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish, Erlanger
  Thu. 8-9 p.m.
- Mother of God Parish, Covington
  Thu. 11 a.m.-8 p.m.
- Our Lady of Peace Parish, Erlanger
  Mon. 7:30 a.m.-noon, Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m.-9 p.m.
- St. Anthony Parish, Erlanger
  Fri. 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
- St. Augustine Parish, Augusta
  Mon. 8 a.m.-noon, Mon.-Wed. 8-9 p.m.
- St. Cecilia Parish, Independence
  Mon. 8-9 p.m., Tue. 8-9 p.m., Wed. 8:30 a.m.-8 p.m.
- St. Charles Parish, Flemingsburg
  Mon. 8 a.m.-9 p.m., Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m.-9 p.m.
- St. Benedict Parish, Covington
  Tue. 9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.
- St. Bernard Parish, Taylor Mill
  Wed. 8:30 a.m.-9 p.m.
- Sts. Boniface and James Parish, Ludlow
  M-F 7:15-7:55 a.m., M-F 12-12:30 p.m.
- St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Ft. Thomas
  Mon. 7:30 a.m.-11 a.m., Mon. 11 a.m.-7 p.m.
- St. Cecilia Parish, Independence
  Mon. 8:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m.
- St. John the Evangelist Parish, Carrollton
  Mon. 8:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m.
- St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Alexandria
  Mon. 7-8 p.m.
- St. Patrick Parish, Florence
  Mon. 7-8 p.m.
- St. Therese Parish, Southgate
  Mon. 9 a.m.-9 p.m.
- St. Theresa Parish, Southgate
  Mon. 9 a.m.-9 p.m.
- St. Augustine Parish, Covington
  Mon. 7-8 p.m.

What do the Eucharist mean to you? What people are saying around the Diocese.

Anita Dunn, Coordinator of Religious Education, St. Agnes Parish, Ft. Wright

I was asked to take the LTE/CME position in addition to teaching and added helping the second graders as well as helping children and youth catch up in their sacraments. There have been such blessings on the job: seeing young teens eager to receive the Lord after being in religion for two years; watching them shine after First Reconciliation; hearing them speak of the closeness they felt to the Lord as the monstrance was brought to them in 40 hours devotion.

A memory that I share often is of a father speaking to his sons as they practiced receiving the host. “I know it doesn’t taste like anything now, but just wait until you know it’s the Lord Jesus coming into your body!” Those words ring so true each time I receive. I stress to children and youth that Jesus is becoming a part of every inch of their being, so can carry him to others in their lives. They are receiving nourishment to carry God’s love to others.

During this pandemic when we were unable to receive, the true meaning of ‘having the Lord nourish us’ began to ring out in desire. Receiving virtually took getting use to not ‘feeling’ the body be consumed. As we continued, the virtual reception gave a stronger sense of ‘spiritual nourishment’.

Being able to receive the Eucharist strengthens me to continue God’s work. I feel nourished. I pray as I get ready to receive that Christ builds my faith, gives me the needed nourishment and words to reach out and build the faith in others.”

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament allows for the adoration of Christ visibly present in the Eucharist for 40 Hours devotions, holy hours, adoration and benediction.

Many parishes have Eucharistic exposition and benediction for a certain number of hours each week. Some parishes have perpetual adoration in a chapel reserved for Eucharistic Exposition. Perpetual adoration is adoration in front of the exposed Eucharist twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week.

See the box below for a list of parishes within the Diocese of Covington that hold Eucharistic exposition and adoration, with days and times, as well as parishes with perpetual adoration chapels.

During Eucharistic adoration, we “watch and wait” and remain silent in His presence and open ourselves to the graces which flow from the Eucharist. Like a magnet, the Lord draws us to Himself and gently transforms us.

**Study Questions**

1. At what precise moment do the bread and wine change into the body and blood of Christ? (What are the “Words of Institution”?)
2. Is there a difference between saying “we are the bread of life” and “we are the body of Christ”? Which one is scriptural and accurate? Why?
3. When the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ, why do they still look and taste like bread and wine?
4. Do the consecrated bread and wine cease to be the Body and Blood of Christ when the Mass is over?
5. Why do we call the presence of Christ in the Eucharist a “mystery”?
Brossart High School, Alexandria, Ky. She was also blessed to serve in leadership for the SNDs and now in initial formation with women who are joining the community. The greatest blessings in life for her have been God, and experiencing God’s unconditional love in her family, community and friends. She hopes someday to live up to the inscriptions on her parents’ tombstones: for her dad, “Justice” and for her mom, “Loving-kindness.”

“Celebrating a jubilee has been an opportunity to reflect on the meaning and blessings of the past 50 years of vowed life as a Sister of Notre Dame. I am especially aware of God’s faithfulness and love, and the privilege of coming to know so many wonderful people during my years of ministry.”

Divine Providence Sister Rosemary Lee started small, quite literally. Weighing three pounds at birth in 1934, there were fears she might not see her first birthday. After becoming a CDP she spent many years as a nurse, working at Holy Family Home and at a clinic in the Bronx. She also did pastoral care ministry in Rhode Island.

“Some days I don’t feel very holy but my faith tells me God is with me.”

Divine Providence Sister Carleen Schumacher is a perpetually cheerful presence at Holy Family Home, where she is administrator. Prior to her current post, she taught schools, and served as a member of the provincial council. She says that she always valued the sisters’ life of simplicity and is grateful for all the blessings life as a CDP has brought.

“I’m very much a ‘people person’ and the common denominator in all my ministries has been the wonderful women and men, whether they were my CDP Sisters, parishioners, students, coworkers, or the grateful faces at the Parish Kitchen — all welcomed me to serve and minister with them, loved me and challenged me to be the person I am today!”

Divine Providence Sister Lynn Stenken earned her bachelor’s degree from Thomas More University and a master’s in elementary education and teaching at Northern Ky University. She worked as a teacher and principal for many years. She served as principal and now works as the director of religious education at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in California, Ky.

“I still think of (my time in Madagascar) when I see all that we have and need. All of my visits really made me proud of my sisters and proud to be a CDP.”

Divine Providence Sister Helen Louise Bartlett
Jubilee of Grace — 70 Years
Sister Helen Louise Bartlett taught for many of her 70 years of vowed life. She graduated from Villa Madonna College (now Thomas More University) and then earned her Master’s in Education at Xavier University. She taught at St. Aloysius Parish in Elmwood Place (and was occasionally pressed into service as an organist). Assumption Parish in Mt. Healthy and St. Philip in Melbourne, among other mission posts. She was an elementary teacher for most of her ministry then a school librarian and secretary until her 2012 retirement. Her precise handwriting and attention to details were appreciated by all as was her kind-ness and positive attitude. She often joked about the fact she was one of those few sisters who stayed long periods of time in one place. Sister Helen Louise passed away on August 14, 2020 and is now at peace in the arms of our Lord. “I would like to be remembered as a behind-the-scenes person, helping wherever needed.”

The Department of Catholic Schools announces the annual
High School Placement Test
Saturday, December 12, 2020
9 a.m. to Noon

The High School Placement Test is administered to current 8th grade students who are interested in attending a Catholic high school in the Diocese of Covington.

The registration process is coordinated through each individual high school.

Registration deadline: Friday, December 4, 2020
for further information, contact any secondary school listed as the Department of Catholic Schools at 859.301.1500.

Bishop Brossart
4 Grove St.
Alexandria, KY 41001
859.633.2108
www.bishopbrossart.org

Covington Catholic
1600 Dixie Hwy.
Park Hills, KY 41011
859.491.2247
www.ccvcaht.org
www.hchscov.com

Newport Central Catholic
13 Carothers Rd.
Newport, KY 41071
859.292.0001
www.rcchs.com

Notre Dame Academy
1599 Hilton Dr.
Parr Hills, KY 41011
859.261.4300
www.ndapandas.org
www.shdhs.org

Villa Madonna Academy
2500 Amsterdam Rd.
Villa Hills, KY 41017
859.331.6333
www.villamadonna.org

Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic School
21 East 11th St.
Covington, KY 41011
859.291.7044
www.covingtonlatin.org
www.stspatschool.com

The following schools do not administer the standard
High School Placement Test:
Contact the school directly for admission information.
Covington Latin
21 East Eleventh St.
Covington, KY 41011
Mayville, KY 41056
859.291.7044
606.564.5949
www.covingtonlatin.org
www.stpatschool.com

Entrance exam — Dec. 12 at 9 a.m.

Schools in the Diocese of Covington accept students of any race, color and national or ethnic origin who otherwise meet the criteria for admission.

Test takers are required to bring and wear a face mask and follow CDC-recommended guidelines for social distancing.
At audience, pope renews commitment to fight abuse

Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — After the Vatican released its extensive report on Theodore E. McCarrick, Pope Francis renewed the Catholic Church’s pledge to uproot the scourge of sexual abuse.

Before concluding his weekly general audience Nov. 11, the pope made his first public statement on the release of the report regarding the “painful case” of the former cardinal.

“I renew my closeness to all victims of every form of abuse and the Church’s commitment to eradicate this evil,” he said.

After reading his brief comment on the report, the pope bowed his head and closed his eyes in silent prayer.

The 460-page report, which was published by the Vatican Nov. 10, chronicled McCarrick’s rise through the church’s hierarchal ranks despite decades of accusations of sexual abuse and abuse of power.

Before his comment on the report, the pope continued his series of audience talks on prayer, reflecting on the importance of perseverance.

He began by saying he was told by someone that he “speaks too much about prayer” and that it was unnecessary.

However, he said, “it is necessary because if we do not pray, we will not have the strength to go forward in life. Prayer is like the oxygen of life; prayer draws upon us the Holy Spirit who always carries us forward. That is why I speak so much about prayer.”

Jesus taught people to engage in “constant dialogue” with God not only with the example of his own prayer, but also with parables that highlighted the importance of perseverance in prayer.

Reflecting on Jesus’ parable of the tenacious person who knocks unceasingly at his friend’s door asking for bread, the pope said that unlike the friend who relents after constant insistence, God “is more patient with us and the person who knocks with faith and perseverance on the door of his heart will not be disappointed.”

“Our Father knows well what we need; insistence is necessary not to inform him or to convince him, but it is necessary to nurture the desire and expectation in us,” the pope said.

“Jesus’ parable of the widow who persistently sought and eventually obtained justice from an unscrupulous judge, he continued, serves as a reminder that faith “is not a momentary choice but a courageous disposition to call on God, even to ‘argue’ with him, without resigning oneself to evil and injustice.”

Finally, the parable of the Pharisee who boasted his merits during prayer while the publican felt unworthy to enter the temple reveals that “there is no true prayer without humility,” he said.

Pope Francis said the Gospel encourages Christians to pray always, “even when everything seems in vain, when God appears to be deaf and mute and it seems we are wasting time.”

“There are many days of our life when faith seems to be an illusion, a sterile exertion,” the pope said. “But the practice of prayer means accepting even this exertion. Many saints experienced the night of faith and God’s silence, and they were persevering.”

True Christians, the pope added, do not fear anything but instead “entrust themselves to the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us a gift and who prays with us.”

CNS photo/Vatican Media

Pope Francis leads his general audience in the library of the Apostolic Palace at the Vatican Nov. 11, 2020. A day after the Vatican released its extensive report on former Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, the pope renewed the Catholic Church’s pledge to uproot the scourge of sexual abuse.

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Living, Compassionate Care Sponsored by the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm.
Divine Providence Sister Mary Theodore Nolan died peacefully at Holy Family Home on Nov. 14. She was a professed member of the Congregation of Divine Providence for 71 years. Born in Covington, Ky., in 1933 to Howard and Irma Nolan, she made her first profession of vows in 1947 and professed her final vows in 1962.

Sister Theodore was a gifted woman who served in a variety of ways. She began her ministry of service assisting in the dining room at Theological College, Washington, D.C. One of her greatest joys was to care for young children and babies at St. Vincent de Paul Orphanage, Providence, Rhode Island, where she worked for 10 years.

As a Certified Executive Housekeeper, she oversaw staff and responsibilities at Our Lady of the Way Hospital, Martin, Ky.; Jeanne d’Arc Residence, New York; and St. Anne Lady of the Way Hospital, Martin, Ky.; Jeanne Orphanage, Providence, Rhode Island, where children and babies were cared for.

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In addition, Sister Teddy ably managed the convent laundry duties and shared her skills and then. She will be missed by her religious community, the Sisters of Divine Providence and numerous nephews and nieces who visited with her often and kept in touch with her over the years.

A private Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in Immaculate Conception Chapel, Holy Family Home, Melbourne on Nov. 18. Sister Theodore was a beloved member of the Congregation of Divine Providence, 5300 St. Anne Drive, Melbourne, Ky. 41049.

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The Congregation’s House of Studies in Rome, Italy, where she studied in a variety of ways for two years. She moved to Holy Family Home in 2013 where she continued to offer assistance wherever she could.

A well-liked person, whose dedication to hard work and fun, made her someone others enjoyed being around and working with. She was respected for her kindness, good sense of humor and devotion to prayer. She loved to play cards, eat chili dogs and enjoy a rum and Coke now and then.

She will be missed by her religious community, the Sisters of Divine Providence and numerous nephews and nieces who visited with her often and kept in touch with her over the years. Her brother Jim and her sister Pat O’Hearn and their spouses preceded her in death.

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Our food pantry and donation center pivoted to distribute food—drive-through style—using our donation center drop-off to minimize direct contact. Our playmakers, our Vincentian volunteers, literally called on those reaching out for help, providing not only support with financial assistance and basic necessities, but also providing reassurance and encouragement. In fact, our Vincentians went above and beyond, serving in areas of Northern Kentucky where we did not have the resources to serve before. They did their very best to reach out to everyone who contacted us. Our donors and supporters, personally reached out to see where the need within our ministry was greatest, offering time, financial support, material donations and prayers to ensure the most vulnerable received the help they needed to stay safe and healthy in their homes. Teamwork makes the dream work is really an understatement. As we reflect on the year, the impact that we collectively (including YOU) have had is astounding, well exceeding our expectations:
- 6,000 personal connections made with those who found themselves in crisis.
- $330,000 in rent/utility assistance provided to over 1900 families just since March 15, representing a 50 percent increase in financial assistance over the prior year.
- $60,000 in rent/utility assistance in new areas not previously served by St. Vincent de Paul.
- $218,000 in food assistance since March 15, with our Erlanger pantry tripling its outreach compared to the prior year.

Thanks to everyone who offered their time, treasures and talent, so many were lifted up by the love of Christ embodied by our caring neighbors who answered the call to serve. All involved—those in need and those who served—could not help but feel the strength of what a compassionate community can do when they come together. As I look back, it is clear that Christ led us through this turbulent time. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve. We are grateful for the experience to grow in our faith. Teamwork makes the dream work and Christ builds community for times like this.

Karen Zengel is executive director, Society of St. Vincent de Paul Northern Kentucky.

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New installations, maintenance and tree removal. Find us at GoesslingLandscaping.com
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ince & interior painting: carpet cleaning (free Scottsgrind)
In business since 1998. Member of N. Timothy Patrick
Moore’s Carpet Cleaning — Union, Ky. — 364-6257

CAFETERIA STAFF
Various schools in the Diocese of Covington currently have openings for full-time, part-time and substitute workers. Hours would occur during the school day. Duties include food preparation, serving and general cleanup. Interested individuals may contact Jackie Kaiser at jaiker@covdio.org, or call her at 859/392-1536.

PARISH OFFICE
Saints Boniface and James Parish in Ludlow, KY has a job opportunity for a qualified, actively-practicing Catholic candidate who is interested in a part-time, flexible, weekday schedule. The primary responsibilities in this one-person parish office will include general office administration, creation of the weekly parish bulletin, receiving visitors, and answering the telephone. The twelve-hour work week is envisioned as four hours per day over three weekdays, set between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.; the final schedule can be reasonably flexible to suit the needs of the successful candidate. Working effectively with people is essential across all responsibilities, so good interpersonal skills are a primary qualification. Must be comfortable with basic office technology, and with training to learn our proprietary database software. Interested individuals should send a brief cover letter and a descriptive resume, with compensation history and three to five references, to Stephen Kopylaw by email or by fax, skopylaw@covdio.org or 859-392-1989.

STEINWAY GRAND PIANO FOR SALE
Steinway M (5’7”) Grand Piano manufactured in 1921, restored in 2020 by Krotch. Listed at $25,000 — Firm. Call (859) 342-0563

Good Job Remodeling LLC and Handyman
Now accepting small to large jobs. Free Estimates. Licensed and insured.
Call Steven on (859) 801-9925

GERDES CONCRETE & MASONRY
Cement Truck — 34 ft. 14,000 lbs
cement/mortar/epoxy.
MASONRY — Cultural stone, retaining walls, brick pavers, foundation, fireplaces, leak & drainage repair. MISC. — Hilte-Electric, Bio-Cat cleaning, etc.
Free estimate. Call 859/169-1750. Messenger ad — since 1993

SMALL ENGINE REPAIR
Lawn and garden equipment. ATV’s, Chainsaw Sharpening. We also sell lawn and garden equipment and supplies.
ECHO, TROY-BILT. STEEL’S OUTDOOR POWER 859-415-4277

SACRED HEART PRAYER
Dear Heart of Jesus — In the past I have asked for favors. This time I ask you for this very special one (mention favor). Take it, dear Jesus, and place it within your own heart where your Father sees it, then in your merciful eyes it will become your favor, not mine. Amen.
B.W.

NOVENA
Call Kim at the Messenger for information on placing your ad in the Classified Advertisements.
(859) 392-1500
Archbishop Pierre, the nuncio, in a prerecorded address delivered Nov. 16 on the first day of the U.S. bishops’ annual fall general meeting, held online this year due to the coronavirus pandemic.

“One of the largest clouds is the ‘throwaway culture,’ which leads to disregard for human life— in the forms of abortion and euthanasia, human trafficking and new forms of slavery— environmental abuse and progressive marginalization of groups,” Archbishop Pierre said.

“Another is the fragmentation and polarization of society, marred by vicious attacks and attempts to spread despair and discouragement to create a situation of permanent confrontation rather than healing,” he added.

A third such cloud, according to the archbishop, is “the rapid growth of secularization, in which people live as if God did not exist, creating a greater obstacle in transmitting the faith within the family and from one generation to the next and leaving deep wounds in the Church and society.”

“Oh, and, I forgot,” Archbishop Pierre said— not really forgetting— “there is also a global pandemic.”

“Jesus is with us in the storm. He brings peace and calm, but having encountered Jesus, things cannot simply return to normal or the way they were,” he said. But “as calm, but having encountered Jesus, things cannot simply return to normal or the way they were,” he said. But “as calm, but having encountered Jesus, things cannot simply return to normal or the way they were,” he said. But “as calm, but having encountered Jesus, things cannot simply return to normal or the way they were,” he said. But “as calm, but having encountered Jesus, things cannot simply return to normal or the way they were,” he said.

“These problems not only affect us, but they divide us,” he said. “Our mission is to heal the world, and these documents are open to hope. I encourage you during your meeting to look at ways that you can feed your hope and that of your flock.”

He added, “In a world of suffering, we are called to become neighbors to others. As bishops, we have a special responsibility to lead by example, demonstrating what it means to be a neighbor.”

The second element was “strengthening social friendship, love as the measure of spiritual stature.”

Defining “social friendship” as a “friendship that transcends borders,” Archbishop Pierre reminded the bishops, “The Lord Jesus calls us to go outside of ourselves just as the Samaritan did.”

“At the heart of Christian faith, witnessed in the lives of many saints, including that of Mother Teresa, is our love as the measure of spiritual stature.”

“Fratelli Tutti.”

“Authentic dialogue allows the Church to offer her contribution and to give living witness to Christ and the Gospel,” he said.

“We are journeying together through very difficult times, enduring the coronavirus and a contentious election campaign,” Archbishop Pierre said. “If we take a step back, we observe that society is in crisis. It is not merely that people are polarized or that the culture no longer supports the faith, there is a genuine crisis of authority.”

Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States, records his address Nov. 12, 2020, to be delivered to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ fall meeting Nov. 16, the first day of the two-day virtual meeting. Archbishop Pierre recorded the speech in the studio at the USCCB headquarters in Washington.
Alito sees religious freedom ‘fast becoming’ a ‘disfavored right’ among some

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National Lawyers Convention held virtually this year because of the pandemic. “The pandemic has resulted in previ-

eously unimaginable restrictions on individual liberty,” said Alito, one of six Catholics on the court with the Oct. 26 confirmation of Justice Amy Coney Barrett. Alito was appoint-

ed by President George W. Bush in 2006. “Notice what I am not saying or even implying — I am not diminishing the severity of the virus’ threat to public health. And putting aside what I will say shortly about a few Supreme Court cases, I’m not saying anything about the legality of COVID restrictions,” he said.

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“Martin Eden” (Kino Lorber) Director and co-writer Pietro Marcello’s adaptation of Jack London’s semi-autobiographical 1909 novel offers a refreshing new take on the rags-to-riches saga of one man’s desperate attempt to better himself for the love of a woman considered “above his station.” A lowly sailor rescues the young scion of a family of industrialists from an assault and is invited into their home. In this enclave of wealth, power and privilege, he is transfixed by his new acquaintance’s comely sister. She encourages his quest for improvement. But the road to success proves long and arduous. In Italian. English subtitles. Mild violence, implied sexual activity and drug use, occasional rough and crude language. CNS: A-III; MPAA: Not rated.

“Freaky” (Universal) Gruesome bloodletting squelches any potential enjoyment that might be had from this combination of horror and comedy, intended as a teen-victim slasher movie riff on the body-swapping genre typified by the various film adaptations of author Mary Rodgers’ 1972 children’s novel “Freaky Friday.” In this case, the exchange takes place between a vicious serial killer and the misfit high schooler who is about to become his latest victim when the mysterious alchemy of his murder weapon, an exotic knife purloined from one of his earlier crime scenes, switches their souls. As the predator takes advantage of his newfound disguise, the student and her two best friends scramble to reverse the spell, which will become permanent if not undone within 24 hours. Chatter promoting notions of sexual fluidity to which Osherovich’s openly gay character is a principal contributor further hobbles director and co-writer Christopher Landon’s picture, though compared to the massacre to which the shop-class table saw gets put, such misguided dialogue seems a mere distraction. Excessive gory violence, a wayward view of human sexuality, graphic casual sex, about a half-dozen uses of profanity, several milder oaths, pervasive rough and frequent crude language, an obscene gesture. CNS: O; MPAA: R.

For full reviews of each of these films — go to catholicnews.com and click on “Extras,” then choose “Movies.” Catholic News Service (CNS) classifications are:
- A-I — general patronage;
- A-II — adults and adolescents;
- A-III — adults;
- L — limited adult audience;
- O — morally offensive.

CNS: A-II; MPAA: Not rated.
‘Sister Stories’ bring religious life alive for discerning women

Allegra Thatcher
Assistant Editor

For women actively discerning a call to religious life, hearing the tales of present sisters can only help in providing clarity. That’s why the Sisters of Notre Dame started a program for their seriously interested discerners, and included a segment called “Sister Stories.”

According to Notre Dame Sister Ruth Lubbers, assistant vocation director, the National Vocation Team planned two nights a week for sisters from the four geographic regions of the new USA province to weigh in on specific topics. On another day of the week, professed women shared their stories with those serious discerners and also with other women who are thinking about religious life but are not yet seriously considering it. Over a six-week period, a different sister weekly shared her story and her ministry. These all took place virtually due to COVID-19.

After that program officially ended, Sister Ruth said they quickly began planning for more stories to be told. “We wanted to be able to continue to reach out to that particular group of women who are considering religious life but aren’t yet in serious discernment with us,” she said. “We also wanted to do something more internationally. We had done two sisters who minister at the mother house in Rome, but we decided to look at the sisters in Uganda.”

November and December’s storytellers are Notre Dame Sisters Mary Teopista, the first graduate of the Ugandan schools to enter the community, and Mary Immaculate, first Ugandan sister to profess final vows. She’s also the postulant director in Uganda. For the foreseeable future, the stories will continue once a month.

This group activity has not only inspired discerning women, but the present sisters as well. “After the sisters who are part of Sister Stories told their stories, the women had opportunities to ask questions and that engagement has been a real positive thing. Those sisters have been excited to be a part of that,” said Sister Ruth. “They’re energized by the women who are considering religious life. For the sisters, it was a renewal.”

To register or for more information, contact Notre Dame Sister Jenny Zimmerman at vocations@snd1.org.