As Deanery Pastoral Council discuss annual plan, Bishop Foys encourages patience and unity

Laura Keener
Editor

At the annual diocesan Deanery Pastoral Council convocation, Jan. 23, Bishop Roger Foys encouraged the Curia staff and DPC members to embrace the times we are living in and to strive for unity during this challenging year.

“These have been strange months, these last 11 months,” Bishop Foys said as he began to address the 143 attendees, 103 of whom were joining the meeting virtually. “I hear a lot about getting back to normal. Normal is relative. What we are doing here, this morning, is normal for a pandemic."

The DPC convocation is held each year so that Curia directors can present their office plans for the upcoming fiscal year, July 1, 2021 — June 30, 2022. Jamie Schroeder, chancellor, organizes and leads the convocation. She and diocesan directors were meeting in Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium while the rest of the Curia staff and DPC members logged in from home.

In her opening remarks Mrs. Schroeder reminded the DPC that the Curia staff meets three times a year to discuss the annual plan, this convocation is, “the one meeting that we bring everyone together to discuss the plan … today’s meeting is truly a unique opportunity for the DPC to interact with the Curia staff.”

Sometime between Jan. 24 through March 21, each DPC member will meet with his or her Parish Council to discuss the diocesan annual plan and to gather feedback. Mrs. Schroeder acknowledged that with the ongoing COVID-19 protocols, meetings will be more of a hybrid model with directors presenting from Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium and the DPC members presenting virtually.

“Get in touch with your pastor and talk to him about the best way for you to communicate with your Parish Council and generate appreciation,” she said.

Also before March 21, the dean of each deanery will meet with the DPC members in his deanery to gather each parish’s comments. That feedback will be sent to the diocese in one document.

As diocesan staff and DPC members meet the challenges of this year, Bishop Foys encouraged them to live in the present moment and to take comfort and peace in those things which have not changed.

“We have to put ourselves in the times in which we live — to live in the present moment. If we keep trying to live the way things were before March 2020, we will get very frustrated and anxious and angry,” he said. “What we have to do now is what is normal for living during a pandemic — wearing a mask, safe distancing, washing hands, not gathering in groups — that’s all normal for now. And remembering that not everything has changed — our faith has not changed, God has not changed, the sacraments have not changed, the love we have for our friends and family has not changed.”

Bishop Foys said that he is often reminded of Pope Francis’ March 2020 comments about the pandemic. Addressing an empty piazza as Italy and most Europe was shuttered due to the pandemic, Pope Francis said, “This is not a punishment from God; but it is God’s way to make us change, to make us join together to discuss the plan … today’s meeting is truly a unique opportunity for the DPC to interact with the Curia staff.”

In his closing remarks, Bishop Foys thanked the Curia staff and DPC members for coming to gather virtually.

“It is only by working together that we can make a difference,” he said. “Remember Jesus’ prayer that all may be one. Jesus’ prayer was not for division or dissunity or dissent but that all may be one.”

Bishop Foys also encouraged patience and wisdom as vaccinations against the coronavirus begin to be administered in the diocese, ushering in what is hoped to be the end of the pandemic.

“The pandemic is going to end eventually, but it’s not going to be a like a light switch going off,” he said. “Anyone who thinks the vaccine is a magic bullet, that I will be completely immune and I can do whatever I want once I’m vaccinated — that’s not what’s going to happen. We use the time we have now to do the best we can, certain- ly to protect our own lives but also the lives of those around us. The Holy Father also said, ‘This is a time when people need to come together and to emphasize the things that unite us not the things that divide us.’”

In his closing remarks, Bishop Foys thanked the Curia staff and DPC members for coming to gather virtually.

“‘We have to put ourselves in the times in which we live — to live in the present moment. If we keep trying to live the way things were before March 2020, we will get very frustrated and anxious and angry,” he said. “What we have to do now is what is normal for living during a pandemic — wearing a mask, safe distancing, washing hands, not gathering in groups — that’s all normal for now. And remembering that not everything has changed — our faith has not changed, God has not changed, the sacraments have not changed, the love we have for our friends and family has not changed.’”

Bishop Foys said that he is often reminded of Pope Francis’ March 2020 comments about the pandemic. Addressing an empty piazza as Italy and most Europe was shuttered due to the pandemic, Pope Francis said, “This is not a punishment from God; but it is God’s way to make us change, to make us join together to discuss the plan … today’s meeting is truly a unique opportunity for the DPC to interact with the Curia staff.”

In his closing remarks, Bishop Foys thanked the Curia staff and DPC members for coming to gather virtually.

“It is only by working together that we can make a difference,” he said. “Remember Jesus’ prayer that all may be one. Jesus’ prayer was not for division or dissunity or dissent but that all may be one.”

Bishop Foys also encouraged patience and wisdom as vaccinations against the coronavirus begin to be administered in the diocese, ushering in what is hoped to be the end of the pandemic.

“The pandemic is going to end eventually, but it’s not going to be a like a light switch going off,” he said. “Anyone who thinks the vaccine is a magic bullet, that I will be completely immune and I can do whatever I want once I’m vaccinated — that’s not what’s going to happen. We use the time we have now to do the best we can, certain- ly to protect our own lives but also the lives of those around us. The Holy Father also said, ‘This is a time when people need to come together and to emphasize the things that unite us not the things that divide us.’”

In his closing remarks, Bishop Foys thanked the Curia staff and DPC members for coming to gather virtually.

“It is only by working together that we can make a difference,” he said. “Remember Jesus’ prayer that all may be one. Jesus’ prayer was not for division or dissunity or dissent but that all may be one.”
The school of Galilee — an abandonment to Providence

Msgr. William Cleves

The word “Galilee” appears 82 times in the revised edition of the New American Bible. Sometimes it simply refers to a place on a map, but at other times it carries a much deeper meaning.

The word itself comes from the Hebrew “galil,” which means “district.” It was home to the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali, the first tribes to be swept away in the Assyrian conquest. Isaiah writes of this conquest in these words (see Isaiah 2:19). “Where once he degrad-ed the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, now he has glorified the way of the Sea, the land across the Jordan, Galilee of the Nations.”

Galilee was the beginning of the end of David’s kingdom — the district of the Gentiles — from which the Messiah cannot come (see John 7:52).

Galilee was the land that God forgot, the land of broken promises. To this godforsaken place, the strength of God (in Hebrew, “Gabriel”) was sent (see Luke 1:26-50). In this district of the gentiles — the place where God’s people hurt the most — the strength of God asked a young woman to open her heart to the mystery of God’s love. Her “yes” led her on a journey to the house of Zechariah (YHVH has remembered) where she greeted Elizabeth (my God is a promise). At Mary’s greeting Elizabeth felt the graciousness of God (the Hebrew word for this came to English as John). At the end of her canticle of praise, Mary rejoices that God remembered the promise (Zechariah and Elizabeth) made to our ancestors.

I lived in Galilee for about a month. At the beginning of December I was exposed to COVID while anointing one who was dying. Three days later I began to have the classic symptoms, and was shortly thereafter diagnosed as positive for the virus. My symptoms were severe; in biblical terms I entered Galilee.

I was too weak to celebrate Mass; I had great difficulty holding the breviary to pray the Divine Office. Tomato soup tasted like metal, and I could not even get meat close to my mouth. I subsisted mostly on soup, and sports drinks mixed with water. I had a fever and headache, both persistent. I was not even well enough to watch the live-streaming of our parish liturgies.

As I reflect on my December: one thing becomes clear to me — I needed that time in Galilee. There is much wisdom to be learned there, much grace to receive.

I had the privilege, perhaps for the first time in life, to experience my utter dependence on God. I had the privilege, so many times, to abandon myself to God’s providence. To pray to God in the dark hours of the night, to realize that I have nothing to give to God but my heart, and to give thanks for the gifts of life, of faith, of so many companions. There is something liberating in stripping life down to the essentials, in surrendering one’s desires to stand helpless before God. Here we might call to mind the cry of the poet Francis Thompson: “Naked I wait Thy love’s uplifted stroke! My harness piece by piece Thou hast been from me, and smitten to my knee, I am defenceless utterly.”

The Gospels tell us that Jesus went everywhere in Galilee; he entered Galilee willingly (see Mark 1:39). Living in a world that waits “the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ” means that we, too, will enter Galilee. Just as Elizabeth felt the graciousness of God stir within her as she listened to Mary, people will recognize that our words come from true and tested hearts. Jesus himself was tested through what he suffered, and so is able to help all who are tested (see Hebrews 2:18).

If we are ready; our journey to Galilee changes us forever.

Msgr. William Cleves is pastor, Holy Spirit Parish, Newport. His reflection was originally written for the Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence for their “Abandonment to Providence” newsletter feature.

Coronavirus Report
(as of Monday, Jan.25)

Positive Cases
Active positive cases: 145
Recovered positive cases: 512
Total ever positive cases: 657
Currently Self-quarantined: 281
Close Contacts with COVID case in household: 273

‘Year of St. Joseph’ renews St. Joseph Parish, Cold Spring as it celebrates sesquicentennial

Upcoming celebrations include the Renewal of Marriage Vows at Sunday Mass, Feb. 14, and the Parish Mission, March 7-10, 2021, with Joseph Farris.

Msgr. Reinersman said Pope Francis’ declaration of the Year of St. Joseph gave new energy to our Jubilee Team to continue on.” From this new energy was born the idea to conduct the “33 Day Consecration to Saint Joseph” in the book by Father Donald Calloway, MIC.

“I have always believed that St. Joseph protects and guides this parish in a very special way,” said Msgr. Reinersman. “This was reinforced by Pope Francis’ declaration during our Jubilee celebration in the middle of a pandemic. It renewed our Jubilee Team’s vision of having a spiritual impact on the parish.”

Prayer to St. Joseph

St. Joseph, foster father of Jesus and faithful spouse of Mary we choose you today as our patron and intercessor with God. As our parish celebrates 150 years, may we be grateful for the past, faithful in the present and hopeful for the future. With Mary our Mother, include our parish among those under your guidance and protection.

May we always be numbered among your beloved friends.

Amen.

Saint Joseph, pray for us.

Year of St. Joseph around the Diocese of Covington
On Dec. 8, 2020, Pope Francis declared the Year of St. Joseph in the Church. St. Joseph is the patron of many parishes and schools in the diocese, the Messenger is reaching out to get their reaction to this special year honoring St. Joseph.

St. Joseph Parish, Cold Spring, is celebrating its 150th jubilee year, closing out in March 2021. “You could say our parish had already declared a Year of St. Joseph,” said Msgr. Gerald Reinersman, pastor.

With COVID-19 closing the celebration of Mass to the public in March 2020, the year began with less excitement than expected. However, the parish has carried on with its observances.

Their jubilee theme is “Grateful for the past — Faithful in the present — Hopeful for the future,” and they have prayed a special jubilee prayer for the last 30 months. (See right) The parish also issued a pictorial directory and pictorial history and video of the parish. Proud of their church’s history, they continued to further its future by the construction of St. Joseph Jubilee Park on parish grounds with playground and a pavilion.

With a mission-driven heart, the parish held a sale in December of Christmas ornaments commemorating the parish anniversary with proceeds going to Holy Redeemer Parish in Vaneburg and the NKY St. Vincent de Paul Society.

As I reflect on my December: one thing becomes clear to me — I needed that time in Galilee. There is much wisdom to be learned there, much grace to receive.

I had the privilege, perhaps for the first time in life, to experience my utter dependence on God. I had the privilege, so many times, to abandon myself to God’s providence. To pray to God in the dark hours of the night, to realize that I have nothing to give to God but my heart, and to give thanks for the gifts of life, of faith, of so many companions. There is something liberating in stripping life down to the essentials, in surrendering one’s desires to stand helpless before God. Here we might call to mind the cry of the poet Francis Thompson: “Naked I wait Thy love’s uplifted stroke! My harness piece by piece Thou hast been from me, and smitten to my knee, I am defenceless utterly.”

The Gospels tell us that Jesus went everywhere in Galilee; he entered Galilee willingly (see Mark 1:39). Living in a world that waits “the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ” means that we, too, will enter Galilee. Just as Elizabeth felt the graciousness of God stir within her as she listened to Mary, people will recognize that our words come from true and tested hearts. Jesus himself was tested through what he suffered, and so is able to help all who are tested (see Hebrews 2:18).

If we are ready; our journey to Galilee changes us forever.

Msgr. William Cleves is pastor, Holy Spirit Parish, Newport. His reflection was originally written for the Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence for their “Abandonment to Providence” newsletter feature.

Prayer to St. Joseph

St. Joseph, foster father of Jesus and faithful spouse of Mary we choose you today as our patron and intercessor with God. As our parish celebrates 150 years, may we be grateful for the past, faithful in the present and hopeful for the future. With Mary our Mother, include our parish among those under your guidance and protection.

May we always be numbered among your beloved friends.

Amen.

Saint Joseph, pray for us.

Published in the Messenger, January 29, 2021
The ‘sprinkling of ashes’ on Ash Wednesday begins the lenten season

Father Daniel Schomaker
Messenger Contributor

Lots of things have changed during the pandemic that has stricken the world for the last year. We hear people saying: “We need to get back to normal.” In some ways, I agree with this statement, but in others, I do not. While preaching during the pandemic, I heard Bishop Foys once say: “We need to get back to better than normal!” I started thinking about this comment in relationship to the Season of Lent, which we will begin on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2021.

This year Ash Wednesday will “look different” than it did last year — at least in the United States. On the most simple level, our churches won’t be as crowded, because of the necessity of social distancing. But something else is going to “look different” too. This Ash Wednesday, you will not see Catholics with ashes in the form of a cross on their foreheads. This is because the Holy See has directed (as a means of protecting the faithful — clergy and laity alike), that ashes be “sprinkled” on the crown of the head.

The practice of “sprinkling” the ashes is a rather familiar practice in many parts of the world — just not in the US. It is very common in Catholic countries like Italy and Poland. In fact, it is the more “biblical” way of distributing ashes. Let’s look at some quotes:

From the Book of Nehemiah 9:1: “On the twenty-fourth day of this month, the Israelites gathered together while fasting and wearing sackcloth, their heads covered with dust.”

From the First Book of Maccabees 3:47: “That day they fasted and wore sackcloth; they sprinkled ashes on their heads and tore their garments.”

From Daniel 9:3: “I turned to the Lord God to seek help, in prayer and petition, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes.”

From Isaiah 58:6: “When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.”

Job 42:6: “Therefore I disown what I have said, and repent in dust and ashes.”

Matthew 6:6: “But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.”

And then there is of course the most famous Scripture quote that we all hear on Ash Wednesday as we receive ashes: “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” (cf. Genesis 3:19)

Ashes are used as sacramental in the Church to remind us of who we are, especially in relationship to the One we are not — God. They call us to repentance and sorrow and humility when we have placed ourselves above the Almighty through our sinfulness. And because ashes are created through destruction — the burning of palm branches — they remind us of both our mortality and the eternal life to which we are called. For we must die before we can enter heaven.

On Ash Wednesday in the year 2000, Pope St. John Paul II preached: “Today too, the believer who feels threatened by evil and death calls on God in this way, knowing that he has reserved for him a destiny of eternal life. He knows that he is not only a body condemned to death because of sin, but that he also has an immortal soul. Therefore he turns to God the Father, who has the power to create out of nothing to God the Only-begotten Son, who became man for our salvation, died for us and now, risen, lives in glory; to God the immortal Spirit, who calls us to life and restores life.”

What we learn from sacred Scripture and the sacred tradition of the Church is that throughout the centuries, it is no less important as to how the ashes are used (by the way, penitents would often add ashes to their food), but what their use signifies. Outward appearances assist us in transforming our interior life, but they can also lead one into hypocrisy.

Let Ash Wednesday in the year 2021 allow us to focus more on the interior meaning of Ash Wednesday and the holy season of Lent — the effects of what can last forever — than on the external sign, which is washed away quite easily. In this way, we will be back to “better than normal.”

Father Daniel Schomaker is rector general for the Diocese of Covington and pastor, St. Augustine Parish, Covington, Ky.

Worshippers wearing protective masks receive ashes during Ash Wednesday Mass at the National Shrine of Our Mother of Perpetual Help in Manila, Philippines, Feb. 26, 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, ashes are required to be distributed in the more traditional and biblical form of sprinkling on the head.

February 21
Confirmation, St. Timothy Parish, Covington, 7 p.m. (live-streamed)
Feb. 2
Catholic Charities Board of Trustees meeting (virtual), 10 a.m.
Individual meeting, 11 a.m.
Confirmation, St. Mary Parish, Alexandria, at Cathedral Basilica, 7 p.m.

Primary schools — open houses
Saturday, Jan. 30
St. Pius X School, Erlanger, 9:30 a.m.
Call for reservations.

Sunday, Jan. 31
Mary, Queen of Heaven School, Erlanger, 11:00 p.m.
Call for reservations.

Princes of Peace Montessori, Covington, 12-2 p.m.
Call for reservations.

St. Henry School, Erlanger, 1-3 p.m. Call to register.
St. Paul School, Florence, 1 p.m. Call for reservations.
St. Thomas School, Ft. Thomas, 1-3 p.m.
Call for reservations.

Tuesday, Feb. 2
St. Cecilia School, Independence, 5-7 p.m.
Call for reservations.

Thursday, Feb. 4
St. Therese School, Southgate, 5-7 p.m.
Registration online at school.sdthetresesenius.com

Thursday, Feb. 25
Covington Latin School, Covington, 6:30 p.m.
Call for reservations.

February 21
Holy Trinity School, Bellevue, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Call to register.

Immaculate Heart of Mary School, Burlington, 1:30-3:30 p.m.
By appointment only, registration online.

Effective January 25, 2021

Tim Beck
To: Advisory Board, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Covington
Term: Three years

Dan Groneck
To: Advisory Board, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Covington
Term: Three years

Jeff John
To: Advisory Board, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Covington
Term: Three years

Official assignments

Dan Meier
To: Advisory Board, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Covington
Term: Three years

Sister Fran Moore, C.D.P.
To: Advisory Board, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Covington
Term: Three years

Tom Rawe
To: Advisory Board, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Covington
Term: Three years

Clare Ruehl
To: Advisory Board, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Covington
Term: Three years

Mary Paula Schuh
To: Advisory Board, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Covington
Term: Three years

Jim Volz
To: Advisory Board, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Covington
Term: Three years

By order of the Most Rev. Roger J. Foys, D.D.
Bishop of the Diocese of Covington

Jamie N. Schroeder, Chancellor
The ‘vertical’ dimension of ecumenical dialogue

In an atmosphere of “culture wars” and moral relativism, “dialogue” might become just a buzz-word connoting “any belief goes” or “dissent is up for grabs.” For some reactionaries, the term has become a synonym for all that ails the post-Vatican II Catholic Church. Yet, in spite of perceived misgivings on the part of some, Church teaching has articulated a solid theological validity for ecumenical dialogue as an integral aspect of the mission of the Church. For instance, “Dialogue and Proclamation,” issued in 1991 by the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, drafted a succinct rationale for interreligious dialogue being integral to the Church’s evangelizing mission. The document asserted the Church’s commitment to dialogue primarily to be theological: “God, in an age-long dialogue, has often been known to continue to offer salvation to humankind. In faithfulness to the divinitative mission, the Church too must enter into a dialogue of salvation with all men and women.” (DAP, n. 38)

Pope St. Paul VI’s inaugural encyclical “Eclesiasm Saum” (“Paths of the Church,” 1965) charted an original synthesis on the nature of dialogue and the Church’s missio in the contemporary world. “Gaudium et Spes,” the Second Vatican Council’s “Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World” (1965) integrated the theme of dialogue into its vision of the Church’s relationship to contemporary issues. (GS, n. 92)

As the “soul” of the ecumenical movement, “spiritual ecumenism” was understood by some, but for the vast majority, dialogue was an instrument directed outwards to fellow Christians who live in genuine, albeit imperfect, communion with the Catholic Church. In addition, there is a third movement of dialogue towards encounter with the human family. This section of the “Pastoral Constitution” points out that “the more this unity is realized in truth and charity under the impulse of the Holy Spirit, the more it will be the harbingers of unity and peace throughout the world.” (GS, n. 92)

The writings of Pope St. Paul VI frequently concentrated on the topic of dialogue from an eschatological perspective. “Ut Unum Sint” (“That All May Be One,” 1965), has landmark encyclical on Catholic commitment to ecumenism, develop a concise but systematic overview of the theology of dialogue. (UUS, nn. 29-49)

It should be noted that the theme of ecumenical dialogue in “Ut Unum Sint,” follows the section on the priority of prayer. (UUS, nn. 29-49) With regard to the relation of prayer for unity to dialogue, Pope St. Paul VI stated: “If prayer is the ‘soul’ of ecumenical renewal and of the yearning for unity; it is the basis and support for ‘everything the Council defines as “dialogue.”’ (UUS, n. 29)

In that regard, the encyclical has forged an immediate link between ecumenical dialogue with prayer, the very “soul” of ecumenical renewal. Prayer flows from the heart of the Church’s desire for Christian unity and stands as the foundation for ecumenical dialogue. (UUS, n. 29)

As the “soul” of the ecumenical movement, “spiritual ecumenism” encompasses conversion to the Gospel, fidelity to holiness, and prayer. (UR, n. 8) Pope St. John Paul II developed an in-depth exegesis on the primacy of prayer for Christians, and that he insisted that dialogue must interpenetrate both the process of conversion to the Gospel as well as foster the desire for Christian unity. In particular, the Catechism of the Catholic Church recommends common prayer for Church unity.”

‘Ecumenical work, therefore, is a spiritual task and can be no less than prayer in itself.” (CCC, n. 821)


Of life, along with public and private prayer for the unity of Christians, should be regarded as the soul of the whole ecumenical movement, and merits the name ‘spiritual ecumenism’ ...” (CCC, n. 821)

Pope St. John Paul II also broadened the notion of dialogue beyond a purely “cognitive” understanding to embrace an “existential engagement” of the whole person. Accordingly, dialogue is integral to self-realization of the personal and the social dimensions of the person. In continuation with the thought of Pope St. Paul VI in “Eclesiasm Saum,” dialogue is viewed as “an exchange of gifts,” not simply one of ideas. According to “Ut Unum Sint,” dialogue, then, is a multifaceted reality. These interlocking aspects can be summed up under several headings.

Charity becomes the springboard for the imitation of dialogue. Since the desire for unity stems from love, love forms “the great unconditioned which gives life and adds value to the movement towards unity.” The unity of the inner life of love within the Godhead — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — is the wellspring, the perfect source of communion, from which Christians who are not in full communion with one another may draw “the strength to build communion between individuals and Communities, or to reestablish that between Christians still divided.”

Uniatitas Redintegratur,” the Second Vatican Council’s “Decree on Ecumenism” stresses the need for truth and fairness. (UR, n. 11) Shifting away from antagonism and conflict of polemics, ecumenical dialogue demands the recognition of participants in dialogue as authentic partners. Trust establishes a common ground which is rooted in the hope and fidelity needed to continue the ecumenical pilgrimage, the journey towards the restoration of Christian unity.

The conversion of Christians and the constant purification of the Church are sine qua non of the “vertical” dimension of ecumenical dialogue. The interior space is the locus wherein Christ through the power of the Spirit inspires Christian communities “to examine themselves whether they have been faithful to his plan for the church.” (UUS, n. 82)

“Ut Unum Sint” emphasized that a just and peaceful conversion of hearts must be guided by love and is “directed to God and at the same time, to all our brothers and sisters, including those who are not in full communion with us.” (UUS, n. 21)

In “Evangelii Gaudium,” his 2013 Apostolic Exhortation, Pope Francis comments on the presuppositions of ecumenical dialogue. He writes on the need for truth: “We must never forget that we are pilgrims journeying along side one another. This means that we must have sincere trust in our fellow pilgrims, putting aside all suspicion or mistrust, and turn our gaze to what we are all seeking: the radiant peace of God’s face.” (EG, n. 244)

Mag: Ronald Ketteler is director of ecumenism, episcopal liaison to the Messenger and professor of theology at Thomas More University
The readings for the fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time — Cycle B are: Deuteronomy 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 7:22-25; and, Matthew 11:21-28.

“Brothers and Sisters, I should like you to be free of anxieties.” (1 Cor 7:32) Praised be Jesus Christ! Now and forever! We live in a world that is filled with anxieties. We are anxious about many things. This past year has certainly been one filled with anxieties we might not have ever imagined even one year ago. The COVID-19 has brought out the worst in all of us. COVID-19 fatigue has set in and the pandemic is blamed for so many of our shortcomings. The pandemic has become, in a way, our scapegoat for anything and everything that goes wrong in our lives. But even before the pandemic, even before COVID-19 was part of our vocabulary, even before the many protocols and guidelines and recommendations, anxiety was a part of so many lives. It’s just that now we have something to blame.

People at the time St. Paul wrote his letter to the Corinthians were anxious. They expected the Lord to return to judge the nations at any time. Some were impatient to blame. Corinthians were anxious. They expected the Lord to return to judge the nations at any time. Some were impatient to blame. It’s just that now we have something to blame.

What of our anxieties in our own day? How can we quell them? What can we do to make our lives anxiety-free? To whom can we turn? The answer is contained in the reading from St. Paul’s letter to the Corinthians at Mass today as well as in the Gospel passage for this Sunday: “Turn to the Lord!”

St. Paul’s answer to the anxiety the Corinthians were experiencing was to turn to the Lord and adhere to his word without distraction. (cf. 1 Cor 7:35) So many distractions in our lives, the sheer busyness of the everyday business of living, get in our way.

In the Gospel passage (Mark 1:36-41) Jesus is teaching in the Synagogue. And the people were astonished because Jesus taught with authority. The people saw in his teaching an unclean spirit manifesting itself crying out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are — the Holy One of God!” (Mark 1:24) And Jesus casts out the unclean spirit. Once again, the people are amazed. Here is someone who cares about them, someone whose word they can take as true, someone who makes them safe and secure, someone who has power even over unclean spirits. Someone who makes their anxieties disappear. And there it is. Anxious? Jesus is the answer! Jesus is the only answer! Jesus speaks the truth now and forever because Jesus is the truth way and the life of the! (cf. John 14:6)

There are so many things that distract us from that truth, so many things that occupy our time, so many things that simply get in the way. If we are looking for answers, if we are looking for comfort, if we are looking for security we need look no further than Jesus Christ. If we would be free of anxieties, Jesus is the answer! Most Rev. Roger J. Foys, D.D. is bishop of the Diocese of Covington, Ky.

The Holy See and thug regimes

The list of grave issues that must be addressed during a future papal interregnum and pandemic, and what those voices should (and likely will) say is that the current policy is an evangelical disaster. Irrespective of Vatican diplomats’ claim that “something had to be done,” the fact remains that what was done has violated the Church’s own canon law, demoralized Chinese Catholics loyal to Rome, failed to assuage the anti-Christian rancor of the Chinese regime, and created new opportunities for that regime to penetrate and control Chinese Catholicism. All of this has made Catholic evangelization in China far more difficult, even as Chinese Protestant communities continue to grow.

Then there was the recent situation in Belarus. On August 31, 2020, Archbishop Tadeusz Konraduszewicz of Minsk-Mohilev, who had been visiting family in neighboring Poland, was blocked from reentering Belarus (his native land) by the thug regime of President Alexander Lukashenko. Konraduszewicz had been supportive of the many Belarusians who were peacefully protesting what every objective observer knew was a rigged presidential election in early August of last year. Lukashenko’s thugocracy evidently took offense at this pastoral courage and cooked up excuses to punish Konraduszewicz by keeping him out of his own homeland.

The situation seemed to have been resolved when the archbishop was allowed back into Belarus to celebrate Christmas with his people, who received him with enthusiasm and adoration. But then, on January 3, the very day he turned 71, Archbishop Konraduszewicz’s canonically mandated letter of resignation was instantly accepted and an apostolic administrator named in his place. Did the two Vatican diplomats sent to negotiate the archbishop’s return to Belarus — neither of whom is removed for a capacity to stand up to thugs — trust in the deal in which the Vatican would remove an irritant to the Lukashenko regime, if the regime would provide the flag of a last Christmas in Minsk for the archbishop? It seems more than likely; indeed, it seems probable.

The current Vatican practice of attempting to appease thug regimes is one that has done serious damage to the Catholic Church’s international reputation as a proponent and defender of basic human rights. Even more importantly, it is hurting the Church’s evangelical mission. A Church that will not speak truth to power is not a Church that can credibly proclaim Jesus Christ, “the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6). Appearances never work with thugs, politically. It doesn’t work even evangelically. Clearly. That’s the message of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.

Pondering humanity, the Church and Jesus’ second coming

Along the way, I began pondering about the end of the world, inhuman persecutions and pandemics, especially the novel coronavirus, aka COVID-19 this time around. Why? Not sure. Let me just say I once heard a radio talk show host ask a revered scientist this astonishment question: “What is the eventual fate of mankind?” To which the astute guest calmly replied: “Mankind will starve and freeze to death in the dark.” That gave me the shivers then and it is doing it again right now. I pondered. Did all of the past, current and future hatred, fighting and killing begin with Cain vs. Abel? What a bitter fight that must have been. Bitter indeed, because it goes on. No, it rages on...

What do you think? Is it an utterly discouraging, disappoenting and devastating end to our existence on earth possible? What on earth would cause it? Ah, that is the question.

Frankly, I have heard a lot of alternatives from various sources suggesting a plethora of bizarre endings to life on earth. I have watched many results of movie-makers using their imagination to illustrate how those still on earth when “it” happens will “check out.” Some give mankind a second chance. Many do not.

To the best of my memory, sacred Scripture and some of my Catholic school teachers early on described the end of the world the second coming of Jesus Christ. Second Letter of Peter (3:10) handles it this way: “The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.”

One of the most interesting biblical references comes from an internet source quoting that “the end of the world,” which appears in many Bible translations, can also be rendered as “the conclusion of the system of things” or “the close of the age.” (Matt 24:3) It refers, not to the destruction of the earth or of all humanity but to the end of the framework of human society.

John states further that “the world is passing away and so is its desire.” (1 John 2:17) That was a mouthful. For me, it means that mankind need not hang on and wait for our sun, a yellow dwarf star, to call it forever night in another six billion years for earth’s human kind to know their fate. “The end of the framework of human society” screams at me: “be ready, for you know not the day nor the hour.” Why am I even thinking about such things? I ponder.

My first memorable pandemic is now counting more than 465,000 dead in America and 2,000,000 worldwide. There are

(Continued on page 7)
‘Dar a luz’: childbirth during the pandemic

Sister Mary Kathryn Kramer  
Contributor

The story of Shiphrah and Puah has long been a source of inspiration for those who assist childbearing women, but perhaps now more so than ever as we continue to care for women and newborns in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. You may recall the story in Exodus 1:15-20:

“The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah, and the other Puah, ‘When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.’ But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, ‘Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?’ The midwives said to Pharaoh, ‘Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.’ So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong.”

Like Shiphrah and Puah, who were coping with a new Egyptian king intent on killing the Israelite people, health care providers the world over are coping with a new reality, a reality that stretches us not only to acquire knowledge and learn new skills, but also to try to understand how to cope with a viral infection the likes of which we have never seen. Routines and procedures have changed, nonessential surgeries were postponed, and health care supplies are used judiciously.

As essential workers, we are concerned about the real possibility of taking the virus home and infecting our families and communities. Our usual routine of hand-washing and sanitizing has now become even more essential as a means to prevent the spread of the virus. Restricting laboring women to just one support person is a dramatic change from the norm of having several family members present to accompany them during labor and birth.

Spending a 12-hour shift wearing N95 masks underneath surgical masks is part of the new normal, as is the feeling of “I’m going to faint if I don’t get out of these masks soon.” Such was my experience last year, when I was caring for a woman who would give birth in the next few minutes, and my perceptive co-worker, seeing a near-panicked look in my eyes, placed a cold washcloth on the back of my neck, a gentle reminder to just keep breathing. The baby was born and there was great rejoicing by the new mother and her own mother, as well as by my two registered nurse co-workers and me, so grateful we were that even in the midst of the pandemic, life goes on, the miracle of birth continues, and we are still able to do the work entrusted to us.

The United Nations estimates that 130 million babies are born worldwide each year. So in the last 10 months most of the world has been gripped by the pandemic, probably over 108 million babies have come into the world, born in hospitals, birth centers and at home. I pray these newborns have been born in loving and safe environments, receiving the care and attention they will need to survive and thrive. I pray as well that the joy of birth is not overshadowed by anxiety and fear related to the pandemic.

Health care workers — indeed, all of us — have to focus on the essentials to stay healthy during these days. The spiritual practice of Abandonment to Divine Providence, a fundamental practice to my own religious congregation, reminds us to stay engaged in the present, doing all we can to be of service to those we are privileged to minister with and among. I am reminded of an essential truth I learned from one of my beloved teachers at the University of New Mexico who encouraged us to be very present with women as they gave birth and to always remember that birth is about more than just a baby being born. It is also about a woman’s childbearing ability to become a mother.

The many Latina immigrants I have cared for during the years have taught me the phrase “dar a luz.” With its origins in our belief that Christ is the Light of the World, “dar a luz” literally means to “bring to light.” Being ready to be a mother, bringing newborn babies to light. This is the essence of the work of midwives, physicians and maternity nurses now. May we do so with ever more reverence, love, hope and generosity.

Sister Mary Kathryn Kramer is a Sister of Divine Providence of Kentucky and presently serves as a member of her provincial council. Trained as a nurse-midwife and family nurse practitioner, she went on to receive a doctorate in nursing and continues in ministry at St. Elizabeth Healthcare and Thomas More University in Northern Kentucky. Her article was originally published in Global Sisters’ Report, a project of National Catholic Reporter.
U.S. bishops’ pro-life chair calls plan to codify Roe in federal law ‘tragic’

WASHINGTON — The chair of the U.S. bishops’ pro-life committee called it “deeply disturbing and tragic” that any U.S. president would mark the Jan. 22 anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion by praising it and condemned for not only their personal beliefs, but also the effects of their public actions,” the archbishop said. “Roe’s elevation of abortion to the status of a protected right and its elimination of state restrictions paved the way for the violent deaths of more than 62 million innocent unborn children and for countless women who experienced the heartache of loss, abandonment and violence.”

In at least two states, abortion-related measures drew the attention of Catholic bishops on the Roe anniversary. In Virginia, Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington and Bishop Barry C. Knestout of Richmond expressed “deep disappointment” with the state Senate’s passage of a measure to expand abortion. In Texas, the state Catholic Conference endorsed two major pro-life bills it said have bipartisan support in the Legislature.

Bishops Burbidge and Knestout said Virginia lawmakers have reversed “an important provision” Catholic leaders fought for 10 years that kept most abortions out of the state’s health-care exchange, which was created after the federal Affordable Care Act became law in 2010. The exchange is a virtual “marketplace” for those shopping for health insurance.

“Keeping taxpayer-subsidized abortion-on-demand out of the exchange is consistent with the federal Hyde Amendment, in place for more than four decades and which most Americans support,” the bishops said. “Tragically, the Senate today took a far different path.”

“Replacing the current life-saving restrictions on abortion with a policy of abortion coverage without limits in our state exchange is drastic, dangerous and will result in the tragic end to more unborn lives,” they added, urging the state’s House of Delegates to reject the Senate’s move in a vote scheduled for the week of Jan. 23.

“Abortion is not health care; it ends lives instead of healing them,” Bishop Burbidge and Knestout said. “We express our deep disappointment with this vote on a very solemn day in U.S. history. On this day when we reflect in particular on the more than 60 million unborn lives lost since the Roe v. Wade decision, and on every day, we continue to advocate with relentless determination for health care that affirms every life, born and unborn.”

One of two pro-life bills backed by the Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops is the Human Life Protection Act, which would allow the state to immediately enact new legislation if the U.S. Supreme Court “changes precedent and allows states to protect unborn children before viability outside the womb.”

Termed a “trigger ban,” the law would be triggered such a court decision “and ensure that state laws would align with the new precedent,” said a Jan. 22 news release issued by the conference, which represents 16 dioceses and 20 active bishops. The second measure is the Texas Chemical Abortion Safety Protocol bill to improve safety standards for women exposed to these procedures, regardless of changes in regulations on the federal level.

If the U.S. Food and Drug Administration “allows abortion-inducing drugs to be available by mail or over the counter, bypassing medical oversight and regulation, then, without access to professional medical care, women’s lives could be in danger,” the conference said. “The bill would provide regulations to ensure that chemical abortion procedures must meet the standards of care as currently established.”

“There will be many other bills that will enhance the pro-life protections that Texas offers, but these two are the most critical,” Jennifer Allmon, the conference’s executive director, said in a statement.

“The Human Life Protection Act will allow the most efficient and effective method of reducing abortions in Texas as soon as the Supreme Court allows, and the chemical abortion safety protocol will address the safety of expectant mothers and unborn children who are potentially at risk,” she said.

“These vulnerable Texans deserve special attention by our Legislature, and we encourage our representatives and senators to bring these bills to the governor’s desk,” said Allmon.
Ohio bishop asks for prayers for protesters who disrupted Respect Life Mass

Catholic News Service
COLUMBUS, Ohio — Several women protesting the Catholic Church’s teaching against abortion disrupted an annual Respect Life Mass being celebrated by Bishop Robert J. Brennan at a downtown Columbus cathedral.

The protesters, which a video posted by The Columbus Dispatch showed to number about seven, stormed into St. Joseph Cathedral during the liturgy Jan. 22 and marched through the sanctuary. They shouted that abortion was under attack and carried cardboard signs with messages supporting abortion.

Police and diocesan officials escorted the women out of the cathedral without incident. No arrests were made.

Bishop Brennan thanked police officers for their quick response to restore order in a statement released after the Mass, which commemorated the 48th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision in Roe v. Wade that legalized abortion.

“I want to express my great admiration and thanks to all those attending the Mass whose respectful and prayerful response reflects the joy, hope and mercy that marks our pro-life witness. I also apologize to the families present whose children were exposed to this,” Bishop Brennan said.

“What do we pray for? For the lives lost to abortion and their parents, we pray for peace, understanding, conversion of hearts and those whose views differ from ours,” Father Kubat added.


“On this day, in remembrance of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision, I ask all to continue to pray for the unborn who died, for all those who have experienced the pain of abortion and for those who cannot understand our divine and steadfast calling to champion this cause,” the bishop also said.

The Catholic Medical Association condemned the disruption of Mass and called on President Joe Biden and Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine, both of whom are Catholic, to do the same.

“Storming into a cathedral, disrupting holy Mass by shouting inflammatory and hateful remarks, is an attack on our religious freedom,” Dr. Michael Parker, association president, said in a Jan. 23 news release.

“Just as we pray for the lives lost to abortion and their parents, we pray for peace, understanding, conversion of hearts and those whose views differ from ours,” Father Kubat added.

January 2021

My dear friends,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

For 47 years now we have been celebrating National Catholic Schools Week in our country. This year, Catholic Schools Week will undoubtedly look somewhat different from previous years and previous celebrations. The pandemic has changed many, many things in our lives and many events that had been planned have had to be altered or entirely set aside. This of course not only applies to Catholic Schools Week but to plans — and life — in general. What a year it has been!

The pandemic notwithstanding, we nonetheless celebrate Catholic Schools Week with the same vigor and the same determination that we have always done so because the purpose of a thoroughly Catholic School education has not changed. Our purpose, to educate and form the whole person and most importantly to transmit the faith, has remained the same.

The theme for Catholic Schools Week is “Catholic Schools: Faith, Excellence, Service.” These three hallmarks of a thoroughly Catholic School education are constant. Not even a pandemic can change that!

Faith is of course the foundation, the bedrock of a Catholic School education. Without faith life is meaningless and we would drift along with no purpose, no identity, no future. Faith begets excellence which has always been a priority in Catholic School education which education is directed to the whole person — spirit, mind and body. Faith and excellence in turn give way to service, giving students the opportunity and the tools to put their faith and their excellence in learning into practice.

Our Diocese has a 168 year history of providing a truly Catholic, faith-filled education to every student in every one of our schools. From pre-K through university we continue to educate students who go on to bring the Gospel message to others through their witness to the faith and their service to the community. We are justifiably proud of our Catholic School System and celebrate that system during this Catholic Schools Week!

I take this opportunity to thank all those who entrust their children to our Catholic Schools and pledge that we will continue to offer a thoroughly Catholic School education with faith, excellence and service always as our goal.

I thank also all those who, in any way, support our Catholic School System. We could not provide the wonderful education we do without you.

I am also grateful to our schools administrators, staffs, and faculty for your dedication to your vocation to Catholic School education. And I am profoundly grateful to our Department of Catholic Schools under the leadership of our superintendent, Mrs. Kendra McGuire. The pandemic has had an effect on everyone and everything but under the leadership of Mrs. McGuire and our school administrators we have continued to provide a thoroughly Catholic School education!

We place our Catholic School System under the protective mantle of our Blessed Mother and, in this Year of St. Joseph, under his fatherly care.

Yours devotedly in the Lord,

Most Rev. Roger J. Foys, D.D., S.T.D.,
Bishop of Covington
Catholic schools — a community educated in the faith to serve God’s people

Kendra McGuire
Messenger Contributor

Our Catholic schools will begin their celebration of Catholic Schools Week on Sunday, Jan. 31. This annual tradition is a time for us to celebrate each school’s achievements and successes, to thank all those who support our schools, and to show our appreciation to the faculty, staff, parents and students who are the building blocks of our school communities.

This year’s Catholic Schools Week theme is “Faith, Excellence, Service.” These three words highlight the areas where our schools shine brightly. First, is the Catholic faith. Faith is what truly sets our Catholic schools apart and is the reason they exist. Transmitting the Catholic faith is our primary mission. By striving to place the teachings of Jesus Christ first, we are able to pass on his lessons to our students and model how we are called to live.

When students learn to live as Jesus calls us, they learn to treat others with love and kindness. They learn to care for those in need and always offer their support to those suffering. They learn to be good stewards of God’s creation and the valuable lesson that we are all sinners and constantly in need of God’s forgiveness and grace. These are timeless lessons that will carry our students throughout their lives.

Catholic schools are well known for their academic excellence. This is the result of the high expectations set by the faculty and staff in our Catholic schools, and who go the extra mile to help students attain them. Our teachers see their role as a vocation. By answering God’s call to educate children in the faith, teachers work purposely to ensure students are prepared in mind, body and soul. So often our teachers are working long hours, using their own resources for lesson materials, and sacrificing their own time to give the extra attention needed to help students succeed. Our students and parents see this dedication and respond well to their love and care. In Catholic schools students are provided a learning environment where they are supported, encouraged and given the tools they need to succeed. This has been a recipe for success and excellence that we continue to see year after year.

The other aspect to this year’s theme is service. What is interesting about service in our schools is that everyone participates in serving one another and the needs of the community. We have so many volunteers who serve our schools with their time, talents and treasure. Our parents volunteer countless hours to help with everything from fundraising to coaching to preparing meals for a family in need. Our students offer their time to serve as well. They organize food and clothing drives, volunteer at various charities, and even learn the value of helping a neighbor. The way in which everyone serves not only keeps the school thriving but creates a community of people who will not hesitate to respond to the needs of others. Through our service we are living witnesses to Christ’s love for one another and we are teaching the next generation of students to always look for ways to help others too.

While this has been an especially challenging year for all of us, Catholic schools have continued to shine brightly in the areas of faith, excellence and service. This year the faculty and staff, parents, and community members have come together and worked hard to provide the best learning experience possible for students in the midst of the pandemic. Through their tireless efforts our schools are once again demonstrating that with a strong faith in God and a spirit of service we can do great things and continue striving for excellence no matter what challenges lie before us.

As we celebrate Catholic Schools Week, let us thank God for the blessings of Catholic education and for all those who have answered the call to support our schools to ensure their continued success.

Kendra McGuire is superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Covington, Ky.
When focused on educating and exercising the minds, bodies and souls of today's youth, Catholic schools shine as beacons of light in a dark and confusing world. When they rise up to the challenges of society and culture they bring hope and joy to countless Christian families and others who are trying to do their best to serve the Lord in trying times.

It is no small feat that Catholic schools have stood strong through the tests of time in America, but there is no reason to think that things are going to get any easier in the near future. While we live in a world where medical and technological advances have, generally, made life more convenient and easier, having a sacramental vision has become way more difficult. As mankind seems to wander further and further away from God, there is no doubt that keeping the faith while growing up is getting harder.

It is only right to take a moment each year and celebrate Catholic Schools Week (CSW). Catholic schools have a specific purpose to form students in love of God and love of neighbor; to be good citizens of the world and to enrich society with the leaven of the Gospel and by example of faith. They are a benefit to our cities and towns — believers and non-believers alike — but that is not what makes them so special.

The CSW theme this year is “Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service.” Faith, excellence and service are pillars of the Christian life. These pillars stand upon a solid foundation and direct people’s attention away from earthly distractions and up to the heavens. It is that solid foundation that makes Catholic schools so special.

What does it mean to have faith? It means that you believe in more than what this world has to offer. It means that you have come to know and trust the Lord more than you trust your own eyes. It is an understanding that the realities we meet with our senses are simply passing us by and that eternity, which is beyond, is even more real. As communities of faith, Catholic schools instill in students their destiny to become future saints.

What is excellence, if not holiness? Every Catholic, from a Benedictine monk in Norcia to the lawyer or teacher down the street in Northern Kentucky, is called to take their mission from Christ and spiritual formation seriously. The Christian life, like everything else, requires constant education, training and attention. We know that habits are developed at a young age. While it’s true that academic excellence is a hallmark of Catholic education, it is intentionally directed to the growth of the whole person — mind, body and soul — with an extra emphasis on the soul. A Catholic school teaches its students about the will of God, in contrast to our culture’s tendency to promote the worship of the self and other false idols. By the time a Catholic is confirmed they should realize what is being asked of them — they are being asked to lead a true and holy life; to follow Christ, even when it leads to the Cross.

And, finally, we have the pillar of service. The Letter of James in Scripture tells us that “… faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead.” (James 2:17) St. Maximus the Confessor (c. 580-662 AD) takes the idea a step further, he said, “Theology without practice is the theology of demons.” We are called to live a life of service. Social learning through service is a fundamental part of Catholic education. It is not enough to just say we love God, we need to show it. Service in our Catholic schools is intended to help form youth to not only witnesses to Catholic social teaching, but to also be active participants in social change for the common good.

In a day and age when many seem to have lost their way, it is important to remember that the Catholic Church is not just a building or an institution, but the people of God working together to bring about the Kingdom of God today. The role of Catholic schools, an apostolate of the Church, is to raise up the next generation to continue this mission begun by Christ.

Yes, these are hard times; yes, it is often a dark and confusing world, but at the center of the storm the light of Christ shines the brightest. Like everything else Catholic schools are in the midst of the fray, but Christ is the center of the school. Christ is that solid foundation upon which they are built, and that makes all the difference.

David Cooley is co-director and office manager of the Office of Catechesis and Evangelization in the Diocese of Covington.
Bishop Brossart High School: Charity First

The graduation from eighth grade, though daunting, is filled with the promise of new things to discover and transform. Of these new experiences, perhaps the most immediate is the transition to high school, an integral first step towards future success as well as the development of a unique sense of identity. At Bishop Brossart High School, we believe the best way to reach these milestones is through dynamic, Christ-centered education, driven by a deep sense of community that permeates every aspect of student life.

A BBHS education is a rigorous one, allowing opportunities for enrichment and advancement at every stage of a student’s high school career. Students are given a chance to set and attain academic goals by applying for membership in one of our four honors societies, whose members demonstrate the utmost academic and personal standards. With an extensive and diverse catalogue of advanced placement and dual credit courses, students are encouraged to pursue their interests at a higher level, earning college credit through an exploratory, challenging regimen.

While academic rigor is at the heart of the BBHS curriculum, we believe that learning is a multifaceted experience. In addition to exemplary academics, BBHS strives to create well-rounded individuals, offering lessons not only in math, science, and English, but in life as well. As BBHS, we teach students how to learn, and how to utilize their unique interests and talents to create the best version of themselves. In recognizing their strengths and weaknesses, our students uncover a greater sense of self, allowing them to further develop their empathy and confidence. These precepts are not restrictive but celebrate God’s unique vision for each individual student.

The sense of camaraderie is not confined to the classroom. Whether it be the sound of applause at the crux of a state championship or the congratulations of a classmate upon the conclusion of a successful student-run worship service, our supportive atmosphere of family extends to our numerous extracurricular activities as well.

Athletic achievement is in no short supply at BBHS; our sports teams have garnered state and regional titles during our years of competition, including three girls cross country state championships in the last four years. These athletic feats have found a new home (Continued on page 14)
with the completion of a brand new, state-of-the-art athletic complex. Complete with a regulation size football and soccer field, track, and an annexes booth, the Mustang Athletic Complex is an exciting new development in the well-respected reputation of BBHS sports. Indeed, Bishop Brossart High School is full of talented people, and as such, student involvement is considered a matter of immense importance. Nowhere is this more evident than in our plethora of non-KHSAA affiliated extracurricular activities. From our intramural sports leagues to our distinguished robotics and academic teams, every student at BBHS is well-equipped in the quest to find their “thing.” BBHS’s dedication to its students has not gone unnoticed. In 2018, we were honored with Blue Ribbon status after decades of quality instruction. The staff at Bishop Brossart High School is the key to our success; they work tirelessly to ensure an education of the highest caliber for every student who enters their doors. In addition to leading the classroom, many teachers also adopt roles outside of course instruction, becoming coaches, club moderators, service coordinators, ACT tutors, and occasional intramural teammates. These extra hours are representative of the close bond between teachers and students, and reinforce the approachability of the staff.

Our teachers lead by example, developing students both academically and spiritually. Challenging students to think critically about the course material while giving them the tools to live out the school motto: Charity First. Teachers inspire students to remain steadfast in the pursuit of their goals, and new social connections that both educate and inspire students’ futures in these ways. Spiritually — when a young man experiences the humbling satisfaction of participating in community service with his fellow CovCath brothers. Our students contribute almost twice the required hours of community service each year, via efforts such as tutoring at inner city schools and actively working at Special Olympics events in Northern Kentucky. In addition to Mass and other sacra-ments which are regularly offered at school, our young men seize opportunities to grow and communicate their faith, such as Adoration nights and spiritual retreats.

Academically — via a wide range of academic offerings and program levels. We celebrate the exceptional achieve-
ments of our students, such as: recent graduating class averages which are regularly offered at school, our young men seize opportunities to grow and communicate their faith, such as Adoration nights and spiritual retreats.

Acceleration is a distinctive hallmark of Covington Latin School and offers an avenue for bright and enthusi-
(Continued on page 15)
(Continued from page 14)

Catholic Schools

astic fifth, sixth, and seventh grade students to advance one to two years, to move at a pace, level and complexity appropriate to their individual needs, while surrounding them with like-minded and engaged peers who share their intellectual curiosity.

And the results are impressive: the Covington Latin Class of 2020 averaged over $120,000 per student in scholarship offers and had an average ACT® composite score of 31.4. Graduates go on to excel in the nation’s finest colleges and universities, with 98 percent holding bachelor’s degrees and 48 percent with advanced or terminal degrees (MD, PhD, JD etc.). Alumni have compiled tremendous records of achievement and leadership in the Church, business, law, engineering, medicine, public service, edu-

cation, science and technology sectors.

But a premier Catholic education is more than cultivating intellect and accomplishments alone. Covington Latin maintains a deep and abiding commitment to its Catholic identity. In-depth theology coursework builds on the foun-
dations developed within families and provides comprehensive understanding of the Catholic faith. This knowl-
edge is put into practice through weekly all-school worship at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, class retreats and humanitarian service work.

Wide-ranging athletic and extracurricular involvement reflects CLS students' commitment to academic, social, spiritual and personal aspects of their total formation. A broad spectrum of clubs and organizations, ranging from Ski Club, Junior Classical League and Literary Guild, to Academic Team, Robotics, and Drama Clubs, reflect the wide-ranging extracurricular interests of our students.

We offer KHSAA-recognized varsity athletic teams in baseball, soccer, softball, swimming, diving, tennis, track and volleyball. Latin School values the lessons taught by athletic participation: leadership, strength of character, teamwork and sportsmanship — respect for one’s opponents, acknowledgement of victory with humility and acceptance of defeat with grace.

Students are best prepared for college and the world beyond by having a strong spiritual foundation and learning in a supportive, diverse, coeducational atmosphere — reflective of, and therefore preparatory for, the world they will inherit. Latin School students come from varied eco-
nomic, educational, cultural and geographic backgrounds, drawing enrollment from throughout Southern Ohio, Indiana and seven counties in Northern Kentucky.

CLS believes that financial wealth should not deter access to the best education, nor should it shape a learning community. Covington Latin offers tuition assis-
tance to families across a broad spectrum of financial cir-
cumstances to ensure the Latin School experience is acces-
sible to all deserving students.

There has never been a more exciting time to be at Covington Latin School and we invite families interested in exploring the possibilities Covington Latin may hold for their children. Private and virtual tours are available for interested families. Please contact admissions@covings-
tonlatin.org to learn more.

Holy Cross District High School — Providing opportunity — developing dreams

Holy Cross District High School has a proud tradition of providing a strong faith-filled education for students. Since its founding in 1929, the vision has transformed to meet the ever changing needs of students. HCDHS has undergone a transformation that makes it in some ways unrecognizable to alumni from past eras. The dream was to build HCDHS into one of the strongest schools in the area. There have been expansions in curriculum, extracurricular activities, and the campus. And yet, despite this growth, HCDHS has retained the virtues and advantages of the small school fondly remembered by alumni — small class-
es, a supportive family atmosphere, individual attention and a high level of involvement.

The student body of HCDHS is diverse, with students coming from an amazing range of socioeconomic and aca-
demic backgrounds. Over the years, the school’s curricu-

lum has grown to match this diversity. Five levels of study and individualized scheduling allow students to take courses that will challenge them. The flexibility and vari-
ety of the curriculum enable students to move back and forth among different levels as their preferences and devel-
oment dictate.

HCDHS has continued to expand its curriculum. Advanced Placement courses are offered in English and Physics. HCDHS works with Thomas More University, Northern Kentucky University and The University of the Cumberland to offer dual credit courses in calculus, American history, foreign policy, world history, Spanish, and biology. Students earn actual college credits while at HCDHS and transfer these credits to other colleges. A skilled and motivated student, taking full advantage of this curriculum, can get a tremendous head start on his or her college education—a financial and educational bene-
fit.

Beginning in the 2019-20 school year the Practical Engineering and Design program was introduced. Here, students interested in careers in engineering, architec-
ture, graphic/product design, as well as technical careers, can get a tremendous head start on his or her career education — a financial and educational bene-
fit.

Additional programs are in place to aid students at HCDHS. The award-winning Academic Enhancement Program, the first of its kind in the diocese, permits stu-
dents with learning disabilities to have a full high school experience and receive the benefits of a Catholic educa-
ion. Over the past four years the Academic Transitions Program has been developed to aid students who do not have a diagnosed disability but still need academic support in areas of time management, organizational and study skills as they transition into high school.

The benefits of HCDHS’s diversified and challenging curriculum can be seen concretely in other areas as well. The average composite ACT score for all students was above the national (20.8) and state (20.2) averages. In addi-
tion, 95 students have scored 30 or higher over the past five years—a threshold mark that all students dream of achieving. College scholarships in general have also grown dramatically. Last year 60 percent of the senior class accepted scholarships to over 30 different colleges and universities. These scholarship offerings open tremen-
dous opportunity for students to achieve their dreams of a successful college career.

HCDHS has achieved many dreams — expansion and growth of our campus, improvements to our facilities, and remarkable academic success and curriculum develop-
ment. However, despite all of this change, our distinctive

REGISTRATIONS FOR 2021-22 school year now being accepted.

If interested in a tour after school hours contact Chris Holtz at 859.635.2108 or choltz@bishopbrossart.org

Bishop Brossart High School
4 Grove Street • Alexandria, KY 41001
www.bishopbrossart.org
Email: info@bishopbrossart.org

For more information call 859.635.2108

(Continued on page 16)
(Continued from page 15)

dreams into the brightest future. Each student
of the Northern Kentucky and fostering a community spirit that
HCDHS provides students with a spiritual and educa-
tional foundation so that each can develop his or her
different ways during a student's four years here.

HCDHS offers a wide range of extracurricular opportu-
nities, which allow students to develop and discover tal-
ents, friendships and experiences. Almost 90 percent of the
students participate in at least one extracurricular activity and
75 percent participate in one of the 21 athletic teams. More
important, every graduate of HCDHS has performed a
minimum of 100 hours of community service, with
many students going far beyond that figure. National
Honors Society members perform at least 10 additional
hours each year. Students perform service on their own
time, helping to make HCDHS an integral part of
Northern Kentucky and forging a community spirit that
will last a lifetime. What also lasts forever is a deep-rooted
connection to the HCDHS family forged in a thousand dif-
ferent ways during a student’s four years here.

We believe in … faith

We believe in … academic excellence

For well over a century Notre Dame Academy students
who make a difference in the world.

Innovators of tomorrow

Notre Dame Academy: Notre Dame Academy
(Continued on page 17)
The strong sense of community at SHDHS is reinforced through the school’s multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) framework, which assists all learners in reaching their full potential. MTSS recognizes the joint influence of academic, social, emotional and behavioral needs on students’ overall success. Through this effort, students are provided with a continuum of support and intervention specific to their individual needs.

SHDHS offers college-prep and advanced placement classes, dual credit courses, opportunities to attend the Boone County Area Technical Center to earn certifications, and internships with community partners. Each year, St. Henry continues to develop and expand these programs to engage more students in a variety of career and college pathways.

St. Henry District High School is a recognized leader, consistently scoring above national, state and local norms on national assessments. Over the previous five years, SHDHS had:
- Average ACT composite score of 26.2.
- 28 Governor’s Scholar Program graduates.
- 6 National Merit Finalists and 11 National Merit Commended.
- 93 AP Scholars.
- 85 percent of students scoring a 3 or higher on the 1653 AP Exams taken.

Over $47.7 million in scholarship offers.

In addition, SHDHS provides students with an abundance of elective courses and extracurricular activities to enhance their skills and explore interests outside academics. Through these activities, students take an active role in leading high impact community service projects. The student body performs more than 20,000 hours of community service throughout the year, giving their time and talent to a wide variety of community organizations, including local parishes, food pantries, and homeless shelters. Upon graduation, students are prepared for college and career and grow to become active, caring leaders who value human life, are dedicated to family and live a life in service of others.

The SHDHS athletic programs also offer students an array of extracurricular opportunities for all interests and abilities, ranging from basketball and volleyball to archery and esports. SHDHS teams have won over 40 state championships, and its coaches have received national state and community recognition.

SHDHS continues to expand both physically and academically to support the growth and development of all students. The “Building on Excellence, Guided by Faith” expansion project was completed in 2020 enhancing both the fine arts facilities and the science and technology spaces at SHDHS. The centerpiece of this project is the new 400-seat Drees Homes Auditorium, designed to host a wide variety of events, including student productions, band and theater classes, school agen., and community gatherings. The Ed and Betty Dusing Black Box Theater is adjacent to the main auditorium and will be used for rehearsals, smaller performances, classroom instruction, and banquets. The project also included a new media center which includes a redesigned computer lab, green screen room, and communal space that allows for collaboration, professional development opportunities, parent orientations, and presentations.

For more information about SHDHS, please contact the Enrollment Office at (859) 525-9844, visit shdhs.org, or connect with SHDHS on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Article submitted by St. Henry District High School.

St. Patrick School — ‘self-realization in Christ’
In 1890 Father Peter McMahon was the pastor of St. Patrick Church, Maryville. He began classes in the rectory. By 1902 the rectory educated eight grades, and

(Continued on page 18)

Catholic Schools

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY AS TO STUDENTS
Diocesan Policy states that “No person shall be refused admission to any church, school or institution or membership in any Catholic society or organization solely on the grounds of race or nationality.” In keeping with this policy, the schools under the auspices of the Department of Catholic Education, Diocese of Covington, do not discriminate on the basis of race, color or national ethnicity. Any student of any race, color, or national origin may be accepted into the academic program and have equal educational opportunities and privileges, programs and activities generally accorded to students at that school and that school does not discriminate on the basis of race in administration of its educational policies, programs and activities. Each school in the Diocese of Covington has a School Discipline Code which is generally consistent with SHDHS. The Code of Discipline is available from the principal.”

SECONDARY SCHOOLS
Bishop Brossart — 4 Grove Street, Alexandria, Kentucky 41001-1285 Covington Latin — 20 East Eleventh Street, Covington, Kentucky 41011-2979 Covington Catholic — 21 East Eleventh Street, Covington, Kentucky 41011-3196 Holy Cross — 3617 Church Street, Covington, Kentucky 41014-1498 Newport Central Catholic — 19 Charlestown Road, Newport, Kentucky 41071-2497 Notre Dame Academy — 1099 Hilton Drive, Covington, Kentucky 41011-2705 St. Henry — 3775 Shelby Drive, Erlanger, Kentucky 41018-1073 St. Joseph — 318 Limestone Street, Maysville, Kentucky 41056-1248 Villa Madonna Academy — 2500 Amsterdam Road, Villa Hills, Kentucky 41017-3798 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Catholic Schools
The Catholic schools of the Diocese of Covington welcome you to discover how they are raising the standards by incorporating faith, academics and service in education. Visit them on the web or better yet attend an open house. Private tours are also available. Contact the school of your choice to arrange a tour.

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**
Blessed Sacrament School, Covington (859) 431-5153 www.popcov.com
St. Agnes School, Ft. Wright (859) 261-0043 http://stagnes.com
St. Anthony School, Taylor Mill (859) 431-5987 www.saintanthonytaylormill.org
St. Augustine School, Augusta (606) 756-3229 www.saintaugustines.net
St. Augustine School, Covington (859) 261-5064 www.staugustines.net
Prine of Peace School, Covington (859) 431-5153 www.popcov.com
St. Cecilia School, Independence (859) 363-4314 www.stceciliaskool.net
St. Edward School, Cincinnati (859) 234-2731 www.stedwardsky.org Properties
St. Henry School, Elsmere (859) 342-2551 www.sheehanvillage.net
St. Joseph Academy, Walton (859) 485-6444 www.jawalton.com
St. Joseph School, Camp Springs (pre-school) (859) 635-2491 www.stjosephcampspringschool.com
St. Catherine of Siena School, Ft. Thomas (859) 572-2480 www.strattrheinofsienny.org
St. Joseph School, Cold Spring (859) 441-2025 www.stjosephcoldspring.com
St. Joseph School, Crescent Springs (859) 578-2742 www.crescentschool.net
St. Mary School, Alexandria (859) 635-9539 www.saintmaryparish.com/school
St. Patrick School, Maysville (606) 564-5940 www.stpatrickschool.com
St. Paul School, Florence (859) 647-4070 www.stpaulschool.net
Sts. Peter and Paul School, California (859) 635-4382 www.stpp.com
St. Philip School, Melbourne (859) 441-3423 www.stphilipky.org
St. Plus X School, Edgewood (859) 341-4800 www.stplusx.com
St. Theresa School, Southgate (859) 441-0449 www.sainttherese.ws
St. Thomas School, Ft. Thomas (859) 572-4641 www.sttkschool.org
St. Timothy School, Union (859) 388-5100 https://saint-timothy-school.org
Villa Madonna Academy, Villa Hills (859) 331-6333 www.villamadonna.org
St. Henry District High School, Covington (859) 292-0001 www.hchs cov.com
Notre Dame Academy, Park Hills (859) 261-4000 www.ndacademy.org
St. Thomas More University, Crestview Hills (859) 341-5800 www.thomasmore.edu

**HIGH SCHOOLS**
Bishop Brossart High School, Alexandria (859) 635-2108 www.bishopbrossart.org
Covington Catholic High School, Park Hills (859) 491-2247 www.covcath.org
Covington Latin School, Covington (859) 291-7044 www.covingtonlatin.org
Blessed Sacrament School, Cincinnati (859) 525-0255 www.shdfs.org
St. Patrick High School, Maysville (606) 564-5949 www.stpathschool.com
Villa Madonna Academy, Villa Hills (859) 331-6333 www.villamadonna.org
Sts. Peter and Paul School, California (859) 635-4382 www.stpp.com

**UNIVERSITY**
Thomas More University, Crestview Hills (859) 341-5800 www.thomasmore.edu

**HOLY CROSS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**
3615 Church St., Latonia (859) 581-6599 www.holycrosssalem.com
Call to schedule a tour.

**HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL**
338 E. 16th St., Covington (859) 581-0290 www.holyfamilycovington.org
Call to schedule a tour.

**HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL**
235 Division St., Bellevue (859) 291-6937
Open House by appointment only at: www.holytrinityschool.com
February 21, 2021
11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Providing quality Christ-centered elementary education to children in our urban areas since 1834

**CELEBRATING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK**
**PRINCE OF PEACE MONTESSORI**
625 Pike St., Covington (859) 431-5153 www.popcov.com
Call to schedule an observation.

**ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL**
485 Grand Ave., Taylor Mill (859) 431-5987 www.stanthonytaylormill.org
Call to schedule a tour.

**ST. AUGUSTINE SCHOOL**
1840 Jefferson Ave., Covington (859) 261-5564 www.staugustines.net
Call to schedule a tour.

(Continued from page 17)

In 1926 went to 12 grades. In 1956 the new school building was erected. In 1999, through the support of the community and school families, a marvelous high school expansion was added.

No matter where the learning took place — run-down old homes, portable classrooms or the fine brick school now over 50 years old — St. Patrick School’s goal is, and always has been, to encourage the growth of each student spiritually, intellectually and physically.

St. Patrick School is one of only a handful of Catholic schools in the United States educating students from grades kindergarten to 12, supported by a single parish, not by a district. Our mission is to provide a positive educational experience, in which each student attains maximum self-awareness, in which each student develops values and ethical standards consistent with Catholic principles. These standards emphasize one’s relationship with God, to one’s self and to one’s neighbor.

The school endeavors to teach students the necessary balance between self-discipline and freedom that enables them to participate significantly in society. Our purpose is to educate students for full Christian participation in the new millennium.

St. Patrick School is committed to forming students in the Christian tradition of reverence, peace, scholarship, service and community. Our objectives:
- Students fulfill their potential — spiritual, intellectual and physical.
- Students use their creative abilities.
- Parents become involved in all phases of the students’ education.
- Students develop leadership skills while recognizing the value of being a cooperative group member.
- Students develop awareness of responsibility through community service.
- Students develop a deeper relationship with Christ and an understanding of the Catholic faith.
- Students recognize Christ in every person.
- Students develop Christian moral and religious values through instruction and practice.
- Students develop a spirit of patriotism and civic duty through study and special opportunities to exercise such.

(Continued on page 19)
Thomas More University: A century of Catholic higher education

Thomas More University provides students with something much more than job training. Graduates are prepared for any career but are inspired to be prepared for much more.

“A college education is not supposed to be a hoop to jump through or a box to check in order to get a good job,” said President Joseph Chillo. “Education is a transformative endeavor, not a transactional exchange. It is a community, not a commodity.”

At Thomas More, students are exposed to the very best thought, literature, art and music. They learn to harness the power of human reason to solve problems and discover truth. Most importantly, they have the chance to begin to become the person they were created to be. This is the power of the liberal arts in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition at Thomas More. Students come to Thomas More looking for more. And that’s exactly what the University offers. At Thomas More, students take that opportunity and... Make it More.

Founded in 1921 as Villa Madonna College by the Benedictine Sisters, Thomas More University still serves the community and globe with the same mission on which the Benedictine Sisters founded Villa Madonna College — to serve as a Catholic higher education institution that challenges students of all faiths to examine the ultimate meaning of life, their place in the world, and their responsibility to others. With this focus, Thomas More’s continual rankings competitively among other high education institutions nationally and is currently positioned as no. 1 for ROI among four-year private and public institutions in Kentucky.

Beginning September 2021, the University will celebrate its centennial year — that’s 100 years of the institution providing a values-based education rooted in the Catholic faith. As Thomas More enters its second century, the University will propel itself forward through innovation and agility built on the themes of student success, academic innovation, and responsible stewardship. Thomas More will be the premier regional Catholic university.

For more information about campus happenings, to schedule a campus visit, or to learn about scholarship opportunities, visit thomasmore.edu.

(Continued from page 18)

- Students develop practical and leisure interests to promote personal growth and social responsibility.
- Villa Madonna Academy is celebrating the distinction of being named the #1 Private School in Northern KY (Niche.com) this year. It is unique in that it is the only K-12, Benedictine, boarding school in the state. Villa’s K-6 Elementary School and grades 7-12 Junior High and High School students come from Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, and around the world. They learn and grow together on Villa’s beautiful 68 acre campus overlooking the Ohio River.

What would make a student fly across the globe or drive across a river to attend Villa Madonna Academy? Results are one reason. Villa students score higher than state and local averages on standardized tests at all grade levels. The Class of 2020 averaged a 28 ACT score, 3.79 GPA, and $294,000 per student in scholarship offers.

Parents believe it’s the people behind the results that make the difference. They say that incredible teachers, small class sizes, the welcoming co-ed community and a values-based approach to education are the top reasons they choose Villa. The small-by-design class sizes (9:1 student-teacher ratio) allow Villa’s dynamic teachers to help students find their best path to success, and the Benedictine values of scholarship, hospitality, service, stewardship and respect help create an environment where everyone is welcome and challenged to grow academically and spiritually.

Villa’s welcoming community extends outside the classroom as well. All students have the opportunity to play on the Villa Vikings competitive sports teams, perform on stage, or participate in one of Villa’s many clubs. In fact, more than 90 percent of students participate in extracurricular activity and contribute to Villa’s history of success. The Villa Vikings compete at regional and state levels as do the academic, chess, and Future Lego League teams, and the Destination Imagination team has competed on a global stage. In addition, Villa artists and authors have been recognized regionally and nationally for the quality of their work.

Villa is more affordable than you might think. Administration works diligently to provide scholarships and financial assistance to qualified families: 48 percent of students receive assistance. You are invited to explore Villa as an option for your family. Personal and virtual tours are available. Learn more by visiting villamadonna.org or by contacting Janet Bough, admissions director, at jbough@villamadonna.net / (859) 314-6033.

Villa Madonna Academy is celebrating the distinction of being named the #1 Private School in Northern KY (Niche.com) this year. It is unique in that it is the only K-12, Benedictine, boarding school in the state. Villa’s K-6 Elementary School and grades 7-12 Junior High and High School students come from Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, and around the world. They learn and grow together on Villa’s beautiful 68 acre campus overlooking the Ohio River.

What would make a student fly across the globe or drive across a river to attend Villa Madonna Academy? Results are one reason. Villa students score higher than state and local averages on standardized tests at all grade levels. The Class of 2020 averaged a 28 ACT score, 3.79 GPA, and $294,000 per student in scholarship offers.

Parents believe it’s the people behind the results that make the difference. They say that incredible teachers, small class sizes, the welcoming co-ed community and a values-based approach to education are the top reasons they choose Villa. The small-by-design class sizes (9:1 student-teacher ratio) allow Villa’s dynamic teachers to help students find their best path to success, and the Benedictine values of scholarship, hospitality, service, stewardship and respect help create an environment where everyone is welcome and challenged to grow academically and spiritually.

Villa’s welcoming community extends outside the classroom as well. All students have the opportunity to play on the Villa Vikings competitive sports teams, perform on stage, or participate in one of Villa’s many clubs. In fact, more than 90 percent of students participate in extracurricular activity and contribute to Villa’s history of success. The Villa Vikings compete at regional and state levels as do the academic, chess, and Future Lego League teams, and the Destination Imagination team has competed on a global stage. In addition, Villa artists and authors have been recognized regionally and nationally for the quality of their work.

Villa is more affordable than you might think. Administration works diligently to provide scholarships and financial assistance to qualified families: 48 percent of students receive assistance. You are invited to explore Villa as an option for your family. Personal and virtual tours are available. Learn more by visiting villamadonna.org or by contacting Janet Bough, admissions director, at jbough@villamadonna.net / (859) 314-6033.

Villa Madonna Academy is celebrating the distinction of being named the #1 Private School in Northern KY (Niche.com) this year. It is unique in that it is the only K-12, Benedictine, boarding school in the state. Villa’s K-6 Elementary School and grades 7-12 Junior High and High School students come from Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, and around the world. They learn and grow together on Villa’s beautiful 68 acre campus overlooking the Ohio River.

What would make a student fly across the globe or drive across a river to attend Villa Madonna Academy? Results are one reason. Villa students score higher than state and local averages on standardized tests at all grade levels. The Class of 2020 averaged a 28 ACT score, 3.79 GPA, and $294,000 per student in scholarship offers.

Parents believe it’s the people behind the results that make the difference. They say that incredible teachers, small class sizes, the welcoming co-ed community and a values-based approach to education are the top reasons they choose Villa. The small-by-design class sizes (9:1 student-teacher ratio) allow Villa’s dynamic teachers to help students find their best path to success, and the Benedictine values of scholarship, hospitality, service, stewardship and respect help create an environment where everyone is welcome and challenged to grow academically and spiritually.

Villa’s welcoming community extends outside the classroom as well. All students have the opportunity to play on the Villa Vikings competitive sports teams, perform on stage, or participate in one of Villa’s many clubs. In fact, more than 90 percent of students participate in extracurricular activity and contribute to Villa’s history of success. The Villa Vikings compete at regional and state levels as do the academic, chess, and Future Lego League teams, and the Destination Imagination team has competed on a global stage. In addition, Villa artists and authors have been recognized regionally and nationally for the quality of their work.

Villa is more affordable than you might think. Administration works diligently to provide scholarships and financial assistance to qualified families: 48 percent of students receive assistance. You are invited to explore Villa as an option for your family. Personal and virtual tours are available. Learn more by visiting villamadonna.org or by contacting Janet Bough, admissions director, at jbough@villamadonna.net / (859) 314-6033.
Archbishop Gregory: In teaching Gospel values, Catholic schools can address societal ills

WASHINGTON — Catholic schools have been entrusted with an “awesome responsibility” to teach Gospel values that can help students to recognize, reject and work against racism and other forms of discrimination, Washington Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory told Catholic educators Oct. 20.

“Our schools are the privileged places to learn the Gospel. We cannot shy away from the hard questions and conversations our children bring to the classroom,” Archbishop Gregory said.

“We have to give them the tools to develop their consciences, to grow in compassion and to see with the eyes of faith.”

Archbishop Gregory made his remarks during a keynote address at the National Catholic Educational Association’s National Catholic Leadership Summit. The NCEA is an association of more than 150,000 educators in Catholic schools and religious education programs.

Because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the keynote address was livestreamed via the internet.

Pointing to racial injustice, the struggle for immigrant and refugee rights and other societal ills, the archbishop told Catholic educators “we are at an important time in our history as a nation and as a people of God. We have to be the witnesses. How we act and how we lead at this time can make a difference for generations to come.”

“With so much unrest in our country regarding the ongoing challenges of racial inequality and the injustices committed against people of color, it is only fitting that we defend the immigrant and refugee as well as the environment .”

“People from different races and cultures, he said, also “must be represented in the leadership of our schools, not only in paid positions, but also in the leadership and membership on our school advisory councils and home and school organizations.”

“People from different races and cultures,” he added, “must be celebrated and appreciated for the richness they bring to our society as a whole.”

Archbishop Gregory said that “celebrations of cultures and different races have to move beyond a particular heritage ‘month,’ and should become a regular part of the fabric of the school.”

“Different races and cultures,” he said, “must be celebrated and appreciated for the richness they bring to our society as a whole.”

He told educators that Catholic schools are “a privileged environment for the formation of the whole child” but that such schools “were never meant to be for only the privileged.”

“Our Church’s Catholic social teaching gives us the tools we need to call out the many forms of injustice that plague our country today.”

Archbishop Gregory said, “It is because of God’s love for each individual person that we speak out,” he said, “against the evils of abortion, capital punishment and euthanasia because they strike against the most fundamental right, which is life. ... Racial justice is (also) a pro-life issue.”

“Catholic social teaching, he added, “also compels us to speak out against economic injustice. ... We also must defend the immigrant and refugee as well as the environment, and a whole host of other social issues.”

He told Catholic educators “not only have the means to bring about change, but also the important responsibility to share the Gospel message of love, mercy and justice with our students and their families.”

Archbishop Gregory reiterated that the U.S. bishops in their pastoral letter, “Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love,” which was issued in 2018, “called Catholics to be the witnesses. How we act and how we lead at this time can make a difference for generations to come.”

“Because ‘no one culture should be viewed as universally perfect, but instead, each should be celebrated and appreciated for the richness they bring to our society as a whole.’”

Archbishop Gregory said that “celebrations of cultures and different races have to move beyond a particular heritage ‘month,’ and should become a regular part of the fabric of the school.”

“People from different races and cultures, he said, also “must be represented in the leadership of our schools, not only in paid positions, but also in the leadership and membership on our school advisory councils and home and school organizations.”

“People from different races and cultures,” he added, “must be celebrated and appreciated for the richness they bring to our society as a whole.”

He called on Catholic school administrators, teachers and staff to “not be afraid to stand against and eradicate, any racial prejudices that may be found to exist anywhere in our Catholic school communities so that all may feel welcome in our institutions.”

U.S. Graduation Rates
A look at national high school graduation rates.
**CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS**

**Senior Home Care**
Offering home care to include meals, baths, laundry, elder sitting for safety, transportation, light housework, 24 hour care.
Call Sean Chronisnak.
www.carestar.com

**Larry’s Tree Service**
(859) 635-8528 or 240-4563
Reasonable Rates — Free Estimates
FIREWOOD — Senior Citizen Discounts Available

**GERDES CONCRETE & MASONRY**
CONCRETE — Drive ways, sidwalks, steps, patios, stamped masonry. MASONRY — Cultured stone, retaining walls, brick pavers, foundation, repairs, bake & chimney repairs. RB&C — Mailboxes, Bob Cat & drainage work. Quality work & rel. Call Bill (859) 351-4715
Messenger advertiser since 1993

**Graphics Advertising**
Horizon Advertising is here to assist your business with efficient, quality advertising services.
No time to advertise?
Horizon can help.
(859) 392-1500

**Call Kim at the Messenger for information on placing your ad in the Classified Advertisements.**
(859) 392-1500

---

**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 jkaiser@covdio.org, or call her at 859/392-1536.

**ITALY 2021!**
Nov. 8-16, Rome, Venice, Florence. Pope's Audience. We are too eager to travel! Now that a vaccine is on the horizon, we can plan. $4217 from Cincinnati Airport including airfare, first class hotels, half-professional tour guide.
John Findlater 313-410-6476 jfindlater@aol.com

**SIESTA KEY FLORIDA - CONDO RENTAL**
2 Bdrm / 2 Bath condo in Sarasota Florida, beach access and private parking. Accessible 2nd floor unit, 1 month minimum. $4,500/mo. during Jan-Feb-March. For details and/or rates for April-Dec. call Jim at (859) 343-7023.

**NOW HIRING ALL SHIFTS - 24/7**
Are you looking for a safe and stress-free job in 2021? Driving an Airport Shuttle could be the perfect Fit!

**EXECUTIVE TRANSPORTATION**
A great job for retirees and veterans. You will meet new business professionals and travelers every day, while providing them with a high-level customer service touch from CVG Airport.
How to Apply:
1. www.executivetransportation.org/careers
2. Home Office 1830 Monmouth St. Newport, KY 41071

**MAINTENANCE POSITION**
St. Therese School
Is currently seeking a candidate for a part-time maintenance position. Candidates will work Monday through Friday from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. Duties will include cleaning classrooms and cafeteria areas. Candidates must be Virtus trained. Please contact Katie Boruske at boruskek@ainstherese.ws.

**PAYROLL/STAFF ACCOUNTANT**
The Finance Office of the Diocese of Covington seeks candidates for the full-time position of Payroll/Staff Accountant. Responsibilities include accounts receivable, accounts payable, cash receipts, and general ledger, as well as maintenance of various spreadsheets, databases, and reconciliations. Payroll responsibilities involve assisting with data entry. A practical knowledge of basic bookkeeping principles and practices is essential, and other necessary requirements include experience with Microsoft Word and Excel. Qualified candidates should send a resume, cover letter, and at least five references by e-mail (skoplyay@covdio.org), fax (859/392-1589), or mail to Stephen Koplyay, SPHR; Diocese of Covington; 1125 Madison Avenue; Covington, KY 41011-3115.

**GOOD JOB REMODELING LLC**
and Handyman
Now booking for your Spring & Summer jobs. Free Estimates. Licensed and insured.
Call Steven at (859) 801-9925

**SMALL ENGINE REPAIR**
Lawn and garden equipment, ATVs, Chainsaw Sharpening. We also sell lawn and garden equipment and supplies.
ECHO, TORO, Country Clipper
STEEL’S OUTDOOR POWER 859-455-4277

**VACATION PROPERTY RENTAL**
Destin, Fl. — Condos with gulf view. 2 pools, hot tub, tennis, exercise room, close to golf courses. Includes beach umbrella. Call for rates. Mention Messenger for discount.
(859) 816-7638 or www.destincheap.com

**PART-TIME SCHOOL CAFETERIA MANAGER**
The School Food Services Office of the Diocese of Covington Department of Catholic Schools seeks candidates for a part-time School Cafeteria Manager position at Prince of Peace Montessori School in Covington, Ky. The position is for 4 ½ hours Monday - Friday, during the school year. The School Cafeteria Manager’s primary responsibilities involve overall supervision of the School’s meals program, including: managing employees; ordering, receiving, and managing inventory; preparing and serving meals; operating the point-of-sale system; and interacting with school staff, students, and their parents. Organizational and interpersonal skills are essential to this position. To request an application, contact Stephen Koplyay, SPHR at skoplyay@covdio.org. Scan and return the completed application by e-mail, including references with contact email addresses and compensation history. Applications may also be faxed to 859/392-1589.

**THE MARY ROSE MISSION**
Is in need of a general manager. Responsibilities include, Light computer skills to schedule cooks, organize menus, manage volunteers online. Maintain organization of the kitchen, keep food inventory organized. If necessary prep cook with a lead cook. This position is shared with another staff so duties will be divided. Light office work with flexible hours. Some of the duties can be done from home. To apply e-mail maryrosemission@gmail.com or call the mission at 859-292-0300.

**PAYROLL/STAFF ACCOUNTANT**
The Finance Office of the Diocese of Covington seeks candidates for the full-time position of Payroll/Staff Accountant. Responsibilities include accounts receivable, accounts payable, cash receipts, and general ledger, as well as maintenance of various spreadsheets, databases, and reconciliations. Payroll responsibilities involve assisting with data entry. A practical knowledge of basic bookkeeping principles and practices is essential, and other necessary requirements include experience with Microsoft Word and Excel. Qualified candidates should send a resume, cover letter, and at least five references by e-mail (skoplyay@covdio.org), fax (859/392-1589), or mail to Stephen Koplyay, SPHR; Diocese of Covington; 1125 Madison Avenue; Covington, KY 41011-3115.

**NOVENA TO THE SACRED HEART**
May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified; loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, help of the hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times a day. By the 8th day your prayers will be answered. Say it for 9 days. Thank you St. Jude. Amen. B.M.

---

Larry's Tree Service
(859) 635-8528 or 240-4563
Reasonable Rates — Free Estimates
FIREWOOD — Senior Citizen Discounts Available

**Good Job Remodeling LLC**
and Handyman
Now booking for your Spring & Summer jobs. Free Estimates. Licensed and insured.
Call Steven at (859) 801-9925

**SMALL ENGINE REPAIR**
Lawn and garden equipment, ATVs, Chainsaw Sharpening. We also sell lawn and garden equipment and supplies.
ECHO, TORO, Country Clipper
STEEL’S OUTDOOR POWER 859-455-4277

**VACATION PROPERTY RENTAL**
Destin, Fl. — Condos with gulf view. 2 pools, hot tub, tennis, exercise room, close to golf courses. Includes beach umbrella. Call for rates. Mention Messenger for discount.
(859) 816-7638 or www.destincheap.com

---

**PART-TIME SCHOOL CAFETERIA MANAGER**
The School Food Services Office of the Diocese of Covington Department of Catholic Schools seeks candidates for a part-time School Cafeteria Manager position at Prince of Peace Montessori School in Covington, Ky. The position is for 4 ½ hours Monday - Friday, during the school year. The School Cafeteria Manager’s primary responsibilities involve overall supervision of the School’s meals program, including: managing employees; ordering, receiving, and managing inventory; preparing and serving meals; operating the point-of-sale system; and interacting with school staff, students, and their parents. Organizational and interpersonal skills are essential to this position. To request an application, contact Stephen Koplyay, SPHR at skoplyay@covdio.org. Scan and return the completed application by e-mail, including references with contact email addresses and compensation history. Applications may also be faxed to 859/392-1589.

**THE MARY ROSE MISSION**
Is in need of a general manager. Responsibilities include, Light computer skills to schedule cooks, organize menus, manage volunteers online. Maintain organization of the kitchen, keep food inventory organized. If necessary prep cook with a lead cook. This position is shared with another staff so duties will be divided. Light office work with flexible hours. Some of the duties can be done from home. To apply e-mail maryrosemission@gmail.com or call the mission at 859-292-0300.

---

**NOVENA TO THE SACRED HEART**
May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified; loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, help of the hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times a day. By the 8th day your prayers will be answered. Say it for 9 days. Thank you St. Jude. Amen. B.M.
BLESSED SACRAMENT SCHOOL
REGISTRATION OPENS
JANUARY 31

Private tours are available and can be scheduled at your convenience.

Please contact the school office at 859-331-3062 or visit bssky.org for more detailed information!

WE OFFER BLADELESS LASIK SURGERY

MIDWEST EYE CENTER
A Division of Physicians Group for Vision, Inc.

TIME FOR CATARACT SURGERY?

Schedule a consultation with one of our experienced surgeons to discuss the latest options available. Find out if you are a candidate for the Catalys, the world’s most sophisticated laser cataract surgery system.

St. Charles
COMMUNITY

Senior Living Apartments
Personal Care Suites

New Year, Fresh Start

St. Charles Community wishes you a safe, happy & healthy 2021!
(859) 331-3224  www.stcharlescommunity.org

MARY, QUEEN OF HEAVEN SCHOOL
OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31 • 11:30 am - 3 pm

WHAT DOES MQH OFFER YOUR CHILD(REN)
- 18:1 Student/Teacher ratio
- K-8: Art, Music, Computer, P.E.
- K-8 STEM Program
- K-8 Athletic Program
- Integrated Technology Instruction with iPads and Chromebooks
- Onsite Gillingham Certified Reading Teachers
- Above National Average in Reading/Math MAP Test Scores
- Area’s most Affordable Catholic Education

Open House tours on Jan. 31 • 11:30 am - 3 pm
Safe and healthy in-person instruction during this year

TOURS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
MUST CALL OFFICE TO SCHEDULE YOUR TOUR
859.371.8100 • MQHSCHOOL.COM • @MQHSCHOOL

Crestview Hills, Florence
500 Thomas More Pkwy • Crestview Hills KY 41017
859-341-4525
www.midwesteyescenter.com
Pope will bring comfort, hope to Iraq, patriarch says

VATICAN CITY — In the midst of three days of prayer and fasting for peace and an end to the coronavirus pandemic, Iraq’s Cardinal Louis Sako said Iraqis still are counting on Pope Francis to visit in March. “We are preparing everything with the government,” he told Vatican News Jan. 30. Five days after two suicide bombers killed 32 people and injured more than 100 others in Baghdad. In response to the violence and to the threat of COVID-19, the cardinal called Catholics to three days of fasting and prayer Jan. 25-27. “The pope will come to say, ‘Enough, enough war; enough violence; seek peace and fraternity and the safeguarding of human dignity,’” the cardinal said. During his planned visit to Iraq March 5-8, Pope Francis “will bring us two things: comfort and hope, which have been denied to us until now,” Cardinal Sako said.

U.S. bishops welcome Biden’s order not to release census citizenship data

WASHINGTON — The leaders of two U.S. bishops’ committees applauded President Joe Biden’s executive order reversing the previous administration’s ban on the release of citizenship data for the U.S. Census. “This return to our previous policy reflects the inalienable truth that all people matter and are imbued with the inalienable right to life,” said U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops President Archbishop E. Joseph Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas. The bishops praised Biden’s executive order reversing two of President Donald Trump’s directives related to the 2020 census. The former administration had announced it would exclude those in the U.S. illegally from being counted in the census order — among several that he signed his first day in office — reversed two of President Donald Trump’s directives related to the 2020 census. The former administration had announced it would exclude those in the U.S. illegally from being counted in the census order — among several that he signed his first day in office — reversed two of President Donald Trump’s directives related to the 2020 census.

Pope adds more women scholars to biblical commission

VATICAN CITY — Renewing the membership of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, a body of scholars that engages in research for the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Pope Francis added two more women experts. With the addition of Benedetta Leonetti, an Old Testament scholar from Belgium, and Maria Armida Nocenti, a New Testament scholar from Italy, five women are now part of the 20-member commission. The Vatican announced Jan. 25 the nine new members Pope Francis appointed, and the commission posted the names of the 11 members who were appointed to another term. Pope Francis appointed the first women to the commission in 2014 and renewed their appointments. They are: Bruna Costacurta, an Old Testament scholar who taught at Rome’s Pontifical Gregorian University; Spanish Sister Nuria Caldarich-Benages, a member of the Missionary Daughters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, who specializes in Old Testament Wisdom literature and teaches at the Gregorian; and Mary Healy, a professor of Sacred Scripture at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit.

ASSISI archbishop welcomes treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons

ASSISI, Italy — Giving thanks that the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons came into force Jan. 22, the archbishop of Assisi assisted that ensuring peace for humanity would require further steps, including working for justice and removing threats to human life at all stages of its development. Dozens of other Catholic leaders worldwide, including 29 bishops, also welcomed the treaty, saying in a statement released Jan. 22 by Pax Christi International, the “most of all weapons of mass destruction” are immoral. “In Assisi, city of the Gospel and the testimony of St. Francis of Assisi, to thanks to the Lord and make a commitment, in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi, to other terms. Pope Francis added two more women experts. With the addition of Benedetta Leonetti, an Old Testament scholar from Belgium, and Maria Armida Nocenti, a New Testament scholar from Italy, five women are now part of the 20-member commission. The Vatican announced Jan. 25 the nine new members Pope Francis appointed, and the commission posted the names of the 11 members who were appointed to another term. Pope Francis appointed the first women to the commission in 2014 and renewed their appointments. They are: Bruna Costacurta, an Old Testament scholar who taught at Rome’s Pontifical Gregorian University; Spanish Sister Nuria Caldarich-Benages, a member of the Missionary Daughters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, who specializes in Old Testament Wisdom literature and teaches at the Gregorian; and Mary Healy, a professor of Sacred Scripture at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit.

Academy for Life urges quick action to increase production of COVID-19 vaccines

VATICAN CITY — Saying there is “too much antagonism and competition” as well as an obvious “risk of severe injustices” in the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, the Pontifical Academy for Life called for international cooperation in setting up vaccine production sites around the world. The same kind of collaboration that went into the development of the vaccines must now be employed to ensure there is an adequate supply available, including for the world’s poorest countries, the academy said in a statement Jan. 22. Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, president of the academy and Mgr. Renzo Pegoraro, the academy’s chancellor, insisted swift action must be taken to avoid some countries receiving the vaccine “very late because of shortages due to the prior purchase of large quantities by the richer states.” In an earlier statement, the academy had asked governments “to overcome the logic of ‘vaccine nationalism,’” with wealthy nations reserving massive amounts of the vaccine without considering how poorer countries would access doses. The academy called for international agreements “to manage patents” on the approved vaccines so that, using the same formulas, doses could be produced around the world and distributed locally.
The devil “fosters division everywhere and in every way” by tempting people “with the weaknesses of our brothers and sisters. He is astute: He magnifies others’ mistakes and defects, sows discord, provokes criticism and creates factions,” the pope said Jan. 20 during his weekly general audience.

God, on the other hand, “has another way. He takes us as we are, different, sinners and always nudges us toward unity,” he said.

In his audience talk, livestreamed from the library of the Apostolic Palace, the pope reflected on the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, celebrated Jan. 18-25. The theme for the 2021 celebration, “Abide in my love ... You shall bear much fruit,” is taken from the Gospel of St. John (15:1-17).

“The root of communion is the love of Christ, who makes us overcome our prejudices to see in others a brother or sister to be loved always,” the pope said.

In fact, the pope invited everyone to discover other Christian denominations — their traditions and their history — and see them as “gifts from God” present in one’s neighborhood or town.

“When Jesus prayed that his disciples “may all be one,” he was not ordering them to be united, but was praying “to the Father for us,” the pope said.

“This means that we are not able to achieve unity by ourselves, with our own strength. Above all, unity is a gift, it is a grace to be requested through prayer,” he said.

Unity is a difficult task, not just for Christian communities, but for each individual, he said.

“Even the Apostle Paul felt a lacering conflict within himself wanting the good but inclined toward evil,” he said.

The root of so many divisions in the world — divisions in the family, society, a nation and among believers — is found inside the human heart, Pope Francis said.

From these internal struggles flow many of the conflicts and tensions in society, which is why “the solution to these divisions is not to oppose someone, because discord generates more discord. The true remedy begins by asking God for peace, reconciliation, unity.”

Praying for unity also means fighting “because our enemy, the devil, is the one who divides,” he added.

People need to ask themselves how they live each day and whether “we nurture conflict or fight for greater unity with the tools that God has given us: prayer and love.”

Christians also need to ask, “Do I pray for unity? It is Jesus’ will but, if we inspect the intentions for which we pray we would probably realize that we have prayed little, perhaps never, for Christian unity And yet, the world’s faith depends on it.”

With all the positive steps forward in ecumenism, “we still need to persevere in love and in prayer, without lacking trust or tiring. It is the path that the Holy Spirit gave rise to in the church, in Christians, all of us, and from which there is no turning back,” the pope said.