In a solemn ceremony, Jan. 29, at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, Bishop Roger Foys ordained Father Joseph Rielage to the priesthood.

For additional ordination coverage see page 6.

Laura Keener
Editor

The magnitude of the transformative event that had taken place for newly ordained Father Joseph Rielage and the Diocese of Covington was encapsulated by Msgr. William Cleves in his homily, Jan. 30, at the Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Henry Church, Elsmere.

“Authority is the ability to help people grow, to make their hearts larger, to broaden their vision, to deepen their faith, hope and love,” Msgr. Cleves said. “Father Joseph, as an ordained minister, is given the gift of that authority to speak in a special way. Your words, Father, through the sacrament of the sick, through the sacrament of reconciliation, in your everyday ministry — the counseling you will do, the spiritual direction you will give — you are going to help people grow. This is God’s gift to you through the Church. How you live it is going to be your gift to God.”

Bishop Roger Foys ordained Father Rielage a priest for the Diocese of Covington the evening of Jan. 29, at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington. He is the 42nd priest Bishop Foys has ordained for the diocese. Father Rielage has been studying at St. Vincent Seminary, Latrobe, Penn. When he is in the diocese, he has been assigned to St. Henry Church.

As Bishop Foys began his homily, he welcomed the limited number of guests who were invited to attend in-person and all those watching via livestream.

“We are pleased that you are here this evening to celebrate this significant day in the life of our brother Joseph and in the life of the local Church. It’s been a wild ride this last year. We do things now that we never thought of doing before March of last year and we don’t do things we did a year ago,” Bishop Foys said referring to the limited capacity and safety protocols brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. But, he said, while some things are different, some things never change.

“One thing that will change tonight, during this liturgy, is the change in Deacon Joseph. He will be forever changed,” Bishop Foys said. “When I impose hands on his head and call down the Holy Spirit, when I anoint his hands with sacred Chrism, when I say the prayer of ordination over him — he will be changed. He will dedicate himself wholly and unconditionally and forever to the Lord and to his Church. He will make promises here tonight, promises to care for the people of God — to shepherd them — promises to provide them with the sacraments and sacramentals, promises to pray with and for them, a promise to live a celibate life and a promise of obedience to his bishop and to any of his successors.”

As a seminarian for the Diocese of Covington, Bishop Foys said that he knows Father Rielage well, as he has observed his formation.

“May He make you a true Shepherd to provide the living Bread and word of life to the faithful…”

Newly ordained Father Rielage has a compassionate heart and is of one mind with Church...
events surrounding 48th annual March for Life held virtually amplify priority of protecting life

Laura Keener

"I set before you today good and evil, a blessing or a curse, life or death. Choose life."

Bishop Foys shared a 20-year-old commentary about a news article describing the slaughter of 30 range horses. In the article, investigators said that the pandemic, itself, is another pro-life issue. People are being asked to do simple things — wearing a mask, social distancing, washing hands, not having non-essential meetings and groups and events, not traveling — in order to protect themselves and others — in order to protect life, most often the elderly and those with frail health.

"Being pro-life is more than just being against abortion, it is doing something positive to respect life at all its stages," Bishop Foys said. "So we gather here, in this magnificent church, to pray for an end to the scourge of abortion, but also to pray for the courage to protect life at every stage of life, to do those things that protect the life of everyone. We pray that Almighty God will have mercy on us and on all those who have led us to this dreadful time in our country, where for nearly a half century now, 60 million innocent lives have been snuffed out. If a life of a holy in his mother’s womb is not precious to us, then no life is."

"Abortion of course has to be first," he said. "How can we talk about priorities and what is most important if we snuff out life itself? That is why it must be our priority. God gives us life and God decides when to take it back. God is the creator."

Bishop Foys said that the pandemic, itself, is another pro-life issue. People are being asked to do simple things — wearing a mask, social distancing, washing hands, not having non-essential meetings and groups and events, not traveling — in order to protect themselves and others — in order to protect life, most often the elderly and those with frail health.

"Being pro-life is more than just being against abortion, it is doing something positive to respect life at all its stages," Bishop Foys said. "So we gather here, in this magnificent church, to pray for an end to the scourge of abortion, but also to pray for the courage to protect life at every stage of life, to do those things that protect the life of everyone. We pray that Almighty God will have mercy on us and on all those who have led us to this dreadful time in our country, where for nearly a half century now, 60 million innocent lives have been snuffed out. If a life of a holy in his mother’s womb is not precious to us, then no life is."
Deacon Ledbetter remembered for his ‘heart of service’

Monica Yeomans
Editor/assistant

Deacon Carl Ledbetter, 67, died Jan. 25 at St. Elizabeth Hospice, Edgewood, where he had ministered for almost 12 years. Deacon Ledbetter was born in Covington July 18, 1951 to John (Losey) Ledbetter and the late Carl Ledbetter. Deacon Ledbetter married Elaine Schultz and they had celebrated 45 years of marriage. Mrs. Ledbetter said she had met Carl when she was 17 and had loved him ever since. “He was the best anyone could ask for,” said Mrs. Ledbetter when asked to describe him as a husband, father and grandfather. She added, “I think people knew how giving and caring he was.”

Bishop Roger Foyés ordained him to the Order of Deacon, April 21, 2007 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington. Deacon Ledbetter has been appointed to St. Boniface and James Parish, Ludlow (2007 – 2009); St. Patrick Parish, Taylor Mill (2009 – 2020); and Holy Cross Parish, Latonia (2020). He was appointed chaplain at St. Elizabeth Hospice Care, Edgewood, Nov. 2007 and retired from the chaplaincy July 2019.

Even though he was very busy with work and family, he found time for some photography. He photographed weddings for friends and created photo albums for them. “People loved Carl,” said Joseph Bozelli, director of Pastoral Care, St. Elizabeth Healthcare. “He was very devoted. He loved his ministry as a chaplain and also as a deacon. He would care for patients of all faith traditions but especially with the Catholic patients he would make sure they received the sacrament of the sick. He would connect with their parish priest and he would offer them Communion. He helped facilitate the monthly Mass in the hospice chapel. He would coordinate the Mass with a local priest.

“He was really a real loss for the hospice staff. Carl had a lot of impact on the hospital, in the hospice unit. When patients were admitted to the hospital from the hospice unit, he would make sure they were provided support. He was very devoted to his ministry. He just loved being a hospice chaplain and a deacon.”

Father Michael Hennigen, pastor, Holy Cross Parish, said that when Deacon Ledbetter was assigned to the parish, he told him “Father, however I could serve.”

“That really was the heart of the deacon,” said Father Hennigen.

Father Hennigen said Deacon Ledbetter was devoted to his vocation, which was evident by his ministering at every Mass — all three Masses on the weekends, funerals, daily Mass — until December when he became ill.

“He really loved being at Holy Cross,” Father Hennigen said. “He was very dedicated. He was getting involved with the Holy Cross bereavement ministry and our Knights of Columbus.” Father Hennigen added, “Everyone I talked to said Deacon Ledbetter had a heart of service. That’s just who he was.”

“Deacon Carl was a man with a heart for others as was evident from his ministry among those he served, especially those in Hospice Care,” said Bishop Foyés. “His gentle compassionate manner was a blessing to those who needed it at such a crucial time in their lives. He related to them as Jesus related to the sick and suffering in the Gospel. We will certainly miss him but will be comforted in the knowledge that, having served the Lord through his ministry, he now rests in the peace of eternal rest. I extend my condolences to his beloved wife, Elaine, and children and grand-children and great-grandchild. May he rest in peace.”

Besides his wife, Elaine, Deacon Ledbetter is survived by his brother, Jane Ledbetter, sister Pamela Wright, children Maggie Ledbetter and Matthew Ledbetter; eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild. He was predeceased by his father Carl in 2014 and brother Daryl.

Vestition and with Mass of Christian Burial was held at Holy Cross Parish, Latonia, Thursday, January 28. Burial was at St. Mary Cemetery, Ft. Mitchell.

Donations in memory of Deacon Ledbetter are suggested to St. Elizabeth Hospice, 401 South Loop Drive, Edgewood, KY 41017.

School personnel in the Diocese of Covington grateful to receive first dose of vaccine

Laura Keener
Editor

All Catholic school personnel in the Diocese of Covington that wanted to receive the COVID-19 vaccine have received their first dose. Administrators, staff and faculty working in Catholic schools in Boone, Kenton and Campbell counties also received the vaccine.

“Things really went well. Kudos to Kendra McGuire and the weekend,” said Father Michael Hennigen, pastor, Holy Cross Parish, about the weekend. “That really was the heart of the deacon,” said Father Hennigen.

Father Hennigen said Deacon Ledbetter had a heart of service. That’s just who he was.”

“Deacon Ledbetter was devoted to his ministry among those he served, especially those in Hospice Care,” said Bishop Foyés. “His gentle compassionate manner was a blessing to those who needed it at such a crucial time in their lives. He related to them as Jesus related to the sick and suffering in the Gospel. We will certainly miss him but will be comforted in the knowledge that, having served the Lord through his ministry, he now rests in the peace of eternal rest. I extend my condolences to his beloved wife, Elaine, and children and grand-children and great-grandchild. May he rest in peace.”

Donations in memory of Deacon Ledbetter are suggested to St. Elizabeth Hospice, 401 South Loop Drive, Edgewood, KY 41017.

Pharmacy for St. Elizabeth Healthcare, about the weekend.

Mrs. Francis and her staff administered the vaccines at the St. Elizabeth Healthcare COVID vaccine clinic at its training center in Erlanger. She and staff educators of various local school districts have been receiving vaccines the last several Saturdays and Sundays. This weekend approxi-

mately 1,500 Diocese of Covington school personnel — about 94 percent — received their first dose of the two-dose regimen. Diocese of Covington educators will receive their second dose or “booster” as it is popularly referred to, in three weeks.

Vaccinating school personnel is Phase 1B of Governor Andy Beshear’s plan to distribute vaccines to Kentuckians and an important effort to safely maintain in-person instruction at the 30 primary and nine Catholic high schools in the Diocese of Covington.

“The schools have worked so hard to be in school and it really was a positive atmosphere this weekend with the teachers,” said Mrs. Francis.

Mrs. McGuire agreed and expressed gratitude to all those who have made the vaccine available.

“I am thankful to the governor for including Catholic schools as essential,” Mrs. Francis.

During the vaccine administration, everyone was so very happy — and emotional,” Mrs. McGuire said. “We are always so hopeful, but there it was before us — the vaccine. Words cannot express the joy and relief held in our hearts.”

Bishop Roger Foyés also expressed his gratitude for all those working together to mitigate the spread of the virus and to help keep the school communities healthy.

“I am so grateful that our school personnel and those associated with our schools were able to meet the criteria to receive their first dose of vaccine,” said Bishop Foyés. “I am likewise grateful to our St. Elizabeth Hospital for making the experience so positive and for their professionalism. We are so blessed to have a healthcare facility like St. Elizabeth. We owe a great debt of gratitude to our superintendent of schools and to our school personnel.”

(Continued on page 10)
A crucially important feature of Catholic social teaching, but one frequently underemphasized or misunderstood, is that a clear distinction must be made between the concentration of power within a society. This perilous agglomeration can happen economically, politically or culturally. For a basic and healthy instinct, Catholic social teaching warns power, as much as possible, distributed widely throughout the community so that no one small segment does not tyrannize the majority or prevent large numbers of people from enjoying the benefits that are theirs by right.

“Trust-busting” work of Theodore Roosevelt in the early 20th century and the similar concern today for breaking up Google, Facebook, Amazon and other high-tech conglomerates that exercise an almost unchallenged dominance in their field.

A cornerstone of Catholic social teaching is what is traditionally called “distributive justice” — what is to say the equitable allocation of goods within a society. How can one take place through direct government intervention, for equitable allocation of goods within a society. Now this can take place through direct government intervention, for example through anti-trust legislation, minimum wage requirements, programs to aid the poor, taxation. If one can also happen, more indirectly through the natural rhythms of the market. In “Centesimus Annus,” John Paul II observes that profit making itself can and should signal rhythms of the market. In “Centesimus Annus,” John Paul II observes that profit making itself can and should signal rhythms of the market.

We can furthermore see this dynamic in the political realm. If one party comes to dominate in a nation, a state, a city or a community, corruption almost inevitably follows. Unchallenged, the ruling conglomerate can impose its will, compel the acceptance of its vision and eliminate prospective opponents and critics. It is obviously that this sort of arrangement obtains in banana republics, communist dictatorships and oppressive theocracies, but it is also apparent, to a lesser degree, in local and state governments in our own country. If you doubt me, ask yourself why prof-life candidates in Illinois, Massachusetts or California could never hope to be elected to office.

When a political monopoly couples itself with economic power, the corruption becomes only deeper and more intractable. Once again, according to Catholic social teaching, the desirability is the breaking up and spreading out of power in the cultural arena. Under both the Nazi and Soviet dictatorships of the last century, only very definite types of art, music and literature were acceptable, and any deviation from the norm was quickly squelched by the state. Today strict censorship of the arts holds sway in many Islamic states, as well as in communist China.

But lest we think that the West is free of this sort of cultural monopoly, take a good look at the kind of strict left-ist ideology that exists in practically every film or television program produced in Hollywood. This is not brutal state censorship to be sure, but it is indeed a sort of monopolization of cultural taste, media and political power over any great project of centralization. If you want to see a truly narrow-minded presentation of the religious perspective, pay particular attention to the manner of ‘life in the hobbins’ shares in contrast to the political and economic arrangements in Mexico.

What I hope is at least relatively clear is that this unique combination of economic and political power as at least symptomatically approached ideal.

God cannot tell a lie

What’s different today is that, until our generation, you could be caught in a lie, shamed for telling it, forced to accept your own dishonesty. No longer. Today our relationship with truth is fractured to a degree that we no longer distinguish — morally or practically — between a lie and the truth. A lie, now, is simply another modality of truth.

What’s new about this? We are living it. Its effects are everywhere. First, it has broken down a shared sense of reality where, as a community, we no longer have a common epistemology and a shared sense of right and wrong. People no longer relate to reality in the same way. One person’s truth is the other person’s lie. It is becoming impossible to define what constitutes a lie.

This doesn’t just destroy trust among us; worse, it plays into the dynamic with reality and truth is fracturing to a degree that we no longer accept your own dishonesty. No longer. Today our relationship with truth is fractured to a degree that we no longer distinguish — morally or practically — between a lie and the truth. Lying is the most pernicious of evils, the most dangerous. Jordan Peterson would add this: If we lie long enough “after that comes the arrogance and sense of superiority that is so frightening.” And having no respect, they cease to love.” Lying destroys that trust.

We can see this phenomenon in the culture we are in danger of losing the very idea of reality and truth. It is more dangerous.

There’s a line that’s deep in Scripture that is too seldom quoted. The Letter to the Hebrews states simply: It is impossible for God to lie. (Hebrews 6:3). It could not be otherwise. God is Truth, so how could God lie? For God to lie would be a denial of God’s very nature.

Consequently, for us to lie is to go directly against God.

Lying is the pernicious evil, the most dangerous of sins, the worst of blasphemies and the sin that can be unbearable. Perhaps we need to be reminded of that today, given our current culture where we are in danger of losing the very idea of reality and truth. It is more dangerous.

This doesn’t just destroy trust among us; worse, it plays into the dynamic with reality and truth is fracturing to a degree that we no longer accept your own dishonesty. No longer. Today our relationship with truth is fractured to a degree that we no longer distinguish — morally or practically — between a lie and the truth. Lying is the most pernicious of evils, the most dangerous.

In Exile

Father Ron Rolheiser

Lying is the definition of irreverence and blasphemy. It is an affront to the nature of God. We are aware of that, we haven’t taken it seriously lately. Everywhere, from countless social media tweets, texts and blogs to the highest offices of government, business and even the church, we are seeing an ever-deteriorating relationship with reality and truth. Lying and creating one’s own truth have become socially acceptable (to a frightening degree). What’s changed? Haven’t we all lied? Who among us can say that he or she has never told a lie or falsified information in one way or another? What’s different today?

God’s Oneness is what anchors that. If that were otherwise, God’s Oneness is what anchors that. If that were otherwise, God is Truth, as the Hebrews states simply: It is impossible for God to lie. Lying is the most pernicious of evils, the most dangerous. Jordan Peterson would add this: If we lie long enough “after that comes the arrogance and sense of superiority that is so frightening.” And having no respect, they cease to love.” Lying destroys that trust.

We can see this phenomenon in the culture we are in danger of losing the very idea of reality and truth. It is more dangerous.

There’s a line that’s deep in Scripture that is too seldom quoted. The Letter to the Hebrews states simply: It is impossible for God to lie. (Hebrews 6:3). It could not be otherwise. God is Truth, so how could God lie? For God to lie would be a denial of God’s very nature.

Consequently, for us to lie is to go directly against God.

Lying is the pernicious evil, the most dangerous of sins, the worst of blasphemies and the sin that can be unbearable. Perhaps we need to be reminded of that today, given our current culture where we are in danger of losing the very idea of reality and truth. It is more dangerous.

This doesn’t just destroy trust among us; worse, it plays into the dynamic with reality and truth is fracturing to a degree that we no longer accept your own dishonesty. No longer. Today our relationship with truth is fractured to a degree that we no longer distinguish — morally or practically — between a lie and the truth. Lying is the most pernicious of evils, the most dangerous.

In Exile

Father Ron Rolheiser

Lying is the definition of irreverence and blasphemy. It is an affront to the nature of God. We are aware of that, we haven’t taken it seriously lately. Everywhere, from countless social media tweets, texts and blogs to the highest offices of government, business and even the church, we are seeing an ever-deteriorating relationship with reality and truth. Lying and creating one’s own truth have become socially acceptable (to a frightening degree). What’s changed? Haven’t we all lied? Who among us can say that he or she has never told a lie or falsified information in one way or another? What’s different today?
Hear in the silence

The readings for the fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time — Cycle B: Job 7:1-6, 6-7; 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23 and Mark 1:29-39.

This Sunday we continue to hear from the first chapter of the Gospel of St. Mark. In the reading for this fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Jesus continues to preach the Good News and to heal the sick and save those tormented by demons, for “this purpose has been accomplished.”

Jesus had a job to do, a mission to complete. But for this “work” to be effective, required something more of him—that he go off to a deserted and quiet place away from others in order to pray. As Christians, we are called to emulate Jesus. We all have work to do—no matter what it may be—for the betterment of ourselves, our families, our community, our society. But this work, if it is truly to be efficacious, requires that it always start with prayer (I’m reminded of Psalm 127 which states: “Unless the Lord builds the house, in vain do the builders labor.”

The human heart has been made for God, for we have been made in his image and likeness. If we are to truly “hear” with the ears of faith, we need to find time to go to those deserted and quiet places every day—just like Jesus. We need to stop speaking the “monologue of our lives” and let God be heard.

God is always speaking, we just aren’t listening. Let us recommit ourselves today to listening to the Lord. Let us echo those words of Samuel which we heard just a few weeks ago, “Speak Lord, your servant is listening.”

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

Believe AND trust—God’s strategy to help us know him

My son is allergic to milk. He experienced life-threatening reactions in just the first year of his life. For 12 years, we worked hard to protect him from this milk ingredient.

Over the last 18 months, my boy has participated in a desensitization trial with his allergist. To build a tolerance, he was asked to consume milk every day. He started with 1/32 teaspoon of milk and slowly worked his way to a full 8 ounce serving. Just a few weeks ago, we visited the allergist to check on his progress. After a very mild skin reaction indicated the desensitization was working, the allergist told us, “Let’s see if he can tolerate 16 ounces of milk.”

Wait. What? That is two whole glasses of this terrifying (but perfectly normal) food that I would give my life to protect him from consuming for the last 12 years? No way.

My son, Abraham, responded, “Let’s do it.”

The anxiety I feel when Abe drinks his maintenance milk can be crippling on some days. I have flashbacks to those reactions that revealed his allergy so early in his life. I send a quick text to my husband to let him know the direction of the appointment. Knowing how nervous I can get, he sends me a one-word response, “Pray.”

I pray... and ask Abe every three minutes how he is feeling. He is calmly watching his favorite Marvel movie while we wait. My insides try to crawl out of my body. But, I pray. My heart stops racing and I start to relax.

Of course, everything turned out just fine. In fact, more than fine. We now know my son can safely eat two slices of pizza. He never had “real” pizza before.

They shared an insight that stuck with me and related back to the earlier events in the day. Faith is more than just believing. Faith requires two things—acknowledgment AND entrusting yourself to God. The trust piece in particular can be very difficult. They went on to say that Abraham, the father of our faith, was the first to believe and trust in God. The sacrifice of Isaac was evidence of Abraham’s trust.

Now, maybe it was just a coincidence that my son, also named Abraham, showed his faith AND trust earlier that day, a much stronger example of faith than his apprehensive mom. I gave thanks for my son and that experience.

It was a reminder about how God strategically places people and experiences in our lives to show how he cares for us. I grew in my faith that day.

If the last year has taught us anything, it is the importance of believing AND trusting in God. When we falter, he sends others to encourage us along the way. Growing in faith is at the heart of St. Vincent de Paul’s ministry. In our diocese, we have over 500 Vincentian volunteers in 28 parishes. These dedicated servants embrace the opportunity to grow closer to God through service and friendship. Our current environment has presented an opportunity for this growth like no other.

Faced with unprecedented need, our Vincentians repeatedly responded to calls for assistance with compassion, made possible only by God’s never ending grace.

Being a Vincentian is more than just doing charitable works. It is about building community for this growth like no other: “We are called to emulate Jesus. We all have work to do—no matter what it may be—for the betterment of ourselves, our families, our community, our society.”

Faith is more than just believing. It is more than doing. It is believing AND trusting in God. When we falter, he sends others to encourage us along the way.

In spite of continued uncertainty, our Vincentians have found strength in each other, sharing the trials, celebrating the successes and offering encouragement to continue to answer the call. It has not been easy, yet they persevered.

It is a privilege to be part of St. Vincent de Paul. While our Vincentians become part of SVDP in their own faith, I believe they have been placed strategically in our community to help us all know God. I am blessed to see it all firsthand. Please join me in offering a prayer of thanksgiving for their inspiring service and continued strength in this ministry.

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

Upholding the dignity of life

This year’s 48th annual March for Life in Washington was canceled due to safety concerns stemming from the pandemic, as well as the Jan. 6 Capitol riot. A live broadcast of a scaled-down march, however, took place on Friday, Jan. 29 at 10 a.m. (EST) It also included talks and a performance by Shoulder5 singer Matthew West. The event can be viewed at marchforlife.org/2021-virtual-events.

While the March for Life, which marks the Jan. 22 anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court Roe v Wade decision legalizing abortion, didn’t feature thousands upon thousands of marchers from around the country, Jeanne Mancini, president of the March for Life Defense and Education Fund, said a small group of pro-life advocates, clergy and lawmakers walked from the National Mall to the Supreme Court Jan. 29.

Here in the Diocese of Green Bay, Respect Life Masses would usually be held for parish groups on their way to the March for Life. Instead, this year Bishop David L. Ricken joined pro-life leaders and young adults for the Disciples for Life Conference Jan. 23 at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help. The day concluded with a Respect Life Mass.

The event, which had limited attendance due to the pandemic, attracted about 125 people. Another 60 to 70 participants joined via livestream.

Standing up for life, in all ages and stages, has been a challenge in the past year. We’ve seen many incidents of racism that have led to violence and even death. We’ve seen people on federal death row executed despite objections from church leaders.

As Christians, we are called to emulate Jesus. We all have work to do—no matter what it may be—for the betterment of ourselves, our families, our community, our society. But this work, if it is truly to be efficacious, requires that it always start with prayer (I’m reminded of Psalm 127 which states: “Unless the Lord builds the house, in vain do the builders labor.”

The human heart has been made for God, for we have been made in his image and likeness. If we are to truly “hear” with the ears of faith, we need to find time to go to those deserted and quiet places every day—just like Jesus. We need to stop speaking the “monologue of our lives” and let God be heard.

God is always speaking, we just aren’t listening. Let us recommit ourselves today to listening to the Lord. Let us echo those words of Samuel which we heard just a few weeks ago, “Speak Lord, your servant is listening.”

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

Believe AND trust—God’s strategy to help us know him

My son is allergic to milk. He experienced two life-threatening reactions in just the first year of his life. For 12 years, we worked hard to protect him from this milk ingredient.

Over the last 18 months, my boy has participated in a desensitization trial with his allergist. To build a tolerance, he was asked to consume milk every day. He started with 1/32 teaspoon of milk and slowly worked his way to a full 8 ounce serving. Just a few weeks ago, we visited the allergist to check on his progress. After a very mild skin reaction indicated the desensitization was working, the allergist told us, “Let’s see if he can tolerate 16 ounces of milk.”

Wait. What? That is two whole glasses of this terrifying (but perfectly normal) food that I would give my life to protect him from consuming for the last 12 years? No way.

My son, Abraham, responded, “Let’s do it.”

The anxiety I feel when Abe drinks his maintenance milk can be crippling on some days. I have flashbacks to those reactions that revealed his allergy so early in his life. I send a quick text to my husband to let him know the direction of the appointment. Knowing how nervous I can get, he sends me a one-word response, “Pray.”

I pray... and ask Abe every three minutes how he is feeling. He is calmly watching his favorite Marvel movie while we wait. My insides try to crawl out of my body. But, I pray. My heart stops racing and I start to relax.

Of course, everything turned out just fine. In fact, more than fine. We now know my son can safely eat two slices of pizza. He never had “real” pizza before.

They shared an insight that stuck with me and related back to the earlier events in the day. Faith is more than just believing. Faith requires two things—acknowledgment AND entrusting yourself to God. The trust piece in particular can be very difficult. They went on to say that Abraham, the father of our faith, was the first to believe and trust in God. The sacrifice of Isaac was evidence of Abraham’s trust.

Now, maybe it was just a coincidence that my son, also named Abraham, showed his faith AND trust earlier that day, a much stronger example of faith than his apprehensive mom. I gave thanks for my son and that experience.

It was a reminder about how God strategically places people and experiences in our lives to show how he cares for us. I grew in my faith that day.

If the last year has taught us anything, it is the importance of believing AND trusting in God. When we falter, he sends others to encourage us along the way. Growing in faith is at the heart of St. Vincent de Paul’s ministry. In our diocese, we have over 500 Vincentian volunteers in 28 parishes. These dedicated servants embrace the opportunity to grow closer to God through service and friendship. Our current environment has presented an opportunity for this growth like no other.

Faced with unprecedented need, our Vincentians repeatedly responded to calls for assistance with compassion, made possible only by God’s never ending grace.

Being a Vincentian is more than just doing charitable works. It is about building community for this growth like no other: “We are called to emulate Jesus. We all have work to do—no matter what it may be—for the betterment of ourselves, our families, our community, our society.”

Faith is more than just believing. It is more than doing. It is believing AND trusting in God. When we falter, he sends others to encourage us along the way.

In spite of continued uncertainty, our Vincentians have found strength in each other, sharing the trials, celebrating the successes and offering encouragement to continue to answer the call. It has not been easy, yet they persevered.

It is a privilege to be part of St. Vincent de Paul. While our Vincentians become part of SVDP in their own faith, I believe they have been placed strategically in our community to help us all know God. I am blessed to see it all firsthand. Please join me in offering a prayer of thanksgiving for their inspiring service and continued strength in this ministry.

Karen Zengel is executive director, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Northern Kentucky
mood and the heart of the Church, very thoughtful," Bishop Foys said.

When Bishop Foys began the third Thursday Holy Hours for the priests of the diocese in Oct. 2018, prayer for the victims of sexual abuse of children by priests and for the sanctification of priests and new anoints for the priesthood, Deacon Rielage gathered the seminarians at St. Vincent Seminary for a Holy Hour. It was an act of solidarity with his Bishop and the priests of the diocese.

"That tells me a great deal about him and about his witness and example," Bishop Foys said. "I think I know that tonight, when he is ordained and becomes a member of our presbyterate, it won’t be difficult for him because he has already been one mind and one heart with his Bishop and his congregation. I don’t think we can pray for Deacon Joseph and support him more than we do tonight.

"All gathered here tonight need to pray for Father Joseph as he embarks on this ministry of Priests for all our priests and pray that other men will hear and answer God’s call."

Father Rielage will return to St. Vincent Seminary later this month to complete his studies and will receive his first assignment when he returns.

‘May God, who founded the Church and guides her still, protect you constantly with his grace, that you may faithfully discharge the duties of the Priesthood.’ — Rite of Ordination.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Father Kevin Kahmann, pastor, Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish, Erlanger, vests Father Rielage.
Newsworthy
Newport Central Catholic announced that the following eighth grade students obtained the top 10 scores on the high school placement test and have been awarded scholarships: Addison Dufeck, St. Thomas School, Ft. Thomas; Vivian Fassler, St. Catherine School; Chase Fields, St. Catherine School; Maria Fowler, St. Thomas School; Joseph Gilbert, St. Joseph School, Cold Spring; Sam Greene, St. Catherine School; Mary Kennedy, St. Thomas School; Elena Potts, St. Therese School, Southgate; Jack White, St. Therese School and Madison Wolf, St. Joseph School.

Happy Birthday to Father Harry Settle, pastor, St. Cecilia Parish, Independence, Feb. 16; Deacon Tom Dushney, Mother of God Parish, Covington, Feb. 16; Father Michael Comer, pastor, Mother of God Parish, Covington, Feb. 18; Deacon Thomas Kathman, St. Paul Parish, Florence, Feb. 20; and Father Greg Bach, pastor, St. Henry Parish, Elsmere, Feb. 23.

The universal prayer intention for the month of February, as recommended by Pope Francis, is to Listen to the Migrants’ Cries. We pray that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard and considered.

Ancient Egypt (above) Cleopatra was one of several characters from Ancient Egypt who visited Prince of Peace School, Covington. The students learned about life in Ancient Egypt and completed a class project which included dressing like characters, creating ancient weapons and tools.

Habitats for furry friends (right) Second grade students at St. Henry School, Elsmere, have been learning about animals and their habitats. This past week, they created a habitat for their favorite creatures.

Mark Schroer MD, LLC
Internal Medicine
17 East Sixth Street
Newport KY 41071
(859) 431-8285
(859) 441-0752

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

Mark Schroer MD, LLC  
Internal Medicine  
17 East Sixth Street  
Newport KY 41071  
(859) 431-8285  
(859) 441-0752

NOVENA TO THE SURENDLOWED VISION 0, most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, Fruit of the Vine, splendidous of Heaven. Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this my necessity. O, Star of the Sea, help me and show herein you are my mother O, Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in my necessity (make your request). There are none that can withstand your power. O, Mary pray for us who have recourse to Thee (three times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (three times). Amen. M.B.

NOVENA TO SAINT ANTHONY FOR A SICK CHILD.
St. Anthony, your-love for the Infant Jesus In-inspired Him to reward you by seeing and holding Him in your arms. Help us to see and love Jesus in all the poor and suffering children in the world, particularly (name child) whom is afflicted with (name condition). Intercede for (name the child) asking our compassionate Lord Jesus to heal him/her so that he/she may grow to love the Lord and His servant, St. Anthony. Guard this life that God has created. Let your gentle hand, like that of a skilled physician, rest lovingly upon this afflicted child that he/she may be immediately restored to health. Amen. R.V.B.

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.W.

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.W.

NOVENA TO SAINT ANTHONY FOR A SICK CHILD.
St. Anthony, your-love for the Infant Jesus In-inspired Him to reward you by seeing and holding Him in your arms. Help us to see and love Jesus in all the poor and suffering children in the world, particularly (name child) whom is afflicted with (name condition). Intercede for (name the child) asking our compassionate Lord Jesus to heal him/her so that he/she may grow to love the Lord and His servant, St. Anthony. Guard this life that God has created. Let your gentle hand, like that of a skilled physician, rest lovingly upon this afflicted child that he/she may be immediately restored to health. Amen. R.V.B.

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.W.

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.W.

NOVENA TO SAINT ANTHONY FOR A SICK CHILD.
St. Anthony, your-love for the Infant Jesus In-inspired Him to reward you by seeing and holding Him in your arms. Help us to see and love Jesus in all the poor and suffering children in the world, particularly (name child) whom is afflicted with (name condition). Intercede for (name the child) asking our compassionate Lord Jesus to heal him/her so that he/she may grow to love the Lord and His servant, St. Anthony. Guard this life that God has created. Let your gentle hand, like that of a skilled physician, rest lovingly upon this afflicted child that he/she may be immediately restored to health. Amen. R.V.B.
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.

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.

CAREGIVER FOR HIRE

Caregiver for your loved ones needs. Graduate of Mount St. Joseph College with 16 years experience specializing in elder care. If you need a break from caregiving please contact Angie Garri- son. $17 per hr / min. 6 hours. References and police check available. (859) 801-4344 / Agarrison1351@gmail.com

HOUSE CLEANING

Isn’t it time you come clean? We don’t cut corners, we clean them. Insured and bonded. Discount for senior citizens and first-time clients. Call (859) 760-6408.

MARGARET ROSE MISSION

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 maryrosemision@ gmail.com or call the mission at 859-292-0300.

GOESSLING LANDSCAPING

New installations, maintenance and tree removal. Find us at Goesslingar.com. Call Norb at (859) 912-0340

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 to/from CVG Airport.

How to Apply:
1. www.executivetransportation.org/careers
2. Home Office: 1810 Mohnmuth St. Newport, KY 41071

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 include 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.
First dose of vaccine  
(Continued from page 3)

our Catholic School system, Mrs. Kendra McGurk and to our COVID-19 coordinator, Mrs. Laura Kenner for their untiring work and attention to detail in their efforts to keep our students safe and in school. These are trying times, but working together and observing all the necessary protocols will keep us safe and healthy.

Mrs. Francis offered encouragement for those who are anxiously awaiting their turn to get the vaccine.

“Vaccine supply continues to get better and better and our goal is to use over 90 percent of what we receive within seven days. We are working around the clock to make that happen,” she said. “As soon as we get the vaccine in, we get it to our community.”

In addition to school personnel, health care workers, first responders and persons age 75 or older can schedule their vaccination. Next is Phase 1C, which will include persons age 65 and older. Persons age 16-64 with high-risk medical conditions and CEC-defined “essential workers.”

Mrs. Francis said Kentuckians should check the Northern Kentucky Health Department and St. Elizabeth Healthcare website for scheduling updates.

“As we are able to expand to other tiers and get the vaccine in, we will make sure that website is updated,” she said.

(Continued from page 3)
March is small, but group’s ‘message of solidarity’ with unborn strong as ever
WASHINGTON — It was the coldest national March for Life in some years, it was the smallest and it may also be remembered as the bravest. A little over 200 people, tightly flanked by members of the Knights of Columbus, endured subfreezing temperatures and wind as they sang hymns and trudged a zigzag route with Jeanne Mancini, president of the March for Life Education and Defense Fund, from the Museum of the Bible to the Supreme Court Jan. 29. Mancini acknowledged “that we’re all symbolically marching, and we’re all in solidarity with each other.” Before they stopped off, she told the marchers, originally a group of 60, that although this year was a deeply somber occasion, “let’s be prayerful” and to fulfill the event “in the best way we can.”

Biden action on Title X makes abortion part of family planning program
WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden’s decision to rescind a regulation governing the Title X family planning program that was enforced by the Trump administration “will force abortion” to be part of the program and “may be unlawful,” said the chairman of the U.S. bishops’ pro-life committee. Started in 1970, the Title X Family Planning Program is a federal grant program for low-income patients to receive family planning and reproductive health services, such as contraception, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections and breast and cervical cancer screenings. In February 2019, the Trump administration implemented the “Protect Life Rule” that endorses the Title X rule banning taxpayer funds from being used to promote or provide abortion as family planning. On Feb. 24, 2020, The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the rule, which is what Biden is revoking. With enforcement of the rule, Title X “draws a bright line between abortion and family planning,” said Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities. “Forcing abortion into a pre-pregnancy program specifically designed to exclude abortion,” he added, is “immoral, impractical and may also be unlawful.”

Pope establishes World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly
VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis announced the establishment of a World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly as a reminder of the important role they play as a link between generations. During his Sunday Angelus address Jan. 31, the pope said the day will be celebrated every year on the fourth Sunday of July to coincide with the feast of Sts. Joachim and Anne, Jesus’ grandparents. The first celebration of this day will be July 25. “It is important for grandparents to meet their grandchildren and for grandchildren to meet their grandparents because — as the prophet Joel says — grandparents, before their grandchildren, will dream and have great desires, and young people — taking strength from their grandparents — will go forward and prophesy,” he said. Highlighting the Feb. 2 feast of the Presentation of the Lord, the pope said the recognition of Christ as the Messiah by the elderly Simeon and Anna is a reminder that “the Holy Spirit still stirs up thoughts and words of wisdom in the elderly today.”

Saint Vincent Seminary
300 Fraser Purchase Road
Latrobe, PA 15650-2690
724-355-2592
http://www.saintvincentseminary.edu

McHale’s
EVENTS AND CATERING
859-442-7776 www.mchalescatering.com
Preferred Caterer at Drees Pavilion
Partner Venues
Cincinnati Music Hall, Contemporary Arts Center, Devou Event Center, Fort Thomas Armory, Freedom Center, The New Riff Distillery, Bonfire Brewery, The Center at Fountain Square, Pricel Barn

CONGRATULATIONS
Father Joseph Rielage
upon your ordination to the Priesthood!

JEFF & CHERYL Siska
859-816-7910
Auctioneer—Appraisals—State & Collections Buyer
WE HAVE AN IMMEDIATE NEED TO BUY THE FOLLOWING...
• Costume Jewelry
• Fine & Decorative Arts & Antiques
• Coins & Paper Money
• Novelty & Prop & Display
• Advertising Signs
• Holiday Decor Before 1980
• Fine & Sporting Stags Before 1970
• Diecast Cars & Trucks
• Toys & Banks Before 1960
• Musical Instruments & Audio
• Musical Instruments & Audio
• Musical Instruments & Audio
• Musical Instruments & Audio
• Musical Instruments & Audio
• Musical Instruments & Audio
• Musical Instruments & Audio
• Musical Instruments & Audio
• Musical Instruments & Audio
• Musical Instruments & Audio
• Musical Instruments & Audio
• Musical Instruments & Audio
• Musical Instruments & Audio
• Musical Instruments & Audio
• Musical Instruments & Audio
• Musical Instruments & Audio
• Musical Instruments & Audio
• Musical Instruments & Audio
• Musical Instruments & Audio
• Musical Instruments & Audio
• Musical Instruments & Audio
• Musical Instruments & Audio
• Musical Instruments & Audio
• Musical Instruments & Audio
• Musical Instruments & Audio
• Musical Instruments & Audio
• Musical Instruments & Audio
• Musical Instruments & Audio
• Musical Instruments & Audio
• Musical Instruments & Audio
• Musical Instruments & Audio
• Musical Instruments & Audio
• Musical Instruments & Audio
• Musical Instruments & Audio
• Musical Instruments & Audio
• Musical Instruments & Audio
• Musical Instruments & Audio
• Musical Instruments & Audio
• Musical Instruments & Audio
• Musical Instruments & Audio
• Musical Instruments & Audio
• Musical Instruments & Audio
• Musical Instruments & Audio
• Musical Instruments & Audio
• Musical Instruments & Audio
VATICAN CITY — Praying with Scripture is not meant to be a mindless repetition of biblical quotes but instead is a gift that is meant to be accepted in people's hearts, Pope Francis said.

During his weekly general audience Jan. 27, the pope said the words contained in Scripture were “not written to remain imprisoned on papyrus, parchment or paper, but to be received by a person who prays, making them blossom in his or her heart.”

He also said Christians must not exploit the Bible or use it for “ulterior motives” like justifying “his or her own philosophical and moral view.”

“It irritates me a little when I hear Christians who recite verses from the Bible like parrots: ‘Oh, yes, the Lord says (this), he wants this,’” the pope said, departing from his prepared remarks.

“But did you encounter the Lord with that verse? It is not a question only of memory; it is a question of the memory of the heart, that which opens you to the encounter with the Lord. And that word, that verse, leads you to the encounter with the Lord,” he said.

Livestreaming his audience from the library of the Apostolic Palace, the pope continued his series of talks on prayer by looking at how Christians pray with Scripture.

“The Bible was not written for a generic humanity, but for us, for me, for you, for men and women in flesh and blood, men and women who have a name and a surname, like me, like you,” he said.

The Christian tradition of “Lectio Divina,” reflecting on and praying with the biblical readings, allows Christians to enter “into dialogue with the Scripture,” he said. And recognizing oneself in a particular passage, biblical character or situation “is a grace.”

However, he added, praying with Scripture is “delicate” because those who pray “must not slip into subjective interpretations” but instead be united to Scripture and view it as “an icon to be contemplated.”

Pope Francis said the word of God “inspires good intentions,” gives strength and serenity to those in need and “even when it challenges us, it gives us peace.”

“On ‘weird’ and confusing days, it guarantees the heart a core of confidence and of love that protects it from the attacks of the evil one,” he said.