My dear Brothers and Sisters,

Praised be Jesus Christ! Now and forever! Amen

The Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted all aspects of life — how we work, how we shop, how we celebrate with family, even how we gather for worship. How many times this past year have you heard people say that they can’t wait until the Covid-19 is just a memory so that we can “get back to normal”? Perhaps you have even heard yourself saying it! I know I’ve heard myself say it and I’ve thought it more times than I can count.

Patiently and persistently we have prayed to the Lord that He will see us through this time of trial and illness. The Lord hears our pleas. Slowly it seems as though we are now finally on the road to some sense of normalcy, some sense of what life was like pre-Covid-19.

As we move forward, what could be more normal for the Christian than Sunday worship? What could be more normal for the Christian Catholic than Sunday Mass? Remember when we had to close our churches to public worship? Holy Week 2020 was celebrated in empty churches as was Easter Sunday that year. I know that took a toll on many people and Easter 2020 simply was not the same.

Since for all practical purposes almost all restrictions have been lifted by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) as well as by the Commonwealth of Kentucky, it is time that we as Catholics “get back to normal” and once again make Sunday Mass a regular part of our lives.

Therefore, as of Saturday, 12 June 2021 I am lifting the dispensation from the obligation of attending Sunday Mass that was granted to all parishioners of the Diocese of Covington. Of course, those who are sick and/or unable to attend Mass for a truly legitimate reason, do not need a dispensation. This has always been the case. But as of Saturday, 12 June there is no longer a blanket dispensation from attendance at Sunday Mass for Catholics in the Diocese of Covington.

The Eucharist is “the source and summit of the Christian life.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1324, Lumen Gentium, #11). It is the sum and summary of our faith. (CCC #1327) In the Eucharist we not only give glory and honor to the Lord but we join our hearts, our minds, and our voices as one community of believers. So many people have told me over this past year that while the livestreaming of the Mass was beneficial to them and while they were grateful to participate in that way, it simply did not and could not take the place of being together with the community of believers in person.

Hopefully we have learned through our experience of these past 14 months just how important things and people we took for granted are to us. Coming together for the celebration of the Eucharist is one of the priorities that we have all hopefully come to appreciate and value and desire even more than ever before.

We look forward to welcoming you back to the community of believers as we join together in praising and glorifying our Lord in the Eucharist. Be assured always of my prayers. Please, pray for me.

Yours devotedly in the Eucharistic Lord,

Most Rev. Roger J. Foys, D.D.
Bishop of Covington
At Memorial Day Mass — remember and pray for those who sacrificed their lives for freedom

Laura Keener  
Editor

On a beautiful Monday morning Bishop Roger Foys celebrated the annual Memorial Day Mass, May 31, at St. Stephen Cemetery, Ft. Thomas. As usual, Mass was held on Calvary Hill beneath the large stone crucifix. Special this year, Brood X (the 17-year cicadas) provided Cicadian chant, adding to the natural landscape and to the praise and glory of God.

“Today is Memorial Day; it’s a day to remember,” said Bishop Foys as he began his homily. “We say that we ought to be remembering those who died for us, those who died to preserve our freedom, those who died to be remembering those who died to preserve our freedom. Even though this is a day to remember, I think it is pretty safe to say that a large part of the population in this country have forgotten what we are to remember.”

Drawing on the Gospel passage — the raising of Lazarus from the tomb — and the Biblical account of the Last Supper, Bishop Foys elaborated on the importance of remembering and how faith is foundational to remembering.

“Memories are important, remembering people and events is important,” Bishop Foys said. “At the Last Supper Jesus said to his apostles, ‘Do this in memory of me.’ Every time we celebrate Mass we are called to remember that Last Supper and the words that Jesus spoke to the apostles and the message that he had entrusted to them.”

In the Gospel passage, Bishop Foys said, that Martha had “temporarily forgotten that Jesus was the Lord,” when she chastises Jesus for not being there to prevent her brother’s death and cautions Jesus not to roll away the tomb stone for fear of a stench. “She takes him to task for not being there when her brother died. She forgot what he told her, I am the resurrection and I am the life,” Bishop Foys said.

Bishop Foys shared a Chinese proverb: as long as someone remembers you, you will never really be dead. “There’s something to that,” said Bishop Foys. “There’s a connection to what went before, what is now and what will be — we pass on those memories and traditions.”

Also important, Bishop Foys, is to remember what so many men and women sacrificed their lives for — to preserve our freedoms, especially religious freedom.

“It is important for us to pray for those who gave their lives so that we could be here, so that we can worship, so that we could profess and live our faith,” Bishop Foys said. “We must not forget. For almost 200 years the state — the government — did not encroach on the Church, it respected our religious freedom, for which so many have died. But in the recent past — not us. Now we have governments telling us how we can live, what we can do and can’t do, even as it pertains to our faith — our beliefs. That’s frightening. What will the future be when we lose those freedoms? That’s why it is so very important for us to gather and to remember and to pray.”

As he ended his homily, Bishop Foys said, “As we continue Mass let us keep in our minds and hearts, first of all, those who gave their very lives so that we might have freedom. Let us also remember our family and friends who have gone before us, commend them to the Lord, pray for them, that one day where they have gone we will follow.”

Jubilarians

Bishop Roger Foys and the priests of the Diocese of Covington will celebrate the Jubilarians from this year (2021) and last (2020) with Solemn Vespers, Tuesday, June 8, 4 p.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington.

Jubilarians from 2020 are:

Father John Riesenbarg (60 years)
Father Michael Comer (40 years)
Father Damian Hills (25 years)

Jubilarians for 2021 are:

Father Clarence (Jack) Heitzman (65 years)
Msgr. Ronald Ketteler (60 years)
Father B. Gerald Witzemann (60 years)
Father Maurice deLange (50 years)
Father G. Michael Greer (40 years)
Father John Sterling (25 years)

Jubilarians from 2020 were highlighted last year. Thank you to those who worked to get the names and details of the Jubilarians this year — you did a fantastic job! Please join in prayers of thanksgiving for the jubilarians of the Diocese of Covington. In upcoming issues of the Messenger each of the 2021 jubilarians will be highlighted. The 2020 jubilarians were highlighted last year.
In celebration of the dedication of St. Mary’s Cathedral Basilica façade on Sunday, June 6, two temporary exhibits entitled “Speaking for Centuries” and “Maes: The Builder” will open on the Cathedral campus and remain on view through June 30. Additionally, following the façade dedication Stephen Enzweiler, Cathedral historian, will lead a guided tour of the Cathedral including the newly added statues and tympana.

“Speaking for Centuries” — St. Mary’s Park
A series of images and accompanying narrative will transform St. Mary’s Park into an outdoor gallery where visitors can journey through the construction of the Cathedral Basilica.

Using archival photos in vivid detail, visitors will be able to see the original 1845 Cathedral, the building process of the 1894 Cathedral and façade begun by Bishop Camillus Paul Maes, and the 1901 Cathedral interior.

Visitors will also be able to learn about the impetus for the completion of the façade by Bishop Roger J. Foys and the 24 statues and two tympana that now grace the exterior. A series of images will highlight the design phase and work of the new statues and tympana by Cathedral façade statuary artist Neilson Carlin. From gestural drawings, to sketches, to the clay model, and finally stone, visitors will be able to explore the artist’s creative process from start to finish.

Self-guided tour. St. Mary’s Park is located on Madison Ave., Covington, across the street from the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption and is open dawn to dusk.

“Maes: The Builder” — Cathedral Basilica
Displayed at the Maes Chapel inside the Cathedral Basilica, visitors will be able to see a collection of personal effects that belonged to Bishop Camillus Paul Maes.

From vesture, to his pectoral cross, ring and eyeglasses, the awe-inspiring display will work to bring the cathedral visionary to life.

Visitors may also view the trowel used at the Cathedral’s cornerstone laying ceremony in 1910, and the formal wear of the young trainbearer to Bishop Maes worn during liturgical ceremonies.

For Cathedral hours and liturgy times, visit covcathedral.com.

Bishop Maes Surveys Cathedral construction, ca. 1896
(below left) Pectoral Cross and Ring from the Burial of Bishop Maes, 1915
(below right) Crocheted buttons from the Choir Cassock of Bishop Maes, 1910
Family life with Christ — get ready for an exciting year

Isaak A. Issak
Messenger contributor

The next year promises to be incredibly unique for the Catholic Church.

On March 19, 2021, the Church celebrated the fifth anniversary of the publication of Pope Francis’s apostolic exhortation “Amoris Laetitia,” on the beauty and joy of family. On this same day, Pope Francis launched the year “Amoris Laetitia Family,” which will conclude on June 4, 2022, at the 10th World Meeting of Families in Rome. The Holy Father himself will be present to pray, listen and speak with Catholic families from around the world.

What makes this Year of the Family unique is that Catholics worldwide are invited to participate and learn what the Church believes and teaches. Our Holy Father and our bishop encourage families to study what the Church believes — the Creed, what the Church celebrates — the sacraments, and what the Church lives — the moral life and the prayer life of Jesus Christ.

It is an opportunity for every Catholic family member to turn towards Jesus Christ, to encounter him in the sacraments, especially in the sacraments of penance and the Eucharist. Catholics are encouraged to study and reflect on Scripture passages, especially those words that came from the divine mouth of Jesus, so that they deepen their relationship with him. For example, my wife and I pray Lectio Divina every evening after dinner. At this time, our television and mobile devices are turned off for two hours. We read passages from Scripture, especially the Sunday readings, and meditate on them. We then ask each other questions for deeper reflection or clarification.

One evening I was reading from Matthew 4:4, “People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.” My wife immediately asked, “What does this mean?” I responded with a question, “Who is Jesus for you?” She said, “He is the Word of God.” “What does this mean?” I asked, “Do you know what the Catholic Church believes and teaches on the Holy Spirit or the Trinity?” She said, “No.”

I explained that if you are a baptized Catholic, you received the Holy Spirit at your baptism. If you get confirmed, then you have been sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. As a Catholic, when you receive the Precious Body and Blood of Jesus Christ (Eucharist), God is living inside you. God means the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit. When you receive Jesus in the Eucharist, you receive the Holy Trinity; they are one in their divinity; in their will and in their authority. He said that was “cool.” ‘Yes, indeed, it is really cool to know the Catholic Faith. That is why all need to study it. Knowing your faith doesn’t just happen like that. You have to work hard at it like we do for everything else. I remember one evening entering a deep conversation with my students on the sacraments. One young man asked, what happens if an unbaptized person receives the Eucharist? If an unbaptized person receives the Eucharist, they are receiving only the exterior ritual (sacramentum tantum) and not receiving the sanctifying grace of the Eucharist (res tantum) because they have not yet received the grace of baptism. The same is true for those in a state of sin who receive the Eucharist.

My students were excited to hear about these things of our faith. They were hungry for their faith. They did not want to be cut off from the day-to-day actual graces of the Holy Spirit and the sanctifying/habitual grace they receive from the sacraments.

These are especially important things of our faith that families need to have conversations about, especially with children, at home. We must know our faith so that no one deceives us about it. Family is the foundation of faith. Knowledge of our Catholic faith is the foundation to build upon with others. If families want to live a life of God — a life of holiness and grace — they need to immerse themselves in the life of the sacraments, they need to commit to studying them and appreciate having them.

Several special initiatives are being planned in our diocese for the Year of the Family. To find out more, visit www.covdio.org/family. Isaak A. Issak is co-director of the Office of Catechesis and Evangelization.
VATICAN CITY — Prayer is not a magic wand or a way to ask God to be at one’s service, Pope Francis said.

“Prayer is a humble dialogue with God to grow spiritually and discover his will for the world,” the pope said May 26 during his weekly general audience.

“In prayer, it is God who must convert us, not we who must convert God,” he said.

The audience was held in the San Damaso Courtyard of the Apostolic Palace, where attendees were obliged to wear masks, but many ignored social distancing rules as they crowded along the barricades to greet and speak with Pope Francis.

The pope, who had taken off his mask, spoke at length with people, blessing them or objects they had brought, drinking mate, swapping zucchetos and signing books.

One of the many people the pope spoke with was Belarus-born Lidia Maksymowicz, 80, who spent three years at the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp after she was sent there when she was 2 years old. The pope kissed the prisoner number tattooed on her left arm and the two embraced.

In his main audience talk, the pope continued his series on prayer by looking at how people can be certain God really listens to their prayers.

“Sometimes our prayers seem to go unheard, what we have asked for — for ourselves or for others — is not fulfilled,” he said.

“Why does he not respond to our requests?” the pope asked.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (2735) asks people to think more deeply about why they demand to see the results of their petitions: “What is the image of God that motivates our prayer: an instrument to be used? or the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ?” it says.

The pope said this passage warns people to avoid “the risk of not living an authentic experience of faith, but of transforming the relationship with God into something magical.”

“Prayer is not a magic wand,” he said. “It is a dialogue with the Lord. Indeed, when we pray, we can give in to the risk of not being the ones to serve God, but of expecting him to serve us.”

“When we pray, we need to be humble” and believe “that God will give me what is right to give. He knows,” the pope said.

People sometimes pray for the wrong reasons, keen to make sure God is with them, he said, “but few bother to check whether they are actually with God.”

People need to pray God transforms their heart and to ask the right questions to discover what is best for their spiritual health, Pope Francis said.

However, what about when the prayer request is worthy and charitable, like for the end of a war that does not cease, or “when people pray with a sincere heart, when they ask for things that correspond to the Kingdom of God,” like when a mother prays for her sick child, the pope said. “Why does it sometimes seem that God does not listen?”

Looking at the Gospels, Jesus heals many people, either responding to their pleas immediately or much later, the pope said.

Over time, people may see that some things do work out, “but in God’s way, the divine way, not according to what we wanted at that moment. God’s time is not our time,” he said.

“Evil is lord of the penultimate day” he said, “the moment when the night is darkest, just before the dawn” when it is so tempting to believe the devil has won.

But, the pope said, “the evil one is never lord of the last day. God is the Lord of the last day. Because that belongs to God alone, and it is the day when all human longings for salvation will be fulfilled.”

“Let us learn this humble patience, to await the Lord’s grace, to await the final day,” when God solves everything, he said.

And may people pray that the Lord give them real faith, he said, because Jesus said faith moves mountains, and Jesus “feels special tenderness before that faith and he listens.”
Losing the song in the singer

Often when listening to someone singing live or on television, I close my eyes to try to hear the song as not to let the singer’s performance get in the way of the song. A song can be lost in its performance; indeed, the performance can take over so that the song is replaced by the singer.

When anyone is performing live, be it on a stage, in a classroom, at a podium or in a pulpit, there will always be some combination of three things. The speaker will be trying to impress others with his talent; he will be trying to get a message across decisively (or unconsciously) be trying to channel something true, good and beautiful for its own sake. Metaphorically, he will be making love to himself, making love to an audience, and making love to the song.

Losing the song in the singer is to lose the song because what comes through is “the song” rather than the singer; the message rather than the messenger; and the performer’s empathy rather than his ego. The audience is drawn to the song rather than to the singer.

Good singers draw people to the music rather than to themselves; good teachers draw students to truth and learning rather than to themselves; great artists draw people to beauty rather than to adulation, and good preachers draw their congregations to God rather than to praise of themselves.

Admittedly, this isn’t easy to do. We are all human, so is our audience. No audience respects you unless you do some talent, some creativity, and intelligence. There’s always an unspoken pressure on the singer: the speaker; the teacher and the preacher — both from within and from without. From within, I don’t want to disappoint. I don’t want to look bad. I need to stand out. I need to show them something special from the audience. What have you got? Show us something. Are you worthy my attention? Are you bright? Are you.honing? Only the most mature person can be free of these pressures. Thus, the song easily gets lost in the singer; the message in the messenger; the teaching in the teacher; and the message of God in the personality of the preacher.

As a teacher, preacher and writer, I admit my own struggle with this. When I first became a teacher, I had better impress your students or you won’t have their attention or respect for long. The same with preaching. The congregation is always trying to listen up, and you had better measure up or no one will be listening to you. Moreover, unless you have an exceptionally strong self-image, you will be a perennial prisoner of your own insecurities. Nobody wants to look bad, stupid, unimportant, or come across as talentless. Everyone wants to look good.

Moreover, not least, there is still your ego (and its power can never be underestimated). It wants to draw the attention and the admiration to itself rather than to what is true, good, and beautiful. There is always the temptation for the messenger to be more concerned about impressing others than about having the message come through in purity and truth. The subtle, but powerful, temptation inside every singer, teacher, speaker, preacher or writer is to draw people to themselves rather than to the truth and beauty they are trying to channel.

I struggle with this in every class I teach, every article or book I write, and every time I preside at liturgy. Nevertheless, I make no apologies for this. It is the innate struggle in all creative effort. Are we trying to draw people to ourselves, or are we trying to draw them to truth, to beauty?

When I teach a class, how much of my preparation and energy is motivated by a genuine concern for the students and how much is motivated by my need to look good, to impress, to have a reputation as a good teacher? When I write an article or a book, am I really trying to bring insight and understanding to others or am I thinking of my status as a writer? When I preside at Mass and preach a homily, am I trying to channel something of the sacramental or to come across as a univocal robot without personalities. Our unique personalities and talents were given by God precisely as gifts to be used for others. Still, there’s a clear warning sign. When the focus of the audience is more on our personalities than on the song, we are probably making love to ourselves and our admirers than to the song.

Father Ron Rolheiser

Sports give ‘opportunities to encounter God’

Sports are one of the greatest instruments for the development of the whole person. And never has there been more resources available for the holistic development of the athlete. It is imperative that sports be allowed in sports and other forms of physical activity recognition, and are intentional about developing, the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual domain.

The physical aspect of athletes has historically been the most obvious one. Scripture tells us that God is a god of sport (Prov 8:1-4). From a young person running around in an informal setting like a playground to a professional athlete who has reached a mastery level, play — and the fun that results from it — should be given to science and the people around the athlete.

There will always be some unrest and their containment in their “bubbles” during the height of the racial unrest in the summer of 2020, the leagues granted the players the respect of post-season play. During the height of the racial unrest in the summer of 2020, the leagues granted the players the respect of post-season play. In addition, mental health awareness is also an activity that involves more than the movement of the ball goal (like I did), a golf course, and even a 100,000-seat stadium.

Subscriptions, address changes:

Wednesday noon, 9 days prior to publication date.

Sports provide us opportunities to encounter God, especially in our relationships with teammates and others. We can even find it in competition and with our opponents. We can find God in athletic spaces like a backyard basketball court, a 18 hole golf course and even a 100,000-seat stadium.

St. John Paul II summed up the physical, mental, emotional and spirituality of athletics quite beautifully: “Sport is an activity that involves more than the movement of the body; it demands the use of intelligence and the disciplining of the will. It reveals, in other words, the wonderful structure of the human person created by God as a spiritual being, a unity of body and soul.”

Rich Hoyt is an assistant professor at the University of Cincinnati, a parishioner at St. Agnes Parish, Ft. Wright, and a longtime youth and high school coach. He is the lead trainer for the Play Like A Champion Today program in the Diocese of Covington.
Virtues shared by foster father of Jesus

As Father’s Day 2021 nears, we can reflect on what St. Joseph offers men as way of a model. To begin, first let me share my passion.

Joseph being the foster father of Jesus, took the role of nurturing, protecting and caring for Jesus seriously — stepping up for a child not his own but trusting him as such. Pope Francis says, “fathers are not born but made. A man does not become a father simply by bringing a child into the world, but by taking upon the responsibility to care for that child.”

I pray for more men to step up to become foster and adoptive fathers for abused and neglected orphans in our community.

What then does it take to be a great man and father? What does it take to consider God’s special calling for foster or adoptive parenthood? We can take a deeper look at some of these virtues.

Moral: 1. Literally — I personally don’t see how Jesus can be interpreted as suggesting he is speaking symbolically. Maybe I’m missing something. Let’s look to the past.

Around the year 155 A.D., St. Justin, known as the martyr, wrote in his “First Apology” the following: “For not as common bread and common drink do we receive the flesh and blood of Jesus Christ.”

“Is this a problem?” In the Gospel today from St. Mark, we hear Jesus say explicitly to his apostles: “Take it; this is my body;” and again “This is my blood….” Even using the four different ways: Uncle Glen’s homemade wine, Eloise’s Bees honey, FaceTime helped with Thanksgiving, however. I had the opportunity to speak with everyone at the family dinner table. The type of mask that was encouraged changed during the pandemic. Our sisters in Lourdes Hall, filled with renewed love and thanksgiving for how the father is being lived out in our family.

My appreciation for my religious family grew tremendously during the pandemic. Our Office to support other men and families who are called to this life was started at St. Joseph’s intercession, I challenge the men of the diocese to prayerfully consider becoming a mentor, a foster or adoptive father. If you discern that it is not your calling, please encourage your friends, family, and your church office to support other men and families who are called to this life.

For sure, all can strive to become the best man or woman St. Joseph models for us!

Ronald M. Bertsch is director of Therapeutic Foster Care/Adoption for the DCCH Center for Children and Families, Ft. Mitchell, KY.

The pandemic and my three families

On August 20, 2020, the baptism of my great-great-niece, Sylvia Francine Harris, and my great-great-nephew, Arlo Henry Boesch, took place at Sts. Peter and Paul Church, my home parish. I could not attend because of COVID. As I followed the ceremony on Facebook, I was filled with renewed love and thanksgiving for how the faith is being lived out in our family.

One of the hardest aspects of the pandemic was not being able to celebrate holidays with my family. For FaceTime helped with Thanksgiving, however, I had the chance to speak with everyone at the family dinner table.

Then came Christmas. I could not go home, but my family was determined to have as much celebration as possible for me in so many ways. Uncle Glen’s homemade wine, Eloise’s Bees honey produced in California, Ky., homemade cookies, personal items, and much more. Persons who brought gifts had to wear masks, of course, and just hand the gifts to whomsoever answered the conven door. I wrote thank you notes, but only God knows how much I love and appreciate my family.

On June 4, 2021

Father Daniel Schomaker

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On June 4, 2021

Father Daniel Schomaker
Annual catechists awards recognizes exemplary parish and school catechists

Catechetical Leadership Award

Emily Scheper

Emily Scheper — St. Agnes, Ft. Wright, and St. Henry, Elsmere
Emily Scheper was born and raised in Northern Ky. She earned a degree in marketing she felt called to religious life and joined the Benedictine Sisters of St. Gertrude in 2007. She now teaches at Villa Madonna Academy.

Sister Eileen O’Connell

Sister Eileen O’Connell is a member of the Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery in 1989. After graduating from Sacred Hearts University, she became a campus minister at Villa Madonna Academy.

Outstanding Elementary School Catechists

Emily Scheper — St. Agnes, Ft. Wright, and St. Henry, Elsmere

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Outstanding High School Catechists

Emily Scheper

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Outstanding Parish Catechists

Yvonne Dahms — St. Joseph Parish, Crescent Springs

Yvonne Dahms has been involved in the Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) at St. Joseph Parish, Crescent Springs, for over 25 years. Raising 10 children after her husband’s death and working full time at St. Charles Nursing Community, Mrs. Dahms always made time to volunteer at her parish, particularly with PREP. She has taught various age levels throughout the years, recently seventh grade. She teaches Theology of the Body during the first semester a program she dearly

was her favorite subject. This past school year she began teaching middle school religion at St. Henry and returned as a volunteer for the parish CCD program. “I consider it a calling, as I never imagined myself teaching religion full time until this year and it has turned out to be very fulfilling and rewarding,” Ms. Schepers said. “The students challenge me daily and I love growing in faith along with them. I am dedicated to giving stu-

ents a connection with God that goes further than the textbook. The guidance of the Holy Spirit has been very helpful when planning lessons and leading discussions. I feel blessed to be receiving this award.”

Kathy Wuestefeld — St. Cecilia School, Independence

Kathy Wuestefeld received both her bachelor’s and mas-
ter’s degrees from Northern Kentucky University. She is in her 36th year as an educator. She has taught third, fourth, fifth- and sixth-grade students for a combined total of 30 years at St. Agnes School, Ft. Wright; St. Joseph School, Cold Spring; and Blessed Sacrament School.

She has loved every moment of teaching in all three schools. In the fall of 1999, after teaching pre-

school at Chapman Child Development Center for C o v i n g t o n I n d e p e n d e n t Schools, Mrs. Wuestefeld joined the faculty at St. Cecilia School.

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ing position God was guiding her toward. Mrs. Wuestefeld is back in Catholic elementary education where her heart belongs, and feels blessed to

continue her ministry.

embraced. Mrs. Dahms is a staple of the program and a model of commitment and perseverance. She always teaches with a gentle touch speaking quietly to the students and constant reminder of God’s love. Mrs. Dahms’ kind and loving attitude towards her students, always encourages them and makes a lasting impression. If you need prayers or an understanding listener, she is the go-to person. There have been so many blessings from God in my life,” said Mrs. Dahms. “I am proud to be the mother of 10 children and I am also the oldest of 13 children raised in a home where the love of God was always lovingly taught. This is how my love of teaching came about… along with 12 years of education from the Benedictine Sisters. God has always blessed me and it has been a labor of love, hope, and service. My children have been my witnesses that the love of God is real and constant.”

Marla Humphrey — St. Timothy Parish, Union

Marla Humphrey is a cradle Catholic blessed to grow up immersed in the faith. Her extended family, parish life, and Catholic education taught her the beauty of the faith and how to live it, which urged her from a young age to share in many ways the gift of faith with others. When her child began religious education 26 years ago, Mrs. Humphrey began volunteering as a parish catechist. Since moving to Northern Ky. 16 years ago Mrs. Humphrey has been teaching the RCIA class at St Timothy Parish, Union and is grateful for the educational opportunities offered by the diocesan Office of Catechesis and Evangelization. She and her husband, Clint, are empty nesters who give thanks to God that they are again able to raise their two adult children and spouses in Boston. Mrs. Humphrey said that she is also very blessed and gives thanks to God for the opportunity to “betrove” children each year with whom to share the joy of faith and God’s endless love, while assisting them to prepare for their sacraments and to join the Church.

Outstanding Youth Ministers

Noah Shafer — St. Catherine of Siena, Ft. Thomas

Noah Shafer is a parishioner of St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Ft. Thomas. He received his bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Cincinnati and currently works as a product design engineer at R.A. Jones Company. Mr. Shafer has been involved with youth ministry since his freshman year of high school in 2010, where he helped form a youth group at St. Philip’s Parish, Melbourne, with Father Robert Rottgers. His primary ministry for the past 10 years has been with YCET (Youth Commission Evangelization Team) for the Diocese of Covington. Through YCET he and his team members work with high school students to plan a confirmation retreat, which they hold multiple times a year for confirmation candidates at various parishes. “I absolutely could not have done this ministry, though, without my two co-coordinators: Claire Collopy and Sarah Rumalek,” said Mr. Shafer. “They are an essential part of this ministry, and I cannot fully express my appreciation for their dedication to this ministry. Although I am the one receiving this award, it truly belongs to the three of us.” In addition to YCET, Mr. Shafer has led numerous youth retreats with Father Michael Henninger, helped with school/parish retreats and volunteered at other youth events in the diocese, such as Youth 209. “It is an honor to receive the Outstanding Youth Minister Award,” he said.

Susan Stewart — St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Alexandria

Susan Stewart was hired as director of Youth Ministry at St. Timothy Parish, Union, shortly after she married (26 years ago). Her roles in ministry have changed over the years, but she said that she has been blessed to work with many “amazing youth leaders” on both the parish level as well as the diocesan level. Over the years Mrs. Stewart has also been involved with many youth retreat providers. For the past six years she has served as director of Youth Ministry at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Alexandria. “When you work with young people it is often the planting of seeds and the cultivation of soil,” Mrs. Stewart said. “Youth Ministry is not a ministry where you always get to see the fruits of the labor; it is a labor of love, hope, trust and letting go. When we are able, years later, to reconnect and celebrate their stories that is a pure gift.” Mrs. Stewart said that her greatest accomplish- ment is being the wife and the mom of eight children. “Youth Ministry is a 24/7 job and there have been sacrifices along the way,” she said. “The flip side is that my children grew up surrounded by young people of faith, many of whom had a positive impact on their lives. I have been richly blessed in that aspect over the years. Youth Ministry thrives where young people feel loved, accepted and heard. St. Mary Paruch is one of those places, I am so very grateful that this is where I have been called to serve.”

Diocese of Covington

Catholic Courses for Adults

Basic Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Date &amp; Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basic Beliefs</td>
<td>June 21, 12–1:30 p.m., Father Michael Barth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Scripture</td>
<td>June 21, 1:30–3 p.m., Father Timothy Schehr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catechetical Process</td>
<td>June 21, 3–4:30 p.m., Father Andrew Young</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Catholic Spirituality</td>
<td>June 21 &amp; 22, 4:30–6 p.m., Claire Therese Hayne</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Using Arts in Faith Formation, June 21 & 22, 6–7:30 p.m., Rosanne Thomas

General/Advanced Courses

Old & New Testaments, June 16 & 15, 1:30–3 p.m., Father Timothy Schehr

Liturgy & Rites, June 21 & 22, 9–10:30 a.m., Father Daniel Schomaker

Justice & Peace (Catholic Social Teaching), June 21 & 22, 10:30 am – 12 p.m., Suzette Labab

Christian Morality, June 21 & 22, 7:30–9 p.m., Father Raymond Enzweiler

Sacraments, June 22 & 23, 1:30–3 p.m., Father Daniel Schomaker

Jesus (Christology), June 22 & 23, 3–4:30 p.m., Father Michael Barth

Church Vision, Mission & Ministry (Ecclesiology), June 23 & 24, 9 a.m.–10:30 a.m., Father Ryan Maher

Church History, June 23 & 24, 6:30–8:30 p.m., Father Andrew Young

Maintenance Courses

Acts of the Apostles, June 22 & 23, 12–1:30 p.m., Msgr. William Cleves

Theology of the Body, June 23 & 24, 10:30 a.m.–12 p.m., Father Raymond Enzweiler

Marianity, June 24, 1:30–3 p.m., Msgr. William Cleves

The Mass as Prayer, June 24 & 25, 3–4:30 p.m., Deacon Jerry Franzen

Ecstaticology: The Last Things, June 24, 4:30–6 p.m., Father Michael Barth

Vatican Council II, June 25, 10:30 a.m.–12 p.m., Msgr. William Cleves

The Trinity (Doctrine of God), June 25, 1:30–3 p.m., Father Michael Barth

Bioethics, June 25, 3–4:30 p.m., Father Raymond Enzweiler

Missiology (Mission Theology), June 26, 10:30 a.m.–12 p.m., Father Jacob Varghese

Cost is $35 per course or workshop. For each course there will be virtual class time as well as an independent study component. More information at covidio.org/register or call David Cooley at (859) 392-1592.
VATICAN CITY — Christians can rest assured that in moments of trial, suffering or even sin, Jesus is interceding for them before God, Pope Francis said.

"Even if our prayers were only mutterings, if they were compromised by a wavering faith, we must never stop trusting in him," the pope said June 2 during his weekly general audience.

"Don't forget: 'Jesus is praying for me,'" he said. "In the moment of trial, in the moment of sin, even in that moment, Jesus with so much love is praying for me."

Arriving in the San Damaso Courtyard of the Apostolic Palace, the pope spent some time greeting pilgrims, blessing children and religious articles.

Continuing his series of talks on prayer, the pope reflected on how prayer was fundamental to Christ and his mission, especially when it came to choosing his disciples.

Recalling St. Luke’s account of Jesus praying the day before he chose his disciples, the pope said that "judging from how those men were to behave, it would seem that the choice was not the best because they all fled, they left him alone before the Passion."

However, "it is precisely this — especially the presence of Judas, the future traitor — that demonstrates that those names were inscribed in God's plan," he said.

Jesus’ moments of prayer on behalf of his disciples, especially for Peter who would deny Christ, were an act of love that showed that even in times of failure, "the love of Jesus does not stop," the pope continued.

"Jesus’ love and prayer for each of us does not stop, indeed it becomes more intense, and we are at the center of his prayer," Pope Francis said. "We must always remember this: Jesus is praying for me; he is praying now before the Father and he is showing him the wounds he bore, so that the Father can see the price of our salvation; it is the love that he has for us."

Reflecting on other moments in the Gospels, including Peter’s profession of faith and the Transfiguration, the pope noted that the "great turning points of Jesus’ mission are always preceded by prayer."

Jesus, he added, "not only wants us to pray as he prays, but assures us that, even if our attempts at prayer are completely useless and ineffective, we can always count on his prayer."

Departing from his prepared remarks, the pope recalled a bishop who told him that during a time of great trial, he looked up in St. Peter’s Basilica and saw Jesus’ words at the Last Supper: "I have prayed for you, Peter."

"That gave him strength and comfort," the pope said. "And this happens every time any of us knows that Jesus is praying for him or her. Jesus prays for us. Right now, in this moment."
The prayer intention for June, as recommended by Pope Francis, is for the beauty of marriage. Let us pray for young people who are preparing for marriage with the support of a Christian community: may they grow in love, with generosity, faithfulness and patience.

Upcoming study groups at St. Mary Parish, Alexandria:
“Diary of St. Faustina,” weekly Tuesday mornings, 10:30–11 a.m. Order the book on your own. This group may be joined any time.

It’s back! Annual flea market at St. Joseph Parish, Crescent Springs, Noll Hall, June 4 and 5, 8 a.m.–3 p.m. Furniture, household, children’s clothing, jewelry, tools, collectibles and much more. Diocesan COVID protocols apply. Call 341-6609.

Job search assistance available for free at the Kenton County Public Library branches. Get help getting started with 1-1 career coaching, resume assistance, workshops, and online classes to improve your job-hunting skills. Go to kentonlibrary.org/job-search-central or call 962-4002 to learn more.

Newport Central Catholic High School is once again offering youth summer camps for boys and girls basketball and soccer and volleyball and baseball. For dates, times and locations of camps read more at: https://www.ncchs.com/news.

Bishop Brossart High School, Alexandria, is offering summer sports camps for girls and boys basketball and volleyball, girls soccer and youth baseball and football. For information visit http://www.bishopbrossart.org/page/summer-camps or call the school office at 635-2108.

Bishop Brossart High School summer K-9 drama camp will present “Annie Kids” in the BBHS Munninghoff Family Performing Arts Center. During the one week camp students will learn about all aspects of theatre and put on a full-production musical. Auditions are July 7 from 3-5 p.m. or July 8 from 10 a.m.–noon. Camp dates are Monday, July 12–Friday, July 16, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Camp cost $150 per child; add sibling for $100. Contact rtieman@sthenrynky.com for questions and to sign up by Monday, July 2nd.

The Office of Catechesis and Evangelization is sponsoring a Diocesan RCIA workshop: Implementing RCIA in the Parish, June 7, 8 and 9, St. Joseph Parish, Cold Spring, 7–8:30 p.m. The instructor will be Vicki Klocke (Covid protocols will be followed - masks, social distancing, etc.) Register at covdio.org/register. Call 392-1592 for information.

Parish Kitchen, a ministry of Catholic Charities is looking for more volunteers to help serve their lunch meal from 11:30 a.m.–1:45 p.m. Regular or sub opportunities are available for weekday and/or weekends, once a month or more. Volunteers must be willing to be VIRTUS compliant. VIRTUS training is available through the Diocese of Covington. The volunteer application is available at www.parishkitchen.org. A staff member will contact you as soon as possible.

Honoring Mary
St. Pius X School had a school wide May Crowning on May 7. Students brought in flowers and the whole school gathered on the playground for the event. The second grade students, who recently received their First Holy Communion, led the May Crowning Court which was made up of 5th-8th grade students who were elected by their classmates for being good Christian role models. Eighth grader J. Lyons crowned Mary.

Thank you altar servers
The 2021 Serra Altar Server awards were recently presented to servers at St. Joseph Parish, Cold Spring (above) and St. Philip Parish, Melbourne (below). Like last year, the awards were sent to each parish to distribute to servers at an appropriate day for each pastor. The awards are provided by the Serra Club for Vocations.

School’s out for summer!
Students and faculty at Villa Madonna Academy celebrated the last day of an incredible school year. Parents gathered with balloons and signs for a clap out for sixth-grade students who will move from Villa Madonna Academy Elementary to Villa Madonna High School. A rising eighth grader threw his hands in the air as he left school for summer break.
Congratulations eighth graders and seniors of the

Class of 2021

“I commend the Class of 2021 for their hard work and perseverance throughout this school year. This year’s class experienced the challenges of a pandemic and responded with patience and understanding. They successfully completed the rigorous academic requirements and are shining examples of how to live the Catholic faith. I am especially grateful to their parents, who make many sacrifices to ensure their children receive a Catholic education. And I extend my sincere gratitude to the faculty and staff of our Catholic schools. It is their hard work and dedication that made this year a success.”

— Kendra McGuire, Superintendent of Catholic Schools

For information about Catholic schools in the Diocese of Covington, call 859.392.1500 or visit www.covdio.org.

“There are alternatives to a Catholic school education, but there is no substitute.”

— Bishop Roger Foys
Bishop Roger Foys, accompanied by Kendra McGuire, superintendent of schools, attended high school graduations in the diocese May 19 – 29. This is a pictorial salute to the class of 2021. God bless, grads!
Utterback Donnely
Briana Anne Byrd
Madeline Elizabeth Enginger
Connor Patrick Enzal
Benjamin Edward Feaust
Cheryl Lynne Fournier
John George Greene
Emma Elizabeth Gross
Jason Paul Grothaus
Logan Thomas Hatfield
Annie Patricia Heck
Maliak Elion Hornord
Chloe Nicole Hicks
Bryce Cort Hoy
Avery Joseph Huesman
Abigail Karly Jones
Madison Lin Kelly
Juliana Marie Kish
Kyle Ross Kuh
Bailey Shea Krumnak
Samuel James Levis
Madison Elle McCluskey
Aidan James McMahon
Nicholson K. McSwigan
Joseph Andrew Melville
Haylee Kramer Meyer
Quantin Sawyer Meyer
Vincent Jacob Migliori
Logan Ryan Morford
Grace Elizabeth Naegelein
Emmanuelle Lee Osburg
Havon Star P aggert
Anna Marie Petrucci
James Plant Pieskoowski
Isabella Rose Marie Salter
Justin Robert Schneider
Isaac James Sector
Amanda Rose Smith
Halle Renee South
Grayson Alexander Sperbeck
Mallia Lynne Thompson
Michelle Elizabeth Turner
Nicholas David Vonemann
Camilla Elizabeth Valek
Benjamin Wallace Waltz
Alyson Renee Willing
Alex Anthony Winkelman
Haley Samantha Clark
Evolve Marie Cook
Amelia Grace Coosman
Noelle Elizabeth Cowley
Tagrid Dahabani
Jenny Jane Daneemann
Lauren Elizabeth Davie
Avery Elizabeth Dietz
Mary Grace Downing
Anna Kathlyn Donaway
Claire Reed Dunham
Caroline Hilary Dunley
Claire Danielle Duning
Claire Jennifer Edgington
Emily Katey Ergelston
Margaret Marie Elin
Kathrynn Evelyn Epplen
Olivia Kathleen Espinosa
Taylor Elizabeth Faivre
Paige Mac
Emily Egan Fagan
Sidney Lee Fleming
Alaina Marie Fleisch
Margaret Grady Gartner
Morgan Meggie Garie
Jordan Elaye Gilhim
Alanna Alex Good
Alycia Ann Good
Abigail Lynn Grau
Kristeyn Olivia Haas
Alex Anna Elizabeth Hageman
Riley Mae Hemmer
Maria Rose Hensley
Caitlinn Ley
Ava Claire Herwig
Jenny Elle Hines
Skyller Peyton Jaacobs
Haylie Marie Jansen
Lauren Noel Janurac
Maia Faith Jordan
Silvia Renee Jordan
Sloan Rasburn Jordan
Amy Xavie Kohn
Camille Andrea Laidar
Mercy Anne Leach
Kathryn Marie Lazure
Josephine Irene Laverie
Cormac Cecilia Lewis
Pascalle Wilson Le Bay
Anna Grace Long
Olivia Mae Maciel
Laura Elizabeth Masur
Madison Rose Matthews
Alanna Marie Mather
Sydney Korrin McMain
Camille Jeanne McMurry
Hope Catherine McNickle
Emily Roseann Merz
Isabella Marie Meyerran
Meyerkess
Katelyn Josephine Moore
Lily Catherine Moser
Avery Ireland Munroe
Brooke Michael Murphy
Sara Marie Nageleisen
Taylor Nicole Naundin
Mary Ann Carol Newick
Paige Carolyn Neuhaus
Terese Marie Noll
Lilli Clare Nordholm
Juliana Grace Noelvs
Ella Marie Padgett
Coccaiah Page Pratrick
Emma Nicole Pohlman
Grace Abigail Powers
Savannah Marie Paglius
Ava Kathleen Quigley
Megan Rose Raff
Hannah Marie Rainos
Sophia Ann Ryan
Abigail Elizabeth Schaller
Cate Leigh Scheper
Ally Claire Syddall
Sydney Elaine Schrodor
Iris Elizabeth Schuh
Natalie Rose Schuh
Adison Elizabeth Schwebert
Lily Mary Shag
Ava Elizabeth Soloff
Danielle Grace Shoookamo
Jenna Belle Shriver
Grace Marie Sionner
Stella Marie Skinner
Margaret Lee Smith
Christina Renee Soro
Kirsten Lynn Spillman
Ava Amelia Rose Stansel
Annabelle Hartin Stansen
Emma Jane Summe
Michaela Theresa Summe
Mollie Elizabeth Tagger
Hailey Michele Taylor
Gwenyth Ann Thomas
Shelley Elizabeth Turney
Emily Marie Ventre
Olivia Ann Voelker
Emily Anne Warden
Sarah Lynn Witt
Alanna Marie Alyce Wright
Rachel Marie Young

Zachary Ryan Day
Kylie Michelle Day
Aidan John Drage
Benjamin Anthony Duang
Anna Marie Eiform
Josiah Thomas Ewing
Emma Brandon Evers
Emma Marie Rasdian
Kaya Elise Reeder
Avery Elizabeth Reiner
Jenna Marie Rien
Abigail Nicole Ritz
Jessica Lynn Gangerush
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Lillie Pearl Gosney
Giffin John Good
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Gabriel Luke Ryan
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Students at Covington Latin School assist Bishop Roger Foys as pontifical servers at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, and for pontifical celebrations at parishes throughout the diocese. Given the intrinsic nature of pontifical celebrations these servers are specially trained and spend many hours serving at the altar. Each year, Bishop Foys congratulates the pontifical servers that are graduating from Covington Latin School. This year’s graduating pontifical servers are Madison Dehum and Laurynn Smith.
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2021

OVER $800,000 AWARDED IN SCHOLARSHIPS PER STUDENT
AND EARNING ADMISSION TO THE FOLLOWING SCHOOLS:

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<tr>
<th>Bellarmine University</th>
<th>Miami University</th>
<th>University of Alabama</th>
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<td>Berry College</td>
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<td>Thomas More University</td>
<td>Xavier University</td>
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<td>Loyola University, Chicago</td>
<td>Transylvania University</td>
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Congratulations to the
CLASS OF 2021!

THOMAS MORE UNIVERSITY
THE CATHOLIC LIBERAL ARTS UNIVERSITY OF THE DIOCESE OF COVINGTON

371 distinct students
awarded 440 total degrees
75 graduate degrees | 296 undergraduate degrees

88 undergraduate students
graduated with honors
21% of undergraduates
are first-generation college students
11 active military/veterans
4 countries and 14 states represented

Make It More
Catholic chaplains minister to families at Arlington National Cemetery

Catholic chaplains minister to families at Arlington National Cemetery

ARLINGTON, Va. — “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

These words, while not identical in language to the oath every military member swears on entering the service, are identical in substance. And at Arlington National Cemetery, Catholic chaplains have a special mission to provide last rites for those who gave their lives for their country.

Though the cemetery is located in Arlington County, it is controlled by the U.S. Department of the Army, and its spiritual care falls under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services.

However, many parish priests in Northern Virginia, with its sizable military populations, have conducted funerals at the cemetery, as the families of fallen military members can request that their parish priest offer the funeral — with special permission from the military archdiocese.

Msgr. John C. O’Regan, retired pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church in Alexandria, Virginia, said he has presided at several for military people from his parish.

The priest, who served as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps for 22 years before he was ordained, said every time he conducts a military funeral, it is “very, very moving.”

“A lot of young military guys don’t consciously think of this, but when you raise your right hand in an oath, you’re placing your life on the line for other people,” Msgr. O’Regan said. “It’s very important that we don’t forget the people that have made great sacrifices for the values we cherish ... as Catholic Americans.”

There are four priests currently assigned to Arlington National Cemetery — two from the U.S. Army, one each from the U.S. Marine Corps and the Coast Guard.

Father David Kirk, an Army chaplain who holds the rank of major, is the senior Catholic priest among them.

On any given day, an average of 25 to 30 funerals are performed at Arlington National Cemetery. In the year and a half Father Kirk has been assigned to the cemetery, he said he’s performed between 600 and 700 funerals, and as many as five in a day.

Military services are celebrated in the Old Post Chapel at the cemetery, though due to time constraints the rites are typically shortened, Father Kirk said. Afterward, the chaplain will walk with the family to the grave site.

“It’s a very important ministry for the families and for us also, as priests, to be there for the family in such a situation and occasion,” said Father Nelson O’Regan, an Air Force chaplain who holds the rank of captain. “It’s very consoling for them to get here and find a priest who most of the time is wearing the same uniform that your loved one wore.”

Cemetery, Father Kirk told the Arlington Catholic Herald, the diocesan newspaper:

When he makes contact with the families to start arranging details for the funeral, he said he receives a wide variety of responses:

“Families have said your sense of being able to have closure and move on doesn’t happen as soon with Arlington,” Father Kirk said of the wait to get in at the cemetery.

“Then with those who have started making closure, it does open things back up again,” he explained. “But for a number of families, it opens things back up in a happy way — we’re now going to be able to bury our loved one and fulfill their wishes. For many people, you can almost sense on the phone that sense of relief to them that they’ve finally got to this point.”

While the ministry of an average parish priest might involve many different things, the Arlington National Cemetery priests spend the majority of their time consoling those who are grieving.

Father Kirk said military chaplains have a threefold call: “Nurture the living, care for the wounded, honor the dead.”

“At Arlington, we certainly honor the dead, but we also take care of the wounded — and wounded doesn’t always have to be physical wounds. They can be emotional and spiritual wounds,” Father Kirk said.

“We care for and nurture the living, which are the soldiers who we are with and the family members that come here for the funerals,” he said.

“It’s such a blessing to be able to be at Arlington, because of how unique of a place this is,” he added. It’s such a beautiful assignment.”

Because of an extensive backlog and waitlist, families of fallen service members often have to wait at least a year to have their loved one buried at Arlington National Cemetery.
Ending limit on culturing human embryos called ‘affront’ to value of life

WASHINGTON — Lifting a longstanding prohibition on the ability of scientists to culture human embryos in the lab past 14 days shows “an utter disregard” for the value of human life and is “an affront to the sanctity of human life,” said two Catholic members of Congress, Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., and Sen. Mike Braun, R-Ind.

The International Society for Stem Cell Research said May 26 that what’s known as “the 14-day” rule, in place for 40 years, should be lifted and that regulatory bodies in every country that conduct this type of research should decide what research will be permitted and how.

ISSCR’s guidelines previously put the culturing of human embryos beyond 14 days postfertilization in its most restrictive category three: “prohibited research activities.” The new guidelines, drafted by a task force of scientists and ethicists, omit longer restraint, allowing unborn humans at any stage of development to be experimented on, manipulated and destroyed.

The ISSCR also has lifted restrictions against creating and experimenting on human-animal chimeras. These are created by injecting cells from one species into an early stage embryo from another species.

In response, Smith and Braun introduced a measure titled the Human-Animal Chimera Prohibition Act — known as H.R. 3542 and S. 1800 in their respective chambers. It would prohibit research involving human-animal chimeras that blur human-animal species distinctions.

The National Institutes of Health currently has a moratorium on funding experiments involving human-animal chimeras.

NIH should not lift its moratorium on funding “animal hybrid experiments, and further I believe such research is an affront to the sanctity of human life that should be outlawed,” Braun said, adding he “will continue to fight for bioethics restrictions that protect human and animal life from unethical experimentation.”

On May 24, Smith and Braun spearheaded a letter signed by 32 members of Congress urging the Biden administration “not to weaken its stance on this important issue.”

“The United States now has the responsibility to decide how it will respond to this updated guidance” from the ISSCR, Smith said. “H.R. 3542, which would create a permanent, statutory ban on certain types of human-animal chimeras, is an important step.”

“We also call on the Biden administration to preserve the scientific integrity of our nation and ensure that the United States does not further weaken requirements protecting human embryos and requiring a strict code of ethical conduct from our scientists and researchers,” Smith said.

Robin Lovell-Badge of the Crick Institute chaired the task force that wrote the ISSCR guidelines. The 45-member body included scientists, clinicians, ethicists, lawyers and policy specialists from 18 countries.

The guidelines have been updated “to reflect current science,” he wrote in the journal Nature.

“Perhaps the most striking is relaxing the 14-day rule,” he said.

“Fourteen days (in the human embryo) is shortly before the stage at which the first signs of the central nervous system appear. When the limit was proposed some 40 years ago, no one could culture human embryos much beyond five days, the time of implantation.

“Now, it prevents study of a critical period, between 14 and 28 days, when the beginnings of tissues are established,” he said.

But Dr. Daniel Sulmasy, a bioethicist at Georgetown University, told NPR he thinks ending the 14-day rule is “deeply troubling. Now, any sign of respect for the human embryo is gone.”

The Real Presence

(Continued from page 7)

lest thou lose any portion thereof; for whatever thou lostest, is evidently a loss to thee as it were from one of thy own members. For tell me, if any one gave thee grains of gold, wouldest thou not hold them with all carefulness, and be on thy guard against losing any of them, and suffer them to fall from thee of what is more precious than gold and precious stones? Have not thou the same care for the Body of Christ, and the Blood of Christ. The Body which thou receivest, is part of thy own members, the Blood also of the Body of Christ, draw near also to the Cup of His Blood; not stretching forth thine hands, but bending, and saying with an air of worship and reverence, Amen, hallow thyself by partaking also of the Blood of Christ. And while the moisture is still upon thy lips, touch it with thine hands, and hallow thine eyes and brow and the other organs of sense. Then wait for the prayer, and give thanks unto God, who hath accounted thee worthy of so great mysteries.”

“The faith is to be the faith of the Church — that is, if we are truly to be Catholic. And from the beginning Holy Mother Church has taught that the Eucharist, the Body appearing as bread and wine, is in fact, through a great mystery the BODY, BLOOD, SOUL and DIVINITY of Jesus Christ.

Let us all hold on dearly to this TRUTH! And may the reality of what we believe change us from the inside out — for you are, what you eat!”

Father Daniel Schenck, a priest at St. Augustine Parish, Covington and vicar general for the Diocese of Covington, Ky.

My three families

(Continued from page 7)

They sang “Amazing Grace” before leaving their shift. Soon after, the sister closed her eyes in peace.

When our sisters passed away during this time, no one could attend any services in our chapel except us sisters. Family members, friends, and those who had ministered with the deceased sister were contacted to send in memories of the sister. These memories were shared in a beautiful live-streamed service in honor of the deceased sister.

I experienced being quarantined in January 2021 when three out of the 25 sisters with whom I lived tested positive. We had to stay in our rooms. All meals were placed outside our rooms, and our laundry was picked up each day. All departments — dietary, nursing, housekeeping, maintenance, administration, and mission advancement — worked together to make sure we had what we needed and/or wanted. I am so very grateful for all the community provided for us, especially getting us tested and vaccinated.

I think perhaps the greatest grace I have received during this pandemic is a greater appreciation of our global family. I belong to an international congregation, so naturally my prayers reach out to countries where our sisters minister; however, the pandemic is worldwide. Everyone is part of my family because we all belong to God our Father. There is no one who is not a brother or sister to me. Their cares are my cares. God is calling me to have a heart that is truly all-inclusive — and so is Pope Francis.

My community and I are praying sincerely for an end to the pandemic as Pope Francis has pleaded with us to do. Yet, during this global crisis, I am so very grateful for how I have grown in my love and appreciation for my family of origin, my religious family and my global family.

Notre Dame Sister Mary Bonita Schack is a member of the Sisters of Notre Dame, Covington, Ky.
"Cruella" (Disney) Live-action original story for the villain of Dodie Smith's 1956 children's novel, first seen on screen in the 1961 animated adaptation "101 Dalmatians." Originally called Estella, she dreams of conquering 1970s London as a fashion designer and is thrilled to be taken under the wing of the ruthless reigning queen of the rag trade. But developments involving an heirloom and a family tragedy lead her to assume the titular persona and work secretly to bring on her mentor's downfall, aided by her two long-standing best friends. While director Craig Gillespie's glossy romp offers the leading actresses the chance to camp it up, scripted by Dana Fox and Tony McNamara, the film never finds its moral footing since the screenwriters seem to want to let their ethically conflicted protagonist go over to the dark side yet keep her sympathetic. A frivolous treatment of theft and revenge as well as the presence of a transvestite character make the proceedings even less appropriate for impressionable viewers. Skewed values, including a benign view of homosexuality and cross-dressing, a vengeance theme, some stylized violence, a couple of mild oaths.


Video series highlights Marian devotions, customs in U.S. mission dioceses

Catholic News Service

CHICAGO — A special video series developed by Catholic Extension for the "Month of Mary" has highlighted throughout May the many ways Catholics of the Americas honor Mary in their native languages and culture customs.

The videos share Marian traditions popular in the faith communities that receive support from the Chicago-based organization that has been supporting the work and ministries of the nation’s mission dioceses since its founding in 1905.

"Everywhere we visit, the Blessed Mother is a constant symbol of hope and comfort," Father Jack Wall, president of Catholic Extension, said in a statement. "The beautiful ways in which people of different cultures express their devotion to Mary is inspiring, and we invite all Catholics to share in this celebration."

The videos have been released each Sunday of May. The fourth in the series, scheduled for May 30, is about the devotion to Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre (Nuestra Señora de la Caridad del Cobre), the patroness of Cuba. It features the National Shrine Basilica of Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre, near Santiago, Cuba, in the village of El Cobre.

This particular video coincides with Pope Francis' call April 21 for a "Prayer Marathon" to be conducted for the entire month of May to end the pandemic, with each day featuring a different Marian shrine and the rosary broadcast from different locations.

"While we respond to the Holy Father’s call to join him in prayer for an end to the pandemic, we invite you to see how the Blessed Mother is a constant symbol of hope in the places we visit," said Joe Boland, vice president of Catholic Extension. "It is one more way that we can join together as a Catholic family of faith and connect with one another."

The videos can be viewed by registering for access at catholicextension.org/mary.

The three videos released on the previous Sundays of May feature:

— Our Lady of the Sioux: Oglala-Lakota Native American Community in South Dakota.
— Our Lady of La Vang: Vietnamese Community in Sacramento, California.
— Our Lady of Fatima: Dominican Sisters of Guanica, Puerto Rico.

For full reviews of each of these films — go to catholicnews.com and click on "Extras," then choose "Movies." Catholic News Service (CNS) classifications are:

- A-I — general patronage;
- A-II — adults and adolescents;
- A-III — adults;
- L — limited adult audience;
- O — morally offensive.


Movie Capsule

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Entertainment

June 4, 2021

20

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Pope promulgates revised canon law on crimes, punishments

Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — A series of laws and procedures promulgated by now-retired Pope Benedict XVI and, especially, by Pope Francis to protect children, promote the investigation of allegations of clerical sexual abuse and punish offenders are included in a heavily revised section of the Code of Canon Law.

The revision of “Book VI: Penal Sanctions in the Church,” one of seven books that make up the code for the Latin rite of the Catholic Church, was promulgated June 1 and will go into effect Dec. 9, Pope Francis wrote.

Rewriting 43 of the book’s 89 canons, the revision addresses a host of issues that have come up in the life of the Church since St. John Paul II promulgated the code in 1983. The descriptions of crimes of sexual abuse, including child pornography, are more explicit, and the required actions of a bishop or superior of a religious order in handling allegations are more stringent.

The revised canons also include new references to the attempted ordination of a woman and to a variety of financial crimes, like with the new canons dealing with sexual abuse, they rely on language from laws promulgated separately over the past 20 years.

“In the past, much damage has been caused by a failure to perceive the intimate relationship existing in the Church between the exercise of charity and recourse — when circumstances and justice require it — to the discipline of sanction,” the way of thinking, as experience has taught us, risks leading to a life of behavior contrary to the discipline of morals, for the remedy of which exhortations alone are not sufficient,” Pope Francis wrote in “Pastor Gregem Dei” (Shepherd God’s flock), the apostolic constitution promulgating the changes.

While Church law applies to all Catholics, the pope said, for bishops, the observance of canon law “can no way be separated from the pastoral ‘munus’ (service) entrusted to them, and which must be employed promptly and with pastoral agility as salvific and corrective instrument, to soothe the wounds caused by human weakness.”

The revised book was presented to the press June 1 by Archbishop Filippo Iannone, president of the Pontifical Council for Legislative Texts, and Bishop Juan Ignacio Arrieta, respectively president and secretary of the Pontifical Council for Legislative Texts. In 2009, Pope Benedict had asked the council to begin the revision project.

The revision moves the canons about the sexual abuse of children — on the part of a priest, religious or layperson working for the Church — out of the section on violations of the obligation of celibacy and into a newly titled section of “Offenses Against Human Life, Dignity and Liberty.”

It adds to canon law the crime of “grooming,” calling for penalties, including dismissal from the priesthood for a cleric who “grooms” or induces a minor or a person who habitually has an imperfect use of reason or one to whom the law recognizes equal protection to expose himself or herself pornographically or to take part in pornographic exhibitions, whether real or simulated.

However, the revised language still refers to rape and other forms of sexual abuse as “an offence against the Sixth Commandment” — You shall not commit adultery.

The continued use of the Sixth Commandment to refer to any improper, immoral or even criminal sexual activity “is traditional” in Church law, Bishop Arrieta said, and for Catholics its meaning “is clear,” which is necessary when drafting a law that will be valid on every continent and in every culture.

In incorporating recent Church law regarding abuse, the new code does not refer to abuse of “vulnerable” adults or “vulnerable persons” as Pope Francis did in his May 2019 motu proprio, “Vos estis lux mundi.”

Bishop Arrieta said the term “vulnerable person,” while understood and recognized in the law of many countries, is not universally accepted as a legal category of persons deserving special protection. Instead, the new law refers to people whom the law recognizes as deserving of the same protection extended to minors and those with “an imperfect use of reason.”

The revised law also foresees penalties for “a person who neglects to report an offence, when required to do so by a canonical law.”

Bishop Arrieta said that provision refers to the obligation to report serious crimes, such as sexual abuse, to Church authorities, not civil authorities. If criminal reporting to the state is obligatory, the state will enforce that, he said.

The revised code also says, “Both a person who attempts to confer a sacred order on a woman, and the woman who attempts to receive the sacred order, incur a latae sententiae (automatic) excommunication reserved to the Apostolic See, a cleric, moreover, may be punished by dismissal from the clerical state.”

Given that Pope Francis in April 2020 formed a second “Study Commission on the Female Diaconate,” Bishop Arrieta was asked why the revised canon did not specify priestly ordination, leaving open the possibility of ordaining women to the diaconate.

Canon law, he said, relies on the current state of the teaching of the Church. “If we come to a different theological conclusion, we will modify the norm,” he said, just as was done in January when Pope Francis ordered a change in the wording of canon law so that women, as well as men, could be formally installed as lectors and acolytes.

Pope Francis has promulgated a revised section of the Code of Canon Law dealing with crimes and punishments.
CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

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CUSTODIAN NEEDED
St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Fort Thomas is looking for a full-time custodian. Duties would include all normal cleaning that is involved with a school and a church as well as light maintenance as needed. Hours during the school year are second shift and an early first shift during the summer. Applicants must pass a background check and have or obtain Virtus certification. Please send a resume to dkramer@stcatherineofsiena.org or apply in person at the Parish Office.

ADULT DAY TRAINING SUPERVISOR
Supervise, support & train adults with disabilities in an adult day training program. BAWAC is a Private, Non-Profit Community Rehabilitation Agency. Related BA &/or exp. preferred. Excellent benefit package. EOE. Mail resume to: hr@bawac.org

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PART-TIME DRIVERS
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ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL
St. Catherine of Siena parish in Ft. Thomas, Ky. (www.stcatherinesfoisena.org) seeks a dynamic principal for our school (K-8) of 150 children. The school is an integral part of our parish, and our parish permeates the school. We are committed first to helping our parents raise their children in the practice of the faith, by teaching the objective elements of the faith and fostering the subjective elements: helping them to grow closer to Christ and to be His witnesses in the world by word and service. We are committed to the development of the whole person: spiritual, intellectual, emotional, physical and social. St. Catherine of Siena is a sought-after school with a talented and committed staff with a wide range of experience, and the parents of our children are engaged and enthusiastic. The successful candidate will be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church and supportive of her teaching and mission. She or he will hold or be eligible for Kentucky principal certification. We prefer a candidate with at least three successful years as a classroom teacher and experience in Catholic school administration, but are willing to consider giving a chance to someone with potential. Interested individuals should send at least a resume or C-V along with a cover letter and five references with contact e-mail addresses to Stephen Koplyay, SPHR, by e-mail skoplyay@covdio.org. fax 859/392-1589, or mail to 1125 Madison Avenue, Covington, KY 41011-3115.

STAFF WRITER/MEDIA CONTENT DEVELOPER
The Messenger, the Diocese of Covington’s official weekly newspaper published 44 times per year, is seeking a practicing Roman Catholic to join its editorial staff as a full time Staff Writer/Media Content Developer. This full-time position requires a broad range of abilities, including excellent writing, proofreading, organizational skills, and a working knowledge and basic skillset of photography and website content development. Working with Messenger staff, the staff writer will be responsible for written content and the development of the Messenger and diocese’s online presence. The successful candidate will have a commitment to confidentiality and teamwork and adaptability to interactions with colleagues, other diocesan employees, and interviewees. The ideal candidate will be self-motivated and imaginative, with a readiness to explore multimedia platforms. In addition to regular office hours, evening and weekend assignments occur regularly and are considered part of the job. Anticipated start date: immediate. Interested candidates may submit a resume, references, and writing samples to Stephen Koplyay by e-mail: skoplyay@covdio.org. (859) 392-1500. EOE

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Now accepting small to large jobs. Free Estimates. Licensed and Insured. Call Steven at (859) 801-9925

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Call Norb at (859) 912-0340

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

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT WANTED
The Messenger, is seeking a part-time (3 days a week) Editorial Assistant to assist its editorial staff in creating a quality, weekly Catholic newspaper and maintaining an organized work environment. The Editorial Assistant helps update the diocesan database (Camino) and creates the weekly mailing list for the Messenger. The Editorial Assistant proofreads each edition of the Messenger, maintains the office archives, prepares invoices for payment and assists editorial staff, when needed, with writing/photography assignments. The qualified candidate will be a practicing Roman Catholic and will be comfortable with Excel and Word (or comparable) office software with a solid foundation in writing skills and the ability to meet deadlines. Anticipated start date: June 2021. Interested candidates may submit a resume, references, and writing samples to Stephen Koplyay by e-mail: skoplyay@covdio.org. (859) 392-1500. EOE

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MUSICIAN/MUSIC DIRECTOR
All Saints Parish, Walton, Ky., is hiring a musician/music director for all weekend Masses, as well as special occasions such as Holy Days of Obligation, weddings and funerals, etc. The successful candidate must be able to play the organ and sing. Choir directing is desired, as All Saints Parish is interested in organizing a choir. This position is part time, but could be developed into a full-time position. Interested applicants may call (859) 485-4476, or visit at allsaints Walton.com and select the “Contact” tab to submit name, number and a message of interest.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RELIGION TEACHER
St. Edward Catholic School located in Cynthiana, Kentucky is seeking a Religion teacher for the 2021-2022 school year. Religion classes taught daily to grade students. Our school is a thriving, growing school at Kindergarten through fifth grades, and three days per week to Preschool aged children. We are searching for an energetic and experienced, Christ-centered professional with concrete professional and interpersonal skills who will join the St. Edward School team in our mission to provide a high quality Catholic education for our students. Our school is a thriving, growing school at capacity with a waiting list. Candidates must be practicing Roman Catholics, preferably with basic-level certification from the Diocese. Interested individuals should email or fax a cover letter, Baptismal Certificate, certification from the Diocese. Interested individuals should email or fax a cover letter, Baptismal Certificate, and references to Stephen Koplyay, SPHR at skoplyay@covdio.org. Applications may also be faxed to 859/392-1588.

MAKE AN IMPACT
Faith-based non-profit in Northern KY seeking 2 individuals to serve as Homes for at risk/defiant youth. Full-time position. Childcare duties, including living allowance, opportunities for health care, $6,345 education award for payment of student loans or continuing education. Ed award can be passed on to children/grandchildren. One year full-time commitment starts 5/1. Express interest now. Background check, drug screen, and valid DL required. Visit www.honkhomes.org/makeimpact for more information. Contact David by email at dhasting@honkhomes.org or phone at (859) 581-4665.

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EXECUTIVE CHEF/MANAGER
The School Food Service Office of the Diocese of Covington Department of Catholic Schools seeks candidates for School Cafeteria Managers at Prince of Peace Montessori School, St. Agnes School, St. Cecilia School, St. Mary School and St. Philip School. 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, SPMH at skoplyay@covdio.org. Scan and return the completed application by e-mail, including references with contact e-mail addresses and compensation history. Applications may also be faxed to 859/392-1588.

COLLISION TECHNICIAN
The Diocese of Covington’s Catholic Charities is seeking a collision technician, qualified, actively-practicing Roman Catholic individual for a full time position whose primary focus will be to promote Catholic Charities and to cultivate donors. The candidate will be responsible for developing the Lori Donor software. This position is accountable for entering and updating donor records, running reports, and maintaining consistency within the database. The ideal candidate must be able to work collaboratively as a member of the Institutional Advancement team, and with the Executive Director, Volunteer Coordinator, and other departments as needed. Qualifications include a degree in Accounting or Finance, with a history of producing efficient reports in line with generally accepted accounting principles and producing efficient reports in line with generally accepted accounting principles. Required qualifications include at least five references with e-mail addresses to Stephen Koplyay, SPMH at skoplyay@covdio.org, fax 859/392-1588.

INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATE
The Diocese of Covington’s Catholic Charities is seeking a highly motivated, qualified, actively-practicing Roman Catholic individual for a full time position whose primary focus will be to promote Catholic Charities and to cultivate donors. The candidate will be responsible for entering and updating donor records, running reports, and maintaining consistency within the database. The ideal candidate must be able to work collaboratively as a member of the Institutional Advancement team, and with the Executive Director, Volunteer Coordinator, and other departments as needed. Qualifications include a degree in Accounting or Finance, with a history of producing efficient reports in line with generally accepted accounting principles. Required qualifications include at least five references with e-mail addresses to Stephen Koplyay, SPMH at skoplyay@covdio.org, fax 859/392-1588.

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For all employees and volunteers of the Diocese of Covington who in any way provide a safe environment for children.

Step 1: Contact parish/school institution leader to review the Policies and Procedures and follow up the Application and Acceptance Forms.

Step 2: Go to www.virtus.org and click on Registration. Follow the prompts to create an account and to request a background check. Selection.com is a secure site; the background check is posted on your account and you receive a copy if you request it during the registration process. You will sign up for a virtual VIRTUS class during registration.

Step 3: Join the virtual VIRTUS session. The day before the session, you will receive an e-mail with 4 documents attached to print. On the day of the session you will receive an invitation to join the session. No children, please.

Step 4: Your account becomes active when your background check, VIRTUS session and Acceptance Form are posted on your account. You will receive 12 bulletins per year. You will receive e-mail notices at virtus@pub.virtus.org unless your computer program blocks them.

Bulletin:
- June bulletin: posted Sunday, June 6; due Tuesday, July 6.
- Virtual VIRTUS Training:
  - Virtual, Tuesday, June 15, 5-8:30 p.m.
- In-Person VIRTUS Training:
  - Monday, July 5, Notre Dame Academy, Park Hills, Room 201, 6:30–10 p.m.
- Virtual Play Like a Champion Training
  - Virtual, Monday, June 21, 5-8 p.m.

Gifts to Access:
- To give to virtus.org
- Enter id and password
- Click on Live Training on left
- Click on pre-register for an upcoming session
- Choose your training

Note: If your Training Tab is missing or you cannot access your account, contact your parish, school or institution.

For other difficulties, contact Marylu Steffen at (859) 392-1500 or msteffen@covdio.org.

SCHOOL CAFETERIA MANAGERS
The School Food Service Office of the Diocese of Covington Department of Catholic Schools seeks candidates for School Cafeteria Managers at Prince of Peace Montessori School, St. Agnes School, St. Cecilia School, St. Mary School and St. Philip School. 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, SPMH at skoplyay@covdio.org. Scan and return the completed application by e-mail, including references with contact e-mail addresses and compensation history. Applications may also be faxed to 859/392-1588.

CONTROLLER
The Diocese of Covington’s Catholic Charities office invites well-qualified, practicing Roman Catholic candidates to apply for this full-time job opportunity. The Controller assists the office’s Executive Director in managing Catholic Charities’ finances, including its Parish Kitchen Ministry. Under the direction of the Executive Director, the Controller’s primary responsibilities include: oversight of activities related to budgeting, AR/AP, and payroll; implementing and updating financial policies and procedures according to Diocesan requirements; and maintaining accurate data and producing efficient reports in line with generally accepted non-profit accounting standards. Required qualifications include at least five references with e-mail contacts, to Stephen Koplyay, SPMH by e-mail or fax skoplyay@covdio.org or 859-392-1589.

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Ecumenical service remembers victims of Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921

TULSA, Okla. — Ahead of a May 30 ecumenical prayer service to recall the Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921, Bishop David A. Konderla said it was important “to pause and reflect on how such an unspeakable horror could take place so that we can avoid any such evil in our own day.”

“It is hard to believe that 100 years ago people could think and act in such a way that it is unthinkable. Still, it happened,” he said.


The Greenwood neighborhood is seen in ruins after a mob passed through it during the 1921 race massacre in Tulsa, Okla.

The Greenwood neighborhood is seen in ruins after a mob passed through it during the 1921 race massacre in Tulsa, Okla.

Bishop Konderla said the prayer service was “a time to acknowledge a grave evil that took place and mourn the lives lost and destroyed as well as a time to celebrate the courage of those people who served as shining lights in that dark time to help the victims.”

The Tulsa Race Massacre, one of the most severe incidents of racial violence in U.S. history, began May 31, 1921, and lasted for two days. It left somewhere between 30 and 300 people dead, mostly African Americans, and destroyed over 1,400 homes and businesses.

Despite its severity and destructiveness, the Tulsa race massacre was barely mentioned in history books until the late 1990s, when a state commission was formed to document the incident.

“According to R. Halliburton, Jr., author of ‘The Tulsa Race War of 1921,’ the director of a squad of Black rape slingers reported that 150 died,” according to an article reprinted in the June 2021 issue of the Eastern Oklahoma Catholic, Tulsa’s diocesan magazine. “But The Oklahoma Eagle, the city’s Black newspaper, claims that as many as 300 persons were killed.”

Tulsa’s Black community suffered a catastrophic human loss, and many refused to accept the official death list,” Halliburton wrote. “The total casualties will never be known. Hospital and Red Cross records indicate that nearly a thousand were treated.”

The racial violence broke out in the city after an accusation was made that a 19-year-old Black man, Dick Rowland, had sexually assaulted a white woman who was the elevator operator in the Drexel office building downtown.

“Rowland supposedly stumbled and stepped on the foot of the white operator, a young divorcee named Sarah Page. Page became excited and screamed when the Black man bumped against her, and he fled from the elevator,” according to the article in the Eastern Oklahoma Catholic.

“This seemingly insignificant incident happened on the morning of May 30, 1921. The next day Rowland was arrested and at 11 a.m., The Tulsa Tribune released a front-page article headlined ‘Nab Negro for Attacking Girl in an Elevator.’”

White rioters invaded Greenwood just north of downtown “and began stealing, destroying and murdering men, women and children,” the article said. “When the rioters had finished, almost 10,000 of the area’s 11,000 residents were homeless. Two days later, the knights of the Ku Klux Klan met on a hillside to celebrate the carnage. That was a large cross, a trademark of the Klan.”

In the midst of the riot, Father James Heiring, the pastor of Holy Family Cathedral in Tulsa, opened the doors of the church to provide refuge and protection for those fleeing the violence.

According to an article published by The Tulsa Tribune June 6, 1921, the cathedral’s nuns, the women of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Society and its Knights of Columbus provided food, clothing and shelter to some 400 Black victims of the riot.

“Assisting Black victims of the riot was not free of risk for the cathedral and its parishioners,” wrote James O. Goodwin in Tulsa’s diocesan magazine. “The message sought to be conveyed by the rioters was that Tulsa’s white society had no room for the Black man, and the rioters’ attitudes toward Catholics were little better.”

“But the courage displayed by the people of Holy Family was a reply to the rioters’ message. The cathedral’s people were saying that all men and women are children of God and entitled to receive the protection and help that all God’s children deserve.”

Father Gary Kastl, current pastor of Holy Family Cathedral, said: “The witness of our parishioners from the time of the race massacre should not just make us proud of what the cathedral did at that treasonous time, but rather inspire all of us to be individuals who work to bring peace and mutual respect back into our communities today.”

“Every human being possesses an inherent dignity that can never be taken away,” he added. “This is the fundamental principle within the Catholic tradition that drives the mandatory respect not only for life but also for the diversity that exists within the human family due to culture, race and ethnicity.”

“When we come together seeking that which unites us, our faith and salvation in Christ,” Father Kastl said, “the diverse places from which we come help inform our understanding and appreciation that different cultures bring to a community.”
Plenary indulgence granted to post-pandemic pilgrims in Italy

ROME — As COVID-19 restrictions continue to ease in Italy, the country’s bishops are hoping a new tourism initiative will attract would-be pilgrims. One way the June 1 Sept. 17 initiative, “Ora vian ci bell” (“‘Now comes the beautiful’”), hopes to draw pilgrims is by granting a plenary indulgence to those who visit one of Italy’s many shrines. Cardinal Mauro Piacenza, head of the Apostolic Penitentiary, the Vatican office that promotes and regulates indulgences, signed a decree granting a plenary indulgence after a request was made May 17 by Bishop Stefano Russo, general secretary of the Italian bishops’ conference. Among the conditions for receiving an indulgence are a spirit detached from sin, going to confession as soon as possible, receiving Communion and praying for the intentions of Pope Francis. In a statement released May 20, Bishop Russo said the initiative, which is sponsored by the Italian bishops’ national tourism office, offered a “great opportunity to regenerate hope” in the country which was devastated by the pandemic.

Hong Kong Masses remember Tiananmen Square protesters

HONG KONG — The protesters killed in Tiananmen Square in mainland China on June 4, 1989, used to be remembered in Hong Kong last June. The controversial legislation prohibits acts of secession, subversion, terrorism and collusion with foreign forces. Last year, despite a ban, thousands went to Victoria Park to mark the anniversary, attended by crowds as big as 130,000, all holding flickering candles. Now the lawful gatherings seem to be limited to seven Catholic churches. The reason for the draconian distancing rules put in place to control the spread of COVID-19 had to cancel the event this year and last year because of social distancing rules put in place to control the spread of COVID-19.

Syria: Patriarch says situation in Syria ‘humanly unbearable’

BEIRUT — The Syriac Catholic patriarch said the situation in Syria “continues to be humanly unbearable and devastat- ing” and risks emptying the war-torn country of its Christian citizens. The patriarch, Ignace Joseph III Younan of Damascus, the capital, “Despite the joy of the encounters and visits, one could not ignore the feelings of sadness and resentment,” Patriarch Younan said. He cited the lack of medicine, food, and fuel for electricity and transportation. The patriarch, who is based in Beirut, spent 10 days visiting three Syriac Catholic dioceses: Homs, in central Syria; Aleppo in the north; and Damascus. The patriarch said the situation “promotes and regulates indulgences, signed a decree granting a plenary indulgence after a request was made May 17 by Bishop Stefano Russo, general secretary of the Italian bishops’ conference. Among the conditions for receiving an indulgence are a spirit detached from sin, going to confession as soon as possible, receiving Communion and praying for the intentions of Pope Francis. In a statement released May 20, Bishop Russo said the initiative, which is sponsored by the Italian bishops’ national tourism office, offered a “great opportunity to regenerate hope” in the country which was devastated by the pandemic.

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Crisis in Mozambique Leads Catholics There to Establish Outreaches to Help Orphans

The Association Cross Mozambique (ACM), a ministry to orphans and founded by Dorothea Balane and a group of other dedicated Catholic women, has become a lifeline to boys and girls victimized by poverty and the plight of the African AIDS crisis. (See story opposite page.)

From the time ACM first began ministering to the thousands of orphans and vulnerable children who live in the Maputo and Namaacha areas, its goal has always been ambitious. Rather than simply ensuring those boys and girls survive day by day, the Catholic ministry has worked to ensure each child is treated with unconditional compassion and is given the opportunity to reach his or her full potential.

“What ACM does is incredible. They have become a lifeline to orphans and vulnerable children age 6 to 17 — kids who are at an extremely vulnerable point in their lives — and they have given those children a real chance at a better future,” explained James Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach, a major international Catholic ministry helping ACM with its programs. “When our ministry decided to make helping Africa’s AIDS orphans a priority, we sought out programs like this one and have been doing everything we can to support them. That is the best way to address the AIDS orphan crisis in Mozambique — by empowering the local leaders already doing great things in the country.”

Dorothea, the founder of ACM, certainly lives up to Cavnar’s positive impression of her. She has made incredible sacrifices to help the orphans in Mozambique and continues to look for new ways to reach those children in greatest need.

“I am so happy because I am doing a job I like, looking after people who are suffering and helping the children who need a mother,” she said. “Always I am asking for God to give me a long life in order to use me to help people in need.” To lift up destitute children and restore their hope, Dorothea and ACM take a holistic approach. Not only do they meet each child’s physical needs by supplying food, educational opportunities and preventive health care, but they also bless them spiritually through Bible study and prayer.

ACM starts its process by identifying those orphans and vulnerable children with the greatest needs. It then determines what services will best help each of them to prosper and grow. Once these boys and girls are enrolled in the program, a volunteer also makes weekly home visits to ensure the material and spiritual requirements of the children are being met.

In situations where the orphaned child is living with an overwhelmed extended family member or a sick parent, Dorothea and her team provide assistance and spiritual support to the entire family. By strengthening these families, Dorothea believes she can best fulfill the calling God has given her: to love others with the same compassion Christ has shown her.

“In addition to mobilizing Catholics in America to help Dorothea serve orphans, Cross Catholic Outreach wants to assist ACM with a special program it has developed to educate girls — a particularly vulnerable group in the country,” Cavnar said.

That particular project provides special boarding homes for at-risk girls who are struggling with a wide range of life issues. “Sadly, Mozambique’s orphan problem is complicated by gender inequality. When these children are taken in by extended family members, the boys are frequently sent to school, while girls are left to do domestic work at home. As a result, more than half of Mozambique’s young girls can’t read or write,” he explained.

The Association Cross Mozambique solves this problem by providing at-risk girls in Maputo — the most populous city in Mozambique — with a quality Catholic education. These girls are given the opportunity to attend St. Joseph Institute, a Catholic boarding school run by the Franciscan Hospitaller Sisters in Inhambane on Mozambique’s southern coast.

“While living at the institute’s boarding facilities, the girls can learn and mature in a safe environment. And in addition to receiving a quality education, they are also blessed with nutritious meals, practical job skill training, mentoring from the sisters and spiritual formation,” Cavnar explained. “As the girls grow up and eventually move out on their own, they will be equipped to get good jobs and raise families who love and serve the Lord.”

Readers interested in supporting Cross Catholic Outreach food programs and other outreaches to the poor can contribute through the ministry brochure inserted in this issue or send tax-deductible gifts to: Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. ACM172, PO Box 97168, Washington DC 20090-7168. The ministry has a special need for partners willing to make gifts on a monthly basis. Use the inserted brochure to become a Mission Partner or write Monthly Mission Partner on mailed checks to be contacted about setting up those arrangements.

Cross Catholic Outreach Endorsed by More Than 100 Bishops, Archbishops

Cross Catholic Outreach’s range of relief work to help the poor overseas continues to be recognized by a growing number of Catholic leaders in the U.S. and abroad.

“We’ve received more than 100 endorsements from bishops and archbishops,” explained James Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach. “They’re moved by the fact that we’ve launched outreaches in almost 40 countries and have undertaken a variety of projects — everything from feeding the hungry and housing the homeless to supplying safe water and supporting educational opportunities for the poorest of the poor. The bishops have also been impressed by Cross Catholic Outreach’s direct and meaningful responses to emergency situations, most recently by providing food, medicines and other resources to partners in Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala impacted by natural disasters.”

Bishop Ronald W. Gainer of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, supports this mission. He writes, “What a joy it is to be part of the Lord’s redemptive work and to manifest his mercy on earth by caring for our neighbors in need.”

In addition to praising CCO’s accomplishments, many of the bishops and archbishops are encouraged that pontifical canonical status was conferred on the charity in September 2015, granting it approval as an official Catholic organization. This allows CCO to participate in the mission of the Church and to give a concrete witness to Gospel charity, in collaboration with the Holy Father.

“Your work with the Diocesan Pastoral Unit for Promoting Integral Human Development is a strong endorsement of your partnership with the work of the Universal Church,” Archbishop Salvador Cordileone of San Francisco said. “By providing hope to the faithful overseas by feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, delivering medical relief to the sick and shelter to the homeless, and through self-help projects, you are embodying the papal encyclical Deus Caritas Est.”
Catholic Woman’s Dedication to Africa’s Orphaned and Vulnerable Children Inspires Support From Sympathetic American Benefactors

Don’t be surprised if Doroteia Balane is remembered as a mother to hundreds of children, or that the many boys and girls she has nurtured through the years eventually become important leaders in the country she calls home. That is because Doroteia has dedicated her life to serving as a caregiver of orphans. The kids she has helped — no longer a lost generation with little hope of survival — are now children of promise, finally able to achieve their God-given potential.

To appreciate just how significant Doroteia’s sacrifices and mission are, you first need to understand why Mozambique is a country of orphans. With that knowledge, it is possible to see how a Catholic woman like her has come to play such a critical role in addressing one of the world’s greatest tragedies.

Since its independence from Portugal in 1975, Mozambique has been battered by civil war and famine, but its greatest challenge came when the HIV/AIDS pandemic of the 1980s began to devastate the country’s adult population, producing a tragic increase in orphans and street children that persists to this day. Were you to visit Mozambique in the past 10 to 15 years, you would have noticed a dramatic sign of this blight — a gap between the elderly and children; the absence of a significant adult population.

“I had been aware of how extreme the problem was until I visited the country myself. What I saw there were children left to survive on their own. I found a young girl of 11 or 12 taking shelter in a patchwork shack, trying to play the role of mother to her younger siblings. It was heartbreaking,” said James Cavan, president of Cross Catholic Outreach, a respected Catholic ministry working to help orphaned children in Africa. “I was shocked by what I saw, and when I returned from that trip to Mozambique, I decided that caring for orphaned and vulnerable children would be a priority for Cross Catholic Outreach.”

Traditionally, orphans in Mozambique and other African countries are taken in by neighbors or extended family members — typically grandparents or aunts — and that approach has worked for many children from past generations. In modern times, however, the sheer number of lives lost to AIDS has stretched those caregivers beyond their limit. There are now too many orphans and too few caregivers to properly address the country’s needs.

To address this problem, Doroteia founded a Catholic mission called Association Cross Mozambique and she now has a full staff dedicated to serving children in need. Her mission also distributes food and has developed a special program to educate young girls who are often given fewer opportunities than boys. As someone who has grown up in Mozambique and worked among orphans for years, she is extremely effective in her mission and has already helped transform hundreds of lives.

That is why local Church missions run by Catholic women like Doroteia are so important in Mozambique right now — and why we should be doing everything we can to support them,” Cavan said. “They know these communities intimately and have developed wise plans to help. All they lack are resources. That is what limits the scope of their work. When we come alongside them, empowering them and supporting them financially, we can increase their impact in the community and make a huge difference in hundreds of children’s lives.”

Right now, supplying food to Doroteia’s programs and supporting her efforts with young orphaned girls (see story on opposite page) are two of Cross Catholic Outreach’s priorities, and they are encouraging American Catholics to help them fund these important initiatives.

“When Doroteia Balane saw an extreme need in Mozambique, she didn’t turn away from it, expecting someone else to address the problem. She stepped into the challenge and found solutions, sacrificing her own time and resources to help these children,” Cavan said. “Now it is our turn to step forward and get involved, and we can do that by empowering her with the funding and resources she needs for her mission.”

How to Help
To fund Cross Catholic Outreach’s effort to help the poor worldwide, use the postage-paid brochure inserted in this newspaper or mail your gift to Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC01728, PO Box 97168, Washington DC 20090-7168. The brochure also includes instructions on becoming a Mission Partner and making a regular monthly donation to this cause.

If you identify a need project, 100% of the donation will be granted to the specific project. However, if money is needed for the project then needed, funds will be rechanneled to other urgent needs in the mission.
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