‘Amoris Laetitia’ — yearlong reflection on family begins in the diocese with Mass, July 10

Juno Archo Esteves
Catholic News Service

In celebration of 5th anniversary of  his apostolic exhortation ‘Amoris Laetitia,’ Pope Francis announced that the Catholic Church will dedicate more than a year to focusing on the family and conjugal love. During his Sunday Angelus address Dec. 27, the pope commemorated the feast of the Holy Family and said that it served as a reminder “of  the example of  evangelizing with the family” as highlighted in his exhortation.

The year of  reflection on ‘Amoris Laetitia,’ which began March 19, 2021 and will end June 26, 2022, is an opportunity “to focus more closely on the contents of  the document.” “I invite everyone to take part in the initiatives that will be promoted during the year and that will be coordinated by the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life,” he added. “Let us entrust this journey with families all over the world, to the Holy Family of  Nazareth, in particular to St. Joseph, the devoted spouse and father.”

In the Diocese of  Covington, the Year of  the Family celebration begins in the diocese with Mass, July 10 at the Cathedral Basilica of  the Assumption, Covington.

Bring the whole family — including grandparents — all are invited to attend. Pope Francis instituted the Year of  the Family to inspire Catholics across the world to rise up and transform the culture through their family lives. Will you and your family answer the call?

For information, contact the Office of  Catechesis and Evangelization at (859) 392-1500 or visit Covdio.Org/Family.

Grandparents proclaim the Gospel and hand down traditions just by their love

Laura Koessler
Editor

As the Church celebrates the Year of  the Family, March 19, 2021–June 26, 2022, the Messenger and the Office of  Catechesis and Evangelization are collaborating on a monthly series of  articles highlighting families. This article — the first in that series — focuses on grandparents.

In anticipation of  the first celebration of  “World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly,” which the Church will celebrate July 25 this year and on the fourth Sunday of  July on the liturgical calendar, Pope Francis, in his May 31 message to grandparents said, "It makes no difference how old you are, whether you still work or not, whether you are alone or have a family, whether you became a grandmother or grandfather at a young age or later, whether you are still independent or need assistance. Because there is no retirement age from the work of  procreation and from life. . . ”

You need to remember something — and this is the most important thing of  all: . . . the future. Your children and grandchildren are the young generation of  the Church. . . They are the future, they are the hope. . . They are the Church of  tomorrow. . . .

On “Living Liturgically”: that invites families to transform typical family events into faith-focused fun. News and resources will be added to the website throughout the year.

According to the dicastery’s website, the “Amoris Laetitia Family” year “aims to reach every family around the world through several spiritual, pastoral and cultural proposals that can be implemented within parishes, dioceses, universities, ecclesial movements and family associations.”

The dicastery said that the goals of  the celebration include sharing the contents of  the apostolic exhortation more widely; proclaiming the gift of  the sacramento of  marriage and enabling families to “become active agents of  the family apostolate.”

In his Angelus talk, the pope said that the Holy Family is a model in which “all families of  the world can find their sure point of  reference and sure inspiration.”

Through them, he said, “we are called to rediscover the educational, cultural and spiritual value of  the family unit; it must be founded on the love that always regenerates relationships, opens up horizons of  hope.”

Families can experience sincere communion when they live in prayer; when forgiveness is found and “when the daily harshness of  life is softened by mutual tenderness and serene adherence to God’s will,” he added.

“I would like to say something to you: If  you quarrel within the family, do not end the day without making peace,” the pope said.

“And do you know why? Because cold war, day after day, is extremely dangerous. It does not help.”

“When an argument starts at home, instead of  trying to win it, let’s try to diffuse it,” and forgive one another, he added.

Small efforts and gestures, he said, “change history because they open the door: they open the window to Jesus’s light.”

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Grandparents and young people can begin a tradition of  Catholic Movie Night. There is also a guide at covdio.org/family. Created a new webpage, www.covdio.org/family, that offers many family events into faith-focused fun. News and resources will be added to the website throughout the year.

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Grandparents

(Continued from page 1)

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their children’s college friends during the holidays when
a neighbor whose house had burned down, welcoming
ing to a neighbor who had even less, opening their home to
friend to others in need — providing groceries and cloth-
who needs help.”

“...Their door has always been open to anyone and everyone
Rousseau, the oldest sibling and mother of five.
and they see that — their witness,” said Laura
that.”

“...during the week,” said Joanna Roessler, the youngest
make that a priority no matter what has happened
Sundays are always a celebration.

Mrs. Roessler said. “It is just living the faith, but now
the faith and the strength to live that faith to them,”
in their prayer lives, given the culture, and pass on
the culture, and values and morals more distorted.

“...I feel more of a need to be hands on, to be active
in their prayer lives, given the culture, and pass on
the faith and the strength to live that faith to them,”
Mrs. Roessler said. “It is just living the faith, but now it’s
done with more purpose or more intentionally”

Like their parents and grandparents, Mr. and Mrs.
Roessler continue the traditions of holiday celebra-
tions — albeit less the matching outfits — and
Sundays are always a celebration.

“...Sunday dinners are a big aspect of our lives, we
make that a priority no matter what has happened
during the week,” said Joanna Roessler, the youngest of the siblings. “We have discussions around the din-
ner table and the nieces and nephews pick up on that.”

“...Grandma and grandpa are living out the faith and they see that — their witness,” said Laura Rousseau, the eldest sibling and mother of five.
“...Their door has always been open to anyone and everyone
who needs help.”

Mrs. Rousseau said that her parents didn’t have a lot
when they were growing up, however they were always a
friend to others in need — providing groceries and cloth-
ing to a neighbor who had even less, opening their home to
a neighbor whose house had burned down, welcoming
their children’s college friends during the holidays when
they couldn’t afford to make the trip home. That attentive-
ness to others in need continues and is influencing the
next generation of Roesslers.

“They are thoughtful and do hard work without being
asked and they are always looking to help others, especial-
ly our family,” said Mrs. Rousseau’s oldest child, Eva,
about her grandparents.

Family and faith are paramount for Mr. and Mrs.
Roessler and they willingly and joyfully accept the neces-
ary sacrifices to ensure the best for their children and
grandchildren. All five of their children have attended a
Catholic college — the Franciscan University of Steubenville — and Mrs. Roessler decided to home school
the children to ensure their formation in the Catholic
faith.

“I guess they could have gone to a secular college, but I
wish more people would be open to life and accepting
people … May your ministry of healing and forgiveness
Kelsch you will bring healing and forgiveness to God’s
confessional after Bishop Foys instructs, “Here Father
church. (left) Father Kelsch places a purple stole in the
During the Rite of Installation, Bishop Foys leads the
comes to bring peace and he comes to bring order and
death — he came to bring life. The parish priest doesn’t
ask you to support him and love him and to give him
thoughtful listening and prayerful discernment. I just
edging that he knew him as seminarian and ordained
him a deacon and a priest. “I can tell you, he will teach
you the truths of our faith as they are handed down to
us, and he will make available to you the sacraments
and sacramental life of the Church — the means by
which all of us are made holy. He will govern after
thoughtful listening and prayerful discernment. I just
ask you to support him and love him and to give him
the benefit of the doubt. We heard in the reading from
the Book of Wisdom that the Lord didn’t come to bring
death — he came to bring life. The parish priest doesn’t
come to bring strife, he comes to bring life and he
comes to bring peace and he comes to bring order and
he comes to bring the Lord.”

During the Rite of Installation, Bishop Foys leads the
newly named parish to the sacramental stations of the
church, (left) Father Kelch places a purple stole in the
confessional after Bishop Foys instructs, “Here Father
Kelch you will bring healing and forgiveness to God’s
people … May your ministry of healing and forgiveness
bear rich fruits in the holiness of the lives of your people.”

St. Thomas, Ft. Thomas, rallies the ruffians at the Each election of its 14th pastor
Parishioners at St. Thomas Parish, Ft. Thomas, broke
into thunderous applause after Bishop Roger Foys pre-
vented Father Ross Kelch with the keys to the parish
(far left) and presented Father Kelch as the parish’s 14th
pastor.

“The pastor has certain obligations and responsibilities
that he needs to fulfill,” Bishop Foys said in his homily.
“I know Father Ross well,” Bishop Foys said, acknow-
eling that he knew him as seminarian and ordained
him a deacon and a priest. “I can tell you, he will teach
you the truth of our faith as they are handed down to
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Dear Grandfathers and Grandmothers,

Dear Elderly Friends,

"I am with you always" (Matt 28:20) is this promise the Lord made to his disciples before he ascended into heaven. They are the words that he repeats to you today, dear grandfathers and grandmothers, dear elderly friends. "I am with you always" are also the words that I, as Bishop of Rome and an elderly person like yourselves, would like to address to you on this first World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly. The whole Church is close to you — to us — and cares about you, loves you and does not want to leave you alone.

I am well aware that this Message comes to you at a difficult time: the pandemic swept down on us like an unexpected and furious storm; it has been a time of trial for everyone, but especially for us elderly people. Many of us fell ill, others died or experienced the death of spouses or loved ones, while others found themselves isolated and alone for long periods.

The Lord is aware of all that we have been through in this time. He is close to those who felt isolated and alone, feelings that became more acute during the pandemic. Tradition has it that Saint Joachim, the grandfather of Jesus, felt estranged from those around him because he had no children. His life, like that of his wife Anne, was considered useless. So the Lord sent an angel to console him. While he mused sadly outside the city gates, a messenger from the Lord appeared to him and said, "Joachim, Joachim! The Lord has heard your urgent prayer." Giotto, in one of his celebrated frescoes, seems to have heard your insistent prayers. He mused sadly outside the city gates, one of those many sleepless nights, and set the scene at night, one of those many sleepless nights, which Jesus' grandparents, lifelong friends or others have come to know during these trying times, when we have learned how important hugs and visits are for each of us. How sad it makes me that in some places these are still not possible!

The Lord, however, also sends us messengers through his words, which are always at hand. Let us try to read a page of the Gospel every day, to pray with the psalms, to read the Prophets! We will be comforted by the Lord's faithfulness. The Scriptures will also help us to understand what the Lord is asking of our lives today. For at every hour of the day (cf. Matt 20:16) and in every season of life, he continues to send labourers into his vineyard. I was called to become the Bishop of Rome when I had reached a young age or later, whether you are still independent or need assistance. Because there is no retirement age from the work of proclaiming the Gospel and handing down traditions to your grandchildren. You just need to set out and undertake something new.

At this crucial moment in history, you have a renewed vocation. You may wonder: How can this be possible? My energy is running out and I don’t think I can do much. How can I begin to act differently when habit is so much a part of us? To preserve our roots, to pass on the faith to the young and to care for the little ones. Never forget this.

It makes no difference how old you are, whether you still work or not, whether you are alone or have a family, whether you became a grandmother or grandfather at a young age or later, whether you are still independent or need assistance. Because there is no retirement age from the work of proclaiming the Gospel and handing down traditions to your grandchildren. You just need to set out and undertake something new.

(Continued on page 7)

Official Assignment

Effective July 1, 2021

Juan Aviles

To: Development Advisory Board, Diocese of Covington Alliance for Catholic Urban Education

Term: Two years

By order of

the Most Rev. Roger J. Foy, D.D.
Bishop of the Diocese of Covington
Several years ago, a colleague of mine suffered a crushing disappointment. Her instinctual temptation was towards anger, towards shutting a series of doors and withdrawing. Instead, wounded in spirit, she asked herself the question, what is love asking of me now? In answering that, she found that despite her every instinct to the contrary, love was asking her to move away from bitterness and withdrawing, asking her to stretch her heart in ways it had never been stretched before.

What is love asking of me now? That is the question we need to ask ourselves every time the circumstances of our lives are shaken (by wound or by grace) to a point where we no longer want to respond graciously and lovingly because everything inside of us wants to shut down and withdraw.

Thus...

When I have just been through a bitter divorce, when I feel my heart hardening and find myself growing hateful towards someone I once trusted, the question becomes, what is love asking of me now?

When I have lost a loved one to suicide, not just to death but to a manner of death that becomes a prism that recolors every memory of that person so that my love turns to anger, the question becomes, what is love asking of me now?

When I live with someone in my family who is dysfunctional, the question becomes, what is love asking of me now?

When I myself betray a trust, when out of weakness I deny my weakness, the question becomes, the question becomes, what is love asking of me now?

When I am betrayed in a relationship, lied to by someone I trusted, when I am tempted in bitterness never to trust anyone again, the question becomes, what is love asking of me now?

When I feel paranoid and defensiveness has me desperately trying to hang on to what once was, the question becomes, what is love asking of me now?

When I see its flaws and am left to ponder the question of how I can stay in a Church with that history and those dysfunctions, the question becomes, what is love asking of me now?

When the parochial world I grew up in begins to give way to a multilingual, multicultural, and multi-racial world that leaves me feeling left behind, when paranoia and defensiveness have me terribly tempted to self-pity and however the question is tempting us away from what is best and most noble, the question becomes, what is love asking of me now?

When someone blesses me in a deep way with love, gratitude and affirmation, and my temptation is to move away from that blessing, the question becomes, what is love asking of me now?

We cannot protect ourselves against the spontaneous feelings that beset us, both when things go well and when they go badly — and most of those feelings tempt us away from love. So, whenever either a depression or an infatuation is tempting us away from what is best and most noble, the question becomes, what is love asking of me now?

Eric Carle’s approach to life seems tailor-made for our present situation. “Simplify, slow down, be kind,” he often said.

And on a wall in the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art is the following inscription: “Children’s books remind us in uncertain times that there is still much we do know: Kindness matters. Laughter is essential. Caring for each other is everything.”

Carle passed away in his home in Massachusetts on May 23, 2021. While visiting my family in New England the week after Carle’s death, I had a conversation with my young cousin, a precocious six-year-old. She told me about dressing up as a character from her favorite book, “The Very Hungry Caterpillar,” for a recent school assignment. “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” is Eric Carle’s most popular title.

I asked her what she made her character’s book so far. Her response stunned me: Eric Carle, she said, “makes simple beauty out of pieces of nothing.”

As we look forward to celebrating the first World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly on July 25, 2021, I felt that I have found a new friend. As I grow older I pray I will be able to make simple beauty out of pieces of nothing like Eric Carle did.

Sister Constance Viet is director of communications for the Little Sisters of the Poor.
Freedom is found in Jesus Christ


In our reflection on the readings for the 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time, I think it is necessary for us to reflect on our baptism. It was a time when we (or our parents and godparents) professed the faith of the Church and were made children of the most high God. Our sins, both original sin and personal sin (if we were over the age of seven) were washed away and we became the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit.

Through the Explanatory Notes we were reminded to keep our white baptismal gown free of the stain of sin and that our baptismal candle should be kept burning brightly and never dimmed. The Lord God, through the Church, gave us many wonderful things in our baptism. But, baptism also required a promise from us — to listen to, to follow, to heed and to proclaim God. I hope this doesn’t come as a surprise to anyone.

In our readings for today, we have Ezekiel, Paul and Jesus doing just that — evangelizing. But, notice it’s not that easy. Never will you hear in the sacred scriptures that being a follower of Jesus Christ is easy. In fact, it is quite challenging most of the time.

I can almost hear Ezekiel saying to God: ‘Are you kid- ing me?’ You want me to go into a community which you yourself are saying are ‘rebellious’ and ‘hard of face and obstinate of heart’ and tell them what they’ve done wrong!” And God’s answer is ‘YES!’

One might say that St. Paul is a little bit ‘off’: ‘I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecu- tions, and constraints…’ He is accepting of and thankful content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecu-
tions, and constraints…’ He is accepting of and thankful for a thorn in his flesh and an angel of Satan to beat him. And Jesus, going home to Nazareth, enters the syna-

gogue and teaches. The people who have known him his whole life ‘take offense at him.’ You can almost hear Ezekiel saying to God: ‘Are you kid-
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ing me?’ You want me to go into a community which you yourself are saying are ‘rebellious’ and ‘hard of face and obstinate of heart’ and tell them what they’ve done wrong!” And God’s answer is ‘YES!’
Striving to live in imitation of Christ

Karen Kuhlman
Messenger Correspondent

Monastery of Christ’s Passion.

Sister Margaret Mary had known from a young age that she wanted a religious vocation. While on retreat, she could hear the sisters chanting at prayer and loved the prayer life she experienced at the Erlanger Monastery. She wanted that life for herself and entered the convent in 1960.

Mother Marie Michelle had heard that same call to a vocation but did not want it and did her best to ignore it. She had envisioned her vocation to be that of a wife and mother to many children and struggled against the idea of a religious vocation. Instead, she made grand bargains with God: She would become a nurse and the best mother in the world instead of becoming a sister if he would take back the call. She did become a nurse but was ultimately unable to continue to ignore God’s plan for her life, and she entered the congregation in 1961.

Though living a cloistered life, Sister Margaret Mary says the sisters cannot live their lives like ostriches and, as informed voters, are very much aware of what goes on in the world. That is important so that they can offer prayers for the people and the events of a world which is sorely in need of prayers.

Whether through their devotions, the work of the day, the baking of the altar bread or enjoying life in community, the primary focus of the sisters is centering on the love that Christ has for all of us.

“Our spirituality focuses not on the gone of the crucifixion, but on the love that Jesus had for us, and still has for us, as manifested in the Eucharist and the Mass,” said Mother Marie Michelle. “We strive daily to live in imitation of Christ, but we can never completely tap the beauty of the Catholic Church. The Gospel gives us hope every day, and that hope is the love of Christ. That love is not a feeling. It is a fact. We listen to those who call seeking prayers for some of life’s heartbreakingly problems and pray to alleviate the hardships people bear. We want people to know that, with faith in God’s love, we can live courageously when faced with life’s difficulties.”
my life? How can I devote myself to those who are poor when I am already so concerned about my family? How can I broaden my vision when I can’t even leave the residence where I live? Isn’t my solitude already a sufficiently heavy burden? How many of you are asking just that question: isn’t my solitude already a sufficiently heavy burden? Jesus himself heard a similar question from Nicodemus, who asked, “How can a man be born when he is old?” (John 3:4). It can happen, the Lord replies, if we open our hearts to the working of the Holy Spirit, who blows where he wills. The Holy Spirit whose freedom is such that goes wherever and does whatever he wills.

As I have often observed, we will not emerge from the present crisis as we were before, but either better or worse. And “God willing… this may prove not to be just another tragedy of history from which we learned nothing… If only we might keep in mind all those elderly persons who died for lack of respirators... If only this immense sorrow may not prove useless, but enable us to take a step forward towards a new style of life. If only we might discover once for all that we need one another, and that in this way our human frailty can experience a rebirth” (Fratelli Tutti, 35). No one is saved alone. We are all indebted to one another. We are all brothers and sisters. Given this, I want to tell you that you are needed in order to help build, in fraternity and social friendship, the world of tomorrow: the world in which we, together with our children and grandchildren, will live once the storm has subsided. All of us must “take an active part in renewing and supporting our troubled societies” (ibid., 77). Among the pillars that support this new edifice, there are three that you, better than anyone else, can help to set up. Those three pillars are dreams, memory and prayer. The Lord’s closeness will grant to all, even the frailest among us, the strength needed to embark on a new journey along the path of dreams, memory and prayer.

The prophet Joel once promised: “Your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men will have visions” (2:1). The future of the world depends on this covenant between young and old. Who, if not the young, can take the dreams of the elderly and make them come true? Yet for this to happen, it is necessary that we continue to dream. Our dreams of justice, of peace, of solidarity can make it possible for our young people to have new visions; in this way, together, we can build the future. You need to show that it is possible to emerge renewed from an experience of hardship. I am sure that you have had more than one such experience: in your life you have faced any number of troubles and yet were able to pull through. Use those experiences to learn how to pull through now. Dreams are thus intertwined with memory: I think of the painful memory of war, and its importance for helping the young to learn the value of peace. Those among you who experienced the suffering of war must pass on this message. Keeping memory alive is a true mission for every elderly person: keeping memory alive and sharing it with others. Edith Bruck, who survived the horror of the Shoah, has said that “even illuminating a single conscience is worth the effort and pain of keeping alive the memory of what has been.” She went on to say: “For me, memory is life.” (ii) I also think of my own grandparents, and those among you who had to emigrate and know how hard it is to leave everything behind, as so many people continue to do today, in hope of a future. Some of those people may even now be at our side, caring for us. These kinds of memory can help to build a more humane and welcoming world. Without memory, however, we will never be able to build; without a foundation, we can never build a house. Never. And the foundation of life is memory.

Finally, prayer. As my predecessor, Pope Benedict, himself a saintly elderly person who continues to pray and work for the Church, once said: “the prayer of the elderly can pro...
The Rose Garden Center For Hope and Healing received a grant from the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels (HOKC) in the amount of $2,478 to purchase at-home monitoring equipment for about 70 impoverished patients who are fighting chronic diseases, blood glucose meters for diabetes, blood pressure cuffs for hypertension and body weight scales for cardiac patients in danger of congestive heart failure.

The Rose Garden Center For Hope and Healing is a free primary care clinic serving the poor of Northern Kentucky. As the healthcare ministry of the Rose Garden Home Mission of the Franciscan Daughters of Mary, it relies entirely on donations and volunteers in delivering medical, dental and counseling services to all who ask for help, without charge.

HOKC will award $2.1 million in grants supporting 275 non-profits, impacting close to 3.7 million Kentuckians. Grants are made possible through donations from contributing Kentucky Colonels from throughout the Commonwealth and around the world who chose to exercise this honor in a meaningful way.

“When HOKC trustees met with grant applicants this year, we were reminded how hard the pandemic has made life for many folks, from first responders in community service charities to the clients themselves,” said Hal Sullivan, commanding general, HOKC. “Thanks to Kentucky Colonels from around the world who donate to the Good Works Program, HOKC can lend a helping hand to so many local charities that provide essential services that lessen the impact. Because a Colonel cares, we make giving to others a proud Kentucky tradition.”
‘I am with you always’

(Continued from page 7)

tect the world, helping it perhaps more effectively than the frenetic activity of many others.”[4] He spoke those words in 2012, towards the end of his pontificate. There is something beautiful here. Your prayer is a very precious resource: a deep breath that the Church and the world urgently need (cf. Evangelii Gaudium, 262). Especially in these difficult times for our human family, as we continue to sail in the same boat across the stormy sea of the pandemic, your intercession for the world and for the Church has great value: it inspires in everyone the serene trust that we will soon come to shore.

Dear grandmother, dear grandfather, dear elderly friends, in concluding this Message to you, I would also like to mention the example of Blessed (and soon Saint) Charles de Foucauld. He lived as a hermit in Algeria and there testified to "his desire to feel himself a brother to all" (Fratelli Tutti, 287). The story of his life shows how it is possible, even in the solitude of one’s own desert, to intercede for the poor of the whole world and to become, in truth, a universal brother or sister. I ask the Lord that, also through his example, all of us may open our hearts in sensitivity to the sufferings of the poor and intercede for their needs. May each of us learn to repeat to all, and especially to the young, the words of consolation we have heard spoken to us today: “I am with you always!” Keep moving forward! May the Lord grant you his blessing.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 31 May 2021, Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
— FRANCIS
This award speaks volumes
ABOUT YOU.

“Hi’m right here” is one of the most common things you can hear around our halls. Those three words mean so much to us. And to those who hear them. As a hospital system, we’re proud yet humbled to share that we have been awarded a High Performing rating in Orthopaedics by U.S. News & World Report.

Visit stelizabeth.com/ortho to learn more.
Newsworthy
St. Pius X School students Dominic Dressman and Abby Turnpaugh were each awarded a scholarship from the Audrey Rose Foundation to attend a private high school of their choice. They will be attending Covington Catholic High School and Notre Dame Academy, respectively.

For the fourth consecutive year, Covington Catholic High School has been recognized as a Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Distinguished high school — one of only 204 PLTW High School programs nationwide and only five in Kentucky to receive this recognition for 2020-21 and one of only 33 high schools nation-wide to receive the recognition for the past four consecutive years. The PLTW Distinguished School recognition honors schools committed to increasing student access, engagement and achievement in their PLTW programs. “Administrators and teachers should be very proud of their achievements in unlocking their students’ potential and equipping them with the knowledge and skills necessary to thrive in life beyond the classroom no matter what career path they choose,” said Dr. Vince Bertram, president and CEO of PLTW.

The prayer intention for July as recommended by Pope Francis is for social friendship — that, in social, economic and political situations of conflict, we may be courageous and passionate architects of dialogue and friendship.

Job search assistance available for free at the Kenton County Public Library branches. Get help getting started with LinkedIn career coaching, resume assistance, workshops, and online classes to improve your job-hunting skills. Go to kentonlibraryorg/job-search-central or call 859-402-6002 to learn more.

Bishop Brossart High School summer K-9 drama camp will present “Anne 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 3:30 p.m. to 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📧 rltiman@sthenrynky.com for questions and to sign up by Aug. 13 and 14.

Bishop Roger Foys will celebrate Mass for the Year of the Family, Saturday, July 10 at 10 a.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington. Bring the whole family including grandparents, all are invited to attend. Pope Francis instituted the Year of the Family to inspire Catholic families through their family lives. Will you and your family answer the call? For information, contact the Office of Catechesis and Evangelization at (859) 392-1500 or visit Covdio.org/Family.

St. Henry Parish, Elsmere, will be participating in the World’s Longest Yard Sale August 7. Rental fee is $25 per space — each space is 10 ft. x 10 ft. 100 percent of the rental is donated to the parish. Tables are not available for rent; vendors are welcome to bring their own. E-mail alz13y@streamrky.com or tealv12@streamrky.com. After a 20 year hiatus, the Ladies Stagette event, “Denim and Heels,” at St. Mary School, Alexandria, is back, Sept. 18. Food, drinks, raffles, silent auctions, split the pots, games, and music. Doors open at 7 p.m., ends midnight. Tickets $40. Contact allison.jellett@gmail.com.

Pray for our children. Will you and your family help them learn the prayers and try to attend Mass on Sundays? For information, contact the Office of Catechesis and Evangelization at (859) 392-1500 or visit Covdio.org/Family.

Summer Festivals
Holy Cross Parish, Latonia, July 23-24, 6 p.m.—midnight
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Burlington, July 9, 6 p.m.—midnight; July 10, 5 p.m.—midnight and July 11, 4-10 p.m.
St. Agnes Parish, Oktoberfest, Oct. 1 and 2, 5 p.m.—midnight; Oct. 3, 3-8 p.m.
St. Barbara Parish, Erlanger, Oktoberfest, Sept. 10, 6 p.m.—midnight; Sept. 11, 5 p.m.—midnight and Sept. 12, 2-8 p.m.
St. Benedict Parish, Covington, Sept. 24 and 25, 6 p.m.—midnight
St. Bernard Parish, Dayton, Aug. 20, 6-11 p.m.; Aug. 21, 5-11 p.m.
St. Cecilia Parish, Independence, Labor Day Festival, Sept. 4, 6 p.m.—midnight; Sept. 5, 4 p.m.—midnight and Sept. 6, 1-6 p.m.
St. Joseph Academy, Walton, Pigfest, Aug. 27 and 28, 5-11 p.m.
St. Joseph Parish, Crescent Springs, Aug. 13-14, 6 p.m.—midnight
St. Mary Parish, Alexandria, Aug. 13 and 14
St. Patrick Parish, Maysville, Sept. 10-11, 6-11 p.m.; Sept. 12, noon-3 p.m.
St. Paul Parish, Florence, Aug. 27, 6-11 p.m.; Aug. 28, 5-11 p.m. and Aug. 29, 4-9 p.m.
St. Peter and Paul Parish, California, July 31 and Aug. 28
St. Pius X Edgewood, July 9-10, 6 p.m.—midnight; July 11, 4-10 p.m.
St. Timothy Parish, Union, Sept. 17, 6-11 p.m.; Sept. 18, 5:30 p.m.—midnight; Sept. 19, 12:30-6 p.m.
St. William Parish, Williamsport, Sept. 19, noon-8 p.m.

If your parish, school or Catholic organization’s festival is not listed, e-mail the information to messen-ger@covdio.org, subject: festival.

Volunteers must be willing to be VIRTUS compliant. Virtus training is available through the Diocese of Covington. The volunteer application is available at www.parishskitchen.org. A staff member will contact you as soon as possible.

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St. Thomas High School Homecoming, Sept. 21, for anyone who attended for at least one year between 1949 and 1976 plus a guest. Former teachers and one guest are also invited to attend. Cost $80 per person and RSVP is required. For more information and RSVP form go on facebook under St. Thomas High School-Grade School. St Thomas, KY Announcements. Contact tonedierig@gmail.com or 812-8743. Deadline Sept. 1.

PEOPLE AND EVENTS

St. Joseph Parish, Owingsville, Aug. 27, 6–11 p.m.; Aug. 28, 5–11 p.m. and Aug. 29, 4–9 p.m.

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Give GENEROUSLY
...help support the important work of our inner-city schools!

Collection dates will take place during the months of July and August, and will vary according to individual parishes.

DIOCESAN INNER-CITY SCHOOL
MISSION COLLECTION

St. Anthony  Prince of Peace  Holy Trinity

Holy Family  Holy Cross  St. Augustine

Contributions may also be sent to:
Diocesan Mission Collection
c/o Diocese of Covington
1125 Madison Avenue I Covington, KY 41011-3115
Serrans have a ball with Y’Alls

The Serra Club for Vocations held its annual fund- and fun-raiser, June 17, by being featured guests at Y’All’s Ballpark when the Florence Y’alls took on the Washington Wild Things. Father Joseph Rielage and Deacon Barry Henry threw out honorary first pitches. Catholic Charities staff, board members and volunteers (from left) Randy Rawe, Linda Rawe, Mary Paula Schulz, Donna Pickert, Alan Pickett and Eric Rawe came out to show support. The Serra Club for Vocations is an association in Christian fellowship that encourages and supports priestly and religious vocations and the spiritual growth of its members. For information visit www.serrancy.org. The final score that night was Y’alls-6, Wild Things-5.
Engaging youth through prayer and service at St. Mary Parish, Alexandria

Emilie Zengel
Messenger Junior Correspondent

When talking about the future of the Catholic faith, it is important to think about the next generation of the Church. By cultivating faith in young people, parishes can establish a stronger foundation for the future. Youth groups throughout the diocese work to do this.

To encourage and inform about these efforts, the Messenger will be featuring a few articles this summer about specific groups. This week’s featured youth group is from St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Alexandria.

St. Mary’s offers several different ways for young people to get involved. One way is through “Chosen.” Chosen is a program for eighth graders before confirmation that helps them understand the meaning of the sacrament. This is a course where confirmandi listen to Catholic speakers on topics related to how to live their faith. This includes why God put people on earth, why be Catholic, and why God has “Chosen” all. Chosen coordinators plan trips to Catholic sites such as Our Lady’s Farm in Falmouth, Stepstone Mission Church in Butler and the Garden of Hope in Covington to experience real-life examples of things happening through their faith.

Another way to become involved is through the “Peer Leader” program. The Peer Leader group are high school students who participate in service opportunities, weekly meetings, retreats and group outings with the intent to bring the group closer to each other and God.

During the lockdown, this group stayed in touch through Zoom meetings. The members were encouraged to attend Project YM, an online worship opportunity specifically geared towards young Catholics which included speakers on important topics to today’s Catholic youth.

Peer leaders met via Zoom after the program to discuss their thoughts about the content. The Peer Leader group also contributes to the parish by volunteering at “WERE” (Wednesday Evening Religious Education), stations of the Cross, and other parish projects. During WERE, young people assist religion teachers when needed by running errands, helping with class projects and providing examples and guidance for certain lessons. They can also make connections with future peer leaders.

This year, in collaboration with the eighth grade classes of WERE and St. Mary’s School, a reenactment of the Stations of the Cross called Living Stations was filmed as a movie due to COVID-19 and streamed on Holy Wednesday. The groups collaborated to write the scenes and reflections. The eighth graders acted in the video while the peer leaders edited and produced the final product.

Susan Stewart, youth minister at St. Mary Parish, said that her favorite part about the program is getting to work with young people. “They teach me every day; they challenge me with incredibly thoughtful questions and thoughts while developing and growing their faith lives,” Ms. Stewart said.

Ms. Stewart said that some of her favorite moments have just been the little spurts of laughter or a stimulating discussion and prayer. While COVID was very difficult for the group because it made meeting in person impossible for a long time, it also developed new strengths for the group such as flexibility and technology use. Additionally, COVID made it difficult because the normal invitation to join the group wasn’t spread as far due to isolation. By welcoming incoming freshman from local colleges and universities and with WERE peer leaders inviting friends, this year the group is expected to grow in numbers. New members are always welcome.

Ms. Stewart said that even though she has always had a deep connection to her faith, being a youth minister has substantially strengthened it, stating, “How could you not be blessed or have a deep faith when you are blessed to see His (Jesus’) face in the purest way?”

To learn more about the youth programs at St. Mary Parish, Alexandria, visit www.saintmaryparish.com and click on the “Our Ministries” tab.

Emilie Zengel is a high school student and parishioner at St. Mary Parish, Alexandria. This summer she is volunteering as a Messenger Junior Correspondent, exploring parish youth groups.
“Peter Rabbit 2: The Runaway” (Columbia) The beloved characters created by Beatrix Potter in her series of children’s animation once again directed and co-written by Will Gluck. A crass terms. CNS: A-III; MPAA: R.

“The Hitman’s Wife’s Bodyguard” (Lionsgate) Needlessly gory, this action-comedy sequel also presents a debased view of sexual intimacy between spouses. The couple are the titanic contract killer and the con woman he has just married. At the behest of a Boston police officer working for Interpol, the duo is forced to team with the assassin’s nemesis, a previously successful security specialist now having doubts about his professional future, to thwart a Greek billionaire’s mad scheme to exact devastating revenge on the European Union for its treatment of his homeland. In following up on 2017’s “The Hitman’s Bodyguard,” returning director Patrick Hughes mines splatter scenes for shock value and the revulsion of the main character for laughs. Splatter and distasteful. Excessive bloody violence, explicit scenes of marital intercourse, much sexual humor, about a half-dozen uses of profanity several mild oaths, profane rough and crude language, obscene gestures. CNS: O. MPAA: R.

“In the Heights” (Warner Bros.) Vibrant musical, set in northern Manhattan’s Washington Heights, charts the efforts of a youthful bodega owner to return to his native Dominican Republic, the scene of his idealized childhood, and reopen the beachside bar he father once ran there. But this “little dream” has complicated implications for his warmhearted adoptive grandmother, the younger cousin he mentors and the aspiring fashion designer for whom he’s fallen. As it touches on themes of racial dignity and the plight of immigrants who lack legal papers, the generally upbeat and uplifting film maintains a solid moral core. But a few rough spots around the edges make it safest for grown-ups. Possibly acceptable for older teens. Brief sexual references, including to homosexual activity and contraception, a couple of profanities, about a dozen mild oaths, several crude and a few crass terms. CNS: A-III; MPAA: PG-13.

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 only;
- M — mature content appropriate for mature audiences;
- R — restricted; children under 17 accompanied by an adult;
- NC-17 — no one under 17 admitted.

Contact CNS for any questions regarding the ratings. In the meantime, readers may want to consider the following:

- “A Father’s Legacy” (Cinedigm) Jason Mac wrote, directed and stars in this fatherhood-themed drama, playing a reluctant armed robber who, following a heist in which he was wounded, forcibly takes refuge in the secluded cabin of a solitary widower, thus dramatically interrupting the latter’s tranquil routine. Recognizing that his captor is no hardened felon, the older man tends to his injury and, as the intruder contemplates the two carry on conversations that become increasingly personal and revelatory. Mac scores big with his pairing of characters who are gruff and conflicted, yet also vulnerable and capable of showing compassion. And the moments of prayer interspersed throughout his script will be especially welcome to believing viewers. As a faith-based study of morality and good behavior, the film could be a good conversation starter for parents and teens, despite the mildly off-color vocabulary that occasionally crops up in the dialogue. A handful of coarse terms. CNS: A-III; MPAA: Not rated.

- “The Conjuring: The Devil Made Me Do It” (Warner Bros.) Vibrant exorcism tale with predictable cliche routine. Recognizing that his captor is no hardened felon, the older man tends to his injury and, as the intruder contemplates the two carry on conversations that become increasingly personal and revelatory. Mac scores big with his pairing of characters who are gruff and conflicted, yet also vulnerable and capable of showing compassion. And the moments of prayer interspersed throughout his script will be especially welcome to believing viewers. As a faith-based study of morality and good behavior, the film could be a good conversation starter for parents and teens, despite the mildly off-color vocabulary that occasionally crops up in the dialogue. A handful of coarse terms. CNS: A-III; MPAA: Not rated.

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- M — mature content appropriate for mature audiences;
- R — restricted; children under 17 accompanied by an adult;
- NC-17 — no one under 17 admitted.
SCHOOL CAFETERIA MANAGERS
The School Food Services 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, and Blessed Sacrament School. Monday – Friday, during the school year. School Cafeteria Managers’ primary responsibilities involve overall supervision of the School’s meals program, including managing employees; ordering, receiving, and managing inventory; preparing and serving meals; operating the point-of-sale system; and interacting with school staff, students, and their parents. Organizational and interpersonal skills are essential to this position. To request an application, contact Stephen Koplyay, SPHR at skoplyay@covdio.org. Submit the completed application by e-mail, indicating references with contact e-mail addresses and compensation history. Applications may also be faxed to 859-392-1586.

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We are a private medical office in Northern Kentucky serving wonderful patients. We seek a happy mature person who loves helping people and who thrives on hard work and team collaboration. This is a very special opportunity for an experienced person who enjoys making relationships and serving others. Must have a minimum of 15 years of stable, verifiable work experience, which can include stay-at-home parenting. Please send letter of interest and resume to Joanna.kreid@yahoocom. Experience the satisfaction of partnering with a team of professional adults who work together to provide excellent care. We look forward to meeting you.

MAJOR GIFTS OFFICER
The Glennon Home Missioners are looking for an enthusiastic fundraising professional to join our development team. The successful candidate will secure and raise funds through major gifts and planned gift programs. College degree preferred. Five years of practical experience in development with familiarity of planned giving instruments. Familiarity with fundraising software and windows applications.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE
Faith-based non-profit in Northern KY seeking 2 individuals to serve as Managers for AllAmericaCorps. Member in Construction. Member will help build, rehab and repair homes to help low-income families and individuals achieve homeownership. Gain valuable experience while earning $12,258/mo. Living allowance, opportunity 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 8/1. Express interest now. Background check, drug screen, and valid DL required. Visit www.honkhomes.org/makeamission for more information. Contact David by email at dfaith@honesthome.org or call (859) 581-4665.

MISSED AN EDITION OF THE MESSNER?
Current and back issues of the Messenger are available online atcovdio.org.messenger.

STAFF WRITER
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. 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 email at skoplyay@covdio.org. No phone calls please.

CAFETERIA STAFF
Various schools in the Diocese of Covington currently have openings for full-time, part-time and substitute workers. Hours would occur during the school day. Duties include food preparation, serving and general cleanup. Interested individuals may contact Jackie Kaiser at jkaiser@covdio.org or call her at 859-392-1536.
The Diocese of Covington's Catholic Charities invites employment 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, A/R, A/P, 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 a bachelor's degree in Accounting or Finance, with a history of progressively-responsible applicable work experience. Interested individuals may send a cover letter and comprehensive resume, including at least five references with e-mail contact, to Stephen Koplyay, SPHR by e-mail or by fax: skoplyay@covdio.org or 859-392-1589.

The Catholic Charities ministry of the Diocese of Covington invites qualified, actively-practicing Roman Catholics to apply for the position of Chancery Secretary. This position fulfills vital logistical and operational functions, and requires a motivated self-starter with a love for the Church, an interest in service, and a demonstrable history of maintaining absolute confidentiality. Other requirements include experience and comfort with using MS Office software, and helpful and pleasant communications skills regardless of the medium. Interested candidates may send a letter of interest along with a comprehensive resume, including compensation history and at least five appropriate references with e-mail contact information, by email or fax to Stephen Koplyay, SPHR, skoplyay@covdio.org, fax 859/392-1589.

The Diocese of Covington invites qualified, practicing Roman Catholic candidates to apply for this full-time job opportunity. The Coordinator assists the office's Executive Director in managing Catholic Charities' offices, along with a C-V or comprehensive resume with compensation history, and a minimum of five references with e-mail contacts, to Stephen Koplyay, SPHR by e-mail or by fax: skoplyay@covdio.org or 859-392-1589.

The Client Services Specialist is responsible for assisting Catholic Charities' clients and their case files through the entire clinical experience. Categories of cross-trained duties will generally include those of client care worker, pre-service assistant, quality assurance auditor, case-management team backup, and fiscal court reporting and billing backup. Desired qualifications include: practicing Roman Catholic; a minimum of a Bachelor's degree in a human services field; comfort with MS Office software; and well-developed personal skills in communications, organization, face-to-face interactions, listening, and problem-solving. To apply, send a letter of interest along with a C-V or comprehensive resume with compensation history, and a minimum of five references with contact e-mail addresses to Stephen Koplyay, SPHR at skoplyay@covdio.org, fax 859/392-1589.

The Volunteer Coordinator is involved with all aspects of volunteer recruitment, training, appreciation, and retention. The Coordinator identifies, engages, cultivates, and maintains volunteer relationships so that volunteers have positive and meaningful experiences. Our ideal candidate will be a practicing Roman Catholic in good standing with the Church, with a Bachelor's degree in the equivalent in a business or human services field, plus prior experience in program management. Other desired qualifications include experience with community outreach; demonstrated communication, organization, and human relations skills; and a familiarity with MS Office and general database software. Salary and benefits are competitive. To apply, or to nominate a candidate, email or fax a letter of interest, C-V or comprehensive resume with compensation history, and a minimum of five references with their contact e-mail addresses to Stephen Koplyay, SPHR at skoplyay@covdio.org, fax 859/392-1589.

The Diocese of Covington is seeking to hire a full-time (40 hours a week, M-F) Volunteer Coordinator. The Volunteer Coordinator is involved with all aspects of volunteer recruitment, training, appreciation, and retention. The Coordinator identifies, engages, cultivates, and maintains volunteer relationships so that volunteers have positive and meaningful experiences. Our ideal candidate will be a practicing Roman Catholic in good standing with the Church, with a Bachelor's degree or the equivalent in a business or human services field, plus prior experience in program management. Other desired qualifications include experience with community outreach; demonstrated communication, organization, and human relations skills; and a familiarity with MS Office and general database software. Salary and benefits are competitive. To apply, or to nominate a candidate, email or fax a letter of interest, C-V or comprehensive resume with compensation history, and a minimum of five references with their contact e-mail addresses to Stephen Koplyay, SPHR by e-mail or by fax: skoplyay@covdio.org, (859) 392-1500. EOE

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 (Camina) and creates a 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 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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Novena to the Sacred Heart: May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus pray for us. Amen. C.D.

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July 2, 2021
Pope advances sainthood causes, including martyred Polish nuns

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis recognized the martyrdom of 10 nuns who were brutally murdered by Soviet soldiers in Poland at the end of World War II and declared venerable Robert Schuman, who is considered one of the founding fathers of European unity. The pope signed the decrees during a meeting June 19 with Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, prefect of the Congregation for Saints’ Causes. Recognizing the martyrdom of the 10 religious women, members of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth, clears the way for their beatification. Nine of the 10 were born in Poland. According to Vatican News, Sister Paschalina Jahn and the other sisters were killed between February and March in 1945 at different locations where they were assisting the sick and the elderly. Most of the sisters were raped before they were shot. Poland’s Institute of National Remembrance — an organization dedicated to investigating war crimes committed between 1917 until 1990 — announced in March the discovery of the remains of three more nuns murdered by Red Army soldiers. While the sisters’ cause moves toward beatification, the cause of Schuman is still in its early stages with the recognition that he heroically lived the Christian virtues.

USCCB webpage answers questions about vote on Communion document

WASHINGTON — A page on the website of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops answers a series of questions regarding the bishops’ vote to approve drafting a document on the Eucharist during their spring general assembly June 16-18. Presented in a question-and-answer format, the page reviews four questions including why the document is being developed and whether the bishops voted to ban elected officials from receiving holy Communion. The webpage — www.usccb.org/meaning-eucharist-life-church — is dated June 21. Three days after the bishops announced the vote to allow the Committee on Doctrine to draft the document and present

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* Buying new construction with me as your representative WILL NOT cost you a cent more, my commission is usually built into the builder’s marketing expense. If my commission is not in the marketing expense, I’ll let you know up front, then you can decide if you would like representation or not.

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Mari Wieder, ABR, SFR, e-PRO
Parishioner Holy Cross Church
it for discussion when the bishops reconvene in person in November. The U.S. bishops approved advancing a plan to draft a document to examine the “meaning of the Eucharist in the life of the Church” following a lengthy debate during their assembly, held virtually due to the pandemic. The action passed with 188 votes in favor and 15 votes against it. There were six abstentions. Chako Noguchi, USCCH director of public affairs, told CNS in an email June 24 that the question-and-answer online document was developed by her office in collaboration with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, doctrine committee chairman, and Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington, Virginia, chairman of the Committee on Communications. “We were hearing from people who seemed to misunderstand the vote, so it was created and then shared with all bishops with the approval of the conference president,” Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, she wrote.

Supreme Court rules in favor of Catholic agency in foster case

WASHINGTON — In a unanimous decision June 17, the Supreme Court said that a Catholic social service agency should not have been excluded from Philadelphia’s foster care program because it did not accept same-sex couples as foster parents. Although the court said Philadelphia’s anti-discrimination laws put an unfair burden on Philadelphia’s Catholic Social Services, the justices did not issue a sweeping ruling on religious rights or overturn its previous decision involving religious liberty in Employment Division v. Smith. Chief Justice John Roberts, who wrote the opinion in Fulton v. Philadelphia, said the service agency “seeks only an accommodation that will allow it to continue serving the children of Philadelphia in a manner consistent with its religious beliefs, it does not seek to impose those beliefs on anyone else.” He also said the city’s actions of excluding the agency burdened its “religious exercise by putting it to the choice of curtailing its mission or approving relationships inconsistent with its ‘religious exercise by putting it to the choice of curtailing its mission or approving relationships inconsistent with its’ beliefs.” When it heard oral arguments in this case last November, the Supreme Court hinted its willingness to find a compromise in the case that pits the rights of religious groups against state discrimination laws. The case centered on Philadelphia’s 2018 exclusion of the foster program of Catholic Social Services of the Philadelphia Archdiocese because of the agency’s policy of not placing children with same-sex couples or unmarried couples because these unions go against Church teaching on traditional marriage. A year later, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit sided with the city calling the agency’s policies discriminatory.

House GOP leaders, attorneys general urge Congress to make Hyde permanent

WASHINGTON — House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., and several other Republican leaders in the House asked their Democratic counterparts June 22 to take up a measure introduced by Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., that would make the long-standing Hyde Amendment permanent. The Hyde Amendment, which first became law in 1976, prohibits the use of federal Medicaid dollars for abortion except in cases of rape, incest or when the life of the woman would be endangered. Smith’s bill titled the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion and Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act of 2021, or H.R. 19, had 166 co-sponsors. On June 22, in a late afternoon vote, all 218 Democrats in the House approved a procedural “previous question” motion that prevented the House from debating and voting on the measure. The Republican vote against the motion was 280. Smith told Catholic News Service that House Republicans then began a series of unanimous consent requests on the floor asking that H.R. 19 be immediately discharged from these committees and brought to the floor for debate and a vote. “We are going to do this every day until the August recess,” he said. A spokeswoman for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ pro-life secretariat said the House’s failure “to pass H.R. 19 is unjustifiable.”

Catholic agency offers help after ‘heartbreaking’ collapse of building

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. — Staff members with Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Miami were on location and developing a response strategy June 24 near the stunning wreckage of a partially collapsed beachfront high-rise apartment building. As of early June 25, some 159 people who lived in the 12-story building remained unaccounted for, according to local law enforcement officials. Speaking by phone from the temporary reunification center for family, friends and displaced residents, she said: “It is just a look of sadness you see on everyone’s face. It is heart breaking,” said Jackie Carrion, who said her agency is responding to the “ground zero” site the afternoon the collapse. “I have worked hurricanes, but nothing like this.” It is just a look of sadness you see on everyone’s face. It is heartbreaking,” said Jackie Carrion, who said her agency is making temporary Catholic Charities housing and material assistance available following the catastrophe. She told the Florida Catholic, Miami’s archdiocesan newspaper, the reunification center was turning into a fire enforcement, other charity and emergency response agencies, local religious chaplains including a Catholic pastor from Miami Beach, and disoriented relatives and other people seeking updates on the situation.

European Parliament calls access to abortion a human right

BRUSSELS — Despite strong criticism from European bishops and pro-life groups, members of the European Parliament adopted a report that defines access to abortion as a human right and claims that doctors or hospitals that conscientiously object to performing abortions put “women’s lives in danger.” The report passed the European Parliament June 24 with 378 votes in favor, 251 against and 42 abstentions. It has no legal power to force European governments to change their abortion laws but is seen as pressuring some governments — such as Poland and Malta — to do so. In a statement after the vote, the Parliament said members see violations of women’s “sexual and reproductive health rights,” including the right to abortion, “as a form of violence against women and girls.” The bishops also expressed concern about the “one-sided perspective throughout, particularly on the issue of abortion,” because nowhere does it acknowledge that the life of an unborn child is at stake. The bishops also expressed concern that the report was arguing to deny the right of physicians and other health care providers to follow their consciences in refusing to perform abortions.

The Florida Catholic, Miami’s archdiocesan newspaper, the reunification center was turning into a fire enforcement, other charity and emergency response agencies, local religious chaplains, including a Catholic pastor from Miami Beach, and disoriented relatives and other people seeking updates on the situation. Video showing the building’s collapse in the early morning hours of June 24 and the subsequent news footage of the rubble brought to mind scenes of 9/11. At least four fatalities were confirmed early June 25.
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<th>Parish</th>
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<td>($22,600.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Philip Parish</td>
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<td>$7,200</td>
<td>$3,210.10</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Phil &amp; St. Paul Parish</td>
<td>539</td>
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<td>St. Rose of Lima Parish</td>
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<td>$61,100</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Thomas Parish</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Timothy Parish</td>
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<td>$195,656.00</td>
<td>($39,356.00)</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Williams Parish</td>
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<td>$17,442.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Xenia &amp; St. Francis Parish</td>
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<td>$33,610.00</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfiguration Mission</td>
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<td>$2,200</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
<td>($1,900.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>$13,070.00</td>
<td>($13,070.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td>7,595</td>
<td><strong>$2,600,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,354,353.91</strong></td>
<td><strong>$245,646.19</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic has created extraordinary challenges not only for our Diocese, but also for those throughout the northern Kentucky region and our nation. As people of faith, we know that God is far greater than this recent pandemic. He can bring good out of whatever comes along to challenge us, and He wants us to Hear His Voice especially in these times with faith, hope, and love in our hearts. We all have faced so many challenges these past 15 months. And now, more than ever, we need the support of each other physically, spiritually and financially. Thank you for whatever gifts you are able to make to this year’s Diocesan Parish Annual Appeal. Together, we continue the work of Christ in our ministries as we strive to recover.*

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

Goal: $2,600,000
Total Commitments as of 6/24/21: $3,354,353.91
Number of gifts: 7,595
Parishes over Goal: 37

**WAYS TO GIVE**
- Cash/Check
- Stock
- Matching Gifts
- Pledge for a 10 month period ending on 3/31/22
- Online at www.cvdio.org

Numbers reflect pledges and gifts received as of June 24.

Remember, 100% of funds collected over your parish goal will be returned to your parish for use in parish ministries.

Contact your parish office or the Diocesan Stewardship Office to make your gift. 859-392-1500