After 19 years of faithful service, Bishop Foys to retire; announces the appointment of Father John Iffert as Bishop-elect of Covington

Laura Keener
Editor

The Diocese of Covington Curia was buzzing with excitement, July 11, as Bishop Roger Foys announced that, after 342 days, Pope Francis has accepted his letter of resignation and has appointed as the diocese’s 11th bishop Father John C. Iffert, a priest of the Diocese of Belleville, Illinois. Bishop-elect Iffert currently serves as vicar general and moderator of the curia for the Diocese of Belleville.

The appointment was published in Washington, D.C. on July 15, 2021, by Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States. Additionally, Pope Francis has appointed Bishop Foys apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Covington to oversee its operations until the installation of Bishop-elect Iffert. The consecration and installation is scheduled for Sept. 30, 3 p.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington.

Last year, on July 27, 2020, Bishop Foys celebrated his 75th birthday — the retirement age of bishops — and, as required, submitted his letter of resignation to the Holy Father. In his 19 years as Bishop of Covington, Bishop Foys has ordained 42 priests for the Diocese of Covington and has revitalized Covington’s Cathedral Square. He has been a faithful and resolute proponent of Catholic school education, especially for vulnerable families in the urban core.

“It is with gratitude to Almighty God that I welcome Very Rev. John C. Iffert as my successor as the 11th Bishop of the Diocese of Covington,” said Bishop Foys. “I am grateful also to our Holy Father Pope Francis for providing for the pastoral care of our Diocese by this appointment. Bishop-elect Iffert brings a wealth of pastoral and administrative experience to his episcopal ministry having served in both parish and diocesan administration. He comes well-prepared to provide for the needs of our Diocese as a pastor with the heart of a shepherd.

In the very short time I have known Bishop-elect Iffert through our initial conversations I have come to appreciate his caring manner and his desire to do the will of God in his life. He also has a delightful sense of humor that will serve him well in his episcopal ministry.

Our new Bishop is sent in the name of Christ as a pastor to care for the portion of God’s people entrusted to him. I have no doubt that Bishop-elect Iffert will shepherd the Lord’s flock, educate the faithful as beloved in Christ, and govern the Church of God so as to help her grow — through the Gospel and the Eucharist — into one community in the Holy Spirit. (cf. Directory for the Pastoral Ministry of Bishops, #158)

Bishop-elect Iffert comes to a Diocese of dedicated priests, deacons, consecrated religious and devoted lay faithful. I am confident that he will receive a warm welcome as he takes up his ministry among us. For my part, I pledge him my prayerful support and loyalty as a brother bishop and I look forward to his leadership among us.

Ad multos annos!

Yours devotedly in the Lord,

Most Rev. Roger J. Foys, D.D.
Bishop of Covington

Bishop-elect John C. Iffert

(Continued on page 3)
At Year of the Family Mass, Bishop Foys encourages families to evangelize by living a holy life inspired and modeled after the Holy Family

Laura Keener
Editor

The recognition of the Year of the Family — a year pronounced by Pope Francis for the Church to focus on the family and conjugal love — was initiated in the Diocese of Covington. July 10, as Bishop Roger Foys celebrated a special Year of the Family Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington. The diocesan Office of Catechesis and Evangelization is spearheading the efforts for the faithful of the diocese to pray, learn and serve as a family, drawing families closer to each other and to Christ.

Bishop Foys began his homily by inviting those present to think about their childhood and the types of memories their childhood brings.

“I always encourage parents to make good memories for and with your children,” Bishop Foys said, “because when our parents are gone, that’s all we have left.”

“I have happy memories and I hope that your children will have happy memories of their childhood and their growing up and that they will learn from you what really and truly matters,” he said.

Bishop Foys encouraged parents, saying that when he was a pastor it was not uncommon for newly engaged couples to come to him seeking to be married in the Church, even though they had not been practicing the faith for some time. Often, those couples would return to the practice of their faith.

“Even if you might not think that you’re making any difference, trust me, you will make a difference,” he said.

Drawing extensively from Pope Francis’ Angelus address on the Feast of the Holy Family Dec. 27, 2020, Bishop Foys highlighted the importance of family and how the Holy Family — Jesus, Mary and Joseph — are both a model and inspiration for family life.

“It is good to reflect on the fact that the Son of God wanted to be in need of the warmth of a family like all children. Precisely for this reason, because it is Jesus’ family, the family of Nazareth is the model family in which all families of the world can find their sure point of reference and sure inspiration.” Bishop Foys said quoting Pope Francis.

“Children want to belong, they want to be part of something,” Bishop Foys said.

Quoting Pope Francis again, Bishop Foys said, “In imitation of the Holy Family, we are called to rediscover the educational value of the family unit: it requires being founded on the love that always regenerates relationships, opening up horizons of hope.”

“Founded on love — there’s the secret,” Bishop Foys said. “Love can endure anything. It can endure any hardship, any struggle, any difficulty, any injury — within the family, love can conquer any of that.”

At the Angelus address Pope Francis said, “Within the family one can experience sincere communion when it is a house of prayer, when affections are serious, profound, pure, when forgiveness prevails over discord, when the daily harshness of life is softened by mutual tenderness and serene adherence to God’s will. In this way, the family opens itself up to the joy that God gives to all those who know how to give joyfully.”

Bishop Foys said that it breaks his heart to see families divided, to see families at a loved one’s funeral sitting on separate sides of the church because they are not speaking.

“For forgiveness over discord,” Bishop Foys said. “Home should be the place where a son or daughter can come no matter what. The Lord is the one to whom we can come no matter what. The same should be said of the home where the mother and father reflect God’s love, God’s joy, God’s forgiveness.”

Pope Francis acknowledged that it is true that all families quarrel, “but,” he cautioned, “before the end of the day, make peace. And do you know why? Because a cold war, day after day, is extremely dangerous. It does not help.”

Bishop Foys said that the Holy Father offers three very important phrases that all families should hold dear and say to each other often — excuse me, thank you and sorry. “Excuse me, so as not to be intrusive in the life someone,” Bishop Foys said. “Thank you — so much service that we do for one another within the family — always say thank you. Gratitude is the life blood of the noble soul. How much do...”

(Continued on page 8)
Defender of the Bond for the Tribunal, Spiritual Moderator for both the Belleville deanery CYO and the Diocesan Teens Encounter Christ movement. In August 2010, he entered the novitiate of the Order of Preachers, Province of St. Albert the Great, USA (Dominican, Central Province). He professed simple vows as a Dominican in 2014 which he renewed in 2016. From 2007-2009, he served as parochial vicar of St. Thomas Catholic Center at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. Father Iffert left the Dominicans in 2008 and returned to the Diocese of Belleville.

Father Iffert has served as administrator of St. Mary Parish in Mount Vernon (2008-2010); administrator of St. Theresa Parish in Salem and St. Elizabeth in Kimmundy (2009-2010); pastor of St. Mary Parish (2010-2015); and pastor of St. Barbara Parish in Scheller (2014-2020). He has served as vicar forane of the North Central Vicariate (2013-2020), diocesan co-vicar for priests (2014-2020), member of the Diocesan Finance Council (2018-present); and as a member of the College of Consultors (2015-present). Since his ordination, Father Iffert has served as vicar general and moderator of the curia for the Diocese of Belleville; and since January 2021 he has served as pastor of St. Stephen in Caseyville.

"Bishop-elect Iffert has been an excellent priest and a dedicated pastor, and he is widely respected in our diocese," said Bishop McGovern, Diocese of Belleville. "With his strong faith and many talents, I believe Bishop-elect Iffert will be an excellent shepherd for the people of Northern Kentucky."

At a press conference, July 13 at Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium in the Diocese of Covington, Curia building, Bishop Foys introduced Bishop-elect Iffert to the Curia staff and the local community. Also attending the press conference were Archbishop Joseph Kurtz, Archbishop of Louisville; Bishop William Medley, Diocese of Owensboro; and Bishop John Stowe, Diocese of Lexington.

"This is an announcement that we have been wait-
ing for a long time," said Bishop Foys acknowledg-
ing that together he and the staff have been wait-
ing almost a year for the Father Iffert to join us. "I am confident he will make a wonderful shepherd — he is a pastor with the heart of a shepherd," Bishop Foys said about Bishop-elect Iffert.

Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul is lesson that God has gifted everyone to build up his kingdom

Laura Keener
Editor

The Curia staff gathered at St. Paul Oratory, June 29, the solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul — a patronal feast day — as Bishop Roger Foys celebrated Mass. In his homily Bishop Foys explained that Peter and Paul were very different men, with very different gifts. St. Peter was a fisher of men after your own heart." Bishop Foys said that both men took very different paths to arrive at their faith. Peter was an apostle to the Jews. Paul found the faith on the road to Damascus, while on his way to torture and kill Christians, when he had a conversion. Peter saw himself as the apostle to the Jews. Paul saw himself as the apostle to Gentiles.

Notice that to have faith in Jesus Christ they didn’t have to change who they were. They each had their own gifts and the Lord God used those gifts in each of them so that they could make his name known," Bishop Foys said. "That’s a lesson for us, that the Lord God uses each of us, no matter who we are, no matter where we come from, no matter what our background, no matter what our education, or who our family is. Each of us has our own gifts. We should never, ever think that we don’t. And we use those gifts just as they are given to us for the building up of the Kingdom of God. … We pray today for the grace to use the gifts that the Lord has given us to the building up of the Kingdom of God and to be agents for bringing people together."

The only lottery in this world that counts is the family that you are born into, and I am a winner in that lottery. I am most grateful." Bishop Foys said.

(Continued on page 10)

Bishop’s Schedule

July 17 Mass, Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, 4:30 p.m.
July 18 Mass, Cathedral Basilica, 10 a.m.
July 18-23 Seminarians’ retreat
July 24 Mass, Cathedral Basilica, 4:30 p.m.
July 25 Mass, Cathedral Basilica, 10 a.m.
July 26 Diocesan Building Commission meeting, 10 a.m.
Parish Council meeting, 6:30 p.m.

(left) Bishop Roger Foys announces the and introduces Father John C. Iffert (right) as Bishop-elect of the Diocese of Covington at a press conference, July 13, at Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium. “I am confident he will make a wonderful shepherd — he is a pastor with the heart of a shepherd,” Bishop Foys said about Bishop-elect Iffert.

Man, and probably had a very rudimentary education, St. Paul, on the other hand, went to university.

“They were on two different paths — Peter a fisherman and Paul a man of letters," Bishop Foys said. “Had it not been for their converging on the faith of Jesus they probably never would have met. One thing they had in common was their faith, their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and savior.” Bishop Foys said that both men took very different paths to arrive at their faith. Peter was an apostle to the Jews. Paul found the faith on the road to Damascus, while on his way to torture and kill Christians, when he had a conversion. Peter saw himself as the apostle to the Jews. Paul saw himself as the apostle to Gentiles.

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(Continued on page 10)
Rights and responsibilities

The moral principle of human rights and responsibilities has become a key theme in contemporary Catholic social doctrine. Thus, the “Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church” (2004) acknowledges that “[t]he movement towards the identification and proclamation of human rights is one of the most significant attempts to respond effectively to the insurable demands of human dignity.”

The Compendium continues that “[t]he Church sees in these rights the extraordinary opportuni-
ties that our modern times offer, through the affir-
mation of these rights, for more effectively recog-
nizing human dignity and universally promot-
ing it as a characteristic inscribed by God the
Creator in its creature.”

(CSDC, n. 152)

The Compendium highlights the respect accorded by the Church to “the positive value of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations on 10 December 1948.” (CSDC, n. 152)

In Chapter III, “The Human Person and Human Rights,” the Compendium incorporates a systematic treatise on Church teaching on human rights and correlative duties. (CSDC, nn. 152-159)

Here the Compendium points out that “[t]he first pre-
requisite in this task is the right to be permitted to
natural end, which is the condition for the exercise of all other rights and, in particular, implies the illness of every form of arrested abortion and of euthanasia.”

Moreover, the Church tradition recognizes the “para-
mount value of the right to religious freedom.” (CSDC, n. 155)

The Compendium also explores “the mutual comple-
mentarities between rights and duties,” a constant teach-
ing of the magisterium. (CSDC, n. 156. See also the “Catechism of the Catholic Church,” n. 1900).

From the standpoint of history, the UN’s 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights had already syn-
thesized the substance of an emerging worldwide consen-
sus on human rights. Fifteen years later, St. John XXIII’s 1963 encyclical “Pacem in Terris” (“Peace on Earth”) pre-
pared the first comprehensive Catholic teaching on the subject of human rights.

The Compendium considers “Pacem in Terris” as a summons to men and women of good will to “establish with truth, justice, love and freedom new methods of rela-
tionships in human society.” (CSDC, n. 190)

Part I of “Pacem in Terris” — “Every Man is a Person with Rights and Duties” — stands as an in-depth reflec-
tion on an integral theory of human rights. Most impor-
tantly, St. John XXIII ground human rights (both theo-
ologically and philosophically) in the personhood of every man and woman: “... every human being is a person; that is, his nature is endowed with intelligence and free will. Indeed, even his physical body, in which he has rights and obligations flowing directly and spontaneously from his very nature.” (PT, n. 9)

The absolute obligations of these rights are “universal and inviolable, so they cannot in anyway be surrendered.”

Personal, social, and institutional rights bear an inherent interrelationship within an ordered hierarchy. Under that canopy, a broad range of rights are integrated: bodily rights, political rights, rights of movement, associ-
atonal rights, economic rights, rights to choose family and state of life, religious rights, and communication rights. (PT, n. 11-27)

Rights are rooted with inherent duties, for funda-
mental human rights derive their “indestructible moral force from the natural law, which in granting it imposes a corresponding obligation.” (PT, nn. 28-33 at n. 30)

important step forward on the juridical-political organi-
fication of the world community.’ In the same encyclical, St. John XXIII forthrightly recognized and detailed charters of human rights based on natural law.”

The linking of human rights with the promotion of the common good within a natural law framework was a notable contribution to human rights thought. Rooted in his prior teaching in “Mater et Magistra” (“Christianity and Social Progress,” 1961), St. John XXIII conceived the common good as embracing “the sum total of those conditions of social living, whereby men are enabled to achieve their own integral perfection more fully and more easily.” (PT, n. 39. See MM, n. 66)

Section 60 of “Pacem in Terris” developed an explicit rationale for identifying the promotion of human rights with the advancement of the common good. It stated: “It is agreed that in our time the common good is chiefly

guaranteed when personal rights and duties are main-
tained.” That defense of human rights is a duty that falls upon government: “The chief concern of civil authorities must therefore be to ensure that these rights are acknowl-
edged, respected, coordinated with other rights, defended and promoted, so that in this way each one may eas-
ily carry out his duties.” (PT, n. 66)

In this regard, that responsibility of civil authorities requires that “they maintain a careful balance between coordinating and protecting the rights of citizens, on the one hand, and promoting them, on the other.” (PT, n. 66)

“Gaudium et Spes” (1965), the Second Vatican Council’s “Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World,” declares that “in the Gospel-inspired proclamation of human rights in the light of the teaching of
“Pacem in Terris.”

The Pastoral Constitution substantiates the distinctive Catholic Church that upholds a theological foundation of human rights. Supporting the awakening and empower-
ing of international advocacy for human rights, the con-
ducial document states: “Yet these movements must be penetrated by the spirit of the Gospel and protected against any kind of false autonomy For we are tempted to think that our personal rights are fully ensured only when we are exempt from every requirement of divine law...” (GS, n. 47).

According to “Gaudium et Spes,” then, Church social teaching on human rights resonates with an expanded global consciousness of the common good and human interdependence. (GS, n. 26)

In its treatise on the principle of the common good, the Pastoral Constitution grounds respect for rights and duties in human dignity. As subjects of universal and inalienable rights and duties, men and women have claims in justice to the necessities for living a genuinely human life. The Pastoral Constitution sums up the teach-
ing of “Pacem in Terris” by naming the following rights: “the right” to food, clothing, and shelter; the right to choose a state in life freely; and to found a family; the right to education; to employment: a good reputation, to respect, to appropriate information, to activity in accord with the upright norm of one’s own conscience, to protection of privacy, and to rightful freedom in matters religious too...” (GS, n. 26)

On March 19, 1975, Pope Paul II delivered an address to the 50th General Assembly of the United Nations. In his address, “The Dignity of the Human Person is the Basis of Peace and Justice,” the late Holy Father enumerated the human rights that have gained universal acceptance. These key rights are spelled out in a lengthy catechism: “the right to life, liberty and security of person, the right to food, clothing, housing, sufficient health care, rest and leisure, the right to freedom of expression, education and culture; the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, and the right to manifest one’s religion either individually or in community, in public or in private; the right to choose a state of life, to found a family and to enjoy all the conditions necessary for family life; the right to property and work, to adequate working conditions and a just wage; the right of assembly and association; the right to freedom of movement, to internal and exter-
national migration, the right to nationality and residence; the right to political participation and the right to participate in the free choice of a political system of the people to which one belongs.”

On April 15, 2008, almost three decades later, Pope Benedict XVI addressed the U.N. General Assembly in the year that marked the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. His address (“Human Rights ... Must Be Respected As an Expression of Justice”) posits human dignity as the bedrock moral foundation of the Universal Declaration. The now pope emeritus noted that “[t]his document was the outcome of a convergence of different religious and cultural tradi-
tions, all of them motivated by the common desire to place the human person at the heart of institutions, laws and the workings of society...”

Pope Benedict XVI anchored the universality, the indi-
viduality and interdependence of human rights on the foundation of “the natural law inscribed on human hearts and present in different cultures and civilizations.”

In continuity with the teaching of his predecessors, Pope Francis addressed the U.N. Assembly on Sept. 25, 2015. In the name of justice Pope Francis challenged the obligation of world governments to do everything possible to ensure that all can have the mini-
imum spiritual and material means to live in dignity and to create and support a family which is the primary cell of social development. “The Holy Father further identi-
fied a minimum floor for integral human development.” In practical terms this means three

names: lodging, labor; and, and one spiritual free-
dom which includes religious freedom, the right to educa-
tion and all other civil rights.

Msgr. Ronald Ketteler is director of ecumenism, episco-
pal liaison to the Messenger and professor of theology at Thomas More University.
The 2021 summer reading list

**Biblical Account on freedom and peace**

Somewhere along the way, I’ve said it before and I’ll say it again: freedom is not a license to do as you darn well please. It is a golden and necessary opportunity to freely choose from among any number of social, appropriate, reasonable and non-harmful choices.

Freedom comes with a price, in my opinion, that may include blood, sweat, tears and sacrifice in order to attain the desired result. In the United States, the hard-earned and prized gift of freedom seems to be more grossly abused each and every day. Witness the unwavering reports of violence, bombings and multiple injuries — often involving innocent bystanders and reported daily in newspapers, on radio and television.

It’s all very frightening, even to experienced, hardened journalists and commentators who have witnessed and reported the horrors of hate and indifference throughout their careers. Ted Williams, a former law enforcement officer and currently a highly respected network news contributor, bluntly summed up the whole worldwide situation this way: “We are in a war of good vs. evil.”

Solace is harder to come by these days, not just for me, but for a circle of friends, acquaintances and relatives who wish to share their thoughts about the whole unwavering situation in the United States and throughout the world. My most personal recent effort to find some measure of peace in the world is free” led me to Scripture. Words found there generated encouragement, hope and promise that mankind’s seemingly unending search for freedom and peace shall not be in vain. Please go there with me for a little while. Once again:

“Freedom for Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.”

Galatians 5:1

“By your works were men free in the Galatians 5:1

(Continued on page 13)
Arguments against contraception — Part I: Medical

Caitlin Dwyer
Contributor

Medically reviewed by Amy Fathman, APN

In our culture, contraceptive decisions are frequently shaped by what’s best for women such as health, rights, educational opportunities, professional success and even freedom, empowerment and self-realization. For birth control supporters, questioning contraception is synonymous with ques-
tioning these goods. “How could you be against contraception? Do you want to prevent women’s access to healthcare? Do you want to oppress women and take away their rights?”

But is it really true that use of contraceptives constitutes good medical care and a benefit to women and society at large? In this three-part series, we will question this assumption by examining arguments against the use of contraceptives from medical, sociological and theological perspectives.

Here, we will begin from the medical vantage point, looking at the health risks associated with contraceptives and their inability to treat the myriad gynecological maladies for which they are prescribed. In order to make the case that contraceptives can actually be detrimental to women’s health.

First, let’s define contraception. Contraception, or birth control, signifies any medication, device, procedure or technique intended to remove the procreative element from the sexual act. This includes hormonal contra-
ceptives (pills, implants, injections), barrier methods, intrauterine devices and sterilization. While all of these methods raise serious medical con-
cerns, this article will focus on the health risks of the most commonly used form of birth control — hormonal contraceptives.

Hormonal contraceptives are widely prescribed both as birth control and as a medical therapy to address a number of gynecological conditions. A review of the side effects of hormonal contraceptives as well as the safety and efficacy of available alternatives reveals why it is not best practice in medicine to use them for either indication (birth control or “treatment”).

Hormonal contraceptives are associated with several very serious possi-
ble side effects including cancer, stroke and permanent alteration of the brain.

In 2005, the World Health Organization classified the combined estrogen-
progestin hormonal contraceptives as a group 1 carcinogen, the most dangerous category, reserved for substances known to increase a per-
son’s risk of cancer, like tobacco and asbestos.

Hormonal contraceptives increase the risk of breast, cervical and liver cancers. For breast cancer, the most common cancer in women, the rela-
tive risk is 20-60 percent higher (cancer.gov). This of course does not mean everyone who takes hormonal contraceptives will develop one of these cancers, just like not every smoker gets lung cancer. However, use increases risk. (There is some data that suggests that hormonal contra-
ceptives can provide protection against ovarian and endometrial cancers; however, it should be noted that these cancers are comparatively rare). Several of the most popular hormonal contraceptives also increase a woman’s risk of developing blood clots, elevating her risk of strokes, pul-
monary embolism or other venous thromboembolisms, all of which are potentially life-threatening.

According to a meta-analysis conducted by the Loyola University Health System, birth control pills nearly double women’s risk of stroke, by 1.9 times (4.4 to 8.5 strokes per 100,000 women). Migranes, high blood pres-
sure and smoking further elevate risk. Proponents of hormonal methods frequently point out that the risk is still low; nonetheless, it adds up when we consider at least 11 million women take hormonal contraceptives in the United States. Additionally, hormonal contraceptives may interrupt a critically important disease regulatory feedback loop.

In 2005, the World Health Organization classified the combined estrogen-
progestin hormonal contraceptives as a group 1 carcinogen, the most dangerous category, reserved for substances known to increase a per-
son’s risk of cancer, like tobacco and asbestos.

Many other well-documented adverse effects of hormonal contraceptives

— Hippocratic oath

“First, do no harm.”

For more information about the Pro-Life Office or to be added to our e-mail newsgroups, visit us online at www.covdio.org/prolife/ or call (859) 392-1500.
Two Catholic schools to benefit from school and highway safety projects

Messenger staff report

In Kenton County, June 28, Gov. Andy Beshear presented a $154,000 ceremonial check representing the administration’s commitment to a safety improvement at a busy intersection in Ft. Wright where pedestrians often include school children. Kentucky Representative Buddy Wheatly (District 65) and Father Daniel Schomaker, vicar general, Diocese of Covington, ceremonially accepted the check, the funds of which will be directed to the Kentucky Transportation Department District 6 for the project. The project site is Sleepy Hollow Road, near its intersection with U.S. 25 (Dixie Highway), one of the main routes in Northern Kentucky. Less than a block from the intersection is St. Agnes School.

“We’re seizing the opportunity to improve school safety and pedestrian safety with this project,” Gov. Beshear said. “That’s one way we make a better Kentucky.”

With the funding from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC), a new sidewalk will be built along Sleepy Hollow Road (KY 1072) and a crosswalk in the middle of the block will be removed. Pedestrians instead would walk toward the intersection and cross the road at a signalized crosswalk.

In Campbell County, Gov. Beshear presented a $160,000 ceremonial check that represents the administration’s commitment to a pair of highway safety projects in the vicinity of three local schools.

“School safety and highway safety are top priorities of our administration,” Gov. Beshear said. “With this check, and the projects we have planned, we’re contributing to both.”

With the funding, the KYTC will replace traffic signals at two intersections in Cold Spring and Alexandria with new signals that are more reflective and thus more easily seen by motorists.

The new signal heads will be fitted with back plates that include a 3-inch wide reflective yellow border, so that the red, yellow, and green signal lights are framed within a highly visible rectangle. The greater reflectivity is most evident at night but also helps the signal stand out in daylight. The effect is to help guide drivers’ eyes to the signal, especially where there is visual clutter in the skyline around and behind the signal. The more reflective signal heads have been shown to help reduce crashes.

Both intersections are on busy U.S. 27. In Cold Spring, the cross street is Crossroads Boulevard, near Crossroads Elementary School. In Alexandria, the signal is at the intersection of U.S. 27 and Main Street, near Campbell County Middle School and Bishop Brossart High School.

In each project, KYTC engineers will examine the sites to determine whether other pedestrian improvements would be feasible through construction or reconstruction of handicap ramps.

Gov. Andy Beshear (center) presented ceremonial checks representing the administration’s commitment to two highway projects that will positively affect safety at Bishop Brossart High School, Alexandria, and St. Agnes School, Ft. Wright. Representative Buddy Wheatly (District 65) (left) and Father Daniel Schomaker, vicar general, Diocese of Covington, (right) ceremonially accepted the check, the funds of which will be directed to the Kentucky Transportation Department District 6 for the projects.

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we take for granted from our families, especially our parents?”

And the hardest one to say, Bishop Foys said, is “I am sorry.” Bishop Foys depicted a dramatic scene from the popular 1970s movie “Love Story” where, after a bitter quarrel, as the leading actor is about to apologize, his girlfriend places her finger on his lips and says the often quoted phrase, “Love means never having to say you’re sorry.”

“Give me a break,” Bishop Foys said. “That’s boloney. Love means being able to say, ‘I am sorry,’ and knowing the beloved will be able to say, ‘I forgive you.’ That’s true love. Being able to say, ‘I am sorry,’ humble oneself enough — to trust the other enough — to say, ‘I am sorry;’ with the knowledge that the love is so deep from the other — that it is from God — that we will be forgiven.”

Bishop Foys acknowledged that the family and family life is being threatened in the world and in our country — but Christians are not to be discouraged, instead they should have hope and to evangelize the world by living a holy Christian family life.

“Destroy the family and you destroy a civilization,” Bishop Foys said. “Build a family in faith and in love and in joy and in trust and you have a strong family, a strong community, a strong city, a strong country, a strong world.

“Today we ask God’s blessings on all families, especially those that are having difficulty — those that are struggling — we ask that they turn to the Lord and find their peace, find their solace, find their joy in the Lord. Families are precious to the Lord, or the Lord God would not have sent his Son to be born into a family. Jesus came to save us from our sins and was born in a family so that he, in his humanity, could experience the love of a mother and a father in a family.”

The Office of Catechesis and Evangelization invites families to visit frequently a newly created webpage www.covdio.org/family. There they will find helpful resources to learn, pray and serve during this Year of the Family.
St. Ann Mission, Covington, will celebrate its annual novena to St. Anne with daily novena prayers and Mass, July 18–28. St. Ann is the patroness of Christian families, mothers, grandmothers, housewives, pregnancy, pregnant women, women in labor and sterility; among others. Novena prayers begin at 7 p.m., Mass at 7:15 a.m. The novena will also be live streamed from https://www.facebook.com/StAnnCovington. The theme for this year’s Novena is “The blessing of Grandparents,” as Pope Francis has declared July 20th Grandparents Day. Speakers are: Deacon Scott Pola, Deacon Michael Keller, Deacon Gary Scott, Deacon Barry Henry, Deacon Gerald Franzon, Deacon James Bayne, Deacon Richard Malisi, Deacon Richard Dames and Deacon Steven Durkin. After Mass each evening there will be individual blessings with a relic of St. Ann. The sacrament of reconciliation will be offered after the blessing. The feast of Sts. Joachim and Ann will be celebrated the final evening, July 26, with a reception following Mass.

Newport Central Catholic High School will host a baseball camp July 20–22, 6:30 p.m. at Newport Vets Field (NCCHS home softball field) for boys going into grades 5-8 in the fall. Cost $15; family discounts available. Visit https://gofan.com/app/school/KV679 to register; for information smartzinn@fuse.net.

St. Catherine Parish, Ft. Thomas, is hosting an adult only Music Fest, August 6, 7–11 p.m., featuring the band The Spirit. The weekend also coincided with Msgr. William Cleves’ 10th year as pastor. Pews and floors and adding a new concrete plaza featuring a concrete stamped Holy Spirit Parish, Newport, welcomed parishioners “Back Home” to Mass the weekend of July 3–5. Msgr. Cleves expressed his gratitude and surprise saying, “Before an X-Chair office chair; and a gift for pleasure, round-trip airfare to Rome with Spirit. The weekend also coincided with Msgr. William Cleves’ 10th year as pastor.

**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.**

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 two parking spots; 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 sh227yss@heuniuky.com or 727-205.

After a 24 year hiatus, the Ladies Stagette event, “Denim and Heels,” will be held 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.leedy2@gmail.com.

St. Thomas High School Homecoming, Sept. 25, 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 $50 per person and RSVP is required. For more information and RSVP form go on Facebook under St. Thomas High School Grade School, Ft Thomas, KY. Announcements. Contact tomberig@gmail.com or 781-8743. Deadline Sept. 1.

**Vacation Bible School — creating memories**

Holy Cross Elementary, Latonia, held its Vacation Bible School in June with 30 students — grades first through eighth — attending. Students studied the rosary; created art, played games and had a blessed week creating memories together. (left) A student strings together Good Deed beads, which are used to count the ways they plant love and kindness creating memories together. (above) Each evening Father Michael Hennigan, pastor, led praise and worship with the students, teaching them new songs with hand motions.

**Summer Festivals**

**St. Bernard Parish,** Dayton, Aug. 20, 6–11 p.m.; Aug. 21, 5–11 p.m.

**St. Joseph Academy,** Walton, Pigfest, Aug. 27 and 28, 5–11 p.m.

**St. Paul Parish,** Florence, Aug. 25, 6–11 p.m.; and Aug. 27, 5–11 p.m. and Aug. 29, 4–9 p.m.

**St. Cecilia Parish,** Independence, Labor Day Festival Sept. 4, 6 p.m.-midnight; Sept. 5, 4 p.m.-midnight and Sept. 6, 1–9 p.m.

**St. Barbara Parish,** Erlanger, Rocktoberfest, Sept. 10, 6 p.m.-midnight; Sept. 11, 5 p.m.-midnight and Sept. 12, 2–8 p.m.

**St. Patrick Parish,** Maysville, Sept. 10–11, 6–11 p.m.; Sept. 12, noon–3 a.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.

**St. Benedict Parish,** Covington, Sept. 24 and 25, 6 p.m.–midnight.

**St. Agnes Parish,** Ft. Wright, Oktoberfest, Oct. 1 and 2, 5 p.m.-midnight; Oct. 3, 3–8 p.m.

**Faith and family**

St. Henry Parish, Elsmere, started its Faith & Family Friday, June 25. Parents and their children are invited to the 8 a.m. Friday Mass followed by breakfast, reading/discussing Sunday’s Gospel, and fellowship. Pictured with families is A.J. Gedney, seminarian for the Diocese of Covington.
Bishop-elect Iffert indicated that he has only three agenda items as he comes to lead the Diocese of Covington—to get to know its priests, deacons, religious and lay faithful, to invite young men to consider priestly vocations and to beg for prayers.

“To the priests, deacons, lay faithful of the Diocese of Covington, I can’t wait to get to know you and pray with you,” he said. “From the moment that I learned that I would be the bishop-elect, I have been praying for you. Every time I pause and turn toward God you are the people who come to my mind the most. My agenda as I come to the Diocese of Covington is just that, to get to know you. I want to visit with you in our parishes and schools, to celebrate Mass with you, to hear from you why you love our faith and what burdens you carry… You, and being Church with you, are the stuff of my hopes, prayers and dreams these days.

Please—one once I am consecrated and on the ground here in Covington—invite me. I want to be asked.’”

About priestly vocations, Bishop-elect Iffert made a plea to the young men of the diocese.

“I want to take this moment to invite every active, prayerful, Catholic young man to spend some significant time—maybe six months—learning about the life of a priest and discerning whether God might be calling you to the priesthood of Jesus Christ. ... Let me witness to you today this is a joyful and fulfilling life in the midst of loving and dedicated people in community. If God is offering you life as a priest or religious, do not want to miss this. It is an adventure and it is a joy. So please, every Catholic young man consider life as a priest and if God is calling you.”

Bishop-elect Iffert said he is begging the people of the diocese to pray for him, as he is praying for them, sharing a prayer he has prayed most every day of his life since his confirmation when he was 12 years old.

“There is a little prayer that I have always attributed to my confirmation patron, St. Isaac Jogues. I have moved into that prayer, stretched it a bit, and made it my own. I offer it this way: ‘Wherever I go from here, Lord, let me be strong in faith and poor in spirit. Make me a man after your own heart.’ I have always prayed it for myself, my parishioners, my coworkers, my bishop, our pope and now I will pray it for the people of the Diocese of Covington.

“The Rite of Ordination and Installation of a Bishop is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 30, 2021, at 3 p.m., in the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption in Covington. At that hour, please pray that prayer with me and for me. Pray that I can be strong when strength is needed and weak when I am tempted to be full of myself. Know that I will be carrying you in my heart that day, and asking God to make us all men and women after his own heart.’”

Archbishop Kurtz congratulated both Bishop Foys and Bishop-elect Iffert.

“It is with great joy that I welcome the news that our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has appointed Father John Iffert as the next bishop of the Diocese of Covington. He is known to have a great pastoral heart as well as excellent pastoral experience in his more than two decades of service in the Diocese of Belleville,” said Archbishop Kurtz. “Bishop-elect Iffert is succeeding my friend and brother bishop, Bishop Roger Foys. Bishop Foys has served Northern Kentucky with great distinction, and I join with the bishops of the province in thanking him for his leadership and collaboration. The bishops of the Province of Louisville have a great fraternity and together we welcome Bishop-elect Iffert. We promise him and Bishop Foys our prayerful support.”

**Father Joey Shelton of St. James Church in Brooksville invites you to our Festival July 23 – 25**

**Annual Ice Cream Social**

- Homemade Ice Cream and Specialty Cakes
- Major Raffle • Silent Auction
- Ice Cream Social, July 25th, Noon – 6 p.m.

Enjoy our Fish Fry, July 23rd, 4 – 6:30 and Pulled Pork Dinner, July 24th, 5 – 7

Come to the beautiful southeast part of the diocese for a day of family fun and homemade treats!
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. Agnes Parish in Ft. Wright.

St. Agnes Parish has had a successful group for five years, taking a pause during the pandemic, but excited to start again in the fall. As in previous years, there will be a junior high group and a high school group, with some interaction between the two. Teams from Dynamic Catholic volunteer as the leaders. Anita Dunn, coordinator of Religious Education for St. Agnes Parish, oversees many aspects of the program and is affectionately referred to as the group’s “grandma.”

The group engages in many activities, such as ski trips, Steubenville summer retreats, YOUTH 2000, and several volunteer opportunities. The youth seem to find joy in everything they do together, whether it is a bus ride to a retreat, sharing a meal or participating in fun games.

One particular year, the leaders and the group made bagged lunches and then teamed up to travel to Covington, Newport and Cincinnati to give those bags to the homeless. Many of the students who started participating in junior high have continued as leaders at YOUTH 2000. Youth 2000 is a retreat that involves witness talks, Adoration, breakout rooms, games and worship with singing and dancing. While YOUTH 2000 is a lot of fun, it is primarily a way grow in the Catholic faith. It is a great way to connect with other young Catholics, forging long-lasting, meaningful relationships.

Mrs. Dunn says that one of her favorite things about getting to know the youth is when they come to her after the retreats and say things like “Mrs. Dunn, I want to be like you when I grow up.” She says she could just melt into a puddle of joy.

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St. Agnes Youth Group leader sees children as foundation of the domestic church

St. Agnes Youth Group playing a game with a guest.

(Continued on page 14)
A long-time parishioner of St. Joseph Crescent Springs and local doctor, Mark Meier, is in need of a kidney transplant. If you or anyone you know is interested in offering him this gift of life you can call 513-584-8313 or go to uchealth.donors.org.

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SCHOOL CAFETERIA MANAGERS
The School Food Service Office of the Diocese of Covington is seeking full-time staff members 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. The Messenger staff, the writer will be responsible for written content and the development of the Messenger and diocese’s online presence. The successful 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 should submit a resume, references, and writing samples to Stephen Koplyay by e-mail: skoplyay@covdio.org, (859) 392-1500.

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. The Messenger staff, the writer will be responsible for written content and the development of the Messenger and diocese’s online presence. The successful 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 should submit a resume, references, and writing samples to Stephen Koplyay by e-mail: skoplyay@covdio.org, (859) 392-1500.

SCHOOL CAFETERIA MANAGERS
The School Food Service Office of the Diocese of Covington Department of Catholic Schools seeks candidates for School Cafeteria Manager at Prince of Peace Montessori School. Monday – Friday, during the school year. The School Cafeteria Manager’s primary responsibilities include overall supervision of the School’s meal 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, SFR at skoplyay@covdio.org. Scan and return the completed application by e-mail, visit www.covdio.org, e-mail addresses and compensation history. Applications may also be faxed to 859/392-1589.

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. The Messenger staff, the writer will be responsible for written content and the development of the Messenger and diocese’s online presence. The successful 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 should submit a resume, references, and writing samples to Stephen Koplyay by e-mail: skoplyay@covdio.org, (859) 392-1500.

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR
The Diocese of Covington’s Catholic Charities 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 practicing 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, CV or comprehensive resume with compensation history, and a minimum of five references with their contact e-mail addresses to Stephen Koplyay, SFR at skoplyay@covdio.org, fax 859/392-1589.

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.

FULL-TIME CUSTOMER SERVICE/ORDER FULFILLMENT POSITION
MILA International is looking for a full-time, matured, reliable, detail oriented individual who has experience working in Customer Service, Packing, and Shipping. Must be able to lift up to 25 lbs.
Job duties will include, but are not limited to: answering phones, receiving customer orders and resolving inquiries, order entry and invoicing, packing, shipping, and data entry. Must be detail oriented and able to handle small parts, and dependable.
Please send resume or work history to Renee Murphy at Renee.Murphy@milaint.com.

ASSEMBLER
A small company in Florence, KY with more than 30 years’ experience producing medical products for veterinarians is seeking workers for permanent part-time or permanent full-time positions, up to 40 hours per week. This production position involves the assembly and packaging of lightweight items in a clean room environment. Candidate must be detail oriented, able to handle small parts, and dependable.
Please submit resume or work history to Renee Murphy at Renee.Murphy@milaint.com.
**Freedom and peace**

(Continued from page 5)

On hate:

“If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.” John 4:20

“Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses.” Proverbs 10:12

“And you will be hated by all for my name’s sake, but you are to rejoice because of it, and your shame shall be turned to glory.” Luke 21:28

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

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**EDITORIAL ASSISTANT WANTED**

The Messenger is seeking a part-time (1-3 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 and 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 Koplay by e-mail: skoplay@covdio.org or by fax: (859) 392-1500. EOE

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**NOVENA**

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

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**Hope in the darkness**

(Continued from page 5)

...discouragement, put your pout on down and come to church, sit in front of Jesus in the tabernacle or in the monstrance and rest a while. And after you have poured out your fears and your anger and your heart and your discouragement to him, stop talking, and listen in silence to the Good Shepherd, and let his peace fill your heart. And before you leave, send up some prayers for those appointed as shepherds of his Church, and for their assistants — us priests — that we be good shepherds. We greatly need them.

Father Stephen Bankemper is pastor, St. Catherine of Sienna Parish, Ft. Thomas, Ky.
Marjorie Marie went home to God peacefully, surrounded by her family, sisters and nursing staff. Visitation, wake and Mass of Christian Burial were held in the chapel on Monday, June 28, 2021, at St. Joseph Heights. Interment in the convent cemetery followed the 8:30 a.m. Mass on Tuesday morning, June 29, 2021. May the love with which Sister Marjorie Ann served her God give her eternal happiness with him forever.

St. Agnes Youth Group
(Continued from page 11)

Missed an edition of the Messenger?
Current and back issues of the Messenger are available online at covdio.org/messenger.

Shopper's Guide

St. Agnes Youth Group
(Continued from page 11)

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Current and back issues of the Messenger are available online at covdio.org/messenger.

Shopper’s Guide
Pope released from hospital, prays at Rome basilica

VATICAN CITY — Ten days after undergoing intestinal surgery, Pope Francis was released from Rome’s Gemelli hospital, the Vatican confirmed. In a statement released July 14, Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni said that after leaving the hospital mid-morning, the pope visited the Basilica of St. Mary Major to say a prayer of gratitude before the icon of “Babù Popolù Romàni” (health of the Roman people). The pope thanked Mary “for the success of his surgery and offered a prayer for all the sick, especially those he had met during his stay in hospital,” the statement said. After praying at the basilica, the pope returned to his Vatican residence, the Domus Sanctae Marthae, Bruni said. The pope was admitted to Gemelli hospital in the early afternoon July 4 to undergo “a scheduled surgical intervention for a symptomatic diverticular lesion of the colon.” He underwent a three-hour left hemicolectomy, which is the removal of the descending part of the colon, a surgery that can be recommended to treat diverticulitis, when bulging pouches in the lining of the intestine or colon become inflamed or infected.

U.S. bishops again urge House members to restore Hyde to spending bill

WASHINGTON — The House Committee on Appropriations is poised to mark up “the most extreme pro-abortion appropriations bill we have seen” because it excludes the 46-year-old Hyde Amendment and other Hyde-like policies, the financial fruits of Americans’ labor would advance the destruction of the unborn, most vulnerable humans,” they said. The pontiffs implored Congress to retain Hyde as well as the Weldon Amendment, which allows health care providers as well as insurance plans to refuse to provide abortions, pay for them or refer women to abortion clinics. They urged Catholics and “all people of goodwill” to go to www.NoTaxpayerAbortion.com to sign a petition before July 16.

Next term: Court to take up religious schools, rejects wedding florist

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court announced July 2 it will take up one religious rights case in its next term but it rejected another such case. One of 10 new cases the court announced it will hear concerns parents in Maine who want to use a state tuition program to send their children to religious schools. The case—the justices are not taking a challenge to Washington state’s anti-discrimination law from a florist who refused to make an arrangement for a same-sex wedding. The Maine school case, Carson v. Makin, challenges a state education department rule that allows families who live in towns without public schools to receive public tuition funds to send their children to another public or private school, but it excludes religious schools. On the same day the nation’s high court said it was taking the school case, it announced, without comment, that it would not be taking up the case of a wedding florist who refused to make a floral arrangement for a same-sex couple’s wedding in 2012. This leaves in place a Washington state court’s ruling against the florist, who was found to be in violation of Washington’s anti-discrimination law by the state’s Supreme Court.

ICE announces reversal of policy on detaining pregnant, nursing migrants

WASHINGTON — U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the agency involved in deportation and other immigration-related detention proceedings, announced July 9 it would not detain, arrest or take into custody pregnant or nursing migrants for violating immigration laws except in exceptional circumstances. This includes women who have given birth within a year, the agency said, adding it was doing so “in recognition of the time needed for infant development and parental bonding.” ICE is committed to safeguarding the integrity of our immigration system and preserving the health and safety of pregnant, postpartum and nursing individuals,” said Tae D. Johnson, acting ICE director. “This reflects our commitment to treat all individuals with respect and dignity while still enforcing our nation’s laws.” But when detention is necessary, the agency said in the statement, it would provide “general health and well-being care, including regular custody and medical reevaluation, ensuring appropriate pre- and post-natal and other medical and mental health care.” Detention for pregnant migrants was rare during the Obama administration, the Trump administration ended the Obama-era policy against detaining pregnant migrants.

Pope, bishops call for calm, dialogue after Haitian president killed

VATICAN CITY — Condemning the “heinous assassination” of Haitian President Jovenel Moïse, Pope Francis urged the people of Haiti to shun violence and make a commitment to dialogue and solidarity as the path to a better future. In a telegram sent to the Vatican nunciature in Haiti after the July 7 killing of Moïse and the wounding of his wife, Martine Moïse, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, said the pope offered his condolences to all Haitians and was praying for the former first lady’s recovery. “Praying to the Father of mercy for the repose of the soul of the deceased, the Holy Father expresses his sadness and condemns all forms of violence as a means of resolving crises and conflicts,” the telegram said. “He wishes for the dear Haitian people a future of fraternal harmony, solidarity and prosperity.” The bishops of Haiti also released a statement condemning the assassination. “Violence can only generate violence and leads to hatred,” said the statement, which was shared July 8 by Felice, the news agency of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples. Haiti has been plagued by gang violence that some have said affected the poorest citizens. After the assassination, bodies were closed, and the prime minister declared a state of siege.

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“A Diamond in the Rough” is defined as something of great potential, that refining can form into something beautiful and precious. This phrase takes on special significance as St. Charles Community reflects on 60 years of service.

“I congratulate St. Charles Community on their 60th anniversary,” said Bishop Roger Foys. “I am so grateful for all that this community has done these past six decades and for all they continue to do. They exercise an important and vital ministry among the faithful and for that we thank God and thank both the past and present administrations and staff. Special thanks to the Sisters of Notre Dame who answered the call and for six decades have continued this healing ministry.”

When St. Charles Community first opened its doors March 19, 1961, it was responding to a request from the diocese to provide rehabilitation and care for a variety of persons. In the early years, St. Charles cared for children, the elderly and even survivors of a plane crash who needed extensive rehabilitation.

By the mid 1980s it was becoming clear that God was calling St. Charles to focus on the spiritual, physical and social needs of senior adults and their families. That call has led St. Charles to becoming the community that it is today.

Building on a reputation of compassionate care, the St. Charles Community now offers independent living cottages, senior living apartments with supportive services, an adult day health program, an outpatient rehabilitation department, two households of personal care and a community center that houses a state-of-the-art fitness center and gathering spaces. Its ministry now also includes outreach to the wider community through the HANDI Program (Helping Adults in Need Develop Independence) and the Resource Center for Aging. These outreach programs are free of charge and help seniors and their families navigate the maze of aging services and connect with resources and programs in the community that help seniors continue to live safely at home.

“During this Diamond Jubilee year, we are honored to have been awarded the designation of ‘Best Retirement Community of Northern Kentucky’ for the fifth year in a row and to have been selected as a 2021 Top Workplace by the Cincinnati Enquirer,” said Notre Dame Sister Luann Bender, St. Charles Community Mission and Ministry. Also, the Northern Kentucky Area Development District has recognized the St. Charles HANDI Program with their Shining Star Award for its contributions to the seniors of Northern Kentucky.

None of this would have been possible without the dedication and service of the staff that represents a combined experience of 687 years of service and an average length of employment topping 7.5 years, Sister Luann said.

“At this time of jubilee, St. Charles Community celebrates the relationships that have made us community and rejoices in being a part of the stories of the thousands of persons—residents, families, employees, Sisters of Notre Dame, board members and volunteers—who have supported us on this journey,” said Sister Luann. “It is with heartfelt gratitude that we thank God for the privilege of serving for 60 years and for refining the St. Charles Community ministry into something precious and beautiful where every day we continue to ‘Celebrate Life and Embrace Seniors in Jesus’ name.’”