The 2021–22 school year opens to in-person instruction with protocols and prayer

Laura Keener
Editor

Before the last school bell rang, closing the 2020–21 school year, teachers, parents and even news reporters were already asking, “What are the COVID-19 protocols going to be for next year?”

It has taken awhile for the necessary information to come forward so that Kendra McGuire, superintendent of Schools and the diocese’s own experience could answer that question. First, in May, nobody could readily predict how, in August, the virus might be behaving in communities. Also, information on how effective vaccines would be, especially against variants of the virus, was just beginning to be collected and continues to develop. Most important, guidance from the Kentucky Department of Health (KDHE) and the Northern Kentucky Health Department (NKHD) has just been released for the upcoming school year.

But now August is upon us, schools are about to re-open and protocols have been developed. In a letter to parents, that was e-mailed to principals July 27, Mrs. McGuire released the COVID-19 Return to School Requirements 2021–2022. These protocols were developed based on the guidance released July 14 from the KDHE and after communication with the NKHD.

“We have put in place safety protocols to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 as this virus continues to be present in our local community,” Mrs. McGuire said in the letter. “All our school operations and activities will return to normal with these safety protocols in place.”

The new protocols also incorporate the diocese’s own experience from providing in-person instruction throughout the entire school year last year — when COVID cases were high, vaccinations were a hope and the entire world was learning to maintain those things in life which are a priority while mitigating the spread of the virus.

“We are again starting the year with some uncertainties, we remain confident with what we have learned so far in mitigating the spread of the virus,” Mrs. McGuire said.

Rational pieces:
— Non-traditional instruction or remote learning will only be available to students that are in quarantine. All other students will return to the classroom for in-person instruction.
— What we learned last year is that the best we can do virtually is not really good enough; it's not the best we could offer,” Mrs. McGuire said in an interview about the 2020-2021 school year. “So the goal had to be getting the students in school; it had to be in person. School is so much more than just studying by yourself and reading a book or completing a paper online — there's so much more in the interactions in school, which are all part of that big educational piece.”
— Masks will be optional, except on buses where the state of Kentucky requires masks to be worn. Those who choose to wear a mask will be supported and encouraged to do so.
— Families are encouraged to discuss with their doctor if getting the COVID-19 vaccine is best for them and their children; the COVID-19 vaccine will not be required for students, faculty or staff.
— It's important to note that, in collaborating with St. Elizabeth Healthcare in February 2021, it is estimated that over 90 percent of the administration, faculty and staff in diocesan schools are fully vaccinated. Additionally, unlike unvaccinated persons, vaccinated persons are not required to quarantine when exposed to the virus and are determined to be a close contact if they are symptom-free.
— Three feet spacing between students is recommended in classrooms and the cafeteria.
— High schools and high school athletes must follow the KHSAA guidelines.
— Employees, students and volunteers should complete a daily personal health assessment before leaving for school each day. Anyone exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 should not come to school and should contact their doctor.

“As parents, your support will be one of the most important fac-

tors in preventing the spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses in our schools,” Mrs. McGuire said in the letter to parents. “If your child is exhibiting illness symptoms, you must keep them home and work with your doctor to determine what the illness is and when it will be safe to return to school.”

Mrs. McGuire said that schools will continue to track COVID-19 cases and principals will report cases to the diocese. Right now, the NKHD and KDHE are not requiring that schools or the diocese report individual cases. Cases of five or more that are linked by interaction or an event are required to be reported to the NKHD.

“This will help us to determine whether or not additional measures need to be taken to further prevent or slow the spread of COVID-19,” said Mrs. McGuire. “In order to do this, parents must report COVID-19 positive cases to the school immediately.”

A large part of last year’s success in keeping children in school while also mitigating the spread of the virus can be attributed to the overwhelming cooperation of parents, even when it meant that their child would miss out on important personal milestones.

“Throughout the 2020-21 school year, we made changes to procedures based on our data,” Mrs. McGuire said. “We will continue to monitor this again and make changes as necessary to maintain in-person learning.”

As the school year begins, “In all things we place our trust in God,” Mrs. McGuire said. “I ask you to pray for another successful school year and ask God’s protection for the health and safety of our students, staff, families and volunteers who will be part of our school communities this year.”

Mrs. McGuire’s letter and the COVID-19 Return to School Requirements 2021–2022 School Year are available online at www.covdio.org.
Healthy roots: Elderly provide secure foundation for future generations

Carol Glaz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Highlighting the importance and gifts of older people has been a constant refrain throughout Pope Francis’ ministry.

So it seemed only a matter of time before the pope would establish the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, which was to be July 25. It comes after he created the World Day of the Poor several years ago, showing how the pope considers these world days to be a powerful and universal reminder to the faithful to rediscover or strengthen their service to and relationships with the forgotten or discarded members of the human family.

But he had a reason for inaugurating the day for elders in 2021. After more than a year of a global pandemic, which left a huge number of older people isolated, hospitalized or dead, there are finally signs in some parts of the world of a new horizon.

“Even at the darkest moments, as in these months of pandemic, the Lord continues to send angels to console our loneliness and to remind us: ‘I am with you always,’” the pope said in his message for the world day.

“That is the meaning of this day, which I wanted to celebrate for the first time in this particular year, as a long period of isolation ends, and social life slowly resumes. May every grandfather, every grandmother, every older person, especially those among us who are most alone, receive the visit of an angel!” he wrote.

The World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly is a call for the faithful to flex their wings and be those “angels,” who care, console and care.

Respecting, honoring and reaching out to one’s elders is as the only way a society can thrive, and the Church can remain faithful.

“In a civilization in which there is no room for the elderly or where they are thrown away because they create problems, this society carries with it the virus of death,” he said in a March 2015 general audience talk dedicated to the elderly.

“As with everything Pope Francis highlights, it is a two-way street. Not only must people reach out to serve their elders, older people have to step up and do their part in living through now, “he told his older peers. In essence, who better to give the world hope than those who have already lived through and endured decades of joys and sorrows?”

“You need to show that it is possible to emerge renewed from an experience of hardship and to ‘use those experiences to learn how to pull through now,’ he told his older peers. In essence, who better to give the world hope than those who have already lived through and endured decades of joys and sorrows?”

The pope brought together thousands of older people in September of 2016 for a meeting and Mass in their honor in St. Peter’s Square. Even retired Pope Benedict XVI was in attendance.

There, as elsewhere, he used the metaphor of a tree to describe their role — the elderly are the roots that nourish the tree, helping it bear new fruit.

A connection — dialogue — is essential.

This encounter between the elderly and the young is “for the construction of a society that is more just, more beautiful, more supportive, more Christian,” he said in a talk with members of two Italian associations of seniors in October 2019.

“If grandparents do not dialogue with grandchildren, there will be no future. We are all called upon to counter this poisonous throwaway culture,” he said.

But those conversations must be filled with patience, tenderness and understanding, he said. “Do not berate

(Continued on page 10)

Time for prayer and reflection

Before the seminarians head back to seminary, Bishop Roger Foys joined the Diocese of Covington’s nine seminarians for an annual retreat, July 19-22, at St. Meinrad Archabbey, Indiana. Seminarians are (from left): John Baumann, Zacharias Schoen, Bradley Whitte, Joshua Heskamp, Deacon A.J. Gedney, Bishop Foys, Father Jordan Hainsey, Henry Bischoff, Michael Schulte, Michael Elmlinger and Justin Schwarz.
Appealing to need for unity, pope restores limits on pre-Vatican II Mass

Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Saying he was acting for the good of the unity of the Catholic Church, Pope Francis has restored limits on the celebration of the Mass according to the Roman Missal in use before the Second Vatican Council, overturning or severely restricting permissions St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI had given to celebrate the popularly-called Tridentine-rite Mass.

An image of Our Lady of Lourdes is seen on Father Shannon Collins’ vestment during the procession ceremony of the dedication of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Park Hills, in this 2017 Messenger file photo. In 2016 Bishop Roger Foys established the personal parish for liturgical celebrations of the extraordinary form of the Roman rite.

“An opportunity offered by St. John Paul II and, with even greater magnanimity by Benedict XVI, intended to recover the unity of an ecclesial body with diverse liturgical sensibilities, was exploited to widen the gaps, reinforce the divergences and encourage disagreements that injure the unity of the Church,” Pope Francis wrote in a letter to bishops July 16.

The text accompanies his apostolic letter “Traditionis Custodes” (Guardians of the Tradition), declaring the revision of the Roman Missal, carried out after the Second Vatican Council, “a single and identical prayer” that expressed her “lex orandi.”

Pope Francis wrote that responsorial surveys of the world’s bishops carried out last year confirmed that “the close connection between the choice of celebrations according to the ‘extraordinary’ or pre-Vatican II Mass and ordering bishops not to establish any new personal parishes tied more to the desire of individual priests than to the real need of the faithful.”

He said any priest of the Latin-rite church may, without any further permission from the Vatican or from his bishop, celebrate the “extraordinary form” of the Mass according to the rite published in 1962. The Roman Missal based on the revisions of the Second Vatican Council was published in 1969.

The new pope said that Catholics celebrating the “extraordinary form” were that there was a desire for it, that the priest knows the rite and Latin well enough to celebrate in a worthy manner, and that he ensures that the good of parishioners desiring the extraordinary form “is harmonized with the ordinary pastoral care of the parish, under the governance of the bishop in accordance with Canon 392, avoiding discord and favoring the unity of the whole Church.”

The text is an opportunity offered by St. John Paul II and, with even greater magnanimity by Benedict XVI, intended to recover the unity of an ecclesial body with diverse liturgical sensibilities, was exploited to widen the gaps, reinforce the divergences and encourage disagreements that injure the unity of the Church, block her path and expose her to the peril of the divergences and encourage disagreements that injure the unity of the Church, block her path and expose her to the peril of the divergences and encourage disagreements that injure the unity of the Church, block her path and expose her to the peril of the divergences and encourage disagreements that injure the unity of the Church, block her path and expose her to the peril of...
The past 15 months have been a time of crisis and deep challenge for our country, and they have been a particular trial for the Catholics. During this terrible COVID period, many of us have been too afraid to fast from attendance at Mass and the reception of the Eucharist. To be sure, numerous masses and eucharistic parli pass enjoy have been available online, and thank God for these. But Catholics know that in their bones that such virtual presentations are absolutely no substitute for the real thing.

Now that the doors of our churches are commencing to open wide, I would urge everyone Catholic reading these words: “Come back to Mass!” Why is the Mass of such central importance? The Second Vatican Council eloquently teaches that the Eucharist is the “source and summit of the Christian life” — which is to say that from which authentic Christianity comes and toward which it tends. It is the alpha and the omega of the spiritual life, both the path and the goal of Christian discipleship. The Church Fathers consistently taught that the Eucharist is sustenance for eternal life. They meant that in the measure that we internalize the Body and Blood of Jesus, we are reeled for life toward the next world.

Thomas Aquinas said that all of the other sacraments contain the virtues Christ (the power of Christ) but that the Eucharist contains Christ himself. It is this fact that is the best to fast from this and this would help to explain why St. Thomas could never make it through the Mass without shedding copious tears. It is precisely at the Mass that we are privileged to receive this incomparable gift. It is precisely at the Mass that we take in this indispensable sustenance.

Without it, we starve to death spiritually.

If I might broaden the scope a bit, I would like to suggest that the Mass is crucial to the privileged point of encounter with Jesus Christ. During the Liturgy of the Word, we hear not simply human words crafted by poetic geniuses, but rather the words of the Word. In the readings, and especially in the Gospel, it is Christ who speaks to us. In our responses, we speak back to him, entering into conversation with the second person of the Trinity.

Then, in the Liturgy of the Eucharist, the same Jesus who has spoken his heart to us offers his Body and Blood for us to consume. There is simply this side of heaven, no more intimate communion possible with the risen Lord. I realize that many Catholics during this COVID period have become accustomed to the ease of attending Mass virtually from the comfort of their own homes and without the inconvenience of busy parking lots, crying chil dren and crowded pews. But a key feature of the Mass is precisely our coming together as a community. As we pray, speak, sin, and respond together, we realize our identity as the Mystical Body of Jesus.

During the liturgy the priest functions in persona Christi (in the very person of Christ), and the baptized in virtue of their participation receive the grace of the Eucharistic mystery. Is there an exchange between priest and people at Mass that is crucially important, though often overlooked.

Just before the prayer over the gifts, the priest says: “Praise brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the Mighty Father.” And the people respond, “May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.” At that moment, head and members consciously join together to make the perfect sacrifice to the Father.

The point is that this cannot happen when we are scattered in our homes and sitting in front of computer screens.

If I might signal the importance of the Mass in a more negative manner, the Church has consistently taught that baptized Catholics are morally obligated to attend Mass on Sunday and that the conscious missing of Mass is, in the absence of a valid excuse, is mortally sinful. I understand that this language makes many people today uncomfort able, but it shouldn’t, for it is perfectly congruent with everything we have said about the Mass to this point.

If the Eucharistic liturgy is, in fact, the source and summit of the Christian life, the privileged encounter with Jesus Christ, the moment when the Mystical Body most fully expresses itself, the setting for the reception of the bread of heaven — then we are indeed putting ourselves, spiritually speaking, in mortal danger when we actively stay away from it. Just as a physician might observe that you are endangering your life by eating fatty foods, smoking, and refraining from exercise, a doctor of the soul will tell you that abstaining from the Mass is compromising your spiritual health.

Of course, as I suggested above, it has always been the law of the Church that an individual may decide to miss Mass for legitimate prudential reasons — and this certainly obtains during these waning days of the pandemic.

But come back to Mass!

And might I suggest that you bring someone with you, someone who has been away too long or has perhaps been lulled into complacency during COVID? Let your own eucharistic hunger awaken an evangelical impulse in you. Bring in people from the highways and byways, invite your coworkers to attend Mass, wake up the kids on Sunday morning, turn off your computers.

Come back to Mass!

Laura Keener ................................................................. Editor, General Manager

Bishop Robert Barron is an Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Article originally published at WordOnFire.org.

COMMENTARY

Brused and wounded — understanding suicide

“Some things need to be said and said and said again until they don’t need to be said anymore.” Margaret Atwood wrote that. I quote it here because each year I write a column on suicide and mostly say the same thing: “Some things need to be said and said and said again.”

Seventh, we need to forgive ourselves if we feel angry and all will be well, and every manner of being will be possible when we now see their lives, as if this manner of death colors everything about them. Don’t take down photos of them and speak of them and their deaths in hushed terms any more than if they had died by cancer or a heart attack. It’s hard to lose loved ones to suicide, but we should not also lose the truth and warmth of their memory and our understanding.

Finally, we shouldn’t worry about how God meets our loved one on the other side. God’s love — unlike ours — can go through locked doors, descend into hell, and breathe out peace where we cannot. Most people who die by suicide wake up on the other side to find Christ standing inside their locked doors, inside the center of their chaos, gently saying, “Peace be with you!” God’s understanding and compassion infinitely surpass our own. Our lost loved ones are in safer hands than ours. If we, as limited as we are, can already reach through this tragedy with some understanding and compassion, can’t God, who sees the whole picture, do so much more? In other words, can’t God, who is more fully expresses itself, the setting for the reception of the bread of heaven — then we are indeed putting ourselves, spiritually speaking, in mortal danger when we actively stay away from it. Just as a physician might observe that you are endangering your life by eating fatty foods, smoking, and refraining from exercise, a doctor of the soul will tell you that abstaining from the Mass is compromising your spiritual health.

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Give us this bread

The readings for the 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time — Cycle B are: Exodus 16:2–4, 12–15; Ephesians 5:17, 20–22; and John 6:24–35.

This weekend we celebrate the 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time. As I have been reflecting on the readings, I am also remembering my time having been on a boat in the middle of the ocean and being on a plane looking down at the ground below. I am so small!

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The retired Archbishop of Philadelphia, Charles Chaput, recently published a book entitled “Things to Come: Toward a Hopeful Catholicism.” Maryland-born Cardinal Sean P. O’Malley of Boston reported that he received the first Christian proclamation of the world’s peoples through the Holy Spirit, and he says (which we echo) “I love you, Jesus.” This is to be our response to God — ALWAYS!

What I love about his reflection is that at every station, there is an emphasis of the blessings we receive as citizens of the Kingdom of God. Pope Francis shared that he received the first Christian proclamation of the world’s peoples through the Holy Spirit, and he says (which we echo) “I love you, Jesus.” This is to be our response to God — ALWAYS!

Recently the old rocking chair in my room with a wayward spring was replaced by a new chair. As I looked at it from different styles I thought about the wooden rocker at my parent’s house, the glider in the community room, even the rocking chairs while waiting to get into Cracker Barrel. I thought about replacing the old rocker with a different type of chair but came back again and again to the wooden and rocking back and forth.

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Recent memory is messy and often bears petitions and questions which are not quickly resolved. Even in the mess, I rock and I’m soothed, my trust reinforced that God is there listening and at work in ways I cannot yet imagine.

We each need a space to go where we can find solace and grounding. That space often comes to represent something much bigger and broader than the physical space we dwell.

It is where we meet God ourselves and come to attempt to make sense of the wild, wonderful and often perplexing world in which we live. It is also a space where we connect with others through laughter, stories, and musings that weave into the conversation of friends.

I am grateful for the many rocking chairs through the years which have provided solace and connection to others. I encourage you a moment to visit or appreciate the seats of solace you find in your life which bring you grounding and connection.

Benedictine Sister Kimberly Porter is a professed member of the Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery Villa Hills, Ky

Seat of solace

Father Daniel Schomaker

Father Daniel Schomaker

Villa Hills, Ky.

Sister Kimberly Porter, O.S.B.

Sister Kimberly Porter, O.S.B.
Legacy of men and women religious rooted in being ‘doers of the Word’

Divine Providence Sister Fran Moore

Messenger contributor

“Be doers of the Word and not hearers only.” James 1:22

When we began this page several years ago, our intent was to highlight the many services provided by the women and men religious to the Diocese of Covington — the many educational institutions, health care facilities, social service agencies and outreach to the poor, orphans, persons with special needs begun by and/or staffed by religious since the establishment of the diocese.

Many of those services are no longer staffed by men or women religious but their legacy lives on. The diocese continues to benefit from the ministries provided by Sisters of St. Francis of Oldenburg, Franciscan Sisters of the Poor, Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Sisters of the Good Shepherd, Brothers of the Society of Mary and Christian Brothers who served for many years in diverse institutions but are no longer here.

Members of the Sisters of Notre Dame, Congregation of Divine Providence, Sisters of St. Joseph the Worker, Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery, Congregation of the Passion of Jesus Christ, Carmelites for the Aged and Infirm and the Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery, www.stwalburg.org

Brothers of the Poor of St. Francis are still present with some members still serving in educational, healing and social service ministries. Many others in their communities have transitioned to ministry of prayer and sacrifice for the people of the diocese — a spiritual ministry and work of mercy.

As I reflect on the years of witness of these groups, I am struck by one constant. Each of the groups began their ministry with a deep faith in Christ and trust in God’s goodness. Their lives touched thousands in countless ways and their legacy lives on.

Today, the groups of men and women religious are smaller in number; have more aging members and perhaps fewer resources but they continue to witness to God’s loving care and offer hope to our suffering world so much in need of hope.

Perhaps that is their real witness; they are truly “doers of the Word and not hearers only.” (James 1:22)

Divine Providence Sister Fran Moore is former Vicar for Religious for the Diocese of Covington and is a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence, Melbourne, Ky.

Prayer for Vocations

O Father, you desire all of us to be happy. Stir up the grace of a religious vocation in the hearts of many men and women. Grant to them the willingness and generosity to give of themselves, their lives, their time and their talents to the service of Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord and Savior, and to His Holy Church.

May more men and women go forth as priests, deacons, brothers and sisters to bring the truths of our Catholic faith to all others so that soon they, too, may know You better and love You more... and serving You, be truly happy.

Amen.
WASHINGTON — Many would like to believe the U.S. Supreme Court’s 1973 Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion settled the issue “once and for all,” but instead “all it did was establish a special-rules regime for abortion jurisprudence,” said Mississippi Attorney General Lynn Fitch.

This “has left these cases out of step with other court decisions and neutral principles of law applied by the court,” she said in an amicus, or friend of the court, brief filed with the high court July 22 in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization, a case involving a 2018 Mississippi abortion law banning most abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy.

“The court should overturn Roe v. Wade, she said, adding that a state can prohibit abortion before “viability” because “nothing in constitutional text, structure, history or tradition supports a right to abortion.”

As a result of Roe and subsequent court decisions, “state legislatures, and the people they represent, have lacked clarity in passing laws to protect legitimate public interests, and artificial guideposts have stunted important public debate on how we, as a society, care for the dignity of women and their children,” Fitch said.

The U.S. Supreme Court said in a May 17 order that it will hear oral arguments during its next term on the Mississippi law. The court’s term opens in October and a decision is expected by June 2022.

Just after then-Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant signed the law March 19, 2018, a federal judge blocked it temporarily from taking effect after the state’s only abortion clinic filed suit, saying it is unconstitutional. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit upheld the block on the law.

It will be the biggest abortion case to come before the court since 1992’s Casey v. Planned Parenthood, which affirmed Roe and also stressed that a state regulation on abortion could not impose an “undue burden” on a woman “seeking an abortion before the fetus attains viability.”

“Viability” is when a fetus is said to be able to survive on its own. The high court has consistently ruled states cannot restrict abortion before the 24-week mark.

Fitch stated in her brief that Casey made matters worse because it “tried to improve upon Roe by replacing strict scrutiny with the undue-burden standard,” which also defeats “important state interests rather than accounts for them,” she said.

“The national fever on abortion can break only when this court returns abortion policy to the states — where agreement is more common, compromise is more possible and disagreement can be resolved at the ballot box,” she said, adding that with her brief, the state of Mississippi is “simply asking the court to affirm the right of the people to protect their legitimate interests and to provide clarity on how they may do so.”

She noted that in the nearly 50 years since the court’s Roe decision, “science and society have marched forward.”

“During this time, the viability marker has moved from 28 weeks to 22 weeks in some cases, and science will only continue to advance,” Fitch continued. “Legislatures should be able to respond to those advances, which they cannot do in the face of flawed precedents that are anchored to decades-stale views of life and health.”

As attorney general, she said, she is asking the Supreme Court “to consider the policy and cultural shifts” that have occurred in the last 50 years since Roe and the 30 since Casey and argued the precedent set in those cases, “shackle(s) states to a view of facts that is decades out of date.”

Since 1973, she noted, much has changed for women with regard to many post-Roe laws that include protecting equal opportunity for women, prohibiting sex and pregnancy discrimination in employment, guaranteeing employment leave for pregnancy and birth, and providing support to offset the costs of child care for working mothers.

“Casey gives no good reason to believe that decades of advances for women rest on Roe, and evidence is to the contrary,” added Fitch, who took office in January after being elected to the post November 2019. She is the first female to serve as the state’s attorney general and the first Republican to serve in the office since 1878. Before that, Fitch, 59, served two terms as state treasurer.

“A lot has changed in five decades,” she said. Back then, “there was little support for women who wanted a full family life and a successful career,” she explained.

ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION PARISH FESTIVAL
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Saturday, August 14th
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Catholic News Service
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 is the final featured youth group, from St. Pius X Parish in Edgewood.

Ashley Marshall is the coordinator for youth ministry at St. Pius X Parish, and with much assistance from the parish community, helps lead a very fun and faith-filled group.

Youth Ministry has been going strong at St. Pius X Parish for 7 years. At the time it was started, Mrs. Marshall was tasked with putting something small together, and after a while the attendance started increasing. The focus is on building relationships and also taking advantage of the wonderful gifts of the sacraments. The Youth Ministry “social/sports and adoration nights” encourage both of these. Reconciliation during adoration is available at the end of the night of sports/recreation.

Other opportunities are the bi-yearly overnights/campouts, the National Catholic Youth Conference, and YOUTH 2000, now called SUMMIT 2021. One unique activity, and also a group favorite, is the PB Jam. PB Jam is a service outreach project, with the group making hundreds of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches that are then distributed to shelters in the surrounding area. Using these activities to build relationships is what keeps the group close and strong.

COVID was hard on the group because of the difficulty of meeting in person. No one had regular access to the sacraments. Technology helped maintain the community, but of course it wasn’t the same. Many things didn’t happen at all, but a lot of creative measures were taken to make seeing each other possible in safe ways.

Mrs. Marshall said, “I could feel the kids needing to know that the adults understand how they were affected mentally by this pandemic. They did not want to feel abandoned.”

She was confident that God would always provide for the group, preparing them for what was to come next, with a great schedule and an increase in attendance. It was a blessing in disguise, stirring the excitement for the group.

The community aspect is inviting, especially joining other young Catholics at NCYC or YOUTH 2000. Mrs. Marshall said, “Watching teenagers decide to go together to adoration before their dates, or decide to go to Mass as a group when they are struggling are those ‘behold’ moments where you just feel God’s presence.”

The group really shows how youth can incorporate their faith into their lives. Leading youth ministry has shown Mrs. Marshall how devoted and faith-filled young people can be in their search to know God. This gives her hope for the future of the Church.

She points to her parish, community and the mentorship of Father Michael Hennigen (who served as parochial vicar at St. Pius X during most of her years as youth ministry coordinator) for the group’s success. Mrs. Marshall and Father Hennigen still collaborate on events that minister to high schoolers who, though from different parishes, attend school together. God has blessed this group with many wonderful gifts and they hope to keep working in his image.

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.
Newport Central Catholic High School Boys Soccer and Girls Soccer “Mattress Sale” Aug. 1, 11 a.m–4 p.m., school cafeteria. All sizes, all styles and name brands sets are available. Layaway and delivery available.

Parish Kitchen, a ministry of Catholic Charities is looking for more volunteers to help serve their lunch meal from 11:15 a.m.–1:45 p.m. Regular or sub opportunities are available for weekday and/or weekends, once a month or more. Volunteers must be willing to be VIRTUS compliant. VIRTUS training is available through the Diocese of Covington. Volunteers must be willing to be VIRTUS compliant. Visit parishkitchen.org. The volunteer application is available at www.parishkitchen.org.

Dr. Koehl and Notre Dame Sister Ruth Lubbers, SND.

Ministry Corporation. Pictured are: Nick Winnike, SND; Office and Chief Operating Officer of the National Sponsorship and Network Ministry Corporation. Contact mailboxshellbraun@gmail.com or 727-2035.

Job search assistance available for free at the Kenton County Public Library branches. Get help getting started with a 1:1 career coaching, resume assistance, workshops, and online classes to improve your job-hunting skills. Go to kentonlibrary.org/job-search-central or call 622-6002 to learn more.

Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, California, July 31 and Aug. 28
St. Joseph Parish, Cold Spring, Aug. 6, 6–11 p.m.; Aug. 7, 6–11 p.m.
St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Ft. Thomas, Aug. 6, 7–11 p.m. adult-only Music Fest; Aug. 7, 5:30–11 p.m.
St. Joseph Parish, Crescent Springs, Aug. 13–14, 6 p.m.–midnight
St. Mary Parish, Alexandria, Aug. 13–14
St. Bernard Parish, Dayton, Aug. 20, 6–11 p.m.; Aug. 21, 5–11 p.m.

Summer Festivals
St. Joseph Academy, Walton, Pig fest, Aug. 27–28, 5–11 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. Cecilia Parish, Independent, 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 p.m.
St. Therese Parish, Southgate, Aug. 13, 6–10 p.m. adult night; Aug. 14, 6–11 p.m., family night
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, Williamstown, 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.

Rosary
11 a.m. and Mass 11:30 a.m., Aug. 7, Our Lady’s Farm, Falmouth. Call 604-2379.

St. Henry Parish, Elsmere, will be participating in the World’s Longest Yard Sale Aug. 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 sh127ys@sthenrynky.com or 727-2035.

St. Philip Parish, Melbourne, “Heavenly Hole-in-One,” 5:30–11 p.m., Aug. 21. Food, bar, live music, kids games, poker, raffles, and Heavenly Hole-in-One Golf Ball Drop with a $5,000 grand prize; drop is at 7 p.m., deadline to purchase golf drop tickets is 12 p.m., Aug. 18. Buy tickets online at https://stphilipky.org or e-mail shellbraun@gmail.com.

The Rose Garden Home Mission, Covington, 7th annual golf outing Aug. 27 at Kenton County’s Willows and Pioneer Golf courses. Four-person scramble, with a shotgun start at 9:45 a.m. Dinner and recognition will follow play. Information and RSVP form go on facebook under St. Thomas High School/Grade School, Ft Thomas, KY. Announcements. Contact tom@leedy2@gmail.com.

JOHN MINNERMAN PLUMBING
341-7755

St. Thomas High School Homecoming, Sept. 30, 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 information and RSVP form go on facebook under St. Thomas High School/Grade School, Ft Thomas, KY.

Days of Prayer and Mercy Aug. 31 and Sept. 1, the Holy Spirit Center, Norwood, Mass, rosary, confession — complete schedule of events online at ourladyofight.org.

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P E O P L E  A N D  E V E N T S

People and Events


P E O P L E  A N D  E V E N T S

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St. Timothy Parish, Union, Sept. 17, 6–11 p.m.; Sept. 18, 5:30 p.m.–midnight; Sept. 19, 12:30–6 p.m.
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St. Agnes Parish, Ft. Wright, Oktoberfest, Oct. 1 and 2, 5 p.m.–midnight; Oct. 3, 3–8 p.m.

D or after a 24 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.Jeedy@gmail.com.

St. Thomas High School Homecoming, Sept. 30, 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 information and RSVP form go on facebook under St. Thomas High School/Grade School, Ft Thomas, KY.

Announcements. Contact tom@leedy2@gmail.com or 781-8743. Deadline Sept. 1.

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Healthy roots

(Continued from page 2)

them. No. Listen to them, and then sow something.”
On, as he said at an intergenerational meeting presenting
the book, “Sharing the Wisdom of Time,” in 2018, even
silent witness to one’s faith is enough.
He recalled how his grandmother Rosa wasn’t a big
talker, but her deep faith and example still left a huge
impression on him.
At that meeting an older couple asked the pope what
they should do when, despite all their efforts, their chil-
dren and grandchildren have not embraced their Catholic
faith.
“Faith is shared in dialect,” the pope said, meaning, not
with the standardized words of dogma and the catechism,
but with the language of
love, friendship and
couragement, because
faith does not come just
from content.
He said they did not fail
in their duty; it’s that sometimes life just unfolds that way
with children either unconsciously following current
trends or losing their faith because of “terrible witnesses”
and scandal by Church members.
They must be at peace, he said at that meeting, and they
must never argue or debate with their children or grand-
children about the faith but instead listen, show love,
understanding, patience, be good witnesses and pray.
He said it gives him strength to remember “when
Joseph and Mary took the baby Jesus to the temple where
they met the two grandparents, who were the wisdom of
the people; they praised God because this wisdom was able
to continue with this child. Jesus was received in the tem-
ple not by the priest, but by grandparents.”

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actively participating in St Elizabeth’s Baby Steps Program. This
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Open to the community www.covefcu.com
Don’t miss your opportunity to celebrate and congratulate Bishop Roger J. Foys, D.D. With an ad in the Messenger.
Show your support as he retires, the 10th Bishop of The Diocese of Covington, Kentucky.

Contact
Kim Holocher,
Advertising Manager
(859) 392-1572
kimholocher@福音.org

Ad space reservations closed for August 11, 2023.
Next issue: September 12.

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In the past year, St. Vincent de Paul Northern Kentucky has served over 40,000 neighbors in need because of generous neighbors like you. Help them continue to provide assistance, as our community heals from the past year of hardships, by visiting www.svdpnkky.org

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Hoopty

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FACILITIES MANAGER
Notre Dame Academy (NDA) is searching for a full-time, hands-on Facilities Manager. This position is responsible for the daily facility needs, operations and maintenance of the school and grounds. Duties include managing and performing general maintenance requests, providing supervision and training for employees within the operational area, event setups, scheduling and oversight of contractors, ensuring a safe environment and compliance with building codes and inspections, and serving as a member of the Facilities Committee. The ideal candidate will have prior experience with HVAC systems, fire panels and electrical equipment.

Normal hours are from 7AM to 3:30PM, Monday through Friday. This position requires the physical ability to lift and move equipment and supplies up to 50lbs. Custodial experience is preferred. A high school diploma or GED is required.

Please submit letter of interest, resume, and salary requirements to ndahr@ndapandas.org. EOE

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 e-mail: skoplyay@covdio.org, (859) 392-1500. EOE

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

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 ucwellдонor-screen.org.

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FULL-TIME CUSTOMER SERVICE/ORDER FULFILLMENT POSITION
MILLA International is looking for a full-time motivated, 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 orders. Friendly, casual atmosphere. Quickbooks knowledge preferred but is not required. If interested please send your resume to Renee Murphy at Renee Murphy@millaint.com.

ASSAMBLER
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 email resume or work history to Renee Murphy at Renee.Murphy@millaint.com

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

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

PART-TIME CUSTODIAN
Notre Dame Academy (NDA) is searching for a flexible part-time custodian to assist with facility cleaning, trash removal, event setups, and other routine housekeeping and maintenance tasks. Normal hours are from 3:30PM to 7:30PM, Monday through Friday, with possible additional hours based on weekly work demand. This position requires the physical ability to walk and stand for long periods of time, as well as, the ability to lift and move equipment and supplies up to 50lbs. Custodial experience is preferred. A high school diploma or GED equivalent, background check, valid driver’s license and Virtus training is required.

Please submit letter of interest, resume, and salary requirements to ndahr@ndapandas.org. EOE

The Diocese of Covington invites qualified, actively-practicing Roman Catholic individuals to apply for the part-time (14 hours) position of Archivist. The Diocesan Archives contains instruments and written documents which pertain to the spiritual and temporal affairs of the Diocese, including specifically but not exclusively, non-current files from Diocesan offices, sacramental records, academic transcripts of certain closed schools, certain photographs, and other historical information of Diocesan archival significance.

The Archivist maintains records of acquisitions, labels and houses files, updates inventory, responds to records requests, and performs research when requested by Diocesan or parish personnel. Qualifications include either a degree in history, archive certification, or archive or library information of Diocesan archival significance. The Archivist maintains records of acquisitions, labels and houses files, updates inventory, responds to records requests, and performs research when requested by Diocesan or parish personnel.

Interested candidates may send a letter of interest, resume or C-V with compensation history to Stephen Koplyay, SPHR by e-mail or by fax: skoplyay@covdio.org, 859/392-1589.

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Notre Dame Academy is a Catholic all-girls school in the Diocese of Covington, sponsored by the Sisters of Notre Dame.

Please submit letter of interest, resume, and salary requirements to ndahr@ndapandas.org. EOE
Mental Health & Pregnancy/Adoption Counselor

The Diocese of Covington’s Catholic Charities ministry is seeking to hire a Counselor for our Mental Health and Pregnancy/Adoption Programs. The position is 40 hours per week, including some evening hours. This staff person performs all the duties of a licensed counselor for our general counseling practice serving individuals and families, with a partial emphasis on pregnancy and adoption. Major areas of responsibility include providing assessment, case management, diagnoses, and therapy to children, families, and adults within the outpatient program; and facilitating groups, and providing services to pregnant clients, their partners, and/or their families, including counseling, case management, parenting support, and foster care coordination and supervision. The successful candidate will be an actively practicing Roman Catholic individual with a Master’s degree in Social Work or a related field, and experience with diverse populations of families, couples, children, and adults. We prefer LCSW or LPC/C license, or eligibility within two years. Qualified individuals should submit a letter of interest along with a detailed resume or C.V. including compensation history and at least 3 references with contact e-mail addresses, by email or by fax to Stephen Koplyay, SPHR at skoplyay@covdio.org, fax 859-392-1589.

Controller

The Diocese of Covington’s Catholic Charities office invites well-qualified, practicing Roman Catholic candidates to apply for this full-time job opportunity. The Controller assists the office’s Executive Director in managing Catholic Charities’ finances, including its Parish Kitchen ministry. Under the direction of the Executive Director, the Controller’s primary responsibility is to coordinate and oversee 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 contacts, to Stephen Koplyay, SPHR by e-mail or by fax skoplyay@covdio.org or 859-392-1589.

Celebration for Grandparents

(Continued from page 5)

gratitude, appreciation and hospitality and welcome seniors as meaningful members of the communities in which we live.

It is fitting that attention is called to mind by Pope Francis of his two immediate predecessors who also revered and emphasized the importance of elders in our lives. St. John Paul II asked us to be attentive to the role of the elderly in families because in the wake of disordered and industrial development, both have set aside the elder in unacceptable ways. He shared that the elderly must be appreciated as the continuity of generations and through their charism of bridging the gap.

Pope Benedict XVI published a special prayer on behalf of grandparents and the elderly:

“Lord Jesus, you were born of the Virgin Mary, the daughter of Saints Joachim and Anne. Look with love on grandparents the world over. Protect them! They are a source of enrichment for families, for the Church and for all of society. As they grow older, may they continue to be for their families strong pillars of Gospel faith, guardians of noble domestic ideals, living treasuries of sound religious traditions. May they pass on to future generations the fruits of their mature human and spiritual experience.”

Lord, Jesus, help families and society to value the presence and role of grandparents.

May they never be ignored or excluded, but always encounter respect and love.

Help them to live journey and to feel welcomed in all the years of life which you give them. Mary, Mother of all the living, keep grandparents constantly in your care, accompany them on their earthly pilgrimage, and by your prayers, grant that all families may one day be reunited in our heavenly homeland, where you await all humanity for the great embrace of life without end. Amen!”

Dr. Jack Rudnick, Jr. is a professor at Thomas More University where he teaches leadership and healthcare management. He is a Kentucky-licensed Long Term Care Administrator and contributes research to scholarly journals and websites on the need for respect, vigilance and protection of older persons.
“Black Widow” (Disney) With the Avengers ensemble of superheroes temporarily in disarray, one of its members, from whose moniker the film takes its title, battles a Russian villain bent on world domination. She finds potent allies in the ostensible sister and parents with whom she posed as a family in childhood while the grown-ups worked as sleeper agents in the United States. Large-scale special effects and intrepid derring-do are wedded to themes of clan solidarity, compassion toward adversaries and contribution for past misdeeds in director Cate Shortland’s Marvel Comics-derived action adventure. But the former overshadow the latter, weakening the impact of the morally respectable points screenwriter Eric Pearson seeks to make. Frequent stylized but sometimes harsh violence, a few mild oaths, about a half-dozen uses each of crude and crass language. CNS: A-III; MPAA: PG-13.

“Space Jam: A New Legacy” (Warner Bros.) Strained sequel to the 1996 sports comedy once again blends live action and animation as well as basketball and the Looney Tunes gang of cartoon characters. This time out, LeBron James’ ensemble of a well-meaning, flaw-ridden but heartfelt version of an explicitly anti-clerical and more broadly anti-Catholic bias on the part of the protagonist, couched as a locus of overly-earnest movie as a whole will likely find at least a residue of positive morality. Mature themes, including homosexuality, physical violence, frequent slurs, a same-sex kiss, some rough and crass language. CNS: L; MPAA: R.

Joe Bell” (Roadside) Somber, heavy-handed drama in which, following the suicide of his 15-year-old son, a victim of anti-gay bullying, the grieving father of the title begins a cross-country trek on foot to deal with his loss and warn any group that will have him about the dangers of such persecution. Director Reinaldo Marcus Green and screenwriters Diane Ossana and Larry McMurtry present viewers with a panorama of unresolved tragedy and raw psychological pain. But they avoid romanticizing or glamourizing homosexuality. Instead, they focus on the kind of emotional abuse from which no one should have to suffer. Thus, while mature believers will have to bring careful discernment to bear in assessing the film’s values, they can do so in conformity with the nuanced position that characterizes the treatment of same-sex attraction found in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Despite the brief expression of an explicitly anti-clerical and more broadly anti-Catholic bias on the part of the protagonist, couched as a locus of overly-earnest movie as a whole will likely find at least a residue of positive morality.

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

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


“Escape Room: Tournament of Champions” (Columbia) In this follow-up to the 2019 original, the two survivors of the initial ordeal, in which competitors were forced to use ingenuity to escape alive from a series of potentially deadly chambers, are joined by others who have achieved the same feat, and all are tested again by the seemingly invisible yet vastly powerful corporation that tormented them the first time. As helmed by returning director Adam Robitel, the proceedings mix marginally clever deduction with barely contained hysteria as Will Hemes, Maria Melnik and Daniel Tuck’s script weighs altruism against self-preservation. The addition to the ensemble of a well-meaning, though imprudent, priest may prove mildly interesting to believers in the audience. But the vague sadism of the kickoff is still discernible as the filmmakers rinse and repeat. Much stylized violence, some gory wounds, a few uses of profanity about a half-dozen milder oaths, at least one rough term, pervasive crude language. CNS: A-III; MPAA: PG-13.

National/World
To feed the world, start with family farms, pope says
“Our poorest brothers and sisters, and the earth, our common home that ‘cries out for the damage we inflict on it through irresponsible use and abuse of the goods God has placed in it,’ demand radical change,” the pope said. Family farms and other small farming operations are a place to start. Restarting local economies with a focus on providing adequate food for all the world’s people means governments must involve and listen to small farmers and farming families, Pope Francis said. “Closed and conflicting — but powerful — economic interests have prevented us from designing a food system that responds to the values of the common good, solidarity and the ‘culture of encounter,’” the pope said in a message read July 26 at a preparatory meeting in Rome for the U.N. Food Systems Summit in September. The sector of the local and global economy provides so much of the food people consume, but people living in rural areas and working the land are rarely a priority in political and economic decision making, he said in the message read by Archbishop Paul R. Gallagher, the Vatican foreign minister. In “the post-pandemic ‘restart’ process that is being built,” the pope said, “small farmers and farming families have prevented us from designing a food system that responds to the values of the common good, solidarity and the ‘culture of encounter,’” the pope said in a message read July 26 at a preparatory meeting in Rome for the U.N. Food Systems Summit in September. The rural sector of the local and global economy provides so much of the food people consume, but people living in rural areas and working the land are rarely a priority in political and economic decision making, he said in the message read by Archbishop Paul R. Gallagher, the Vatican foreign minister. In “the post-pandemic ‘restart’ process that is being built,” the pope said, “small farmers and farming families must be considered privileged actors. Their traditional knowledge should not be overlooked or ignored, while their direct participation allows for a better understanding of their priorities and real needs.”

Pro-life groups criticize Catholic university for hosting Biden town hall
CINCINNATI — A few hours before CNN’s evening town hall with President Joe Biden on the campus of a Cincinnati Catholic university, the congregation of women religious that founded the school said the sisters were not involved in planning or hosting the July 21 event. “All decisions about the event are being made” by CNN and Mount St. Joseph University “and do not involve the Sisters of Charity,” the statement said. “CNN is utilizing the Mount’s facility and will make the decisions on attendance at the event, whose questions will be asked of the president, etc.” Objections from Right to Life of Greater Cincinnati and other pro-life groups were mounting ahead of the one-hour evening event on the Catholic campus because Biden, who is Catholic, supports keeping abortion legal. He also has discussed his decades of support for the long-standing Hyde Amendment, which bans federal funding of abortion except when the mother’s life is endangered and in cases of rape and incest. Late July 20 a statement issued by the Cincinnati Archdiocese said Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr had not been contacted by “any involved party” about Biden’s participation, and if it had been up to the archbishop, it said, he would not have allowed Biden to hold a July 21 town hall event at the Catholic university “Archbishop Schnurr has therefore not been asked for, nor would he have granted, his approval for any such event to occur on Catholic premises.” It said, adding that the university “operates under the sponsorship of the Sisters of Charity and not under the direct oversight of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.”

Retired Pope Benedict criticizes Church in Germany, says mission obscured
FREIBURG, Germany — Retired Pope Benedict XVI has criticized representatives of the Catholic Church in his home country, Germany. “As long as only the ministry, but not the heart and the spirit, speak in official Church texts, the exodus from the world of faith will continue,” he wrote in response to questions submitted by the magazine Herder Korrespondenz. The German Church news agency KNA reported his remarks. The monthly magazine Herder Korrespondenz sent questions to retired Pope Benedict to mark the 70th anniversary of his becoming chaplain in a Munich parish 70 years ago. Most of the statements referred to his memories from that time. The 94-year-old has lived largely in seclusion in a former monastery in the Vatican since his resignation in 2013. The retired pope said that in the Church’s hospitals, schools and in the Catholic charity Caritas, “many people are involved in key positions who do not support the inner calling of the Church and thus often obscure the mission of this institution.” This was particularly evident in announcements and public statements, he wrote. KNA reported he said a distinction must be made in the Church between “believers and unbelievers.” The retired pope wrote that “people should be brought out from the cover of their ministry” in the Catholic Church in Germany. He expected a “real personal testimony of faith” from the Church’s spokespeople, he added, without naming names.
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