Laura Keener 
Editor

At all-schools Mass Bishop Foys encourages educators to ‘form disciples in an age of unbelief’

Bishop Roger Foys celebrated the annual all-schools Mass, Aug. 9, for all the teachers and principals ministering in the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Covington. Kendra McGuire, superintendent of Schools, welcomed the administrators and faculty. Pastors and school chaplains concelebrated.

Bishop Foys opened his homily recalling a Back-to-School commercial from the not-too-distant past. In the commercial, parents are literally dancing up and down the aisles of the store picking out school supplies while the popular Christmas song, “It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year” plays in the background.

“For us it is the most wonderful time of the year when those students — whose parents entrust their children to our care — return to learn, to study, to be formed,” he said.

Bishop Foys said that, perhaps now more than ever, the teaching mission and ministry of the Church, to which educators are committed, is both exciting and daunting. Using the theme “Forming Disciples in an Age of Unbelief” from the recent days of reflection for both school and parish religion teachers, Bishop Foys illustrated the urgency of transmitting the faith. The days of reflection were hosted by the Office of Catechesis and Evangelization.

“Forming disciples in an age of unbelief — there is good and bad in that,” he said. “First of all, it’s exciting to form disciples — just like Jesus did — to form them to go out and to preach and teach and to bring others into The Way. The sad thing is that we are doing that in an age of unbelief. People pick and choose what they want to believe and what they don’t want to believe. Popular opinion is what makes faith real now. We live in an age of unbelief, which makes our ministry — your ministry — that much more important. The basic ministry of those in school ministry is to form disciples, to transmit the faith — the real faith, the truths of our faith — and to do it together.”

In the Gospel, Jesus explains to his disciples the parable he had just told them of the Sower and the Seed. (Matt 13:1–23) The farmer goes out and throws seed all over – some seed lands on hard dirt and is eaten by birds, some on rocky ground where it begins to take root but withers and dies and some on fertile soil where it flourishes and bears an abundance of fruit.

“Oftentimes we overlook the sower — the farmer — who scattered the seed with abandon … You see, you are the sower. In the school, you are the sower. You sow the seed of faith and you know that it will be received in different ways. We shouldn’t worry about that — we just need to sow the seed. We might not see the fruits of our labor right away, but it will come — trust me — and it will change this age of unbelief into an age of believing once again,” Bishop Foys assured the teachers.

(Continued on page 3)
Diocesan ministries prepare for the new school year with prayer

Laura Keener  
Editor

The Department of Catholic Schools and the Office of Catechesis and Evangelization had a busy week, Aug. 4-7, preparing for the opening of the 2021-2022 school year.

Bishop Roger Foys commissioned six new principals, Aug. 2. The commissioning and Vespers was held at the St. Paul Oratory, Curia, after Kendra McGuire, superintendent of Catholic Schools, held the first principal’s meeting of the school year.

The next day, Aug. 3, Bishop Foys commissioned over 80 new teachers for the zone Catholic high schools and 30 Catholic elementary schools in the diocese. The commissioning followed a morning of instruction from Mrs. McGuire and various diocesan directors including Julie Fenmauer, director; Safe Environment Office, Dale Holton, chief financial officer. Topics included the whole gamut of police and procedures of the diocese, including how to keep children safe and what to do when you see or hear of something that is concerning, to how to register for benefits and the pension plan.

David Cooley and Isaak A. Isaak, co-directors for the Office of Catechesis and Evangelization, held four separate days of reflection, Aug. 4, 5, 6 and 7, for the diocese’s catechists. Catechists are religion teachers in both the schools and parishes. The training was held at the Sterling Event Center, St. Barbara Parish, Erlanger, and was presented by representatives of the Sophia Institute. The Sophia Institute is a center for learning offering innovative programs focused on personal and societal transformation based on Gospel values — male and female complementarity and social, racial and environmental justice. The theme was “Forming disciples in an age of unbelief.” Each day began with Mass celebrated by Bishop Foys.

Bishop Foys told each group that they have an important task because each are an extension of the teaching ministry of the bishop.

“Remember as you go forward in this school year that every school that exists in our diocese exists primarily — not exclusively but primarily — to transmit the faith,” Bishop Foys said. “We begin a new school year, we are all called to make present the kingdom of God on earth. We are all called to form those students in our care — to form them in the Lord Jesus. You have not just a job but a ministry. You are an extension of the teaching ministry of the bishop — you teach in his name, which is a sacred ministry. Thank you for embracing this ministry.”

Two men accepted as candidates for the priesthood

On behalf of the local Church, Bishop Roger Foys accepted the candidacy of two men, Joshua Heskamp and Justin Schwarz, Aug. 8, at Sunday morning Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington. Both men are seminarians of the Diocese of Covington.

In his homily Bishop Foys described how the priesthood and the Eucharist are mutually exclusive, quoting a theology professor who said, “When the last priest dies, the Eucharist dies with him.”

“Jesus at the Last Supper, trusted this gift to his apostles and to all their successors,” Bishop Foys said about the Eucharist. “This is why vocations to the priesthood are essential to the life of the Church.”

“Today we have two young men who are discerning and who are being called and are aspiring to the priesthood. They will take the first step on that journey. It is called the Rite of Candidacy when they formally become candidates for the priesthood in this local Church — the Diocese of Covington — where they proclaim to their family and friends and to the bishop in the name of the entire Church, that they are serious about their discernment. And where the Church, through the bishop, accepts their proposal — accepts their candidacy. So it’s a special day in the life of these two young men, but also in the life of our local Church. They are the future priests of our diocese and they will tend to the spiritual needs of God’s people. They will, especially, make present Jesus in the Eucharist.”

(above) Bishop Roger Foys commissions six new principals, Aug. 2, (from left) Michael Jacks, St. Catherine of Siena School; Ft. Thomas; Janetta Kathman, St. Cecilia School, Independent; Claire Therese Hensy, Prince of Peace School, Covington; Theresa Guedt, Immaculate Heart of Mary School, Burlington; Kim Huser, St. Thomas School, Ft. Thomas and Chris Holtz, Bishop Brossart High School, Alexandria. (right) At Mass prior to the professional development day for catechists, Aug. 4, Bishop Foys blesses attendees with a relic of St. John Vianney, whose feast was that day.

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Coming up:

Two men accepted as candidates for the priesthood

(above right) After being accepted as candidate, Bishop Foys and Father Jordan Hainsay vest Justin Schwarz in a surplice.
Nine seminarians will be heading back to study and formation for the Diocese of Covington. They are (pictured from left) Bradley Whittle, John Baumann, Joshua Heskamp, Justin Schwarz, Deacon A.J. Gedney, Bishop Roger Foys, Michael Nine seminarians will be heading back to study and formation for the Diocese of Covington. They are (pictured from left) Bradley Whittle, John Baumann, Joshua Heskamp, Justin Schwarz, Deacon A.J. Gedney, Bishop Roger Foys, Michael Nine seminarians will be heading back to study and formation for the Diocese of Covington. They are (pictured from left) Bradley Whittle, John Baumann, Joshua Heskamp, Justin Schwarz, Deacon A.J. Gedney, Bishop Roger Foys, Michael Nine seminarians will be heading back to study and formation for the Diocese of Covington. They are (pictured from left) Bradley Whittle, John Baumann, Joshua Heskamp, Justin Schwarz, Deacon A.J. Gedney, Bishop Roger Foys, Michael Nine seminarians will be heading back to study and formation for the Diocese of Covington. They are (pictured from left) Bradley Whittle, John Baumann, Joshua Heskamp, Justin Schwarz, Deacon A.J. Gedney, Bishop Roger Foys, Michael Nine seminarians will be heading back to study and formation for the Diocese of Covington. They are (pictured from left) Bradley Whittle, John Baumann, Joshua Heskamp, Justin Schwarz, Deacon A.J. Gedney, Bishop Roger Foys, Michael

Bishop Foys’s Schedule

Aug. 13
Thomas More University Board meeting, 2 p.m.

Aug. 14
Mass of the Assumption followed by Cathedral Parish dinner, Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, 4:30 p.m.

Aug. 15
Mass of the Assumption, Cathedral Basilica, 10 a.m.

Blessing of church elevator, St. Mary of the Assumption Church, Alexandria, 1 p.m.

Aug. 16
Consecrated Women Religious Superior’s meeting, 10 a.m.

Aug. 17
Cathedral Charities Governing Board meeting, 10 a.m.

Serra Club luncheon meeting, St. Joseph Parish, Crescent Springs, noon

Aug. 18
Opening School Mass for Covington Latin School, Cathedral Basilica, 8:15 a.m.

Individual meeting, 9:30 a.m.

Covington Latin School Board meeting, 4 p.m.

Aug. 19
Diocesan staff directors meeting, 9:30 a.m.

Holy Hour for victims’ survivors of abuse, sanctification of priests, an end to the pandemic, Cathedral Basilica, 3 p.m.

DPAA recognition event, Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, Covington, 6:30 p.m.

Aug. 20
Office of Catechesis and Evangelization meeting, 9:30 a.m.

All-schools Mass

(Continued from page 1)

“The best way you can teach is by your example and by your witness, that will make a profound mark on your student’s lives. So we sow the seed. Some will take root, some will not. You will see the fruits of your labor maybe sooner or maybe later, but never underestimate your ministry and how you can affect and do effect lives. Not just for the present, but for years and years to come. It’s a wonderful picture of what a teacher does.”

Bishop Foys ended his homily thanking administrators and teachers for their commitment to education last year amid the COVID-19 protocols.

“Last year was … (long pause) Does anyone want to finish that sentence?” Bishop Foys rhetorically asked to laughter. “Last year was challenging for everybody. But you know what? We made it through, and we didn’t just eke out an existence — we thrived — and that is due in large part to your efforts … and by working together. Not being at odds and complaining and protesting and crabbing, but by working together all for the common good.”

Bishop Foys encouraged educators quoting Benedictine Abbateon Boniface Wimmer, “Forward, always forward, everywhere forward! We must not be held back by debts, bad years or by difficulties of the times. Man’s adversity is God’s opportunity.”

“We will get through this year because we have faith,” Bishop Foys ended his homily thanking administrators and teachers for their commitment to education last year amid the COVID-19 protocols.

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Bishop Robert W. McElroy of San Diego had published “The nature and foundations of social life.” He argued that the origin of this nation was premised on the idea that the public consensus in terms of that founds the very conditions for public argument which were citizens and not merely bundles of desires; common good thoughts, the individual exists as “a hard little atom in the midst of atoms equally hard, all solitary and self-enclosed, each a sociological monad. The idea of man, therefore, is that of an individual who is “absolute lord of his own person and possessions, equal to the greatest and subject to nobody” as he says in his Second Essay. In this absolute lordship, equality and independence consists the Lockeans idea of man’s freedom — a freedom, therefore, inalienable, save within the limits of his own free choice. There is only one law of limitation that trumps the sovereign independence of “the bare rulers” (i.e., the rights of the absolute lordship of self-preservation, the preservation of his own life, liberty and property). Since the duty of self-preservation is enjoyed by all other individuals, the limitation to the “natural omnipotence” of each individual is dictated “solely by the equal rights of other individuals.”

Father Murray then, interpreted the “state of nature” as a condition wherein each individual is a sort of little god Almighty whose power “has preserve himself” is checked only by the point where another little god Almighty starts preserving himself. The social contract, which forms society, can be enacted only by the free acts of these “absolute lords.”

Father Murray was alarmed by the erosion of a public philosophy in its inclusive stage on the horizon of civic life in the 1950s and 1960s. At present that the line of erosion has come full circle in cultural and political life over the more than 50 years since his death in 1967.

In effect, a substantive public philosophy continues to be overshadowed tenet by tenet by an encroaching procedural model of democracy. The “cultural wars” of the past few decades witness to the weakening of a broad societal consensus on common moral truths.

On the contemporary scene, for instance, Michael J. Sandel, the author of “Democracy’s Discontent: America in Search of a Public Philosophy” (1982) compares the concepts of liberal freedom and democratic freedom. Liberalism as a philosophy that toasts “the priority of fair procedures over particular ends” (“How Many Lives Does a Law Cost?”) is serving the procedural republic. Men and women are morphed into independent centers of choice for their own values and meaning and government is reduced to being “neutral towards the moral and religious views its citizens espouse.” Hence, the moral project of a procedural democracy revolves around adjudicating “conflicts of interests,” apart from shared ideals and principles. Instead of “basic human goods,” “preferences” or “interests” override a society’s ability to name “a common good.”

In the last 40 or 50 years the original definition of liberalism as a philosophy has been worked out with an understanding that “freedom consists in the capacity of persons to choose their own values and ends.”

The position of this moment is expressed in the title of a recent article by George Weigel. — “Truths Still Held” (“First Things,” May 2010). Father Murray’s thought on the American Proposition from the vantage point of 50 years after the publication of “We Hold These Truths.”

George Weigel, of Washington’s Ethics and Public Policy Center, interprets Father Murray’s view of politics “as deliberation — common deliberation among men and women who are citizens and not merely bundles of desires; common deliberation about public goods, using the arts of reason to arrive at principles of truth in the civic order to the exigencies of governance amid the flux of history.”

Father Murray proposed a “think” theory of democracy, wherein “[tolerance means no differences ignored but differences engaged.”

In defense of a public philosophy, Father John Courtney Murray wryly muses that the Declaration of Independence did not hazard the conjecture that the convergent trend of opinion among us... It made the affirmation: “We hold these truths...” Or in the equivalent form: “This is the public consensus...”

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We Hold These Truths — The public consensus (A substantive democracy) or a procedural republic?)


In “He Hold These Truths,” an article pub-lished later in the journal “America” (February 2005), Bishop McElroy reviewed Father Murray’s historic contributions to the understanding of the role of religion in a pluralistic society.

Father John Courtney Murray (1904-1987) was a theologian on the pontifical faculty of Woodstock College, the legendary Jesuit theologate in Woodstock, Maryland. Over these years at Woodstock his theological research and originality of thought had achieved for him a singular place in American Church history. Along with notable Protestant and Jewish thinkers from the mid-20th century, he is ranked as a “theologian of the American Constitution.”

As a matter of record, Time magazine had recognized Father Murray along with Reinhold Niebuhr as “the pri-mary architects of a renewed concern for religion in American public life at mid-century, a role that recognized the plural-ism and freedom of the United States as a source of moral strength and direction.”

“We Hold These Truths,” Father Murray’s 1960 classic on the public philosophy, still stands as a classic. In his 2006 America, article, Bishop McElroy synthesized five key principles which Father Murray formulated as essential components for the ongoing development of the nature’s cultural and political life. Among those core principles, two in particular focused on topics necessary for securing a public moral consensus in a democratic society.

In the first place the democratic experiment in the United States should be understood by “a moral consensus of substantive and civil dialogue within American society concerning the key issues of the day.”

More specifically, the first component of a substantive democracy understands government as a moral enterprise. Historically, the national ethos in the U.S. has respected the moral and religious views its citizens espouse. The civic culture at mid-20th century was becoming populated by increasing numbers of public thinkers who were questioning the basic truths upon which the nation’s cultural and political life.

In his defense of a public philosophy, Father Murray perceived mounting evidence that the civic culture at mid-20th century was being populated by increasing numbers of public thinkers who were questioning the basic truths upon which the nation’s cultural and political life.

Consequently, the decline of the public consensus poses a threat to the very conditions for public argument which must be based on “some commonly held convictions about the nature and foundations of social life.” In analyzing the origin and authority of public consensus, Father Murray maintained that the concept of public con-sensus ought not to be confused with “majority opinion.” He explained: “The validity of the consensus is radically inde-pendent of its possible status as either majority or minority opinion.”

For Father Murray, the rhetoric of the Declaration of Independence presented a hermeneutical key to an authen-tic understanding of the nature of public consensus.

With his characteristic classical style, he framed the problem of the public consensus in terms of that founds the very conditions for public argument which were citizens and not merely bundles of desires; common good thoughts, the individual exists as “a hard little atom in the midst of atoms equally hard, all solitary and self-enclosed, each a sociological monad. The idea of man, therefore, is that of an individual who is “absolute lord of his own person and possessions, equal to the greatest and subject to nobody” as he says in his Second Essay. In this absolute lordship, equality and independence consists the Lockeans idea of man’s freedom — a freedom, therefore, inalienable, save within the limits of his own free choice. There is only one law of limitation that trumps the sovereign independence of “the bare rulers” (i.e., the rights of the absolute lordship of self-preservation, the preservation of his own life, liberty and property). Since the duty of self-preservation is enjoyed by all other individuals, the limitation to the “natural omnipotence” of each individual is dictated “solely by the equal rights of other individuals.”

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Hence, the moral project of a procedural democracy revolves around adjudicating “conflicts of interests,” apart from shared ideals and principles. Instead of “basic human goods,” “preferences” or “interests” override a society’s ability to name “a common good.”

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Solemnity of the Assumption

The readings for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary are: Revelations 11:19c-12:1a, 10b; 1 Corinthians 15:20-27; and Luke 1:39-56.

Let us begin our meditation on this great feast of The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary by praying the Collect (the opening prayer of the Mass) for the Vigil Mass of the feast:

“O God, who, looking on the lowliness of the Blessed Virgin Mary, raised her to this glory; that your Only Begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to be transformed through your family, but this time, only through your family, not as his wife. (Matt 1:18-20)"

Father Stephen Bankampker

GO AND GLORIFY

Solemnity of the Assumption

October 13, 2021

CRCAW Thanks to the pandemic, it’s been two years since I was last in Cracow, where for three decades I’ve done extensive research and taught great students who are now forming friendships with many remarkable people. It was wonderful to be back in one of the world’s greatest cities, and soon after I arrived in late June, I took a long walk to see what had changed.

The first major difference I noticed was that the plaza in front of the central railway station (named for my late friend Jan Nowak-Jesuska, a World War II courier for the Polish Home Army and the man from whom the future John Paul II got real news via Radio Free Europe’s Polish service) has a new, strikingly modern memorial, dedicated to the memory of Colonel Ryszard Kukli ski.

That name is not well-known throughout a western world that has largely forgotten the suffering and losses of the Cold War. But if Jan Nowak- Jesuska was right when he spoke about the Polish colonel in the mid-1990s, Ryszard Kuklinski began to doubt the truth of what he had been told about the West when, as a member of an international commission, he met American military men in Vietnam in the mid-1960s. His doubts about communism and its purposes intensified by orders of magnitude in 1968, when the brutal Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia ground the Prague Spring to dust under the treads of Soviet tanks, and in 1970, when the Polish army shot Polish workers during a strike. Prick to some of the Warsaw Pact’s most confidential strategic plans, he became convinced that, if the Cold War turned hot and the east bloc attacked the West, the Soviets would sacrifice Poland as retaliatory western nuclear missiles strike the second wave of Warsaw Pact troops pushing west. So, in 1972, Kukli ski, risking his life and his family’s safety, offered his services to the United States.

Salvation came into the world through a family. Mary became pregnant by the Holy Spirit before she was married. When St. Joseph discovered what had happened, the two of them almost separated — but God intervened, telling St. Joseph to not be afraid to take Mary as his wife. (Matt 1:18-20) Why did God do this? I believe he kept them together because he wanted to enter the world through a family. In a way, he still wants to enter the world through a family this time too, through your family. Every single one of us is called to encounter Christ, to be transformed by him, and to aid him in his work to restore all things. For most of us that will be accomplished in and through our everyday life as a family.

If you are married the primary way God is calling you to cooperate with him in the salvation of the world is through your relationship with your spouse and through your family life. Many of us are troubled by the state of the world and the culture. Many of us want to do something about the direction our country is headed. If you and I could simply marry, and we could not marry, and how we could not marry, and the culture. Many of us are troubled by the state of the world and the culture. Many of us want to do something about the direction our country is headed.

Moral courage and the many cultures of death

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Our good intention — our desire to change the world for the better — often leads us straight into a trap, all too often set by the evil one. Worried by large scale problems, we become distracted from or even despaired of the “little” role we have been called to play.

We spent all of our time watching the national news, scrawling through social media, arguing with people we barely know, inventing grandiose plans in our mind for how the world would better if everyone just did this or that.

In the meantime we become distracted from the primary work we could socially accomplish by bettering ourselves and loving those closest to us. The situation can seem so big, so daunting, so big-scale, that we think playing our small role is useless.

It is not. Priests and religious all across the world are required, as part of their daily prayer, to pray the Magnificat, the beautiful, earth shattering words of Mary: “My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant; he has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has surrounded the mighty from their thrones and lifted up the lowly.”

God saves the world through “small” people doing “small things” faithfully every day. For hat’s the name of the game — taking the “ordinary” and doing extraordinary things with it.

So let the devil not distract you from the so-called “small” role you have to play. None of us are small. God is using all of us to transform the world in himself.

(Continued on page 13)

Moral courage and the many cultures of death

CRCAW Thanks to the pandemic, it’s been two years since I was last in Cracow, where for three decades I’ve done extensive research and taught great students who are now forming friendships with many remarkable people. It was wonderful to be back in one of the world’s greatest cities, and soon after I arrived in late June, I took a long walk to see what had changed.

The first major difference I noticed was that the plaza in front of the central railway station (named for my late friend Jan Nowak- Jesuska, a World War II courier for the Polish Home Army and the man from whom the future John Paul II got real news via Radio Free Europe’s Polish service) has a new, strikingly modern memorial, dedicated to the memory of Colonel Ryszard Kukli ski.

That name is not well-known throughout a western world that has largely forgotten the suffering and losses of the Cold War. But if Jan Nowak- Jesuska was right when he spoke about the Polish colonel in the mid-1990s, Ryszard Kuklinski began to doubt the truth of what he had been told about the West when, as a member of an international commission, he met American military men in Vietnam in the mid-1960s. His doubts about communism and its purposes intensified by orders of magnitude in 1968, when the brutal Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia ground the Prague Spring to dust under the treads of Soviet tanks, and in 1970, when the Polish army shot Polish workers during a strike. Prick to some of the Warsaw Pact’s most confidential strategic plans, he became convinced that, if the Cold War turned hot and the east bloc attacked the West, the Soviets would sacrifice Poland as retaliatory western nuclear missiles strike the second wave of Warsaw Pact troops pushing west. So, in 1972, Kukli ski, risking his life and his family’s safety, offered his services to the United States.

Salvation came into the world through a family. Mary became pregnant by the Holy Spirit before she was married. When St. Joseph discovered what had happened, the two of them almost separated — but God intervened, telling St. Joseph to not be afraid to take Mary as his wife. (Matt 1:18-20) Why did God do this? I believe he kept them together because he wanted to enter the world through a family. In a way, he still wants to enter the world through a family this time too, through your family. Every single one of us is called to encounter Christ, to be transformed by him, and to aid him in his work to restore all things. For most of us that will be accomplished in and through our everyday life as a family.

If you are married the primary way God is calling you to cooperate with him in the salvation of the world is through your relationship with your spouse and through your family life. Many of us are troubled by the state of the world and the culture. Many of us want to do something about the direction our country is headed.

Our good intention — our desire to change the world for the better — often leads us straight into a trap, all too often set by the evil one. Worried by large scale problems, we become distracted from or even despaired of the “little” role we have been called to play.

We spent all of our time watching the national news, scrawling through social media, arguing with people we barely know, inventing grandiose plans in our mind for how the world would better if everyone just did this or that.

In the meantime we become distracted from the primary work we could socially accomplish by bettering ourselves and loving those closest to us. The situation can seem so big, so daunting, so big-scale, that we think playing our small role is useless.

It is not. Priests and religious all across the world are required, as part of their daily prayer, to pray the Magnificat, the beautiful, earth shattering words of Mary: “My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant; he has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has surrounded the mighty from their thrones and lifted up the lowly.”

God saves the world through “small” people doing “small things” faithfully every day. For hat’s the name of the game — taking the “ordinary” and doing extraordinary things with it.

So let the devil not distract you from the so-called “small” role you have to play. None of us are small. God is using all of us to transform the world in himself.

(Continued on page 13)
SUMMIT21 retreat

David Cooley
Messenger Contributor

For 15 years young people in the Diocese of Covington have been able to discover or rediscover their zeal for the Catholic faith at an annual three-day retreat centered on the Eucharist. As the diocese enters a new era, this retreat, formerly called YOUTH 2000, is being rebranded and will be known this year as SUMMIT21. While there will be some differences, one thing will certainly remain the same — participants can expect a unique opportunity to encounter Jesus Christ in a powerful way in the Eucharist.

SUMMIT21 will be held this year Oct. 8-10 at Notre Dame Academy. The diocesan-wide retreat will include daily Mass, the rosary, confession, Eucharistic adoration and dynamic catechesis presented by the Franciscan Friars and Sisters of the Renewal and diocesan clergy and lay adults. There will also be live music, lay testimonials as well as great food, snacks and social time.

The event runs on Friday, 6:30-10:30 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m.-10 p.m.; and Sunday 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. On Saturday participants can ask questions to a select panel of clergy and laity. The panelists come well prepared to explain Church teaching on matters large and small — especially on tough issues of faith and morals — with clarity, charity and wit.

Young people growing up in today’s world have a lot to deal with. If you are someone like me, who grew up without the internet, social media, cell phones, on-demand programming, a 24-hour news cycle and a culture hostile to traditional values, it’s hard for us to imagine.

All of this has certainly taken its toll on all of us, but especially our youth. Studies show that, by all accounts, the mental health of youth in the United States (and globally) is worsening. The modern world, with its secular, materialistic landscape is not offering people much in the way of meaning, direction and purpose. Ours is a world of broken dreams, disorder and division. There is not much out there that one can hold onto consistently. More than anything else there is a great hunger for community, beauty and truth.

It is important for all people to be able to center themselves and stay grounded in what really matters. As Catholics, we know that we can only find peace if our lives are centered on Jesus Christ. We find purpose and meaning only when we make of ourselves in service to the Church and to others.

Why SUMMIT21? A summit is the highest point of a hill or mountain, the highest peak you can reach. Providence is not offering people much in a materialistic landscape is worsening. The modern world, with its secular, materialistic landscape is not offering people much in the way of meaning, direction and purpose. Ours is a world of broken dreams, disorder and division. There is not much out there that one can hold onto consistently. More than anything else there is a great hunger for community, beauty and truth.

It is important for all people to be able to center themselves and stay grounded in what really matters. As Catholics, we know that we can only find peace if our lives are centered on Jesus Christ. We find purpose and meaning only when we make of ourselves in service to the Church and to others.
Executive order makes last-minute adjustments to return to school requirements
Laura Keener
Editor

On the evening before some schools were to return to the classroom in the Diocese of Covington, Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear issued an executive order, Aug. 10, affecting all public and private schools, preschools and daycares. Gov. Beshear made the announcement during his 4 p.m. press conference.

The order mandates the use of masks “for all individuals — all teachers, staff, students, and visitors … when indoors … including but not limited to inside of vehicles used for transportation such as school buses, regardless of vaccination status.” The mandate includes “all children age 2 and older who are able to wear a face covering.” The order took effect at 4 p.m., Aug. 10 and is in effect for 30 days.

In a letter to parents, distributed via a late evening e-mail to principals, Kendra McGuire, superintendent of Schools, said “Since this is an executive order, it does change our return to school plans. Therefore, beginning tomorrow, August 11th, all students (ages 2 and up), staff, and visitors will be required to wear masks inside school buildings.”

In this year’s diocesan COVID-19 Return to School requirements, mask wearing was encouraged and supported but not mandated for Catholic schools. Like last year, case activity in the schools is to be reported to the diocese and changes to the protocols — including mask wearing — are going to be made on a targeted, data-driven, school-by-school basis. Mrs. McGuire apologized for the short notice given to families on the change — especially those preparing for their first day of school the next day — thanking parents in advance “for your patience and flexibility with these changes.”

“Once we have more time to review the order, we will update our return to school protocols to reflect these changes,” she said. “As we return to school for the 2021-2022 school year, we will need your continued prayers for our staff and students and all those who continue to be impacted by this pandemic.”

As soon as updated protocols are available they will be distributed to pastors, principals and parents and posted to the diocesan website, www.covdio.org.
VATICAN CITY — The true Gospel has been revealed by Jesus Christ, not by individuals or founders of movements, Pope Francis said during his weekly general audience.

“With the truth of the Gospel, one cannot negotiate. Either you receive the Gospel as it is, as it was announced,” or one embraces something else, he said Aug. 4 to those gathered in the Paul VI audience hall at the Vatican.

“One cannot compromise. Faith in Jesus is not a bargaining chip; it is salvation, it is encounter, it is redemption. It cannot be sold off cheaply,” said the pope, as he led his first general audience since his colon surgery July 4 and after the usual suspension of general audiences for the month of July.

Continuing with a new catechesis series reflecting on St. Paul’s Letter to the Galatians, Pope Francis focused on the apostle’s insistence that the faithful be loyal to the Gospel Jesus preached and not be swayed by new missionaries who “wish to pervert the Gospel of Christ.”

St. Paul understands the need to keep the young community safe from that which threatens its foundations, that is, a new “gospel,” which is “perhaps more sophisticated, more intellectual,” but which distorted “the true Gospel because it prevents (people) from attaining the freedom acquired by arriving at faith,” the pope said, emphasizing the key here was “freedom.”

The true proclamation is “that of the death and resurrection of Jesus as the source of salvation,” he said.

“Whoever accepts it is reconciled to God, is welcomed as a true son or daughter and receives the inheritance of eternal life.”

Instead, some of the Galatians seemed to be veering off onto another path: listening to new missionaries who think “that by circumcision they will be even more devoted to the will of God and thus be even more pleasing to Paul,” the pope said. They seem to be “inspired by fidelity to the tradition received from the fathers and believe that genuine faith consists in observing the law.”

St. Paul, therefore, seems unorthodox with regard to tradition, but he knows “that his mission is of a divine nature — it was revealed by Christ himself, to him” as something that is radically and always new, the pope said.

In this complicated situation, he said, “it is necessary to disentangle oneself in order to grasp the supreme truth that is most consistent with the person and preaching of Jesus and his revelation of the father’s love.”

“This is important: knowing how to discern,” he said. “Many times we have seen in history, and we also see it today, some movements that preach the Gospel in their own way, sometimes with their own real charisms; but then they exaggerate and reduce the entire Gospel to the ‘movement.’

“When that happens, it becomes a gospel of the founder and not of Christ, he said.

“It may help at the beginning, but in the end, it does not bear fruit with deep roots. For this reason, Paul’s clear and decisive word was salutary for the Galatians and is salutary for us too,” he said.

The pope said the true Gospel is “Christ’s gift to us; he himself revealed it to us. It is what gives us life.”
Senate bill covers many needs, but must not allow abortion funding

Julie Asher  
Catholic News Service  
WASHINGTON — The $1.2 trillion infrastructure bill passed by the Senate makes “historic investments” in transportation, climate change mitigation, job creation, expanded internet access and other areas, but several issues still need attention, said the U.S. bishops’ domestic policy committee chairman.

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City said the Catholic bishops “continue to be resolute in our insistence that no taxpayer funding go to abortion.”

The bishops also disagree with a provision in the bill that “would advance a false understanding of gender and sexuality,” he said, referring to a section that establishes grants to widen access to broadband.

“An individual in the United States may, on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, or disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity that is funded in whole or in part with funds made available to carry out this [program],” Archbishop Coakley said.

In the last week of July, the U.S. House passed about a dozen appropriations bills without the long-standing Hyde Amendment and other pro-life riders outlawing federal tax dollars from directly funding abortion except in cases of rape, incest or when the life of the woman would be endangered.

The U.S. bishops and several national pro-life organizations criticized this move and urged senators to include the pro-life language in the measures before them.

Regarding the broadband grant provision in the Senate’s infrastructure bill, the wording to which Archbishop Coakley referred says:

“An individual in the United States may, on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, or disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity that is funded in whole or in part with funds made available to carry out this (program),”

Archbishop Coakley said the bishops noted the provision “with disappointment,” and added: “We affirm that Catholic institutions must be free to serve everyone with respect and dignity in accordance with our beliefs.”

The April 22 letter Archbishop Coakley referenced was sent by him and four other USCCB committee chairmen to all members of the Senate and the House. In it the U.S. bishops offered “a moral framework and points of emphasis for your consideration”:

— Create jobs for the poor and marginalized.
— Ensure safe, “decent” and affordable housing, and strengthen families.
— Cultivate integral ecology.
— “Welcome, protect, promote and integrate migrants and refugees.”
— Respect the rights and dignity of every human life in health care.
— Preserve religious liberty.
— Expand broadband internet access.
— Manage tax revenues and public spending in service of “development and solidarity.”

The April 22 letter was signed by Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, religious liberty; Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann, pro-life activities; Bishop Michael F. Burbidge, communications, and Auxiliary Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville, migration.

“We are grateful for the bipartisan efforts of members of the Senate to pass the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act,” Archbishop Coakley said. “As the bishops wrote to all members of Congress in April, we are especially interested in how the package affects those on the margins of society and protects God’s creation.”

“It is critical that any proposal to expand health care coverage avoid an expansion of taxpayer funding of abortion,” he said.

The 2,702-page bill provides spending over a five-year period for roads and bridges, rail, transit, ports, airports, electric grid, water systems, broadband and other priorities. It includes $550 billion in new spending.

The bill now moves to the U.S. House of Representatives. Members plan to end their summer break early and return to Washington Aug. 23 to consider it.
Happy Birthday to Father Ross Kelsh, pastor, St. Thomas Parish, Ft. Thomas, August 11; Father Phillip DeVou, pastor, St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Flemingburg and St. Rose of Lima Parish, May 31, Licking, August 13; Father Michael Greer, pastor, St. John Parish and St. Ann Mission, Covington, August 18; Father Benton Cliff, Jr., pastor, St. William Parish, Williamsport and St. John Mission, Dividing Ridge, August 22; Msgr. William Cleves, pastor, Holy Spirit Parish, Newport, August 24; Father Jordan Hainsesy, administrative assistant to the Bishop, master of ceremonies, assistant to the chancellor, rector, Oratory of St. Paul (Cura), August 29; and Father Maurice de Lange, retired, August 29.

St. Joseph Parish, Crescent Springs, Aug. 13–14, 6 p.m.–midnight
St. Mary Parish, Alexandria, Aug. 13–14
St. Therese Parish, Southgate, Aug. 13, 6–10 p.m. adult night; Aug. 14, 6–11 p.m., family night
St. Bernard Parish, Dayton, Aug. 20, 6–11 p.m.; Aug. 21, 5–11 p.m.
St. Joseph Academy, Walton, Pigfest, 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. Patrick Parish, Taylor Mill, will host its annual Our Lady of Knock Novena, Aug. 14–22. Aug. 14 and 15, novena prayers after homily during regular Masses; with guests the Ancient Order of Ladies Hibernian and the Hamilton County Ancient Order of Hibernian Color Guard. Aug. 16, 17, 18, and 19, 7:30 a.m. Thursday vigil prayers, Aug. 16 (Wed.), 7 p.m.; Aug. 17, 8 a.m.; Aug. 21 and 22, novena prayers after homily during regular Masses. Special intention for the family “Spirit and Grace Encounter: ... make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge...” (2 Peter 1:5). Father Damian Hils will speak on how the gifts of the Holy Spirit enhance the virtues, that result in blessings and rewards, Tuesday, Aug. 17; Blessed Sacrament.

Knights elect officer
The newly elected officers for the Bishop Flaget Assembly Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus in Northern Kentucky. They will serve for the Fraternal Year July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. (from left) Ducon Bill Thies, Carl Henry Dohm, Keith Cahill The Faithful Navigator, Dustin Reed, Norb Feldhues, Joe Feuser, Tim Lenihan Don McMurray and Don Rebione.

St. Henry statue blessing
On the Feast St. Henry, July 13, Father Gregory Bach blessed the St. Henry statue that was placed near school earlier this spring. Despite a few rains drops, many were on hand for this historic occasion. The St. Henry statue reveals the 11th century German king and Holy Roman Emperor donning imperial robes. A scapular at his shoulders signifies his vows as an Uncle in the Benedictine Order under the tutelage of St. Wolfgang of Regensburg. St. Henry’s left hand rests on a sword, symbolizing his prudence and justice in governing, while his right hand cradles a small church (modeled after St. Henry in Elmsen), symbolizing his dedication to the Church and his work for peace and reform throughout his rule.
St. Anne Retreat Center, Women’s Retreat, Sept. 10–12, “The Art of Being Joyful,” with retreat leaders Msgr. William Cleves and Deacon Dave Pruffit. What can we do to bring the joy of Jesus into our lives so that the things of the world do not negatively impact our lives? Doors open: Friday at 6 p.m.; retreat begins Friday, 5:30 p.m. dinner and concludes Sunday following 11 a.m. Mass. Cost: $175 which includes 2 nights of lodging and all meals. Registration deadline: Aug. 27. Online registration: www.stannereventcenter.org. Contact: Cindy 441-3934 or e-mail csmith@covdio.org.

150th anniversary celebration of the dedication of Mother of God Church. Covington, also celebrating Father Michael Muter’s 40th jubilee and Deacon Tom Dushney’s 40th jubilee, Sunday, Sept. 12, 1 p.m., Summit Hills Country Club Buffet lunch. Reservations required. Cost: adults $25; children (2 and under) $10. Call 409-9705.

St. Vincent de Paul Northern Kentucky is seeking volunteers for its Erlanger Food Pantry and Call Center. Volunteers must be comfortable entering information on a computer as well as communicating with neighbors in need in person and over the phone. If interested in either volunteer opportunity contact mark.kradle@svdpky.org or 426-2629.

VMA student and alum are ‘Serving Up Smiles’
(right) Villa Madonna Academy rising junior Joey Case had the vision to create a weekly, summer enrichment program he calls “Serving Up Smiles” to teach the game of tennis to children in the community. He reached out to the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Cincinnati and offered to start the program as part of their ‘FIT FOR LIFE’ campaign to combat childhood obesity and encourage physical activity. He arranged for the donation of equipment, scheduled the courts through the Kenton County Parks Dept, and worked with the Boys & Girls Club to market the program. Unfortunately, after months of planning and coordination, the program was cancelled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, Joey stayed in touch with the Boys and Girls Club and this summer was able to see his vision come to life. He and fellow Villa Viking tennis player Paetyn Ashcraft, ‘22, launched the Serving Up Smiles program. They taught nine very enthusiastic children how to play tennis.

Sts. Peter & Paul Church
HICKORY GROVE PICNIC GROUNDS
2780 Wagoner Rd., California KY 41007
Saturday, August 28, 2021
Take Route 9 (AA Highway), 10 miles Past Route 27, from Alexandria to California Crossroads, Turn Right and follow the signs

$4,000 Major Raffle
GAMES — SOCIAL — ARTS & CRAFTS LIVE COUNTRY MUSIC
No Alcoholic Beverages Served To Minors

Moving? Wrong address? Call the circulation desk, (859) 392-1570
DIOCESAN ARCHIVIST
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 assignments. The qualified candidate will be a practicing Roman Catholic and will be comfortable with volunteer coordinator to find volunteers. 

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

FOOD PANTRY COORDINATOR
St. Vincent de Paul NKY is hiring a part-time Food Pantry Coordinator for our Erlanger location. The responsibilities of this position are to: 
- Take the lead during food pantry distribution hours on Tuesday’s and Thursday’s.
- Stock and organize shelves.
- Maintain inventory in the pantry, tracking via an Excel based record keeping system.
- Order, coordinate, and accept delivery of food from various sources.
- Manage food rescue opportunities and pick up of food donations.
- Establish volunteer needs for pantry and work with volunteer coordinator to find volunteers to assist.

Interested candidates can apply online at https://www.svdpnky.org/employment-opportunities/

NOVENA TO THE BLESSED MOTHER O, most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, Fruit of the Vine, splendorous of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this my necessity. O, Star of the Sea, help me and show herein you are my mother. O, Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succour me in my necessity. There are none that can withstand your power, O, show me here you are my mother, O, Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee. Sweet Mother, I place this cause in your hands. Amen. M.L.

Missed an edition of the Messenger? Current and back issues of the Messenger are available online at covdio.org/messenger.
Mary to play, and because of her obedience and cooperation in God’s plan, she merited the privilege we celebrate today. I believe that Mary is hoping that she will one day to be exalted by you on high. “We may merit, as Mary did by her cooperation and obedience, to be exalted by you on high.”

I pray for us.

Father Stephen Bankemper is pastor, St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Ft. Thomas, Ky.
As the new school year begins, volunteers are asked to check the status of their VIRTUS account. VIRTUS is the program approved by Bishop Roger Foys to educate employees and volunteers on how to create an environment that is safe for children. August is an open month for VIRTUS allowing anyone who has fallen behind on completing the monthly bulletin an opportunity to catch up, have their account reinstated and begin the school year with a clean slate.

Go to www.virtus.org and click on the “Training” tab. There you will find a listing of all the completed and incomplete bulletins.

If you are new to the Diocese of Covington — welcome! To work or minister in the Diocese of Covington every employee and volunteer must first meet with their principal, administrator, coach or program coordinator to review the safe environment policies and procedures, complete the necessary paperwork and receive instructions on opening a VIRTUS account. Once training and a background check have been completed new certified volunteers will be ready for whatever the school year needs — just remember to complete the monthly bulletin.

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

Step 1: Contact parish/school institution leader to review the program and procedures and fill out the Application and Acceptance Form.

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

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

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

Bulletin:
- Aug. bulletin: posted Sunday, Aug. 1; due Tuesday, Aug. 31.

If your Virtus account is suspended or inactivated please contact your primary location for assistance.

To login: www.virtus.org, enter user id and password.

In-Person VIRTUS Training:
- Wednesday, Aug. 18, St. Henry Parish, Elsmere, Aryns Parish Center, 6-9:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Sept. 21, St. Barbara, Erlanger, Sterling Event Center, 6:30-10 p.m.

Virtual Play Like a Champion Training
- Elementary Coaches
  - Monday, Aug. 16, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Virtual Training:
- Go to www.virtus.org
- Enter id and password
- Click on Live Training on left column
- Click on pre-register for an upcoming session
- Choose your training

How to access Virtual training:
- View www.virtus.org
- Enter id and password
- Click on Live Training on left column
- Click on pre-register for an upcoming session
- Choose your training

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

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Ruling blocking HHS ‘transgender mandate’ called ‘victory for conscience’

WASHINGTON — A U.S. District Court judge this August ruled to block the Biden administration’s mandate that doctors and hospitals perform gender-transition procedures despite their own moral or medical objections as “a victory for common sense, conscience and sound medicine.” That is the view of Luke Goodrich, vice president and senior counsel at the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, based in Washington. He is the lead counsel for the plaintiffs in the case. “Today’s ruling protects patients, aligns with current medical research, and ensures doctors aren’t forced to violate their religious beliefs and medical judgment,” he said about the ruling in Franciscan Alliance v. Becerra. Franciscan Alliance, based in Mishawaka, Indiana, is a Catholic health care system now known as Franciscan Health that operates hospitals serving Indiana and one hospital in Illinois and employs over 10,000 full- and part-time employees. The defendant is Secretary Xavier Becerra of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. On Aug. 9, Judge Reed O’Connor of the District Court for the Northern District of Texas in Waco granted the HHS’s motion — in its current form as prescribed by the Biden administration — to dismiss the case. It requires doctors to perform gender-transition procedures in children and adults or be held liable for discrimination.

Anderson: Like worship, Christian witness is essential to religious liberty

WASHINGTON — A top concern for Carl Anderson, the now-retired CEO of the Knights of Columbus, is preserving religious freedom in this country. “It’s not so much about arguments over separation of Church and state but the values the faith brings to our culture — the necessity of Christian witness,” he told Catholic News Service. “We have to understand why free exercise of religion exercise is so important to America’s constitutional and cultural heritage.” Anderson, currently president of the Knights of Columbus, is preserving religious freedom in this country. “We have to understand why free exercise of religion exercise is so important to America’s constitutional framework,” he said: “It is after all the first right in the Bill of Rights, and we cannot afford to lose it.”

Bishops’ migration committee chair objects to ‘fast-track’ deportations

NEW YORK — Even as some figures show arrivals at the border are breaking records, a New York-based immigration think tank has raised objections to a July 26 announcement that the Biden administration will begin “expedited removal” proceedings, or fast-tracking deportations, of some immigrant families who entered the U.S. illegally and do not qualify for asylum. In an Aug. 7 statement, Washington Auxiliary Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Migration, called on the Biden administration to “reverse course” on the fast-track removals and land-use other recent measures being used to stem immigration. “Let us work together as a nation to welcome, protect, promote and integrate migrants according to their God-given dignity,” he said.

Migration center’s report shows ‘U.S. undocumented population is shrinking’

WASHINGTON — The world watched in shock in April 2019 as flames devoured Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. Eventually, burned roof sections collapsed in the Gothic landmark that was finally completed in 1345 after nearly 200 years of construction. A little more than two years after the disaster, in the shadow of a landmark Catholic shrine in the nation’s capital, teams of architects, carpenters, artisans and students — joined by one cardinal — slowly and gently pulled on rope lines to raise a painstakingly crafted roof truss that may help guide rebuilding of Paris cathedral.

Team crafts roof truss that could help guide rebuilding of Paris cathedral

WASHINGTON — The world watched in shock in April 2019 as flames devoured Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. Eventually, burned roof sections collapsed in the Gothic landmark that was finally completed in 1345 after nearly 200 years of construction. A little more than two years after the disaster, in the shadow of a landmark Catholic shrine in the nation’s capital, teams of architects, carpenters, artisans and students — joined by one cardinal — slowly and gently pulled on rope lines to raise a painstakingly crafted roof truss that may help guide the builders who will replace Notre Dame’s roof. The event Aug. 3 on the grassy mart of The Catholic University of America, with the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception as a backdrop, was part of a collaboration to research, model and build a historically accurate full-scale version of Truss No. 6 from Notre Dame. The project was modeled after a similar effort by the organization Charpentiers sans Frontières, or Carpenters Without Borders, which built a version of Truss No. 1 in 2010 to demonstrate that the traditional methods of carpentry are possible today as the cathedral is rebuilt. Twenty-five primary trusses support the main section of the cathedral’s roof.

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.svdpnk.org
SHDHS Future Problem Solvers excel internationally, receive day of their own locally

Messenger staff report

St. Henry District High School (SHDHS) won second place, Aug. 2, at the annual Future Problem Solving Program International’s (FPSPI) Global Issues Problem Solving (GIPS) competition that was held virtually June 10. The Crusaders competed against schools from all over the world including the United States, Australia, Turkey, Singapore, Hong Kong and New Zealand.

GIPS is the highest level of competition for Future Problem Solving (FPS) teams that advanced from all of the FPS affiliate competitions throughout the year. The competitions involve four students working together over a two-hour period to analyze, investigate and apply research to solving a given scenario and to use futuristic and critical thinking, creative writing and teamwork skills. To have the opportunity to compete at this highest level in problem solving, the students had to advance beyond the District, Regional, and State levels of the KAAC Governor’s Cup competition. To keep advancing the Crusaders studied and prepared for a future scene centered around the topics of Wearable Technology, Human Environmental Impact, and Personalized Medicine, respectively. The GIPS team writers for St. Henry are James Carroll, Griffin Gould, Gracie Greber, and Sydney Hennessey. Alternates for the GIPS team include Harry Barsan, Carson Gould, and Sean Ihrig. The FPS coach is Melinda Gould, assisted by Michael Fay. We are very proud of these exceptional students and the hard work that they put in this year to represent their school and the state of Kentucky on the world stage.

In recognition of this accomplishment, on Aug. 3, City of Erlanger Mayor Jessica Fette issued a proclamation that August 4, 2021 be designated St. Henry Future Problem Solvers Day.

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