Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary offers solace and hope that where she has gone, faithful will follow

Laura Keener  
Editor

The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Aug. 15, is a significant day in the Diocese of Covington; for it is the patronal feast of the diocese’s Mother Church, the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption. Bishop Roger Foisy shares Mary’s colors — blue, white and gold — and carried a crozier bearing her image at the vigil Mass celebrating the solemnity.

The Solemnity of the Assumption celebrates that the Blessed Mother was assumed body and soul into heaven. The dogma declaring the feast is relatively new, Bishop Foisy said as he began his homily, declared Nov. 1, 1950 by Pope Pius XII. But the tradition has long been held in the Church by the faithful and was even mentioned at the First Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D.

“When you think about it and you put this feast day into context, it makes sense,” Bishop Foisy said. “The Blessed Virgin Mary was the only person born into the world, apart from Jesus, with no sin because she was to be the bearer of the Savior of the world … And, it makes sense that because of that this vessel that would carry the Lord Jesus, would not suffer the corruption of the body which is the result of sin. So that vessel was taken up to heaven whole, in its entirety and intact.”

The feast day also brings comfort and hope to believers, Bishop Foisy said. “Certainly it means that we have an intercessor for us at the throne of God,” Bishop Foisy said, acknowledging that Mary is our mother and that mothers love their children and will do anything for them.

“And secondly, it gives us something to look forward to,” Bishop Foisy said. “That one day — at the resurrection of the dead; the resurrection of the body — we will be where the Blessed Mother is now — our body and soul will be reunited and we will be with her and we will experience what she has already experienced — the victory of her Son over death and over the grave. That should be a consolation for us.”

“So this is a wonderful feast day for the Universal Church and especially for us here at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption. On this day, we ask our Mother Mary especially in these difficult times and difficult days, to intercede for us with her Son.”

St. Mary Parish blesses new elevator — a concrete expression of community, unity and faith

Laura Keener  
Editor

St. Mary Parish, Alexandria, celebrated, Aug. 15, its patronal feast day, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the culmination of Project 1 of its Cultivating Legacy campaign, with the blessing of its new elevator by Bishop Roger Foisy.

“It’s the Feast of the Assumption — what a wonderful day to do this,” said Bishop Foisy about the elevator blessing.

Project 1 included the addition of an elevator connecting the church and the undercroft and completed the addition of a parking lot. The project, which has been in the works since 2017, was delayed due to COVID-19 shutdowns and other challenges, but was completed under its $800k budget. The elevator is especially needed so that more parishioners, including those with mobility limitations, can have ready access to and share in parish events and celebrations typically held in the undercroft.

In his remarks, Bishop Foisy noted that often parishioners don’t realize the need for assistance apparatus, like elevators, because they don’t “see” the need. When, often, those who are in need of assistance are not visibly present because the assistance is not available.

“My congratulations to all of you, especially Father Joe (Gallenstein) and Father Ed (Brodack) and your leaders here at the parish for what you are doing. Certainly this is literally a concrete expression of your faith … it’s important that we make provisions for everyone.”

Father Gallenstein, pastor, thanked Bishop Foisy for his encouragement.

(Continued on page 2)
agement and support for the project. He also thanked Don
Knochelmann, diocesan director Buildings and Properties and
Adam Komey, SHP architects, for moving the project forward
and keeping “noses to the grindstone” when COVID-19 chal-
lenges threatened to stall the project.
He thanked the Cultivating Legacy Future Needs
Committee, especially Brett Roachman Marty Schadler and
Karen Zengel, “their love and their commitment to our parish
is very evident to me and they are a wonderful example to us
all. I am personally very grateful for their optimism and their
enthusiasm in leading the capital campaign.”
“I thank all who supported this part of our efforts. I am
deeply grateful,” said Father Gallenstein. “We will be looking
for your generosity and sacrifice in the not-too-distant future
as we move into Project 2 of our Cultivating Legacy
Campaign.”
Project 2 is set to include construction of a new four-class-
room building, a new gymnasium/gathering space and the
renovation of the current gym into three classrooms and
expansion of the school cafeteria. The cost is projected to be
$1.5 million. The Cultivating Legacy Committee is discussing
“reimagining” Project 2 to only include its most pressing need
— the construction of the new four-classroom building. The
other projects would be postponed until funds are available.
“Congratulations to all of you and to your depth of faith,”
Bishop Foys said. “It’s faith that makes all these improvements
possible. These improvements are an expression of that faith.
God bless you all.”
Bishop Foys blessed those present with a relic of the house
of Mary. Following the blessing, Bishop Foys participated in
the ceremonial ribbon cutting and joined Father Gallenstein
and Deacon Timothy Britt for the ceremonial first elevator
ride.

(Serrans thank Bishop Foys)
Bishop Roger Foys was the guest
speaker, Aug. 17, at the business
luncheon of the Serra Club for
Vocations of Northern Kentucky.
Every other year Bishop Foys
addresses the Serra Club
providing what has been
commonly known as a “state of
the diocese address.” At
Tuesday’s meeting, Bishop Foys
shared with club members
current statistical data and the
growth of the diocese over the
last 19 years of his episcopacy.
The Serrans customarily present
their luncheon speaker with a
gift — a Bishop Foys bobblehead.
Instead, the Serrans presented
Bishop Foys with newly created
bobbleheads of vicar generals
Father Ryan Maher and Father
Daniel Schomaker, as a way of
congratulating and thanking
him for his many years of
administrative and spiritual
leadership of the Diocese of
Covington.

(Continued from page 1)

(above left) In appreciation for their years of dedicated service to the parish bingo, the Ruth and Charlie Schalk family enjoy one of the ceremonial first rides.

(above right) A parishioner prays during the blessing.

(above left) Bishop Foys blesses attendres of the elevator blessing with a relic of the house of Mary.

(above right) With Bishop Foys during the blessing are (from left) Father Jordan Hainsey, assistant to the bishop; Karen Zengel, parishioner; St. Mary Parish and Father Joseph Gallenstein, pastor; St. Mary Parish.

(right) Bishop Foys sprinkles the elevator with holy water.

(below, from left) Deacon Timothy Britt, Father Gallenstein, Father Hainsey and Bishop Foys take a ceremonial first ride on the newly blessed elevator.

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Vaccination is an act of love, pope says in global ad campaign

Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — When each individual makes a small act of charity, like getting the COVID-19 vaccine, every gesture added together can transform the world, Pope Francis said in a global ad campaign.

“Being vaccinated with vaccines authorized by the competent authorities is an act of love. And contributing to ensure the majority of people are vaccinated is an act of love — love for oneself, love for one’s family and friends, love for all people,” he said in a public service announcement released Aug. 18 in Rome.

The video message was part of a global effort by the U.S.-based nonpartisan, nonprofit Ad Council and the COVID Collaborative’s “It’s Up To You” campaign to increase people’s confidence in COVID-19 vaccines by working with at least one dose in the United States.

But COVID-19 cases are on the rise worldwide, especially in North, Central and South America. Some nations are still showing very low rates of individuals who are fully vaccinated, such as Honduras with only 5.5% of the adult population and El Salvador with 30%.

While access to vaccines is a challenge, “confidence in the vaccines also presents a hurdle,” the news release said.

In his message, the pope said, “Thanks to God and to the work of many, we now have vaccines to protect us from COVID-19. They grant us the hope of ending the pandemic, but only if they are available to all and if we work together.”

Getting inoculated “is an act of love” for oneself, family, friends and all people, he said.

“Love is also social and political” as these individual “small gestures of personal charity” add up, “overflowing into something universal that is ‘capable of transforming and improving societies,’” he said.

“Vaccination is a simple but profound way of promoting the common good and caring for each other, especially the most vulnerable,” the pope said.

“I pray to God that everyone may contribute their own small grain of sand, their own small gesture of love; no matter how small, love is always great. Contribute with these small gestures for a better future. God bless you, and thank you,” he said.

Also offering messages encouraging vaccination were: Cardinal Carlos Aguiar Retes of Mexico; Cardinal Oscar Rodríguez Maradiaga of Tegucigalpa, Honduras; Cardinal Cláudio Hummes, retired archbishop of São Paulo; Cardinal Gregorio Rosa Chávez, auxiliary bishop of San Salvador; El Salvador; and Archbishop Miguel Cabrejos Vidarte of Trujillo, Peru.

The campaign encouraged people to go to GetVaccinatedAnswers.org and DebDepende.org for more information and answers to questions about the COVID-19 vaccines.

Women religious thank Bishop Foy for years of support

At the quarterly meeting with religious superiors, (right) Divine Providence Sister Fran Moore, vicar for religious, presented Bishop Roger Foy with a gift donation to the Parish Kitchen in recognition of his 19 years as Bishop of Covington and support of women religious. The religious superiors are: (above left) Benedictine Sister Aileen Bankemper, St. Walburg Monastery; Villa Hills; Passionist Sisters Marie Michelle Mudd and Mother Margaret Mary Fields, Passionist Monastery; Erlanger; Bishop Foy; Father Daniel Schomaker, vicar general; Sister Frank Moore; Notre Dame Sister Shauna Bankemper, St. Joseph Heights, Covington; and Mother Mary Christina Murray, Sisters of St. Joseph the Worker, Walton.

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The richness of the Eucharist

What is the Eucharist? What is supposed to happen when we gather to celebrate the ritual that Jesus gave us at the Last Supper and ask us to perpetuate until his return? Is this meant to be a family meal or a reenactment of Jesus’ sacrificial death? It is meant to look like the old Latin Mass or like it looks in most churches today?

There are no simple answers to these questions because there is no one theology (to the exclusion of all others) of the Eucharist, even in the New Testament. Rather there are various theologies of the Eucharist, complementary to be sure, but each emphasizing different aspects of a reality that is too rich to capture in a single concept. What is the Eucharist?

In essence, the Eucharist is a reality with these interpenetrating dimensions.

— The Eucharist is God’s physical embrace of us. Without the Eucharist, as Andre Dubus asserts, God becomes a monologue. The Eucharist is where God touches us physically. It is the place where God is still being on physical flesh.

— The Eucharist is a meal we share together. The Last Supper was a meal, a time of human fellowship, a celebration at table. So too for the Eucharist, it is many things, but it is also a table for a family to gather around, where joy can be shared and where it is safe to break down in sorrow.

— The Eucharist is an intensification of our union with each other inside the Body of Christ. As disciples of Jesus, we too constitute the Body of Christ. At a Eucharist, not just the bread and wine are meant to be changed into the body and blood of Christ, so too we, the people. That is why St. Augustine, when giving out communion, would sometimes say “receive what you are.”

— The Eucharist is a sacrifice. It is a making memori(al) (Zikkaron) of the saving event of Jesus’ death. In short, it is the Christian Passover supper. The Eucharistic prayer does not just ask God to change the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ; it also asks God to make the saving event of Jesus’ death available for us to participate within today.

— The Eucharist is the new manna. Just as God fed his people in the desert with manna each day, so now daily God feeds his people with bread from heaven. (This motif is particularly strong in John’s Gospel.)

— The Eucharist is a vigil act. Jesus told us to celebrate the Eucharist so as to wait for his return. We celebrate Eucharist as a vigil. As Gerhard Lohfink puts it: “The early apostolic communities cannot be understood outside of the matrix of intense expectation. They were communities imminently awaiting Christ’s return. They gathered in the Eucharist, among other reasons, to foster and sustain this awareness, namely that they were living in wait, waiting for Christ’s return.” At the Eucharist, we meet with each other in vigil to stay awake for Jesus’ return.

— The Eucharist is a washing of each other’s feet. The Gospel of John does not mention bread and wine at the Last Supper; instead, where the other Evangelists and St. Paul highlight Jesus changing the bread and wine into his body and blood, John substitutes a basin and towel for the bread and wine. Why? Among other reasons, to teach that this kind of humble action towards each other, washing each other’s feet, is one of the major meanings of the Eucharist.

— The Eucharist is a prayer for the world, making Christ’s flesh food for the life of the world. It is a prayer for God’s help for the whole world. Akin to a “Quaker Silence,” it brings the helpfulness of the world to God and asks God to do for it what it cannot do for itself — bring about peace and justice.

— The Eucharist is a sacrament of reconciliation and forgiveness. We go to Eucharist to have our sins forgiven, to be as sinners at table with Jesus.

— Finally the Eucharist is the ultimate religious ritual through which we sustain ourselves in faith, discipleship, and community. We gather for Eucharist in order to stay alive. A Eucharist gathering is analogous to an Alcoholics’ Anonymous meeting. We gather because without this regular ritual gathering, our faith, disciple- ship, and community would eventually fall apart. In the words of Ronald Knox, the Eucharist is our “one great act of fidelity” to Jesus. Truth be told, we are not ever really faithful to the Gospel; we don’t love our enemies and don’t turn the other cheek, but we are faithful in one major way: we keep the Eucharist going — and that single act is going to save us.

Obihele B. Ron Rolheiser is a theologian, teacher, and award-winning author.

When the cover of a Catholic magazine hits home

Each month, when considering the subject of our cover page, we try to select something that is meaningful and applicable to the lives of our readers. Some covers come closer to the target than others, but this month is about as spot on as any that I can recall.

With few exceptions, most of us have grown up with one or more grandparents in our lives. We likewise knew elderly people from our parishes, neighborhoods and workplaces. If we are so blessed, we have become or will become elderly ourselves. And so, the decision of Pope Francis to establish World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly and to call us all to look with fresh eyes on the state of older persons is universally relevant to each of our lives, no matter where we are in our journeys.

For me and my family, the Holy Father’s words about grandparents hit particularly close to home. You see, we recently gathered with my mom at her assisted living residence to celebrate her 97th birthday.

Mom died surrounded by family members July 1, but she had just come through a very difficult year or so, much of it spent with that same loneliness and sense of isolation that Pope Francis mentions in announcing this year’s special designation.

Mom’s senior apartment building did not allow visits during the COVID-19 shutdown, and she dismissed multiple invitations from several of her children to go live with them.

Though her ability to live on her own was declining, she held tightly to her independent apartment and strenuously rejected attempts to move her to an assisted living facility. That is, until she had one too many falls that required rehab and the assessment from caregivers that she could no longer live alone.

For her children, her grandchildren and her sisters, the past 15 months have been very challenging. Attempts to secure appropriate care and obtain complete and correct information from health care providers have had to be frustrated and ignored. It seemed that few among those who were responsible for mom’s health and safety actually seemed to care about her and her needs.

Perhaps most jarring throughout this experience is the wonderment of “what if?” We considered the sobering questions: “What if we weren’t here to answer all these phone calls and try to advocate on her behalf?” What happens to those seniors who have no one to do this for them?

The answers can be quite chilling.

The first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly July 25 could not have come at a more critical time. Too many grandparents are being left behind because they can’t hang up with their family’s busy lives and school schedules; too many of the elderly are suffering from the isolation they endured through COVID-19 and now battle depression; too many older persons do not feel that their thoughts and suggestions are well-received and worthwhile — because we are not showing them that they are.

It is my most profound hope that our readers will learn about and support this new effort spearheaded by the pope. It is my wish that we, in the Catholic community, can set a powerful example of how we value those who possess the “gift of age.”

And it is my heartfelt prayer that every family cherishes each moment with their elders, for we never know how or when they will slip away from us.

Rayanne Bennett is associate publisher of The Monitor, the weekly magazine of the Diocese of Trenton, New Jersey. Her editorial has been published by Catholic News Service. The views or positions presented in this or any guest editorial are those of the individual publication and do not necessarily represent the views of Catholic News Service or of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.
of married persons is a mutual grace of total subordination to Christ for the sake of one’s eternal sanctification.

“Because we are members of His body,” this grace is lived out in particular acts of self-denial and self-sacrifice, just as Christ has done for the Church. In the holy Eucharist — wherein Christ hands himself over to sanctify the Church — he subordinates himself to us and hands over to us his divine life. He beckons us to be subordinate to his will and hands over to us his divine life. He beckons us to be subordinate to his will and hands over to us his divine life.

It is difficult for contemporary Christians, influenced by the ambient culture of selfishness, loneliness, and practical atheism, with its paradoxical idolatry, to think about the virtues required of Christ-like living. These virtues are a radical humility and obedience that always beckons us to specific acts of self-sacrifice and even total self-denial. Yet, as we meditate on the Holy Gospels, contemplate the life of Christ, and simply gaze at the crucifix that hangs on my room, I do not see any way around these exacting virtues in my area. If we want to “taste and see the goodness of God” in my room, I do not see any way around these exacting virtues in my area. If we want to “taste and see the goodness of God” or “be quiet and live to fight another day?” If you mention the courage of a pastor, like Dietrich Bonhoeffer, or the fact that Mother Teresa picked up the sick and suffering and death. As I meditate on the parable of the treasure buried in the field, I could not help dwelling on a specific detail — the treasure was hidden, perhaps even discarded. I think this also applies to the elderly who all too often find themselves relegated to the margins of our frenetic lives. In his homily on the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, Pope Francis asked, “When was the last time we visited or telephoned an elderly person in order to show our closeness and to benefit from what they have to offer us?”

He continued, “I worry when I see a society full of people in constant motion too caught up in their own affairs to have time for a glance, a greeting or a hug. I worry about a society where individuals are simply part of a nameless crowd, where we can no longer look up and recognize one another. Our grandparents, who nourished our own lives, now hunger for our attention and our love; they long for our closeness. Let us lift up our eyes and see them, even as Jesus sees us.”

Referring to the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000, the Gospel reading for that day, Pepe Francis compared the elderly to the leftovers of food. “No person is ever to be discarded,” he said. “Grandparents and the elderly are not leftovers from life, scraps to be discarded. They are precious pieces of bread left on the table of life that can still nourish us with a fragrance that we have lost.”

Our elders “protected us as we grew, and now it is up to us to protect their lives, to alleviate their difficulties, to attend to their needs and to ensure that they are helped in daily life,” the pope said. “Let us protect them, so that nothing of their lives and dreams may be lost... Let us covenant with them. Let us learn to approach them, listen to them and never discount them. Let us cherish them and spend time with them. We will be better for it.”

Recent demographic projections indicate that by 2050 roughly 11 million Americans will be over the age of 76, and we will be facing a shortage of care providers in the number of geriatric-trained caregivers. Surveys cite two reasons why so few young physicians choose to work with older adults — geriatrics is one of the least lucrative specialties in medicine and it is also one of the least glamorous.

The same survey that produced these findings did, however, show one positive finding. Among 42 medical specialties, geriatrics reported the greatest level of job satisfaction. So, if you want to make a difference in the world, if you want to do something truly counter-cultural and if you want to find something —cherish the elderly. May they be for you, as they have been for me, a pearl of great price.

Sister Constance Wel is director of communications for the Little Sisters of the Poor.

It’s back!

We all have painful memories of the Covid-19 pandemic from last year: loved ones who died or suffered the effects of the virus, social isolation, lost jobs, masks, no physical attendance at Mass and no reception of the Eucharist.

Up until recently the pandemic seemed under control and life was returning to normal. I and many of my parishioners were relieved when, after the lead role, the pastor lead us back to a “normal” liturgy. We don’t want to go back! But now, with the increase of the Delta variant infections, we’re asked to slip back to pandemic restrictions. We all see the news reporting the data.

Deaths and hospitalizations of vaccine-hesitant almost daily due to the Delta variant. And now Governor Andy Beshear has mandated that all students wear masks when school starts.

Current vaccines offer good protection against the virus, including the Delta variant. The data also show that almost all new severe infections are in the unvaccinated. Every day we see more institutions mandating the vaccine for employees. There is strong resistance, but mandatory vaccines aren’t new. For example, members of the military are required to receive up to 17 different vaccines depending on where they will be deployed, and now will be required to receive a COVID vaccination. And health care workers are mandated to receive the vaccine every year. Even our children are required to receive vaccinations before starting school.

Now, leadership teams at our local hospital system in our area have made it mandatory for their employees to be vaccinated. These men and women are in charge of the same hospitals that we trust with our lives when we are seriously ill or in need of surgery, and they see the importance of the vaccine. It’s hard to argue against them. I believe that most of us trust their knowledge and expertise.

The Holy Father has said that it is in the interest of charity and the common good to receive the vaccine. In a report in the National Catholic Reporter on January 11 he said, “I believe that morally everyone must take the vaccine... It is the moral choice because it is about your life but also the lives of others.”

Defeating this virus has become a pro-life issue. As disciples of Christ we have a moral responsibility to do everything we can to defeat this virus to prevent needless suffering and death.

Deacon Michael Keller is assigned to St. John Evangelist Parish, Carrollton, and Transfiguration Mission, Perry Park.
Arguments against contraception — PART II: SOCIOLOGICAL

Caitlin Dwyer
Contributor

In Part I of this series, we questioned the assumption that contraceptives constitute best practice in medical care by looking at associated health risks like cancer, stroke and potential irreversible damage to the brain. Today we will look at contraception from a sociological viewpoint to determine whether it is the essential key to women’s personal fulfillment and the benefit to society that it is often made out to be, by looking at its effect on relationships, sexually transmitted infections and children’s welfare.

It is no secret that women value relationships and many women desire fulfilling relationships with men. When effective contraceptives became widely accessible in the 1960s, many people assumed that this would improve romantic relationships, particularly for women, by allowing more sexual fulfillment without the burden of pregnancy. In reality, contraception can inhibit relationship success by attracting, increasing the likelihood of divorce and fueling the hookup culture.

Research suggests that pheromones may play a foundational role to relationship satisfaction. Pheromones are odors that we subconsciously detect. They play a role in human attraction and help us choose compatible mates. Women tend to be attracted to men who are genetically different from them and pheromones help to identify that difference. Research shows that hormonal contraceptives can affect a woman’s pheromone perception, which could make her attracted to men she would not normally be attracted to. Over time, some couples can experience less frequent intercourse and greater infertility. The consequent stress on their relationships may help explain why women using the birth control pill suffer a 20 percent higher rate of violent death compared to women who do not take the pill (Lancet Quarterly 2018). It may also help explain why the advent of accessible contraceptives coincided with a marked rise in divorce rates.

Social scientist Robert Michael discusses an additional three reasons that contraception contributes to an increase in divorce:

— First, women have used it to delay children in favor of pursuing education and career, making them less financially dependent on their spouses. Education and professional success are of course goods in themselves (and not normally be attracted to). Over time, some couples can experience less frequent intercourse and greater infertility. The consequent stress on their relationships may help explain why women using the birth control pill suffer a 20 percent higher rate of violent death compared to women who do not take the pill (Lancet Quarterly 2018). It may also help explain why the advent of accessible contraceptives coincided with a marked rise in divorce rates.

Social scientist Robert Michael discusses an additional three reasons that contraception contributes to an increase in divorce:

— First, women have used it to delay children in favor of pursuing education and career, making them less financially dependent on their spouses. Education and professional success are of course goods in themselves (and not normally be attracted to). Over time, some couples can experience less frequent intercourse and greater infertility. The consequent stress on their relationships may help explain why women using the birth control pill suffer a 20 percent higher rate of violent death compared to women who do not take the pill (Lancet Quarterly 2018). It may also help explain why the advent of accessible contraceptives coincided with a marked rise in divorce rates.

— Second, delayed childbearing in itself can make couples less likely to work through marital conflict. Children provide a strong incentive for couples to overcome marital strife. Without them, couples are more likely to part ways.

— Third, by weakening the deterrent of possible pregnancy, contraception has led to an increase in adultery.

Contraceptives also sabotage relationships by encouraging a hookup culture. Hookups are uncommitted sexual encounters between two people who are not romantically involved. Our culture portrays such encounters as fun, fulfilling and without strings attached, a false image made possible by the lower chance of pregnancy afforded by contraceptives. However, by design, sex bonds two people together through release of the hormone oxytocin, and research shows that women in particular have a hard time avoiding emotional attachment with sex and can experience regret, anxiety and depression related to casual sex (Napper et al., 2016).

Additionally, the hookup culture has led to the expectation of sex in relationships, whether or not a person truly wants to be sexually active. Many women end up agreeing to have sex even though they do not really want to. A 2012 study reported that approximately 50 percent of women have had at least one experience of unwanted consensual sex (American Psychological Association). Sexual assault is also on the rise undoubtedly in part because contraception has enabled a culture that encourages men to look at women in terms of their sexual value and to expect sex without consequences. These trends can be emotionally devastating to women.

Casual sex also comes at a high physical cost to women in the realm of sexually transmitted infections (STIs). If used perfectly, condoms provide some protection against STIs that spread through exchange of bodily fluids, but they do much less to prevent the transmission of diseases that are spread through skin-to-skin contact like HPV, herpes and syphilis. Studies show that hormonal contraceptives may actually increase a woman’s chances of HIV infection. This may explain why there are approximately 68 million existing STIs in the United States (including about 26 million new infections in 2018) despite widespread access to contraceptives. Women often bear the brunt of these infections, suffering side effects ranging from cancer to heart disease to infertility. In addition to this personal price, STIs constitute a burden on society as a whole. 2018’s infections alone imposed $15.85 billion in lifetime costs to the US healthcare system (CDC).

This is not the only cost to society that contraception imposes; it also has a detrimental impact on the wellbeing of children. Helen Alvare makes this case in a compelling fashion in her book “Putting Children’s Interests First in U.S. Family Law and Policy: With Power Comes Responsibility” (Cambridge University Press, 2017). Alvare argues that contraception brought with it a new worldview that separates sex, marriage and babies. This has led to a significant increase in nonmarital births despite high government spending on contraceptives (approximately $2 billion per year).

This is problematic for children because the data on the subject conclusively show that children conceived outside of marriage are more likely to suffer from poverty in addition to other educational, economic, cognitive, emotional and relational disadvantages as compared to children with married parents. These gaps exist despite much of the nearly $500 billion in government spending on children each year going to kids in single-parent households.

All this goes to show that contraception does not represent the boon to women and society that it is often made out to be. In fact, the widespread use of contraceptives comes at a seemingly devastating cost.

Next time we will look at theological arguments against contraception, in the final segment of this series.

Prof. Caitlin Shaughnessy Dwyer is an assistant professor of Theology, Thomas More University. She and her family are members of St. Pius X Parish, Edgewood.

For more information about the Pro-Life Office or to be added to our e-mail newspapers, visit our online at www.covdio.org/prolife/ or call (859) 392-1500.
Look to Christ to receive new life, pope says at audience

Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — What made Christian life radically new was the call for those who have faith in Jesus Christ to live in the Holy Spirit, who liberates from the law God handed down to Moses, Pope Francis said during his weekly general audience.

Mosaic law was necessary and important to follow at that time in history, but it served as a path to follow toward an eventual encounter with Christ and his commandment of love, he said Aug. 11 to those gathered in the Paul VI audience hall at the Vatican.

The pope continued with his series of talks reflecting on St. Paul’s Letter to the Galatians, focusing on the apostle answering the question, “Why then, the law” if, after all, “there is the Holy Spirit and if there is Jesus who redeems us?”

“The law is a journey” and it acts like a teacher that takes people by the hand, leading them forward, toward an encounter with Jesus and having faith in Christ, he said.

God gave Moses the law to prepare his people on this journey during a time of rampant idolatry and to help his people guide their behavior in a way that showed and expressed their faith and covenant with God, he said.

However, he said, the law was not the covenant; the covenant came first with Abraham, hundreds of years before Moses, the pope said. The covenant was based not on the observance of the law, but on faith in the fulfillment of God’s promises, he said.

St. Paul needed to clarify the role of the law to the Galatians because there were “fundamentalist missionaries” among them who seemed almost “nostalgic” about observing Mosaic law, believing that adhering to the covenant also included observing the Mosaic law, he said.

The apostle explains that, “in reality, the covenant and the law are not linked indissolubly,” the pope said. “The first element he relies on is that the covenant established by God with Abraham was based on faith in the fulfillment of the promise and not on the observance of the law that did not yet exist.”

“Having said this, one should not think, however, that St. Paul was opposed to the Mosaic law” because he does defend its divine origin and says it has “a well-defined role in the history of salvation,” the pope said.

“The law, however, does not give life, it does not offer the fulfillment of (God’s) promise, because it is not capable of being able to fulfill it. Those who seek life need to look to the promise and to its fulfillment in Christ,” he said.

This was the problem — when people put more importance on observing the law than with encountering Christ, he said.

This passage of St. Paul to the Galatians “presents the radical newness of the Christian life: All those who have faith in Jesus Christ are called to live in the Holy Spirit, who liberates from the law and, at the same time, brings it to fulfillment according to the commandment of love,” he said.

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The law is a path and “may the Lord help people walk along the path of the Ten Commandments, however, by looking at Christ’s love, the encounter with Christ, knowing that this encounter with Jesus is more important than all the commandments,” he said.
Northern Kentucky University Newman Club opening school Mass and “grill & chill,” Aug. 26. Opening address begins 6:30 p.m. with Mass at 7 p.m., St. Joseph Church, Cold Spring. Grill and chill, 8 p.m. at the Newman House. This is held every Thursday throughout the school year. NKU Newman Club members look forward to meeting incoming students — bring friends. For information e-mail finkep1@mymail.nku.edu.

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 program will follow play. Information and registration online at RoseGardenMissionGolf.com or call 491-7671.

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

Newport Central Catholic High School 27th annual Family Fireworks Fest, Sept. 5, to watch the Western & Southern/WEBN Labor Day Fireworks. Food, drinks, music. Doors open at 5 p.m. and will continue until the Big Blast. (Sorry, no cans, bottles or coolers will be permitted.) Admission $5, purchase at https://gofan.co/app/events/346073. VIP Classroom passes available for $10 and are on sale at https://gofan.co/app/events/346072. Limited parking.

Food, drinks, raffles, silent auctions, split the pots, games, and music. Doors open at 7 p.m., ends midnight. Tickets $40. Contact allison.leezy2@gmail.com.

St. Thomas High School Homecoming, Sept. 25, for anyone who attended for at least one year between 1949 and 1976 plus a guest. Former teachers and one guest are also invited to attend. Cost $80 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@aborg@gmail.com or 783-8743. Deadline Sept. 1.

St. Anne Retreat Center, Women’s Retreat, Sept. 10-12. “The Art of Being Joyful,” with retreat leaders Msgr. William Cleves and Deacon Dave Profit. 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 4 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.stanneretractcenter.org. Contact: Cindy 441-2001 ext 301 or e-mail csmith@covdio.org.

150th anniversary celebration of the dedication of Mother of God Church, Covington, also celebrating Father Michael Conner’s 40th jubilee and Deacon Tom Dushney’s 40th jubilee, Sunday, Sept. 12, 1 p.m., Summit Hills Country Club. Buffet luncheon. Reservations required. Cost: adults $25; children (12 and under) $10. Call 491-0730.

Retrouvaille is a lifeline for marriages that offers a welcoming and loving space to couples who have been living with difficulties in their marriage. Retrouvaille offers hope: that it is not too late, the hope of a different and better marriage and helps couples to listen, to forgive, to be reconciled, and to move into a better future believing that God loves them and with His help and their efforts, their marriage can be healed. For more information, call (513) 456-6413, or register at helpoumparriage.org. The next program is Sept. 10-12.

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.brady@svdpnky.org or 426-2649.

Summer Festivals

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

St. Joseph Academy, Walton, Pigfest, Aug. 27-28, 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.

Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Aug. 28

St. Cecilia Parish, Independence, Labor Day Festival, Sept. 4, 4-8 p.m. Sept. 5, 4-8 p.m.; 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.

Cristo Rey Parish, Florence, Sept. 11, 3 p.m.-midnight;

Holy Cross High School, Latonia, Sept. 17, 5 p.m.-midnight;

Sept. 18, 5:30 p.m.-midnight;

St. Timothy Parish, Union, Sept. 17, 6-11 p.m.;

Sept. 18, 5:30 p.m.-midnight;

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.
August 2021

My dear Friends,

Praised be Jesus Christ!
Now and forever! Amen!

Although it hardly seems possible, the summer is waning and we are once again preparing for the start of another school year. Each year at this time we look forward with great anticipation to another year of learning and growing in our faith, in knowledge and wisdom.

The past year was certainly full of challenges but with the grace of God and the cooperation of students and parents, faculty and administrators all working together and for one purpose — the good of those in our care — we not only survived but were able to thrive. We look forward to another year with hope and trust and faith.

I am grateful for all those who make our Catholic school system in our Diocese of Covington the shining star that it is in the educational firmament. My gratitude to parents whose faith leads you to entrust your children to our care; to students, for the excitement and enthusiasm for learning you bring to the classroom; to our school administrators, faculty and staff whose devotion to education and to the faith enables you to face each day with determination and joy; to our diocesan office of education under the more than able leadership of our superintendent Mrs. Kendra McGuire who takes seriously the exhortation to teach as Jesus did and who supports each of our schools in their ministry; and certainly to all our benefactors whose generosity enables us to provide the best there is in education so that we may transmit the faith — the primary purpose of any school that calls itself Catholic.

This is also an exciting year as we welcome a new shepherd in the person of Most Rev. Bishop-elect John C. Iffert as the 11th Bishop of the Diocese of Covington. The bishop is the chief catechist, the chief teacher in the diocese. I am confident that you will welcome him with the same warmth with which I was welcomed 19 years ago. Pray for Bishop-elect Iffert as he prepares for his consecration and installation as our shepherd.

As we begin this 2021–2022 school year, I pray that it will be another banner year, a year in which we all grow closer to the Lord and to each other. Remember: there are alternatives to a Catholic school education, but there are no substitutes!

Be assured of my prayers. Please, pray for me.

Yours devotedly in the Lord,

+ Roger Foy
Apostolic Administrator of Covington
Welcome back to another school year in service to God’s call

Isaak A. Isaak
Messenger Contributor

To all catechists, teachers, families, parish catechetical leaders, and faith building groups — welcome back to the beginning of another school year!

Last year was certainly difficult, but we have no doubt that our youth and adults have continued to learn the faith using technology at home and in the church because of your commitment and fidelity. It has been a year of learning and growing here at the Office of Catechesis and Evangelization, too. Over the summer, we learned how to virtually host our Catholic Courses for Adults to provide teachers and catechists the opportunity to continue their studies.

We continue to look forward to collaborating with you and supporting you as you once again engage in the ministry of our holy Mother Church.

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has declared a “Year of the Family” that began on March 19, 2021. This is an opportunity for every Catholic family member to turn towards Jesus Christ to encounter him in the sacraments, especially in the sacraments of penance and the holy Eucharist. We are all invited and encouraged to participate and reflect on Scripture passages, especially those words that came out of the divine mouth of Jesus, so that we deepen our relationship with him.

Our Holy Father and our bishops call on all of us to learn our Catholic faith — as communities and individuals — to revive the faith that comes from the living Christ, the hope inspired by the breath of the Holy Spirit and the love flowing from the merciful heart of the heavenly Father.

My advice to parents in this “Year of the Family” and the beginning of a new school year is that you make Jesus the center of your family life — have family time, meal and prayer time together around Jesus. If families and communities develop a real relationship and friendship with Jesus, they will also develop a true relationship with his Father and his Spirit. Jesus is the only key to all of this. Jesus himself told us that he is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and no one can come to the Father except through him (John 14:6). We witness the faith around your children; ask them questions about the faith and be prepared for the questions they might ask.

As adults, we need to seek answers to help ourselves and others. As a parent, you must accept that you are the primary purveyor of the faith. Being knowledgeable of the faith is extremely important.

My message to catechists and teachers in this Year of the Family and the new school year is to make Jesus the center of your classrooms — have prayer time together with your students around Jesus.

The strength of religious education programs comes not so much from textbooks, but primarily from the witness of the catechist or teacher as they share their relationships with Jesus with his students. The teacher or catechist participates in the responsibility of the faith community to instruct others in the faith. To do this well, he or she must take the time to learn more about the faith.

Good will alone does not ensure the success of a catechist or teacher. Catechists, teachers and volunteers need ongoing faith formation. Adequate preparation and formation are indispensable for everyone teaching the faith. It is necessary to acquire the skills to communicate the Gospel message effectively along with being open to a growth in knowledge of Catholic doctrine, relational skills, and teaching methods while remaining current on Church and social issues. Those who serve as catechists and teachers carry out, in the name of the Church, the systematic, intentional catechetical efforts to enable people to grow in faith. Our diocese is truly blessed to have their services.

This year we entrust our teachers and catechists to the loving care of the Holy Spirit to:

— Open their hearts and minds to his movements;
— Lead them to the daily reception of the holy Eucharist and experience Jesus in it;
— Enable them to teach the faith to others; and
— Enable them to be missionary disciples in their own parishes and schools.

The Office of Catechesis and Evangelization is partnering with the Sophia Institute for Teachers to provide resources and support to our religion teachers and catechists. If you need practical assistance using their materials in your class, we encourage you to contact your support staff — they are dedicated to helping you in your ministry.

For more information visit https://sophiainstituteforteachers.org and click “Educator Support.” Several special initiatives are being planned in our diocese for the Year of the Family To find out more, visit https://cordova.org/family/

Isaak A. Isaak is co-director of the Office of Catechesis and Evangelization.

Schools will still offer complimentary lunch to all students

Kendra McGuire is superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Covington, Ky.

As we begin this new school year, I express my gratitude to everyone who supports our Catholic schools and helped prepare them for the 2021–2022 school year. The faculty and staff, our students and their parents, our principals and pastors, and our volunteers and donors have all stepped up to make sure we are ready to begin the year. And let us especially thank God for the gift of Catholic education and ask his blessings for another great year for all.

As part of the program, schools will also offer these complimentary meals to children who are not enrolled in a Catholic school. This means families with younger children may provider meals and pick them up at the designated time and location. Children up to 18 years of age are eligible for the free meal. More information on the procedures for this option will be available on the school website.

There is nothing for school families to do to qualify for or enroll in the complimentary meal program — all students are welcome and encouraged to participate — however, there are significant advantages for families to complete an application for the free or reduced lunch program. Applications that are approved provide additional Title I funding for schools. It also helps students with KHEGS scholarships for college, including assistance with fees for the SAT and ACT.

“We want parents to continue to fill out applications because the free and reduced applications that are approved not only help our students today but in the future,” said Jacqueline Stahl.

For more information visit your school website or contact the school office or cafeteria manager.

Prayer for College Students

Heavenly Father, please be with these students as they go where they do not know. As they seek to grow in knowledge, we ask that they grow in faith. As they start to conquer the world, we hope that they conquer their fears. As they strive to find their place, we pray that they find you. Please go where we cannot, protect when we are not there, and bring them safely home. Amen.
Welcome (and welcome back) to our new principals

Angie Smorey
Math Teacher; Contemplative Educator

Kenny Collopy is not a new principal in the Diocese of Covington, as he was the principal at St. Cecilia School for two years, but he is looking forward to "coming home" to Newport Central Catholic to serve as the principal following the retirement of Ron Down. Mr. Collopy graduated from N.C.C. (The Hill) in 2003, as did his two grandfathers, seven siblings, and numerous cousins. He served on staff at the high school in vari-
ous roles, including Advancement Director, Dean of Discipline, English Teacher, and Basketball Coach. Mr. Collopy shared that "he felt a strong call to come back to and serve the community in its next chapter." His goal is to "build upon the proud tradition of Newport Central Catholic by offering a well-rounded expe-
rience for our students rooted in faith and family values."

After earning his B.S. at the University of Louisville, he completed his Master in the Art of Teaching at NKU and recently graduated with his Master in Educational Administration from Xavier University. Mr. Collopy has a passion for studying leadership and supports this by read-
ning and listening to non-fiction books, enjoying podcasts and listening to keynote speakers.

He and his wife, Jenny, have four children and are parishioners at St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Pt. Thomas, where their older children attend school.

Theresa Guard said that she felt called to be the new principal at Immaculate Heart of Mary School, Burlington, and is excited to be serving the families in the community.

A number of years ago, Mrs. Guard, her husband, Jason, and their six children enjoyed living in Atlanta, Georgia. When they chose to move back to Northern Kentucky, they took a tour of HIM. They found that the spiritu-
ality of the staff, administration and priests was evident, and they began to attend Mass there. As they met the families in the parish, it became clear that Immaculate Heart of Mary was where they wanted to send their children.

Theresa’s goal as principal is to continue the mission of the school, "to partner with parents in providing a quality education to our students regarding their spiritual, physical, emo-
tional, social and educational development."

Mrs. Guard recently served as the assistant principal and Dean of Students, among other roles, at Covington Catholic High School and also taught in the diocese at St. Henry District High School and Bishop Brossart High School, as well as serving in leadership positions in vari-
ous other schools.

Mrs. Guard graduated from Thomas More College with her Bachelor of Arts in the Natural Science and Education and then earned her Master of Arts in Teaching in Mathematics from the University of Cincinnati and Master in Educational Leadership from NKU.

Claire Thérèse Heyne is the new principal at Prince of Peace Catholic Montessori School. Originally from Canada, her full
Baptismal name is Claire Thérèse Rita Marie Louise Heyne (excluding her Confirmation name, Damian)."Ms. Heyne said there are several reasons why she was
attracted to Prince of Peace Catholic Montessori in Covington. "First, I am mystically exposed to the Prince
Himself, so I’m partial to that name and to the school’s mis-
tion to make ‘the splendor of the Catholic faith the founda-
tion of this peaceful place I am deeply and passionately com-
mitted to Catholic education and its primary mission to impart the Catholic faith to young children of age, mood, more importantly, saints. The special place of ACUE (Alliance for Catholic Urban Education) school, physically and spiritually close to the Court of our diocese, is also appealing and wonderfully challenging for me. Finally, my middle name ‘Louise’ is both for St. Louise de Marillac and my dear saint Louise, the latter of which was personally trained by Dr. Maria Montessori herself; the beauty, creativity, wonder and dignity of the Montessori method is in my blood!"

Her plans for Prince of Peace Catholic Montessori are many, but her main goal is to "to more fully engage my staff, students and the entire school family to the beauty and joy of the Catholic faith through academics, arts, athletics, hobbies, nature and prayer so that each of us may fully radiate Christ to the world!"

She will be teaching art, ballet and Italian as well as helping stu-
dents care for a garden and small animals. As a former tour guide in Rome, Ms. Heyne hopes to even-
tually offer Prince of Peace School families pilgrimages to Italy, visiting Rome, Assisi and Florence (where her sister, a semi-
clustered nun, lives).

"Claire Thérèse has been in childcare and education of some form for nearly 20 years teaching all ages. In the Covington diocese, she taught the eighth grade confirmation class at St. Patrick Parish, Taylor Mill, as well as high school theology at Newport Central Catholic, subbed for various grades at St. Catherine of Siena School, and has been teaching an Intro Spirituality class at the diocesan catechesis Adult Faith Series program.

She attended The Heckdaus School for high school, University of Dallas for her BA in Theology, The Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology for her MDivs, and the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas for her S.T.L. (Licentiate in Sacred Theology) and S.T.E.D. (Doctorate in Sacred Theology) (ABD).

At that school year begins, Ms. Heyne said, “I am ready to share the truth with the souls of Prince of Peace and our wonderful Covington diocese to pray for me and be assured of my prayers for you and your loved ones. All for Jesus, our Prince of Peace!”

Chris Holtz has taken the reins at Bishop Brossart High School, Alexandria, after Dan Ruder retired at the end of this school year. Mr. Holtz could not reflect on being anywhere else besides BBHS. This has been my home away from home for most of my life. I love being here because it is not work, it is what I love doing."

He is a second generation Mustang and his two sons are third generation students. Mr. Holtz shared that he is proud to be the first alumni of Brossart to serve as princi-
pal.

His journey at the school started in the late 90’s as the athletic train-
er; and in 1999 he joined the faculty. He started coaching the golf team in 2007 and because the Development Director and Assistant Principal in 2014. While in this role, along with many other accomplish-
ments, Mr. Holtz managed the budget and coordina-
tion of the beautiful new Mustang Athletic Complex

(MAC).

As principal, he is looking for-
ward to “continuing the great tra-
ditions that we have here at BBHS as our great academic record, our growing Fine Arts depart-
ment, to our successes on the field and court of play!”

Mr. Holtz earned his under-
graduate degrees in Biology and Athletic Training from NKU and continued his education at Xavier University where he received his Master in Sports Administration and Educational Leadership.

He and his wife, Robin, along with their two sons are members of St. Thomas Parish, Pt. Thomas.

Kim Huser is looking forward to joining St. Thomas School as the new principal and is excited about the very bright future that lies ahead. She shared that her goals for the school include “implementing an intentional system of academic support to help fill gaps in skills for the students, as well as working on building relationships with the stu-
dents, staff, parents and community”.

Ms. Huser attended Simon Kenton High School and then earned her Bachelor’s degree in Marketing from Northern Kentucky University. After working in the market-
eting field, she realized that true happiness was in edu-
cation, so she went back to school to earn her Master of Business Administration.

Ms. Huser moved to Salt Lake City where she taught for two years, and then returned to Kentucky and joined the teach-
ing staff at St. Henry Elementary.

Ms. Huser decided to pursue administration and became the assistant principal at St. Joseph School, Cold Spring and earned her Master in Educational Leadership.

Ms. Huser and her husband, Ralph, will be celebrating their 20th wedding anniversary this year and they have two children. Their daughter attends St. Henry District High School, and their son grad-
uated from BBHS and is heading to EKU. As a family, they enjoy eating dinner together, playing cards and loving on their sweet labradoodle, Mason. They reside in Erlanger and are members of St. Barbara Parish, Erlanger.

Mike Jacks said that he is humbled and honored to be chosen as the principal of St. Catherine of Siena School. Although he has only been there a short time, Mr. Jacks states that he is already experiencing the same feeling as he did as an administrator at St. Anthony School, Taylor Mill, which is “a familiar warmth and spiritual reverence that is reflected in the parish and school community.”

He added that this value is such value in being in a community where most education is about working toward bringing Christ to others through word, deed and action.”

When asked about his plans for this school year, Mr. Jacks said that he has three goals. “First, I want to share with our local com-
community, as well as surrounding communities, the wonderful spir-
Itual and academic excellence that we have here at our parish and our school. There are many things that occur on a daily basis that need to be shared with oth-
ers. It will be my goal to celebrate and make public all the
awesomw work that happens at St. Catherine School. Second, I want to provide a competitive presence in St.

Tom’s neighborhoods. I want everyone to know that we are preparing youth for the future, in the future, and for etern-
ity. Parents, grandparents, family and friends need to know that our vital mission is to send our children in their

Continued on page 12

(Continued on page 12)
journey keeping their children close to Christ and aligned to Church teachings. Third, I want to bring about excellence in everyday instruction. We have talented and amazing educators here at St. Catherine School. My goal is to move each of us from great to greater. It’s not about programs ... it’s about people, connections and relationships. Sure, we’ll grow our teaching craft but more importantly we’ll grow in nurturing and feeding the spiritual lives of those we serve.”

Mr. Jacks earned his Bachelor’s degree from Thomas More University, his Master’s degree in math and science education from NKU and completed his Certificates for Instructional Leadership at Xavier University.

He started his teaching career at St. Anthony School, where he later became principal. He then served as principal at Immaculate Heart of Mary School, Burlington, and Beechgrove Elementary, Independence. Mr. Jacks also taught at Thomas More University and then at Xavier University in the Initiative for Catholic Schools program.

He and his wife, Gail, are members of St. Patrick Parish, Taylor Mill and are the parents of two adult daughters who attended Catholic schools from kindergarten through 12th grade. Their oldest daughter is a teacher at Mary Queen of Heaven School, Erlanger.

In his spare time, Mr. Jacks enjoys spending time with his family and friends and entertaining at home.

Jeanetta Kathman has joined St. Cecilia School as the new principal. Mrs. Kathman said that when she learned of the opening at the school, she started doing some research, some reflection and lots of praying. She said that “I found the community feel of St. Cecilia is inviting. However, the true feel you get at St. Cecilia is the evidence that Christ is truly the center of everything!”

She added her first goal at school is “to continue to work, ensuring a faith-filled education and excellence in academics.” After that, “we will look at some school-wide systems to ensure success across all grade levels. We will also be looking at ways to serve more students in the coming years.”

Mrs. Kathman was previously the principal at Holmes Middle School, Covington, and prior to that served as the supervisor of curriculum and as a principal with Newport Independent Public Schools.

Mrs. Kathman attended Morehead State University, where she earned her B.A. and M.A. in Elementary Education, as well as her Rank 1 and Master of Arts in School Administration.

In her free time, she loves to knit (although she claims she is not that good at it), and expresses that it is so relaxing and rewarding to finish a project you have made with your own hands.

She is married to Gary and has two sons and one step-son. They are members of St. Pius X Parish, Edgewood.

Angie Smorey is secretary for the Department of Catholic Schools, Diocese of Covington, Ky.
10 Parent Tips for a Successful School Year

1. Meet the Teacher
   One of the best things parents can do to get the school year started right is to make time to meet your child’s teacher. Attend the back to school events with your child and help him/her to introduce themselves to the teacher. Model respect for the teacher so your child will respect her too. And don’t forget to pass along any information that will help the teacher to best educate your child such as medical information, learning strengths and weaknesses and even personality traits.

2. Stay Informed
   Most schools send out a weekly communication with all the important school activities, dates, and other information about what is going on at school. Simply taking a few moments to read the school news will help keep you current on the various things going on. This not only helps you to plan ahead but also shows your child that their education is important to you too.

3. Volunteer
   Getting involved in your child’s school by volunteering benefits everyone! Some parents are able to help out during the school day by working in the cafeteria, helping the classroom teacher with various tasks, or assisting with events like picture day or health screenings. Working parents can help too! You can volunteer to setup for events, coach a sports activity, or help the teacher with paperwork tasks such as cutting patterns. Volunteering helps parents meet other families and gives them a shared sense of ownership of the school. A vested interest by all means a successful, thriving school!

4. Pay Attention to Your Child’s Grades
   Grades are only真正反映ing your child’s progress in creating a routine of looking at his/her graded papers, checking over homework, and periodically looking at the grades through the school’s app or online program. This will help you to see struggles in their learning where you may need to provide them extra assistance at home or talk to the teacher. It also gives you opportunities to praise your child for working hard. Remember that all students will make a mistake or end up with a poor grade at some point in time. When this happens, turn the experience into a teachable moment by reinforcing the importance of good study habits, class participation, and staying organized. It is good for students to learn that their behaviors impact their grades. This lesson is also better learned in elementary and middle school — before their grades impact college admission.

5. Communicate
   Communication is a two-way street. Just as you expect teachers and administrators to speak with you, they also expect you to communicate with them. Schedule a conference or send an email to let your child’s teacher know about changes at home that may impact school such as a death in the family, the loss of a job, a new baby, surgery, divorce, etc. Any disruption to the home routine can impact a student’s ability to be successful in school. Communicating these changes with the school can help them to take a proactive approach to helping your child, not a reactive one.

6. Discipline
   The purpose of discipline in school is to teach students appropriate behavior. Just as parents use a variety of discipline techniques at home, teachers do the same at school. As you might have experienced, sometimes they work, and sometimes they don’t! Part of the rapport that is built between a teacher and a student involves discipline. This means that most discipline will be handled at school. When a behavior continues despite the school’s efforts or if the behavior is severe, parents will always be informed. It is important that parents support teachers with discipline so children do not pit their parents against the teachers — which ultimately creates a teacher-parent issue when we should be focusing on the child’s behavior.

7. Homework
   The purpose of homework is to practice and reinforce the concepts learned in school. Homework teaches children time management as well as discipline. It is impossible for a teacher to know how well a student manages assignments at home. If your child consistently takes long amounts of time to complete the tasks or if your child is always finishing quickly — you should voice the concerns to the teacher. This may mean the workload needs to be adjusted to his or her learning needs. And remember, one of the biggest mistakes parents make on homework is doing the work for their child. When a child struggles, this gives them the opportunity to problem solve. This is a parent’s time to guide them, not take the challenge away.

8. Concerns
   If at any time during the school year you have concerns about your child, the academic program, or any other school issue, it is important to communicate this with the school. The proper way to handle concerns is to begin with the person directly responsible for the area of concern. For example, if you are concerned about your child’s English grade, you should communicate with the English teacher first. Then follow the proper chain of command from this point. This usually means you begin with the teacher, then the principal, then the pastor and/or school board — depending on the situation and whether or not it has been addressed to your satisfaction. Remember, the school is always open to discussing your concerns. However, concerns can’t be addressed if the school is not aware of them.

9. Bullying
   Bullying has been a hot topic in all schools over the last few years. The first step in addressing bullying is to report it. You can report instances of bullying to your child’s teacher, the principal, and/or the counselor. It is also important to talk to your children on a regular basis about their interactions with classmates, friends and school in general. This will give you insight into their thoughts and actions and will give them an outlet to talk about their day.

10. Pray
   Prayer and faith in God are our best tools for a successful school year. Why not gather your family together and pray for a great year? You can continue by praying together each day — thanking God for the blessings you have received and asking His help through the challenges. It is often difficult to place our full trust in God, but doing so will ensure that we are focused on the important things in life and will help lessen our fears and worries.
Nuncio urges young people in vocational discernment to realize their gifts

GETTYSBURG, Pa. — At vocational discernment gathering of the Neocatechumenal Way in the U.S. this summer, over 10,000 participants were encouraged to realize that they have “something to do so that the church may become the church.”

That message was from Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the U.S., who also told the young people that what they experienced at the gathering is “what the church is all about.”

“God has called us to become, as the church, the living sign of his presence in the world,” he told them at the July 25 event at the Historic Daniel Lady Farm in Gettysburg, part of the town’s vast Civil War battlefield.

Most of the participants arrived in buses from different parts of the country after over a week of being on pilgrimage, stopping at sites linked to the lives of U.S. saints, including Sts. Kateri Tekakwitha, Frances Cabrini and Junipero Serra, and those on the road to canonization, such as Blessed Solanus Casey in Michigan and Jesuit Father Eusebio Kino, who has the title “Venerable,” in Arizona.

Also present at the gathering in Gettysburg was Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory of Washington, Bishop Peter Baldacchino of Las Cruces, New Mexico, catechist teams of the Neocatechumenal Way and the religious sisters working at the apostolic nunciature in Washington.

In his remarks, Cardinal Gregory reminded the young people to look inward in discerning the God’s calling for their lives.

“I suppose if Jesus had seen such a large crowd as today ... he might say, ‘Well, this makes my job pretty easy, because I have 10,000 people that I can call,’” the cardinal said. “But he calls each and every one of us individually.”

In speaking about the Gospel reading about the loaves and the fishes, Archbishop Pierre compared the boy with five loaves and two fish to the young people discerning vocations.

“I know that in this crowd there are many boys and girls and they have a few loaves, a few fish in their pocket. They have a lot to offer. And Jesus calls them ... to give to the community this small contribution so that we may become church,” he said.

Toward the gathering’s end, young men who felt God was calling them to the priesthood were invited to receive a blessing from Archbishop Pierre and about 250 responded by walking up to the event stage. Afterward, a vocational call also was made for those discerning the religious life and about 400 young women went to the stage for a blessing.

Finally, a similar invitation was made for young families willing to go anywhere in the world as missionaries and at least 300 families went up to receive Archbishop Pierre’s blessing, with pilgrims from their respective parts of the country cheering them on with song.

For the young men, women and families who responded to the calls, the moment will now be followed by a period of discernment in their parish-based communities on whether to enter the seminary or convent or be sent as missionaries.

In his closing remarks, Archbishop Pierre reminded the crowd to be witnesses “that we have been touched by the love of God and he has transformed our life.”

“All of us need to be happy about that, to thank God, to have a deep gratitude in our hearts,” he said.
The Diocese of Covington will be participating in the Seamless Summer Option of the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. As part of this program, Blessed Sacrament School, Holy Cross Elementary and High School, Holy Family, Holy Trinity, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mary Queen of Heaven, Prince of Peace, St. Agnes, St. Anthony, St. Augustine, St. Catherine of Sienna, St. Cecilia, St. Edward, St. Henry Elementary, St. Joseph – Cold Spring, St. Joseph – Crescent Spring, St. Mary St. Patrick – Maysville, St. Paul, Sts. Peter and Paul, St. Philip, St. Pius X, St. Therese, St. Thomas, St. Timothy, Bishop Brossart, Covington Catholic, Covington Latin, Newport Central Catholic, and St. Henry District High School will offer healthy meals every school day at NO COST to all enrolled students and children age 18 and younger for school year 2021-2022. Students and all community children age 18 and younger will be able to participate in these meal programs without having to pay a fee or submit a household application.

For more information, you may call Jackie Kaiser at 859-392-1500 or e-mail at jkaiser@covdio.org.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

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To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992.
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**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 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.

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**FOOD PANTRY COORDINATOR**

St. Vincent de Paul NKY is hiring a part-time Food Pantry Coordinator for its 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://wwwsvpny.org/employment-opportunities/.

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**CAFETERIA STAFF**

Various schools in the Diocese of Covington currently have openings for full-time, part-time and substitute workers. Hours would occur during the school day. Duties include food preparation, serving and general cleanup. Interested individuals may contact Jackie Kaiser at jkaiser@covdio.org, or call her at 859/392-1536.

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**EDUCATOR (CAMPUS LIFE)**

St. Vincent de Paul NKY is hiring an educator to work with students and adults in its Campus Life program educating students in grades K-5. The school is fully accredited, and certified by the state of Kentucky. Candidates must be practicing Roman Catholics in good standing with the Church. To begin the application process send a letter of interest along with a comprehensive resume, including compensation history and at least five references with contact email addresses by e-mail or fax to Stephen Koplyay, skoplyay@covdio.org. Fax: (859) 392-1589.

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**CLIENT SERVICES SPECIALIST**
The Catholic Charities ministry of the Diocese of Covington invites employment candidates to apply for this full-time (40 hours a week, M-F) position. The focused responsibility of the Client Services Specialist will be assisting Catholic Charities clients and their case files through the entire clinical experience. Categories of cross-trained duties will generally include those of client care worker, program assistant, quality assurance auditor, case management team backup, and fiscal court reporting and billing backup. Desired qualifications include: practicing Roman Catholic; a minimum of a Bachelor's degree in a human services field; comfort with MS Office software; and well-developed personal skills in communications, organization, face-to-face interactions, listening, and problem-solving. To apply, e-mail or fax a letter of interest along with a CV or comprehensive resume, including at least five references with their contact email addresses, to Stephen Koplyay, SPHR at skoplyay@covdio.org, fax 859-392-1589.

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**CONTROLLER**
The Diocese of Covington's Catholic Charities office invites well-qualified, practicing Roman Catholic candidates to apply for this full-time job opportunity. The Controller assists the office’s Executive Director in managing Catholic Charities’ finances, including its Parish Kitchen ministry. Under the direction of the Executive Director, the Controller’s primary responsibilities include: oversight of activities related to budgeting, 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. Desired 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.

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**MUSIC DIRECTOR**
St. Catherine of Siena Catholic parish in Ft. Thomas, Ky invites employment candidates to apply for this full-time (40 hours a week, M-F) position. The successful candidate should be able to direct our adult and children’s choirs and prepare cantors, and be at least a decent singer (will be doing some of the cantoring). Must be able to work with a wide range of people. Must either be familiar with the Catholic Liturgy or be willing to be educated in it. Please direct inquiries or resumes to Fr. Stel Bankemper, at 1803 N. Ft. Thomas Ave., Ft. Thomas, 41075, or e-mail at sbankemper@stcatherineofsiena.org.

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**SCHOOL CATERIA MANAGERS**
The School Food Services Office of the Diocese of Covington Department of Catholic Schools seeks candidates for School Cateria Manager at Blessed Sacrament School and St. Cecilia School. Monday - Friday, during the school year. The School Cateria Manager’s primary responsibilities involve overall supervision of the School’s food service 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 information, to skoplyay@covdio.org or by fax: 859-392-1589.

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**LOOKING FOR CHILDCARE PROVIDER**
Crestview Hills family seeking someone amazing to watch our 3 children after school. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 3pm-5:30pm. Call Kaitie at 859-496-1735.

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

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**Protecting God’s Children for Adults**
Virtual Safe Environment Trainings

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/organization leader to receive the Policies and Procedures and fill out the Application and Acceptance Forms.

**Step 2:** Go to www.virtus.org and click on Application. 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 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 season 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 you 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 log in: www.virtus.org, enter user id and password.

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

**Note:** If your TrainingTab is missing or you cannot access your account, contact your parish, school or institution. For other difficulties, contact Marylu Steffen at (859) 392-1500 or msteffen@covdio.org.
Be subordinate to Christ

(Continued from page 5)

but that it is God’s will that we have them. We have a thousand reasons why we do not have truly subordinate ourselves to Christ. It is easy to write off the example of these heroic Christians as normative for us, even as we might admire them from afar. I think the root of all this is that we are afraid of subordination to Jesus Christ and fear the deep conversion that will entail. I certainly know I am.

The reason the saints became saints is that they overcame their fear of being subordinated to Christ. They certainly understood the Lord’s “saying” was hard, but they accepted it. Because of their humility and obedience they truly received the word’s Christ spoke as “Spirit and life” and “bread from heaven” that prodded them on the way to eternal life.

When the call to deep conversion grabs us and we realize the sacrifices of ego, comfort it requires, along with the subordination it entails, who has not been shaken by the those words of the Lord, “do you also want to leave?” Let us look reality squarely in the face — every other way of living is not only on offer, but is being tried. As a result, soaring rates of depression, suicide, addiction, abuse of every sort has set in upon us like a plague. Perhaps now is the time to face the Lord squarely and say with courage, “Master, to whom shall we go?”

Father Phillip W. De Voe is pastor of St. Charles, Flemingsburg, Ky and St. Rose of Lima, May’s Lick, Ky.

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Missed an edition of the Messenger? Current and back issues of the Messenger are available online at covdio.org/messenger.
WASHINGTON — Saying that a humanitarian crisis is developing in Afghanistan, the chairmen of two U.S. bishops’ committees called on the U.S. government to “act with utmost urgency” to resettle thousands of Afghan citizens entering the country under special immigrant visas. The U.S. government has said it would resettle up to 30,000 people who have applied for Special Immigrant Visas, or SIVs. The flow of refugees has been fueled by the rapid takeover of the Afghan government by Taliban forces in the first half of August as the U.S. withdrew its military, which has been in the troubled country for nearly 20 years. “The government’s goal to relocate as many as 30,000 SIV applicants to the United States remains a monumental task that hangs in the balance,” said Auxiliary Bishop Miro R. Donecović of Washington, chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Migration, and Bishop David J. Malloy of Rockford, Illinois, chairman of the Committee on International Justice and Peace. “We know that time is of the essence to help our brothers and sisters in need, and we call on our government to act with the utmost urgency, considering all available avenues to preserve life,” the bishops said in a statement released late Aug. 17.

U.S. Cardinal Burke on ventilator, ‘serious but stable’

VATICAN CITY — U.S. Cardinal Raymond L. Burke remains hospitalized, on a ventilator, in a “serious but stable condition” with COVID-19, a spokesman said late Aug. 17. Father Paul N. Check, executive director of the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse, Wisconsin, Cardinal Burke’s home diocese, said the cardinal’s family “does not plan to disclose his location” but thanked the faithful for prayers and rosaries. “His family — who are with COVID-19, a spokesman said late Aug. 17. Father Paul N. Check, executive director of the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse, Wisconsin, Cardinal Burke’s home diocese, said the cardinal’s family “does not plan to disclose his location” but thanked the faithful for prayers and rosaries. “His family — who pray for him and ask that he continue to get well,” the statement said. “He is in the care of our Lord and is especially in the care of our Lady, who we know is always ready to help when we truly need her.”

U.S. parishes, faith-based groups urge help for Haiti

WASHINGTON — Even before news of a devastating Aug. 14 earthquake in Haiti arrived, U.S. churches such as the Cathedral of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus in the Diocese of Knoxville, Tennessee, were already lamenting the lack of visas between their parish communities and the people of Haiti. “It’s really frustrating. We need to be communicating with our sisters and brothers in Haiti on a more personal level than just on WhatsApp,” said Matt Webster, one of the leaders of the cathedral’s Haiti Outreach Program, according to an Aug. 10 newsletter. But news of the devastation, the climbing death toll, and injuries from the 7.2-magnitude earthquake have sent U.S. Catholic communities such as the one in Knoxville and faith-based organizations with ties to Haiti scrambling for ways to help, even if the faith groups or sister parishes with whom they have direct contact were not affected. With more than 1,400 people confirmed dead and more than 8,000 reported injured as of Aug. 17, U.S. Catholics are urging help being directed toward the island as well as to Haitian immigrants. “We’re getting requests to pray for Haiti and to help with medical supplies,” said Webster. “It’s really motivating to see how much that these communities are focusing on their neighbors in need.”

Two nuns killed in South Sudan after vehicle ambushed along highway

NAIROBI, Kenya — Two Catholic nuns were shot and killed along a highway in South Sudan Aug. 16 as they were returning home to Juba. Seven other sisters survived the attack. Sisters Maria Daniel Abut and Regina Roba were members of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart in the Archdiocese of Juba. They were returning to Juba after attending the centenary celebrations at a parish in the eastern Diocese of Torit. Father Samuel Abo of the Juba Archdiocese announced a four-day mourning period Aug. 17. The sisters were buried Aug. 20 at the St. Theresa Cathedral in Juba. At the Vatican, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, sent a telegram to the charges d’affaires at the Vatican Embassy to South Sudan, saying Pope Francis was “deeply saddened to learn of the brutal attack.” The pope offered condolences to the victims’ families and religious community and offered his prayers and blessing. A spokesman for the religious congregation said that while the way back from the parish celebration, nine sisters boarded the same bus. As they were ambushed, they tried to flee and hid in the bushes. She said the gunmen went straight to where Sister Abut was hiding and shot her, then shot Sister Roba. Sister Abut died on route for help, but Sister Roba could not be found immediately. Her body later was collected by the army.

Judge rules Biden administration must reinstate ‘Remain in Mexico’ policy

AMARILLO, Texas — U.S. District Court Judge Matthew Kacsmaryk in a ruling late Aug. 13 blocked Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas of the Department of Homeland Security from implementing a June 1 memo in which he formally ended the Trump administration’s Migration Protection Protocols. Known as MPP or the “Remain in Mexico” policy, the judge said the order was “arbitrary and capricious.” Kacsmaryk in a ruling late Aug. 13 blocked Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas of the Department of Homeland Security from implementing a June 1 memo in which he formally ended the Trump administration’s Migration Protection Protocols. Known as MPP or the “Remain in Mexico” policy, the judge said the order was “arbitrary and capricious.” In a ruling late Aug. 13 blocked Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas of the Department of Homeland Security from implementing a June 1 memo in which he formally ended the Trump administration’s Migration Protection Protocols. Known as MPP or the “Remain in Mexico” policy, the judge said the order was “arbitrary and capricious.”

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NEWS BRIEFS

National/World

Bishops say U.S. government must act to relocate fleeing Afghans

WASHINGTON — Saying that a humanitarian crisis is developing in Afghanistan, the chairmen of two U.S. bishops’ committees called on the U.S. government to “act with utmost urgency” to resettle thousands of Afghan citizens entering the country under special immigrant visas, or SIVs. The flow of refugees has been fueled by the rapid takeover of the Afghan government by Taliban forces in the first half of August as the U.S. withdrew its military, which has been in the troubled country for nearly 20 years. “The government’s goal to relocate as many as 30,000 SIV applicants to the United States remains a monumental task that hangs in the balance,” said Auxiliary Bishop Miro R. Donecović of Washington, chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Migration, and Bishop David J. Malloy of Rockford, Illinois, chairman of the Committee on International Justice and Peace. “We know that time is of the essence to help our brothers and sisters in need, and we call on our government to act with the utmost urgency, considering all available avenues to preserve life,” the bishops said in a statement released late Aug. 17.

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