On the feast of St. Monica, Aug. 27, the students, faculty and staff of Covington Catholic High School gathered at St. Agnes Church, Ft. Wright, for its annual opening school year Mass celebrated by Bishop Roger Foys. Concelebrating priests were Father Mark Keene, pastor, St. Agnes Parish and pastoral administrator, CCHS and Father Michael Hennigen, chaplain, CCHS. Assisting were Deacons James Fortner and Bob Stoeckle.

"A new school year, a new beginning," said Bishop Foys as he began his homily. "When you go through life you will see that life is comprised of a series of new beginnings. Each new beginning is an opportunity for reflection, — reflection on what has been, on what is and what is yet to be."

Taking time to reflect on one's own life, even daily is necessary, Bishop Foys said, for a fulfilling life. "The Lord gives us throughout our lives new beginnings, new opportunities, new chances," Bishop Foys said. "They are times for us of excitement and of hope and of challenge, times that test the measure of who we are as human beings and Christian Catholics. So we begin ... you begin ... a new school year; a year that can be filled with promise or not, that is up to you in large part."

Reflecting on the Gospel reading, where Jesus tells the parable of the 10 virgins waiting with oil lamps for the bridegroom, Bishop Foys focused on how important it is that each individual prepare not only for the events of this life but also for eternal life. "What we make of our own life is up to us, God doesn’t push us ... We don’t know how much time the Lord will give us," Bishop Foys said. "The truth of the matter is there are some things in life that can’t wait and we have to do for ourselves. We need to reflect and decide what those things are so that we can be prepared."

Bishop Foys encouraged the students to begin a practice of nightly reflection that he himself has practiced since his days in seminary. "Every night I reflect on the day and what I did that day. Was it right? Was it wrong? Was it just? And I think to myself, ‘If I were to die tonight in my sleep would I die in peace? Could I die knowing that in this day I just lived I have done everything I can to be prepared so that if the Lord decided to take me tonight could I meet him without fear and trembling?’"

Bishop Foys ended his homily challenging the students to decide how they are going to prepare for and learn this academic year. "You determine if you want to be numbered among the wise or the foolish and whether you will make this new beginning an opportunity to grow in wisdom and to grow in grace."

(Continued on page 3)
St. Elizabeth Healthcare to offer accredited clinical pastoral education

Laura Keener
Editor

St. Elizabeth Healthcare is announcing the start of its new Accredited Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE) program beginning September 2021. As a Catholic healthcare ministry, St. Elizabeth is a mission-centered organization that believes in the providence of God. At the heart of St. Elizabeth is a commitment to the service of others and its CPE program is an extension of that belief and dedication.

“We value so much the body, mind and spirit here at St Elizabeth Healthcare — we care for the whole person,” said Joe Bozzelli, director, Pastoral Care. “It’s important for our ministers here that are caring for patients to grow in their own self-awareness and to grow in their own skills and ministry — listening and communication — as we attend to the spiritual and emotional needs of our associates, our patients and our ministers.”

Through hands-on clinical application, CPE students will learn by way of clinical practice, teaching and reflection how to better address the needs of those served. By honing skills of awareness and observation, students discover how to journey alongside those with spiritual needs and those facing life changes. All of this is offered under the supervision of Sister of Providence Barbara Sheehan, an ACPE educator. Sister Sheehan is executive director and CPE supervisor for Urban CPE Consortium, Inc., in Chicago.

“She will lead this program again,” Mr. Bozzelli said, adding that it was “a big deal” for the healthcare center to be recertified as a clinical pastoral education center.

The program being offered is not just vocational but is also formational. The program is open to and would benefit anyone “who is desiring moving into a caring profession or someone who is already in a caring profession,” Sister Barbara said.

Students may include pastoral ministers, laypeople, M.Div and D.Min candidates, or seminarists wanting to improve their relational skills. Nurses, social workers, physicians and volunteers at hospitals, hospices, and rehabilitation/skilled nursing care facilities who provide spiritual support and comfort to patients and families, also may find growth in this program.

Some topics covered include: the journey of grief, being with people who have been traumatized, and how social realities impact individuals and their health. The program is registered with the National Association for Clinical Pastoral Education which is connected with the U.S. Department of Education.

Classes will be offered through a hybrid model, with most classes meeting online and once a month meeting in-person with Sister Barbara.

Sister Barbara said that in participating in the program she has seen students change in ways that not only benefit patients and colleagues but also the student themselves.

“It’s the development of ourself,” Sister Barbara said, “by enhancing the gifts that students bring as a person and helping them address the barriers getting in the way of their developing healthy, good relationships, which is so needed no matter what profession you are in. I have seen many people shed things that have weighed them down that they didn’t need anymore. They have become freer to be empathic — to receive the other as the other — which is part of the empathic presence.”

For information, contact Sister Barbara Sheehan, S.P., at (773) 690-9812 weekdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. or b-sheehan@sbcglobal.net.

CaSSba supports work of Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Covington completed its 34th CaSSba annual friend and fund raiser, Aug. 29, and celebrated its 90th year in ministry. “The CaSSba is a wonderful way to come together to celebrate and promote the many ways that Catholic Charities is a blessing to our community,” said Vicky Bauerle, Institutional Advancement manager. The funds raised from the CaSSba provide support to the clients of Catholic Charities and Parish Kitchen. Pictured at the CaSSba are (above left) Phyllis and Bob Noll, Jr. (above center) Marty Kamer, auctioneer; motions to bidders during the live auction. (right) Joe Danneman, Fox 19 NOW sports director, was the master of ceremonies for the event.

With praise and thanksgiving to Almighty God, the Diocese of Covington joyfully announces the episcopal consecration and installation of the Most Rev. John C. Iffert as the 11th Bishop of Covington, Thursday, Sept. 30, 3 p.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington. Due to limited space, entrance to the cathedral is restricted to ticketholders; the ceremony will be livestreamed from the Cathedral website, www.covcathedral.com.

Later that evening, everyone is invited to a welcoming reception, 6-9 p.m. at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center, Covington.
Knights of Columbus provide ultrasound to pregnancy center — a window into the womb

Knights of Columbus councils of Northern Kentucky presented a check for $50,582.50 to Care Net Pregnancy Services of Northern Kentucky, Aug. 24, to purchase a state-of-the-art ultrasound machine for Care Net’s Cold Spring location.

“We are honored to receive these funds from the Knights of Columbus,” said Care Net Lyndi Zembrodt, executive director. “Since we began offering ultrasound services in 2006, we have seen that more than 90 percent of women who see their babies via ultrasound will choose life. This new machine will enable Care Net to provide those images with even greater clarity. We are grateful that God continues to provide for our ministry to those who turn to us for help.”

The fundraising effort began in March. The $50,000 goal was reached in June with a $35,000 challenge grant from the Knights of Columbus councils of Northern Kentucky; a grant from the Diocese of Covington; and matching funds from Al Kenkel, an Edgewood Columbus council; $10,000 in challenge money from the Supreme Council.

“Knights of Columbus councils of Northern Kentucky presented a check for $50,582.50 to Care Net Pregnancy Services of Northern Kentucky, Aug. 24, to purchase a state-of-the-art ultrasound machine. (from left) Lyndi Zembrodt, executive director; Care Net Pregnancy Services of Northern Kentucky; Gary Faivre, Grand Knight, Knights of Columbus Council 14993 (Mary Queen of Heaven Parish, Erlanger); Don Heffernan, treasurer; Knights of Columbus Council 19493 (Mary Queen of Heaven) and Eric Ritchie, co-chair; Knights of Columbus State of Kentucky Culture of Life.”

CCHS opening school Mass

(Continued from page 1)
The faking of forgiveness

In a recent issue of Comment Magazine, Timothy Keller, theologian and pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City, wrote an insightful essay entitled, “The Faking of Forgiveness,” within which he highlights how more and more, forgiveness is being seen as a weakness and a naivete. He begins by pointing to a couple of highly publi-
cized incidents of forgiveness as examples.

Keller suggests that there are a number of reasons for
this, but he singles out in particular We are a “thera-
peutic culture” (where only our own truth and feelings matter) and a culture that has a “religion without grace.”

What was the general response? Admiration for extraordinary selflessness and virtue? No, not that. More generally these instances of forgiveness were judged as naïve fundamentalism and as unhelpful. Why? Why would these instances not be recognized instead both for a weakness and a naivete.

Moreover, with Jesus, forgiveness becomes singularly the word for what makes us human: the power of forgiveness is also devoid of the power of ‘love.’ Why? Because each of us will get hurt by others now. It is when our humanity manifests itself that we are able to forgive others. Why? Because the banquet table — eternal community of life — is only open to everyone who is willing to sit down together with everyone. God cannot change us not to conform or content ourselves, let alone justify ourselves with substitute or palliative logic, which prevent us from understanding new ways to love.

As God decries to John in Revelation: “Behold, I am making all things new” (Rev 21:5). God knows the chal-
gen. This Labor Day is a somber one. The COVID-19 pan-
demic goes on. Economic circumstances for so many fam-
ilies are stressful or even dire. As of 2023, Delano Roof
shot nine members inside an Amish church and was publicly forgiven by the relatives of his vic-
tims. And in 2006, when a gunman shot 16 Amish children, Bill Clinton made his way to the Amish community there not only forgiving, but he went to visit his family and expressed sympathies to them for their loss.

Forgiveness is not enough. It requires a change in heart.

Labor Day statement — Rebuilding a dignified post-COVID world

This Labor Day is a somber one. The COVID-19 pandemic goes on. Economic circumstances for so many families are stressful or even dire. As of 2023, Delano Roof shot nine members inside an Amish church and was publicly forgiven by the relatives of his victims. And in 2006, when a gunman shot 16 Amish children, Bill Clinton made his way to the Amish community there not only forgiving, but he went to visit his family and expressed sympathies to them for their loss.

The dignity of the human person, made in the image and likeness of God, is not at the center of our society in the way it should be. In some workplaces, this has meant an absence of an understanding of people as precious.

Consumerism and individualism fuel pressures on employers and policy makers that lead to these outcomes. The good news is that injustice does not need to have the last word. The Lord came to free us from sin, including the sins by which we diminish workers and ourselves. "This is the favorable time of the Lord, who is asking...
Impartial in love

The readings for the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time — Cycle B are: Isaiah 35:4-6; James 2:1-5 and Mark 7:31-37.

This coming Sunday we celebrate the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, but this Sunday is also the last day of September — the feast of St. Teresa of Calcutta. In God’s providence we hear from the Epistle of St. James: “My brothers and sisters, show no partiality as you adhere to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ.”

I imagine this quote from sacred Scripture being sung onto the heart of Mother Teresa or St. Francis as we approach the feast of St. Teresa. James is reminding us of that most important Christian virtue — to love. Remember from catechetical theology, the cardinal virtues are: 1. Faith, 2. Hope, and 3. Love. And the virtuous life of these is love, because LOVE never ends.

My spiritual director in the seminary would constantly remind me: “you don’t have to like everybody; but, by golly you had better love every- one!” As a Catholic Christian, I am called by God, to emu- late his son, Jesus Christ, who gave himself up to our sake into the hands of evil men, who saw to his extreme suffering, crucifixation and eventual death. He sought our good, not his own. St. Thomas Aquinas reminds us that love is “willing seeking the good of the other.” It can be difficult to follow Jesus and love as he loves. And we can use excuses when failing to live up to his commands. “But, he’s God, of course he can do it!” or “I’m only human.” But my friends, we have the saints who stand as proof that we can in fact love one another as God loves us.

In 1979, Mother Teresa received the Nobel Peace Prize. In part of her acceptance speech she said: “And to make us feel that human dignity, not only homeless for a room to live, or only hungry for bread, but hungry for love. The poor, I choose the poverty of our people. But I am grate- ful, and I am very happy to receive it in the name of the hungry of the naked, of the crippled, of the blind, of the lepers, of all those people who feel unwanted, unloved, unclaimed, thrown away of the society, people who have become a burden to the society, and are ashamed by everybody. In their name I accept the award. And I am sure this award is going to bring an under- standing love between the rich and the poor.”

The world teaches us to show partiality, the Gospel does not! “Let us love one another, as God loves us. Let us follow in the footsteps of Jesus, and the saints who have followed him completely. Let us seek the good of others and of ourselves — no matter who they be.”

Father Daniel Schomaker is pastor St. Augustine Parish, Covington and vicar general for the Diocese of Covington, Ky.

From compliance to obedience — a movement of the heart

Obedience has been a recurring focus of my thought and prayer for quite some time and has been a topic about which I’ve wanted to write but have not had the courage until now.

Let’s be honest. Obedience is not a popular word, much less a popular concept in today’s world. In fact, the word “compli- ance” is often used instead, probably as a means to appease. I do not think I am off base in saying that most people do not like to be told what to do, nor do they like to do what they are told. Young children have no problem verbalizing it. “You’re not the boss of me!” This attitude has been on display in a particular way these last 18 months as the world has dealt with the protocols in place to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. I have come to realize that part of the reason for this mindset may lie in the fact that society’s understanding of obe- dience is not in touch with the realities of love. In our Catholic tradition, obedience, like patience, is a virtue: It is one of the human virtues flowing from the cardinal virtue of justice and according to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, a virtue is a “habitual and firm disposition to do the good.” A good habit. But if practicing the virtue of obedience is good, why does the concept cause such a negative reaction? There are many possible answers, but I offer this for consideration: our understanding of obedience has become corrupted with compliance, and we incorrectly view obedience as the opposite of freedom. This is compounded by a misunderstanding of the true definition of freedom: having the ability to choose, with the goal of choosing good and not evil. Again, quot- ing the Catechism of the Catholic Church, “There is no true freedom except in the service of what is good…”

I stumbled across a blog post many years ago that explored the differences between obedience and compli- ance. According to the author, people who practice compi- liance and very little obedience. Does that ring true? It does when one understands compliance to be the fol- lowing of rules or dictates out of fear, duty or recompense and obedience to be the alignment of the will with some- thing or someone respected and loved so much that there is no hesitation to follow.

Obedience is centered on self. How does following this or that rule impact me? What am I sacrificing? On the other hand, obedience is centered on the other. How does my decision to follow this or that law impact other people? What good will come from it? Obedience involves inner resistance whereas obed- ience involves freely saying “yes” from a place of faith and love. Seen in this light, obedience becomes the exer- cise of freedom in the fullest sense. My favorite quote from the blog post is this: “Obedience is the natural and healthy response of someone who is humble enough to be teachable, open-minded enough to accept life’s (I would say Christ’s teachings … and motivated enough to hear and obey the inner promptings of a higher … Source (I would say the Holy Spirit).”

We have many wonderful examples of obedience in the lives of the saints, but the most perfect example, of course, is given by Jesus himself. Father Ramero Cantalamessa, OPM Cap, in his book entitled “Obedience: The Authority of the Word,” devotes a chapter to the obe- dience of Christ. It is a profoundly beautiful exposition on Jesus’ obedience to his Father, demonstrating that the basis of Christian obedience is not an idea or a principle but an act and an attitude.

Jesus sets aside personal preference, convenience and comfort. He aligns his will with his Father’s, is in perfect love to save us. In choosing to suffer and die on the cross, Jesus is perfectly obedient and perfectly free. Christ’s example shows us the necessity of man’s obedience to God, and since all authority comes from God, “this is the obedience that sustains and makes acceptable all other kinds of obedience, to parents, to civil and religious authorities, to rules and to ‘every human institution.’” To clarify, this does not mean we are obliged to obey truth in moral dispute. In fact, that’s a topic for another arti- cle.)

So, where do I fall on the spectrum of compliance and obedience? How can I move away from compliance and toward obedience? Prayer and meditation on this virtue is a great way to find out. When we ask, God will speak.

We need to be open to listen and ready to obey. (By the way, the word obedience comes from the Latin “obeisar” which means “to listen”… As students we should strive to grow in the practice of obedience.

Jamie Schroeder is chancellor for the Diocese of Covington, Ky.

College is an adventure: Three ways to keep your faith

Thousands of young people across the country are embracing on one of the greatest adventures of their lives. College is a two- to four-year endeavor that shapes the way that young adults see the world. Forms the way that young adults make decision, and forms the way that young adults make meaning of their lives.

Nicholas Grevas

First things first, students should locate the Catholic campus ministry and get connected. First things first, students should locate the Catholic campus ministry or Newman Club and incorporate it into their center of gravity. Chances are there will be retreats, speakers, free food, fun field trips and faith-building experiences, and Mass on Sunday evening. Yes. That’s right. Many stu- dents are glad to hear they can sleep in on Sunday and still make it to Mass College is not the same place. Students should work Mass into their schedules and make a plan to go to the other Catholic or Christian students they met during orientation. While there, they can connect with PHUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) or NET (National Evangelization Teams) Ministries mis- sionaries if they serve at the campus.

Secondly, students should be adventurous. One idea is to make a freshman year bucket list and tick it off by one or two accomplishments each week. Weekend are a blank check for blanket forts and scavenger hunts, for hiking, bowling, kayaking, cooking, camping, or just spending time with friends. The last thing someone should do is spend hour after hour on TikTok or Snapchat. They should ignore Snapstreaks and invite friends to venture out and experience God’s beauty and how he speaks through nature and fun, leisure activities. Getting outside and off the screen provides time for authentic fellowship, profound reflection and hilarious memories.

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Dioceses emerge from Hurricane Ida’s wrath as others prepare to help

Rhina Guidos
Catholic News Service
WASHINGTON — Catholic Charities in and around the areas of Louisiana and Mississippi affected by Hurricane Ida — one of the most powerful storms to hit the continental U.S. since Hurricane Katrina in 2005 — are collecting donations as they prepare to help with the yet-unknown damage caused by the late August storm.

In a televised Aug. 30 meeting with President Joe Biden, Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards said he estimated that close to 2 million are without electricity in the region, though news reports said about 1 million were affected.

Many remained without cellphone service and at least four deaths had been confirmed by Aug. 31, a 73-year-old man in missing but presumed dead after his wife reported that he’d been attacked by a large alligator while walking the flood waters surrounding their home in Slidell, Louisiana, the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff’s Office reported Aug. 30.

“The local agency warned those in the affected areas “to be extra vigilant with walking in flooded areas as wildlife has been displaced as well during this storm and alligators and other animals may have moved closer into neighborhoods.”

Edwards said the death toll likely will rise.

Many parishes Aug. 28 had been suspended in the region as residents prepared to ride out the storm or had evacuated.

Edwards said the damage was “catastrophic” as news outlets showed flooded and destroyed homes, torn roofs and water running through Louisiana streets like a rushing river.

Biden said he asked the Federal Aviation Administration to work with electric providers in Louisiana and Mississippi to use surveillance drones “to assess Ida’s damage to energy infrastructure.”

Though the hurricane had torn through much of Louisiana as a Category 4 storm on Aug. 29, the following day it was heading, as a downgraded tropical storm, but many on social media urged the public to keep in mind that help would be needed in small agricultural towns, not just for damage to New Orleans.

Catholic dioceses and organizations said they were mobilizing to help as soon as conditions allowed. Catholic Charities USA is accepting donations to help the hurricane relief efforts at www.catholiccharitiesusa.org. Catholic Charities USA is accepting donations to help the hurricane relief efforts at www.catholiccharitiesusa.org.

“Our local disasterresponse teams will be ready to hit the ground when it’s safe to do so,” tweeted Catholic Charities of Baton Rouge, a few hours after the storm hit New Orleans.

“We are counting our blessings today that our teams are safe and all of our facilities weathered the storm without catastrophic damage,” said Dr. Richard Vath, chief executive officer of Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Health System in Baton Rouge.

“We stand ready to support our health care colleagues in southeast Louisiana at the same time we continue providing care in our own communities,” he said in an Aug. 30 statement.

“Everyone pulls together in these circumstances, and we are working closely with the state of Louisiana and prepared to receive evacuated patients if necessary.”

The Diocese of Houma Thibodaux, Louisiana, in an Aug. 30 message on its website and social media channels, said its schools “will be closed until further notice.”

The New Orleans archdiocese announced, too, that its schools and main administrative offices, were closed until at least Labor Day.

In a Facebook video Aug. 30, Peter Finney, editor of the Clarion Herald, newspaper of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, said Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond, who remained at his residence during Ida, was trying to contact pastors to assess the extent of the damage to churches and schools.

“There’s nothing really right now to report, but he’ll have much more of an understanding today,” Finney said.

“He asked for prayers for the entire community and please stay safe.

Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana in Lake Charles offered 900 meals for Hurricane Ida evacuees, remembering how they, too, had been helped by neighbor-

The Diocese of Beaumont, Texas, which suffered dam-

age from Hurricane Laura in late August 2020 said Bishop David L. Toups “has invited all of our priests and faithful … to pray and intercede for our brothers and sisters in Louisiana. We stand with them in prayer during the storm and will stay by them to assist in recovery.”

It’s hard to know how the hurricane and subsequent storm will affect states in the southeast U.S. that already were experiencing a shortage of hospital beds and equip-

ment, including oxygen, because of rising COVID-19 rates.

The day after the hurricane, Lady of the Sea General Hospital in Galliano, Louisiana, reported that part of its roof had been ripped off by Ida’s winds. A highway collapsed in Mississippi as the storm made its way north.

As the storm moves inland, it continues to hit commu-

nities in several states and cause damage” affecting multi-

ple dioceses, said Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, in an Aug. 31 statement.

“I call on people of goodwill to join me in praying for the safety, well-being, and protection of everyone in those impacted areas. We also pray in a special way for the first responders, health care workers, and emergency person-

nel who bring relief, comfort, and healing.

The archbishop also encouraged Catholics “and all peo-

ple of goodwill across the country to stand in solidarity with these impacted communities.”

We entrust all our brothers and sisters in harm’s way to our Blessed Mother, and we ask for her continued pro-

tection and for her intercession in comforting those who are suffering,” he added.
Holiness does not come from following rigid rules, pope says

Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Redemption is the work of God, not of human beings, so be careful and do not listen to “fundamentalists” who claim holiness comes through following certain laws, Pope Francis said during his weekly general audience.

The belief that holiness comes by observing particular laws “leads us to a rigid religiosity, a rigidity that eliminates that freedom of the Spirit which Christ’s redemption gives us. Beware of this rigidity that they propose,” he said Sept. 1 to those gathered in the Paul VI audience hall at the Vatican.

God’s saving grace is received through faith in the Gospel message of Christ’s death and resurrection, and God invites people to rejoice in the righteousness received through that faith in Christ, he said.

The pope continued his series of talks on St. Paul’s Letter to the Galatians by looking at the apostle’s explanation of justification by faith and of graces flowing from the Spirit, not from works of the law.

However, before beginning his catechesis, the pope spoke off the cuff to explain the context and purpose of the weekly audience talks, which are usually in-depth reflections on many aspects of church teaching.

“The pope said the teachings in St. Paul’s letter were not anything new or “my own thing.”

“What we are studying is what St. Paul says during a very serious conflict” in Galatia. “They are not things that someone invented. No. It is something that happened at the time and that can repeat itself,” he said, referring to the apostle’s attempts to correct those who were tempted to believe a thing.”

“In that catechesis on St. Paul’s explanation that the law given to Moses did not nullify God’s promise to Abraham, the pope said, ‘The law does not give life, it does not offer the fulfillment of the promise because it is not in the position of being able to fulfill it.’

“Does the love of Jesus?”

Abraham, who preceded Moses by more than 400 years, shows that faith in God brings righteousness, he said, which St. Paul used to illustrate that the gentle Galatians heard with faith and experienced justification like Abraham and, therefore, they did not have to follow Mosaic law, such as with male circumcision, as some new preachers at the time were claiming.

A Vatican source confirmed to Catholic News Service Sept. 1 that a response to the rabbi’s letter was in the works.

The pope’s talk Sept. 1 continued along the same line of the danger of “these new preachers” who had convinced some Galatians “that they had to go back and take on the norms, the precepts that were observed and led to perfection before the coming of Christ.”

St. Paul tries to convince these Christians they risked losing “the valuable treasure, the beauty, the newness of Christ” if they let themselves be enchanted by the voice of the sires who want to lead them to a religiosity based solely on the scrupulous observance of precepts,” the pope said.

“They knew that their coming to faith “was the initiative of God, not of men. The Holy Spirit had been the protagonist of their experience; to put him on the backburner now in order to give primacy to their own works, that is, fulfilling the precepts of the law; would have been foolish,” he said.

Christians today must also reflect on how they live their faith, he said. “Does the love of Christ, crucified and risen, remain at the center of our daily life as the wellspring of salvation, or are we content with a few religious formalities to salve our consciences?”

What happened in Galatia can still happen today in similar ways, the pope said, warning people not to listen to “these somewhat fundamentalist proposals that set us back in our spiritual life; try to go forward in the paschal vocation of Jesus.”

“Even when people are tempted to turn away from God with distractions and their sins, “God still continues to bestow his gifts” and he “does not abandon us, but rather abides with us in his merciful love.”

“Let us ask for the wisdom to always be aware of this reality and to dismiss the fundamentalists who propose a life of artificial asceticism, “that is, the practice of strict self-discipline “that is far removed from the resurrection of Christ.”

Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

September 3, 2021 7

Pope Francis puts a golf ball during his general audience in the Paul VI hall at the Vatican Sept. 1, 2021.
Pope meets with genocide survivor who inspired his Iraq trip

Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis held a private audience with Nadia Murad, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate and survivor of the Islamic State-led genocide in Iraq, Aug. 26 at the Vatican. While the Vatican did not release any details about the visit, Murad tweeted Aug. 27, “We discussed the importance of support for #Yazidis & other minority communities in Iraq. In light of the heart-wrenching events in Afghanistan, we exchanged ideas on championing women & survivors of sexual violence.”

“I thank @Pontifex for welcoming me to the Vatican once again,” she tweeted, along with a photo of the pope looking through a book and Murad holding a copy of the document on “Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together,” which Pope Francis and Egyptian Sheikh Ahmad el-Tayeb, the grand imam of Al-Azhar, signed in 2019.

The pope had met Murad previously at the Vatican at the end of a general audience in St. Peter’s Square in May 2017 and privately in December 2018, after she and Denis Mukwege were jointly awarded the Nobel Prize for “their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict.” She is the first Iraqi and Yazidi to be awarded a Nobel Prize.

She survived a genocidal campaign against the Yazidis by Islamic State militants in Iraq in 2014. The militants kidnapped her, and she escaped captivity after three months.

In an Aug. 16 tweet commenting on recent events in Afghanistan, she wrote: “My heart breaks for the next generation of girls & women whose nation has been overtaken by the Taliban. Kabul fell on the same day my village fell to ISIS 7 years ago. The international community must address the repercussions before tragedy is repeated.”

Murad has been leading efforts to raise awareness about the plight of the Yazidi people, the need to hold ISIS accountable and to advocate for women in areas of conflict and survivors of sexual violence. She is the U.N. goodwill ambassador for the dignity of survivors of human trafficking. She founded Nadia’s Initiative and seeks to meet with world leaders to convince “governments and international organizations to support sustainable redevelopment of the Yazidi homeland,” according to the initiative’s website.

Pope Francis told reporters flying back to Rome from Iraq March 8, 2021, that one of the reasons he became convinced he had to visit the nation was after reading Murad’s memoir, “Last Girl: My Story of Captivity and My Fight Against the Islamic State.”

A reporter had given him a copy of the book, he said, and “that book affected me.”

He said when he met Murad, she told him “terrible things and then, with the book, all these things together, led to the decision, thinking about all of them, all those problems.”

“At certain points, since it is biographical, it might seem rather depressing, but for me this was the real reason behind my decision,” he said.

Pope Francis meets with Nobel Peace Prize laureate Nadia Murad during a private meeting at the Vatican Aug. 26, 2021. Murad was kidnapped by Islamic State militants in Iraq in 2014 during a genocidal campaign against the Yazidi people.

Moving? Wrong address?
Call the circulation desk,
(859) 392-1570
Newport Central Catholic High School 27th annual Family Fireworks Fest. Sept. 5, to watch the Western & Southern/WEBN Labor Day Fireworks. Food, drinks, games, and entertainment will begin 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/346072. Limited parking passes available for $10 and are on sale at https://gofan.co/app/events/346073. VIP Classroom Suites accommodating 30 are available. Call 252-0001 or e-mail derbis@nccha.com.

After a 24 year hiatus, the Ladies Stagette event, “Denim and Heels,” at St. Mary School, Alexandria, is back, Sept. 18. Food, drinks, raffles, silent auctions, split the pots, games, and music. Doors open at 7 p.m., ends midnight. Tickets $40. Contact allison.leedy2@gmail.com.

St. Thomas High School Homecoming, Sept. 25, for anyone who attended for at least one year between 1949 and 1976 plus a guest. Former teachers and one guest are also invited to who attended for at least one year between 1949 and 1976 plus a guest. Former teachers and one guest are also invited to attend. Cost $50 per person and RSVP is required. For information and RSVP form go on facebook under St. Thomas High School-Grade School, PT Thomas. KY Announcements. Contact tomderig@gmail.com or 781-8743. Deadline Sept. 1.


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: 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) 436-5415, or register, at helpourmarriage.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.bradley@svdphky.org or 426-2649.

Bishop Brossart High School Athletic Hall of Fame ceremony. Sept. 18, reception 6 p.m.; induction, 7 p.m.; Seither Center. This year’s class includes: Jennifer Hartig Carver, ’01; Brad Dunlevy, ’02; Barb Kohls, Nathan Mutsch, ’07; Jacob Rieger, ’10; Diana Simon, ’10; Ron Heiert, ’66 (Tom Seither Service Award); and the 2007 Football Team (Team of Distinction). Cost $30. Contact agreely@bishopbrossart.org to make reservation.

A new adult faith formation program “Light a Fire: Re-ignite Your Catholic Faith” will be held on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month, 7 p.m. at Kelley Hall, St. Joseph Parish, Cold Spring. The first session is Monday, Sept. 27. The series is open to all adults and there is no pre-registration required — individuals may simply show up to any or all sessions based on their interest and availability.

A directed retreat for women and men focused on “The Presence of God” will be held at St. Walburg Monastery Guest House, Villa Hills, Oct. 8-10. Retreatants are invited to join the monastic choir for Sunday Liturgy of the Hours and Mass. Each retreatant will have a private room and enjoy individual spiritual direction on all three days. Due to Covid-restrictions at the monastery, lunch and dinner will be “on your own,” bringing food in or going out. The number of retreatants is limited to six persons. Arrangements and fees are determined with your reservation. Spiritual directors are Benedictine Sisters Cathy Bauer and Dorothy Schuette. Call 443-8515 or e-mail dorotheysosb@gmail.com.

Summertime in Covington with the Ducotier family.

St. Cecilia Parish, Independence, Labor Day Festival, Sept. 4, 6 p.m.–midnight; Sept. 5, 4 p.m.–midnight and Sept. 6, 1–9 p.m.
St. Barbara Parish, Erlanger; Oktoberfest, Sept. 10, 6 p.m.–midnight; Sept. 11, 5 p.m.–midnight and Sept. 12, 2–8 p.m.
St. Patrick Parish, Mayville, Sept. 10–11, 6–11 p.m.; Sept. 12, noon–3 p.m.
Cristo Rey Parish, Florence, Sept. 11, 3 p.m.–midnight; Sept. 12, noon–9 p.m.
Holy Cross High School, Lawrenceburg, Sept. 17, 6 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; Sept. 19, 12:30–6 p.m.
St. William Parish, Williamstown, Sept. 19, noon–8 p.m.
St. Benedict Parish, Covington, Sept. 24 and 25, 6 p.m.–midnight
St. Agnes Parish, Ft. Wright, Oktoberfest, Oct. 1 and 2, 5 p.m.–midnight; Oct. 3, 3–8 p.m.

Summer Festivals

First day of school celebration

On the first day of school at St. Pius X School, Edgewood, students were greeted by their principal, pastor, deacon and mascot, cheering them on to a great year of education and faith formation.

Seminarian shares location story

Before Deacon AJ Godfrey headed back to St. Vincent Seminary for his final year of seminary studies, he spent some time with the students of St. Henry Catholic School, Ksimer, PA. He preached at the middle school Mass and then visited the middle school religion classes to talk with students about his vocation to the priesthood and experiences as a seminarian.

People and Events

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As U.S. presence in Afghanistan ends, Catholics call to welcome refugees

Elinna Guidice, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — As Aug. 30 ended in the U.S. and a new day began in a different time zone in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Aug. 31, 2021, the U.S. Central Command released a green-tinted photo of a soldier about to get on a cargo plane, a photographic coda to seal the historic moment that put an end to nearly two decades of U.S. military presence in Afghanistan.

Though many were quick to call it “the end” of the United States’ longest war, it’s too early to tell what, if any, involvement may continue in the now Taliban-controlled nation since some U.S. citizens remain there.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said “under 200” U.S. citizens are still in Afghanistan. “We did not get everyone out that we wanted,” said Gen. Kenneth McKenzie, head of U.S. Central Command announcing the withdrawal on Aug. 30 in the U.S., remaining reporters listening that it was Aug. 31 in Afghanistan, fulfilling the date the U.S. had set for the withdrawal.

But there are some U.S. citizens in the country, he said, who because of family or other ties, did not want to leave Afghanistan. Others were not able to make it to the airport in time for the last U.S. plane out.

The administration of President George W. Bush sent troops to Afghanistan after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks that left 2,996 dead on U.S. soil, trying to pin down al-Qaida militants who planned the hijacking of airplanes, including Osama bin Laden, who was believed to be in and out of Afghanistan hiding with help from the Taliban.

U.S. troops remained there under previous administrations from both political parties and in October 2020, President Donald Trump tweeted that he would withdraw U.S. troops from Afghanistan by Christmas. President Joe Biden continued with the plan, but with a different timeline. However, analysts have blamed the four previous administrations — from George W. Bush to Biden’s — with the unfolding drama.

Gen. McKenzie said U.S. military had evacuated 70,000, including 4,000 U.S. citizens from the Kabul airport since Aug. 14, after the Afghan military collapsed following the imminent withdrawal of U.S. troops and contractors.

The evacuation from Kabul is coming to an end. A larger crisis is just beginning,” warned the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi on Aug. 30.

“The evacuation effort has undoubtedly saved tens of thousands of lives, and these efforts are praiseworthy. But when the airlift and the media frenzy are over, the overwhelming majority of Afghans, some 39 million, will remain inside Afghanistan. They need us — governments, humanitarians, ordinary citizens — to stay with them and stay the course,” according to the Interfaith Immigration Coalition, who, in an Aug. 30 letter, urged Biden to “take full responsibility for protecting the lives of thousands of Afghan allies that worked alongside U.S. forces, as well as provide robust protections for vulnerable populations in Afghanistan.”

As the Biden administration pivoted its future in Afghanistan from a military operation to a diplomatic one, the interfaith coalition urged the U.S. government to help “if human rights must be at the center of our foreign policy, not the periphery; as you stated in (your) address to the American people and to the world, the United States must stand behind its promises...,” the interfaith coalition said in its statement.

“We are called by our sacred texts to love our neighbor, accompany the vulnerable, and welcome the stranger... Our places of worship and faith communities stand ready to welcome all Afghans in need of refuge,” the group added.

Others, such as the Catholic organization Pax Christi USA, criticized the Biden administration for a drone strike Aug. 29 against suspected suicide bombers, which resulted in explosions that led to the death of 10 civilians, including children.

“Pax Christi USA calls on the Biden administration to cease the use of lethal drones,” the organization’s executive director, Johnny Zokovitch, said in an Aug. 30 statement.

“Such indiscriminate killing just furthers the cycle of violence, undermines real human security and-traumas survivors. What we are seeing now after 20 years of military occupation in Afghanistan should, at the very least, cause our leaders to pause and question to what end more arms, more bombs, and more death will lead.”

The administration ordered the strike after blasts near the Kabul airport, carried by suicide bombers, killed 13 U.S. service members on Aug. 26.

In a televised late afternoon speech on Aug. 31, Biden said “it was time to end this war” in Afghanistan a long time ago. “It was something past presidents had promised but did not carry out.”

“I refused to open another decade of warfare in Afghanistan,” he said, adding that he did not want “to send another generation of American sons and daughters to fight a war that should have been done long ago. It was something past presidents had promised but did not carry out.”

Civilian and military advisors counseled him to end this war as it didn’t serve any vital interest to the U.S., he said, which at one point had been ensuring that Afghanistan could not be used by those wanting to attack the U.S.

“We delivered justice to bin Laden, al-Qaida was decimated,” he said. “We also took ownership and responsibility for his decision. As we close 20 years of war and strife and pain and sacrifice, it’s time to look to the future, not the past,” he said. “I gave my word with all of my heart: I believe this is the right decision, a wise decision and the best decision for America.”

CNS photo/Jon Nazca, Reuters

An Afghan man, evacuated from Kabul with others, walks with a girl after arriving at Naval Station Rota Air Base in Rota, Spain, Aug. 31, 2021.

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8:00 a.m. Breakfast
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To register or to sponsor a hole, contact Sean Miller Murray at (859) 352-1500 or smurray@evedc.org. Deadline: Monday, September 20, 2021.
Pope advances sainthood cause of mother of three

Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis advanced the sainthood cause of a young mother of three who died of cancer after delaying chemotherapy treatment in order to save the life of her unborn child.

The pope signed decrees recognizing the heroic virtues of one man and two women, including the young mother, Maria Cristina Cella Mocellin, during a meeting Aug. 30 with Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, prefect of the Congregation for Saints’ Causes.

Born in Italy in 1969, Mocellin began contemplating her vocation at a young age with the Salesian Sisters, until she met her future husband, Carlo, at the age of 16. Despite the discovery of a sarcoma in her left leg, she went on to finish high school and marry Carlo. She had two children. However, during her pregnancy with her third child, the sarcoma reappeared. Although undergoing surgery to remove the sarcoma, Cella opted to not receive chemotherapy in order to not risk the life of her child, Riccardo, who was born in 1994. Subsequent therapies failed to treat the cancer which inevitably spread, and Cella died in 1995.

Pope Francis also signed decrees attesting to the heroic virtues of:
— Enrica Beltrame Quattrocchi, the youngest daughter of Blessed Luigi Beltrame Quattrocchi and his wife, Maria Corsini. She was born in Rome in 1914 and died in 2012.
— Franciscan Father Piazzolo Cortese, an Italian priest who helped the escape of Allied prisoners and people, including Jews, persecuted by the Nazis. He was subsequently captured, tortured and killed in Trieste in 1944.

Pope advances sainthood cause of mother of three

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Picnic: 1:00 p.m.—4:30 p.m.
Jubilee Park
Picnic Lunch will be provided from 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

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Family Chicken Dinner
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$5000.00 Grand Raffle*
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Discounted Ride Tickets!
$20 wristbands
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St. Barbara Church

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Doug Kent (Fr) The Whammies (Sat) Brother Smith (Sun)

Family Chicken Dinner
Sunday starting at 2 PM
$10 per person

$5000.00 Grand Raffle*
Sunday, Sept 12

Discounted Ride Tickets!
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Sunday, 2 PM - 7 PM

Join Us in the Parade of Life

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* Cash prizes at final drawing will be held at the close of festival, Sept. 12, 2021.

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* Cash prizes at final drawing will be held at the close of festival, Sept. 12, 2021.

Reserved seating reserved seating is available.

Cincinnati Right to Life

Evening for Life

Thursday, October 21, 2021
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Different but not less

Featured Speaker George Dennehy

Tickets are available online.

CincinnatiRightToLife.org

Obituary

Divine Providence Sister Mary Bertha Berling died peacefully at Holy Family Home, Aug. 30, 2021. She was a professed member of the Congregation of Divine Providence for 77 years. Born Alma Elizabeth in Covington, Ky. in 1926 to Frederick and Bertha Berling, she entered the convent at the age of 13 and made her first profession of vows in 1949.

In 1945 Sister Bertha began a 20-year-long teaching ministry that saw her serve at six elementary schools in Kentucky, including St. Bernard, Dayton; Corpus Christi, Newport; Holy Family, Ashland; St. Cecilia, Independence; St. Leo, Versailles, and St. Francis, Pikeville. In 1965 she became an educational consultant for the Diocese of Covington.

Appointed Director of Novices for the Province in 1966, she served in this capacity for five years before becoming the administrator of Holy Family Home, Melbourne, Ky. in 1969.

Many came to know Sister Bertha’s warm welcome and caring, prayerful presence when they met her during her time as director of.More Center (1987–1990), the Congregation’s retreat house in Maysville, Ky. Elected to the Provincial Council in 1989, she served as vicar for the province until 1994, after which she ministered at several parishes in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, including St. Ignatius Loyola in Montford Heights, Ohio. From 2006-2013, Sister Bertha directed the pastoral care of the Sisters at Holy Family Home. When her physical condition necessitated her move to the Health Care Center at Holy Family in 2013, she remained fully dedicated to ministry, offering her prayers and trials for the many needs of the world and for all who asked for prayer.

She will be missed by her religious community, the Sisters of Divine Providence, her sister, Mary Schott, and Marge Mader, her brother Jim; and her many nieces and nephews who visited her faithfully. Her sisters Ruth Reeves and LaVern Groeschchen and brothers Fred, Paul and Bob preceded her in death.

A private Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in the Immaculate Conception Chapel, Holy Family Home, Sept. 2. Her burial was in the convent cemetery following Mass. A public celebration of her life will take place at a future date. Memorialis to the Congregation of Divine Providence, 5000 St. Anne Drive, Melbourne, KY 41059.
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**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**
The Diocese of Covington’s Stewardship and Mission Services office has an immediate full-time opening. This office is responsible for providing overall coordination and supervision. The successful candidate must have an understanding of parish, family, and community needs as well as a comprehensive understanding of the diocesan operations. The position requires strong organizational ability and a very professional manner.

**MUSIC DIRECTOR**
St. Catherine of Siena Catholic parish in Ft. Thomas, Ky. Small parish (about 550 families) with three Masses each weekend and other occasional services, such as Holy Day Masses and reconciliation services. Friday morning Mass during the school year if possible. Prefer someone who would also be available for funerals and weddings. Must be a good general musician and have good keyboard skills (both organ and piano), be able to direct our adult and children’s choir and prepare cantors, and be at least a decent singer (will be doing some of the canting). Must be able to work with a wide range of people. Must be familiar with the Catholic liturgy or be willing to be educated in it. Please direct inquiries or resumes to Fr. Stof Bankompe, at 1803 N. Mt. Thomas Ave., Ft. Thomas, 41077, or e-mail at stankenper@stcatherineofsiena.org.

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

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**SCHOOL CAFETERIA MANAGERS**
The School Food Services Office of the Diocese of Covington Department of Catholic Schools seeks candidates for School Cafeteria Managers at Bishop Brossart High School, Blessed Sacrament School and St. Cecilia School. Monday - Friday, during the school year. The Managers at Bishop Brossart High School, Blessed Sacrament School and St. Cecilia School. Monday - Friday, during the school year. The Diocese of Covington Catholic Charities is seeking to hire a client care services specialist. The position is 40 hours per week. Its primary purpose is to assist, serve and support clients and inquirers seeking services and assistance, manage their case files and provide customer service through the entire process. Also, provide other office administrative support. To apply, e-mail or fax a letter of interest along with a C-V or comprehensive resume with compensation history, and a minimum of five references with their contact information, to Stephen Koplay, SPHR at skoplay@covdio.org, fax 859-392-1899. Must be practicing Catholic. Please see job posting at https://www.covingtoncharities.org/news-events/job-opportunities for more complete details.

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Catholic Charities helped 13 million people last year, and the demand has increased 30-50 percent so far during the pandemic and is anticipated to increase. Catholic hospitals are also strained as doctors, nurses, and staff have also been working relentlessly and have in many instances done so at a loss of significant resources.

Pope Francis is fond of citing the 1964 dogmatic constitution, “Lumen Gentium,” which reminded us that “no one can save themselves alone.” This is true in this life and the next. The fruits of individualism are clear in the disparities brought to light by this crisis. Through our work of solidarity, let us be a counter-witness to individualism. “Let us not think only of our interests, our vested rights and personal gains, but rather of the common good, in which all of us, in any way, must work together.”

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 leadership to review the Policies and Procedures and fill out the Application and Acceptance Forms.

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

Protecting God’s Children for Adults
Virtual Safe Environment Trainings

For assistance, contact your primary location or msteffen@covdio.org.

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

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

Bulletin:
Sent, bulletin will post on Sunday, Sept. 5; due on Tuesday, Oct. 5.

NOVENA
NOVENA TO SAINT THOMAS FOR A SICK CHILD.
St. Anthony, you love for the Infant Jesus in-spired Him to reward you by seeing and holding Him in your arms. Help us to see and love Jesus in all the poor and suffering children in the world, particularly (name child) who is afflicted with (name condition). Intercede for (name the child) asking our compassionate Lord Jesus to heal him/her so that he/she may grow to love the Lord and His servant, St. Anthony. Guard this life that God has created. Let your gentle hand, like that of a skilled physician, rest lovingly upon this afflicted child that he/she may be immediately restored to health. Amen. R.V.B.

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

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

Labor Day statement
(Continued from page 5)

Catholic organizations have quickly amplified their efforts to address its devastating impacts. As one example, workers in meat processing plants are faced with dangerous working conditions as companies fail to provide basic protections from COVID-19 or do not make sufficient workplace modifications to reduce risk of exposure to the virus. The CCHD-supported Rural Community Workers Alliance has helped organize workers in rural Missouri, pressuring employers to take these concerns seriously and advance the work of solidarity, let us be a counter-witness to individualism. “Let us not think only of our interests, our vested rights and personal gains, but rather of the common good, in which all of us, in any way, must work together.”

For assistance, contact your primary location or msteffen@covdio.org.

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

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

Bulletin:
Sent, bulletin will post on Sunday, Sept. 5; due on Tuesday, Oct. 5.

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 leadership to review the Policies and Procedures and fill out the Application and Acceptance Forms.

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

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“The Protege” (Lionsgate) After her mentor, a contract killer, is slain while investigating a shady business executive, a skilled assassin resolves to close the case and avenge the murder. But the intrigue into which she intrudes brings her up against an equally gifted criminal who briefly becomes her lover but remains her deadly adversary. Director Martin Campbell’s sleek yet brutal thriller is morally heedless, justifying the lead character on the grounds that he only targets bad guys, endorsing his pupil’s drive for revenge and presenting a debased view of human sexuality. Excessive gory violence, including torture, gruesome sights, a benignly viewed suicide, a vengeance theme, imputed casual sex, brief upper female nudity, at least one mild oath, frequent rough and crude language. CNS: O; MPAA: R.

“Candyman” (Universal) Searching for fresh inspiration, an artistically blocked painter who, together with his cohabiting girlfriend, lives in a gentrified neighborhood that was formerly home to a notorious Chicago housing project, investigates the urban legend concerning the hook-handed murderer of the title that long prevailed among the once-deprived area’s residents. What begins, under the direction of Nia DaCosta, who co-wrote the script with Jordan Peele and Win Rosenfeld, as an uneasy blend of slasher film and social commentary degenerates, by its conclusion, into a fantasy of racial violence wholly at odds with Gospel values. DaCosta’s sequel to the营1992 movie, adapted, like its predecessor, from the short story “The Forbidden” by Clive Barker, thus unhelpfully appeals to the audience’s basest instincts in the face of real-life injustice. Much gory violence, gruesome images, a vengeance theme, cohabitation, a benignly viewed homosexual relationship, drug use, a couple of profanities, about a half-dozen milder oaths, frequent rough language, considerable crude and crass talk. CNS: O; MPAA: R.

“The Night House” (Searchlight) Creative, though elusive, psychological chiller in which Rebecca Hall, who ably sustains the whole movie, plays a recently widowed school teacher trying to come to terms with her architect husband’s gunshot suicide. Continuing to reside in the lake house he designed for them, she has a series of eerie experiences that lead her to suspect that he was living a dark double life. She’s offered sympathy by her best friend and a kindly neighbor but must ultimately confront the mystery on her own. Together with screenwriters Ben Collins and Luke Piotrowski, director David Bruckner avoids bloodshed in favor of menace and, while the script flirts with some unorthodox ideas about the afterlife, these are ultimately left, like much else, unresolved. Thus, although the film requires mature discernment, there’s nothing to debar most grown viewers from enjoying it. Occult themes, some grim but stylized violence, brief gruesome images, fleetingrear male nudity in a nonsexual context, a couple of profanities, about a half-dozen milder oaths, considerable rough language, a few crude terms. CNS: A-III; MPAA: R.
National/World

Protect human dignity from high-tech threats, pope tells Catholic lawmakers

VATICAN CITY — Lawmakers need to regulate and develop sound policies, including today’s digital technologies, specifically targeting the problems of child pornography, personal data vio- lations, cyber attacks on critical infrastructures and fake news, Pope Francis told Catholic and Christian legislators. “Prudent legislation can guide the development and application of tech- nology in the service of the common good,” he said during an audience at the Vatican Aug. 27. “I heartfeltly encourage you, therefore, to make every effort to undertake serious and in- depth moral reflection on the risks and possibilities associated with scientific and technological advances, so that the interna- tional laws and regulations governing them may concur on promoting integral human development and peace, rather than on progress as an end in itself,” the pope said. Pope Francis was speaking to members and representatives of the International Catholic Legislators Network, who were in Rome for an annual conference. The network is an independent, non- partisan initiative founded in 2010 “to bring together practic- ing Catholics and other Christians in elected office on a regu- lar basis for faith formation, education and fellowship,” accord- ing to its website. It has headquarters in Vienna and an office in Washington, D.C. Those in attendance included Cardinal Christoph Schoenborn of Vienna, honorary patron of the net- work, and Syriac Orthodox Patriarch Ignatius Aphrem II.

Mexican bishops express solidarity with migrants as caravan is disrupted

MEXICO CITY — Mexican church leaders expressed solidarity with a caravan of migrants that was disrupted by security forces. Their reaction came after nationwide outrage about videos that surfaced showing an immigration agent kicking a forces. Their reaction came after nationwide outrage about videos that surfaced showing an immigration agent kicking a

Migrant "Isabel," 22, was injured by an immigration agent in the state of Chiapas in southern Mexico. The violence was part of a larger wave of aggression against migrants and refugees in the region.

In an open letter to the Mexican government, Mexico’s bishops called for an end to the violence and urged the authorities to protect the rights of migrants and refugees. They also noted that the violence was driven by economic and political pressures, and called on the government to address these underlying issues.

The bishops also expressed their concern for the well-being of migrants who were being held in detention centers. They called for better conditions and treatment for those in custody, and for the government to provide legal assistance and support to migrants seeking asylum.

In addition, the bishops called for an end to the use of force by security forces, and for the creation of a national system for the protection of migrants and refugees. They urged the government to work towards a just and peaceful resolution of the migration crisis, and to prioritize the human rights and dignity of all people.

The bishops concluded their letter by expressing their hope that the Mexican government would take concrete steps to address the issues raised, and that the entire country would work towards a future of peace and justice for all.

Rwandan immigrant turns himself in for killing French Montfort provincial

SAINT-LAURENT-SUR-SEVRÉ, France — A Rwandan immi- grant avenging trial for the arrest of the cathedral in Nantes turned himself in to police for killing the French provincial of the Montfort Missionaries. Emmanouil Amaliyongola, 40, a Catholic, had been released on bail earlier this year for the 2020 assault at St. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Nantes. Montfort Father Olivier Maire, 60, had offered him housing in Saint- Laurent-sur-Sevre, south of Nantes. Media reported police sources said early indications were that Amaliyongola had beaten Father Maire to death. At his general audience Aug. 11, Pope Francis told French-speaking priests that it was “with great sorrow” that he learned of the Aug. 4 murder. “I extend my con- dolesences to the religious community of the Montfortians in Saint-Laurent-sur-Sevre, to Vende, to his family and to all Catholics in France,” Pope Francis said, assuring every one of his closeness. Father Justin Bumbilla, superior general of the Montfort Missionaries, described Father Maire as a “religious, a priest and a margaret, a great value, a specialist in Montfort spirituality who accompanied his entire community in coming to a profound understanding of the message of their founder, Louis-Marie-Guignon de Montfort,” Vatican News reported.

Inquiry opens into migrant facility for minors at Texas’ Fort Bliss

EL PASO, Texas — The Office of the Inspector General for the Department of Health and Human Services is investigating allegations of abuse at a Texas camp for unaccompanied migrant minors. The inquiry follows whistleblower complaints about conditions at the shelter, particularly as the number of unaccompanied minors coming into the country grows. The government watchdog agency said in the meats since the Fort Bliss facility opened to minors near El Paso, Texas, “se- veral individuals have raised concerns about the quality of case management provided there, and its negative impact on chil- dren’s safety and well-being.” Some of the complaints allege of lack of bathing, sanitation and food, failure to minors, out- breaks of lice, inadequate facilities or staff trained to care for

minors, as well as confusion leading to anxiety among the pop- ulation, who is said to receive little information about when they could be released. Figures from DHS show that as of July 19, there were some 14,000 unaccompanied migrant minors in government custody. The Fort Bliss tent, one of the largest facilities to house the minors, has 10,000 beds available.

Catholic organizations as well as bishops, including El Paso Bishop Mark J. Seitz, have argued that smaller facilities run by the church and other nonprofits, with family-like settings, are better suited to care for the minors.

Congo’s bishops want an end to attacks on Catholic Church, its leaders

NAIROBI, Kenya — Catholic bishops in Congo called for an end to attacks on the church and its leaders, act they believe are linked to the country’s persistent slide from democracy and national cohesion. The bishops said the Archdiocese of Kinshasa has been targeted as well as places of worship, including parishes, Marist groves, altars and sanctuaries in the Diocese of Mbuji-Mayi. Bishop Bernard-Ramnand Kasongo of Mbuji Mayi and Bishop Zenobius Kabona of Mbuji Mayi had highlighted the har- ring in a letter to the bishops’ conference July 28, saying the place had been desecrated. The Congolese bishops’ confer- ence, known by the French acronym CNSCO, “strongly con- demn these inadmissible acts of violence, which are a serious attack on freedom of religion and expression, but also a viola- tion of democracy,” Father Donatien Nshole, conference gener- al secretary, said in a statement Aug. 2. “It is a big step back- ward on the road to the rule of law to which the Congolese peo- ple aspire.” Apart from the incidents in Mbuji-Mayi, the bish- ops highlight two other incidents in which the church and its leaders have come under direct attack. In an incident July 31, Augustin Kabinya, general secretary of the Union for Democracy and Social Progress, accused Cardinal Fridolin Ambongo of politicizing the church, among other allegations. On Aug. 1, a group of young people vandal- ized the headquarters of the Archdiocese of Kinshasa and the residence of the cardinal. They also yelled insults at the cardi- nal. “Our pain is great in all these acts show hatred against the Catholic Church,” said Father Nshole.

Australian Mass becomes longest-running show on nation’s television

SYDNEY — A weekly 30-minute Mass broadcast into peo- ple’s living rooms has become the longest-running program on Australian television. Celebrating its 50th year in early August, “Mass For You at Home” was originally aimed at those unable to attend their local parish due to illness, infirmity, being homebound or in prison, but today has attracted a new audi- ence due to COVID-19. Filmed at Fairy Meadow’s St. John Vianney Co-Cathedral in the Diocese of Wollongong, south of Sydney, the broadcast has come a long way since the first Mass was recorded in 1970 at the cathedral. Residents, who are linked to the local parish, enjoy the regular Mass through the program.

The broadcast, which airs on Sundays at 8 a.m., is viewed by an estimated 600,000 people each week. It features a Mass celebrated by a priest from the local parish, along with hymns and prayers, and is broadcast in English and other languages.

The program is a valuable resource for those who are unable to attend Mass in person, and is a reminder of the importance of the Church’s teachings and the role of the Church in people’s lives.

The success of “Mass For You at Home” is a testament to the enduring power of the Church and its teachings, and the ability of the Church to provide support and guidance to those in need. The program serves as a reminder of the Church’s continued commitment to promoting faith and spirituality, and the importance of the Church in the lives of all people.