Eucharist is source of joy, God’s presence, speakers tell global congress

BUDAPEST, Hungary — The ultimate purpose of the Eucharist is mission, Mary Healy, a professor of Sacred Scripture at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, told the 52nd International Eucharistic Congress.

More than 60 speakers from nearly 40 countries on five continents are in Budapest for the Sept. 5-12 congress, which will close with a Mass celebrated by Pope Francis.

In the United States, some churches “have signs posted at the exits to the parking lot, so that you see them every time you leave the church on Sunday morning. You are now entering mission territory,” Healy said in her Sept. 6 address. “They have the right idea. In the Eucharist, the whole pattern of Christ’s redemption is made present to us.”

Healy is a member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, a body of scholars that engages in research for the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

At the Lower Manhattan Mass Sept. 5 in Heroes Square, Cardinal Angelo Bagnasco, president of the Council of European Bishops’ Conferences, said the Eucharist “provides hope in the days leading up to and including the 9/11 ding to the World Trade Center. Most of the calls are from firefighters who had been preparing to celebrate morning Mass at St. Rose of Lima Church in Blue Point, some 40 miles east of the city. An associate pastor at the time, he had been preparing to celebrate morning Mass when a parish secretary told him to turn on the television where he witnessed the second of two hijacked airliners crash into the World Trade Center.

Several minutes later, his fire pager chirped, alerting him about the mass casualty incident.

In an interview with Catholic News Service to mark the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania, Father Smith spoke about his role as a chaplain on and after 9/11.

“I can’t believe it was 20 years ago,” he remarked. “There are days when it feels like yesterday.”

For Father Smith, Sept. 12, 2001, began at St. Rose of Lima Church in Massapequa, some 40 miles east of the city. An associate pastor at the time, he had been preparing to celebrate morning Mass when a parish secretary told him to turn on the television where he witnessed the second of two hijacked airliners crash into the World Trade Center.

Several minutes later, his fire pager chirped, alerting him about the mass casualty incident.

After notifying his pastor that he was responding to the call, Father Smith jumped into his black Chevy Trailblazer — a vehicle with emergency equipment — and headed for the World Trade Center.

(Continued on page 9)
The volunteer solicitors kickoff gathering for the 2021-2022 ACUE Leadership Appeal was held Aug. 26 at the Curia’s Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, Covington. The annual kickoff provides volunteers with an overview of the appeal and an opportunity to share information. Fifty-eight volunteers will participate in this year’s ACUE solicitation in support of leadership gifts of $1,000 or more and membership in the ACUE Christ the Teacher Society. The funds provide essential tuition assistance for economically-disadvantaged children who attend the urban elementary schools of the Diocese, also known as the ACUE schools.

“We are looking forward to another great appeal. Last year’s fund raising effort, with Greg Vonderhaar as chair, was the most successful ever,” said Joe Mayer, general chair for the ACUE Leadership Appeal. “We have a fantastic group of volunteers this year. I am very optimistic that with their help, we can be equally successful.”

ACUE stands for the Alliance for Catholic Urban Education. The appeal benefits students with financial need at Holy Cross Elementary, Latonia; Holy Family School, Covington; Holy Trinity School, Bellevue; Prince of Peace Montessori, Covington; St. Anthony School, Taylor Mill; and St. Augustine, Covington.

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 ticket holders; 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.

Par for the Rose Garden Home Mission

The 7th annual Friends of the Rose Garden Home Mission Golf Outing took place Aug. 27 at Kenton County Golf Course. A total of 260 golfers signed-up for the event, and the golf outing filled both the Pioneer and Willows golf courses at Kenton County. Following golf, the participants gathered for dinner and an awards ceremony. All proceeds from the golf outing go directly toward supporting the life-affirming work of the Rose Garden Home Mission, Covington, a ministry of the Franciscan Daughters of Mary. Pictured is the golf outing planning committee, led by event chair Cindy Rieker.
Following the data leads to mandatory masking in schools; parents, parish and school communities called to pray for unity and peace so teachers/children can focus on learning

In a letter to parents, Sept. 3, Kendra McGuire, superintendent of Catholic Schools, provided an update on COVID-19 activity in schools and masking protocols. The following is the letter in its entirety.

As we begin the month of September, I wanted to provide you with a COVID-19 update and inform you of a change to our masking plans.

First, many of our schools have been in session for nearly three weeks or more. During this time we have seen case activity in some schools and have had to quarantine students and staff deemed close contacts. This is to be expected as case activity in our area is high. As stated in our protocols, additional precautions such as masks may be put into place based on case activity. Of our 27 schools, three elementary schools and two middle schools have added masks as a precaution due to increasing case activity in their school.

We are appreciative of our families for adjusting to these changes and exhibiting patience as we navigate this school year with a new strain of the virus.

As the holiday weekend approaches, we have made the decision to move all schools to required masking effective Tuesday, September 7th. This is based on our experience last year with COVID-19 cases and the rising case activity in our region. During the 2020-2021 school year, we saw an increase in positive student cases following long weekends or holidays where people often gather. We also know that the higher the community rates, the more impacts we will see in our schools.

At this time, by returning to a mask requirement we will hopefully mitigate further spread of the virus and help keep quarantines to a minimum. This is an extra precaution that we feel is necessary in order to maintain in-person instruction for the greatest number of students. Please note that case data and other information is reviewed daily and evaluated weekly.

While there are many sides to the arguments about masks, we are asking families to work with us as we make decisions that we feel are best for our school communities. We review a lot of information from the CDC, the Kentucky Department of Public Health, the local health department, and the Governor’s office and the Kentucky Department of Education. When available, we review the opinions of other organizations to gather as much information as possible to make these decisions. However, our data is a large driver of our decisions as we have been tracking COVID-19 cases for thousands of students and staff over these last 14 months.

Included with this letter is an update to our “COVID-19 Return to School Requirements” document. I encourage you to read through the document in its entirety as more information has been added. One thing that I would like to point out is the request for families to do a morning health check for their students that includes temperature taking. We are seeing more student experience fevers with COVID-19 this school year and this precaution could help identify when to keep your children home sooner.

The document also has updated information on masks and additional questions and answers to help guide you through COVID-19 symptoms, tests, exposures, and quarantines. Just like last year, we continue to review new guidance and information as it comes out so these protocols are always subject to changes and revisions.

As I’m sure you are aware, there are a wide range of thoughts and opinions on the best response to this pandemic. I have seen a lot of un-Christian words and actions on all sides of this debate. But we cannot allow these differences to divide us. As Catholic school communities, it is important for us to come together and treat one another as Christ taught us. While it seems that we will not be able to come to agreement on one COVID-19 response plan we can unite in prayer through our Lord, Jesus Christ. He is the only one who can help us learn to live in peace with one another despite our differences.

With this in mind, I am asking our school families to pray a weekly rosary for peace and safety in our school communities. This can be done once per week in your household, maybe a Sunday evening for the upcoming week. It would also be great to see our school parents joining together to pray the rosary too.

We know that through faith and trust in God we will be strengthened for this journey. Let’s be a light to those around us and show others the power God has to transform us and bring good out of the most difficult circumstances. We only need to look to the cross to be reminded of this.

I would also ask that you are kind to our principals, faculty, and staff. They have chosen this vocation because of their love of children and learning. Let’s make sure they can focus their efforts on the children and ensure they can dedicate their time to providing a great Catholic education to the students. As we enter the third school year impacted by the pandemic, we want our children to have a learning experience that is as close to normal as we can safely provide. Keeping our adult disagreements out of their lives, classrooms, and schools will help us reach that goal.

I want to thank you for your patience, understanding, and flexibility during these difficult times. There were ups and downs and uncertainties last school year but we got through it together. We are confident and hopeful that this year will be even better but it will take a little time to find the right balance.

Kendra McGuire
Superintendent of Schools
Diocese of Covington, Ky.
In his “The Common Good” (2018), Robert B. Reich provides an example of the concept of the social common good. He writes: “The common good consists of our shared values about what we owe one another as citizens who are bound together in the same society …”

From a theological standpoint, “Gaudium et Spes,” the Second Vatican Council’s “Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World” (1965), understands the common good as being “the sum total of those conditions of social life which allow social groups and their individual members relatively thorough and ready access to their own fulfillment” (GS, n. 28).

On the relationship of morality and markets, the “Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church” sums up the teaching of St. John Paul II in his encyclical “Centesimus Annus” (“The Hundredth Anniversary of Berum Novum,” 1991).

“Centesimus Annus” defends the role of marketing institutions in the public square when it states: “The value of certain categories of goods, collective goods meant for common use, cannot be dependent on mechanisms of the market, nor does their full use fall under the exclusive and uncontrolled logic of the market.”

St. John Paul II in his encyclical “Laborem Exercens” (“On Human Work,” 1981) articulates the affirmation that “(the Church’s social doctrine has not failed to insist on the relationship between labor and capital, placing in evidence both the priority of the first over the second as well as their complementary nature)” (CSDC, n. 277). Thus, “Laborum Exercens” firmly pronounces that “Labor has an intrinsic priority over capital.” That relationship constitutes “a principle that has always been taught by the Church” (Lk. n. 12).

St. John Paul II likewise noted: “This principle is an evident truth that emerges from the whole of man’s historical existence” (Lk. n. 12).

The Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace published “The Vocation of the Business Leader – A Reflection” in 2014. In addressing the “Financialization of the Economy,” the Pontifical Council points out the ethereal flaw of the business practices: “equating the purpose of businesses to share the maximization of profit.” Such a “commodifying trend” places “shareholder value” as “the sole metric by which business leaders determine their performance and their worth” (VHL, n. 25).

Free markets must function within a larger dynamic of a public philosophy to set societal priorities. In the first social encyclical (“Centesimus Annus,” 1981), Pope Leo XIII declared a major principle of 19th century laissez-faire economic theory, namely the so-called “wage contract” theory. The “wage contract” theory treated human labor as a commodity subject to the laws of supply and demand. “Blerum Novarum” rejected that thesis as immoral, an unjust violation of the dignity of the worker.

In a 21st century context, the old laissez-faire economy might today simply be called a “winner-take-all” or “survival of the fittest” ideology.

In this regard, the state and society as a whole have a correlative duty to defend “the collective goods: which, among others, constitute the essential framework for the legitimate pursuit of personal goals on the part of each individual” (CA, n. 4).

Earlier, in the 1987 encyclical “Soli徃itatis Sociis” (“On Social Concerns,”) St. John Paul II had presciently forecasted the critique of the “structures of sin” that impoverish and destroy the human dignity of untold numbers of people on our global scale. “These expressing ‘structures of sin’ stem from actions and attitudes opposed to the will of God and the good of the neighbor. Two of these sources are identified as an ‘all-consuming desire for profit and the thirst for power’” — “at any price” (SRS, nn.36-37).

The late Holy Father laid bare the kind of idolatries latent within economic and political decisions severed from moral criteria — an idolatry of “money, ideology, class, technology.”

“Evangeli Gaudium” (“The Joy of the Gospel”), Pope Francis’ 2015 apostolic exhortation, resonated with a “No to the new idolatries of money” (EJ, nn. 50-56). “The thirst for power” champions “a system, which tends to devour everything which stands in the way of increased profits.” Moreover, in such a system “whatever is fragile, like the environment, isdefenseless before the interests of a divided market which become the only rule” (EJ, n. 56).

The Catholic Church formulates a succinct summary of the substance of Church social teaching on the market as follows of markets: “Reasonable regulation of the marketplace and economic initiatives, in keeping with a just hierarchy of values and a vocation to the common good” (EJ, n. 245).

The opening chapter of “Economic Justice for All,” the 1986 pastoral letter on the economy issued by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, comments on economic freedom and the limits on markets: “The US. value system emphasizes economic freedom. It also recognizes the market is limited by fundamental human rights.” Some things cannot be bought or sold. “This conviction has prompted positive steps to modify the operation of the market it harms vulnerable members of society” (EJ, n.8).

“Economic Justice for All” makes two decisive comments about the moral implications of the maximization of profits towards the detriment of the common good. In the first instance, the pastoral letter stresses the societal obligation to reconcile “the transnational corporations’ profit orientation with the common good” (EJ, n. 256).

Later, against the dominance of the profit orientation, Section D of the pastoral letter asserts that “the Christian ethic is incompatible with a primary or exclusive focus on the pursuit of profit” (EJ, n. 268).

Unbridled markets, whether advocated from the political left or right, cannot equitably respond to basic social needs nor respect human dignity due to all.

As the late Lester Thurow (d. 2016), the noted M.I.T economist, had observed, values and preferences are “the black hole of capitalism.”

From the standpoint of moral doctrine, the late Joseph Cardinal Bernardin of Chicago (d. 1986) described the unbridled market economy as “socially insensitive and ethically blind.”

Msgr. Ronald Ketteler is director of ecumenism, episcopal liaison to the Messenger and theologian In residence at Thomas More University

Please note: The photo that accompanied this article is not available. We apologize for the inconvenience. We will publish it in a future issue.

Catholic Social Doctrine: A Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, Pius XII, September 10, 2004 (USCCB, 2014). In addressing the “Financialization of the Economy,” the Pontifical Council points out the ethereal flaw of the business practices: “equating the purpose of businesses to share the maximization of profit.” Such a “commodifying trend” places “shareholder value” as “the sole metric by which business leaders determine their performance and their worth” (VHL, n. 25).

Free markets must function within a larger dynamic of a public philosophy to set societal priorities. In the first social encyclical (“Centesimus Annus,” 1981), Pope Leo XIII declared a major principle of 19th century laissez-faire economic theory, namely the so-called “wage contract” theory. The “wage contract” theory treated human labor as a commodity subject to the laws of supply and demand. “Blerum Novarum” rejected that thesis as immoral, an unjust violation of the dignity of the worker.

In a 21st century context, the old laissez-faire economy might today simply be called a “winner-take-all” or “survival of the fittest” ideology.

In this regard, the state and society as a whole have a correlative duty to defend “the collective goods: which, among others, constitute the essential framework for the legitimate pursuit of personal goals on the part of each individual” (CA, n. 4).

Earlier, in the 1987 encyclical “Soli徃itatis Sociis” (“On Social Concerns,”) St. John Paul II had presciently forecasted the critique of the “structures of sin” that impoverish and destroy the human dignity of untold numbers of people on our global scale. “These expressing ‘structures of sin’ stem from actions and attitudes opposed to the will of God and the good of the neighbor. Two of these sources are identified as an ‘all-consuming desire for profit and the thirst for power’” — “at any price” (SRS, nn.36-37).

The late Holy Father laid bare the kind of idolatries latent within economic and political decisions severed from moral criteria — an idolatry of “money, ideology, class, technology.”

“Evangeli Gaudium” (“The Joy of the Gospel”), Pope Francis’ 2015 apostolic exhortation, resonated with a “No to the new idolatries of money” (EJ, nn. 50-56). “The thirst for power” champions “a system, which tends to devour everything which stands in the way of increased profits.” Moreover, in such a system “whatever is fragile, like the environment, isdefenseless before the interests of a divided market which become the only rule” (EJ, n. 56).

The Catholic Church formulates a succinct summary of the substance of Church social teaching on the market as follows: “Reasonable regulation of the marketplace and economic initiatives, in keeping with a just hierarchy of values and a vocation to the common good” (EJ, n. 245).

The opening chapter of “Economic Justice for All,” the 1986 pastoral letter on the economy issued by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, comments on economic freedom and the limits on markets: “The US. value system emphasizes economic freedom. It also recognizes the market is limited by fundamental human rights.” Some things cannot be bought or sold. “This conviction has prompted positive steps to modify the operation of the market it harms vulnerable members of society” (EJ, n.8).

“Economic Justice for All” makes two decisive comments about the moral implications of the maximization of profits towards the detriment of the common good. In the first instance, the pastoral letter stresses the societal obligation to reconcile “the transnational corporations’ profit orientation with the common good” (EJ, n. 256).

Later, against the dominance of the profit orientation, Section D of the pastoral letter asserts that “the Christian ethic is incompatible with a primary or exclusive focus on the pursuit of profit” (EJ, n. 268).

Unbridled markets, whether advocated from the political left or right, cannot equitably respond to basic social needs nor respect human dignity due to all.

As the late Lester Thurow (d. 2016), the noted M.I.T economist, had observed, values and preferences are “the black hole of capitalism.”

From the standpoint of moral doctrine, the late Joseph Cardinal Bernardin of Chicago (d. 1986) described the unbridled market economy as “socially insensitive and ethically blind.”

Msgr. Ronald Ketteler is director of ecumenism, episcopal liaison to the Messenger and theologian In residence at Thomas More University

Please note: The photo that accompanied this article is not available. We apologize for the inconvenience. We will publish it in a future issue.
In the summer before the Second Vatican Council opened, Pope John XXIII met with Cardinal Leon Joseph Suenens in the papal residence at Castel Gandolfo. “I know what my part in the Council will be,” the Pope told the Belgian archbishop. “It will be to suffer.” Pope John was prescient, and not just because the Council’s opening week would prove contentious; shortly before Vatican II began its work, the Pope was diagnosed with the painful cancer that would kill him in less than a year.

When Paul Mankowski, finishing a brilliant undergraduate career at the University of Chicago and anticipating graduate study and a possible religious vocation, was told he had cancer, he didn’t immediately seek out suffering. It came to him, and he bore it, for the same reason John XXIII accepted it: it was the sake of a greater good and a greater glory — the glory of God.

Father Mankowski’s death last September was another unanticipated awkwardness in a year of hard blows. We had been speaking by phone and voicemail by email with the regularity that marked our friendship for three decades; I don’t know at what age he acquired the skill, but the same mastery of English prose [and] for the remainder of his life

...
Arguments against contraception — Part III: Theological

Caitlin Dwyer
Contributor

In the first two parts of this series, we looked at the negative impact contraception can have both on women’s personal health and on society. In this final segment we will consider theological arguments against contraception. Using a Catholic moral framework, we will ponder two reasons that contraception is immoral:

1. Some contraceptives have an abortifacient effect; that is, they can cause early abortions, and
2. All contraceptives violate married love and the dignity of the human person.

As a point of clarification, we will be addressing the morality of contraceptives when used to prevent pregnancy, not their use as a medical therapy to treat gynecological illnesses. This latter use can be morally permissible in some cases.

First, let’s explore why some contraceptives can be abortifacient. We tend to think contraceptives work solely by preventing fertilization — the fusing of an egg and sperm resulting in a genetically unique human being. That is how we work most of the time. However, some forms of contraception, such as hormonal methods, can also work by terminating new life after fertilization has already taken place. Hormonal contraceptives work in three ways by suppressing ovulation, by preventing fertilization or by preventing implantation. First, by maintaining hormones at a consistent level, hormonal contraceptives prevent a woman’s monthly cycle in estrogen; this suppresses ovulation. Second, they thicken cervical mucus to make it difficult for sperm to enter the uterus, thus preventing fertilization even if breakthrough ovulation has taken place.

Sometimes, however, fertilization occurs anyway, and a third mechanism comes into play — the thinning of the lining of a woman’s uterus to prevent implantation of any newly conceived life. It is this last process that constitutes an early abortion. The intentional action of taking contraceptive hormones designed to terminate — if conceived — the life of an unborn child is morally impermissible.

Some doctors contend that no abortifacient mechanism is associated with these methods and that they all act solely to prevent conception. When they say “conception,” however, they mean implantation in the uterus, not fertilization. Further, they define abortion as the termination of pregnancy, which in their terms does not begin until conception or implantation. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists actually changed the definition of conception from “fertilization” to “implantation” in 1965 to mask and downplay the abortifacient mechanism of certain contraceptives as they sought to popularize the pill.

Science clearly affirms that human life begins at fertilization when a complete, unique set of human DNA is present along with the widely accepted belief that life has begun at conception. If conceived — the life of an unborn child is morally impermissible.

Some say natural family planning (NFP) is just like artificial contraception, because both remove the procreative element from the marital act. But NFP changes only the timing of the act, not the essential respect for God’s design.

Indeed, there is no moral imperative for married couples to have sexual relations at a given time. Given “well-grounded reasons for spacing births ... the Church teaches that married people may then take advantage of the natural cycles immanent in the reproductive system and engage in marital intercourse only during those times that are infertile, thus controlling birth in a way which does not in the least offend the moral principles” of keeping “within the limits of the order of reality established by God” (St. Paul VI, “Humanae Vitae,” 16).

Here is an analogy: Human fertility is a tremendous gift that we can compare to a priceless heirloom that we may not need right now. Contraception is like breaking it and planning to repair it when you need it again. NFP is like carefully storing it away until you are ready to bring it back out again.

The model for this genuine love is Christ’s sacrificial gift-of-self on the cross for the sake of His bride, the Church. And it is Christ’s grace, given to spouses through the sacrament of marriage, that makes this authentic love possible.

The sexual act is the expression of married love. It is the way that a man and woman wholly give themselves to each other, body and soul. The sexual difference and complementarity of a man and woman enable them to form a one-flesh union that is open to new life in a way that images God’s inner life of love.

To be an authentic expression of married love, the sexual act must also bear the four characteristics of married love: free, total, faithful and fruitful. Fruitfulness, in this context, means being open to procreation if couples intentionally withhold their fertility from one another through contraception, the sexual act ceases to be a total, unitive gift-of-self as it is no longer open to procreation. It has become something less than an authentic expression of married love, and it degrades the human dignity of the spouses.

St. John Paul II wrote of the virtuous and procreative components of marital intercourse in “Familiaris Consortio”: “When couples, by means of recourse to contraception, separate these two meanings... they... manipulate and degrade human sexuality — and with it themselves and their married partner — by altering its value of ‘total’ gift-of-self” (15). As explained in Part II of this series, contraception can also lead to infidelity, divorce and looking at a spouse exclusively as a sexual object — all things that obviously threaten the integrity of married love and degrade human dignity.

Catholics understand that God-given moral norms show us what kind of life will lead to ultimate fulfillment. Sometimes following those norms can be very difficult, but with Christ’s grace it is possible, and the reward of true love in this life and supreme joy in the next is worth it. The prohibition against contraception is certainly in that category: while it is difficult to accept at times, God gives it not only to protect us from harm, but to offer an experience of love that is true, beautiful and in keeping with the dignity of the human person.

Prof Caitlin Shaughnessy Dwyer is assistant professor of Theology, Thomas More University. She and her family are members of St. Paul the Apostle, Edgewood.
Thomas More University kicks off a year of celebration honoring its first 100 years

**Messenger Staff Report**

Thomas More University, in celebration of its centennial anniversary, will begin a yearlong series of events to honor the past and propel the University into the next 100 years.

For 100 years, Villa Madonna College’s, now Thomas More University’s, steadfast commitment to a liberal arts education rooted in Catholic identity, socially responsible values, and lifelong intellectual curiosity has demonstrated how education transforms students, the community, and the world,” said Judith Marlowe, TMU Board of Trustees chair. “Even for those who have never attended Thomas More, it is likely that their lives have been touched by our graduates — teachers, physicians, nurses, lawyers, accountants, and countless others in business and various professions throughout this region and beyond.”

The kickoff of the celebration starts with Saturday’s schedule of events as well as an entire weekend of activities. (See schedule at right.)

“Most University Saints’ 2021-22 football team will take the field for their home opener on Saturday, Sept. 11, 7 p.m., versus the Faulkner University Eagles of Alabama. President Dr. Joseph Chillo will host a tailgating rally prior to the game where he will honor over 100 Thomas More University graduates and community members that serve as first responders, law enforcement, armed services members, and veterans.

In addition, President Chillo will announce that the turf athletic field at Griffin Plaza will now be named Republic Bank Field, thanks to a generous gift from the Republic Bank & Trust Company and the Republic Bank Foundation. The official dedication of Republic Bank Field at Griffin Plaza will take place at halftime.

“We are proud to continue to partner with Thomas More University with their long history of academic and athletic excellence,” said Tom Saelinger, market president for Republic Bank Kentucky and Ohio region.

While the events will take place entirely outside, Thomas More University is asking participants to protect themselves and others by wearing a mask during all tailgate and game day activities.

“Founded soon after the deadly 1918 pandemic by the Sisters of St. Benedict, and joined by the Sisters of Notre Dame and Congregation of Divine Providence, generations of students, alumni, and faculty, represent the legacy that we celebrate this year as we emerge from another global outbreak — ironic bookends to the history of our first century,” said Mrs. Marlowe.

In continued celebration of Thomas More University’s Centennial, a fireworks display will conclude the evening.

“An alumna having experienced personally the transformative power of a Thomas More education, and now serving as Chair of the Board of Trustees, this centennial is a unique opportunity to reflect on past blessings while simultaneously focusing on ensuring a vibrant future,” said Mrs. Marlowe. “It truly is a unique moment on the threshold of our Second Century to renew our commitment demonstrating our commitment to providing a well-rounded education that fosters personal growth physically, intellectually, spiritually, and socially. In memory of 9/11, and to commemorate the relationship between the military service and sports in our history, all veterans, law enforcement, and first responders are invited to the President’s Tent at the opening game of our centennial year to honor and thank those who serve to protect our freedom and ensure our safety.

Centennial and Founders Day Mass Sunday, Sept. 12, 10 a.m.

Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington

Founded soon after the deadly 1918 pandemic by the Sisters of St. Benedict, and joined by the Sisters of Notre Dame and Congregation of Divine Providence, generations of students, alumni, and faculty, represent the legacy that we celebrate this year as we emerge from another global outbreak — ironic bookends to the history of our first century,” said Mrs. Marlowe.

In continued celebration of Thomas More University’s Centennial, a fireworks display will conclude the evening.

“An alumna having experienced personally the transformative power of a Thomas More education, and now serving as Chair of the Board of Trustees, this centennial is a unique opportunity to reflect on past blessings while simultaneously focusing on ensuring a vibrant future,” said Mrs. Marlowe. “It truly is a unique moment on the threshold of our Second Century to renew our commitment demonstrating our commitment to providing a well-rounded education that fosters personal growth physically, intellectually, spiritually, and socially. In memory of 9/11, and to commemorate the relationship between the military service and sports in our history, all veterans, law enforcement, and first responders are invited to the President’s Tent at the opening game of our centennial year to honor and thank those who serve to protect our freedom and ensure our safety.

Centennial and Founders Day Mass Sunday, Sept. 12, 10 a.m.

Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington

Founded soon after the deadly 1918 pandemic by the Sisters of St. Benedict, and joined by the Sisters of Notre Dame and Congregation of Divine Providence, generations of students, alumni, and faculty, represent the legacy that we celebrate this year as we emerge from another global outbreak — ironic bookends to the history of our first century,” said Mrs. Marlowe.

In continued celebration of Thomas More University’s Centennial, a fireworks display will conclude the evening.

“An alumna having experienced personally the transformative power of a Thomas More education, and now serving as Chair of the Board of Trustees, this centennial is a unique opportunity to reflect on past blessings while simultaneously focusing on ensuring a vibrant future,” said Mrs. Marlowe. “It truly is a unique moment on the threshold of our Second Century to renew our commitment demonstrating our commitment to providing a well-rounded education that fosters personal growth physically, intellectually, spiritually, and socially. In memory of 9/11, and to commemorate the relationship between the military service and sports in our history, all veterans, law enforcement, and first responders are invited to the President’s Tent at the opening game of our centennial year to honor and thank those who serve to protect our freedom and ensure our safety.

Centennial and Founders Day Mass Sunday, Sept. 12, 10 a.m.

Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington

Founded soon after the deadly 1918 pandemic by the Sisters of St. Benedict, and joined by the Sisters of Notre Dame and Congregation of Divine Providence, generations of students, alumni, and faculty, represent the legacy that we celebrate this year as we emerge from another global outbreak — ironic bookends to the history of our first century,” said Mrs. Marlowe.

In continued celebration of Thomas More University’s Centennial, a fireworks display will conclude the evening.

“An alumna having experienced personally the transformative power of a Thomas More education, and now serving as Chair of the Board of Trustees, this centennial is a unique opportunity to reflect on past blessings while simultaneously focusing on ensuring a vibrant future,” said Mrs. Marlowe. “It truly is a unique moment on the threshold of our Second Century to renew our commitment demonstrating our commitment to providing a well-rounded education that fosters personal growth physically, intellectually, spiritually, and socially. In memory of 9/11, and to commemorate the relationship between the military service and sports in our history, all veterans, law enforcement, and first responders are invited to the President’s Tent at the opening game of our centennial year to honor and thank those who serve to protect our freedom and ensure our safety.
Summer Festivals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Barbara Parish, Erlanger</td>
<td>Sept. 10, 6 p.m.–midnight</td>
<td>Sept. 11, 5 p.m.–midnight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Patrick Parish, Mayville</td>
<td>Sept. 10-11, 6–11 p.m.; Sept. 12, noon–3 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cristo Rey Parish, Florence</td>
<td>Sept. 11, 5 p.m.–midnight; Sept. 12, noon–9 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Cross High School, Latonia</td>
<td>Sept. 17, 6 p.m.–midnight; Sept. 18, 6:30 p.m.–midnight</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Timothy Parish, Union</td>
<td>Sept. 17, 6–11 p.m.; Sept. 18, 5:30 p.m.–midnight; Sept. 19, 12:30–6 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. William Parish, Covington</td>
<td>Sept. 24 and 25, 6 p.m.–midnight</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Benedict Parish, Ft. Wright</td>
<td>Oct. 1 and 2, 5 p.m.–midnight; Oct. 3, 3–8 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The students at St. Joseph School, Cold Spring, brought in a dollar for an out of uniform day to help seminarian students continue their education. This was especially meaningful to them since seminarian John Baumann is currently appointed to St. Joseph Parish. (above) Mr. Baumann was more than happy to ceremoniously accept the check from the students and Msgr. Gerry Reinersman, pastor.

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.

The 19th annual Bishop Brossart High School Emerald Gala is Nov. 13, Seither Sports Center, 7 p.m.–12 a.m. The theme for the night is Totally 80s. For information, visit BBHSGala2021@givelifem.com or e-mail gala@bishopbrossart.org.
President Joseph Chillo will outline the vision for the next century, including strategic projects that will enhance the student life experience as well as educational outcomes through academic program innovation and facilities development. The campaign will raise significant philanthropy that paves the way for continuing the Thomas More tradition of academic excellence and opportunities for students to Make It More. This kick-off event aims to excite and engage students, alumni, longtime supporters and other interested members of the community in the fundraising campaign. Focusing on the future, all attending can share their enthusiasm by joining in festivities, including a Pig Roast, that will immediately follow.

Saints Serve
Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2021
As Thomas More University Saints, realizing “our place in the world and responsibility to others” are essential parts of fulfilling our mission. By using our talents and energy to serve through volunteering, we all can make positive contributions to those who need support and develop an ethic of service.

On this “day on, rather than day off,” Thomas More students, faculty, and staff will put aside their usual duties and join forces to serve the local community — the hungry, the homeless, our brothers and sisters of all ages in need of assistance. Through activities planned in partnership with local nonprofit agencies and programs such as the Parish Kitchen, Master Provisions, and Special Olympics, among others, this first designated day called Saints Serve will become an annual event.

Saints Serve in partnership with Master Provisions in honor of our Centennial year, Thomas More University is partnering with Master Provisions to collect 30,000 lbs. of clothing for our inaugural Saints Serve event in Sept. To achieve this goal, we need your help and invite you to join us! Your donations of lightweight, lightly worn clothing for the warmer climates of Togo, Ghana, and Honduras and items such as hats, purses and shoes are welcomed now. Thomas More students, faculty, staff, and community partners will pack the clothing on Tuesday, Sept. 14. Donations are gladly accepted in bins located throughout campus.

Centennial Gala
Saturday, March 26, 2022, 6 P.M.
Northern Kentucky Convention Center

Serving the Seniors of Northern Kentucky for 60 years!
Lodge Senior Living Apartments with Services & Homestead Personal Care Suites.
(859) 331-3224 www.stcharlescommunity.org

9/11 ‘feels like yesterday’
(Continued from page 1)

lights and sirens — and headed toward the city.

When he eventually arrived in lower Manhattan, Father Smith encountered a surreal scene. The devastation was overwhelming.

“The whole place was filled with smoke,” he recalled. “There was a lot of stuff coming out of the air. Fire trucks and Emergency Service Unit vehicles were catching fire from the falling debris and exploding.”

Throughout the day and into the early hours the following day, Father Smith — protected by a fire helmet and bunker coat — offered prayers, emotional support and assistance to firefighters and other emergency personnel. A trained fire-fighter, he also helped search for victims.

As shaken first responders went about their business amid the mayhem, a number of them asked Father Smith to hear their confessions. In addition to ministering to the firefighters, the priest blessed the bodies of many of the FIRST’s 343 fallen heroes, including Franciscan Father Mychal Judge, the beloved FDNY chaplain and first certified casualty of 9/11.

For several months following 9/11, Father Smith would commute almost daily from his parish to ground zero, where he continued to offer support to the firefighters, including his brother Patrick, who was among those participating in the recovery efforts.

He said his faith helped sustain him through the difficult work and grueling schedule. “Prayer, adoration and the Holy Spirit” were the emboldening forces, he said, adding: “I had a sense that God was with me.”

Father Smith was also present to the bereaved members of the fallen firefighters’ families. He estimates that he consecrated 30 to 40 funeral Masses of firefighters, sometimes two or three in a single day.

“I know a lot of the guys,” he said.

He also had been friendly with a number of people who worked inside the towers. One of his former parishers, St. Mary Church in Manhattan, lost 22 parishioners and alumni from its elementary and secondary schools, the majority of whom Father Smith had known personally. He consoled several of those funeral liturgies.

“I remember a year or two after 9/11 looking at a list of victims to see how many people I actually knew,” Father Smith said. “It was about 60. Sixty friends that I had contact with and knew their families. They were firefighters, guys from Cantor... (Continued on page 13)
VATICAN CITY — There is no place for discrimination or divisive distinctions among people who believe in Christ, Pope Francis said during his weekly general audience.

“Everywhere everyone is made new and equal in Christ overcomes all ethnic, economic and social differences, even between the two sexes, ‘establishing equality between man and woman which was revolutionary at the time and between the two sexes, ‘establishing an equality between man and woman, he said, calling for a reaffirmation of this truth.

“Voted #1 in plumbing customer satisfaction”

ST. PAUL'S teaching was “shocking” and “revolutionary” at a time when distinctions, for example, between slaves and free citizens “was vital in ancient society,” said the pope.

“By law, free citizens enjoyed all rights, while the human dignity of slaves was not even recognized,” he said.

“When I say that the human dignity is denied, I refer to the dignity of being children of God,” he said, cautioning against creating differences between people, “many times unconsciously.”

“Rather, our vocation is that of making concrete and evident the call to unity of the entire human race.”

“Everything that exacerbates the differences between people, often causing discrimination — all of this, before God, no longer has any meaning, thanks to the salvation effected in Christ.”

At the end of the general audience, the pope marked the day’s feast of the Virgin of Charity in Cuba by asking people to pray that “our mother help us to rediscover the beauty of being children of God and, overcoming differences and conflicts, to help us live as brothers and sisters.”

The pope continued his series of talks on St. Paul’s Letter to the Galatians by looking at what faith in Christ brings.

“Faith is the ability to overcome the social differences between the two sexes, establishing an equality between man and woman,” he said, calling for a reaffirmation of this truth.

“May the Lord help you safeguard the faith and cultivate science in order to become protagonists of a better future in which humanity may be able to enjoy peace, fraternity and tranquility.”

“For you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

“Those who receive it are transformed deeply within, in their inmost being, and possess new life” with an identity that is so new “that it prevails over the differences that exist on the ethnic-religious level” and social and economic levels.

“Through baptism, all Christians are united and equal in Christ. Therefore, “it is decisive even for all of us today to rediscover the beauty of being children of God, to be brothers and sisters among ourselves, because we have been united in Christ, who redeemed us,” he said.

“The same thing is happening to many people in the world today, ‘who do not have the right to eat, who do not have the right to work. They are the new slaves. They are the ones who live on the margins, who are exploited by everyone’ and whose human dignity is denied, he said.

“Equality in Christ overcomes the social differences between the two sexes, establishing an equality between man and woman,” he said, calling for a reaffirmation of this truth.

“St. Paul’s teaching was ‘shocking’ and ‘revolutionary’ at a time when distinctions, for example, between slaves and free citizens “was vital in ancient society,” said the pope.

“By law, free citizens enjoyed all rights, while the human dignity of slaves was not even recognized,” he said.

“When I say that the human dignity is denied, I refer to the dignity of being children of God,” he said, cautioning against creating differences between people, “many times unconsciously.”

“Rather, our vocation is that of making concrete and evident the call to unity of the entire human race.”

“Everything that exacerbates the differences between people, often causing discrimination — all of this, before God, no longer has any meaning, thanks to the salvation effected in Christ.”

At the end of the general audience, the pope marked the day’s feast of the Virgin of Charity in Cuba by asking people to pray that “our mother help us to rediscover the beauty of being children of God and, overcoming differences and conflicts, to help us live as brothers and sisters.”

The day is also when the people of Cuba celebrate their patroness. Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre, he said. Recalling his visit to her shrine in 2015, “I want to once again present at the feet of the Virgin of Charity the life, dreams, hopes and sorrows of the Cuban people,” so that wherever they find themselves, they may experience the tenderness of Mary to be led to Christ.

“The pope also greeted all students heading back to school, saying he hoped the coming academic year would be “a time of educational growth and deepening of the bonds of fraternidad.”

“May the Lord help you safeguard the faith and cultivate science in order to become protagonists of a better future in which humanity may be able to enjoy peace, fraternity and tranquility.”

“Through baptism, all Christians are united and equal in Christ Overcomes all ethnic, economic and social differences, even between the two sexes, establishing an equality between man and woman which was revolutionary at the time and between the two sexes, ‘establishing an equality between man and woman, he said, calling for a reaffirmation of this truth.

“Voted #1 in plumbing customer satisfaction”

Carole Glatz
Catholic News Service
The Catholic Conference of Kentucky is part of a new group — the Yes for Life Alliance — that aims to raise awareness and build support for a proposed amendment to Kentucky’s constitution related to abortion.

The conference also educates Catholics about issues of concern to the Church and encourages civic participation.

In this case, the conference aims to educate Kentucky voters on the recently passed House Bill 91, a measure that seeks to amend Kentucky’s constitution to clarify that it does not secure or protect a right to abortion or funding of abortion, said Jason Hall, the Conference’s executive director.

“Over the past several years we’ve passed several important pro-life laws,” said Mr. Hall. “If the constitutional amendment is passed it will protect those laws and prevent the state court from striking them down.”

Among those laws, Hall said, are:
- An ultrasound informed consent law that requires a doctor or qualified technician to perform an ultrasound on a woman seeking an abortion and show the screen images to her. The law also requires the doctor or technician to inform the woman what the images show.
- A law that bans non-medically necessary abortions after 20 weeks.

Mr. Hall said state supreme courts in Iowa and Kansas have struck down laws related to abortion. The constitutional amendment is an “effort to ensure that doesn’t happen” in Kentucky.

The measure will appear on the ballot in the Kentucky election in November 2022.

The Yes for Life Alliance is asking Kentuckians for their support. The alliance is asking supporters to sign a petition thanking state legislators for putting the amendment on the ballot and letting them know of their intention to vote for the amendment next November.

Mr. Hall says the CCK’s work over the years “speaks to the sanctity of life and to the dignity of the person. The unborn are particularly vulnerable and in desperate need of legal protection,” he said.

Yes for Life is an “essential piece to prevent all that work from being undone. It’s important that we do this,” he added.

Yes for Life was officially launched Aug. 19 at a press conference at the Kentucky State Fair. In addition to the CCK, it is supported by Kentucky Right to Life, Commonwealth Policy Center, The Family Foundation, Kentucky Baptist Convention and Sisters for Life.

For more information on Yes for Life, visit https://www.yesforlifeky.com.

Ruby Thomas is a staff writer for The Record, Catholic newspaper for the Archdiocese of Louisville, Ky.
SMALL ENGINE REPAIR
Lawn and garden equipment, ATV’s, Chainsaw Sharpening. We also sell lawn and garden equipment and supplies.
ECHIO, TORO, Country Clipper.
STEELE’S OUTDOOR POWER 859-415-4277

Gulf Shores, AL Beachfront
Condominium Rentals
1-2-3 bed beachfront units and 4 bed beach resort house. Owner direct rates save you $ $ $ Call Chris or Larry Ashley at (360) 357-5000.
B. A. Beach Properties – Your Kentucke Coast Connection!

GERDES CONCRETE & MASONRY
CONCRETE – Decorative, sidewalks, steps, patios, stamped concrete.
MASONRY – Brick, block, retaining walls, brick pavers, foundations, steeples, brick & chimneys repairs.
MTC – Marble, granite, silestone, countertops, countertops trim and installation.
Quality work & fair pricing. 859-581-4725
(Messenger number since 1961)

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 School Cafeteria Manager's primary responsibilities involve overall supervision of the School's meals program, including: managing employees; ordering, receiving, and managing inventory; preparing and serving meals; operating the point-of-sale system; and interacting with school staff, students, and their parents.

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER
The Diocese of Covington is seeking an Advisory Board Member to provide guidance and oversight for the Catholic Charities Diocese of Covington. Responsibilities include attending quarterly meetings, reviewing and providing feedback on program and financial reports, and offering strategic input to the Executive Director and Board of Directors.

APPLICATIONS DUE: February 15, 2023
Submit a letter of interest along with a CV or resume to skoplyay@covdio.org, fax 859/392-1589. Must be a practicing Catholic. Please see job posting at https://www.covingtoncharities.org/news-events/practicing-catholic. Please direct inquiries or resumes to Fr. Stef Bankemper, at 1803 N. Ft. Thomas Ave., Ft. Thomas, KY, 41075, or e-mail at sbankemper@stcatherineofsiena.org.

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. Must either be familiar with the Catholic liturgy or be willing to be educated in it. Please direct inquiries or resumes to Fr. Steve Blankemper, at 1803 N. Ft. Thomas Ave., Ft. Thomas, KY 41075, or e-mail at dblankemper@tetraonline.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, and therapy to children, families, and adults within the outpatient program; and providing services to pregnant clients, their partners, and/or their families, including counseling, case management, parenting support, and foster care coordination and supervision. The successful candidate will be actively practicing Roman Catholic individual with a Master’s degree in Social Work or a related field, and experience with diverse populations of families, couples, children, and adults. We prefer LCSW or LPC/IM licensure, or eligibility within two years. Qualified individuals should submit a letter of interest along with a detailed resume or CV, including compensation history and at least 3 references with contact e-mail addresses, by email to stephen.koplyay@sphr.org or fax at 859-392-1589.
Like many emergency responders who served at the World Trade Center site on 9/11 and post-9/11, Father Smith developed health issues related to the toxic conditions of the environment.

“I have chronic sinusitis. I have sleep apnea. I’ve had some skin cancer,” he said. “All have been certified as 9/11-related.”

His brother Patrick, meanwhile, was forced to retire from the FDNY in 2006 with a 9/11-related respiratory illness.

Father Smith said he has proactively addressed the emotional scars that he bears from his time at ground zero. “I go to counseling,” he said. “It helps, especially on the (9/11) anniversaries. If you’re going to do trauma counseling, it’s not a bad thing to check in with somebody from time to time.

“The first couple of years, I’d have nightmares, flashbacks, a lot of that stuff.”

Father Smith’s 9/11 recollections also include positive memories of a time when people expressed their appreciation for the firefighters, police officers, construction workers and many others who pitched in at ground zero.

“At night, when you left the Trade Center, there would be people on the streets with big signs saying: ‘Thank You.’ They’d hand you a bottle of water or a peanut butter and jelly sandwich made by a school kid in Connecticut.”

Father Smith fondly remembers strangers chatting with and helping one another, a byproduct of the collective pain people shared and their desire for healing in the wake of the catastrophe.

He said he misses the post-9/11 period that was marked by a heightened degree of charity and fellowship, along with intense national pride and unity.

“It petered out over time to the point today where we’re probably yelling and screaming at each other a lot more than we should,” the priest said. “You wish that some of the lessons we learned from 9/11 would have been passed on, like reaching out to one another, forgiving one another, being a little more patient with one another.”

The most important lesson, he said: “Cherish every single day.”

9/11 ‘feels like yesterday’

(Continued from page 9)

Fitzgerald and the other financial groups at the Trade Center.

Like many emergency responders who served at the World Trade Center site on 9/11 and post-9/11, Father Smith developed health issues related to the toxic conditions of the environment.

“I have chronic sinusitis. I have sleep apnea. I’ve had some skin cancer,” he said. “All have been certified as 9/11-related.”

His brother Patrick, meanwhile, was forced to retire from the FDNY in 2006 with a 9/11-related respiratory illness.

Father Smith said he has proactively addressed the emotional scars that he bears from his time at ground zero. “I go to counseling,” he said. “It helps, especially on the (9/11) anniversaries. If you’re going to do trauma counseling, it’s not a bad thing to check in with somebody from time to time.

“The first couple of years, I’d have nightmares, flashbacks, a lot of that stuff.”

Father Smith’s 9/11 recollections also include positive memories of a time when people expressed their appreciation for the firefighters, police officers, construction workers and many others who pitched in at ground zero.

“At night, when you left the Trade Center, there would be people on the streets with big signs saying: ‘Thank You.’ They’d hand you a bottle of water or a peanut butter and jelly sandwich made by a school kid in Connecticut.”

Father Smith fondly remembers strangers chatting with and helping one another, a byproduct of the collective pain people shared and their desire for healing in the wake of the catastrophe.

He said he misses the post-9/11 period that was marked by a heightened degree of charity and fellowship, along with intense national pride and unity.

“It petered out over time to the point today where we’re probably yelling and screaming at each other a lot more than we should,” the priest said. “You wish that some of the lessons we learned from 9/11 would have been passed on, like reaching out to one another, forgiving one another, being a little more patient with one another.”

The most important lesson, he said: “Cherish every single day.”
“Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings” (Disney) Sprightly wit paces the elegant martial-arts leader father, the theft of an amulet that his mother gave China as a teenager to get away from his ruthless gang becomes a semi-supernatural warrior. Decades after he fled to be the superhero of the title, trained from his youth to be a spectacular and action-packed hero, the mild-mannered and good-hearted San Francisco parking valet turns out to be the person of his best friend and co-worker, a mild-mannered and accommodating dachshund. Director and co-writer Cal Brunker serves up a breezy, tender hearted and action-packed adventure with built-in lessons about the nature of heroism and the value of cooperation. While really objectionable elements are nil, the very smallest movie fans might be frightened by the dangerous situations the brave band of heroes might find themselves in. CNS: A-I; MP AA: PG-13.

For full reviews of all these films — go to catholicnews.com and click on “Extras,” then choose “Movies.”
Catholic News Service (CNS) classifications are:
• A-I — general patronage;
• A-II — adults and adolescents;
• A-III — adults;
• L — limited adult audience;
• O — morally offensive.

USCCB launches initiative to address polarization in U.S. society

Cleveland — Polarization across society has prompted the US Conference of Catholic Bishops to launch an initiative that aims to bring people together to serve the common good. Called “Civilize It: A Better Kind of Politics,” the initiative is designed to “move forward the kind of conversations that we need to be having to overcome our divisions,” said Jill Ruch, director of education and outreach in the USCCB’s Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development, which is coordinating the effort.

In the wake of the Taliban’s Aug. 15 takeover of Kabul and expressed his hope that “many countries will welcome and protect those seeking a new life.” “I assure my prayers for the people of the United States of America who have been hit by a strong hurricane,” the pope told pilgrims gathered in St. Peter’s Square Sept. 5 during his Sunday Angelus address. The Category 4 hurricane made landfall Sept. 1, carrying 150-mph winds in Louisiana and knocking out power, water and cellphone service. The remnants of Hurricane Ida later struck the northeastern United States, causing an estimated 41 deaths and flooding roads in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Connecticut.

Speaking about Afghanistan, Pope Francis said he prayed “for the internally displaced persons and that they may receive assistance and the necessary protection. May young Afghans receive education, an essential good for human development. And may all Afghans, whether at home, in transit, or in host countries, live with dignity, in peace and fraternity with their neighbors.”

Call Kim at the Messenger office at (859) 392-1500 for your copy. Cost $18.

Hancock Drain Service Inc.
31 in the #2 Business
Residential and Commercial
• All Types of Drains
• Problem Drains
• Preventive Maintenance
• Septic Services
• Jetting, Filming and Locating
(859) 356-6811
info@hancockdrainservices.com

PLUMBING • HEATING • AIR CONDITIONING
97 Years of Family Owned Service!
Schneller & Knochenhaim
Plumbing • Heating • Air Conditioning
Call (859) 341-1200 www.schnellerair.com

Elites
Tree & Construction Group
Tree Removal • Pruning • Stump Grinding
Discounted Fall & Winter Rates
Call or Text (859) 308-9843

BUK BLAU MECHANICAL, INC.
Heating & Piping
Hot Water Steam Vapor
1332 Russell St., Cov., 291-3109

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Jane

Journey

Journey
The USCBC introduced the initiative Sept. 7. The effort draws heavily from the teachings of Pope Francis, particularly his call in the third encyclical of his papacy, “Fratelli Tutti, on Fraternity and Social Friendship.” “We are in a situation where both in society and the Church we are experiencing a lot of division and polarization,” Rush told Catholic News Service. “In Fratelli Tutti, Pope Francis specifically is calling Catholics and all people of good will to build a better kind of politics, one at the service of the common good.” The Civilize It initiative is meant not just for political leaders, but for all people, Rush added.

Bill honoring abolitionist aims to expand human trafficking prevention

CLEVELAND — Two members of Congress have introduced a bill to expand successful trafficking prevention efforts in schools and businesses. Reps. Chris Smith (R-N.J.) and Karen Bass (D-Calif.) introduced the Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection and Reauthorization Act of 2021 in the House of Representatives Sept. 3. “During COVID ... the exploitation of children has risen substantially mostly online, and there is kind of a pent-up demand to exploit, it’s lingering there,” Smith said during a livestreamed news conference prior to the bill’s introduction. “As COVID further diminishes, we’re going to see people who feel they’re entitled to exploit young women or boys and we have to make sure we have all the tools armed against them,” he said. The date the bill was introduced is significant because it is the day in 1838 that the 20-year-old Douglass self-emancipated himself in Baltimore and, disguised as a sailor, made his way via steamship and train to New York. He subsequently played a leading role as an abolitionist, social reformer, speaker and writer. Smith, who is Cathael, has been a longtime supporter of federal anti-trafficking efforts, having authored legislation that convinced to a shrine. “The discovery of the remains is a truly amazing and monumental event,” the bishop said, according to Bishop News Agency. 

Mexican bishops address migrant ‘crisis of great magnitude’

MEXICO CITY — The Mexican bishops’ migrant ministry and Scalabrinian missionaries have announced plans for providing increased pastoral and material attention to migrants and asylum-seekers stuck in the southern Mexican city of Tapachula. The announcement came as desperation among migrants grows and caravans set out on long marches toward central and northern Mexico and the U.S. border. Scalabrinian Father Julio López, migrant ministry executive secretary, also called for new policies toward the migrant population stuck in Tapachula, saying in a letter released Sept. 3, “We are facing a migratory crisis of great magnitude ... never seen before in Tapachula and which, if it continues this way is a situation that could overwhelm the authorities or get out of hand.” Father López continued, “In the face of this situation, we see no way out while the government is continuing to impede the free transit of any migrant,” including many who have applied for refugee status. Publication of the letter follows the migrant ministry discovering a proposal from Mexico’s National Immigration Institute that would establish a camp for migrants and asylum-seekers in Tapachula. Mexico’s refugee assistance agency has received more than 77,500 applications, a record, in the first eight months of 2021. This is 10% more than the total applications made in 2019, agency director Andrés Ramírez said on Twitter. In his letter, Father López said a Haitian Scalabrinian missionary, Father René-Claude Testamar, would start working with the migrant population in Tapachula, celebrating Mass three times weekly in Creole, but also working in cooperation with the Haitian embassy, which “lacks consular personnel.”

South Korean diocese says remains of first Catholic martyrs recovered

SEOUL, South Korea — The mortal remains of the first three Korean Catholic martyrs have been recovered more than two centuries after their deaths, announced the Diocese of Jeonju. Ucanews.com reported that following historical research and DNA tests, it has been confirmed that the remains are of Paul Yun Je-chung and James Kwon Sang-seok, both beheaded in 1791, and Yun’s brother, Francis Yun Ji-heon, who was martyred in 1801. Bishop John Kim Sun-geol of Jeonju made the announcement during a news conference Sept. 1. During his visit to South Korea in 2014, Pope Francis beatified the three along with 121 other martyrs persecuted and killed during the rule of the Joseon dynasty in Korea. Bishop Kim said the remains were recovered in March in Wanju, on the outskirts of Jeonju, near the burial ground of family members of another beatified person that was being converted to a shrine. “The discovery of the remains is a truly amazing and monumental event,” the bishop said, according to Bishop News Agency. 

Maronite bishops say Lebanon’s future ‘a matter of life or death’

BEIRUT — Lebanon’s Maronite Catholic bishops warned that the future of the crisis-stricken country is “a matter of life or death,” as the dire situation continues to unravel. In a statement following their Sept. 1 monthly meeting, the bishops denounced “the systematic humiliation of citizens” whether in banks, or in endless lines at gasoline stations, or with the lack of medicine and other essentials. This summer, Lebanon has been plagued by a crippling shortage of fuel and medicine, due in particular to the depletion of the central bank’s foreign exchange reserves used to subsidize imports. Fuel and electricity shortages have forced Lebanese’s hospitals to scale back operations. Power cuts last up to 22 hours a day. Violent skirmishes and shootings have become commonplace at gas stations, where wait times to fill up typically exceed five hours. Motorists have resorted to sleeping in their cars overnight to secure a place in line. The Maronite bishops criticized the “irresponsible mismanagement of public interests and funds” and spoke of successive disasters caused by those in power.

Anglican bishop to step down, join Catholic Church

MANCHESTER, England — The Anglican bishop of Ebbsfleet stepped down from office after announcing that he will become a Roman Catholic. The resignation of Bishop Jonathan Goodall was announced by Anglican Archbishop Justin Welby of Canterbury in a Sept. 3 statement released by Lambeth Palace. Bishop Goodall is a former ecclesiastical secretary to a previous archbishop of Canterbury and was ordained in 2003 to serve as a “flying bishop” of a diocese erected to cover traditionalist parishes that would not accept women priests. “I am deeply grateful to Bishop Jonathan for his ministry and many years of faithful service,” Archbishop Welby said. “My prayers are with him and Sarah, both for his future ministry and for the direction in which they are being called in their continuing journey of dedicated service to Christ,” he said. Continued: “With regard to the see of Ebbsfleet, we will be starting a process of consultation with colleagues and others — including the parishes to which Bishop Jonathan ministers — to determine what the next steps will be.”

St. Timothy Oktoberfest

www.facebook.com/StTimsOktoberfest

Friday, September 17th
6 PM-11 PM

Saturday, September 18th
5:30 PM-Midnight

Sunday, September 19th
12:30 PM-6 PM

Purchase YOUR LUCKY DUCK now at www.duckyderby2021.givesmart.com

Live Music
Games
Rides
This award speaks volumes

ABOUT YOU.

“‘I’m right here’ is one of the most common things you can hear around our halls. Those three words mean so much to us. And to those who hear them. As a hospital system, we’re proud yet humbled to share that we have been awarded a High Performing rating in Orthopaedics by U.S. News & World Report.

Visit stelizabeth.com/ortho to learn more.

St. Elizabeth
HEALTH CARE