Let your light shine.

(Matt 5:16)
The custom of a bishop employing a coat of arms dates to the Middle Ages. It was an adaptation of the medieval knight’s heraldic device that identified him when dressed in full armor. For a bishop, the coat of arms traditionally symbolized his jurisdiction and the nobility of his office in the Church. Bishop Foys’ coat of arms combines a design of his own choosing with the coat of arms of the Diocese of Covington. The diocesan design on the left hand side of the shield was commissioned by Bishop William T. Mulloy following the 1963 elevation of Covington’s Cathedral to the status of a minor basilica. Imposed on the blue upper portion is a gold fleur-de-lis set within the arms of a silver crescent moon. Both are symbols of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Their juxtaposition in this fashion indicates her Assumption, or, as the artist conceived it, “the Blessed Virgin elevated above the sub-lunary world.” It is under this aspect that Mary is regarded as an intercessor for the Church. Above the shield is a gold processional cross surmounted by a green pontifical hat called a gallero. St. Joseph, the patron saint of the Cistercian Order and Blessed Roger Ellant (a Cistercian abbot of the 12th century) as well, adorns the right hand side of the shield represents Bishop Foys’ life and ministry in the Diocese of Covington. The Bishop’s personal half of the shield is divided into blue and red quadrants. A white fleur-de-lis, a symbol not only of Mary in this instance, but also of the Cistercian Order and Blessed Roger Ellant (a Cistercian abbot of the 12th century) as well, adorns the upper half. The lower half is graced by a white lily, signifying St. Joseph. By these two symbols the baptismal patrons of Bishop Foys are represented. The red, white and blue colors also honor his Slovenian heritage. The right hand side of the shield represents Bishop Foys’ life and ministry in the Diocese of Covington. The Bishop’s personal half of the shield is divided into blue and red quadrants. A white fleur-de-lis, a symbol not only of Mary in this instance, but also of the Cistercian Order and Blessed Roger Ellant (a Cistercian abbot of the 12th century) as well, adorns the upper half. The lower half is graced by a white lily, signifying St. Joseph. By these two symbols the baptismal patrons of Bishop Foys are represented. The red, white and blue colors also honor his Slovenian heritage. Above the shield is a gold processional cross surmounted by a green pontifical hat called a gallero. The cross and the hat with six tassels on either side portray the rank of a bishop. The Latin phrase on the scroll beneath the shield, “Let your light shine,” (Matt 5:16) is the episcopal motto by which Bishop Foys has guided the Diocese of Covington for 19 years.

Let your light shine.

(Matt 5:16)
September 17, 2021

Dear Friends in Christ,

I thank God for you all every day and look forward to being joined to the Diocese of Covington at the end of the month. Let us pray for one another.

Today, I am happy to join you in congratulating Bishop Roger Foys on nearly two decades faithfully dedicated to building up this local Church and God’s Kingdom. Together we offer our best wishes and prayers for a happy retirement. At the same time, we beg him to continue to be that joyful, contemplative witness that he has been for the Diocese of Covington.

In the few weeks I have known Bishop Foys, I have found him to be a man of devotion and prayer. He orders his life, and the life of the Curia, around the celebration of the Mass and daily reception of Holy Eucharist. He is the first to arrive at the chancery in the morning, preparing for the Mass with his own time and hands. He establishes patterns of prayer at times throughout the day that draw others into constancy and fidelity. He is an active contemplative; a person of prayer who allows the fruit of his relationship with Christ to flow into his ministry of servant leadership.

The fruit of this contemplative pattern of life is a witness to Christ’s love. I have seen this firsthand in the kindness that Bishop Foys has shown in welcoming me to Covington. I have described him as a true Christian gentleman. I mean that his bearing is marked by gentleness, respect, anticipating the needs of the other, listening with a caring ear, and doing the good and loving thing where his service can help.

You and I are not the only ones to notice this goodness in Bishop Foys. There is a great sense of fraternity among the Catholic bishops of the United States. For the past two months I have been receiving letters of support and congratulations from Catholic bishops across the country. While all express their prayer and support, it is worth noting the significant number of those bishops who add this certainly true sentiment as an encouragement: “You are following a good man.”

I am grateful to follow in the footsteps of a man of God like Bishop Roger Foys. I am especially pleased that Bishop Foys will continue to reside in Covington and that he offers his prayer and assistance. I look forward to collaborating with him in the years to come.

Ad Multos Annos!

Yours devotedly in Christ,

Bishop-elect John C. Iffert

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Bishop Foys’ second ad limina was in 2012 with Pope Benedict XVI. This time, the bishops met as a province. “That also was remarkable because he was very present to each of us,” Bishop Foys said. Each bishop made a presentation. Bishop Foys’ presentation was on Catholic education. In 2019, Bishop Foys traveled again to Rome to meet with Pope Francis. This time, two regions met together with the Pope. “Our meeting was for almost two hours and it was free flowing,” Bishop Foys said.

I salute my friend and brother bishop Bishop Roger Foys, who has served for 19 years as the Bishop of Covington.

Bishop Foys has truly let his “light shine” for the faithful of Northern Kentucky and I join with the bishops of the Province in thanking him for his leadership and collaboration since 2002.

His holiness and faithfulness has been an inspiration to all of us.

Most Rev. Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D.
Archbishop of Louisville

Congratulations, Bishop Roger Foys.

You thank for your esteemed years as Bishop of Covington. You have served the people of God with pastoral compassion and kindness. My prayer is that you will enjoy now the fruits of your good work in a happy and holy retirement.

May the Lord richly bless you.

Most Rev. William F. Medley
Bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro

I heartily congratulate Bishop Foys as he enters retirement and pray that this next phase of life will be truly fruitful for him and allow for the prayer, reflection, relaxation and enjoyment that were often sacrificed in order to serve the members of his flock.

When I came to Kentucky I was warmly greeted by my brother bishops in the state on the first day I arrived, and Bishop Foys has continued to be very gracious and helpful to me. His warm presence and kindness will surely be missed.

Covington has been led and served faithfully for all these years and will continue to grow under Bishop Iffert’s leadership.

Thank you, Bishop Foys, and enjoy the slower pace and lighter schedule.

Bishop of the Diocese of Lexington

Sept. 17
High School seniors Mass, Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, 1 p.m.

Sept. 18
Mass, Cathedral Basilica, 4:30 p.m.
Chili Cook-Off, St. Joseph Parish, Camp Springs, 6 p.m.

Sept. 19
150th anniversary Mass, St. Joseph Parish, Cold Spring, 11:30 a.m.

Individual meetings, 9:30 a.m.; 10 a.m.

Sept. 21
Individual meeting, 9:30 a.m.
ACUE reception, Drees Pavilion, Covington, 6 p.m.

Sept. 23
Diocesan staff directors meeting, 9:30 a.m.

Sept. 25
Knights of the Holy Sepulchre welcome, 8:30 a.m.
Knights of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem Promotion Ceremony, Cathedral Basilica, 2 p.m.
Mass, Cathedral Basilica, 4:30 p.m.

Sept. 26
Mass, Cathedral Basilica, 10 a.m.
Knights of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem Mass, St. Peter in Chains Basilica, Cincinnati, 2 p.m.
The Parishioners of St. Mary’s Cathedral Parish

Thank you Bishop Foys

with deep gratitude and appreciation for your
dedicated and selfless service to the Lord,
the Diocese of Covington and to the Cathedral parish
over the last 19 years.

May the Lord bless you and keep you always!
Deacon David Profitt

Joy allows us to deal with the difficulties of life. It is accepting the fact that we are not in control of everything and in fact in charge of little. We do our part, to the best of our ability but more importantly we rely on God’s providence to guide us through those tough times. We were never promised an easy life, but Jesus promised us his joy and his peace. That should be enough to sustain through the curveballs that life likes to throw at us. The difficulties of life are what lead us to that greatest sense of joy. I know when my dad was dying of cancer; it was the knowledge that he had lived a good life as a man of God and shared that with anyone he met. Although losing him would leave a hole in my life and the life of my family, I know his dedication to his faith was going to reward the efforts he put into his life. This news is an immense sense of joy knowing he was at peace. Those difficulties draw us to the cross of Christ himself.

I’ve made a conscious decision over the past year or so that I would not let the events of the world beat me down. There’s nothing I can do about Covid except get my vaccination and follow the prescribed guidance to keep myself and others safe. There’s nothing we hear in the media, no matter what your take on the news, that we can do about Covid except get our vaccinations and remain steadfast in our prayer to him. Because no matter what, throughout the years he has been the bishop we needed. Unfortunately, as he’s leaving, he’s had to deal with more tough issues brought on by the pandemic. No matter what, whatever the thousands of years he has shown his love and care for the diocese, even when it wasn’t always appreciated. I will never forget the kindness and generosity he has shown to me personally.

I wish you to remember this former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing: now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert” (Isa 43:19-20).

When people find out that Bishop Roger J. Foys is stepping down as the Bishop of the Diocese of Covington, they sometimes think that I and the staff and I are a lot of “top secret” information. The bishop and I have been asked over the past year is, “who will be our new bishop?”

In being asked that question, I always picked up on the question behind the question; “What changes will occur when we get a new bishop?” What do you think will change? I think change of people’s thinking may have something specific in mind in regards to change. There is something they hope will change and there is something they hope will not change. I think fear of change and fear of the unknown are basic fears of most of us.

On Sept. 30, Bishop John Bertl will be consecrated as the 11th Bishop of the Diocese of Covington. As he assumes his episcopacy, I don’t think it’s time to make assumptions or wish-lists of what we expect of him. As Isaiah writes, “Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?”

I’m sure, as he brings his leadership and personality to our diocese, we can perceive new things that will spring forth. We can all look to Bishop Bertl by giving him some breathing room to take in all the changes that are occurring in his life, and help us adjust to our new situation, in a new role that he was chosen for— and said “yes” to.

Bishop Foys, in his opinion, has been a wonderful shepherd for our diocese during the COVID-19 pandemic. He has dealt with very tough issues. In retrospect, I would say he was the bishop we needed. Unfortunately, as he’s leaving, he’s had to deal with more tough issues brought on by the pandemic. No matter what, whatever the thousands of years he has shown his love and care for the diocese, even when it wasn’t always appreciated. I will never forget the kindness and generosity he has shown to me personally.

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A look back — a photo album of Bishop Foys, his family and path to Covington

Roger Joseph Foys was born July 27, 1945 in Chicago, Illinois, to Martin A. and Theresa (Haklin) Foys. He was the third of their four children, left photo from left, Richard, Robert, Roger and baby Margaret. (above) Margaret and Roger with parents Martin and Theresa Foys. Bishop Foys credits his parents for his vocation, “Their love gave me life and their lives gave me faith,” he said at his installation and at many homilies throughout the years, especially at school Masses as he encourages students to thank their parents for giving them life and providing them with a Catholic education.

Father Roger Foys presided at his sister’s wedding in 1973. The happy couple, Mitchell and Margaret Ciesla, had originally planned to get married in 1972 but opted to wait a year until her brother was ordained a priest. Bishop Foys held his sister in high esteem for her vocations as a wife and mother and registered nurse. Mrs. Ciesla was battling pancreatic cancer and was unable to attend the consecration and installation of Bishop Foys in 2002. In 2004 she succumbed to the illness. The Curia staff travelled to Chicago to attend her funeral and support their new Bishop. “We are a family,” Bishop Foys said about the Curia, noting that staff have often shared their struggles with him.

Father Roger Foys with his father, Martin, and mother, Theresa, at his installation as pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Toronto, Ohio, in 1980. Over the next 22 years the Foys family became beloved amongst the parishioners of both St. Joseph Parish and St. Francis Parish. His father passed away on Father’s Day and, in 2001, his mother passed on Christmas Eve.
Roger Foys as a toddler. In an interview with the Messenger in 2002, Robert Foys, Bishop's older brother, said that Roger didn’t speak until he was three years old. Well-meaning friends would often question Mrs. Foys about her quiet son; she never worried. “He’ll talk when he has something to say” she used to say,” said Dr. Foys. Throughout his priesthood and episcopacy Bishop Foys has been known as a great homilist.

With little money in the parish kitty, and prospects few, the new pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Toronto, Father Roger Foys, paints the windows and eaves of the convent. And while his painting days were behind him by the time he arrived in Covington, Bishop Foys continued to work hard for the priests and people of the Diocese of Covington, as evidenced by his schedule published each week in the Messenger.

Msgr. Roger Foys and his mother, Theresa, with two of his elementary school teachers, from left, first grade teacher, Sister Gemma, OSF, and eighth grade teacher, Sister Ewalda, OSF. Bishop Foys says wonderful examples of the priests and sisters fostered his vocation.

At his transitional diaconate ordination, the then Deacon Roger Foys distributes communion to his mother Theresa. His father Martin is second in the communion line. He was ordained a priest for the diocese of Steubenville on May 16, 1973, at Holy Name Cathedral, Steubenville. In the Diocese of Steubenville he served as pastor at: Christ the King Mission, Steubenville; Nativity of Our Lord Mission, Hammondsville; St. Francis Parish, Toronto; St. Joseph Parish, Toronto; and St. Matthias Mission, Freeport.

Msgr. Roger Foys, center, at the installation of Bishop Gilbert Sheldon, Steubenville, April 2, 1992. Bishop Sheldon was Steubenville’s third bishop, retiring in August 2002. Administratively for the Diocese of Steubenville, Msgr. Foys served as secretary, vice-officialis and officialis of the Tribunal for 10 years and vicar general for nearly 20 years, holding that post until his appointment as Bishop of Covington in 2002.

Every five years bishops are required to make an ad limina—a visit to Rome to report to the pope. Bishop Gilbert Sheldon invited Msgr. Roger Foys to accompany him on his 1998 ad limina—during which he met with Pope John Paul II. On May 31, 2002, it was announced that Pope John Paul II had appointed Msgr. Roger Foys the tenth Bishop of the Diocese of Covington.
In good times and bad times God gives us the grace we need — Bishop Foys’ episcopate, in his own words

Laura Keener
Editor

Question: “Let Your Light Shine” was the motto you chose. How has that motto encouraged you during the last 19 years? From your perspective, how have the people of the Diocese embraced or given witness to that motto?

Answer: I chose that motto because, in 2002 when I was called to be a bishop, we were in the second or third phase of the abuse crisis. It felt as if the Church was in a dark, dark period. That quotation from Matthew’s Gospel has always been a favorite of mine because our faith should always bring light to a darkened world.

What’s important is to take the motto in its context. It’s, let your light shine not for yourself but so that others seeing your good works can give glory to God. I thought it was appropriate to let our faith shine so that others would see it and light the way for others. That was encouraging for me.

The people in the diocese embracing or giving witness to that, I think, they have done so overwhelmingly. In the midst of those dark days I was a new bishop in a diocese where I knew no one, overseeing this terrible scourge of child sexual abuse. One never knows how people will respond. People in our diocese responded in a very positive way. You will always have critics and naysayers but the majority of people, in notes and letters and even in meeting people in parishes, were very supportive. I think it has strengthened our faith for the most part; crises will do that — they either strengthen your faith or lose it.

It was interesting, too, because during that time we had a real surge in vocations. Early on, when I would interview the prospective seminarians I would ask, ‘Why do you want to embrace this call at this time during the life of the Church?’ Many of them said, ‘Because I feel the Church needs good priests.’ That was very encouraging.

Q: During your episcopate the Church has been led by three popes: Pope John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis. You have reported to each for an ad limina visit. What was your experience as a Bishop of an ad limina visit? Your impression of each of the popes?

A: I had been on two previous ad limina visits with my former bishops, so I had a general sense of what that was. But being a bishop myself and being at the seat of our Catholicism in Rome at the tomb of St. Peter was very moving. All three ad limina visits that I made as a bishop gave me an opportunity to sit with the Holy Father, who is the one who calls bishops to that vocation, and to share with them the life of the local Church. Each one of those was different.

With Pope John Paul it was an individual visit. We sat with him. Even though he was in his failing years he was very much present. We talked about the synod we had just completed. He was telling me about the synod he had in Krakow. We talked about vocations to the priesthood and religious life in our diocese. It was very moving. I felt, even
then, that I was in the presence of a saint.

Pope Benedict, we met with him as a province. That also was remarkable because he was very present to each of us. Each of us made a presentation on our diocese. I spoke on education in our Catholic schools. Again, his concern was obvious.

With Pope Francis we met with a larger group; we met with two regions. Our meeting was for almost two hours and it was free flowing. He spoke with us, asked us questions and took our questions. The feeling I had sitting there was that here is a true spiritual father, who is genuinely concerned with the Church as a whole.

Each visit was different but each was the same. The feeling that this is the successor of Jesus Christ and St. Peter who really cares about his bishops and really cares about the Church. Just being with the other bishops of the region is also very gratifying because we share the same struggles and the same joys. It’s good to be with brother bishops; we can relate to each other like we cannot relate to others.

All three popes, to me and to the Church, represent Christ. I have faith that they are chosen by the Lord.

Q. Since John Paul II called you to the episcopacy, how has his pontificate influenced you?
A. His pontificate was very vibrant and very bold. He was the first Holy Father to travel as extensively as he did and to make himself truly present to all parts of the world. His fearlessness in proclaiming the Gospel, knowing certainly that he would be criticized, as all leaders are, but that didn’t deter him from doing what he had to do. He brought real life to the Church. God, I think, God does provide, shepherds for us for every age. Holy Father St. John Paul II was that choice. His pontificate influenced me very much; obviously the fact that he called me to the episcopacy. Bishop-elect Iffert mentioned this at his press conference, that for a moment, my name was in front of him; he was the one who had to make the choice, and say: “yes.” That’s overwhelming, almost. That’s why when he died I took that very personally because I felt very close to him.

Q. A lasting impression that you have made on anyone who has attended several Masses that you have celebrated would be your proclaiming at the end of each homily, “It is the Lord who has begun this good work in us, and it is the Lord who will bring it to fulfillment” and, at the end of Mass, the playing of the hymn, “Holy God We Praise Thy Name” at the recessional. What inspired this mantra and anthem?
A. That’s from St. Paul — the Lord has begun this good work in us and the Lord will bring it to fulfillment. We can sometimes lull ourselves into — in some instances false security and in other instances false insecurity — thinking: How am I going to do this? How will I complete this task? How am I going to begin this project? How am I going to be able to preach and teach and not be influenced by negativity? If we begin with the understanding that the Lord begins any good work in us, certainly in St. Paul, Paul was a blasphemer; he calls himself in his letter to Timothy — he was persecuting Christians. Then he was converted by the Lord — literally saw the light. He could say that it was the Lord who began this in me and then he was jailed, when he was shipwrecked, beaten and stoned, how could anybody face that? Because we know it’s not us, but the Lord is going to bring it to fulfillment, if we work with the Lord. We have to do our part; we just can’t sit back.

I think that, sometimes, any person of faith can be overwhelmed by: how am I going to live the faith? How am I going to carry that faith to others? We do our part and the Lord will do the rest. He will bring it to fulfillment. I think it’s good for me to remind myself and to remind the people I serve that whatever good there is in our life it’s because the Lord began it, and if we cooperate with the Lord, he will bring that to fulfillment. If we had to only rely on our (Continued on page 10)
seems we might as well throw up our hands and walk away.

With "Holy God We Praise Thy Name," when I was a boy that hymn ended most of our church services, usually in two languages — Slovenian and English. There is a great hymn of the Church "Te Deum" which is sung at the Divine Office — the office of readings — and, also, it is sung in giving praise to God usually at New Year’s Eve. "Holy God We Praise Thy Name" reflects that great Te Deum. Again, whenever we are ending something, why are we doing this to begin with? To praise God’s name. It’s connected to my motto. Why do we let our light shine? To give glory to God. So we end our liturgical celebrations with this hymn praising God’s name. If you take time to read all the lyrics it is really a moving hymn of thanksgiving. It calls on all the people of God and the saints and the angels and the martyrs to give praise to God.

A long time ago I began singing, and I still do, the song at funerals before the body is lowered in the grave or interred, because, why, what are we doing? We are praising God’s name for the life of the person we are saying farewell to.

I would end everything with that song if I had my way.

It's also a hymn that spans generations. Never, that can I remember, have I been at a liturgical service outside of Mass where people haven’t joined in — young people, old people, middle-aged people — we all know that hymn, it’s a way of us, together, praising God. Maybe its sentimental but it’s very meaningful to me and I hope that it could meaningful for others.

The whole notion of ritual is that we repeat the rite and it becomes familiar with us. It doesn’t have to be kitschy — anything that can bring God’s people with? To praise God’s name. It's connected to my motto. Why do we let our light shine? To give glory to God. So we end our liturgical celebrations with this hymn praising God’s name. If you take time to read all the lyrics it is really a moving hymn of thanksgiving. It calls on all the people of God and the saints and the angels and the martyrs to give praise to God.

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Q: The early years of your episcopate was spent addressing the sexual abuse crisis in the Diocese of Covington, implementing the Charter and establishing the VIRTUS program. Where are we now?

A: Certainly everyone in the diocese has to be aware of the crisis and our strong stance on the crisis. We went through a very dark and difficult time. We just had our screening of candidates for the priesthood that is much more thorough than it had ever been before. The seminaries are all doing a good job of watching for anything that might give us pause to think that a person might have some kind of problem.

We had the class action lawsuits. I’ve talked to almost 250 individuals. We have put out the list of abusers.

I made it a policy in the diocese that parish offices could not be in the same place that priests live because of the abuse happened in parish offices and in rectories connected to parish offices.

Separating the living space from the office space — a separate building if at all possible, that’s the gold standard — separating them makes it clear that there should be no reason for anyone other than the priests that live there to be in the rectory — not just his private quarters but the dining room, the kitchen, the living room — it's all off limits. There shouldn’t be any comingling of those spaces.

We also are very strict about vetting people who come to give talks or do ministry in the diocese. We are very careful about that making sure that we can speak to their bishop or their superior before they speak.

Overall I think we are in a good place. I could not have done this really without the cooperation of the staff, the cooperation of our priests and religious and the cooperation of our people. If there is credit to be given it goes to them.

Q: There are so many highlights of things you have accomplished during your episcopate. What are some that stand out in your mind as making them memorable?

A: It’s hard to say because every one of the things is important, even the little things, like going to parish festivals. I couldn’t get over how grateful people were that I was at their festival — I like festivals, I don’t deserve credit for that.

Bringing people to Christ, that’s what I’ve tried to do my entire priesthood — I hope I’ve done that. If it was important to people it was especially important to me.

One of the things I was really glad I did was the parish visitations. I invested a lot of myself into that because it gave me a chance to spend a minimum of three, maybe four days, in a parish visiting the school, meeting with the advisory bodies, meeting with the priests, celebrating the Masses on the weekend — that was very life giving for me.

I get positive feedback from the priests and the people. The promotion of vocations was a big thing for me. When I first came I was told we needed to close parishes...
because we didn’t have enough priests. I said, “Well, let’s get priests!” It was important for me to promote vocations and to be the director of the seminarians and to visit the seminaries several times a year.

Working with the religious, and I give a ton of credit to Sister Fran Moore (vicar for religious) for that and the superiors for coming to meet with me regularly. That enabled me to come to know them and, they to come to know me. We shared our joys and burdens with each other. That was big for me.

The synod, of course, set the direction for us for a number of years, giving us a plan to follow. It enabled me to hear from the people in the parishes.

The pastoral councils, having the individual councils, instead of one large council, allows us to interact with people from every parish. Every parish council is supposed to have a member on the pastoral council.

Just celebrating the sacraments with people. I was very happy when people ask me to baptize their children or to have their wedding. A bishop doesn’t get a chance to do a lot of that. I was used to doing that in the parish. I didn’t want to take anything away from the parish priest, but I was touched when people would ask me to baptize, to marry, or to celebrate funerals for them. The ordinations of the permanent and transitional deacons and priests are always a highlight for me. I look at those priests that I have ordained as my spiritual sons. Every priest is a son of the bishop but there is a special bond, obviously, between the bishop and the priests he ordains. I’ve ordained 45 priests and 30 some deacons.

Working with the staff and Curia here. The Curia staff becomes my family and they are all an extension of my ministry. Having that special relationship with the staff — I try to make myself available to the staff because we do operate as a family. Staff members will come to me to share their struggles and their joys and that’s what families do. I appreciated that kind of relationship.

Bringing Bishop Maes back to the cathedral was something I felt we had to do and finishing the façade being able to do after 260 years and building the reliquary altar. All these things I can’t take credit for them because first of all it is the Lord who begins this work in us and brings it to fulfillment. I was just building on the foundations that my predecessors had laid. My hope would be that, in my own time here, I made a positive contribution that will enable my successors in years and years to come to build on. I really have been blessed by the priests who have assisted as my priest secretaries and assistants. Especially as I’ve gotten older, and wasn’t able to do the things I could do before, they have been very kind in looking after me.

Q: What has been left undone?
A: There’s always more to do. We won’t complete everything until the end of time. A regret I have is in terms of evangelization and bringing converts into the Church. I gave a homily last weekend, it was the Gospel story of when people brought to Jesus a man who was deaf and mute. This fellow was very fortunate to have had friends who cared about him enough to bring him to the Lord. Do we do that in our lives? How many people do we influence by our faith — by our light — to bring to the Lord? Are we fearless in bringing people to the Lord? I’ve always been concerned about that. We have 30,000 families, 100,000 people in our diocese. If each family brought one person into the Church — each family just one person — that would be some 30,000 people we would bring to the Lord and to his Church. I really feel bad that I was never able to ignite the fire, as it were, for us to do that. I think it is possible. I think, and I include myself in this, if we really and truly believe in our faith and believe what we profess, we would want that for someone else. You always want what is best for those you love. So why wouldn’t we have a greater response to this? Each parish, no matter how big or small, we should be so on fire with the faith that we want to bring others to the Lord. That’s been a challenge and I just regret that I wasn’t able, somehow, to facilitate that.

Q: As you begin your retirement, what are some of the strengths of the Church in the Diocese of Covington?
A: The biggest strength of our diocese is the faith of our people; the dedication of our priests, deacons and religious. We have a vibrant Church, we really do. In the 160 some years, our diocese, like any diocese, has faced tremendous challenges and we have met them. In my 19 years here I have seen that over and over again — the fire, as it were, 260 years and building the reliquary altar. All these things I can’t take credit for them because first of all it is the Lord who begins this work in us and brings it to fulfillment.

Q: To love God, without exception, to love God.
Q: If you could ask three things of the people of the Diocese of Covington, what would those requests be?
A: To love God, without exception, to love God.

Q: What are some of the challenges that face the Church in the Diocese of Covington?
A: Secularism. We keep moving further and further away from God — our culture does. That’s horrible. The whole nature of our culture as a throw away culture and the fact that abortion has been sanctioned by our government for all these years and we haven’t been able to do anything to mitigate that. Even the fact that there are Catholics who espouse pro-choice immorality.

Q: Any final thoughts?
A: I do want to express my profound gratitude to our priests, religious and lay faithful who have supported me and prayed for me and encouraged me in these 19 years. To let them know that I will continue to pray. If I ever offended anyone it was not intentional and I ask for forgiveness. If anyone has offended me, know that I have forgiven them long ago. There were long days and difficult times but God always gives us the grace that we need.
Guidance, leadership and friendship of Bishop Foyes recalled by diocesan priests

**Sent by the Holy Spirit**

Bishop Foyes, I truly believe the Holy Spirit has entrusted you with the prayerful office you have served in this diocese. You gave of your body and soul. Thank you for trusting me with your trust in God, for every day that you have trusted me, and thank you for your leadership.

When I met you, I was a leader in search of a leader. The selfless way that you brought the Church’s teaching to the people and defended your priests and seminarians in her teaching (and taught, when it was needed) gave us a leader we could trust, while you were at the same time putting so much trust in us. Thank you.

I truly hope that your time, after this long pilgrimage in Kentucky gives you the space to heal physically and the time to connect with family, friends and our Lord in prayer. I will continue to meet you in the latter. Count on my continued thoughts and prayers.

Your priest and son — Father Bill Appel, chaplain, Archdiocese of the Military

What it means to be a priest of Christ

Giving thanks to the Trinity God for Bishop Foyes’s ministry as our beloved 10th Bishop of Covington, I offer these brief words of reflection. In short, Bishop Foyes has taught me what it means to a priest of Christ Jesus.

Bishop, in his ars celebrandi, has exemplified what the priest at prayer looks like; a man offering his very life in union with Christ for the people he serves. The eloquence and beauty of his ars celebrandi has been inspiring to me and will continue to inspire me all the days of my priesthood. Bishop truly loves with a true shepherd’s true belief. His reverent celebration of the Liturgy, his tireless work ethic, and his personal concern for every soul under his care are good examples to every priest and will bear fruit in our Diocese for years to come. Thank you Bishop Foyes, our Diocese is better for having had you as a father, brother, teacher, and friend for the past two decades! I pray that retirement will be full of peace and happiness for you! You have been and will always be in my prayers.

— Father Eric Boelscher

Father Eric Boelscher

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Good example to priests

It is difficult to imagine our wonderful diocese without the leadership of Bishop Foyes. I, like most younger priests in our diocese, have been guided and supported by Bishop Foyes throughout the entire development of my vocation. I am grateful for his support and encouragement of my priesthood, I am grateful for the confidence he has often placed in me and the prayers I know he offered on my behalf. I am most grateful for the courageous leadership of Bishop Foyes as he took a Diocese that was mired in difficulty and confusion and by God’s grace led it back to good health and true belief. His reverent celebration of the Liturgy; his tireless work ethic; and his personal concern for every soul under his care are good examples to every priest and will bear fruit in our Diocese for years to come. Thank you Bishop Foyes, our Diocese is better for having had you as a father, brother, teacher, and friend for the past two decades! I pray that retirement will be full of peace and happiness for you! You have been and will always be in my prayers.

— Father Richard Bolte

Father Richard Bolte

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With faith and trust in the Lord

Many can speak to the good things Bishop Foyes has done for our diocese. I would like to speak to what he has done for St. Timothy Parish.

When Bishop Foyes first came to the Diocese of Covington, he announced, “There are alternatives to Catholic schools, but there is no substitute.” His commitment to sharing the faith, especially through Catholic schools, has paid dividends in the faith experience of our parish. In 2013 he gave St. Timothy Parish permission to begin fundraising for a new school. It was an unknown adventure and a leap of faith for Bishop Foyes to “OK” the building of the first new school in the diocese in 39 years. There was no certainty that this was the right move.

That leap of faith has paid off! St. Timothy Catholic School opened in 2017 with 91 students. We began this year, just five years later, with 331 students. His faith and trust in the Lord has proven itself. In this way he has helped young families find their way back to church and even to find their home in the Catholic Church. He has also now given us permission to put an addition on the school.

He has supported many of our ministries and, along with the education of our children, he has fostered many outreach opportunities for our diocese and our parish. Outreach in our parish and service learning in our school have been hallmarks of St. Timothy Parish’s experience of itself. He has also allowed us to continue to tithe from the parish collection to give to the various ministries of our diocese. This donation, along with volunteering to these same ministries, may God bless you as He has certainly used you to bless so many others.

— Father Eric Boelscher, pastor, St. Joseph Parish, Crescent Springs

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**Congratulations on your retirement, Bishop Foyes! Thank you for your many years as our shepherd! Prayers for a blessed retirement from the parishioners of Holy Redeemer Parish in Vanceburg!**

The Kentucky Council of Churches extends their blessing to Bishop Roger Foyes upon his retirement as 10th Bishop of the Diocese of Covington
Bishop Foys was named our Bishop in 2002. As a seminarian, I was a seminarian beginning theological studies when the cathedral rectory as a seminarian — I think the score of our diocese’s presbyterate. That diocesan connection only grew as a priest thanks to Bishop Foys’ example. I can’t point to a particular moment. Rather, it came from the way he was present to the people and priests. His example helped me remember my particular assignment was never isolated. It connected to the diocese and beyond. This has expressed itself for me, in my sense that, even though each of my assignments is special to me, the Church is my home. I feel it whenever I am there. It also inspired me to always pray for the people of my assignment and for the diocese together, including in the universal prayer (intercessions) at Mass. They may seem like minor things, but they are reflective of how my priesthood has been defined by Bishop Foys’ example.

I would add that my service as one of the master of ceremonies at many diocesan liturgies has also inspired me. In those moments, I see the care and love that Bishop Foys has for the people of the diocese. Those liturgies, especially how Bishop Foys is present to the liturgy and the people, have inspired me as a priest. His care for the liturgy as given to us by the Church is a constant reminder it is not my liturgy and it is not about me. His homilies and the way people respond to him remind me the Church is not the building, it is the people united in Christ. Yes, his love for Christ, Christ’s people, and the Church are clearly evident and an inspiration for me to remember who I am to be as priest of Christ and of the Diocese of Covington and the importance of giving myself over entirely to Christ, the people, the Church. — Father Raymond Enzweiler, faculty, Thomas More University

Fruitful collaboration

I congratulate Bishop Foys on his retirement and am grateful for his episcopal ministry. As a pastor I have always been impressed with his preaching and sacramental ministry to those being confirmed. He engages the young folks and seemed to, in return, be energized by them and the administration of the sacrament. Although I did not know Bishop Foys before he became our bishop, he and I had a common priest-friend from Steubenville, Mgr. George Vontz. That connection, I am sure, laid the groundwork for a congenial relationship with him and a fruitful collaboration between me and a priest and he as my bishop. — Father Joseph Gallenstein, pastor, St. Mary Parish, Alexandria

Laughter is a gift

Bishop Foys, as you prepare to step out of the role of chief shepherd for the diocese, know of my sincere gratitude for many things. After running from my vocation for several years, when I approached you, I was accepted with great kindness. For six years, through your generous provision for my needs, I was able to study and be formed in the seminary. After those years, you twice laid your hands upon me to grant the gift of ordination to the diaconate and to the priesthood. The gift of the priesthood is certainly something I take for granted, and so, thank you for putting your faith in me and allowing me to share the gift of Jesus Christ with the people of the diocese. Though there are many other things I could thank you for, I want you to know that I’m grateful for your sense of humor. I truly believe that laughter is a gift and is something that helps us not take ourselves too seriously all of the time. Thus, I have been inspired by many of your deep and meaningful homilies, but also by the inclusion of good-hearted humor. I have also been very inspired of your prayerful nature — especially how it typically begins for you very early in the morning when God is awake and no one else is. (As a side note — I’m sorry for all of the times we scared each other when I lived in the cathedral rectory as a seminarian — I think the score ended up being even.) In a world filled with noise, the silence of the morning and being in the presence of the Lord are truly what help sustain me, and in your charism, I’ll carry on just the same. As you have mentioned from time to time, it is the Lord that began the good work in me. I thank you for nurturing it as my spiritual father for these years...

We are especially grateful to you, Bishop Foys, for all you have done for our Cristo Rey community. May God bless you during your retirement and may it be a joyful time. STEELERS, GO STEELERS!!!! Cristo Rey Parish

Bishop Foys,
We thank you for your 19 years of service to the Diocese of Covington.
Congratulations on your retirement!

MOTHER OF GOD CEMETERY AND CHAPEL MAUSOLEUM
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Dear Bishop Foys,
Sincere thanks to you for the excellent leadership you provided to the Diocese of Covington throughout your 19-year tenure. Best wishes to you as you enter the next phase of your priestly journey.

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years of my ordained ministry. I wish you all the best in retirement and pray that God will bless you with the peace of knowing how all of His good work and your fatherly care will, in His time, be brought to completion. Be assured of my prayers for you, and once more — thank you. — Father Britton Hennessey, parochial vicar, St. Timothy Parish, Union

Stop running from God

When I was in college at NKU in 2006, I was discerning and thinking of being a priest. In fact, I had been thinking of being a priest since I was a kid. But at that time in my life I was running from God’s call. I had not yet met Bishop Foys, and I ran into him in the sacristy at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Burlington, my home parish, for Confirmation, and he asked me why I was not in the seminary. I gave him several excuses and he said to me, “Why don’t you stop running from God?”

I entered the seminary in 2007 and was ordained in 2013. I want to thank Bishop Foys for encouraging me to answer God’s call and for all his support and fatherly care during my time in seminary and as an ordained priest. I am very grateful. — Father Michael Hennigen, pastor, Holy Cross Parish, Latonia

A gift from heaven

“Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of light.” (James 1:17)

According to Merriam Webster dictionary the etymological origin of Foys comes from the word Foy, which means “gift” and how appropriate it is for priests like me, Bishop Foys is a gift from heaven given to the Diocese of Covington and to the universal Church in multiple ways. If company with his inspirational and humorous homilies was his passion and enthusiasm to serve and teach God’s people.

When I came to this country from India in 2008, Bishop Foys welcomed me with a warm heart and supported me by paving the way to full integration into the Diocese of Covington. Additionally he encouraged me to complete my doctoral program and disclosed that educated priests are necessary for our diocese.

When the Bishop installed me as a pastor for St. Edward Parish in Cincinnati, he personally told the congregation, “Father Niby is always smiling and he is joyful. Please don’t make his smile fade away.” Last month, when I went to receive the DPA grant, Bishop Foys told me, “Keep on smiling,” and I responded to him: “It is because of you that I am smiling Bishop Foys.”

Thank you, Bishop Foys, for your gift of life, for your gift of presence, encouragement and support. You are a gift not only for the diocese of Covington, you are a special way a gift for all the priests from India working in the Diocese of Covington.

Dear bishop, your legacy will live forever in the universal Church especially in this diocese; more importantly because of you that I am smiling Father Niby Kannai, pastor, St. Edward Parish, Cynthiana

He is a Christian

Bishop Foys has been a part of my vocational journey for more than half my life. He Confirmed me in 2003 and accepted me as a seminarian in 2007. I received guidance from him and felt his support throughout my time in seminary. The Ministry of Acolyte and the Sacrament of Holy Orders, both the Diaconate in 2015 and the Priesthood in 2016, I received from his hands. He installed me as pastor two years ago.

More important than all of this, however, is that he is a Christian. Bishop Foys, like all of us, has been called by Our Lord Jesus Christ to serve Him and His Church. Thank you, Bishop, for being so much to me personally but even more so for being a Christian. May you be blessed in your retirement, and may we all continue to live up to the name of Christian that we all share. Let us always adore, honor and glorify our Loving Saviour. — Father Edward Ludwig, pastor, St. Francis Xavier Parish, Falmouth

What you want to do, you can do better as a priest

I would like to thank Bishop Foys for the role he played in helping me to discern my vocation to the priesthood — even before he was ordained a bishop. When I was considering working for the Church as a lay person, I met with Msgr. Foys in Steubenville, Ohio. After listening to me at length, he told me that everything I wanted to do, I could do better as a priest. Those words stuck with me and spoke to my heart. A year later, when he was ordained Bishop of Covington, I was working as a lay

(Continued on page 19)
The community of Notre Dame Academy offers sincere appreciation to Bishop Foys for his nineteen years of dedicated ministry to the Diocese of Covington and his deep commitment to Catholic education.

Thank you for making a difference Bishop Foys!
We wish you well in your retirement!

CONGRATULATIONS, BISHOP FOYS!
Thank you for your leadership and support of Covington Catholic High School in so many ways. Your legacy will include:

- Our successful capital campaign and over $12 million campus renovations and expansions, increasing our campus to 32 acres with first-class facilities.

- Outstanding support for Catholic education, including a scholarship established in your name in 2012 (now awarded to 7 students with more each year), and major scholarship growth overall.

- A step change in our Endowment, laying the groundwork for CovCath’s next 100 years.
THANK YOU BISHOP FOYS
FOR YOUR TIRELESS SUPPORT
OVER 19 YEARS!

St. Patrick’s School
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MARY, QUEEN OF HEAVEN PARISH
THANKS
BISHOP ROGER J. FOYS

FOR HIS SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP AND HIS
PASTORAL CARE AND SUPPORT FOR THE
PAST 19 YEARS.

MAY OUR LORD BLESS HIM IN
HIS RETIREMENT.
The Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D. and the clergy, religious, and lay faithful of the Archdiocese of Louisville send deep thanks to The Most Reverend Roger J. Foys for his nineteen years shepherding the Diocese of Covington as the tenth Bishop of Covington. Know of our prayers and best wishes!

Luceat Lux Vestra
St. Timothy Church and School thanks you for your years of dedication and service to the Diocese of Covington and to each of us.

BISHOP JEFFREY M. MONFORTON
AND THE DIOCESE OF STEUBENVILLE
OFFER PRAYERFUL BEST WISHES, GRATITUDE FOR HIS APOSTOLIC SERVICE, AND WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS TO BISHOP ROGER J. FOYS
pastoral minister in Dayton, Ohio. We reconnected and, through numerous phone calls and meetings in person, he helped me to discern entering the seminary for the Diocese of Covington. I am grateful for all he has done to nurture and support my vocation to the priesthood and how he has done for our diocese in the past 19 years. Thank you Bishop Foys! — Father Martin Pietrick, pastor, Divine Mercy Parish, Belleueue and St. Bernard Parish, Dayton

**A man of God**

It was my privilege to work closely with Bishop Foys as his vicar general during his earliest days as Bishop of Covington. In that role I got to know him as a man of God who took a deeply personal interest in the people and many ministries, programs and activities of the Diocese.

That personal interest, I believe, is rooted in his genuinely pastoral approach. After 28 years as a pastor before coming to Covington, one could tell his heart is in the parish. To my knowledge, he accepted virtually every invitation to a parish or school activity. Bishop Foys was often seen at special Masses, plays, funerals and anniversaries. Most notably he could be seen at nearly every parish festival.

His pastoral care is not limited to attending functions. It is central to his daily prayer and concern for the people of the diocese. A less obvious, but very real example of pastoral concern can be seen in committee and board meetings. Frequently I could see the wheels turning in Bishop Foys’ heart and mind as he thought about the impact a decision might have on the average parishioner and the people and many ministries, programs and activities of the Diocese.

The wisdom and guidance of Bishop Foys has really proven to be valuable to me along my journey to the priesthood. After I entered seminary, Bishop Foys would occasionally text me, as well as all the Covington seminarians, to find out how things were going. He also assured us that if we needed anything, he was just a text or phone call away. I felt so blessed to receive the texts because it was an expression of Bishop Foys’ genuine care and concern. Additionally while I was ill, he personally contacted me regularly to see how I was doing. Bishop Foys also wanted to make sure I was getting the best possible care. These actions honestly exemplify the compassion that a father has for his child; the same compassion Bishop Foys has for his priests. Despite his busy schedule, he would drop in to meet with a priest who was struggling. He would, without failing to exercise the normal functions of his office, give of himself completely to care for his priests.

I was privileged to witness his paternal care and have been touched by the dedication Bishop Foys has shown to the seminarians, priests, religious and all Catholics in this great diocese. His positive impact on Covington will always be remembered. Thank you, Bishop Foys. May God bless you in your retirement.

— Father Joseph Rielage, parochial vicar, St. Pius X Parish, Edgewood

**An image of the Good Shepherd**

The Second Vatican Council says that priests should “Form one family whose father is the bishop.” A father is far more than an administrative figure. He loves his family and is willing to lay down his life for them. Bishop Foys certainly has lived up to that call. Before I even entered seminary, Bishop Foys encouraged my vocation to the priesthood. After I entered seminary, however, I saw a different side of the Bishop. All throughout my discernment process, Bishop Foys was truly present to me, supporting me during my best times and during my worst. Had it not been for his encouragement, support, and care I very likely would not have made it to ordination.

After I was ordained, my priestly ministry was connected to the Bishop’s in a special way. For the first two years of my priesthood, I lived and worked with the Bishop as his Administrative Assistant and Master of Ceremonies. I saw, day in and day out, how Bishop Foys lays down his life for his family. He wakes up early to pray for the priests. Despite his busy schedule, he would drop everything to meet with a priest who was struggling. He would, without failing to exercise the normal functions of his office, give of himself completely to care for his priests. I was privileged to witness his paternal care and have been blessed to benefit from it myself.

But his solicitude does not end with the priests. For 19
THANK YOU BISHOP FOYS!

With Whole-Hearted Gratitude
SAINT VINCENT ARCHABBEY & SEMINARY
Bishop Foys, thank you for your 19 years of service to the Diocese of Covington.
Catholic school principals recount Bishop Foys’ commitment to Catholic education

Thomas More University

Congratulations to His Excellency Bishop Roger Foys for his distinguished service and leadership as Bishop of the Diocese of Covington. His Excellency also serves as the chancellor of Thomas More University. Over the past 19 years, Bishop Foys has had a positive influence in the growth of Thomas More University as a regional Catholic Liberal Arts University. As chancellor, Bishop Foys has served with distinction as he led the University through unprecedented growth and its transition from college to university.

Since his installation as Bishop in July 2002, Thomas More has been witness to his strong commitment to Catholic education. Through his tenure as chancellor of the University, Thomas More’s enrollment grew to more than 2,000 students, academic programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels expanded, campus facilities grew through the addition of the Mary, Seat of Wisdom Chapel; the financial position of the University significantly improved under his leadership, and the University won two national women’s basketball championships. Though he may be a Steelers fan, he will always be the Saints’ number one fan.

Bishop Foys played a significant role in the development of the Diocese of Covington Guarantee which provides annual scholarships of $20,000 per academic year to all graduates of the diocesan high schools. His unwavering commitment to Catholic education is further evidence of his strong held beliefs and values that a Catholic Education affords. More than 16,000 alumni call Villa Madonna College, Thomas More College, and Thomas More University their alma mater.

On Sept. 12, 2021, Thomas More University officially became Thomas More University. As Bishop Foys begins his retirement TMU kicked off its centennial celebrations with Mass on the day of its founding as Villa Madonna College, Sept. 12, 1921. TMU is one of only 11 diocesan Catholic colleges or universities in the U.S. The Bishop of Covington is chancellor at the University. During his episcopacy Bishop Foys has shaken hands with 4,819 TMU undergraduates and 1,324 TMU graduates.

St. Augustine Parish expresses our most profound gratitude to Bishop Roger J. Foys for his 19 years of episcopal ministry and loving care. May the Lord continue to bless you. Ad multos amos!

SAINT AUGUSTINE CHURCH, COVINGTON, KY
www.staugustines.net

On Oct. 1, 2018, Thomas More College officially became Thomas More University. As Bishop Foys begins his retirement TMU kicked off its centennial celebrations with Mass on the day of its founding as Villa Madonna College, Sept. 12, 1921. TMU is one of only 11 diocesan Catholic colleges or universities in the U.S. The Bishop of Covington is chancellor at the University. During his episcopacy Bishop Foys has shaken hands with 4,819 TMU undergraduates and 1,324 TMU graduates.

On Sept. 12, 2021, Thomas More University celebrated
Its 100th anniversary is further evidence of Bishop Foys’ outstanding and distinguished leadership and service. As the University celebrates its 100th anniversary, Thomas More will begin a new transformation by elevating its position as a Catholic Liberal Arts University. The University has plans to grow its physical campus, expand academic and athletic space on campus, and to strengthen its mission and commitment to its students.

Over the past 19 years, Bishop Foys has dedicated himself to the Diocese of Covington and to Thomas More University as its chancellor. We are grateful for all he has done to inspire, to challenge, and to provide a strong Catholic education to the Diocese of Covington. His exemplary service and dedication will serve the diocese, its students and families well for many generations to come. We are blessed to have Bishop Foys as our leader and dedicated servant to Thomas More University.

May God bless Bishop Foys.

— Joseph L. Chillo, LRD, president, Thomas More University

In 2019 Bishop Foys blessed and dedicated the new Bishop Brossart High School Athletic complex, one of the $190,000,000 building projects completed in the diocese during his episcopacy.

Bishop Brossart High School

During his time as shepherd of the Diocese of Covington, Bishop Foys has made enduring contributions to our entire Diocese. In particular, he has always put an emphasis on Catholic education, making it a priority during his tenure, and it is evident here at Bishop Brossart High School.

With Bishop Foys’ leadership, we’ve achieved high recognition at Bishop Brossart High School. We’ve made great strides to live more fully our mission and especially our motto: Charity First. Because of his leadership and our continued growth, BBHS earned the distinction of being named a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence in 2018.

Not only did we receive academic excellence during his ministry, the faithful shepherd of the Diocese of Covington, KY.

Congratulations on your retirement.

Sincerely,
The Saint Agnes Parish

BISHOP FOYS

Thank you for 19 years as the faithful shepherd of the Diocese of Covington, KY. Congratulations on your retirement.

Sincerely,
The Saint Agnes Parish

Archbishop Thomas J. Rodi

AND THE PEOPLE OF THE

ARCHDIOCESE OF MOBILE

Offer Prayers
and Best Wishes to

BISHOP

ROGER J. FOYS, D.D.

Tenth Bishop of the Diocese of Covington, Kentucky

As He Retires
(Continued from page 23)

time as bishop, we also were able to improve our facilities with his guidance. In September of 2014, we dedicated the Wilfred H. Neltner Center and the St. Francis of Assisi Chapel as part of our $8 million expansion. Then, in September of 2019, we opened the Mustang Athletic Complex (MAC) and the Munninghoff Family Stadium. This was a part of our $7 million athletic complex. We are blessed to have an area on our main campus and our ath-
letic complex dedicated to our Mother Mary. We have our Grotto on our main campus and Meditation Garden at the MAC drawing our community to prayer. Bishop Foys played a vital role from beginning until completion in the creation of all these facilities.

We will forever be grateful to Bishop Foys for his tremendous leadership of Catholic education in our diocese. As Bishop Foys has said many times, “There are alternatives to Catholic schools but there are no substi-
tutes.” — Chris Holtz, principal, Bishop Brossart High School

Covington Catholic High School

Bishop Foys has served 19 years of Covington Catholic High School stu-
dents and their families with pastoral wisdom, grace, humor and great leadership. From opening each year with a Latin Mass for our students and alumni to ending our year with a splendid graduation ceremo-
ny, his guidance and love has served the entire Covington Latin School. Furthermore, we can point to his example that has inspired a number of our graduates to pursue the priest-
hood, continuing the tradition begun by Bishop Howard in 1923. On behalf of the entire Latin School community, with grateful hearts, we wish him a peaceful and well deserved retirement. — John P. Kennedy, Ed.D., headmaster, Covington Latin School

Notre Dame Academy

The community of Notre Dame Academy offers sincere appreciation to Bishop Foys for his 19 years of dedicated ministry to the Diocese of Covington and his ardent com-
mmitment to Catholic education. Bishop Foys is known for saying, “There are alternatives to Catholic schools, but there is no substi-
tute.” Bishop Foys knows firsthand the value of a Catholic school education not only for individuals but also for com-
munities. As a Catholic high school dedicated to Mary and committed to academic excellence, Notre Dame Academy (NDA) is grateful to Bishop Foys for supporting its mission to educate young women to make a difference in the world.

(Continued on page 41)
Please consider inviting and sponsoring a youth for SUMMIT21. This awesome encounter with Christ in the Eucharist can be life-changing. If interested, contact Sue at 859-466-1283.

To learn more about SUMMIT21, visit www.covdio.org/Summit21.

Thank you Bishop Foys for your many years of service to the Diocese of Covington
St. Cecilia Catholic Church and School

Newport Central Catholic wishes Bishop Foys a happy and healthy retirement.
We thank Bishop Foys for his 19 years of service, dedication and commitment to Catholic education.

“There are alternatives to Catholic schools, but there is no substitute.”
— Most Rev. Bishop Roger J. Foys

Catholic Diocese of Lexington
In a single ceremony, Bishop Foys was consecrated and installed as the 10th Bishop of the Diocese of Covington, July 15, 2002. It was exactly 79 years to the day since the Covington diocese last witnessed the ordination of its own bishop. The last being Bishop Francis Howard. As part of the ordination rite, the ordaining bishop, Archbishop Thomas Kelly of Louisville, imposed hands on Bishop Foys. The ancient ritual confers the Holy Spirit upon the one being ordained. The other 13 bishops in attendance did likewise.

(left) Bishop Foys exits the Cathedral as the newly installed Bishop of Covington. (right) Msgr. Gerald Reinersman and Msgr. Robert Wehage escort Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo into the Cathedral. As papal nuncio, Archbishop Montalvo was the one to call Bishop Foys telling him that Pope John Paul II desired to name him Bishop of Covington. “Don’t worry, God will give you the grace that you need,” Archbishop Montalvo said. Those words made a lasting impact and Bishop Foys often shares that advice with others.

(below) After pledging his fidelity to the Gospel and to service of the church, Bishop Foys lay prostrate in front of the altar while the congregation joined in an ancient and solemn prayer, the litany of the saints, asking the entire communion of saints to pray for the one who was about to be ordained.

(left) Another ancient ritual where the Book of Gospels is held above Bishop Foys’ head and then presented to him — a symbolic reminder that his first duty is to preach the Gospel. (right) Behold the Lamb of God, during his installation Mass, Bishop Foys raises the Eucharist for the first time as Bishop of Covington.
Bankemper’s ordination, while only Father Rielage’s sister could attend his, due to
ordinations couldn’t have been more different. The Cathedral was packed for Father
was Father Joseph Rielage, Jan. 29, 2021. While both were solemn ceremonies, the two
ordained a priest for the Diocese of Covington. (above right) The last priest he ordained
(above left) On June 7, 2003, Father Stef Bankemper was the first man Bishop Foys
provided at the former location.
Due to changing demographics in the city
facility. Due to changing demographics in the city
ringing of all church bells at 3 p.m. — the Great
a diocesan synod was convened
Safe Environment Office established
St. Anne Retreat Center established
Spiritual Works
St. Anne Retreat Center established
High school Pastoral Administrators established
Religious Houses Established
2 new parishes established: Cristo Rey, Florence (2004) and Our Lady of Lourdes, Park Hills (2016)
1 new school established: St. Timothy, Union (2017)
Bishop Camillus Paul Maes exhumed and entombed in Cathedral-Basilica
Cathedral-Basilica façade completed
Curia built and Cathedral-Basilica campus expanded
Freestanding Our Lady of Wisdom chapel built on the campus of Thomas More University
St. Mary’s Park built
St. Paul Reliquary housing over 300 relics built in the Cathedral-Basilica

Bishop Foys’ affinity for Bassett Hounds is
well known and throughout the years Bassettes have frequented the Chancery. In
2016, a new blessing had been added to Bishop Foys’ — living and deceased —
heard of hounds. The day after her first well-puppy check to the veterinarian,
puppy “Nibbles Niblet” came to the Curia office to visit. Marisa Newbold, parish
ioner, St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Ft. Thomas, is the owner of Nibbles and of
“Nubby Num-Num,” who also joined the visit. Before being named Bishop of Covington he had owned two Bassets —
Rushful and Baxter. In 2003, Dr. James Noll, learning of Bishop Foys’ affection for the breed, arranged a visit from Bassetts “Rain” and “Chloe,” emotional therapists from Tri-state Caring Canines. Bishop Foys was gifted a Basset, “Winn Dixie,” early in his episcopate. Since the travel demands of the episcopacy were not well suited for owning a dog, Father Gregory Bach adopt-
entombed in Cathedral-Basilica

Diocese of Covington Statistics under episcopate of Bishop Roger J. Foys
(2002 – present July 2020)

Sacramental Life
21,595 receive sacrament of confirmation
5,143 received into full communion with the Church
43 priests ordained for the diocese
32 permanent deacons ordained for the diocese

Students Educated in the Catholic Tradition
14,860 graduates from Catholic high schools
4,819 undergraduates from Thomas More University
1,324 graduates from Thomas More University

Monies Raised for Diocesan Support
$27,095,213.14 in tuition assistance to Catholic high schools
$5,655,876.77 in assistance for urban schools
$49,905,662 raised for the DPAA
$12,276,966 DPAA rebates back to parishes
$190,000,000 used in building projects

Building Works Expanded
2 new parishes established: Cristo Rey, Florence (2004) and Our Lady of Lourdes, Park Hills (2016)
1 new school established: St. Timothy, Union (2017)
Bishop Camillus Paul Maes exhumed and entombed in Cathedral-Basilica
Cathedral-Basilica façade completed
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Bishop Foys’ Choir, led by Dr. Gregory Schaffer, are a loyal band of volunteer vocalists and musicians dedicated to filling the Cathedral with litanurgical music. Here, the Bishop’s Choir gathers for a photo with Bishop Foys after the blessing of the Cathedral façade in 2021.

(left) On June 8, 2018, Bishop Roger Foys erected the personal parish of Our Lady of Lourdes, Park Hills, for litanurgical celebrations of the extraordinary form of the Roman rite. The parish began as a quasi-parish in 2016. The Missionaries of St. John the Baptist, a Public Association of the Faithful established by Bishop Foys in 2019, attend to the pastoral needs of the parish.

(above left) On June 7, 2003, Father Stefan Bankemper was the first man Bishop Foys ordained a priest for the Diocese of Covington. (above right) The last priest he ordained was Father Joseph Rielage, Jun. 29, 2021. While both were solemn ceremonies, the two ordinations couldn’t have been more different. The Cathedral was packed for Father Bankemper’s ordination, while only Father Rielage’s sister could attend his, due to COVID-19 protocols. During the years in between these two ordinations, Bishop Foys would ordain 41 more priests for the diocese.
Teach, sanctify, govern: Curia assists Bishop Foys in his mission

Curia, by dictionary definition, is an official body that governs a particular Church (or diocese) in the Catholic Church. Under Bishop Foys’ leadership, his staff has come to learn a different definition for the word Curia — the care of souls. Through the day-to-day operations of each diocesan office Bishop Foys’ threefold mission — to teach, sanctify and govern — is realized. The Curia staff share how Bishop Foys’ leadership has shaped them and the Diocese of Covington.

Chancery
Father Ryan Maher, vicar general

It is difficult to convey in short paragraphs the gratitude I have to the Lord for sending Bishop Foys to us as our shepherd 19 years ago. On a personal level, which is the only way I know how to write these sentences, I have worked closely with Bishop Foys daily, in one capacity or another since the day Bishop Foys ordained me a priest in 2003.

He has labored hard in the vineyard of our diocese every day of his episcopacy. That is what a good shepherd does for the people under his care. Bishop Foys is the hardest working priest and person that I know. Being a priest and a bishop is not something that Bishop Foys does, rather it is who he is.

At the Cathedral parish Bishop Foys has been a true father in the faith, especially through his preaching and celebration of the Mass, baptisms, weddings, and confirmations. Every bishop is called to teach, govern and sanctify. No small task to say the very least! A man of deep prayer, Bishop Foys has made countless decisions over the years, both small and large. Decisions made by any bishop affect the entire diocese, not just one parish or institution or school. It is not only about what is good for one parish or person that must be considered, but what is also good for the whole diocese must be taken into account as well.

Among many important things I have learned from Bishop Foys over the years, one is that the right decision is sometimes the unpopular decision and that the right decision is sometimes the difficult decision. But in the end it has been easy for Bishop Foys to make these decisions, I have worked closely with Bishop Foys daily, in one capacity or another since the day Bishop Foys ordained me a priest in 2003.

At his ordination to the priesthood in 2006, Father Daniel Schomaker places his hands in the hands of Bishop Foys and promises respect and obedience to him and his successors. A priest’s promise of obedience is especially important as they are called to give themselves sent by Christ through the bishop. Bishop Foys says that the men he has ordained are in a special way his spiritual sons. During his episcopacy, Bishop Foys ordained 43 priests for the Diocese of Covington.

Covington to be our shepherd and I am so fortunate to have been able to work with him so closely over the years. I con-gratulate Bishop Foys on his well-deserved retirement and wish him many, many blessings in the years to come!

Father Daniel Schomaker, vicar general

Thirty years ago Bishop Foys ordained me a priest and for the entirety of that time I have been assigned in some way to work directly with him. God could not have given me a better mentor and friend. I have learned how to be a priest and a pastor from him. Thank you Bishop! I pray that as you enter into retirement from administrative duties that the Good Lord will bless you with abundance. Well done, good and faithful servant!

Jamie Schroeder, chancellor

I have worked for the Diocese of Covington since 2009, first as the assistant director of Catechesis and Formation (now Catechesis and Evangelization) and currently as chancellor. I have appreciated Bishop Foys’ leadership long before he was appointed as our shepherd. I participated in the pastoral consultations that were part of the Diocesan Synod from 2003-2006. As a parent of five children who attended Catholic schools and as a former Catholic school teacher and Director of Religious Education, I was thrilled with the emphasis Bishop Foys placed on strengthening the religious formation of children in our schools and parish religious education programs.

Since my employment, I have been privileged to experience firsthand the additional ways in which Bishop Foys has strengthened our diocese. Viewed from the perspective of the Chancery Office, several highlights come to mind. The Diocesan Synod, completed in 2006, gave united direction to the Curia offices, parishes and institutions. The Diocesan Annual Pastoral Planning process, first established as a method to implement the Synod policies, has continued to keep diocesan offices looking ahead to meeting the needs of the parishes and institutions of the diocese. The Deaconary Pastoral Council was restructured so that every parish is represented and can provide valuable feedback as part of the annual planning process. A diocesan census was undertaken, the structure and function of parish pastoral councils were reviewed and updated, and the list goes on. Our Diocese has benefited tremendously from Bishop Foys’ administration, the example of his pastoral care.

I am grateful to God for Bishop Foys, and grateful to Bishop Foys for his dedicated service over the past 19 years. He has been a faithful shepherd and a caring spiritual father to us all. May God bless you, Bishop, with a happy, healthy, well-deserved retirement!

Buildings and Properties
Don Knorcht, chancellor

It has been an honor to serve as director of Buildings and Properties for the Diocese of Covington for the past 11 years. Since the creation of the Buildings and Properties office in 2010, several notable diocesan projects have been completed, including: the Mary, Seat of Wisdom Chapel at Thomas More University; the new St. Timothy School; the St. Henry Theater at St. Henry District High School; the Bishop Brossart High School Mustang Athletic Complex; the Covington Catholic STEM building; the moving of the Curia offices back to the See City and renovation of the St. Mary Lyceum into the Curia; the privately-supported St. Mary’s Park and most recently, the Cathedral façade renovation. This includes evaluating and selecting the patron saints of each of the parishes in the diocese.

Bishop Foys is committed to the proper maintenance of all buildings and properties in the diocese, including its parishes and schools. In many ways, the care of these structures has been passed on from one generation to the next — all for the glory of God. To preserve our buildings of worship and academia are maintained, Bishop Foys implemented a structure where all parishes and schools would be inspected regularly with long and short term plans discussed with parish and school leadership. An inspection occurs anytime a new pastor is assigned to a parish.

Bishop Foys has always said that our buildings are more than bricks and mortar but are concrete expressions of faith. Our churches are places of welcome where Jesus nourishes the body and soul with his Body and Blood, forgives sins and consoles the grieving. Our cemeteries are sacred ground where our beloved and, one day, ourselves rest and wait for Jesus’ final coming and the resurrection of the dead. Our schools are where children receive a quality Catholic education that assist in building a strong academic, spiritual and social foundation for life.

Catechesis and Evangelization
David Vogt, director and office manager

During Bishop Roger Foys’ episcopate, there have been too many fruitful initiatives implemented in the categories of catechesis and evangelization to include an exhaustive list here, so I will touch on the important highlights.

First and foremost it should be noted that it was Bishop Foys’ vision to have an office of parish and family focus of religious education separated from the Diocesan Department of Religious Education. The Office of Catechesis and Faith Education

In an August 2006 ceremony, with an assembly of all the priests and deacons and representatives of all women religious, parishes, schools and apostolates of the diocese, Bishop Foys signs the Synod document. Three years in the making, the contents of the Synod document became particular law for the Diocese of Covington and set into motion a new life for the diocese as over the next 10 years, with the leadership of Charity Sister Suzanne Donovan, policies, procedures and programs were implemented in literally every ministry and apostolate of the local Church: Catholic Education and Faith Formation, Diocesan Life and Ministry, Diocesan Parish Administration, Evangelization, Gospel of Life, Lay Apostolate, Liturgy and Prayer and Primary Life and Ministry.

Jamie Schroeder, chancellor

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I am grateful to God for Bishop Foys, and grateful to Bishop Foys for his dedicated service over the past 19 years. He has been a faithful shepherd and a caring spiritual father to us all. May God bless you, Bishop, with a happy, healthy, well-deserved retirement!
Bishop Foys blesses the newly completed façade of the Cathedral Basilica of St. Mary in Covington, Ky., during a dedication ceremony Sept. 26, 2017. The new façade includes 24 saint statues, patrons of the diocese’s parishes and missions, and two tympana. The new tympana, together with the center portal tympanum that was completed in 1917, now create a triptych of the Catholic Church’s dogmatic teachings of the faith.

As the Assumption of Mary to heaven; and the Coronation of Mary, Queen of the Universe.

The gift of Bishop Roger Joseph Foys.

Newly ordained deacons at the altar: with Bishop Foys in 2019 are Deacon Joseph Widerman, lifting the chalice, and Deacon Barry Herr, looking on. During his 19 years as bishop, Bishop Foys has ordained 32 men to the permanent diaconate.

First and foremost, few ministries impact and affect the future of our Church as much as Catholic schools; and Bishop Foys is well known for his love and support of Catholic education. At the beginning of his episcopacy he formed the Alliance for Catholic Urban Education (ACUE) as a consortium for the 11 inner-city parochial schools of the diocese. The large financial demands of these schools were an unsustainable burden on the inner city parishes of our diocese. Some parishes were subsidizing their schools with as much as 70 percent of their weekly offertory just to keep the doors open. Prior to the formation of ACUE, that parish subsidy averaged over $2.5M each year. Due to the efficiencies and economies of scale that ACUE was able to achieve, these parishes have done for us and the diocese.

I am glad you will continue to support and guidance they have received from their diocesan bishop. Your words of inspiration and dedication have done so much for us and the diocese.

Your words of inspiration and dedication have done so much for us and the diocese. I know you still continue to pray for her. When she was really sick with cancer. I would also like to personally thank you for all of your service to it. No matter how exhausted or tired you found warmth, love and support in your work. I am very thankful for Bishop Foys and for the faithful in Africa, and especially coming from a Nomadic Family in the Holy Spirit, our work in the Lord's vineyard has produced rich soil for the Word of God. We are very thankful for Bishop Foys and for the faithful in this diocese.

Vincent’s guidance for a whole host of subsequent developments and initiatives, including the creation of a diaconal policy and procedure manual; the establishment of a network of deacon organizations and bylaws for that community as well as for the diocesan assembly and the subcommittee structure for that assembly; and the implementation of accountability procedures with regard to annual retreats and continuing education; the implementation of a diaconal annual review process; the creation of funeral protocols for deacons; and the implementation of programs to enhance the liturgical skills of deacons, especially as it pertains to pontifical liturgies, and to enhance counseling skills.

Mention must be made as well, of the formal establishment of the Curia Office of Deacons and Diaconal Formation itself, as well as the formation programs for aspirants and the formal education of candidates.

These programs, policies and procedures have greatly benefited the spiritual lives of the permanent deacons as well as the fruitfulness of their varied and multi-faceted ministries.

And all of that above should be viewed against the backdrop of the wonderful numerical growth of the permanent diaconate in this diocese under Bishop Foys, from 29 deacons in 2002 to over 40 today in active ministry. Today, 26 parishes have one or more deacons serving in ministries of the altar and word and in that defining diaconal ministry of charity; Bishop Foys has ordained 32 permanent deacons; four candidates are in formation at Mt. St. Mary Seminary and School of Theology.

Every autumn the permanent deacons of the diocese look forward to celebrating solemn vespers with their Bishop, and to the renewing in that beautiful liturgy of the promises made at their ordinations. Tellingly, the annual liturgy was itself instigated by Bishop Foys.

In that welcome annual event, the deacons are not only celebrating and giving thanks for the graces of their diaconal ordinations, but also for the wonderful leadership, support and guidance they have received from their Bishop.

That leadership, support and guidance has been evident to them throughout the almost two decades of Bishop Foys’ episcopacy, beginning particularly with the synodal process of 2003–2006, which saw the Bishop welcome the deacons’ development and submission of the 88 policy provisions of the Diocesan Life and Ministry sections of the synod document.

They are grateful as well for his leadership, support and guidance for a whole host of subsequent developments and

For the past 19 years, Bishop Foys has led the Finance Office as it manages the tempestuous seas of the diocese, he has great business acumen. Anytime a business decision must be made, Bishop Foys listens to his advisors and makes an informed decision based upon the best long-term outcome. He always has an eye to the future and how decisions today can have impact for years to come.

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Roger Foys brings to all of his ministries. Communications is no exception. When communicating to the people of the Diocese of Covington, especially when sharing news that will have an emotional impact, he demonstrates a pastoral approach. The information is shared first with those who are affected most, usually a parish or school community followed by all the priests of the diocese and finally the wider community. While this seems sensible and reasonable, in a world of social media, source of unity throughout the diocese and could serve as his chief means of communication in the past present, and future of the diocese. After consulting with the presbyteral council and other aides, he restructured the newspaper’s finances on another model — each of the 28,000 families would receive the newspaper 44 times a year at no charge; the “tax rate” on the parishes would increase slightly to cover the additional cost. Overnight, the potential effectiveness of the diocesan newspaper doubled. The people of the dio- cese were united in a way they had never been before. Bishop Foys had a reliable, attractive way to speak with the faithful. And diocesan initiatives — to take just one example, the Diocesan Parish Annual Appeal — and parish- es and schools — think festivals, events and fundraisers — greatly benefited from the expanded exposure. While modern communi- cation possibilities have greatly expanded — e-mail, Facebook, Twitter etc. — a printed news- paper regularly delivered into the home still is the best way to reach Catholic households, especially the increasing number of Catholics—regrettably, an estimated two-thirds — who are not frequent churchgoers. Bishop Foys, having recognized that potential, has used the newspaper as one of the pillars of his episco- pacy.

On a personal note, I have followed Bishop Foys up and down through the Diocese of Covington and have had the unique privilege to have visited every parish and mission in the diocese, except one — St. James Mission, Minerva. I missed the chance in 2016 and a scheduled celebration in 2020 was cancelled. These were not drive-by visits but celebra- tions, including Bishop Foys celebrating Mass with the priests and people. They were always joyful and even during difficult times the faithful of our diocese demonstrated their love for Bishop Foys and he for them. It has been a profound pleasure for me to have visited every parish and mission in the diocese. After consulting with the presbyteral council and other aides, he restructured the newspaper’s finances on another model — each of the 28,000 families would receive the newspaper 44 times a year at no charge; the “tax rate” on the parishes would increase slightly to cover the additional cost. Overnight, the potential effectiveness of the diocesan newspaper doubled. The people of the dio- cese were united in a way they had never been before. Bishop Foys had a reliable, attractive way to speak with the faithful. And diocesan initiatives — to take just one example, the Diocesan Parish Annual Appeal — and parish- es and schools — think festivals, events and fundraisers — greatly benefited from the expanded exposure. While modern communi- cation possibilities have greatly expanded — e-mail, Facebook, Twitter etc. — a printed news- paper regularly delivered into the home still is the best way to reach Catholic households, especially the increasing number of Catholics—regrettably, an estimated two-thirds — who are not frequent churchgoers. Bishop Foys, having recognized that potential, has used the newspaper as one of the pillars of his episco- pacy.

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Bishop Foys’ commitment to Catholic education is unparalleled. Each year he attended the graduation ceremonies of all nine Catholic high schools in the diocese; 14,860 graduates have received their diplomas bearing his signature.

— from conception to natural death.

Also during his episcopacy the Pro-Life Ambassadors program began. These high school and college students are the future pro-life leaders. By promoting the Gospel of Life these young people give witness to dignity and sanctity of the human person both now and in the future.

We have established a Catholic Medical Association, where medical professionals are able to grow as a community and are supported by their peers in practicing their healing ministry in accordance with their Catholic faith. In these challenging times we need true Catholic medical professionals.

Under Bishop Foys’ leadership, in 2006, a coalition of pro-life agencies started Cross the Bridge for Life which professionals.

In the 1992 Presidential election, Ross Perot famously stated that ‘Everything that should be up is down, and everything that should be down is up.’ Well, when one evaluates Bishop Foys’ 19-year episcopacy, it is quite apparent that everything that should be up is up, and everything that should be down is down. Bishop Foys’ energy was spent meeting with diocesan organizations. Those meetings deepened Bishop Foys’ compassion for the wounded and vulnerable among us. That compassion shifted the focus from legal proceedings to suffering individuals. His door has always been open to those suffering.

Now we express our deep gratitude to Bishop Foys for shepherding us for 19 years. As we look forward to the arrival of Bishop-elect John C. Iffert from Belleville, Illinois, we know that he will have a mentor in Bishop Foys.

Bishop Foys also deserves great credit for celebrating his commitment to the sanctity of life.

I cannot say enough about how Bishop Foys not only knows how to pope. (Novelist) once said of Pope John Paul II, “You have a pope that knows how to pope.” Well, I say we have had a bishop that knows how to bishop. Bishop Roger J. Foys, in his two decades as bishop, as far as I am concerned, did most of what he was put in the ordination to do. Bishop Foys was right to continually trumpet their good work. Our religious were a centerpiece of this well-deserved recognition.

There would be no Thomas More University, St. Elizabeth Healthcare and many of our schools without the dedication and ingenuity of our sisters in the diocese. Bishop Foys was right to continually trumpet their good work.

One of the things I will miss most about Bishop Foys is his preaching. His homilies were always rich with theological depth, accessible to everyone in the audience, and delivered with an appropriate tinge of humor. He helped us all to better appreciate and understand the Word of God.

Thanks so much, Bishop Foys. We are all very happy that you will spend your retirement right here in Northern Kentucky.

William Burleigh, chair, Diocesan Review Board

A friend of Michael Novak (Catholic journalist and novelist) once said of Pope John Paul II, “You have a pope that knows how to pope.” Well, I say we have had a bishop that knows how to bishop. Bishop Roger J. Foys, in his two decades as bishop, as far as I am concerned, did most

(Continued on page 32)
He is a wonderful guy and he has a great sense of humor. His sense of humor sustained him during the dark times.

Most recently what he has done to the façade of the cathedral demonstrates his vision of the Church and what the Church should be — not just in the celebration of the liturgy but in its architecture. A couple weeks ago I was with Duncan Stroik, who designed the church at All Saints and is now a famous church architect, he couldn’t get over what Bishop Foys had done with the cathedral. He said this just doesn’t happen in modern times that someone has the appreciation and vision to complete a century-old building the way Bishop Foys has done.

I also admire Bishop Foys for the way he has given us plenty of running room to take care of the little Marian Park next to the Curia. Also, his determination to live in a neighborhood, a community that was riddled with poverty rather than living, like some, in palaces and not getting their hands dirty in caring for the flock that has all of the human heartache and human poverty that is present in the Diocese of Covington. Bishop Foys was part of that, he understood it.

Known for his mistake-free, one takes, Bishop Foys prepares for the annual taping of the Diocesan Parish Annual Appeal video. Every diocese has an annual appeal, but Bishop Foys revolutionized Covington’s DPAA structure so that every parish in the diocese could also directly benefit from the annual appeal campaign. With the DPAA 100 percent of monies collected over a parish’s goal is returned to that parish for parish programs and projects. During his episcopacy, $49,905,662 was raised for the DPAA and $12,217,196 DPAA rebates were sent to parishes.

I watched him as he took care of the seminarians. He was a great promoter of vocations and there is a whole generation of seminarians that was brought along. I would watch him at the Josephinum when both of us were on that board; he was always there to support me in my ministry. He has a knack as a deacon and as the director of St. Anne Retreat Center.

Bishop Foys has worked hard to ensure the Catholic faith is the primary reason for our schools. Under his leadership we have a strong religious curriculum and materials for our students. We also have a Catechesis program for the teachers in our schools. And Bishop Foys always reminds us of the mission of all Catholic schools — which is to transmit the faith. Today, because of his work, our schools are united in our missions to serve the Lord by passing on the faith to the next generation of children.

Perhaps the greatest gift that Bishop Foys has given to the diocese is his support of our urban schools. At a time when many dioceses are closing urban schools due to funding challenges, Bishop Foys was determined to keep Catholic education available in these areas. He has been instrumental in supporting the Alliance for Catholic Urban Education which has met the funding needs of these schools so we can continue bringing Christ to those children who live in the urban areas of our diocese.

On behalf of the Department of Catholic Schools and all of our schools, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Bishop Foys for his full support of Catholic education. His leadership has impacted our schools in such a positive way and will bear fruits for many generations. May God bless him for all of his work and in his words, let us remember that there may be alternatives to Catholic Schools but there is no substitute.

St. Anne Retreat Center
Deacon Dave Profitz, director
Like a lot of people that I’ve spoken to over the past few months, I’m torn over the retirement of Bishop Foys. On one hand, I’m happy for him, happy that he can enjoy a retirement he so clearly has earned. On the other hand, I’m sorry to see him retire. I know personally, I’m going to miss the leadership he has shown during his time here as our bishop.

Bishop Foys has been a big part of my growth as a man, as a priest, and as a Bishop. He has been instrumental in supporting the Alliance for Catholic Urban Education which has met the funding needs of these schools so we can continue bringing Christ to those children who live in the urban areas of our diocese.

Without question, the great progress we have made here at St. Ann Retreat Center would not have been possible without his leadership and guidance. He has supported us in our efforts to make this a beautiful place of rest and renewal for all. When I began here, I had a vision of what this place could become and although we’re not there yet, we’re much closer.

I’m certain Bishop-elect John Iffert will be a wonderful leader for our diocese. He has a strong dedication to the arts and materials for our students.

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First Communicants of the Cathedral Parish quietly talk with Bishop Foys before they receive the sacrament. Celebrating the sacraments and bringing people to Christ, Bishop Foys said, “that’s what I’ve tried to do my entire priesthood — I hope I’ve done that.”

Celebrating the sacraments and bringing people to Christ, Bishop Foys before they receive the sacrament.

Stewardship and Mission Services
Michael Murray, director

The concept of Stewardship is a lifestyle which, with faith and gratitude, acknowledges that God is our creator and provider of all we have. Recognizing that everything is a gift from God, a steward willingly gives a portion of their gifts of time, talent and treasure to others, especially to those who are in need.

The Office of Stewardship and Mission Services exists to serve the mission and vision of the Diocese of Covington, its parishes, and parishioners by promoting and facilitating effective stewardship practices. The office also works to secure the financial resources necessary to support, sustain and enhance diocesan and parish priorities. Through this Church ministry, we seek to create an environment where Catholics choose to embrace stewardship as a way of life by gratefully sharing their gifts to the glory of God.

Stewardship has been a high priority in the Diocese of Covington under the 19-year leadership of the Bishop Foys, the tenth Bishop of Covington. Throughout his episcopacy, Bishop Foys stressed the importance of our faith community receiving God’s gifts gratefully, cultivating them responsibly, sharing them lovingly with others, and returning them with increase to God. He also taught that stewardship is a personal response to the Gospel call to conversion of mind and heart, so that we can participate fully in God’s plan for our world.

Bishop has shown his shepherd’s heart, leading the way toward stewardship. He actively promoted the funding of seminary education, led the yearly annual appeal effort to raise funds for diocesan ministries and programs, and championed the cause of Catholic education for those less fortunate especially families living in the urban communities of northern Kentucky. He has also worked passionately with many of our faith community leaders to foster and promote vocations to the ministerial priesthood, diaconate and consecrated religious life. To say that he has left his mark on our faith community would simply be an understatement.

A powerful example of Bishop Foys’ legacy can be found with the yearly Diocesan Parish Annual Appeal. Upon his arrival in 2002, not only did he change the name and branding of the appeal, but he instituted a rebate program to benefit those parishes who exceeded their appeal goal. With this new appeal strategy, parishes received 100 percent of the monies they collected over their appeal goal. This change has had a dramatic impact on our parish communities, and has created important funding sources for many parish ministries and programs. Bishop also made available 10 percent of the diocesan appeal goal for an initiative named the DPAA Service Grants. Many parish, diocesan initiatives and local nonprofits have taken advantage of these grants to expand their ministerial efforts in their communities.

During my 12 years as stewardship director, I have personally witnessed the re-instatement of the annual Seminary Ball as an important initiative in generating much needed support for seminarians and their educational funding. Bishop Foys also instructed the Stewardship Office to conduct a special summer collection to benefit our inner-city Catholic schools, reinforcing the importance of supporting our diocesan mission directed toward the urban core of our community. My office was also asked to partner with Catholic Relief Services and our Catholic Charities organization to offer our Catholic elementary and secondary schools an opportunity to learn about poverty, both domestically and internationally, through the CRS Rice Bowl Kick-off luncheon event. These efforts, and many others not mentioned here, were brought about by Bishop Foys’ response to the Lord’s call to answer the needs of our faith community.

As we prepare for Bishop Foys’ retirement on September 30, stewardship staff members Jennifer Cox and Liz Champ join me in expressing our sincere gratitude to Bishop Foys for his 19 years of ministry and leadership. We rejoice in his ministerial time with us, and the legacy that he is leaving. He has shepherded our diocese through significant challenges and changes, both in the parishes and on a societal level. From day one, Bishop Foys has shone light and love into some of the darkest places of our diocese and its communities. He has been an advocate for those who have needed it most, and

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Bishop Foy’s support of diocesan Women Religious remembered

Wonderful celebrations

As Bishop Foy begins his retirement, the Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery wish him every blessing of good health, peace, joy, fun and extra sleep in the years ahead. We are grateful for his dedicated leadership and care for the diocese.

Bishop Foy often speaks about the history of religious communities in the diocese, the contributions we’ve made, and our role in the development of educational and health care systems. He continues to appreciate all of our ongoing efforts to serve the Covington Diocese in the varied ways in which we minister. He has been especially supportive of the academic and religious efforts at Villa Madonna Academy, the community’s sponsored school.

We are grateful for his support of women religious in our diocese. He has shown his appreciation in many ways, especially with the Year of Religious which we celebrated before the Vatican declared a year of religious. Our year was filled with wonderful celebrations including a special Mass at the cathedral and open houses. Bishop Foy’s quarterly meetings with the superiors of the communities provided time to share the happenings in each of our communities, give support to one another and discuss concerns.

Following the December meeting Bishop Foy treated us to a delicious and enjoyable meal. Collaboration among the communities for the refugees in our area and the poor was sparked by these meetings resulting in opportunities to help meet the important needs in the diocese.

Each year Bishop Foy honored the jubilarians with a lovely Mass celebration at the cathedral and luncheon. Even during the COVID pandemic the jubilarians were remembered by giving them a rose, wine and a gift card.

An annual picnic for all the communities has been such a fun and joy-filled occasion. Being together casually with sisters from all the congregations was a great experience that had not occurred until Bishop Foys encouraged it. The Serra Club took up the task and planned wonderful events including live music. They provided great food, and were always willing to aid any of us needing help carrying our food to our places. Wonderful camaraderie and lovely prizes accompanied the day. This was one sign-up list at our monastery that got filled in quickly!

Bishop Foys, blessings on your deserved retirement! Your worries are over! — Sister Aileen Bankemper, OSB, prioress, Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery, Villa Hills

An answer to prayer

Bishop Roger Foys has celebrated many significant community events with the Sisters of Divine Providence in these years of his episcopacy. Provincial Chapters of Election and Business were begun with Eucharistic celebrations presided by him. Jubilees of many Sisters were celebrated with him at wonderful liturgies and receptions. Our new Province Center was dedicated and blessed by him. Many Evening Under the Oaks gatherings were attended by Bishop Foys. Our 125th anniversary in 2014 to mark our Sisters’ first arrival in America was a joyous occasion which began with a beautiful Mass at the Cathedral presided over by Bishop Foys.

Our Sisters knew in 2010 the time had arrived to “right-size.” Our beloved Provincial House since 1927 was way too big arrive to “right-size.” Our beloved Provincial House since 1927 was way too big; our doors in Melbourne are always open to welcome him again! — Sister Barbara Rohr, provincial superior, Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence, Melbourne

Fatherly care and great prudence

The Franciscan Daughters of Mary are very grateful to Bishop Foy for establishing our community in this diocese with the purpose to uphold the dignity of every human person from the moment of conception until natural death. His wisdom and guidance, particularly in the early days, has been invaluable, given with fatherly care and great prudence.

Thank you, Bishop Foy, for always being so supportive of our community and apostolates, participating in all of our events from all of the sisters’ vows, annual fundraising
ers for the Rose Garden Mission, our Thanksgiving Turkey giveaway, Christmas Toy giveaway, etc.

What we will miss most is your humor, which we were always so grateful for. — Mother Seraphina Quinlan, Franciscan Daughters of Mary, Covington

Congratulations to Bishop Foys

During the one episcopal tenure of Bishop Foys, the Covington province of the Sisters of Notre Dame (SND) has had three provincials. Most recently, Sisters of Notre Dame have formed a new province, SNDUSA, from four previous provinces. SNDs maintain a presence in the diocese of Covington similar to what preceded the new formation.

It has been a blessing for us to participate in ministry in the diocese since our congregation’s 1874 arrival. We have been enriched by our association with laity, clergy, and fellow religious in this local Church. We have shared in many fruitful developments since Bishop Foys succeeded Bishop Muench in 2002.

Four SND sponsored ministries are in the Covington diocese. In keeping with our shared commitment to urban education, we established the Notre Dame Urban Education Center in 2010. The diocese was simultaneously formalizing and expanding support in the cities through the Alliance for Catholic Urban Education (ACUE), and we served in ACUE schools. We were blessed to participate in ever-evolving roles in pastoral and administrative endeavors, parish schools, childcare, boards, and synodal undertakings. Clergy and laity have been residents in our sponsored eldercare, and have likewise ministered alongside us there.

Following the universal Year of the Priest in 2009-10, Bishop Foys initiated a year of support and recognition of religious well before the universal Year of Consecrated Life in 2014-15. Bishop Foys has been very explicit in affirming the historical and ongoing contribution of religious at any number of public events. The diocese and Serra Club have been supportive in many ways. Bishop Foys has been especially instrumental in encouraging interaction among the various orders serving in the diocese through quarterly leadership meetings, pre-pandemic picnics, and yearly celebration of jubilees.

The SNDs are particularly grateful for Bishop Foys’ appointments of chaplains to our sponsored high school. Our provincial center has been blessed with daily Eucharist and pastoral services from our much appreciated chaplains, Fathers Robert Rosing and Robert Ross. Bishop Foys has almost always been able to preside at the liturgy for our annual jubilee celebration. And his generous support of our Fourth of July Festival is likewise appreciated. Other kindnesses may be

(Continued on page 36)
known to only a few of us.

We congratulate Bishop Foys after almost 20 years of service in this diocese. We wish him every blessing and happiness in the time of official retirement, and assure him of our prayers. — Sisters of Notre Dame, Covington

Strengthening the bonds of community

The Sisters of St. Joseph the Worker would like to wish the Bishop Roger J. Foys many blessings on his retirement. He has always encouraged and supported religious life during his tenure as Bishop of the Diocese of Covington. It was under his leadership that the diocese celebrated the Year for Religious. It was a wonderful way for the people of the Diocese of Covington to learn about religious life in general and the many religious communities that live and work in Northern Kentucky. It also allowed the Sisters of the different communities to get to know each other’s charisms and missions.

It was also during his time in Covington that the Bishop instituted regular meetings with the superiors of each community. The meetings have grown into a wonderful opportunity to share with each other the joys and challenges that we all face in living our consecration. The meetings have strengthened the bonds between the communities. We have grown closer to each other and have had the chance to support each other.

As a small, diocesan community, we could always count on Bishop Foys’ support, kindness and generosity. We know that he will continue to keep all religious in his prayers as we will keep him in ours. — Mother Christina Murray, Sisters of St. Joseph the Worker, Walton

Sister of St. Joseph the Worker Mother Christina Murray and Divine Providence Sister light candles during the Mass celebrating the Year for Women Religious.

Bishop Foys, thank you for your dedication to Life!

CincinnatiRightToLife.org

(Continued from page 35)
The Parish Community of
Saint Thomas in Fort Thomas
expresses our thanksgiving to Almighty God
for the ministry and service of
Bishop Roger J. Foys
as 10th Bishop of the Diocese of Covington.
We promise our continued love and prayers as you
enter your much deserved retirement.

Sts. Peter and Paul Parish

Thank you Bishop Foys for your 19 years
of service in the Diocese of Covington.

Sts. Peter and Paul Parish

Thank you Bishop Foys for your 19 years of selfless service
to our Cathedral Parish and the Diocese of Covington.
You have been a great Bishop and will always be in our
thoughts and prayers.
Congratulations & may
Our Lord Bless You with a
long Healthy and Happy
Retirement.
Mark & Rosa Bird

Congratulations Bishop Foys
on your retirement.
Thank you for your dedication
to Catholic education.
“There are alternatives
to a Catholic education,
but there are no substitutions.”
“The other Roger” & Diane Keller

Thank you, Bishop Foys
FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP AND SUPPORT
You give hope to the children living at DCCH Center. Through your dedication to the
mission and urging our community to help, generous donors give strength and peace
of mind; volunteers give compassion, comfort, and care; and foster families give joy
and unconditional love. Together, we all give these children a brighter future.
Thank you.

DCH Center
859-331-2040
dcchcenter.org

Thank you, Bishop Foys
FOR YOUR SERVICE TO THE
PEOPLE OF GOD IN OUR
DIocese. YOU ARE IN OUR
GRATEFUL PRAYERS.

Sisters of Divine Providence

Thank you Bishop Foys for
ALL YOU HAVE DONE HERE IN THE
COVINGTON DIOCESE.
MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU AND MAY
YOU ENJOY YOUR RETIREMENT.
ST. PHILIP PARISH

St. Philip Parish
An architectural tour will be presented by The Angelico Project with Dr. Cel Doegen, Sept. 18, 8:30–11:30 a.m., beginning with breakfast, 8:30 a.m. at Mother of God Church, Covington and ending at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption. Cost $10 per person or couple, $25 per family, and free to Angelico members. Visit angelicoproject.org/tour.

“Spirit & Grace Encounter,” sponsored by the Mustard Seed Catholic Charismatic Community of NKY, Sept. 21, 7–8:45 p.m., Blessed Sacrament Parish Center, Ft. Mitchell. In addition to music and prayer, this month’s speaker, from CLAY Ministries, will focus on a new worldwide Consecration to Our Lady of Fatima.

The Serra Club for Vocations, Northern Kentucky, annual golf outing, Sept. 23 at Twin Oaks Golf Club. Shotgun start 9 a.m.; cost $100/golfer, which includes 18 holes of golf with cart, lunch buffet, beverages, and door prizes. Contact Mike Murray: 392-1500 or mmurray@covdio.org.

St. Thomas High School Homecoming, Sept. 25, for anyone who attended for at least one year between 1948 and 1976 plus a guest. Former teachers and one guest are also invited to attend. Cost $85 per person and RSVP is required. For information and RSVP form go on Facebook under St. Thomas High School/Grad School, Ft Thomas, KY.

St. William Parish, Oct. 12, 2 p.m. — 4 p.m. Come and enjoy a relaxing day of crafts being made by our Senior Center members.


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 dorothysosb@gmail.com.

The 19th annual Bishop Brossart High School Emerald Gala is Nov 13, Settler Sports Center, 7 p.m.–12 a.m. The theme for the night is Totally 80s. For information, visit BBHSGala2021.GiveSmart.com or e-mail gala@bishop-brossart.org.
Bishop Foys,
Sharing and carrying on your ministry of Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Covington, with gratitude for your 19 years of service and leadership. On behalf of the thousands served, hundreds of volunteers and the entire staff at Catholic Charities.

Catholic Charities
Diocese of Covington
Extend a Hand. Change a Life.

Bishop Foys,
Congratulations on your retirement.

Thank you for your nineteen years of service in the Diocese of Covington. May you enjoy many blessings and peace in the years ahead.

Mother of God Catholic Church

The Serra Club for Vocations, Northern Kentucky, congratulates His Excellency, The Most Reverend Roger J. Foys, D.D. on his nineteen years of service to the Diocese of Covington. May you have a blessed retirement, Bishop, knowing that your ministry was a blessing to us all.

Thank you Bishop Foys for your 19 years of service to the Diocese of Covington.

Carmelite Sisters & Carmel Manor
Most Rev. Roger J. Foys

Congratulations on your retirement.

May God bless you.

Sisters of St. Joseph the Worker
Saint Joseph Academy
Taylor Manor Nursing Home

THANK YOU!
Bishop Foys

For your dedicated service to God and the Church of Covington,
For your untiring zeal for Pro-Life issues
And for your constant support, encouragement and guidance to the Franciscan Daughters of Mary
Pax Christi!

Bishop Foys

Congratulations on your retirement and thank you for your service!

St. Pius X Parish and School

Congratulations
Most Reverend
Roger J. Foys, D.D.

Prayers and blessings on your retirement. Thank you for your dedication to the Diocese of Covington.

Sisters of Notre Dame of the United States
One Heart. One Hope. One Mission.
If you asked any faculty or staff member within the Diocese of Covington to quote something that they’ve heard Bishop Foys say regarding Catholic education, there’s a good chance they would all have a similar answer: “There might be alternatives to Catholic education, but there are no substitutions.” Bishop Foys’ support of Catholic education is something that he speaks of quite often and over the past 19 years he has put his words into action more times than I could count. Whether it be saying Mass for our students or attending a fundraising event, Bishop Foys has been one of St. Henry District High School’s (SHDHS) most faithful supporters.

To me, this support was never more evident than in the fall of 2014 when he granted us permission to explore the possibility of undertaking a major expansion project. If granted, this project would be more than just a major commitment on the part of SHDHS, it would be a major commitment for Bishop Foys and the diocese. Bishop Foys not only gave his permission, but he and his office were instrumental in guiding us through the entire process. He went above and beyond to ensure that it was a successful reality. We were thrilled that Bishop Foys was able to bless our beautiful new facilities in February 2020.

Because of Bishop Foys’ unwavering support over the past 19 years, SHDHS is now well poised to foster our mission of “providing a well-rounded, college-preparatory education that teaches students to live the Catholic faith by embracing the Gospel message of Jesus Christ” for generations to come.

Bishop Foys, I want to personally thank you for your dedication to Catholic education and, most especially, to St. Henry District High School during your tenure as Bishop of Covington. On behalf of the entire Crusader community, we pray for God’s many blessings upon you as you enjoy your well-deserved retirement.

— David Gish, principal, St. Henry District High School
BISHOP ROGER J. FOYS
Saint Joseph Parish
Cold Spring

With sincere gratitude for your nineteen years of faithfully shepherding the Diocese of Covington

We pray your retirement brings the peace and rest you deserve

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Evening Appointments Available

DCCH Center for Children and Families is seeking Therapeutic Behavioral Specialists for full time and part time positions in our Residential Treatment program. We are looking for individuals for all shifts during the week and weekend. The primary responsibility of this position is the therapeutic supervision of children with emotional and/or behavioral difficulties. Positions include a full benefit package, tuition reimbursement and optional pension plan.

If you are interested call John Ross at (859) 331-2040 ext. 8239 or email your resume to jross@dcchcenter.org.
Thank you,
Bishop Roger J. Foys, D.D.,
for your
unwavering leadership.

The Thomas More Community expresses gratitude for your commitment and service as Chancellor of the University and your support of students to engage the power of the liberal arts within the Catholic Intellectual Tradition. Your tireless dedication to catholic education in the Diocese of Covington will be remembered, as will your annual encouragement to our graduates of Thomas More University to Make It More.
Mother of God Cemetery announces
VISITATION DAY
Sunday, September 26 at 1:30 p.m.
Services will be held in the Mausoleum Chapel.
Chairs will be available.

Thank You Bishop Foys and God Bless You!
The Office of Deacons and Deacon Formation 
and the Deacon Community

Bishop Foys,
Congratulations on your retirement;
Thank you for your many contributions, and
May God bless you in the future.
Knights of Columbus, Father Bealer Council #3908
Elsmere, Kentucky

His Excellency,
The Most Reverend Glen John
Provost, D.D., M.A
Bishop of Lake Charles,
with the clergy, religious,
and laity of the
Diocese of Lake Charles
extend congratulations, prayerful
best wishes,
and gratitude to
Bishop Roger J. Foys, D.D.
for his many years of Episcopal
service to the Diocese of Covington.

Thank you and Best Wishes
BISHOP ROGER J. FOYS, D.D.
for your service to the Church.
May the Lord shower you
with every grace and blessing.

From
Bishop J. Mark Spalding,
the Priests, Deacons, and Faithful
of the
Diocese of Nashville
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**ASSEMBLER**

A small company in Florence, KY with more than 30 years’ experience producing medical products for veterinarians is seeking workers for permanent part-time or permanent fulltime positions, up to 40 hours per week. This production position involves the assembly and packaging of lightweight items in a clean room environment. Candidate must be detail oriented, able to handle small parts, and dependable.

Please email resume or work history to Renee Murphy at Renee.Murphy@milaient.com.

**AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM**

Saint Mary Afterschool Program, in Alexandria, is looking to hire that special someone for a teacher’s aide position. This position requires someone 18 years or older who loves to work with children. This is ideal for college students or retirees as hours and days worked are flexible. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to: assistance with homework and actively supervising and engaging children ages Kindergarten through eighth grade. Hours are from 1:30 to 6:15, five days a week.

If you are looking for a very rewarding job with competitive wages, please contact Dee Manning at 859-526-6031 or mdeemanning94@ms.com. Come join the fun and be part of our great team!!

**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. Its primary purpose is to assist, serve and support clients and inquiries 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 Koplyay, SPHR at skoplyay@covdio.org. Must be an actively-practicing Roman Catholic individual.

**PREGNANCY/ADOPTION COUNSELOR**

The Diocese of Covington’s Catholic Charities ministry is seeking to hire a 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 partnership, and/or their families, including counseling, and providing services to pregnant clients, their partners, and/or their families, including counseling, case management, parenting support, and foster care coordination and supervision. The successful candidate will be an actively-practicing Roman Catholic individual with a Master’s degree in Social Work or a related field, and experience with diverse populations of families, couples, children, and adults. We prefer LCSW or LPC/PPC 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 information by email or fax to Stephen Koplyay, SPHR at skoplyay@covdio.org, or 859-392-1589.

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**AFFORDABLE CAREERS**

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM

Saint Mary Afterschool Program, in Alexandria, is looking to hire that special someone for a teacher’s aide position. This position requires someone 18 years or older who loves to work with children. This is ideal for college students or retirees as hours and days worked are flexible. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to: assistance with homework and actively supervising and engaging children ages Kindergarten through eighth grade. Hours are from 1:30 to 6:15, five days a week.

If you are looking for a very rewarding job with competitive wages, please contact Dee Manning at 859-526-6031 or mdeemanning94@ms.com. Come join the fun and be part of our great team!!

**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. Its primary purpose is to assist, serve and support clients and inquiries 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 Koplyay, SPHR at skoplyay@covdio.org. Must be an actively-practicing Roman Catholic individual.

**PREGNANCY/ADOPTION COUNSELOR**

The Diocese of Covington’s Catholic Charities ministry is seeking to hire a 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 partnership, and/or their families, including counseling, and providing services to pregnant clients, their partners, and/or their families, including counseling, case management, parenting support, and foster care coordination and supervision. The successful candidate will be an actively-practicing Roman Catholic individual with a Master’s degree in Social Work or a related field, and experience with diverse populations of families, couples, children, and adults. We prefer LCSW or LPC/PPC 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 information by email or fax to Stephen Koplyay, SPHR at skoplyay@covdio.org, or 859-392-1589.

**COLLISION TECHNICIAN**

Immediate opening for a Collision Technician.

Three — Five years experience.

Must have tools.

Call (513) 221-5600, ext. 0241

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years he has labored tirelessly to ensure that the fullness of the Catholic faith is taught in our schools and parishes, to administer the goods of the diocese, and, most importantly, to celebrate the sacraments with God’s people as often as possible. Bishop Foys has been and will continue to be, for me, an image of the Good Shepherd; a Father who is willing to lay down his life for his family. — Father Joey Shelton, pastor, St. Augustine Parish, Augusta and St. James Parish, Brooksville

Faithful and generous service

Bishop Foys has had a tremendous impact upon my life, vocation, and ministry over the past 19 years, during which he has served as the Bishop of Covington. Honestly, aside from my own family, it would be hard for me to name another person who has had as much of an effect on my life as he has. When Bishop Foys first came to our diocese, I was 12 years old and a student at Covington Latin. Shortly thereafter, I began serving Mass at the Cathedral. During those years as an altar server, I began to discover the beauty of the Sacred Liturgy and I found in Bishop Foys a man who very obviously loved the priesthood and the Church. It was through that experience that my heart and mind were opened to the possibility of a vocation to the priesthood. In fact, I still recall very clearly the morning of Palm Sunday during my senior year of high school, when Bishop Foys came into the sacristy before Mass and asked me to consider going to the seminary. His support and encouragement made an enormous difference in my ability to respond to the vocation that I had been discerning.

And, having been a priest now for seven years, I can say that his support has never waned. I have never doubted that I could count on his encouragement and counsel in any situation and I have been blessed very much by his friendship. I have worked very closely with Bishop Foys in a variety of capacities over the last several years and I have seen him consistently extend that care and support to my fellow priests as well. And I have also seen that Bishop Foys’ faithful dedication to the Lord and His Church, which made such an impression on me nearly 20 years ago, has not slackened over the years, but remains alive in his priestly heart and continues to serve as an inspiration and model for me today as I try to give

(Continued from page 19)

(Continued from page 19)
With a grateful heart

I believe there can be no more effective words than those written on human hearts; and there can be no greater inspiration than a living example of profiting leadership and priestly ministry. This description fits my experience of Bishop Roger J. Foys. His life example brings to mind the words of Prophet Jeremiah (3:15), for he is truly a shepherd “after the Lord’s own heart” in word and deed. I feel blest to have come to the Diocese of Covington from Uganda, and I feel blest to know Bishop Foys.

Bishop Foys’ deep faith, humility, closeness to his presbytery, genuine integrity, and encouraging presence have greatly inspired my priestly life. As a good preacher and pastor, he has always been attentive to the needs of individuals and attuned to the struggles of the vulnerable. He welcomed me into the diocese and offered me the privilege of serving in this country. Through him I have received the opportunity to grow in my priesthood.

I am indebted to him for his encouragement and generous support. I will always cherish his great sense of humor and steadfast kindness — it has always been easy to approach and speak with him. I will certainly miss his paternal care. In all, serving under Bishop Foys as my shepherd, it has been easier to be a priest.

Reflecting upon the impact that Bishop Foys’ ministry has had on my own life, I am filled with deep gratitude. I met Bishop Foys during his first year as our bishop when he confirmed me. After the Confirmation Mass, I thanked Bishop Foys and he invited me to consider the priesthood. That invitation took root in my heart and changed my life. Throughout high school, as I spent time in prayer and discernment, Bishop Foys became a regular source of wisdom and encouragement. By first invitation. Throughout my years as a priest so far, Bishop Foys has continued to be a constant source of wisdom, guidance, and support, and has been a true spiritual father, brother, and friend. For three years I had the tremendous honor of working directly with Bishop Foys as the Vocation Promoter for the Diocese, Vice-Rector of the Cathedral, and Assistant Episcopal Master of Ceremonies. During those years, I was able to learn directly from him how to serve God’s people in a variety of circumstances. I have always been inspired by his genuine love of the priesthood, the people he has been sent to shepherd, and the loving, fatherly way in which he cares for every person in this Diocese, especially the priests under his charge. Bishop Foys often describes priests as being “pastors with the heart of a shepherd.” First and foremost, that compliment applies to Bishop Foys, and I am eternally grateful for the ways that I have benefited from his answering the Call from the Lord to be a priest and then to be the Bishop of Covington. Thank you, Bishop! May God bless you in your retirement! — Father Andrew L. Young, VF, pastor, St. Patrick Parish, Masonville
(Continued from page 33) well deserved. For 19 years Bishop Foys has served this diocese giving it his full attention, his concern, his love and his prayers. We know this first hand because this is how he has always treated each one of us who join in his exercise of judicial power.

Our gratitude because of the many ways Bishop Foys has shown us support. The tribunal is the diocesan court, charged with protecting and pursuing the rights of the Christian faithful. It renders judgments at the request of and on behalf of people seeking justice. The bishop, as the chief judge of the diocese, delegates this authority to the Tribunal while maintaining oversight of it. The staff have been blessed with Bishop Foys' care and support and especially with his trust, allowing us to carry out this ministry.

During his episcopacy he has made sure that the Tribunal was adequately staffed, sending priests to study canon law and hiring religious sisters and lay women. Bishop Foys encouraged respect for the Lord's Day and the primacy of Sunday Eucharist. Under Bishop Foys' direction, the Office of Worship provided assistance to him for about 125 liturgies per year.

Through his episcopacy Bishop Foys was focused on improving liturgies throughout the Diocese of Covington. Not only were liturgies to be celebrated correctly, he directed liturgies to be enriched in beauty and sacredness to bring the people of the diocese closer to God. Music at parish Masses received more guidance and parish musicians were invited to workshops.

Bishop Foys encouraged respect for the Lord's Day and the primacy of Sunday Eucharist. Under Bishop Foys' leadership, diocesan norms for parish celebrations were reviewed and revised as needed in accord with the Church's revisions of sacraments and other rites, especially in regards to RCIA, marriage, funerals and the sacrament of reconciliation.

One of the key areas of focus on education and uniformity of the liturgy in the Diocese of Covington was in regards to the roles of lay people as extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion and as lectors. Revised guidelines for training and certifying lay people in these roles was promulgated by Bishop Foys. Today, lay people are trained for these sacred roles and receive commissions to serve as extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion and lectors in their parishes.

Bishop Foys also directed that other forms of prayer from the Church's tradition be renewed and encouraged throughout the diocese. Education regarding Liturgy of the Hours was shared and praying the Liturgy of the Hours was encouraged at all parishes. Praying vespers — or evening prayer as it is popularly called — was especially encouraged during the Advent season.

Renewed focus was also placed on Eucharistic adoration. Several parishes within the diocese built and opened chapels for perpetual adoration. The Worship Office maintains a schedule of hours of Eucharistic adoration held each week at parishes; it is published on the diocesan website.

Bishop Foys has also declared Days of Prayer and Penance and Thanksgiving for diocesan observances. He has established a monthly Holy Hour for Absolution for priests in regards to the sexual abuse scandals. The sacrament of reconciliation is available to all who attend — not only priests. The Chaplet of Divine Mercy is prayed along with Eucharistic adoration and benediction. Under Bishop Foys' leadership, the Office of Worship maintains a schedule of days and times for the sacrament of reconciliation at all parishes throughout the diocese.

Bishop Foys instructed the Office of Worship to provide direction to parishes, and help prepare the rites, for all liturgies that are presided over by the bishop. This includes all parish confirmations, special Masses and pastoral blessings at various parishes and religious institutions.

Under Bishop Foys' direction, the Office of Worship provides assistance to him for about 125 liturgies per year.

The director of the Office of Worship also chairs the Diocesan Worship Commission that is responsible for reviewing any major liturgical changes that may need to be promulgated, as well as new construction or renovation of sacred spaces within the diocese. The Worship Commission meets to discuss and make recommendations to the bishop for his approval.

I personally wish to congratulate Bishop Foys on his retirement and to thank him for allowing me to serve in this position and for the kindness and consideration he has shown me over the past years.

With gratitude for your devoted years of generous ministry to the Diocese. Wishing you good health, peace and joy in the years to come.

Sisters of St. Benedict
Bishop Foys: The lawyers and staff at DBL Law wish you all the best in your retirement. We thank you for your passion and dedication in shepherding your flock in Covington for the last nineteen years.

St. Paul, patron of the Diocese of Covington, spoke of his ministry in words that apply well to your own episcopacy:

"Yet I consider life of no importance to me, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to bear witness to the gospel of God’s grace.”
(Acts 20:24)

St. Paul was able to declare victory, and we hope you have the same sense of accomplishment:

"I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith.”
(2 Timothy 4:7)

Having kept the faith and steadfastly borne witness to the Word of God, we hope you will heed Jesus’ words:

"Come to me, all who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.”
(Matthew 11:28)

Your race is not finished, and we are glad you will spend your retirement among friends in Kentucky. Enjoy some well deserved rest!
THANK YOU, MOST REV. BISHOP ROGER J. FOYS, D.D.

On behalf of our 10,000+ associates and the people of Northern Kentucky, St. Elizabeth Healthcare offers you many blessings, appreciation and good wishes in retirement. Thank you for leading the ministry, faith and health of our region.
With deepest gratitude and prayerful good wishes, Very Reverend Steven P. Bescau, Rector/President, and the seminarians, faculty, and staff of the Pontifical College Josephinum, honor and congratulate

His Excellency, The Most Reverend Roger J. Foys

on the occasion of his retirement as Bishop of Covington

Yet I consider life of no importance to me, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to bear witness to the gospel of God’s grace. - Acts 20:24

Blessings on Your Retirement

THANK YOU, BISHOP FOYS, FOR YOUR SERVICE TO THE DIOCESE OF COVINGTON!

VILLA MADONNA ACADEMY
‘Let Your Light Shine’

With deepest gratitude, the Curia staff of the Diocese of Covington congratulates Bishop Foys on his 19 years as guiding light and shepherd.

Ad multos annos!