By listening to Holy Spirit, synod can be process of healing

Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — A synod calls on everyone to become experts in “the art of encounter” in a way that is uplifting and transformative, Pope Francis said, formally opening the process leading up to the assembly of the Synod of Bishops in 2023.

“Celebrating a synod means walking on the same road, together” just like Jesus did — encountering, listening and discerning with all who one meets, the pope said in his homily at the Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica Oct. 10.

“Are we prepared for the adventure of this journey? Or are we fearful of the unknown, preferring to take refuge in the usual excuses: ‘It’s useless’ or ‘We’ve always done it this way’?” he asked.

Some 3,000 people attended the Mass, including the 270 people — cardinals, bishops, priests, religious and laypeople — invited to the day of reflection in the Vatican Synod Hall Oct. 9.

The weekend of events began the “synodal journey,” which will explore the theme, “For a synodal church: communion, participation and mission.”

Bishops around the world were to open the process in their dioceses Oct. 17. In the Archdiocese of Covington, Bishop John Iffert will open the synod process with Mass, Nov. 7, 10 a.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington.

The pope said the Mass, “is a process guided by the Holy Spirit,” who travels the paths of history and shares in the life of humanity.

“The day’s Gospel reading (Mt 10:17-30) of Jesus setting out on a journey and encountering a rich man offers just one example of how Jesus ‘walks alongside people and listens to the questions and concerns lurking in their hearts,’” he said. “He shows us that God is not found in neat and orderly places, distant from reality, but walks ever at our side.”

Celebrating a synod, he said, means walking on the same road as others and living out the “three verbs” that characterize a synod: encounter, listen and discern.

“We too are called to become experts in the art of encounter,” Pope Francis said. “And this means answering the question: ‘How can we be pilgrims in love with the Gospel and open to the surprises of the Holy Spirit?’”

In the Diocese of Covington, Bishop John Iffert will open the synod process with Mass, Nov. 7, 10 a.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington.

Listening to one another “is a slow and perhaps tiring exercise,” but it must be done, including listening to “the questions, concerns and hopes of every church, people and nation,” and to the “challenges and changes” that world presents, he added.

Encountering and listening “are not ends in themselves” where one meets, the pope said. “They are a means to let ourselves be challenged by the presence and the stories of others,” he said. “Each encounter requires ‘openness, courage and a willingness to let ourselves be challenged by the presence and the stories of others,’ the pope said. It means not hiding behind a facade or stiff formality and being indicative of a spirit of clericalism or of courtiers, but means being a father.”

To that end, the pope said he would be meeting a group of people who live on the streets later that day. He said they had already started meeting because another group of people had gone to listen to them and from there, “they have been able to begin the journey.”

Sincere listening involves the heart, not just the ears, Pope Francis said. The aim is not to be able to answer people’s questions, especially with pre-packaged or “artificial and shallow responses,” but to provide an opportunity to tell one’s story and speak freely.

Whenever we listen with the heart, people feel that they are being heard, not judged; they feel free to recount their own experiences and their spiritual journey,” he said.

Moving an edition? Current and back issues of the Messenger are available online at covdio.org/messenger.
‘Be Not Afraid: Just Have Faith’ Seminarian Education Fund invites all to support the diocese’s future priests

Laura Keener
Editor

Parishioners will soon receive in their mailboxes an invitation to support the diocese’s future priests through this year’s Seminarian Education Fund collection. A letter from Bishop John Iffert along with a brochure, prayer card and gift envelope are heading to the post office this week.

The Seminarian Education Fund invites the lay faithful to support the men who will be, by the grace of God, future priests for the Diocese of Covington — leading parishes, celebrating sacraments and being Christ to the people they are called to serve. The theme for this year’s collection is “Be Not Afraid: Just Have Faith.”

Currently the Diocese of Covington has eight men in formation — Deacon A.J. Gedney, Michael Elmlinger, Joshua Heskamp, Justin Schwarz, Hank Bischoff, Bradley Whittle, Michael Schulte and John Baumann. These seminarians will be in town the weekend of Oct. 22-24 for the annual Seminary Ball, which will be held Oct. 22 at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center.

The Seminary Ball acts as a social kickoff event for the Seminarian Education Fund and allows attendees to meet the seminarians. Many parishes sponsor a table at the Seminary Ball, with pastors inviting parish leaders to join them in support of the future priests.

During the weekend, the seminarians will visit select parishes to speak at Masses, thanking parishioners for their financial and prayerful support.

“We’re looking forward to having the seminarians here this weekend to help us promote the Hall and the Seminarian Education Fund collection in the local communities,” said Mike Murray, director, Stewardship and Mission Services. The Seminarian Education Fund collection will be taken up in parishes the weekend of Oct. 30–31. Donations can also be made by mailing a check in the reply envelope provided in the mailing or online at www.covdio.org.

Mr. Murray said it costs about $10,000 a year for a seminarian to attend seminary. “That’s quite the financial cost involved with preparing men for the priesthood,” Mr. Murray said. “We rely on our faithful of the diocese to provide financial support for our seminarians — our future priests.”

Mr. Murray said that his office is ready to help parishes and other groups in the diocese to promote the Seminarian Education Fund. “So that every seminarian has the opportunity they need to be formed for their future task,” a pastor of Jesus Christ.

“We’re blessed with some really wonderful men that are in the program and they need our prayers,” said Mr. Murray. “Their pursuit of a vocation and the discernment process is one that we all have a part in because we can all be praying for our seminarians and we can all be supporting them financially. Through our support, God willing, they will realize the fruits of their labor and we will have, again, an abundance of priests in the future for our faith community.”

The White Mass gathers the faithful to pray for God’s blessing upon all who labor in the healing ministry of the Church, such as physicians, nurses, aids, technicians, compassionate care ministers, chaplains, religious, mental healthcare workers and all men and women serving in the healthcare profession.

A special blessing will be extended to healthcare workers who have so bravely and compassionately extended God’s healing ministry to the people in their care, especially during this time of pandemic.

Reception immediately following in Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium (across the street from the Cathedral). This joyful occasion is coordinated by the Sts. Teresa of Calcutta and Faustina Guild of the Catholic Medical Association.

For information, call (859) 392-1500.
Diocese recognizes couples celebrating milestone wedding anniversaries—a journey of a God’s love

Messenger Staff report

In his June prayer intention video, Pope Francis spoke about marriage as a life-long journey and a vocation of love.

“Getting married and sharing one’s life is something beautiful,” Pope Francis said. “It’s a demanding journey, at times difficult, and at times complicated, but it’s worth making the effort. And on this life-long journey, the husband and wife aren’t alone — Jesus accompanies them. “Marriage isn’t just a ‘social’ act; it’s a vocation that’s born from the heart; it’s a conscious decision for the rest of one’s life that requires specific preparation. “Please, never forget this. God has a dream for us — and He asks us to make it our own. Let us make our own the love which is God’s dream for us.”

Each year the Diocese of Covington recognizes those couples who have made the marriage journey their own and are celebrating milestone anniversaries — 1 year, 20, 50, and 60-plus years of marriage. Congratulations to all and may the good Lord continue to bless and keep you.

All Saints Parish, Walton
John and Darlene Ryan, 50
Deacon Paul and Linda Yanovsky 55

Blessed Sacrament Parish, Pt. Mitchell
Timothy and Melissa Collins, 25
John and Elionor Comer, 25
Gerald and Suzanne Ostrather, 25
Eugene and Angela Dinkers, 25
Timothy and Samantha Gieske, 25
Samuel and Joanne Glass, 25
Bradley and Christine Good, 25
Kevin and Jeanine Horner, 25
Kenneth and Nicole James, 25
Spencer and Judith Johnson, 25
Brian and Mary Ruth Kesanu, 25
John and Maryse Lange, 25
David and Joan Margon, 25
Jeffrey and Michelle Marksberry, 25
Jason and Suzanne Mulline, 25
John and Heather Quast, 25
Tracy and Rachel Read, 25
Ronald and Deborah Schultz, 25
Ray and Judith Schwad, 25
Scott and Andrea Shelton, 25
Sean and Beth Sweeney, 25
Denzil and Royce Trossel, 25
Victor and Pam Victoria, 25
Ted and Chris Zaha, 28
William and Antonietta England, 50
Michael and Janet Eron, 50

Donal and Ann Gayson, 50
Ronald and Mary Graziani, 50
Gary and Dona Heil, 50
Thomas and Anne Kralman, 50
Ed and Karen Kuhlman, 50
Robert and Anne Meyer, 50
Raymond and Janet Cahill, 60
David and Carol Hentz, 60
David and Susan Lohn, 60
Glenn and Mary Aurelia Rice, 60
Bernard and Connie Dressman, 61
James and Charlene O’Connell, 61
Robert and Joan Trams, 61
James and Anita Ward, 61
Paul and Joan Best, 62
Lawrence and Mary Bischoff, 62
Ralph and Margaret Bishop, 62
Ralph and Marianne Car, 62
Francis and Jean Decker, 62
Ronald and Olivia Demody, 62
Walter and Julia Gieske, 62
Frederick and Mary Jo Boepple, 63
Richard and Marianne Ellis, 63
Louis and Ann Fritz, 63
Morgan and Carol Moore, 63
John and Elizabeth Winstel, 63
Edward and Elizabeth Dornbush, 64
Donald and Dobies Hellaman, 64
James and Stella Konerman, 65
Richard and Mary Ann Menke, 65
Leo and Maureen Meyer, 65
Leo and Patricia Salzman, 65

Edward and Carol Whitehead, 65
Barry and Margaret Buckle, 65
Robert and Jon Longshore, 66
Jerome and Johanna Stegan, 66
Roger and Elaine Sutton, 66
Eugene and Glenda Burns, 67
James and Mary Joan Koors, 68
Stewart and Joy Riche, 69
Carl and Rita Arlinghaus, 70
John and Grace Rademacher, 70
Charles and Virginia Yanovsky, 70

St. Mary’s Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington
John Comer and Elionor Robke-Comer, 25
Timothy and Samantha Gieske, 25
Paul and Mary Hemner, 25
David and Geri Weller, 25
R. Thomas and Sheila Horan, 50
Dan and Barbara Reeder, 50
George and Mary Donovan, 61
Robert and Carolyn Schultz, 61
Terence and Mary Hughes, 62
Ralph and Joan Aimersperger, 63
Cristo Rey Parish, Florence
David and Laura Sanchez, 25
German and Aida Recadole, 65
Divine Mercy Parish, Bellevue
Michael and Linda Faut, 25
Chris and Vanessa Gromek, 25
James and Roberta Brandenburg, 50
Gerard and Phyllis Kreutz, 50
Paul and Barbara Grunevald, 60
Jerry and MaryLou Schneider, 67
Ralph and Marlinee Schelle, 68
Albert and Shirley Brinklin, 70
Holy Cross Parish, Latonia
Allen and Deana Singer, 25

Thomas and Sharon Wynn, 25
Thomas and Patti Hemaths, 50
Paul and Mary Wright, 50
Gerald and Sharon Cudny, 60
Harold and Diane Neft, 60
Frank and Suzanne Groeneck, 60
Donald and Joyce West, 61
F. Richard and Trudy Besozl, 62
George and Marcelline Dittmar, 62
Ray and Clare Kentsur, 62
James and Mary Jane Knosal, 63
Doug and Diane Volekang, 65
Don and Pat Dobsin, 66
John and Alice Lowry, 66
An and Hnung Tran 73

Holy Spirit Parish, Newport
Ronald and Melissa Bar, 25
Brian and Kelly Kane, 25
Jon and Karen Miker, 25
Joseph and Carol South, 25
Michael and Deborah Dutle, 50
Rich and Verna Pulsfort, 50
Jeffery and Cheryl Radiusinski, 50
Dennis and Mary Jo Hoffman, 60
Jim and Helen Caldwell, 65
Thomas and Patricia Bankerme, 66
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Burlington
Anthony and Dawn Betschek, 50
Christopher and Angela Drew, 25
Matthew and Lisa Goets, 25

Steve and Jane Heffern, 25
Daniel and Vivian Hogan, 25
Daniel and Pamela Kur, 25
Robert and Susan Lind, 25
Paul and Julie Spellman, 25
William and Lisa Steimer, 25
James and Suzanne Stroyn, 25
Donald and Cecilia Bramley, 50
Mark and Margaret Hanlon, 50
Ken and Barb Lamborg, 50
Timothy and Mary Lenihan, 50
James and Marilyn Mitic, 50
Jay and Mary Lou Bond, 60
Jim and Jean Storey, 60
Gary and Patricia Eplen, 61
Tony and Nancy Gallo, 61
William and Marlene Grant, 61
Jerry and Martha Maher, 61
David and Anita Viter, 61
William and Jo Ann Bay, 63
John and Barbara Dimuzio, 64
Donald and Charlette Wiseman, 64
Harold and Marjorie Zimmerman, 66
Thomas and Nancy Hoppius, 67
Ernest and Irene Oquendo, 67
Albert and Antoinette Bruggemans, 68
Leon and Carol Knuts, 68
George and Rosemarie McGone, 68
Gerald and Mary Brandenove, 69
Robert and Julia Greene, 69

(Continued on page 6)

Cemetery Visitation
Bishop John C. Iffert will lead a prayer service to pray for loved ones who have died this year and for all deceased family and friends interred in diocesan Catholic cemeteries.

Saturday, October 30
St. John Cemetery, Ft. Mitchell, 12:30 p.m.
St. Mary Cemetery, Ft. Mitchell, 1:15 p.m.
St. Stephen Cemetery, Ft. Thomas, 2:15 p.m.

Bishop’s Schedule

Oct. 26
Episcopal Council meeting, 9:30 a.m.
St. Patrick School, Mayville, art student visit, 10 a.m.
Red Mass, Mother of God Church, Covington, 11 a.m.

Oct. 27
Society of St. Vincent de Paul, 10 a.m.
White Mass, Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, 6:30 p.m.

Oct. 31
Mass, St. Augustine Parish, Covington, 11 a.m.
Thomas More University, Mass, Mary Seat of Wisdom Chapel, 8 p.m.

Nov. 1
Mass in observance of All Saints Day, All Saints Parish, Walton, 6 p.m.

Nov. 2
Episcopal Council meeting, 9:30 a.m.

Nov. 3
Confirmation, Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, California, 7 p.m.

Nov. 4
Confirmation, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Burlington, 7 p.m.

Now. 5
Mass, St. Thomas School, Ft. Thomas, 8:15 a.m.

Prayer for Married Couples

Almighty and eternal God, You blessed the union of married couples so that they might reflect the union of Christ with his Church: look with kindness on them. Renew their marriage covenant, increase your love in them, and strengthen their bond of peace so that, with their children, they may always rejoice in the gift of your blessing. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

CEO of Catholic Diocese of Covington
Nothing so much approximates the language of God as does silence... Meister Eckhart said that. Among other things, he is affirming that there is some deep inner work that can only be done in silence, alone, in private. He's right of course, but there's another side to this. While there is some deep inner work that can only be done in silence, there is also some deep, critical, soul work that can only be done with others, in relationship, in family, in church and in society. Silence can be a privileged avenue to depth of self. It can also be dangerous. Todd Kacynski, the Unabomber, lived in silence, alone, as have many other deeply disturbed individuals. Mental health professionals tell us that we need interaction with other people to keep us sane. Social interaction grounds us, balances us and anchors our sanity. I look at some of our young people today who are interacting with others (in person and through social media) every hour of their waking lives and worry for their depth, though not for their sanity.

We need each other. Jean Paul Sartre once famously stated, “Hell is the other person.” He couldn’t be more right. While there is some deep inner work that can only be done in silence, alone, in private. As I approached final vows and permanent commitment to religious life and priesthood, what I feared most was the vow of celibacy, the loneliness it would bring — no wife, no children, no family, the isolation of a celibate life. Things turned out very differently. Celibacy has had its cost, admitted, and admittedly it is not the normal life God intended for everyone. However, the loneliness I feared (but for brief moments) seldom ensued — the opposite. I found my life full of relationships, interactions with others, fast-out busyness, daily pressures and commitments that took up virtually every waking hour. Rather than long periods of solitude, for my life, solitude was habitually intermingled with solitude, for my life, solitude was habitually intermingled with solitude.

Somehow along the way after a long life and many interesting happenings and experiences, I concluded a few days ago that “worry” is worthless. Then, while running a bulk-mailing and grocery errand on the very day of this writing, something strange happened. I left the Spectrum cable office after completing that monthly payment leg of the trip, hopped in my car and headed for Aldi’s market. While on my way to a traffic light, I spotted a little red, “Burlington” shopping cart in the middle of the parking lot’s exit lane. It was apparently ownerless and easy to see, I drove it on by it only took about 30 feet for me to pause, look back at the obstacle and wonder if I should at least get it out of the way.

There were stiff winds at the time that no doubt blew it there, but from where? Burlington Coat Factory is a few blocks away. Why should I worry about it? Not my fault! Then I imagined a driver swerving in the universe, especially when it prompts one to act in a positive, helpful way. Since you’re dying to know, I cautiously returned the like new, red shopping cart to the store without incident and the surprised store clerk recipient said, “Thanks!”

Bruce Levin, MD, a Pennsylvania psychiatrist and psychosocialist says, “Sometimes worry is a good thing and if there is an actual threat then there is something to worry about. For example, if you run into a bear in the woods.” In such cases, he says, “not worry may be more of a problem than to worry.” In a nutshell, he concludes that “Worrying doesn’t always deserve such a bad rap. Sometimes worry is a good thing.” I further found that to worry excessively is to “give way to anxiety or unease; allowing one’s mind to dwell on difficult or troublesome situations, such as ‘he worried about his soldier sons in the war’ or ‘I began to worry whether I had done the right thing.” Worry is the natural human response to threats, concerns, anger, alarm, worries, daunting, perturbing, terrifying, anguishing, apprehensive, annoyance, disturbance, heartache, irritation, perplexity, turmoil, trial, uncertainty, misgiving, vexation and many more. On the other hand, “worry” has its beautiful and encouraging antonyms, such as: calmness, certainty, cheer, comfort, confidence, happiness, joy, pleasure, serenity, trust, unanxiety, calm, contentment, peace, reassurance and many more.

Actually, my brief research did unveil worry’s worthless side when it becomes “a chain of thoughts and images, negatively affect-laden and relatively uncontrollable. It represents an attempt in mental problem-solving on an issue whose outcome is uncertain but contains the possibility of one or more negative outcomes. Consequently worry relates closely to the fear process” (Berkove, Robinson, Prinsmancy and DelPez, 1981). Strictly between us, are you a “Worry Wart” or a “Nervous Nelly?” The internet’s “WebMD” says that if you “constantly fret about everything and anything from your health to how you are perceived at work to whether or not a terror strike is imminent you may be worrying your way away.” This excessive worry doesn’t just affect your mental health, it also can wreak havoc on your physical well-being.

In his book, “The Worry Cure: 7 Steps to Stop Worrying About Yourself,” Robert L. Leahy, PhD, explores the reasons why some people are prone to “what if disease” while others merely worry about something when it happens. Can’t help mentioning “Old Abe’s” poignant words of wisdom predicting that “95 percent of the things we worry about happening never happen.” In his book, Dr. Leahy lists 9 Worry-Busting Steps. I name them here hoping that you find his list of steps intersting enough to want to obtain the book so that it might be helpful for yourself and/or others: some ideas.

1) Make a list of your worries.
2) Analyze the list.
3) Embrace uncertainty.
4) Be yourself calm.
5) Make yourself uncomfortable.
6) Stop the clock.
7) Remember that it’s never as bad as you think it will be.
8) Cry out loud.
9) Talk about it.

I would be sadly remiss to ignore the fact that each of us children of God have a guaranteed, 24/7 “see in the hole,” if...
**Commentary**

**Are we like flocking birds?**

Let's try something, just for fun. In a moment I'm going to ask you to put this issue of the Messenger newspaper down and recite the Nicene Creed. All by yourself. Out loud. You can record yourself doing it with your phone if you want to, and then you can watch it later with a written copy of the creed in front of you so you can see how well you did.

That's the point of this little exercise — to see how well you know our Creed. After all, we recite it every Saturday and Sunday at Mass. Some of us have been doing it for 50-plus years. I understand that there have been some changes in that time, but this is something we should be able to do. So go ahead, put your newspaper down and recite the Nicene Creed. I'll want:

**How did you do?** Were you able recite it from "I believe in one God" all the way to "Amen" without making a mistake? Without forgetting a word or stumbling over which phrase comes next? So, you've studied it, you've flubbed it up, well, welcome to the club!

I invited you to do this because, to be honest, sometimes, I mess up when I recite the Creed at Mass. Luckily, as a deacon, I'm always up in the sanctuary with a full-fledged priest standing at my left hand to get me back on track. Otherwise, I'm liable to start out reciting the Nicene Creed and finish with the Gettysburg Address.

And to tell you the truth, I think this is one of the reasons why church is the way it is. It's got something to do with all of us keeping each other in line, whether we're professing our faith at Mass or making sure our faith is lived in the community.

We are, in a sense, like flocking birds. These are birds that fly in large, erratically shaped masses, such as starlings, shorebirds and blackbirds. They often fly at speeds of 40-plus miles per hour, and in dense groups of 10,000 or more. The space between them may be only a bit more than their body length. Yet they can make amazing aerial maneuvers, sharp turns and sudden dives, that appear to be conducted entirely in unison.

For thousands of years people have been watching these birds and wondering how they do it. Today, biologists say that each individual bird very carefully watches the other 6 or 7 birds around it — birds to their left and right, above and below and, of course, that one in front. They watch these birds for cues as to adjustments in their speed and direction. And, like I said, these adjustments seem to be made in the blink of an eye, the whole flock of thousands of birds flying together as one.

It is the same with us. God made us to be social beings. We're safer, happier, more productive in community. We watch others for cues as to adjustments in our speed and direction. And, like I said, these adjustments seem to be made in the blink of an eye, the whole flock of thousands of birds flying together as one.

(Continued on page 17)

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**Celebrating life and giving thanks for St. Elizabeth Healthcare**

Since 1972, Catholics in the U.S. have celebrated Respect Life month in October. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops began this month-long program to promote respect for human life in light of our intrinsic dignity as having been created in God's image and likeness and called to an eternal destiny with God.

As we celebrate Respect Life month this year, it seems timely to include in our prayers the administration and entire workforce of our St. Elizabeth Healthcare system who have cared for our community since its founding.

(Continued on page 17)
Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish, Erlanger
Alan and Allision Hinds, 25
Paul and Julie Spelman, 25
Gregory and Karen Creer, 50
John and Peggy Daugherty, 50
Kim and Kay Malone, 50
Ronald and Elizabeth Rigney, 50
Jim and Gail Vogelohr, 50
Arthur and Rosanne Crowe, 60
Jerry and Ruth Stroup, 60
David and Marita Voit, 60
Kenneth and Helenrose Wernet 60
H. Walter and Jinny Steigenwald, 61
Richard and Nanette Zirkelbach, 61
James and Carolyn Garrison, 62
Joseph and Joyce Kunkel, 62
Joyce and Philip Davis, 64
Gerald and Lois Biedenbender, 65
Richard and Marian Kuchle, 65
Robert and Nancy Roland, 65
Robert and Natalie Ralenkotter, 65
Derek and Hayley Phelps, 65
Alex and Laura Panaro, 65
Carey and Brooke Sauls, 67
Ralph and Marcella Marsh, 66
Robert and Nanette Marsh, 67
Richard and Karen Fullenkamp, 50
John and Cindy Berns, 50
Paul and Jenni Wessels, 25
Mark and Peggy Reisiger, 25
Andrew and Tami Rees, 25
Patrick and Christine Monohan, 25
Steve and Gina Mitchell, 25
Laura and Richard Likens, 25
Samuel and Joanne Glass, 25
Lisa and Edwin Hes, 25
John and Mary Beth Hus, 25
Theodore and Tamara Kluemper, 25
Lauri and Richard Likens, 25
Steve and Gina Michiel, 25
Andrew and Tammi Rese, 25
Mark and Peggy Reisiger, 25
Paul and Jenni Wessels, 25
John and Cindy Berns, 25
Joseph and Karen Fullenkamp, 50
Franklin and Beverly Hemm, 50
Charles and Sharon Scheper, 50
Robert and Millie Stockeley, 50
Martin and Donna Tepe, 50
Richard and Joyce Towers, 50
Richard and Barbara Traud, 50
Robert and Marcia Webstering, 50
James and Mary Joan Eggemeyer, 60
Thomas and Ann Ermitt, 60
Michael and Mary Elaine Higgins, 60
Paul and Carol Ruwe, 60
Charles and Barbara Sutton, 60
Jerome and Barbara Hoffinan, 60
Ronald and Marjorie Marshall, 60
William and Janet Rolf, 60
Donald and Irene Mai, 60
William and Janet Rolf, 60
Paul and Carol Ruwe, 60
Charles and Barbara Sutton, 60
Jerome and Barbara Hoffinan, 60
Ronald and Marjorie Marshall, 60
William and Janet Rolf, 60
Donald and Irene Mai, 60
Thomas and Julie Resing, 60
Lee and Martha Stauber, 64
Eugene and Martha Bezdus, 65
Donald and Diane Rangel, 65
Earl and Mary Ann Schuh, 65
Edward and Mary Helen Vonderhalt, 65
Richard and Marjorie Marshall, 60
William and Janet Rolf, 61
Donald and Irene Mai, 62
Thomas and Julie Resing, 60
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- It’s Still A Seller’s Market

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(Continued from page 6) Kevin and Audrey Tucker, 25
James and Amanda Vinson, 25
Joseph and Eileen Walter, 25
Joseph and Mary Wesselman, 25
Joseph and Emily Ward, 25
Lawrence and Joan Ludwig, 62
Wayne and Nancy Helman, 62
Lawrence and Joan Ludwig, 62
St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Ft. Thomas
Jonathan and Kaitlyn Carnochan, 1
Brad and Helen Brune, 25
James and Candace Deepeker, 25
David and Kelley Glazer, 25
Nathan and Lisa Myers, 25
Peter and Mary Difeo, 50
William and Nancy Wehr, 50
John and Charlene Bankemper, 60
Vernon and Catherine Grithaus, 60
William and Mary Joyce Bankemper, 61
William and Peggy Bertlaman, 62
Theodore and Pauline Stone, 62
James George and Jo Ann Weyer, 62
Ronald and Carol Ewing, 62
Michael and Angela Davies, 25
Rick and Teresa Daugherty, 25
William and Kristy Ahearn, 25
Andrew and Alexis Wood, 1
Evan and Dana Reynolds, 1
Andrew and Julia Megel, 1
Matthew and Allison Bode, 1
Robert and Rebekah Bach, 1
Jarett and Carrie Bach, 1
Robert and Rebekah Bach, 1
Matthew and Allison Bode, 1
Andrew and Julia Megel, 1
Evan and Dana Reynolds, 1
Andrew and Alexis Wood, 1
William and Kristy Ahearn, 25
Rudy and Teresa Daugherty, 25
Michael and Angela Davies, 25
Michael and Diana Walker, 50
Ronald and Cecilia Dennis, 61
Ralph and Theresa Kordenbrock, 61
John and Mary Weider, 62
William and Betty Waymeyer, 66
Robert and Virginia Ferrill, 67
Gerald and Becky Zimmerman, 69
St. Cecilia Parish, Independence
Marcello and Stefanie Araya, 1
Jaret and Carrie Bach, 1
St. Edward Parish, Cynthia
Clyde and Judy Hicks, 25
James and Janie Whitehead, 50
A.I. and Helen Ravenscroft, 62
St. Francis Xavier Parish, Falmouth
Roy and Patty Mains, 50
Richard and Cathy Toth, 50
Joe and Janet Delaney, 60
St. Henry Parish, Elsmere
Andrew and Julia Megel, 1
Jeff and Jessica Demeter, 25
Timothy and Angela Mullins, 25
David and Deborah Reinman, 25
Michael and Jennifer Robke, 25
David and Terri Stahl, 25
Joseph and Rebecca Paff, 50
Bob and Katherine Saalfeld, 50
Kylie and Lauren O’Hanor, 1
Brian and Mary Maloy, 25
Mark and Margaret Settem, 25
Scott and Angela Ziegelmeyer, 25
Mary and Doreen Grohovetz, 50
John and Charlene Kellor, 50
Rich and Hall Young, 25
Louis and Wanda Sendelbach, 50
Leroy and Germaine Kramer, 64
John and Helen Kellon, 67
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Mark and Heather Schroder, 25
Ted and Gerri Schuh, 25
Roger and Kathryn Schwartz, 25
Sean and Beth Sweeney, 25
Mark and Susan Thiemann, 25
Robert and Sue Ellen Tract, 25
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Matthew and Jeanette Williams, 25
William and Nancy Anderson, 50
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Gary and Patty Chinn, 50
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David and Marilyn Elliott, 50
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Carl and Barbara Urmant, 50
Thomas and Teresa Green, 50
George and Joyce Harden, 50
David and Patricia Helman, 50
R.Thomas and Sheila Horan, 50
David and Patricia Helman, 50
R.Thomas and Sheila Horan, 50
Herbert and Mary Jo Kentos, 50
John and Judith Lacheman, 50
James and Kathleen McCann, 50
Jack and Donna Neiss, 50
Gregory and Pamela Rosing, 50
Ronald and Mary Schneider, 50
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Barbara and Lynn Bollinger, 1
Norman and Mary Lou Roush, 1
Mark and Amy Lou Roush, 1
St. Paul Parish, Flemingsburg
Barbara and Charles Campbell, 1
Ethel and Larry Hite, 1

Love
bears all things
believes all things
hopes all things
endures all things
1 Cor 13:7

A special thank you to all for providing hope to our NKY neighbors in need.
Electronics recycling day at Covington Latin School
Oct. 26, 2 p.m. Items can be dropped at school this day on the front steps on Madison Ave. (not inside the school) from 7 a.m.–1 p.m. Items accepted: LCD monitors, servers, desktops-networking equipment, UPS backups, metal, phones, printers, copiers, scanners, telephones, calculators, rechargeable batteries, especially lithium ion, anything with a power cord. CRT/bulky monitors/TVs cost $20 each cash (the school has to pay if you don’t). E-mail Stephanie.Tewes@covingtonlatin.org.

Newport Central Catholic High School Open House, Oct. 27, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. (join us at any point between these times). The Open House will feature academic department exhibits along with Fine Arts, athletic and extracurricular activity displays. For details, contact the NCC Development Office at 292-0001.

The fourth annual Euchre Tournament benefiting Bishop Brossart High School Mustang basketball will be held Oct. 28. Optional skins game and other raffles available. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., games at 7 p.m. Advance registration is $25 by Oct. 25; walkups $30. Call or text 760-8228.

St. Francis Xavier Parish and the Knights of Columbus Council Fall Fish Fry, Nov. 5 and 12, 4 p.m. Carry out ONLY. Masks required and please practice social distancing in the church hall. Adult dinners: $13 and $15; children $6. Walk ins welcome; pre-order for faster pickup. Call ahead numbers open at 2 p.m.: 910-6656 or 910-6657.

Are you or someone you know, a Veteran? Since 2016, the St. Elizabeth Hospice Program has made an ongoing commitment through the national We Honor Veterans program, to recognize the unique needs of veterans and their families through an annual Veteran Appreciation Event. Join St. Elizabeth Hospice Nov 8, Pioneer Park, Covington, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. for a free drive-thru resource event honoring and celebrating veterans. Service recognition certificates, giveaways, military-themed music and resources for veteran services will be provided. RSVPs kindly requested for certificate recognition. Contact natalie.cuillia@stelizabeth.com or call 446-0538 for information.

The 19th annual Bishop Brossart High School Emerald Gala is Nov. 13, Seither Sports Center, 7 p.m.–12 a.m. The theme for the night is Totally 80s. For information, visit BBHSGala2021.GiveSmart.com or e-mail gala@bishopbrossart.org.

St. Bernard and Divine Mercy parishes 14th annual Women’s Tea, Nov. 13, 11 a.m.–2 p.m., Garvey Hall, St. Bernard Church, Dayton. Presale tickets $10; $15 at the door. Call (513) 325-3259 or (513) 702-4456.


Celebrating Blessed Sacrament School’s Blue Ribbon (left and right) Kendra McGuire, superintendent of schools and Michelle Ulrich, assistant superintendent, visited Blessed Sacrament School, Ft. Mitchell, to congratulate them on their 4th National Blue-Ribbon School of Excellence Award! They visited students in classrooms and the STREAM Lab and were the first to tie ribbons by the Blue-Ribbon Community banner outside of school.

St. Joseph Parish, Cold Spring, PTO Craft Fair, Nov 6, 9 a.m.–3 p.m. in Memorial Hall. Admission $2.

Making a rosary (above) Kindergarten and 1st grade students at Holy Trinity School, Bellevue, created colorful paper-chain class rosaries. Students finished the rosaries using the 3D printer in Mrs. Bier’s STREAM Class to make a cross.
Papal academy gives U.S. death row chaplain, TMU alumnus ‘Guardian of Life’ award

Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Death row inmates in Florida’s prisons refer to their 6-foot-by-9-foot cell as their “house,” with some having lived in their “house” for 40 years — longer than one Catholic lay chaplain said he has lived in his family home in Tallahassee.

So when Dale Recinella, the lay minister, goes from cell to cell to offer pastoral care, religious education and spiritual accompaniment, “we go house to house, cell to cell, and that’s where we meet them.” These are men and women who cannot come out, “they can’t even come to the chapel,” so the Church must go to them.

Recinella has been serving as a Catholic correctional chaplain for inmates on death row and in solitary confinement on behalf of the Catholic bishops of Florida for decades.

With just a few more months until his 78th birthday, Recinella was at the Vatican to be honored by the Pontifical Academy for Life and receive its first ever Guardian of Life Award during a special evening event Sept. 28. The academy was holding its general assembly onsite in Rome and online Sept. 27-29.

Recinella told Catholic News Service Sept. 28 that, as he has moved on to “semi-retirement,” the Church in Florida is working to make sure that this ministry continues “in a very vibrant and active way” by finding dedicated people to follow in his footsteps.

The “much younger man” who has taken over the physically demanding job of ministry in solitary confinement prisons is “a former NFL linebacker,” Recinella said.

The inmates “are very excited that a former pro-football player would want to come and see them,” he said. Recinella, a 1974 graduate of Thomas More College, Crestview Hills, spent more than 20 years as a successful corporate and finance lawyer. He said the inmates tease him, telling him he was fine as their chaplain until the Church actually got a former football star.

Making sure the men and women on death row receive consistent care and accompaniment tells them they are “important to the heart of the church, and of course it’s true, that’s why we’re there,” Recinella said.

Even though he felt called to take care of people on death row, it wasn’t easy, he said.

Years ago he was assigned to be “co-spiritual adviser for an infamous serial killer” whose victims had often been college-age women — women the same age as his daughters at the time.

He went to an elderly priest for guidance and begged him: “I can’t do this. Every time I think about his victims, I think of my daughters. I can’t.”

But the priest told him that as a lay Catholic he had already committed to God to do this when he was baptized.

He said the priest told him, “It was up to the inmate to pick who he wanted to accompany him through his death to remind him that Jesus loves him, and you said ‘yes’ to that when you received your sacraments of initiation into the Church, and as you have continued to participate in the Catholic Church through the sacraments, you have already said ‘yes’.”

That made it one of the hardest “death watches” he had to prepare for, but he knew from working with the inmate that the man had made a genuine statement of faith when he sang Psalm 23 as he was strapped to the gurney heading for the lethal injection.

People of the Christian faith who believe the death penalty is permissible ascribe to a kind of “hard justice” that shows no mercy, he said. “The world wants vengeance.”

He said it is a blessing and the work of God’s grace that the Catholic Church has been led — starting with St. John Paul II to Popes Benedict XVI and Francis — to finally accept that the death penalty is no longer admissible in the modern day.

“We’re called to a better way. And I’ve watched this transformation,” both in the U.S. and other countries, he said, of “our church trying to lead us out of this pit of vengeance as the only solution. It is no solution, the only response to horrible crimes.”

Recinella likened the Church’s evolving stance away from accepting capital punishment as a last resort to society’s evolution away from using primitive tools for their needs.

“The pope is saying, as we have left behind chamber pots instead of indoor plumbing and we have left behind all these other things, we need to leave this behind. It’s time to live in our own modern age and we have the means” to provide highly secure detention, he said, and “to protect innocent people in society without the state killing anybody.”

By protecting the life and dignity of these men and women with alternatives like long-term sentencing, it gives them all the time they need “to come to God,” especially since it usually takes years of counseling and being free of addictions “before they were able, with a clear head, to think about God.”

He said before he began his work in death row ministry, he had always heard that “the threat of an execution brings people to God. No it doesn’t. It brings them to their vengeance as the only solution” instead of immediately coming to terms with how they are going to spend their time in prison in constructive ways, he said, particularly in seeking a relationship with God.

The Messenger contributed to this article.

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For more information on Newport Central Catholic High School, visit https://www.ncchs.com.
The antidote to worry  
(Continued from page 4)

you will, the constant presence of Jesus Christ in our life, regardless of how good or bad things are going with us and our loved ones. Witness the evidence of that promise in every daily meditation, today’s for example, in Sarah Young’s inspiring book, “Jesus Calling.” “Anxiety is a result of envisioning the future without Me. So the best defense against worry is staying in communication with Me. When you turn your thoughts toward Me, you can think much more positively. Remember to listen, as well as to speak, making your thoughts a dialogue with Me.” “If you must consider upcoming events, follow these rules: 
“1) Do not linger in the future, because anxieties sprout up like mushrooms when you wander there. 
“2) Remember the promise of My continual Presence; include Me in any imagery that comes to mind. This mental discipline does not come easily, because you are accustomed to being god of your fantasies. However, the reality of My Presence with you, now and forevermore, outshines any fantasy you could ever imagine. (18-17-23)” “The Levite replied, My Presence will go with you. And I will give you rest.” — Exodus 33:14

Ray Smith is a commissioned Lay Pastoral Minister for the Diocese of Covington.
Being someone’s mother or father is a great blessing, but parenthood also comes with a lot of responsibilities. Of course with infants, parents are primarily responsible for making sure all the baby’s basic needs are met and that he or she is getting all the love that they need to grow. But, as children get older, parents continue to be the first and most important teachers.

Parents teach their children how to walk, how to read, how to add and subtract, how to ride a bike or play a musical instrument, and, generally, just how to get along in the world. But, most importantly, parents teach their children about God — how to talk with him and how to lead holy lives. By both word and example parents teach their children to pray, and that is essential. St. Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio) once said, “Prayer is the oxygen for the soul.”

In today’s noisy, fast-paced world, it can be an extremely difficult task to teach children to quiet themselves down and listen for God’s voice. It can be extremely difficult to find the time to pray together as a family. The fact that it is so difficult shows just how important it truly is. If we learn when we are young to always start everything with prayer and end everything — to pray without ceasing — we will keep our life properly ordered and our priorities straight.

Ben and Rita Johnson, members of All Saints Parish, Walton, have been married for 15 years. They have five children — their oldest is a boy, 12, and the rest are girls, 10, 8, 5, and a one-year-old — so their home is, naturally, not a quiet setting. However, they have made praying together a central part of their everyday routine.

“Finding the time can be tricky, but I really feel like this is the most important thing,” said Mr. Johnson. “I think it is good that they have something to turn to in those times of distress,” said Mr. Johnson. “This will hopefully help them to foster their relationship with God and remind them to turn to him in prayer every day.”

Mr. Johnson said that they also encourage the children to always give thanks to God for the good they experience and to always ask God for mercy and forgiveness in times of trouble.

When the family sits down to pray the rosary together Mr. and Mrs. Johnson pull out a basket of books and sacramentals that help the children focus on prayer; the older

10 practical tips for Catholic parents

Model the behavior you want to see in your children.

Have an open heart and be honest.

Don’t depend completely on others to teach your children the faith.

Teach children to pray by praying with them.

Read and study the Bible together.

Help your children with basic logic and critical thinking skills.

Be humble and genuine.

Put God and your family before work and entertainment.

Know when to protect and when to let go.

Give children good Catholic mentors besides yourselves.

(Continued on page 13)
children will take turns leading a decade of the rosary and the younger ones will look at pictures of the mysteries as they pray that mysteries’ decade.

Mrs. Johnson said that it can be challenging to get little ones to sit still for prayer time or to take them to Mass on Sunday, but she hopes that parents don’t get discouraged by these experiences.

“Really, it just means they need more practice, not less,” she said. Mrs. Johnson suggested making a clear connect between church life and home life. “We try and celebrate the liturgical seasons and feast days throughout the year. We incorporate that into our daily prayer at home.”

When Mr. Johnson was asked what he believed to be the greatest challenge raising Catholic children these days, he said that it was guarding them from the secular culture. “And I don’t mean that by way of sheltering them, but by being able to have age-appropriate conversations and protect their innocence,” he said. “This day and age there are just so many things, even in shows that are supposed to be for children, that you just have to be hyper-aware of.”

Mrs. Johnson said that the best way to combat issues like this is to surround your children with really great families and strong communities. “It is really important to find people that can help you lead them down the right path,” she said. “It’s good to discuss these things, because ideas off each other and pursue holiness together. Then the children can see that it is not just their parents embracing the faith. Other children, friends, can affirm them in their beliefs as well, because other parents have taken the time to help them along in their understanding of the faith.”

Mrs. Johnson said that it is very important to talk to children, be open and honest, and take the time to explain things. “Early on in our parenthood, Ben and I both realized that when we were growing up our parents would always say ‘just because.’ So, we want to be open and honest with them about how we arrive at the decisions we do. We also want to acknowledge that others might be making different choices for their lives, but we must always do what’s best for our family and we always want to raise our children the way we believe the Lord wants us to raise them.”

Mrs. Johnson said that it is important to remember that we are all fallen and we are all in this together: “As parents, I think that it is really important for us not to feel like we always have to have it all together all the time. This is why a community where you can be yourself and grow is so important,” she said. “We are all called to challenge and encourage each other through our daily practices. This can be very difficult, but I think that it is very life-giving and something that our world needs now more than ever — true friendship and an openness to life.”

Mrs. Johnson said that the best way to combat issues like this is to surround your children with really great families and strong communities.

Pope Francis greets Fausto Bartoloni, a member of an Italian association of pharmacists working in hospitals or for the government health service, during a meeting in the Clementine Hall of the Apostolic Palace at the Vatican Oct. 14, 2021. (CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano)
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Nearly 12,200 praying for Pelosi to have ‘change of heart’ on abortion

Julie Asher
Catholic News Service
WASHINGTON — Close to 12,200 people in the Archdiocese of San Francisco have joined the “Rose and Rosary for Nancy” campaign launched by Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone to urge prayers for a “change of heart” for House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on abortion.

The California Democrat, a Catholic who supports legal abortion, represents California’s 12th Congressional District, which is entirely within San Francisco.

Participants joined the campaign by signing a petition at Benedictinstitute.org, and for each signer a rose was sent to Pelosi’s office as a symbol of their “prayers and sacrifices.”

“This is a critical time in our country when we especially need to pray for our political leaders as we see our country moving more and more in the direction of the culture of death,” Archbishop Cordileone said in a new YouTube video ad calling on more Catholics and other people of goodwill to join the campaign.

“Our leadership is very important so I invite you all to join me in prayer and sacrifice for the Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi from here in San Francisco,” he added.

The rose is a symbol of St. Therese of Lisieux, the “Little Flower,” and of Marx the “mystical rose,” Archbishop Cordileone has noted.

“Roses have been called St. Therese’s ‘signature,’ a sign that the petitioner’s prayer has been heard,” he said in an earlier statement. “At this particular moment in the history of our nation, we need more than ever the intercession of our Blessed Mother, St. Therese and all other saints who have shown us the path to life.”

The Benedict XVI Institute, which is coordinating the effort, committed $50,000 for a nationwide marketing campaign using digital and radio ads, including on Relevant Radio.

“I am asking Catholics to commit to pray and fast for conversions of hearts for members of Congress,” the archbishop said in the ad.

What prompted the campaign is Pelosi’s leadership on the Women’s Health Protection Act, or H.R. 3755, passed by the House in a 238-211 vote Sept. 24.

It codifies the U.S. Supreme Court’s 1973 Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion nationwide. The measure establishes the legal right to abortion on demand at any stage of pregnancy in all 50 states under federal law.

To become law, the Senate would need to pass its version of the measure and then it would go to President Joe Biden for his signature.

“A conversion of heart of the majority of our congressional representatives is needed on this issue, beginning with the leader of the House, Speaker Nancy Pelosi,” Archbishop Cordileone said in a statement Sept. 29.

Ahead of the House vote on H.R. 3755, Archbishop Cordileone called the measure “nothing short of child sacrifice.”

At a Sept. 23 news conference, Pelosi defended her actions on abortion.

“It’s none of our business how other people choose the size and timing of their families,” she said in response to a question from Erik Rosales, Capitol Hill correspondent for CNS and on-air at EWTN News Nightly.

She said she and Archbishop Cordileone “had a disagreement about who should decide that. I believe that God has given us a free will to honor our responsibilities.”

On Oct. 9, Pelosi had a private meeting with the pope; she was in Rome to speak at a meeting of legislators from around the world in preparation for the U.N. climate summit.

The Vatican released photos of Pelosi’s meeting with the pope, but provided no details of the encounter, which took place before Pope Francis addressed the Pre-COP26 Parliamentary Meeting.

“It was a spiritual, personal and official honor to have an audience with His Holiness Pope Francis this morning,” Pelosi said in a statement afterward. “His Holiness’ leadership is a source of joy and hope for Catholics and for all people, challenging each of us to be good stewards of God’s creation, to act on climate, to embrace the refugee, the immigrant and the poor, and to recognize the dignity and divinity in everyone.”

At least one commentator speculated that Pope Francis had changed his mind about the Church’s teaching on abortion: the host of Newsmax TV’s “Chris Salcedo Show,” according to a Catholic News Agency story.

But as CNS reported, Archbishop Cordileone urged “some caution in jumping to that conclusion” and noted Pope Francis, like popes before him, meets with all kinds of political leaders.

When he launched the rosary and fasting campaign for Pelosi, Archbishop Cordileone noted that the congresswoman “speaks fondly” of her five children, she also has nine grandchildren.

“She clearly has a maternal heart,” Archbishop Cordileone said. “Pope Francis has called abortion murder, the equivalent of hiring a hitman to solve a problem.”
I want to see (Continued from page 3)

Without Jesus Christ we cannot be granted true sight and we cannot see deeply into reality; much less clearly. For others have simply grown accustomed to watching Mass on TV, on our laptops or iPads. For a number of us — for our own health and safety and that of the community — that is exactly what we are doing to see. “Master, I want to see.” Let us pray that we do.

— Father Phillips W. DeVoe is the pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Flemingsburg and St. Rose of Lima Parish, May’s Lick.
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**AFTEERSCHOOL CARE PROGRAM STAFF**

Mary, Queen of Heaven School is seeking to hire 2 responsible adults to assist with our After School Care Program. Candidates must be 18 years of age or older, and enjoy working with children. Please contact Jennifer Jett at jett@mhgschool.com or call the school office 859-371-8100 for further information.

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**SCHOOL CAFETERIA STAFF**

St. Henry District High School cafeteria is in need of a full-time staff member, Monday through Friday during the school year. Duties include food preparation, serving, daily cleanup, helping with deliveries, and other tasks as needed. Candidates may contact Jackie Kaiser at jkaiser@covdio.org, or call 859-392-1536.

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**PRACTICE TECHNICIAN**

Three to Five years experience.

Must have tools.

Call (513) 221-5600, ext. 0241

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**PARISH KITCHEN MANAGER**

The Diocese of Covington Catholic Charities ministry is seeking to hire a Manager to oversee the day-to-day operations of its Parish Kitchen community outreach program. This position is full-time, generally 5 days M-F from 7:00 am-2:00 pm. The Manager coordinates and manages on-site activities of the Parish Kitchen, including the deployment, coordination, and supervision of all staff and volunteers, and also oversees day-to-day activities in a way consistent with its mission, values, and personnel policies. The Manager is an advocate for those served, providing hospitality and offering assistance in collaboration with other social service ministries. Core requirements should be practicing Roman Catholics with a strong background in social services and/or ministry. Core requirements include a Bachelor’s degree in a human service or related field, and experience in food service operations and management. Interested individuals should submit a detailed resume, including at least five references, along with a cover letter and salary history by email or fax to Stephen Koplyay, SPHR at skoplyay@covdio.org or 859/392-1589.

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**CLIENT SERVICES SPECIALIST**

The Diocese of Covington Catholic Charities is seeking to hire a client care services specialist. The position is 40 hours per week. Its primary purpose is to assist, serve and support clients and inquirers seeking services and assistance, manage their case files and provide customer service throughout 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 email addresses, to Stephen Koplyay, SPHR at skoplyay@covdio.org, fax 859/392-1589. Must be practicing Catholic. Please see job posting at https://www.covingtoncharities.org/news-events/job-opportunities for more complete details.

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**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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**PARISH OFFICE MANAGER**

St. Joseph Church, Cold Spring has an immediate opening for a Parish Office Manager. The Office Manager is responsible for data management, greeting parishioners and visitors to the Parish Office; filing; responding to parish emails, maintaining the parish calendar; preparing the bulletin; light bookkeeping; and other duties as necessary. The qualified candidate must be a practicing Roman Catholic; have computer experience in Microsoft Office and Social Media, and organizational skills. Candidate needs to be willing to learn the Diocesan Database program, Camino. This is a full-time position Monday through Friday 9am to 4pm. Presently this position is job shared with a person who works one day a week. This arrangement is negotiable.

We have a friendly work environment based on Chris- tan ideals with a spirit of mission. Staff members have a team approach to their duties. Please send your resume containing three references with their email contact information to Timothy Dunn, Business Manager, St. Joseph Parish, 4011 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076 or by email to T Dunn@stpjpars.org.

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If interested please send your resume to Rene Murphy at Renee.Murphy@milaint.com.

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**ASSEMBLER**

A small company in Florence, KY with more than 10 years’ experience produces custom products for veterinarians is seeking workers for permanent part-time or permanent full-time positions, up to 40 hours per work 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@milaint.com

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**IMMEDIATE OPENING FOR A LANDSCAPE TECHNICIAN**

The Diocese of Covington Catholic Charities is seeking to hire a landscape technician to assist with the daily care and maintenance of the property. The position is full-time, generally 5 days M-F from 7:00 am-2:00 pm. The Manager coordinates and manages on-site activities of the Parish Kitchen, including the deployment, coordination, and supervision of all staff and volunteers, and also oversees day-to-day activities in a way consistent with its mission, values, and personnel policies. The Manager is an advocate for those served, providing hospitality and offering assistance in collaboration with other social service ministries. Core requirements should be practicing Roman Catholics with a strong background in social services and/or ministry. Core requirements include a Bachelor’s degree in a human service or related field, and experience in food service operations and management. Interested individuals should submit a detailed resume, including at least five references, along with a cover letter and salary history by email or fax to Stephen Koplyay, SPHR at skoplyay@covdio.org or 859/392-1589.

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**PARISH CAFETERIA STAFF**

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

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**CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS**

Call Kim at the Messenger for information on placing your ad in the Classified Advertisements. (859) 392-1500
Educational choice program challenged but is expected to be reinstated and available in 2022

Andrew Vandiver
Messenger Contributor

This year, the Kentucky General Assembly created one of the most expansive educational choice programs in the country when it passed the Education Opportunity Account (EOA Act). In building the Commonwealth’s first educational choice law, lawmakers created a program that will give parents access to privately-funded donors for designing a learning environment as unique as their students.

The EOA Act was carefully created to serve low- and middle-income families who felt the traditional school system wasn’t giving their children the best shot at reaching their full potential. When implemented, it is expected that more than 400,000 Kentucky students will be eligible to apply for assistance under the program.

That means a parent could receive funds to hire a tutor, enroll their children in accredited programs and even to purchase textbooks and uniforms. In Kentucky’s most populous counties, parents would be able to use EOA resources to cover tuition at a non-public school, which would include faith-based schools. The EOA Act represents a major first step towards leveling the playing field between lower and middle income families and their wealthier peers who can freely choose public and non-public options.

Unfortunately, a small group of Kentucky public school districts challenged the program and are trying to deny families the fruits of their hard-fought victories for educational choice. Earlier this month, Franklin County Circuit Court Judge Philip Shepherd held that the EOA Act is unconstitutional. The ruling might delay the support Kentucky parents are calling for, but it won’t stop it. Educational choice is coming to Kentucky.

One of the many issues with Judge Shepherd’s ruling, one particular claim sticks out as being representative of the larger debate at hand. While he acknowledges that the EOA program would benefit many Kentucky students, Judge Shepherd seemingly suggests that these students wouldn’t need a choice if only the legislature put more funding into public schools.

This type of logic presumes that all children are alike and gives little weight to what parents might believe is in the best interest of their children. Parents know their children and should be in a position to find the classroom where they will thrive regardless of their income. They should be able to weigh a variety of considerations in making that choice, including how the school will impact their child’s academic, social, spiritual and character development.

Further, the Court’s reasoning presents a false choice.

Giving families a choice in education doesn’t prevent public schools from succeeding. To the contrary the vast majority of research shows that public school outcomes have improved in states with educational choice policies. It is commonsense: students do better when parents are able to choose the educational setting that best meets their child’s needs.

It is also worth noting that the EOA Act did not take one penny from Kentucky’s education budget. In fact, the Kentucky General Assembly dramatically increased public school funding at the same time that they passed the EOA Act.

As the fight to reinstate the EOA Act continues in the courts, EdChoice Kentucky will keep working to get schools, local nonprofits and parents ready for the day that this program is available. EdChoice Kentucky will keep advocating until the next generation has access to the opportunities to help them succeed.

Perhaps more than ever, parents are engaged in the conversations surrounding what and how their children learn. The work to give families more choice is only just getting started, and it can’t let up now. The work continues to ensure that the EOA program is implemented and expanded where needed. This year, the Kentucky General Assembly created one other states have enacted similar programs with remarkable results. No state supreme court has ever found one unconstitutional. The U.S. Supreme Court even upheld similar programs and dismissed some of the same types of arguments Judge Shepherd relied upon in his ruling.

Of the many issues with Judge Shepherd’s ruling, one particular claim sticks out as being representative of the larger debate at hand. While he acknowledges that the

Myanmar military arrests seven Caritas workers

YANGON, Myanmar — Myanmar’s military has arrested seven workers from the Catholic church’s social arm who were on a mission to provide aid for internally displaced persons in conflict-stricken Kayah state.

A senior official from Loikaw Diocese, which covers Kayah state, said the soldiers made the arrests of workers from Caritas (Karuna) in Loikaw, the state’s capital, as the social workers carried food and medicine Oct. 18.

“We have been providing humanitarian assistance training to our personnel in need of food, shelter and medicines amid tight restrictions on providing aid,” the source said.

He said Church officials have been following up on the arrest of the charity workers and trying to gain their release.

It is not uncommon in the region for the military to burn civilians’ homes, kill civilians and make arbitrary arrests in the predominantly Christian region, according to Church sources.

The Church has played a major role in providing humanitarian assistance to those displaced within the country who have taken refuge in churches, convents and makeshift camps being fired upon by the military.

At least 10 parishes in Loikaw Diocese have recently seen attacks, including killings, burning of homes and burning of Catholic religious goods.

Virtual Safe Environment Trainings

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

Step 1: Contact Catechetical institution leadership to review the Policies and Procedures and fill out the Application and Acceptance Forms.

Step 2: Go to www.virtual.org and click on Registration. Follow the prompts to create an account and request a background check. Selection.com is a secure site; the background check is completed on your account and you will receive a copy if you request it during the registration process. You will then login to www.virtual.org unless your computer program blocks them.

Step 3: Join the virtual VIRTUS session. The virtual VIRTUS session is available for one hour, starting on the day you schedule your session.

If your VIRTUS account is inactive please contact your local Diocesan VIRTUS Director.

Note by your Training Tab is missing or you cannot access your account, contact your parish, school or institution.

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Go to www.virtual.org click on Enter id and password and log in.

Click on Live training on left column.

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For other difficulties, contact Maryka Steffen at (502) 382-1050 or msteffen@dioceses.org.

VIRTUS Training

Play Like A Champion

Elementary Coach Training

Saturday, Nov. 11, 6-9 p.m., St Agnes, Ft. Wright, Murphy Hall

VIRTUS Training

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“Mass” (Blissfield Street) Understated, strikingly realist-
ic drama exploring the emotional impact of a school
shooting on those left behind. In his feature debut, writer-
director Fran Kranz admirably depicts the intense
encounter between the par-
ents of the perpet-
ator and those
of one of his victims. Kranz’s strategy of feeding the audi-
ence information in little bits and bits pays off as viewers
are made to feel like fly-on-the-wall witnesses to the natu-
ralistic eb and flow of conversation as well as the interior
ups and downs evoked by the gathering. Beyond its setting
on the premises of a small-town Episcopal church, the film
does not explicitly place the sufferings of its principals
within a religious context. Yet, simply by his choice of a
title, Kranz seems to imply that God is present with the
protagonists as they experience and express, on the one
hand, their confusion and anguish and, on the other, their
openness, empathy and willingness to forgive. Mature

“Venom: Let There Be Carnage” (Columbia) The sequel to 2018’s “Venom,” directed by Andy Serkis, is two
films in one: a raucous buddy comedy about an investiga-
tor and those left behind. In his feature debut, writer-
director Fran Kranz admirably depicts the intense
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“My Name is Victor” (Lionsgate) The biopic of the
boxer turned trainer is a solid, if modest, drama. While
the theme of redemption is well worn, the film
shows a sense of urgency in telling its story as
told from the boxer’s perspective. A few crude

“Halloween Kills” (Universal) Together with his script
collaborators, Scott Teems and Danny McBride, director
c-and co-writer David Gordon Green makes a ponderous
effort to dignify this slaughterfest with a message about
mass hysteria, the danger of mobs and vigilantism. As a
result, the follow-up to his 2018 reboot of a 40-year-old hor-
ror series alternates between revolting violence and inept
attempts at social resonance. So the battle again joined
between unstoppable killer Michael Myers and the sole
survivor of his long-ago first rampage, backed up by her
daughter; granddaughter and a veteran local deputy who’s
been chasing the murderer since he was a rookie registrars
as a deft on multiple fronts. Hideous gory violence, gra-
some images, drug use, several instances each of profanity
and milder swearing, frequent rough and crude language,
a nake
corpse, an obscene gesture. CNS: O; MPAA: R.

“The Last Duel” (20th Century) Grim historical drama recounting
the friendship-turned-bitter-rivalry of two warriors in 14th-century
France, a feud that culminated in a trial by combat after the former’s
wife publicly accused the latter of raping her. Director Ridley Scott’s
stylistic violence and gore, a few instances of profanity
and milder swearing, frequent rough and crude language,
determination on the part of those viewers inclined to look below its glossy surface. Mature
themes, including vengeance, suicide and an out-of-wedlock birth,
much stylized violence, brief gory images, premarital cohabitation and
sensuality, partial nudity, a few profan-
ties, a handful of milder slurs, at least one instance each of rough and crude

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In this Year of the Family, the Covington Diocese's Office of Catechesis and Evangelization has initiated the "1000 Prayer Corner Challenge," encouraging families to create a space in their homes specifically dedicated to prayer. Whether it be a corner, a shelf, or an entire room, having a dedicated space for prayer is a way to help bring order to one's life, and from that order, peace.

Considering the current chaotic times, peace is very much needed. Often people wonder, "How can I make the world better?" A place to start is within our own families, and the best place for families to start is with prayer.

"Praying as a family is one of the best ways to bring peace into the family, because it orders the whole family towards what's most important … it's a physical, tangible sign of God's presence in the home, and it's a physical, tangible reminder to pray, individually and as a family," said Brad Torline, associate director of the Office of Catechesis and Evangelization.

Physical reminders, Mr. Torline said, help us to remember what's important; all of the things we prioritize in life, such as eating, sleeping, exercising and entertainment, take up a physical space in our homes. But what if there was a place in our homes specifically dedicated to prayer? Imagine what a difference it would make if 1000 households in the Diocese of Covington rededicated their families to prayer by creating a physical space for it.

In order to help families make a space for prayer, The Office of Catechesis and Evangelization provided a short guide:

— Pick a spot. Say a prayer asking for help and then choose a place in your home that you think would be conducive to prayer.
— Make the space sacred. Use sacred images, a crucifix, or statues. Consider adding candles, flowers or holy water — anything that makes it easier for you to pray.
— Make the space comfortable — but not too comfortable. You want to be able to relax and feel a sense of "retreating" from the world, but you also want to stay awake.
— Place spiritual reading, a rosary, and a journal near your prayer corner so they are easily accessible when you go to pray.
— Consecrate the space — pray there often, both on your own and together as a family. Encourage friends and visitors to do the same. The more often the space is used for prayer, the more it will feel like a sacred space.
— Decorate the space according to the liturgical season and feast days of the Church.

After creating this space, gather your family together and consecrate it by praying the Consecration to the Holy Family. Finally, send a picture of your prayer corner, or better yet, your family praying at the prayer corner, to PrayerCorner@CovDio.Org, along with your name and address. Everyone who participates will receive an image of the Holy Family blessed by Bishop John Iffert.

For more information, visit CovDio.Org/Family or call (859) 392-1500 and ask for the Office of Catechesis and Evangelization.
VATICAN CITY — Christian freedom means respecting other cultures and traditions rather than finding ways to impose “one’s own model of life as though it were the most evolved and the most appealing,” Pope Francis said.

“How many errors have been made in the history of evangelization by seeking to impose a single cultural model,” the pope said Oct. 13 during his weekly general audience in the Paul VI audience hall.

“At times, even violence was not spared to make a single point of view prevail. In this way, the Church has been deprived of the richness of many local expressions that the cultural traditions of entire peoples bring with them. But this is the exact opposite of Christian freedom,” he said.

The pope continued his series of talks on St. Paul’s Letter to the Galatians by reflecting on the freedom from slavery to sin and death that comes from Christ’s death and resurrection.

St. Paul’s assertion is that freedom, given to humanity through grace and love, is “the supreme and new law of Christian life,” which “opens us up to welcoming every people and culture, and at the same time opens every people and culture to a greater freedom,” Pope Francis said.

For the apostle, the pope said, welcoming faith involves renouncing not the heart of cultures and traditions, but only that which may hinder the newness and purity of the Gospel.

The “freedom obtained through the death and resurrection of the Lord does not enter into conflict with cultures or with the traditions we have received, but rather introduces into them a new freedom, a liberating novelty that of the Gospel,” he said.

Through baptism, he continued, Christians obtain the freedom that “enables us to acquire the full dignity of children of God,” opening them to the “universalism of faith” while remaining “firmly anchored in our cultural roots."

Pope Francis said that St. Paul’s vision of freedom was enlightened by Jesus, who “united himself in some way with every person.”

Christians, he said, have “the duty to respect the cultural origin of every person, placing them in a space of freedom that is not restricted by any imposition dictated by a single predominant culture.”

“This is the meaning of calling ourselves Catholics, of speaking of the Catholic Church. It is not a sociological denomination to distinguish us from other Christians; Catholic is an adjective that means universal,” the pope explained.

“It means that the Church contains in herself, in her very nature, an openness to all peoples and cultures of all times, because Christ was born, died and rose again for everyone,” he said.

Church must respect other cultures, not impose itself

Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service

Pope Francis takes a selfie with a newly married couple during his general audience in the Paul VI hall at the Vatican Oct. 13, 2021.

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National/World

Justice Department asks Supreme Court to block Texas abortion law

WASHINGTON — The Texas abortion law — banning abortions after six weeks of pregnancy — continues to have the Supreme Court’s attention more than a month after the nation’s high court ruled against blocking the law. In the most recent development, the Justice Department filed a brief Oct. 18 asking the court to block enforcement of the state’s abortion law by reinstating a decision by a federal District Court judge in early October who called the law unconstitutional and temporarily blocked it. The Oct. 18 brief, filed by Acting Solicitor General Brian Fletcher, asked the justices to treat this petition as one that would need full review by the court, not something to be determined in what has been described as the shadow docket for emergency requests. He stressed the current Texas law has “successfully nullified” Supreme Court decisions about abortion “within its borders” since the court has previously ruled that states cannot restrict abortion before viability, or 24 weeks of pregnancy. In December, the court will take up a Mississippi ban on abortion after 15 weeks of pregnancy. Hours after the Justice Department’s action, the Supreme Court announced it was considering taking up the abortion providers’ challenge to the state’s abortion law even before a decision on this case is made by a federal appellate court.

Migrant shelter in southern Mexico denounces raid by armed individuals

MEXICO CITY — A Catholic migrant shelter in southern Chiapas state said unidentified individuals forced their way into the premises — the latest act of intimidation against “within its borders” since the court has previously ruled that states cannot restrict abortion before viability, or 24 weeks of pregnancy. In December, the court will take up a Mississippi ban on abortion after 15 weeks of pregnancy. Hours after the Justice Department’s action, the Supreme Court announced it was considering taking up the abortion providers’ challenge to the state’s abortion law even before a decision on this case is made by a federal appellate court.

U.N. nuncio denounces nuclear weapons, other weapons of mass destruction

UNITED NATIONS — The world’s leaders “cannot allow” themselves to be “spectators to violence and war, to brothers killing brothers, as if we were watching games from a safe distance.” Archbishop Gabriele Caccia told a U.N. committee session discussing nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction Oct. 13. “The lives of peoples are not playthings. We cannot be indifferent onlookers,” the Vatican’s permanent observer to the United Nations added. The archbishop, quoting Pope Francis’ encyclical “Fratelli Tutti, on Fraternity and Social Friendship,” also stressed that world leaders should never forget the people “who have suffered the effects of atomic radiation or chemical attacks.” He also reiterated the pope’s assessment about the immunity of “not just using but also possessing nuclear weapons, “since the intrinsic intentionality of having nuclear weapons is the threat to use them.” It is time for nuclear weapon stockpiles to “be definitively capped,” he emphasized. “Our world is so interconnected that all nuclear weapons, wherever they may be, must be eliminated in the shortest feasible time, lost accident or miscalculation lead to catastrophic human, humanitarian and environmental consequences,” he said.
Those ordained by the Diocese of Covington are an active and loving presence of Christ among the people, sharing their faith and participating in the struggles of the people they are serving.

Most priests serve in parishes, while some serve as teachers and chaplains in schools and others serve in various diocesan institutions.

Wherever they serve, priests work in bringing peace, love and justice to those around them.

“BE NOT AFRAID: JUST HAVE

Faith

Mark 5:36