Joyful Mysteries offer reflections for life on Day of Prayer and Penance

**Messenger staff report**

The Diocese of Covington will once again observe a Diocesan Day of Prayer and Penance for Life, Jan. 21. Bishop John Iffert has directed that each parish in the diocese be open for adoration and prayer for at least one hour at some time during the day (see schedule). Also, 10 parishes have been designated as host parishes for a Holy Hour for Life, 7-8 p.m., for all members of the diocese to gather in prayer for an end to abortion in the United States.

Additionally, during the morning of Jan. 21, all of the Catholic schools in the diocese will observe this day with a prayer service developed by the Office of Worship. The prayer service begins at 9 a.m., which is the same time that Bishop Iffert will begin Mass in Washington, D.C. for diocesan pilgrims participating in the March for Life.

### Joyful Mysteries

#### First Joyful Mystery: The Annunciation

The Annunciation is imagined in a stained-glass window at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington. Mary is the focal subject where they are treasured, protected, and loved. The Virgin Mary and St. Joseph, so we pray for all children, especially the innocent by which they lead us to God. “A little child shall lead them.”

**Scriptural reading**: Luke 1:26-33

**Prayer**

"Veiled in the greatest mystery of the Incarnation Mary, the Mother of God and Mother of all Christians."

#### Second Joyful Mystery: The Visitation

As an angel proclaimed the conception of Christ in Mary’s virginal womb, so do mothers and fathers learn to cherish the gift of their child. Let us pray to the Mother of all the Living that every child be treasured and protected from the first moment of conception as a great and wondrous gift of God.

**Scriptural reading**: Luke 1:39-45

As the child in Elizabeth’s womb leapt for joy when the Blessed Virgin, pregnant with the Son of God, came to meet her, so may our hearts leap with joy at the wonders of new life promised in every expectant mother.

**Prayer**

"And when the Lord, the Christ, is presented in the temple, the Holy Spirit comes upon her. Let all the Earth be filled with the glory of her Son."

#### Third Joyful Mystery: The Nativity of the Lord Jesus

In the birth of every child, we see the birth of Christ Jesus in the Bethlehem stable. Let us commend all new mothers and fathers and every newborn child to the protection and intercession of Mary, the Mother of God and Mother of all Christians.

#### Fourth Joyful Mystery: The Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple

**Scriptural reading**: Luke 2:22-38

As Christ was consecrated to God at his presentation in the temple, so may we consecrate all children to that holiness, purity, and innocence by which they lead us to God. “A little child shall lead them.”

**Prayer**

"And when the Lord, the Christ, is presented in the temple, the Holy Spirit comes upon her."

#### Fifth Joyful Mystery: The Finding of Jesus in the Temple

**Scriptural reading**: Luke 2:41-50

As the Christ Child was found in the Temple, so may we consecrate all children to that holiness, purity, and innocence by which they lead us to God. “A little child shall lead them.”

**Prayer**

"And when the Lord, the Christ, is presented in the temple, the Holy Spirit comes upon her."

#### Sixth Joyful Mystery: The Infancy of Jesus

**Scriptural reading**: Luke 2:41-50

As the Christ Child was found in the Temple, so may we consecrate all children to that holiness, purity, and innocence by which they lead us to God. “A little child shall lead them.”

**Prayer**

"And when the Lord, the Christ, is presented in the temple, the Holy Spirit comes upon her."

#### Seventh Joyful Mystery: The Flight into Egypt

**Scriptural reading**: Luke 2:39-40

As the Christ Child was found in the Temple, so may we consecrate all children to that holiness, purity, and innocence by which they lead us to God. “A little child shall lead them.”

**Prayer**

"And when the Lord, the Christ, is presented in the temple, the Holy Spirit comes upon her."

#### Eighth Joyful Mystery: The Childhood of Jesus

**Scriptural reading**: Luke 2:41-50

As the Christ Child was found in the Temple, so may we consecrate all children to that holiness, purity, and innocence by which they lead us to God. “A little child shall lead them.”

**Prayer**

"And when the Lord, the Christ, is presented in the temple, the Holy Spirit comes upon her."

#### Ninth Joyful Mystery: The Miracles of Jesus

**Scriptural reading**: Luke 2:41-50

As the Christ Child was found in the Temple, so may we consecrate all children to that holiness, purity, and innocence by which they lead us to God. “A little child shall lead them.”

**Prayer**

"And when the Lord, the Christ, is presented in the temple, the Holy Spirit comes upon her."

#### Tenth Joyful Mystery: The Joyful Ascension

**Scriptural reading**: Luke 2:41-50

As the Christ Child was found in the Temple, so may we consecrate all children to that holiness, purity, and innocence by which they lead us to God. “A little child shall lead them.”

**Prayer**

"And when the Lord, the Christ, is presented in the temple, the Holy Spirit comes upon her."

### Day of Prayer and Penance for Life

**Friday, 21 January 2022**

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

In solidarity with the pilgrims who are traveling to the March for Life in Washington, D.C., Bishop John Iffert has declared Friday, Jan. 21, a Day of Prayer and Penance for Life throughout the Diocese of Covington. Each church is to be open for prayer and to schedule at least one hour of Eucharistic adoration.

**Blessed Sacrament Parish, Ft. Mitchell, 9:15–10:15 a.m.**

**Church of the Transfiguration, Perry Park, 10 a.m.–10 p.m.**

**Holy Cross Parish, Covington, 9:30–11 a.m.**

**Holy Spirit Parish, Newport, 8:30–10 a.m.**

**Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Burlington, 10:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.**

**Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish, Erlanger, 9:30 a.m.–noon**

**Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Park Hills, 1–7:30 p.m.**

**Our Savior Parish, Covington, all day for prayer**

**St. Agnes Parish, Park Hills, noon–2 p.m.**

**St. Augustine Parish, Covington, 8:30–11:30 a.m.**

**St. Barbara Parish, Erlanger, 12 noon–11:30 p.m.**

**St. Benedict Parish, Covington, 9 a.m.–noon**

**Sts. Boniface and James Parish, Ludlow, 4:30–6:30 p.m.**

**St. Catherine of Sienna Parish, Ft. Thomas, 9:15 a.m.–5:45 p.m.**

**St. Edward Mission, Oxenton, 8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.**

**St. Henry Parish, Elsmere, 9 a.m.–noon**

**St. John the Evangelist Parish, Covington, 9:15–10:15 a.m.**

**St. John the Evangelist Parish, Ft. Mitchell, 9:15–10:15 a.m.**

**St. Joseph Parish, Camp Springs, 8:30–11:30 a.m.**

**St. Joseph Parish, Cold Spring, 7–8 p.m.**

**St. Joseph Parish, Crescent Springs, All day**

**St. Joseph Parish, Warsaw, noon–5 p.m.**

**St. Patrick Parish, Taylor Mill, all day in adoration chapel**

**St. Philip Parish, Melbourne, 2–3 p.m.**

**St. Therese Parish, Southgate, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.**

**St. Thomas Parish, Ft. Thomas, 9:45 a.m.–noon**

**St. Timothy Parish, Union, 11 a.m.–noon**

**St. William Parish, Williamstown, 9–11 a.m.**

**Holy Hour for Life**

Bishop Iffert encourages the faithful of the diocese to join together in prayer for a Holy Hour for Life, Jan. 21, 7 p.m., at one of the following 10 parishes:

- **Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington**
- **Blessed Sacrament Parish, Ft. Mitchell**
- **Divine Mercy Parish, Bellevue**
- **Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Burlington**
- **St. Edward Parish, Cynthiana**
- **St. John the Evangelist Parish, Carrollton**
- **St. Mary Parish, Alexandria**
- **St. Patrick Parish, Maysville**
- **St. Patrick Parish, Taylor Mill**
- **St. Paul Parish, Florence**

**Office of Worship**

The Office of Worship is celebrating the Day of Prayer and Penance through a Holy Hour for Life, Jan. 21. Bishop John Iffert has directed that each parish in the diocese be open for adoration and prayer for at least one hour at some time during the day (see schedule). Also, 10 parishes have been designated as host parishes for a Holy Hour for Life, 7-8 p.m., for all members of the diocese to gather in prayer for an end to abortion in the United States.

### Moving? Wrong address?

Call the circulation desk. 

(859) 392-1570

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Tornado relief and recovery
As ESNKY facility reached capacity, Mother of God Parish welcomed guests during frigid nights

Laura Keener
Editor

As temperatures dipped down into single digits the first weeks of January, Father Michael Comer, pastor, Mother of God Parish, Covington, received a call from Kim Webb, director of the Emergency Shelter of Northern Kentucky.

Supply chain difficulties have delayed the ESNKY from moving into its newer and larger facility. And with COVID protocols on social distancing restricting the number of guests they could admit at its current location on Scott St. in Covington, Ms. Webb was in search of a place that could accommodate the “overflow” during frigid winter nights.

“It was needed; it was very, very cold — down to like 9-10 degrees — and they couldn’t handle everybody that was coming in... so we had about 30 people here a few nights,” said Father Comer.

For about five nights Mother of God Parish offered its undercroft as emergency shelter for ESNKY guests. Father Comer said that the ESNKY provided most of the supplies — mats, cots and blankets. Volunteers at Mother of God Parish served food and provided hospitality. The parish and the ESNKY expect that the new facility will be available soon, Father Comer said, eliminating the need for an auxiliary emergency site. But if the need should arise, Mother of God Parish stands ready to assist.

“We can’t have people freezing in the street, so yeah, we would do it again,” he said.

Apocalypse when??!! — The Book of Revelation and the Catholic Church

Laura Keener
Editor

Iceberg's melting with warnings of global flooding. Wildfires, tornadoes and hurricanes unleashing record-breaking devastation. Long-held moral Christian beliefs are not only being challenged but are also presented as wrong. Countries, states, communities and families are divided by politics, religion and social norms. Some are saying these are all signs of the end times — the apocalypse. What does the Bible say?

Father Michael Comer, pastor, Mother of God Parish, will begin a series of talks focusing on the end times — the Book of Revelation. The series will be held on Thursdays at 10:45 a.m. and then repeated at 6:30 p.m. at Mother of God Church, Covington. The talks will be livestreamed from the parish website and Facebook page — www.mother-of-god.org or www.facebook.com/mogchurchcvg — and recorded for future viewing.

“It's a topic that people are always interested in,” Father Comer said. “I do think that we live in kind of apocalyptic times and people are questioning, what's going on? And what does the Bible have to say about these types of things?"

Father Comer said that he has held this presentation before, when he was pastor in Maysville and those who attended really enjoyed it. That positive feedback coupled with recent events that have increased conversations on the topic prompted him to offer the series again.

“We live in very difficult times,” Father Comer said. “I think it’s an important topic for very difficult times because it really addresses how to go through difficult times, how to deal with difficult times.”

While Father Comer's talks are presented as a series, it is not necessary to attend each session. Dates and topics are:

Jan. 20  Approaching Apocalyptic Literature
Jan. 27  Blessed are those who read, and blessed are those who listen.

Introduction and Prologue to the Book of Revelation (Rev. 1:1-20)
Feb. 3  Whoever has ears to hear, ought to hear.
Letters to the Churches (Rev. 2:1-3:22)
Feb. 26  “The Lamb who was slain, but who lives.”
The Heavenly Liturgy; the Scroll and the Lamb (Rev. 4:1-11)
Mar. 3  Behold, a pale horse, his rider was death, and hell followed.
Plagues and Trumpets and Seals (Rev. 6:1-8:13)
Mar. 10  “The abyss is opened, and smoke arose, like a furnace.”
Woes, Scrolls, Witnesses and Beasts (Rev. 9:1-11:19)
Mar. 17  “Now have salvation and power come.”
The Woman Clothed With the Sun, and the Beast (Rev. 12:1-12:38)
Mar. 24  “Pour forth the bowls of God’s fury.”
The Seven Last Plagues (Rev. 15:1-16:21)
Mar. 31 ------------------------------------
The Harlot and the Beast (Rev. 17:1-28:15)
Apr. 7  “Behold, I make all things new.”
A New Heavens and a New Earth (Rev. 21:1-22:21)
New Hope Center: Loving, compassionate and understanding

Tom Ziegler
Staff Writer

New Hope Center began as a small a pregnancy care center in 1989 and has since grown to three locations providing life affirming resources in the Northern Kentucky community. Each location offers ultrasounds, parenting programs and mentors to men and women experiencing unexpected pregnancies or challenging circumstances during pregnancy.

Karen Glass, executive director, said that ultrasound machines are “their most important tool” for helping women see that they are carrying a baby.

New Hope Center is one of three local life-affirming organizations being honored at the upcoming Life’s a Ball event hosted by the diocesan Pro-Life Office. Life’s a Ball will be held Feb. 12 at the Airport Marriott, Hebron. Tickets are available by calling Faye Roch, director, Pro-Life Office at (859) 392-1500. The other two honorees are CareNet pregnancy center and Rose Garden Home Mission, Covington.

New Hope is a 501(c)(3) and is staffed by 12 employees, five educators and about 35 volunteers. The compassionate staff are an important reason why 82 percent of New Hope clients chose life for their unborn baby.

“We want women to feel like abortion is their only option. After meeting with our mentors and seeing their baby up on the ultrasound screen, they choose life,” Ms. Glass said. “We call the ultrasound rooms our miracle rooms because that is where women choose life for their baby. Lives are saved in our ultrasound rooms our miracle rooms because that is where unexpected pregnancies or challenging circumstances are transformed into lives to be loved and cared for.”

In 2021, the New Hope Center staff served about 400 women and 650 men and had 1,200 visits and provided over 800 ultrasounds for clients during more than 1,200 visits and provided over 800 ultrasounds for clients.

New Hope Center is staffed by 12 employees, five educators and about 35 volunteers. The compassionate staff are an important reason why 82 percent of New Hope clients chose life for their unborn baby.

In a powerful way our center is a welcoming, peaceful, calm and safe place which is something I believe people pick up on immediately. When you have a compassionate staff, it makes all the difference in the world,” Ms. Glass said.

When asked about her favorite part of the job, Ms. Glass could not pick one saying, “Oh my goodness, it is all of it together.”

New Hope is looking forward to what the future holds. “God is moving in some powerful ways here at New Hope and we are excited to see where He takes us in 2022,” Ms. Glass said.

New Hope Center’s 2022 goals are to expand their ultrasound program by increasing hourly availability. Expanding the fatherhood program and adoption outreach. Marketing will play an important role in these goals. Marketing outreach is a crucial part of New Hope’s ability to share their work and mission with those who need it. Google business ads, billboard campaigns, and social media pages are all ways New Hope Center spreads the word and awareness of their mission and willingness to serve those in need.

“If we can reach women and be the first place they turn to, we can make that difference in the choice of abortion or life for their child,” Ms. Glass said.

You’re invited—Life’s a Ball Event

Feb. 12, 2022

Airport Marriott, Hebron

Cost $70 per person.

Contact Faye Roch, director, Pro-Life Office (859) 392-1500, froch@covdio.org

“Many times moms come here abortion-minded and feel like abortion is there only option. After meeting with our mentors and seeing their baby up on the ultrasound screen they choose life.” Ms. Glass said. “We call the ultrasound rooms our miracle rooms because that is where women choose life for their baby. Lives are saved in our ultrasound rooms, but lives are transformed in those mentoring rooms. That’s where we can share Christ, that’s where we can teach them (clients), equip them and empower them to become successful parents.”

In 2021, the New Hope Center staff served about 400 clients during more than 1,200 visits and provided over 4,000 services and providing clients with more than 20,000 diapers. New Hope Center maintains an environment of love and understanding to help young people, especially those who may have grown up without parents or without supportive parents, develop positive parenting skills from a dedicated staff willing to share.

New Hope Center also offers a variety of programs to help clients after their child is born. One is a parenting class called “Earn While You Learn,” to help soon-to-be parents learn about fetal development and parenting tips, while earning items such as crib, diapers and other necessities, as they go through the stages of pregnancy and early childhood.

They also offer a Fatherhood Program for dads.

“Everything we do is free to our clients,” Ms. Glass said. And the pregnancy care center is funded 100 percent by donations.

New Hope Center has created an after-school peer ambassador program for students and has also developed an abstinence program, which is presented at schools — specifically middle schools — to educate students in healthy sexual development and how to say “no” if they are being pressured into having sex or engaging in inappropriate sexual behavior.

“It’s exciting to watch them grow during these classes and have the courage to say no,” Ms. Glass said. “We have a great group of educators, and we are always looking for more!”

For women struggling with negative emotions around a previous abortion New Hope Center offers a confidential “After Abortion Mentoring Program.”

“Myself and this amazing staff are here to help make clients feel welcomed in a loving, non-judgmental way. From the moment a client places that phone call they need to feel that. As soon as clients walk in our door, we need to feel loved, cared for and safe. Our staff and mentors are loving, non-judgmental, and it shows in a powerful way. Our center is a welcoming, peaceful, calm and safe place which is something I believe people pick up on immediately. When you have a compassionate staff, it makes all the difference in the world,” Ms. Glass said.

Reporting Misconduct in the Diocese of Covington

Anyone who has experienced sexual misconduct by a cleric, employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Covington is asked to contact Ms. Julie Feinauer, diocesan victims assistance coordinator (859) 392-1515. Professional assistance and pastoral support will be provided in confidentiality and with respect.

A copy of the “Diocesan Policies and Procedures for Addressing Sexual Misconduct” is available by contacting the Chancery, (859) 392-1515 or visit www.covdio.org and going to “Sexual Misconduct Policy.”

Informando sobre conducta inapropiada en la Diocesis de Covington

Cualquier persona que haya experimentado conducta sexual inapropiada por parte de un clérigo, empleado o voluntario de la Diócesis de Covington está invitada a ponerse en contacto con Ms. Julie Feinauer, coordinadora diocesana para dar asistencia a las víctimas. Teléfono (859) 392-1515. Asistencia profesional y apoyo moral serán ofrecidos de una manera confidencial y con respeto.

Una copia de “Normas y Procedimientos sobre Conducta Sexual inapropiada” está disponible poniéndose en contacto con la Cancillería, Teléfono (859) 392-1510, o visitando www.covdio.org y marcando “Sexual Misconduct Policy.”
A common misconception holds that early “moderni-

ty” invented the “individual”: the idea that everyone is a

person, which, in time, brings him off-kilter to love.

One of those deeper roots from British intellectual histori-

Vatican II, in its doctrine on the universal call

Ages brought the West a first experience of what we now
call “voluntary associations” and a new model of authori-

Before Christianity, immortality was a family concept:
one lived on in one’s family “The Resurrection of Jesus and

The Benedictine monasteries of the misnamed Dark

Ages, according to Thomas Aquinas. Christianity democratized heroism through

The Benedictine motto, “Ora et Labora,” translates from Latin as “Pray and Work.”

Bishop Robert Barron is an Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Article originally published at

Who invented the individual?

The Benedictine monasteries of the misnamed Dark Ages brought the West a first experience of what we now call “voluntary associations” and a new model of authority: leadership chosen by universal suffrage within a responsible community capable of grasping its needs and arranging its affairs. Benedictine monasticism also gave a new depth of meaning to work, which was previously considered servile and demeaning. By contrast, the sons and daughters of Benedict’s Scholastics learned and taught the dignity of labor linked to prayer (thus the Benedictine motto, Ora et Labora, “Pray and Work”), and laid the foundations of a work ethic that has vastly enriched humanity’s material well-being.

Then there is the towering figure of St. Augustine.

How can anyone who has read the “Confessions,” the first true autobiography, not find there one source of the modern concept of the individual—not to mention a well-spring of the habits of self-examination and self-criticism essential to scientific research?

To these points made by Professor Siedentop, let me add one of my own: Could there be any concept of the “individual” as a responsible earthly soul (in the spiritual sense) if rights if Christianity had not cut the tangle at the root by separating the divine and the human? For example, “one sinner, the one Christ was willing to fulfill, them, even at personal cost.

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For the ‘Time Being’

By the time you read this, your Christmas will be over. You will have opened all of your presents and delivered the presents you had for others. Your tree and other greenery will be back in their boxes; outdoor lights, if still up, will be turned off. Any decorations you had put up will be put away, and you and your children will be back to the usual routine of school and work.

To my mind, no writer captures the transition from the Christmas season to our usual routine of life better than W.H. Auden at the end of his long poem, “For The Time Being: A Christmas Oratorio.” In the final narration we read: “Well, so that is. Now we must dismantle the tree, putting the decorations back into their cardboard boxes — some have got broken — and carrying them up to the attic. The hoily and the mistletoe must be taken down and burnt. And the children get ready for school.”

The Narrator critiques our celebration of Christmas, that we have not made more of it, and that it has not changed:

“Stayed up so late, attempted — quite unsuccessfully — to love all of our relatives, and in general Grouchily overestimated our powers. Once again As in previous years we have let God Vision and failed To do more than entertain it as an agreeable Possibility, once again we have sent Him away. Begging though to remain His disobedient servant. The promising child who cannot keep His word for long.”

Finally, the Narrator expresses disappointment that the Christmas season does not seem to have changed our world, either:

“And the kitchen table exists because I scrub it. It seems to have slumbered during the holidays. The streets Are much narrower than we remembered; we had forgotten The office was as depressing as this.”

Auden’s words can move us to reflect on our celebration of the Christmas season. How did we celebrate it? Did we celebrate a cultural “Christmas,” as it is described in my last column, or did we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord and Savior? How much a part of our Christmas holidays was Christ? Did our celebration change at all? Did the Christian celebration of our Lord’s birth have any impact on our extended families, on our communities, on the world?

Auden’s Narrator finally comments on the life to which we return, and uses the phrase that is the title for his poem: “In the morning.

There are bills to be paid, machines to keep in repair; irregular verbs to learn, the Time Being to redeem. From insignificance. The happy morning is over, The night of agony still to come; the time is noon.”

A good year and Christmas is not spent in a cocoon. The months to come will bring challenges, opportunities, and rewards. We will face new resolutions and goals. We will have the chance to make things better and to contribute to the world.

The Theology of Spider-Man

I am not a huge movie-goer, but ever the holidays, I did see the newest Marvel Cinematic Universe release, “Spider-Man: No Way Home.” It was one of the bright spots of the Christmas season. I was pleased that my young adult children were willing to have their middle-aged mother along, and the storyline did not disappoint. I love superheroes, and Spiderman has been one of my favorites since childhood. I think I can still sing the theme song from the original TV cartoon series of the late 1960s.

The thing I like most about the Spider-Man films, going back to 2002, is that when watched with a Catholic mindset, the theological themes are unmistakable. These themes appeal to our nature as children of God and have the power to evangelize those who see the movies — whether Hollywood intends it or not. I recently read a blog on Fire blog post by Bobby Angel entitled “The Surprisingly Christlike Culp of Spider-Man: No Way Home,” which happily reinforces long-held opinions of these films.

The main character, Peter Parker, starts off as a nearly high school student who, after being bitten by a radioactive spider, develops amazing superpowers. Are we not all like the early Peter Parker before we receive God’s grace in Baptism? Whether we realize it or not, we are weak, lost, and miserable. It is God’s grace that gives us super-natural power to live our lives as his sons and daughters and to do great things for him. Through grace, God gives us a new identity.

In “No Way Home,” the idea that “everyone deserves a second chance” is in the forefront. Is this not how our loving God deals with us in sending his Son to save us from sin and death? Is this not how we are called to deal with each other, to forgive “seventy-seven times” (Matt 18:22)?

The iconic line from the first movie, “With great power comes great responsibility” resonances in “No Way Home” and serves as a springboard for reflection. The same is present in the Scripture passage, “Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more.” (Luke 12:48)

How do I use the supernatural grace I have received at my Baptism? Do I make full use of it? Do I reject it? Do I give up in the face of evil and corruption? How do I react when my identity as a child of God brings persecution and suffering? What is my response when my good attempts fail? What about the virtue of humility? Do I allow my identity as a child of God to go to my head?”

Finally, and probably most important, is the theme of sacrificial love. In every movie, in one way or another. Peter must decide to set himself aside for the good of others. He is a hero in the type of our ultimate hero, Jesus Christ. Before becoming Pope, Pope St. John Paul II wrote in his work Love and Responsibility, “A person who has a vocation must not only love someone but be prepared to give himself or herself for love.”

Like Spiderman, we are all called to be Christ-like heroes. And no, we don’t have to design and wear our own Spider suits. We wore our white garments at Baptism.

These are but a few of the Christian themes to be found in the various Spider-Man films, and I highly recommend them for teaching children. I have watched them with my son and I discovered on the drive home from seeing “No Way Home,” conversations about these themes are fun and enlightening.

As Bobby Angel states in his blog, “Spider-Man continues to engage with each new generation because, just as with the Gospel challenge of Christ, we are all called, despite our faults and flaws, to be bringers of the good, to practice great forgiveness, coupled with great responsibility.”

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

A Legend who was no turkey

Somewhere along the way, I once saw a six-legged turkey, but never mind that for now in order for me to write about a noted, extraordinary individual. He was one of my peers, actually born just four months before me. I “met” him through the miracle of television many years ago and my first impression was “mine is better that is to say, “I am seeing a my way or the highway” bully or a very large and jovial ‘most happy fellow.”

If already you think you know his name, please write it down now for we’ll be writing to him to reconsider it. Allow me to share that he’s been called “An American Legend” and “rarest of the rare,” so please grant me that we’re not dealing with a “wanna be” hero.

If our star of the day had one major expectation concerning those he worked with or managed, it appears to be this: “Do the right thing at the right time in the right way!” Who could ask for more and who should expect to get by with less? Those are not the quoted words of Jesus. But one can easily imagine him instructing his coworkers, “A person who has a vocation must not only love someone but be prepared to give himself or herself for love.”

Mr. Freeman concludes; “In the booth, his energy and enthusiasm never waned. He would work with the passion that he expected from his players. He had a great sense of humor and a calming influence on his teammates.”

I am not a huge movie-goer, but ever the holidays, I did see the newest Marvel Cinematic Universe release, “Spider-Man: No Way Home.” It was one of the bright spots of the Christmas season. I was pleased that my young adult children were willing to have their middle-aged mother along, and the storyline did not disappoint. I love superheroes, and Spiderman has been one of my favorites since childhood. I think I can still sing the theme song from the original TV cartoon series of the late 1960s.
Be Witnesses

“Wake up the world! Be witnesses of a different way of doing things, of acting, of living!”
— Pope Francis

Religious Communities in the Diocese of Covington

Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg
Monastery www.stwalburg.org

Brothers of the Poor of St. Francis
www.brothersofthepoorofstfrancis.org

Passionist Nuns
www.erlangerpassionists.com

Sisters of Divine Providence
www.cdpkentucky.org

Sisters of Notre Dame
www.sndky.org

Sisters of St. Joseph the Worker
www.ssjw.org

www.cdpkentucky.org

www.sndky.org

www.ssjw.org

Franciscan Daughters of Mary
www.fdofmary.org

Missionaries of St. John the Baptist
www.msjb.info

www.cdpkentucky.org

www.sndky.org

www.ssjw.org

www.fdofmary.org

www.msjb.info

Public and Private Associations

Franciscan Daughters of Mary
www.fdofmary.org

Missionaries of St. John the Baptist
www.msjb.info

Karen Kuhlman
Messenger Correspondent

The liturgies of the liturgical seasons remind us that our human failings need not destroy our hope — if we choose to live in love. Divine Providence Sister Alice Gerdeman is just one of the Women Religious in the Diocese of Covington who helps us achieve that goal by offering positive ways of understanding and dealing with the complex issues facing us today.

Sister Alice was the Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center coordinator in Cincinnati for 22 years and currently serves on the Peace and Justice Committee of the Sisters of Divine Providence, Melbourne. She is an invaluable source of knowledge for advice on how to live in love.

Perhaps one of our most challenging issues today is one which no one wants to experience and of which no one wants to be guilty. The hurt resulting from the painful role racism plays in its victims’ lives is deep, making it difficult to trust that it won’t be experienced again. Nevertheless, the only way to begin to eliminate the evil of racism is to root it out by acknowledging its existence.

“It is helpful to accept that people are generally good, but it is also important to acknowledge that mistakes have been made,” Sister Alice said. “All of us have been caught in cultural situations where perhaps we have not acted perfectly, but we are still good people. When we acknowledge that we accept all kinds of things in our culture that are less than perfect, we can, perhaps, begin to make things better.”

Sister Alice said that when we look at a system riddled with sin — as all human systems are — we are not saying that all who lived at the time were guilty. A very bad system — slavery — was in place, evil was perpetrated, and people believed and accepted things. We probably do the same thing now.

When we can acknowledge the evil done without placing personal blame, we can begin to challenge ourselves. By acknowledging that we accept all kinds of things, we can look at what was being done historically — and what is being done now. When we understand that, “I am not perfect, nor is anyone else,” we can challenge ourselves to work and make things better.

Sister Alice said, “We can begin by crossing one line that we are frightened to cross. Maybe it is something as simple as inviting someone to coffee. Maybe on a family vacation, we visit one of Selma’s museums, the Legacy Museum and National Memorial for Peace and Justice, or the Rosa Parks Museum in Montgomery. Or we devote an afternoon to visiting the Freedom Center in Cincinnati. We must allow ourselves to feel uncomfortable for a few moments during those visits. One of the most phenomenally holy women I have ever met, a woman of color, told me, ‘The truth is that discomfort is a grace.’ It is a grace to be uncomfortable about some of these issues because grace challenges us to take one further step. Each step helps us appreciate people who are different from us, and that is good.”

Poverty in many communities has been driven by drugs and by those who use others in whatever manner they choose. But unfair stereotypes make it difficult to distinguish between the perpetrators and those trapped in impoverished communities. On the other hand, white business criminals’ actions that result in families falling into poverty do not pass that stigma on to all white people.

“Perhaps one of our most challenging issues today is one which no one wants to experience and of which no one wants to be guilty.”

Sister Alice Gerdeman, C.D.P.

We are all made in the image of God, and that has nothing to do with color. Each of us shows something of God to the world,” said Sister Alice. “When we understand that, we have hope. The hope that, perhaps, hearts can be changed. But, Sister Alice said, that will take a long time and asks if white people can be patient with themselves while pushing forward. And can those who have other life experiences be patient with us?

“We must learn to share what we have with others and let others share what they have with us,” Sister Alice said. “Variety is how God made us, which is a blessing we need to recognize. God didn’t want us to be alike.”

God’s children are capable of giving a gift of great value to one another — if we choose to live in love.

Information about the Peace and Justice Committee of the Sisters of Divine Providence can be found online at: https://cdpkentucky.org/.

For more information about consecrated life in the Diocese of Covington, contact Sister Fran Moore at (859) 392-1500.
As the foster father of Jesus, St. Joseph is an example of the need for loving fathers and mothers in “an age of notorious orphanhood,” Pope Francis said.

The “demographic winter” in many Western countries, due in part to couples unwilling to have children, “diminishes us, it takes away our humanity,” the pope said Jan. 5 during his weekly general audience.

There are “many couples who do not have children because they do not want to, or they have just one, but they have two dogs, two cats. Yes, dogs and cats take the place of children,” the pope said, eliciting laughter. “Yes, it’s funny, I understand, but it is the reality.”

“In this way, civilization becomes aged and without humanity because it loses the richness of fatherhood and motherhood. And our homelands suffer because they do not have children,” he added.

Pope Francis continued his series on St. Joseph, reflecting on his role as Jesus’ foster father.

In recognizing Jesus as his son, St. Joseph shows that “a man does not become a father simply by bringing a child into the world, but by taking up the responsibility to care for that child.”

St. Joseph, he continued, also teaches the value of fatherhood and motherhood, especially by those who “welcome life by way of adoption,” and “shows us that this type of bond is not secondary; it is not an afterthought.”

“This kind of choice is among the highest forms of love, and of fatherhood and motherhood,” the pope said. “How many children in the world are waiting for someone to take care of them! And how many spouses wish to be fathers and mothers but are unable to do so for biological reasons; or, although they already have children, they want to share their family’s affection with those who have been left without.”

Speaking off the cuff, the pope said that the example of fatherhood and motherhood was an important value to think about because “our civilization is something of an orphan.”

Pope Francis encouraged couples, especially newlyweds to “think about having children, giving life, because they will be the ones who will close your eyes (at death), who will care for you in the future.”

“And if you cannot have children, think about adoption. It is a risk; yes, having a child is always a risk, either naturally or by adoption. But it is riskier not to have them. It is riskier to deny fatherhood or to deny motherhood, be it real or spiritual,” the pope said.

As he has been doing since beginning his series on St. Joseph, Pope Francis read a prayer he had written.

He asked St. Joseph to “be close to the many children who have no family and who long for a daddy and mommy,” and to “support couples who are unable to have children.”

“Make sure that no one lacks a home, a bond, a person to take care of him or her,” he prayed. “And heal the selfishness of those who close themselves off from life, that they may open their hearts to love.”

St. Joseph teaches fatherly love in ‘orphaned’ world, pope says
In flyover, Kentucky bishop blesses his people impacted by tornadoes

Elizabeth Wong Barnstead
Catholic News Service

OWENSBORO, Ky. — Bishop William Medley of the Diocese of Owensboro wanted to bless his people who had been in the path of the tornadoes that struck western Kentucky during the night of Dec. 10, and with the help of a local pastor, some Knights of Columbus and an airplane, he did just that.

On Dec. 21, the bishop flew over the southern regions of the Diocese of Owensboro with a monstrance containing the Blessed Sacrament, blessing all below who had been impacted by the tornadoes.

A week before, the bishop had driven 400 miles to visit the affected locations, including Resurrection Parish in Dawson Springs, St. Joseph Parish in Mayfield, the Princeton area and the Bowling Green area.

But seeing the damage from above, “it is a different perspective. A God’s-eye view if you will,” he said. “It was staggering to see what happened to people’s lives and knowing that would have to be rebuilt.”

The Eucharistic flyover idea was initiated by Daniel Schachle, the general agent for the Knights of Columbus insurance program for Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas and a small part of Virginia.

He has his pilot’s license and Piper Archer plane, and did a similar flyover blessing for the Diocese of Nashville, Tennessee, a small part of Virginia.

He agreed to the idea immediately, “Daniel called me and said, ‘Hey, do you want to see if we could do this for the Owensboro Diocese with the bishop?’” said Walther in a Dec. 22 phone call with Kentucky Catholic Messenger.

The bishop agreed to the idea immediately, and the flight was scheduled for the following week.

On Dec. 21, the bishop flew over the communities of his diocese that were affected by the tornadoes that struck during the night of Dec. 10.

The bishop gave a Eucharistic blessing while flying over Dawson Springs, Princeton and Mayfield. He also led a benediction for the inmates while flying over the Kentucky State Penitentiary in Eddyville, because “those men deserve a blessing too,” he said.

The bishop held the monstrance against his window and prayed “may God bless them and give them grace.”

The plane returned to Owensboro around 2:30 p.m.

It is surreal every time I do this,” said Mr. Schachle of the Eucharistic flyover. “I think bringing Christ to the people is the best way I can help.”

Mr. Walther said this was a “great opportunity” not only for Bishop Medley to “see” his people from above, but to also “bless his people that way.”

As of Jan. 12, over $330,000 have been collected with donations from 14 parishes still outstanding. Bishop John Efdert, Covington, will send 100 percent of the money collected directly to Bishop William Medley to assist with the diocese’s relief efforts. Donations can be made online at www.covdio.org.

Bishop William F. Medley of Owensboro, Ky., lifts a monstrance containing the Blessed Sacrament while flying over Dawson Springs, Princeton and Mayfield. He also led a benediction for the inmates while flying over the Kentucky State Penitentiary in Eddyville, because “those men deserve a blessing too,” he said.

The plane took off around 11:15 a.m. from MidAmerica Jet in Owensboro as Bishop Medley led a prayer for a safe flight. They flew over Madisonville first, where parishioners and volunteers at Christ the King Parish and School had set up a community resource center in the gym to help the displaced and suffering.

Lifting the monstrance to his window, Bishop Medley prayed aloud that “our holy Mother would watch over them and guide them in the ways of goodness and truth.”

The harsh paths of destruction were evident from the air. Often the first sign of a tornado touchdown was a thick column of smoke from debris burning. After the smoke, either lines of flattened trees and buildings, or rows of roofs covered with bright blue tarps, indicated that a tornado had come through the area.

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He added that he is thankful for all the people who have reached out from across the country to help Kentuckians, but “I hope that it continues when all the media has gone.”

“We’ve got a lot of immediate needs met, but people are still going to be hurting in one month, two months, six months and beyond,” said Mr. Walther. “This is not a short-term thing.”

Elizabeth Barnstead is editor of The Western Kentucky Catholic, newspaper of the Diocese of Owensboro.

Blessed Sacrament School
Please stop by, take a tour, and meet our amazing faculty and administration!
Sunday, January 23
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Open House
Visit bssky.org to learn more about BSS!
Displaced Kentucky parishioners attend Masses in makeshift church

Elizabeth Barnstead
Catholic News Service

OWENSBORO, Ky. — Celebrating Mass in a 20-by-25-foot metal outbuilding on Dec. 24, 2021, for the displaced community of Resurrection Parish in Dawson Springs, the image that came to mind for Owensboro Bishop William Medley was “there was no room at the inn.”

But parishioners did find room in a structure shared by a couple in the parish for Christmas Eve and Masses in the new year as well.

“I felt the gratitude that the congregation could be together again — but that they were still stunned,” Bishop Medley told The Western Kentucky Catholic, diocesan newspaper of Owensboro, of the Christmas Eve Mass.

The bishop had driven the 90 minutes to Dawson Springs from Owensboro that day, wanting to open the Christmas season with the Resurrection community.

Resurrection Church was among the buildings lost to the historic tornadoes that hit western Kentucky during the night of Dec. 10, 2021. The strong winds had torn out windows and ripped off parts of the roof, exposing the interior of the little church to the elements.

In the following days, parishioners Donnie and Rhonda Mills offered the use of their outbuilding, which is used primarily as an exercise room, as a substitute church for the time being.

The parish gathered for Mass for the first time since the tornadoes on Sunday, Dec. 19. Their second gathering was that Christmas Eve.

“Their doors have always been open to everybody,” said Deacon Mike Marsili, who with pastor, Father David Kennedy, serves Resurrection and also its sister parishes of Holy Cross in Providence and Immaculate Conception in Earlington.

Deacon Marsili said that over the years, the metal building has seen poker games, barbecues, post-volleyball dinners and weightlifting. Now, it would see the celebration of the Eucharist.

And so, on Christmas Eve 2021, the people of Resurrection Parish came together to celebrate their resilient community and their faith. Approximately 45 people filled the space snugly, but the weather was mild and several people stood outside the doorway.

The bishop became “really choked up when he talked about seeing the damages,” said Deacon Marsili.

Two weeks before that Mass, Bishop Medley spent a day driving 400 miles across western Kentucky to visit the impacted communities. And just one week earlier, he had flown in an airplane over the tornadoes’ paths with a monstrance containing the Blessed Sacrament, blessing all those below.

“I’ve had several parishioners come up to me and say they had never seen the bishop like that before, and that it meant a lot to them,” the deacon said. He added that “it was more than the fact that he got emotional; it was that he was really, really compassionate.”

Deacon Marsili said that other than his ordination to the permanent diaconate in 2017, this was the most meaningful liturgy he has ever participated in.

At the end of Mass, the bishop offered a few words to the congregation, telling them the cross is not the end of the story; the resurrection is. “Your church is named for that and your church will rise again,” the deacon said.

“Donnie’s dad always barbecued or did fish fries on the weekends and Donnie has continued that,” the deacon said.

And so, on Christmas Eve 2021, the people of Resurrection Parish came together to celebrate their resilient community and their faith.
Annual audit on sexual abuse shows slight decline in allegations, with six current cases substantiated

WASHINGTON (CNS) - An audit report from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection shows that 22 allegations current cases of sexual abuse of minors by Catholic clergy and others were reported during the year ending June 30, 2020.

Released late Nov 9, the 18th annual report stated that 3,924 child sexual abuse survivors filed 4,228 allegations, a slight decline from the previous auditing period, according to a report on diocesan and eparchial compliance with the U.S. bishops’ “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.”

WIth six current cases substantiated on reporting abuse in several states. “It should be noted high in part because of changes in statutes of limitations beginning July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020.

Rochester, New York, the new report covers the year from 1965 onward widespread reports of clergy abuse and has been revised several times since to adapt to changing situations surrounding the question of clergy sexual abuse of minors.

Conducted by StoneBridge Business Partners of Rochester, New York, the new report covers the year from 1965 onward.

The report said the number of allegations remained high in part because of changes in statutes of limitations on reporting abuse in several states. “It should be noted that the vast majority of these reports were historical in nature,” the report said.

The report attributed about 66 percent of allegations to lawsuits, compensation programs established by dioceses and other entities and bankruptcies. In addition, 1 percent of allegations emerged after a review of clergy personnel files, according to the report.

Of the 22 allegations for the current year, six were found to be substantiated. The report said they originated from five dioceses.

Of the remaining reported allegations, seven continued to be investigated, two were unsubstantiated, there were determined to be “unable to be proven,” and four were classified as “other.”

The report said nine of the allegations involved the use of child pornography. Seven of those cases remained under investigation, one was substantiated and one was referred to a provincial or religious order.

The allegations involved 2,458 priests, 31 deacons and 382 unknown clerics, statistics in the report showed.

The report indicated that 195 of 197 dioceses and other entities were determined to be compliant. The Diocese of Covington was determined to be noncompliant. The Diocese of Covington was determined to be compliant.

The report also acknowledged the continuing work of Church entities to ensure the safety of children and vulnerable adults. The USCCB said that expenditures on protective services rose 13 percent in 2020 with more than 2.5 million background checks of adults and training in safety measures for 3.1 million children.

Suzanne Healy, who chairs the National Review Board, said that as the charter enters its third decade of implementation it becomes important to continue evaluating incidents of abuse as well as understand trends of abuse and why they change.

In a letter to Los Angeles Archbishop José H. Gomez, USCCB president, that accompanied the report, Healy said a board committee is examining the safe-environment education programs for adults and children in dioceses throughout the country.

“The research is an attempt to determine which elements or combination of elements of these training programs is most effective in mitigating the occurrence of child abuse and ensuring that any suspicion of abuse is reported to authorities, Healy wrote.

In his preface to the report, Los Angeles Archbishop José H. Gomez, USCCB president, said: “As we know, one allegation of abuse is too many. But my brother bishops and I remain firmly committed to maintain our vigilance in protecting children and vulnerable adults and providing compassion and outreach to victim-survivors of abuse.”

Speaking for himself and the body of bishops, the archbishop expressed their “sorrow and apologies to every person who has suffered at the hands of someone in the Church.”

“While we cannot give you back what has been taken from you,” Archbishop Gomez said, “we do commit ourselves to doing everything in our power to help you to heal and to fight the scourge of abuse in the Church and in the wider society.”

The Messenger contributed to this article.
**Newsworthy**

Newport Central Catholic High School announces that the following incoming freshmen achieved the top 10 scores on the high school Placement Test and have been awarded scholarships:

- St. Catherine Parish, Ft. Thomas — Alex Alarcon, McKenna Desmond, Greta Hansbauer;
- St. Joseph Parish, Cold Spring — Grant Kovill, Alannah Kues;
- St. Therese Parish, Southgate — Preston Koeninger, Evan Hart;

The prayer intention for January, as recommended by Pope Francis, is for true human fraternity. We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; that their rights and dignity be recognized as brothers and sisters in the human family.

The weekly TV Mass from the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption is broadcast locally on The CW, Sundays, noon to 1 p.m. Viewers can tune-in on the following channels: antenna 12.2, Spectrum 117 or 25, Cincinnati Bell 17 or 517, and DirectTV 21.

Have you ever wanted to discern God’s will in your life? Is it possible to learn how to be holy? Find out during a day of reflection Jan. 15, 9:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m., Immaculate Heart of Mary parish, Burlington. The Pre-Life Office is organizing a trip to Washington, D.C., for the Annual March for Life, which will take place Jan. 21. Included in the trip is round-trip airfare, one night’s hotel accommodation and ground transportation to and from the airport and hotel. Limited seating is available. Depart late morning, Jan. 20, return evening, Jan. 21. Cost per person, double-occupancy room is $412. Rooms are also available for those providing their own transportation. The Marriott Metro Center is located centrally in downtown Washington, D.C. Cost of room: $210. Limited availability. Contact Peggy Piccola in the Pre-Life office, at 392-1500 or piccola@cvedus.org.

St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Ft. Thomas, hosts “A Night in Paris,” a Parisian delight with music, French cuisine, wine and bourbon bar, Jan. 29, Tower Park Mess Hall. Admission and raffle tickets online at stcatherinesienafortthomas.org or by calling 315-9763.

First Friday Mass Feb. 4, 6:45 a.m., St. Francis of Assisi Chapel at Bishop Brossart High School, Alexandria.

Bishop Brossart High School 23rd annual Jack and Pat McGarr Memorial Euchre Tournament, Feb. 5. Register online at McGarrEuchre22.givesmart.com. Questions, e-mail McGarrEuchre@gmail.com or text/call 250-4924.

The Pro-Life Office is organizing a trip to Washington, D.C., for the Annual March for Life, which will take place Jan. 21. Included in the trip is round-trip airfare, one night’s hotel accommodation and ground transportation to and from the airport and hotel. Limited seating is available. Depart late morning, Jan. 20, return evening, Jan. 21. Cost per person, double-occupancy room is $412. Rooms are also available for those providing their own transportation. The Marriott Metro Center is located centrally in downtown Washington, D.C. Cost of room: $210. Limited availability. Contact Peggy Piccola in the Pre-Life office, at 392-1500 or piccola@cvedus.org.

Newport Central Catholic High School inducts its twenty-first class of inductees to Athletic Hall of Fame: Michelle Bowman Atallah ’08, Danielle Hausfeld ’11, Erre Gearding ’86, Jake Giesler ’11, Terry Mann ’66, Jeff Martin ’81, Courtney Sandfoss ’10, and Jeff Smith ’02. Also honored “Teams of Distinction” 2009, 2010 & 2011 Girls State Champion Track Teams. Ceremony is Feb 15, 2022 in the Newport Central Catholic Gymnasium. Social hour at 6 PM, dinner and the induction ceremony at 7 PM. $20.00 cost and reservations and payment will be accepted prior to Feb 11. For more information contact the NCC School Office at (859) 283-8800.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Northern Kentucky is hosting its second annual art fundraiser event. “Creative Compassion,” March 11, Drees Pavilion, Covington. Tickets available online at www.svdpnk.org. Cost $85. For information e-mail marypat.beher@suvdpnk.org.

Women’s Retreat Feb. 25-27 — join Mary and Deacon Dave Proffit as they show how changing the way we see others and ourselves can help us in our faith journey. Friday 5:30 p.m. — Sunday after 11 a.m. Mass, $35, registration deadline Feb. 11. Register at www.stvincentretreatcenter.org. Call 441-2003, ext. 301 or e-mail csmith@covdio.org.

New Hope Center’s Father Daughter Dance March 5 & 6, 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Fort Thomas Mess Hall. 6th-12th graders and their fathers, $45 per father-daughter couple – $33 each additional daughter. Semi-formal attire, scholarships available, dinner served. Reserve tickets at www.gwftfhop.org.

Schools team up to help tornado victims

School communities have organized efforts to help Western Kentucky families impacted by the December tornadoes. A St. Paul Parish family was in Mayfield and witnessed first-hand the devastating effects of the tornadoes. The family reached out to the St. Paul Parish community to collect donations for families hit hard by the tornadoes. Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish learned of the donation drive and their school families joined the effort. Together, the two schools collected new kids’ toys, new kids’ underwear and socks, new and gently used kids’ clothes’ and shoes. Other donated items included heaters, baby beds, blankets, coats, baby items, diapers, wipes, formula and cleaning supplies that were delivered Dec. 17. Additionally, the two schools collected and donated $1335 to the Diocese of Covington Tornado Disaster Relief collection.

Mr. and Miss St. Henry crowned

At the Crusader pep rally for St. Henry School, Elmmere, two students were crowned Mr. and Miss St. Henry. The pep rally crowning comes in anticipation of the Lady Crusader Invitational Basketball tournament. For more information contact the NCC School Office at (859) 283-8800.

To cap-off their studies on Ancient Egypt, sixth graders from St. Paul X School, Edgewood, created a museum. The museum showed off their knowledge of the culture and was displayed for the entire school to see.

Ancient Egypt in Edgewood

People and Events

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School communities have organized efforts to help Western Kentucky families impacted by the December tornadoes. A St. Paul Parish family was in Mayfield and witnessed first-hand the devastating effects of the tornadoes. The family reached out to the St. Paul Parish community to collect donations for families hit hard by the tornadoes. Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish learned of the donation drive and their school families joined the effort. Together, the two schools collected new kids’ toys, new kids’ underwear and socks, new and gently used kids’ clothes’ and shoes. Other donated items included heaters, baby beds, blankets, coats, baby items, diapers, wipes, formula and cleaning supplies that were delivered Dec. 17. Additionally, the two schools collected and donated $1335 to the Diocese of Covington Tornado Disaster Relief collection.

Mr. and Miss St. Henry crowned

At the Crusader pep rally for St. Henry School, Elmmere, two students were crowned Mr. and Miss St. Henry. The pep rally crowning comes in anticipation of the Lady Crusader Invitational Basketball tournament. For more information contact the NCC School Office at (859) 283-8800.
Who invented the individual? (Continued from page 4)

A legend who was no turkey (Continued from page 5)

a trap set by his adversaries, sharply distinguished between state power and God's supreme authority. If there are things of God's that Caesar may not claim, then Caesar is not God; and if Caesar is not God, Caesar's power is, by definition, limited. By desacralizing state power, Christianity helped make possible the idea of the limited state, which was not an immaculate conception sprung from the mind of John Locke.

Reconnecting with these deep roots of Western civilization would seem an important step toward fixing what ails us, as a culture and a society, these days.

George Weigel is a senior fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.

Who invented the individual?

'thongs' were chaotic and addictive. It's hard to put into words for people who don't know just how 'must-watch' Madden was. His broadcasts of NFL East games were hypnotic. If you heard Madden's voice, you knew you were in on something special. You were listening and watching someone who was authentic. The first time I met Madden it was as if I'd known him for years because he made you feel like you'd been friends for that long. John Madden has had (last December 28) at the age of 85, but we all knw the truth. People lie Madden never real-

A legend who was no turkey

bly pass. They've had so much influence on our lives. These stay with us forever.

John Madden could not fly and would not fly. He based in his large, beautifully outfitted RV with its master kitchen. Traditionally the Detroit Lions play at home every Thanksgiving Day. You will not have truly lived if you've never heard John Madden handle the "color" of THAT game on THAT day.

Traditionally, Coach Madden would visit the RV's kitchen (you knew he must have received the prime RV parking space to inspect (you gasssed it) his six-legged turkey. There I watched and there I saw him inspect, admire and carefully count his turkey's six huge drumsticks. It did not make me envious or hungry.

Seriously even if pro football is not "your thing," look up John Madden and be amazed at his accomplishments and by the man himself. He was much, much more than a turkey lover!

Ray Smith is a commissioned Lay Pastoral Minister for the Diocese of Covington.

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As the basketball season winds down, I'll try to

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NOVENA TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN O, most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, Fruit of the Vine, splendorous of Heaven. Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this my necessity. O, Star of the Sea, help me and show herein you are my mother. O, Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in my necessity (make your request). There are none that can withstand your power. O, Mary pray for us who have recourse to Thee (three times). Amen.

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Newborn abandonment case prompts renewed emphasis on ‘safe haven’ efforts

Tom Tracy
Catholic News Service

In 20 years of community organizing, resulting in more than 300 cases of newborns saved from infant abandonment, Floridian Nick Silverio has never actually witnessed a criminal child abandonment in progress.

Until, that is, a group of people looking through a dumpster in New Mexico Jan. 7 discovered a newborn infant boy in Hobbs near the Texas border still alive and reportedly wrapped in a dirty blanket with its umbilical cord still attached.

Surveillance video taken outside near the dumpster and recently aired on national news led police to the arrest of a teen mother, showing the moments Alexis Avila, 18, allegedly tossed a black garbage bag into the dumpster.

Police have charged the woman, who has confessed to the crime, with attempted murder and child abuse.

Avila reportedly told police she gave birth to the boy in her parents’ bathroom earlier in the day and panicked. She allegedly stuffed the baby inside two plastic bags, one with other trash, and put it in the dumpster.

A network of volunteers, hospitals and fire departments in Florida works to save infants from the dangers of abandonment and an almost certain death, A Safe Haven For Newborns operates a 24/7 hotline that connects mothers in crisis around the U.S. with safe and legal options for placing their children in an adoptive home.

Many state laws allow mothers — or fathers — to take an unharmed newborn up to 7 days old to a designated safe haven drop-off location such as a local hospital instead of leaving them somewhere else or doing something they will later regret.

“It was horrific, it breaks your heart to see the callousness of someone abandon a life and destroy her own — her life is now over basically,” Silverio, a former information technology business owner who is the founder of A Safe Haven For Newborns near Miami, said of the New Mexico incident.

If the teen had known about a safe haven, “would she have exercised that option?” he wondered.

If she didn’t know of it, hopefully she would have sought help, he added.

“I’ve talked to different people in the last few days who’ve said, ‘That’s terrible’ and ‘What a horrible person,’” he told Catholic News Service, “but the idea is to take something negative and say, ‘How are we going to fix it?’”

Silverio points out that in his home state of Florida, where there is now a strong safe haven network of community agencies, including state law enforcement, fire and rescue personnel, and hospitals ready to step in and prevent child abandonment, there hasn’t been a single illegal child abandonment in the past two years.

Like other states, New Mexico has a safe haven law, which allows parents to leave a baby younger than 30 days at a safe location without criminal consequences.

State legislatures around the nation began to pass these laws in the early 2000s in response to reports of gruesome baby killings and abandonments, which received copious media attention.

Avila, the New Mexico mother, reportedly told detectives that she was not aware that she was pregnant until Jan. 6 when she sought medical attention for abdominal pain and the next day unexpectedly gave birth.

“It is not just teenagers, we have had (hotline) calls from women as old as 41,” said Silverio, who is a member of Christ the King Parish in Perrine, Florida, as well as the Knights of Columbus and the Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem, known as the Lazarists.

Following his wife’s death in 2000, Silverio saw a magazine article about child abandonment worldwide and discovered it was God suggesting a new purpose for the remainder of his life.

Silverio’s wife died Jan. 6 of a heart attack when he was 46 and he later was diagnosed with lung cancer.

“My wife told me to live my life to the fullest,” he said, “and in the last two years of my wife’s life, we started this organization.”

“God had a plan for me,” Silverio said. “I’ve talked to different people in the last few days who’ve said, ‘I think this is really good’”

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In keeping with his IT roots, Silverio said a Safe Haven For Newborns has a strong presence on social media where teen mothers are likely to find them.

The organization also has developed a mobile app and encourages participating high school students in Florida and elsewhere to earn community service hours doing projects related to safe haven principles and the crisis of infant abandonment.

A successful intervention means not only that a child’s life is saved, allowing the child grow to adulthood, but a parent also is saved from criminal prosecution and a lifetime of guilt, while the hopes and dreams of parents wanting to adopt also are fulfilled.

“It is a huge problem for the (New Mexico) woman, who will be charged with a serious crime and be incarcerated, and the child the same,” said Silverio. “We have to live for a lifetime with the knowledge of being thrown into a dumpster.”

“We are reaching out in every way we can but would we have reached the New Mexico mother? I don’t know,” Silverio said. “I said, ‘But we need to keep on trying.’”

“When a baby is left with a safe haven,” he added, “they grow up and discover there are mothers who loved them enough to provide a family for them.”
“The 355” (Universal) Who needs one James Bond when you can have five Jane Bonds? That’s the premise behind this entertaining thriller featuring a quintet of lady spies, directed by Simon Kinberg. Global disaster looms when mercenaries acquire a cyber weapon that destabilizes technology with a single touch. Governments from the United States to China unleash their best undercover spies to capture the device, including a CIA agent, a British MI6 operative and a German spy. They are joined by a Colombian psychologist, and tracked by a mysterious Chinese woman. Viewers may wince at the violence and high body count, but like the best of the Bond films, mindless escapism and grand entertainment are on the menu. Excessive but bloodless violence and gunplay, implied premarital intercourse and one crude word. CNS: A-III; MPAA: PG-13.

“American Underdog” (Lionsgate) Cheerful, lively biopic tracing the initial challenges and eventual rise to stardom of NFL quarterback Kurt Warner. Though he proves himself an outstanding player in college, Warner’s alma mater is too far down on the pecking order for any pro team to consider drafting him or giving him a tryout. Reduced to a minimum-wage job stocking supermarket shelves, he finds his way back onto the gridiron via arena football, overcoming personal problems and falling for a previously married former Marine corporal along the way. Screenwriter David Aaron Cohen and directing brothers Andrew and Jon Erwin touch only lightly on their protagonist’s well-publicized evangelical beliefs and merely hint at his personal problems, focusing instead on the mechanics of the game. But they avoid a preachy tone while keeping things generally wholesome. A divorce theme, allusions to cohabitation, fleeting crass language. CNS: A-II; MPAA: PG.

“The Matrix Resurrections” (Warner Bros.) As this third act sequel — set 20 years after the last installment — opens, the computer whiz protagonist of the series, once a rebel against the mental enslavement by which a race of intelligent machines kept vast numbers of humans trapped in a simulated reality of the title so that, out in the concrete world, they could harvest the energy of their contentedly comatose prey, has been lulled back into submission and into a form of amnesia. Yet, despite the best efforts of his overly solicitous psychologist to convince him that his past exploits were hallucinations, his encounters with a former comrade, a relative newcomer to the fight and his dimly remembered true love ultimately combine to rouse him to renewed insurrection. Viewers unfamiliar with the elaborate backstory get little help in navigating the franchise’s trademark combination of chases, dust-ups and labyrinthine philosophizing. While the mayhem of the struggle over which director and co-writer Lana Wachowski presides is predominantly bloodless, some is disturbing. Together with other elements, that makes this brain teaser best for grown-ups. Mostly stylized violence, some gore, partial nudity, a few uses of profanity, about a half-dozen milder oaths, a couple of rough terms, considerable crude and crass language. CNS: A-III; MPAA: R.

For full reviews of each of these films — go to catholicnews.com and click on “Extras,” then choose “Movies.” Catholic News Service (CNS) classifications are:

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Entertainment

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Movie Capsule
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Preserve Christian identity received at baptism, pope says

VATICAN CITY — Before-baptising 16 infants in the Sistine Chapel, Pope Francis reminded parents and godparents of the responsibility to care for and preserve the Christian identity of their infants. "This is your task throughout your lives: to guard the Christian identity of your children," the pope said. "It is a daily commitment: help them grow with the light they receive today." The pope baptized the seven boys and nine girls — the children of Vatican employees — in the Sistine Chapel during the celebration of Mass Jan. 9, the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. The annual tradition of baptizing infants on the feast day, which began in 1981 by St. John Paul II, was canceled last year due to the pandemic. Although the baptism resumed this year, the number of infants was significantly reduced. In January 2020, the pope had baptized 32 infants in the Sistine Chapel.

Catholic refugees from Afghanistan in ‘purgatory’ waiting for visas

WASHINGTON — Although the United States left Afghanistan at the end of August, it left behind thousands still affected by the resulting turmoil. Among them is an Afghan Catholic family of five. Their names were not disclosed to Catholic News Service for fear of harm — or worse — coming to them if their names are known. These refugees wait each day at an Afghan refugee camp in the United Arab Emirates for an interview relatives and community members" about applicants', he said.

Indian government reversal: Missionaries of Charity can get foreign funds

NEW DELHI — The Indian government has restored the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act registration of the Missionaries of Charity, clearing the decks for the globally renowned charity to receive and utilize foreign funds, reported ucanews.com. "I am delighted that the Indian government has restored our FCRA license," said Binita Kumar, spokesperson for the order founded by St. Teresa of Kolkota. The change of decision comes less than a fortnight after the federal ministry for home affairs declined to renew the order's FCRA registration, citing "adverse inputs." "We never expected that our registration could be canceled, but it happened," Kumar told ucanews.com Jan. 4, a day after the government restored the license of the charity organization. "We are happy that the restoration of our license happened without much delay." The conggregation was finding it difficult to carry forward its chair weekly sessions since news broke on Christmas Day that its application for renewal had been refused. The ministry issued a statement Dec. 23 saying the charity did not meet "eligibility conditions" under the FCRA and cited "adverse input" for its decision, without further details.

Pope appeals for peace in Kazakhstan, says prayer is not ‘magic’

VATICAN CITY — With dozens of people reported dead and thousands detained in Kazakhstan, Pope Francis prayed for the victims and for a return of peace in the former Soviet republic. "I have learned with sorrow that there have been victims during the protests that have broken out in recent days in Kazakhstan," the pope said Jan. 9 after reciting the Angelus prayer with visitors in St. Peter's Square. "I pray for them and for their families, and I hope that social harmony will be restored as soon as possible through the search for dialogue, justice and the common good." Bishop Adolfo Dell'Olio of Karaganda told Fides, the news agency of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, that because the government declared a state of emergency and banned all public gatherings until Jan. 19, public celebrations of the Mass are not allowed. But he, Auxiliary Bishop Vyygorez Zimkewyczki and Sister Alma Dzamova, who works with them, had a special Mass Jan. 10 to pray for the victims of the unrest, which began with public protests Jan. 5 over rising fuel costs. In his main talk at the Angelus, Pope Francis spoke about the baptism of Jesus, noting how the Gospel of Luke describes Jesus as praying and then the heavens open, the Holy Spirit descends upon him and a voice comes from heaven, saying, “You are my beloved son; with you I am well pleased.” Prayer, the pope said, “is not an escape route; prayer is not a magic ritual or a repetition of memorized jingles.”

Remember those affected by war, cardinal says as Ethiopia marks Christmas

NAIROBI, Kenya — As Ethiopia celebrated Christmas Jan. 7, Cardinal Berhaneyesus Souraphiel of Addis Ababa called for humility, patience and gentleness, while urging the people to remember those suffering from war. Ethiopia is celebrating the birth of Christ under the shadow of a deadly war in the northern state of Tigray. In less than 14 months, the conflict has killed thousands, displaced millions and ignited an international outcry over human rights abuses. Agencies say a huge humanitarian crisis is unfolding in the region, as food, medicine and basic needs fail to reach the people. “As we celebrate the birthday of Jesus, let us remember those who are suffering in war, those who have suffered a moral breakdown, those who have been displaced from their homes and injured, those who have lost their parents and families, by sharing in their pain and grief,” Cardinal Souraphiel said in a message. The cardinal said people needed to get away from pride, hatred and anger for the sake of peace.
A year after attack on U.S. Capitol and its officers, brokenness lingers

Rhina Guidos
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — From beginning to end, the attack lasted less than five hours, and that’s all it took to break open the rifts of the nation along with the broken windows and doors of the U.S. Capitol.

A year after thousands of supporters of former President Donald Trump stormed the seat of U.S. Congress with hammers, Tasers and axes on Jan. 6, 2021, attempting to stop the final step certifying the election of then President-elect Joe Biden, the divisions in the country couldn’t be greater.

Former congressman Jim McGovern, in a Jan. 5 opinion piece in The New York Times, wrote that any “hope that the insurrection would shock the nation into addressing the toxic polarization that threatens our democracy” has all but vanished.

“I now fear that what we have fought so hard to achieve globally — the right to free, fair elections, unshamed by strongman politicians who seek nothing more than to grow their own power — has become dangerously fragile at home,” he said, adding that “promoters of the lie that the election was stolen have taken over one political party and stoked distrust in our electoral systems. These forces exert power and influence through relentless disinformation, which continues to turn Americans against Americans.”

Among them are two different groups, each professing to follow Christianity. News reports largely have focused on those who participated in the violence, with at least one headline calling the politically charged attack a “Christian revolt.”

But Christians, including Catholics and other people of faith, were victims as well as witnesses, of that day’s violence.

Massachusetts Democratic Congressman Jim McGovern, who is Catholic, was the last lawmaker to leave the House of Representatives chamber as the mob moved in. A video shows him being escorted seconds before a rioter was fatally shot a few feet away.

“I saw these rioters, these terrorists with their fists smashing the glass to try to get at us,” he told Spectrum News on the anniversary of the attack. “If you would have asked me to describe what hate looks like, I would tell you what I saw in the eyes of those rioters.”

Other Catholics were out near the mob that day, trying to cool tempers.

One of them was Michele Dunne, a Catholic lay member of the Franciscan order, who was among the demonstrators in downtown Washington on the day of the attack. Dunne was filming what happened with a group-called DC Peace Team, “engaging in peaceful dialogue and trying to diffuse violent incidents,” she told Catholic News Service in a Jan. 4 email.

As a secular Franciscan, she is called to engage with everyone with courtesy and respect, no matter how much “we might disagree on certain issues,” she said. “But Jan. 6 seemed more about political ideologies than religious beliefs.

“It did hurt me to see some people conflating their political preferences with Christian values, for example a man carrying a handmade wooden cross that said, ‘God, Guns, and Trump,’” she said.

Some in the media, however, have become focused more on those types of signs, labeling it “Christian nationalism,” fueled by comments such as the ones made in the documentary “Four hours at the Capitol.” A man who filmed what happened said those who gathered that day did so because of Trump and used language Christians use to refer to Jesus.

“This man, he’s their savior — essentially other than, you know, our Lord Jesus Christ,” he said.

To those like Jesuit Father Bryan Massingale, whose words the Catholic social justice organization Pax Christi USA used to mark the one-year anniversary of the attack, the movement might be best described as white nationalism, not Christian nationalism. He called it “the greatest threat to peace in the country.”

“White nationalism is the existential, visceral conviction that this country, its public spaces, its history, its culture, that these belong to white people in a way that they do not and should not belong to others, that America is and was meant to be and must always remain a white Christian nation,” he said.

However, it is defined, some Catholics such as Dunne, a former career diplomat who now leads the Franciscan Action Network, organized a national interfaith vigil via Zoom Jan. 5 — the eve of the anniversary of the attack. “The problem is that’s wrong. And our democracy is, not and should not belong to ‘others’, that America is and was meant to be and must always remain a white Christian nation,” he said.

But Christians, including Catholics and other people of faith, were victims as well as witnesses, of that day’s violence.

A U.S. Capitol police officer in Washington stands watch during a prayer vigil Jan. 6, 2022, the first anniversary of the attack on the Capitol by supporters of former President Donald Trump. Captured in the vigil’s reflections it said it important to face the truth about what happened before healing can begin. That’s been hard to do, however, because some have tried to water it down, calling the attack a peaceful event. Others ignored the event altogether.

On Twitter, religious leaders such as Bishop Robert P. Deeley of Portland, Maine, remembered Jan. 6, 2021, as a “terrible moment in our nation’s history.”

“The violent assault on the U.S. Capitol in Washington frightened and damaged us. We do not expect this kind of thing to happen in America. And yet it did,” he tweeted.

President Biden addressed the nation at the beginning of the day, saying that “the Bible tells us that we shall know the truth and the truth shall make us free.”

“The truth is that there was an attack. People were injured, some died, he said, adding that Democracy was, and still is, under attack.

‘Those who stormed this Capitol and those who instigated and incited and those who called on them to do so hold a dagger at the throat of America — at American democracy,’ he said.

And while some tried to summon hope, the danger is not over, said Congressman McGovern in a tweet.

“It’s tempting to think we’ve moved on from January 6th — that it was just the sad, desperate ending act of a sad, desperate presidency,” he said on the anniversary of the attack. “There is a problem that’s wrong. And our democracy is in big trouble.”

It was sentiment backed by former Vice President Dick Cheney, a Republican, who accompanied his daughter, Wyoming Congress member Liz Cheney, to the Capitol on the anniversary of the attack to commend law enforcement and “reaffirm our dedication to the Constitution.”

Yet despite ‘determination’ at the failure of many members of my party to recognize the grave nature of the January 6 attacks and the ongoing threat to our nation,” he said, adding that “the importance of January 6th as an historic event cannot be overstated.”