

MESSENGER

Serving the Diocese of Covington, Kentucky since 1926

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Cross the Bridge for Life returns to Newport

Tom Ziegler
Staff Writer

Cross the bridge for life is a 1.57 mile walk, at your own pace, to honor and recognize the sanctity of life. This pro-life event has taken place since 2005 and was started by a coalition of local pregnancy centers and pro-life organizations to celebrate the gift of life, creating a family friendly event.

"This event was developed to celebrate the gift of life and to create an event where families can gather and help spread awareness," said Faye Roch, director, diocesan Pro-Life Office.

The idea with the original planning team was to bring together both sides of the river — Cincinnati and Covington — to unify the local community and celebrate life. Cross the Bridge for Life is more than just a walk. Before the 2 p.m. walk, which begins in Newport's Festival Park, an event with face painting, food, and more is hosted by the life coalition members.

"Our life coalition members are a lot of pregnancy care centers and ministries, they usually come with stands set up for food and to show the work they do," said Peggy Piccola, assistant director, diocesan Pro-Life Office.

Mrs. Roch encourages everyone, including members of other churches or faiths, to come and participate in the Cross the Bridge for Life.

"This is not just a Catholic event, it is an ecumenical event, and we really welcome all faiths to be a part of this. We would love for people in our diocesan community to invite people of other faiths to participate in this," Mrs. Roch said. "We all have the same goal in wanting to promote our pregnancy resource centers and life affirming agencies."

There are about 15 agencies involved in the Cross the Bridge for Life campaign — from Lawrenceburg, Indiana, to the greater Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky area.

"These agencies range from pregnancy care centers to adoption agencies, so you get a nice mixture of multiple pro-life agencies," Mrs. Piccola said.

The event is completely free to families, with free t-shirts, and food available for purchase. This is made possible by the event's sponsors. Sponsorship levels range from \$250.00 to \$5000.00.

If your organization is interested in becoming a sponsor for Cross the Bridge for Life, contact the Pro-Life Office, (859) 392-1500, for more information.



(above) Faye Roch (left), director of the diocesan Pro-Life Office stands with Peggy Piccola, assistant director of the diocesan Pro-Life Office, holding memorabilia from past walks.

ARK (Assessment of Religious Knowledge): What to know

Maura Baker
Staff Writer

Last year, the diocesan Office of Catechesis and Evangelization along with the Catholic School's Office, partnered with ARK (Assessment of Religious Knowledge) to launch the assessment for use in Catholic schools and parish religious education programs across the Diocese of Covington.

ARK is the first comprehensive assessment of Catholic religious knowledge and affinity. Produced by Catholic educators and leading testing platform developers, its goal is to hold religious education to the same technology and standard as subjects such as math or sciences. The assessment will be taken annually by diocesan students Grades 2 through 12 in the spring and while the assessment itself does not affect the grades, GPA or placement of the students who partake in the assessment, it provides valuable data on the strengths and weaknesses of religious curriculums throughout schools, parishes, and grade levels.

ARK tracks both knowledge and growth in six domains of the Catholic faith, defined by the ARK designers as: The Creed and Salvation History, Sacraments and Liturgy, Morality, Prayer, Virtue and Living Discipleship. "We will use (the data) to align the books with the curriculum," said Isaak Isaak, co-director of the diocesan Office of Catechesis and Evangelization, discussing how the text-

books distributed to students in the diocese need to be supplemented by catechism-based learning, a goal that ARK aims to achieve. The data collected from yearly ARK assessments helps develop curriculums by showing yearly improvements and highlighting areas that need more attention, to ensure the best Catholic education possible for our children.

Assessments are also offered to teachers to gauge their knowledge and expertise, as well — all contributing to the same goal of improving religious curriculums. The number one reason for the existence of our Catholic schools and parish CCD programs is to hand the knowledge and love of the faith to our children and youths, and the Diocese's partnership with ARK seeks to strengthen the successes of this goal.

Last year, the ARK assessment was administered only to students in Grades 5, 8 and 12. This year, all students Grades 2 through 12 will be asked to participate. All contracted staff and faculty, Catholic or non-Catholic, K through 12, will also be requested to take the assessment in order for the results to provide the most integrative and conducive results.

Since ARK is a new tool, the data will be compared nationally against other assessments, in order to execute plans to improve religious curriculums as soon as possible. ARK results for 2022 will be published mid-May after the national testing window closes.



'He called you by name;' First Communion and May Crowning at the Cathedral

Maura Baker
Staff Writer

On a bright morning, the first of May, a congregation gathered to the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, Ky., to celebrate dually a May Crowning, alongside the First Communion of several young communicants.

Bishop John Iffert descended into the Cathedral's nave for his homily, directly addressing the children gathered there to receive their First Communion.

"Jesus calls you by name, just like he calls Peter," said Bishop Iffert, as he reflected on the relationship between Jesus Christ and Simon Peter, a disciple and the Church's first pope.

"Notice sometimes, when people want to get our attention, they use our full name," Bishop Iffert continued, describing the scene in the Gospel of John where Jesus addressed Peter as "Simon, Son of John."

Jesus, in these verses, calls upon Simon Peter to feed and care for his sheep, and, as Bishop Iffert put it in his homily, he calls us as well—strengthened by the Eucharist to accept whatever mission Jesus has for us, and that mission will always be in some way to feed his sheep.

The homily followed with a traditional May Crowning, a custom where a crown or wreath of flowers are set upon the head of a statue of St. Mary, mother of Jesus. A fitting tradition both for the season of Spring, and the month where Mother's Day is celebrated—the tradition of May Crowning is held in different parishes throughout the month of May, both in our own diocese and worldwide. The crowning itself is usually done by school children, and Sunday's crowning at the cathedral was conducted by one of the young communicants.



Baker photos



(above) A communicant places a crown on the head of a statue of Mary.

(top right) First communicants approach the alter to receive the sacrament of Communion,

(bottom right) Bishop Iffert administers Eucharist to a communicant.

God is always present in your life — being attentive to his presence is up to you

Tom Ziegler
Staff Writer

The Examen is a prayer that has been part of the Church for a long time; it was brought together by St. Ignatius. In short, the point of the Examen is to begin a practice of awareness of God's grace in one's life.

"One thing I have noticed as a priest is that people aren't at all aware of what's going on in their spiritual life; there is not any sense of attentiveness to the things that happen. By the time God answers the prayer we've already forgotten what we asked for," said Father Conor Kunath, vocations promoter for the Diocese of Covington.

Father Kunath is inviting everyone to learn more on how to pray, reflect and become aware of God's presence in their life through his Morning of Reflections. The goal is to host a morning of reflection each month at different parishes. The next morning of reflection is scheduled for May 21, 9:30 a.m., St. Patrick Parish, Maysville.

Father Kunath compares this lack of awareness or attentiveness to the Israelites in the desert who crossed the Red Sea, who were fed manna from heaven, were given quail, and were sent the pillar of fire and the cloud of smoke to follow.

"They see all these miracles and then, somehow, they kind of forget or are just totally unaware and they build a molten calf, and you are just like how is that possible? How would you do that? And then you are like, oh, I do that literally every day when I don't pay attention to how God has taken care of me so far," Father Kunath said.

That is exactly what the Examen does; it builds faith, gratitude and love by reflecting on all of the things God is doing in a person's life. The things God does can be anything; it does not have to

Preparatory Acts

- Set aside a time and place that is conducive to a prayerful moment.
- Spend a few moments allowing the concerns of the world to drift out of your mind as you realize that you are truly in the presence of your loving Father.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your heart and mind in this time of prayer, and then pray acts of faith, hope and love to prepare your heart for the movements of grace.

A step-by-step to The Examen

you are mindful of God's grace in each moment of your day, give Him the thanks and gratitude that He deserves.

consider how you fell short of His love throughout the day. As you consider each of these moments, ask God's forgiveness for each, and for the strength and grace to do better next time.

Step 1: Gratitude

Consider how God's grace and love was present to you. As

Step 2: Petition

This step is about asking God for the grace to grow closer to Him and be transformed in His grace.

Step 3: Review

This step is searching our day for the various spiritual movements that we experienced, whether they were from the Father or the evil one, and how we responded to them.

Step 5: Renewal

This step is about looking back in order to look forward. What amendment or resolution is God pressing on your heart? Always try to be mindful of how big your commitments are, and make sure that they are achievable.

Step 6: Close

Say an Our Father or some other appropriate prayer in thanksgiving for this time of prayer with God, and then conclude.

be some profound miracle.

"I can't tell you the number of times I thank God for the gift of Chick-fil-A or chocolate milk, all of those things we experience in our daily lives, all of the good things ... those are signs of God's love for you," Father Kunath said.

These small moments, such as the enjoyment of a sunset, or in Father Kunath's case, the delicious taste of chocolate milk, are all small signs of God's love. They're not the biggest

sign of God's love, like the Eucharist or crucifixion, but are important to recognize nonetheless.

"Those are all still things that God provided to delight our hearts, because he himself is good in those things; likewise share or participate in his goodness," Father Kunath said.

Father Kunath said you can thank God for anything. "Obviously you don't want to be like the hypocrite in the synagogue, saying thank God I am not like that tax collector back there ... but beyond that, anything. I thank God for books, family, friends, sleeping in — whatever the gift is that day, whatever grace brings that day, thank him for it."

Mornings of Reflection

Father Conor Kunath will lead participants in ways of discerning God's presence in their life.

May 21, 9:30 a.m.
St. Patrick Parish, Maysville

June 18, 9:30 a.m.
St. Thomas Parish,
Ft. Thomas

No reservation required.

DPAA pledges and gifts allow options to fit preferred price and pace

Tom Ziegler
Staff Writer

The DPAA 2022 campaign continues to work towards the Diocesan goal of \$2.56 million. This money is used to fund mission and ministries of the Diocese of Covington. The DPAA raises its funds through pledges and gifts.

"Gifts can be a one-time donation, which can be paid by check or online, and can be paired with a matching gift from an employer," said Jennifer Cox, DPAA secretary.

Pledges allow interested donors the opportunity to donate their choice of payment over a selected time period.

"Pledges, also available online, provide the flexibility to donate weekly, bi-monthly, monthly, quarterly, any time frame that works for the individual," said Mrs. Cox.

Pledges can also be done through pledge forms, pledge forms are filled out and once the payment amount is decided, reminders are mailed out based on the donation time frame selected. According to the DPAA handbook, a pledge form is not a legal obligation. It is simply a statement of your intention to support DPAA ministries.

"The pledge reminders usually begin getting sent out in June, the last one being mailed in March of the follow-

ing year; all pledges need to be completed by March 31, 2023. After that it starts going into next year's campaign," Mrs. Cox said.

This difference between a gift and pledge is an opportunity for supporters of the DPAA campaign to donate a larger amount to the campaign while making it easier on their budget through smaller scheduled donations. The goal with gifts and pledges is to provide multiple ways for DPAA donations to be made at the preferred price, pace and convenience of each parishioner.

These pledges and gifts also provide the opportunity to support the parish a parishioners belong to, after their DPAA goal is met.

"Each Diocese of Covington parish has a goal to meet and once that goal is met, any money that comes in over that goal is returned to that parish in the form of a rebate," Mrs. Cox said.

The Office of Stewardship and Mission Services is grateful to the parishioners of the Diocese of Covington community for their generosity and support of the DPAA. It is through their generosity the ministries of the Diocese continue to do God's work.



With praise and thanksgiving
to the eternal Triune God,
the Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington
requests the honor of your presence
at the ordination of

A. J. Gedney

to the sacred Priesthood of Jesus Christ
through the power of the Holy Spirit
and the imposition of hands
by the Most Rev. John C. Iffert, Bishop of Covington

Friday, June 3, 6 p.m.

Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington
The celebration will be live streamed
at covcathedral.com.

First Mass of Thanksgiving
Saturday, June 4, 5 p.m.
St. Paul Parish, Florence

Eucharistic preachers seek to inspire the faithful to encounter Jesus

WASHINGTON — Priests soon will be fanning out to dioceses across the country to inspire deeper reflection on the gift of the Eucharist to the church.

The National Eucharistic Preachers are part of a new initiative under the National Eucharistic Revival being organized by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

In all, 58 priests make up the group of preachers, said Father Jorge Torres, a priest of the Diocese of Orlando, Florida, who is working as a specialist for the revival at the bishops' conference.

Representing individual dioceses and religious orders, the priests are hoping to inspire people to become better aware of the Eucharist in daily life, Father Torres said.

"They will be inviting people to pray for the revival, pray that each one of us would grow closer to Jesus and the Eucharist through the revival," he explained.

Father Torres is working on the initiative with Sister Alicia Torres, a member of the Franciscans of the Eucharist in Chicago. They are not related.

The revival is set to launch June 19, the feast of Corpus Christi. The opening will begin two years of events and activities ahead of the USCCB National Eucharistic Congress, which is planned for July 17-21, 2024, in Indianapolis. More information about the National Eucharistic Congress and how the Diocese of Covington will be participating will be featured in upcoming editions of the *Messenger*.

(Continued on page 13)



CNS photo/Bob Roller

A priest holds the Eucharist in this undated photo.

Father Raymond Enzweiler awarded at Josephinum fundraising dinner

Maura Baker
Staff Writer

The Good Shepherd Dinner is the Pontifical College Josephinum's signature fundraising event, with \$130,000 raised in support of the college this year alone. The dinner, held this year on the 25th of April, was attended by over 200 guests in support of the Josephinum, including honored guest His Excellency, The Most Rev. Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States and chancellor of the Josephinum.

Of the awards granted at the dinner, the first, known as the Pope Leo XIII award was presented to John Erwin, a parishioner of St. Paul Parish, Westerville, Oh., for his service in support of priestly vocations. Also during the dinner, Mr. Erwin was appointed a Knight of The Pontifical Equestrian Order of St. Gregory the Great by Archbishop Pierre — a knighthood of the Holy See established in 1831 by Pope Gregory XVI.

The dinner's namesake award, the Good Shepherd Award, was awarded to Father Raymond Enzweiler, resident priest of St. Thomas Parish, Ft. Thomas, Ky., and faculty of Thomas More University. Father Enzweiler was recognized for his contributions to the seminary and his dedication to Catholic higher education, having served the Josephinum as faculty from 2011–2019, and as Vice Rector and dean, 2016–2019.

Father Steven Beseau, rector and president of the Josephinum, fondly regards Father Enzweiler's service to the Josephinum and the Church, saying, "he never gave up his most important job, that of being a shepherd for



Father Raymond Enzweiler poses with Very Rev. Steven Beseau, rector and president, Pontifical College Josephinum, Columbus, April 25, after receiving the Good Shepherd Award.



Bishop's Schedule

May 6	Mass and May Crowning, Notre Dame Academy, Park Hills, 9:30 a.m.	May 12 (continued) Deans meeting, 1:30 p.m.
	"Les Misérables," Newport Central Catholic High School, Newport, 7 p.m.	May 13 Visit Diocesan Catholic Children's Home, Ft. Mitchell, 10 a.m.
May 9	Confirmation, St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Ft. Thomas, 7 p.m.	May 14 Baccalaureate and commencement, Thomas More University, Crestview Hills, 8:30 a.m.
May 10	Advisory Council meeting, 9:30 a.m.	Finance Council meeting, 1:30 p.m.
		Confirmation, Blessed Sacrament Parish, Ft. Mitchell, 7 p.m.
May 11	Young Adult Group grill out, Mother of God Parish, Covington, 6:30 p.m.	May 15 Mass, St. Benedict Parish, Covington, 10 a.m.
		May 16 Confirmation, St. Barbara Parish, Erlanger, 7 p.m.
May 12	Advisory Council meeting, 9:30 a.m.	May 17 Confirmation, Cristo Rey Parish, Florence, 7 p.m.
		Confirmation, St. Paul Parish, Florence, 7 p.m.

COMMENTARY

The Cross and Easter ... ‘love is more powerful than death’

The biblical canon of the Christian Old Testament classifies the Song of Songs (Canticle of Canticles) as wisdom literature. Both the Jewish and Christian traditions have typically understood the Song of Songs as an allegory of the covenant between God and his people. In Christian faith, God's covenant with his people comes to fullness in the spousal image of Christ and his bride — the Church.

In his inaugural encyclical, “Deus Caritas Est” (“God is Love,” 2006), Pope Benedict XVI refers to the overarching theme of that allegory of

“God’s relationship to man and man’s relationship to God.” The allegory serves as the warrant for receiving the Song of Songs into the canon of sacred Scripture. (DCE, n. 10)

For example, “The Collegeville Bible Commentary” notes that the symbolic reading, i.e., “the marriage of Yahweh to Israel or of Christ to the Church,” has dominated the interpretation of the Song of Songs. This interpretation is grounded in the prophetic imagery of “marriage” as a sign of the covenant between God and his people.

“Deus Caritas Est” also acknowledges a commonly held opinion of Scripture scholars today: “... the poems contained in this book were originally love-songs, perhaps intended for a Jewish wedding feast and meant to exalt conjugal love.” (DCE, n. 6)

Accordingly, the Song of Songs can also be understood as “an inspired portrayal of the ideal of human love.” Based on this assumption, the Song of Songs in its historical context describes a breathtaking celebration of the sacredness and wonder of human love, which will culminate in a bridal feast.

From this perspective, Chapter 8, the epilogue of the poem, sums up the canticle’s overall theme, namely, the exploration of the mysterious God-given power of love. In particular, verse 6 sets forth an incomparable description of that power of love in the face of the struggle with evil — “... For love is as strong as Death, passion as relentless as Sheol.” (Song 8:6a)

In effect, the Song declares that covenantal love is indestructible. Death and the nether world (Sheol) — personifications of the most powerful destructive forces imaginable — are not ultimate. Love cannot be destroyed “[f]or love is as strong as death.”

“The New Jerusalem Bible” adopts a specific exegesis in translating the next line of that oft-quoted verse: “The flash of it [love] is a flash of fire, a flame of Yahweh himself.” (Song 8:6b) This rendition of the text confirms a depth-dimension that is integral to human love — i.e., love opens up a window onto the infinite, the divine. In other words, the horizontal plane of love between persons intersects with a transcendent, vertical direction. It becomes an encounter with the presence and reality of God.

In this regard, “The International Bible Commentary” explains that the power of the unbreakable bond of mutual commitment in love “reaches downward to the nether world and breaks its hold; it soars upward like a flame to the transcendent experience of God who is Love.”

The biblical wisdom — “Love is as strong as death” — is echoed in a seminal insight found in the writings of Gabriel Marcel (d.1973), a Christian existentialist who had critiqued the growing depersonalized and soulless culture

of the mass society. His “The Mystery of Being” described the pull of love towards the eternal in a classic passage: “To love a being is to say, ‘Thou, thou shalt not die.’ Love in its essence seeks permanence, indestructibility, the eternal.

In a brief but masterful theological work, “He Loved Them to The End” (1993), Archbishop Bruno Forte theologically restated Marcel’s philosophical insight: “Love declares war on death.” (His later study “The Essence of Christianity” (2003) further developed an incisive theology of the Paschal Mystery.)

rection of Jesus as “Christ at the summit of the inscrutable mystery of God.” (DIM, n. 8) The resurrection of Christ becomes the revelation of “the fullness of the love that the Father has for him and, in him, for all people.” (See John 14:9 and Rom 8:32)

Faith and hope, then, focus on the risen Christ, for the cross is “the way to resurrection.” The paschal mystery proclaims: “Here is the Son of God, who in his resurrection experienced in a radical way mercy shown to himself, that is to say the love of the Father which is more powerful than death.” (DIM, n. 8)

In an early major theological work “Introduction to Christianity” (1970), Pope-Emeritus Benedict XVI explicitly stated that “faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the expression of a certainty that the saying which seems to be only a beautiful dream is in fact true: ‘Love is as strong as death’ (Song of Songs 8:6).”

Unredeemed human love left to its own devices is prone to sin and, in its finiteness, is subject to defeat. Here Pope Benedict XVI emphasized the paradox of love as a human phenomenon. While love demands “infinity, indestructibility,” this call to infinity cannot be satisfied in time. In reality, love “claims eternity but in fact is included in the world of death, in its loneliness and its power of destruction.”

The human powerlessness to respond to love’s cry for eternity places the meaning of the resurrection in proper perspective: through faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ the Christian encounters “the greater strength of love in face of death.”

“Love is as strong as death” is validated in the paschal mystery. The Christian shares in the victory of love which is grounded ultimately in the intervention of God culminating in the resurrection of Christ. The paschal mystery proclaims that good is stronger than evil, that love is stronger than death.

“Deus Caritas Est” links “a relationship between love and the Divine: love promises infinity, eternity — a reality far greater and totally other than our everyday existence.” Pope Benedict XVI synthesizes the “path of ascent and purification” entailed in the renunciation, purification, and healing of the concept of love as ‘eros’ in its tendency “to rise ‘in ecstasy’ toward the Divine.” (DCE, n. 5)

That path of ascent and purification is an essential dimension of love: “It is part of love’s growth towards higher levels and inward purification that it now seeks to become definitive, and does so in a twofold sense: both in the sense of exclusivity (this particular person alone) and in the sense of being ‘forever.’ Love embraces the whole of existence in each of its dimensions, including the dimension of time. It could hardly be otherwise, since its promise looks towards its definitive goal: love looks to the eternal.” Hence, love is “a journey, an ongoing exodus out of the closed inward-looking self toward its liberation through self-giving, and thus towards authentic self-discovery and indeed the discovery of God.” (DCE, n. 6)

“Deus Caritas Est” concludes: “His death on the Cross is the culmination of that turning of God against himself in which he gives himself in order to raise man up and save him. This is love in its most radical form.” (DCE, n. 12)

“Sacramentum Caritatis” (“The Sacrament of Charity”), Pope Benedict XVI’s 2007 Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation on the Eucharist, links this passage to the theology of the Eucharist: “In the Paschal Mystery, our deliverance from evil and death has taken place. In instituting the Eucharist, Jesus has spoken of the ‘new and eternal covenant’ in the shedding of his blood.” (SC, n. 9)

Msgr. Ketteler is director of ecumenism, episcopal liaison to the Messenger.

‘The Gospel,

radiant with the glory of Christ’s cross,
constantly invites us to rejoice.’

‘There are some Christians
whose lives seem like Lent without Easter.
I realize of course that joy
is not expressed the same way
at all times in life,
especially at moments of great difficulty.
Joy adapts and changes, but it always endures,
even as a flicker of light
born of our personal certainty that,
when everything is said and done,
we are infinitely loved.’

— Pope Francis, “Evangelii Gaudium”
("The Joy of the Gospel"): nn. 5-6.

Archbishop Forte of Chieti-Vasto, Italy, formerly a professor of dogmatic theology at the Pontifical Theological Faculty of Italy, describes love as being “radiant, expansive, the first and always new origin of all life, of very emergence from death.” Love stands as the explanation for being born and for living — “to be loved is the joy of life; not to be loved and not to know how to love is infinite sadness.”

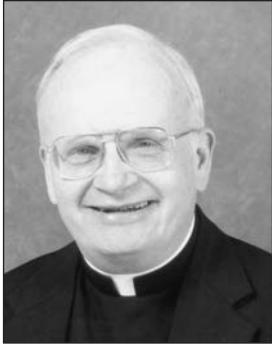
Archbishop Forte connects the Cross to Easter: “the hour of hiatus points to the hour of reconciliation, the sway of death to the triumph of life!” In words laden with kerygmatic appeal, he writes: “Death in God for the world on Good Friday becomes the world’s life in God on Easter. For it is not the death of sin but death in love; it is the death of death, which does not torment, but reconciles.”

Again, Archbishop Forte affirms the inseparable relationship of the Cross and Easter. From the point of view of Trinitarian theology, the Cross “does not proclaim the blasphemy of a death of God, which makes room for each person to live in self-sufficiency, but rather it proclaims the good news of death in God, so that each person may live the life of the immortal God ... a participation which the saving death made possible.”

Part V of “Dives in Misericordia” (“Rich in Mercy,” 1980), the second encyclical of Pope John Paul II, analyzes the theme “Love more powerful than death, more powerful than sin” in relation to the theology of the Paschal Mystery. (DIM, n. 8)

“Dives in Misericordia” identifies the death and resur-

COMMENTARY



Father Ronald Ketteler

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COMMENTARY

The Russian path not taken

I've been thinking recently about Robert Frost's poem, "The Road Not Taken," and its relationship to a deceased Russian Orthodox priest. As the Soviet Union was crumbling in 1990, two roads metaphorically diverged in a Russian wood. One was the path of national renewal

facilitated by an evangelically vibrant, intellectually open and ecumenically engaged Russian Orthodoxy; the other was the more familiar road of Russian Orthodox subservience to state power. In this instance, the "road less traveled by" was not taken. And confirming the poet's insight, that choice indeed "made all the difference."

Which brings us to Father Alexander Men. In the last decades of the USSR, Father Men became

a prominent reformist voice in Russian Orthodoxy, a spiritual adviser to Alexander Solzhenitsyn and Andrei Sakharov, and a magnet for conversions to Christ among the Russian intelligentsia. Communism, Men preached, was a "colossal historical pathology" that had "virtually destroyed" Russian culture; the damage it had done "lives on in people's souls." To help repair that damage, a post-communist Russian Church had to repent of its degrading cooperation with Soviet power. Out of that repentence, he hoped, would come a Russian Orthodoxy whose Christocentric voice would help build a renewed Russian civil society.

Men's vision of the Russian future was a threat to the state security services already plotting their takeover of post-Soviet Russia, and to Russian Orthodox leaders who had ceased to be churchmen in any real sense of the term. It seems probable that some combination of those two evil forces led to the axe-murder of Alexander Men in a wooded area near Moscow on September 9, 1990 — a crime that has never been prosecuted.

No one knows how Men's thinking would have evolved had he lived, of course. But let's imagine that Father Men, who had warned of a "new Russian fascism" days before his assassination, was still alive in early 1992 when the future Patriarch of Moscow, then Metropolitan Kirill of Smolensk, told 5,000 former Red Army officers, just weeks after the USSR disintegrated, that Russian Orthodoxy could fill the ideological and patriotic void left by the collapse of communism. Alexander Men knew something about spiritual voids, and he might have pro-

posed filling that post-communist Russian emptiness with something beautiful and spiritually enriching, rather than with the ugly nationalism promoted by Kirill and other Russian Orthodox leaders. Father Men would likely have challenged such xenophobia; and given his moral and spiritual authority, he might have made a difference. Unchallenged, Kirill's instrumentalization of the Russian Church has prevented Russian Orthodoxy's formal leadership from developing a prophetic capacity to speak truth to power. So now the Church's leaders underwrite the murder of children and the destruction of vast swaths of Ukraine.

I like to think that Father Men and those he inspired might have ignited a rebirth of Russian culture capable of resisting Putinism's allure. It was not to be. What could have been a crucial voice was silenced by an assassin's axe in those woods in 1990. And since then, Russian Orthodoxy's leadership has failed to tend the wounds that 70 years of communism inflicted. Instead, Patriarch Kirill and his chief ecumenical officer, Metropolitan Hilarion, have promoted an aggressive concept of the Russkiy mir, the "Russian world," that underwrites the new Russian imperialism. The culture of the lie that was a trademark of the Soviet past now corrupts the Putinesque Russian present. And its brutalizing effects have been on display over the past two months. The politicized faux-theology of Kirill and Hilarion, now voiced by Putin and his minions, holds that Ukraine must be part of Russia or Ukraine must be annihilated. Why? Because Russia is the only legitimate heir of the baptism of the eastern Slavs. Anyone else who claims a portion of that spiritual patrimony is a "Nazi," and those "Nazis" must be exterminated (as a state-sponsored Russian media service put it in April.) Russia's war in Ukraine is therefore a holy war.

This is repulsive (not to mention theologically bizarre.) Yet scholars of the Russian Church have noted a striking congruence between the number of Russians who claim to support Putin's war on Ukraine (80 percent) and the number of Russians who, irrespective of their religious practice or lack thereof, claim to be Orthodox (80 percent.) Would such a sordid cohabitation of ecclesiastical ambition and unhinged state power have developed if true religious leaders like Father Men had shaped the Russian Orthodox future, rather than Kirill and Hilarion?

No one knows. What we do know is that the more familiar road taken by Russian Orthodoxy's leadership has become a path to the betrayal of the Gospel.

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

Cardinal virtues in the age of technology

As a parent of young children and someone who ministers to elementary and high school-aged youth, the well-being of young people is something that I think about a lot.

Like many Catholics, I worry about the society and culture our children are growing up in. With all the technology, constant bad news and everyday pressures of growing up, there seems to be so much that is out of any caregivers' control. Sometimes, I think, we get overwhelmed and don't take advantage of the things we can control.

Anyone born in the mid-1990s and later is part of a generation that does not remember a time before the internet; they grew up with cell phones and have dealt with early and constant exposure to social media. Their experience of the world has been very different than the generations that came before them. It is difficult to keep up with everything and build a firm foundation at the

same time.

Youth and young adults, generally speaking, spend a significant amount of time on screens, specifically smart phones. They spend more time texting and on social media than engaging in in-person social activities. And a lot of time is spent playing video games, especially for boys.

What is concerning, though, is that there seems to be a correlation between excess screen time and a decline in mental health. There has been a huge rise in depression and anxiety among young people.

As Catholics, we understand that all human life has dignity, purpose and worth. It is hard for us to understand that a young person might feel that they are a failure or that their life is pointless if they don't get enough virtual "followers" and "likes" on social media, but that often is the case. With all the picture posting, their "friends" seem to have wonderful lives with so much going on, and they feel that something is dreadfully wrong because their life doesn't seem to compare. On top of that, thanks to the internet, even a home is no longer a refuge from social pressures and bullying.

Even more to the point, I think that young people struggle with their sense of identity and in finding meaning in life. This time in human history is overwhelming and confusing and can cause anyone to lose a clear focus

Is that all that's left?

The readings for the fourth Sunday of Easter — Cycle C are: Acts 13:14, 43-52; Revelations 7:9, 14b-17 and John 10:27-30.

Jesus said: "My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand."

Several years ago I had a funeral where the person was cremated. The urn was sitting on a small table with

some flowers around. I was focused on the urn during the readings and I kept looking at it and thinking, is this all that is left? After a life of hard work, struggles, earthly possessions and all that a person gains in life, is this all that is left?

It is the Easter Season and of course the story is familiar to us. Jesus dies for us and rises victorious from the grave. A reason for us all to be thankful and hopeful that the

promises Jesus has made will be for us a lifesaving remedy and entrance into eternal life.

"No one can take them out of my hand." We hear those words of Jesus in our Gospel this weekend. No one can take them from me, they are in my hand, and I give them peace.

We spend a lot of time focusing on the material possessions of this world that we fail to set our sights on the things that are eternal. Is this all that is left?

By no means. This is a beginning, a new beginning for us in heaven where all that Jesus taught will come true.

The words of the ancient prophets promised a savior that would lift us to eternal life. God remembers his promise forever and he will raise us above the cares of this earthly life to a life that never ends.

We praise and thank God, during this Easter Season, for sending his Son into the world. In the words of Jesus, "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish."

Father Gregory Bach is pastor St. Henry Parish, Elsmere, Ky.

on what's important. This is where I believe older generations (those who are 35 years-old and older) can step up and help turn some of the negative trends around.

First and foremost, we must all evaluate and improve our spiritual lives. The youth in our country struggle with faith in Jesus Christ, because those who were supposed to lead them (all of us) have not been doing our best work. We need to make sure that God is in the center of our lives, so that we can help the next generations put God in the center of their lives. We need to share our faith with compassion, and we need to pray for and with others. The Lord is the only one who can help us keep our priorities straight and find peace.

We need to lead by example. We must put technology in its place and be present to other people. Allow yourself only a limited time with technology and be conscious how you spend your time each day. Help children limit themselves as well; if you are a parent or a teacher, demand it. Schedule family time and have friends and extended family over often for quality time.

The weather is getting nicer — get outside! Take children on nature hikes, fishing, historical sites, etc. Sit on the front porch or go for walks in the evening, get to know the people in your neighborhood. Encourage youth to put themselves out there and make new friends. Volunteer and teach children the joys of serving and putting others first. These are just a few ideas.

Recent studies have shown that children are not growing up too fast, they are actually growing up too slowly. In other words, they are unprepared for adulthood. While this is a problem for all of us, it is especially a problem

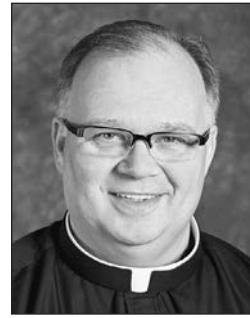
(Continued on page 13)

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE



George Weigel

GO AND GLORIFY



Father Gregory Bach

VIEWPOINT



David Cooley

Hope and joy reawaken when old and young come together, pope says

Carol Glatz

Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — If young people recognize all that they have received with gratitude and older people take the initiative of relaunching hope in young people for their future, then nothing can stop the flourishing of God's blessings among people, Pope Francis said.

Urging visitors to make sure they help bring young and older people together to talk and connect, the pope said, this is a "bridge that we have to reestablish more strongly," because it is through this connection that salvation, hope and joy flow.

The pope made his remarks April 27 during his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square, where he also asked that people "persevere in praying constantly for peace."

In his greetings to visitors after his main catechesis, the pope asked that people pray for weapons to be silenced "and may those who have the power to stop this war listen to the cry for peace of all of humanity."

The pope continued his series of talks dedicated to the meaning and value of "old age" and focused on how important it is there be an "alliance" between old and new generations, highlighting the widow Naomi and her daughter-in-law, Ruth, as an example.

The story, presented in the Book of Ruth, of "these two faithful women shows that, in God's providential plan, the covenant of love and fidelity uniting the generations can prove immensely enriching for families and for the growth of a society that respects the dignity and gifts of each of its members, however young or old," according to the summary of the pope's catechesis.

Pope Francis said Ruth's devotion helps Naomi stop being so pessimistic and even inspires her to take the initiative to help Ruth build a new future, by guiding and encouraging her.

"In some cases, the tendency of the elderly toward pessimism needs to be countered by the affectionate pressure of the young," he said.

There are all sorts of clichés and prejudices when it comes to family members, especially between a mother-in-law and daughter-in-law, he said.

Pope Francis, known for cracking jokes about mothers-in-law, said — jokes aside — it is important to recognize and honor their role as the mother of one's spouse.

"She is a mother; she is older. One of the most wonderful things about grandmothers is them seeing their grandchildren. When their children have children, they come back to life," he said.

The pope asked that families take special care in maintaining a good relationship with their in-laws, even if they sometimes act like they are "a little bit special."

The parents of one's spouse have still sacrificed a lot, he said, and families can at least try to make their in-laws happy, so they can live out the rest of their years in joy, he

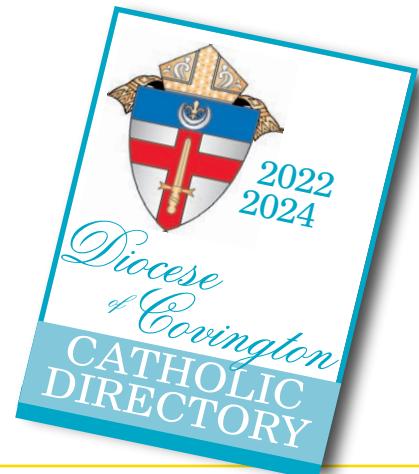
said.

"And if they have some kind of flaw, help them to correct it. And to all the mothers-in-law out there, let me say, be careful with what you say, because the tongue is one of the ugliest sins of mothers-in-law. Be careful," he said.

The pope asked that people "rediscover the Book of Ruth," especially its reflections on love and its catechesis on the family. "This short book also contains valuable teaching on the alliance of the generations: where youth

(Continued on page 16)

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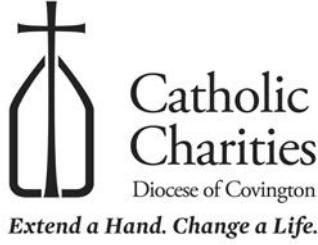
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Our Mission

Inspired by the Gospel call of Jesus Christ to serve, the mission of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Covington is to promote healing, restore hope and affirm human potential through services that empower, voices that speak for justice and partnerships that strengthen communities.

Karen Kuhlman

Contributor

When trouble finds its way to our doorstep, we can be overwhelmed by its arrival and unprepared for its impact on our lives. At those times, we seek the advice and counsel of someone we can trust in the hope of finding a way out of trouble and mitigating our suffering.

Fortunately, those who reside in the Diocese of Covington have a friend in Catholic Charities' Client Care Information and Referral Services. Callers to Catholic Charities will find valuable information about the various services available for children, adolescents, adults, couples and groups. The entirety of those services is enormous.

Anna Phillips, the client care coordinator, is just one of the helpful people callers speak with when they call Catholic Charities. Ms. Phillips is also Catholic Charities' parenting supervisor and the supervisor of the St. Joseph Apartments, overseeing case management for residents

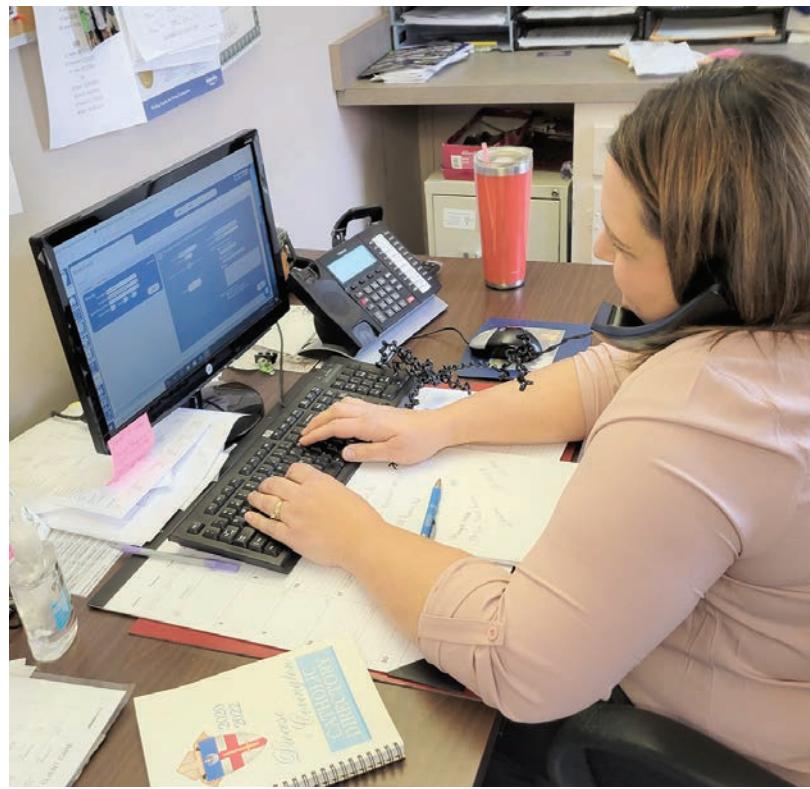
there. Ms. Phillips says "Catholic Charities takes people off the street, families with disabilities, and provides them with permanent supportive housing — and counseling services come with it. That is an advantage for our clients whereas as others may live in market housing and be referred to various agencies, while we provide all of those services in house."

Client care is a considerable undertaking and has two primary functions. Client care's first responsibility is the scheduling of all client appointments. Clients calling Catholic Charities may be seeking an appointment for home buyers' education classes, housing counseling, parenting classes, individual or couples counseling. Before scheduling an appointment, client care begins to understand the client's needs by conducting a mini-assessment to determine the history, background and issues that bring clients to Catholic Charities. That assessment helps assure that clients are connected with the correct program and counselor.

Client care's other functions address inquirers' needs through resources and referral. A third of the phone calls Catholic Charities receives are for financial assistance, often for housing-related issues. Many callers request assistance with rent or deposits; some face eviction from their homes, while others are street or shelter homeless; others are in transit with no place of their own, "couch surfing" with friends or family willing to provide a haven for a night.

Requests for food assistance or help with utility bills are com-

A refuge from life's storms



Brandy Medaugh, client care specialist and St. Joseph Apartments case manager.

mon; some callers seek help with prescriptions or money for transportation or gas. People who don't know where to turn in the community might request assistance with items such as a loved one's funeral expenses or inquire about help transporting a deceased family member from a distant location back home for burial.

Whenever requests are made for serv-

ices not provided by Catholic Charities, client care does its best to identify resources and agencies that best fit the caller's needs.

Catholic Charities keeps up with all community resources and is part of the Safety Net Alliance of Northern Kentucky. Virtually all the helping agencies and non-profits in Northern Kentucky get together each month to share resources.

"That helps us stay current and advise clients about actual funding opportunities instead of sending them on a wild goose chase, hoping for possibilities that don't exist," Ms. Phillips said.

Catholic Charities concentrates on the total person, beginning by listening to their concerns, assessing their needs, and identifying wrap-around services that will produce the greatest outcome for them. Lending a hand to individuals who seek assistance by really listening to their concerns is appreciated by those who have been treated rudely or whose concerns have been dismissed by others.

Anisha Gilreath, a client care specialist, says that this is something that is very important to her. "I want the clients with whom I speak to know that they are heard. I want them to feel validated just by being heard. I enjoy having the opportunity to give them hope through our faith. I like to offer them a little bit of hope through prayer."

To speak with the Catholic Charities Client Care Department, call (859) 581-8974.

For more information about Catholic Charities — Diocese of Covington, visit us online at covingtoncharities.org or call (859) 581-8974.

Protecting God's Children for Adults Safe Environment Trainings

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

Step 1: Contact parish/school institution leader to review the Policies and Procedures and fill out the Application and Acceptance Forms.

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

class during the registration.

Step 3: Your account becomes active when your background check, VIRTUS session and Acceptance Form are posted on your account. You will receive 12 bulletins per year. You will receive e-mail notices at system@pub.virtus.org unless your computer

program blocks them.

Bulletin:

■ May bulletin: posted Sunday, May 1; due Tuesday, June 7

If your Virtus account is inactivated please contact your primary location for assistance.

To login: www.virtus.org, enter user id and password.

VIRTUS Training

- Thursday, May 12, 6-8:30 p.m., Diocesan Curia, Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, Covington
- Sunday, May 15, 1-3 p.m., St Edward School, cafeteria, Cynthiana
- Sunday, May 22, 3-6 p.m., Cristo Rey Parish, Fr. Luis Hall, Florence, (Spanish)

Thursday, June 2, 9-11:30 a.m., Diocesan Curia, Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, Covington

- Thursday, June 2, 6-8:30 p.m., Diocesan Curia, Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, Covington

How to access Virtual training

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Note: If your **Training Tab** is missing or you cannot access your account, contact your

parish, school or institution.

For other difficulties, contact Marylu Steffen at (859) 392-1500 or msteffen@covdio.org.

Year of the Family: Newlyweds, young couples, and the importance of faith communities

Maura Baker
Staff Writer

Adam and Hannah Wessels were married in Fall 2020, between bouts of the COVID-19 virus — allowing for a fortunate and blessed wedding surrounded by loved ones in St. John's Church. "The Catholic faith is the foundation, why we got married," said Adam Wessels, in an interview with the *Messenger*, "It's the thing that drew us together. The end goal of marriage is to work with your partner to make sure they get to heaven."

The social climate of the 21st century can be difficult to navigate for young people and particularly for young couples, surrounded by a society that is, at best, indifferent, to the grace and values that strengthen the holy bond of matrimony. The challenge of building a strong foundation for family is one the Wessels, like many newlyweds, face with faith and dignity.

Adam and Hannah's solution to this problem is simple; in a world that challenges faith in family, it is important to

build and foster faith-based communities, both for the couple and for their children.

"Community is a big part in raising a family," the Wessels said, "(we) need to make sure our children know the Catholic faith is important to us." In saying this, they (the Wessels family) say also that it is key to make sure that children invest the time in faith that we do, and make sure they learn from us.

"The world is obsessed with productivity," said Hannah Wessels, "It's important to teach our children that their worth is not in what they achieve, but in that they are a child of God."

In discussing communities in faith, the Church, and specifically the family's parish, plays an important role in both building and being that community. The Wessels stress the importance of ensuring that couples with young children and babies feel welcome at church, saying, "Lots of crying may occur, make sure children don't feel bad about it."

Shame and embarrassment over the emotions of their children may discourage couples with young children from attending Mass and being active in their church communities, said Hannah.

The Wessels also suggest ways that parishes and Church communities can help foster relationships



photo: every atom photography by Jordan and Sarah Epperson

Hannah and Adam Wessels photographed for their wedding.

with young couples. Youth groups for students and teenagers have become somewhat commonplace in diocesan parishes, but Hannah proposes groups for young men and women, specifically for nursing and young mothers, who might desire a space to connect with their faith and community where they do not have to fear that their children are a distraction, interruption, or are generally unwelcome.

Following the interview, Hannah and Adam announced that their first child is due in July.



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PEOPLE AND EVENTS

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 25.

"Wholistic Feminism" with Leah A. Jacobson, founder and CEO, Guiding Star Project, May 14, 11 a.m.- 3 p.m. RSVP at Signup Genius.com, enter divinemercyoffice@gmail.com or call 261-6172. \$10 per person. St. Bernard Parish, Garvey Hall

Bishop Brossart High School men and women golf outings, A J Jolly Golf Course includes 18 holes with cart, breakfast, lunch and dinner. Ladies outing, June 16, cost \$90; call 781-4337 for reservations. Men's outing, June 17, cost \$100; call 635-4657 for reservations.

Join the Diocesan Serra Club for Vocations, June 1, 6:31 p.m., at UC Health Stadium for the Florence Y'all's. Tickets \$10 each; the Serra Club keeps \$5 for its ministry. Tickets may be purchased from Serra Club members, or online, <https://www.ticketreturn.com/> enter the code "SerraClub" in the special offer code field. Call 392-1500 or e-mail mmurray@covdio.org for information.

Young Adult Ministry Leadership Meeting: We're looking for local individuals (18+, 20's, and 30's) who are passionate about their faith and eager to engage young adults in the life of the Church, May 10, 6:30 p.m., Divine Mercy Parish, Charity Hall, Bellevue. Contact btorline@covdio.org or 392-1500.

Young Adult Ministry, "Discernment and Decision Making" with Father Conor Kunath, May 12, 7 p.m., Noll Hall, St. Joseph Church, Crescent Springs. Contact nkyyoungadults@gmail.com.

New Hope Center, Walk for Life, May 14, 9:30 a.m. registration; 10 a.m. walk. Go to givingforhope.com and register for 2022 the walk.

Candlelight Mass and Young Adult Social, May 20, Mother of God Parish, Covington, 7 p.m.

Swing Dance for Young Adults, May 28, 7 p.m., St. Bernard Parish, Dayton, Garvey Hall. A lesson will begin at 7 p.m. (so don't be afraid to come if you've never done it before!) Contact dmsb.nickolas@gmail.com.

Holy Cross District High School is hosting basketball summer camps. Girls basketball camp, June 6-9, 9-11:30 a.m., for girls entering grades 5-8; 1-3:30 p.m. for girls entering grades 1-4. Cost is \$70; register at hchscov.com/girls-basketball. Boys basketball camp, June 13-16, 9-11:30 a.m., for boys entering grades 6-9; 12:30-3 p.m., boys entering grades 2-5. Cost \$75, register at hchscov.com/boys-basketball.

Bishop Brossart High School sports summer camps: Girls basketball, June 13-16, 8:30-11:30 a.m. grades 2-9; Boys basketball, June 20-23, 8:30-11:30 a.m., grades 2-9; Girls/Boys volleyball, July 11-13, 8:30-11:30 a.m.; Youth baseball, June 7-9, 9 a.m.-noon; Girls soccer, May 31-June 2, 8:30-11a.m., grades Pre K-8; Boys soccer, July 11-13, 8:30-11a.m., grades pre-K-8. Visit bishopbrossart.org/summer-camps.

Bishop Brossart High School drama camp, presents Disney Frozen Kids. Auditions are June 9, 3:30-5:30 p.m. and June 11, 10 a.m.-noon. Camp is June 13-17, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; performance, June 18, 3 p.m. Visit bishopbrossart.org/events.



Living Passion

The students in the 7th and 8th grade class at Holy Family School, Covington, perform the stations of the cross. Pictured is the eighth station — Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem.



Jesus loves me

The Kindergarteners and First Graders of St. Patrick School, Taylor Mill, agreed on a group Lenten offering. Each Friday during Lent, they visit the Adoration Chapel to pray a decade of the rosary together. Singing "Jesus Loves Me" concludes each visit.



Visit from the Vicar of Religious

Notre Dame Sister Marla Monahan, vicar for religious, came to visit both first grade classes at St. Agnes to share with them her vocation. They learned about what she does, her favorite prayers, where she lives, and most importantly to our first graders, whether or not she likes chicken nuggets. Rest assured — she does. She even surprised each of the children with a gift — a Miraculous Medal blessed by Pope Francis.



Lights, camera, action

Junior high students at St. Henry Catholic School, Elsmere, performed "Moana, Jr." at the St. Henry District High School Drees Homes Auditorium.

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ENTERTAINMENT

"Father Stu" (Columbia) Hard-edged yet deeply moving dramatization of the life of Stuart Long. With the continuance of his somewhat successful boxing career rendered too dangerous by a medical condition, he moves to Los Angeles and tries to reinvent himself as a Hollywood star, winding up instead as a directionless supermarket clerk. But things begin to turn around for him when he falls at first sight for a devout CCD teacher. To please her, he goes through the motions of becoming Catholic, his conversion only becoming real after a near-death experience that also sets him on an unlikely path toward the priesthood.

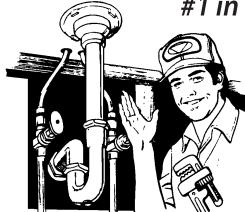
much to the consternation of his emotionally abusive father and caring but unbelieving mother. A tribute to a future cleric who showed dogged determination and grit in the face of a series of seemingly insurmountable obstacles, writer-director Rosalind Ross' profile also showcases his unconventional but effective approach to preaching the Gospel. Grown viewers will easily get past the earthy language with which the script is filled to appreciate the film's faith-inspiring core. But the persistent vulgarity, while justified in context, may prove more problematic for younger movie fans who might otherwise benefit from this portrait of a vocation. Some physical violence, a bloody accident, off-screen premarital sexual activity, about a half-dozen uses of profanity, several milder oaths, pervasive rough and crude 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:

- A-I — general patronage;
- A-II — adults and adolescents;
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SHOPPER'S GUIDE**Obituary****Notre Dame Sister Mary Dolores Giblin**

Dolores was born to George and Lucy (Brigger) Giblin, their third and youngest child. Dolores had an older brother, Paul, and an older sister, Rita, along with a half-brother, Richard. Most of her childhood was spent in Carthage, a neighborhood of Cincinnati, Ohio. Here she first met the Sisters of Notre Dame at St. Charles School and experienced an early attraction to religious life.

After two years at Our Lady of Angels High School, Dolores entered the Notre Dame Aspirant School and transferred to Notre Dame Academy, Covington, Ky. She entered the community on Feb. 2, 1955, and made her profession of vows on Aug. 17, 1957.

She received her Bachelor of Arts at Edgecliff College in Cincinnati, and her Master of Education at Northern Kentucky University.

Sister Padraic, as she was called then, spent 10 years teaching elementary grades and four years at Bishop Brossart High School in Alexandria, Ky.; however, most of her professional life was at Notre Dame Academy, 30 years as instructor of art, history and social studies, and a decade as archivist. In pursuit of academic and spiritu-



Sister Mary Dolores Giblin, S.N.D.

al growth, she traveled to Russia, India, and El Salvador.

In 1990, she returned to her baptismal name, Sister Dolores. Outside the classroom she was engaged in significant outreach activities. She co-chaired the Ladies' Retreat Team at St. Joseph Heights. She also participated in the jail ministry called Exodus. She was known for starting support groups for families of the incarcerated. Furthermore, she worked in the NDA alumnae office, and wrote an interesting blog for the alumnae newsletter.

Sister Dolores described herself as grateful, earnest and humorous. Her sisters would affirm those traits, emphasizing the humor and adding a flare for dramatics. Her quips and recitations would have the sisters in stitches. In addition, companions knew her to be deeply prayerful and very devoted to God.

As her health deteriorated, Sister Mary Dolores moved to St. Joseph Heights in 2018, soon transferring to the health care unit. She went home to God very peacefully on April 23, 2022. She was preceded in death by her parents and siblings. She is survived by her beloved nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated April 27 in the convent chapel, with interment in the convent cemetery.

Memorials are requested to The Sisters of Notre Dame, Covington, Kentucky.

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Mental Health Counselor is a master's level position in our Mental Health Program. Includes general counseling services to individuals and families. Must be independently licensed or pursuing independent licensing.

Additional details about each of the above opportunities can be found on our website at

<https://www.covingtoncharities.org/news-events/job-opportunities>.

Please contact Shannon Braun directly at sbraun@covingtoncharities.org if you would like to learn more about any of these opportunities.

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Interested candidates may submit a letter of interest and resume to Fr. Ryan Stenger by emailing rstenger@covdio.org

ADVERTISING SALES

The **Messenger**, the Diocese of Covington's official newspaper, seeks a full-time advertising salesperson beginning in May. The successful candidate will be a practicing Roman Catholic and an excellent representative of the newspaper and the diocese. The candidate will be ready to embrace the mission of the diocesan newspaper, has some previous sales experience, works well as a team member, is attentive to detail, and energetic in serving existing customers as well as expanding sales to new customers. The salary is commission-based, with medical and retirement benefits provided by the diocese.

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CAFETERIA OPENING

The Diocese of Covington has positions open for cafeteria managers. Full-time with hours Monday - Friday during the school year. Candidates interested in the position may contact Diocesan School Food Service Director Jackie Kaiser at jkaiser@covdio.org, or call 859-392-1536.

MAINTENANCE/CUSTODIAN POSITION

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Cardinal virtues

(Continued from page 5)

for youth. Not being properly prepared or ready causes stress, anxiety, and depression.

It is our responsibility to make sure that our young people are properly prepared for what is coming their way. While children need to be safe, it seems that we are often overprotecting them and underpreparing them for life. Perhaps we are not respecting them enough to challenge them. We are underestimating them and their abilities to work hard and grow through discipline and self-sacrifice. They need to be given age-appropriate independence and responsibilities.

All of us must rely on the wisdom of the ages and turn our focus back to the cardinal virtues of prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance, even in an age when technology wants to take everything over.

David Cooley is co-director and office manager of the Office of Catechesis and Evangelization, Diocese of Covington, Ky.

Eucharistic preachers seek to inspire

Obituary



Benedictine Sister Mary David Ruschmann died peacefully April 19, at St. Walburg Monastery at age 95.

A Benedictine sister for over 75 years, Sister David served as a nurse and nurse anesthetist at Santa Fe Hospital, La Junta, Colo. and St. Joseph Hospital, Florence, Colo., Director of Nursing at Madonna Manor, Villa Hills, Ky; Director of Nursing and Anesthesia at Estill Co/Marcum and Wallace Hospital, Irvine, Ky.; nurse anesthetist at Clark Regional Medical Center, Winchester, Ky.; outreach service to



Sister Mary David Ruschmann, O.S.B.

the poor at St. Elizabeth Church, Ravenna, Ky., and many supportive services at St. Walburg Monastery.

She is preceded in death by her parents Joseph and Clara Motz Ruschmann, her sisters, Divine Providence Sister Clara, Benedictine Sister Joseph, Freda Schmitz, Benedictine Sister Agnes, Bernadette Cunningham, Theresa Humpert, Agnes Rumker and brothers, Joseph and William.

Sister David is survived by her sister, Rita Keener, many nieces, nephews, friends and her Benedictine community.

Mass of Christian Burial was held April 27 at St. Walburg Monastery. Memorials are suggested to St. Walburg Monastery, 2500 Amsterdam Rd., Villa Hills, KY 41017; www.stwalburg.org.

YOUTH DIRECTOR

St. Timothy Parish in Union, KY is a vibrant, growing parish. Our mission as a Catholic community is to be committed to the call of Jesus Christ. We are His disciples, and we join in the Holy Spirit's work to make life holy. With grateful hearts, we come together in worship, service, faith formation, and community to share and celebrate God's many gifts. We are seeking a part-time youth minister to oversee ministry to 6th through 12th grade students that will help them take steps toward deeper maturity in Christ. Candidates for this position will be passionate about and equipped for building a youth ministry that fulfills the parish mission and values for the youth of our community along with a team of parish volunteers. Interested candidates should send a resume and salary requirements to Annette Howard (ahoward@saint-timothy.org) or call (859) 466-4515.

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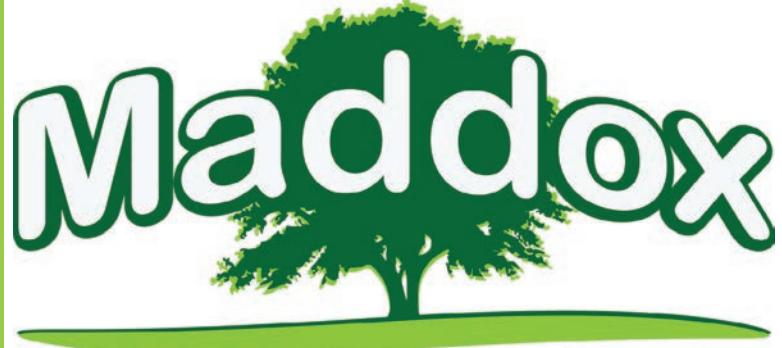
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NEWS BRIEFS

National/World**Like Mary, take risks to build better world, pope tells young people**

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis encouraged young men and women to look to Mary as a model of courage in listening and fulfilling God's will. "She was courageous and determined to say 'yes' to the Lord. You young people, who want to build something new, a better world, follow her example, take risks," the pope said. In a video message released by the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network May 3, the pope offered his prayer intention for the month of May, which he dedicated to young people. At the start of each month, the network posts a short video of the pope offering his specific prayer intention. In his video message, the pope said Mary was the model "with whom young people can identify with" because of her "courage, the way she knew how to listen and her dedication to service." He also reminded young people that in order to follow Mary, they must discern what "Jesus wants from you, not what you might think you can do." For this reason, when discerning God's will in their lives, young men and women can find help in listening "to the words of their grandparents," the pope said.

Canadian panel urges not hiring military chaplains of certain religions

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — An advisory panel to the Canadian Department of National Defence wants to rid the Canadian Armed Forces of military chaplains whose religious faiths do not openly promote diversity. The advisory panel on systemic racism and discrimination made more than 40 recommendations, among them to consider not hiring "chaplaincy applicants affiliated with religious groups whose values are not aligned with those of the Defence Team." As examples of such values in its April 25 report, the advisory panel cites "some churches' exclusion of women from their priesthoods" and "sexist notions embedded in their religious dogmas." Bishop Scott McCaig, the Catholic military ordinary for Canada, called the section on redefining the chaplaincy "deeply problematic and regrettable." In a six-page response prepared for chaplains and members of the archdiocese for Catholics who serve in the Canadian Armed Forces, Bishop McCaig stressed that all chaplains are committed to "inclusive,

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nonjudgmental and universal care of service members, regardless of their religious or ethical convictions. Many of the pejorative remarks would appear to be directed to Catholics, as well as some other Christians, and amounted to mere caricatures of what we actually profess," he wrote. He said the advisory panel's report was full of "errors and oversimplifications."

Pope tells Russian patriarch they are not 'clerics of the state'

VATICAN CITY — Warning that the Russian Orthodox patriarch should not "turn himself into Putin's altar boy," Pope Francis also said he would like to go to Moscow to meet Vladimir Putin in an attempt to end the conflict in Ukraine. The pope reiterated that he would not be going to Kyiv "for now," but "I first must go to Moscow, I must first meet Putin," he said in an interview with the Italian newspaper, Corriere della Sera, published May 3. Vatican News also published most of the interview. Pope Francis said he sent a message through Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, "20 days after the war" started, to be delivered to Putin telling him, "I was ready to go to Moscow." "We still have not had a response, and we are still being persistent, even though I am afraid Putin may not be able to and may not want to have this meeting right now," the pope said. "I am doing what I can. If Putin were to open the door ..." "But so much brutality, how do you not try to stop it? We saw the same thing with Rwanda," he said, referring to the genocide against members of the Tutsi minority ethnic group in 1994, when at least 500,000 people were killed in about 100 days.

Zelenskyy refers to Mother Teresa in address to Albanian legislators

LVIV, Ukraine — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy thanked Albanians for supporting Ukraine in the war with Russia and compared their help to the actions of St. Teresa of Kolkata. Addressing Albania's Parliament May 3, Zelenskyy said Mother Teresa, as the saint is known, "taught people that good daily efforts can defeat evil and bring them closer to the holiness that people will remember from generation to generation. I am grateful to you for not hesitating who to support in this struggle," he said. "You are definitely on the side of freedom and truth. Thank you for concrete steps for Ukraine. For defense assistance. For supporting sanctions on Russia. For taking care of our people and hosting our children." Mother Teresa was born in Skopje, now the capital of North Macedonia, to devout Albanian Catholic parents. Since Russia invaded Ukraine Feb. 24, Zelenskyy has conducted virtual addresses with legislators of many countries and, each time, he ties in some part of their history or daily lives. In his address to the U.S. Congress, he recalled the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor and the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Speaking to Canadian legislators and government leaders, he asked them to imagine what they would tell their children if cruise missiles were falling on the airport in Ottawa, Ontario. He invoked the

memory of Winston Churchill with British legislators.

Ordination survey finds dropping percentages of new white U.S. priests

WASHINGTON — The annual report of new priests commissioned by the U.S. bishops shows that among those who responded, a shrinking number are white, a sign of the "little-C" catholic nature of the Catholic Church. Among ordinands — the term used for seminarians slated for ordination this year — the percentage who are white is 63 percent. Last year, the percentage who were white was 65 percent, and in 2020, 67 percent of ordinands were white. In religious orders, new white priests are at a plurality of 49 percent. This was just one of the findings of the study "The Class of 2022: Survey of Ordinands to the Priesthood," conducted for the bishops by Georgetown University's Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, released May 2. As calls come from many corners for the U.S. government to cut student debt, the survey revealed that 58 percent completed an undergraduate degree or a graduate degree before entering the seminary. But they also brought significant student debt with them as they entered the seminary. That debt, on average, was \$29,550, CARA said. "Between entering seminary and ordination, the average amount of debt carried by responding ordinands in religious institutes decreased by 53 percent and the average amount of debt carried by responding diocesan ordinands decreased by 4 percent since entering the seminary," CARA reported. "Those who had educational debt were not delayed entrance by that debt with the exception of four respondents who were delayed between one and two years."

Church workers: Catholics must stand with victims in mining conflicts

LIMA, Peru — Amid conflicts between mining companies and communities in Latin America, Catholics must stand with people whose lives and livelihoods are threatened by pollution and human rights violations, church workers said. Communities affected by mining — and church people working with them — draw strength from spiritualities that center on protecting what Pope Francis calls "our common home," according to members of the Churches and Mining Network, who met here April 24-28. The gathering brought together 40 people from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala and Peru, as well as France, Germany and Switzerland. When Latin American countries locked down during the coronavirus pandemic, mines in many countries continued to operate, often exacerbating conflicts with local communities, network members said at a public presentation April 27. And both the war in Ukraine and the demand for minerals for new energy technologies, like solar and wind, are likely to increase pressure for mining in the future, leading to greater tensions with communities, said Father Dario Bossi, provincial of the Comboni Missionaries in Brazil and a coordinator of the network.

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Cardinal virtues

(Continued from page 5)

shows itself to be capable of restoring enthusiasm to mature age, and old age discovers it is capable of reopening the future to wounded youth."

"If the young open themselves to gratitude for what they have received and the elderly take the initiative of relaunching their future, nothing can stop the flourishing of God's blessings among peoples!" he said.

When greeting Polish pilgrims, Pope Francis recalled that April 27 marked the eighth anniversary of the canonization of St. John Paul II. "We pray for his intercession so that we might be faithful witnesses to Christ and his merciful love in the world, our families and places of work."

He apologized for needing to sit during the meet-and-greet portion at the end of the audience.

"This knee just will not get better, and I can't be on my feet too long," he said.

Reporting previously that he has a strained ligament and swelling of the knee, the pope was having even more difficulty than usual walking from the popemobile to his chair at the audience. He has had to cancel a number of scheduled meetings and appointments due to his doctor's insistence he rest.



CNS photo/Vatican Media

(above) Pope Francis greets a girl while meeting with a group of Ukrainians after his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican April 27, 2022. She was one of 11 orphaned children who escaped Ukraine and found assistance in early March from an Italian Catholic organization.

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