



Special Section:
 Graduates
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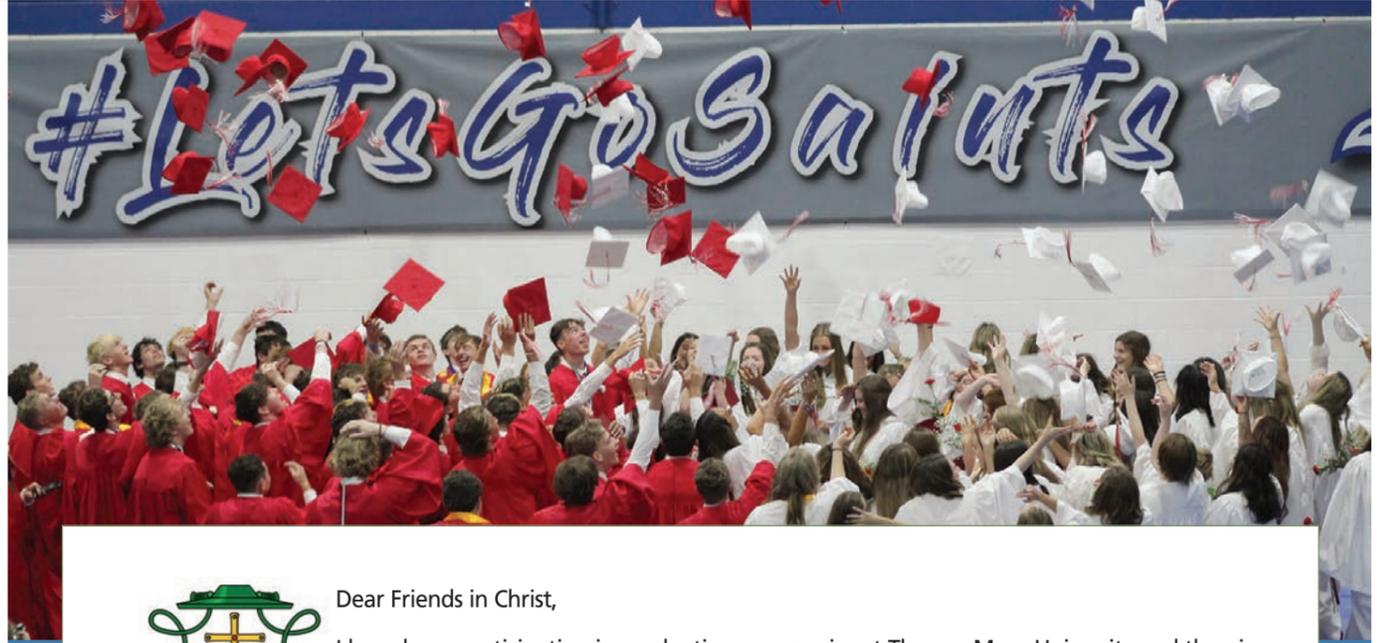
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With this issue the *Messenger* begins its summer publication schedule. The next *Messenger* will be dated June 17, followed by issues July 1, July 15, July 29 and Aug. 12. With that issue the *Messenger* will resume its weekly schedule through Dec. 16. May you and your family have a safe, enjoyable and blessed summer!
 — The *Messenger* staff

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Missed an edition? Current and back issues of the *Messenger* are available online at covdio.org/messenger.



Dear Friends in Christ,

I have been participating in graduation ceremonies at Thomas More University and the nine Catholic high schools in the Diocese. I have enjoyed these events very much. It is fascinating to learn about the traditions and the character of our schools. Caps and gowns, tuxedos and formal dresses, prayers and addresses, greetings and introductions, mottos and school songs, all communicate the particular and unique way each school embraces the mission to teach our young people and form them in faith.

Congratulations to the graduated Class of 2022! Be a blessing and a gift to all you meet as you go forward.

Congratulations to the parents and families of these graduates. Thank you for your support of them, of Catholic education and of our Catholic Church.

Finally, thank you to the faculty and staff of all our Catholic schools. May God bless you and continue to bless our efforts to form our young people in the faith of Jesus Christ!

I was asked to make remarks at each of these graduations. During my first year, I encouraged our graduates to pursue the virtues of humility and meekness. I wanted them to know that these old-fashioned virtues are not about losing or negating one's true self, but about discovering our nature, our giftedness and the source of our strength.

In "Mere Christianity," C.S. Lewis writes about the humble person. "Do not imagine that if you meet a really humble man he will be what most people call 'humble' nowadays: he will not be a sort of greasy, smarmy person, who is always telling you that, of course, he is nobody. Probably all you will think about him is that he seemed a cheerful, intelligent chap who took a real interest in what you said to him. If you do dislike him it will be because you feel a little envious of anyone who seems to enjoy life so easily. He will not be thinking about humility: he will not be thinking about himself at all."

Pope Francis teaches that "humility is the only way that leads us to God" (Catechesis, Dec 22, 2021). He goes on to say, "Humility alone opens us up to the experience of truth, of authentic joy, of knowing what matters. Without humility we are 'cut off', we are cut off from understanding God and from understanding ourselves. Humility is needed to understand ourselves, all the more so to understand God." Poverty, the Pope says, is the great teacher of humility. Prayer, self-emptying, service, sacrifice, and charity are ways to seek humility.

Like humility, meekness is the opposite of weakness or smarminess. Meekness is a virtue of balance. It allows a person to overcome instinctive responses and to maintain one's highest and most human abilities. It is a guardian against every kind of anger, rage, and violent impulse. It works against the tide of vice.

The meek person is affable, mild-mannered, and gentle with others. The meek know how to bear wrongs patiently. They maintain respect for others and even have the strength to forgive. They have the courage to proclaim the Gospel boldly, but always with gentleness, reverence, and charity.

Jesus gives us the beatitude of meekness: "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land" (Matt 5:5). I pray that our young graduates will find the virtuous path to "the experience of truth, of authentic joy and of knowing what matters." May it fill them with every confidence for being and doing good. May that legacy be the inheritance for our land and our people. May they be a grace for our world.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop John Iffert

‘God calls us to happiness’ and Bishop found it in the priesthood

Laura Keener
Editor

As Bishop John Iffert’s 25th jubilee as a priest approaches, the *Messenger* sat down with him to learn more about his vocation story, his understanding of the priesthood and what wisdom he has learned about people.

After graduating from Illinois State University in 1988 and earning a Bachelor’s degree in political science, he accepted a fellowship with the State of Illinois and worked for four years as an analyst in Illinois’ Bureau of the Budget. In August 1992 he entered Mundelein Seminary discerning a vocation to the priesthood for the Diocese of Belleville.

His decision to enter seminary was one that had been developing over time. As a young person, during a retreat, Bishop Iffert said he had a “strong conversion moment,” which spurred him to become more active and involved in his parish.

He was a reader and server at Sunday Mass at his childhood parish, Sacred Heart Parish, DuQuoin, Ill. As a young adult, he was a catechist preparing young Catholics for the sacrament of Confirmation at St. Joseph Parish, Springfield, Ill. Through small encounters with others — listening to their life stories, their joys and sorrows and through small acts of kindness, like carrying an elderly woman’s groceries — Bishop Iffert came to “a moment when I just realized I want to do a lot more of that and a lot less of what I had been doing professionally,” he said. “There was no big dramatic moment for me ... it was a quiet little moment.”

When it came time to talk to his dad about his decision to enter seminary, Bishop Iffert remembers two hesitations: “I wasn’t at all certain when I entered seminary ... it was something I thought maybe I’m having this call and I’m open to seeing if there’s something there,” but wasn’t sure if he would complete seminary and didn’t want to let down or embarrass his family.

“I was afraid my dad would be disappointed that he wasn’t going to have grandchildren with his own last name,” to which his dad replied, “Don’t be stupid, I have grandchildren, it doesn’t matter what their names are.”

His dad’s response to his doubts about his vocation still impresses him. Mr. Iffert explained that the last time he had checked the tax filing, over 30,000 occupations were listed. “If a guy was kind of clever and could do pretty much whatever he set his mind to, he said, how would you ever decide from 30,000 things which one of them you were

going to do?,” Bishop Iffert said his dad told him. “And then he said, ‘John, if you become a priest, we’re going to be proud of you. If you go there and you spend one night in the seminary and you decide it’s not for you, we’re going to be proud of you. We’re proud to have a son who would even think about this.’ That just really helped take away a lot of the stress,” Bishop Iffert said.

Bishop Iffert earned a Bachelor of Sacred Theology and Master of Divinity degrees from Mundelein Seminary and on June 7, 1997, Cardinal Wilton Gregory (then Bishop of Belleville) ordained Bishop Iffert a priest for the Diocese of Belleville.

His first parish assignment was as parochial vicar at the Cathedral of St. Peter, Belleville, (1997-2000). He has been pastor of several Illinois parishes: Immaculate Conception Parish, Columbia (2000-20003); St. Mary the Immaculate Conception Parish, Mt. Vernon (2008-2021); St. Barbara Parish, Scheller (2016-2021); and St. Stephen Parish, Caseyville (Jan. 2021-July 2021).

During his priesthood, Bishop Iffert has served on many boards and councils. For 10 years (2010-2020) he served as vicar forane of first the East and then the North Central Vicariates in Belleville and as co-vicar for priests. He has served the Diocese of Belleville as a member of the College of Consultors, the Presbyteral Council, the Priest Personnel Board, the Diocesan Finance Council, the Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal Board, and the Board of Directors of Camp Ondessonk.

In Oct. 2020, Bishop Michael McGovern appointed him vicar general and moderator of the Curia for Belleville. In July 2021, Pope Francis appointed him Bishop of Covington; he was consecrated and installed Sept. 30, 2021

at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption.

“Of course, one of the highlights (of my priesthood) was coming here; coming to Covington as your bishop is a huge grace and a huge gift, and so that, of course, stands out in an incredible way,” Bishop Iffert said when asked about any moments that stand out.

Also as bishop, Bishop Iffert believes he has come to a greater understanding of what it means to be a “spiritual father” to his priests and people. “Whenever I hear someone speaking well of our priests ... I love it when I hear people brag on their priests ... there’s just something inside of me where I just feel so happy and proud for that priest and for the Church ... that’s a marvelous thing,” he said.

But mostly what really touches his heart and stands out are the very type of moments that brought him to the priestly vocation in the first place — small encounters with others, listening to their life stories, their joys and sorrows and accompanying people on their faith journey.

“I’d say the things that affect me most deeply are those extraordinary moments of healing and conversion. When you get to walk with someone through something and you see them

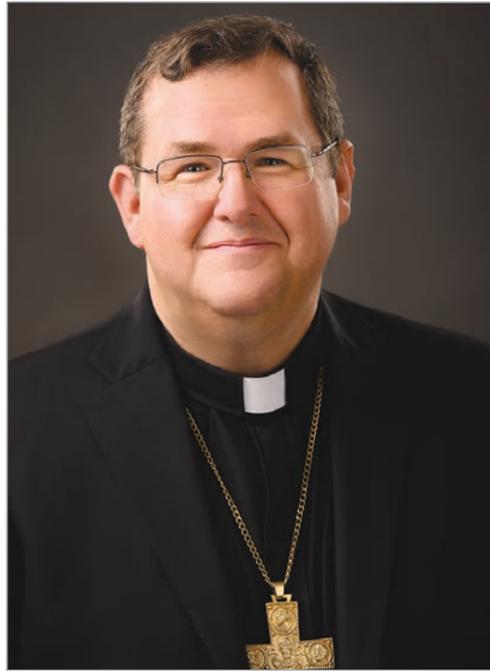
come out the other side stronger, kinder, more loving, more whole, understanding the limitations of themselves and the people around them. That’s amazing,” Bishop Iffert said.

During his 25 years as a pastor Bishop Iffert has “come to believe that in every community, there’s a local genius ... every person has an intelligence that I don’t have, has a giftedness that I don’t have, has an experience that I don’t have. And if I can remain kind and curious and approach that with the respect for the sacred that is in them ... if we can journey together and I can learn something from their intelligence, from their genius; in other words in every Christian is the Holy Spirit and in every person are traces of God’s creation that are helpful and unique — I just love that; I love encountering that.”

Bishop Iffert said that his thoughts on the priesthood has also evolved over time. “Early on, I thought priesthood was much more about me and what I could do for the community. Now I see it much more about the life of the Church. I see priesthood as a vocation that is in the context of the Church. It is a vocation of leadership, but it’s leadership in the context of the Body of Christ ... I can’t separate my understanding of priesthood from my understanding of what it means to be Church and with the dignity of all the baptized, all of God’s children ... There’s much more of a sense of connectedness and leading from the middle, from in the midst of the life of the people, leading from there. It’s much easier to be happier that way.”

And one thing that Bishop Iffert said he is “convinced” of is, “God calls us to happiness.”

Bishop Iffert invites young men and young women to really think about what is making them happy, to discern whether or not God is calling them to the priesthood or religious life. “If you can be happy in your life serving others, serving God, being in prayer and that relationship with God and inviting others to that. If you’re that person who could be happy with that, I would consider that a call to the priesthood and religious life,” he said.



Bishop John Iffert



Feast of Corpus Christi

In recognition of
the Feast of Corpus Christi and to kick-off
the National Eucharistic Revival
in the Diocese of Covington

**Bishop John Iffert
will lead
a Eucharistic Procession**

Sunday, 19 June, 2 p.m.

at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption,
Covington

All are welcome and
encouraged to attend.



**Bishop John Iffert will celebrate Vespers
Sunday, Sept. 25, 3 p.m.,
at the Cathedral Basilica of the
Assumption, Covington, to honor couples
celebrating
significant Wedding Anniversaries in 2022.**

Married couples celebrating their 1st, 25th,
50th, or 60+ Wedding Anniversary in 2022
are invited to the vespers celebration.

Anniversary couples RSVP by July 20 by
scanning the QR code or visiting
covidio.org/wedding-vespers/ or contacting
Lisa Taylor at (859) 392-1533.

Reservations are only required for
anniversary couples; family members and
guests are welcome to attend.

EdChoice Kentucky seeks to establish scholarship accounts for low income families attending Catholic schools

Maura Baker
Staff Writer

EdChoice Kentucky, a nonprofit and member of the Catholic Conference focused on ensuring accessibility to private education as a choice for low income families, released, May 13, an online interactive map meant to illustrate the private schools in the state of Kentucky, and particularly the ones that would accept Education Opportunity Account (EOA) scholarships.

With over 80 schools presented on the map, many of the Diocese of Covington's primary and secondary schools are represented as well, having indicated that they would be interested in accepting students' financial aid granted via the program.

"The program encourages charitable donations to nonprofit organizations that provide financial assistance to families in Kentucky," explained Andrew Vandiver, president of EdChoice Kentucky, as he described the function of the EOA scholarships. These scholarships would allow for the pursuit of private — and, thus, Catholic, education to be a more feasible option for lower income families financially.

"A family of four making \$85,000 a year would be the top limit for income based on 2022 numbers," said Mr. Vandiver, describing program eligibility.



According to Mr. Vandiver, the EOA program is currently on hold. "There was a legal challenge by a group of public schools," explained Mr. Vandiver, "The state had already put a process in place for the nonprofit to be approved. For folks to donate to those organizations ... A trial court case came down, ruling that the program was unconstitutional. We've appealed that ruling, and the Kentucky Supreme Court has taken up the case."

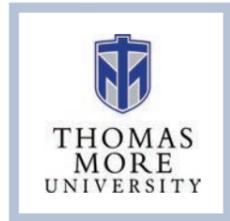
While 32 states have already passed rulings allowing for the function of similar EdChoice programs, restrictive budget and spending with regards to schools in Kentucky caused concern to certain benefactors of public education. While the EOA scholarship program is funded entirely by private donors, opposition to the program argues that the tax breaks granted to these donors would unconstitutionally take away valuable funds to private schools from the state education budget.

While the ruling is still undecided, Mr. Vandiver encourages those interested in keeping up to date with the program's involvement by signing up for their e-mail list, which they will be using to "send out updates throughout the year with regards to the lawsuit and information on eligibility," Mr. Vandiver said.

More information on EdChoice Kentucky and their mailing list can be found online at <https://www.educateky.com>.

Thomas More University celebrates graduation in-person for first time in two years

Maura Baker
Staff Writer



Thomas More University celebrated its first in-person commencement ceremony since 2019, May 14, 2022, with the families and friends of over 300 students gathering in the university's Connor Convocation Center to celebrate this incredible achievement.

"This community is proud of you and excited for the future you are going to pave with your new, well-earned

degree," said Thomas More University President Joseph L. Chillo as he addressed the gathered graduates, "You have made an impact on this campus, and now you are equipped to make an impact in our community and world."

Three hundred forty-four students received 350 degrees at two ceremonies that honored the achievements of the entire class of 2022. Degrees were conferred upon 292 undergraduate and 52 graduate students, with 117 undergraduate students being the first in their family to achieve this goal. *See list of graduates on page 14.*

Baker photo



Thomas More graduates gather for commencement speeches and remarks before receiving their diplomas.

Official assignments

Effective July 5, 2022

Rev. Alexander J. "A.J." Gedney

To: Parochial vicar, Holy Cross Parish, Latonia
From: Seminary studies, St. Vincent Seminary, Latrobe, Penn.
To: Chaplain, Newport Central Catholic High School
Term: One year

Rev. Kevin J. Kahmann

To: Pastoral administrator, St. Henry District High School, Erlanger
Continues other duties

Rev. Jason M. Bertke

To: Chaplain, St. Henry District High School, Erlanger
Term: One year
Continues other duties

Rev. Michael A. Black

To: Chaplain, St. Patrick High School, Maysville
Term: One year
Continues other duties

Rev. Edward J. Brodnick

To: Chaplain, Bishop Brossart High School, Alexandria
Term: One year
Continues other duties

Rev. Michael C. Hennigen

To: Chaplain, Covington Catholic High School, Park Hills
Term: One year
Continues other duties

Rev. Baiju Kidaagen, V.C.

To: Chaplain, Villa Madonna Academy, Villa Hills
Term: One year
Continues other duties

Rev. Conor Kunath

To: Chaplain, Notre Dame Academy, Park Hills
Term: One year
Continues other duties

Rev. Thomas P. Robbins

To: Chaplain, Holy Cross District High School, Latonia
Term: One year
Continues retirement

Rev. Jeffrey D. Von Lehmen

To: Chaplain, Holy Cross District High School, Latonia
Term: One year
Continues other duties

By order of

the Most Rev. John C. Iffert
Bishop of the Diocese of Covington

Jamie N. Schroeder
Jamie N. Schroeder,
Chancellor



Bishop's Schedule

June 4

First Mass, Rev. A.J. Gedney, St. Paul Church, Florence, 5 p.m.

June 5

Mass and adult confirmation, Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, 10 a.m.
Cross the Bridge for Life, 1-3 p.m.

June 7

Advisory Council meeting, 9:30 a.m.
Vespers and Priest Jubilee dinner, Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption/BHMA, 4:30 p.m.

June 9

Directors meeting, 9:30 a.m.
Partners in Hope for the Poor banquet, Receptions, Erlanger, 6 p.m.

June 13-17

USCCB meeting

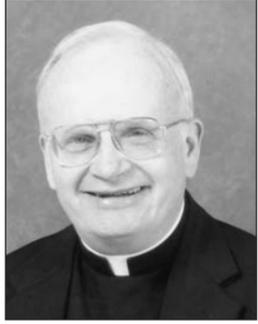
June 19

Corpus Christi procession, Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, 2 p.m.
Mass, Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, 5:30 p.m.

'To be' or 'to have'...? That's the question

If Shakespeare's Hamlet had been a 21st century character living in a consumer society, the opening of his famous brooding soliloquy perhaps might declare — "To be or to have...? That's the question."

In his 1987 encyclical "Sollicitudo Rei Socialis" ("On Social Concern") St. Pope John Paul II differentiated the states of "having" and "being." That distinction had originally been expressed in "Gaudium et Spes" (1965), the Second Vatican Council's Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World. "Sollicitudo Rei



Father Ronald Ketteler

Socialis" explained: "To 'have' objects and goods does not of itself perfect the human subject, unless it contributes to the maturing and enriching of that subject's 'being,' that is to say unless it contributes to the realization of the human vocation as such." (SRS, n. 28)

The language of "having" and "being" is reminiscent of concepts found in the writings of Gabriel Marcel (1889-1973), a French Catholic philosopher. Gabriel Marcel has been called a "Christian existentialist," even though he himself resisted such a label.

In his phenomenology of human consciousness, Marcel's distinction between "being" and "having" stressed a major theme in his investigation of participation and communion among persons.

In an early journal "Being and Having" (1935), Marcel articulated a number of his original philosophical suppositions. Among those foundational premises, as the title indicates, Marcel had forged a set of key insights in the concepts "being" and "having." From Marcel's perspective, "being" named authentic personhood whereas "having as possession" described the world of "objects" or "things."

The Anglican priest John Macquarri (d. 2007), a Scottish-born theologian and philosopher, presented a succinct summary of this crucial distinction in Marcel's thought: "Having is an external egocentric relationship; it gives power over objects, whether these be material possessions or our own ideas. Yet the very things that we have or desire to have tend to tyrannize us." Hence, in Marcel's existential approach "'having' must be transformed by 'being.'" That transformation effects new sorts of relationships "in which the sharp distinction between the self and its objects gives way to reciprocity, and existence transcends any narrow egocentricity." ("Twentieth-Century Religious Thought," 2001.)

Accordingly, "having" refers to a state of alienation, a lack of communion with others and with oneself and ultimately alienation from God. This disposition displaces the person as a presence and entraps the ego in a world of control and manipulation. In enclosing the self, the dynamism of "having" is a pull towards acquisitiveness, power, pleasure or status.

By contrast, "being" engenders an 'I-thou' encounter with others. Its polar opposite — an "I-it" relationship treats men and women as things or objects. For Marcel, therefore, the phenomenon of "having" must open up to a condition of "being," a state of authentic personal existence, which transcends "having-as-possession."

If human experience remains closed and ego-centered, possessions ironically become the possessor! In "Being and Having" Marcel wrote: "Having as such seems to have a tendency to destroy and lose itself in the

very thing it began by possessing, but which now absorbs the master who thought he controlled it." A boomerang effect is created: the master becomes the slave.

Again, Marcel associated "having" with "desire" or "covetousness." In this regard, he reflected: "To desire is

'It is not wrong to want to live better, what is wrong is a style of life which is presumed to be better when it is directed towards 'having' rather than 'being,' and which wants to have more, not in order to be more but in order to spend life in enjoyment as an end in itself. It is therefore necessary to create lifestyles in which the quest for truth, beauty, goodness and communion with others for the sake of common growth are the factors which determine consumer choices, savings, and investments. In this regard, it is not a matter of charity alone, that is, the duty to give from one's 'abundance', and sometimes even out of one's needs, in order to provide what is essential for the life of a poor person. I am referring to the fact that even the decision to invest in one place rather than another, in one productive sector rather than another, is always a moral and cultural choice ...'

— John Paul II, "Centesimus Annus" (1991): n. 36

in a manner to have without having. That is why there is a kind of suffering or burning which is an essential part of desire." Threat emerges from the world of objects — "I hug to myself this thing which may be torn from me, and I desperately try to incorporate it in myself, to form myself and it into a single and indissoluble complex ... A desperate, hopeless struggle." Avaricious "hugging to self" obviates "self-giving."

The wider historical and cultural context of Marcel's work was situated in the ominous era of the rise of totalitarianism — of Nazism and Communism. At the same time, Marcel's ongoing philosophical undertaking attempted to counteract the destructive aspects of the modern mass society, especially the dehumanizing effects of bureaucracy and technological control. Men and women are depersonalized when their identities are reduced to bureaucratic functions. In order to counterbalance the "brokenness" of the modern scientific world, the personalism of Marcel centered on the themes of vocation, love, hope, and creative fidelity.

As noted, many facets of Marcel's philosophy of the person might well be supportive of the distinction between "being" and "having" adopted by church social

teaching in its critique of the consumer culture.

In "Centesimus Annus" ("On the Hundredth Anniversary of 'Rerum Novarum,'" 1991) St. John Paul II again returned to the criticism of consumerism which had received initial attention in "Sollicitudo Rei Socialis." The late Holy Father asserted that authentic human goods are undermined when the culture presumes that "having" is superior to "being." (CA, n. 36)

Richard John Neuhaus (d. 2009) offered an exegesis of the St. John Paul's criticism of consumerism in this section of the centenary encyclical on papal social teaching: "Consumerism is, quite precisely, the consuming of life by the things consumed. It is living in a manner that is measured by 'having rather than being.' As John Paul makes clear, consumerism is hardly the exclusive sin of the rich. The poor, driven by discontent and envy, may be consumed by what they do not have as the rich are consumed by what they do have. The question is not, certainly not most importantly, a question about economics. It is first of all a cultural and moral problem requiring a cultural and moral remedy. ("Doing Well & Doing Good," 1992).

In effect, St. John Paul II was constructing a moral and cultural argument against consumerism since "an economic system does not possess criteria for correctly distinguishing new and higher forms of satisfying human needs from artificial needs which hinder the formation of a mature personality." (CA, n. 36)

A one-dimensional reduction of the meaning of human life to economics falsifies and diminishes the fully human. By ignoring the ethical and religious dimension of the human person, the economic system "has been weakened, and ends by limiting itself to the production and consumption of goods." (CA, n. 39)

However, as already pointed out, the terminology of "being" and "having" can be traced to the Pastoral Constitution issued at Vatican II. "Gaudium et Spes" had spoken of the priority of genuine human development over the amassing of wealth. It noted: "It is what a man is, rather than what he has, that counts. Technological progress is of less value than advances towards greater justice, wider brotherhood, and a more humane social environment." (GS, n. 35) In fact, that conciliar text — what a human being 'is' vs. what a human being 'has' — refers to a 1965 allocution of Pope Paul VI (d.1978).

Two years after the Council, in the encyclical "Populorum Progressio" ("On the Development of Peoples," 1967) St. Pope Paul VI expounded on the theme of the vocation to self-fulfillment and Christian development. (PP, nn. 14-21) He defended "a transcendent humanism" and rejected a false scale of values.

In this regard, "Populorum Progressio" stated that "... the acquiring of temporal goods can lead to greed, to the insatiable desire for more and can make increased power a tempting objective." Neither the wealthy nor the poor are immune from avarice. Families as well as nations can succumb to being imprisoned by "a stifling materialism." (PP, n. 18)

If increased material possessions become the focal point of the lives of men and women, such growth can harden hearts and close minds. As a result, that narrowing of vision allows self-interest to dominate friendship and to effect disunity. (PP, n. 19) Manipulation and often aggression become the order of the day.

St. Paul VI uttered a provocative prophetic judgment on the ambivalence of economic growth apart from human values: "But for nations and for individual men, avarice is the most evident form of moral underdevelopment." (PP, n. 20)

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

VOL. 92 **MESSENGER** No. 20
Official newspaper of the Diocese of Covington
1125 Madison Ave. • Covington, Ky. 41011-3115
Telephone: (859) 392-1500 E-mail: messenger@covdio.org
www.covdio.org

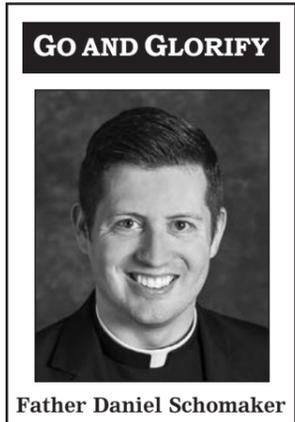
(UPS-403-650) Published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington, Ky.; 44 issues a year (weekly except from June 1 to mid-August, when published every other week; not published the week after Easter and two weeks at Christmas/New Year's). Subscription rate: \$19 per year; \$40 foreign. Periodical Postage paid at Covington, KY 41012 and additional mailing office Cincinnati, Ohio 45203. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to MESSENGER, 1125 Madison Ave., Covington, KY 41011-3115.
Advertising deadline: Wednesday noon, 9 days prior to publication date.
Editorial deadline: Friday noon, 7 days prior to date.
Subscriptions, address changes: Contact Circulation Dept. at above address.

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Happy birthday

The readings for Pentecost Sunday — Cycle C are: Acts 2:1-11; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13 and John 20:19-23.

This weekend we celebrate the Solemnity of Pentecost. The word “pentecost” literally means “fifty.” It is now 50 days since our celebration of the great solemnity of Easter. And we celebrate now what is often referred to as the birthday of the Church; for it is on this day that the Lord Jesus sent the Holy Spirit upon the apostles so that they might go out and preach the Gospel to all nations — which of course they did, but not first without hesitation. Even the great preachers of the Gospel whom we place on pedestals today (literally) were tentative to announce that Jesus Christ is Lord. This should give us hope, even in our fear.



Father Daniel Schomaker

Fear: Let’s reflect on that a little as we look at the reading from the Acts of the Apostles. We hear that initially the apostles were all together “in one place,” hiding. To the modern reader this can be very confusing; let’s look back.

For the last three years in the lives of the Apostles, almost every waking moment had been spent with Jesus. They had heard him teach and preach; watched the miracles he performed, like giving sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, making the lame walk ... oh, and let’s not forget, bringing people back from the dead. Amazing as all that is, you could understand their fear when Jesus is arrested and put to death.

You could understand their anxiety and the disheartenment they were feeling after Jesus was buried. If this was the end of the story, fear would make a lot of sense. But his story and theirs (and hence ours) didn’t end there — Jesus ROSE FROM THE DEAD! He came back to life and revealed himself in many ways to them, showing that he was in fact the answer to the prayers and the hope of generations of peoples across all nations. He was the Messiah, the Anointed One, the King of kings, the Lord of lords, the Son of the living God.

During his time with the Apostles, Jesus continues to teach and to preach and to sanctify but his time amongst them is short. Forty days following his resurrection Jesus announces that he is going back to the Father in heaven and that it will be their job to proclaim Him — the Way, the Truth and the Life. They are commanded by the one they know to be God to go to all nations and baptize people in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Jesus then rises into the heavens and is taken from the apostles sight by the clouds.

You would think that after all this, the Apostles would go and do what they were told — to preach — but no. Instead, off into hiding they go.

Why were they hiding? They were afraid! They were afraid that the persecution that Jesus had undergone would happen to them. And while we honor with the title “martyr” those who died for Jesus, the Church has always taught that one should never seek out death in the name of Jesus, only to accept it if it comes. Death can be frightening, especially one that is painful.

Fear is, of course, a terrible thing. It can paralyze us and keep us from doing and being the very best people that the good Lord has called us to be. I’m afraid of things, as I know each of you are. But when it comes to living out and proclaiming the Gospel, we don’t need to be afraid, because Jesus made a promise to the apostles (and to us) that he would send The Advocate from heaven to assist us. And the Advocate is of course, God the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Most Holy Trinity. Isn’t it wonderful that Jesus always keeps his promises?

Opening their hearts and minds to the Holy Spirit, the apostles didn’t have to be afraid anymore. Their faith had been strengthened by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit into their lives for the mission of a follower of the Lord Jesus. In the same way, especially in the Sacrament of

(Continued on page 20)

Fly-casting before D-Day

With a gracious assist from former Kansas governor Sam Brownback, I had the privilege of a personal tour of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Museum in Abilene this past March. And I couldn’t have had a better



George Weigel

guide: Mary Jean Eisenhower, the 34th president’s charming granddaughter, with whom I shared lunch in a roadside restaurant evidently much favored by the locals — the parking lot was jam-packed before noon. After a getting-to-know-you hour over heartland victuals, Mary Jean and I were off to the museum and the memorial chapel where Ike, Mamie Eisenhower, and their son Icky, who died of scarlet fever before his fourth

birthday, are buried; the boy’s death, his father later wrote in “At Ease: Stories I Tell to Friends,” was “the greatest disappointment and disaster of my life.”

The museum is very well done and includes some striking memorabilia, including the table at which Ike, surrounded by British and American colleagues, took the hard decision to launch the invasion of Europe on June 6, 1944, a day after having cancelled the assault because of weather. After making that gut-wrenching call, General Eisenhower went to visit the paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division, hours before they were to drop into the dark, flak-ridden skies over Normandy. British Air Marshall Sir Trafford Leigh-Mallory had tried to talk Ike out of the airborne attack, claiming it would result in horrendous casualties — perhaps 80 percent of the men would be lost, he warned. Eisenhower, who knew that the paratroops were essential in securing the causeways out of the invasion zones if the Allies weren’t going to be trapped on the Normandy beaches, rejected Leigh-Mallory’s doomsday warning. Before they took off, however, he wanted to be with those he was sending in harm’s way. That determination led to one of World War II’s most famous photographs (later depicted on a U.S. postage stamp), now displayed in a large format in the museum.

Eisenhower was possessed of a remarkable, disarming smile, a reflection of the man’s transparent decency; an early D-Day planner, Lieutenant General Sir Frederick

Morgan, once claimed was that Ike’s grin was “worth an army corps in any campaign.” In the photo in question, however, the famous Eisenhower smile was not to be seen. Rather, surrounded by men of the 101st, the Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force is looking grave indeed, his right arm raised in what seems to be a Patton-like gesture of bold, even fierce, encouragement. Lieutenant Wallace Strobel, his face blackened with burnt-cork camouflage, looks just as serious as the general addressing him.

What was Ike saying, people have wondered for decades? What do you say to men about to jump out of C-47s into the fiery cauldron of war? Mary Jean Eisenhower got an unexpected answer on meeting Mr. Strobel at the christening of the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower. When she asked the now-elderly veteran what her grandfather had said to him, Strobel said that Ike had begun by asking where he was from; “Saginaw, Michigan, sir.” “How’s the fishing up there?” asked the Supreme Commander. Then the four-star angler proceeded to demonstrate his technique — and the photographer caught him with that determined look as with his right arm he showed the young paratrooper how to fly-cast the Eisenhower Way.

Is it any wonder that so many esteemed him? Dwight David Eisenhower was at the roiling center of world affairs for 20-plus years, longer than many of the other great figures of the 20th century. As commander of the invasions of North Africa, Sicily and Normandy, as president of Columbia University, as the first commander-in-chief of NATO, and in two terms as president of the United States, Eisenhower embodied the public servant who asks to be judged by results, not by snap, crackle and pop. Ike did not think of politics as performance art, and he brought to his public service the willingness to take responsibility for his decisions that he had displayed the night before D-Day. Then, he not only met his men and encouraged them by being utterly normal as well as bracingly confident; he had also drafted a communique to be issued in case the invasion failed, in which he laid any blame on himself, not his troops.

If you can imagine Donald Trump or Joe Biden doing any such thing, your imagination is greater than mine.

Character is the basis of all leadership. The man demonstrating fly-casting the evening before D-day was a man of character. We could use more of his kind today.

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

Meet people where they are

At St. Vincent de Paul, we want nothing but the best experience for anyone who encounters us. When someone has an experience with our organization, we want them to walk away feeling accepted, encouraged and loved.



Karen Zengel

These efforts extend to our employees who are important to our ability to support our Vincentian volunteers in our person-to-person outreach. In an attempt to share this vision and to bring our team together across our 4 locations and various responsibility areas, we recently had the idea to form an employee engagement committee. The idea was to include representatives from each location/area of responsibility to brainstorm and plan activities that would bring the team together. As a leadership team, we believed that we would have teammates jumping at the chance to feel more connected and be a driving force behind making St. Vincent de Paul a place where everyone enjoyed coming to work. I mean, we love to work here, why wouldn’t everyone else love to work here too? We get to do God’s work every day. Very few people can say this about their jobs. Can you hear the excitement in

my voice as you read this paragraph?

Well, response to this idea was not as enthusiastic as anticipated. As we discussed the lukewarm response in our leadership team meeting, I listened to our very perceptive leaders share their thoughts regarding the reasons for the lackluster reception of this invitation to “engage.” Thoughts like, “maybe we can improve our team’s understanding of how important they are in our ability to help those in need? And, that their happiness at work is therefore important?” and “are we doing a sufficient job of expressing our own passion for the work of St. Vincent de Paul?” Lots of really good discussion. However, one insight really stood out to me and is foundational to all the rest:

We have to meet people where they are, but we cannot leave them there.

We need to bring them with us.

This insight is just so Vincentian — a part of our DNA as a ministry. I was so impressed with our leadership team’s recognition of this element of our mission in a different context. This is also exactly what Jesus asked of his disciples. In a homily delivered by Pope Francis to a large New York City crowd in 2015, Pope Francis reminded the crowd that Jesus urged his disciples to “go out and meet others where they really are, not where we think they should be. Go out, again and again, go out without fear, without hesitation. Go out and proclaim this joy which is for all the people.”

Our ministry is all about meeting people where they

(Continued on page 20)

We Choose Life



Pro-Life Office

of the Diocese of Covington

Mission Statement

The Pro-Life Office of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington, guided by our bishop, promotes the sanctity and legal protection of human life from conception to natural death through prayer, pastoral care, public policy and education.

Resources Websites

prayfordobbs.com — Catholic and ecumenical prayers and resources for community engagement and action as we await the Court's decision in this case may be found at www.prayfordobbs.com. The USCCB encourages all to participate.



“[E]very human life, unique and unrepeatable, has value in and of itself; it is of inestimable value. This must always be proclaimed anew with the courage of the Word and the courage of actions.”

— Pope Francis, March 25, 2020

Dobbs v. Jackson: Roe or no, Catholics support life

USCCB President José H. Gomez of Los Angeles and eight Bishop Chairmen of USCCB committees serving women and families issued this joint statement on March 21, 2022.

As our nation awaits the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, we join together in prayer and expectant hope that states will again be able to protect women and children from the injustice of abortion. As we affirm the value of every human life, we welcome the possibility of saving countless unborn children as well as sparing women and families the pain of abortion.

The Catholic Church has a long history of service to those who are most vulnerable and remains the largest private provider of social services in the United States.

Through the sacrificial efforts of faithful Catholics, the Church serves millions through diocesan ministries and agencies, Catholic hospitals and healthcare systems, immigration clinics, shelters and Catholic schools and parishes. From religious communities to pregnancy care centers, from refugee resettlement services to foster care and adoption agencies and from maternity homes to parish-based ministries, the Church consistently bears witness in word and deed to the beauty and dignity of every human life — including both mother and child.

As the chairmen of committees serving the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, we proclaim a vision for our society that upholds the truth that every human life is sacred and inviolable — a society in which the legal protection of human life is accompanied by profound care for mothers and their children. We exhort our nation to prioritize the well-being of women, children, and families with both material resources and personal accompaniment so that no woman ever feels forced to choose between her future and the life of her child.

In that effort, we recommit our committees and urge our dioceses, parishes and Catholic agencies and institutions:

— To redouble our efforts to accompany women and couples who are facing unexpected or difficult pregnancies and during the early years of parenthood, offering them loving and compassionate care through initiatives such as Walking with Moms in Need and countless others.

— To ensure our Catholic parishes are places of welcome for women facing challenging pregnancies or who find it difficult to care for their children after birth, so that any mother needing assistance will receive life-

affirming support and be connected to appropriate programs and resources where she can get help.

— To help Catholics recognize the needs of pregnant and parenting moms in their communities, enabling parishioners to know these mothers, to listen to them, and to help them obtain the necessities of life for themselves and their children.

— To be witnesses of love and life by expanding and improving the extensive network of comprehensive care including pregnancy help centers, maternity homes, and Catholic health care and social service agencies.

— To proclaim with a clear and united voice that our society can and must protect and care for both women and their children.

— To redouble our advocacy for laws that ensure the right to life for unborn children and that no mother or family lacks the basic resources needed

to care for their children, regardless of race, age, immigration status or any other factor.

— To continue to support and advocate for public policies and programs directed toward building up the common good and fostering integral human development, with a special concern for the needs of immigrants and low-income families.

We are deeply conscious that, after nearly half a century of legalized abortion, more than 65 million children have died from abortion and an untold number of women, men and families suffer in the aftermath. Recognizing this pain and loss, we also recommit our committees and urge our dioceses, parishes and Catholic agencies and institutions:

— To proclaim God's mercy after abortion and compassionately accompany women and men who are suffering after an abortion.

— To expand our diocesan abortion healing ministries, most often called Project Rachel Ministry, so that women and men receive forgiveness, healing and spiritual renewal through Christ's infinite mercy.

— To transform our parishes into what Pope Francis calls "islands of mercy in a sea of indifference" by raising Catholic awareness of the great struggle involved in an abortion, and the guilt, pain and grief that follow.

In all these ways and more, the Catholic Church witnesses to the sanctity of all human life, from conception to natural death, and works to build a true culture of life in our nation. May a renewed commitment to life overflow into increased protection of unborn children and expanded support for their mothers and families.



Kentucky stands ready to protect vulnerable lives

We Choose Life Committee

Messenger Contributor

A stunning leaked opinion from the nation's highest court could signal that abortionists will soon be exiting Kentucky. Overturning Roe v. Wade, which imposed abortion access coast to coast in 1973, would end abortion services in Kentucky under a "trigger law" enacted in 2019. The bipartisan bill, which passed 69 to 20, allows exceptions for serious risk to the mother's physical health.

Twelve other states have "trigger laws" on the books, and 26 states in total are expected to restrict abortion services if their regulatory power is restored after five stormy decades of federal mandates.

Moreover, Kentucky is poised for another key step, with an amendment on the November ballot stating that the Kentucky constitution "does not secure or protect a right to abortion or funding of abortion." We urge all Catholics to speak up for the rights of the unborn, to ask candidates exactly where they stand and to vote for the full legal protection of our unborn daughters and sons.

Making Roe-life pro-life

We Choose Life Committee

Messenger Contributor

If Roe v. Wade is overturned, Americans will enter a new legal and social landscape. State by state, pro-lifers are already buttressing social safety nets and legal defenses for women and children in need. Our role is to strengthen and publicize the real alternatives for women who think their future depends on abortion.

Eighteen states will likely legalize abortion with few or no restrictions. Others might restrict it to the first six or eight weeks of pregnancy, or later if the mother's life is threatened. Some could outlaw gender and disability abortions, ban chemical abortions and establish conscience exemptions for healthcare workers, among other protections.

"Trigger law" states, like Kentucky, will ban abortion at once if Roe falls. Demands for state constitutional amendments could follow, codifying the fundamental right to life.

Certainly, pro-life voters have a responsibility to advocate for such pro-life legislation. But even more important is our task of demonstrating that, even if legal, abortion is never a

woman's only choice.

In our fragmented, mobile society many pregnant women report feeling abandoned and often pressured into abortion. Their desperation is plain: 80 percent of abortions go to unwed women; 40 percent of abortions are repeats; and by age 45 one in four American women will have had an abortion. Over 63 million abortions have happened since Roe.

Crucially, the nationwide network of free maternal services built by pro-life groups means material and emotional support is there — but not enough women know it exists. It is urgent to promote and expand maternal care centers as demand rises. Donors and volunteers are vital to providing prenatal care, parenting classes, adoption counseling, maternal supplies, infant needs and more. In our communities we must strive to remove obstacles at school and in the workplace.

A recent Gallup survey found 32 percent of Americans have come to support unlimited abortion and a new high of 47 percent find it morally acceptable. In short, we have many, many minds to change in order to rebuild the culture of life.

For more information about the Pro-Life Office or to be added to our e-mail newsgroups, visit us online at www.covdio.org/prolife/ or call (859) 392-1500.

Stealing Brooklyn, N.Y., church's tabernacle is 'heinous act,' pastor says

Catholic News Service

BROOKLYN, N.Y. — A burglar cut through a metal protective casing to steal a historic tabernacle valued at \$2 million at a Brooklyn Catholic church.

In the course of the crime, angel statues flanking the tabernacle were decapitated, and consecrated hosts from inside the tabernacle were thrown all over the altar, according to a Brooklyn diocesan news release.

The burglary is suspected to have taken place May 27 at St. Augustine Catholic Church in the Park Slope section of Brooklyn and the theft was discovered by the pastor May 28, the release said.



CNS photo/courtesy DeSales Media Group

(above) A solid gold and jeweled tabernacle at St. Augustine Catholic Church in Brooklyn, N.Y., is seen in this undated photo. The tabernacle, valued at \$2 million, was stolen by burglars who used power tools to cut through a metal protective casing. Brooklyn diocesan officials said the crime took place May 27, 2022, and was discovered by the pastor May 28.

(below) A decapitated angel statue is seen May 31, 2022, at the altar at St. Augustine Catholic Church in Brooklyn, N.Y. It is one of two angels that guarded the church's the solid gold and jeweled tabernacle.



A safe in the sacristy also was cut open but nothing was inside, it added.

"This is devastating, as the tabernacle is the central focus of our church outside of worship, holding the body of Christ, the Eucharist, which is delivered to the sick and homebound," said Father Frank Tumino, the pastor.

The tabernacle dates back to when the church was built in the 1890s. "This holy sacramental receptacle is irreplaceable due to its historical and artistic value," the diocesan said.

The New York City Police Department was investigating this "brazen crime of disrespect and hate" and has asked the community for any tips that could lead to solving it.

"To know that a burglar entered the most sacred space of our beautiful church and took great pains to cut into a security system is a heinous act of disrespect," Father Tumino said.

In the neighboring Archdiocese of New York, Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan planned to visit a Manhattan Catholic church May 31 that a news release said was the victim of "a hate crime" a week earlier.

Vandals beheaded and smashed statues in the Our Lady of Fatima Grotto at Our Lady of Sorrows Church.

The cardinal planned to pray an evening rosary, which "will be offered in reparation for this act of vandalism and hate."

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Relics of Blessed Carlo Acutis find home in Diocese of Trenton, New Jersey

Mary Stadnyk
Catholic News Service

BRICK, N.J. — A beatified teenager’s passionate love of the Eucharist was put on display for a group of New Jersey Catholic school students as U.S. Catholics begin a three-year eucharistic revival.

Students of St. Dominic School in Brick, sang and prayed April 28, the day Trenton Bishop David M. O’Connell came for a special Mass, celebrating the life of Blessed Carlo Acutis and his devotion to the real presence of Christ.

that dates to the second century of the church.

“Relics usually include some part taken from the physical remains of a saint or ‘blessed’ held in remembrance of his or her holiness of life and virtue,” the bishop said. “Their relics carry a meaning important to the faithful of every era. In our Holy Mass this morning, we express our love for Jesus in the Eucharist, which was so much a part of Carlo Acutis’ life.”

The relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis was brought to the Diocese of Trenton by Father Marian Kokoryczki, parochial vicar of St. Dominic Catholic Church, who

Bishop O’Connell prayed that his example would be a blessing for youths in the diocese.

He reflected in his homily on how Catholic school students learn about the “great saints of the church,” most of whom had lived centuries earlier and in faraway places.

“We see their faces in pictures, windows and statues in churches,” Bishop O’Connell said. “We read and hear about them and the amazing things they did. However, today, we are remembering a young Catholic school boy, not too much older than us, who lived not too long ago, who from his earliest years had only one thing in mind: becoming a saint!”

While Carlo, who was born in 1991 and “wasn’t too different from us” in that he had a lot of friends, enjoyed sports, had pets and loved playing computer games and making videos, “there was something very special about young Carlo,” the bishop said.

“He used to say, ‘to always be close to Jesus: that is my life plan.’ And from his earliest days on earth, he lived that way,” the bishop said, telling of how Carlo received holy Communion and prayed the rosary daily, spent time in church and praying before the Eucharist regularly, and volunteered to help others.

Carlo’s joyful faith and love inspired his parents to return to the church and before he died of leukemia at age 15 in 2006, he developed a website about the Eucharist.

“Blessed Carlo Acutis inspires us to see that holiness is possible for young people”, Bishop O’Connell said. “While we might not see ourselves as a saint, we can become saints!”

“Our children need someone they can look up to, that they admire, and Blessed Carlo is an example of that,” said Father Brian Patrick Woodrow, pastor of St. Dominic Catholic Church.

Describing Blessed Carlo as “relatable,” Layla De La Paz and Anthony Streeter, both seventh graders in St. Dominic School, were inspired by the sainthood candidate’s use of technology to teach others about the Catholic faith.

“Technology is a big part of our world” and it has had a big influence in the way the Catholic faith is practiced today, De La Paz said, adding that she found the presence of the relic of Blessed Carlo — which will remain in her parish — can be a way “for us to remember him and all the good he has done.”

“Blessed Carlo’s being picked as the patron saint of the Trenton Diocese schools is a huge inspiration to young teens,” said Olivia Termotto, an eighth-grader student at St. Rose of Lima School in Freehold, New Jersey.

“It’s important to have someone our own age to look up to who had such a bright spirit and personality no matter what challenges he faced.”



CNS photo/Mike Ehrmann, Diocese of Trenton

Bishop David M. O’Connell of Trenton, N.J., incenses the reliquary containing the relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis during Mass at St. Dominic’s Church April 28, 2022.

Bishop O’Connell marked the formal reception of the arrival of a relic of the young man who was beatified by Pope Francis in 2020.

“Today, we are blessed to receive the relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis, a young boy whom the Catholic Church has recognized as holy,” he told the students at the start of the Mass, which was livestreamed on the diocesan YouTube channel.

Bishop O’Connell then explained how showing respect for the relics of saints in the Catholic Church is a custom

acquired it during a recent pilgrimage he made to Assisi, Italy, where Blessed Carlo Acutis’ tomb is located in the Shrine of the Annunciation, which is part of the Church of St. Mary Major.

“This saint is exactly who the church, the world and families need more than ever,” Father Kokoryczki said.

In announcing that Blessed Carlo Acutis — the first of the millennial generation to be beatified by the Catholic Church — was to become the patron of all the Catholic schools and young people of the Diocese of Trenton,

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PEOPLE AND EVENTS

Pope Francis' Prayer intention for the month of June is for the elderly, who represent the roots and memory of a people. May their experience and wisdom help young people to look towards the future with hope and responsibility.

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.

Year-Round Flea Market, the Diocesan Catholic Children's Home (DCCH) Center from 8:30 a.m. - noon., Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Open to the public, 50 percent off the first Thursday of each month. Proceeds benefit children living at DCCH Center. Donation drop-off preferred during regular Flea Market hours - 75 Orphanage Road, Fort Mitchell.

Pro-Life Training - Mary's Pro-Life Boot Camp for Catholic Teens, 14-17, a ministry of the Franciscan Daughters of Mary and their Special Forces team, engages and equips the next generation of Pro-Life Catholics. July 7-11, 2022 at St. Anne Retreat Center, Melbourne. Retreat weekend, daily sacraments, hands-on experience, national and local speakers, family picnic at dropoff. Enlist online at www.prolifebootcamp.org by June 9. Registration cost \$100.00, scholarships available. Questions/donate/volunteer: marysprolifebootcamp@gmail.com.

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'alls. 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.

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.

Flea Market, St. Joseph Parish, Crescent Springs, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., June 3-4, Noll Hall. Free admission and parking. Call 341-6609.

Upcoming Mornings of Reflection with Father Conor Kunath: June 18 at St. Thomas Parish, Fort Thomas, from 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Religious Freedom Week 2022 begins June 22, the Feast of Saints Thomas More and John Fisher. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops invites Catholics to pray, reflect, and act to promote religious freedom. Learn more at <https://www.usccb.org/committees/religious-liberty>.



Outdoor fun and games

Notre Dame Urban Education Center, Covington, is transforming their parking lot into a fun space where students and their mentors have access to outdoor activities like basketball.



A day in healthcare

Villa Madonna Academy, Villa Hills, juniors Liam Collins and Kathryn McLagan were chosen to participate in St. Elizabeth Healthcare's M.O.O.N. program. The Medical Observation Opportunity Network, which allows students to learn about physicians by spending a day in a physician's office, operating room and in an inpatient setting.



St. Agnes School students support Lifeline Fund

Students at St. Agnes School, Ft. Wright, present a check to Catholic Charities, Diocese of Covington, for its Lifeline Fund. The students collected money throughout the month of May to support three pro-life ministries. Pictured (from left) are: Mary Beth Scott, Pro-Life coordinator, St. Agnes Parish; Addison, 8th grade and Sam, 3rd grade St. Agnes School students; Bob Albers, parishioner, St. Agnes Parish, Alan Pickett, executive director and Jennifer Abdrabbo, institutional advancement associate, Catholic Charities.

Care Net Pregnancy Center's tenth annual Golf "Fore" Fathers scramble August 12, early bird prices end July 11. For more information visit carenetnky.org/golf-fore-fathers.

Festivals

- St. Catherine of Siena Parish,** Ft. Thomas
June 3, 7-11 p.m.
June 4, 5:30-11 p.m.
- St. Augustine Parish,** Covington
June 10-11, 5-11 p.m.
- St. Paul Parish,** Florence
June 10-11, 6-11 p.m.
June 12, 4-9 p.m.
- St. Joseph Parish,** Camp Springs
June 11, 4-11 p.m.
- St. Edward Parish,** Cynthiana
June 12
- St. Therese Parish,** Southgate
June 16, adult only
June 17-18, family
- St. Joseph Academy,** Walton
June 17-18, 5-11 p.m.
- Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish,** Erlanger
June 24, 6-11 p.m.
June 25, 5-11 p.m.
June 26, 3-8 p.m.
- Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish,** Burlington
July 15, 6 p.m.-midnight
July 16, 5 p.m.-midnight
July 17, 4-10 p.m.
- St. Pius X Parish,** Edgewood
July 15, 6 p.m.-midnight
July 16, 6 p.m.-midnight
July 17, 4-10 p.m.
- St. Thomas Parish,** Ft. Thomas
July 22-23
- St. James Parish,** Brooksville
July 22-23-24
- Sts. Peter-Paul Parish,** California
July 30
Aug. 27
- St. Mary of the Assumption Parish,** Alexandria
Aug. 12, 6 p.m.-midnight
Aug. 13, 5-11 p.m.
- St. Joseph Parish,** Crescent Springs
Aug. 12, 6 p.m.-midnight
Aug. 13, 6 p.m.-midnight
Aug. 14, 3-9 p.m.
- St. Bernard Parish,** Dayton
Aug. 19, 6-11 p.m.
Aug. 20, 5-11 p.m.
- St. Philip,** Melbourne,
Aug. 20,
4:30 p.m. - 11 p.m.
- St. Augustine Parish,** Augusta
Aug. 26-27-28
- St. Cecilia Parish,** Independence
Sept. 4, 6 p.m.-midnight
Sept. 5, 4 p.m. - midnight
- St. Barbara Parish,** Erlanger
Sept. 9, 6 p.m.-midnight
Sept. 10, 5 p.m.-midnight
- St. Patrick Parish,** Maysville
Sept. 9-10-11
- St. Timothy Parish,** Union
Sept. 16, 6-11 p.m.
Sept. 17,
5:30 p.m.-midnight
- St. William Parish,** Williamstown
Sept. 16-17
- St. Benedict Parish,** Covington
Sept. 23-24, 5-11 p.m.
- St. Anthony Parish,** Taylor Mill
Sept. 24, 6-10 p.m.

Festival listings are submitted by parishes and schools. If your festival isn't listed e-mail your festival information to messenger@covdio.org.

Congratulations eighth graders and seniors of the

Class of 2022



“Congratulations to the Class of 2022! This year’s class experienced the challenges of the pandemic during their last three years of high school and they responded with patience, understanding, and gratitude. Despite these unprecedented challenges, they successfully completed the rigorous academic requirements and are shining examples of how to live the Catholic faith. I am especially grateful to their parents, who make many sacrifices to ensure their children receive a Catholic education. And I extend my sincere gratitude to the faculty and staff of our Catholic schools who work hard each and every day to help these students reach their full potential.”

— Kendra McGuire, Superintendent of Catholic Schools

- | | |
|---|---|
| Blessed Sacrament School, Ft. Mitchell | St. Thomas School, Ft. Thomas |
| Holy Cross School, Latonia | St. Timothy School, Union |
| Holy Family School, Covington | Villa Madonna Academy, Villa Hills |
| Holy Trinity School, Bellevue | |
| Immaculate Heart of Mary School, Burlington | Bishop Brossart High School, Alexandria |
| Mary, Queen of Heaven School, Erlanger | Covington Catholic High School, Park Hills |
| Prince of Peace Montessori, Covington | Covington Latin School, Covington |
| St. Agnes School, Ft. Wright | Holy Cross District High School, Covington |
| St. Anthony School, Taylor Mill | Newport Central Catholic High School, Newport |
| St. Augustine School, Covington | Notre Dame Academy, Park Hills |
| St. Catherine of Siena School, Ft. Thomas | St. Henry District High School, Erlanger |
| St. Cecilia School, Independence | St. Patrick High School, Maysville |
| St. Henry School, Erlanger | Villa Madonna Academy, Villa Hills |
| St. Joseph School, Cold Spring | |
| St. Joseph School, Crescent Springs | |
| St. Joseph Academy, Walton | |
| St. Mary School, Alexandria | |
| St. Patrick School, Maysville | |
| St. Paul School, Florence | |
| Sts. Peter & Paul School, California | |
| St. Philip School, Melbourne | |
| St. Pius X School, Edgewood | |
| St. Therese School, Southgate | |

“Wherever I go from here, Lord, let me be strong in faith and poor in Spirit. Make me a disciple after your own heart.”

— Bishop John Iffert



GRADUATION 2022

Families, schools, Bishop Iffert honor graduates

Baker, Keener and Ziegler photos

Bishop John Iffert, accompanied by Kendra McGuire, superintendent of schools, attended high school graduations in the diocese May 18 – 28. This is a pictorial salute to the class of 2022. God bless, grads!



Covington Catholic High School



St. Patrick High School



St. Henry District High School



Covington Latin School



Villa Madonna Academy



Notre Dame Academy



Holy Cross District High School



Newport Central Catholic High School



Bishop Brossart High School



2022 Graduates

“On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me. And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him.” (John 15:20-21)



Bishop Brossart High School

James Ampfer
Andrew Beck †††
Joseph Bedford
Adam Bezold
Emma Bezold †††
Ryan Branch †
Lia Callahan †††
Mitchell Combs ††
Nicholas Csordas †††
Claire Curtsinger †††
Owen Davis †††
Emma Decker †††
Taylor Decker †
Kaleigh Dunn †††
Ryan Ebert ††
Angelina Ellis †††
Bentley Fisher
John Govan †††
Kinsey Gulley †††
Charles Hartig
Lydia Haubner †††
Alec Hetterick-Robbins
Zachary Holtz †††
Alexis Kaeff †††
Zachary Kahmann
Kayley Kavanaugh †
Olivia Keller ††
Alex Kramer †††
Kendall Kramer
Jacob Leicht
Parker Losure †
Kaleb Lukes
Lauren Macht †††
Jedidiah Martin
Mackenzie Meadows †††
Brooklynn Meyer
Sophia Neufelder
Sydney Oergel ††
Mark Owens
Madison Parker †††
D. Cooper Pincumbe
David Prather ††
Andrew Racke
Alexander Reis
Bradley Reis
Isabella Ritter †††
Isabella Ross †††
Kylie Sansom †††
Thomas Sayers †††
Carter Schabell
Ty Schaeffer †
Anna Scharf †††
Bianca Schmidt †
Grace Schroeder †††
Rylee Schultz ††
Andrew Schwartz †
Ryan Siegel
Brayden Simon
Ally Smith †††
Sarah Smith ††
Tyler Twehues †††
Cayden Underwood
Cole Underwood
Alicia Velasco Gonzalez

Mitchell Webster
Daniel Williamson †



Covington Catholic High School

David Preston Agee
Daniel Valeri Andreev
Matthew Francis
Armbuster ††
Ian Jason Asch
Mitchell Edward Atkins ††
Mitchell Steven Bailey
Noah Benjamin Bayless
Davis Paul Best †
Ryan Joshua Blair ††
Charles Burke Blessing
Nicholas Himmler Bonta †††
Jack Michael Boyce †
Nicholas William Boydston ††
Gage Richard Brake †
Jacob Matthew
Brandenburg
Robert Andrew Bright †
William Patrick Burke
John Anthony Cain †
Philip Anthony Clark ††
Brayden Peter Scott Collins
Ethan Thomas Conrad †
Parker Ryan Crew
Crawford ††
Parker James Curry †††
Joseph Anthony Dames
Nicholas John Darpel †††
Peyton Matthew Dietz
Liam Patrick Dooley †††
Joseph McGinnis
Dressman Jr. †
Joshua Thomas Dusing †††
Carter Nathaniel Eckhardt †
Joseph David Egbers II
Carter Wayne Eilers
Charles Edward Eisner †
Samuel Adams Epplen †
Brady Robert Etler †
Jacob Spenser Finley †
Grant Michael Fischer †
Samuel Wilson Fischer
Alexander James
Flickinger
Nicholas David Franks ††
Patrick Gianni Fugazzi
Carson Paul Furnish †
Jonathan Lucas
Gallenstein
Conner Matthew Gallus †
Reagan Edward Garvey †
Colin Bradley Gastright †††
Matthew Donald Gerdes †
Braden Matthew Greis
Christian Van Griffith †††

Seth Daniel Gruner †
Jason Christopher
Hackman ††
Nicholson Joseph Hahn
Nathaniel Edward
Hammond ††
Theodore Ulysses Helton ††
Aiden Paul Hemmer †††
Nicholas Espinola
Henderson
Mark William Hentz †††
Joseph Patrick Holoher
Adam David Holtz †††
Benjamin Robert House ††
Jackson Carter Hovan †††
Reid Patrick Hummel †††
Joseph William Hunt †††
Yamato Jonah Ikeda †
Jon Lucas Kampinga †
Noah August Kathman
Kaleb William Lawrence
Kiely ††
Luke Matthias Josef
Knipper ††
Peyton James Krallman
Kevin Elijah Krebs †
Jack Anthony Kreutzjans †
Grant Alexander Krummen †††
Braden Connor Lainhart ††
Luke Alexander Lenhof †††
John Dennis Lenihan ††
Matthew William Manning
Chase Robert McFadden
Jacob Bernard Meese †††
Christopher Jacob Meyer
Coleman Charles
Middendorf †††
Jacob Timothy Molioue †
Nathan Joseph Moon †
Alexander Robert Muck †††
Evan Joseph Myers †††
Eli Richard Nally
James Michael Napier ††
Arthur Joseph Neltner III
Nicholas Thomas Nolan
Charles Aidan Nolting
Oliver Michael Orwig ††
Evan Robert Ossege †
Dominic Vincent Paterno
Colton William Pieper
Samuel Patrick Planicka ††
David Henry Pope ††
Jackson Kerry Poulos †
Mason Benjamin Redlinger †††
Jared Michael Reese
Jack Adam Renaker †
Colin Mitchell Reusch
Jacob Albrecht Roose †††
Thomas Luke Ruberg ††
Mitchell Patrick Rylee
Rob Randal Sandfoss II
David Edward Schaefer †
Everett Keith Schneider †††
Nathan Donald Schroder
Simon Gunther Schubert †
Kenneth Luke Schutte ††
Conrad Joseph Smeltzer
Tyler Gordon Smith †††

Zachary Hunter Smith †
Jadon James Stava
Joseph Carl Stegman †††
Luke Fredrick Stetter
Maximilian Gordon
Stocker †††
David Francis Sullivan Jr.
†††
Andrew Joseph Tagher
Andrew Joseph Wagner
Liam Markus Wainscott ††
Maxwell Christopher Ward
Steven Charles Weil †
Nicholas Edward Welch †††
Justin Todd Wiehe †
Thomas Andrew Williams
James Mekhi Wilson
Trevor David Wilson
Dallas Wayne Wirth †††
William Quinn Wischer ††
Guy Ming Faih Wong
Burgess ††
William Robert Ziegler †
Ryan Nicholas Zimmerman †††



Covington Latin School

Eva Augur †††
Sarah Barton †††
Sarah Bowling
Brady Boyer †††
Liam Connolly †
Lauren Ehrman †††
Isabel Enzweiler †††
Ben Fulmer †††
Kevin Garuccio †††
Marc Gastright
Teah Hagan †††
Zane Hermes ††
Zoe Hoelmer
Calah Jackson †††
Cooper Jones
Simon Juelg †††
Greta Koszarek †††
Jay Kroger †††
Evelyn Kuhns †††
Angelia Lane ††
Anika Lickert ††
Roman Linkugel †††
Jonathan Miller †††
Alex Pham
CJ Przanowski †††
Benjamin Purtell †††
Jacob Schuetter †††
Christine Shaw †††
Zachary Trauth †††
Preston Widener †††



Holy Cross District High School

Dylan Joseph Arlinghaus †
Zachary Benjamin
Arlinghaus
Audrey Rose Ash
Evan Alexander Ash
Ayden Thomas Bailey †††
Abigail Morgan Beane †††
Ryan Thomas Bohman †
Jaden Marie Buckner
Andrew Raymond Bunton †
Stephanie Marie Casson
Alexa Jayne Clem
Katelyn Ryan Combs
Trenton Nicholas Combs †††
Megan Elizabeth Crouch †††
Aidan Christopher Daly ††
Shelby Lee Anne Daniel
Tate Michael DeZarn
Addison Marie Dierig †††
Elizabeth Marie Dilts
Spencer Maxwell Doerger †††
Dimetri Timothy Dunn
Skyler Tristen Fabr e
Hayden Michael Ficke
Skye Makenna Finke
Abbygail Grace Grimes ††
Tiffannah Mclyn Hanser
Luke Alexander Hardin †
Autumn Jade Hatherill †
Promise Kimberly Higgs ††
Jy'Asiah Kyiane Hill †
Maddux Jude Hoffman †††
Karston Miller Holmes
Kyle Jansen Holmes †††
Thomas Joseph Jackson
William Robert Kahmann †††
Addison Elena Kendall
Leah Renee Klaene ††
Garrett William Krausen
Cade Alexander Lehmkuhl †††
Maya Renee' Lowe †††
Esmeralda Fierros
Marquez
Ian Timothy McDonald ††
Malena Ann McGuire †††
Morrigan Marie McIntosh †††
Molly Reece McKibbin ††
Jack Hartman Morris
Terrell Devonte Moses
Alexander Thomas Mueller
Joseph Rodney Mullins
Ava Regina Murray †
Bradyn Robert Niemeyer
Ian Michael Noll †
Taylor Elizabeth Norris †††
Samantha Lynn Pratt

Ryan Patrick Pulsfort †††
Madison Lynn Quandt ††
Noelle Lynn Reinersman †††
Samuel Avery Laurence
Rios
Hanna Isabelle Robinson
Hannah Jo Robinson †††
Brayden Andrew Saalfeld †††
Lucas Dean Schoettle ††
Isabella Rimi Stock †††
Iris Elise Sullivan †††
Dalton Ford Sunday †††
Matthew Gregory Sutton †
Nathan Carl Thelen
Kaili Ann Thomas †††
Jaclyn Ann Thompson ††
Joshua Edward Tucker
Annabel Grace Vicars ††
Brenna Nicole Wilson †††
Giavanna Michelle Jade
Wilson ††
Robert James Wilson
Sydney Madison Wilson †††
Connor Richard Zimmer



Newport Central Catholic High School

Emily Alexis Baas ††
Andrew Lawrence Bacon †††
Luke Robert Brockman
Casey Mae Broughal ††
Celia Brouillard
Gabriella Grace Browning †††
William Paul Bucher ††
Brooke Elizabeth
Burkhardt †††
Kaedon Bradley Butts
Emma Isabella Davis †
Alexander Joseph DeMann ††
Kaleigh Elizabeth Desmond †††
Anna Yulie Dickerson †††
Dominic Paul Drury
Nathan Robert Dupont
Amaya Hope Fillhardt
Ethan Patrick Ford †††
Rylie Lynn Gearding †††
Kwintin Mason Gilliam
Anne Margaret Guthier
Cameron Rose Halpin †††
Emily Marie Heck
Hannah Michelle Hennekes ††
Olivia Ann Hoffstedder
Jaylin Mae Honkomp †††
Luke Michael Hopkins ††
Joel Anthony Iles
Brenna Marie Kane

GRADUATION 2022

Kieran Nicholas Kessen
 Gabrielle Marie Kramer †††
 Seth Caleb Kuhl
 Macy Anne Landrum †
 Alyssa Christine Lehmkuhl †
 Owen McCauley Louis †††
 Hunter Thomas Matthews
 Jessica Ruth McDonald ††
 Jerome Alexander McNay
 Ella Rose Meyer †††
 Gregory Tate Miller
 Dominic John Morgan †††
 Ross Douglas Pangallo †††
 Grace Marie Parnell †††
 Kaidyn Ann Marie Posey
 Jonah Reagan Prost †††
 Lou Julia Ripoll †††
 Noah William Ritter †††
 Morgan Lindsey Schulken †††
 Brennan Ray Seiter
 Joshua Alexander Templeton
 Rylee Emily Turner †††
 Luke Andrew Venable †††
 Jada Anne Vice
 Jerrod Jameson Watts ††
 Luke Henry Wiles
 Peter Colton Wilson
 Luke Joseph Woods †
 Gerald Lee Yukek III



Notre Dame Academy

Kylie Michelle Aytes †††
 Natalie Marceline Bain †††
 Claire Elizabeth Banks ††
 Jenna Margaret Barlage †††
 Emily Grace Bentley †††
 Natalie Claire Bessler †††
 Holly Ann Blanchet ††
 Abigail Grace Bowman ††
 Lindsy Marie Bowman †††
 Lacey Gabrielle Bradshaw †
 Amber Lee Branum ††
 Emma June Brauch ††
 Guinevere Elise Brauer ††
 Abigail Grace Breeze †††
 Hannah Nicole Brewer †††
 Celia Mae Brungs †††
 Elana Michelle Bruns †††
 Alexandra Marie Burgess ††
 Molly Mun Jing Chun †††
 Rheanna Marie Clark †††
 Lanier Koop Cloar ††
 Alyssa Rae Coburn
 Madelyn Grace Cogswell †††
 Isabella Laren Cottingham †††
 Katherine Josephine Crail †††
 Cate Olivia Cullen †
 Sydney Grace Dierig †
 Drue Clare Disken ††
 Brooke Marie Donelan †††
 Aileen Conroy Donnelly †††

Paige Beatrice Donnelly †††
 Adair Josephine Dooley †
 Alexis Brooke Durik ††
 Olivia Marie Dwyer
 Kaitlyn Marie Eberhart †††
 Reagan Elizabeth Elfers ††
 Mary Ann Elmlinger
 Macie Reece Feldman †††
 Dinithi Kaushani Fernando †††
 Caroline Elizabeth Fischer
 Brianna Anastasia Foote
 Olivia Ann Games †
 Paxton Brooke Gartman ††
 Cathrine Michael Ghazala †††
 Peyton Ann Green
 Braelyn Nicole Hambrick
 Korah Ray Hammersmith ††
 Anna Marie Harrity †††
 Abby Kathleen Hay
 Molly Elizabeth Hayduk †
 Grace Ann Heberling †††
 Reagan Katharine Heitker †††
 Sophia Elizabeth Helson †
 Sarah Jane Henson †††
 Anne Margaret Heuker †††
 Lauren Elisabeth Heupel †††
 Clare Marie Hooper †††
 Martine Elise Hue †††
 Claire Therese Hulett †††
 Morgan Renee Huston
 Abigail Catherine Jennings †††
 Elena Rose Jordahl †††
 Gabrielle Elizabeth Joyce †††
 Caroline Rose Kleman †††
 Josephine Marie Kleman †††
 Ana Nalini Kothandram †††
 Allison Grace Kratzer
 Elizabeth Anne Lange †††
 Anna Joe Leen †
 Jodi Ann Lovensheimer ††
 Cheney Gabrielle Lucas ††
 Addison Grace Mack †††
 Jillian Marie MacKnight †††
 Maria Jose Marin †
 Annamae Rose Martin †††
 Jillian Marie Martin †††
 Julia Sophia Mattone ††
 Samantha Haley Mazzaro †††
 Katherine Kennedy McBride †††
 Katherine M McKeown †††
 Margaret Jewell Merse †††
 Emaline Maria Miller
 Caroline Rose Muck ††
 Lydia Aja Naberhaus †††
 Caitlin Suzanne Neelley ††
 Jacquelyn Grace Neltner †††
 Gwenyth Marie Newman
 Krista Marie Noll
 Kennedy Rae Oak ††
 Jenna Jolie Oggy †
 Elizabeth Ann Ott
 Jayden L Otto †††
 Megan Olivia Paolucci †††
 Evelyn Rose Parsons †††
 Madison Ann Payne †††
 Maggie Perez †
 Melissa Perez
 Julia Grace Pfeiffer †

Abbie Janet Piccirillo †††
 Layne Elizabeth Rabe
 Charity Dhanya Rassati ††
 Ana Tereza Reser
 Jena Mae Rezelj †
 Hannah Marie Rice ††
 Mary Katherine Roebker †††
 Kate Barbara Roesel ††
 Shelby Kathleen Roman †
 Marina Ann Ruthsatz †
 Ann Frances Scharstein †††
 Olivia Marie Scharstein †††
 Elena Marie Scheffter †††
 Katherine Mee Jin Schriefer ††
 Claire Irene Schrinner ††
 Ella Rose Schulte †††
 Sara Marie Schutt †
 Caitlin Marie Scola †††
 Eleanor Michelle Simkonis ††
 Mia Natalia Sommerkamp †
 Emma Louise Spivey ††
 Charlotte Lucia Sprecher †††
 Adeline Elizabeth Stanley
 Erin Marie Stegman †††
 Cameron Michelle Steinbrunner ††
 Carly Elise Stith
 Lillian Mary Sweeten †††
 Brynne Elizabeth Thelen ††
 Ella Frances Timmerding †††
 Sarah Jeanne Topmiller †††
 Josephine Lee Tranter †††
 Gianna Marie Virginillo †
 Deasia Diamond VonHandorf †
 Taylor Ann-Marie Wachs †
 Gretchen Kendall Wahoff ††
 Katherine Ann Wainscott †††
 Emma Genevieve Wald ††
 Emily Grace Walden †††
 Lee Annette Warnecke †††
 Kaitlyn Anne Warner †††
 Clara Elizabeth Weber †††
 Grace Elizabeth Webster
 Ella Grace Weitzel †††
 Kiernan Audrey Wenstrup ††
 Piper Marie Wenstrup ††
 Olivia Laura White †
 Alana Marie Willhite
 Adalyn Sophia Woeste †††
 Sarah Ann Woodrum †††
 Sydney McCoy Wright †††
 Madison Marie Wuest †††
 Stephanie Elizabeth Yarger †††
 Raegan Elaine Zeck ††



St. Henry District High School

Macey Marie Ables †
 Connor Joseph Albrinck
 Dillon James Arlinghaus
 Jenna Marie Arthur †††
 Derrick Thomas Atkinson

Emily Rose Bailey †††
 Charles Michael Barsan †††
 George Henry Barsan †††
 Zachariah Xaiver Barth
 Logan Daniel Baute †
 Rachel Ann Becknell †
 Krista Anne Behan ††
 Ryan Andrew Beimesch ††
 Noah Chul Bilz
 Noah Anthony Blakley
 Madeline Rose Briede
 Maria Coleen Brockman †
 Reese Elizabeth Carter †††
 Charles Robert Casey
 Kennedy Paige Challis †
 Grady Maria Collins ††
 Arianna Thomas Collins
 Peter John Paul Constant †††
 Nathan Charles Dennison
 Caleb Thomas Dickman †
 Ellen Therese Dierker †††
 Anna Elizabeth Dinius †††
 Jule Marie Doellman ††
 Thomas Clayton Duckworth †
 Andrew Joseph Durstock †††
 Owen William Eilerman †††
 Abigail Marie Enzweiler †††
 Eleanor Jean Erwin ††
 Thomas Turner Evans †
 Nataly Ruth Abigail Farmer †
 Camden James Fedders
 Mary Kathryn Felix ††
 Dania Melissa Foltz †††
 Leah Elizabeth Fortner †††
 Noah Robert Francis †††
 Allison Kathleen Geiger †††
 Jay Loftus Giffin †††
 Katherine Joo-Mee Anne Grayson †
 Andrew David Grosser †
 Leah Marie Haddle †††
 Ryan Marcus Heck †††
 Andrew Edwin Heinsman †††
 Cheyenne Faith Helmlé
 Killian Joseph Hicks
 Joseph Mauricio Hutchinson
 Katelyn Nicole Ives †††
 Isaac Augustine Jones †††
 Lauren Elizabeth Kent †††
 Lauren Mary Klein ††
 Grace Elizabeth Koch ††
 Grace Jane Laudenslayer †††
 Amanda Grace Leonhard †††
 Jayson Matthew Litzler ††
 Victoria Marie Mapes
 Raymond Edward Martin ††
 Luke Joseph Mason ††
 Molly Ann Mccubbin †††
 Elias Andrew Meiman ††
 Sasha Nicole Menzer †††
 Brooke Ellen Meyer †††
 Justin Parker Middendorf
 Matthew David Miller †††
 Camden Crosley Montgomery †††
 Hannah Grace Neils †††
 Sophia Marie Nix †††
 Natalie Marie Noll †††
 Nicholas Steven Noll ††

Matthew Zachary Osborn
 Hagen Carter Pearce †††
 Kyle Stephen Perry
 Taylor Lee Preston ††
 Elizabeth Anne Quinn †††
 Michael James Renaker ††
 Sydney Nicole Reymond †††
 Andrew Thomas Reynolds
 Jacob Lee Ritchie ††
 Evan John Rowekamp †††
 Mark William Ryan
 Luke Michael Salzman
 Matthew Elizabeth Schaefer
 Abigail David Schaefer †††
 Carter Scott Scheben
 Annabelle Adeana Schmid †††
 Owen Alexander Setters †††
 Mackenzie Ann Smith †††
 Haley Nicole Snodgrass
 Katey Christine Snodgrass ††
 Riley Melissa Spellman †††
 Sydney Mae Steimle †††
 Natalie Claire Stich †††
 Bailey Alayne Stinson ††
 Antonio Paul Sturpe †
 Caleb Anthony Tally †††
 Evan Rose Taylor †††
 Cora Garrett Taylor †
 Casey Alise Townsend
 Gabriela Elizabeth Tragesser
 Jayden Thomas Trame †††
 Olivia Rose Vallecillo
 Daniel Paul Veselsky ††
 Camryn Elizabeth Welch †††
 Camille Marie Williams †††
 Savannah Rose Wood ††



St. Patrick High School

Alan Josue Briseño Lopez †
 Kaitlyn Reese Burton †
 Faith Brianna Comer †††
 Caroline Olivia Day †
 Lily Anna Fryman
 Rose Cherie Fryman †††
 Baudelio Hernandez Garcia
 Katherine Shelby Hord †
 Allison Brooke Hughes †††
 Chloe Ann Marie Little †††
 Caleb Joseph Poczatek †††
 Samuel Scott Porter †
 Morgan Taylor Riddle †††
 Jaclyn Elaine Stewart
 Braxton Dean Swanger
 Chase John Walton
 Winston B Williams †††



Asha Adley †††
 Jasmin Asad †††
 Paetyn Ashcraft †††
 Alexis Baker †††
 Gabriella Bicknell †††
 Colin Chillo †
 Benjamin Dropic †††
 Abigail Ernst †††
 Kirsten Gallagher †††
 Alexander Grannen †††
 Kelsey Holland †††
 Isabella Hoover †
 Zhendong Hu ††
 Abigail Johnson
 Mackenzie Kessans ††
 Noah Kolar †††
 Anna Kremer †††
 Camryn Kuehne †††
 Hailey Lemire
 Jonas Lescoe ††
 Camdyn Meier †††
 Abigail Meyers †
 Drew Moellering ††
 Sara Moore †††
 Madison Morgan ††
 Lily Osterkamp †††
 Autumn Patrick †††
 Nicholas Ramler ††
 Nicholas Ramundo ††
 Grace Ransdell
 Rachel Raziano ††
 John Regensburger †††
 Sarah Rice ††
 Emily Riordan †††
 Kathryn Ryman †††
 Jantzen Santos †
 Mason Slazyk ††
 Charlie Thiemann ††
 Joslyn Thornberry †††
 Tzitzit Uzoukwu ††
 Alana Wiesner †

††† Summa Cum Laude
 †† Magna Cum Laude
 † Cum Laude

GRADUATION 2022



Congratulations pontifical servers

Prior to the Covington Latin School graduation service, Bishop John Iffert paused to take a photo in front of the school with the graduating pontifical servers. The pontifical servers, who serve for Bishop Iffert at the Cathedral and sometimes elsewhere when no other servers are available, were also honored during the graduation ceremony. Pontifical servers pictured with Bishop Iffert are: (from left) Simon Juelg, Cooper Jones, Jacob Schuetter, Teah Hagan, Ben Purtell and Jonathan Miller.



Hannah L. Abshire †††
 Cierra Rae Ackerson
 Ilisha A. Adams
 Mackenzie Rose Adams †
 Jonathan Anderson
 Jessica Appelman
 Anja M. Arlinghaus
 Callie Victoria Armson
 Princess M. Armstrong
 Macee Renee Autumn
 Ashcraft ††
 Reagan Atwood
 Jesus Avila
 Jessica Maldonado Avina
 John Bagadion
 Zachary Martin Ball
 Conner Barnes †
 Rachael Claire Barnes
 Andrew Frank James
 Bartolovich †††
 Ryan Joseph Basford
 Kylie Michele Batsche
 Ryan Taylor Batte
 Lena C. Bauer
 Thomas Joseph Bauman
 Spencer John Becknell
 Andrew J. Beebe
 Brett Mason Benzinger
 Victoria L. Bermudez-
 Vazquez
 Garren Bleser Bertsch
 Michael Alexander
 Binkowski
 Cameron DeVante Bishop
 Baylee Grace Blackburn
 Stormi Danielle Bledsoe
 Skylar Paige Boeh ††
 Kiera E. Bowman
 Rachel N. Boyer
 Samuel Charles Boyles
 Anissa Lamia Bradley
 Daniel Branch
 Alexis Ann Brandenburg
 Kaitlyn Hope Bredestege
 Michael Lucas Brett †

Stephanie Briede
 Grace Elizabeth Brogan ††
 Nicholas D. Brohas
 Lindsey Marie Brown †
 Whitney Hope Brown
 Isaac Hope Brunt
 Katherine Elizabeth
 Bryson †
 Rebecca Buchanan ††
 Megan Nicole Buckner
 Walker Arnold Buelow
 Emily Alena Burgheim ††
 Mitchell Charles Burgheim
 Elizabeth Grace Butler †
 Barbara Grubisic Cabo
 Hunter Cagle ††
 Monalo Caldwell, Jr.
 Jenna Campbell
 Tahj T. Campbell
 Myriah Carper
 Pauline Ann Carr
 Brock Alexander Cassin
 Lauren Estelle Cavanaugh
 †
 Lacey J. Chestnut †
 Zachary Miller Chin ††
 Alexah Anne Chrisman
 John Scheible Clark ††
 Jewel Lee Claypool
 Sandra L. Cleveland
 Mason Deane Cobler
 Ethan Conradi
 Nicolette C. Cooper
 Jude Katherine Cope
 Peter Cox
 Shannon Marie Culp
 Thomas Anthony
 Cunningham
 Sarah L. Davies
 Kedan Maurice Davis
 Jacob Day
 Tara Renee Dean
 Aaron Deller
 Colin Andrew Dempster
 Jodi Lou Denlinger
 Anthony Robert Deras
 Kevin Robert Deras
 Tiffany Marie Dietz
 Kansie Imogene Disney ††
 Parker W. Dixon †
 Cassandra M. Dobbins
 Erica Lillian Dorn ††
 Evan Luke Dougherty ††
 Alyssa K. Dowdell †††

Margaret M. Dredger †††
 Charles Dreyer
 Justin LaMar Durham
 Erin Elizabeth Durstock
 Jacob Berling Durstock †
 Michelle B. Edwards †
 Erica Alane Ehrhard †††
 Frank Christian Ellman †
 Seth Thomas Evers
 Elizabeth Gail Fahey
 Samantha Elizabeth
 Fancote †
 Caitlin Marie Fangman ††
 Emily Morgan Farmer †††
 Lauren Olivia Farmer †
 D'Shon Antonio Lee
 Feaster
 James L. Fedders
 Abigail Fenton
 Andrew Ferrigno
 Sydney Ann Fillhardt †
 Samantha Finke
 Megan Elizabeth Finley †
 Christopher Robert Flach †
 Kevin M. Flaherty
 Amber Floyd
 Alan M. Ford †††
 Emmey N. Frazier †
 Tara Juanita French
 Michael David Frost
 Charles Antwon Gaines
 Muhamad Gamil
 Matthew Thomas Garey
 Tammy Marie Gerdes ††
 Brigitte Elaine Gogzheyan
 Allison Elizabeth Gosney
 India Louise Gosney
 Allison Marie Gribben
 Chase Lee Grizzell
 Brandon Scott Groh †
 Jared Grondin
 Evan J. Haas ††
 Keighly A. Halpin
 Omar Yousef Hameidan
 Morgan Elizabeth Harden
 Logan Matthew Hargis
 Jordan L. Harley
 Linda Harper
 Elana Ashley Harrison
 Alexis L. Haverland
 Anna Rachel Hayes
 Maximilian K. Hennessey †
 Daniel Henry
 Megan S. Hill

Baylee Elizabeth Hobeika
 Brianna J. Hoegermeyer
 †††
 Kevin Charles Hoffer
 Karina Marie Holt
 Whittni Lynn Howard
 Drew Huffman
 Braxton A. Hurley
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Understanding Americans' abortion views from poll results not always easy

Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — How to make sense of Americans' attitudes toward abortion? It isn't easy.

In polls, many respondents will give answers that contradict each other.

A Gallup poll in 2019 — Gallup has polled regularly on abortion since 1975 — found that 92 percent of Americans believed that using birth control was “morally acceptable,” but their support for abortion, by contrast, was more mixed. (The Catholic Church teaches that both are morally wrong.)

But the year before, Gallup found that 65 percent of Americans believed abortion should generally be illegal during the second trimester of pregnancy — but in the same survey, 69 percent said the Supreme Court should not overturn *Roe v. Wade*.

FiveThirtyEight, which itself analyzed abortion polls, “found that a large majority of Americans support abortion in the first trimester, but that support tends to drop in the second trimester.”

In an ABC News-Washington Post poll conducted in late April, 54 percent of Americans want the court to uphold *Roe*, nearly twice as many as the 28 percent who want to see it struck down. Also, an ABC poll offering only a yes-or-no choice found that 57 percent of Americans opposed a ban on abortion after 15 weeks of pregnancy, while 58 percent opposed a ban after six weeks.

If abortion weighs on the mind of pregnant women, talking about it seems to be just as difficult for all Americans.

Hannah Hartig, a research associate on the U.S. politics team for the Pew Research Center, calls it “cross pressure.”

Pew has been polling regularly about abortion since 1995. Pew has found that whether certain statements about abortion used in its polling also describe the respondent's views as well, they've been offered the same seeming contradictions.

“Thirty-three percent of adults say human life begins at conception, and so a fetus is a person with rights,” Hartig told Catholic News Service in a May 16 phone interview, yet they also hold that the decision on whether to have an abortion belongs to the woman.

“So on one hand you can look at them at think they they're contradictory,” she said, but it isn't necessarily the case because of this cross pressure.



CNS photo/Tyler Orsburn

Demonstrators gather outside the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington July 9, 2018.

Results of Pew's latest polling on abortion, issued May 6, show a starker partisan divide than had existed in the past.

Since 2007, Republicans who say abortion should be legal in all or most cases went up from 37 percent to 39 percent. Among Democrats, the percentages went up from 63 percent in 2007 to 80 percent in 2022. In 2012, the percent-

(Continued on page 17)

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(Continued from page 16)

ages of Americans either for or against abortion came together the closest they'd been, but support for legal abortion has never fallen below 50 percent.

Younger Republicans, including 47 percent of those ages 18-29, said abortion should be legal in most or all cases. Among all Americans, though, the older the respondent, the less likely they are to agree with that view — although majorities supporting a right to abortion extends through the oldest age group.

And through it all, Gallup has found that support for legal abortion, after nearly 50 years of polling, has gone up all of 1 percent, and opposition is down by the same 1 percent.

Hartig told CNS a “halo effect” can apply to phone polling, as the respondent may offer answers that he or she thinks the pollster wants to hear. “Online polls,” she said, “typically show less (of a) social desirability bias,” another way of saying halo effect. She said the May Pew poll was conducted online via its American Trends panel.

Regardless of how the poll is conducted, Hartig said Pew doesn't want to inundate respondents with questions about abortion, “which we know is a very personal, sensitive topic for many Americans. Intimate — yes, that would be a factor.”

“Whenever the Pew Research Center is tracking a sort of trend, we always at minimum want to place it in context to a question we've asked before” on the topic, she said. “We also want to keep it away from certain political topics. We want to give people a clean read about it. We also want to avoid questions about the Supreme Court.”

Hartig said, “When we're designing these, we want to be very careful about the questions that we ask.” Pew gives them a chance to offer additional thoughts on abortion. “I would say about a third of respondents chose to answer these open-ended questions,” she added. “It is a fair num-

ber who ended up skipping” the opportunity to flesh out their thoughts.

Hartig said Pew does not spin the results. “The motivation for this study is research,” she declared. “We always hope the Pew Research Center, in conducting these large studies, is that it's a straightforward contribution to the public dialogue. We want people to look at the data and digest it for themselves. We take great pains to make sure our questions are fair and reasonable.”

Moreover, while some polls will include questions paid to be asked by some company or interest group, such is not the case with Pew. “We are independent, nonadvocacy, non-profit — all the ‘nons’ you can think of,” Hartig said.

Although abortion consistently ranks lower than the

economy, health care and many other issues in surveys of Americans, abortion questions will continue to be asked by pollsters.

“We don't know how that will change” once the Supreme Court rules in the *Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health Organization* case involving Mississippi's 15-week ban on abortion, Hartig noted. “States start enacting more restrictive laws, or less restrictive laws — if states are allowed to make those decisions.”

She added, “Anytime you have a high-profile case, you are as interested in stability as you are in the change. That's the case for a number of different topics, not just abortion.”

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Pope appeals for end to Russian blockade of Ukraine grain exports

Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — With hundreds of millions of lives at risk because of the Russian blockade of grain exports out of Ukraine, Pope Francis appealed for an end to the blockade and a resolution to the crisis.

“Please do not use grain, a staple food, as a weapon of war,” he said.

At the end of his weekly general audience in St. Peter’s Square June 1, the pope expressed his “deep concern” regarding the blockade on exporting grain, “upon which the lives of millions of people, especially in the poorest countries, depend.”

He launched a “heartfelt appeal for every effort to be made to resolve this issue and to guarantee the universal human right to food.”

Ukraine, known as the “breadbasket of Europe,” is the fifth largest exporter of wheat; Russia is the world’s largest. Together, the two countries provide 19 percent of the world’s barley supply, 14 percent of wheat and 4 percent of corn, making up more than one-third of global cereal exports, according to the European Commission’s spring 2022 report.

Russian forces have occupied and blockaded all of Ukraine’s seaports, essentially blocking millions of tons of food exports. Ukraine provides food for an estimated 400 million people.

The World Food Program has called for the immediate reopening of Black Sea ports, including Odesa, so needed food from Ukraine can reach those already facing food insecurity.

“A global food crisis, already impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, is being driven to famine levels worldwide by the war in Ukraine and the resulting lack of grain exports,” dozens of speakers told the U.N. Security Council May 19 in a ministerial-level open debate on conflict and food security.

The United Nations said Rebecca Grynspan, a senior U.N.

official, had “constructive discussions” in Moscow on how to facilitate the export of Russian grain and fertilizer to global markets, Reuters reported May 31.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba accused Russia of “playing hunger games” with the world by blocking Ukrainian food exports, Reuters reported.

CNS photo/Edgar Su, Reuters

A destroyed warehouse is seen at the Mlybor flour mill facility after it was shelled repeatedly, amid Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, in the Chernihiv region, Ukraine, May 24, 2022.

Pope Francis appealed for an end to the Russian blockade of Ukrainian grain exports.



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Pope encourages Cursillo members to build unity, share Gospel

Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Members of the Cursillo movement are called to share their experience of faith and God's love by building up the unity of the Catholic Church and showing others the joy of faith, Pope Francis said.

Meeting May 28 with some 2,400 Italian members of the movement, gathered for a "National Ultreya" as they call their gatherings, Pope Francis also urged them to avoid the error other Catholic movements have made of electing and reelecting the same leaders.

"No one is eternal in authority," the pope told them. "So many movements have died out" because of the temptation of "eternalizing offices," keeping the same person in a given role.

A change and renewal of leadership, he said, is necessary "to counteract personal ambitions, which are inspired by the devil."

But in his talk to the group, Pope Francis focused more on the meaning of the Spanish word "ultreya," which means to go further or go beyond.

The Cursillo weekends and regular meetings, he said, help members go beyond "a purely horizontal, earthly and materialistic view of life" and recognize how faith in Christ can impact every part of their lives and every relationship.

Too often, he said, "out of laziness, out of inertia, out of timidity, we are quick to lose the outlook of faith and conform to the mentality of the world, which extinguishes all zeal and all desire to remain faithful to the Lord and to bring him to others."

The experience of faith, the pope told them, should move all members toward a greater communion in their

"The Bob's Burgers Movie" (20th Century) Frequently amusing animated comedy follows the adventures of the titular restaurant's owner, his wife and their three children. With the payment on a bank loan looming, a sinkhole abruptly opens up in front of the family eatery, threatening its future. As Mom and Dad try to adapt to the situation, the youngsters set out to solve the murder of a skeleton found in the suddenly formed pit, hoping to clear their wealthy landlord, who stands accused of the



Movie Capsule

crime, and thus gain his financial help. Directors Loren Bouchard and Bernard Derriman's adaptation of the long-running Fox TV show mixes wry observations and quirky personalities with a few jaunty songs. But the dialogue is larded with restrained swearing while the elder daughter's romantic thoughts about a schoolmate sometimes focus on the seat of his pants, making this most appropriate for older teens and their seniors. Pervasive mildly profane language, occasional scatological and anatomical humor, several crass terms. CNS: A-III; MPAA: PG-13.

"Top Gun: Maverick" (Paramount) In this rousing sequel to the 1986 blockbuster, directed by Joseph Kosinski, the first film's protagonist, a Navy fighter pilot, is ordered by his superiors to tread unfamiliar territory by becoming an instructor to a new generation of trainee aviators. As he tries to build a team and complete a dangerous mission, he butts heads with one of his charges, the son of a deceased comrade whose death continues to haunt the flyboy-turned-teacher. He's also distracted by the reappearance of an old flame. The upshot is inspiring entertainment on a grand scale, with dazzling aerial acrobatics, a stirring musical score, first-rate acting and the occasional heart-tugging interlude. Possibly acceptable for mature adolescents. Intense action sequences, implied nonmarital sexual activity, fleeting profane and crude language. CNS: A-III; MPAA: PG-13.

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;
- A-III — adults;
- L — limited adult audience;
- O — morally offensive.

small groups, their parishes, their national Cursillo group and the Church at large.

The Church is "always a body" and never just individuals unconnected to each other, he said.

Communion also enriches members of a movement and of the Church "with broader experiences and perspectives, which help you understand better the ecclesial and social situation in which you are immersed and which constitutes the concrete field of your mission."

All Catholics, whether part of a movement or not, must

be close to and listen to their pastors and participate in parish initiatives and projects, the pope said. "Your groups and your whole movement, in fact, are not 'beside' the Church, but are also part of the Church living in that territory."

Members of the movement, like all Christians, also are called to be "missionary disciples," and that requires creativity, he said.

Thinking or saying, "it has always been done this way," he said, "is not a Christian criterion."

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Happy birthday

(Continued from page 5)

Confirmation, we, the faithful, have been strengthened in the faith of the Church in order to go on mission — to go and proclaim the Good News. And what of course is the Good News? That we have been made for love — to be loved and to love. And love, should we not know the definition is not an emotion (although it has emotive aspects), it is an act of the will (the mind), to will and seek the good of another, solely as other (no strings attached). This, by the way, is why we can love our enemies.

So as we celebrate this outpouring of the Holy Spirit into the lives of the apostles which brings about the realization of the Church, let us welcome the Holy Spirit into our own lives and live and proclaim the Gospel by what we say, and do, and most especially by the way that we love.

Father Daniel Schomaker is pastor, St. Augustine Parish, Covington and vicar general for the Diocese of Covington, Ky.

Meet people where they are

(Continued from page 5)

are, in both the literal and figurative sense. The heart of our outreach takes place through actual physical visits to neighbors' homes by our Vincentian volunteers. After we literally go to where our neighbors are, our Vincentians take the time to listen and understand the struggles each neighbor in need is facing.

This is how we figuratively meet our neighbors where they are. This is an active listening session where judgement is suspended. Our Vincentians ask open and honest questions in an effort to draw out details and look for ways to help those we serve see their challenges from a different perspective.

While our Vincentians provide material and financial aid to address immediate needs, these

meaningful conversations become an opportunity to convey the message of Christ's love, acceptance and encouragement. These two-way dialogues are how we are able to bring people with us.

We are called to give witness to our faith in Jesus Christ through word and action. The Vincentian home visit is a vehicle to sharing this witness. However, sometimes the action part of this witness is simply listening and then allowing the Holy Spirit to work within us to engage with each other. No formal committee or grand gesture necessary. Through this very simple act, we can be his presence in the world, helping to fulfill his mission to bring all people to God.

Karen Zengel is executive director, Society of St. Vincent de Paul Northern Kentucky

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Pope announces new cardinals, including U.S. Bishop McElroy

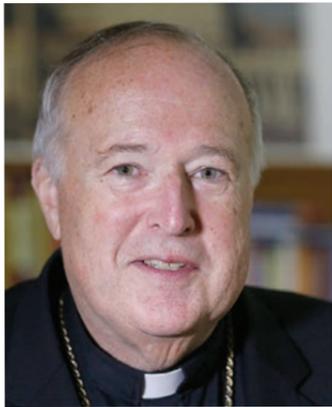
Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis announced he will create 21 new cardinals Aug. 27, including 68-year-old Bishop Robert W. McElroy of San Diego.

The pope made the announcement at the end of his “Regina Coeli” address May 29, telling the crowd in St. Peter’s Square the names of the 16 cardinals under the age of 80, who will be eligible to vote in a conclave, and the names of five elderly churchmen whose red hats are a sign of esteem and honor.

“Let us pray for the new cardinals so that, in confirming their adherence to Christ, they may help me in my ministry as bishop of Rome for the good of the entire holy people of God,” the pope said.

After the Aug. 27 consistory, there will be 132 cardinals eligible to enter a



CNS photo/Paul Haring

Bishop Robert W. McElroy of San Diego was among 21 new cardinals named by Pope Francis May 29, 2022. Cardinal-designate McElroy is pictured in a 2019 photo.

conclave, and the number of those over 80 will be 97, bringing the total number of cardinals to 229.

Here is the full list of the new cardinals, in the order named by the pope:

- Archbishop Arthur Roche, 72, prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments.
- Archbishop Lazarus You Heung-sik, 70, prefect of the Congregation for Clergy.
- Archbishop Fernando Vérgez Alzaga, 77, president of the Pontifical Commission for Vatican City State and president of the Governorate of Vatican City State.
- Archbishop Jean-Marc Aveline of Marseille, France, 63.
- Bishop Peter Ebere Okpaleke of Ekwulobia, Nigeria, 59.
- Archbishop Leonardo Ulrich Steiner of Manaus, Brazil, 71.
- Archbishop Filipe Neri António Sebastião do Rosário Ferrão of Goa, India, 69.

- Bishop Robert Walter McElroy of San Diego, 68.
- Archbishop Virgilio do Carmo da Silva of Dili, Timor-Leste, 54.
- Bishop Oscar Cantoni of Como, Italy, 71.
- Archbishop Anthony Poola of Hyderabad, India, 60.
- Archbishop Paulo Cezar Costa of Brasília, Brazil, 54.
- Bishop Richard Kuuia Baawobr of Wa, Ghana, 62.
- Archbishop William Goh Seng Chye of Singapore, 64.
- Archbishop Adalberto Martínez Flores of Asunción, Paraguay, 70.
- Bishop Giorgio Marengo, apostolic prefect of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, who will be 48 June 7.
- Retired Archbishop Jorge Jiménez Carvajal of Cartagena, Colombia, 80.
- Retired Archbishop Lucas Van Looy of Ghent, Belgium, 80.
- Retired Archbishop Arrigo Miglio of Cagliari, Italy, who turns 80 July 18.
- Jesuit Father Gianfranco Ghirlanda, professor of canon law, who turns 80 July 5.
- Msgr. Fortunato Frezza, canon of St. Peter’s Basilica, 80.

Cardinal days of August: Pope’s pick for cardinals wasn’t the only surprise

Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — For many people in Rome, Pope Francis’ decision to schedule a consistory to create new cardinals in August was more surprising than the men he chose to receive the red hat.

Traditionally, Rome empties of everyone but tourists in sweltering August.

And Pope Francis’ choices for inclusion in the College of Cardinals are, by now, predictably unpredictable except that they will represent a broader geographical range, and, with few exceptions, they will skip over archdioceses once guaranteed to have a cardinal.

In fact, in a brief article in “Vatican News,” the editorial director of the Dicastery for Communication explained the pope’s unusual decision to hold the consistory Aug. 27 was made to coincide with a previously announced gathering of the world’s cardinals Aug. 29-30 to discuss the new structure of the Roman Curia.

Pope Francis announced May 29 that he would create 21 new cardinals — 16 of whom are under the age of 80 and so will be eligible to vote in a conclave to elect a new pope. The 21 churchmen come from 16 countries.

The cardinals-designate include three senior members of the Roman Curia, who generally were presumed to be named cardinals eventually: British Cardinal-designate Arthur Roche, head of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments; South Korean Cardinal-designate Lazarus You Heung-sik, head of the Congregation for Clergy; and Spanish Cardinal-designate Fernando Vérgez Alzaga, head of the office in charge of Vatican City State operations.

Cardinal-designate Vérgez is the first member of the Legionaries of Christ to become a cardinal. U.S. Cardinal Kevin Farrell, prefect of the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life, was a member of the order; but left to become a priest of the Archdiocese of Washington.

Six other members of religious orders are on the list for the August ceremony, including two Salesians — Archbishop Virgilio do Carmo da Silva of Dili, Timor-Leste, and retired Archbishop Lucas Van Looy of Ghent, Belgium. The lone Jesuit on the list is Father Gianfranco Ghirlanda, professor of canon law, who turns 80 July 5. Archbishop Leonardo Ulrich Steiner of Manaus, Brazil, is a Franciscan, and Bishop Richard Kuuia Baawobr of Wa, Ghana, is a member of the Missionaries of Africa.

Pope Francis is a Jesuit as are six current members of the College of Cardinals. The Friars Minor, the Franciscan branch to which Bishop Ulrich Steiner belongs, already has two cardinals, and the Missionaries of Africa have one. But the Salesians, who will gain two cardinals, lead the pack with nine cardinals already.

The only Consolata Missionary that will be part of the college is Cardinal-designate Giorgio Marengo, apostolic prefect of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, who also will be the youngest cleric with a red hat. He will celebrate his 48th

birthday June 7.

Although born in Italy, he is one of six cardinals-designate under 80 who minister in or are from Asia. Four others are Europe-based; three are Latin Americans; two are Africans. Cardinal-designate Robert W. McElroy of San Diego is the only North American in the new crop of cardinals.

After the consistory in late August, the College of Cardinals will have 132 members under the age of 80 and eligible to enter a conclave; 83 of them — almost 63 percent — will have been created cardinals by Pope Francis; 11 of the remaining voters were made cardinals by St. John Paul II and 67 by retired Pope Benedict XVI.

While some pundits spoke about Pope Francis “packing” the College of Cardinals, it must be remembered that of the 115 cardinals who entered the conclave in March 2013 and elected him, 67 were named to the college by Pope Benedict XVI and 48 were created cardinals by St. John Paul II.

Counting Cardinal-designate Marengo as an Asian, not European cardinal, after the consistory 53 of the electors — just over 40 percent — will be European; 18 percent will be Latin American; almost 16 percent Asian; almost 13 percent African; 10 percent North American; and just over 2 percent from Oceania.

Mongolia, which has a Catholic population of 1,359, according to the latest Vatican figures, will have its first cardinal, as will Singapore with Cardinal-designate William Goh Seng Chye, and Paraguay with Cardinal-designate Adalberto Martínez Flores of Asunción.

Much was made in the Italian press of Pope Francis’ choice of Bishop Oscar Cantoni of Como, Italy, to receive the red hat, especially when the archdioceses of Milan and Venice are not led by cardinals. But Como does have a cardinalatial past; granted, the last was Blessed Andrea Ferrari, who was made a cardinal May 18, 1894, and named archbishop of Milan three days later. The last cardinal to



CNS photo/Vatican Media

Pope Francis greets Bishop Giorgio Marengo, apostolic prefect of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, during an audience with Buddhist leaders from Mongolia at the Vatican May 28, 2022. The pope announced the next day he would make Bishop Marengo a cardinal in August.

minister in the Diocese of Como for an extended period was Bishop Carlo Ciceri, who was appointed to the see in 1680 and made a cardinal in 1686. He died in Como in 1694 at the age of 77.

India and Brazil both will have two new cardinals in August, and Cardinal-designate Anthony Poola of Hyderabad, India, made headlines in his home country for being the first cardinal of the Telugu people from the Indian states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and, especially, for being the first Dalit cardinal. “Dalit,” which means “trampled upon” in Sanskrit, refers to people treated as untouchables under India’s former caste system and often still treated with disrespect today, including in the church at times.

An editorial May 31 on the website Matters India said, “That caste is a grave concern and that it needs to be addressed is undeniable and Archbishop Poola would have to play a significant role in bringing this into the church’s conversations and discussions and help find ways to resolve it.”

“Analogously,” the editorial continued, “the struggles of the Adivasis — also called tribals or the Indigenous people — are different, but in the appointment of Cardinal Telesphore Toppo in 2003, the community found a representative to be celebrated.”

Pope Francis’ choice of 59-year-old Cardinal-designate Peter Ebere Okpaleke of Ekwulobia, Nigeria, also brought interest. In December 2012, Pope Benedict had named him bishop of Ahiara and he was ordained the following May. But his appointment and ordination were met by protests and petitions calling for the appointment of a bishop from among the local clergy.

Even after Pope Francis in 2017 ordered local priests to pledge their obedience to the pope and accept the bishop, the situation remained tense. In early 2018, Bishop Okpaleke resigned saying, “I am convinced in conscience that my remaining the bishop of Ahiara Diocese is no longer beneficial to the church.”

Pope Francis named him bishop of the newly created Diocese of Ekwulobia in March 2020.

Elderly must share life's wisdom with the young, pope says

Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Seeing all the violence and injustice in the world, people easily grow disillusioned and wonder about the meaning of life, but Christians must fight the temptation of weariness with faith and a passion for justice, Pope Francis said.

Progress in science and technology and knowledge in general continues to advance, but “the wisdom of life is something else entirely, and it seems to be stalled,” the pope said May 25 at his weekly general audience in St. Peter’s Square.

Continuing his series of talks about old age, the pope looked at the Bible’s Book of Ecclesiastes and its refrain, “Vanity of vanities. All is vanity.”

Especially as they get older, the pope said, people naturally ask if their lives have made any difference and if anyone is capable of showing the difference between the just and the unjust.

The Christian response cannot be resignation or giving in to weariness, which early Christian monks identified as the vice of “sloth,” he said.

The author of Ecclesiastes, he said, reflects on how easy it is to grow disillusioned with life and to give up the struggle to make the world a better place, but the author also insists the best remedy is to “fear God and keep his command-

ments.”

“Elders rich in wisdom and humor do so much good to the young,” the pope insisted. “They save them from the temptation of a grim worldly knowledge devoid of the wisdom of life. And also, these elders bring young people back to Jesus’ promise, ‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.’”

The pope, 85, said he and every other older person has “a very great mission in the world,” which is to “sow hunger and thirst for righteousness in the young.”

“It is no accident that ours is the season of fake news, collective superstitions and pseudo-scientific truths,” the pope said. The only antidote is the wisdom that comes from devotion to God and to doing God’s will.



CNS photo/Paul Haring

Pope Francis greets a girl during his general audience in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican May 25, 2022.

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National/World

San Diego bishop says he was ‘stunned,’ ‘humbled’ by being named a cardinal

SAN DIEGO — Cardinal-designate Robert W. McElroy told reporters May 31 that when he learned he is among the 21 new cardinals Pope Francis will create Aug. 27, “I said a big prayer. I said several prayers because I was stunned and so shocked by this,” said the 68-year-old prelate who heads the San Diego Diocese. He is the only American in the group the pope announced May 29. “It was prayer in gratitude for my family and the many people who have helped form me over the years and thanksgiving to God for all their roles in my life,” he said during a 25-minute news conference held outside the diocesan pastoral center. After the consistory, he will be among 132 cardinals under the age of 80, who will be eligible to vote in a conclave. The number of those over 80 will be 97, bringing the total number of cardinals to 229. A native of San Francisco, Bishop McElroy is the sixth bishop of San Diego. He was installed April 15, 2015. Ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of San Francisco April 12, 1980, he was an auxiliary bishop of the archdiocese from September 2010 until he was named to head the Diocese of San Diego in 2015. “By naming Bishop Robert McElroy as a cardinal, Pope Francis has shown his pastoral care for the Church in the United States,” said Los Angeles Archbishop José H. Gomez, who is president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. “I have known and have had the privilege of working with Cardinal-designate McElroy for many years.”

Priests describe danger of famine in Kenya as bishops launch aid appeal

NAIROBI, Kenya — As Kenyan Catholic bishops launch an appeal to aid drought-hit regions, local priests in the parishes are raising deep concerns over mounting hunger as people face the possibility of famine. Throughout much of Kenya, parishioners are either farmers, traders or herders. They grow their own food or live off of livestock, but the lack of rain in the fourth consecutive season has snuffed out livelihoods, leaving millions of people on the verge of starvation. The drought — which the United Nations described as the worst in 40 years — is believed to be a consequence of climate change. Drought impacts are being exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic and more recently by the war in Ukraine. Father Ibrahim Racho, vicar general of the Diocese of Marsabit, said the situation is extremely dire in his region, where recent rains last only three days. The diocese in northern Kenya is one of the most affected in the country. “The animals are dying and there is much hunger among the people,” Father Racho told Catholic News Service in late May. “At the beginning, there was some intervention, but it was not enough.” Across the country, 3.5 million people are facing severe food shortages and need humanitarian aid, according to relief agencies.

New Oklahoma law bans nearly all abortions from fertilization stage

OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt signed into law one of the nation’s most restrictive abortion bills May 25, saying he has kept his promise to voters to “sign every piece of pro-life legislation that came across my desk.” It bans abortions from the stage of “fertilization” and allows private citizens to sue abortion providers who “knowingly” perform or induce an abortion “on a pregnant woman.” It does allow exceptions for medical emergencies or if the pregnancy was a result of rape, sexual assault or incest and reported to law enforcement. “From the moment life begins at conception is when we have a responsibility as human beings to do everything we can to protect that baby’s life and the life of the mother,” Stitt tweeted. “That is what I believe and that is what the majority of Oklahomans believe. If other states want to pass different laws, that is their right, but in Oklahoma we will always stand up for life,” he added. Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City thanked legislative leaders and Stitt “for supporting pro-life measures. Building a culture of life in Oklahoma that recognizes the inherent dignity of every person requires the protections afforded by pro-life legislation and a profound change of heart,” he said in a May 25 statement.

Syria’s economy so bad many people don’t have one meal a day, nun says

BEIRUT — The war in Syria is mostly over, and not a house was unaffected, said a nun based there. But now, the economy is so bad that people look back on the war and say, “at least then we had some food to eat and we could feed our children.”

Sister Annie Demerjian, delegation councilor for the Sisters of Jesus and Mary for Lebanon and Syria, said she did not want to paint a totally dark picture, “because always there is hope.” She said for Syrians who are employed, the monthly salary of a family is barely sufficient for one week. “Many, many people are really hungry. They don’t have even one meal a day,” she told journalists May 25. Sister Demerjian and Sister Helen Mary Haigh, who is responsible for the Sisters of Jesus and Mary Delegation of England, Lebanon and Syria, spoke during a virtual news conference sponsored by Aid to the Church in Need. They said Christians in Syria and Lebanon are holding on to the hope of their faith as they endure severe economic hardships. Sister Demerjian recalled the times during the civil war that she and the sisters from her order woke early in the morning in Aleppo without electricity; she said they held a prayer book in one hand and a candle in the other. “Many nights we didn’t sleep because of the shelling and bombs,” she said, adding that the sisters continued to visit families, often dodging bullets and bombs.

Bishops push gun control; some call mass shootings ‘pressing life issue’

WASHINGTON — Some U.S. bishops spoke out against the easy accessibility to guns in the country following a May 24 rampage that left at least 19 children and two of their elementary school teachers dead in Uvalde, Texas. “Don’t tell me that guns aren’t the problem, people are. I’m sick of hearing it,” Bishop Daniel E. Flores of Brownsville, Texas, tweeted May 25. “The darkness first takes our children who then kill our children, using the guns that are easier to obtain than aspirin. We sacralize death’s instruments and then are surprised that death uses them.” The comments came hours after Texas authorities said an 18-year-old wearing body armor evaded police after crashing his truck near an elementary school close to the U.S.-Mexico border and entered the school building at around noon armed with two assault weapons. “There was several law enforcement that engaged the suspect but he was able to make entry into the school where he did go into several classrooms and, unfortunately, he did fire his firearm,” Sgt. Erick Estrada, of the Texas Department of Public Safety, told CNN late May 24. A Border Patrol unit subsequently arrived and one of its officers shot and killed the shooter in the classroom full of fourth graders. In addition to the dead, reports say 15 children were injured as well as two law enforcement officers. Authorities named Salvador Ramos as the shooter.

Remembering Buffalo shooting victims, Catholics pray for end to racism

WASHINGTON — From a Franciscan parish in a city where one of the victims once lived to a border city that experienced a similar mass shooting, Catholics around the nation have gathered to remember those gunned down May 14 in Buffalo, New York, and are praying for an end to violence and racism. In Syracuse, New York, family and friends gathered at Assumption Church May 21 to mourn Roberta Drury, who at 32, was the youngest victim of what authorities believe was a racially motivated attack targeting Black people at a Buffalo grocery store. “Last Saturday, May the 14th, our corner of the world was changed forever. Lives ended. Dreams shattered and our state was plunged into mourning,” Franciscan Father Nicholas Spano said during Drury’s funeral Mass attended by her parents. Authorities said that a gunman wearing tactical gear and armed with an assault weapon entered a supermarket in a predominantly Black area of Buffalo at around 2:30 p.m. that day and began firing at customers and employees, injuring three and killing 10. One of them was Drury, who was raised in the Syracuse area but moved away a decade ago

to care for a sick brother in Buffalo, news reports said. Police arrested 18-year-old suspect Payton S. Gendron, of Conklin, New York, at the scene. He pleaded “not guilty” after being charged with first-degree murder and is in custody without bail.

Pope: Migrants seek a welcome, not handouts

VATICAN CITY — Migrants are not looking for handouts in their new countries but are hoping to meet brothers and sisters who can help them integrate and contribute to society, Pope Francis said. Working with migrants “is not charity work,” giving them a bit of aid and then “leaving them there,” the pope said. “No. It’s taking them and integrating them with education, with job placement, with all these things,” the pope said May 25 during a meeting with representatives of the Global Solidarity Fund. The fund is a network of Catholic and other foundations, business leaders and business representatives working with together and, especially with Catholic religious orders of women and men, to promote projects aimed at achieving the U.N.’s Sustainable Development Goals. Cardinal Silvano Tomasi chairs the fund’s advisory board. At the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, May 24, the Global Solidarity Fund and Unilever, the London-based multinational, announced a joint project to provide employment to migrants and refugees in Colombia by matching them with businesses, providing training or helping them start their own businesses. Without such efforts to integrate migrants, they become like a “pebble in your shoe” instead of being active members of the community, the pope said in a completely ad-libbed speech to the group.

Vatican offers indulgence for World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

VATICAN CITY — Any Catholic who participates in the celebration July 24 of the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly can receive a plenary indulgence, the Vatican announced. “Grandparents, the elderly and all the faithful who, motivated by a true spirit of penance and charity,” attend Mass or other prayer services for the occasion can receive the indulgence, which “can also be applied as a suffrage for the souls in purgatory,” said the announcement published May 30. Pope Francis celebrated the first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly in 2021 and decreed that it be observed each year on the Sunday closest to the feast of Sts. Joachim and Anne, Jesus’ grandparents. In his message for this year’s celebration, Pope Francis asked older people like himself to be “artisans of the revolution of tenderness. We grandparents and elderly people have a great responsibility: to teach the women and men of our time to regard others with the same understanding and loving gaze with which we regard our own grandchildren,” he had written.



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World Meeting of Families invites families of the world to come together

Tom Ziegler
Staff Writer

The World Meeting of Families is an international event that was begun by Pope John Paul II in 1994. The event takes place every three years. Historically the World Meeting of Families is held in person, at a different host country each time.

“The event invites all the families of the world to come together for a week-long meeting, a pilgrimage of families traveling together to be a part of this universal Church event,” said Dave Cooley, co-director of Catechesis and Evangelization.

The World Meeting of families opens with Mass held with bishops from countries and (arch)dioceses all around world. During the World Meeting of Families a series of themed sessions related to topics and discussions revolving around family are presented. These topics and discussions are followed by smaller grouped sessions where attendees can go find more specific topics related to themselves individually or their family.

“By bringing all the families together, the idea is that the Church is family too, and we are all one big family coming together,” Mr. Cooley said.

In the past, the week would end with the Pope’s arrival for a festival with music, prayer services and a closing Mass celebrated by Pope Francis.

This will be the 10th annual World Meeting of Families, and like many events, this World Meeting of Families was postponed a year and the format adjusted due to the restrictions caused by COVID-19.

According to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ website, “In June of 2021, Pope Francis

announced that the World Meeting of Families celebration would not take place in person, but instead through a virtual format. There will still be a limited in-person events in Rome held for invited guests — prima-



Pope Francis greets the 2015 World Meeting of Families crowd in Philadelphia, Pa.



rily representatives of the episcopal conferences and ecclesial movements. The Dicastery for Laity, Family, and Life has also requested a U.S. delegation to include a limited number of married couples and families with clergy who have demonstrated pastoral solicitude and ministry towards marriages and families.”

As the event takes place live in Rome, families from around the world can participate virtually from the com-

fort of their homes or local parish and/or diocese. Mr. Cooley encourages all parishes and families to participate in this unique opportunity as much as they can virtually, “because it is a wonderful experience,” Mr. Cooley said.

To register online visit www.covdio.org, click the “Offices” tab, select “Catechesis and Evangelization” and click on or enter the live stream link <https://www.rome-family2022.com/en/> to participate in this years’ event from June 22-26.

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