Bishop John Iffert shares a personal story offering sage advice during his homily, Aug. 31, at an all-school Mass at Villa Madonna Academy High School.

As the gifts were presented during the offertory, the student body participates by singing.

During communion, students receive the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist.

Laura Keener
Editor

Bishop John Iffert celebrated an all-school Mass, Aug. 30, at Villa Madonna Academy High School, Villa Hills. In his homily he shared some advice he received from Dominican Sister Dorothy Folliard, whom he considers “the mother of all wisdom.” “She taught me so many things in life,” he said.

Sister Dorothy’s advice came at time when Bishop Iffert was in seminary and was feeling a little jealous of three of his fellow seminarians. While he hadn’t even spoken to his bishop yet, these other seminarians were on a first name basis with the bishop. He began to wonder what was wrong with him and what was so special about these other men?

“John, never compare yourself to another person, for good or for ill, it’s the beginning of spiritual death,” Sister Dorothy advised him when he confided in her.

“She is exactly right,” Bishop Iffert said. “When we compare ourselves favorably and think we are a little bit better … we are falling into the temptation to judge the other person. If we compare ourselves unfavorably … we run the risk of not recognizing the uniquely, beautiful and incredible person God has created us to be and we risk falling into ingratitude. It’s a sure path of destruction.”

As he ended his homily, said that years later, he learned that those three seminarians who seemed to be getting extra attention from his bishop were each having personal struggles — one had a serious health problem, the other the death of a parent and the other third was questioning their vocation.

“The good bishop was doing exactly what a good pastor and Christian should do, he was reaching out to men who were in need and accompanying them, to support them, blessing them,” Bishop Iffert said. “The problem wasn’t his action or anything either of those other three men had done, the problem was me … who was suffering from jealousy.”

Bishop Iffert offered his own advice, reminding the students that they are now at the age that they, not their parents, are responsible for developing their faith life.

“I encourage you to try to see with the light of Christ, try to develop his vision for the world, let the Holy Spirit guide you in life,” he said. “Develop a life of prayer, Scripture reading and the sacraments. Let Christ lead you in a way that you can see the unity of the whole human family with a love that’s God’s love.”

Maura Baker
Staff Writer

Diocese of Covington raises funds for Eastern Kentucky flooding victims

After devastating floods ravaged Eastern Kentucky in July, resulting in the loss of both lives and homes, the Diocese of Covington’s response to the needs of our neighbors included a collection to raise funds for flood victims. This collection included not only second collections gathered at weekend Masses, but also online donations made through the diocesan website.

With donations from parishes and individuals all across the diocese, $314,399.96 will be provided to Eastern Kentucky relief efforts. Bishop John Iffert will forward the funds directly to Bishop John Stowe of the Diocese of Lexington, which includes Eastern Kentucky. One hundred percent of these funds raised by the diocesan collection will go directly to those most affected by the floods.

(Continued on page 7)
Parents and grandparents invited to understand, pray and help children ‘Return’ to the faith

Maureen Baker
Staff Writer

In spring of 2021, John Zurborg, parishioner of St. Patrick Parish, Taylor Mill, was sharing his frustrations with Father Jeff Vonlehman, pastor, about his child, who had begun to turn away from the Catholic faith. In response, Father Vonlehman handed him a book and, according to Mr. Zurborg, said, “Read this!”

This book, titled “Return” was written by author Brandon Vogt, and discusses not only why youth and young adults turn away from the Church, but offers parents and grandparents grieving their wayward children both ways to reinvite their children and grandchildren to the Church and ways to strengthen their own foundation in faith.

“By the way” Mr. Zurborg recalls Father Vonlehman continuing their conversation, “I’d like you to lead a mission at St. Patrick Parish that went through the book together, but perhaps more importantly, allowed parents and grandparents experiencing their child’s loss of faith to pray together and learn from each other.”

“It was just an amazing experience,” said Mr. Zurborg, “I think anybody who participated would tell you that, one, they realized ‘Hey I’m not the only one going through this.’ So, they got to share it with each other. Two, I think most people there would say, ‘I became a better Christian, and my relationship with God became deeper.’ And probably they would each tell you that our prayer lives as individuals deepened through the process.”

While the group has since finished the book in the autumn of last year, Mr. Zurborg reports that some of his fellow parishioners have expressed interest in going through the process (and the book) again, and he wishes to invite the others in the diocese to participate in this mission.

The group continues to meet for Mass at St. Patrick Church, Taylor Mill, on the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m., with a meeting afterward. Mr. Zurborg invites those interested to join in, as well. Discussions regarding the book “Return” are expected to begin again sometime in October.

Those who are interested in the mission or have relating questions, can contact John Zurborg at jzurborg@skil-craft.com or call (859) 816-1645. Monthly meeting times can also be found on the St. Patrick’s calendar at https://www.stpatrickchurch.us/Parish-Events.

Check, one-two – St. John Parish awarded an OCP Parish Grant for microphones

Laura Keener
Editor

In a letter to Bishop John Iffert, the OCP (Oregon Catholic Press) Board of Directors announced that St. John Parish, Covington, was the recipient of an OCP Parish Grant in the amount of $1,500. At St. John Parish, the grant will be used to purchase new microphones and cables.

“It is our sincere hope that this grant will help St. John the Evangelist meet the needs they so clearly presented in their application, as well as support their effort to enhance their community’s liturgy and music,” wrote Wade Wiser, publisher, OCP.

OCP serves parishes by publishing music and worship resources. Most parishes are familiar with their hymnals, including “Unidos en Cristo|United in Christ” missal, “Heritage Missal” and its bilingual “Unidos en Cristo/United in Christ” missal and hymnals, including “Journeysongs.” What parishes may be less familiar with is that each year OCP provides grants to parishes seeking to enhance worship and music ministries.

“St. John the Evangelist was chosen for this award out of hundreds of applications from parishes large and small across the United States,” said Mr. Wiser. “We take great satisfaction in knowing that so many parishes are committed to fulfilling the needs of their communities.”

Daryl Sandy, organist, St. John Parish, Covington, said that qualifying and applying for an OCP grant is a relatively easy process. All U.S. Roman Catholic parishes or college and university campus ministries that did not receive an OCP Parish Grant the previous year are eligible. The only “minor” restriction on the grant is that the money must be used for liturgical or musical purposes. The amount varies from year to year. Application forms and information are available on the OCP website.

“They have a video that tells you how to apply and some suggestions for how to improve your chances for getting a grant,” said Mr. Sandy.

This is the third OCP Parish Grant that Mr. Sandy has received — two for St. John the Evangelist Parish, Covington and one for St. Ann Mission, Covington.

“I put in a form every year because you never know, they might not have a lot of people requesting one that year,” he said. Parishes will be able to apply online for 2023 grants in early Spring.

“We hope these stories about recipients will be an inspiration to other parishes struggling with similar limitations and striving toward similar goals,” wrote Mr. Wiser. “We invite any parish that was not awarded a grant in the previous year to apply in the coming year.”

For information visit the OCP website, ocp.org.
Msgr. Ketteler remembered as brilliant theologian, voracious reader and writer, devoted priest

Laura Keener
Editor

Msgr. Ronald Ketteler, a priest for 61 years for the Diocese of Covington, Ky., died Aug. 26. He was 86 years old.

“For over 60 years Msgr. Ronald Ketteler faithfully served the people of the Diocese of Covington,” said Bishop John Elliott. “He was a trusted theologian and spent his entire priesthood devoted to the Church’s education ministry. The students he served found in him a confidant, a stalwart educator and most importantly a man of faith, grounded in truth. As Ecumenical Officer for the Diocese of Covington, Msgr. Ketteler testified to the unity of all Christians and promoted the expression of that unity. He was a persistent and respected member of our clergy and his brother priests have benefited from his wisdom and his witness. We will miss him. May the good Lord whom he served so well welcome him to his heavenly home. Rest in peace, Msgr. Ketteler.”

Ronald Ketteler was born July 28, 1936 to Ralph and Ruth (Steffen) Ketteler. He had three siblings, a brother, Tom and two sisters, Janet and Ruth Ann. He grew up on the west side of Covington, attending St. Aloysius and St. John elementary schools (1942-1948) and Holy Cross High School (1948-1951) and Covington Latin School (1951-1953). In 1956, Covington Latin School recognized Msgr. Ketteler as an outstanding alumnus, presenting him with the Excellence in Education Award.

He attended St. Mary of the Lake Seminary (1954-1957), Mundelein, Ill., earning his B.A. in Philosophy and Theology. He earned his Master’s in Philosophy from Xavier University, Cincinnati in 1966.


“Father Ketteler was a true servant,” said Tina Klare, coordinator for Religious Education, St. Joseph Parish, Cincinnati. “He served at our parish for many years, with many pastors, always taking the early 6:45 a.m. Masses and any holiday — Memorial Day Fourth of July, Labor Day etc. He enjoyed chatting with the parishioners after Mass and in later years stopped in the parish office every day to visit. He could also be very kind and generous, quietly helping those in need — a student, a friend, etc. — behind the scenes.”

He was a senior and respected member of our clergy. I and his cousin, former student and life-long parishioner, Msgr. Ronald Ketteler and his sister Ruth Ann Jung. Msgr. Ketteler was preceded in death by his parents, John Ketteler and Anna Ketteler, his brother John, and his sister Ruth Ann. He is survived by his brother Thomas (Janet) Ketteler, his cousin, Mrs. Bloemer, and a number of nieces and nephews.

Msgr. Ketteler was a senior and respected member of our clergy. I and his cousin, former student and life-long parishioner, Msgr. Ronald Ketteler and his sister Ruth Ann Jung. Msgr. Ketteler was preceded in death by his parents, John Ketteler and Anna Ketteler, his brother John, and his sister Ruth Ann. He is survived by his brother Thomas (Janet) Ketteler, his cousin, Mrs. Bloemer, and a number of nieces and nephews.

In the early '90s he was named the Director of Ecumenism for the Diocese of Covington and as a board member of the Kentucky Council of Churches.

While at seminary during the 1960s, Msgr. Ketteler had a front row seat to the racial justice and labor relations issues of Chicago. And in 1964 when Dr. Martin Luther King came to Frankfort, Msgr. Ketteler joined the march on Frankfort. Dr. King’s vision morally awakened an entire nation. Because of that phenomenon, we (the Church) really grew in our support of interracial justice.,” Msgr. Ketteler said in a Messenger article about his participation.

In 1980 Msgr. Ketteler was named the director of the priests’ continuing education program.


In his closing remarks Bishop Foys said, “Having known him for 20 years, he is one of those people who is unforgettable and who we think will always be around. He was just so much larger than life that we always thought he was going to be there. He always showed me the reverence and the respect and the promise that he gave when he was ordained. The obituary for Monsignor lists some of what he did. St. John’s end his Gospel by saying there are many other things that Jesus did, but to put them all down there wouldn’t be enough room in the world to hold all of the things that he did. I feel that way about Msgr. Ketteler; he did so many things that many people are unaware of — so many things that through time, after a while, you just take for granted. But we don’t take Msgr. Ketteler for granted. I will miss his advice. I will miss his laugh, that infectious laugh. I will miss the way he always carried his support and his wisdom. A brilliant man. Even as we grieve, we rejoice, because we know that this is a man who lived a good life. Msgr. Ketteler certainly answered the Lord’s call and every day of his life lived out that call.”


Msgr. Ketteler was preceded in death by his parents Ralph and Ruth (nee Steffen) Ketteler and his sister Janet Meek. He is survived by his brother Thomas (Janet) Ketteler and his sister Ruth Ann Jung.

Memorials are suggested to Thomas More University or the Priests Retirement Fund, Diocese of Covington. Modburne Funeral Home of Ft. Wright is serving the family. The obituaries can be found at www.modburnefuneral-home.com

[Image 37x334 to 335x404]
Some critics of Religion need to pick up their game

Recently I had the privilege of sitting down with Lex Fridman for a wide-ranging two-hour conversation. Lex is a professor of robotics and artificial intelligence at MIT and an extremely popular podcaster. In this latter capacity, he has spoken to significant players in a number of fields — Joe Rogan, Mark Zuckerberg, Elon Musk and Sam Harris, to name just a few. Though his main interests are in the arenas of science and technology he is quite open to discussing matters of a more philosophical and even religious nature.

Fridman has a very engaging style — not argumentative and confrontational, but rather curious, inquisitive. In the course of our two hours together, we talked about God, Jesus, life after death, morality, modernity, Nietzsche, Jordan Peterson, the Bible, faith and the meaning of life.

Judging from the thousands of comments, the general reaction from the largely tech-oriented audience was quite positive. Many observed that they were pleased to hear a serious conversation about matters that went beyond what the sciences can describe. However, I don’t want to focus on the encouraging reactions, but rather on the critical ones — and there were plenty of them too — for they tell us a good deal about what young secularists are thinking in regard to religion.

Without a doubt, the most common negative reaction was that I was speaking “gobbledygook,” or “tossing an unimpressive ‘word salad’” or “using lots of words to say nothing at all.” Much of this critique was focused on my opening exchange with the interviewer: Lex asked me very simply: “Who is God?” I responded, not sentimentally or piously, but rather in the technical language of philosophy: I said that God is ipsum esse subsistens (the sheer act of being itself), in contradistinction to anything other than God, in which essence and existence are distinguished.

I went on to clarify the meaning of these terms in the manner of Thomas Aquinas, attempting to be as precise and technically correct as possible. To be sure, there are many ways to talk about God, but I chose, with Lex’s audience in mind, to use a more intellectual approach.

What most struck me in regard to my critics is that none of them actually engaged the argument I was making or endeavored to formulate a counter-position; they simply pronounced that what I was saying was gibberish. Anyone even vaguely acquainted with the Western philosophical tradition would know that I was, in point of fact, operating out of a system of thought developed by some of the most brilliant thinkers in the tradition: Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Boethius, Plotinus, Bonaventure, and yes, Thomas Aquinas. It was, to be sure, a challenging speech, but it was perfectly rational, philosophically disciplined speech. That so many in the comment boxes simply did not know what I was talking about was a sobering reminder of how narrow and cramped our educational system has become.

In my responses to some of these critics, I said: “Would you accuse a theoretical physicist, who was using the technical language of his discipline, of ‘word salad’; if you did not immediately understand him? Wouldn’t you perhaps summon the humility to admit that you had a lot to learn?”

I am reminded of something Cardinal Francis George used to say — namely, that before we can even broach the question of the relation between science and religion, we have to reintroduce people to philosophy, the rational discipline that effectively mediates between them. Sadly, many in the Lex Fridman audience didn’t know what to do with the sort of philosophical language in which much of our doctrine of God is expressed.

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

The Magnificat

The Gospel of Luke paints the scene. Mary pregnant with Jesus, going to visit her cousin, Elizabeth, who is pregnant with John the Baptist. Traditionally we call this “The Visitation” and what transpires between these two with Jesus, goes to visit her cousin, Elizabeth, who is the most precious Christian prayer we have after the Lord’s Prayer. This is the prayer the Gospels place inside the mouth of Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Known as the Magnificat it is, for me, the most precious Christian prayer we have after the Lord’s Prayer.

The Gospel of Luke paints the scene. Mary pregnant with Jesus, going to visit her cousin, Elizabeth, who is pregnant with John the Baptist. Traditionally we call this “The Visitation” and what transpires between these two women is much more than what first meets the eye. This is a simple gender-reveal party. Written more than 80 years after the event itself took place it is a post-resurrection reflection on the world-altering significance of what each of these women was carrying in her womb. As well, the words that they speak to each other also speak of a post-resurrection reality. It is in this context that the Gospel has Mary speak the words of the Magnificat. What are those words?

They are words which thank and praise God for having chosen the spirit of his humble, the hungry and the oppressed in this way, having lifted them up and given them victory, exalted the power of God over their foes, thrown off their thrones and humbled them. However, her prayer puts this all into the past tense, as if it was already an accomplished fact, already a reality in our world.

However, as the cartoon character, Ziggy, once reminded God in a prayer: “The poor are still getting clobbered down there!” For the large part, that is how it seems to us. Look at our world, we see that the gap between rich and poor is widening, hundreds of millions of people go to bed hungry every night, corruption and crime are everywhere and the powerful seemingly can simply take whatever they want without repercussions. We have nearly one hundred million refugees on our borders around the world, and women and children are still victims of violence of all kinds everywhere. Worse still, it would seem things are getting worse, not better. So where do we see that God has hast cast down the mighty from their thrones, lifted up the lowly, filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty?

We see it in the resurrection of Jesus and the vision of hope given us in that reality. What Mary affirms in the Magnificat is a deep truth we can only grasp in the faith and hope, namely, that even though we are present injustice, corruption and exploitation of the poor, to seem to reign, there will be a last day when that oppressive stone will roll back from the tomb and the powerful will topple. The Magnificat is the ultimate prayer of hope — and the ultimate prayer for the poor.

Maybe it is my age, maybe it is the discouragement I feel most evenings as I watch the news, or maybe it is both, but, as I grow older, two prayers (outside of the Eucharist) are most precious to me. The Lord’s Prayer and the Magnificat. Luke my old Augustine mentor, I now make sure no day goes by where pressure, tiredness, distraction or laziness keep me from praying at least two prayers with focus and attention, The Lord’s Prayer and the Magnificat.

That hasn’t always been the case. For years, I looked at the Magnificat and saw there only the exultation of the Mary of piety, all the litanies and praises of Mary become boring. I was asking myself why I am thinking wrong with that, since the Mary of piety is someone to whom millions upon millions, not least the poor, turn to in need, seeking the guidance, comfort, and sympathy of a mother.

However, the Magnificat is not so much about Mary’s personal exultation as it is about the exultation of the poor. In this prayer, she gives voice to how God ultimately responds to the powerlessness and oppression of the poor. Henri Nouwen once wrote that watching the evening news and seeing the suffering in our world can leave us feeling depressed and powerless. Depressed because of the injustice we see, powerless because it seems there is nothing we can do about it.

What can we do about it? We can pray the Magnificat each day giving voice to how God ultimately responds to the powerlessness of the poor.

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser is a theologian, teacher, and award-winning author.

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser

In Exile

Word on Fire

Bishop Robert Barron

Voice 82 MESSSENGER

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ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES
Guiding us on the path

As the Society of St. Vincent de Paul begins the last month of our fiscal year in September, it is annual performance review time. Just like many other professional enterprises, St. Vincent de Paul undergoes a performance review process for every employee as we start our new year. It’s like a New Year’s resolution, but in October! I am certain that many of you reading this can relate as you have likely participated in a similar exercise. Not many look forward to this process, but it can be helpful.

Performance reviews provide the opportunity for a person to reflect on their year, their impact to the organization and to look forward. We discuss their goals as part of St. Vincent de Paul and their own professional goals. This process can be very good—it gives us the chance to recenter ourselves to ensure we are truly being guided by the mission. Quite frankly, it’s an exercise that should be intentional more than once a year.

Early on in my career, I had a supervisor who gave me the advice to think about my professional goals in three’s—the called it the power of three. Three is challenging, the advice to think about my professional goals in three’s satisfied because I lose sight of where I am headed around, doing a little of this and a little of that, but rarely focusing. Spiritual Advisors provide a reflection that inspires, guides and challenges us to grow in our relationship with Christ. They encourage a discussion of the encounters we have with our less fortunate neighbors. These shared experiences serve as a witness of the Holy Spirit at work in our ministry instead of facts, statistics, and a list of “to do’s.” Spiritual Advisors extend advice using the words of Jesus Christ to remind us that the way we can grow closer to Christ is to seek him out within our community. We must be patient, kind and compassionate even in the most difficult circumstances. We must Sift our neighbors, spend time with them, listen to them and pray with them. It is not the number we serve, when we serve or what we materially provide. It is why we serve. Thank you to those individuals who answer the call to be a Spiritual Advisor within our parish conferences. Unlike the imperfect performance review process at St. Vincent de Paul, these special people intentionally ground us in our purpose way more often than once a year. Our Spiritual Advisors keep us focused on that one, one thing we serve, the number we serve, when we serve or what we materially provide. It is why we serve.

Somewhere along the way, a Russian citizen and Catholic priest named Kirill Lakota, a suspected “political enemy” of the USSR, was arrested. Under trumped up charges and sent to a penal colony in the coldest, most desolate and miserable part of Siberia. His captor and daily tormentor was a shy, cruel and ruthless man named Kamenev who made sure that Kirill was kept in solitary confinement for long periods of time and questioned on and on until he thought his mind would abandon him. One day, totally unexpected, Kamenev had risen to a high position of authority in Russia during Kirill’s 15 years of miserable confinement and suffered, summoned the personnel officer to the headquarters. He shocked Kirill with his initial question; “Are you ready to be free?”

Reality mirrors fiction

Kirill quickly dismissed the sarcastic, remained puzzled about the whole scene, nodded and let his jailer continue. Kamenev immediately announced that the world was in. In his lonesome, cruel captivity, Kirill never could have surmised or imagined the God-full living conditions and the simultaneous dunging of the world as Kamenev quickly painted the ugly picture. The major powers that be, China, Russia, India and even the smaller nations are desperate for food, climate corrections and more fruitful territories, even if they must step on the necks of the people in the world to get there. Kirill quickly dismissed the sarcasm, remained puzzled about the whole scene, nodded and let his jailer continue. Kamenev immediately announced that the world was in. In his lonesome, cruel captivity, Kirill never could have surmised or imagined the God-full living conditions and the simultaneous dunging of the world as Kamenev quickly painted the ugly picture. The major powers that be, China, Russia, India and even the smaller nations are desperate for food, climate corrections and more fruitful territories, even if they must step on the necks of the people in the world to get there.

Now try this on for size: It’s Kirill Cardinal Lakota, having been lifted sedately in statue by the present pope. Even before that event, Kirill was held in the very highest regard by the College of Cardinals. Kamenev intends to release Kirill immediately, guarding that his stature and positive influence with the pope and the Vatican’s leadership will bring about peaceful, workable solutions among the world’s major powers. He’s concluded that only a place like the Vatican and a recognized leader like Kirill can play a role in bringing about a peaceful avoidance of worldwide wars and starvation. Upon his release, now Cardinal Kirill Lakota is warmly welcomed at the Vatican. The pope soon dies and after several failed attempts to elect his successor, the College of Cardinals unanimously selects Pope Kirill Lakota by acclamation. I confess. It’s all in Morris West’s magnificent book and the film, “The Choirboys.” I thought it was a ridiculous idea. Steinbrenner tells me he was buying Seinfeld. It was the one

September 9, 2022 5

GO AND GLORIFY

Father Gregory Bach is assistant director of seminary

Ray Smith is executive director, Society of St. Vincent de Paul Northern Kentucky

marginalize or crystallize their relationships with the pope and the Vatican’s leadership will bring about peaceful, workable solutions among the world’s major powers. He’s concluded that only a place like the Vatican and a recognized leader like Kirill can play a role in bringing about a peaceful avoidance of worldwide wars and starvation. Upon his release, now Cardinal Kirill Lakota is warmly welcomed at the Vatican. The pope soon dies and after several failed attempts to elect his successor, the College of Cardinals unanimously selects Pope Kirill Lakota by acclamation.

I confess. It’s all in Morris West’s magnificent book and the film, “The Choirboys.” I thought it was a ridiculous idea. Steinbrenner tells me he was buying Seinfeld. It was the one time George was buying calories for Mr. Steinbrenner and having lunch in his office. George walks into the office of Steinbrenner as he is on the phone yelling at someone who brought up the idea of a lost and found box at the stadium. He thought it was a ridiculous idea. Steinbrenner tells the person that George Kastanza thought it was a good idea and told them, let’s do it.

Lost and found

The readings for the twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time—Cycle C—are Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14; 1 Timothy 1:12-17 and Luke 15:3-5. A few weeks ago I was watching an episode of Seinfeld. It was the one where George was buying calories for Mr. Steinbrenner and having lunch in his office. George walks into the office of Steinbrenner as he is on the phone yelling at someone who brought up the idea of a lost and found box at the stadium. He thought it was a ridiculous idea. Steinbrenner tells the person that George Kastanza thought it was a good idea and told them, let’s do it.

Let’s do it. If it were that easy to put out a box for people who had lost their faith and those that need to be found, we would have to get a really big box.

We all know family and friends who wander from the fold. For whatever reason we need to put them into the lost and found box. They need to be brought back into the fold and welcomed home. The Gospel this Sunday or the Parable of the Running Father. As we hear in the Gospel the son was rejected, the father runs out to him. He welcomed him home. It is as if the father forgets the sins of his son.

What a great lesson we hear this weekend. Running out to those who have fallen away from the faith. Sometimes inviting someone back is enough. Offering to give someone a ride to church is enough. Opening our hearts to help someone forgive the Church and seeking a way back home is enough. It would be so nice to empty the lost and found box.

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

most important thing — growing in relationship with Christ. Thanks to their inspired words and actions, we can keep our footing on the path to heaven.

Karen Zengel

Ray Smith

Karen Zengel

Ray Smith

Karen Zengel

Ray Smith

Karen Zengel

Ray Smith

Karen Zengel

Ray Smith
Rosary Coast to Coast ‘rosary rally’ returns for its fifth year in the Diocese of Covington

Maura Baker
Staff Writer

The annual “Rosary Coast to Coast” event returns for its fifth year to the Diocese of Covington this year, Oct. 9, 4 p.m., at the grotto at Immaculate Heart of Mary parish, Burlington.

An international event, Catholics across the United States and abroad will gather for an hour of prayer at the same date and time using the rosary as a guide, praying for nations and families.

According to Jeanette Landenwitch, parishioner, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish and someone who has helped coordinate the event since its arrival to the Diocese of Covington in 2018, the origins of Rosary Coast to Coast lie in the country of Scotland, where they “quite literally had their people all along the coast of their country praying the rosary.” This act inspired Father Rick Heilman of Wisconsin, co-leader of the Catholic men’s movement “The Holy League,” to bring this act of prayer to the United States.

“The purpose of it is to pray for the huge spiritual battle that we’re in, with all this stuff that’s going on, not only in our country, but around the world … we’re praying for the health of our families, the health of our country and the renewal of the Catholic faith — the renewal of God in the hearts of the people,” said Mrs. Landenwitch on the mission of the event.

“We’ve had at least 100 people from usually 10 to 12 different parishes come to these rosary rallies,” she said. “Whenever we can, and so far we’ve been successful,” she adds, “we have at least two priests lead the rosaries.”

This year, the event’s rosary will be led by Msgr. Dominic Fosu and Father Michael Grady.

Missed an edition? Current and back issues of the Messenger are available online at covdio.org/messenger.
Covington Catholic principal earns Outstanding Administrator Award from Project Lead The Way

Bob Rowe

As principal at Covington Catholic High School, Mr. Rowe has led the expansion of the school which included multiple additions and facility upgrades as well as the $3 million Dr. Anthony Zembrodt STEM and Fine Arts Center. It was Mr. Rowe’s vision to build a STEM program using the Project Lead The Way curriculum that would prepare students for real life challenges and work experiences.

“We saw a demand for the skills that were needed for students to succeed in the STEM related fields. Therefore, we knew it was essential to adopt a strong curriculum, hire an excellent staff, and construct a state-of-the-art facility to make this possible,” said Mr. Rowe. “We were blessed to receive several significant private donations and our community rallied around us to make this dream become a reality.”

Covington Catholic’s program includes four credit courses as well as a Robotics program that has sent teams to the state tournament each year since its inception. In 2022, the CCHS Robotics team won their first Kentucky state championship as well as the US Open and took 2nd place in Worlds Tournament amongst 12,000 teams from 40 different countries.

“PLTW educators do incredible work facilitating learning experiences that help inspire and prepare students to reach their full potential. This award acknowledges and recognizes their accomplishments in continuing that,” stated Dr. David Dimmett, PLTW interim president and CEO. “We congratulate them and are proud of the work these educational leaders do to equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary for success beyond the classroom, no matter what career path they choose.”

Funds for Eastern Ky

(Continued from page 1)

“People really stepped up,” proudly remarked Michael Murray, Director of the Office of Stewardship and Mission for the Diocese of Covington. “We have a wonderful faith community here.”

According to Catholic News Service, other Catholic dioceses and organizations have stepped up to the plate to provide relief to those victims as well, including a collection held early August by the Archdiocese of Louisville, and a donation of $250,000 made by Catholic Charities as of Aug. 8.

CNS photo/Seb. Jesse Elbouab, U.S. Army National Guard via Reuters
(right) A Kentucky National Guard flight crew from 2/147th Bravo Co. flies over a flooded area in response to a declared state of emergency in eastern Kentucky July 29, 2022.
Discernment means recognizing God in the unexpected, pope says

VATICAN CITY — Discerning the will of God means being able to listen to one’s own heart and recognize the Lord’s presence in the unexpected events of life, Pope Francis said.

Like St. Ignatius of Loyola, whose conversion began after he was recovering from a wound in battle, Christians can discern by recognizing “the signs through which the Lord makes himself known in unexpected, even unpleasant, situations,” the pope said Sept. 7 during his weekly general audience.

“A life-changing encounter can arise from them,” the pope said. “The most beautiful thread is given to us by the unexpected." Continuing his new series of talks on discernment, the pope reflected on St. Ignatius, whose life “is one of the most instructive examples” of discerning God’s will.

Recalling the former soldier’s fascination with tales of chivalry, the pope said St. Ignatius “reluctantly” read the lives of saints while recovering from his wound, since those were the only books available.

“He is fascinated by the figures of St. Francis and St. Dominic and feels the desire to imitate them,” the pope noted. “But the world of chivalry also continues to exert its fascination on him. And so, within himself, he feels this alternation of thoughts — those of chivalry and those of the saints — which seem to equate to one another.”

St. Ignatius, he continued, realized that worldly things that once gave him pleasure no longer satisfied him, while thoughts of holy deeds fulfilled him.

The pope explained that there is always “a history that precedes one who discerns,” and it is important to take that history into consideration when discerning God’s will, “because discernment is not a sort of oracle or fatalism, or something from a laboratory, like casting one’s lot on two possibilities.”

“The great questions arise when we have already traveled a stretch of the road in life, and it is to that journey we must return to understand what we are looking for,” he said.

St. Ignatius, he added, “had his first experience of God by listening to his own heart, which presented him with a curious reversal: things that were attractive at first sight left him disillusioned, whereas in others, less dazzling, he found lasting peace.”

“We, too, have this experience,” the pope said. “Very often we begin to think about something, and we stay there, and then we end up disappointed. Instead, if we carry out a work of charity, do something good and feel something of happiness, a good thought comes to us, and happiness comes to us, something of joy, and it is an experience that is entirely our own,” the pope said.

St. Ignatius’ example, he added, also shows that another important aspect of discernment is in listening to one’s heart in the “apparent randomness in the events of life” that, although seemingly “a banal mishap” can “nonetheless hold a possible turning point.”

“Listen carefully,” Pope Francis said. “God works through unplannable events that happen by chance — by chance this happened to me, by chance I met this person, or by chance I saw this film. It was not planned, but God works through unplannable events, and also through mishaps,” the pope said.

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Do you desire to be healthier and more physically fit? Are you interested in a marriage and relationship with Our Lord? First Place 4 Health, a Christ-centered total-wellness program, will be offered at St. Agnes Church, Ft. Wright. First Place 4 Health groups will begin meeting the week of Sept. 19. Meetings will be held on Monday evenings 5:15-6:45 p.m. or Tuesday mornings 7:30-8:45 a.m. An orientation meeting will be held Sept. 12, 6 p.m. in the St. Agnes Parish Conference Room, Ft. Wright. For more information and to RSVP call 859-2003 or e-mail nancybrady@cvdio.org. No obligation, just come and bring a friend.

The Mustard Seed Catholic Charismatic Community sponsors a monthly Third Thursday prayer gathering, 7-8:45 p.m at Blessed Sacrament’s Parish Center, Ft. Mitchell. For more information, call 321-0921.

Bishop Brossart High School “Fun Night” for 7th and 8th graders, Sept. 24, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Numerous activities such as video games, a movie, basketball, volleyball, or board games will be available. Contact Tony Harden at tharden@bishopbrossart.org by Sept. 8.

Father Conor Kunath will lead a Morning of Reflection, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Sept. 17, St. John Parish, Carrollton; Oct. 6, St. Joseph Parish, Cold Spring; Nov. 19, St. Pius X Parish, Edgewood and Dec. 17, St. Timothy Parish, Union. No charge. No sign up.

The 2022 Serra Club Golf Outing is scheduled for Sept. 22 at Twin Oaks Golf Club, Latonia. Shotgun start 9 a.m.; cost $100 per golfer (this price includes 18 holes of golf with cart, lunch buffet, on-course refreshments, and door prizes). Contact Serran Mike Murray at 630-4228.

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St. John the Evangelist Parish, Carrollton, is hosting a taco and burger parish picnic Sept. 24. Mass will be at 6:30 p.m. followed by the picnic.

Eighty annual St. Joseph Academy Golf Outing, “Tee off for the Kids,” Sept. 30, Pioneer Golf Course, Independence. Shotgun start 10:30 a.m.; cost $100 golfer; includes 18 holes of golf with cart, lunch buffet, refreshments, and dinner. Proceeds to replace outdated A/C units. Call 464-6444 or e-mail stjwallon@gmail.com.

All are welcome for Morning of Reflection, Oct. 1, 9 a.m. at St. Anthony Parish, Taylor Mill, downtowners in Fleming Hall, featuring speaker Mr. William Cleves. If able, gather first for 7:30 a.m. rosary and/or 8 a.m. Mass in the church. St. Anthony Women’s Group is hosting the event.

Pigeons and Coasters arrive at school

At St. Therese School, Southgate, students were welcomed back to school with some fun and with some fun celebrating Mo Williams’ new book, “The Pigeon Will Ride the Roller Coaster.” Younger students were asked to create three dimensional pigeons. Older students were encouraged to design roller coasters.

Mrs. Lommen, librarian, is ticked to see the creativity of the students.

Festivals

St. Barbara Parish, Erlanger
Sept. 9, 6 p.m.-midnight
Sept. 10, 6 p.m.-midnight
Sept. 11, 2-7 p.m.

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
Sept. 18, 12:30-6 p.m.

St. William Parish, Williamstown
Sept. 16-17

St. Benedict Parish, Covington
Sept. 23, 24, 5-11 p.m.

St. Agnes Oktoberfest, Ft. Wright
Sept. 23, 5 p.m.-midnight
Sept. 24, 5 p.m.-midnight
Sept. 25, 3 p.m. 8 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.
Men burst into the convent, ransacked the living quarters and kidnapped her, leaving behind two other Marianite sisters and two young women who also lived in the convent.

"There were about 10 men who came during the night while the sisters were sleeping," Sister Ann said in an e-bulletin April 6. "They destroyed almost everything in the house, shot holes in the new truck and tried to burn it. The house itself is OK, but its contents are ruined."

Sister Ann said she was told by the two younger women living at the convent that Sister Suellen was taken from her bed with "no glasses, shoes, phone, medicine, etc."

The other two Marianites at the convent in Yalgo — Sister Pauline Drouin, a Canadian, and Sister Pascale Tougma, a Burkinabe — were not abducted and did not see many of the details.

“They say the two young women who live with them saw what happened and tell them (the details),” Sister Ann said. “They think there were more men on the road. They have heard nothing from or about Suellen since she was taken.”

Sister Ann said Sister Pauline and Sister Pascale were quickly relocated to Kaya, Burkina Faso, about 70 miles from Yalgo.

She also said the Marianites contacted both the U.S. Embassy in Burkina Faso and the U.S. State Department and received assurance that this was “a high priority case for them.”

The congregation also contacted the apostolic nuncios to the U.S., Burkina Faso and France as well as the Vatican’s secretary of state and the Leadership Conference of Women Religious in the U.S.

Yalgo is in northern Burkina Faso, not far from the border with Mali. Boko Haram, a humanitarian organization that supports people in conflict situations, reported in April that in the past two years, Burkina Faso’s northern and eastern regions had seen a “sharp deterioration in the security situation...due to the presence of nonstate armed groups.”

Sister Ann, who has visited the Marianites in the country, said Sister Suellen was serving as a pastoral minister, “to wipe tears, give hugs, import a smile. She really did support the people that work in the clinic that the parish runs,” adding that people walked miles for help from the clinic.

Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond of New Orleans said he receives a text from Sister Ann and was overjoyed that she “was alive and safe. That’s all matters.”

“She's totally worn out,” Sister Ann said. “I told her how much people love her, and she doesn’t have anything to worry about. I told her, ‘You are alive and safe. That’s all that matters.’”

New Orleans Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond said he received a text from Sister Ann and was overjoyed that she had been freed. When Sister Suellen was abducted — barefoot and in the middle of the night — she had left behind her blood pressure medication and her glasses.

The bishop said the kidnappers vandalized the convent where Sister Suellen lived in community with other religious women before taking her to the unknown destination.

The city of Yalgo borders the province of Soum, where armed groups are particularly active. In this area, attacks against civilians have increased according to reports.

Ruby Faucheux Keefe, a childhood friend of Sister Suellen’s, said she was thrilled to hear Sister Suellen was safe in U.S. custody. “I’ve been thinking about her every day. This has made my day. We grew up together.”

Keefe remembered how the two loved to dance and talk on the phone or in person. The last time Sister Suellen was in town, Keefe recalled how much her friend expressed her love for being in Africa, even though it was very primitive.

“She told me she didn’t have hot water,” Keefe said. “I thought I don’t know how she did it at our age, but she loved it.”

“I just feel so great to hear that she’s been found,” she added.

Sister Suellen, 83, was abducted, received a text from Sister Ann and was overjoyed that she was alive and safe. That's all matters.”

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Blessed John Paul I, ‘the smiling pope,’ showed God’s goodness

Carol Glatz  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Beatifying Blessed John Paul I, Pope Francis praised the late pope for showing the world God’s goodness and for living the Gospel without compromise.

“Our new blessed lived that way: in the joy of the Gospel, without compromises, living to the very end,” the pope said.

“The same thing happens today, especially at times of personal or societal crisis, when we are especially prey to fear and promising to be the ‘savior’ who can solve all its problems, whereas in reality they are looking for wider approval and for greater power,” Pope Francis said.

God, he said, “does not exploit our needs or use our vulnerability for his own aggrandizement. He does not want to seduce us with deceptive promises or to distribute cheap favors; he is not interested in huge crowds. He is not obsessed with numbers; he does not seek approval; he does not idolize personal success.”

Christians should examine the reasons they follow the Lord, he said, and make sure they are not seeking: the satisfaction of their own needs; personal prestige; social status or control; power and privilege; recognition and so on.

Christians are called to love, “to be purified of our distorted ideas of God and of our self-absorption, and to love God and others, in the church and society, including those who do not think the way we do, to love even our enemies,” he said.

Christians must “love even at the cost of sacrifice, silence, misunderstanding, solitude, resistance and persecution,” he said. Because, as Blessed John Paul said, “if you want to kiss Jesus crucified, you cannot help bending over the cross and letting yourself be pricked by a few thorns of the crown on the Lord’s head.”

Among the family members and devotees who carried candles to place before the relic was Sister Margherita Marin, a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Child Mary, who assisted in the papal apartments and was one of sisters who found the deceased pope Sept. 28, 1978.

Candelia Giarda, the young Argentine woman whose image was a reproduction of an oil painting, “The Smiling Pope,” created by Zhang Yan, a Chinese artist whose work combines Eastern and Western painting techniques.

The relic, carried by Lina Petri, the niece of the late pope, was a piece of paper, yellowed with age, upon which the pope had written an outline for a spiritual reflection on the three theological virtues — faith, hope and charity.

The materials for the reliquary, a sculpted wooden cross, were taken from where Blessed John Paul was born and grew up in northern Italy.

In his homily, Pope Francis connected the day’s Gospel reading to the humble and Christ-centered way Blessed John Paul lived his life and to how Christians today are called to live their lives.

“The same thing happens today, especially at times of personal or societal crisis, when we are especially prey to feelings of anger or we fear things that threaten our future. We become more susceptible and thus, on this wave of emotion, we look to those, who with skill and cunning, take advantage of the situation, profiting from society’s fears and promising to be the ‘savior’ who can solve all its problems, whereas in reality they are looking for wider approval and for greater power,” Pope Francis said.

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Indiana court sides with archdiocese over teacher firing

Carol Zimmermann
Catholic News Service
WASHINGTON — The Indiana Supreme Court said the state could not interfere in a Catholic school’s firing of a teacher in a same-sex marriage because of the school’s religious freedom rights.

The court, in its Aug. 31 ruling, sided with the Archdiocese of Indianapolis in supporting Cathedral High School’s 2019 decision to fire Joshua Payne-Elliott, a social studies and world language teacher.

The opinion in the court’s 4-0 decision, written by Judge Geoffrey G. Slaughter, emphasized that the “Constitution encompasses the right of religious institutions to decide for themselves, free from state interference, in matters of church government as well as those of faith and doctrine.”

Payne-Elliott filed a lawsuit against the archdiocese for his firing, saying it went against his contract with the school. The firing took place after the Indianapolis Archdiocese mandated that all Catholic schools in the archdiocese enforce a morality clause that did not permit employees to be in same-sex marriages.

An Indiana trial court originally dismissed the lawsuit in favor of the archdiocese, but the former teacher appealed the decision.

After the Indiana Court of Appeals reinstated the lawsuit, the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, representing the archdiocese, asked the Indiana Supreme Court to review it.

Luke Goodrich, vice president and senior counsel for Becket, is pleased with the final outcome.

“Courts can’t decide what it means to be Catholic — only the Church can do that,” he said in an Aug. 31 statement.

“By keeping the judiciary out of religious identity, the Indiana Supreme Court just protected all religious institutions to be free from government interference in deciding their core religious values,” he added.

An Indiana trial court originally dismissed the lawsuit in favor of the archdiocese, but the former teacher appealed the decision.

The court also allowed Payne-Elliott to “file a new complaint and start the case anew.”

As part of the same e-mailed statement, Payne-Elliott said he still stands by his claim that Cathedral High School breached his contract even after he had alerted to them of his marriage.

He also said he has concerns about taxpayer dollars going toward voucher programs for private schools that he said “target LGBTQ employees.” He said he fears for the “well-being of LGBTQ students and faculty in Catholic schools.”


In 2019, the Midwest province of the Society of Jesus, which administers Brebeuf, appealed the decree, taking away the school’s Catholic status to the Vatican Congregation for Catholic Education.

In late September of that year, the congregation announced it was temporarily lifting the decree until it made a final decision, which has still not been announced.

In a news conference at the time, Archbishop Thompson said the issue involving the two schools came down to the Catholic Church’s teaching on marriage.

While stressing that “one’s (sexual) orientation is not a sin,” the archbishop said the issue involving the two schools “is about public witness of Church teaching on the dignity of marriage as (between) one man and one woman. That is our Church teaching.”

“In this particular case we’re dealing with, those are ministers in our Church. Teachers, guidance counselors, other leaders, leaders of the schools and other leaders in the archdiocese are bound to live out these principles,” he said.
Vatican Library invites world’s scholars to read, contribute to new journal

Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican Library, one of the world’s oldest libraries, has launched a new scholarly journal to help promote high-quality research, dialogue across cultures and sharing knowledge related to the library’s holdings, said Cardinal José Tolentino de Mendonca, Vatican librarian and archivist.

The Vatican Library Review “aspires to be an attractive place to publish high-quality, peer-reviewed research by actively hosting and allocating contributions,” the cardinal wrote as an editorial in the journal’s first issue. The editorial was republished by the Vatican newspaper Sept. 7.

The cardinal invited scholars to submit their contributions, adding he hoped readers would explore each article regardless of their personal field of interest and “join us in this two-fold endeavor of scientific rigor and cross-cultural dialogue.” Some of the articles in the first issue included, “An Unpublished Illuminated Codex from Catalonia in the Vatican Library” and “Visual Kabbalah in the Italian Renaissance. The Booklet of Kabbalistic Forms.”

Created by Pope Nicholas V in the 15th century, the Vatican Library belongs to the pope. However, Pope Leo XIII decided it should be more widely accessible to the academic world.

The Vatican Library houses some 80,000 manuscripts, nearly 1.6 million books, approximately 8,400 incunabula (books and pamphlets printed before 1501) and coin and medal collections.

Its mission, Cardinal Mendonca wrote in his editorial, is to “conserv[e] its continually growing number of treasures and to share this heritage with the academic world.” The library “has always been a place of research and an active host for collaboration.”

Over the years, the library has: seen a massive renovation of its facilities to make it more secure and up to modern-day standards; tagged items with Radio Frequency Identification chips to better track and identify them; continued to digitize its holdings, offering reproductions online.

Cardinal Mendonca wrote that The Vatican Library Review journal — published twice a year in print and online by Brill Publishers, marks a further step in the Vatican’s decades-long work in publish- ing studies examining the library’s holdings and issuing a newsletter about general news and events.

The journal seeks peer-reviewed “innovative scholarly contributions” to showcase each scholar’s knowledge, insights and discoveries, the cardinal wrote, including the world of “early career scholars” and those whose work “may not fit neatly” in more established journals.

The journal will accept work written in English, German, French and Italian and can include shorter notes, reports on conferences, book reviews and summaries of finished dissertations, the publisher wrote.
By the numbers: Consistory keeps expanding variety in College of Cardinals

Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis will lead a number of major events at the end of August, starting with the creation of 20 new cardinals in St. Peter’s Basilica.

Inducting the appointees into the College of Cardinals at an ordinary public consistory Aug. 27, the pope gave each new cardinal: a scarlet biretta — the “red hat” — whose color signifies a cardinal’s willingness to shed his blood for the faith; a gold ring, a sign of their special bond with the church of Rome; and a scroll testifying to his new office and containing the name of his titular church in Rome.

On Aug. 28, the pope held an important closed-door assembly with the College of Cardinals Aug. 29-30.

All the world’s cardinals have been invited to attend the consultative session to reflect on the apostolic constitution “Praedicate evangelium” (Preach the Gospel) on the reform of the Roman Curia — a project that has been an important focus of this pontificate.

The pope ended the day Aug. 30 with Mass with all the new cardinals and the College of Cardinals in St. Peter’s Basilica.

The pope convening the world’s cardinals in Rome offers a rare chance for the College of Cardinals to get to know each other and to serve as a consultative body for the pope.

This tradition of using the college in an advisory capacity was a common practice in the Church’s early centuries, when the cardinals constituted the “senate” of the Church and, in part because they once all lived in Rome, were consulted often by the pope.

Today, cardinals, who now come from all over the world, can still influence Church policy in a major way through their membership in Vatican dicasteries and other curial agencies. The pope names them to serve as top members of these offices that help manage the life of the universal Church. While they live and work in Rome, the majority serve in their home-country or designated diocese, nunciature or apostolic prefecture and typically come through Rome several times a year for meetings, conferences and one-on-one audiences with the pontiff.

However, the cardinals’ most visible role is in their solemn and important task of entering a conclave to elect a new pope, a responsibility currently reserved to cardinals who are over the age of 80.

With 20 new members inducted into the College of Cardinals Aug. 27, Pope Francis brought up to 132 the number of cardinal electors, and the college as a whole will have 226 members.

Some of the significant characteristics of the college after the Aug. 27 consistory can be seen in numbers:

— The college is elderly. The average age of cardinals today is 78, and the average age among the cardinal electors is 72. Even though nine electors are under the age of 90, and one is 48 years old, nearly three-quarters of the electors are 70 and older. Almost 41 percent of the entire college is over the age of 80.

— The college is international. Today there are more than 90 countries represented in the entire college and 71 countries among the electors. That’s a notable increase from 2005, when all 117 eligible cardinal electors came from 53 countries.

— Europe is still the regional powerhouse, even though the regional balance is slowly shifting. At the 2005 conclave, that is, 24 percent of all voting members. Today, even from Italy at the 2013 conclave, that is, 24 percent of all voting members. Today, even from Italy. Almost 63 percent — will have been created by Pope Francis; 11 of the 132 cardinal electors, slightly more than 9 percent, represented Asia, since Italian Cardinal-designate Giorgio Maria Bassetti is the only living cardinal of Italian nationality still alive who had been made a cardinal by St. John Paul II.

— Oldest living cardinal: Angolan Cardinal Alexandre do Nascimento, 97, retired archbishop of Luanda, created cardinal in 1977 when he was 60 years old.


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— The college still has a strong U.S. contingent. With 17 cardinals, 10 of whom can vote in a conclave, the United States is a distant, but solid second in the College of Cardinals behind Italy, which has almost 50 members.

— The mark of papal predecessors. Of the 112 cardinal electors, 83 members — almost 60 percent — will have been created cardinals by Pope Francis; 11 of the remaining voters were made cardinals by St. John Paul II and 38 by retired Pope Benedict XVI.

— Fun fact: There is only one person still alive who had been made a cardinal by St. Paul VI, retired Pope Benedict XVI, who was elevated to the college in 1977 when he was 50 years old.


— Oldest living cardinal: Angolan Cardinal Alexandre do Nascimento, 97, retired archbishop of Luanda, created a cardinal by St. John Paul II in 1983.


— Number of cardinals who will turn 80 by the end of this year: 6.

— Next U.S. voting-age cardinal to turn 80: Cardinal Seán P. O’Malley of Boston, in June 2024.

Mother of God Cemetery
announces
VISITATION DAY
and
DEDICATION AND BLESSING OF NEW COLUMBARIUM UNITS
Sunday, September 25 at 1:30 p.m.
Services will be held in the Mausoleum Chapel. Chairs will be available.

St. Matthew
Parish Picnic and Dinner
Sunday, September 18, 2022
Noon to 7:00 PM
Fried Chicken or Roast Beef Dinners served 12:30PM -6:30PM
Family Fun and Great Food
Bingo • Activities • Music • Cake Auction • Hourly Split the Pots
Silent Auction • Inflatables • Kid’s Games • Hay Ride
Grand Raffle, Quilt Raffle, and Plenty of Games
Grand Raffle Prices: $500 (1), $100 (3), $50 (4)
13782 Decoursey Pike, Morning View, KY 41063
Phone 859-356-6530
Located in 5E Benton County on KY 177, South of Latonia
From Campbell County, KY 536 From Alexandria to KY 177 then south to the church

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CAMPUS MINISTER

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington seeks faith-filled individuals who are interested in working with young adults to serve in the capacity of Campus Minister at Northern Kentucky University. The work week will be full time, nominally thirty seven and one-half hours. The Campus Minister and the Catholic Newman Center (www.nkunewmandc.edu) offer an evangelizing presence along with spiritual support and opportunities for a full living and development of the Catholic faith among Catholic students, especially the support of spiritual life and formation opportunities. Responsibilities include providing support, leadership, and spiritual guidance to participating students; proactively engaging prospective participants, especially freshmen; promoting an ongoing, visible presence on campus; facilitating timely and effective communications with students and parents, including regularly updating the website, Facebook page, and database; regularly interfacing with Diocesan, local Parish, and University staff; and overseeing maintenance and upkeep of the Newman House. Requirements include a minimum of a Bachelor’s degree, preferably in Theology or Pastoral Ministry, and previous experience in young adult ministry and management.

Interested individuals may send a cover letter and resume, including compensation history and references with contact email addresses, to Stephen Koplyay, SPHR, by email to skoplyay@covdio.org or by fax to (859) 392-1589.

BABYSITTING WANTED:

Looking for someone to watch our two young boys, ages 4 and 1, at our residence Monday-Friday from 3pm-5pm. We live in Ft. Mitchell by Blessed Sacrament. Perfect for an after school job! An adult would always be present in the home, working. If you cannot commit to all 5 days, we would be open to just a few days. Contact Julie Morano, (859) 992-4907, julie.mueller5@gmail.com

STAFF WRITER/MEDIA CONTENT DEVELOPER

The Messenger is seeking a Staff Writer/Media Content Developer to join its media team. In this role, you will use your communication and web design skills to increase reader engagement, primarily through creating content for — the Messenger, the diocesan website, and diocesan social media platforms. Duties and responsibilities include creating content for various print and social media formats; proofreading content before publication; attending, taking photographs and reporting on events; and recording and editing short videos. Knowledge of Adobe Creative Cloud software is preferred. Candidates must be practicing Catholics with strong organizational skills, and the ability to meet deadlines and handle stress is an absolute requirement.

Interested candidates may submit a resume, references, and writing samples to Stephen Koplyay by e-mail: skoplyay@covdio.org, (859) 392-1500.

BENEFITS COORDINATOR

The Diocese of Covington invites individuals to apply for the position of Benefits Coordinator, a position that is opening due to a retirement. The Benefits Coordinator inputs, manipulates, and monitors information relative to health insurance and other coverages for priests and for lay employees of the parishes and schools of the diocese. Responsibilities include maintaining several payroll and benefits systems, monthly and quarterly billing, periodic small-scale mailings, bookkeeping, and ongoing member relations. The candidate we seek for this position will be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church, who has a natural attention to detail, a familiarity with basic accounting, and skills with interpersonal communications. Please send a letter of interest, resume with compensation history, and references with contact email addresses by email or by fax to Stephen Koplyay, SPHR, skoplyay@covdio.org, (859) 392-1589.

Gulf Shores, AL Beachfront Condominium Rentals

1-23 bed beachfront units and 4 bed beach resort house. Owner direct rates save you $$$! Call or text Chris or Larry Ashley at 1(502) 194-2287. R.A. Beach Properties-Yeast Kentucky Coast Convention.

Call Chuck at the Messenger for information on placing your ad in the Classified Advertisements.

(859) 392-1500
PASTORAL ASSOCIATE, ST. STEPHEN PARISH, ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI, OH

The role of PASTORAL ASSOCIATE is a full time position reporting to the Pastor. The primary function of this position is to enable ongoing parish life including liturgy, pastoral care and administration, enabling people to draw closer to God by facilitating the growth of St. Stephen parish that is ministerially complete and to assist the pastor in his function of liaison between the parish and the diocesan church. In addition to being an essential function in the daily life of the parish, this position also serves as a developmental role that could lead to the promotional opportunity over time of Pastoral Associate for the Family of Parishes of St. Stephen, Holy Family-Immaculata, St. Rose and Christ the King.

The Pastoral Associate enables, encourages, develops lay leadership on all levels; works with parish council to develop goals and objectives that enflish the vision and meet particular needs of the community; oversees sacramental, liturgical life of parish; organizes community outreach programs; and engages parishioners in Stewardship initiatives.

Applicants should have 5 – 10 years job experience in the relative pastoral setting: a theological background in Ecclesiology, Christology, Satramental and Liturgical Theology, Scripture, and Ethics and Morality; skills in pastoral counseling/pastoral care; have supervision experience in ministry; good interpersonal skills, and multi-cultural sensitivity.

For more details contact the St. Stephen Search Committee at: ststephensearchcommittee@gmail.com

Call Chuck at the Messenger office for information on placing your ad in the Classified Advertisements. (859) 392-1500

CUSTODIAN - MAINTENANCE MAN

St. Joseph School located in Cold Spring, Kentucky, is seeking a custodian / maintenance man. The position can be full or part time but requires a minimum of twenty hours per week, 11 am to 3 pm, Monday through Friday. Responsibilities include school janitorial duties as well as basic repair and general maintenance of the school facilities, buildings and equipment under the supervision of the Maintenance Manager. Interested candidates may submit a letter of interest and resume to the parish office at: jruwe@stjoeparish.net.
Pope praises Gorbachev’s commitment to harmony, fraternity, progress

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis offered his prayers and praise for former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, who died at age 91, Aug. 30 in Moscow after a long illness.

In a telegram sent to Gorbachev’s only child, Irina Virganskaya, the pope conveyed his “heartfelt condolences” to her, all family members and those “who saw him as an esteemed statesman.” The Vatican published the telegram Aug. 31.

The pope expressed his spiritual closeness during “this moment of sorrow for the death of your honorable father, Mikhail.” Recalling with gratitude his far-sighted commitment to harmony and fraternity among people, as well as to the progress of his own country during an era of important changes, the pope offered his prayers of suffrage, “invoking eternal peace for his soul from the good and merciful God.”

Gorbachev was known for his policies of “glasnost” (openness) and “perestroika” (restructuring) that set the stage for the break of the Soviet Union and the return of religious freedom.

He played a pivotal role in ending the Cold War of long-standing tension between the United States and the Soviet Union as well as the fall of the Iron Curtain that divided Europe into two separate political worlds of east and west.

He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1990 for playing a leading role in: promoting peace, particularly in replacing confrontation with negotiation; allowing many European nation states to regain their freedom; slowing down the arms race; and supporting arms control and disarmament, according to the Norwegian Nobel Committee.

Gorbachev praised then-Pope John Paul II for working toward peaceful solutions to political tensions.

“The role of religion is very important,” he said. “The pope has said the world needs a new policy and new world order. There (have) to be more humane, more just and more peaceful solutions.”

Coming from a country where religion was virtually outlawed for the better part of the 20th century, Gorbachev explained in his talk that one of his first accomplishments was providing the freedom of religion, which he said was a right that had to be respected.

Under Gorbachev’s leadership, the Soviet Union passed a freedom of religion law in 1990 that rolled back decades of communist restrictions on churches, including those against religious instruction and freedom of association. It legalized the 5-million-member Ukrainian Catholic Church and restored some of its churches and other properties.

Gorbachev said in his Benedictine University talk that all nations needed the principle of “glasnost,” that is, candor in publicizing problems and weaknesses in society “People have a right to know. It’s a grassroots assurance of freedom of information. People need to be given a chance to know what is happening, to know what leaders stand for.”

Europe would be able to address its problems and challenges if it is united — on security, economy and trade issues and without a bias against the United States or Russia, he said in that address.

He cautioned against what he saw was a growing superpower complex among nations, which he termed dangerous if this complex is the basis for building a new world order.

“It is an illusion to believe that one nation is better than another,” he said.

Pope John Paul II greets Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev at the Vatican Nov. 18, 1990. Pope Francis offered his prayers and praise for Gorbachev, 91, who died in Moscow Aug. 30, 2022, after a long illness.
Ethiopian bishops say ‘No more war!’ as fighting resumes

NAIROBI, Kenya — As fighting resumed in northern Ethiopia, the nation’s bishops urged both parties to prioritize peace, saving women, children and the elderly who had been most affected. In an appeal titled “No More War,” the bishops urged “all parties to code their weapons and return to the peace option, to prioritize dialogues and an option that will end the suffering of our citizens.” The statement was dated Aug. 18 but was released Sept. 2. The fighting has shaped into a full-scale war between the federal government forces and the Tigray People’s Liberation Front since Aug. 24. The renewed fighting broke a five-month humanitarian truce the government announced in May to allow aid to reach millions of needy people in the state of Tigray. During the past six months, some food, medicines and other basic needs reached the region, but church leaders there found it too little, too late. Each side is blaming the other for the latest conflict. The bishops said the fighting resumed as people had hopes for peace and noted that many people “are suffering from hunger, disease and psychological damage” and have been displaced from their homes. “Our entire country is struggling under the pressure of the cost of living.”

Polish church backs new war reparations, but stresses reconciliation

WARSAW, Poland — The Polish bishops’ conference has cautiously endorsed new government demands for $1.29 trillion in reparations for the wartime damages. Father Gesiak told Catholic News Service Sept. 4 that in 2016, Polish government officials asked Archbishop Stanislaw Gadecki, president of the Polish bishops’ conference, for information held by the Catholic Church on war losses. “However, at that time the church did not have such data at national level — it existed only in a few dioceses,” Father Gesiak said.

Cardinal congratulates new U.K. prime minister, urges focus on poor

MANCHESTER, England — Cardinal Vincent Nichols of Westminster congratulated the United Kingdom’s new prime minister, Liz Truss, and urged her to immediately halt the country’s declining living standards. The cardinal, president of the English bishops’ conference, said many people in the U.K. would be facing the choice between “heating and eating” this winter because of rampant inflation and soaring fuel bills. He urged Truss to give the needs of the poorest people her urgent attention. “The affluence to which our society has become accustomed seems to be ebbing away,” Cardinal Nichols said in a statement Sept. 5. “The principle of serving the common good means that the needs of the poorest in society must be given urgent attention,” he said. Conservative Party members chose Truss as party leader Sept. 5, and she automatically became prime minister without the need for a general election because the Conservatives still have a majority in the House of Commons. After meeting with Queen Elizabeth II Sept. 6, Truss officially became prime minister, replacing Boris Johnson, who resigned July 7.

Author of new ‘Mother Teresa’ book shares his encounters with the saint

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Generations of people have come to know St. Teresa of Kolkata, better known as Mother Teresa, as a humanitarian, a role model, an example of holiness in action and an intercessor with God. Jim Towey is one of the fortunate few close friend but also a trusted adviser for Mother Teresa. He shares the story of his friendship with the saint in his new book: “To Love and Be Loved — A Personal Portrait of Mother Teresa.” The book, published by Simon & Schuster, was released Sept. 6, just one day after the 25th anniversary of Mother Teresa’s death in 1997. Talking about Mother Teresa recently with Catholic News Service, Towey said: “I miss her company, her laugh and her motherly love. It was heaven to be around her.”

Pope issues new constitution, code for the Order of Malta

VATICAN CITY — For the unity and greater good of the Knights of Malta, Pope Francis has promulgated a new constitution and code for the order, appointed a provisional sovereign council and called for an extraordinary general chapter to be held at the start of the new year. The Sovereign Order of Malta has been involved in a process to revise its constitution and to promote its spiritual renewal since 2017 with the help of the pope’s special delegate, Cardinal Silvano Tomasi, who had been working closely with the pope after the hold a private audience with a delegation of the order Sept. 5, the Vatican published the papal decree announcing changes to the order’s leadership and the promulgation of the new constitutional charter and code, which all went into effect the same day. In the decree, the pope underscored that the Knights of Malta is a religious order, which means it “depends on the Holy See.” He wrote that its sovereign nature is not separate from, but is “intimately connected” to, its religious nature, and such sovereignty is only meant to help facilitate its purpose and function, which includes providing humanitarian and charitable assistance around the world. Founded in Jerusalem in the 11th century, the Knights of Malta is a lay religious order recognized as a sovereign state by international law, which helps to facilitate its humanitarian missions around the world and maintain diplomatic relations with over 100 countries.
"Every High Priest Is Taken From Among Men."