SUMMIT22 — youth and young adults invited to experience the Eucharistic mountain

David Cooley
Messenger Contributor

Last year at SUMMIT22 over 200 attendees shared a powerful three-day experience together centered on the Eucharist. This year, teens and young adults, ages 13 to 22, are invited to the state-of-the-art Covington Catholic High School campus, Oct. 7-9, for SUMMIT22.

The weekend retreat (Friday 6:30 p.m.—10:30 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m.—10 p.m.; Sunday 8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.) is designed to lead young people to Christ through prayer and instruction before the Blessed Sacrament. SUMMIT22 is designed to respond to the call of Pope Francis to prepare young people to live and proclaim the Gospel in a world that desperately needs it.

This past June on Corpus Christi Sunday — the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ — the United States bishops launched a national Eucharistic Revival — a three-year initiative to help God’s people understand the extraordinary gift we have been given in the Eucharist. SUMMIT22 is a perfect and profound way for youth and adults to prayerfully begin this grace-filled time centered around the mystery of the Eucharist in the life of the Church.

The Eucharist is the “source and summit of Christian life.” All blessings flow from the Eucharist, and it is a foretaste of heaven — the goal of Christian life. In the Blessed Sacrament Christ is truly Emmanuel — “God with us”— giving us the grace we need to become one with Christ through prayer and instruction before the Blessed Sacrament.

Fittingly, a summit is a large gathering of people coming together for a singular purpose, and SUMMIT22 is an assembly of God’s people coming together to pray before the Eucharist and grow in their relationship with Christ. However, a summit is also the highest point of a hill or mountain that one can reach.

In our lives we have “mountain” experiences and “valley” experiences. SUMMIT22 is intended to be a spiritual mountain experience for those who attend. In the Gospel Jesus would often go off to a mountain or hill to separate himself from the crowds and be close to his Father in heaven. SUMMIT22 is an opportunity for young people to separate from everyday life and mundane routines.

In our lives we have “mountain” experiences and “valley” experiences. SUMMIT22 is intended to be a spiritual mountain experience for those who attend. In the Gospel Jesus would often go off to a mountain or hill to separate himself from the crowds and be close to his Father in heaven. SUMMIT22 is an opportunity for young people to separate from everyday life and mundane routines.

(Continued on page 13)

Parishioners needed to spread the word on this November’s Vote Yes for Life

Staff Report

This November, Kentucky voters have a unique opportunity to protect human life. At the end of the ballot will be a proposed amendment that will make clear there is no right to abortion in the Kentucky Constitution. This will prevent our state courts from issuing an opinion like Roe v. Wade and striking down Kentucky’s laws that protect the unborn.

The Catholic Conference of Kentucky is asking parishioners for help to make sure pro-life voters turn out to support Amendment #2. The CCK wants at least one person in each parish to be fully informed about the Amendment, to make a brief announcement at the end of Mass and be available to answer questions that people might have. To do this, Jason Hall, executive director, CCK, will host one-hour trainings via Zoom to anyone who would like to volunteer for this life-saving work.

“This is not a large time commitment but is critically important to making sure Kentucky Catholics are aware of this critical pro-life vote,” said Mr. Hall.

Following one of these trainings, parishioners will be well-informed about the amendment and will have answers to any questions they may have had and any questions the CCK anticipates arising in parishes. The CCK will also be able to volunteer through Election Day if any unanticipated, difficult questions arise.

One question that is expected to come up is, is it legal for Catholic Churches to support the Amendment?

“Yes, it absolutely is,” said Mr. Hall. Unlike when it comes to supporting candidates running for political office, “Ballot questions are different, and you certainly can. There’s no real limit to what churches can do,” to support the amendment, he said.

To sign up for a training, fill out the online form at www.covdio.org. A follow-up e-mail will provide the dates and times the trainings will be offered.

For more information about Amendment #2, to download the Advocacy Toolkit, or to make a donation to the campaign, visit the Vote Yes for Life campaign website www.VoteYes4Life.com.
With 602 attendees, last year’s Seminary Ball saw its largest crowd. But there’s plenty of room for more as the Seminary Ball Committee makes final preparations for the upcoming 2022 Seminary Ball.

“Our goal is pretty high. We’re hoping to be able to eclipse that number here for 2022,” said Mike Murray, director, diocesan Office of Stewardship and Mission Services.

Mr. Murray and his staff work with the Seminary Ball Committee in organizing the diocese’s annual premiere event. “We’re hoping to have a big crowd again this year and we’re hoping to have a lot of enthusiastic people who will stay and dance till the end. We’ve had that the last two times, so we’re hoping that will happen again,” he said.

The Seminary Ball will be held Oct. 21 at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center, Covington. The event, which is co-sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and the Serra Club for Vocations of Northern Kentucky, begins with a cocktail reception at 6 p.m., with the program starting at 7 p.m. and dinner at 8 p.m. The Mix Band takes the stage at 9 p.m. providing entertainment until 11 p.m. Complimentary parking is provided at the garage across the street from the Convention Center.

Individual tickets are $90 per person. Table sponsorships are still available for $1,200, which includes eight event tickets with priority seating, recognition in the event program and during the event and inclusion in the October and November ads in the Messenger.

Part of the increase in crowd and enthusiasm at the Seminary Ball is the increasing presence of young adults at the Ball. Members of Northern Kentucky University’s Newman’s Club and Thomas More University’s Campus Ministry have been in attendance at the Ball and, last year, offered assistance to anyone needing an extra hand through the buffet line. Parishes have also been inviting younger parishioners to join their table and the growing and vibrant diocesan Young Adult Ministry has shown great support for the Ball.

“Having the energy of these college students and young adults present at the Ball and on the dance floor really adds to the excitement of the night,” said Mr. Murray. Having a good time while raising funds for the education and formation of the diocese’s seminarians and meeting Bishop John Iffert and the seminarians is what the Seminary Ball is designed for.

Father Gregory Bach, assistant director of seminarians, will be the master of ceremonies for this year’s Seminary Ball. He will introduce the diocese’s six seminarians Deacon Michael Elmlinger, Henry “Hank” Bischoff, Joshua Heskamp, Justin Schwarz, Michael Schulte and Brad Whittle. Bishop Iffert will also address the crowd.

The enthusiasm of the Seminary Ball is expected to carry through the weekend, with seminarians speaking at some parishes in support of the Seminary Education Fund collection, which will be held at all parishes the weekend of Oct. 29 and 30.

“We are very thankful for the continued support as this Seminary Ball continues to grow,” said Mr. Murray. “The people in our faith community are very supportive of this event and the collection because they know these seminarians are our future.”

For information about the Seminary Ball visit the diocesan website www.covdio.org and click on the Seminary Ball banner or call Mike Murray and the staff of the Office of Stewardship and Mission Services at (859) 392-1500.
With important pro-life legislation, such as the Supreme Court’s overturning of Roe v. Wade, and the upcoming Kentucky Article 92 “Vote Yes for Life” campaign that defines no right to abortion in the Kentucky constitution coming into the limelight this year, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops encourages a state “March for Life” program.

“March for Life” is part of the National Right to Life Committee’s efforts to promote the sanctity of life and the sanctity of human life. The event is held annually in Washington, D.C., and is a powerful demonstration of the pro-life movement’s commitment to protecting the unborn.

Louisville, KY – The Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington requests the honor of your presence at the Ordination to the Diaconate of Thomas John Murrin, on Saturday, Oct. 15 at 10 o’clock in the morning, at the St. Mary’s Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, 1130 Madison Ave., Covington. Reception will follow at the Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, Diocesan Curia Building.

This year, the Diocese of Covington’s Bishop John Iffert will be one of the key speakers at the Kentucky March for Life along with Dr. Al Mohler, president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. The event will be held the afternoon of October 1 in Frankfort, KY, on the Capitol grounds, with registration starting at 1 p.m. For information, visit https://www.krla.org/Events/Walk.

44th annual Kentucky Walk for Life to be held at Kentucky capital in October

**Maura Baker**
**Staff Writer**

With important pro-life legislation, such as the Supreme Court’s overturning of Roe v. Wade, and the upcoming Kentucky Article 92 “Vote Yes for Life” campaign that defines no right to abortion in the Kentucky constitution coming into the limelight this year, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops encourages a state “March for Life” program.

“This will enable people in their states to make a presence to the politicians and to people in their state community on the importance of the dignity of life,” said Faye Roch, director, Office of Pro-life for the Diocese of Covington.

While Kentucky Right to Life, the official state affiliate of the National Right to Life Committee and largest right to life organization in Kentucky, is organizing the event, the Diocese of Covington’s pro-life leaders heavily encourage attendance, to “join people from throughout the state” in affirming the importance of protecting life.

Catholic Charities meets the spiritual needs of Northern Kentucky inmates with jail and prison ministries

**Maura Baker**
**Staff Writer**

After COVID-19 put a pause on its programs, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Covington’s jail and prison ministries have recently been able to return to operations.

The jail and prison ministry works with correctional facilities and agencies in the Diocese of Covington, striving to “meet the spiritual needs” of both inmates and families impacted by incarceration.

Dave Capella is a proponent of the program who helps coordinate the volunteers to carry out this ministry, having joined Catholic Charities in 2018 after retiring.

“I’ve been inspired by our volunteers, and it’s an excellent ministry that is much needed for the people that are incarcerated,” said Mr. Capella in an interview with the Messenger.

The ministry brings volunteers into detention centers in both Kenton and Boone counties, where they share moments of prayer and conversation. “We usually will read Scripture, talk about what it means, and just have a general discussion,” said Mr. Capella. “Sometimes people just want to get something off their chest, and you just talk about where they are in life.”

“What’s really interesting is that each time you go, it just flows,” said Pat Raverty, who has been engaged with the people that are incarcerated.

It is a volunteer-driven program,” stressed Mr. Capella about the program, “They look at their previous ways, take ownership of the things they’ve done, but then, you know it’s time to move on.”

The MRT training’s goal is to assist inmates with life after incarceration, setting them up for a productive and successful path forward. The course takes about 14 to 16 weeks to complete, and inmates are incentivized with 90 days off their sentence for completion of the course.

In addition to these services, the jail and prison ministry also works with the Society of St. Vincent DePaul to provide prayer books, bibles, reading glasses and clothing. “The people might have been arrested in warm weather and when they get released they are in whatever clothes they were arrested in.”

“They also, additionally, offer support groups for the families and loved ones of those who are incarcerated, offering a ‘judgement-free’ place to pray and help others in a similar situation.”

“It is a volunteer-driven program,” stressed Mr. Capella on the importance of those who volunteer for the program. “If we didn’t have our volunteers, we wouldn’t be able to do what we do.”

To attend a support group or to serve in Catholic Charities Jail Ministry Program as a volunteer, contact Dave Capella, (859) 581-8974 ext. 117 or dcapella@covingtoncharities.org.

Deacons and wives retreat ‘Never Stop Changing’

Diocese of Covington deacons and their wives attended an annual retreat, Sept. 2-4, at St. Meinrad Archabbey, Indiana. Father Michael Barth, pastor, St. Joseph Parish, Warsaw and St. Edward Mission, Owenton, was the retreat master.

The general theme of the retreat was “Never Stop Changing,” which included presentations on change and growth in relationships with others and to others and with God.

**With praise and thanksgiving to Almighty God, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington requests the honor of your presence at the Ordination to the Diaconate of**

**Thomas John Murrin**

**Bishop of Covington**

on Saturday, Oct. 15 at 10 o’clock in the morning

St. Mary’s Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption
1130 Madison Ave., Covington

**Reception will follow at**

Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium
Diocesan Curia Building

**Sept. 22**
Directors meeting, 9:30 a.m.
Deans meeting, 1:30 p.m.

**Sept. 27**
Priest Formation Day.
St. Joseph Heights, Park Hills, 10 a.m.

**Sept. 29**
All School Mass, St. Cecilia School, Independence, 8:30 a.m.
Presbyteral Council meeting, 1:30 p.m.

**Sept. 30**
Diocesan Curia offices closed in observance of the 1st anniversary of Bishop Iffert’s consecration and installation.
Celebration and CJI kickoff, St. Mary’s Park, Covington, 5:30 p.m.
Earlier this year, I had the honor and pleasure of being introduced to Hatfield House, ancestral home of the Marquesses of Salisbury by the seventh marquess, Robert Michael James Gascoyne-Cecil, and his wife, Hannah. After Hannah, the daughter of a distinguished Scottish Catholic family, showed Father Alexander Sherbrooke and me around Hatfield’s magnificent gardens, a fine lunch was followed by the Salisburys giving us an extended tour of the house, which came into the Cecil family as part of a land swap with King James I in 1607.

Then came the topper. Robert took Father Sherbrooke and me down to the basement of Hatfield House, which holds the extensive Cecil family archives— a historical treasure trove in which I could have happily spent days, if not weeks. We were shown a first edition Authorized Version of the King James Bible. We examined the handwritten order for the execution of Mary Queen of Scots—as well as autograph letters by Mary and her cousin, Elizabeth I, who had spent much of her childhood at Hatfield House. Beautifully illuminated prayer books were glorious reminders of the days before missallets and other disposable “worship aids.”

How have you ever had a mental health crisis in your family? Has a friend ever acted strangely, even to the point they might hurt themselves?

We’ve all had times where we have wondered what to do and where to turn. We don’t want to overreact, but we feel helpless. Or we ourselves may feel helpless, or hopeless.

What do you do when you have questions? Do you call someone? A family member? A friend? A professional?

According to Mental Health America (mhanational.org), 19.86 percent of U.S. adults experienced a mental health condition in 2019. The National Suicide Hotline Designation Act, signed in 2020, authorized “988” as a new three-digit number for suicide and mental health crises. It was a joint effort of Robert’s grandfather, Robert Arthur James Gascoyne-Cecil, the fifth marquess, called “Bobbety” by his family, and Anthony Eden (then a rising star in the parliamentary Conservative Party) to Berlin to see what was afoot with Adolf Hitler and the German Third Reich.

The notebook I leafed through was a typed diary of that visit, and it contained the seating chart for what must have been a Dinner Party from Hell. At the center of one side of an elongated table sat the man Winston Churchill would later describe as “a man of fierce, acerbic genius, the repository and expression of the most virulent hatreds that have ever correled the human breast — Corporal Hitler,” across from Hitler were Eden and Cranborne. Ranged around the table and at smaller side tables were the loathsome gangsters of the Nazi hierarchy, including, if memory serves, Goering, Goebbels and Ribbentrop, most with their spouses. One can only imagine the conversation. (Not to mention the meal!)

Yet what was most striking in that diary was Lord Cranborne’s terse summary of the strategic future: there would be no stopping Hitler by any means other than armed force. The Fuehrer had made himself a de facto dictator by the Enabling Act of 1933. Nine months before the Eden-Cranborne mission he had announced Germany’s rearmament, including the reintroduction of conscription and the creation of a German air force. In all of this, he was following the plan he had described in detail in his turgescent speech, Mein Kampf. His struggle. Until early 1938, however, much of the civilized world refused to see what Lord Cranborne saw and refused to believe that Hitler meant what he wrote. Rather, the civilized world averted its eyes from what it should have recognized as the unmistakable threat posed by a re-armed Germany, which had taken on much of the world in 1914–1918 and almost won.

Looking through Bobbety Cranborne’s diary, it was impossible not to think of those today who still refuse to take Vladimir Putin at his word when he claims that Ukraine is a non-nation, or who defend his brutal war against Ukraine as a way to legitimate Russian security concerns, or who somehow believe that a “barking” NATO provoked Putin to do what he had signaled for decades that he intended to do: namely, reverse history’s verdict in the Cold War. Such blindness is not only a matter of historical anamnesis or unrealistic foreign policy “realism.” It is also a moral and spiritual failing — the moral failure to recognize evil for what it is, and the spiritual failure to summon the will and will to oppose it before it destroys whatever stands in its path.

Thus a terrible situation is made worse.

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

Father Stephen Bankemper

It is no secret that political and social speech in our society is marked by violence. We do not just disagree with one another or comment on events; we attack people, vitally and degrade them, demonize them and tell partial truths or outright lies about them, especially those in leadership position. We also speak of the Church, the same things regularly occur. Even a superficial sampling of podcasts, YouTube videos and personal speech shows that we Christians are not much better in our speech about Church leaders than the rest of society is about political and government leaders.

St. Paul exhorts us to do the opposite: “Beloved: First of all, I ask that supplications, prayers, petitions and thanksgivings be offered for everyone, for kings and for all in authority...” When was the last time you offered prayers and petitions for a pope, bishop, pastor or anyone else with whom you disagreed? Compare the number of times you have heard criticism of public Church figures’ positions or ideas with the number of times you have heard them personally attacked. Of all the reasons Christians should pray, the most obvious, but often left out, is that prayer helps us to love each other. For Paul, the first step and then the party! Many might find this way of speaking a bit naive.

Old age as we know it—or presume it to be—is commonly a time of chronic illness and loneliness, and the dying process is often accompanied by pain and suffering. But it has been my experience as a Little Sister that the elderly often do await the Lord’s coming with eager expectation and a profound sense of peace. If the pandemic has taught me anything, it is that the elderly are surprisingly resilient, despite their evident weakness.

Pope Francis recently echoed these words in his general audience talks on aging. “Old age is the phase in life most suited to spreading the joyful news that life is the initiation to a final fulfillment,” he said. “The time of life is the time of grace that carries us forward, and beyond the door there is freedom and peace.”

One step and then the party! Many might find this way of speaking a bit naive. Old age as we know it—or presume it to be—is commonly a time of chronic illness and loneliness, and the dying process is often accompanied by pain and suffering. But it has been my experience as a Little Sister that the elderly often do await the Lord’s coming with eager expectation and a profound sense of peace. If the pandemic has taught me anything, it is that the elderly are surprisingly resilient, despite their evident weakness. As Pope Francis was reflecting on the meaning of old age this summer, the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) and National Geographic published the results of their 2021 “Second Half of Life Study.”

“Can we say with confidence that most prevalent opinions and stereotypes of aging were proven wrong,” an AARP spokesperson observed. “The study found that most of those aged 80 and older say they’re past the ‘best possible life’ or close to it, compared with one in five younger adults.”

Psychologically, people notice and prioritize the positive and let the negative go as they age. Perhaps so we begin to feel the burdens of age, rather than trying to recapture our lost youth we should open our heart to the Lord and ask him to help us open our heart to the Lord. We might expect our company and at the same time learn that the best is yet to come.

Sister Constance Viot is the communications director for the Little Sisters of the Poor in the United States and an occupational therapist.

Reading is divine

Robert Browning, John Lennon and Pope Francis.

What could a Victorian-era poet, a 20th century rock star and a 21st century pope possibly have in common? Well, I recently discovered something—each of them has tried to assure us that old age is not as bad as it might seem. For all three, “the best is yet to be!”

“Grow old along with me! The best is yet to be, the last of life, for which the first was made,” wrote Robert Browning in “Pope.” Over a century later John Lennon recorded a song inspired by Browning’s words. “Grow Old With Me”

And Pope Francis recently echoed these words in his general audience talks on aging. “Old age is the phase in life most suited to spreading the joyful news that life is the initiation to a final fulfillment,” he said. “The time of life is the time of grace that carries us forward, and beyond the door there is freedom and peace.”

“I love to read!”

I got my Kenton County Library card when I was nine years old. My first reads focused on dinosaurs and Nancy Drew Mysteries. That was also the year my mother purchased what seemed like a lifetime supply of “Family Bible” and, for a while, I devoted my reading time to God and prayer, Got to Leviticus before I returned to Nancy Drew and my friends.

Among my misadventures with books was the time I got so captivated with Pearl Buck’s “The Good Earth” that I stayed up and read way into the night, neglected studying for one of my college exams and paid the cost with a poor grade. On another occasion I was caught up in the story. I have been fortunate these past two-plus years to be in a book club with five other women and share the stories we’ve experienced, what we notice about the characters, the phrasing, how the story is set in the background of location and history. Mostly we read novels, but you know, there is a lot of truth in fiction. Like Jesus’ telling parables, there is a point to every story, sometimes more than one point, and the discovery of it draws the hearer/reader into the action.

In reading sacred Scripture, a traditional monastic approach is lectio divina. This term generally refers to a process of internalizing the message of the scriptural text. The process is often described in four stages: reading the passage, reflecting on what it is saying and why it is relevant to the people at the time of its writing and for the current readership, meditating on the message that it has for me; and exploring the invitation it has for me in my own life and in my relations with others.

Through our reading, we book club members have traveled to Korea in “Pachinko,” Dominican Republic in “The Time of Butterflies,” Turkey in “40 Rules of Love” and the Little Sisters of the Poor in the United States and an occupational therapist. While lectio on Scripture holds priority in my daily life, I find that reviewing all of my reading with a similar process of reflection provides a fuller gift experience.

When I was young I could see the deeper truths of humanity and open my heart and soul and love the basic goodness and beauty of everyone.

Benedictine Sister Dorothy Schuette is a professor member of the Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery, Villa Hills, Ky.
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.

A note of thanks
For decades, as we strive to educate our diocese about attacks on the sanctity of life and to champion programs and individuals who stand up against the culture of death, our We Choose Life Committee drew heavily on Bob Greene’s astonishing group of a wide range of pro-life issues.

Yes, Bob agreed that abortion has been the foremost threat to humanity in our time, but he never hesitated to point out numerous other areas of attack as well. His concerns included euthanasia and assisted suicide, morally flawed Health Directives and Living Wills, the specter of healthcare rationing, the necessity of medical conscience protections, the steady push to export tax dollars for pro-abortion “humanitarian aid” and the importance of encouraging adoption, among many other issues.

Time and again Bob called our attention to important topics or angles we had not considered tackling. Over and over his wide reading and in-depth knowledge of legislative and policy issues helped us discern what approach would bear most fruit.

In recent years illness slowed his body, but never his mind. How will we miss his impish sense of humor. Bob was an exemplary man of faith who inspired all who knew him. It was a blessing to share his friendship and love.

Gratefully,
Faye Roch, Mark Linnemann, Sue Kathman, Ellen Curtin
The We Choose Life Committee

Bob Greene

Bob Greene’s pioneering vision of a nation that cares for pregnant mothers, cherishes unborn children passes to next generation

Karen Riegler
Contributor

I’ve been given the honor of writing about Judge Bob Greene’s extraordinary contribution to the pro-life movement. Bob passed away in May at the age of 91, just a few weeks before the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade and sent abortion regulation back to the states. He would have seen it as not an end, but a beginning, a new phase of the continuing fight to rebuild a culture of life.

Although Bob had worked on the earliest proposals for a Human Life Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, he also believed that justice as important as legal protections would be grass-roots changes, from providing practical support for women to enacting pro-family public policies that uphold traditional moral values. Looking back, Bob’s ability to foresee threats and frame effective responses seems to me prophetic.

Bob’s life was immersed in witnessing and advocating always for the sanctity of life. A convert to the Catholic faith, Bob lived and breathed the Church’s teaching that life begins at conception and ends at natural death. For over fifty years he scrutinized local, state and national political trends and legislative agendas for threats, large and small, to the culture of life. And he was never afraid to speak the truth.

I first met Bob 40 years ago at a rally in Florence where a building was being renovated for a proposed abortion clinic. As the director of the Northern Chapter of Kentucky Right to Life, Bob spearheaded the effort to stop the “floec” from ever opening. Single-handedly, he inspired the whole community to get involved and stand firm.

That was my first encounter with this determined attorney and former judge. The protest succeeded, but even more important to me was his powerful example, which challenged me to become a champion for life at every age and stage. What an inspiration!

Bob was not just a local pro-life treasure, but also a nationally prominent figure. After National Right to Life was founded in 1968, as its first Executive Director Bob commuted to Washington, DC, while simultaneously working as an attorney and helping his beloved wife, Julie raise their family back home in Boone County. He founded the National Right to Life News, which continues online today. His widely circulated “Greene Sheet” newsletter, with spirited summaries of national pro-life news, was quoted in many pro-life news sources including our Messenger.

Bob was instrumental in building a strong pro-life emphasis in the Diocese of Covington. As a chair and member of the Pro-Life Commission for many years, he helped us discern goals and objectives for impacting parishes as well as educating the public and addressing state-level concerns.

Bob’s knowledge of public policy and his tenacity were extraordinary. He had a sense of purpose to always move the mark forward on pro-life issues, even though those years in the 1970s were frustrating. We saw many legislative setbacks, but Bob never appeared disillusioned, only determined to press on.

Bob advised Bishop Ackerman and Bishop Hughes about pro-life legislation. His leadership on the Public Policy Committee of the Pro-Life Commission kept us all informed, including the “We Choose Life” newsletter that he initiated in 1991. The newsletter eventually became a monthly feature in the Catholic Messenger.

Bob was a proud member of the Knights of Columbus, which supports countless pro-life projects. When he spearheaded the Pro-Life Commission’s project of sending high school students to the March for Life in D.C., the Knights sponsored the convoy of chartered buses that was needed. Since then, buses have traveled to Washington each year, carrying hundreds of students. Their personal witness to the sanctity of life and exposure to peaceful protest will be gratefully remembered by Bob who was convinced young people are the future of the pro-life movement.

Bob received many honors for his service to the Church. Among them, he received the Pro-Ecclesia et Pontifice medal from Pope Paul VI in 1973, which is given for distinguished service to the Church and is the highest papal medal that can be awarded to the laity. Here in the diocese, in 2010 he was one of the first to be honored by the diocese with the Faces of Pro-Life Award.

Judge Greene’s legacy will be his stalwart pro-life advocacy, from conception to natural death, and his advancement of the end to the Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court decision that allowed for the destruction of unborn children and the wounding of countless women who chose this path. We all owe him a debt of gratitude for his tireless pursuit of justice for God’s gift of human life.

For more than 50 years Bob led the way. Now it is up to us to continue his legacy, redoubling our efforts to build a culture of life. May we fulfill his vision of a nation where pregnant mothers are cared for, unborn children are cherished and the act of abortion becomes unthinkable.

“Well done, good and faithful servant.”

Karen Riegler and her husband, Boone, are members of St. Barbara Parish, Erlanger. She served as the first Pro-Life director for the Diocese of Covington, was general chair of the 2022 DPRA and is a pro-life advocate in her parish and the region.

VOTE YES on #2

KY’s Proposed Constitutional Amendment - NOVEMBER 8, 2022

Vote “YES for Life” on Amendment 2

On November 8 the ballot will ask: Are you in favor of amending the Constitution of Kentucky by creating a new Section of the Constitution to be numbered Section 26A to state as follows: To protect human life, nothing in this Constitution shall be construed to secure or protect a right to abortion or require the funding of abortion?

This vote is literally a matter of life and death.

Voting “YES” agrees that no constitutional “right to abortion” exists in Kentucky. “YES” will save lives.

“YES” will not restrict anyone’s right to life-saving care.

The “YES for Life” campaign is sponsored by the Catholic Conference of Kentucky, Kentucky Right to Life, The Family Foundation and other groups. Vote to defend human life.
Elizabeth Wong Barnstead  
Catholic News Service  

OWENSBORO, Ky. — Listening to women’s stories and offering nonjudgmental support is why Birthright of Owensboro was founded, and what its mission continues to be nearly 40 years later, its director says.

“Birthright is called ‘a friend in need,’” said Sheila Calhoun, the pregnancy resource center’s director. “Every person is different: someone might need diapers, someone might need formula, someone might just need to cry and have someone listen.”

Calhoun became the nonprofit’s director in spring 2022, following the retirement of previous director Terri LaHugh after 22 years.

She said Birthright offers many resources for women facing an unexpected pregnancy amid challenging circumstances. Everything is provided free-of-charge.

“Birthright offers pregnancy tests and maternity clothes,” said Calhoun. “We also have formula, diapers, infant, toddler and children’s clothing usually up to about size five or six. Birthright also has breast pumps, bottles and sippy cups.”

Birthright International was founded by Louise Summerhill in Canada in 1968 to help women facing unplanned pregnancies. Since then, their mission has spread to the United States and Africa.

Calhoun said Birthright has no income requirements for receiving services and they are 100% volunteer-run, confidential, donor-supported and ecumenical. They are also nonpolitical and do not lobby or take government funding.

She said Birthright is available “for all the stages of motherhood,” noting that its founder wanted the organization to be a “lifelong relationship with these women.”

When a client’s baby is born, Birthright gifts her with a “shower in a bag,” containing all sorts of new mom and baby items, since “some people don't have friends and family with the resources to throw them a shower,” said Calhoun. They also receive blankets, quilts with matching crib sheets and burp cloths made by volunteers.

Birthright serves clients of all backgrounds and life situations.

“Sometimes we have people who have been homeless and are setting up a new place to live,” said Calhoun. “Sometimes it is someone who has gotten out of a domestic abuse situation and left all their belongings behind.”

Birthright also keeps an extensive list of community resources to make referrals for services they do not offer.

“If they come in and find out they are pregnant and need prenatal vitamins, ultrasounds, doctor’s care, etc., we may refer them to Care Net,” said Calhoun of Owensboro’s local medical pregnancy care center.

If a woman is homeless and pregnant, Owensboro’s Birthright connects her with the social worker at St. Gerard Life Home, which offers housing and hospitality to pregnant, unmarried women 18 and older.

She said in recent months they have gotten busier “with the economy the way it is” and expects that their client base will only increase, following the U.S. Supreme Court’s reversal of the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision in its ruling of Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization.

For their part, Birthright of Owensboro plans to quietly continue their judgment-free — and nonpolitical — mission to anyone who reaches out.

“Our volunteers offer love, friendship and support,” said Calhoun. “Each person who comes through the door needs that in different ways. Our job is to find out what they need and see how we can help them in a personal way.”

Birthright program fosters ‘lifelong relationship’ with women in need

Sheila Calhoun, right, director of Birthright of Owensboro, Ky., and Laura Pauyer, a volunteer, stand outside the western Kentucky pregnancy resource center Aug. 11, 2022.

Birthright serves clients of all backgrounds and life situations.

“Sometimes we have people who have been homeless and are setting up a new place to live,” said Calhoun. “Sometimes it is someone who has gotten out of a domestic abuse situation and left all their belongings behind.”

Birthright also keeps an extensive list of community resources to make referrals for services they do not offer.

“If they come in and find out they are pregnant and need prenatal vitamins, ultrasounds, doctor’s care, etc., we may refer them to Care Net,” said Calhoun of Owensboro’s local medical pregnancy care center.

If a woman is homeless and pregnant, Owensboro’s Birthright connects her with the social worker at St. Gerard Life Home, which offers housing and hospitality to pregnant, unmarried women 18 and older.

Other needs, such as rent and utilities assistance, are referred to the local St. Vincent de Paul chapter. Birthright also refers women needing food to a local shelter or food pantry.

“There really is a good network in this community and diocese, and has been for all these years,” Calhoun said. “It’s amazing the generosity, the prayers and the giving through donations.”

She affirmed the center’s fabulous volunteers and said they are currently seeking even more volunteers noting that “just three hours a week can really make a difference in a woman or baby’s life.”

She said in recent months they have gotten busier “with the economy the way it is” and expects that their client base will only increase, following the U.S. Supreme Court’s reversal of the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision in its ruling of Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization.

For their part, Birthright of Owensboro plans to quietly continue their judgment-free — and nonpolitical — mission to anyone who reaches out.

“Our volunteers offer love, friendship and support,” said Calhoun. “Each person who comes through the door needs that in different ways. Our job is to find out what they need and see how we can help them in a personal way.”

For results, call Marie Wieder  
859-801-9762  
www.michalescatering.com  
Preferred Caterer at Drees Pavilion  
Partner Venues  
Cincinnati Music Hall, Contemporary Arts Center, Devou Event Center, Fort Thomas Armory, Freedom Center, The New Riff Distillery, Rivingeist Brewery, The Center at Fountain Square, Pricket Barn  
www.stcharlescommunity.org  
(859) 331-3224  
Call today to learn more about Senior Living at St. Charles Lodge, offering a wide variety of services & amenities!
NAIROBI, Kenya — Places of worship have become the latest target for the forced roundup of Eritrean teens to serve as soldiers, in what clerics describe as a deteriorating situation.

For two years, 15- and 16-year-olds have been taken from towns and villages. Some are ending up on the front lines in the war in Ethiopia’s northern state of Tigray, according to the sources.

“A few weeks ago (Eritrea) resumed the confiscation of schools run and owned by the Catholic Church. (As if) this was not enough, now there are roundups of young boys and girls aged 16 ... for compulsory military service without end,” Father Mussie Zerai, a Catholic priest of Eritrean origin who works with migrants, told Catholic News Service Sept. 7.

“They do it in places of worship as happened last Sunday (Sept. 4) in the Eparchy of Segheneity, in the village in Akrur at the Catholic parish of Medhanie Alem,” he said.

The priest said the soldiers arrived during Mass and surrounded the church to prevent anyone from escaping. They proceeded to take the teens by force, including all the boys of the choir in their uniforms, said the priest, pointing at photographs widely circulated on social media.

“These young people who end up in military training camps and then (would) be sent as slaughter fodder in the wars underway in the region, particularly in neighboring Ethiopia,” said Father Zerai.

He warned that if the regime continues raiding places of worship, there was a risk that young people — fearing the forced recruitment — would abandon the churches.

“The sacred right of every believer to go to church to pray without being persecuted by the military or police in their country is a fundamental right of every human being,” said the priest.

For 20 years, the government of Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki has implemented a national service program for all citizens 17-55 years old. According to Human Rights Watch, many Eritreans have spent their entire lives in the service of the government, in either military or civilian capacity. Many of these recruited are picked directly from secondary schools, according to the human rights organization.

The forced recruitments have resulted in many 18- to 24-year-olds fleeing the country, including making the dangerous journey across the desert and Mediterranean Sea toward Europe.

The Eritrean government has ignored pleas by the international community to respect human rights.

“On a daily basis, people continue to flee the government’s forced recruitment and take those journeys across the desert. The government doesn’t care. It has nothing to lose,” said an Eritrean church source who could not be named for security reasons.

“Places of worship have become the latest target for the forced roundup of Eritrean teens to serve as soldiers, in what clerics describe as a deteriorating situation.
provides separated and divorced individuals mail Sister Maria Therese at smtherese@nduec.org.

ence in the life of a child. Call NDUEC at 261-4487, or e-
tutor children in grades K-10 for its Homework PLUS program from 3–5

Notre Dame Urban Education Center (NDUEC) is seek-

Our Dame Urban Education Center (NDUEC) is seek-

New Beginnings is a faith-based support group that provides separated and divorced individuals the oppor-
tunity for healing and growth. Participants will find a new understanding of themselves and their relationships and gain courage to discover new life. Thursday evenings, Divine Mercy Parish, Charity Hall, 7:30 p.m. Registration is required. Visit covdio.org/new-beginnings or call 302-4169. Volunteers 18 and older must be VIRTUS compliant.

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 chan-

Ian M. Halpin
Evan J. Paul
Covington Latin School
Alexander K. Williams
Nicholas J. Prospero
Covington Catholic High School

The weekly TV Mass from the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption is broadcast locally on The CW, Sundays, 6:30–7 p.m., held at St. Pius X Parish, Edgewood and Dec. 17, St. Timothy Parish, Union. No charge. No sign up.

St. John the Evangelist Parish, Carrollton, is hosting a taco and burger parish picnic Sept. 24. Mass will be at 5 p.m. followed by the picnic.

St. Elizabeth Healthcare “Perinatal Loss Service of Remembrance,” Sept. 25, 2 p.m. at St. Mary Cemetery, Ft. Mitchell. Contact Nate Mans, 301-2096, with any ques-
tions.

Fifth annual St. Joseph Academy Golf Outing, “Tee Off for the Kids,” Sept. 20, Pioneer Golf Course, Independence. Shotgun start 10:30 a.m.; cost $100 golfer; includes 18 holes of golf with cart, lunch buffet, refresh-
ments, and dinner. Proceeds to replace outdated A/C units. Call 485-6444 or e-mail inrxj@sjawalton.com.

All are welcome for Morning of Reflection, Oct. 1, 9 a.m., at St. Anthony Parish, Taylor Mill, downstairs in Fleming Hall, featuring speaker Msgr. 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.

Join Bishop John Jett and the Pro-life community for the annual diocesan Pro-life Mass. 7 p.m., Oct. 4.
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.

Protect Your Assets. We specialize in helping seniors keep their money.

Elder Law | Estate Planning | Probate
By request of The Alzheimer’s Association, Chief Selecter, Attorney at Law, is presenting his Estate and Medicaid Planning seminar:

“How to Protect Your Life Savings and More”
Thursday, September 29, 2022 at 6:30 PM, Service Center Library - Almager Room
Thursday, October 26, 2022 at 6:30 PM, Campbell County Library Auditorium, Tom Black Branch
Thursday, November 30, 2022 at 6:30 PM, Boone County Library Main Library

To register: www.virtus.org, enter your user id and password. Training:
Thursday, Oct. 13, 6:30–9 p.m., Thomas More University, Steigerwald Hall, Crestview Hills

Note: If your Training Tab is missing or you cannot access your account, contact your parish, school or institution. For other difficulties, contact Marylu Steffen at (859) 392-1500 or msteffen@covdio.org.

Certificate Specials

Citizens Federal
433 Madison Avenue-Covington, Kentucky 41011 859-431-0087
1.50% APY
13 Months
2.05% APY
36 Months

Citizens Federal

We put living into senior living.
Dedicated to our healing ministry, Madonna Manor offers many safe senior living options, including Independent and Assisted Living, Memory Care, Skilled Nursing and Rehab. Learn more at CHILivingCommunities.org or call 859.426.6400.

CDI Electric Inc.
Industrial/Commercial
cdielectric.com 859.291.9189

Chef Barone’s CATERING

• Parties • Weddings
• Company Parties • Luncheons, Dinners
• 10 To 1000 People
“Your Foods Taste Good” Serving Greater Cincinnati
Call Jill 491-6391
1640 Dixie Highway Park Hills, Ky.
Young must hasten to share God’s love, pope says in WYD message

Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Like Mary who after the Annunciation went in haste to visit her cousin Elizabeth, young Catholics are called to welcome Jesus into their lives and then to go out and share their joy with others, Pope Francis said.

“Mary is an example of a young person who wastes no time on seeking attention or the approval of others — as often happens when we depend on our ‘likes’ on social media. She sets out to find the most genuine of all ‘connections’: the one that comes from encounter, sharing, love and service,” the pope said in his message for World Youth Day.

The Gospel of Luke’s description of what Mary did after learning she would become the mother of Jesus — “Mary arose and went with haste” to Elizabeth — is the theme Pope Francis chose for two WYD celebrations: on a local level Nov. 20, the feast of Christ the King, and for the world gathering in Lisbon, Portugal, Aug. 1-6, 2023.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Lisbon gathering was postponed from 2022. Pope Francis said he hoped many young Catholics would gather in the Portuguese city and that it would “represent a new beginning for you, the young, and — with you — for humanity as a whole.”

In the Gospel story of the Visitation, the pope said, Mary “is a model for young people on the move, who refuse to stand in front of a mirror to contemplate themselves or to get caught up in the ‘net.’”

“Mary’s focus is always directed outward,” he said. “She is the woman of Easter, in a permanent state of exodus, going forth from herself toward that great Other who is God and toward others, her brothers and sisters, especially those in greatest need, like her cousin Elizabeth.”

Pope Francis made it clear in the message that he was not urging “haste” as something simply rapid, which can lead to superficiality, but rather as an enthusiastic response to experiencing God’s love and feeling an urgent need to share it.

“Even though the astonishing message of the angel had caused a seismic shift in her plans, the young Mary did not remain paralyzed, for within her was Jesus, the power of resurrection and new life,” the pope said. “She arises and sets out, for she is certain that God’s plan is the best plan for her life.”

“Mary becomes a temple of God, an image of the pilgrim church, a church that goes forth for service, a church that brings the good news to all,” Pope Francis wrote.

“The movement is not for the sake of movement, but for the sake of those in need of the Gospel, of Jesus’ love and of help or just a bit of kindness.”

What kinds of ‘haste’ do you have, dear young people?” the pope asked them. “What leads you to feel a need to get up and go, lest Young must hasten to share God’s love, pope says in WYD message

(Continued on page 14)
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 NKU’s Catholic Newman Center (www.nkuunewmanclub.org) 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; pretesting 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.

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 updates employee information for various health and other coverages for priests and for lay employees of the parishes and schools of the diocese. Responsibilities include maintaining employee files, 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.

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 video. 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. EOE

STAFFS 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 video. 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. EOE

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: jrouwe@stjosephparish.net.

PART TIME CATERIA STAFF
St. Timothy in Union is in need of part time cafeteria staff. Candidates interested in these positions may contact Laura Hatfield at ThatfieldC2@covdio.org or call 859-392-1551.

STS. PETER AND PAUL
AND PRINCE OF PEACE
PART-TIME CATERIA MANAGERS
These positions are 4 hours daily, Monday through Friday. These positions require general knowledge of preparation, cooking and serving food for students. Includes ordering, receiving, managing inventory, cleaning, and maintaining school kitchen. Must comply with health and food safety standards. Prepare daily production records and necessary records and files. Contact Diocesan School Food Service Interim Director, Laura Hatfield at ThatfieldC2@covdio.org or call 859-392-1536.

Moore’s Painting
The Company you feel safe with
Moore’s Painting — Union, Ky. — (859) 512-7398

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

Make an impact that transforms lives by helping low-income families & indiv realize their dream of owning a home. Housing Opportunities of Northern Kentucky (HONK) has FT paid Carpenter opening. HONK is faith-based non-profit org w/ 30 years' experience building & rehabbing homes to create affordable homeownership opportunities. FT during week w/ some Saturdays. $18-$20/hr DOE. Health Care, Paid Holidays, Personal Time Off, and Good Working Environment. Eligible for Retirement Plan after 1 year Details at www.honkhomes.org/Carpenter

Send resume or detailed experience w/available, pay requirements & contact info to: David Hastings c/o HONK, 502 Fry St., Covington 41011 or e-mail to dhastings@honkhomes.org

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 enflsh 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, Sacramental 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 for information on placing your ad in the Classified Advertisements. (859) 392-1500

SUMMIT22

(Continued from page 1)

There was a time in the Gospel when Jesus did not go to a mountain alone. Jesus brought Peter, James and John to a mountain, where they were given just a glimpse of his glory. Naturally, they wanted to stay there at the summit, but they were called to come down from the mountain and go out to be salt of the earth and light for the world.

Those who attend SUMMIT22 — just as all of those who meet Christ in the Eucharist — are also called to mission. We are called to receive Jesus and then bring him out into the world. The Eucharist is both the source of our strength and the summit of our desires.

In years past the Franciscan Friars and Sisters of the Renewal led this event (formally called YOUTH 2000). This year the diocesan team is excited to welcome the Mercedarian Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament from Cleveland, Ohio, to help to discover more of the love of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. As consecrated women, the sisters extend their Eucharistic Mercedarian spirit of adoration and praise to Jesus in the Eucharist, and filial love and devotion to Our Lady of Mercy, Mother of the Redeemer, all over the world.

Attendees of SUMMIT22 can expect a prayerful experience with music, meditations and Eucharistic adoration. There will be dynamic talks and testimonies, as well as a Catholic expert panel that will entertain any and all questions about the Catholic faith. There will be prayer services, the sacrament of confession and holy Mass, including Mass Saturday evening celebrated by Bishop John Iffert. There will be food, fun, fellowship and more.

In a world full of noise drowning out the call to holiness, and in a landscape that is secular, materialistic and hostile toward Christian values, followers of Christ need a place where they can withdraw from the crowds and focus on what really matters in life. SUMMIT22 is that place. It is never too early or too late to learn to let go of things that are passing away in this world, and hold fast to the things that are eternal.

David Cooley is co-director and office manager of the Office of Catechesis and Evangelization.

St. Timothy Oktoberfest

www.facebook.com/StTimsOktoberfest

Friday, September 16
6 PM-11 PM

Saturday, September 17
5:30 PM-Midnight

Sunday, September 18
12:30 PM-6 PM

Purchase YOUR LUCKY DUCK now at https://duckyderby.givesmart.com
Many people — in the wake of realities like the pandemic, war, forced migration, poverty, violence and climate disasters — are asking themselves: Why is this happening to me? Why me? And why now?” he said. “But the real question in life is instead: For whom am I living?”

No individual can solve all the world’s problems, he said, but each person can do something to help people nearby, whether a member of the family, the school or the community.

And, the pope said, “when faced with concrete and urgent needs, we need to act quickly. How many people in our world look forward to a visit from someone who is concerned about them! How many of the elderly, the sick, the imprisoned and refugees have need of a look of sympathy, a visit from a brother or sister who scales the walls of indifference?”

The haste Christianity calls for is different from the “unhealthy haste, which can drive us to live superficially and to take everything lightly, without commitment or concern, without investing ourselves in what we do,” the pope said.

Unhealthy haste, he said, is seen in those “who live, study, work and socialize without any real personal investment,” which can happen “in families, when we never stop to listen and spend time with others” or “in friendships, when we expect our friends to keep up with us, entertain and fulfill our needs, but immediately look the other way if we see that they are tired and need our time and help.”

Expressing his hope that many young people would attend World Youth Day in Lisbon and experience that “community ‘after a long period of social distancing and isolation,’” Pope Francis told young people to cultivate healthy haste.

“Let us carry Jesus within our hearts and bring him to all those whom we meet,” he said. “In this beautiful season of your lives, press ahead and do not postpone all the good that the Holy Spirit can accomplish in you! With affection, I bless your dreams and every step of your journey.”

The Diocese of Covington is sponsoring a pilgrimage to World Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon, Portugal, Aug. 1-6, 2023, for youth (at least 16 years old) and young adults. Already 16 diocesan pilgrims are going. Along with WYD festivities, the pilgrimage includes several days spent in service to the local diocese of Lisbon.

The trip includes round-trip airfare, transportation, lodging (within walking distance of main events), meals, tours and a day trip to the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fatima.

Contact Isaak Abraham Isaak at (859) 392-1500, ext. 1529 or isaak@covdio.org.
Native American leaders today called for dialogue about the threat nuclear weapons pose to the planet, the archbishop said, is the central theme of his pastoral letter. “It highlights the urgent need to begin, rejuvenate and sustain a conversation that leads to right relationships and to peace in our world,” he said, because nuclear weapons “pose the ultimate, and indeed, permanent destruction of any kind of relationships at all, not to mention right relationships.”

Amazon Catholic leaders: Isolated Indigenous peoples must be protected

BRASILIA, Brazil — After the death in the Brazilian forest of an Indigenous man who was thought to be the last of his tribe and who shunned all contact with outsiders, Amazonian church leaders said it was more important than ever to protect the region’s remaining semi-isolated, isolated peoples. The man, who lived alone in the Tapajos Indigenous Territory in the western state of Pará, was known as the “man of the hole,” because of his practice of digging concealed pits, probably to trap game. Little is known about him or his tribe, which was devastated as loggers and cattle ranchers moved into the area in the 1980s and 1990s. He had lived alone for at least 30 years and resisted all efforts at contact, according to the Brazilian government’s Indigenous affairs agency, FUNAI, which monitored him. He was found dead in his hole in late August. Another age-old culture disappears without our knowledge, due to the genocide perpetrated by farmers and loggers,” the Brazilian bishops’ Indigenous Missionary Council, or CNMI, said in a statement. “We must be remembered and perpeta- lized as a symbol of the resistance of all peoples who, in defense of autonomy, adopt the strategy of voluntary isolation.” The Amazon basin is home to more than 100 semi-nomadic Indigenous groups that shun contact with the outside world. Most live along rivers in the densely forested region along the borders between Brazil and Peru, Bolivia, Colombia and Venezuela, and along the border between Peru and Brazil.

Pope urges scientists to work for peace, protect the planet

VATICAN CITY — The Catholic Church “embraces and encourages a passion for scientific research as an expression of love for the truth and for knowledge about the world,” Pope Francis told members of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences. Scientific inquiry, research and discoveries should lead to evidence in the presence of God, who created the world and human intelligence; it also should lead to a greater commitment to peace and human development, the pope told the scientists Sept. 10. The 80 academi- cians, who include dozens of Nobel Prize winners, come from the fields of astronomy, chemistry, mathematics, biology, medicine, botany, geology and physiology and other spe- cialties. Members are chosen based on their scientific achieve- ments, not their religious beliefs, and study issues of concern to the Vatican. “As far as I am aware, no other religious institution has such an academy,” the pope told members last year. “Many reli- gious leaders have expressed an interest in establishing one.”

Established in 1815, the academy demonstrates the church’s commit- ment to truth and to learning about “life in all its symphonic splendor,” the pope said. Science should lead to a greater apprecia- tion of God’s creativity, he said. But it also should lead to a greater commitment by people to protect the world God created and help the people God made.
British Catholics, Pope Francis pay tribute to Queen Elizabeth II

Simon Caldwell
Catholic News Service

MANCHESTER, England — Catholics in the U.K. paid tribute to Queen Elizabeth II following her death Sept. 8 and the end of a reign that lasted more than 70 years.

Pope Francis sent a telegram addressed “To His Majesty the King, Charles III,” her son who immediately ascended to the throne.

“I willingly join all who mourn her loss in praying for the late queen’s eternal rest and in paying tribute to her life of unswerving service to the good of the nation and the Commonwealth, her example of devotion to duty, her steadfast witness of faith in Jesus Christ and her firm hope in his promises,” Pope Francis said.

The British sovereign died “peacefully” at Balmoral, the royal residence in Scotland, surrounded by members of her family. She was 96.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols of Westminster, president of the Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales, paid tribute using many of the queen’s own words.

“On 21 April 1947, on her 21st birthday, Princess Elizabeth said, ‘I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service,’” Cardinal Nichols said. “Now, 75 years later, we are heartbroken in our loss at her death and so full of admiration for the unfailing witness of faith in Jesus Christ and her firm hope in his promises.”

Even in her sorrow, shared with so many around the world, I am filled with an immense sense of gratitude for the gift to the world that has been the life of Queen Elizabeth II,” he said. “At this time, we pray for the repose of the soul of Her Majesty We do so with confidence, because the Christian faith marked every day of her life and activity.”

“Even in my sorrow, shared with so many around the world, I am filled with an immense sense of gratitude for the gift to the world that has been the life of Queen Elizabeth II,” he said. “At this time, we pray for the repose of the soul of Her Majesty We do so with confidence, because the Christian faith marked every day of her life and activity.”

“The death of my beloved mother, Her Majesty the Queen, is a moment of the greatest sadness for me and all members of my family,” he said. “Our thoughts and prayers were with me.”

The U.K. has entered a 10-day period of mourning.

Elizabeth was born on April 21, 1926, to Prince Albert, Duke of York, and Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon.

She ascended to the throne Feb. 6, 1952, and during her coronation in Westminster Abbey June 2, 1953, Queen Elizabeth was open about her Christian faith.

“When I spoke to you last, at Christmas, I asked you all, whatever your religion, to pray for me on the day of my coronation — to pray that God would give me wisdom and strength to carry out the promises that I should then be making,” the queen said in her address. “Throughout this memorable day, I have been uplifted and sustained by the knowledge that your thoughts and prayers were with me.”

The accession of 1952 made 2022 the year when the world’s oldest monarch and the longest-serving monarch in British history celebrated the platinum jubilee of her reign — the point when Elizabeth had sat on the British throne for 70 years.

The queen was able to witness the celebrations in her honor but handed over all of her public duties to her nearest relatives. Her final act of office was to receive Prime Minister Liz Truss in Scotland Sept. 6, when she was also last photographed.

Fourteen prime ministers served during her reign, beginning with Sir Winston Churchill. Truss was the 13th to greet her in that office.

During her reign, Queen Elizabeth met with four popes — Francis, Benedict, John Paul II and John XXIII, and as princess she met Pope Pius XII.

The queen sometimes joked about her longevity, once quoting Groucho Marx, saying: “ Anyone can get old. All you have to do is live long enough.”

She served as a constitutional monarch — the British head of state and Commonwealth — the supreme governor of the Church of England and head of the British armed forces.

In her private life, she was a mother four children, a grandmother of eight, and a great-grandmother of 11 children.

Following her death, King Charles said in a statement: “The death of my beloved mother, Her Majesty the Queen, is a moment of the greatest sadness for me and all members of my family.”

“We mourn profoundly the passing of a cherished sovereign and a much loved mother. I know her loss will be deeply felt throughout the country, the Realms and the Commonwealth, and by countless people around the world.”

Britain’s Queen Elizabeth II talks with Pope Francis during a meeting at the Vatican in this April 3, 2014, file photo. Queen Elizabeth died Sept. 8, 2022, at the age of 96.