Wherever we go from here Lord,
let us be strong in faith
and poor in Spirit.
Make us your disciples with one heart.
Amen
My Brothers and Sisters,

It is with great joy that I share with you today the beginning of a key pastoral initiative in the Diocese of Covington — With One Heart. The goal of this initiative is to embolden and equip the faithful — priests and the entire Body of Christ — to engage the mission of Jesus with united and determined energy.

Let me be clear, this IS NOT a process of retrenchment! Our intention is to turn to the Holy Spirit of God for guidance and to make the best possible use of the gifts God has given to this local Church. We are setting out to develop a vision we can share, establish goals for promoting holiness in our communities, develop leaders and marshal people and resources to pursue this sacred work diligently.

We will be assisted on this journey by the Catholic Leadership Institute. CLI is built on the belief that everything we have been given is a gift from God to be used in service, praise, and blessing of God’s name and God’s people. Their services are available to the Diocese of Covington through the generosity of a small number of benefactors who are leaders in business, education, military service, and more. The desire of these Catholic philanthropists is to develop the leadership potential that is already so obvious and valuable in our priests, deacons, consecrated religious, and dedicated lay leaders; to magnify the gifts that are at the service of the Gospel. I thank God for their initiative.

This process is already underway. Twenty-one skilled leaders from across the diocese have accepted invitations to core and planning committees that will work hand-in-hand with me and CLI. Firstly, we will continue our work of listening that began in the Process for a Synodal Church. We will use the input we received to help us listen, in a systematic way, for what is feeding your spirit in our parishes and agencies, as well as the hungers of the heart that are going unfulfilled. We will focus on how we assist one another toward a fuller life of discipleship.

We will use the data from this grassroots process to develop a strategic pastoral plan for the Diocese of Covington:

— We will help priests listen to their own passion for ministry and the needs of our people and provide coaching and formation with the goal of maximizing their leadership capacity.
— We will accompany parishes in developing their own pastoral plans and strategies for implementation.
— We will enlist the assistance of faithful Catholics across the diocese who have benefited from leadership and skill development in their own professional lives and invite them to contribute their time and abilities to the living mission of Jesus.
— We will connect these most valuable resources with the priests and parish leaders who can benefit from their experience. We will do all this and more for love of God and love of neighbor.

Very often I am asked about my vision for our local Church. My vision includes:

— That together we search for the most prudent and charitable way to do what is right and holy for the People of God.
— That we acknowledge God’s gifts and use them boldly for love of God and neighbor.
— That we pour out our lives not for a special interest, but for the common good and the growth of MANY in the way of discipleship to Jesus.
— That we embrace the gifts God has poured out with a generous hand and accept his call to be Christian witnesses in the world.
— That those of us who exercise authority in the Church do so with humility, recognizing that we are not the only ones God has called to mission.
— That we wash one another’s feet, not because we are weak, but precisely because Jesus is strong in us and strengthening each one of us.
— That we respond to St. Paul’s (patron of our Diocese) challenge to be bold for Christ.
— That we are blessed enough to live with one heart — the heart of Jesus Christ opened for love of the world.

Please keep this effort and your diocesan Church in your daily prayers. Join me in praying that the Lord make us strong in faith and poor in spirit, disciples after His own heart. Participate. Believe that growth and strengthening of the Church can happen. Be generous with your time and giftedness.

With a heart filled with love for you, I remain

Yours in Christ,

+Bishop John Iffert
Diocese of Covington

“The community of believers was of one heart and one mind…”

(Acts 4:32a)

“And so it is right that all your creatures serve you, all the redeemed praise you, and all your saints with one heart bless you.”

(The Roman Missal, Common Preface III; emphasis added)
**The business of transforming hearts**

**Laura Keener**

*Editor*

The promise and excitement surrounding the With One Heart campaign is per-sonified in its two project leaders: Deacon Jim Fortner, chief operating officer; and Carla Molina, relationship manager and leadership consultant, Catholic Leadership Institute. With complete faith, Deacon Fortner and Ms. Molina share their thoughts about how the Holy Spirit is boldly moving in the Diocese of Covington at this time.

“The Holy Spirit moved some very generous people — one person — moved their heart to help us do what we are about to. That’s, praise be to God, that’s amazing,” said Deacon Fortner about the anony-mous donor who is fund- ing the four-year commit- ment with the Catholic Leadership Institute.

And now others, he said, are answering the call to be a part of the With One Heart campaign. The With One Heart project is a data-driven, leader-ship development project for clergy, Curia staff and the lay faithful designed to empower and enliven missionary disciples. Twenty-one people are taking on leadership roles as members of the Planning Commission and the Core Team. (Meet the team members on pages 6 and 7.) The role of the Planning Commission is to gather and analyze data to help develop a strategic pastoral plan for the dio- cese. The Core Team will stay with the With One Heart project over the next four years, making sure it stays on track.

As word of the With One Heart campaign begins to make its way throughout the diocese, a few more individu- als are also pledging their financial support and more and more Catholic organizations are volunteering their time and talents to the project.

“That’s when you know the Holy Spirit is moving,” said Deacon Fortner about the momentum the campaign is building in the hearts of individuals. “They’re being called, it’s humbling and it’s beautiful.”

Deacon Fortner said that much of the credit for the early positive response to the campaign and its future suc-cess comes because “we are in an optimal situation for the Holy Spirit — the Church in the Diocese of Covington is healthy and it’s strong. We’re jumping in and trusting in the Holy Spirit.”

The With One Heart campaign will begin in October with Deen- sary Strategy Sessions being held in each dean- er. (See schedule top right.) Everyone with a heart for the Diocese and with anybody who has taken the survey. And with anybody who has taken the survey.

They’re really going to see not just where they are, but where they could be and how far they can go.

Another CLI program that is near and dear to Ms. Molina’s heart is Called for More, a program designed to revolutionize priestly care to foster happier, healthier and holier priests.

“It’s such a great opportunity to gather feedback from both the faithful and from priests and for priests to have an opportunity to develop themselves.” Ms. Molina said. “Our priests sign up for a lifelong vocation. How do we keep them engaged and happy and growing and wanting to develop them-selves? I think it is hugely important.”

Ms. Molina, now retired from a corporate career, has extensive experience in lead er-ship development and career coaching. In addition to her work with CLI she operates her own mentoring and professional develop- ment coaching business. It is no surprise that she is espe-cially delighted with the mentoring and coaching opportunities provided with the Called for More program and its complimentary pro- gram Good Shepherds, Good Leaders.

“I have a heart for priests,” Ms. Molina said. “I want to make sure that we give them everything that they need because they give so much to us. Being able to say, Hey, we’re going to walk with you as you learn. We’re going to figure out how do you develop the ability to do these differ- ent things, is just one of the greatest things that we can do.”

In addition to Ms. Molina, there is an entire team of about 12 CLI Catholic business leaders working behind the scenes — just a phone call away — supporting the diocesan teams as they implement the With One Heart project.

“I’m convinced, we have such great people and this opportunity is just sitting there waiting for us” said Deacon Fortner. “I think it’s a good time. I’m hoping that it moves, it teaches deeper skills within the whole diocese and inspires a generous spirit with the laity to get involved and to lead and to drive, and that we see transformation taking place — in people’s families and with children because of that. This has got to transform us, at the end of the day it’s the business we’re in — transforming hearts.”

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**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**

*through the power of the Holy Spirit and the imposition of hands by the Most Rev. John C. Hert 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**

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**Plan to Attend — Deen- sary Strategy Sessions**

The With One Heart pastoral planning process will begin by listening to needs and hopes of clergy, religious and laity. Everyone with a heart for the Diocese and their parish are encour-aged to participate in a Deen sary Strategy Session. Sessions are open to everyone, not just parishioners of the host deen sary. All sessions are from 7–9 p.m.

- **Oct. 15**
  - Campbell County Deen sary
    - St. Joseph Parish, Cold Spring, Memorial Hall
  - **Oct. 20**
    - Southwest Deen sary
      - Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Burlington
- **Nov. 7**
  - Northern Kenton County Deen sary
    - St. Agnes Parish, Ft. Wright
- **Nov. 9**
  - Southeast Deen sary
    - St. Patrick School, Maysville, gym
- **Dec. 6**
  - Covington Deen sary
    - Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, Diocesan Curia, Covington

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**Bishop’s Schedule**

- **Oct. 1**
  - Mass feast day of St. Vincent de Paul followed by brunch, St. Therese Parish, Southgate, 10 a.m.
  - “Walk for Life,” Frankfort, 2 p.m.
- **Oct. 2**
  - Wedding Anniversary Vespers, Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, 3 p.m.
  - Rectory dinner, Pontifical College Josephinum, Columbus, 6 p.m.
- **Oct. 4**
  - Pontifical College Josephinum BOT meeting, 8:30 a.m.–2 p.m.
  - Pro-Life Mass, Cathedral Basilica, 7 p.m.
- **Oct. 5**
  - Vespers, Permanent Deacons rededication of vows, Cathedral Basilica, 5 p.m., followed by dinner
  - **Oct. 6**
    - Diocesan Reviews Board meeting, 10 a.m.
  - **Oct. 7**
    - First Friday Mass, St. Joseph Parish, Crescent Springs, 7:30 p.m.
- **Oct. 8**
  - Mass, Sisters of Notre Dame jubilarians, St. Joseph Heights, Park Hills, 10 a.m.
  - Mass, Summit 22, Covington Catholic High School, Park Hills, 5 p.m.
- **Oct. 10–14**
  - Priests retreat, St. Meinrad Seminary
Effective evangelization commences with joy

One of the great icons in the Catholic Church today is Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York making his way up the aisle to commence Sunday Mass at St. Patrick’s Cathedral. While the congregation belts out the opening hymn, the good cardinal thumps his episcopal crozier on the ground, beams at all and sundry kisses babies, embraces young and old, calls out the names of friends he recognizes and generally speaking, spreads good cheer in every direction. One would have to be either catatonic or positively Serovian in temperament not to find the scene utterly delightful.

And this is far more than an effective PR. In point of fact, it’s one of the reasons why Timothy Dolan, is, arguably, the most persuasive Catholic evangelical in the country today. The Cardinal of New York is a remarkably intelligent man (his principle academic interest being American Catholic church history), and he brings his significant gifts of management to what he says and does, and he also knows that radiating a sense of joy that comes from friendship with Christ is key to bringing others to the Lord.

In the opening chapter of the Gospel of John, we hear about two young men who, at the prompting of the Lord, come and stay with Jesus. So thrilled are they by this encounter that they immediately set out to announce to anyone who would listen that they had “found the Messiah.” In that little episode, we see the fundamental rhythm of effective evangelization: they meet Jesus, they find the experience life-enhancing, they want to tell everyone about it. The very best bearers of the Gospel are those whose joy in Christ is contagious.

The second part of Thomas Aquinas’s masterpiece the “Summa Theologiae” deals with ethics, the question of how to live, so it is instructive to note that this massive treatment of Christian morality begins with joy, what Thomas called beatitude. Ethics is all about what makes us happy. After determining that wealth, pleasure, power and honor, though good, are not the source of true joy, Thomas argues that only the infinite good of God satisfies the deepest longing of the human heart.

Next, Aquinas analyzes the habits and virtues that inculcate in us the moves that properly order us to our ultimate good. And finally, in question number 96 (!), Thomas broaches for the first time the issue of the law — and thereupon hangs a tale. Laws, he argues, are those prescriptions and prohibitions that place us in the habits that produce the virtues that in turn give rise to joy. The reformation to question 96 shows clearly that moral laws are not the heart of the matter; nor are they the starting point for ethical endeavor. They are utterly subordinated to and ordered around happiness.

When I was coming of age in the Catholic Church — in the seventies and eighties of the last century — Catholics were utterly preoccupied with law. What I mean is that they focused on laws and religious matters, especially in the area of sex. And this was true whether one was on the far right or on the left. I think of the endless diapason around “the issue” of birth control, divorce and re-marriage, pre-marital sex, etc. that ripped the Church apart in those days. Mind you, I’m not suggesting for a moment that those issues were unimportant or that the people who staked out positions on both sides were unserious. But I am indeed suggesting that a Church bat-ting with itself over ethical law presented a deeply disd-ifying and unattractive face to the wider world.

And that is precisely why the Church of that period proved so evangelically ineffective. It was so preoccupied with defending (or changing) the Church’s teaching on sexual matters that it forgot how to invite people into joyful friendship with Christ Jesus. The huge number of people from my generation who have either left the Church for other Christian denominations or, more likely, drifted into a bland secularism testifies to this failure.

First the joy, then the ethics. Getting this right makes all the difference.

Am I subtly implying here that sexual ethics doesn’t matter? By no means! I am arguing that moral law followed and attended upon something far more basic, namely, the happiness that comes from intimate union with God. Once one has caught the zest of Christian life, one wants to know how to maintain that life. We might compare it to someone who has experienced the exhilaration of a base-ball game well played and who then endeavors, on his own and with enthusiasm, to solve the rules and disciplines of the game. Ethics is important; but joy is more important. And when the joy is in place, the ethics won’t be shunned; it will be embraced.

If I might return to my original image, I would say that a good Catholic evangelist could commence with the contagious joy of Cardinal Dolan walking up the aisle at St. Patrick’s. Once he has gotten someone in, he might say, “did you ever wonder how he got that way?” Let me show you.” First the joy, then the ethics. Getting this right makes all the difference.


Thank you, Your Majesty

Americans have many reasons to mourn the death of Queen Elizabeth II, one of the few truly noble figures on the contemporary world stage.

We were deeply touched by her decision to have the band play our national anthem at the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace the day after 9/11. We were tickled by her puckish sense of humor: while visiting US Constitution in Boston Harbor during the Bicentennial, the royal eye noticed that some of Old Forester’s ancient grooms bore the monogram of her ancestor, King George III, and the Queen said to her husband, Prince Philip, “We really must have a talk with the Defense Minister about these foreign arms sales.” We watched the evening news as Great Britain binged on emotional incompetence. It was, we agreed, rather discon-cealing to watch a country having a nervous breakdown.

Determined to protect her grandchildren, Diana’s chil-dren, Queen Elizabeth initially insisted on staying with them at Balmoral Castle in Scotland, rather than coming down to London amidst a media circus; and as the late princess’s family originally wanted a private, family funeral, that, too was the Queen’s wish. This, she insisted, was how Britons handled tragedy: quietly and with digni-ty; That was what the world respected in the British char-acter, as it had when the country stood alone during the Battle of Britain.

Day in and day out, she was bashed for this retrenchment by the tabloid rags once derided by James McFadden as the “tabloids.” The pile-on then extended to more respectable media sources, and, as the advice of Prime Minister Tony Blair, the Queen agreed to return to London from Balmoral for a public funeral. The night before that historic charade, which was best summed up by Sir Elton John singing “Candle in the Wind” in the abbey church where English kings and queens had been anointed for centuries, Her Majesty made an entirely dignified, and entirely adult, statement to the nation. The being mob, some of whom absurdly blamed the royal family for Diana’s death, began to calm down.

On the day the Queen died, I listened to the BBC’s wall-to-wall coverage and was struck that even intelligent commentators continued to get that episode wrong, call-ing her children’s “one misstep.” It was nothing of the sort. There is no doubt that this devoutly Christian woman thought of being The Queen as a vocation to which she had been consecrated. And that vocation did not require her to take instructions on the emotions prop-er to the sovereign from the most self-absorbed and shal-low of her people, or from the most vulgar sectors of the media. Quite the contrary. And to my mind, she did her country, and the world, a great service by demonstrating that a true leader traits to form and lead public opinion rather than cater to it, especially in overwrought times.

A friend of mine recently told his 2nd high school reunion that the phrase, “Anyone in America can grow up to President of the United States” used to be a boast but was now a warning. Indeed. Not everyone can be the sovereign of a constitutional monarchy, which may offend some republican sensibilities; but we’ll leave that conversation for another day. Now anyone who cares about decency in public life should give thanks that Elizabeth Alexander the Queen was so well suited by character and conviction to be a source of inspiration to her people, a bulwark of national self-confidence in diffi-cult circumstances, and the embodiment of the best of a great nation.

Thank you, Your Majesty. And may the Lord in whom you placed your trust, and whom you bore witness in your Christmas messages, give you the reward of your long labors. 

George Weigel is a senior fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.
Defending school choice—be prepared Ky.

It was due to the intentional effort that had been made to welcome newcomers, to find points of connection, to offer something relevant and inviting, to recognize that, while the Eucharist is source and summit, we humans often need tangible benefits to go along with the transcendent intangibles.

Once the Supreme Court makes its ruling, we expect strong support for school choice. Parents should visit EdChoiceKy.com to make sure you’re receiving the latest updates about the program. Educators can use our School Toolkit with helpful resources to get the word out to parents about this life-changing program.

As always, if you have any questions, please contact me at andrewvandiver@edchoiceky.com.

Andrew Vandiver is president of EdChoice Kentucky and associate director for the Catholic Conference of Kentucky.
Meet the With One Heart Core Team — in it for the long haul

Laura Keener  
Editor
The With One Heart strategic pastoral plan will affect every diocesan office and parish. Its development and implementation will span four years — its transformative effect a lifetime. A project this grand in scope requires more than a singular vision. It requires a diverse team of people that can encourage and advise key developers, while also engaging other parish members throughout the entire process.

This is the work of the Core Team, a group of 10 people from parishes and religious communities across the diocese. The Core Team will work with Bishop John Iffert, Deacon Jim Fortner and Carla Molina, providing feedback and making sure that implementation of the strategic plan stays on track.

These parishioners and one woman religious were chosen by their pastors and religious superior specifically for this role. Their commitment is substantial — 12 meetings over the next four years. They will be guided by the expertise of Catholic Leadership Institute, with practical assistance from members of the diocesan Curia staff. They were chosen for their love of the Catholic faith and their commitment to see it thrive in the Diocese of Covington.

Here the members of the With One Heart Core Team share what is on their hearts and minds as they begin the quest of igniting parishes and enlivening the faithful.

Amy Fathman  
St. Pius X Parish, Edgewood

“My prayer for this endeavor is an outpouring of grace and abundant joy in our community through renewed participation in the sacramental life, adoration of Jesus in the Eucharist and devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary. The truth and beauty of our shared faith be a source of hope and till us with the courage to be Catholic in all phases of life.”

Don Fromme  
St. John the Evangelist Parish, Carrollton

“I’m truly honored and excited for being asked to be a part of assisting Bishop Iffert and the Diocese with this Strategic Planning initiative and very much look forward to seeing the blooms that will for sure follow!”

Father Baiju Kidaagen  
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“I am excited about this project that the Diocese of Covington is undertaking. My hope for this project is that it will revitalize faith and will unite us as a Diocese. I hope and pray that this endeavor will prepare us as a community of faith to be an outstanding witness to the love of God and help individuals to be clear reflections of our Lord. Our present world needs it!”

Dave Ledonne  
Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Cincinnati

“As a Catholic in this wonderful Diocese of Covington, we have an opportunity to further enhance our impact on living Catholic through active participation with each other to build stronger, livelier parishes. This will provide us as a platform to share and live Catholic.”

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“I am excited for this opportunity to participate in a movement that is so deeply rooted in a relationship with Christ and building relationships with others throughout our parish family and Diocese.”

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Kathy Nienaber  
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“I can get so frustrated over the stupid things of the world around me, with all of the misinformation and manipulation going on. We do not have to fall prey to any of it. We have the beauty of the truth of the Holy Scriptures and the teachings of the Catholic Church. We can stand firm in something beautiful that has stood the test of time. The love of God is true and unswerving. The love of the Blessed Mother for her Child and all of her children is unconditional. And the Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist — a gift that is always available to us and that we are called to share. As part of the CLI project it is exciting to find ways to bring people together to enjoy each other’s company through fun activities while sharing the common interest of joy of our Catholic faith.”

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“I am very encouraged by this new project. I believe it will be a great help to our Bishop, and an even greater help to our priests and parishioners. I am happy and excited to be able to offer my abilities to assist with this project as it goes forward.”

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Holy Cross Parish, Covington

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Meet the With One Heart Planning Team

Laura Keener
Editor

A key aspect of the With One Heart strategic pastoral plan is that it is data driven. Through the tools and programs provided by the Catholic Leadership Institute (CLI), everyone in the Diocese will be offered the opportunity to provide input. This data will be developed into the diocesan pastoral plan. Hosting listening sessions, gathering and analyzing data into an identifiable and workable pastoral plan will be the work of the Pastoral Planning Commission (Commissioning Team). These 11 people include clergy, religious and laity. They are the dreamers. Each was chosen by Bishop John Iffert, their religious superior or pastor for their trusted insight and ability to “think big” while identifying priorities.

The Commissioning Team will work closely with Deacon Jim Fertner and Brendan Memory from CLI, with practical assistance from members of the diocesan Curia staff. Their work begins immediately. Starting in October and continuing through December, members of the Commissioning Team, together with the deans, will host Deanery Strategy Sessions. Attentive with a heart for the Diocese of Covington and their parish are encouraged to participate in a strategy session. Sessions are open to everyone, not just parishioners of the host deanery. For a schedule of sessions see page 3.

Here the members of the With One Heart Pastoral Planning Commission share what is on their hearts and minds as they begin the quest of igniting parishes and enlivening the faithful.

Laura Koehl
Sisters of Notre Dame – SND USA
Sponsorship and Network Office

“I am grateful to Bishop Iffert for engaging this process, especially for the honor and promise it brings to engaging our Catholic community in Northern Kentucky to grow in participation, worship and faith sharing with each other.”

Sister Nancy Kordenbrook
Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery, Villa Hills

“I am excited to be part of this project that will reach as many Catholics of all ages as possible and build up the community of the Church in the diocese.”

Deacon Chuck Melville
St. Barbara Parish, Erlanger

“In his first year as the shepherd of our diocese, Bishop Iffert has spent a lot of time meeting the people of the Diocese of Covington, both formally and informally. He has taken the time to get to know us and has gotten a feel for how we tick. Now, as he starts his second year, the work begins. He has reached out and asked us, me, to aid him in seeking direction for the flock. He has shown a willingness to lead but to use the resources at hand to guide us as we move forward. It is a bold plan to reach out to such a diversified community but it will allow us to move forward in a way that identifies our weaknesses and utilizes our strengths to reach a broad and possibly underserved portion of our faith community. I am excited to be a part of the Planning Commission and eager to tackle the challenges placed before us.”

Chris Goddard
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Burlington
Notre Dame Academy, Park Hills

“What excites me most about the CLI project is that the Diocese of Covington recognizes the tremendous opportunity through this project to ignite or deepen our relationships with God at the personal level. This is true for current parishioners, those who have fallen away from the Church or those who may seek to enter into the faith for the first time. This will be a ‘bottom up’ approach, achieved through engaging (asking questions and seeking feedback) parishioners at the grassroots level. Also exciting is the opportunity to develop leadership skills for our priests and the laity involved in running our parishes.”

Chris Goddard

“While igniting and deepening our faith is the ultimate goal, what’s necessary and truly exciting is that the Diocese of Covington is focused on both the process and the people involved in order to achieve a successful result. Better yet, the Diocese has been afforded the opportunity through the generosity of an anonymous donor to retain the Catholic Leadership Institute (CLI) to manage the project. CLI has a long and proven track record of success for managing similar projects internationally.”

Dr. Laura Koehl
Sisters of Notre Dame – SND USA
Sponsorship and Network Office

“…”

Benedictine Sister Nancy Kordenbrook
Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery, Villa Hills

“I am excited to be part of this project that will reach as many Catholics of all ages as possible and build up the community of the Church in the diocese.”

Deacon Chuck Melville
St. Barbara Parish, Erlanger

“In his first year as the shepherd of our diocese, Bishop Iffert has spent a lot of time meeting the people of the Diocese of Covington, both formally and informally. He has taken the time to get to know us and has gotten a feel for how we tick. Now, as he starts his second year, the work begins. He has reached out and asked us, me, to aid him in seeking direction for the flock. He has shown a willingness to lead but to use the resources at hand to guide us as we move forward. It is a bold plan to reach out to such a diversified community, but it will allow us to move forward in a way that identifies our weaknesses and utilizes our strengths to reach a broad and possibly underserved portion of our faith community. I am excited to be a part of the Planning Commission and eager to tackle the challenges placed before us.”

Dr. Laura Schafer
Holy Spirit Parish, Newport
Associate of the Congregation of Divine Providence, Melbourne

“To listen, understand and enable a feeling of welcome, inclusion and mission in our Diocese, following Pope Francis’ message that, ‘A synodal Church’ is one that includes all people, formed in communion, who go outside of themselves to reach people at Church, at work and in society.”

Dr. Bill Wehrman
St. Plus X Parish, Edgewood
Catholic Medical Association Charities – Diocese of Covington

“I am looking forward to participating and praying that much good comes as God operates through the many talented people involved.”

Ben West
St. Timothy Parish, Union

“I’m incredibly excited about the renewal that the Holy Spirit is working in our Diocese, hopeful for the transformation that it will bring to our communities and grateful for the opportunity to work alongside such talented and enthusiastic team members in preparing for and laboring in this evangelistic effort.”

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We now stock a complete line of home health aids that include elevated toilet seats, grab bars and personal showers.
Sixth annual Craft Show, Oct. 8, St. Joseph Academy, Walton, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., handcrafted items. Call 461-6444 or e-mail sjacraft@gmail.com.


“Walking Your Path with Christ,” a silent directed retreat for women and men, held at St. Walburg Monastery Guest House Oct. 7-9, with apostolic director Sister Dorothy Schuette. The number of retreatants is limited to four persons; cost $175. Contact Sister Dorothy, 443-8113 or dorchystos@gmail.com by Oct. 3.

Father Conor Kunath will lead a Morning of Reflection, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Oct. 8, St. Joseph Parish, Cold Spring; Nov. 19, St. Prix Parish, Edgewood and Dec. 17, St. Timothy Parish, Union. No charge. No sign-up.

The Northern Kentucky Regional College Fair, Oct. 11 at Thomas More University, 8-12 p.m. in the Conner Convocation Center on the Crestview Hills campus. TMU and Northern Kentucky University are partnering to host this annual event, which will welcome more than 50 colleges and universities and assist high school students with the college search process.

A Marriage Encounter Experience will be held Oct. 14-15, 56 at Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center, Norwood. Sign up on e-sharing.org or call 633-6464. Learn how to make your marriage better.

Thomas More University Dance Team Experience Day, Oct. 15, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Thomas More University Crestview Hills. Open to any high school student who would like to continue as a member of a dance team in college. Learn the Saints fight song, attend a home football game, and bring your best questions. RSVP at tmuky.us/22danceday.

Thomas More University art openings and exhibits.

“The Madness in My Head” by Thomas More alum and artist William “Cody” Goodin (’84), open Sept. 15-Oct. 3. “The Homeplace” by artist Sarah Hoskins is part of the TMU campus art openings and exhibits. For information, visit thomasmore.edu/artgallery.

Call, email, or stop by today!

We will listen, we will help.
mwolpelnhein@stcharlescommunity.org

Bishop Brossart High School Sports Hall of Fame ceremony will take place Oct. 15, 6 p.m., in the Seither Center. This inductees are: Matt Hartig, Michael Bartlett, Jarrod Schmidt, Katie Walz Smith, Katie Wright Funk, Jasmine Vogeljol Tiller (Tom Seither Service Award – posthumously awarded to Larry Livingston, and 1995 Boys Basketball Team (Team of Distinction). Cost is $30. Contact agreely@bishopbrossart.org for reservations.

Bishop Brossart High School annual Open House for 7th and 8th graders on, Oct. 3, 1-3:30 p.m. Scheduling a tour is preferred, visit www.bishopbrossart.org and click on events.

The Wm. T. Robinson III Institute for Religious Liberty at Thomas More University “Religious freedom: an unalienable right” presents the Fall interfaith event:

“Comparative Perspectives on International Religious Freedom” Nov. 1-3, 7 p.m. Mary Seat of Wisdom Chapel, on the campus of TMU, Crestview Hills, featuring the current and former ambassadors-at-large at the U.S. Office of International Religious Freedom, Rashad Hussain and Rabbi David Superstein, respectively. The discussion will be moderated by Jerome Languth, Ph.D., interim vice president for Academic Affairs, TMU.


The 30th Annual Eighth Grade Pro-Life Essay Contest is open to all 8th graders in the Diocese of Covington. Winners will be awarded Scholarships to Diocesan High Schools: 1st Place $1000, 2nd Place $500 and 3rd Place $500. Entry forms and guidelines are available on the pro-life webpage (https://covdio.org/pro-life/) or by emailing Peggy Piccola at piccola@covdio.org.

Our Dame Urban Education Center (NDUEC) is seeking adult and high school volunteers to tutor children in grades K-10 for its Homework PLUS program from 3-5 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Come and make a difference in the life of a child. Call NDUEC at 261-4487, or e-mail Sister Maria Therese at stmrherese@nduec.org. Volunteers 18 and older must be VITUS compliant.

Call, email, or stop by today!

We will listen, we will help.
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Snapshots of Bishop John Iffert’s first year shepherding the Diocese of Covington

The Diocese of Covington celebrates the one year anniversary of the consecration and installation of Bishop John Iffert as the 11th Bishop of Covington, Sept. 30. Here is a pictorial review of some of the highlights from that first year.

(left) Bishop John Iffert was consecrated and installed the 11th Bishop of Covington on Sept. 30, 2021, at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington. Bishop Iffert presents the mandate from the Apostolic See confirming the appointment to the congregation as they erupt in continuous and thunderous applause.

(below left) Bishop John Iffert was the celebrant and witness of the first vows of Franciscan Daughter of Mary Sister Therese Marie, Oct. 2, 2021. In his homily, Bishop Iffert acknowledged that he and Sister Therese share “a moment of new beginnings” as, just two days prior, he was consecrated and installed Bishop of Covington.


In the months that have a fifth Thursday, staff from Catholic Charities and the Curia volunteer at the Parish Kitchen meeting and serving the people who come for a meal. Bishop Iffert joined the group on Christmas Eve 2021.

(Nearly) 300 pilgrims from the Diocese of Covington, including Bishop Iffert, were among the tens of thousands gathered in Washington, D.C., Jan. 21, 2021, for the 49th annual March for Life.

In the months that have a fifth Thursday, staff from Catholic Charities and the Curia volunteer at the Parish Kitchen meeting and serving the people who come for a meal. Bishop Iffert joined the group on Christmas Eve 2021.
Over 300 people gathered at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, June 3, 2022, for the ordination of Father Alexander John (AJ) Gedney. Bishop John Iffert was the celebrant and ordaining prelate — a first for him.

Bishop Iffert, Father Rick Bolte, Don Knochelmann and Debra Geers take their shovel scoops at the groundbreaking at St. Timothy School, April 1, 2022.

“The Lord will pour out the Holy Spirit on these four acolytes and consecrate them deacons,” Bishop Iffert said as Kevin Cranley, Adam Feinauer, Eric Ritchie and Michael Elmlinger prepared to be ordained deacons, April 9, 2022.

Pastors from 21 parishes in the Diocese of Covington presented 46 catechumens and 95 candidates to Bishop Iffert for the Rite of Election, March 6, 2022.

Over 100 people from the diocese attended Catholics at the Capitol, a day of public policy advocacy organized by the Catholic Conference of Kentucky. Bishop Iffert was invited to offer the invocation for the Senate at the Kentucky State Capitol, March 1.

Bishop Iffert leads the congregation in praying the rosary, March 25, 2022, during the worldwide Consecration of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

In March 2022, Bishop Iffert visited St. Charles Parish, Flemingsburg, for Mass, confirmation, and a farm blessing.

(below) In March 2022, Bishop Iffert visited St. Charles Parish, Flemingsburg, for Mass, confirmation, and a farm blessing.
Bishop Iffert celebrated his first Easter Vigil at the Cathedral, April 16, 2022. The Easter Vigil begins in total darkness, except for the glow of the Easter fire. Bishop Iffert blesses the fire, prepares and lights the Paschal Candle — the light of Christ.

Bishop Iffert with Father Joseph Shelton, pastor, St. Augustine Parish, Augusta at the blessing of the new Mary grotto and May crowning, May 8, 2022.

In May, Bishop Iffert attended the graduations of Thomas More University and nine Catholic high schools in the Diocese. In his letter to the graduating Class of 2022, Bishop Iffert said, “It is fascinating to learn about the traditions and the character of our schools … Congratulations to the graduated Class of 2022! Be a blessing and a gift to all you meet as you go forward.”

The Supreme Court’s decision on the Dobbs v. Jackson case, June 24, that there is no constitutional or human right to artificial abortion is a major step on the road to protecting the life of America’s unborn children by overturning the ruling of Roe v. Wade and returning the power of deciding abortion laws to the individual states. To commemorate this victory, Bishop Iffert celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving for the Gift of Human Life, July 22, 2022.

The logo speaks to the first mark of the Church — that it is one — an attribute present from the days of the Apostles (Acts 4:32a). The logo expresses this unity through the universal imagery of a heart — something that expresses life, breath, and sheer existence. Here, not only does it symbolize the Sacred Heart of Jesus which burns for love of us, creation, but it also alludes to the collective heart of the faithful constantly offered back in prayer to the Lord.

Some of the earliest images in Sacred Art from the Catacombs show the faithful in the orans position — hands raised up in prayer. Here, hands raised in prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, likewise, double as the flames which envelope the Sacred Heart. Together, the Sacred Heart and hands offered in oblation become one — the image of the faithful joined together in prayer: united to the Lord, “With One Heart.”

The logo for the Diocese of Covington’s new strategic plan “With One Heart” was designed by Father Jordan Hainsey.
Enlivening the faithful “With One Heart”: The programs fanning the flames

The Catholic Leadership Institute has a lineup of programs available to dioceses and parishes to help empower priests, parishioners and leaders. The institute’s Catholic Leadership Institute (CLI) has been offering these programs for the last 17 years. But there are still many to be had and the CLI, Diocese of Covington partnership is one of those firsts. The Diocese of Covington is the first diocese to offer all of CLI’s programs to all of its clergy. Can’t call it a parish or a diocese. Here are the programs that make up the Diocese of Covington’s “With One Heart: Empowering Priests, Igniting Parishes, Enlivening the Faithful” campaign that will be implemented over the next four years.

Disciple Maker Index (DMI)

This year’s largest research project in the Catholic Church, with more than 500,000 responses, the DMI survey tool is changing the way Church leaders make decisions. It is an assessment of the spiritual health of a parish. The DMI measures, tracks and draws correlations that inform the spiritual development of a parish.

This 75-question survey provides pastors and parishes with a picture of where they are today allowing them to envision and create vibrant, faith-filled parishes for tomorrow. Parishes in the Diocese of Covington will be invited to participate to complete the DMI during Lent 2023.

Called For More (CFM)

Called For More creates a shared vision and defines the CFM process: a three to four-year strategic plan process, paid for by an anonymous donor.

Aug. 16

Douglas en Forster and Carla Molina, CLI are introduced to the Diocese of Covington teams for the project and provide an overview.

Aug. 23

For the first time the Core Team and Planning Commission are gathered. Deanery and Parish teams provide an overview of the project and define roles.

Sept. 30

On its first anniversary as Bishop of Covington, Bishop Iffert, the Core Team and Planning Commission host a party at St. Mary’s Park launching the “With One Heart” Igniting Parishes, Empowering Priests, Enlivening the Faithful” campaign. Mary Catholic organization, local businesses and volunteers come together to provide food, refreshments and entertainment.


Post-CFM Dean and lay leader Focus Groups and Deaconry Strategy Sessions are held. The Strategy Sessions are open to the public. (See page 1 for schedule of Strategy Sessions.)

Jan. 10 and 11

Teams and parish leaders are trained on how to implement the Disciple Maker Index survey.

Lent 2023

The Disciple Maker Index surveys are launched diocesan-wide. Everyone in the Diocese is invited to participate. The survey opens Feb. 22, 2023 and closes March 30, 2023.

Week of May 15, 2023

Post-Disciple Maker Index webinars begin. Participants are trained to assess, understand and take action on the data collected. All 2023 Bipartisan (Helping Priests and Lay Leaders) Commission unveil the Disciple Maker index pastoral plan.

Oct. 2023

“Good Leaders, Good Shepherds,” a leadership development program for priests begins. Parishes are chosen to go deeper with Virtual Disciple Maker Index and Next Generation Parish programs.

The impact of this formative curriculum supports priestly leadership and ministry. Almost 100 priests across the country have received world-class leadership training that better prepares them for self-leadership, parish leadership, and team leadership through a blend of training, tools, coaching, reflection, and fraternity. Good Leaders, Good Shepherds is coming to the Diocese of Covington in October 2023.

Parish Missionary Disciples (PMD)

This discipleship and evangelization training engages faithful parishioners and transforms them into missionary disciples who pray and teach others to pray, share the Gospel with another, share their own testimony and accompany one another on their Catholic discipleship journey. Coming late 2024 and beyond.

Tending the Talents

Tending the Talents is designed to support parish and diocesan leaders in these unique roles in ministry and to strengthen the talents God has given them so that they can be even more effective Catholic leaders. This formation curriculum is designed to help priests overcome today’s challenges of a diminishing number of clerics and more complex circumstances for prejudice ministry. Tending the Talents seeks to strengthen the overall quality of ministerial relationships and the ministries and practices that are necessary to accompany people on their faith journeys.

Tending the Talents is a blended learning curriculum, in which the experience is an integration of these types of learning:

• Online learning will help participants prepare for sessions as well as guide and support them in applying what they learned in previous sessions. The online dimension will accelerate the pace with which new knowledge is acquired and the retention and application of participants’ skills as Catholic leaders and disciples of Christ.

• Leadership applications will support and guide participants in applying new learning within their parish or diocese. Participants and their priests and directors will clarify goals, tasks, and initiatives for their ministry and ensure that all efforts are aligned. These meetings will allow them to celebrate learning and reinforce a culture of Catholic leadership in their parish or diocese.

Called For More (CFM)

Called For More is an annual learning program that provides priests with the opportunity to determine what they need and want to know about the life of faith and how to live it more deeply.

On his first anniversary as Bishop of Covington, Bishop Iffert, the Core Team and Planning Commission host a party at St. Mary’s Park launching the “With One Heart” Igniting Parishes, Empowering Priests, Enlivening the Faithful” campaign. Mary Catholic organization, local businesses and volunteers come together to provide food, refreshments and entertainment.

What we’re doing:

• For information on CLI visit www.catholicleaders.org

With the Disciple Maker Index survey launched, everyone in the Diocese is invited to participate. The survey opens Feb. 22, 2023 and closes March 30, 2023.

Week of May 15, 2023

Post-Disciple Maker Index webinars begin. Participants are trained to assess, understand and take action on the data collected. All 2023 Bipartisan (Helping Priests and Lay Leaders) Commission unveil the Disciple Maker index pastoral plan.

Oct. 2023

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Walking with leaders: the story and mission of the Catholic Leadership Institute

Maura Baker  
Staff Writer

The Catholic Leadership Institute (CLI) is a “communi-
ty of disciples,” describes Dan Cellucci, CLI’s CEO and full-time partner of the ministry for the past 17 years. It is an “apostolic ministry that focuses on walking with parish leaders and leader-
ship.” CLI’s programs focus on strengthening the leader-
ship and business skills of Church leaders, both clergy and laity, while strengthen-

ing the bond of community that allows a diocese to walk both together and with Christ.

CLI was founded in 1991 by Tim Flanagan, a Catholic businessman who is still active with the institute to this day.

“I saw so many resources being spent in the busi-

dness world and in academia and the military being invest-
ed in maximizing the human potential, but he wasn’t see-
ing the same effort in the Church,” said Mr. Cellucci. As a

result, Mr. Flanagan, along with a priest in Philadelphia, began CLI. For the first 10 years, CLI’s focus was around young adults and “helping them discover their mission for the Church and giving them leadership skills through dif-
f erent programs and retreats,” said Mr. Cellucci, “and we really started a lot of the programs and services then that we are known for right now.”

Since that revelation in the 2000s, CLI’s focus has been on the leadership of the dioceses they serve, with pro-
grams such as Good Leaders, Good Shepherds, a program consisting of “ongoing formation for priests” that serves as an “opportunity for them to grow in fraternity with each other and to grow in a sense of priestly identity.”

Additionally, programs like Good Leaders, Good Shepherds help priests and lay leaders develop business

Dioceses and parishes share their experience with CLI’s programs

Since its formation in 1991, the Catholic Leadership Institute has served 119 dioceses worldwide, carrying out its mission of pastoral leadership formation. Their wide-

spread impact is evident through the positive regards of the clergy and laity whom they have served, shared here as testimonials to CLI’s success.

Bishop Desinord Jean

“CLI is God’s instrument to help the Church, in Haiti, in the US, everywhere.”

Bishop Desinord Jean, Diocese of Hinche, Haiti

“I can tell you that when it comes to igniting the parish, no one is positioned to forge the future like Catholic Leadership Institute. CLI looks at the big picture to help parishes chart the future. Its highly skilled leaders know how to assess and encourage qualities of leadership and discipleship in many others, no matter what the setting: Urban or rural, rich or poor, promising or challenging. Empowering clergy and laity alike to figure things out. Igniting their parishes to engage future generations.”

Dr. Linda Ritzer, Diocese of Pittsburgh

"CLI is walking alongside clergy not for a sprint. But for the marathon. Catholic Leadership Institute truly is embold-
ening the life of the church through their ministry to the clergy. In turn, the people of God are experiencing parishes alive, and the Church is fulfilling its mission to bring people to the person of Jesus Christ.”

Father Gary Kastl, Diocese of Tulsa

Bishop Kevin Rhoades

“I have been blessed to see CLI at work in my diocese. Specifically, they have been on the ground working with our parishes and supporting, loving and guiding our priests. Walking with CLI is crucial for us at this time given the young age of many pastors in our diocese. Thanks to CLI these priests are courageous, constantly learning how to lead their flock and at peace with their calling and God’s hope for their life.”

Bishop Kevin Rhoades, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

“I like to say that Catholic Leadership Institute’s work is a marriage of human science of leadership and the pastoral heart of the Church.”

Archbishop Nelson Perez, Archbishop of Philadelphia

“Thanks to CLI’s Next Generation Parish, I have a beauti-

ful snapshot of 12 parishes. Those 12 parishes know their challenges and know their opportunities. Most importantly they know their sheep. Crafting a Parish Plan, creating SMART goals and sharing those with our communities has helped parishioners who have sat in the pews for decades finally stand up and say ‘I am here. I see where I am needed. Let me serve.’ That is a small miracle and one that will impact our communities for years.”

Bishop Noonan, Diocese of Orlando

“Because of the accompaniment of CLI, I have discovered new ways to shepherd my flock and minister to parishioners of all ages and demographics … including our children and our young people, who are the next generation of our Church.”

Father Ivan Olmo, Diocese of Orlando

“All I can ever hope for is that more people deepen their relationship with Christ, which transforms them on their journey to heaven. The CLI (the Disciple Maker Index, CLI’s 75-question survey) helps us go step by step, know the next step and move forward. This is not about numbers; it is about our need to do what we need to do to encounter Jesus and to deepen that relationship to fall more in love with Christ. If we do that … then amazing things happen.”

Father Eric Schild, Diocese of Toledo

CL\Impact

112 Total partner Dioceses

where services have been delivered

18 Tending the Talents Dioceses

27,711 Parish and Diocesan staff served through any Catholic Leadership Institute service

297,112 Total responses to the Disciple Maker Index survey

“CLI is walking alongside clergy not for a sprint. But for the marathon. Catholic Leadership Institute truly is embold-

ening the life of the church through their ministry to the clergy. In turn, the people of God are experiencing parishes alive, and the Church is fulfilling its mission to bring people to the person of Jesus Christ.”

Father Gary Kastl, Diocese of Tulsa

The Catholic Leadership Institute (CLI) serves 119 dioceses worldwide, carrying out its mission of pastoral leadership formation. Their widespread impact is evident through the positive regards of the clergy and laity whom they have served, shared here as testimonials to CLI’s success.
The Serra Club for Vocations, Northern Kentucky

Congratulations
Most Rev. John C. Iffert

On the one-year anniversary of his Consecration and Installation as Eleventh Bishop of Covington

Bishop Iffert’s episcopal motto, “In all things, give thanks,” comes from the First Letter to the Thessalonians (5:16-18):

Rejoice always.
Pray without ceasing.
In all things, give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.

- We Serrans give thanks for all of our priests, women religious and deacons who have answered the call to religious life.
- We Serrans pray without ceasing for an increase of vocations.
- We Serrans rejoice in the strategic and pastoral development process beginning today in our Diocese.

To learn more about the Serra Club, visit our website at www.serranky.com. Our Chaplain, Rev. Conor Kunath, encourages all diocesan faithful to pray the Memorare every day for an increase in priestly vocations.
Jesus is the best, most faithful friend a person can have, pope says

Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Jesus never abandons, coerces or blackmails anyone when they stray; rather, he patiently waits and is “our greatest and most faithful friend,” Pope Francis said.

“He remains at the door of the heart. We say, ‘No, I do not want to know anything about you.’ And he remains silent, he remains there within reach, within heart’s reach because he is always faithful,” the pope said.

“Sadness, or fear, on the other hand, are signs of distance from him,” even though these people may have “an abundance of possessions and possibilities at their disposal,” the pope said. He lets people know his will and lets them be free to decide.

“Discerning is not easy; for appearances are deceptive, but familiarity with God can meld doubts and fears in a gentle way, making our lives increasingly receptive to his ‘gentle light,’” the pope said.

“Something similar happens when prayer is marked by love and familiarity, ‘it makes us move and more able to recognize what counts,’” he said.

Prayer is not “parroting” words, but is opening one’s heart to Jesus, moving closer to him and letting him “enter my heart and feeling his presence.” This is how people can then discern “when it is Jesus and when it is just us with our thoughts, so often far from what Jesus wants.”

Pope Francis said he hoped people would develop a life of prayer that greets the Lord with the heart, that is simple, friendly and affectionate, and that has “few words” but is accompanied by good deeds and works.

At the end of his talk, the pope offered his greetings to all student groups present, “in particular, the deaconate class of the Pontifical North American College and their families. Upon all of you I invoke the joy and peace of Christ our Lord,” he said.

Twenty-three seminarians, representing 18 dioceses in the United States and Australia, were set to be ordained deacons Sept. 29.
Science needs ethicists, more open debate, some say at Vatican conference

Carol Glatz

Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Biological engineering, such as gene therapy for treating human disease, is making such swift advancements that the public’s knowledge and understanding of what is happening and what ethical and legal guidelines are needed are lagging too far behind, said speakers at a Vatican conference.

“This science is rolling; the train is moving. But instead of lamenting over this, we need to take the initiative and hop on that train, intervene and, if needed, divert it onto another track,” said Ralf Stutzki, head of ethics at Molecular Systems Engineering at the National Center of Competence in Research at the University of Basel, Switzerland.

“We will indeed have to lead a consequentialist debate, weigh the prospective good and bad outcomes and make brave decisions,” he said Sept. 26 at the first international conference on “Ethics of Engineering Life.”

The Sept. 26-27 conference was jointly organized by the Pontifical Academy for Life, Molecular Systems Engineering and the Bambino Gesù children’s hospital in Rome. To address the ethical aspects of “engineering” molecules, cells and cellular functions, the academy said, the conference invited scientists and stakeholders involved in developing and applying approaches that “edit and control” biological systems; ethicists; philosophers; communicators; and others.

Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, president of the academy, said in his opening remarks that the academy’s aim is to research and reflect on today’s scientific-technological developments, particularly in the area of life and health.

“We focus on an integral vision of the human person and of a society that is ever more just” and cares for the “common home,” he said. It is very important “that we promote mutual knowledge and understanding among science, ethics and civil authority.”

Opening this dialogue to the wider public also will promote “a deeper understanding and wider acceptance of scientific discoveries” and will help guide science to understand “the real needs of society and the dignity of people, thus tending to counteract market greed,” the archbishop said.

Human cells and tissue can be generated without the use of human embryos, and they can be manipulated in ways that can repair damaged tissue or mitigate disease.

For example, stem cells can be grown from healthy or diseased human tissue and used to create “organoids” made up of the same tissue they came from, acting as a cellular model of that organ, said Hans Clevers, a Dutch molecular geneticist and stem cell researcher who heads pharma, research and early development at the Swiss company Roche.

Stem cells from the inner lining of the gastrointestinal tract can be grown and implanted into the colon and large intestine in order to heal, “like a living Band-Aid,” lesions and ulcers caused by inflammatory bowel disease, he said.

Or, if a person has cancer, “we can sequence a tumor” from their specific cancer cells and expose the lab-grown tissue to a large variety of drug treatments until the most effective one is found, he said. Using these synthetic organoids for testing a therapy “will tell us if the person will (or will not) respond to what drugs.”

Lab-grown organoids and “embryoids” are part of a field that is “moving very fast,” he said, and it needs “strong ethical considerations.”

An embryoid is an embryo-like structure of aggregated pluripotent stem cells and behaves like an early embryo; it is created from embryonic stem cells, and it lacks the essential cell types needed to develop beyond this early stage. The Catholic Church opposes research involving human embryonic stem cells, which require the destruction of the human embryo, and it supports adult stem cell research, which does not involve human embryonic stem cells.

Clevers said that, as research advances, these embryoids will look more and more like real embryos, which will bring up even more ethical concerns.

“There we need really strong guidelines. Scientists are not the best ethicists, at least biologists are not the best ethicists, in general, because they’re just curious, they want to know the next step, they have not learned easily to step back,” he said.

But, he added, some scientists have learned it is important to involve ethicists in their meetings, to ask different questions, to help them “step back” and see what it is they really want to do.

Marie-Jo Thiel, a medical doctor and theologian who (Continued on page 20)
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Covington Latin, St. Catherine and St. Philip Schools are looking for Part-Time Cafeteria Workers. 4 hours per day Monday thru Friday assisting manager with food prep, serving and cleanup.
Contact Diocesan School Food Service Director, Laura Hatfield at lstfood@covdio.org or call 859-392-1536.

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

ADVANCEMENT DIRECTOR
Villa Madonna Academy is seeking a dynamic Advancement Director to join Villa Madonna Academy, an NKY Magazine 2022 Best Workplaces, to lead Villa’s comprehensive development efforts. Responsibilities: The Advancement Director manages a talented fundraising, alumni relations, and communications/marketing team. A successful candidate will have demonstrated success in developing and implementing a multi-faceted fundraising strategy and achieving funding goals as well as the ability to cultivate and sustain relationships with donors, sponsors, foundations, corporations, and the Villa community.
Required Skills: Strong organizational and networking skills An ability to work on multiple projects simultaneously An eye for detail Excellent written and verbal communication skills
Preferred Skills: A bachelor’s degree with minimum of five years’ experience Proficiency with Excel Experience with Raiser’s Edge Experience with Greater Giving
Our culture: Villa Madonna Academy is a leader in K-12 education in Northern Kentucky. The Benedictine values of hospitality, respect, service, stewardship, and scholarship drive all that we do.
Please email cover letter, resume, and professional references to Executive Director Pamela McQueen at pmcqueen@villamadonna.net.

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, be practicing Catholics with strong organizational skills and attention to detail.
Interested candidates may submit a resume, references, and writing samples to Stephen Koplay by e-mail: skoplay@covdio.org, (859) 392-1500. EOE

DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL
Supervising adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in a Day Training setting. Program Supervision - direct supervision with training to improve and maintain clients independent daily living skills. Assist to organize and plan daily activities throughout the day. Work Supervision- performance and quality improvement of clients and work in an assembly oriented light manufacturing work environment. Community Access – organizing and supervising community activities to increase opportunities for community inclusion. Case Supervision - formulate, implement, and maintain clients program plans. Keep related documentation and communication within regulation and accreditation parameters. Bachelor’s degree in human services related field/ experience in areas directly related to the position preferred. Strong computer aptitude. At least 2-3 years of experience working with individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities preferred. Health Insurances, Dental & Vision, 401-K, Basic Term life, Short & Long-Term Disability, and Paid Time Off. To apply or for more information contact Director of HR at michele.peck@bavac.org.
BAWAC is an Equal Opportunity Employer

PRINCE OF PEACE
PART-TIME CAFETERIA MANAGER
This position is 4 hours daily, Monday through Friday. This position requires 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 Director, Laura Haffield at lhaffield@covdio.org or call 859-392-1536.
ASSISTANT FACILITIES MANAGER
St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Parish seeks candidates for its position of Assistant Facilities Manager. The successful candidate for this full-time, first shift position will assist our Facilities Manager in caring for our campus. Experience not required but welcome. Will train, with an eye towards advancing to Facilities Manager in the future. Work will include light maintenance, landscaping, carpentry, electric, plumbing and repair; painting; leaf and snow removal; custodial and other cleaning. Must be honest, punctual, and dependable for this responsible position. Willing to learn and work. Competitive wage, 100% employer-paid health insurance for the employee, and generous pension contributions; friendly and relaxed work environment.

Need not be Catholic, but must be living in a way consonant with Catholic values.

Interested candidates are asked to please send a cover letter and resume to Dennis Kramer at dkramer@stcatheinesiensa.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 will assist the parish in its mission 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: ststephenssearchcommittee@gmail.com

BENEFITS COORDINATOR
The Diocese of Covington seeks candidates 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 related 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 Klopisky, SPMR, sklopisky@covdio.org, 859-392-1589.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER — ST. CECILIA
St. Cecilia Catholic School, an immediate opening for a Part or Full-Time Social Studies Teacher for grades 6-8 to join our collaboratively focused Middle School staff for the 2022-2023 school year. Interested candidates should send a cover letter, resume, and references to Principal, Jeanetta Kathman, at jkathman@stcacindependence.org.

Estate sale bargain turns out to be page from 13th-century French missal
WATERVILLE, Maine — Will Sideri’s bargain buy of an old document at an estate sale in Waterville turned out to be a page from a 700-year-old French Catholic missal, according to a story in The Maine Monitor, an independent news outlet. Sideri bought the parchment for $75, but it could be worth up to $10,000, it said. He went to the sale “on a whim,” thinking he might find a cake mixer, since “he wants to bake. But as the 24-year-old entered the dining room of the house, his eyes fixed on a framed page with elaborate Latin script and musical notations in gold, blue and red script,” the Maine news outlet reported Sept. 18. “It looked old, like the documents he learned about in a course on medieval manuscripts he took at Colby College a few years ago.” A yellow sticker on the item said: “‘1285 ALI illuminated manuscript on vellum.” Sideri, who works in the admissions office at Colby College in Waterville, tested a photo of the document to his former professor, Megan Cook, telling her: “I think this might be 1285.” Cook, meanwhile, sent the photo to a friend and fellow academic, Lisa Fagin Davis.” The Maine Monitor reported, “Within a few hours, they determined that, indeed, the estate sale discovery in Waterville appeared to be an authentic leaf from what’s known as The Beauvais Missal. The manuscript was written in or near Beauvais, France, in the later part of the 13th century.” Today’s value of this page is “between $5,000 to $10,000,” Davis said, adding in a Facebook post that the $75 Sideri paid “is a RIDICULOUS price, really unheard of in recent memory.”

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THE PARISHIONERS OF ST. JOESEPH CHURCH
19

September 30, 2022

NOVENA

NOVENA TO THE SACRED HEART
May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and for ever. Pray for us St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, help of the hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times a day. By the 8th day your prayer will be answered. Say it for 9 days. Thank you St. Jude. Amen. D.D.
Science needs ethicists
(Continued from page 17)

it teaches ethics and moral theology in Strasbourg, France, said religions and Catholic theology already offer an important voice upholding “the values of justice and the dignity of all human beings,” especially the most vulnerable and fragile.

Ethics must take a wide “global” view which considers not just “what we can do with molecular, cellular tissue systems and engineering techniques, but what they can do to us, to our society because of their power,” including their social-psychological effects, she said in her talk.

Information has to be transparent and shared with the wider public, including by making it “mandatory” to make public all “negative results” and effects, she said.

Debate “cannot remain limited to a discussion or a battle between experts who themselves are not always very particularly trained in ethics,” she added, and it should discuss “the kind of society we want and the acceptability of the ongoing changes” in these fields.

Financial costs also must be weighed, she said, because sometimes the price of the bioengineering technologies “are truly exorbitant.” Not only is access to treatment limited in private-pay systems to those who can afford it, but in universal or socialized health care systems, paying for high cost care for just a few people can deprive many others of primary health care.

“Values and ethics are not limits or obstacles to innovation and change; they represent the compass indicating what responsible, inclusive and sustainable ways are best for the future, she said, quoting a 2021 report by the European Commission on ethics and science.

That said all sides must work together in a relationship built on trust. Trust is “the cement for co-constructing the world we desire and putting in place the various ethical bricks that are decisive for us,” she said.
Jesus, present in the Eucharist, inspires compassion, sharing

VATICAN CITY — One cannot love and worship the Eucharist without compassion for the poor and marginalized, Pope Francis said at a Mass concluding Italy’s eucharistic congress. “Let us recognize that the Eucharist is the prophecy of a new world, it is the presence of Jesus Christ to the world, to the world to allow us to move towards an effective conversion,” which includes the conversion from indifference to compassion, from waste to sharing, from selfishness to love and from individualism to fraternity, he said in his homily Sept. 25.

The pope celebrated the Mass at an outdoor stadium in the southern Italian city of Matera, which was host to Italy’s 27th National Eucharistic Congress Sept. 22-25. Rain, thunder and lightning storms forced the pope to travel by airplane and car rather than by helicopter from the Vatican. In his homily the pope reflected on the day’s Gospel reading (Lk 19:1-10), in which Jesus tells the parable about the nameless rich man who “dined sumptu- ously each day” and ignored the poor man, Lazarus, “who would gladly have eaten his filth of the scraps.” Pope Francis said: “It is painful to see that this parable is still alive today with so many ‘injustices, inequalities, the unequal distribution of the earth’s resources, the abuse of the powerful against the weak, the indifference to the cry of the poor, the abyss we dig every day creating marginalization.’

‘Please pray for us,’ Cuban writes on diocesan Facebook post after Ian

WASHINGTON — Hurricane Ian made landfall Sept. 27 in Cuba’s western region of Pinar del Rio, with sustained winds of 125 mph that took down the entire island’s electric grid. The Diocese of Pinar del Rio posted on Facebook photos of hurricane damage to its cathedral and four other churches. “We are still without electricity and have a bad (internet) connection. The damage has been horrible in both churches and houses. It was a long without electricity and have a bad (internet) connection. The damage has been horrible in both churches and houses. It was a long...”

No-Cost Medicare 101 - information and Q&A

Tuesday, October 11th 4:00-5:00 pm
The Charleston Room
St. Charles Community Lodge

Religious leaders call for return of POWs, criticize ‘referendums’

KYIV, Ukraine — Religious leaders in Ukraine called for safe return of prisoners of war, civilian hostages and all those who were forcibly taken to Russia. The Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations — which includes Christians, Muslims and Jews — also called the referendums on annexation of parts of Ukraine “a mockery of democracy.”

The council — which includes Ukraine’s Byzantine and Latin rite bishops — issued the statements Sept. 22, after 256 prisoners were released in exchange for Viktor Medvedchuk, a former Ukrainian member of Parliament, as well as 54 others.

Dmytro Lubinets, Ukrainian Parliament commissioner for human rights, designed the statements on prisoners. They called on “thousands of unarmed defenders and civilians are held captive by the Russian invaders,” said the council statement. “In most cases, Russia does not provide any information about their fate, ignoring all norms of international humanitarian law. Information coming from various sources indicates that our people are subjected to brutal torture and physical and psychological pressures. They are kept in inhumane conditions, often left without water and food.” The commission appealed to the international community as well as international human rights and security organizations to work for the safe return of those being held. The religious leaders’ council referred to the referendums in the Russian-occupied Ukrainian regions of Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson as “jesus-do-referendums.” It said they were “an illegal and forceful attempt to annex part of Ukraine’s territory” and they encouraged Ukrainians not to vote.

Judge rules 1864 law banning nearly all abortions can take effect

TUCSON, Ariz. — Arizona’s Attorney General Mark Brnovich praised Pima County Superior Court Judge Kellye Johson Sept. 23 for ruling that a state law prohibiting nearly all abortions can take effect. “We applaud the court for upholding the will of the Legislature and providing clarity and uniformity on an important issue,” Brnovich said in a tweet. “I have and will continue to protect the most vulnerable Arizonans.” The Republican attorney general filed a motion in July asking the court to allow the law to take effect.

Enacted in 1864, before Arizona became a state, the law prohibits all abortions except to save the life of a pregnant woman. The law has been blocked since 1973, the year the U.S. Supreme Court handed down its decision in Roe v. Wade legalizing abortion across the country. Arizona and other states appealed to the state ban to be unconstitutional and it was enjoined in superior court. Following its ruling June 24 of this year that overturned Roe, the U.S. Supreme Court returned the issue of abortion to the state. In her ruling, Johnson wrote: “The court finds that because the legal basis for the judgment entered in 1973 has now been over- ruled, it must vacate the judgment (that blocked the 1864 law) in its entirety.”

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St. Charles Community Lodge
Presented by: Senior Market Team, LLC

No-Cost Medicare 101 - information and Q&A

Tuesday, October 11th 4:00-5:00 pm
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