Blue skies, cooler temperatures and a mostly gentle breeze made for a relaxed and enjoyable celebration and launch party, Sept. 30, at St. Mary’s Park, Covington. The celebration was for Bishop John Iffert’s one year — to-the-day — anniversary. The launch party was for the diocese’s strategic pastoral planning and leadership development initiative “With One Heart” (WOH). Organized by Deacon Jim Fortner, chief operating officer and Jamie Schroeder, chancellor, with assistance from the WOH Core Team and Planning Commission and members of the Curia staff, the event resembled a backyard family cookout. Hamburgers were donated by JTM Food Group and hotdogs by Bluegrass Meats. Local Catholic organizations and groups provided the sides — potato salad, broccoli salad, fruit salad, baked beans and desserts. These groups included the Catholic Order of Foresters, Cursillo, Knights of the Holy Sepulchre, Knights of St. John, Mustard Seed Community, Parish Kitchen, Regnum Christi, Serra Club of Northern Kentucky, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, That Man Is You! and Walking with Purpose. Dan Walsh, parishioner, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Burlington, provided musical entertainment. Pam Schneiders, parishioner, Divine Mercy Parish, Bellevue, made the cake and members of the Knights of Columbus manned the grill.

“They asked me what kind of event I wanted to celebrate my first year anniversary and I said I want hamburgers, hotdogs and potato salad. I hope that you like that cuisine as well because it’s my favorite,” said Bishop Iffert as he began leading attendees in the prayer before meals.

Nearly 300 people attended the event, including Bishop Emeritus Roger Foys, to celebrate Bishop Iffert and to hear his vision for WOH. Bishop Iffert said that ordaining Father Gedney and sharing with him the gift of the priesthood “was an experience I thought that I would never have and having had that, I’ll never be the same.”
At Walk for Life and Yes for Life Rally
‘life or death is on the ballot’ — ‘choose life’

Laura Keener
Editor

The second annual Walk for Life at the Kentucky state capital in Frankfort, Oct. 1, had a singular, focused and urgent mission — the passing of the Kentucky Constitutional Amendment #2 in the upcoming Nov. 8 election.

“As we consider the challenge before Kentucky voters,” coming this election in November, said Dr. Albert Mohler, “we recognize that nothing less than life or death is on the ballot, it is represented in what is known as amendment two. Amendment two is one of the most clear, one of the most concise, one of the most necessary amendments, because what it would do is, with very clean and efficient language, simply state that there is no right to abortion within the Kentucky constitution.”

Dr. Mohler, president, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, was the lead speaker at the Vote Yes for Life Rally which was held just before the Walk for Life. Bishop John Iffert of the Diocese of Covington was also a keynote speaker.

The rally and the Walk for Life is organized by Addia Wuchner, executive director, Kentucky Right to Life and the Yes for Life Alliance, of which the Catholic Conference of Kentucky and the Diocese of Covington Pro-Life Office are members.

Despite what Dr. Mohler described as “the howls” from a small but vocal group of protesters, the spirit of the rally was joyful and uplifting. With The Jesus Loves Band leading the crowd with Christian rock music.

Acknowledging the increasingly loud chants from protestors, Bishop Iffert began his talk by encouraging those present to always respond with joyful and shared a Dominican spiritual exercise.

“I want you to remember that Jesus Christ on the cross came to take the anger of the world, came to take the bitterness of the world, came to take the violence of the world, came to take the death of the world, came to take the violent opposition of the world and to take it to himself. Not responding in kind but in his own body, transforming it and creating in that great act of love, a path to life, a path to salvation,” Bishop Iffert said.

“(Saint) Dominic gives us different ways to pray with our body. One of the ways he invites us to pray is to form our body into the form of the cross of Jesus Christ, and to hold ourselves there just as long as we can — and to ask the Lord Jesus Christ to come and be with us, to transform us, to give us the gift of mercy that he witnessed in his incarnation, and in his death on the cross,” Bishop Iffert said. “I invite you to do that at some point today — to make yourself into the shape of the cross of Christ Jesus the Lord and to take all the bitterness, all the anger, all the violence, all the vengeance, all the fear that you hear in the voices of those who stand opposed to us today and pray God, in you and your gentle witness to transform it for the salvation of babies, for the salvation of those whose voices we hear, for their conversion, for their recognizing that they make themselves servants of a culture of death.

That we might win this debate, not just with votes at the ballot box, but that we might come to do what Christ calls us to do — to be instruments of the Holy Spirit of God that can lead to conversion.”

Bishop Iffert acknowledged that one of the biggest concerns that is being spread as a misattribution by those protesting and other proponents of abortion is that “we are only concerned with unborn life and not with them, not with the mothers of these babies.”

“Nothing could be further from the truth,” Bishop Iffert said as he referred to the U.S. bishop’s “Walking With Moms in Need” initiative. With Walking With Moms in Need parishes and lay faithful are encouraged to provide practical, emotional and spiritual support to all mothers and their children.

Bishop Iffert explained what Amendment 2 would do and dispelled mistruths he’s been hearing about Amendment 2.

“Legal scholars for a long time have been telling us that this amendment that is proposed for the Kentucky Constitution is the most important legal action that we can take to protect life,” by stating that nothing in the Kentucky constitution guarantees a right to abortion or state funding of abortion. With this amendment, no one judge or court, or individual could decide unilaterally to enforce abortions rights or the funding of abortion on the citizens of Kentucky.

“It will return this matter to the people, so that the people, through their elected representatives, can have the conversa-

(Continued on page 25)
Congratulations to the following couples celebrating milestone wedding anniversaries gathered for Vespers and Bishop John Iffert’s blessing, Oct. 3, at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington. The celebration was organized by the diocesan Office of Catechesis and Evangelization and the Office of Worship and Liturgy. Some of the couples attending are newlyweds, the majority have been married 25, 50, 60 and 60-plus years. (See a listing of couples below.)

In his homily, Bishop Iffert called the couples “evangelists” and that what they proclaim “essential.”

“...the ministry of education for diocesan seminarians. And perhaps, most importantly, sponsors help to support the benefit of recognizing at the event, as well as the seminarists. It is needed that any call to sacrifice for the love of another is called to demean itself, in that world, your proclamation the attraction that so often is the initial impulse for love is threatened and at risk, and when you are precisely at your most tense, that’s exactly when the power of God can enter into your life and grace you with a love that helps you to endure. That you can come through that with greater maturity and deeper love, with a respect that goes beyond the attraction that so often is the initial impulse for love...”

Sponsorship and stewardship for the Seminary Ball: Sponsorship of the Seminary Ball goes through the Diocese of Covington’s own Office of Stewardship and Mission, and those interested in supporting the event may contact the office’s director, Michael Murray at mmurray@covdio.org or call (859) 392-1500 for additional information on sponsorship.

You are cordially invited to attend the 2022 Seminary Ball, Friday, Oct. 21, At the Northern Kentucky Convention Center, Covington. Come and support those men who have answered God’s call and are discerning a vocation to the priesthood for the Diocese of Covington.

Cost to attend is $90 per person.

For information visit www.covdio.org/seminaryball or contact the Diocesan Stewardship Office: e-mail, stewardship@covdio.org, phone, (859) 392-1500.

Bishop’s Schedule

Oct. 8 Mass, Sisters of Notre Dame jubilarians, St. Joseph Heights, Park Hills, 10 a.m.
Mass, SUMMIT22, Covington Catholic High School, Park Hills, 5 p.m.

Oct. 10–14 Priests retreat, St. Meinrad Seminary

Looking at the list of couples below, the number of years each was married is not provided. It is assumed to be the number of years of marriage that each couple represents.

Congratulations to the following couples celebrating milestone wedding anniversaries in 2022. Inside their name is the number of year(s) each has been married.

St. Mary’s Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, Jim and Toni Akers, 50 Covington, David and Carol Hentz, 61 Covington, Edward and Carol Whitehead, 66 Covington, Jerome and Johanna Stegman, 67 Covington, Carl and Rita Arlinghaus, 71 Florence, Cristo Rey Parish, Florence, Roger and Beatriz Aguilar, 1 Florence, Israel and Erika Aguilar, 1 Maynor and Marilena Aguilar, 1 Flavio and Alicia Aguine, 1 Jose and Yara Del Villar, 1 Tomaz and Blanca Jonupa, 1 Agusto and Martha Lopez, 1 Carlos and Bertha Martinez, 1 Heriberto and Laura Mendizza, 1 Bellevue, Divine Mercy Parish, Bellevue, Bruce and Debbie Becker, 50 Park Hills, Brian Domasinsky, 10

Sponsors of the Seminary Ball receive the benefit of recognition and priority seating at the event, as well as prominent placement in advertisements listed in two editions of the Messenger for sponsors in the amount of $1,200 or higher. In addition, and perhaps, most importantly, sponsors help to support the ministry of education for diocesan seminarists. Major sponsorships range from the $1,200 table sponsor, to the $10,000 ordination society sponsor, with minor sponsorships that include recognition in the event’s program start at $300.

Among the yearly sponsors of the hall are the Serra Club, a lay apostolate devoted to supporting and encouraging vocations, and the Catholic Order of Foresters, an organization that is called to “care for our Catholic community very much as a forester cares for the forest,” as described by Mr. Bob Hans, Chief Ranger of the Foresters Kentucky Jurisdiction Court.

Sponsorship of the Seminary Ball goes

You can contact the Office of Stewardship and Mission for more information on sponsorship.

Sponsorship and stewardship for the Seminary Ball: Sponsorship of the Seminary Ball goes...
Members of The Society of St. Vincent de Paul gathered to celebrate Mass honoring the feast of their titular patron saint, St. Vincent de Paul, at St. Therese Parish, Southgate, Oct. 1.

Bishop John Iffert of the Diocese of Covington celebrated the Mass. In his homily, he discussed the importance of the mission of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to offer hospitality and kindness to the poor and marginalized in the community.

“To offer ourselves to them, to listen to their stories, to abide with them, to be perhaps the only people they will encounter that will not judge them … that’s what you’ve dedicated yourselves to, as members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, to love them more simply because Jesus loves them … simply because they’re God’s children,” said Bishop Iffert.

“Thank you for your gentle constancy, your firmness of purpose, your authentic friendship. All purified in the Holy Spirit of Jesus Christ, the Lord,” Bishop Iffert continued, thanking the members of the society for their service.

Before the closing of the Mass, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul also held its annual commitment ceremony. During the ceremony, Bishop Iffert installed two individuals to leadership positions within the society. Patrick Curran was installed as the society’s new Central District President, and Dawn Groneck was installed as Council 1st Vice President of the Diocesan Council.

As the Mass came to a close, Bishop Iffert led the gathered congregation of society members, associates and parishioners of St. Therese in prayer, closing the ceremony with the Prayer of the Vincentian Family.

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4:00-5:00 pm

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Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Burlington
Nick and Martha Barone, 50
Chip and Susan Foltz, 50
Gerald and Kathlene Zanardelli, 50

Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish, Erlanger
Thomas and Paula Hein, 50
Rick and Rita Becker, 50
Keith and Jen Keller, 50
Tom and Liz Maile, 50
J. Michael and Beverly Sullivan, 50
Charles and Crystal Fettweis, 60
Lois and Gerald Biedenbender, 66

Mother of God Parish, Covington
Patrick and Mary Pat Halpin, 25
James C and Angela Kiger, 50
Joseph and Nancy Legner, 60
Wayne and Sylvia Hartke, 65

St. Agnes Parish, Ft. Wright
Steve and Katie Wolnitzek, 50
Walter and Martha Witt, 63
Edward and Mary Helen Vonskandorf, 70

St. Ann Mission, Covington
Dan and Lisa Williams, 25

St. Augustine Parish, Augusta
Joe and Mikila Colomeré, 1
David and Haley Colomeré, 1
Frank and Joyce Baker, 60
Edward and Jo Ann Hay, 60

St. Augustine Parish, Covington
Larry and Janis Broening, 50
Richard and Sue Ellen, 50

St. Barbara Parish, Erlanger
Vincent and Linda Albers, 25
Tyson and Julie Hermes, 25
Steven and Tricia Scarlato, 25
Anthony and Alpa Depeenbrok, 50
Thomas and Rita Dorgan, 50
Terry and Beverly Dullaghan, 50
Daniel and Karen Rieger, 50
Tom and Myra Schepel, 50
Fred and Virginia Sloan, 62

St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Ft. Thomas
James and Beverly Stegman, 25
Ronald and Carol Ewing, 60

St. Cecilia Parish, Independence
Thomas and Kimberly Kraft, 25
Michael and Margaret Robbins, 60

St. Francis Xavier Parish, Palmouth
Leonard and Cecilia Schroer, 50

St. Henry Parish, Elsmere
Greg and Theresa Hurkmansdorfer, 25
Edward and Jane Atcheson, 61

St. Joseph Parish, Camp Springs
Gerald L. and Penny Bezdahl, 50

St. Joseph Parish, Cold Spring
Jerome, J. and Pamela Wurtz, 25
Ricky and Pamela Casebolt, 50
James and Beverly Drye, 50
Thomas and Elizabeth Eten, 50
Edward and Carol Muench, 50
Dennis and Phyllis Phranum, 50
Donald and Marcia Wells, 50
Larry and Gayle Voet, 61
Don and Judy Griffin, 62
Richard and Mary Lee Vennemann, 63

Larry and Sylvia Uebel, 65
Ed and Ruth Rave, 66

St. Joseph Parish, Crescent Springs
Joe and Linda Ebergs, 25
Richard and Patricia Ferry, 50
Charlie and Diane Hammond, 50
Artemio and Fe Medina, 50
Daniel and Jane Neiser, 50
Tim and Peggy Sauer, 50
John and Fran Stevens, 50
Joseph and Sheila Topmiller, 50
Thomas and Carol Noll, 60
Jerry and Mary Lou Schneider, 68
Edward and Mary Helen Vonskandorf, 70

St. Joseph Parish, Ft. Thomas
(Continued from page 1)

(Continued on page 23)
Writing your own obituary

There comes a time in life when it’s time to stop writing your obituary and begin to write your obituary. I’m not sure who first coined that line, but there’s wisdom in it. What’s the difference between a resume and an obituary? Well, the former details your achievements, the latter expresses how you want to be remembered and what kind of oxygen and blessing you want to leave behind. But, how exactly do you write an obituary so that it’s not, in effect, just another version of your resume? Here’s a suggestion.

There’s a custom in Judaism where as an adult you put on a spiritual will each year. Originally, this will was more in line with the type of will we typically make, where the focus is on making a遗言and a blessing, by name, of those persons to whom you want to say a special goodbye. The will is reviewed and amended and what kind of unfinished business with those we have left behind. In a wonderfully challenging book, “The Four Things That Matter Most,” Ira Hyock, a medical doctor who works with the dying, submits that there are four things we need to say to our loved ones before we die: “Please forgive me,” “I forgive you,” “Thank you,” and “I love you.”

It’s right; but, given the contingencies, tensions, wounds, heartaches and ups and downs within our relationships, even with those we love dear, it isn’t always easy (or sometimes even existentially possible) to say those words clearly, without any equivocation. A spiritual will gives us the chance to say them from a place that we can create which is beyond the tensions that generally cloud our relationships and prevent us from speaking clearly to the end. The eulogy will have no unfinished business with those we have left behind.

In a spiritual will, we want to leave a double portion. In this will, we name we most want to bless. When the prophet Elijah was starving, his servant, Elisha, begged him to leave him “a double portion” of his spirit. When we die, we’re meant to leave our spirit behind as sustenance for everyone; but there are some people, whom we want to name, to whom we want to leave a double portion. In this will, we name those people.

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Deciding the fate of Kentucky’s first school choice program

October 12, 2022 will be a historic day for families in Kentucky and we hope that you can be part of it. The Kentucky Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in a lawsuit that will decide the fate of Kentucky’s first school choice program, the Education Opportunity Account Act (EOAA).

After the hearing, the Court will issue a decision within a matter of months that will shape the future of educational choice in Kentucky by either upholding or overturning the program.

The hearing is open to the public. Parents, educators, and students should consider attending for a couple of reasons:

First, the hearing is a major educational opportunity to see the process unfold and hear each side argue their case. The Office of the Kentucky Attorney General and the Institute for Justice will be arguing in favor of the program.

Second, winning this hearing is the way a great support for parents who have fought on behalf of educational choice over the last year by defending the program.

Taxpayers should not be forced to fund abortion

Following the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in June of this year regarding Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization, which reversed the precedent set in the 1973 ruling in Roe v. Wade, the decision on abortion “rights” and laws fell to the states. Upon the announcement of trigger laws in 13 states, including Tennessee, took effect banning abortion.

But that hasn’t stopped legislative bodies throughout the state of Tennessee from trying to find ways around the new law.

The latest resolution, which is scheduled to be considered by the Metro Council in Nashville on Tuesday, Oct. 4, seeks to move $500,000 from three government accounts to create a “Family Planning Services” account, which will fund a grant to Planned Parenthood of Tennessee and North Mississippi.

Since 1976, because of the U.S. Congress’ Hyde Amendment, the use of tax dollars to fund abortions has been strictly prohibited, making this upcoming effort in our state ironic as it will cause the exact opposite.

The largest share of the grant, $300,000, would come from a fund that helps keep traffic on Nashville streets and do not necessarily represent the views of Catholic News Service, any guest editorial are those of the individual publication involved.
High School Open Houses
The Catholic high schools in the Diocese of Covington invite all interested eighth-grade students and their parents to this year’s Open House — meet faculty and staff, hear from current students and get a feel for the spirit of the school.

Newport Central Catholic High School, Newport
Oct. 26, 6-8 p.m.

Bishop Brossart High School, Alexandria
Oct. 30, 1-3:30 p.m.

Covington Catholic High School, Park Hills
Oct. 30, 1-4 p.m.

Villa Madonna Academy, Villa Hills
Oct. 30, 1-3 p.m. (grades K-12)
Nov. 17, 7-8:30 p.m. (grades 7-12)

Notre Dame Academy, Park Hills
Nov. 6, 6-7 p.m.

Holy Cross District High School, Covington
Nov. 9, 6:30 p.m.

Jan. 25, 6:30 p.m.

St. Henry District High School, Erlanger
Nov. 13, 1-4 p.m.

Covington Latin School, Covington
Dec. 4, 1 p.m. & 3 p.m.

St. Patrick High School, Maysville
Contact school for information and a tour.

Cemetery Visitations

| Oct. 9 | St Mary Cemetery, Alexandria, 12:15 p.m. | Holy Guardian Angels Cemetery, Sandfortd Orn, 2 p.m. |

The weekly TV Mass from the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption is broadcast locally on The CN, Sundays, noon to 1 p.m. Viewers can tune-in on the following channels: antenna 12.2; Spectrum 117 or 25; Cincinnati Bell 17 or 517; and DirectTV 25.

The prayer intention for October, as recommended by Pope Francis, is for Church open to everyone. We pray for the Church — ever faithful to, and courageous in preaching the Gospel — may the Church be a community of solidarity, fraternity and welcome, always living in an atmosphere of synodality.

Sixth annual Craft Show, Oct. 8, St. Joseph Academy. Walton, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.; handcrafted items. Call 440-644-4421 or email sjawares@gmail.com.

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

The Northern Kentucky Regional College Fair, Oct. 11 at Thomas More University. 6-8 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.

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 3, 7 p.m., Mary Seat of Wisdom Chapel, on the campus of TMU, Crestview Hills, featuring the current and former ambassadors-at-large to the U.S. Office of International Religious Freedom, Rashad Hussain and Rabbi David Superstein, respectively. The discussion will be moderated by Jerome Langluth, 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 $700 and 3rd Place $500. Entry forms and guidelines are available on the pro-life webpage (https://corido.org/pro-life) or by emailing Peggy Piccola at piccola@corndio.org.

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BISHOP BROSSART HIGH SCHOOL ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE FOR 7TH AND 8TH GRADERS ON, OCT. 30, 1-3:30 p.m. SCHEDULED A TOUR IS TO BE TAKEN, VISIT www.bishopbrossart.org AND CLICK ON EVENTS.

St. Barbara Holy Name Society Turkey Shoot (12 gauge only), Oct. 22, 29 and Nov. 5, noon to 4:30 p.m., St. Barbara Church, Erlanger. Free soup other concessions available. Cash only. Proceeds benefit the Holy Name Society which supports the church and its activities and the community.

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


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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 281-4887, or e-mail Sister Maria Therese at therese@nduec.org. Volunteers 18 and older must be VIRTUS compliant.


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OCTOBER IS RESPECT LIFE MONTH

SPECIAL SECTION OF THE MESSENGER

respect life

called to serve moms in need

respectlife.org
Love is a relationship of respect
Bishop John Iffert
Published

Since Russia initiated war with Ukraine, more than six million people have fled Ukraine as refugees. Most are women and children, since men are generally not allowed to leave Ukraine. More than half of these refugees, more than three million people, are in Poland.

Two weeks ago, I heard a speaker who had recently made a humanitarian visit to Poland. He asked to see the refugee camps and was surprised to be told that there are no refugee camps in Poland. This visitor had been in many humanitarian crises that generated refugees. In his experience the receiving government always establishes permanent resettlement and to prevent competition for labor and the crime that can accompany groups of desperate people. The result he said, was always to separate and “other” the refugee population, keeping them near violent borders and away from population centers.

“In Poland,” he said. The Polish people have largely responded to this crisis by opening their homes to their Ukrainian neighbors. They make room for them in their lives. They display compassion. This past week at the donor recognition reception for the Alliance for Catholic Urban Education (ACUE) we heard from an ACUE benefactor who met a woman struggling to recover from a past filled with challenges. An ACUE school became an oasis and safe place for her children continuing the relationship to recover from a past filled with challenges.

“This month we proclaim that Catholic Christians believe in the value of human life, and we are called to respect and defend the life of every person from the moment of conception until natural death.” This is the theme of the “Child in the Womb” campaign sponsored by the U.S. bishops. The campaign seeks to build an environment of respect and protection for the child in the womb.

The blessing has a special meaning to me. In 2008, I received a phone call from Father Frank Brett, a retired priest of the Diocese of Knoxville, who claimed that he had searched to no avail for an official blessing for the child in the womb as he worked with many young couples who were expecting their first child. To my surprise, I scoured the official Catholic “Book of Blessings” approved by the Vatican and, while I was able to find a blessing for expectant parents, there was no blessing for a child once born, there was no blessing to be found for the child in the womb.

I happened to be on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Pro Life Activities at the time, and so I raised the question about such a blessing at a meeting. This discussion eventually resulted in the “Rite for the Blessing of a Child in the Womb,” prepared by the USCCB Office of Divine Worship and approved by November by the U.S. bishops for inclusion in the official “Book of Blessings.” In 2012, the Holy See approved both the English and Spanish text for a blessing for a child in the womb.

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There are many good reasons to promote the blessing of the child in the womb in our day. First, we as a culture need to reengage at the gift of new life, and the blessing is a perfect way to do so. I wrote a small pamphlet with Brian Bransfield entitled “Gift of Joy: The Blessing of the Child in the Womb” in 2013 to capture the significance of
In emphasizing the joy in the hearts of mothers and fathers, Msgr. Bransfield and I stressed that in the same act, God creates a child and transforms a man and a woman into a mother and a father. That joy ought to enliven the whole Christian community and our entire culture.

A second important reason for promoting the blessing is highlighted every October during Respect Life Month. Every child conceived is a testament to the great dignity of the human person. Forty years ago in the apostolic exhortation, “Familiaris Consortio,” St. John Paul announced that “...the future of the world and of the Church passes through the family” (n.75). The public blessing of the child is a call to our culture to safeguard and cherish the precious gift of human life.

As Kentucky voters deliberate this November on the weighty issue of constitutional protections for life, we pray that human life will be protected from the first moment of conception and we pray that we as a Church will “walk with mothers” who need help.

Evangelization or announcing the Good News of Jesus Christ to those who yearn to hear the saving message of Jesus is a third rationale for the blessing. In 2012, I was privileged to be a delegate at the Holy Father’s Synod on Evangelization. At synods, the delegates are invited to prepare “interventions” that serve as proposals for action through the synodal process. As my intervention, I highlighted the blessing of the child in the womb as a first step for the Church to reach out to expectant mothers and fathers. If some expectant parents have been distant from the Church, this is one way to reach out to them with the Church’s encouragement and welcome prior to baptismal preparation.

Through the intercession of Mary conceived without sin, let’s all pray for children in the womb of their mothers.

The Most Rev. Joseph E. Kurtz is archbishop emeritus of the Archdiocese of Louisville, Ky.

St. Elizabeth Healthcare’s Footprints Perinatal Program offers palliative care planning, support and comfort to families facing a pregnancy with a life-limiting condition

“...the future of the world and of the Church passes through the family” (n.75).

Maura Baker
Staff Writer

Having an infant be diagnosed with a life-limiting condition before or shortly after birth can be a difficult time with a parent. St. Elizabeth Healthcare’s Footprints Perinatal Program offers palliative care planning, support and comfort to those facing such a situation.

Angie Scroggins is an OB nurse and manager of St. Elizabeth’s Maternal Fetal Center. Together with other healthcare professionals, Ms. Scroggins founded Footprints around 2015 to meet the needs of patients struggling with these diagnoses.

“We have a very robust bereavement program for women who have a loss, but we really needed a program to fill the gap between the time a family finds out that they have a baby with an illness, and the time that they come in and deliver...and that’s what this program was for,” said Ms. Scroggins.

Footprints consists of a large clinical staff, who, as described by Ms. Scroggins, “work as a team with the parents to prepare, so we get involved early in the pregnancy and support them through the pregnancy through delivery through time at home and through the grief and loss.”

“Our primary goal is really to give them good medicine, emotional and spiritual support,” said Ms. Scroggins. Among the services that Footprints provides families include setting goals for their pregnancy, education on the illness and counselling for the grief — with programs offered to siblings, as well. Additionally, Footprints offers pastoral care, allowing clergy to be involved in the program if the family wishes, assisting with spiritual healing and planning of the funeral.

“Probably the last thing we do is the legacy,” said Ms. Scroggins, “which helps them build a remembrance packet that they want for this baby.” The packet can include artwork featuring handprints or footprints, or mementos such as locks of hair. The Footprints team helps plan what memorials they desire for the child and what course of action to make it happen.

When faced with a pregnancy of an infant with a life-limiting condition, Ms. Scroggins urges families to reach out, get involved, and that “they will have the support they need to make it through.”

For more information about the Footprints Program or to schedule a meeting with the Perinatal team, please call (859) 301-2500.

“Discovering our purpose. Transforming the world.”

“Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire.” - St. Catherine of Siena

Notre Dame Academy

Educating Women to Make a Difference

Respect Life.
RESPECT LIFE
Maura Baker
Staff Writer

In 1986, Peggy Schutzman was on the board of Pregnancy Problem Center West in Cincinnati, helping girls through untimely pregnancies.

“We were also frustrated that many of these girls ... their quality of life was really changing because they chose to give life to their child,” said Ms. Schutzman. “So, we started brainstorming what we can do to catch these girls, so that they don’t fall through the cracks.”

“We had maternity homes in Cincinnati, but there was no place for a girl to go once she actually gave birth to the baby if she chose to keep and parent that child,” said Ms. Schutzman. This is where the idea for the Madonna House, a one year residency program for young mothers, began.

“After a lot of prayers,” said Ms. Schutzman, now the director of the Madonna House, “a building was donated to us in Newport.” The anonymous donor requested the building to be named in honor of the Blessed Virgin, “another mother who went through an untimely pregnancy,” said Ms. Schutzman, “and a brilliant role model for our girls.”

With the help of volunteers, including a volunteer professional contractor, the Madonna House was able to open its doors in January of 1986.

Madonna House stayed in this building for five years before moving to their current location in Ft. Mitchell — a location that allows for mothers going through the program to have their own apartment, including a kitchen and bathroom, as opposed to the communal spaces of the Newport location.

Residents of Madonna House pay $50 a month for rent, if they have it. “If they leave on good terms,” said Ms. Schutzman, “we return that money back to them to try to help with something like a security deposit on a new apartment.”

While staying at Madonna House, residents attend a weekly Thursday program that includes parenting classes, meeting with goals counselors, prayer and assistance with resumes and preparing for job interviews: all with the goal that these women will be better able to support themselves and their young children after their year at Madonna House is over.

“The goal is that within a year’s time, and we’ve made some exceptions here and there, they may have been able to complete a job training program. Some of them start college, and while they’re not going to finish with us in a year, we can get them started and then try to move them maybe to the Lincoln House or another program set up for single mothers attending college,” said Ms. Schutzman.

Madonna House is privately funded, with a volunteer base coming from primarily Church and school communities. Volunteers help to maintain the house, teach classes, provide donations and babysit during Thursday night programs.

“We have been very blessed,” said Ms. Schutzman, “Northern Kentucky is just such a generous community. With time and funds, we’ve never encountered a problem financially that we couldn’t overcome. We do keep it small, but we always get enough funds to cover what we need, and we are blessed with volunteers that come in and plug in the holes for us.”

Those interested in volunteering with the Madonna House may contact Amy Hardin at admin@madonna-housekn.org, or by calling (859) 344-1191.

Madonna House residential program provides shelter to moms in need

The front exterior of the Madonna House in Ft. Mitchell, Ky.

visit dbllaw.com
RESPECT LIFE

On Tuesday, Nov. 8, Kentucky voters will vote on Amendment 2 — the Yes for Life Amendment. It is our best opportunity to vote directly in support of unborn human life. Amendment 2 will add one sentence to the Kentucky Constitution: “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.” It does not prevent the Kentucky legislature from passing abortion legislation. It doesn’t impose any ban or restriction. It doesn’t take away any exception. All it does is ensure that decisions about the provision of abortion in Kentucky are made through the legislative process, not by individual judges or courts.

Small cards, a big help with support information for those in need

The Pro-Life Office has begun the distribution of small business cards as a convenient way for everyone to participate in their ministry to women in need.

Project Rachel, a post-abortion ministry, business cards are intended to be a discreet way to reach out to mothers dealing with the grief of abortion. Unexpected pregnancy business cards offer immediate information to pregnancy help resources, as well as a QR code for women to scan for even more resources.

These cards contain information and contact details to provide women with the support they need.
Pro-Life Office of the Diocese of Covington

Programs and Activities of the Pro-Life Office

The Pro-Life Office actively implements the Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), which calls upon the Church, its people and its institutions in a four-prong program in defense of human life. The Pro-Life Office employs the four components of prayer, pastoral care, education and public policy called for in this Pastoral Plan throughout the diocese through the following programs and activities:

- Parish Coordinator Evening of Prayer and Education - Parish and pro-life leadership members are invited to an evening of prayer and education. This evening allows parish provide leaders the opportunity to share information and ideas.

- Respect Life Program Materials - These materials are published by the USCCB Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities and are distributed by the Pro-Life Office to be used as a resource in preparation for October Respect Life Month and for use throughout the year. This year’s theme is “Called to Serve Minors in Need.”

- Diocesan Pro-Life Mass - Everyone in the diocese is invited to join together to show our solidarity for the cause of life by celebrating the Eucharist with our Bishop and the priests of our diocese at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption.

- Regional Pro-Life Masses - These Pro-Life Masses are celebrated by Bishop John J. Ficklin several times throughout the year at regional parishes in our diocese.

- Grade School Essay Contest and Banquet - This contest is offered to all eligible students in our diocese during the month of October to provide students with an opportunity to reflect on the Church’s teaching concerning the sacredness of life from conception to natural death. A banquet is held in March honoring the top twenty contestants of the Essay Contest. The Knights of Columbus along with the Pro-Life Office provide scholarships awards to the top three essays.

- March for Life - The annual March for Life takes place in our nation’s capital every January commemorating the Supreme Court Decision that legalized abortion on January 22, 1973. Thousands of people from the Diocese of Covington have participated in this event.

- Catholic at the Capitol - Led by the Catholic Conference of the United States, Catholics at the Capitol hosts a day giving the Catholic community the opportunity for education and advocacy around issues like the death penalty, education, gun violence, school choice, and criminal justice reform. In 2023, Catholic at the Capital event will be held in the Diocese of Covington at the Church, Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, date TBD.

- Spiritual Adoption - The Pro-Life Office encourages all schools and parishes to offer the opportunity to pray for the health and life of an unbornbaby. This program, designed for first grade or pre-school children at an early age about the dignity and sacredness of all human life. The Pro-Life Office provides all of the necessary resources materials needed.

- Memorial Mass for the Loss of a Child - The intention of this memorial Mass is to offer support and God’s healing presence through prayer and community outreach to help lift the burdens of grief experienced by parents and families who have lost a child.

- The Franciscan Daughters of Mary - The Franciscan Daughters of Mary are honored at Life’s a Ball. The annual March for Life takes place the first Sunday of June. Walk across the Purple People Bridge with people from the Greater Cincinnati community to witness on behalf of the sanctity of all human life.

- The Annual Cross the Bridge for Life - The Annual Cross the Bridge for Life takes place the first Sunday of June. Walk across the Purple People Bridge with people from the Greater Cincinnati community to witness on behalf of the sanctity of all human life.

- Project Rachel - Project Rachel is a confidential ministry; healing sessions are held throughout the year. For more information, please call our confidential phone number (513) 392-1547, or confidential email projectrachel@covdio.org.

- Monarch Society - This is a support group that comes together to promote and provide an environment of ongoing prayer and support for those who have completed Project Rachel.

- Catholic Medical Association - The Catholic Medical Association is a growing professional organization that is committed in supporting physicians and healthcare professionals in offering: health care in conformity to Christ the Divine Physician. The Diocese of Covington has established a guild of the Catholic Medical Association, the St. Thomas of Calcutta and Passionist Guild.
The CATHEDRAL BASILICA of the ASSUMPTION, the Mother Church of the DIOCESE OF COVINGTON promotes the value of all human life

Life is a gift from God — VOTE YES FOR LIFE!

Called to Serve Moms in Need

Our Blessed Mother models a profound witness to love and life in the Gospel account of the Visitation. Luke’s Gospel tells us that, when Mary learns that her cousin Elizabeth is pregnant, she travels to the hill country “in haste” (Lk 1:39). Despite...
RESPECT LIFE

being unexpectedly pregnant herself, Mary responds to this news with urgency. She embarks on a long and perhaps difficult journey to be with her cousin during her time of need, bearing Christ to her as He lay quietly hidden in Mary’s womb. And, although Jesus is veiled from view, when Mary first arrives John the Baptist leaps for joy in Elizabeth’s womb, recognizing the presence of Christ (Lk 1:14). Mary, with Jesus, spends the next three months at Elizabeth’s side.

The witness of our Blessed Mother invites us to become more aware of the needs of pregnant and parenting moms in our own parishes and communities. A woman with an unexpected pregnancy may have any number of fears and challenges: facing judgment from her friends and family, losing her job or housing, or being abandoned by the father of her child.

Following Mary’s example, we can ask ourselves how to better know these mothers, listen to them, seek understanding, and help them obtain the necessities of life for themselves and their children. How can we, like the Blessed Mother, lovingly support mothers in welcoming and caring for God’s gift of life?

Throughout the whole of Scripture, Mary’s words are few, yet, in her sacred encounter with Elizabeth, a powerful declaration pours from her lips. Mary proclaims to all generations that the Lord lifts up the lowly, fills the hungry with good things, and remembers his promise of mercy from age to age (Lk 1:46-55). In both word and deed, Mary speaks a message of hope—not only to Elizabeth, but also to every mother in need and to each of us.

Mary’s witness is an invitation to step out in love and compassion. It is a summons to make haste to help vulnerable women who may be isolated and alone. By doing so, we too can bear Christ within us and help others experience His presence.

Inspired by the Blessed Mother’s example and guided by the Holy Spirit, may we offer Christ’s presence and love to mothers in their time of need through our faithful service and support.

Prayer for Pregnant Mothers

O Blessed Mother, you received the good news of the incarnation of Christ, your Son, with faith and trust. Grant your protection to all pregnant mothers facing difficulties.

Guide us as we strive to make our parish communities places of welcome and assistance for mothers in need. Help us become instruments of God’s love and compassion.

Mary, Mother of the Church, graciously help us build a culture of life and a civilization of love, together with all people of good will, to the praise and glory of God, the Creator and lover of life.

Amen.

“We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It’s easy to say, ‘It’s not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem.’

Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes.”

-FRED ROGERS
More than 1,438 babies have been given life by women who had an ultrasound at Care Net. The Truth saves lives!

IGNATIAN RETREATS

Peace, I Leave with You,
My Peace I Give to You
- John 14:27

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Upcoming Retreats

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October 21-23 | Men's Retreat with Fr. Michael Graham, SJ
October 28-30 | Men's Retreat with Fr. Jeff Puttock, SJ
November 4-6 | Women's Retreat with Jerome Francis

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Saints Teresa of Calcutta & Faustina Guild
Contact:
William Wehrman, III, M.D. (859) 296-0746
Faye Roch (859) 392-1300
Serving moms in need: living the gospel of life

On March 31, 2020, the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, the Church celebrated the 25th anniversary of the papal encyclical Evangelium vitae (The Gospel of Life). This prophetic document, written by a great saint of our time, Pope John Paul II, reaffirmed the Church’s constant teaching on the value and inviolability of every human life.

In this encyclical, the Holy Father explains that the Gospel of Life is at the heart of Jesus’ saving message to the world. Through the Incarnation of Christ, God reveals to us the dignity of all human life. Each of us is made in the image and likeness of God, reflecting his glory and his imprint. We are therefore called to “respect, defend and promote the dignity of every human person, at every moment and in every condition of that person’s life.”

Evangelium vitae highlights the special and particular role of women in bearing the gift of life to the world. Pope John Paul II offers heartfelt thanks to these “heroic mothers,” who, placing their trust in God, “devote themselves to their own family without reserve, who suffer in giving birth to their children and who are ready to make any effort, to face any sacrifice, in order to pass on to them the best of themselves.”

Pope John Paul II also outlines the many challenges that expectant mothers may face, including lack of support from the father, financial strains, concerns about her own health or that of her child, and pressures from family and friends. The Holy Father recognizes that an “unborn child is totally entrusted to the protection and care of the woman carrying him or her in the womb.” For this reason, it is particularly important that the Church come alongside mothers, offering them encouragement, assistance, and support.

Through Christ, we have received the gift of the Gospel of Life in its fullness. As members of the Church, we are the people of life and for life. It is our duty to proclaim the truth of the Gospel of Life to the world, for “to proclaim Jesus is itself to proclaim life.” Pope John Paul II tasked us with building a culture of life to combat the forces at work in the culture of death. He challenged us: With great openness and courage, we need to question how widespread is the culture of life today among individual Christians, families, groups and communities in our Dioceses. With equal clarity and determination we must identify the steps we are called to take in order to serve life in all its truth.

In honor of Evangelium vitae’s 25th anniversary and in answer to Pope John Paul II’s call, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Pro-Life Activities launched a nationwide effort entitled, Walking with Moms in Need. Parishes, through the support of their bishops and pastors, are invited to join this effort to increase the Church’s outreach and support to pregnant women facing difficult or unexpected pregnancies. This special anniversary has provided the Church with an opportunity to assess, expand, and better communicate resources to pregnant moms and families in need.

Pregnant and parenting moms in need are in our
parishes and our neighborhoods, but in desperation, they are turning to other places for help. We know the needs and challenges can be immense for women in difficult pregnancies, especially women in poverty, and the sources for help may not be apparent to those most needing support. Women facing challenging pregnancies should see the Church as a place where they can find help, especially with its extensive social services dedicated to meeting the needs of people in crisis.

Through Walking with Moms in Need the Church is being asked to respond to Pope John Paul II’s call and honestly assess the pastoral and practical assistance that it currently provides to pregnant moms and families in need and how effective it is in communicating such help. Pope John Paul II wrote that, “gratitude and joy at the incomparable dignity of man impel us to share [the Gospel of Life] with everyone.” He said we need to bring this message “to the hearts of all people and make it penetrate every part of society.” By reaching out to lovingly support and care for pregnant women and their children, we witness to the sanctity of every human person, in every stage and every circumstance.

Evangelium vitae emphasizes that, “where life is involved, the service of charity must be profoundly consistent. It cannot tolerate bias and discrimination, for human life is sacred and inviolable. We need then to ‘show care’ for all life and for the life of everyone.” Pope John Paul II highlights the incredible history of service and charity that the Church has provided throughout the centuries to those abandoned and forgotten by society. He urges that every Christian community, with a renewed sense of responsibility, must continue to write this history.

We are called to reverence and love every human person as ourselves. It is our responsibility to care for and protect human life, especially the lives of the most vulnerable among us. Evangelium vitae teaches us that “the task of accepting and serving life involves everyone, and this task must be fulfilled above all towards life when it is at its weakest.”

Pope John Paul II wrote, “the Gospel of God’s love for man, the Gospel of the dignity of the person and the Gospel of life are a single and indivisible Gospel.” The Gospel of Jesus is the Gospel of Life, and to love Jesus is to love and serve life. As followers of Christ, may we strive to continually respond to the needs of the poor and vulnerable entrusted to us by God.
In the apostolic exhortation Evangelii Gaudium (The Joy of the Gospel), Pope Francis calls the Church to a new chapter of evangelization and invites every Christian to a life of missionary discipleship. The Holy Father writes that “the word of God constantly shows us how God challenges those who believe in him ‘to go forth.’” As those who have encountered Jesus, we are called to share the joy of the Gospel: “Each Christian and every community must discern the path that the Lord points out, but all of us are asked to obey his call to go forth from our own comfort zone in order to reach all the ‘peripheries’ in need of the light of the Gospel.”

Evangelii Gaudium reflects on the example of Christ who himself knelt to wash the disciples’ feet. Like Jesus, an evangelizing community becomes involved in the lives of its people: “it embraces human life, touching the suffering flesh of Christ in others.” Parishes make manifest the presence of the Church in a local community and provide an environment to encounter God and grow in the Christian life. The parish is “a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a center of constant missionary outreach.”

The foundation of all our missionary efforts is the truth “that every person is worthy of our giving…because they are God’s handiwork, his creation.” God created human beings in his image and likeness, and every person reflects God’s glory: “Every human being is the object of God’s infinite tenderness, and he himself is present in their lives.”

Therefore, every Christian is called to “be actively engaged in evangelization; indeed, anyone who has truly experienced God’s saving love does not need much time or lengthy training to go out and proclaim that love.” Pope Francis challenges the Church to be bold and creative in reassessing its approach to evangelization: “Pastoral ministry in a missionary key seeks to abandon the complacent attitude that says: ‘We have always done it this way.’” Instead, the Holy Father proposes a culture of encounter and accompaniment, “standing by people at every step of the way, no matter how difficult or lengthy this may prove to be.” With “patient expectation and apostolic endurance” the art of accompaniment “teaches us to remove our sandals before the sacred ground of the other (cf. Ex 3:5)” and to show special preference for the poor, despised, and overlooked.

Pope Francis reminds us that “among the vulnerable for whom the Church wishes to care with particular love and concern are unborn children, the most defenseless and innocent among us.” The defense of unborn life upholds “the conviction that a human being is always sacred and inviolable, in any situation and at every stage of development.” Yet, the Holy Father acknowledges that the Church has often “done little to adequately accompany women in very difficult situations, where abortion appears as a quick solution to their profound anguish.”

As members of the Church that “goes forth,” we are called to take the first step toward those in need—sharing in their lives, listening to their concerns, offering them both material and spiritual support. For “true faith in the incarnate Son of God is inseparable from self-giving, from membership in the community, from service, from reconciliation with others.” And while we may feel unequipped for such a mission, the Holy Father reminds us that “when ever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realize that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms.”

Our mission as disciples of Christ Jesus “is at once a passion for Jesus and a passion for his people.” For having received the love of Christ, how can we but share that love with others? “The joy of the Gospel is such that it cannot be taken away from us by anyone or anything (cf. Jn 16:22).” The evils of our world and challenges within the Church cannot diminish our commitment to missionary discipleship: “With the eyes of faith, we can see the light which the Holy Spirit always radiates in the midst of darkness.”

The joy of the Gospel is for all people. May each of us seek to renew and deepen our relationship with God and strive “to meet every challenge as a leaven of Gospel witness.”
St. Matthew Parish, Kenton
William and Rita Funk, 60

St. Patrick Parish, Maysville
Thomas and Clare Verter, 50

St. Patrick Parish, Taylor Mill
Richard (Rick) and Nancy Nadickbernd, 25

St. Paul Parish, Florence
Raymond and Louisa Luk, 25
Rob and Christi Norris, 25
R.J. and Nicole Riegler, 25
John and Colleen Collins, 50
Jerome and Carole Dressman, 50
Bob and Mary Langenderfer, 50
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Richard and Dolores Warren, 60

St. Philip Parish, Melbourne
Paul and Susan Ochsner, 50
Ralph and Patricia Martz, 70

St. Plus X Parish, Edgewood
Don Jim and Jo Ann Fedor, 50
Joe and Kathy Fischer, 50
Tim and Angie Garner, 50
Raymond and Maureen Hebert, 50
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Gerald and Nancy Woeste, 50
Robert and Martina Durrett, 66

St. Therese Parish, Southgate
Tony and Karen Kelly, 25
Neal and Barbara Meyer, 25
Robert and Patricia Guiley, 50
John and Anne Kaufman, 50
Robert and Stella Volmer, 50
Ronald L. and Janet Bertsch, 60
Barry and RuthAnn Schoepf, 65

St. Thomas Parish, Ft. Thomas
Chase and Grace Bright, 1
William and Karen Schnell, 50
George and Rose Marie Myers, 50
Bill and Rita Burkart, 60
Carl and Carol Revkov, 60
James and Beverly Stegman, 70

St. Timothy Parish, Union
Tim and Anne Garrett, 25
Paul and Sue Bruggen, 50
Don and Pat Forman, 50
Denny and Phyllis Hokebe, 50
Albert and Bonnie Kovacic, 50
John and Sharon Rottinghaus, 50
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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:  
- Experience with Raiser’s Edge  
- Experience with Greater Giving  
- 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  
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- A bachelor’s degree with minimum of five years’ experience  
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CAMPUS MINISTER  
The Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington seeks faith-filled individuals who are interested in working with young adults to serve in the capacity of Campus Minister at Northern Kentucky University. The work week will be full-time, nominally thirty seven and one-half hours.  
The Campus Minister and NKU’s Catholic Newman Center (www.nkucatholic.org) offer an evan-gelizing presence along with spiritual support council to develop goals and objectives that engulf the vision and meet particular needs of the community; oversees sacramental, liturgical life of parish; organizes community outreach programs; and engage parishes 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

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STAFF WRITER/MEDIA CONTENT DEVELOPER

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

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

7th and 8th grade students attending will be entered in a drawing for prizes. For more information call Bishop Brossart High School at (859) 635-2108.
Bishop of Covington — confirmations, ordinations, Masses, classroom visits, parish festi-
vals, etc. (A pictorial exhibit of some of his first year highlights is on display at St. Mary
Park through the month of October.) He also recalled that, at the press conference
announcing his appointment, a reporter had asked what his vision and pastoral plan was
for the diocese and how he had quipped that he had only been here for 12 minutes.

“Weeks after that, I thought I really should have given a better answer than that,” said
Bishop Iffert. “What I would like to have said was that there’s no way that I can enunciate
for you on that first day a vision or pastoral plan. Because I really believe that God gifts
every people with genius … I believe the Diocese of Covington has a genius and that you
contain that hope, you have the answer; the ability and the gifts to address every difficulty
that the Church faces here in Northern Kentucky today. You all contain all of the
resources, have all of the wisdom, all of the knowledge, to address all of those critical
problems that we face to carry on the mission of Jesus in the life of the Church. I believe
that with my whole heart.”

After being here a year, Bishop Iffert said, he is ready to announce his vision. “My
vision is that God has given us together the gifts that we need to be his living mission. My
vision is that we would work together to develop a vision that is in service to the entire
body of the Church. That we would step outside of ourselves and our own little prefer-
ences and our own special interests and we would think about what is best for this group,
this Church, this body that lives here in Northern Kentucky and that we would act and
decide together.”

Because pastors — the way they preach, the way they welcome, the way they interact
with their parishioners — are instrumental to creating a parish that others would recom-
mend to their family and friends, Bishop Iffert said, “I am unapologetic about saying, the
first group of people we need to focus on are our priests, who put themselves out there to
be leaders, to help embolden them, to invest in our priests the skills for leadership. Our
priests are excellent priests. Our presbyterate is filled with good and holy and talented
men. And to give them the support to be the leaders that they want to be and that we all know they can be, this is the first and
centerpiece of the vision that I want to enunciate here.”

Bishop Iffert said he also wants to empower the laity, to invite
the laity to bring the skills that they have developed in all the
areas of their life into the life of the Church to assist their
priests.

“That’s part of the vision … I want us to be set free from fear … I want a vision of Church that unleashes that potential; that
priests and religious and deacons and laye respond free from fear,” he said.

The content of that vision, Bishop Iffert said, “that’s up to us
to develop together and that’s what this With One Heart initia-
tive is all about. It’s all about assessing the situation together:
Planning together. Accompanying one another with leadership
formation together, and working to implement those plans,
thanking God for them, reviewing them and then doing it again.”

In closing, Bishop Iffert recognized and praised Bishop Foys
for his over 40 years as an administrator both in the Diocese of
Steubenville as vicar general for 22 years and as Bishop of
Covington for 20 years.

“I want to appreciate Bishop Foys in a very special way,”
Bishop Iffert said. “He told me when I got here that he was going
to step back for that first year and let me have some time on my
own. Now we’re at the end of that year. I hope now that we can
invite you back into the active life of the Church. Thank you,
thank you so much.”
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Information included in this ad is current up through October 4, 2022.