Like pieces on a chess board, the cause for life is ‘a symphony’

Laura Keener
Editor

Respect Life month kicked off in prayer, Oct. 4, with the celebration of the annual diocesan Pro-Life Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington. Bishop John Iffert was the celebrant and Father Connor Kunath the homilist. Over 100 people attended the Mass, which began with praying the rosary, included a moment of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction and ended with the distribution of “Vote Yes on 2” yard signs outside of the church.

Vote Yes on 2 refers to amendment 2, which will be on the ballot this Nov. 8. The amendment is clear, concise and would amend the Bill of Rights of the Kentucky Constitution to state that nothing in this state constitution protects or secures a right to abortion or requires the funding of abortion. Voting “Yes” is a vote for life.

In his closing remarks, Bishop Iffert encouraged everyone to vote this November and in particular, vote “yes” on amendment 2 and to “do it joyfully and to do it with thanksgiving to God for giving us this opportunity,” he said. The track, he said, is that amendment 2 will be the last item on the ballot and that some voters may have to turn over their ballot to see the amendment. Also, anyone voting a straight party ticket will need to be sure that they also mark their vote for amendment 2. Amendment 2 is a non-partisan piece of legislation, and like all non-partisan seats (for example judges, city council members and others) is not automatically picked up in a straight party ticket will need to be sure that they also mark their vote for amendment 2. Amendment 2 is a non-partisan piece of legislation, and like all non-partisan seats (for example judges, city council members and others) is not automatically picked up in a straight party ticket will need to be sure that they also mark their vote for amendment 2.

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The sixth game, a seminal game that would break the tie and determine the momentum of the match, begins with an open that plays to the strength of the grandmaster. In an interview, a friend of Mr. Fischer described the game as “a symphony of classic beauty.”

“That phrase always struck me,” said Father Kunath. “What exactly is he seeing that we are not seeing? What exactly is going on over those 44 squares that the rest of us don’t see?” By understanding the foundations of chess, a person begins to understand the achievements of that day and what Bobby Fischer accomplished, Father Kunath said.

To be able to see so deeply into the game of chess to be able to describe it as a symphony of classic beauty, “I think that this sort of sentiment, this fact, in something we, especially as pro-lifers, have to be very keen to observe for ourselves, because while certainly our life, our mission, as pro-lifers is primarily and rightly centered on abortion, our cause as pro-lifers encompasses a great deal more than that,” Father Kunath said. “Our cause as pro-lifers encompasses all that is good, true and beautiful. Our cause as pro-lifers encompasses everything that is.”

Father Kunath encouraged those in the pro-life movement to understand more deeply what is the cause for life.

“You and I aren’t just standing here praising God this evening in hopes that he will give us an abundant victory.” Father Kunath said. “You and I are here tonight celebrating the very fact of our existence. We’re not just fighting against a terrible scourge on our culture. We’re not just fighting against abortion and its attendant vices. You and I are arguing by the way we live our life, that life is fundamental. That life is beautiful. That everything that is around us is in one sentence or another a love letter from God himself.”

The annual diocesan Pro-Life Mass is organized by the diocesan Pro-Life Office. For more information on the pro-life efforts in the Diocese of Covington and how you or your parish can get involved visit www.covdio.org/pro-life.
Through the Eucharist, we are ‘free to proclaim the word of God,’ Bishop Iffert preaches at SUMMIT22 Mass

Mauro Baker
Staff Writer

Youth in the Diocese of Covington, age 13-22, attended SUMMIT22, a youth retreat, at Covington Catholic High School, Oct. 7-9. Following the model of World Youth Day, the weekend-long retreat engages youth in daily Mass, rosary, Eucharistic adoration and “dynamic catechesis.”

Saturday, Oct. 8, Bishop John Iffert joined attendees of the weekend retreat to celebrate Mass. In his homily, Bishop Iffert draws parallels between the story of the lepers in Luke’s Gospel with the Eucharist. “Jesus sends them (the lepers) to the priest to be healed. He says to the priests, to pronounce them clean,” he said, “The priest examines the one who has been healed of leprosy. And if he finds no blotch on them, he might separate them out for seven days, and then examine them again. And if he still finds no blotch on them, then there’s a sacrifice that is prescribed... the person who has been declared healed of leprosy is to go procure two birds, perfect birds, without any blotch or scar.” Bishop Iffert then goes on to describe the process of this sacrifice as written in Leviticus 14, including the two “perfect birds” and a “pot of living water,” water from a flowing stream.

“Jesus is pierced — blood, and living water,” he said, referencing the moment of the crucifixion when a Roman soldier pierces Jesus’s side with a lance. “What flows from Jesus’ side? When Jesus is pierced — blood, and living water:” he said, referencing the moment of the crucifixion when a Roman soldier pierces Jesus’s side with a lance. “We are washed in that. And, then like that bird, set free for a purpose, to proclaim the mercy and the glory of God.”

Bishop Iffert then challenged those gathered to be “amazed at the huge- ness of mercy” offered in the Eucharist, “and respond with hearts that respond well to graciousness. Hearts that are thankful. Can we do that? Are we determined?” He concludes by once again referencing and comparing us, “and respond with hearts that respond well to graciousness. Hearts that are thankful. Can we do that? Are we determined?” He concludes by once again referencing and comparing us, “and respond with hearts that respond well to graciousness. Hearts that are thankful. Can we do that? Are we determined?” He concludes by once again referencing and comparing us, “and respond with hearts that respond well to graciousness. Hearts that are thankful. Can we do that? Are we determined?” He concludes by once again referencing and comparing us.

The annual Eucharistic retreat for youth and young adults is organized by the diocesan Office of Catechesis and Evangelization and the Covington Retreat Committee. This year the retreat was led by the Mercedarian Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament from Cleveland, Ohio.

Plan to Attend — Deanery Strategy Sessions

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

Oct. 19
Campbell County Deanery
St. Joseph Parish, Cold Spring, Memorial Hall

Oct. 20
Southwest Deanery
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Burlington

Nov. 7
Northern Kenton County Deanery
St. Agnes Parish, Ft. Wright

Nov. 9
Southwest Deanery
St. Patrick School, Maysville, gym

Dec. 6
Covington Deanery
Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, Diocesan Curia, Covington

What will voting ‘Yes’ on Amendment #2 do?

Your “Yes” vote on Kentucky Amendment #2 establishes that nothing in the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Kentucky can be interpreted to include a right to an abortion or state funding for abortion. This is important so that Kentuckians, through their elected representatives, can have a conversation on how Kentucky treats the question of abortion in our society. 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.
Parishioners at St. John Mission, Dividing Ridge, welcomed Bishop John Iffert, Oct. 9. Bishop Iffert arrived at the mission to celebrate its early morning Mass and to bless the steeple and cemetery. Mentioning that he has had a very busy couple of weeks, Bishop Iffert said to parishioners, “To be here with you, in this warm mission church, here at St. John’s, to worship with you this morning, is just refreshing for my soul. Thank you so much for the invitation to be with you today.” Also at Mass were relatives of several founding members of St. John Mission who helped fund the replacement of the church’s steeple.

The church with its original steeple was erected in 1881; likewise, the adjoining 1-acre cemetery was acquired at that time. In the 1970s, due to rot the original steeple fell, leaving the church without its defining feature until 2020.

In 2019, the Parish Council approved a project to replace the steeple. Five of the eight original founding families and about 25 other donors from three generations of families and friends, pooled their resources to recreate the steeple based on pictures, measurements and diagrams of the original structure. The steeple was installed in 2020.

Following the steeple blessing, Bishop Iffert blessed the cemetery.

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.
For a limited time —

an exhibit on the Cathedral campus
celebrates Bishop Iffert’s first year

In celebration of the first anniversary of Bishop John Iffert’s episcopacy, a temporary exhibit of pictorial highlights is on display at St. Mary’s Park, Covington. St. Mary’s Park is located on the southwest corner of Cathedral Square, Madison Ave. and Martin Luther King Blvd., across the street from the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption. The exhibit will run through October.
Deacons annual renewal of ordination promises

The diocese’s permanent deacons gathered, Oct. 5, for Vespers and renewal of ordination promises. The annual event was held at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption with Bishop John Iffert.

In his homily Bishop Iffert reminded the deacons that, during the rite of ordination, when the bishop asks the question, “Has he been found worthy?” the answer is never “yes.” It’s not a straight answer, it’s “well, ‘having consulted those who are charged with responsibility for his formation and the entire people of God, he has been found worthy.’ This is clearly the passive voice,” Bishop Iffert said.

Instead of the man, “It is the Spirit of God that dwells in the Church and that dwells in each Christian that makes it possible for the Church to call and for a man to respond to that call,” Bishop Iffert said. “What makes a candidate for holy orders worthy? Only this, that the Holy Spirit dwells within him. It’s the Holy Spirit that is worthy.”

Bishop Iffert said that as the deacons renew their ordination promises the question to consider is, “are you willing to let the Holy Spirit grow in you? To more and more take up a place in your mind and heart? To lead you by gentle steps closer and closer to perfect love?”

Missed an edition? Current and back issues of the Messenger are available online at covdio.org/messenger.
Sixty years after its solemn opening on Oct. 11, 1962, is there anything new to be said about the Second Vatican Council? I think there is. And I hope to have said it in “To Sanctify the World: The Vital Legacy of Vatican II,” which has just been published by Basic Books.

Reading a great historical event is a matter of perspective as much as a matter of facts. Some churchmen today “read” the Council as having affected a “paradigm shift” in Catholic self-understanding, although competent theologians argue that the Church does doctrinal development, not paradigm shifting. Others, “reading” Vatican II through the prism of their disgust with modernity’s deconstruction of traditional mores and institutions, declare Vatican a supine surrender to secularism; the more fevered souls in their perspective as much as a matter of facts.

In “To Sanctify the World,” I propose a fresh way of thinking about Vatican II, analyzing that epic event through the prism of Pope John XXIII’s original intention for the Council he summoned. That original intention comes into focus through three key texts.

In the apostolic constitution “Humane Salutatis,” which formally convoked Vatican II, John XXIII wrote of the civilizational crisis of a modern world that “boasts of its technical and scientific conquests” but is deeply scarred by lethal efforts to “reorganize” itself “by excluding God.” What the “temporal order” desperately needed, he proclaimed, was “the light of Christ,” which would reveal to humanity the truth of human nature, the nobility of human dignity and the grandeur of humanity’s destiny — life with the Triune God.

Then, a month before the Council opened, the Pope gave an important radio address in which he said that “the Church, the Kingdom of God,” expresses fully and precisely the work of the Council. Vatican II, like the 20 previous ecumenical councils, was a renewal of humanity’s “paradigm shift in the Church.” There, the octogenarian Pope underscored the essential Christocentricity of Vatican II, emphasizing “the Kingdom of God,” expressing fully and precisely the work of the Council.” Vatican II, like the 20 previous ecumenical councils, was a renewal of humanity’s “paradigm shift in the Church.”

The third, and most important, text that clarifies John XXIII’s original intention for Vatican II is his opening address to the Council on Oct. 11, 1962, known by its Latin title as “Gaudet Mater Ecclesia” (“Mother Church Rejoices”). There, the octogenarian Pope underscored the essential Christocentricity of Vatican II, emphasizing “the Church” as having affected a “paradigm shift” in the Church. “The very defense which the Church has willed to put between the members of his body serve its unity and mission. For in the Church there is a unity of diversity but unity of mass.” (“CCC” 879) The diversity in our ministry — clergy, laity and religious — is obvious; we need to remind ourselves that we are all part of the same mission.

As the story of Israel’s battle with Amalek goes on, we see another reason we need each other, need our neighbors, to do our ministry. We are told that “as long as Moses kept his hands raised up, Israel had the better of the fight, but when he let his hands rest, Amalek had the better of the fight.” Israel clearly had need of Moses’ intervention and help. But then when we desire to make others’ hands grow tired, so Aaron and Hur, who had gone up the mountain with him, put a rock in place so Moses could sit, and supported his hands, “one on one side and one on the other,” so he could keep his hands steady.

Clearly Moses also needed Israel’s help, in the persons of Aaron and Hur, to do his part for Israel. With all working together — Israel’s army, Joshua, Moses, Aaron, Hur and God — Joshua moved down Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.

There is another source of unity one that is shown in a well-known poem by Robert Frost. In his “The Tuft of Flowers,” the narrator describes going out one morning to see another reason for our unity — we need each other, need our neighbors, to do our ministry. We are told that “as long as Moses kept his hands raised up, Israel had the better of the fight, but when he let his hands rest, Amalek had the better of the fight.” Israel clearly had need of Moses’ intervention and help. But then when we desire to make others’ hands grow tired, so Aaron and Hur, who had gone up the mountain with him, put a rock in place so Moses could sit, and supported his hands, “one on one side and one on the other,” so he could keep his hands steady.

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Day with Dr. Shannen Dee Williams

Shannen Dee Williams, Ph.D., an associate professor of History at the University of Dayton, was the guest speaker at a gathering for women religious held in September and hosted by the Sisters of Divine Providence at their Province Center in Melbourne.

Dr. Williams, a historian of the African American experience with research and teaching specializations in women, religious and the Black freedom movement, is the author of the recently published book "Subversive Habits: Black Catholic Nuns in the Long African American Freedom Struggle."

The history of African American and African-descended Catholics in the United States is as old as that of European Catholics, noted Dr. Williams, yet most people have little knowledge of it, especially when it comes to history in communities of women religious. Guiding the sisters through the historical background of African and African-descended Catholics in the United States and using information based on her research and oral interviews from her recent book, Dr. Williams highlighted the sad realities faced by Black women seeking membership in religious communities, and too often endured by some following a seldom extended acceptance. The powerful afternoon also dispelled a number of myths about Black Catholics and their relationship with the Church.

The presentation increased the community’s awareness of its complicity in the sin of racism and afforded participants the opportunity to examine the Congregation’s relevant history in a province that has had few women of color as members. She advised the community to support ongoing efforts to dismantle systemic racism in education, healthcare, policing, housing and all other facets of life. Dr. Williams also encouraged everyone to work toward the repair of injustices and to assist in educating others about the long hidden history of Black people in the Catholic Church.

The afternoon was organized by the Peace and Justice Coordinator (859) 392-1515. Professional assistance and pastoral support will be provided in any guest editorial are provided by Catholic News Service. The views presented in this or any guest editorial are those of the individual publication and do not necessarily represent the views of Catholic News Service or the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.
About Thomas More University
For 100 years, Thomas More has created a university for the student who wants to Be More, Do More, Seek More, Win More, Achieve More, and Create More.

Since its founding in 1921, Thomas More has provided a mission-driven, liberal arts education that is based in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition. Students learn to harness the power of human reason to solve problems and discover truth, which allows them to begin the journey to become the person they were created to be.

Entering into the second century, it’s time for More. Serving more than 2,000 students, Thomas More aspires to be the premier Catholic university in the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky region, to build upon the #1 ranking for long term gain in Kentucky (2019 Georgetown study) and share with this generation the transformative power of the Thomas More experience.

For more information about Thomas More University, visit www.thomasmore.edu

St. E Healthcare and TMU — Lighting the way together into the second century

Staff report
Student success revolves around providing the support necessary academically, socially, personally and financially. Thomas More University ensures all traditional students receive some sort of assistance through scholarships, work study or grant access. There are several avenues at Thomas More University for those who shine through academics, in service to the community, through leadership, in athletics and now through innovation.

In partnership with Square 1, the Dr. Anthony ’55 and Geraldine ’56 Zembrodt Center for Leadership, Entrepreneurship & Innovation is pleased to announce that the first student recipients of Innovation Scholarships are now on campus.

Carson Floyd and Colin Wilkoff, members of the Beechwood High School Materhorn 1 team who won Square 1’s Final Pitch contest in spring 2022, are now Saints.

In a new development, St. Elizabeth Healthcare introduced financial support by establishing an endowed fund that will benefit junior and senior nursing students that commit to working for the hospital after graduation. St. Elizabeth Healthcare and Thomas More University has shared a valuable relationship through their history, including most recently as a resource in support of the athletic training/exercise science programs as well as providing financial support as a partner in procuring the Center for Health Sciences building. In recognition of the long-standing relationship, the University officially unveiled, Sept. 30, its first named college — the St. Elizabeth College of Natural and Health Sciences.

As the Center for Health Sciences building provided much needed space for the nursing and exercise science programs, generous gifts have also improved the quality of the equipment used to educate these dedicated students. In July of 2022, the University officially named a nursing skills lab at this location the “Kathleen McLane Nursing Skills Lab” after the late Kathleen McLane, a devoted nurse who served the Northern Kentucky/greater Cincinnati community until her sudden, accidental death in 1982. The dedication of the lab was made possible through a gift from alumni Mary (McLane) ’73 and S. Frank ’73 Fritsch. This gift allows the department to update and expand the lab to better train nursing students. A ceremony was held at the skills lab on what would have been McLane’s 70th birthday, July 30, 2022. Through the Kathleen McLane Nursing Skills Lab, McLane’s legacy lives on, making an impact on the region’s future nurses.

In addition to upgrades in equipment at the Center for Health Sciences, the Science Building on the main campus is also enjoying a boon. Thanks to a gift to the Second Century Campaign by the Dr. George A. and Delores E. Renaker Foundation, the biology department purchased an Anatomage Table. The Anatomage Table is the world’s only virtual dissection table and the most technologically advanced 3D anatomy visualization system for anatomy and physiology education.

The University has always enjoyed a stellar reputation for academics and plans to continue that tradition into the next century. There is so much to be thankful for at Thomas More University. Without the support of alumni and friends of the University, and the engagement of faculty, staff and students this region would not be what it is today. Northern Kentucky and greater Cincinnati as a whole benefit from the ties created by those who have been touched by this University. However you want to describe this symbiotic relationship, it has been a blessing for all.
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, 1-3 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. 16
St. John Cemetery, Ft. Mitchell, 2 p.m.
St. Mary Cemetery, Ft. Mitchell, 2:45 p.m.
St. Stephen Cemetery, Ft. Thomas, 3:45 p.m.

the church search process.

Mother of God Church, Covington, will be featured in this year’s BLINK festival, Oct. 13-16. While the outside will be bathed in a display created by the Italian visual designer, Alessio Cassaro, the church will be opened for rare night-time viewing. During the event, visitors can take a tour of the church’s interior from 7-10 p.m.

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 tmukyu2023danceday

Thomas More University art openings and exhibits.
“The Homescape” by artist Sarah Hoskins is part of the 2023 FotoFocus Biennial, open Oct. 13-Nov. 5. Exhibits are located in the Eva G. Farris Art Gallery on the TMU campus. Open to the public during normal library hours. For information, visit thomasmores.edu/artgallery.

Our Savior Parish, Covington, Homecoming. Oct. 6, 9:30 a.m. Mass followed by fellowship and food in the parish hall. Brotherhood Singers will be in attendance.

St. Barbara Holy Name Society Turkey Shoot (12 gauge only), Oct. 22 and Nov 6, 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 Oct. 30, 1-3:30 p.m. Scheduling a tour is preferred, visit www.bsbhs.org/openhouse and click on events.

The W. 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 Langholt, Ph.D., interim vice president for Academic Affairs, TMU.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul’s 15th annual Turkeyfoot Trot 5k Run/Walk. Nov. 5, noon, at Thomas More University. There is also a virtual option so that you can choose your own route. Proceeds benefit direct service to our neighbors in need. Pre-register by Nov. 4 at www.svdpky.org. Cost $25 adults; $20 children 14 years or younger; or $10 adults; $20 children day of the race.

St. Anne Retreat Center, Melbourne, Fall Men’s Retreat, Nov. 11-12, “The Holy Spirit, The Lord, The Giver of Life” with retreat leader Father Ryan Mahler rector, Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington. Cost $75, which includes 2 nights lodging and all meals. Visit stanneschristiancenter.org or call 441-3003, ext. 301. Registration deadline Oct. 28.

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

The Book of Proverbs Bible workshop with Father Timothy Schuele, Nov. 19, 9-11:30 a.m., Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium (Curia building), Covington. The book of Proverbs offers advice about how to live as a servant of God. What qualities identify someone as God’s servant? Join the workshop and find out. Cost $35. Register online crevts.org/see/cathedral-bible-study-or call Isaac A. Isaak, Office of Catechesis and Evangelization, 931-1528.

The 30th Annual Eight 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://covdio.org/pro-life/) or by emailing Peggy Paccola at paccola@covdio.org.

Notre 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 241-4887, or e-mail Sister Maria Therese at sermtheres@nduec.org. Volunteers 18 and older must be COVID compliant.

The St. Joseph Padre Pio Prayer Group meets on the 4th Thursday of each month, 7 p.m., St. Joseph Church, Crescent Springs for the recitation of the rosary and discussion. To be added to the Padre Pio Prayer Group e-mail distribution list, e-mail a request to bsmaracko@fuse.net.

The Madonna House of NKY is looking for Thursday evening babysitters from 6-8 p.m., all four Thursdays in a month or just one Thursday a month, whatever works for you. Call 344-1191.

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

Building God’s Kingdom

(Left) Throughout the month of September, students at St. Mary School, Alexandria, focused on helping the Eastern Kentucky flood victims through a number of service and charitable initiatives. The Fourth Grade Team led the school in providing information about the destruction and impact the floods had on the people and children in the area. They organized a craft kit collection with the help of their local 4-H, to send to children impacted in the area and organized a school supply collection to send students in need of school supplies. The school hosted an out-of-uniform day to raise funds for a monetary donation to a school in Eastern Kentucky that was destroyed by the flood. Students are working towards embracing the school theme for the year — Building God’s Kingdom — by helping to lift up and build God’s Kingdom all around us, but most importantly to fellow Kentuckians.
Sisters of Notre Dame transition Lourdes Hall residents to St. Charles community, consider future of St. Joseph Heights

Staff report
The Sisters of Notre Dame aim to transition sisters residing in the health care center, Lourdes Hall, St. Joseph Heights, to the St. Charles Community campus. The transition involves consolidating the two Homestead Households into one Household for St. Charles residents and offered one of the Households (16 beds) for the sisters. In this arrangement, the sisters will be cared for by their current staff and St. Charles’ residents will be cared for by their staff.

In the Fall of 2021, the Sisters of Notre Dame undertook a comprehensive study of their property and building at St. Joseph Heights. The Heights building has served the sisters as a place of formation, administration, retirement and as a health care center for the sisters. St. Charles Community, sponsored by the Sisters of Notre Dame, recently completed a parallel study of the services provided on its campus. The decision to transfer the sisters from St. Joseph Heights to the St. Charles Community was one made as “a result of prayer and discernment,” said Sister Shauna Bankemper, assistant provincial of the Sisters of Notre Dame.

“Our sisters accepted St. Charles’ invitation as part of our larger communal discernment regarding the best use of our 100-year-old center. The aging facility is larger than needed for the current or future membership,” said Sister Shana. “As part of our commitment to sustainability, we are exploring options to reduce our carbon footprint by right-sizing the building. During the coming year, we will begin to vacate Mary and Joseph halls while continuing to study the best way to use our resources moving into the future.”

The future of the halls at St. Joseph Heights is still in a phase of discernment, but “most sisters opt for model #4, which includes the deconstruction of Mary and Joseph halls,” said Sister Margaret Gorman, provincial of the Sisters of Notre Dame. “Many sisters desire to keep a center in Covington region and to give at least some sisters the option of living at the Heights. There are also many sisters who want to eliminate the costs of remodeling the aging building only to tear it down in a few years,” she said. “We could take down Mary and Joseph halls as soon as next summer.”

Thomas More University announces first named College

Staff report
Thomas More University officially unveiled, Sept. 30, its first named college — the St. Elizabeth College of Natural and Health Sciences. The naming of the college is not transactional in nature, rather it is intended to recognize the long-standing partnership between two diocesan institutions — Thomas More University and St. Elizabeth Healthcare.

In naming the St. Elizabeth College of Natural and Health Sciences, we are solidifying the partnership of two mission-driven institutions that are committed to serving the local community” said Dr. Joseph Chillo, president, Thomas More University. “This partnership continues to create innovative programs and opportunities for our students and the community. St. Elizabeth works to help make a high-quality Catholic liberal arts education at Thomas More University a reality for some of our nursing students, while also giving them experience and opportunity for a promising career at one of the largest and best healthcare organizations in northern Kentucky and the greater Cincinnati region.”

A ceremony was held at the University’s Saints Center to celebrate the college naming. Senior leadership from both organizations were present at the announcement ceremony. The event saw remarks from President Chillo, Joe Christensen, Ph.D., dean of the St. Elizabeth College of Natural and Health Sciences, and Garren Colvin ’86, president and chief executive officer of St. Elizabeth Healthcare.

“On behalf of our St. Elizabeth associates — past, present and future — we are honored by this recognition,” said Mr. Colvin. “At St. Elizabeth Healthcare, we believe that our community, the region, the Commonwealth, and the nation should have access to world-class care throughout our community, the region, the Commonwealth, and the nation should have access to world-class care throughout our community, the region, the Commonwealth, and the nation.”

St. Elizabeth Healthcare has always allowed us access to clinicians at all hospitals,” said Dr. Lisa Spangler, department chair of the Thomas More University School of Nursing. “St. Elizabeth hires student nurses to work as Patient Care Assistants (PCAs), transporters, etc. With every graduating class, 50-70 percent of our graduates go to work at St. Elizabeth.”

Thomas More University officially unveiled its first named college, the St. Elizabeth College of Natural and Health Sciences, at a formal ceremony on Friday, Sept. 30, in the Saints Center on Thomas More University’s Crestview Hills campus. From left to right: Dr. Joe Christensen, dean of the St. Elizabeth College of Natural and Health Sciences; Garren Colvin (’86) president and chief executive officer, St. Elizabeth Healthcare; and Dr. Joseph Chillo, president, Thomas More University.

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In the Gospel of John 8:12, we hear Jesus say, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” Each day our Catholic schools are teaching students how to be followers of Christ. We do this not only through the lessons in the classroom but also through our words and actions.

In today’s world, the culture is telling us and our children to follow all sorts of people and groups — especially online and on social media. But we are called to follow Jesus first and to be wary of others who may lead us astray.

This school year, we invite you to journey with our students and staff to see all the ways we are following Christ. And we encourage you to join with us in following Jesus each day through your words, actions, and prayers.

Kendra McGuire
Superintendent of Catholic Schools
Diocese of Covington
Richard and Mary Lee Vennemann celebrate 63 years of marriage in the faith

Maura Baker
Staff Writer

Richard and Mary Lee Vennemann, parishioners of St. Joseph Parish, Cold Spring, commemorate 63 years of marriage this year following the Diocese of Covington’s annual Anniversary Vespers, Oct. 3, the Vennemanns shared the story of their marriage with the Messenger.

The pair met at a wedding at St. Therese, Southgate, when Mary Lee, then 15 years-old, was encouraged by a friend to ask Richard Vennemann to dance. “She was like, oh, you’re not going to marry him, just go ahead and dance with him,” Mary Lee recalled her friend saying at the time.

The two did end up dancing together, and a week later, Mary Lee’s family would receive a call from Mr. Vennemann. With agreement from Mary Lee’s family, the two started dating, and would be together ever since.

“When I got out of high school, he had to get into the army,” said Mrs. Vennemann, “That was a rule at the time, so he was going into it for two years… when he came back, then he gave me an engagement ring, and we were married May 9, 1959.” The two would be married at the same Church where they met, St. Therese, Southgate. Since then, the Vennemanns welcomed four children, eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren to their family.

“When I was 14 or early 15, I wanted to go to the convent,” continued Mrs. Vennemann, considering the influence of faith on their relationship as a couple. “The summer of 1953, I made a novena to the Blessed Mother, asking what should I do; if I should marry Dick Vennemann or go to St. Anne’s convent. And, well, before you know it, the answer came! You go stick with Dick Vennemann… so that’s what I did.”

Now, Mary Lee Vennemann is an associate with the Sisters of Divine Providence at St. Anne’s Convent, and holds the importance of faith in their marriage, “We were always practicing Catholics, and our children are practicing Catholics.”

St. Vincent de Paul receives grant to help neighbors reach financial stability through its Microloan Program

Staff report

St. Vincent de Paul Northern Kentucky has received a $20,000 grant to support its Microloan Program. This unique program provides a very low-interest loan to neighbors who need assistance with reliable transportation, home repairs, medical and education expenses or retirement of predatory loans. St. Vincent de Paul NKY’s Microloan Program provides a very low-interest loan administered through Kemba Credit Union to provide an alternative to high-interest loans when crises arise. The loan is coupled with financial counseling provided by a volunteer mentor who works with the Microloan recipient to not only meet the obligations of the loan but also provides support and advice to reach financial stability through budgeting and saving.

A few recent loans have been issued to low-income neighbors for the purchase of safe and reliable used cars. These vehicles were donated to St. Vincent de Paul through its car donation program and repaired by Samaritan Car Care Clinic. The Samaritan Car Care Clinic provides “complementary routine vehicle maintenance for low-income individuals. Each quarter they help clients, referred to by social service agencies throughout Northern Kentucky, maintain their vehicles — and by extension, their livelihoods. They change engine oil, replace air filters, replace wiper blades and bulbs, top-off fluids and inflate tires. They do major repairs when funding and cars are available. Samaritan Car Care volunteers offer a lifeline to working poor families. Their services enable families to maintain their cars or in some cases purchase a used car and allow them to access jobs and transport family members to school and health care appointments.”

Through its Microloan Program, St. Vincent de Paul NKY has provided 40 loans valued at over $60,000 to neighbors in need since the program started in 2019. Of these 40 loans, 17 have been successfully paid off in full. Thanks to the recent $20,000 grant, they will be able to continue to help neighbors reach financial self-sufficiency.

The Microloan Program relies on volunteer mentors to be successful. If you are interested in helping others in a unique way and have a knack for finance, please reach out to their Volunteer Coordinator, Mark Bradley by email at mark.bradley@svdpnky.org or by phone at 859-426-2649.

A loan recipient meets for financial counseling with a volunteer mentor.
Edgar Nicholas “Nick” Cleves, Jr. was born in Covington, Ky., on August 9, 1927. Mr. Cleves was the commanding officer of the American forces in Trieste, Italy. During that time, a single row of saw horses delineated the American forces from its Russian adversaries. One night the Russian soldiers moved the saw horses a couple feet into the American forces territory. Mr. Cleves called the commanding Russian officer and said, “Are we three-year-olds or are we adults?” And the officer had all the barriers moved back to where they should be.

After serving his country, he married Gertrude “Gert” Lahman on November 27, 1952. Mr. Cleves was very active with Sacred Heart Church and School and was present at the predecessor of the Holy Name Society and a member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Catholic Order of Foresters, and St. Anthony’s Holy Name Society. His father’s involvement in parish life along with the other parishioners at Sacred Heart Parish had a strong influence on Msgr. Cleves’s vocation.

“Sacred Heart, when I was there, had all kinds of vocations to the priesthood, including mine,” Msgr. Cleves said. “And I think it was because of the actions of those laymen and laywomen who just led folks like me to believe that parishes are wonderful. When I think of Sacred Heart when I was growing up, I don’t think of the clergy so much. I think of my dad and Ray Saner, Tom Halpin, Jim Lape, Joe Emminger, Ed Kohrs, all these guys who showed up for everything. They were so faithful.”

Msgr. Cleves said that his parents were both generous people but in a very quiet way. In fact, it was not until Msgr. Cleves was in his late 50s when he learned that his parents never exchanged Christmas presents. Instead, each year they saved money throughout the year and at Christmastime would purchase a major appliance for a Bellevue family in need. “For 59 years that was their Christmas present to each other,” Msgr. Cleves said.

Mr. Cleves was very active in Lions Club International and spent 50 years collecting and repairing eyeglasses. He received, twice, the Melvin Jones Fellow Award, Lions’ highest award.

“Mr. Cleves often said that his father told many Navy stories, but one in particular illustrates his dad. Mr. Cleves was the commanding officer of the American forces in Trieste, Italy. During that time, a single row of saw horses delineated the American forces from its Russian adversaries. One night the Russian soldiers moved the saw horses a couple feet into the American forces territory. Mr. Cleves called the Russian commander and said, ‘Are we three-year-olds or are we adults?’ And the officer had all the barriers moved back to where they should be.’

After serving his country, he married Gertrude ‘Gert’ Lahman on November 27, 1952. Residing in Bellevue for most of his life, he was very active with Sacred Heart Church and School and was present at the predecessor of the Holy Name Society and a member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Catholic Order of Foresters, and St. Anthony’s Holy Name Society. His father’s involvement in parish life along with the other parishioners at Sacred Heart Parish had a strong influence on Msgr. Cleves’s vocation.

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“I started squinting at the blackboard in the fifth grade and it turned out I needed glasses,” said Msgr. Cleves. “And their (his parents) response was to join the Lions Club. And they fixed hundreds of thousands of pairs of donated glasses and sent them to people all around the world. That’s the kind of people they were.”

After 45 years, Mr. Cleves retired from Cleves and Lemmann Jewelers in 1989. Mr. Cleves was preceded in death by his wife Gertrude (nee Lahman), his parents, daughter Rose Ann, great-granddaughter Olivia, and his siblings Father Simeon, OFM; Sister Mary Virginia Ann, SND; Joseph, Sr.; William; Sister Mary Joanne Frances, SND; and John Cleves.

“Mr. Cleves shared that while his father was in hospice he had told the family that his deceased wife, Gert, was visiting him and inviting him to come with her,” said Bishop John Iffert. “In my years as a priest ministering to people who are dying I have often heard from others this same phenomenon. I believe that this is love calling us into love. Love always draws love to itself. God is love. To the family and friends of Mr. Cleves – take comfort in that. On behalf of myself, Bishop Emeritus Roger Foy, the priests, deacons and people of the Diocese of Covington, I offer sincere sympathies. Know of our prayers for your father and for you.”

In addition to Msgr. Cleves, Mr. Cleves is survived by his children, Charles (Mary Lynn) Cleves, Marilyn (James) Souders, Rosemary (the late Douglas) Lanz, Emily (Lyle) Whaley, Frances (Steven) Galbavy, Thomas (Jana) Cleves, Joan (Timothy) Keutzer, Ann (Ajay) Jain and his brother Charles Cleves, 19 grandchildren, and 25 great-grandchildren.

Visitation was held Oct. 5 at Dobbling, Muehlenkamp-Erschell Funeral Home, Bellevue. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by Msgr. Cleves, with Bishop John Iffert and Bishop Emeritus Roger Foy at St. Joseph Church, Cold Spring. Internment is at St. Stephen Cemetery, Ft. Thomas.

Memorials are suggested to Holy Spirit Outreach, Newport. Online condolences can be given at dmefuneral.com.
Texas death-row inmate takes plea for DNA testing to Supreme Court

Carol Zimmermann
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — In oral arguments Oct. 11, the Supreme Court considered the case of Texas inmate Rodney Reed, who has been on death row for more than 25 years and has gained the attention of Catholic leaders and celebrities for his claims of innocence.

In this case, the justices were specifically looking at a procedural question: whether Reed had been too late in filing his civil rights lawsuit against state officials who had rejected his requests for DNA testing of crime-scene evidence he hoped would clear him.

Reed, who is Black, was convicted by an all-white jury of the 1996 murder of a white woman, Stacey Stites. He has consistently maintained his innocence, explaining that he was in a secret relationship with Stites. His attorneys and activists have said that evidence unearthed since Reed’s trial points to Stites’ fiancé as the murderer.

So far, the state has denied Reed’s request for DNA testing, saying that evidence from the crime scene should not be tested because the items were improperly stored and could be contaminated. A Texas district court agreed in 2013 and three years later, the state’s Criminal Court of Appeals affirmed that decision.

Reed took his case to U.S. District Court in Texas and argued that the Texas law about post-conviction DNA testing violated his right to due process. The state in turn argued that his claims have a statute of limitations of two years that began in 2014 when the state district court made its initial decision not to test the DNA.

In the oral arguments, Texas Solicitor General Judd Stone argued that as time passes, it is harder for the state to defend its case because the evidence degrades and the witnesses age.

The justices did not clearly tip their hands in this case, wrote SCOTUSblog, an online site that covers the Supreme Court. The justices asked varied questions about the deadline imposed by the lower court on the timing of Reed’s lawsuit. Some seemed to understand it, while others were skeptical.

Reed’s execution had been set for November 2019 but was stayed by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals and sent back to a lower court for a review of new claims.

The “primary responsibility for protecting civilian populations continues to be vested in the governments of states.””

Archbishop Caccia reiterated, noting that such a convention “focuses squarely on codifying existing customary law and promoting international cooperation.”

He drew particular attention to the issue of human trafficking.

Endorsement and the subsequent human trafficking are one of the darkest and most revolting realities in the world today, he said. “Millions of men, women and children are enslaved, sold and trafficked as part of a systemic attack on civilians.”

“Crimes against humanity affect us all,” Archbishop Caccia continued, stressing the need for stronger international cooperation to prevent these attacks.

The “primary responsibility for protecting civilian populations from such crimes lies with member states,” the archbishop said. “However, some domestic legal systems lack either laws to prosecute such crimes or the capacity to investigate them.”

In addition, crimes against humanity frequently have effects beyond the borders in which they occur since they may destabilize peace and security.”

Archbishop Caccia added that “a global convention on crimes against humanity” would help to fulfill this goal. He said that the Holy See’s delegation to the United Nations “would play an active role in supporting the work of the international community and the redress of such crimes.”
American Catholics Can Help End the Violence and Abuse of Human Trafficking

Sadly, human trafficking continues to thrive in the poorest parts of the world. That is because in impoverished communities, young people who are hungry, are isolated and fear for their future become easy prey for criminals who deceptively promise them a path to a better life.

Once a child is drawn into these lies, the trap is sprung and all pretense is dropped. At that point, the child becomes little more than a captive commodity to be sold on the streets for the pleasure of sexual predators. Sometimes, they are even sent thousands of miles away, making it almost impossible for them to reunite with their families.

"It's a heartbreaking situation and we, the Catholic Church need to address. Fortunately, there are missions we can support that have taken on that mission of mercy. One of the ministries involved in that work is the Laura Vicuna Foundation in the Philippines," said James Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach, one of the leading Catholic charities working to end poverty in the developing world. "The wonderful sister who leads their mission has developed an incredible outreach to protect and nurture young people who might be susceptible to the human trafficker's lies."

In addition to offering abused girls a safe home, educational opportunities and counseling services at the Foundation's center, Sister Marivic also sends out mobile Child Protection Clinics to reach young people in the community with a program that offers them love, support and hope. Cavnar continued, "The mobile clinic and Sr. Marivic's team ofoving support staff take a very proactive approach. They aren't waiting for young people to come to them. They're bringing light into the darkness and helping children who may not otherwise have heard the gospel of hope understand their potential in the eyes of God. Their slogan for the program is 'building a culture of protection for children' and they are doing an incredible job."

Because the Laura Vicuna Foundation operates on a meager budget, Cavnar is doing what he can to empower their ministries through Cross Catholic Outreach, and he says many American Catholics have stepped forward to support the work as well. "I have been very encouraged to see so many American Catholics involved in this work of mercy — this effort to end the influence human traffickers have on vulnerable children," said. "They understand the terrible threat these sexual predators represent, and they want to do everything they can to protect the boys and girls at risk."

For the dedicated religious sisters running the Foundation, this help couldn't be coming at a better time, according to Cavnar. Economic downturns increase the suffering of the poor and can push desperate parents and children to consider extreme measures.

"The Church must act now. We need to rise up and show these struggling families and children that there is hope — that there is a better way," Cavnar said. "If we don't, more innocent boys and girls will become the prey of these insidious human traffickers, and some will be lost forever to that depraved world of sin."

Readers interested in supporting Cross Catholic Outreach's many relief programs to help the poor can contribute through the ministry brochure inserted in this issue or send tax-deductible gifts to Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC02385, PO Box 9716, Washington, DC 20099-7168. The ministry has a special need for partners willing to make gifts on a monthly basis. Use the inserted brochure to become a Mission Partner or write "Monthly Mission Partner" on mailed checks to be contacted about setting up these arrangements.

Unique Christmas Catalog Created To Bless Donors — and the World’s Poor

If you are like most people, your mailbox has been choked with Christmas catalogs this year. In fact, their arrival has almost become a sign of the season, like the appearance of house lights and department store decorations.

This Advent and Christmas season, Cross Catholic Outreach intends to offer a catalog too — but theirs is a very different offering with a very different purpose. It has been designed to bless both givers and receivers by using the holiday gift-giving tradition to help the world's poorest families.

Rather than offer gimmicks, gadgets, neck ties and jewelry, the Cross Catholic Outreach Christmas Catalog is giving Catholics with a concern for the poor an opportunity to share the blessings in their lives with needy families by sponsoring practical and urgently needed items like medicines, milk powder, seeds for farming, access to safe water or materials for roof repairs. Of course, it also offers blessings for children, including toys and sports equipment, so individuals can choose to sponsor both practical items suitable for families and gifts to bring children joy.

"Like most Christmas catalogs, ours offers lots of items so donors can choose to give something very specific. That said, they can also make a general gift to address the poor's greatest needs," explained James Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach, the Catholic relief and development ministry offering this program. "When donors choose to give to greatest need, they provide us and the Catholic missions we serve with the freedom to address any urgent need. The priests and religious sisters we support really appreciate that flexibility. It's the best way to empower their work among the poor."

This unique Christmas catalog is easy to access. Readers will find a link for it at the ministry’s website (CrossCatholic.org) or they can reach it by directly entering the web address: CrossCatholic.org/Christmas.

"Our hope is that everyone will be blessed by the experience," Cavnar said. "It's a wonderful way for us to celebrate the birth of our merciful Lord!"
By Addressing Poverty in Developing Countries, Catholics Reduce Risks Posed by Human Trafficking

While serving the poor in developing countries, the Catholic Church often encounters problems so horrific they are hard to discuss. Human trafficking is one of those issues. It is almost impossible for us to comprehend how an innocent boy or girl could be used by an evil person or criminal group to satisfy another’s sinful lusts.

Still, as hard as it is to accept, human trafficking is real, and since that is the case, the Church and faith-filled Catholics should be doing everything they can to end its terrible spread and to protect its vulnerable victims.

“...extreme poverty is often the reason those horrible practices exist and spread.”
James Cavnar, Cross Catholic Outreach

One of the Catholic ministries involved in that important work is Cross Catholic Outreach. Founded more than 20 years ago to support Church-based missions around the globe, Cross Catholic Outreach has made it a point to mobilize concerned Catholics in the U.S. to help end human trafficking and the threat it poses to young people, particularly children living in the world’s poorest communities. To achieve that goal, it begins with a focus on poverty relief.

“When you dig deeply into the root causes of human trafficking or prostitution in countries like Haiti, Guatemala or the Philippines, you discover that extreme poverty is often the reason those horrible practices exist and spread. Young girls and boys are hungry, vulnerable and hopeless, so when unscrupulous people approach them with promises of a better life, they can easily be led astray,” explained James Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach. “That is one of the reasons our ministry supports feeding centers, educational programs and missions that restore hope to young people. When children understand God loves them and has a plan for their lives, the human traffickers lose their power to lure them in, control them and corrupt them.”

The Church, Cavnar said, should be light in the darkness and work toward preventive solutions.

“The police and government agencies have a role too — to take on the gangs and rescue children from dangerous situations — and they are properly trained and equipped to achieve those objectives. We pray for their safety and success, but as the Church, our focus should be on keeping children from ever entering that degrading world of sin. That is our role, and American Catholics can have a big impact by supporting that mission,” Cavnar said. “For example, we and our donors do what we can to empower the Laura Vicuna Foundation in the Philippines. It offers hope to desperate and searching young people by reducing poverty in their communities and by offering educational and spiritual guidance to children.” (See related story on the opposite page.)

As Cavnar sees it, these ministries can depend on the Church, the greater Catholic community and each other. It doesn’t mean their lives become easy or that they don’t still face trials, but now they have a place to take their troubles and people to speak with who will help them overcome their challenges. These are the kinds of outreachs American Catholics should support if they want to end the influence of human traffickers.

How To Help
To fund Cross Catholic Outreach’s effort to help the poor worldwide, use the postage-paid brochure inserted in this newspaper, or mail your gift to Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC02580, PO Box 97168, Washington, DC 20090-7168. The brochure also includes instructions on becoming a Mission Partner and making a regular monthly donation to this cause.

If you identify an aid project, 100% of the donation will be remitted to it. For that specific project, however, if more is raised for the project than is needed, funds will be reallocated to other urgent needs in the ministry.
Hurricane Ian has created uncertainties, hardships for Florida families

October 14, 2022

Tom Tracy
Catholic News Service

FORT MYERS, Fla. — Normally an art teacher at a nearby community center, Elizabeth Reyes was surround-
ed around by piles of her own art collection and family memora-
abilia, including her own wedding cake topper.

The clothing, the personal items, the wall art and musi-
cial instruments were stacked and hung out to dry outside a
noticeably moldy house and with a nearby statue of St.
Francis of Assisi that somehow still stood in the front yard
following Hurricane Ian’s march across the area.

The house is in suburban Fort Myers in Lee County, near what is now considered the epicenter of
Hurricane Ian.

The Florida county, which also includes Fort Myers Beach, Pine Island and Sanibel, suffered the most fatalities
related to Hurricane Ian, which made landfall on the
state’s west coast as a Category 4 storm Sept. 28.

Lee County will need a lot of rebuilding and flood-relat-
ed cleanup and restoration for the foreseeable future.

“I was in such a rush to leave,” Reyes said Oct. 5, the
day President Joe Biden and Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis
held a joint news conference and damage assessment tour
starting in Fort Myers.

Ian’s heavy rains brought 3 inches of water inside a
small home she shares with Luis Reyes, a full-time em-
ployee of the Catholic Charities of Venice of Venice.

Reyes finds herself leaning between worries: What will
become of her pets? What to do about her rotting home and its
contents? What about all the family pictures, and all the
felled trees and the garden? How long will she and Luis
need to rent their new Airbnb apartment in Naples, a 40-
minute drive south?

And not least of all: What about the extra gasoline
expense that will incur at a time when fuel supplies
remain spotty in parts of Lee County?

“Our next steps are to get everything out of the house,
redo the walls, floors, vanities, dressers and clean up the
outside so it’s not dangerous to my grandson, who is autis-
tic and puts everything in his mouth,” she said, reaching
for a wall of cardboard boxes filled with toys.

“What helps is that we have the backing of the dio-
cese and we have the backing of the community and partnering with other groups,”
Reyes said, “What helps is that we have the backing of the dio-
cese.”

Meanwhile, Reyes said she isn’t able to work and earn
her teaching fee while area schools and normal life are all
on hold. She works with disadvantaged youth as an art
instructor at the Quality Life Center in Fort Myers.

Near the Reyes home, at the Elizabeth Key Galena
Catholic Charities Center in Fort Myers, the CEO of
Catholic Charities/Diocese of Venice, Eddie Gloria, was
loading roofing tarps onto the back of his personal vehicle
and getting ready to check on a few local families in crisis.

In addition to managing the flow of donated resources
at some 13 local Catholic Charities distribution sites, the
gency is coordinating a fast-moving flow of incoming
materials and resources, while also working with agency
staff and church employees who themselves are living the emer-
gency, according to Gloria.

At the end of the first week of October, the agency was
moving from the assessment stage to a more operational
stage as it came into focus where the most needs.

When Ian plowed into south-west Florida, the top gust record-
ed by a National Weather Service station was 155 mph at the Punta
Gorda airport north of Fort Myers.

Although Tampa and Sarasota were expected to suffer the great-
est impact from Ian, the storm came ashore further south and
dealt its most powerful blow near Port Charlotte, north of Fort Myers.

Gloria said the easiest way to understand where the damage is
greatest is in terms of the central corridor of Fort Myers and Lee
County along with dispersed pockets of rural communities
throughout the greater 16-county
diocese. These areas suffered
flooding as river waters spilled
over into neighboring housing.

“We found that we could not get (emergency) products right
after the storm as there was a lot
of chaos and logistical problems, but finally the state
organized itself and supplies are arriving,” Gloria said.

The agency’s disaster response specialists are moving
ready-to-eat meals, water, tarps, baby items and nonperish-
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The agency’s disaster response specialists are moving
read
In Ukraine, Archbishop Lori sees resilience, helps distribute Knights’ aid

Christopher Gunty
Catholic News Service

BALTIMORE — Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore joined a small group of leaders from the Knights of Columbus on a four-day trip to Poland and Ukraine to help distribute aid from the fraternal organization to orphanages and other service centers assisting refugees from the war in Ukraine.

Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly established the Ukraine Solidarity Fund in February to assist with food, shelter, clothing and other supplies.

During this trip, the Knights brought care packages for internally displaced persons and also provided monetary support for the Ukrainian Catholic Church, the Latin-rite Church in Ukraine and for the orphanage run by the Archdiocese of Czestochowa, Poland.

In a video interview Oct. 2 from Lviv, Ukraine, where he had completed a day of gatherings with Archbishop Mieczyslaw Mokrzycki, the city’s Latin-rite bishop and president of the country’s Latin-rite bishops’ conference, among others, Archbishop Lori said he sees a lot of resilience in the Ukrainian people.

“The Ukrainians are a very sturdy people, a courageous people. What I’m seeing is beautiful hope,” he told the Catholic Review, magazine of the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

As an illustration, he noted that the choir at Sunday Mass at St. John Paul II Parish in Lviv was made up of children who are refugees “and they sang like angels.” Among them were one who played piano and two who played violin.

“These are all children whose homes, as far as I know, were broken up, some of them did not have any kind of stability before the war,” he said.

“But once the war broke out, their situation just get worse,” he said. “Many of them have no one in the world to look after them; their families have been dispersed or whatever. And so, Caritas (the Catholic charity) of Krakow has taken them in.”

“I’ve been uniformly impressed by what I’ve seen the Knights doing here, both in Poland and in Ukraine,” Archbishop Lori added.

Knights councils were first established in Poland in 2006 and in Ukraine in 2012. There are now more than 7,000 Knights in 164 councils in Poland, and nearly 2,000 Knights in 44 councils in Ukraine.

Archbishop Lori said the spirit of generosity is the same in both places.

“In fact, there’s a remarkable bond of cooperation between the Knights in Poland and the Knights in Ukraine,” he said, noting that it is good to see this close communication and working together as they respond to needs and help each other grow in their respective countries.

“The big difference, of course, is that in Ukraine you’re in the country where the war is taking place, and even though Lviv has not been shelled for months, nonetheless, you’re in the country where the war is actually going on,” he said.

“I would say the other difference is that the people I met this morning were, in a very direct way, victims of the war,” he continued, “because they lived in cities that have been heavily damaged by the hostilities by the shelling and many of them have come here to Lviv really without any other place to go.”

Lviv has been less affected than other sites in Ukraine, he said, but it is not out of harm’s way.

“There was shelling going on earlier in the war, and they’re not immune from shelling now and, of course, the aggressors will not stop at military targets,” the archbishop said of the Russians who invaded Ukraine in February.

“They’re perfectly willing to do civilian targets as well, and so while in many ways it looks like life is returned to normal, there are signs it’s not normal.”

Among those signs, he cited tighter border security between Poland and Ukraine, checkpoints and fortifications for buildings that house precious artifacts.

Archbishop Lori said the Ukraine Solidarity Fund and the efforts in Poland and Ukraine to assist those affected by the war represent “an unbroken chain of charity.”

Knights, especially in the United States and Canada, raised a significant amount of money in Poland and Ukraine have added to the funds and also are the points of distribution for the financial assistance.

As of Oct. 3, the Ukraine Solidarity Fund had raised more than $19 million from more than 56,000 donors, including a $1.5 million pledge from the Knights’ Supreme Council.

According to Steven Curtis, vice president of corporate communications for the Knights, 100% of donations are used to assist those directly affected by the conflict in Ukraine.

According to Szymon Czyszek, director of Szymon Czyszek, director of Szymon Czyszek, director of Szymon Czyszek, director of Szymon Czyszek, director of Szymon Czyszek, director of

Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori greets a child Oct. 1, 2022, in Czestochowa, Poland, at an orphanage for Ukrainian refugees where children received warm coats from the Knights of Columbus Coats for Kids campaign. Archbishop Lori was in the country to help distribute aid from the Knights of Columbus to refugees of the war in Ukraine.

Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori greets a child Oct. 1, 2022, in Czestochowa, Poland, at an orphanage for Ukrainian refugees where children received warm coats from the Knights of Columbus Coats for Kids campaign. Archbishop Lori was in the country to help distribute aid from the Knights of Columbus to refugees of the war in Ukraine.

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Saturday, November 5, 12:00 PM Noon at Thomas More University

CNS photo
Prayed for respect for life at all stages of development, especially the unborn; the sanctity of marriage and family. "We must always testify to the truth no matter the cost. To do anything less will make us unworthy of our calling as Catholics, as Christians." "Never be afraid to tell the truth, to help admonish sinners not out of judgment but out of love," he added.

Carollo is executive director of the New Jersey-based World Apostolate of Fatima USA, which was founded in 1946 as the Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima.

He was one of several people who led prayers and spoke at the rally. Others included Auxiliary Bishop Joseph L. Coffey of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services; Sister Deirdre Byrne, superior for her community; the Sisters of the Little Workers of the Sacred Heart in Washington; and Msgr. Charles Pope, pastor of Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian Catholic Church in Washington.

Rally participants gathered at St. Peter’s on Capitol Hill Catholic Church for exposition of the Blessed Sacrament followed by a eucharistic procession to the rally site at the eastern edge of the National Mall facing the U.S. Capitol. As they walked they prayed the joyful and sorrowful mysteries of the rosary.

At the rally site, Father Stephen Imbarrato, as the emcee, introduced the afternoon's speakers after saying a prayer for the nation.

Father Imbarrato, a nationally known pro-life activist, is a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, New Mexico, who now lives in Florida.

Before his remarks, Carollo led the crowd in a prayer to St. Joseph “as father, protector and consoler.”

"As head of Holy Family bless the world and all its inhabitants," he prayed. "Help us in restoring marriage and family to the right order of God. With your spiritual carpenter skills, rebuild our church, guide those who have strayed back to the eucharistic Lord (and) strengthen the church.

"The power of this rosary coast to coast is really impossible to fully know," Carollo told the crowd, referring to the wider part of the event involving people across the country.

In Washington and around the U.S., rosaries were being prayed for respect for life at all stages of development, especially the unborn; the sanctity of marriage and families “based upon God’s creation of man and woman”; upholding constitutionally protected religious freedom; “the return of our nation to God and holiness”; and other intentions.

At 4 p.m. East Coast time, with Bishop Coffey leading them, all participants prayed the glorious mysteries of the rosary simultaneously.

Carollo recalled the beginnings of Our Lady’s Blue Army, saying that “our founders got together and brought an army (of people) to its knees in front of the Blessed Mother to promote Our Lady of Fatima.”

They were charged with spreading her message that the faithful pray the rosary daily to bring peace to the world, pray for the conversion of Russia, do penance and have a devotion to her Immaculate Heart.

“(This) army has as its main weapon the rosary contrary to all these crazy assertions that the rosary is part of the right-wing thing culture and part of a hateful attack on people who do not agree," Carollo said, noting that such assertions were put forward by an East Coast secular publication recently.

“What a sad thing,” he commented.

He was referring to an Aug. 14 article in The Atlantic magazine by Daniel Panneton that ran under the headline: "How the Rosary Became an Extremist Symbol." "The AR-15 is a sacred object among Christian nationalists. Now ‘radical-traditional’ Catholics are bringing a sacrament of theirs own to the movement," the article began.

After an outcry by critics over the description of the rosary as “an extremist symbol,” the magazine’s editors changed the headline to: "How Extremist Gun Culture Is Trying to Co-Opt the Rosary?" "Why are sacramental beads suddenly showing up next to AR-15s online?" said the new lead-in to the article.

“Calling out sin and praying for the conversion of people is not an act of hatred toward sinners, but it is an act of compassion and love,” Carollo said. “That’s why we do it. It is an act of love — praying for conversion is the duty of every believer.”

The National Rosary Rally was sponsored by the Holy League, a Catholic men’s movement, and concluded the organization’s 54-day “Novena for Our Nation.” It also came on the last day of the 10th International Week of Prayer & Fasting.
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 email: skoplyay@covdio.org, (859) 392-1500. EOE

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.nkunewmanclub.org) offer an evangelizing presence along with spiritual support and formation opportunities. Responsibilities include providing participating students; proactively engaging prospective participants, especially freshman; presenting an timely and effective communications with students and parents, including regularly updating the website, Facebook page, and database; regularly interfacing with Diocesan, local Parish, and University staff; and overseeing maintenance and upkeep of the Newman House. Requirements include a minimum of a Bachelor’s degree, preferably in Theology or Pastoral Ministry, and previous experience in young adult ministry and management. Interested individuals may send a cover letter and resume, including compensation history and references with contact e-mail addresses, to Stephen Koplyay, SPHR, by email to skoplyay@covdio.org or by fax to (859) 392-1589.

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 enhance the vision and meet particular needs of the community; oversees sacramental, liturgical life of parish; organizes community outreach programs; and engages parishioners in Stewardship initiatives.

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

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

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Pope prays for unity of church as he celebrates anniversary of Vatican II

Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — The Second Vatican Council was the universal Catholic Church’s response to God’s love and to Jesus’ command to feed his sheep, Pope Francis said, celebrating the 60th anniversary of the council’s opening.

The council reminded the church of what is “essential,” the pope said: “a church madly in love with its Lord and with all the men and women whom he loves,” one that “is rich in Jesus and poor in assets,” a church that “is free and forgiving.”

Pope Francis presided over the Mass Oct. 11 in St. Peter’s Basilica, where the council sessions were held in four sessions from 1962 to 1964. The date is also the feast of St. John XXIII, who convoked and opened the council; the four sessions from 1962 to 1964. The date is also the feast of St. John XXIII, who convoked and opened the council; the four sessions from 1962 to 1964. The date is also the feast of St. John XXIII.

In his homily, the pope said the council was the church’s response to that question and marked a renewed effort to feed God’s sheep, not just those who are Catholic, but all people. The debates that followed the council and continue today are a distortion from the church’s mission, Pope Francis said.

“We are always tempted to start from ourselves rather than from God, to put our own agendas before the Gospel, to let ourselves be caught up in the winds of worldliness in order to chase after the fashions of the moment or to turn our back the time that providence has granted us,” he said. Catholics must be careful, he said, because “both the ‘progressivism’ that lines up behind the world and the ‘traditionalism’ that longs for a bygone world are not evidence of love, but of infidelity” forms of “selfishness that puts our own tastes and plans above the love that pleases God, the simple, humble and faithful love that Jesus asked of Peter.”

“A church in love with Jesus has no time for quarrels, gossip and disputes,” the pope said. “May God free us from being critical and intolerant, harsh and angry. This is not a matter of style but of love.”

“Jesus, the good shepherd,” wants his flock to be united under the guidance of the pastors he has given them, “the pope said, but the devil loves to sow division; “let us not give in to his enticements or to the temptation of polarization.”

“How often, in the wake of the council, did Christians prefer to choose sides in the church, not realizing that they were breaking their mother’s heart,” the heart of their mother, the church, Pope Francis said.

How often, he asked, did they prefer “to be on the ‘right’ or ‘left,’ rather than with Jesus?” To present themselves as “guardians of the truth” or “pioneers of innovation” rather than seeing themselves as humble and grateful children of Holy Mother Church?

The council, he said, taught the church to see the world around it and to share God’s love with all, knowing that “if it is fitting to show a particular concern, it should be for those whom God loves most: the poor and the outcast.”

With Orthodox, Anglican and Protestant representatives present, as they were at the council, Pope Francis also prayed that “the yearning for unity” would grow within the church, not among the people.

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For all employees and volunteers of the Diocese of Covington who in any way provide special services for children.

**Step 1:** Contact parish/school or institution leader to review the Policies and Procedures and fill out the Application and Acceptance Forms.

**Step 2:** Go to www.virtus.org and click on “Register.” Follow the prompts to create an account and to request a background check. Selection.com is a secure site; the background check is posted on your account and you receive a copy if you request it during the registration process.

You will sign up for a VIRTUS training class during the registration.

**Step 3:** Your account becomes active when your background check, VIRTUS session, and Acceptance Form are posted on your account. You will receive 12 bulletins per year. You will receive e-mail notices at systempub@pub.virtus.org unless your computer program blocks them.

Bulletins:
- October bulletin: posted Sunday, Oct. 2; due Tuesday, Nov. 1
- Training bulletins: posted Tuesday, Oct. 20, 6:30 p.m., Holy Trinity School, Mke Hall, Bellevue
- Tuesday, Oct. 25, 6:30 p.m., Diocesan Curia, Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, Covington
- Wednesday, Oct. 19, 6:30 p.m., Holy Trinity School, Mke Hall, Bellevue
- Thursday, Oct. 27, 6:30 p.m., St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Mcle Hall, F. Thomas

Note: Your Training Tab is missing or you cannot access your account, contact your parish, school or institution.

For other difficulties, contact Marylu Steffen at (859) 392-3500 or msteffen@covdio.org.

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People holding lighted candles leave St. Peter’s Basilica after Pope Francis celebrated Mass Oct. 11, 2022, to mark the 60th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council.

Selections from the council’s four constitutions also were read. Pope Francis has asked Catholics to prepare for the Holy Year 2025 by re-reading and studying the documents: Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (“Sacrosanctum Concilium”); Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (“Lumen Gentium”); Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation (“Dei Verbum”); and Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (“Gaudium et Spes”).

Pope prays for unity
(Continued from page 23)

munion among all those who believe in Christ.”

Thanking God for the gift of the council, the pope asked the Lord to “save us from the forms of polarization that are the devil’s handiwork. And we, your church, with Peter and like Peter, now say to you: ‘Lord, you know everything; you know that we love you.’”

Pope Francis, who was ordained to the priesthood in 1969, is the first pope ordained after the Second Vatican Council. His immediate predecessor, now-retired Pope Benedict XVI, attended all four sessions of the council as a theological adviser—a “peritus”—to the archbishop of Cologne, Germany. St. John Paul II participated in all four sessions as a full member of the body, first as auxiliary bishop of Krakow, Poland, and then as archbishop of the city.

Among the more than 400 priests concelebrating the Mass, the Vatican liturgical office said there were five who were present at Vatican II.

According to the websites GCatholic.org and catholic-hierarchy.org, there are six bishops alive in the world today who participated in at least one session of the Second Vatican Council. Among them is Nigerian Cardinal Francis Arinze, an 89-year-old former Vatican official who was ordained a bishop in 1965 and attended the council’s last session; he was one of the concelebrants at the anniversary Mass.

Before the Mass, passages were read from the speech St. John XXIII gave at the council’s opening. Known by its opening words in Latin, “Gaudebant Mater Ecclesia,” the speech begins: “Mother Church rejoices.”

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VATICAN CITY — Complaints without any desire to do anything about the situation are poison, Pope Francis said.

Complaining can be “a poison to the soul, a poison to life” and “almost a sin” when it prevents people from building and strengthening “the desire to move forward,” he said during his weekly general audience in St. Peter’s Square Oct. 12.

The pope continued his series of talks about discernment by reflecting on the role of desire in discovering what one truly wants or needs in his or her life.

Desire, he said, “is the compass to understand where I am and where I am going,” and it can indicate whether a person has just given up and is “standing still.”

It is important to be able to recognize sincere desire, which is not a momentary craving, but is something that “knows how to touch deeply the chords of our being, which is why it is not extinguished in the face of difficulties or setbacks,” he said.

“It is like when we are thirsty: if we do not find something to drink, we do not give up; on the contrary, the yearning increasingly occupies our thoughts and actions, until we become willing to make any sacrifice in order to quench it,” he added. “Desire makes you strong, it makes you courageous, it makes you keep going forward, because you want to arrive” at that goal.

A sincere desire is what helps people embark on “a successful, coherent and lasting project,” he said.

Modifying a popular saying, Pope Francis said the road to hell is paved with good intentions and no action.

“The era in which we live seems to promote the maximum freedom of choice, but at the same time it atrophies desire,” the pope said.

“We are bombarded by a thousand proposals, projects, possibilities, which risk distracting us and not allowing us to calmly evaluate what we really want,” he said. For example, people who stare at their telephone, always “turned outward, toward the other,” always living in the moment and never stopping to think about what they yearn for: “Desire can not grow in this way.”

But, the pope said, “by engaging in dialogue with the Lord, we learn to understand what we truly want from life.”

That is why Jesus engages with the paralytic by the pool, who has been waiting for years for healing, but is not proactive and only grumbles, the pope said.

“Beware, because complaints are a poison,” he said, and they stop “the desire to go forward” from growing.

People must pray and get in touch with their deepest desire to know what they want from their lives, the pope said. Ask God to “help us know our deepest desire, that God himself has placed in our heart,” he said, and “perhaps the Lord will give us the strength to make it come true.”

“Because he, too, has a great desire for us: to make us share in his fullness of life,” Pope Francis said.

Pope Francis blesses a pregnant woman during his general audience in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican Oct. 12, 2022.
Immigration advocates say DACA ruling should push Congress to act

Carol Zimmerman

Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Catholic immigration advocates are emphasizing that the Oct. 5 ruling by a federal appeals court — finding the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program unlawful — sends another signal that permanent legislative solutions are needed to protect young immigrants from deportation and put them on a path to U.S. citizenship.

A three-judge panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans affirmed a lower court’s ruling last year that said the Obama administration did not have the legal authority in 2012 to create DACA in the first place. This appeals court decision, similar to the ruling last summer from a federal judge in Texas, prevents the Biden administration from enrolling new participants in the program.

The new court decision continues to leave DACA in limbo. It did not say the program had to completely shut down or stop processing renewal applications, but it leaves in place last year’s order from U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen that said DACA could continue only for current recipients with no new participants.

The 5th Circuit also returned the case to the lower court asking the judge to review new DACA regulations the Biden administration announced in August and set to go into effect Oct. 31. “DACA, like asylum, the border — immigration policy writ large — doesn’t belong in the courts,” Dylan Corbett, executive director of Hope Border Institute, tweeted after the ruling was announced.

The judge ruled in favor of the White House need to pass legislation that honors our values, the rights and dignity of those who migrate, and the contributions of those who make America home.”

The states that joined Texas in the lawsuit — Alabama, Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nebraska, South Carolina and West Virginia — also said the program has been a financial strain.

DACA has enabled about 700,000 qualifying young people, described as Dreamers to work, go to college, get health insurance, a driver’s license and not face deportation. These young adults were brought to the U.S. as children by their parents without legal documentation.

Last summer, Washington Auxiliary Bishop Mario R. Dorsonville, chairman of the Committee on Migration of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said the bishops were disappointed with judge’s ruling, but they also have known DACA “was never meant to be a permanent solution for Dreamers.” He also said at the time that this issue calls for Congress to do something.

In an Oct. 6 statement, Bishop Dorsonville had a similar reaction to the appeals court ruling, saying: “We implore Congress to pass permanent protections for Dreamers, including a pathway to citizenship.”

Similarly, Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc., or CLINIC, tweeted Oct. 5 that the court’s decision “only exacerbates the uncertainty felt by current and future DACA recipients. We must enact permanent legislative solutions so DACA recipients can live and work in the U.S. — free from fear or threat of deportation!”

In a statement the next day, CLINIC executive director Anna Gallagher said the court’s decision was wrong and “only exacerbates the uncertainty felt by current and potential DACA recipients.”

“DACA recipients are our neighbors, friends, family members and co-workers. They are vital members of our communities,” she said.

“Most importantly, as Catholics, we know they are our brothers and sisters. It is imperative that Congress enact permanent legislative solutions” to enable them to continue to live and work in the United States, she added.

Patricia McGuire, president of Trinity Washington University — where DACA students make up 10% of the enrollment — called the ruling “just terrible.”

In an Oct. 5 tweet, she said: “What is wrong with this country that it cannot allow such a simple act to exist without a devastating legal challenge? DACA recipients are hard work- ing, tax-paying, upstanding members of our communities, as college students they are brilliant and ambitious. ”

And Catholic Immigrant Servicess of New York City retweeted messages from a local immigration group urging current DACA recipients to renew their status as soon as possible and urging President Joe Biden and Congress to take action on this issue now.

Catholic immigration advocates expressed similar frustration with last year’s decision by the lower court where the judge ruled in favor of Texas and eight other states that filed suit in 2018 against DACA.

The states argued that President Barack Obama — who created the program by executive order — did not have the authority to do so because he bypassed Congress.

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In an Oct. 6 statement, Bishop Dorsonville had a similar reaction to the appeals court ruling, saying: “We implore Congress, Republicans and Democrats alike, to provide a permanent solution for all Dreamers out of respect for their God-given dignity.”

Until we have that solution, each new challenge to the DACA program creates further uncertainty and anguish for hundreds of thousands of people and their families,” he added.

Dreamers “are integral members of our communities,” he continued. “For many, the United States is the only home they know. But despite their daily contributions to the welfare of our nation, Dreamers are not afforded the same liberties as their native-born neighbors. This is a grave injustice unbelittling a moral society, and it must be remedied without further delay.”

Bishop Dorsonville noted that multiple bills are currently pending before the U.S. Congress that would provide permanent relief to Dreamers, including the American Dream and Promise Act and the Dream Act, both of which have been endorsed by the USCCB.

In response to this latest ruling, the Justice Department said it would “vigorously defend the lawfulness of DACA as this case proceeds,” and Biden said in a statement Oct. 5 that he was disappointed with it.

“The court’s stay provides a temporary reprieve for DACA recipients, but one thing remains clear: The lives of Dreamers remain in limbo,” he said, adding: “It is long past time for Congress to pass permanent protections for Dreamers, including a pathway to citizenship.”
National/World

Church leaders: Moving British Embassy to Jerusalem 'counterproductive'

JERUSALEM — Christian patriarchs and heads of churches in Jerusalem noted "with grave concern" British Prime Minister Liz Truss' call for her government to review moving the British Embassy to Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. In a statement Oct. 17, the church leaders called the embassy review a "farther impediment to advancing the already moribund peace process. Rather than commit valuable governmental resources to such a counter-productive endeavor, we encourage the British prime minister and government to instead redouble their diplomatic efforts toward facilitating the restart of negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority," they said. Both Israelis and Palestinians claim Jerusalem as their capital. The request for review for the embassy move was made by the Conservative Friends of Israel, said the bishops. The British government and most other countries have maintained their embassies in Tel Aviv, waiting for a final agreement to be reached on the "Corpus separatum," granting Jerusalem special status as a city holy to Christians, Muslims and Jews. This special status aims to safeguard the freedom of religion, respect and access to Jerusalem's holy places and its sacred character as a holy city.

Ghana — The Archdiocese of Accra is appealing for support for Ghanaians affected by floods in the southern part of the country after heavy rains caused spillage from the Weija dam. Some people took shelter in St. Peter Catholic Church, but water even got into the building. The dam, located in the Weija-Gbawe Municipality in the Greater Accra Region, serves as the source of potable water for more than half of the 5.4 million population of the national capital. After the rains in early October cause the spillage, on Oct. 5 Archbishop John Bonaventure Kwofie appealed to societies and groups in the church to come to the aid of the people with food and clothing. People "need our help," the archbishop said. On Oct. 7, Father Mensah, a priest with the Archdiocese of Accra, said: "The water level remains high even though we were told that the gates of the dam have been closed. Some of our faithful and non-Catholics are lodging in the main church. Others have moved out of the community for personal safety."

Missions in southern Nigeria report "preferred and welcomed" the relocation of the British Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. "This is an act of normalization," the bishops said. "We are confident that this act will move us closer to peace in the region, because all our neighbors have been against this normalization policy of some countries," the bishops said. "We believe this move was made to gain time for the peace process."

Philippine bishops say it’s too early to judge country’s new president

MANILA, Philippines — A Catholic bishop in the Philippines says it’s too early to judge the performance of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., who took office in June after a landslide electoral victory over a candidate widely backed by many priests and other church leaders. "The change of leadership in government will set new directions for the country, and it’s too soon to judge the way it is behaving itself," said Bishop Pablo Virgilio David of Kalookan, president of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines. "Yet Bishop David, citing the example of the current president’s father, Ferdinand Marcos Sr., who was overthrown in a 1986 popular uprising, said the church will not tolerate abuse of power. "These new leaders now in power know very well that the church, as an institution, was never comfortable with them. The president’s late father knew very well that the church, as an institution, took a stand against the dictatorship. We didn’t mince words about referring to his father’s government as dictatorial and illegitimate," the bishops said. "The Catholic Bishops’ Conference made a very categorical stand against that dictatorship. And they never forget that," Bishop David told Catholic News Service. Nonetheless, Bishop David says it’s too early to judge his own actions, nor those of his father. "This president won an election following the constitution that unseated his father. And he’s aware of that. We’re now a democratic country with democratic institutions in place. He has to respect that. He has to respect the laws," Bishop David said.

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RetireMed CEO Marisa O’Neill with her family, parishioners at All Saints in Montgomery.
The artwork of Sarah Patchell, a freshman at St. Patrick School, Maysville, was chosen for Bishop John Iffert's Thanksgiving thank you cards. The young artist presented her drawing to Bishop Iffert, Oct. 6, at the Curia. Ms. Patchell said that she loves art and is particularly drawn to the artistic style of realism.

“I just like how real it looks. When you can’t tell if that’s just a picture from a camera or if it’s a piece of art someone did with their own hands, I love that. I want to do that,” she said.

The artwork that will be on the front of the thank you card features a pencil drawing of Jesus. Ms. Patchell said that she spent several hours working on the drawing, which began in prayer.

“I said a prayer right before I drew it because I wanted God to help me make it perfect for me. I don’t want to mess up on a drawing on somebody who is perfect,” she said.

On the back of the original drawing Ms. Patchell wrote her prayer:

“Jesus, my Savior, my creator, my Lord and my light. Thank you for this day, for giving me another chance to live life. I don’t deserve this. Thank you for all these blessings; I’ve done nothing to deserve them. I love you, and thanks again, Lord.”

Bishop Iffert encouraged her saying “the best pattern in life is to pray, to ask God every time we do anything important to us.”

Ms. Patchell isn’t the only artist in the family: Her father is a talented artist and has shared his gift with his daughters, teaching them techniques he has learned. Leah, her sister, had her artwork chosen for Bishop Iffert’s thank you card last year.

Each year, thank you cards are sent to donors of the Diocesan Parish Annual Appeal along with a reply card for prayer requests.