Supporters of seminarian education gathered the evening of Oct. 21 for the 2022 Seminary Ball. Since its resurgence 13 years ago by Bishop Emeritus Roger Foys, the Seminary Ball has become the Diocese of Covington’s biggest fundraising event for seminarian education. The ball is hosted by the diocesan Office for Stewardship and Mission in conjunction with the Seminary Ball Committee.

A record crowd of over 630 attended the ball, which included a reception and drinks, dinner and dancing, with speeches from Bishop John Iffert of the Diocese of Covington, and seminarian Deacon Michael Elmlinger. Father Gregory Bach, assistant director of seminarians, was the master of ceremonies.

“Throughout seminary there’s a lot of peaks, a lot of doubts,” said Deacon Elmlinger. “First you have the peaks. Those are the greatest moments, the moments when you say I absolutely love everything I’m doing. You’re growing in your love of God, you grow in your love of the people of God, we just always grow in that love of the ministry that we’re training to undertake,” he said.

Those are the peaks but with every peak there is a valley, and those valleys can be very low,” Deacon Elmlinger continued. “In those valleys, there were three things that helped all of us to persevere, that helped all of the seminarians get through. First, ultimately and supremely is God. He constantly calls us to grow in that love of him and to go deeper into our relationship with him, and he gives us the grace to persevere,” he said, citing his family and all the people of the Diocese of Covington as the other two inspirations for perseverance. “It’s you who help us to persevere,” he said, “whether it’s your prayers, whether it’s the ways that you support us, whether it’s just sending a card or just taking a few minutes a day just thinking about us.”
Diocese of Covington re-establishes Diocesan School Board

Members of the newly re-established diocesan School Board gathered, Oct. 19, at the Diocese of Covington's Curia, Covington, for its first meeting. According to Kendra McGuire, superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Covington, re-establishing the School Board was one of the first topics she discussed with Bishop John  Iffert when he first came to the diocese a year ago, and he was “fully supportive” of the idea.

Members of the board were chosen by petitioning principals and pastors for recommendations, and the names of the chosen individuals for the board “came through during that process.” Members of the board include not only individuals with backgrounds in education, but also representatives in fields of health, legal, finance and safety. Father Michael Black and Bishop Iffert also serve on the board as advising, non-voting members and representatives for our faith.

The School Board’s primary mission is to “promote a system of Catholic education whose primary purpose is to transmit the Catholic faith.”

“The Diocesan Board of Education shall act as consultant to the Bishop of Covington, the superintendent of Catholic schools and the Director of Catechesis and Evangelization in the conduct of the educational programs of the Catholic schools and parish school of religious programs,” according to the official mission statement.

Members pictured are (front) David Cooley, Pam Dumaine, Theresa Guard, Dr. Tim Kappes, Rachel Noll, Dr. Christy Petrow, (back) Col. Chris Schutte, Angie Smorey, Kendra McGuire, Dr. Michele Ulrich, Dr. Kelley Young, Jim Cahill, Stephanie Schumacher and Father Michael Black. Members not in attendance are Natalie Rugpert, Dave Schlauchter, Mr. John Bisher and Sister Lynn Seniksen, C.D.E.

The School Board’s responsibilities will include formulation and evaluation of diocesan school policies, and to advise on administrative practices or issues pertaining to Catholic education.

On Sunday, Oct. 30, 3 p.m., Musica Sacra Cincinnati returns to begin the 46th year of Cathedral Concerts. Under the baton of musical director, L. Brett Scott, this program will feature Franz Schubert's Mass No. 6 in E flat. The pristine acoustics of the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, along with its inspiring gothic architecture and sacred art, provide lovers of music and the arts an opportunity to hear large-scale sacred choral music in the setting for which it was originally intended. All Cathedral Concerts are open to parishioners of all parishes, not just parishioners of the hosting deanery.

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 Strategic Session. Sessions are open to everyone, not just parishioners of the host deanery. All sessions are from 7-9 p.m.

Nov. 7 Northern Kenton County Deanery  St. Agnes Parish, Ft. Wright
Nov. 9 Southeast Deanery  St. Patrick School, Maysville, gym
Dec. 6 Covington Deanery  Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, Diocesan Curia, Covington

The Diocesan Board of Education shall act as consultant to the Bishop of Covington, the superintendent of Catholic schools and the Director of Catechesis and Evangelization in the conduct of the educational programs of the Catholic schools and parish school of religious programs.
Meet Blessed Carlo Acutis — a witness of Christ for all

Mike Krokos

Catholic News Service

Italian teenager Carlo Acutis was beatified Oct. 10, 2020, in Assisi, Italy. He is the first millennial to be declared “blessed.” His feast is celebrated Oct. 10.

Carlo used his computer programming skills to spread devotion to the Eucharist, which he called his “highway to heaven.” On the website he created, Carlo told people that “the more often we receive the Eucharist, the more we will become like Jesus, so that on this earth we will have a foretaste of heaven.”

Although he grew up in Milan, Carlo requested to be buried in Assisi, because of his love for St. Francis of Assisi.

Carlo’s faith was evident early in life. At age 7, he wrote, “To be always united with Jesus, this is my life program.”

Before his death from leukemia at age 15 in 2006, Carlo was an average teen with an above-average knack for computers. He put that knowledge to use by creating an online database of Eucharistic miracles around the world. (http://www.miracolieucaristici.org)

Carlo’s life centered around his faith. He attended daily Mass, prayed the rosary each day, received the sacrament of reconciliation weekly and prayed before the Blessed Sacrament.

In his apostolic exhortation on young people, “Christus Vivit” (“Christ Lives”), Pope Francis said Carlo was a role model for young people today who are often tempted by the traps of “self-absorption, isolation and empty pleasure.”

“Carlo was well aware that the whole apparatus of communications, advertising and social networking can be used to pull us, to make us addicted to consumerism and buying the latest thing on the market, obsessed with our free time, caught up in negativity,” the pope wrote.

“Yet he knew how to use the new communications technology to transmit the Gospel, to communicate values and beauty,” the pope added (#105).

There was fruit born from Carlo’s devotion. His witness of faith led to a deep conversion in his mom, because, according to the priest promoting his cause for sainthood, he “managed to drag his relatives, his parents to Mass every day. It was not the other way around; it was not his parents bringing the little boy to Mass, but it was he who managed to get himself to Mass and to convince others to receive Communion daily.”

Carlo also was known for defending kids at school who were picked on, especially students with disabilities.

Pope Francis called Blessed Carlo a witness of Christ for younger generations. But Carlo’s words and actions are worth all people emulating.

“The only thing we have to ask God for, in prayer, is the desire to be holy,” Blessed Carlo once said.

As we celebrate his life and continue our journey of faith, together we say: Blessed Carlo Acutis, pray for us.

Mike Krokos is editor of The Criterion, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

### Food for Friends — next stop Mason County

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Covington announces its first mobile food pantry in Mason County Nov. 1, 1–3 p.m.

“Food for Friends” Mason County will be held on the 1st Tuesday of every month to assist low-income residents provide healthy food for themselves and their families.

“Food for Friends” is a program of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Covington, in which we aspire to mirror the love and actions of Jesus Christ,” said Vicky Baseler, institutional advancement manager Catholic Charities.

“Food for Friends” is a monthly mobile food pantry that provide residents from 20 to 40 food items at no cost. These food items, provided by The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), vary from canned goods, rice, pasta, meat and fresh produce, depending on availability. Due to COVID-19, the pantry will begin as a drive-thru pantry so that social distancing guidelines can be met, and guests and volunteers remain safe.

The pantry will be hosted at the home at 3403 E. 2nd St., Maysville. This pantry will be a walk in pantry where guests will enter the front door and exit the side door after receiving food. Volunteers will be on hand to assist in loading groceries. Bring an I.D. showing Mason County residency.

“Food for Friends” has already opened pantries in Grant, Bracken, Owen and Gallatin counties, with plans to open in Pendleton County in the near future.

For information or questions contact John Helmam, Mobile Pantry coordinator, at (866) 981-8794 ext. 124, or e-mail at jhelmman@covingtoncharities.org.

### “Food for Friends”

Monthly Mobile Food Pantry

**Bracken County**
St. James Catholic Church, Brooksville
4th Friday, noon–2 p.m.

**Gallatin County**
St. Joseph Catholic Church, Warsaw
4th Friday, noon–2 p.m.

**Grant County**
St. William Catholic Church, Williamsport
2nd Monday, 1–3 p.m.

**Mason County**
Maysville Lions Club, Maysville
1st Tuesday, 1–3 p.m.

**Owen County**
St Edward Mission Catholic Church, Owenton
4th Monday, noon–2 p.m.

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### Bishop’s Schedule

Oct. 25-27
Collegial Sharing Among Bishops Conference
Oct. 30
Mass, St. Edward Mission, Owenton, 8 a.m.
Mass, St. Joseph Parish, Warsaw, 10 a.m.
Nov. 1
Curia Offices Closed in Observance of the Sollemniity of All Saints
Solennity of All Saints Mass, NKU Newman Club, University Center, Highland Heights, 12-10 p.m.
Nov. 2
All Souls Mass, Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, 7 p.m.

Nov. 3
Catholic Charities Corporate Board meeting, 1:30 p.m.
Confirmation, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Burlington, 7 p.m.
Nov. 4
Mustard Seed Community lunch, Thomas More University, Crestview Hills, noon
Nov. 5
Religious Jubilee celebration Mass, Cathedral Basilica, 10 a.m.
Vigil Mass, Cathedral Basilica, 4:30 p.m.

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Please join us for a Diocesan Celebration honoring Women Religious

Celebrating their 50th or 60th Jubilee
Saturday, Nov. 5, 10 a.m., Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption
Celebrating 50 years
Sisters of Divine Providence
Sister Cynthia Feerbach, CDP
Celebrating 60 years
Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery
Sister Dorothy Schuette, OSB
Sisters of Notre Dame
Sister Florette Marie Adams, SND
Sister Mary Rita Geoppinger, SND
Sister Mary Judeann Lueken, SND
Sisters of Divine Providence
Sister Margaret Mary Jacobs, CDP
Sister Mary Joyce Moeller, CDP

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Staff report

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Bishop Iffert’s mother remembered as a ‘doer,’ showing her love for her family and others by tending to their needs

Laura Keener

Mary Ann Iffert, mother of Bishop John Iffert, died Oct. 15 at Herrin Hospital, Herrin, Illinois. She was 81 years old.

Mrs. Iffert was born Dec. 27, 1940 in Murphysboro, Illinois, the daughter of Howard and Mildred (Garris) Williams and was raised in the Baptist Church. After high school, Mrs. Iffert attended Colgate College, a Baptist missionary College located at the time in Chicago. “She always told me she wanted to be a medical missionary,” said Bishop Iffert. Her plans were disrupted when her father died and she returned home to Southern Illinois.

She met her husband-to-be, John U. Iffert, at a skating rink. Before the two were married Nov. 22, 1960, Mrs. Iffert converted to Catholicism. Mr. and Mrs. Iffert had three children, Kim, Kathy and John.

“Her initial cause for conversion was that she wanted the family to share a faith. That’s what brought her to the Catholic faith, was wanting to share faith with dad and with the kids that they would raise together,” said Bishop Iffert.

Her Baptist upbringing laid a firm foundation in reading and knowing the Bible. Mrs. Iffert shared that love for Scripture with her children. “The first book I remember was a Bible picture book,” said Bishop Iffert. “I think it was in my crib with me,” said Bishop Iffert.

Bishop Iffert said that his mom struggled to fit in her new Catholic community saying that she “felt like an outsider.” This revelation might come as a surprise to her fellow parishioners since she “dove right in” and was very active at Sacred Heart Parish in Du Quoin. She was a member of the Catholic Daughters, and even served for a time as regent. She was a member of the PTA and a room mother at Sacred Heart School. She was a member of the PFA and a room mother at the parish school. She was a part of the parish’s bereavement ministry, helping prepare and serve dinners for bereaved families. Later on, she made a Cursillo and became involved in the Cursillo movement.

“The most important thing about mom is that she was all for us. She literally poured out her life,” Bishop Iffert said. “By the time Bishop Iffert started school, his mom had already begun working outside of the house. “She did work that she really didn’t like or find very fulfilling, but she did it,” he said. “and I bet she spent almost everything she earned on us kids, either on our school tuition or clothes, different kinds of things.”

Mrs. Iffert enjoyed shopping, especially with her daughters. “She always wanted us to have and look the best,” Bishop Iffert said, especially shoes, noting that while returning from a shopping trip she would remind the children that “there’s no need for you to tell your dad what those shoes cost. She worked to make sure that she could do that for her family.”

After a retail store she worked for as store manager closed, Mrs. Iffert used the severance pay to attend beauty school. She worked as a beautician for about 20 years, when she was diagnosed with leukemia. Fearing the chemicals in the hair products she used daily might have contributed to her cancer, she put down her shoes and began a career as a case manager for Gold Plate, a position she found even more beautiful and, for her, more fulfilling.

Gold Plate is a senior services outreach center whose mission and ministry was to safeguard the wellbeing of senior citizens in Perry County. “My mom was an outreach worker,” said Bishop Iffert. “If someone expressed a concern about an elderly person who was on their own, mom would go visit them, check out the house and see how things were taken care of ... if they had been eating. If she found reason to be concerned, she’d let the social worker know and then the social worker would come around and try to intervene.”

Mrs. Iffert also helped seniors sign up for and navigate Medicare and Medicare drug programs. She would help find subsidies for utilities, “and maybe little improvements around the house that would help save electricity and that sort of thing; she would help folks fill out those kinds of applications. She had a lot of folks that she worked with who were developmentally disabled and they didn’t have any family around anymore,” Bishop Iffert said. Mrs. Iffert would help manage their checkbooks, write their bills, keeping some of the money back for an allowance they could manage on their own for personal items.

“Just to give that little extra help so that they could stay at home and not have to go to an institution. She loved that job. She just loved that job,” Bishop Iffert said.

Bishop Iffert said that his mom was a “doer” and she showed her love for her family and others by tending to their needs, making a favorite dinner and hosting gatherings. Both his parents, he said, are very social and everyone was welcome at their home.

“Whenever she saw any kind of injustice, she could get ruled in a hurry That’s the way I remember her. She was always a big supporter of us kids. Education was everything, and faith, of course, you know, was just everything. Everything we did was organized around the parish or the school, it was just the center of our lives,” he said. “She was a great mom, she did the best she could, she really did. She did the best.”

Mrs. Iffert is survived by her husband, John; daughters: Kimberly Dorsey and Kathy Nesbit, son, Bishop John Iffert, grandchildren: Andy Joe (Jenna Keim) Dorsey; Timothy (Jennessa) Dorsey; Carina (Sarina Lyerla) Dorsey; Erica Gage-Nesbit and Sara; Geoffrey (Joelyn) Nesbit; and Cassandra (Noe) Juarez-Lopez; 14 great grandchildren; Geoffrey (Jocelyn) Nesbit; and Kane and Joyce Thornton.

She was preceded in death by her parents and son-in-law, Steve Dorsey.

Bishop Iffert celebrated the Mass of Christian Burial, Oct. 20, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Du Quoin. Father Carl Schrago, pastor, was the homilist. Interment followed at Sacred Heart Cemetery, Du Quoin.

Memorials are suggested to Sacred Heart Catholic Church or Catholic Daughters.
The Legacy of Women Religious in the Diocese of Covington

Karen Kuhlman
Messenger Correspondent

Part Three in a series
The Diocese of Covington today bears little resemblance to that created in 1833 by Pope Pius IX. Residents of the Diocese living on the frontier found limited opportunities for worship, education, healthcare, or employment. Pope Pius IX had the groundwork for growth; they developed the Diocese in the following years. Today, the Diocese is home to more than 500,000 residents, including 100,000 Catholics.

The Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm

The growth and development of the Diocese are the fruit of the labors of those who came before us. Many of those labors were young women religious who left their homes in remote areas, often without WIFI, and many move weekly to avoid detection. While CRM is doing their best to offer hope for a happy reunion, Ms. Sievering said, it will take a long time.

That was true of Venerable Mary Angelina Teresa McCoy, born in 1893 in Mountjoy, County Tyrone, Ireland. She entered the Little Sisters of the Poor as Sister Angeline Teresa in France and immigrated to the United States to work among the poor in New York City. She loved the elderly and honored their dignity and worth by including them in her ministry. Elder care wasn’t a specific min-istry of the Little Sisters of the Poor, so she looked for a way to provide it.

Guided by Patrick Cardinal Hayes of New York, Mother Angeline founded the Carmelites Sisters for the Aged and Infirm on September 3, 1929, in New York. At the invitation of Bishop William T. Molloy, Mother Angeline brought her ministry of caring for the aged and infirm to Kentucky. Carmel Manor was founded in 1949 in a home in Fort Thomas overlooking the Ohio River. The ministry quickly outgrew the original building, which housed 35 residents and staff. Today, Carmel Manor provides skilled and personal care to approximately 130 residents who live in long or short-term care, the memory unit, and assisted living. The Carmelite Sisters live out their respect for the sanctity of life as they minister to the elderly and the sick with great compassion. The Sisters say it is a privilege to be with someone who is dying, to be the last face that person sees before seeing the face of God.

The Sisters of St. Joseph the Worker

This month marks the 60th anniversary of The Second Vatican Council convened by Pope St. John XXIII. The Pope explained that the purpose of the Council was the “modernization of the Church after 20 centuries of life.” He directed the Church to “never for an instant lose sight of that sacred patrimony of truth inherited from the Fathers, but also to keep up to date with the changing condi- tions of this modern world.” What was the Church now asking of women religious? How would the Decree on the Renewal of Religious Life affect the vocations of Women Religious? How were they to proceed?

Mother Mary Christina Murray of the Sisters of St. Joseph the Worker says women religious provide us with a model for dealing with complicated issues. Seeing them take their difficulties to God in prayer assures us that we, too, can take that path.

The Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, founded by St. Paul of the Cross in 1720. The Sisters arrived in Erlanger in 1949 and have been praying for the people of the Diocese of Covington ever since.

The Sisters of St. Joseph the Worker

The Diocese, carefully considered the path forward in light of Vatican II, Mother Ellen and 18 Sisters wanted a superior in each house, ecclesiastical apostolates — missioned with work by the Church, factual poverty, times of silence, and an identifiable habit. They sought the advice and counsel of Bishop Richard H. Ackerman, asking what he could do to help resolve the sticking points. After two years of discernment, Bishop Ackerman saw little chance of a res- olution and advised Sister Ellen, “You may have to form a new order. If you choose to do so, I will help you in any way I can.”

He sent her as mission procurator to Rome to meet with the Council for Religious with a petition to start a new order. Remarkably, after only 15 months, approval to form a new order was granted in 1974, and Mother Ellen Curran became the first superior of the Sisters of St. Joseph the Worker. Today, the Sisters of St. Joseph the Worker minister to the elderly and the sick with great compassion. The Sisters live in community at their convent in Walton. Their apostolates include Taylor Manor, an 82-bed skilled nursing facility in Versailles, Ky., and St. Joseph Academy in Walton. The Academy offers preschool, traditional K-8 education, homeschooling support, daycare, and summer camp programs.

The Sisters of St. Joseph the Worker maintain a close relationship with the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, proof that good friends can weather a difference of opinion when together they look to God for solutions.

The Sisters of Charity of Nazareth

The Sisters of Charity of Nazareth are members of the Congregation of the Passion, founded by St. Paul of the Cross in 1720. The Sisters arrived in Erlanger in 1949 and have been praying for the people of the Diocese of Covington ever since.

For more information about consecrated life in the Diocese of Covington, contact Sister Fran Moore at (859) 392-1500.
John Paul II and the Rhosphadic Theater

The Church recently celebrated the feast day of Pope St. John Paul II on Oct. 22, which is the anniversary of the liturgical inauguration of his papacy in 1978. There is a story about John Paul II from when he was a young man that I have always found inspiring. By the time he was 21 years old, Karol Wojtyła’s entire immediate family was dead, and his country was occupied by Nazi. He and his people were exiled in their own land. Their home was transformed into something unrecognizable and, during that occupation and later the Communist occupation, the Polish people were forced to deny their values and their beloved culture completely.

Kare Wojtyła’s response to this was twofold. He secretly (since it was against the law) entered the seminary and was ordained as a priest in 1946. He helped establish an underground (secret) group called the Rhapsodic Theater. The focus of this group was a “cultural resistance” against those that occupied his homeland. Through the celebration of beauty and identity, Karol, and his friends — the Rhapsodists — sought to keep Polish history, faith and tradition alive. Under dire circumstances, they focused on the things that the occupiers couldn’t take away if they had been caught, they would have been killed, but they were simply willing to risk everything for what they knew to be good, true and beautiful.

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Let us stipulate that the terms “international community” and “rules-based international order” have often been reduced to meaningless word-salads. Let’s further stipulate that some who invoke a “rules-based international order” seek the imposition of a singular culture, or ideology, or political or religious system everywhere. Let’s even stipulate that the dream of a solidary world is driven by ideals and aspirations of the utopian. That being said, there is something aggravating and irresponsible about rhetorical grenades being lobbed from the playpen subdivision of the “New Right” at the “idealist fantasies” of a utopian, idealized international order — to which no credible alternatives are proposed.

The Theologian of the Catholic Church, Dr. George Weigel, is the author of several books on religion and politics, including his latest book, “On Pope Francis’ Theology: What to Make of a Pope Defined by His Missions.” He also serves as a Fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.

A world without rules?

It’s a world in which a megalomaniacal dictator, masquerading as a legitimate president and a defender of Christian civilization, murders his domestic opponents; crushes all public efforts to manifest dissent; fools the communications space with lies after lies; smears a peaceful, neighboring country and attempts to annex large swaths of its territory; authorizes the deliberate targeting of innocent civilians and willfully destroys kindred gardens, maternity homes, and churches; the denies the war crimes (including torture and mass executions) committed by his rabbles of an army, practices energy blackmail; threatens the use of nuclear weapons; turns the tradition of the religious leadership of his country into blasphemy-laden blasphemy, and disrupts the entire global economy putting the weakest and poorest at risk of famine.

It’s a world in which another ruthless dictator, who ignores the enduring lessons of the Warsaw Pact, once told to certain citizens of the United States, “I will destroy America” and “I will destroy the West.” It’s a world in which he gained the backing of a free world that so clearly frightened him. It’s a world in which another ruthless dictator, who threatens the use of nuclear weapons, turns the tradition of religious leadership of his country into blasphemy-laden blasphemy, disrupts the entire global economy putting the weakest and poorest at risk of famine.

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**Kentucky Bishops: Vote YES on Pro-Life Amendment #2**

Each October, the Catholic Church in the United States celebrates “Respect Life Month” as an opportunity to express our deeply held belief in the value and dignity of every human person. The month takes on an even greater meaning this year as Kentuckians prepare to head to the polls in support of a simple, yet profound, pro-life cause.

On Nov. 8, Kentuckians have the unprecedented opportunity to write a Pro-Life Amendment into our Commonwealth’s Constitution. We can protect countless thousands of innocent lives by voting Yes for Life on Amendment #2.

As Bishops and as Kentuckians of diverse locations and backgrounds, we humbly ask you to join us in voting Yes on #2. Together, we will give voice to the voiceless, protect the health of mothers and babies and use this once-in-a-generation chance to transform our home state into one that unabashedly cherishes the value of all human life.

The amendment you’ll see on Nov. 8 is straightforward. It reads “To protect human life, nothing in this Constitution shall be construed to secure or protect a right to abortion or require the funding of abortion.”

Many of us, who have committed our prayers and our advocacy to the pro-life movement for decades, may have thought the effort was won this summer when the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade. That historic decision answered our prayers and affirmed there is no right to an abortion in the U.S. Constitution.

However, the Court’s decision actually just moved the issue back to the states. Kentucky’s two abortion providers are asking Kentucky courts now, in a case currently pending, to declare a state constitutional right to abortion. The danger is pressing, and without the Amendment, the joy we felt this summer with the Dobbs decision could quickly turn to anguish.

The Yes for Life Amendment is an important and necessary protection for our pro-life values and the precious lives of unborn Kentuckians. It would prevent any state judge from imposing their own politics on abortion by the clearly expressed will of the voters. And, this amendment would prevent our tax dollars from being used for abortions, which would morally implicate every one of us in this horrific practice.

That’s why the Catholic Conference of Kentucky helped found an alliance of religious, pro-life and pro-family organizations in our Commonwealth to support this amendment. Our broad coalition emphasizes that the Yes for Life Amendment isn’t a partisan or even an inherently religious issue. Instead, at its core, this is a matter of moral right versus unquestionable wrong.

Despite what some may claim, our mission to protect the sanctity of life doesn’t end in the joy of a new birth. The Catholic Church in Kentucky actively supports efforts from the pews to the statehouse that walk with mothers and families who make the courageous decision to raise their children. From supporting legislation to provide workplace protection for pregnant and nursing mothers to advocating for public support for more paid family and medical leave, we are building a culture of life.

The Yes for Life Amendment is a central part of that greater effort to support life in all its stages.

As Americans, we are blessed with many freedoms, including our own self-determination at the ballot box. It is our sincere hope and prayer that Kentuckians will take this opportunity to heal one of our nation’s most painful wounds and protect vulnerable human life. We will be voting Yes on Amendment #2, and we ask you to join us.

The Catholic Bishops of Kentucky: Archbishop Shelton Fabre, Archbishop of Louisville; Bishop John Veit, Diocese of Covington; Bishop John Stowe, OFM, Conv, Diocese of Lexington; and Bishop William Medley, Diocese of Owensboro.

**Salvation comes to your house**


“The Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost.” (Luke 19:10)

Jesus is continuing his journey to Jerusalem where he will suffer and die. Along the way he continues to prepare his disciples for what will happen to him. He also continues to teach them so that once his suffering, passion and death come to pass they will be fortified by his words and his example, and even though they might not at first understand everything Jesus has taught them, they will remain strong in their faith.

In the Gospel passage read today from the 19th Chapter of Luke, Jesus teaches his disciples a lesson of patience and wisdom as he is looking for and finding the good in others. Zacchaeus is a chief tax collector, hated and despised by the populace not only because he is working for those who are occupying the country but also because he is fleecing his own people at their expense. Zacchaeus hears that Jesus is coming to town and he wants to get a glimpse of him. Who knows why? Perhaps Zacchaeus has heard of the miracles this itinerant preacher has performed; perhaps he has heard that Jesus can read people’s hearts; perhaps that Jesus draws huge crowds wherever he goes and Zacchaeus wants to see for himself. Whatever the reason, Zacchaeus is not going to let Jesus pass without at least getting a glimpse of him. But alas, there’s a problem. There is a huge crowd lining the path which Jesus is walking and Zacchaeus, being short in stature, cannot see. So, he climbs into a sycamore tree to get a better view. To his surprise, not only does he have a better view of Jesus, but Jesus has a better view of him! Jesus tells him come down from his perch and stand before him. Jesus has taught them, they will receive him, and though they might not at first understand everything Jesus has taught them, they will remain strong in their faith.

**Message**

October 28, 2022 7

**Archbishop Shelton Fabre**

**Bishop John Effert**

**Bishop John Stowe, OFM, Conv**

**Bishop William Medley**

**Jesus is in the chapel — Really!**

When I was a kid, I was fascinated by magnets. I loved to watch the little magnetic skaters glide across a mirror in our family’s Christmas village at the top of a chimney, and I enjoyed doing science experiments with magnets and iron shavings in school.

I recall a comparison Pope St. John Paul II made between the Eucharist and the force of a magnet’s pole.

“The presence of Jesus in the tabernacle must be a kind of magnetic pole attracting an even greater number of souls exam- ored of him, ready to wait patiently to hear his voice and, as it were, to sense the beating of his heart,” he wrote just six months before he died.
In his address, Bishop Iffert reflected on his time as a seminarian. “I came home and let them (his parents) know that I was going to be leaving my job and that I was going to be going away to seminary. I was very nervous about telling my parents this because when I decided that I would go to seminary, I hadn’t yet decided that I was going to be a priest. I thought God might be calling me to be a priest. I had a sense that this was something I might have gifts to be able to do, and I was willing to spend some time thinking and praying,” he said.

“My parents were amazing,” said Bishop Iffert. “My dad said, John, we’re proud of you and your grandparents would be proud of you. I’m just proud that I have a son who is willing to think about this, who’s willing to consider whether God might be calling them to do something like this. I want every seminarian to have that kind of support.”

Bishop Iffert, whose mother had passed away days before the ball, finished his speech thanking the people of the Diocese and those attending the ball, saying, “Thank you for your support tonight … this week I buried my mother and I was surrounded by four brother bishops and about 30-35 priests who came together to help me and my family through that time, along with many other folks from the diocese who actually surprised me and made that trip,” he said.

“It was a great gift to me. And, what we’re doing here tonight is to try to do everything we can to continue to provide the Church with these priestly leaders who will be there for you when you need them. Thank you again. God bless you for your generosity.”
The prayer intentions for November, as recommended by Pope Francis is for children who are suffering, especially those who are homeless, orphans, and victims of war, may they be guaranteed access to education and the opportunity to experience family affection.

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

The Wm. T. Robinson III Institute for Religious Liberty at Thomas More University “Religious freedom: an unalienable right” presents the Fall interfaith event: “Comparative Perspectives on International Religious Freedom.” Nov. 3, 7 p.m., Mary Seat of Wisdom Chapel, on the campus of TMU, Crestview Hills.

St. Joseph Parish, Crescent Springs, all-school Mass honoring Veterans. Nov. 4, coffee and donuts, 7:45-8:45 a.m.; Mass 9 a.m. with ceremony following.


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.svdpnkys.org. Cost $25 adults; $20 children 14 years or younger; or $30 adults; $25 children day of the race.


New Manna Eucharistic Retreat — in unity with the USCCB’s three-year Eucharistic Revival efforts all parishes and all ages are invited to attend a retreat on the Eucharist led by Father Thomas Picchioni, Nov. 12, 8 a.m.–3 p.m., St. Agnes Parish hall, Ft. Wright. Lunch will be provided. No fee to attend; free-will be provided. No sign up.

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.

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.

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Halloween is once more upon us. Neighborhoods will soon fill with throngs of excited trick-or-treaters and cable television will dredge up films to scare the wits out of viewers with stories of evil and the supernatural. But one doesn’t have to go far to find reminders of the presence of evil and the supernatural.

Perched high above the intersection of Twelfth and Madison in Covington live an unexpected assemblage of characters. There one finds malevolent devils, howling demons, snarling dragons, lumbering animals and legends from mythology that grab, hiss, devour and growl. These are the gargoyles and chimeras of the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption.

There are 58 sculpted figures that occupy the heights of the Cathedral Basilica. Many people use the collective term “gargoyle” when describing them; but while generally accepted, it’s not accurate.

Gargoyles are very different critters from chimeras. In art, both belong to a broad category called “grotesques,” a term used to encompass a class of sculptures popular during the Medieval Gothic era as well as the modern neo-Gothic era of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The term “gargoyle” can be traced back to French word gargouille, which means a throat or drainpipe. Thus, gargoyles serve as drainage pipes designed to direct rainwater away from the walls of buildings onto sidewalks below, thus protecting the stone from erosion. Happily, the Cathedral Basilica’s gargoyles are non-functional, much to the relief of Madison Avenue pedestrians.

Above the gargoyles, perched like territorial birds of prey ready to pounce on pedestrians below, are the Cathedral Basilica’s famous chimeras. Each is an exact copy from the collection of sculptures decorating the heights of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, and each was selected by Bishop Camillus Maes to decorate the new Cathedral façade in 1910.

The common understanding among scholars and historians is that they represent sin and evil ejected from the House of God. That’s certainly true of some of them, such as the Howling Demon, Demon Squashing a Toad, the Vampire, and Fanged Reptilian Beast. But the façade is also decorated with ordinary animal chimeras, like an owl, a cat, a pelican, an elephant, a goat, and a boar. These are hardly the personifications of evil. So, what was Bishop Maes thinking when he chose to put these figures together on the façade?

One clue for his choices may be contained in his façade dedication message of June 29, 1910. He writes: “The Cathedral admonishes that soul, life and moral values are of primary importance and should not be ignored and sacrificed to the base pursuits of mere pleasure.” It would seem the chimeras he chose served to communicate this idea perfectly. Perched on the parapets can be found figures that do both — admonish and also remind of the base pursuits of pleasure. So, what might these denizens of the parapets be trying to teach us? Let’s take a look.

Chief among the chimeras is “The Owl,” who gazes directly east from its perch on the back of the south tower. The east has always been regarded as the direction of the presence of God. In Old Testament times, the Messiah was
prophecies to come from the east and enter Jerusalem in triumph through the Golden Gate. Jesus did just this on Palm Sunday.

Bishop Maes seems to have chosen this figure to teach something else. In both traditional heraldry and Christian symbolism, the owl is emblematic of wisdom. The Old Testament says that “With God are wisdom and might” [Job 12:13]. Elsewhere it says, “For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding” [Proverbs 2:6]. The Apostle James tells us, “…if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him” [James 1:5]. Thus, the owl becomes an invitation to seek this virtue.

From Roman mythology comes the chimera “Cerberus,” the fierce, multi-headed “hound of Hades,” the Roman Underworld. Cerberus sits on the front of the north tower looking down on Madison Avenue. In ancient literature, Cerberus has as few as two or as many as 40 heads. Multiple heads symbolize the danger of not having a single leader or “king” to lead the people, and the more the heads, the greater the danger. On Notre Dame, there is both a two-headed and three-headed version of Cerberus. Bishop Maes chose the two-headed version, perhaps to reflect the struggle of man’s conflict between the world and the kingdom of Heaven. “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Mammon.” [Matt. 6:24] Used purely as a Christian symbol, the multi-headed Cerberus invokes the dangers of not following Christ, who is the one, true king of his Christian people.

Another chimera, “Pelican in her Piety” is familiar to everyone as the bird that pierces its own breast to draw blood to feed its young. It is one of the most recognized of all Christian symbols, and one that adorns the Cathedral Basilica’s main altar. The symbolism is that of the Lord himself, who is pierced, feeds us with the Sacrament of his own blood, and by this our souls are washed clean. According to another version of the legend, the blood of Christ is the antidote and cure to the bite of the serpent, and so can restore us to health. It is living food that gives us strength.

The chimera called “The Griffin” is the most widely used “monster” in heraldry. It is a mythical creature composed of a head, wings and talons of an eagle and the body and hind legs of a lion. It looks toward Cincinnati from its perch on the north tower. Griffins first came into Greek mythology as guardians of the treasures of Apollo. In Christian art, they functioned originally as symbols of Satan, but later were used to symbolize the union of Christ’s divine and human natures. Another chimera on the rooftop of the Cathedral Basilica. Some are good, some not so. And if one looks carefully, they can still be seen up there this Halloween holiday, moving about to and fro, snarling and growling and hissing at the mere mortals below. They remind us of evil and sin in the world, but they may also give us some measure of hope and encouragement in our inevitable journey toward eternity.
U.S. Catholics Can Have a Major Impact on Poverty by Supporting Self-Help Efforts

You've undoubtedly heard the following adage before: Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime. While the origin of that memorable line has no direct link to the Bible, it certainly contains a truth consistent with Catholic doctrine and the teachings of Christ. By giving families the training and tools they need to become self-sufficient, you can increase their potential for prosperity and restore their hope.

St. John Paul II also spoke about the importance of work and society's need to assist those who want to pursue gainful employment but face roadblocks that could and should be removed. He wrote: The obligation to earn one's bread by the sweat of one's brow also presumes the right to do so. A society in which this right is systematically denied, in which economic policies do not allow workers to reach satisfactory levels of employment, cannot be justified from an ethical point of view, nor can that society attain social peace.

In the view of charities working to help the poor in the developing world, economic policies are not the only thing keeping individuals from enjoying the benefits of work. Poverty in places like Haiti and Guatemala is also because it limits a person's educational opportunities and makes it nearly impossible for the poor to access the important resources they would need to start a small farm, chicken-raising project or simple business — the self-help endeavors most suited to life in their rural communities.

Cross Catholic Outreach, a respected relief and development ministry working to help poor families in Haiti, Guatemala, and other developing countries, has developed a variety of programs to address this specific need.

“While our ministry may be better known for programs to feed the hungry, build homes and provide urgently needed medical resources, we have always supported self-help programs as well,” confirmed Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach. "For example, we regularly fund microenterprise loans and help families establish farming initiatives, livestock projects and small businesses. There are hundreds of individuals and families that have lived in poverty for decades because they have had no way to supplement their income. All it takes to get them out of that position is a small investment to cover training, tools or the funds needed to get their small businesses up and running. You would be amazed by what an investment of just a few hundred dollars or a couple months of training can accomplish. We know because we have seen those blessings firsthand. Cross Catholic Outreach is supporting some very effective self-help programs underway right now in places like Haiti and Guatemala." (See related story on the opposite page.)

Cavnar went on to explain that Cross Catholic Outreach’s approach to helping the poor through the Church leaders already serving in developing countries has also contributed to the charity’s success. “Since our ministry’s founding 20 years ago, our efforts have been focused on empowering the priests, religious sisters and Catholic lay leaders already serving overseas,” he said. “They know the families in their community and understand how best to address their specific needs. Our role is to provide these existing ministries with the financial support they need.”

To do that, Cross Catholic Outreach relies on donations from U.S. Catholics, and Cavnar says he is grateful for the many individuals, families and foundations that have supported the cause. “A lot of people tell us they feel blessed by God in their own lives, and they see helping poor families oversea as a way to give something back — to show others the mercy and love God has shown them,” he said. "When I hear that, I tell the donors they are also making a wise giving decision because the money they contribute will have an incredible impact. In many cases, it completely transforms lives and allows families to escape extreme poverty.

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. AC92386, PO Box 97168, Washington, DC 20090-7168. 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 if you wish to be contacted about setting up those arrangements.

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

If you are like most people, your mailbox has been chocked with Christmas catalogs and sales flyers. 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 gloves, gadgets, neck ties and jewelry, the Cross Catholic Outreach Christmas Catalog gives 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 such as vitamins, milk powder, seeds for farming, access to safe water and materials to build homes. 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 specific. That said, they can also make a general gift to address the poor’s greatest needs,” explained Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach. "When donors choose to give to the Greatest Need category, they provide us and the Catholic missions we serve 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 directly by 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!”
Sixty-year-old Felicia Moise walks from her humble home in Haiti to an open field. What she finds there vividly illustrates the dramatic change taking place in her life. The field was once a barren plot of land. Now, it is filled with beautiful green sprouts, promising a yield of valuable, life-sustaining vegetables.

What Moise has brought to the field is meaningful too. She has come with tools and newfound agricultural knowledge that will help her burgeoning crops thrive. These are important assets in her life because she depends on the food she is growing to survive.

Like other women in her community, Moise has struggled with poverty most of her life because her opportunities were limited. When her parish’s ministry team identified her as a candidate for its farming program, it opened a door to options she had never experienced before.

“I have been able to do things that I couldn’t have done before,” she rejoiced. “I see the future as very bright now.”

Tonissaint Carolard of St. Andre Chapel knows what Moise is feeling inside, and she celebrates the grandmother’s progress with her farming. The Rural Women’s Farming program Carolard leads has touched many lives in Maisisode, Haiti, and it delivers much more to its participants than just a greater yield of tomatoes, peppers, onions, garlic and okra.

“This program gives hope,” Carolard says, knowing just how important that life-sustaining commodity can be to the poor in her country. In her area of Haiti, many single mothers and grandmothers face a daily struggle just to obtain their daily bread, and most worry about the impact their poverty is having on their sons and daughters — or in Moise’s case, her grandchildren.

Seeing how important the St. Andre Chapel farming program is to Haiti’s poorest women, the U.S.-based ministry Cross Catholic Outreach made a pledge to support its work and help women such as Moise. According to Jim Cavunor, president of Cross Catholic Outreach, ministries such as this one are very appealing to American Catholics interested in helping the poor.

“Many of the donors who support our work get excited when they can help people become more self-sufficient because they know programs like these have a long-term impact,” Cavunor explained. “The people we help to grow crops or obtain livestock or start a small business are often able to use their profits for the other essentials their families need — food, medicines and education expenses, for example. So, giving to a self-help effort can actually have a much broader impact. Once a small farm or business is set up and running efficiently, it can provide a family with income for many years to come.”

In remote, rural areas such as Maisisode, farming and animal husbandry are perfect projects to fund because the people there are familiar with that type of work and can quickly benefit from the resources they receive — seed and starter plants, tools, fertilizers and agricultural training.

“Our goal now is to get more American Catholics to support ministry efforts like this one. St. Andre Chapel can organize the outreach and monitor its fieldwork, but they will need our financial support to cover the costs of the seeds, plants, tools and other materials used in the program,” Cavunor said.

“While we celebrate the way this program has blessed Felicia Moise in Maisisode, we know that there are many other women in that area who are still suffering — who still need a helping hand. We want to ensure they get an opportunity like this too.”

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. AC/023086, 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 donations will be restricted to be used for that specific project. However, if more is raised for the project than is needed, funds will be redirected to other urgent needs in the missions.
cated woman but she was a person of profound faith and committed action.

She often told the young Sisters to remember the presence of Jesus in the tabernacle, in the poor and in their own souls. And she gave them this very practical advice: “Jesus is waiting for you in the chapel. Go and find him when your strength and patience are giving out, when you feel lonely and helpless. Say to him: ‘You know well what is happening, my dear Jesus. I have only you. Come to my aid ...’ And then go your way. And don’t worry about knowing how you are going to manage. It is enough to have told our good Lord. He has an excellent memory.”

Jeanne Jugan didn’t have an easy life. As a young person and then the foundress of a religious congregation, she worked hard and shared everything she had with the poor.

Although chosen to be superior by the young women who joined her and she even achieved a measure of public notoriety, she was treated unjustly by a priest who had been appointed to assist the nascent religious community and stripped of all authority in it, until, 27 years later, she died in total anonymity.

But Jeanne Jugan possessed something no one could take from her — a very real, strong and intimate relationship with Jesus, whom she knew was always waiting for her “in the chapel.” Jesus Christ was real to her — more real than anyone or anything else.

No doubt St. Jeanne Jugan often told Jesus everything that was happening in her life, in both good times and bad.

Pope Francis recently spoke to seniors about how they should pray. I think his words would resonate with our foundress.

The pope said, “If you have some wound in your heart, some pain, and you want to object, object even to God. God will listen to you. God is a Father. God is not afraid of our prayer of protest, no! God understands. … Prayer should be like this: spontaneous, like that of a child with his father, who says everything that comes out of his mouth because he knows his father understands him.”

I believe that St. Jeanne Jugan was like a child with her father. She shared with him from the depths of her heart because she knew that God heard and understood her.

May her example, and the words of Pope Francis, convince you that it’s okay to be honest with Jesus, truly present and waiting for us in every chapel or parish church.

Sister Constance Veit is the communications director for the Little Sisters of the Poor in the United States and an occupational therapist.
OPPORTUNITIES AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Covington is adding services and growing, and this is an exciting time to serve in our local Church. If you have a desire to work in an environment where you can truly make a difference by serving others, Catholic Charities seeks candidates to fill the following positions:

Client Care Services Specialist
The primary purpose of this full-time position is to assist, serve and support clients and inquirers seeking services and assistance, and provide administrative support to the process. We are looking for a person who is client service focused; a compassionate listener and problem solver with a calm and pleasant demeanor; able to use back-ground in human services to make initial human service needs assessments and assign or refer inquirers based on knowledge of our resources and those in our community. A bachelor’s degree in a human services related field and strong attention to detail are also required.

Food Pantry Outreach Assistant Coordinator
We are seeking a dedicated and compassionate individual to help run the mobile food pantry program in the rural counties of the Diocese of Covington. This is a unique opportunity for someone to put their faith in action tangibly by helping to address hunger and be the hands and feet of Christ in the outlying area of our diocese where there are limited resources and is considered a food desert. This is a part time hourly position, averaging up to 20 hours a week.

Parish Kitchen, Weekend Manager
Parish Kitchen is a special ministry that serves a free lunch every day in Covington to anyone who is hungry. We are looking for individuals who feel a call to serve within the context of this ministry, and who are capable of working with the population we serve. We are currently in need of additional Weekend Managers on Saturdays and Sundays, from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., to help prepare a meal, supervise volunteers who assist serving between 11:30 – 1:30, and cleanup after closing. Ideally, two Weekend Managers work together to oversee all aspects of this operation. Prior experience in one or more of the following would be a strong plus: food service, ministry and social work. You may be scheduled as few as once a month, or up to 4 or 5 times per month, depending on your availability and others.

Catholic Charities offers excellent benefits including generous paid time off. To learn more details about any of these job opportunities, please visit our website at https://www.covingtoncharities.org/news-events/job-opportunities.
Sadness can serve as ‘alarm bell’

(Continued from page 17)

protects us from harming ourselves and others. It would be far more serious and danger-
os if we did not feel this.”

The pope continued his series of audience talks on spiritual discernment, reflecting on desolation and the role it plays in Christian life.

Recalling the words of St. Ignatius of Loyola, Pope Francis defined desolation as the “darkness of the soul” and the “unquiet of different agitations and temptations” that lead one to becoming “lazy, tepid, sad, as if separated from his or her creator and Lord.”

“No one wants to be desolate, sad,” he said. “We would all like a life that is always joyful, cheerful and fulfilled. Yet this, besides not being possible, would not be good for us either. Indeed, the change from a life oriented toward vice can start from a situation of sadness, of remorse for what one has done.”

“Sometimes sadness is a traffic light: ‘Stop. Stop. It’s red. Stop,’” the pope said.

However, for men and women who seek to do good, desolation also can be an obstacle “with which the tempter (the devil) tries to discourage us” and can lead to abandoning “work, study, prayer” or other commitments.

“Unfortunately, some people decide to abandon the life of prayer, or the choice they have made — marriage or religious life — driven by desolation, without first pausing to consider this state of mind, and especially without the help of a guide,” he said.

But a “wise rule” of discernment, he said, is “do not make changes where you are in desolation,” but wait until the acute sadness has passed.

While moments of sadness are “an experience common to spiritual life,” the pope said the path of goodness “is narrow and uphill” and encouraged Christians, especially those who “want to serve the Lord, not to be led astray by desolation.”

“If we know how to traverse loneliness and desolation with openness and awareness, we can emerge strengthened in human and spiritual terms,” Pope Francis said. “No trial is beyond our reach.”

Ministry of Acolyte

Two seminarians from the Diocese of Covington were instituted into the Ministry of Acolyte at St. Vincent Seminary, Latrobe, Oct. 12 by Most Rev. David J. Bonnar, Bishop of the Diocese of Youngstown, at St. Vincent Archabbot Basilica. Taking part in the Mass and Vespers were, from left, Seminary Rector Father Edward March, O.S.B.; Justin Schwarz, who was instituted; Abbess Maria Voss, O.S.B., St. Bernard Abbey; Bishop Bonnar; Joshua Heskamp, who was instituted and Archabbot Martin de Porres Bartel, O.S.B., seminary chancellor. Mr. Heskamp and Mr. Schwarz are in their second year of theology studies at St. Vincent Seminary, Latrobe.
Rosary Coast-to-Coast
Nearly 60 people from eight parishes in the Diocese of Covington, gathered at the Grotto of the Two Hearts, Oct 9, on the campus of Immaculate Heart of Mary, Burlington, (right) to pray the rosary as part of the Rosary Coast-to-Coast prayer event. Father Michael Graf, parochial administrator, St. Therese Parish, Southgate, led the praying of four rosaries.

“These diocesan wide events are always wonderful because it shows that, even though we belong to different parishes, we come together truly as one in the Body of Christ, His Church,” said Jeanette Landenwitch, local organizer. As in years past, this was an international event with people in Australia, Canada, Norway and several countries in Europe joining in prayer.
Sts. Boniface and James Parish celebrates 150 years of faith in Ludlow

Laura Keener

Sts. Boniface and James Parish, Ludlow, brought the celebration of its sesquicentennial to a close, Oct. 23, with Mass celebrated by Bishop John Iffert and a parish reception at Bishop Howard Memorial Hall, Covington.

The Ludlow parish is the result of the 1980 merger of St. Boniface Parish and St. James Parish. St. Boniface Parish was established in 1872 for Ludlow’s German-speaking Catholics and St. James Parish in 1887 for English-speaking Catholics.

“Every generation has its different challenges,” said Bishop Iffert in his homily. “When St. Boniface was established 150 years ago, the challenge was for the Church to grow and to help the immigrant communities that were arriving here in Northern Kentucky to take their place in the world, to take their place here in the community, to have a place to worship.”

In the Diocese of Covington 150 years ago, the Catholic faith was booming, Bishop Iffert said. A time when every two or three years, two or three more parishes would be established.

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“We live in a time when few and fewer people come to Mass on Sunday. When a large portion of our young people, when asked what religion they are, will say ‘None!’ Some of them are atheists, they don’t believe in God at all. Some are agnostic, they ask the question but they’re not sure what to do about God. Some are Christian, but in our anti-institutional age don’t want to choose a particular church. We live in a time where it’s a rare thing to establish a new parish. And where with the size of our congregations … it’s sometimes difficult to care for what we have.”

Connecting the current time with the time of the early Christians read about in the Gospel, Bishop Iffert identified a similar mission for Catholics today.

“When we think about these things, we can get despondent. We can worry about the future. We can ask ourselves what have we done wrong? We can turn to worry,” Bishop Iffert said. "What I want to say today is, if we do that, we miss an opportunity … we fall into the temptation to see our faith as a competition. We confuse what it means to be the Church Militant—that is the Church alive in the world moving toward the kingdom … If we take that path we lose an opportunity. We lose an opportunity to be the Church that our times call for. We lose an opportunity to follow the example of those early Christians … You see, what our time is calling for is for us to build not just institutions, not just buildings, not just steeples—but to follow the example of the early Christians in building relationships.”

In his closing remarks, Bishop Iffert encouraged the parishioners of Sts. Boniface and James Parish to participate in the “With One Heart” initiative that launched Sept. 30, assuring them that the work of the campaign is not about closing parishes but, instead, is about building up pastors and parish leaders by identifying each other’s strengths and working together to carry out God’s mission.

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Sts. Boniface and James Parish

(Continued from page 21)

“This is really about how do we align our resources to be most effective in the mission of evangelization. That’s what this process is about,” Bishop Iffert said. “How will we be the most vibrant Church we can be, the best we can be together.”

In an interview the day after the celebration, Father Larry Schaeper, pastor, and Dave Schroeder, president, Parish Council, expressed their gratitude for Bishop Iffert in joining the celebration.

“It was a pleasure for Bishop to come and celebrate with us our anniversary,” said Father Schaeper.

When asked what Sts. Boniface and James strengths are as the diocese begins the With One Heart process, both talked about the faith and closeness of parishioners.

“They pray for each other and really work together as a unit,” said Father Schaeper. “They love each other and have a deep love for Christ and especially for the parish. They want to see it succeed and grow.”

“Our goal is to maintain a parish in the city. We think it’s important,” said Mr. Schroeder. “We know the impact the parish has on the community. We’ve had an active St. Vincent de Paul Society since the Great Depression, and does wonderful work in the community. We’re always trying to find ways to support activities that are going on in Ludlow and to be a bigger part of what’s going on in the community and to show that we have something to give. What Bishop said during his homily, that you don’t have to do great things, you just need to live your life as best you can and people will recognize that and want to be like they are. That’s something that I think we have taught ourselves in Ludlow … it’s how you live your life that’s important … it’s that example you show and the way you live your life, and the way your parish lives its life, that’s important and will eventually attract people to us.”

Keener photos

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Religious workers in Cameroon freed after more than a month

YAOUNDE, Cameroon — After over a month in captivity, the five priests, a nun and three other church workers kidnapped from St. Mary's Parish in Nchang have been freed. “I announce with great joy the release of all nine who were abducted,” Bishop Alphonse Fondong Abangalo of Mambé said Oct. 23. “I am sincerely grateful to all who joined us in the collective effort in praying for the safety and release of our brothers and sisters,” he said in a statement. “Words will only do scant jus- tice in expressing my sentiments of gratitude to all those who collaborated with us in the process of negotiating for their safety and release.”

The bishop did not give details on how the kidnapped religious were released, but an official of the Nigerian Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons said his office was involved. Nchang borders Nigeria. Speaking on the condition of anonymity for fear of being targeted, the Nigerian official said a refugee who was in contact with the kidnappers and their activities acted as an informant to his office. He said his office worked collaborative-ly with several government offices and the refugee to finally secure the release of the religious.

Missouri bishop offers prayers after deadly school shooting

ST. LOUIS — Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski of St. Louis and Bishop W. Shawn McKnight of Jefferson City, Missouri, offered prayers after three people died following an Oct. 24 shooting at a high school in St. Louis. “Once again people in our city have experienced the tragic loss of lives and the trauma of a school shooting,” tweeted Archbishop Rozanski. “I am holding our neighbors in the Central Visual & Performing Arts high school in St. Louis, “he tweeted. “We seek God’s guidance and comfort as we try to make sense of this tragedy.” A 16-year-old woman and a 16-year-old student were killed in the incident, said interim Commissioner of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department Lt. Col. Michael Sack. He said authorities responded to the school within minutes of reports of the shoot- ing and entered an area where they heard gunfire and killed the suspect. Sack identified the gunman as Orlando Harris, a 19-year-old who is said to have graduated from the school last year. He died at a hospital, Sack said. At least eight people were taken to the hospital with varying injuries, he said, but the vic- times of the subsequent trauma are more than the injured and the dead. They extend to the students who escaped, officers and other first responders who saw the carnage, he said.

To help those in hiding, catechists from Myanmar deliver food, supplies

MAE SAM LAEP, Thailand — Pah Kher climbs onto a boat laden with bags of rice and disappears around a bend in the Salween River, on his way to deliver lifesaving aid to families hiding in the jungle in Myanmar. A Catholic catechist, Kher coordinates cross-border aid to 47 separate groups of people displaced by the brutal violence that followed a 2021 military coup in Myanmar. “People began showing up near my village at the beginning of the year, and new families continue to arrive. They can’t go back to their villages because they’re afraid of airstrikes by the military,” Kher told Catholic News Service. “They’re in bad shape. When they left home in a hurry, they couldn’t carry anything. They look for root crops in the jungle that they can boil. They’ve gotten some help from other villagers, but this is the time of year between crops when there’s no excess food. When we get this rice to them, they’ll boil it with forest greens and bamboo shoots. It will keep them alive for a while.”

More than 1.3 million people remain displaced across the country; more than 1 million of them have been displaced since the 2021 military takeover, according to an Oct. 1 report from the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Over 14 million people — roughly one-quarter of the country’s population — need humanitarian assistance, according to the World Food Program. Yet the mili- tary continues to restrict or outright block their access to aid, so getting food and other supplies to the needy is challenging.

Four recognized for their work in the pro-life movement

WASHINGTON — Four new awardees were named this year as recipients of People of Life Awards, chosen by the U.S. Bishop- es’ Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities for lifetime contribu- tions to the pro-life cause. Honored at a July dinner for dioce- san pro-life leaders and their guests, Mary Huber, Barbara Lyons, Greg Schlabach and the late Laura Jean Ebert joined 37 other recipients since the secretariat established the award in 2007. The award recognizes Catholics who have answered the call outlined by St. John Paul II in his 1995 encyclical “The Gospel of Life” by dedicating themselves to pro-life activities and promoting respect for the dignity of the human person. It is bestowed in honor of their significant and longtime contributions to the culture of life. Huber spent her 24-year career in pro-life ministry at the Diocese of San Bernardino, California, beginning as a part-time bookkeeper and ultimately becoming the director of Respect Life and Pastoral Care for the diocese’s Department of Life, Dignity and Justice. Lyons began pro-life work in 1974 as volunteer presi- dent of the Milwaukee County chapter of Wisconsin Right to Life. She joined the staff of Wisconsin Catholic Conference from 1981 to 2014 and served as Nebraska Catholic Conference’s executive director for two years. Ebert, who passed away in 2021, spent her life in dedicat- ed service to the Catholic Church and the pro-life movement. She helped establish pro-life pregnancy centers in Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas and Canada. She also served a housemoth- er at a maternity home in Arkansas.
Notre Dame Academy welcomes all grade school girls to our 2022 Open House on Sunday, November 6, from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Potential Pandas and their families will be given personal tours by our NDA Ambassadors. Our faculty will be available to answer any questions you may have and our students will be on hand representing the many co-curricular opportunities offered at Notre Dame Academy.

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