Bishop Iffert in Rome
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Commemorating 35 years Elaine Schaser’s retirement
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In This Issue
November 11, 2022

In wake of failed amendment 2, Kentucky bishops commit to protect life, support women

Staff report
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In response to the rejection of Amendment 2 by Kentucky voters, the Roman Catholic Bishops of Kentucky — Archbishop Shelton Fabe of Louisville, Bishop John Iffert of Covington, Bishop John Stowe, OSPM Coxe, of Lexington and Bishop William Medley of Owensboro — have issued the following statement:

“We are disappointed by the rejection of Amendment 2 by Kentucky voters. This is not the end of the debate or of the need to work diligently to increase respect for the dignity of each and every human being.”

“We pray that the defeat of the Amendment will not lead the courts to assume the role of determining public policy on abortion. The General Assembly is the proper venue to settle such deeply divisive issues.”

“We acknowledge that there are serious concerns that led people to vote against the amendment. We must continue to insist on legal protection for unborn human life, but we also stand ready to work with all people of good will to advance policies that support Kentuckians in vulnerable situations and that ensure access to health care for all.”

“The defeat of Amendment 2 is cause for sadness, but also a call to redouble our efforts at ensuring that every Kentuckian has the support they need to thrive. We renew our commitment to work with legislators to pass laws that protect the unborn, support women and families and respect human life and dignity in all stages of life.”

Maura Baker
Staff Writer
Women religious gathered for a Mass celebrating the 50 and 60 year jubilees of a number of their sisters, Saturday, Nov 5, at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington. The Mass was celebrated by Bishop John Iffert, with Deacon Gerald R. Franzen assisting. In his homily, Bishop Iffert congratulated the sisters celebrating their jubilees.

"He says, if you want to be my disciple, you must take up your cross and follow me," said Bishop Iffert, reflecting on the call of discipleship from God granted to all religious.

"When you were young, remember back to the days of your profession — remember the joy that you gave? You were so on fire. You were ready to do whatever somebody asked you to do." Bishop Iffert said, "If the Lord or your superior asked you to go to another country to another world … you would do it!"

"Then, you realize it wasn’t going to be that easy." He continued, "The mistake that we make when we think of the crucifixion is we think of only three hours." Instead, Bishop Iffert says, the passion of Christ encompasses all of his struggles, every rejection and betrayal. "There is no suffering you have known that Jesus has not known. There is no way you have been asked to carry your cross that Jesus has not carried first," he said.

Included in the Mass was a Benediction of Vows for the sisters, where the jubilarians re-professed their commitment "to the life of Christ in the Gospel." Bishop Iffert concluded his homily by affirming God’s love through and for the jubilarians.

"You have loved and are loved. By God. Christ Jesus, his Holy Spirit and the Church … no matter what questions or concerns or uncertainties you have discerned, you are loved … that’s the jubilee!" he said.

Dioscean sisters celebrate Mass for jubilarians

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Bishop Iffert experiences an anewed connection with Universal Church while in Rome

Laura Kneuer
Editor

Each year, the Vatican hosts a week-long course for newly appointed bishops. The course is organized by the Dicastery for Bishops, the Dicastery for Evangelization and the Dicastery for Eastern Churches. This year, Bishop John Iffert took part in the course, which ended with a session with Pope Francis, Sept. 18. Upon his return to Covington, the Messenger sat down, Sept. 22, with Bishop Iffert to learn about his experience. Publication of the interview has been delayed so that a photo of Bishop Iffert with Pope Francis could be obtained and included.

Question: What was the overall theme of the session?

Bishop Iffert: It was clearly a program of formation for new bishops that centered upon living that reality in a synodal Church, that’s a Church where the ethic is around listening, about exercising that authority in a way that’s consultative as we can be. That doesn’t mean that the teachings of the Church are up for grabs. But it does mean that, in applying the teaching of the Church, we need to listen to the wisdom of the people entrusted to us. That’s the process as it was presented. The purpose of the pope in renewing this process in the Church is to build trust, to reestablish those connections that helped to strengthen and support the life of the Church in the past and where the needs are very pronounced right now because of the wounds that the Church has suffered.

Question: You did get to meet Pope Francis. You sat in a room with over a hundred other bishops and he took questions. Tell me what that experience was like? What was his overall message to the bishops?

Bishop Iffert: When you are in Rome, you can’t help but realize that you are in the place where Peter died a martyr’s death and Paul died a martyr’s death; where centuries of the early Church both experienced growth and experienced suffering. You’re always aware of that connectedness with that early Church and with that early witness. Certainly Pope Francis is a sacramentalizing of that, that his office as the Vicar of Christ, as the Holy Father, that his office as Bishop of Rome, in a way embodies that like no other building, no other church, the city itself, can’t. He does, he embodies that. To be in a room with him was the privilege of a life. You realize that when you’re in a room with him, that you’re in a room where the Church Universal is. That was the first thing.

Then to be there with 179 other bishops, so there were 180 of us total, and to be there in that room, and to be able to listen. I only was able to understand him because a Brazilian Bishop, who speaks both English and Italian fluently, whispered to me the whole translation of everything that the Pope was saying. That was great. He (Pope Francis) spoke on the themes you’ve come to expect Pope Francis to speak on. He spoke about the need for bishops to stay close to their people. He spoke about the need for bishops to especially stay close to the poor. He encouraged us. If bishops have prisons in their diocese he encouraged us to make sure that they’re visiting those prisons. He spoke about his experience of presiding at the Holy Thursday Liturgy and washing feet in prisons and how meaningful that has been for him. He sees those prisons and those incarcerated people as being a place for primary evangelization. He encouraged us in that way.

He encouraged us to love the Church. He encouraged us to be more in love with the local Church and the people that you serve than with being a bishop or having a Church career. He encouraged us to be focused on our relationship with the diocese, like a relationship with a spouse. He said very clearly if you don’t love the Church you’ve been given, you’re committing adultery. It was just all those themes that we’ve heard from the Holy Father over and over again. He emphasized those for the bishops as we start our ministry.

Question: You had a few seconds with Pope Francis personally?

Bishop Iffert: Yes, a few seconds. I thought about what I should say I basically had too much time to say my name and that I was from the Diocese of Covington, Kentucky. He smiled and nodded, and that was about it. I had a bag full of little metals and things that I had purchased for stuff and for some other folks and I held those up and said, “Could you bless these for me, Pope?” And he did. He was glad to and he kind of smiled and chuckled at that. That was about it. You’ll notice in the picture when I’m shaking the Pope’s hand, in my left hand you’ll see little a bag. That’s what that is. Those are the metals that I wanted to bring back.

Question: Have you been to Rome before?

Bishop Iffert: Yeah, just as a pilgrim, back in 2013. That was my last visit.

Question: So what was it like being a bishop there?

Bishop Iffert: You know, it was different. One of the things was that I had a lot more difficulty because I didn’t know Italian. On my first visit it was no issue at all that I didn’t know Italian. But because I was dressed in a clerical dress and had my Bishop’s pectoral cross, people would stop and ask me directions or ask for information because they assumed that I belonged there. In some ways it made it hard. I said I spent a lot of time this trip in St. Peter’s Basilica. There is a special connection there because the tomb of St. Peter is there, under the altar at St. Peter’s Basilica. To know that that ministry, that stems from Peter and from Paul, has been shared with me, that really did make that visit to “the witness,” that cell, it — the little spot for prayer that is just outside of a wall separating the tomb of St. Peter from the body of the church — to visit that and to be able to thank God and ask for Peters prayers in exercising this ministry that was very, very striking. Very powerful for me.

Question: Were there any other highlights during the trip?

Bishop Iffert: One of the great highlights was on the Sunday before we met with Pope Francis, the planners of the conference arranged for us to go for a tour of the Sistine Chapel. I almost passed it up because I’ve toured the Sistine Chapel. But this was a time like other. The Sistine Chapel had not yet opened to tourism for that day and so we were taken into the Sistine Chapel into the neighboring Paul VI chapel, which not a lot of people get to go into. We basically were left there for two hours to spend there … we were allowed to contemplate the beauty of the place and pray. That was amazing. That was amazing.

I also celebrated Mass over the tomb of St. Sebastian. So many children take St. Sebastian as their confirmation name and so I was able to celebrate Mass over his tomb; that was very moving, to celebrate Mass there in the catacombs where the saints had been buried. I learned later that his relics where actually directly above me, the empty tomb where he had been placed was below the altar where I celebrated. That was very moving and a connection with the life of the early Church.

I should mention, too, that just the opportunity to spend more than a week with 180 bishops from around the world — there were bishops there not only from the United States, but also from all over Latin America, all over Western and Eastern Europe — just having that experience of the Universal Church was amazing. One evening, we had a special meal and then the seminarians sang for us and then each national group got up and sang a song from their own country and it was just a joy. There was such a good spirit there, it just fills you with hope and renewal.

Grab the Baby Jesus from your home nativity scene and bring your family to join Bishop John Iffert for blessings, hot chocolate, homemade cookies, live Christmas carols and more!

Saturday, Dec. 10, 6:30 p.m.
at St. Mary’s Park, Cathedral Square, Covington.

Rambinelli
AND CHRISTMAS TREE BLESSING
Growing number of people attend ‘With One Heart’ Deanery Strategy Sessions
Laura Keener
Editor

Over 150 people attended the Northern Kenton County Deanery Strategy Session, Nov. 7, held at St. Agnes Parish, Ft. Wright. Brendan Menuey, leadership consultant, Catholic Leadership Institute led the two-hour listening and sharing session. To begin the session, Bishop John Iffert spoke about the purpose of the meeting and how it integrates with the With One Heart strategic pastoral planning and leadership development initiative begun in the Diocese of Covington, Sept. 30. Nearly 40 minutes of the session had attendees in small group discussion on the top challenges and successes of their parish and the diocese. The meeting ended with groups sharing their discussion with the entire group. Each group enlisted one of its participants as a scribe so that all discussion points could be collected and reviewed by Mr. Menuey and the With One Heart Planning Commission. This information will be considered as the Planning Commission develops its strategic plan proposal, which will be presented to Bishop Iffert in September 2023.

Deanery Strategy Sessions are one way that everyone in the Diocese of Covington can participate in the With One Heart initiative. The next and final Deanery Strategy Session will be held Dec. 6 at the Curia, Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, Covington. Everyone who has not already participated in a Deanery Strategy Session is welcome and encouraged to attend. Coming in Lent 2023, everyone will be asked to participate in a survey, the Disciple Maker Index — a key component of the With One Heart initiative. 

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

Commemorating 35 years of service

Elaine Schaser, benefits coordinator for the Diocese of Covington, retires after 35 years serving the people of the diocese and four of the diocese’s bishops. The diocesan Curia held a luncheon celebrating Ms. Schaser’s retirement at Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, Covington.
Mother Alfred and the need for Women Religious

On the morning of October 17, 1978, the newly-elected Pope John Paul II considered Mass with the College of Cardinals and pledged that the program of his papacy would be the full implementation of the Second Vatican Council. That was his “definitive duty” for the Council had been an event of utmost importance” in the two millennia of Church history. As I explain in To Sanctify the World: The Vital Legacy of Vatican II (Basic Books), the next 36-and-a-half years saw John Paul II fulfill that pledge, for his pontificate was an epic of teaching and witness that would provide the Council the interpretive keys it had not given itself.

Unlike the previous 20 ecumenical councils, Vatican II did not articulate or identify a definitive key to its proper celebration of Mass (and even the content of recent reforms of the Roman Curia, the deposition of Pope Benedict XVI. Like his papal predecessor, Ratzinger was a Council’s teaching that no rights or privileges are to be referred by sacramental ordination to the episcopate; of utmost importance” in the two millennia of Church history. As I explain in To Sanctify the World: The Vital Legacy of Vatican II (Basic Books), the next 36-and-a-half years saw John Paul II fulfill that pledge, for his pontificate was an epic of teaching and witness that would provide the Council the interpretive keys it had not given itself.

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**EIGHTH DAY**

**Father Daniel Vogelpohl**

We cannot allow ourselves to be caught in the web of dwelling on the past. Nor can we afford the anxiety of fretting over the future. The Lord Jesus calls us to live in the present moment because he is present there and that is where he gives us the grace that will endure to eternal life.

Many Israelites of Jesus’ time gave in to the temptation of looking to the past or the future. When people became preoccupied with the past, they tended to see it as a对我们 that was worth recalling. When people became preoccupied with the future, they tended to see it as a对我们 that was worth dreaming about. The advice, my new acquaintance informed me, was simple: Live not either one, but “one minute at a time.” It is important to live in the present moment.

There are other things to be said about the past and future. We simply urge them strongly in the Lord Jesus Christ to earn the kingdom against kingdom. He spoke of earthquakes, wars, and disturbances in the temple, which they found themselves, many simply acquiesced in. TheTemple was in occupied territory, controlled by the Romans. Convinced of the imminence of the second coming of Christ, they literally quit living in the present. They were convinced of the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The warning them today that they must continue to live in the present moment is what will save them.

My wife, Leah and I along with Leah’s sister, Debbie and her husband, John went to Niagara Falls for a long weekend recently. For those of you who have never been I have to tell you that the water that I watched cascading over the falls could’ve been the same water that was once the water of the River Jordan that John used to baptize Jesus; it could’ve been in the Sea of Galilee where Jesus and St. Peter went for a walk; maybe it was the water that Jesus used to wash the Apostles’ feet at the Last Supper or maybe it was the water that spilt from Jesus side as He hung upon the cross. Even more convincing, it has been the water that Father Joseph Collins poured over my head on February 2, 1958 when he baptized me “in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

The same water that I watched cascading over the falls at Niagara Falls could’ve been the water that was once the water of the River Jordan that John used to baptize Jesus; it could’ve been in the Sea of Galilee where Jesus and St. Peter went for a walk; maybe it was the water that Jesus used to wash the Apostles’ feet at the Last Supper or maybe it was the water that spilt from Jesus side as He hung upon the cross. Even more convincing, it has been the water that Father Joseph Collins poured over my head on February 2, 1958 when he baptized me “in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

When I was struck by this thought that day at Niagara Falls, I suddenly felt like I was reborn. It was 56 years, with the water of my Baptism and I sensed, somehow, that that water was still holy; and that the waters of Niagara Falls, while awesome for their power and the beauty, pale in comparison to the power and beauty of the waters of Baptism.

Deacon Timothy Britt is assigned to St. Mary Parish, Alexandria, Ky

**Patient endurance one minute at a time**


At a Halloween party hosted by a long-time friend, I met a woman who had recently lost a loved one. She told me of her struggle in dealing with the death of a loved one. She had recently participated in a meeting of a support group for persons coping with the death of a loved one. The topic for the meeting was: How to meet the challenges of living through the holiday season.

She acquired, my new acquaintance informed me, was simple: Live not either one, but “one minute at a time.” It is important to live in the present moment.

One day of my eldest daughter, I really have no idea how we got here. Let me tell you that my last name has got it together. I want to be like her. Never have I ever needed to remind her to complete assignments, check on her grades or practice her hobbies. In fact, it is more likely that she reminded me a few times of a looming deadline. She or a payment was needed to make on her behalf. Not only does she possess the maturity ability to prioritize and get things done, but she is also kind, cool, collected young lady. This kid bounces back from disappointment and seldom gets rattled. Or she does a really good job of disguising it.

She is preparing for this next phase in life. While it’s evident she is excited about what’s to come, the pressure of knowing it’s more than another day in high school haunts her. Totally normal, totally natural — just foreign to her.

This past weekend, I watched my girl take a break from the pressure of application deadlines to spend time with her little sister. Little sister is getting serious about academic team at school. She wants to be the person who knows all things language arts, just like her big sister at the same age. As I watched the two of them talk about books, writing styles and structure sentence, I saw the stress melt away for my fastest. She was needed. She had something to offer, and she was happy to do it. Big sis shared knowledge, patience, encouragement smiles and a few jokes. My heart was full.

At first glance, you would think that big sis was helping her protect. In reality the help was reciprocal. The benefit to Miss Cool, Calm, Collected was also very clear.

Many people join the ranks at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul because they want to help people. Many Israelites of Jesus’ time gave in to the temptation of looking to the past or the future. When people became preoccupied with the past, they tended to see it as a对我们 that was worth recalling. When people became preoccupied with the future, they tended to see it as a对我们 that was worth dreaming about.

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There is another danger. Sometimes in our zeal, we push ourselves beyond the present moment and into the future. Planning for the future is one thing, but being consumed by it is an other. Jesus told us many things about the future: “Nations will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom.” He spoke of earthquakes, plagues, famines, fearful omens and great signs. But his message about these things was quite simple: Don’t worry about them. In speaking about the trials we will face and the witness we must give he admonished us to “resolve not because he will give us the words and wisdom…” which will we need.

Several of the early Christians of Thessalonika (today’s first reading) had fallen into the trap of living in the future. Coincidence of the imminence of the second coming of Christ literally quit living in the present. They abandoned their jobs, ate the food others provided, and waited for Christ to come. They had warned them today that they must continue to live in the present keeping busy. “We enjoy all such, and we urge them strongly in the Lord Jesus Christ to earn the food they eat by working quietly.”

Here, I believe, we find the key to the Christian’s approach to life that avoids nostalgic dwelling on the past and excessive preoccupation with the future. We simply work quietly at our present task as we “await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.” The Lord’s final words to us in today’s Gospel remind us that, “by patient endurance you will save your lives.”

Memories of the past can be a great inspiration to our life and our struggle with present difficulties. Thoughts of the future can provide us with a hope, but we need to persevere through our present problems. But living too much in the past or focusing too sharply on the future

**Niagara Falls**

“I have factor years of high school for my oldest daughter. I really have no idea how we got here. Let me tell you that my last name has got it together. I want to be like her. Never have I ever needed to remind her to complete assignments, check on her grades or practice her hobbies. In fact, it is more likely that she reminded me a few times of a looming deadline. She or a payment was needed to make on her behalf. Not only does she possess the maturity ability to prioritize and get things done, but she is also kind, cool, collected young lady. This kid bounces back from disappointment and seldom gets rattled. Or she does a really good job of disguising it.

She is preparing for this next phase in life. While it’s evident she is excited about what’s to come, the pressure of knowing it’s more than another day in high school haunts her. Totally normal, totally natural — just foreign to her.

This past weekend, I watched my girl take a break from the pressure of application deadlines to spend time with her little sister. Little sister is getting serious about academic team at school. She wants to be the person who knows all things language arts, just like her big sister at the same age. As I watched the two of them talk about books, writing styles and structure sentence, I saw the stress melt away for my fastest. She was needed. She had something to offer, and she was happy to do it. Big sis shared knowledge, patience, encouragement smiles and a few jokes. My heart was full.

At first glance, you would think that big sis was helping her protect. In reality the help was reciprocal. The benefit to Miss Cool, Calm, Collected was also very clear.

Many people join the ranks at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul because they want to help people. Many Israelites of Jesus’ time gave in to the temptation of looking to the past or the future. When people became preoccupied with the past, they tended to see it as a对我们 that was worth recalling. When people became preoccupied with the future, they tended to see it as a对我们 that was worth dreaming about.

The advice, my new acquaintance informed me, was simple: Live not either one, but “one minute at a time.” It is important to live in the present moment.

There is another danger. Sometimes in our zeal, we push ourselves beyond the present moment and into the future. Planning for the future is one thing, but being consumed by it is an other. Jesus told us many things about the future: “Nations will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom.” He spoke of earthquakes, plagues, famines, fearful omens and great signs. But his message about these things was quite simple: Don’t worry about them. In speaking about the trials we will face and the witness we must give he admonished us to “resolve not because he will give us the words and wisdom…” which will we need.

Several of the early Christians of Thessalonika (today’s first reading) had fallen into the trap of living in the future. Coincidence of the imminence of the second coming of Christ literally quit living in the present. They abandoned their jobs, ate the food others provided, and waited for Christ to come. They had warned them today that they must continue to live in the present keeping busy. “We enjoy all such, and we urge them strongly in the Lord Jesus Christ to earn the food they eat by working quietly.”

Here, I believe, we find the key to the Christian’s approach to life that avoids nostalgic dwelling on the past and excessive preoccupation with the future. We simply work quietly at our present task as we “await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.” The Lord’s final words to us in today’s Gospel remind us that, “by patient endurance you will save your lives.”

Memories of the past can be a great inspiration to our life and our struggle with present difficulties. Thoughts of the future can provide us with a hope, but we need to persevere through our present problems. But living too much in the past or focusing too sharply on the future.
We Choose Life

Pro-Life Office
of the Diocese of Covington

Mission Statement
The Pro-Life Office of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington, guided by our bishop, promotes the sanctity and legal protection of human life from conception to natural death through prayer, pastoral care, public policy and education.

Resources
AAPLOG.org: The American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists. See “Myth vs. Fact: Correcting Misinformation on Medical Maternal Care.”
Cancer.net: Information from the American Society of Clinical Oncology. See “Cancer During Pregnancy” and “What to Do When You Are Diagnosed With Cancer During Pregnancy.”
Catechism of the Catholic Church: Section 2, Article V, especially paras. 2270–2275.
CathMed.org: The Catholic Medical Association forms and supports physicians and all healthcare professionals and clergy to embody and promote Catholic principles in the practice of their profession.
CovingtonCMA.CathMed.org: The St. Teresa of Calcutta and Faustin of the Catholic Medical Association in the Diocese of Covington provides all healthcare professionals and clergy with mutual support, inspiration and education. Contact William E. Wehrman III, MD, at 1215wehrman@lsmn.com.
LazierInstitute.org: The Charlotte Lazier Institute provides current statistics and science on a variety of biomedical issues.
NCBCenter.org: The National Catholic Bioethics Center provides education, guidance and resources to uphold human dignity in healthcare and biomedical research. See “The Bioethics of High-Risk Pregnancies.”
RAINN.org: The Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network is the nation’s largest anti-sexual violence organization.

Nine myths and truths of abortion

Ellen Curtin
Contributor

In the wake of the Dobbs v. Jackson decision, every news cycle brings another prediction that countless women will suffer and die if abortion on demand is banned or restricted. Even laws that specify the right to life-saving care are denounced as deadly and anti-woman. How can pro-lifers counter these myths and misunderstandings? Here are some medical, political and commonsense truths to help. May each of us strive to speak with kindness always — planting seeds of truth and trusting that God will convert all fear to hope and anger to love.

1. Myth: Miscarriages and ectopic pregnancies need abortion.

Truth: Kentucky defines abortion by intent: “Abortion” shall mean the use of any means whatsoever to terminate the pregnancy of a woman known to be pregnant with intent to cause fetal death. Some people get confused because treatments for ectopics and miscarriages may resemble uterine abortion procedures, but even Planned Parenthood acknowledges their different intent.

Up to 20 percent of pregnancies end in miscarriage before week 20, most before week 12. If natural miscarriage fails to progress, delivering the body to avoid dangerous infection is basic healthcare. This is not abortion.

About 2 percent of pregnancies are ectopic. Removing the nonviable feto and implantation area (usually a fallopian tube) before rupture and possibly fatal, uncontrolled bleeding is urgent. But the intervention is done to protect the mother, not to seek fetal death. This is not abortion.

2. Myth: Mothers will be arrested after abortion.

Truth: No abortion law criminalizes the mother; only abortion providers.

3. Myth: Abortion is healthcare.

Truth: Healthcare saves lives; and obstetricians serve two patients — mother and child. In contrast, every successful abortion is fatal, and abortion on demand ends lives for social, not medical, reasons. Even with cancer, modern treatment plans can delay radiation or tailor chemo to protect maternal health while preserving fetal development. No abortion restriction denies life-saving care when a mother’s survival or major organs are at risk. But no emergency requires killing her child in utero. Although preterm babies may not survive long after induced delivery or C-section, they can still be held, blessed and kissed goodbye — powerful consolations for their grieving families.

4. Myth: The right to bodily autonomy includes aborting an abnormal fetus.

Truth: A pregnant woman can decide her own medical care, but the separate human being inside her also has needs and innate human rights.

The United Nations defines bodily autonomy as “the power and agency to make choices about your body” without violating “the bodily integrity of anyone else.” Furthermore, every person with disabilities has a right to respect for his or her physical and mental integrity on an equal basis with others.” Abortion violates both principles.

Bipolar defects are rare — only 3 percent of babies — and 85 percent of rare disorder screenings are wrong (NY Times, Jan. 2022). With accurate prenatal screenings parents can plan and seek assistance, but any one pressured to abort needs a second opinion. Happily, fetal surgery for congenital defects, which is increasingly common, has a 90 percent survival rate.

5. Myth: Rape and incest demand abortion.

Truth: This Mother deserves extra prenatal and post-natal medical and psychological care, but how her pregnancy began does not prevent healthy fetal development and a safe delivery. Abortion punishes the baby rather than the criminal, does not reduce the survivor’s traumatic abuse and leaves her the mother of a dead child, with all the medical and psychological aftereffects of abortion.

Rape with no contraception has a 5 percent chance of pregnancy. Few abortions involve rape (1 percent) or incest (0.5 percent), and sexual violence organization.

6. Myth: Abortion is safer than childbirth.

Truth: A major study in Finland (where abortion up to 12 weeks is legal and free) found 3 to 4 times more maternal deaths with abortion than delivery. In addition, besides higher risk of future preterm births, “abortion significantly increases the risk of depression, anxiety, substance abuse, and suicidal behavior, when compared to women with unintended pregnancies who choose to carry the baby to birth” (AAPLOG).

Tellingly, in the pro-abortion Turnaway study 99 percent of women unable to access abortion were glad five years later that they had not aborted.

7. Myth: Birth control and emergency contraception will be illegal.

Truth: Even anti-abortion states have not proposed birth control bans. The abortion connection relates to medications and devices marketed as contraceptives that block a fertilized egg’s implantation in the uterus (see “Mechanism of Action” in makers’ FDA statements). While people who define pregnancy as “post-implantation” do not consider ejaculation of a fertilized egg as abortive, groups with religious objections to abortion are exempt from providing insurance for IUDs and other methods that prevent implantation.

8. Myth: Abortion laws impose religion on others.

Truth: Secular law prohibits the killing of innocent persons, and murder is illegal in every country, regardless of the dominant religion. Every state addresses lethal violence and accidental or intentional homicide, and 38 prosecute feticide.

Does any religion defend unprovoked aggression against the innocent and deny the human right to life? Judeo-Christian believers have a stark commandment: “Thou shalt not kill.” Muslims teach: “You shall not take life, which God has made sacred, except by way of justice and law.” Buddhism says: “One should not kill a living being, nor cause it to be killed, nor should one incite another to kill.” Traditional Hindu respect for life seeks least harm to others, and Hindus allow abortion only to save the mother’s life.


Truth: In the AP-NORC poll (July 2022), anti-demand support declined by trimester: from 45 percent to 18 percent to 11 percent. In other words, more than half supported restrictions or bans in the first trimester. Eight percent in the second and 8 percent in the third. Nearly half said states should be responsible for establishing abortion laws, not the federal government.

Ellen Curtin and her husband Dan are members of St. Thomas Parish, Ft. Thomas. She has served on many diocesan and parish committees, currently We Choose Life, the Board of the Rose Garden Center for Hope and Healing and Walking with Moms in Need.

At the United Nations

Laws which explicitly allow for abortion on grounds of impairment violate the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Even if a (diagnosis of fatal or other impairment) is not false, the assessment perpetuates notions of stereotyping disability as incompatible with a good life.

— Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of the United Nations
The Department of Catholic Schools announces the annual
High School Placement Test
Saturday, December 10, 2022
9 a.m. to Noon

The High School Placement Test is administered to current 8th grade students who are interested in attending a Catholic high school in the Diocese of Covington.

The registration process is coordinated through each individual high school.

Registration deadline: Friday, December 2, 2022

For further information, contact any secondary school listed or the Department of Catholic Schools at 859-392-1500.

Bishop Brossart
4 Grove St.
Alexandria, KY 41001
859.635.2108
www.bishopbrossart.org

Covington Catholic
1600 Dixie Hwy.
Park Hills, KY 41011
859.491.2247
www.covcat.org

Holy Cross District
3617 Church St.
Covington, KY 41015
859.431.1335
www.hchscov.com

Newport Central Catholic
13 Carothers Rd.
Newport, KY 41071
859.292.0001
www.ncchs.com

Notre Dame Academy
1699 Hilton Dr.
Park Hills, KY 41011
859.261.4300
www.ndapandas.org

St. Henry District
3755 Scheben Dr.
Erlanger, KY 41018
859.525.0255
www.shdhs.org

Villa Madonna Academy
2500 Amsterdam Rd.
Villa Hills, KY 41017
859.331.6333
www.villamadonna.org

The following schools do not administer the standard High School Placement Test. Contact the school directly for admission information.

Covington Latin
21 East Eleventh St.
Covington, KY 41011
859.291.7044
www.covingtonlatin.org

St. Patrick
318 Limestone St.
Maysville, KY 41056
606.564.5949
www.stpatschool.com

High School Placement Test Scholarships will be awarded to students only from the high school where the student took the test.

Schools in the Diocese of Covington accept students of any race, color and national or ethnic origin who otherwise meet the criteria for admission.
Food for Friends — adds Mason County

Staff report

Over 100 families were served, Nov. 1, at Catholic Charities, Diocese of Covington first mobile food pantry stop in Mason County, and it’s just the beginning. “Food for Friends” Mason County will be held on the 1st Tuesday of every month at The Maysville Lions Club to assist low-income residents by providing healthy food for themselves and their families.

“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 is a drive-thru pantry so that social distancing guidelines can be met, and guests and volunteers remain safe. Volunteers were on hand to assist in loading groceries.

“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 Hehman, Mobile Pantry coordinator, at (859) 581-8974 ext. 124, or e-mail at jhehman@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
2nd Thursday, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

Grant County
St. William Catholic Church, Williamstown
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.

(right) Notre Dame Sister Nance Hehman, volunteer, Catholic Charities Food for Friends, helps bag grocery items for the nearly 100 families who attended Mason County’s first mobile food pantry, Nov. 1, at Maysville Lions Club. Mason County is the fifth county to become a monthly stop for the Catholic Charities’ mobile food pantry. Their goal is six counties — Pendleton County is next.

(below right, from left) Volunteers Tom Barnes and Gary Frodge assist a gentleman with bringing groceries to his car.
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 Houses — meet faculty, staff, hear from current students and get a feel for the spirit of the school.
Villa Madonna Academy, Villa Hills
Nov. 17, 7-8:30 p.m. (grades 7-12)
Holy Cross District High School, Covington
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.

The weekly TV Mass from the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption is broadcast locally on the CM, 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.

On the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Father Aby Thampi, parochial vicar, St. Henry Parish, Elsmere, blessed the pets of schoolchildren.
Geatings, will lead the singing of many favorite hymns. No cost, no reservations.
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.

St. Joseph Padre Pio Prayer Group meets on the 3rd Thursday, 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 address: crescentSpringsPadrePio@gmail.com. Volunteers 18 and older must be VIRTUS compliant.

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 344-1591.

City government
The 2nd grade students at St. Agnes School, Ft. Wright are learning about government. Ft. Wright City Council Member Scott Wall visited the class and talked about the responsibilities of the mayor’s office and answered many questions. The students were surprised to learn that the council members have homework after meetings.
Thomas More University professor named a 2022 newsmaker

Staff report

The Northern Kentucky Tribune names Raymond G. Hebert, Ph.D., Thomas More University professor and executive director of the Wm. T. (Bill) Robinson III ’67 Institute for Religious Liberty (IRL), among its 2022 NewsMakers. This recognition is bestowed to high-achieving, community servants in recognition of the significant roles they play in the Northern Kentucky community. The Tribune recognizes five leaders as NewsMakers, each diverse in their regional impact.

Dr. Hebert is celebrated for his contributions to the community as a beloved educator and historian, notably playing a major role in the education and civic involvement of countless students. Dr. Hebert has been with Thomas More University for 50 years, serving in a variety of leadership roles including vice president for academic affairs, dean, chair of the Department of History, International Studies, and Political Sciences, head of the honors program and history major, chair of the Department of History and International Studies, dean, chair of the Department of History, International Studies, and Political Sciences, and executive director of the IRL.

“Dr. Hebert has been a prominent member of the Thomas More community for more than 49 years, supporting our students, alumni, faculty, and staff in various ways,” says Dr. Joseph Chillo, president of Thomas More University. “From professor to director of the Wm. T. (Bill) Robinson III ’67 Institute for Religious Liberty, Ray works to promote the value and impact of a high-quality Catholic liberal arts education, while being highly committed to our students and the northern Kentucky community.

“I am truly humbled by this recognition,” says Dr. Hebert, “while being proud that in receiving it, I represent the remarkable group of faculty that are at the heart of a Thomas More University education. Since I started back in the 1970’s, I never wanted was to be the best teacher I could be, because that is what our students deserve. By providing them with the best liberal arts education possible, as a team, have always prepared our students with the best training for postgraduate studies or the world of work. It has been an honor to be part of that process.”

Dr. Hebert has represented Thomas More in the surrounding community through various opportunities over the years which include the Northern Kentucky Education Council, Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, Regional Business Council, and the Covington Rotary Club. Hebert, his wife Maureen, their two daughters, and now five grandchildren all still call Northern Kentucky home.

“Beyond my individual classroom or any study abroad program I directed, I realized how special a community Northern Kentucky is and that Thomas More is privileged to be a part of it,” he adds.

Dr. Hebert will also be recognized by Thomas More University in early 2023 at the annual Bishop William A. Hughes Award Dinner scheduled for March 29. He will be the inaugural recipient of an award named in his honor and established to continue his legacy.

Roman martyr celebrated as patron of altar servers

Maura Baker

Staff Writer

When an insane gang pretend saintly Tarcisius, who was carrying the sacraments of Christ, to display them to the profane, he preferred to be killed and give up his life rather than betray to rabid dogs the heavenly body.

These lines are derived from a poem by Pope Damasus I, a 4th century pope, in a poem that compares the martyr St. Tarcisius to St. Stephen. St. Tarcisius, who lived in the 3rd century, is described primarily through this poem that recounts his martyrdom. As the story goes, St. Tarcisius was a young acolyte charged to deliver the Blessed Sacrament to imprisoned Christians during the reign of Emperor Valerian—a period in the Roman Empire during which Christians were heavily persecuted. While delivering the sacrament, St. Tarcisius was attacked by a mob and allowed himself to be beaten to death, rather than hand the Blessed Sacrament over to his assailants.

Originally, the body of St. Tarcisius was buried in the Catacombs of San Callisto, Rome, with Pope Damasus’s poem inscribed on his tomb. However, his relics were eventually moved to the San Silvestro in Capite church in Rome.

A stained glass window depicting St. Tarcisius is on display at the Westwinger in Helmond, Netherlands. Formerly, the window was part of a triptych displayed at the now closed Tarcisius School in Helmond.

St. Tarcisius’s feast day is celebrated August 15, and he is venerated as the patron saint of both altar servers and first communicants.

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ST. CECILIA

CHURCH HALL

A stained glass window depicting St. Tarcisius is on display at the Westwinger in Helmond, Netherlands. Formerly, the window was part of a triptych displayed at the now closed Tarcisius School in Helmond.

St. Tarcisius’s feast day is celebrated August 15, and he is venerated as the patron saint of both altar servers and first communicants.

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Villa Madonna Academy High School/Junior High receives Excellence Award

Staff report

Villa Madonna Academy High School/Junior High has been recognized as a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Lighthouse School this year. This is the highest award given by the Blue Ribbon School of Excellence organization, and it recognizes Villa Madonna Academy’s work in “student focus and support, school culture and community curriculum, teaching and leadership.”

Blue Ribbon School of Excellence (BRSE) is a non-profit organization that has been serving schools across the nation since 2001. A representative of BRSE visited classrooms, conducted surveys and interviewed students, parents and faculty.

Dennis Bega of BRSE handled the review and said, “Villa Madonna Academy demonstrates a dedication to education quality not just in academic achievement, but in overall distinction of the faith-based leadership, teaching and learning environment. VMA students clearly share the benefit of this commitment to excellence both in the classroom and the community.”

Pamela McQueen, executive director and high school/junior high principal, and Joe Cordonnier, assistant principal, will receive the award later this month at the BRSE national conference.

Please join Fr. Michael Greer at St. John Church

627 Pike Street, Covington – (859) 431-5314

Thanksgiving Homecoming

Sunday, November 27 – 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

If you have any connection to St. John Church on Pike Street in Covington you are invited to our Thanksgiving Homecoming on Sunday, November 27, 2022. The celebration starts with Mass at 9:00 a.m. at St. John Church followed by Coffee, Donuts and Raffles in the Prince of Peace Auditorium. Tours of the School and Church will be available.

Thanksgiving Homecoming

Mass @ 9:00 A.M. at St. John Church

followed by

Coffee, Donuts & Raffles in the Prince of Peace Auditorium

Tours of the School & Church
U.S. Catholics Called On to Support Dedicated Guatemalan Priest’s Mission of Mercy

Father Raúl Monterroso and the ministry team at Caritas believe they have been called by God to alleviate poverty and improve the living conditions of poor families in the diocese they serve. Their hope is that Catholics in the U.S. will support that goal by acting as God’s instruments of mercy in Guatemala and by helping the mission provide sturdy homes to the most vulnerable families in the diocese.

Cross Catholic Outreach, a respected Catholic relief and development charity working on projects of that kind around the world, is also involved and is encouraging its donors to support Fr. Raúl and the ministry team.

“In Guatemala and other developing countries, Catholic leaders are eager to help the poor in their parishes or dioceses, but they lack the resources needed to launch those missions of mercy,” explained Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach. “Our ministry was founded to support priests like Fr. Raúl and to bless the poor through projects like the one he is proposing. His bishop has an excellent plan to bless struggling families in the area with safe housing. Our goal is to help him achieve that important mission.”

While Cross Catholic Outreach has engaged in other projects that support the diocese’s work in Guatemala – efforts to feed the hungry, supply safe water and provide education to needy children, for example – Cavnar believes focusing on safe home construction should be a priority for U.S. Catholics interested in having a big impact with their donated dollars.

“The poorest families in the diocese have been living in terrible patchwork shelters they put together themselves with scraps of wood, rusty metal sheets and other discarded things,” Cavnar said. “Giving them the gift of a sturdy home – even a simple one – will represent a life-transforming change and be an incredible blessing to their children.”

The durable, concrete-block houses Cross Catholic Outreach hopes to fund through donations from U.S. Catholics will include a solid cement floor and a sturdy roof, giving the area’s poor families a level of comfort they’ve never experienced before. Metal doors will provide ample security, while large shuttered windows will let in light without compromising privacy. Each house will also be wired for electricity and will include a sanitary latrine, a washtub, and a clean-air stove that will eliminate the problem of smoke inhalation.

These simple but profound provisions will be a life-changing gift to those who have grown up in abject poverty. The homes will uphold the dignity of families that have felt forgotten by the world. These families will know their Father in heaven has heard their prayers and has used the Church and her faithful to restore their hope.

“Caritas in Santa Rosa de Lima is the perfect partner to accomplish these goals because it is concerned with more than meeting just material needs. Its programs also evangelize and strengthen the faith of the families being served,” Cavnar said. “My hope is that American Catholics will want to get behind this project and generously to ensure Fr. Raúl is successful.”

Readers interested in supporting Cross Catholic Outreach housing programs and other outreachs to the poor can send a tax-deductible gift to Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC02332, PO Box 97168, 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 and a staff member will contact you about setting up those arrangements.

Legacy Giving Provides Catholics With Unique Opportunity to Bless Others

If you are like many Catholics born in the 1950s or before, you have probably begun to think about the spiritual legacy your life and actions represent. What did we care about? What did we value? These are some of the things we hope will be remembered.

“For a growing number of Catholics, this introspection has led to the exploration of ‘legacy giving’ – the use of one’s will, trust, life insurance or retirement policies to leave behind an echo of one’s beliefs, deeds and values – a blessing that will reverberate beyond our own lifetime, hopefully influencing our family and others who cherish,” explained Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach, an official Catholic relief and development charity with staff dedicated to such estate planning.

According to Cavnar, Cross Catholic Outreach has helped many Catholics establish “legacy gifts” that are expected to play a significant role in future ministry missions.

“A will or trust can also reflect a person’s special heart for a country or for an area of need. It can be used to build houses for poor families or to build classrooms to educate children, for example,” Cavnar said. “Others simply want to help the poorest of the poor and make their legacy gift for that purpose. It’s their way of saying, ‘As a Catholic, I value life and support works of mercy. I want my family to understand that calling and believe in it too.’ And because legacy gifts can be quite large, they often achieve incredible things. A single gift might build an entire school or fund the construction of hundreds of homes. They produce an amazing impact and serve as an incredible testament to the faith of the giver.”

In addition to this service, Cross Catholic Outreach’s staff can also support donors seeking to establish a charitable gift annuity, charitable remainder trust or special endowment. Financial planners can also obtain information to help those who seek professional counsel or have donor-advised funds.

To learn more about these services, the charity recommends readers visit its special online portal at CrossCatholicLegacy.org.
Impoverished Families in Rural Guatemala Face a Daily Struggle to Survive in Unsafe, Unsanitary Housing

Sonia Hernandez and her husband know the challenges of raising a family in unsafe, unsanitary housing. They and their four children face one hardship after another, usually due to the whims of the weather or health challenges as a life of poverty creates.

Insects infest the wood of her patchwork house, and when it rains, water gushes in through holes in the roof and walls, soaking the family’s few meager possessions while turning their dirt floor into a muddy mess.

“There were times I woke up to find myself in a puddle of water,” Sonia lamented. “The family’s home is not only unsanitary but also insecure. Thieves can easily break in to steal the Hernandezes’ few possessions, and vermin have no trouble breaching the walls. These circumstances leave the family feeling fearful and vulnerable. But since there is little chance of escaping this situation without outside help, Sonia’s family has simply had to endure these trials.

“It might be a different matter if the local economy were good and families like Sonia’s could save enough to make repairs or move, but that’s not the situation in many rural parts of Guatemala,” explained Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach, a respected Catholic ministry working to end abject poverty in the area. “There are few employment options to earn a living wage in this particular diocese, so most local families rely on subsistence farming to survive, and that barely provides enough to put even a meager meal on the table. It will take an intervention by the Church to change their living conditions in any meaningful way.”

Sadly, the hardships the Hernandez family faces are not unique. Most of the impoverished families living in the Diocese of Santa Rosa de Lima live hand to mouth in crumbling shanty houses, putting them at risk when harsh weather strikes. There are other hardships too. Most of the community’s women must cook on indoor wood-burning stoves, causing their families to inhale dangerous smoke whenever meals are being prepared.

“Poor families in the Diocese of Santa Rosa de Lima face challenging living conditions. Sonia Hernandez, shown above, wants a better life for her family – and there is hope, thanks to Church missions supported by Cross Catholic Outreach.

“When I go and visit these communities, I am saddened to see the families lack basic things,” said Father Raúl Monterroso, a local parish priest who works for Caritas under the direction of his bishop. With the help of Cross Catholic Outreach, Fr. Raúl and the Caritas Santa Rosa team hope to bring radical changes to these poor communities, first by assisting families with basic necessities such as food and housing and then by working toward complete community transformation.

“Our ultimate goal is to improve the living conditions in this community and help these families become more prosperous so that the cycle of poverty that has plagued them for generations can finally be broken,” Cavnar explained. “We’ve learned that providing safe housing plays a major part in improving lives [see related story on opposite page], so we are making that a priority in Santa Rosa. As families are placed in safer, sturdier homes, their hope is restored and they have a foundation for building a better life.”

Fr. Raúl and the Caritas Santa Rosa team agree, and they are thrilled to have an opportunity to tackle this important project.

“It will take a lot of support from U.S. Catholics to achieve what Fr. Raúl has in mind, but if we work together, I am confident we can get it done,” Cavnar said. “In fact, I have found American Catholics are excited to take part in projects of this kind, whether they can contribute enough for an entire house or give toward that greater goal. They like giving to a project like this because it produces something lasting and tangible – something that can forever transform a family’s life.

“My prayer is that hundreds of compassionate Catholics in the U.S. will see how much the poor in Guatemala are suffering and will step forward to help,” Cavnar said. “If they do, we can transform lives in a profound way, and God will be glorified through our mission of mercy.”

Be Someone’s Miracle!

To fund Cross Catholic Outreach’s effort to help those in need this season, mail your gift to Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC08232, PO Box 97169, Washington, DC 20090-7168. You can also scan the code with your phone to purchase your gifts online. The catalog 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 restricted to be used for that specific project. However, if none is listed for the project that is in need, funds will be redistributed to other urgent needs in the ministry.
**Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Covington**

is adding services and 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 background 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 under-served 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 a.m. and 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 to work either 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](https://www.covingtoncharities.org/news-events/job-opportunities).

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**STAFF WRITER/MEDIA CONTENT DEVELOPER**

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

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

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**ST. JOSEPH, CRESCENT SPRINGS FULL-TIME CATERIA MANAGER**

St. Joseph School is looking for a full-time Cafeteria Manager. The successful candidate must have a degree in food service management or related field. The pay range is $75-100K. Interested candidates may submit a resume, references, and writing samples to Stephen Koplyay by e-mail: skoplyay@covdio.org, (859) 392-1500.
For there to be peace, people need to expand their horizons, engage in dialogue and work with each other in a way that sets aside selfishness and ambition, Pope Francis said.

Reflecting on his recent visit to Bahrain during his weekly general audience, the pope said, “I sensed this need in Bahrain and I hoped that religious and civil leaders throughout the world might be able to look beyond their own borders, their own communities, to care for the whole.”

“This is the only way to confront certain universal issues, such as that God is being forgotten, the tragedy of hunger, the care of creation, peace,” he said.

The world needs to reject confrontation and walk the path of encounter, he said, especially when it comes to “the insanity of war of which battered Ukraine is a victim, and of many other conflicts that will never be resolved through the infantile logic of artillery, but only with the gentle power of dialogue.”

Pope Francis told people at the audience why he decided to visit a Muslim-majority nation when there are so many countries in the world with a predominately Christian population.

The answer, he said, can be summed up in three words: dialogue, encounter and journey.

The opportunity for “the long-desired journey” came thanks to an invitation by Bahrain’s King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, who was sponsoring a forum on dialogue between the East and the West, in order to “discover the richness that other peoples, traditions and beliefs possess,” the pope said.

Bahrain, an archipelago of 33 islands in the middle of the Persian Gulf, “helps us understand that it is not necessary to live by isolating ourselves, but by coming closer,” he said.

“The cause of peace necessitates this, and dialogue is ‘the oxygen of peace,’” even at home and in the family, he added.

The Second Vatican Council saw that peace needed men and women who could see and think beyond their own nation, “put aside national selfishness and ambition to dominate other nations” and develop a “profound reverence for the whole of humanity,” the pope said.

This approach is still greatly needed in today’s world, he said, and the Bahrain forum “encouraged the choice of the path of encounter and the rejection of confrontation.”

The trip to Bahrain also focused on the need for encounter, he said, because without offering the other a heartfelt welcome, “dialogue remains empty” and “remains on the level of an idea rather than reality.”

The pope said so many individuals and groups he met, especially the young Christian and Muslim students at Sacred Heart School, showed what this encounter looks like. Children and young people “need to get to know each other so that fraternal encounter might prevent ideological divisions.”

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The other aim was “journey,” he said, because being the first pope to visit Bahrain “was part of a process initiated by St. John Paul II when he went to Morocco.”

It was “a new step on the journey between Christian and Muslim believers — not to confuse things or water down the faith, but to create fraternal alliances,” he said.

Interreligious dialogue does not “water down” the faith, he added, because the only way to have real and fruitful dialogue is when each person remains firmly rooted to and true to his or her own identity.

The Christians and Catholics in Bahrain truly live “on a journey,” he said, as the majority of them are immigrant laborers who “discover their roots in the people of God and their family within the larger family of the church.”

They forge ahead in life with joy, “in the certainty that the hope of God does not disappoint.”

Calling their journey their daily experience of dialogue, he said, the majority of them are immigrant laborers who “discover their roots in the people of God and their family within the larger family of the church.”

“Thinking about their journey, their daily experience of dialogue, let us all feel called to expand our horizons” with hearts that are open, not hardened and closed tight, “because we are all brothers and sisters,” Pope Francis said.

People must strive to open up, “to enlarge our interests, to dedicate ourselves to knowing about others,” he said.

“If you dedicate yourself to getting to know others, you will never be threatened, but if you are afraid of others, you make the threat,” he said.
Superpowers at war add to the world’s poor, pope says in message

Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — War produces tremendous poverty and its violence strikes those who are defenseless and vulnerable, Pope Francis said.

“In these situations, reason is darkened, and those who feel its effects are the countless ordinary people who end up being added to the already great numbers of those in need,” the pope said in a message for the World Day of the Poor.

The war in Ukraine is now one of several regional wars "that for years have taken a heavy toll of death and destruction," the pope said in the message dated June 13, the feast of St. Anthony of Padua, patron saint of the poor. The Vatican released the pope’s message June 14, for the upcoming 46th World Day of the Poor.

"Yet here the situation is even more complex due to the direct intervention of a ‘superpower’ aimed at imposing its own will in violation of the principle of the self-determination of peoples. Tragic scenarios are being reenacted and once more reciprocal extortionate demands made by a few potentates are stifling the voice of a humanity that cries out for peace," he wrote.

The World Day of the Poor — marked each year on the 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time — will be celebrated Nov. 13 this year with the theme: “For your sakes Christ became poor.” The pope said in his message.

“What great poverty is produced by the senselessness of war!” the pope said in his message.

"Violence strikes those who are defenseless and vulnerable," he wrote, and with the millions of women, children and elderly people “being forced to brave the danger of bombs just to find shelter and its violence strikes those who are defenseless and vulnerable,” he wrote.

The impact can be seen in the “deportation of thousands of people, above all young boys and girls, in order to sever their roots and impose on them another identity,” he wrote, and with the millions of women, children and elderly people “being forced to brave the danger of bombs just to find shelter and its violence strikes those who are defenseless and vulnerable,” he wrote.

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(Continued on page 18)
Future of school choice caught in limbo

Kayla Bennett
Messenger Contributor

Kentucky’s school choice program, the Education Opportunity Account Program, became law in 2021. But a lawsuit filed before it could be implemented has the future of the program in the Bluegrass State in a state of limbo.

The Kentucky Supreme Court heard oral arguments on Oct. 12 to determine the constitutionality of the program. The hearing was held in Shelbyville instead of at the capitol as part of a program to make the court’s proceedings more accessible to the public.

The Catholic Conference of Kentucky, the public policy arm of the state’s bishops, has advocated for a school choice program for more than two decades.

The conference told The Record in June 2021, as the law was supposed to take effect, that the program is meant to give low-income families the financial means to choose the educational tools they need — things wealthier families can readily access.

The Education Opportunity Accounts can be used by public and non-public school children for more than a dozen different services, including special-needs therapies, tutoring, summer programs, dual college credit courses and other educational services.

In counties where the population exceeds 90,000, students can also use the funding for tuition assistance to attend non-public schools.

Opponents of the program say a tax incentive in the measure allows public funds to be funneled to private schools.

The program provides the incentive for individuals and businesses that donate to organizations that disperse funds for students for educational services. The incentive is a state tax credit, capped at $25 million annually.

To benefit, donors must contribute funds to approved “account-granting organizations,” which will distribute the funds to Education Opportunity Accounts for students with lower incomes. The Catholic Education Foundation, which provides tuition assistance for Catholic school students, would serve as the main account-granting organization, or AGO, for the Archdiocese of Louisville.

“The program itself encourages and strongly incentivizes private donations that would go into a fund for which financially needy families could apply to cover their children’s needs,” Andrew Vandiver, associate director of the Catholic Conference of Kentucky, said in a recent interview.

Opponents of doing that are just enormous.”

Under the Education Opportunity Account Program, donors will apply for the credit and recipients will apply for the accounts. The Catholic Education Foundation said it had the infrastructure for the program in place when the lawsuit was filed.

“Until the lawsuit was filed, we’d spent a lot of time educating donors, garnering their support for the program,” Richard Lechleiter, CEF president, said. “The taxpayer has to apply for the credit — we could help them do that. We’re poised to establish ourselves as an AGO and already have the infrastructure here to be that. We’re poised to make some things happen for our kids.”

Vandiver, echoing the appellants’ counsel, disagreed.

“It’s completely different than a government funding a private school,” he said. “Even the US Supreme Court took this up and said there is no basis under law that says a tax credit is government money. We would literally be the only state in the country that has gone that way. The implications of doing that are just enormous.”

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Vandiver said no other state that has introduced similar legislation has struck down a school choice program of this nature.

“The program itself encourages and strongly incentivizes private donations that would go into a fund for which financially needy families could apply to cover their children’s needs,” Andrew Vandiver, associate director of the Catholic Conference of Kentucky, said in a recent interview.

“It’s really about funding families directly and giving them the additional support they need to help their kids.”

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Kentucky would bear the financial burden.

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He said the program would be “transformational.”

This year, the CEF provided 3,600 Catholic school students with $7.7 million in tuition assistance. The Education Opportunity Account Program will have an annual cap of $25 million. And Lechleiter believes about one-fifth of it could benefit students in the Archdiocese of Louisville.

“It seems to me very plausible at least $1 million could be gained,” he said. “We should be able to accomplish that. Another 2,000 to 2,500 kids that all of a sudden have reliable, predictable, stable access to funding. That changes everything. That changes the landscape of Catholic education in Kentucky forever. Period. In my lifetime there’s never been a change that transformed Catholic schools so incredibly.”

The Kentucky Supreme Court typically takes three months to issue decisions. Vandiver said. However, two justices are retiring this year and two others facing the end of their terms will be up for reelection in November. Additionally, one of the justices wasn’t present for oral arguments heard last week.

Kayla Bennett is a reporter for The Record, Catholic newspaper of the Archdiocese of Louisville, Ky.

School Choice supporters, wearing yellow, packed the Shelbyville conference center during the Kentucky Supreme Court hearing Oct. 12.
Pope blesses ‘begging statue’ that will help Vincentians build homes

VATICAN CITY — A dove in flight lays a blanket over a homeless person in a new sculpture by Canadian artist Timothy Schmalz.

Pope Francis blessed the statue, titled “Sheltering,” as Schmalz looked on Nov. 9 with about 60 representatives of the Vincentian religious orders and lay communities. The Vincentians are using the statue in conjunction with a project to build houses for some 10,000 people in the more than 160 countries where the Vincentian Fathers, the Daughters of Charity and their collaborators work.

The “13 Houses Campaign” is an homage to St. Vincent de Paul and his decision in 1643 to use an endowment from French King Louis XIII to build 13 small houses near the Vincentian headquarters in Paris to care for abandoned children.

Schmalz told reporters he hoped the statue would be “as shocking as the problem of homelessness is shocking.”

Joining Schmalz for the blessing of the statue were: Mark McGreevy, president of the Depaul Group and coordinator of the housing project; Father Tomaz Mavric, superior general of the Vincentians; and Sister Julie Kubasak, a U.S. member of the general council of the Daughters of Charity.

Schmalz already has a large sculpture featuring migrants in St. Peter’s Square and another of the “Homeless Jesus” sleeping on a bench outside the Diocesan for the Service of Charity.

Vatican officials and the Vincentians are still discussing the best place to display the statue at the Vatican and where to place copies of it around the world, he said.

Schmalz referred to the piece as his first “begging statue.” “People don’t carry cash with them anymore,” which makes life difficult for people asking for a handout from passersby, he said. His statue and copies of it will have a QR Code that people can scan not only for information about Sheltering, but also “to give a dollar or two” to the Vincentians’ project to help the homeless and to build houses.

McGreevy said donors can use the code to help fight homelessness in their own city or anywhere around the world where the Vincentians work.

So far, he said, the project has raised $5 million and helped more than 8,600 people by building 2,311 housing units in 60 countries. The project has no set fundraising goal, he said; “as much as we raise, we’ll use to build houses.”
Source of evil is rejecting God, one’s neighbor, pope tells Muslim scholars

WASHINGTON — Catholic Church leaders are taking a new approach to teaching the faith, saying they recognize a pressing need to do this in a way that adapts to the modern world. This new outreach, called the Institute on the Catechism, is not a place but instead a new springboard for faith formation developed by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Subcommittee on the Catechism. It will involve catechist publications working directly with the USCCB subcommittees on new ways to pass on the faith using digital tools and aiming to reach a more diverse Church. It will also provide resources to dioceses and parishes, in person training conferences and retreats for diocesan catechetical leaders. As Bishop Frank J. Caggiano of Bridgeport, Connecticut, chairman of the bishops’ Subcommittee on the Catechism, sees it: Catholic parishes need to create a “Catholic culture that recognizes we’re in the 21st century. We can’t go back to 1990, it’s gone.”

Cardinal talks leaders at COP27 they have duty to act on climate change

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt — Leaders gathered in Egypt for the U.N. climate summit have “a moral obligation” to act seriously and together to safeguard the planet and to offer concrete aid to people suffering the “more frequent and more serious humanitarian impacts caused by climate change,” said Cardinal Pietro Parolin. The Vatican secretary of state led the Holy See’s official delegation to COP27, the 27th Conference of the Parties to the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change, meeting in Sharm el-Sheikh Nov. 6-18. The cardinal told world leaders Nov. 8 that “the growing phenomenon of migrants being displaced” by climate change “is something they must act on because currently they lack access to international protection” recognizing them as deserving special care. And, he said, if it is not possible to give them special status as refugees, “it is important to recognize migration as a form of adaptation and to increase the availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration.” The 2015 Paris Agreement, which the Vatican has signed on to, set out “four pillars” for immediate action: mitigation, adaptation, finance, and loss and damage payments. Cardinal Parolin told the summit that the four pillars are “interconnected and are a matter of fairness, justice and equity.”

Italian missionary sister beatified after serving nearly a century ago

NAIROBI, Kenya — Brunidan Cardinal Antoine Kambanda beatified an Italian Cottolengo nun who served in Kenya about 100 years ago. Beatification is one of the final steps toward sainthood. Sister Maria Carolina Cecchin served in Kenya 1905-1913. The miracle needed for her beatification involved the cure of a stillborn infant, who now is a healthy 9-year-old boy. “She knew this place well and spent her youth for the Gospel among us here... She is a model of missionary of charity,” Cardinal Kambanda told those gathered in Meru, Kenya, Nov. 5. “When Blessed Sister Maria Carolina Cecchin experienced the great love of Christ, she spared no effort to proclaim the Gospel of God to the nations, to the people who had not yet known Christ.” The fifth of 10 children, Fiorina Cecchin was born April 3, 1877, in Cittadella, Italy. At age 19, she joined the Cottolengo Sisters, and in 1901 she left for Kenya. Cardinal Kambanda said Blessed Maria Carolina represented “so many missionaries in that time who accepted to endure all sorts of sacrifices and risks to bring the salvation of God to the missions. They left their country without knowing whether they would ever go back. They made long journeys on the sea, on land and on foot.”

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U.S. bishops launch new approach to teaching the faith

WASHINGTON — Catholic Church leaders are taking a new approach to teaching the faith, saying they recognize a pressing need to do this in a way that adapts to the modern world. This new outreach, called the Institute on the Catechism, is not a place but instead a new springboard for faith formation developed by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Subcommittee on the Catechism. It will involve catechist publications working directly with the USCCB subcommittees on new ways to pass on the faith using digital tools and aiming to reach a more diverse Church. It will also provide resources to dioceses and parishes, in person training conferences and retreats for diocesan catechetical leaders. As Bishop Frank J. Caggiano of Bridgeport, Connecticut, chairman of the bishops’ Subcommittee on the Catechism, sees it: Catholic parishes need to create a “Catholic culture that recognizes we’re in the 21st century. We can’t go back to 1990, it’s gone.”

Russian ambassador confirms pope helped facilitate prisoner exchanges

VATICAN CITY — Russia’s ambassador to the Vatican confirmed Pope Francis helped facilitate recent prisoner exchanges with Ukraine and that the Secretariat of State continues to do what is possible and has worked behind the scenes to help arrange prisoner exchanges. The pope also told reporters he thinks the cruelty of the attacks on Ukraine and its civilians are the work of mercenaries, not Russians, who are “a great people” and have a strong “humanism.”

Source of evil is rejecting God, one’s neighbor, pope tells Muslim scholars

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