‘With One Heart’ campaign prepares for next steps

Maura Baker Staff Writer

As the Diocese of Covington’s “With One Heart” campaign proceeds, diocesan and parish leaders, along with the Catholic Leadership Institute, prepare for the next major step in the campaign — the Disciple Maker Index.

The Disciple Maker Index (DMI) is a 75-question survey developed by the Catholic Leadership Institute in coordination with bishops, pastors and pastoral ministers. The survey provides all parishioners across the diocese the opportunity to reflect and share on both individual spiritual growth, and engagement with their parish.

The information gathered by the DMI, which will be available for all diocesan parishioners to participate in during the 2023 Lenten season, will be instrumental in the development of a pastoral plan for the diocese’s growth. The Bishop Iffert in collaboration with the With One Heart Planning Commission and Curia staff will develop the diocesan pastoral plan this year. It will be shared with the diocese on or near Sept. 30, the second anniversary of Bishop John Iffert’s appointment as bishop of the Diocese of Covington.

In preparation for the DMI, parish priests across the diocese appointed representatives to serve as “parish points of contact” for these next steps. These PPOC’s attended trainings via Zoom, Jan. 10 and 11, to receive in-depth information on the DMI and their role in its success.

In addition to learning more about “With One Heart” and its goals, the PPOC’s were informed in their role to, firstly, publicize the DMI within their respective parishes, but also to reflect on feedback received and identify the “top strengths and opportunities” within their parish.

Preparations for the DMI will be open to these PPOC’s and priests Jan. 23, and the DMI will open Feb. 22 and last through March 27.

In addition to the DMI, a specific Priest Leadership Inventory will be taken as well: a self-evaluation along with feedback from a fellow priest of diocesan priests — all to contribute to the upcoming pastoral plan.

Eucharistic Revival songwriting competition seeks to inspire Catholic music

Kate Scanlon

The Eucharistic Revival Musical Competition, sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis, seeks entries from Catholic composers, poets and songwriters for Catholic music, with a particular emphasis on texts that focus on the Eucharist or the church’s unity as the body of Christ, according to a Jan. 17 announcement from the USCCB.

Launched last year, the National Eucharistic Revival is a three-year campaign by the U.S. bishops to increase the Catholic understanding of and devotion to Jesus’ real presence in Eucharist. It was prompted by studies showing that only 30-40 percent of Catholics profess that belief, and that only 15 percent of Catholics go to Mass (Continued on page 7)
The hallmark of OSV News, a new Catholic news service that launched Jan. 1, is to provide news and content “that speaks to truth in charity in a way that unites,” said OSV Publisher Scott Richert.

Richert noted that companies such as Catholic News Service (CNS) are “well positioned” to address the anticipated void from the Dec. 30, 2022, closure of CNS’ domestic bureaus in New York and Washington, D.C., eliminating its national news and most of its international news coverage.

The USCCB continues to operate CNS’ Rome bureau, which reports on the pope and matters pertaining to the Holy See.

CNS provided news stories on issues and events about or affecting the Catholic Church to subscribers with a focus on diocesan media. In 2022, it was serving the majority of U.S. dioceses — including the Messenger’s diocese of Covington — according to CNS Director and Editor-in-Chief Greg Erlandson.

“We fill that hole for everyone, as well?” Richert said. However, “we are going to try in many ways to go beyond what CNS has been able to do,” such as offering more catechetical resources, he said.

The OSV News team includes veteran Catholic journalists from around the United States with an international editor in Poland. It is led by OSV News Editor-in-Chief Gretchen R. Crowe, who joined OSV in 2013 as its newspaper’s editor. She has most recently served as OSV’s editor-director for periodicals, overseeing the publication of Our Sunday Visitor, The Priest and The Deacon magazines, OSV Kids magazine, RadiantMagazine.com and SimplyCatholic.com.

OSV News is going to stand out by providing really excellent journalism and context that helps explain what the Church teaches and why,” Crowe said. “OSV News will be going to be a go-to resource for Catholics that want to understand what’s happening in the world and how that affects them, in terms of their faith and how they should be living their faith in the world today.”

OSV News’ domestic team includes Julie Asher, senior editor; Maria-Pia Chin, Spanish editor; Paulina Guckz, international editor; Megan Marky, digital editor; Bob Boller, photo editor; Elizabeth Scalia, culture editor; Peter Janserer Smith, national news and features editor; and Maria Wiering, senior writer. Gina Christian and Kate Scanlon are national reporters, and John Mulders is OSV News’ media reviewer.

Like CNS, OSV News will partner with diocesan media to share news and feature stories from their publications with its clients.

Richert hopes OSV News will “excite the imagination of Catholic media professionals,” he said, helping them “to turn Catholic media from something that largely is talking to an established audience, to a vehicle that increasingly can become a vessel for evangelization, reaching more people, bringing more people to Christ.”

As a subscriber to OSV News, the Diocese of Covington’s Messenger began sharing OSV News with its readers with its January 6, 2023, edition and is currently reviewing its expanded offerings including columns, feature articles and digital media.

The Messenger’s relationship with Our Sunday Visitor has historic roots. In 1929, when Bishop William Mulloy began the weekly diocesan newspaper, The Messenger partnered with Our Sunday Visitor Newspaper.

Local news stories written and developed by the Messenger staff along with advertising were sent to OSV in Huntington, Indiana, for typesetting, assembly, execution of camera-ready copy, printing and mailing. Inserted in the middle pages of the local diocesan newspaper was the Our Sunday Visitor newspaper.

That association with Our Sunday Visitor ended in 1977, when the Messenger assumed all aspects of writing, advertising, production, printing and mailing and contracted with Catholic News Service (CNS) for its national and international Catholic news. In the wake of CNS dissolving its national and international news service, the Messenger begins again its relationship with Our Sunday Visitor, this time as a subscriber to OSV News for its national and international news.

The Messenger staff continues to cover local diocesan and parish news and production of the diocesan newspaper.

St. Patrick School, Maysville
Contact Principal Dr. Rachel Noll at rnoill@stpatschool.com to schedule a tour.

St. Philip School, Melbourne
Contact Principal Jennifer Twehues at jtwehues@stpilphilip.com for information or to schedule a tour.

St. Joseph School, Camp Springs
Contact Ms. Lisa Roetting to schedule a tour at 309-499-9185 or Lroetting@SaintJoseph-School.org

Looking for a great school? Visit an Open House
Laura Keener
Editor

Our Savior Parish’s annual Martin Luther King breakfast ponders roots of supremacy

Divine Providence Sister Janet Bucher, pastoral administrator, Our Savior Parish, Covington, welcomed guests to the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Discussion Breakfast. Each year the parish hosts the event, which in addition to homemade breakfast casseroles includes speakers and discussions to further Martin Luther King’s dream of equality, opportunity and justice for all.

This year’s theme was “The Roots of White Supremacy” and featured speakers Divine Providence Alice Gerdeman; Dr. Joan Ferrante and Lynnissa Hillman, sociologists at Northern Kentucky University and John Fisher, field supervisor, Kentucky Human Rights Commission. Sister Janet began the program with prayer. By a show of hands, Sister Alice asked if anyone had heard of the Doctrine of Discovery. “It’s not a popular

Jan. 20
Diocesan Day of Prayer and Penance for Life

Jan. 22
Mass, Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, 5:30 p.m.

Jan. 23
Confirmation, St. Joseph Parish, Cold Spring, 7 p.m.

Jan. 24
Diocesan Board of Education meeting, 9 a.m.
Advisory Council meeting, 9:30 a.m.
Confirmation, St. Cecilia Parish, Independence, 7 p.m.

Jan. 25
DPAA videotaping, 11 a.m.
World Youth Day planning meeting, Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, Covington, 6 p.m.

Jan. 26
Jesuit Spiritual Center, Milford, 10:30 a.m.
Confirmation, St. Pius X Parish, Edgewood, 7 p.m.

Jan. 28
Mass, Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, California, 5 p.m.

Jan. 29
Mass, Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, California, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Bishop’s Schedule

(Continued on page 7)

Foresters support seminarian education

Forsters Mark Pfefferman, Sharon Geiger, Mark Connaughton and Tom Kaelin present a check to Bishop John Iffert in support of the Seminarian Education Fund. The check, totaling $4,401.20 was raised via an annual Split the Pot held by the Forsters. The proceeds raised will go towards the education of diocesan seminarians.

Pope Benedidct XVI’s Eucharistic legacy

Maura Baker
Staff Writer

In February of 2007, the late Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI published his Apostolic Exhortation, “Sacramentum Caritatis,” in English, “The Sacrament of Charity.” The exhortation described the Eucharist as the “source and summit” of the Church’s life and mission. The three-part exhortation covers the mystery of the Eucharist as a mystery to be believed, celebrated and lived.

The document goes deeply into the importance of the Eucharist’s mystery to the Church, establishing a dedication to the sacrament held by Pope Benedict XVI. It builds understanding and detail into the “why” aspect of the Eucharist’s importance to the Catholic faith.

“The sacrament of charity, the Holy Eucharist is the gift that Jesus Christ makes of himself, thus revealing to us God’s infinite love for every man and woman,” wrote Pope Benedict XVI in the introduction to the exhortation. “This wondrous sacrament makes manifest that ‘greater’ love which led him to ‘lay down his life for his friends’ (Jn 15:13). Jesus did indeed love them ‘to the end’ (Jn 13:1). In those words the Evangelist introduces Christ’s act of immense humility: before dying for us on the Cross, he tied a towel around himself and washed the feet of his disciples. In the same way, Jesus continues, in the sacrament of the Eucharist, to love us ‘to the end,’ even to offering us his body and his blood. What amazement must the Apostles have felt in witnessing what the Lord did and said during that Supper! What wonder must the eucharistic mystery also awaken in our own hearts!”

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CNS photo/Reuters pool

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(Continued on page 7)
Cardinal George Pell: The Encourager

On Tuesday, Jan. 3, when Cardinal George Pell and I went to our respects to Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, lying in state in St. Peter’s, I couldn’t help but notice the reverence with which the basilica’s little people, the Samaritans, greeted the tall Australian who walked slowly with a cane. These instincts and instinct-to-becalled ecclesiastical eminence, but there was something different about their evident respect and affection for Cardinal Pell. Here was a man who had suffered greatly for both the Church and the truth. Hope by providing some relief from the challenges they face. We want to raise awareness of our neighbors’ struggles and our efforts to help them. At St. Vincent de Paul, we want to raise awareness of our neighbors’ struggles and our efforts to help them. We want to raise awareness of our neighbors’ struggles and our efforts to help them.

We operate a small fleet of three box trucks that transport over $8,000 in vouchers each month from customer who proudly spends their money in our stores. These donations either meet a need for a pantry guest too. Truth be told, we wish we could store the gift our neighbors bring to us. Their courage to ask for help, followed by another person (or two, in our case) who answers the call to listen and offer hope for a better tomorrow.

I had the honor of attending a Vincentian volunteer meeting at one of our parishes recently. At that meeting, a Vincentian volunteer bravely stood up and wrote, “Thank You” card from someone he’d received help with her bills and Christmas gifts for her children. This volunteer commented on how we can easily get caught up in the all the hardship that we see. But the card reflected the gift our neighbors bring to us. Their courage to ask for help, their fortitude to continue and the opportunity to help them in their struggles — they inspire us. We feed our own faith and fuel our gratitude. We can never forget that.

Karen Zengel is executive director, Society of St. Vincent de Paul Northern Kentucky.

Commentary

I almost always find myself easily wrapped up in the task of the day, too often forgetting what’s in the big picture. With the busyness of the holiday season now behind us, we can take a deep breath and reflect on the facts. As another way to share, we also invited guests to tour our headquarters. Our headquarters is located on Pope Crescent Springs Road in the back of our Erlanger store/donation center warehouse. While many frequent this location to share their material donations or to find a way to use them, it’s always great to see the expressions on faces of those who are met by the challenges of being a neighbor in need. The overwhelming feedback from our guests on the parish conference near the individual so they can follow up with a personal visit.

We offer a choice pantry. When a neighbor visits our pantry, volunteers help them select items to meet their family and personal dietary needs.

We store 21,000 to 30,000 pounds of generously donated non-perishable items that also support other pantries (Cold Spring and Falmouth) and supplement the pantries for 24 of our parish conferences. We have a walking in sermons process on the 13 programs we offer to a neighbor struggling with basic necessities or could be discharged from the hospital. We operate a small fleet of three box trucks that transport over $8,000 in vouchers each month from our neighbors. Their courage to ask for help, followed by another person (or two, in our case) who answers the call to listen and offer hope for a better tomorrow.

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MESSENGER

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Volume 93

January 20, 2023

George Weigel

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Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand

The readings for the third Sunday in Ordinary Time — Cycle A — are: Is 6:25-9; 3 Cor 10:13-17, and Mt 6:12-23 or 4:12-17.

“Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.” How often in our worship, preaching and Scripture reading have we heard this most famous of biblical phrases? Probably more than we can count or remember. Perhaps we are getting used to it. A more probing question is: How often have we grasped its meaning and its urgency? I cannot speak for the saints among us, but as for me the answer is not often enough. And that is a problem.

Not long ago I had a jarring epiphany when studying and praying on the question and the reality of heaven. During my course of study and prayer, I was hit between the eyes with an insight from the biblical scholar, N.T. Wright, who pointed out a profound truth in his marvelous little book, “Revelation for Everyone.” It caused the scales to fall partially from my eyes.

Wright points out that our Jewish brethren were careful to never abuse or profane the Holy Name of God. As a result, they developed practices for avoiding this sin while laboring to honor the holiness and otherness of God in their speech and references. So, when you read the Word of God and you encounter the word “heaven” or “kingdom,” understand that it refers not to a place, but to God, to his presence and to his reign among us, right here and now, as well as his future coming.

This gives us some insight to the urgency of Jesus’ call to us. We are with him in the face. He is speaking to us. He is fulfilling his promise to be Emmanuel — God-with-us — in the inseparable realities of Word and sacrament. It is precisely because of God’s presence to us in truth and Community, that we can exclaim with the Prophet Isaiah, “the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.”

As we make our pilgrim journey through this life, with its blessings and its burdens, there are inseparable realities of Word and sacrament reveal to us the way and give us the grace to live in imitation of Christ and for his kingdom. Absent our deep and personal engagement with the presence of God in the Word and sacrament, we find ourselves dwelling in that “land of gloom” referred to by Isaiah. Much of the modern, technologized, anti-human, anti-these-world gives every appearance of being land of gloom. We see soaring rates of depression, personal disintegration and despair. I think this has much to do with a deficient conception of ourselves as human persons, a conception that has closed us off from the “bounty of the Lord.”

The philosopher, Charles Taylor, spoke of the “type” or concept of the human person that has come to dominate our age. He described it as a type of “buffered self.” This type of person senses themselves as self-contained, self-sufficient and not needing input from outside of them. For such a self, reality consists solely of their interior feelings and their interior, totally individualistic rendition of reality. As such, there is no independently existing reality outside of one’s feelings about it. Such a closing off the self to ultimate reality is a quick path to life in the shadowlands.

In the first half of the 20th century, the theologian and spiritual writer, Magi Romano Guardini, perceived the drift of the emerging “technological civilization” — more present now than when he first noticed it — that would reduce man’s dignity and culminate in the buffered, enclosed self; a self and a society closed off from God. He tirelessly re minded his readers and congregants, “the (Continued on page 7)
**Pro-Life Office**

**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.

**Area Pro-Life activities**

Jan. 23, National Day of Prayer and Penance for the Protection of the Unborn. Parishes in the Diocese of Covington will remain open to allow the faithful time to pray for the protection of the unborn. Pastors will set aside time for exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, concluding with Benediction. All are encouraged to pray the holy rosary for the protection and dignity of every human life from conception to natural death using the Joyful Mysteries.

Jan. 28, 8 a.m., weekly Pro-Life Mass and prayer vigil at Holy Name Church, 2422 Aubum Ave., Cincinnati. Prayer vigil after Mass in front of Planned Parenthood. Contact John Wendeln at (513) 218-1938.

Feb. 4, 8 a.m.–1:30 p.m., A Pro-Life Gathering for HER (Heal, Empower, Receive), 50 Susanna Church, 616 Reading Road, Mason, Ohio. All are welcome to this first-of-a-kind event for Greater Cincinnati. After 8:15 a.m. Mass, coffee and morning snack kick-off, enjoy three speakers, lunch and time to visit with local pro-life organizations. Contact Anne Marie Schmidy, aschmidy@cincinnatirighttolife.org, register online (540) at cincinnatirighttolife.org.

Feb. 4, 9 a.m., First Saturday Pro-Life rosary and Mass at Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center, Norwood, Ohio, followed by coffee and speaker. Contact Jerry Schmidt at (513) 509-9841 or jschmidtgj@fuse.net.

Feb. 19, 40 Days for Life kick-off rally, 2422 Aubum Avenue in front of Planned Parenthood (two blocks from Holy Name). Prayers will be led by local pastors and speakers from local pregnancy centers. Contact the Pro-Life Office to sign up for vigils hours of prayer throughout the campaign. Park on side streets or at Holy Name Church, 2422 Aubum Ave., Cincinnati.

Feb. 24–April 2, 40 Days for Life campaign

**Gratitude for the symphony of life**

**Father Conor Kunath**

**Contributor**

The date was July 23, 1972. After five tense back-and-forth games, the match was tied with two wins each. Game six was bound to be pivotal and the anticipation was huge, for the last five games had been a parade of extraordinary events, including a forfeit and wild accusations hurled, all before game three. But drama was to be expected, for this world championship was more than just a few games of chess played in Reykjavik, Iceland. This was yet another of many confrontations between the United States and the Soviet Union during the decades-long conflict known as the Cold War. In this contest, the prodigy from Brooklyn, Bobby Fischer, represented the United States while Boris Spassky, the defending world champion, represented the Soviet chess machine.

After all the earlier conflict and drama, game six did not disappoint. On his very first move Bobby Fischer went off script, playing an opening that he rarely used professionally. Even more of a shock, the move played into Spassky’s strength. The Russian was an expert in these lines.

Yet Fischer won — and not only convincingly, but with style. In just 32 moves Bobby Fischer swept Spassky off the board and took the lead in the match. Strikingly, when Boris Spassky resigned at the end of the game, he was so impressed by Fischer’s genius that he did something absolutely unheard of at the time — he stood up and applauded.

Spassky was acknowledging that game six was unique, an unheralded display of genius. As Fischer’s friend and confidante Anthony Saidy later famously described it, that game was a “symphony of placid beauty.”

Those words have long intrigued me: “A symphony of placid beauty.” What did Saidy see to inspire this description? And what have I missed since I cannot see “placid beauty” in game six? My only guess is that, as a chess master, Saidy’s profound understanding enabled him to discern the deep harmonies that lie at the game’s heart. Saidy perceived what I cannot because he was so deeply attuned to the game.

I find in Saidy’s rich insight into the mystery and beauty of chess a message for us pro-lifers: that the focus of our cause is life, not death. His appreciation should remind us to lift our eyes to the Creator, not get wrapped up in arguments and agendas and politics.

Yes, we must focus hard on resisting the culture of death, electing the right politicians and working to pass pro-life laws, but that practical vision should never make us forget that our cause is much more grand. Yes, the contest is fought largely in the mundane work of politics, but its purpose transcends politics — just as Fischer’s brilliance transcended the medium of chess.

**Pope Benedict XVI at World Youth Day 2012**

“Go to those who are suffering and those who are searching, and give them the joy that Jesus wants to bestow: Bring it to your families, your schools and universities, and your workplaces and your friends, wherever you live. You will see how it is contagious. You will receive a hundredfold: the joy of salvation for yourselves, and the joy of seeing God’s mercy at work in the hearts of others. And when you go to meet the Lord on that last day, you will hear him say: “Well done, my good and faithful servant ... Come, share your master’s joy.”” (Matt 25:21)
January 20, 2023

**Songwriting competition** (Continued from page 1)

every Sunday.

In announcing the contest Jan. 17, the U.S. bishops said they are seeking submissions for hymns and a theme song. A winning submission in each category is expected to be featured at the 2024 National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, as well as at diocesan Eucharistic Revival events. Winning composers will receive a $2,500 cash prize. A $25 entry fee per submission will offset some logistics-related expenses, such as travel costs for volunteer judges.

Submissions will be judged on “poetry, musicality, creativity, theological and doctrinal soundness, beauty, appropriateness for liturgical use, and expression of the mission of the Eucharistic Revival (as applicable),” the announcement stated.

Submissions are being accepted through April 21, with winners announced June 9. More information, including guidelines and submission instructions, is available at eucharisticcongress.org/musicalcompetition.

**Martin Luther King breakfast** (Continued from page 5)

**Heaven is at hand** (Continued from page 9)

**Let Us Trace Your Family Ancestry**

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‘Bear witness to the truth’ on Religious Freedom Day, cardinal says

Kate Scanlon

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Catholic bishops marked Religious Freedom Day Jan. 16 by encouraging Catholics engaged in public life to examine their consciences and heed the late Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis in prioritizing truth and reason.

Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, chair of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee for Religious Liberty, said in a statement, “Catholic Christians engage political life in various ways and at different levels. He noted the responsibility of lay Catholics to “vote, advocate and serve in public office,” and the role of bishops and clergy “to form consciences, both of lay voters and officials.”

“What informs this engagement?” Cardinal Dolan said. “Are we motivated by a desire for power — to control the levers of government? Are we a political party, working to protect our own interests?”

Cardinal Dolan cited the work of Pope Benedict, who died Dec. 31, saying his “legacy especially comes to mind in these recent weeks.”

“He sought to show how the Church’s mission in political life is to bear witness to the truth, particularly the truth about human nature and the dignity of all persons,” Cardinal Dolan said. “As he put it, ‘Piosity to man requires fidelity to the truth, which alone is the guarantee of freedom and of the possibility of integral human development. For this reason the Church searches for truth, proclaims it tirelessly and recognizes it wherever it is manifested. This mission of truth is something that the Church can never renounce.’

“Prioritizing reason and truth in politics is a challenge,” Cardinal Dolan said, citing Pope Francis. The pontiff condemned in his encyclical “Fratelli Tutti” what he manifested. This mission of truth is something that the Church can never renounce.

“A placed highlighting words from the U.S. Constitution’s First Amendment is seen during the recitation of the ‘Benedict for America’ on National Religious Freedom Sunday Jan. 15, 2023, at St. Therese of Lisieux in Montauk, N.Y. The event, which was sponsored by Catholics for Freedom of Religion, took place the day before Religious Freedom Day.

“We do well to remember the priority of truth and the right exercise of reason in political life when we celebrate religious freedom,” Cardinal Dolan said. “The purpose of religious freedom is to allow individuals and communities space to seek the truth and to bear witness to the truth. When we advocate for religious freedom, we must never forsake that mission.”

Cardinal Dolan said that the truth of controversial issues like marriage, abortion and the dignity of every person, “can be known by reason without the aid of faith.”

“When these truths come under attack, religious freedom is not an escape route, as if we could watch the common good be harmed so long as we obtain religious exemptions,” Cardinal Dolan said. “Indeed, if we abandon the priority of truth, natural law, human nature, and the common good, then we abandon freedom itself.”

Cardinal Dolan called for Catholics to “dedicate ourselves to the cultivation of virtue to which freedom calls us, particularly the virtue of fortitude, that we may patiently and courageously bear witness to the truth in our public life. In this way, we will promote true freedom and bless our great country.”

Protecting God’s Children for Adults
Safe Environment Trainings

For all employees and volunteers of the Diocese of Covington who in any way provide a safe environment for children.

Step 1: Contact parish/school/organization and Procedures and fill out the Application and Acceptance Form.

Step 2: Go to www.virtus.org and click on Training. Follow the prompts to create an account and request a background check. Selection.com is a secure site; the background check is posted on your account and you receive a copy if you request it during the registration process. You will sign up for a VIRTUS training class during the registration.

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

For other difficulties, contact Marylu Steffen at (859) 392-1500 or msteffen@covdio.org.

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Congress Shall Make No Law Respecting an Establishment of Religion Or Prohibiting the Free Exercise Thereof...
Parishioners from St. Agnes Parish, Ft. Wright, present proceeds from the parish’s Christmas Giving Tree to local community care centers. (above left) Parishioner, Chris Ruschman giving an envelope to Amy Hardin, office manager; Madonna House, Ft. Mitchell. (above right) Mother Seraphina, from the Rose Garden Home Mission, receiving an envelope from parishioners, Mark and Karen Koch.

The 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.


St. Peter’s Catholic Order of Foresters Court #1492 annual Men’s Stag, Jan. 27, 6-7 p.m., Sts. Peter & Paul Social Hall, 213 W. Fourth St., Fort Mitchell. Proceeds benefit the COF Scholarship and Men’s Stag Scholarship at Xavier University. Visit xaviershorts.com.

St. Thomas School, Ft. Thomas: Maria Everett.

Diocese of Covington Regional Dual-Credit Information Night presented by James Catchen, Feb. 23, 6-7:30 p.m., Thomas More University, Stegerwald Hall, Saints Center, Crestview Hills, for high school students (and their guardians) who would benefit from dual-credit courses during the presentation, attendees will hear from KHAA on scholarship opportunities to pay for dual-credit courses as well as how dual-credit courses can impact students after high school. Dual-credit representatives from Thomas More, Gateway, and NKU on available dual-credit opportunities. Visit thomasmore.edu/preview.

The Thomas More University Women’s Conference, March 8, 8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m., Stegerwald Hall, Saints Center, Crestview Hills. This one-day interactive conference is designed to enlighten, engage and challenge women to seek more from their careers. The Conference explores the topic of “Women Who Innovate” within different industries. This conference is geared for alumni, college students, faculty/staff, parents, high school students and community members. Cost $50. Reserve your space at tmuky.us/tmwc.

Have you ever considered going on a pilgrimage? “Journey to Egypt, a special part of the Holy Land, where Abraham, Joseph, Moses and the Holy Family walked. Make your way through the Holy Land to follow in Jesus’ footsteps. Celebrate votive Masses in the very places where miraculous gifts became pages in the Gospel. If interested in learning more, please contact St. Henry parishioner Michael Portwood, (859) 978-4006 or e-mail pamarinedad@yahoo.com.
Christians must develop a pastoral heart to care for those who have not heard the Gospel or who have left the fold, Pope Francis said.

"By being with Jesus, we discover that his pastoral heart always beats for the person who is confused, lost, far away," the pope said at his weekly general audience Jan. 18. "Jesus never said, 'Let them sort themselves out.' He went out to find them."

Pope Francis encouraged Christians to model themselves on Jesus, the Good Shepherd, longing for those who have left the church just as a shepherd longs for lost sheep, rather than treating them as "adversaries or enemies." He said the Good Shepherd "does not just do something for us, but he gives his life for us."

The pope encouraged the pilgrims and visitors gathered in the Vatican's Paul VI Audience Hall to reflect on how God seeks out those who distance themselves from him, saying that many Christians may have followed Jesus for a long time but "have never wondered if we share his feelings, if we suffer and we take risks."

"The Lord suffers when we distance ourselves from his heart," he said, "but in response to this suffering he does not withdraw, rather he risks. He leaves the 99 sheep who are safe and ventures out for the lost one."

"Do we feel similar emotions?" the pope asked. "Without a love that suffers and takes risks for others, Pope Francis said, "we risk being pastors only for our selves."

At the end of his catechesis, the pope greeted a group of pilgrims from Congo, where he will travel Jan. 31, and asked for prayers for the country.

He also remembered Father Isaac Achi, who was killed Jan. 15 when bandits set fire to his parish rectory in Minna, Nigeria.

"So many Christians continue to be the target of violence, let us remember them in our prayers," said the pope.

To be pastoral, look to the Good Shepherd, pope says
Catholic Newman club continues mission of Catholic presence on NKU campus

Maura Baker
Staff Writer

The Newman Club stands as the voice and presence of the Catholic Church on the campus of Northern Kentucky University—the club not only provides a sense of unity for Catholic students but also celebrates Mass on holy days for students, participates in inter-faith community events with other campus organizations and has an RCIA program.

After serving five years as campus minister for the Newman Club, Donna Heim has decided to retire from the position. Coming into the position will be Deacon Brian Cox, who was already serving as a chaplain for the club and its associated Newman Center.

The ministry of the Newman Club campus minister includes a lot of marketing and advertising, said Deacon Cox. “We want to get those students and let them know that we’re there,” citing the importance of the visible presence of the Newman Club to students at any part of their faith journey.

“I just want to get involved, and get these students involved,” he said. “I want them to take ownership of their Catholic faith, and I want to meet them where they are and help bring them along a little bit further in their faith.”

“We have a very firm foundation of student leadership, with a desire not only to learn about our faith, but to commit intentionally to evangelization. I see them inviting students in, and we really have a Catholic community happening on campus—a vibrant one,” said Donna Heim.

“Our goal is to prepare students for a role of Catholic leadership. We want Catholics involved in all the fraternities, sororities and the clubs, and to be a voice for Christ.”

She said, “I’m really glad that the Lord has raised someone up to continue his work here (at the Newman Club).”

(below) Deacon Brian Cox, newly appointed campus minister with Newman Club students at Northern Kentucky University.
The Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery in Villa Hills, KY are seeking a nurse assistant for Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. and PRN. If interested, please call 859-331-6324 and ask for Sr. Stella Gough or email: sgoughosb@yahoo.com.

**ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL, COLD SPRING AFTERCARE DIRECTOR**

St. Joseph School in Cold Spring is looking for an aftercare director, Monday through Friday from 3:00pm-6:00pm. During the aftercare program students have a snack, complete their homework, play games, and participate in any other activities planned by aftercare staff. The director is also responsible for keeping records of attendance, payment and communicating with parents and aftercare workers.

If interested please contact principal, Emily Urlage at 859-441-2025.

**ST. PHILIP, MELBOURNE CAFETERIA MANAGER**

St. Philip School is looking for a Cafeteria Manager, Monday through Friday. This position requires a general knowledge of preparation, cooking and serving food for students. Includes ordering, receiving, managing inventory, cleaning, and maintaining school kitchen. Must comply with health and safety standards. Prepare production records and necessary records and files.

Contact Diocesan School Food Service Director, Laura Hatfield at lhatfield@covdio.org or call 859-392-1551.

**PART-TIME ADVANCEMENT DIRECTOR**

The Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery seek a part-time advancement director to head our ongoing fundraising and operational needs. Reporting to the executive director ( prioress), this professional must have an established background in coordinating nonprofit donation strategies and staff/volunteer leadership. Applications will be accepted through February 15. Please send application materials ( resume, cover letter, references and salary requirements) to kybenedictines@gmail.com.

**PEOPLE COORDINATOR**

The Diocese of Covington’s Stewardship and Mission Services Office invites qualified individuals to apply for the support position of Pledge Coordinator. This role requires an individual who takes pride in performing detailed work with an absolute minimum of errors. Primary responsibilities include recording financial pledges, gifts, payments, etc. for the Diocesan Parish Annual Appeal, and also fund-raising campaign reporting, implementation, monitoring, and follow-up. Ideally, we are seeking Catholic candidates who relate well to others, are extremely detail- and confidentiality-oriented, are comfortable with a team approach to projects, and can manage deadlines under a steady workload. Interested individuals may send a resume with a cover letter, compensation history, and at least three references with contact email addresses to Stephen Koplyay, SPHR by email to skoplyay@covdio.org, or by fax to 859/392-1589.

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

Call Chuck at the Messenger for information on placing your ad in the Classified Advertisements.

(859) 392-1500
Cardinal Gregory says at Mass

This year, the holiday will be observed on Monday, Jan. 16.

Dr. King’s national holiday will provide a welcome respite from work for most Americans,” Cardinal Gregory said at the Mass, “but it cannot, and it must never, be used to provide any diminishing in our determination to bring about the fulfillment of that dream that he held out before America, a dream unfortunately still deferred for far too many Americans from every region, of every race or who speak a different language.”

Cardinal Gregory was the principal celebrant and homilist of the Mass at St. Joseph Church in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Washington Auxiliary Bishop Roy E. Campbell Jr., St. Joseph’s pastor, concelebrated the Mass which was sponsored by the Archdiocese of Washington’s Office of Cultural Diversity.

The Mass and celebration, which began with a praise and worship service featuring the St. Joseph Gospel Choir, are held annually near Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the federal holiday observed on the third Monday of January.

“Dr. King courageously and consistently invoked the truth of the Gospel in calling the men and women of our nation to live as sisters and brothers. The truth that he announced reflected the light that is Christ Jesus,” Cardinal Gregory said at the Mass. “We who are the followers of Christ in a church that is simultaneously universal and local, each and every day, must be ‘active participants’ in MLK’s ‘unfinished’ work, God-given progress for which we must also today offer prayers of thanksgiving,” society must address “the unfinished agenda (of Dr. King) that still confronts our society each and every day.”

“Dr. King was among the leaders who organized a March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. The march included a rally on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial that was opened with an invocation by Archbishop Patrick O’Boyle, then the Catholic archbishop of Washington. It was at that rally that Dr. King delivered the “I Have a Dream” speech. In that speech, Dr. King spoke of his dream where “my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream that one day … little Black boys and Black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers.”

Dr. King was assassinated almost 55 years ago. In late March 1968, he traveled to Memphis, Tennessee, to support Black sanitation public works employees who were on strike seeking higher wages and better working conditions. On April 4 of that year, Dr. King — standing on the balcony of his room at the Lorraine Motel — was mortally wounded by a gunshot fired by James Earl Ray. He was taken to St. Joseph Hospital, where after emergency surgery he was pronounced dead.

Cardinal Gregory has a long association with the late civil rights leader. Cardinal Gregory previously served from 2004 to 2019 as the archbishop of Atlanta, Dr. King’s birthplace. He has preached in Atlanta’s Ebenezer Baptist Church, where both Dr. King and his father preached, and in 2006, he was inducted into the Martin Luther King Board of Preachers at Morehouse College in Atlanta. In 2019, then-Archbishop Gregory was appointed by Pope Francis to become the archbishop of Washington, and the next year, the pope named him as a cardinal, making Cardinal Gregory the first African American cardinal.

Missed an edition? Current and back issues of the Messenger are available online at covdio.org/messenger.
Benedictine Sister Mariana Kirk was born Nov. 21, 1937, to William Iles Kirk and Angela Heile Kirk and given the name Mary Iles. She was their only child.

Mary Iles entered St. Walburg Monastery in 1954, became a novice in 1955, and received the name Mariana. First profession followed in 1956, perpetual in 1959, silver jubilee in 1981, golden in 2006, 40th in 2016. Sister Mariana taught for two years in diocesan elementary school followed by 19 years at the high schools of Holy Cross, St. Henry and Villa Madonna Academy, teaching both Spanish and English classes. She completed her bachelor's degree in Secondary Education and Spanish at Villa Madonna College in 1966 and her master's degree in English at the University of Notre Dame in 1974.

After teaching she worked as secretary to a number of not-for-profit agencies: American Diabetes Association and the Miami Purchase Association for Historic Preservation. Sister Mariana served as VMA Development Director from 1986-92, and then became secretary of the Fine Arts Fund.

Sister Mariana took time to be an informed citizen via news programs and print materials. As a gardener, she cared for the courtyard and rock garden; she raised infant trees to be planted when they grew large enough to withstand the deer. She enjoyed music, serving as a cantor at the monastery member of the May Festival Chorus for 16 years and then as member of the Northern Kentucky Community Chorus.

Sister Mariana was faithful to Friday night card tournaments. Her hearty laugh was a familiar sound. She could have won an Emmy for her rendition of the cowardly lion from the "Wizard of Oz."

Throughout her life Mariana spoke her mind frankly. She could be fierce; she could be gentle. She was always quick to offer her service. After a brief illness, Sister Mariana died Jan. 8, preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by her cousins, friends and Benedictine community. Vigil service was held the evening of Jan. 13, and the Mass of Christian Burial on Jan. 14, followed by interment at St. Walburg Cemetery.

Upon retirement she served in internal ministry at the monastery as director of transportation, assistant to the librarian and driver for many sisters to doctor’s appointments.

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Read Pope Benedict (Continued from page 5)

“These words with which the Holy Scripture begins always have the effect on me of the solemn tolling of a great old bell, which stirs the heart from afar …” These asides give us little glimpses of a man whose heart is awestruck and humbled by a Creator who permits himself to be known, and in that glimpse we recognize ourselves.

“The Spirit of the Liturgy” and “A School of Prayer” are also highly recommended. The first shows us something of Benedict’s high regard for the theologian and Servant of God Romano Guardini (who also authored a book titled “The Spirit of the Liturgy” in 1948), while opening up the liturgy of the Mass and the liturgical movement of the Second Vatican Council — all the whys, wherefore and theological nuances that we so easily lose sight of. The second is an exposition of Catholic prayer taken from a series of Wednesday audiences from May 2011 through October 2012. Subtitled “The Saints Show Us How to Pray,” these brief lessons take us through the prayers of the Old Testament prophets and the psalms and into the prayers of Jesus and Mary, Peter, John the Baptist and so much more. Chapter 39 on the Christological hymn is simply stunning.

Pope Benedict’s pen was so very busy that an entire book could be written on his books, but these are good starts. And never forget the “Jesus of Nazareth” trilogy, which shows us so much of the Man-God, and a bit of the man who loved him so well, too. Elizabeth Scalia is culture editor at OSV News.
Sister André, a Daughter of Charity and oldest known person in world, dies in France at age 118

TOULON, France — André, a Daughter of Charity and the world’s oldest known person, died at age 118, a spokesman for the nursing home where she died told AFP on Monday. “There is great sadness but ... it was her desire to join her beloved brother. For her, it’s a liberation,” David Tavella, speaking for the Sainte-Catherine-Laboure nursing home, told AFP. Sister André, a Catholic convert raised in a Protestant family, was born Lucile Randon Feb. 11, 1904. It was 10 years before the World War I, Theodore Roosevelt was president of the United States, New York opened its first subway line and U.S. Army engineers began work on the Panama Canal. She also lived through the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic and through 10 pontificates. Sister André died Jan. 17 in her sleep at her nursing home in Toulon, on France’s Mediterranean coast, Tavella said. An avid listener of Vatican Radio, the French nun sent well wishes to the radio operation on the occasion of its 90th anniversary in 2021. Sister André, who was blind, was a “dedicated listener of the radio that offers her a window of the world” and supports her prayer life, Vatican News reported Feb. 11, 2021. ‘God’s grace protected us’: Alabama Catholics turn to prayer, outreach after deadly tornadoes

SELMA, Alabama — Catholics in Alabama are turning to prayer and outreach after tornadoes ravaged parts of that state last week — including the historic town of Selma, from which Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. led an historic 1965 civil rights march. The Selma-based Edmundite Missions, which have served the community for 85 years, are providing vitally needed food, social support and assistance with residents’ federal aid applications. The Dominican Sisters at St. Jude Monastery in Marbury, Alabama — whose property was undamaged by a nearby tornado — told OSV News they continue to pray “for all those affected: those who died and for their families, those who were injured or whose homes were destroyed, and for all those who are helping them.”

First-ever Wonder Conference goes to frontier of ‘science and religion’

DALLAS — The notion that science and religion are at odds has “warped a lot of mischief,” said Bishop Robert Barron, who launched the Jan. 13-14 Wonder Conference in Dallas, Texas to shore “the unity of faith and reason.” Sponsored by Bishop Barron’s Word on Fire media apostolate, with support from the John Templeton Foundation, the gathering of experts in physics, philosophy, technology, theology, and history drew some 1,000 attendees. Bishop Barron, who is bishop of the Diocese of Winona-Rochester, said in his keynote address he aimed to survey how the world is fundamentally knowable, the mind is not material but immaterial, and metaphysics, or knowledge about reality beyond the physical world, is inescapable. He explained scientific fact alone is not sufficient to address questions of beauty, morality or transcendence.

Thousands gather at site of Jesus’ baptism in Jordan for special Mass

BETHANY BEYOND THE JORDAN, Jordan — The officially recognized site of Jesus’ baptism drew thousands of Catholics and others national to the east bank of the Jordan River Jan. 13 for a special Mass as COVID-19 restrictions dropped. Families, youth, dignitaries, nuns and priests joined the pilgrims’ fourth gathered first at the lush, reed-filled banks of the river as bagpipe music welcomed the faithful. Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Latin patriarch of Jerusalem, emphasized in his homily the importance of Bethany Beyond the Jordan, recorded in the New Testament as not only the place of Jesus’ baptism by John the Baptist, but for the act that heralded the start of Jesus’ public ministry. “It comes two months after Jordan’s official announcement to develop lands adjacent to the site,” to accommodate pilgrims for longer stays in the area, Father Bader, director of the Catholic Center for Studies and Media in Jordan told OSV News. Funds are needed for this project as well as for the completion of the church. More than 25 years ago, excavations began on the east bank of the Jordan River and uncovered the Baptism Site. Now Jordan wants the site to be more accessible and to be capable of hosting more tourists.

Catholic groups say increasing Russian missile attacks make providing supplies to Ukrainians ‘extremely dangerous’

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Catholic groups say increasing Russian missile attacks make providing supplies to Ukrainians ‘extremely dangerous’

KRAKOW, Poland — Catholic aid organizations are warning that increasing attacks by Russian missiles are preventing supply access to Ukraine, after 44 civilians, including four children, were killed when a Russian missile struck an apartment block in Dnipro Jan. 13, and a Catholic volunteer lost a leg delivering food in the embattled Bakhmut in the Donbas region a week earlier. “Our 260 Ukrainian order members have dis- bursed humanitarian relief throughout this war across the country, right up to the front line,” said Krzysztof Sietczynski, spokesman for the Knights of Columbus in Poland. “Although we’ll continue sending aid, Moscow’s missile campaign is obvi- ously impeding our work, and we can’t reach areas controlled and occupied by the Russian army.” Sietczynski added that the crippling of Grazyna Anda Akaa, who worked for Rihka, a sis- ter organization run for the disabled by the Dominican order in Krakow, Poland, had highlighted the dangers facing volun- teers in the increasingly vicious conflict.
Our Precision Medicine Program is proud to offer multi-cancer early detection testing for individuals over 50 years of age. This simple blood test can identify evidence of 50 cancers, including some cancers that are often overlooked or not as easily detected in early stages, opening the door for early diagnosis and treatment. Earlier detection leads to better outcomes.

We’re right here with the high quality, personalized care you deserve.

Visit stelizabeth.com/DNA to learn more.