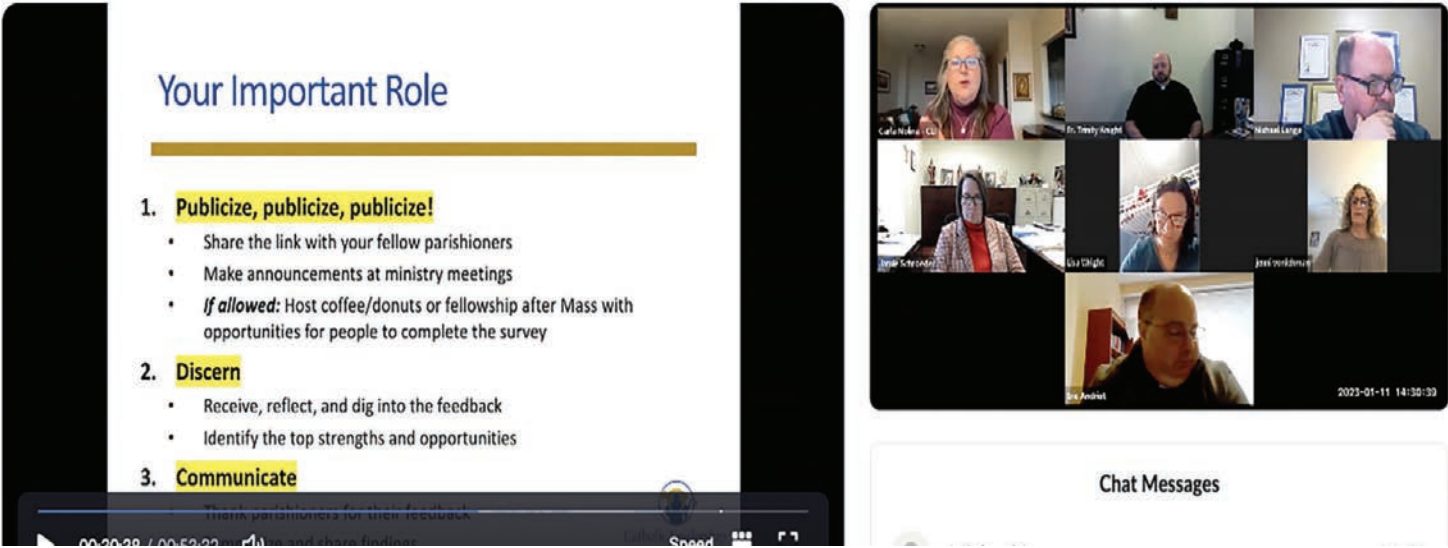


2	OSV News
2	School open houses
3	Eucharistic Revival Pope Benedict XVI
3	Martin Luther King breakfast
3	Foresters support seminarian education
6	'We Choose Life'
11	Catholic Newman club
14	Obituary Sister Mariana Kirk, O.S.B.



Carla Molina, consultant for the Diocese of Covington with the Catholic Leadership Institute, provides information and training to appointed parish points of contact during informational Zoom meetings, Jan. 10 and 11.

‘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 later 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 the strengths, styles and perspectives of diocesan priests — all to contribute to the upcoming pastoral plan.



What’s on your heart?

Take the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey

The DMI invites parishioners to reflect on where they are on their journey of discipleship and enables parish leadership to make data-driven decisions to help parishioners grow in their faith.

The DMI online portal opens Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22 and closes March 27. Visit www.covdio.org/withoneheart.

Eucharistic Revival songwriting competition seeks to inspire Catholic music

Kate Scanlon
OSV News

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)

Moving? Wrong address?
Call the circulation desk,
(859) 392-1570

Bishop’s Schedule	3
Commentary	4
VIRTUS	8
People and Events	9
Classifieds	12
Shopper’s Guide	14
News Briefs	15

Missed an edition? Current and back issues of the Messenger are available online at covdio.org/messenger.

OSV News launches Jan. 1, aims to speak ‘truth in charity in a way that unites’

Maria Wiering
OSV News

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.

“An increasing number of Catholics — and non-Catholics, for that matter — are searching for presentations of the truth in a non-polarizing way ... but they don’t know where to look,” he said. “What they will be able to do now is to open up their local diocesan publication, go to a diocesan website, just as they’ve been able to come to Our Sunday Visitor, and find that kind of edifying material — material that doesn’t shy away from the truth, that speaks the truth as the church has always spoken the truth, but speaks it in a way that is accessible to Americans today.”

Catholic media company OSV created OSV News last year to fill the anticipated void from the Dec. 30, 2022, closure of Catholic News Service, a news agency founded in 1920 and owned by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

In May, CNS announced that the USCCB had decided to close 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*, the Catholic newspaper of the Diocese of Covington — according to CNS Director and Editor-in-Chief Greg Erlandson. Our Sunday Visitor was among its subscribers.

When CNS announced its closure, Richert said he had a sense that OSV was well positioned to address the anticipated need. “Someone is going to have to fill that hole” created by CNS’ closure, he recalled thinking in a Dec. 6 interview. “We’re going to have to fill that hole for us. Why don’t we fill that hole for everyone else, as well?”

OSV is the largest Catholic publisher in the United States, and one of the largest in the world. Based in

Huntington, Indiana, the company was founded in 1912 by Archbishop John Francis Noll as the Catholic newspaper Our Sunday Visitor. OSV has grown to include other periodicals, books and parish resources with a shared mission: “to champion the Catholic Church.”

The addition of a news service to OSV’s offerings fits with the company’s mission and identity, he said.

When then-Father Noll launched Our Sunday Visitor newspaper, “there was a lot of misunderstanding of what the Church taught,” Richert said. “You look at where we are 110 years later and the names have changed, the situations have changed, but the broader cultural similarities are there. We need the Catholic press ... as a whole, and that’s not just newspapers and magazines and print publications, but we need, increasingly, digital publications, websites, apps, social media. We need audio and video. We need all of this because that’s what’s necessary today to spread the Gospel.”

OSV News clients can expect national and international news, feature stories and columns, like those CNS provided, 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 editorial 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 become that 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 out in the world today.”

OSV News’ domestic team includes Julie Asher, senior editor; Maria-Pia Chin, Spanish editor; Paulina Guzik, international editor; Megan Marley, digital editor; Bob

Roller, photo editor; Elizabeth Scalia, culture editor; Peter Jesserer Smith, national news and features editor; and Maria Wiering, senior writer. Gina Christian and Kate Scanlon are national reporters, and John Mulderig 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 vehicle 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.

The Messenger staff contributed to this article.

Looking for a great school? Visit an Open House

St. Pius X School, Edgewood
Jan. 29, 12:30 – 2 p.m.

St. Timothy School, Union
Jan. 21, 9 – 1 p.m.

Sts. Peter and Paul School,
California
Jan. 22, 12 – 2 p.m.

Blessed Sacrament School,
Ft. Mitchell
Jan. 22, 12:30 – 2 p.m.

St. Thomas School,
Ft. Thomas
Jan. 22, 1 – 3 p.m.

St. Anthony School,
Taylor Mill
Jan. 29, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

St. Augustine School,
Covington
Jan. 29, 12 – 1 p.m.

Holy Trinity School, Bellevue
Jan. 29, 12 – 1:30 p.m.

St. Joseph School, Crescent
Springs
Jan. 29, 12 – 1:30 p.m.

St. Cecilia School,
Independence
Jan. 29, 12 – 2 p.m.
Call 859-363-4314 to
schedule a visit.

Prince of Peace School,
Covington
Jan. 29, 12 – 2 p.m.

St. Mary School, Alexandria
Jan. 29, 12:15 – 3:15 p.m.

Mary, Queen of Heaven
School, Erlanger
Jan. 29, 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.

St. Joseph School,
Cold Spring
Jan. 29, 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.

St. Catherine of Siena School,
Ft. Thomas
Jan. 29, 12:45 – 3 p.m.

St. Paul School, Florence
Jan. 29, 1 – 4 p.m.
Register for an appointment
at 859-647-4070 or go to
stpaulnky.org/school

St. Henry School, Elsmere
Jan. 29, 1 – 3 p.m.

Immaculate Heart of Mary
School, Burlington
Jan. 29, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

St. Therese School, Southgate
Feb. 2, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Villa Madonna Academy,
Villa Hills
Feb. 5, 1 p.m. Register for the
Open House at villamadonna.org
St. Patrick School, Taylor Mill
Feb. 5, 12 – 2 p.m.

Covington Latin School,
Covington
7th and 8th grade Prep
Feb. 9, 5:30 p.m.

Holy Cross School, Latonia
Contact the school office
at 859-581-6599 to schedule
a tour.

Holy Family School, Covington
Contact the school office at
859-581-0290 to schedule
a tour.

St. Agnes School, Ft. Wright
Contact the school office
at 859-261-0543 to schedule
a tour.

St. Joseph Academy, Walton
Contact the school office
at 859-485-6444 to schedule
a tour.

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

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

St. Joseph School,
Camp Springs
Contact Ms. Lisa Roetting to
schedule a tour. 859-409-9185
or Lroetting@Saint-Joseph-
School.org

Pope Benedict 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!”

CNS photo/Reuters pool
Pope Benedict XVI gives Communion to a young man during Mass at Westminster Cathedral in London in this Sept. 18, 2010, file photo.



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

Keener photos



Laura Keener
Editor

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 Lynnessa 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

(far left) Lynnessa Hillman, sociologists at Northern Kentucky University and
(left) Divine Providence Sister Alice Gerdeman were two of the speakers at Our Savior Parish’s annual Martin Luther King, Jr. discussion breakfast, Jan. 14.
(right) An attendee listens during the MLK discussion breakfast.



(Continued on page 7)



Foresters support seminarian education

Foresters 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 Foresters. The proceeds raised will go towards the education of diocesan seminarians.



Bishop’s Schedule

- | | |
|--|--|
| Jan. 20
Diocesan Day of Prayer and Penance for Life | Jan. 25
DPAA videotaping, 11 a.m. |
| Jan. 22
Mass, Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, 5:30 p.m. | World Youth Day planning meeting, Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, Covington, 6 p.m. |
| Jan. 23
Confirmation, St. Joseph Parish, Cold Spring, 7 p.m. | Jan. 26
Jesuit Spiritual Center, Milford, 10:30 a.m. |
| Jan. 24
Diocesan Board of Education meeting, 9 a.m. | Confirmation, St. Pius X Parish, Edgewood, 7 p.m. |
| Advisory Council meeting, 9:30 a.m. | Jan. 28
Mass, Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, California 5 p.m. |
| Confirmation, St. Cecilia Parish, Independence, 7 p.m. | Jan. 29
Mass, Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, California, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. |

Cardinal George Pell: The Encourager

On Tuesday, Jan. 3, when Cardinal George Pell and I went to pay 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 Sanpietrini, greeted the tall Australian who walked slowly with a cane. These ushers and guards are used to 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 the Church and the truth. Here was a “white martyr.” Attention should be paid. And it was. We prayed for 15 minutes at the bier before the high altar on which the Pope Emeritus rested, and later at the tomb of St. John Paul II, before leaving the basilica by a back door, where the cardinal’s car was waiting for us. I only became aware of how difficult walking was for my friend of 55 years when he asked to lean on my arm as we descended a slight decline leading to the door. Outside, we saw Archbishop Georg Gaenswein, longtime secretary to the deceased Pope Emeritus, who was coming into St. Peter’s with a small group. We exchanged condolences, during which the archbishop told the cardinal that the last book Pope Benedict had read was the first volume of Pell’s Prison

Journal (to which I had the honor of contributing a foreword).

The previous evening, Cardinal Pell and I had enjoyed dinner with some 50 Milwaukee province seminarians at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, hosted by its archpriest (and Milwaukee native), Cardinal James Harvey. They were an impressive group of men and hung on every word the cardinal, in cracking good form, said in his brief after-dinner remarks. Pell gently but firmly stressed the importance of courage in the priesthood: the courage to evangelize, the courage to face cultural headwinds, the courage to put one’s faith totally in the Lord.

And in the hours immediately after his shocking, unexpected death on Jan. 10, it came to me, through the mental and spiritual fog of a deep grief, that, in those brief comments, George Pell had inadvertently but quite authentically written his own epitaph: he was a courageous man who “en-couraged” others — who gave others courage, or, perhaps better, drew out of others the courage they did not know lay within them.

I know of few, if any, public figures who have displayed the moral courage George Pell displayed for decades as he defended and promoted the truth of Catholic faith in the face of a relentless, vicious Australian media campaign to destroy him. At the request of Pope Francis, he courageously set about cleaning the Augean Stables of Vatican finance and was making serious progress on that Herculean task when the support he had counted on evaporated. Knowing that he was innocent of the absurd charges on which he was first convicted, he courageously turned 404 days in prison into an extended retreat, during which he wrote three vol-

umes of reflections that have given spiritual comfort and encouragement to readers around the world. Returning to Rome after he had been vindicated in his innocence by Australia’s High Court, he played a quiet but effective role behind the scenes, encouraging the defenders of Catholic orthodoxy to think through the requisites for a more vibrant Catholic future.

We were together in Rome almost every day of what turned out to be the last week of his life. And during that time, we discussed at length the nature of the crisis confronting the Catholic Church in 2023: in Germany, to be sure, where the Synodal Path is turning toward apostasy, but also throughout the world Church, as preparations for the October 2023 Synod on Synodality risk stripping the bishops of their authority and turning the Church into a woke discussion club. It was, we agreed, a crisis of apostolicity: Would the teachings of the Lord Jesus, handed on to us by an authoritative apostolic tradition that traces its origins to the original apostolic band, continue to be taught in the 21st century? Would the truths of divine revelation, borne by the apostolic tradition, continue to be taught, held, cherished and lived?

Answering those questions with a robust “yes” requires the kind of courage that Cardinal George Pell displayed for over eight decades, up to the day he died. Others in the Church’s leadership, ordained and lay, must now display that same grit, strengthening each other’s courage in what promise to be difficult, turbulent months ahead.

George Weigel is a senior fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.

Don’t forget!

I almost always find myself easily wrapped up in the tasks of the day. I too often forget to step back and see the big picture. With the busyness of the holiday season now behind us, we can take a deep breath and reflect on the



past year. It can be a reassessment of what’s truly important.

At St. Vincent de Paul, we want to raise awareness of our neighbors’ struggles and our efforts to share hope by providing some relief from the challenges they face. We also want our audience to understand how these experiences bring us closer to God. There are a few ways we’ve tried to do this. Maybe you heard a short talk at Mass about the outreach within your own parish? We are grateful for the support of the many pastors in the Diocese who gave us this opportunity.

As another way to share, we also invited guests to tour our headquarters. Our headquarters is located on 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 good deal, very few know what happens in the back of this warehouse. On this tour, our visitors learned that:

- We have a small, but mighty staff and hundreds of volunteers working in this facility who provide support to our army of nearly 600 Vincentian volunteers based in 30 parishes throughout the Diocese.
- We operate a mostly volunteer-run call center who answers 2,000 calls for assistance each month from neighbors in need. These calls are ultimately passed along to

the parish conference near the individual so they can follow up with a personal visit.

- Our assistance office staff administers 13 programs that serve as resources for our Vincentians so that we can address the needs of those we serve. Some examples include beds for children, the elderly and disabled, fans and air conditioners in the summer; coats in the winter; a few nights of shelter for our homeless neighbors, and a microloan program to address those unexpected costs that threaten financial independence.

- This staff also directly connects our Vincentian volunteers to the myriad of other community resources and non-profit partners who specialize in those barriers to self-sufficiency that extend beyond the emergency response that we often provide.

- 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 25,000 to 30,000 pounds of generously donated non-perishables that also support two other pantries (Cold Spring and Falmouth) and supplement the pantries for 24 of our parish conferences. We have a walk-in cooler and freezer to provide fresh options for our pantry guests too. Truth be told, we wish we could store even more! The need is significant.

- We thankfully receive thousands of material donations that require sorting, inspection and then placement in our stores. These donations either meet a need for a neighbor struggling with basic necessities or could be discovered by a customer who proudly spends their money with us to support the ministry. We place over 10,000 “new to you” items in the Erlanger store each month. And, we redeem over \$8,000 in vouchers each month from customers in need of clothing, furniture and housewares.

- We operate a small fleet of three box trucks that pick-up donations from material donors and the blue donation bins throughout NKY and deliver furniture to neighbors in need. These trucks also transport inventory

between our four locations daily to make sure each store has what they need to serve their customers.

There is a bit more that takes place in Erlanger, but I’ll stop here. The overwhelming feedback from our guests on these tours: “Wow, we did not even know people sat back here, let alone the activity that is coordinated from here!”

Because we get so caught up in the tasks of the day, there might be some days we don’t even realize the extent of what takes place within our ministry. We are blessed to help people every day, thanks to our committed Vincentian volunteers and our generous supporters who make these resources possible. It takes a community, working together to deliver such impact. And, guess WHO brought us together? These tours pushed us to recognize this wonderful mystery and helped us keep that big picture in focus.

All of this — the St. Vincent de Paul people, programs, and infrastructure — would not exist if it were not for a very simple concept — to be a friend to someone in need. It all begins with one person who has the courage to cry out 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 brought a beautifully hand-written “Thank You” card from someone he visited. She had 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 walk with them in their struggles — they inspire us. They 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.

Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand

The readings for the third Sunday in Ordinary Time — Cycle A — are: Is 8:23—9:3; 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17 and Mt 4:12-23 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

a more probing question is, how often have I 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 profanely utter 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. He is with us now. We are staring him in the face. He is speaking to us. He is fulfilling his promise to be Emmanuel — God-is-with-us — in the inseparable realities of Word and sacrament. It is precisely because of God’s presence to us in truth and Communion, 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, the 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-theist world gives every appearance of being a 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 is as the “buffered self.” This type of person senses themselves as self-contained, self-enclosed and not needing input from outside of themselves. For such a self, reality consists solely of their interior feelings and their interior, totally individualistic renderings 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, Msgr. 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 reminded his readers and congregants, “the

(Continued on page 7)

A light shines in Buffalo

I don’t know about you but, to me, the year 2022 was a year of meanness with the ugliness of campaigns and politicians running for office, special interest groups fighting abortion bans in individual states’ Supreme

Courts and the cruelty of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. It was very discouraging.

But then came the story of Sha’Kyra Aughtry — a young, African-American, single mother in Buffalo New York — who shined a bright light for us all.

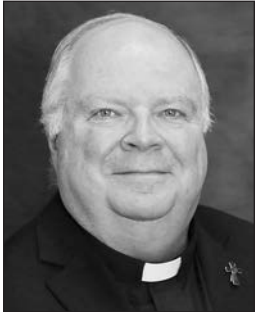
In the middle of the blizzard in Buffalo, Sha’Kyra heard someone crying for help out in the storm. She looked out her front door and saw a man literally freezing to death

in front of her house. She didn’t know the man but she saw “the winds were sweeping him away. He was stumbling and falling.”

The man was mentally challenged, white and in his 60s. He lived in a group home in the area and was trying to walk to his job at a movie theatre. When Sha’Kyra brought the man, Joey, into her house, he was suffering from severe frostbite. He had plastic bags on his hands. She cut them off and did her best to treat his hands.

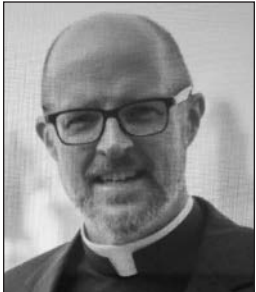
Sha’Kyra kept Joey in her home for two days during the blizzard in Buffalo. Ambulances couldn’t get through. She took to social media begging for help to get Joey to a hospital. She could tell he was in danger of losing his hands. Finally a few Good Samaritans came in a pickup truck to take Joey to the hospital.

BELIEVE, TEACH, PRACTICE



Deacon Peter Freeman

GO AND GLORIFY




Father Phillip DeVos

How to read Pope Benedict XVI if you never have before

The Dec. 31 death of Pope Benedict XVI has brought much discussion of his prolific pen, with his numerous theological writings, pastoral letters and encyclicals.

GUEST



Elizabeth Scalia

Mentions of his many books, including his stirring “Jesus of Nazareth” trilogy — a highly personal project which plumbs the depths of his love for Jesus Christ — have triggered curiosity among Catholics (and non-Catholics) who until now have read little or nothing of Benedict’s work. On social media, the question pops up with some frequency: “There is so much to choose from,” people marvel, “where is the best place to start?”

As someone who found the writings of his predecessor so dense as to be nearly impenetrable, I, too, had avoided reading the offerings of Joseph Ratzinger until I was gifted with a beautifully wrought book featuring a daily excerpt of his collected works. There I discovered theological writing that was wonderfully clear; accessible, reader-friendly and downright tasty. More than once I would close my book after that day’s selection and think, “Well, that was delicious!”

So, when I recommend reading Benedict, I always suggest beginning with some similar collection that will give a new reader bite-size morsels of thoughtful, often easily-identified-with essays, homilies, papal audiences and books culled throughout his long service to the Church. Through reading such books I eventually “graduated” to reading Benedict full-on. If that sounds good, then look at “Co-Workers of the Truth” or “Seek That Which is Above,” or “Benedictus: Day by Day with Pope Benedict XVI.”

Sha’Kyra said that as they put Joey into the vehicle, he told her he was scared. She told him she was scared as well. He said, “I’m going to die.” She said, “we’re not talking about dying” and she made the decision to go with Joey to the hospital.

On the way to the hospital, comforted by Sha’Kyra by his side, Joey told her, “I love you.” She replied, “I love you too Joey.”

After seeing this story on the news, the discouragement I had been feeling during 2022 melted away. I realized that no matter how mean or cruel our leaders and politicians could be, the average person has a basic instinct to be kind to one another.

In Matthew’s Gospel (4:16), he tells us how Christ came to Capernaum and brought light into a land “overshadowed by death.” “A light has arisen.” The light of Christ came into the world when it was in despair and gloom.

In his homily at the memorial Mass for Pope Benedict XVI, Bishop Iffert mentioned how Pope Benedict called us to a life centered in Christ. In the second part of Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus — the light of the world — calls his followers to “come after me” and help him bring his light into the world, making them “fishers of men.”

Sha’Kyra Aughtry had the light of Christ in her heart when she took an older white man into her home and cared for him for two days until help arrived.

If 2022 was a year of meanness, then let’s make 2023 a year of kindness. Kindness toward one another by sharing the light of Christ that lives in our hearts in any way we can — with whomever we can. Let our politicians and leaders beat up on each other while we — the people — change our country and our world with acts of kindness fueled by the fire of the light of Christ that burns within us.

Deacon Peter Freeman is assigned to St. Philip Parish, Melbourne.

Even before his papacy, as Cardinal Ratzinger, Benedict sat for long interviews with his eventual biographer Peter Seewald, and the resulting books are surprisingly entertaining reads. They go down so easily that one feels like a guest invited to observe an exchange between one shrewd mind and one that is nimble and unguarded. “God and the World,” published in 2002, is a great place to get to know Benedict in a less formal, yet still edifyingly instructive, way.

For readers less interested in becoming acquainted with Benedict through intriguing appetizers and want to make a full meal of his work, take a look at the 2004 edition of “Introduction to Christianity,” first published in 1968. Cardinal Ratzinger brings the reader on a deep dive into the Apostles’ Creed, including its scriptural inspirations both Old Testament and New, coming up for air regularly in order to relate the declaration of faith to the reality of our lived experiences. It is a book that leaves the reader instructed, inspired and oddly refreshed.

Another good choice is “In the Beginning...’: A Catholic Understanding of the Story of Creation and the Fall.” As with so many Ratzingerian works, the title tells you that Benedict was not afraid to go large in his thinking. This book is a collection of four homilies and a concluding essay wherein Ratzinger takes us through the creation stories of Genesis. “(All creation) comes from one power; from God’s eternal Reason, which became in the Word the power of creation. ... This is the living God, and this same power which created the earth and the stars and which bears the whole universe is the very one whom we meet in the Word of Holy Scripture. In this Word we come into contact with the real primordial force of the world and with the power that is above all powers.”

Isn’t that gorgeous? The immense thought that we can absolutely know and have a relationship (even consent to co-create) with this God of such power and might is served up so simply. Benedict says this as comfortably as the rest of us might observe that it is raining outside.

There is real poetry in Benedict’s writing here, too: (Continued on page 14)

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.

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 Auburn Ave., Cincinnati. Prayer vigil after Mass in front of Planned Parenthood. Contact John Wendeln at (513) 218-1938. Hosted by Helpers of God’s Precious Infants & Mary’s Mantle.

Feb. 4, 8 a.m.–1:30 p.m., A Pro-Life Gathering for HER (Heal, Empower, Receive), St. 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 Schmidt, aschmidt@cincinnatirighttolife.org; register online (\$40) 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 Auburn 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 vigil hours of prayer throughout the campaign. Park on side streets or at Holy Name Church, 2422 Auburn 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.

At bottom, the pro-life cause is a contest to share the divine love of life with the hearts and minds of those around us, where the best gambit is warmth, friendliness and joy. Unless we ourselves love life, we cannot serve our cause effectively.

Being pro-life is not just about the daily struggle of winning a political battle or an argument. No, our cause embraces God’s gifts in all their wondrous beauty. Being pro-life means cheering every great and little thing that makes life so grand — the good news in the everyday.

Look at G.K. Chesterton’s book, “Orthodoxy,” where he reflects on the rising and the setting of the sun each day, those wonderfully beautiful moments that occur over and over and over. Chesterton imagines God, like a delighted child, continually exclaiming, “Do it again!” as the sun rises and sets, day after day. This attitude — continued delight every day — is precisely the attitude that we should have towards the wonder of creation. Really, aren’t we blessed to get to live in this amazing universe?

Showing the world a genuine, joyous love of life is, I think, among the greatest pro-life testimonials we can give. The world cannot dismiss pro-life as just a political movement for killjoy Puritans if they see our smiles — if they behold people deeply and openly in love with life and happy to celebrate God’s splendid works.

Consider the origins of the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, that magnificent structure of shining stained glass and soaring columns. The cathedral was built and paid for by people deeply in love with and grateful for their faith, who desired to make not just a thing, but a thing of great beauty. Their inspiration was the creative activity of God himself, who made the world and pronounced it “good.”

Consider too what we can learn from the miracle at Cana. Nobody was going to die if there was no wine, yet Christ not only made wine for the wedding party but made excellent wine, a wine worthy of celebration — and certainly he would have enjoyed it himself. Christ, the sinless God-man, enjoyed the party, friendship and life itself. This same appreciation of the abundant joy of divine creation is the heart of the pro-life cause — a deep realization that life is, simply, good.

Pro-lifers, besides being warriors in a political and cultural battle, have the task and privilege of bearing witness to the awesome beauty that is creation. Let us never forget that every single moment of every single day is uniquely blessed by God, and it behooves us to pause and show our thanks in joy.

May our example lead the world to appreciate the Master’s joy in his creation — the symphony of life.

Father Conor Kunath is vocation promoter for the Diocese of Covington and chaplain to Notre Dame Academy, Park Hills and the Serra Club for Vocations Northern Kentucky. This essay is based on the homily he preached October 2022 at the Diocesan Pro-Life Mass.

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)

For more information about the Pro-Life Office or to be added to our e-mail newsgroups, visit us online at www.covdio.org/prolife/ or call (859) 392-1500.

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 3)

topic,” she said, when nearly no one at the breakfast raised their hand. “It is something that underlies so much of the injustice that indigenous peoples around the world and people of color around the world have suffered.” To be clear, the Doctrine of Discovery is not Catholic Church doctrine — a doctrine that is a truth of God. It is, she said, instead “a framework, which now has been sort of codified into our legal system.” The framework, she said, dates back to the 15th century, during the time of European exploration and colonization of the world. “It gave Christian governments moral and legal rights to invade seas and indigenous lands and to dominate indigenous peoples,” Sister Alice said.

The Doctrine of Discovery, which Thomas Jefferson once described as international law, allowed explorers to claim as their own any area of the world that was uninhabited by Christians, provided that they Christianize the area. “And to Christianize it you could do just about anything that you wanted to do,” Sister Alice said, including enslaving and killing the indigenous people who were there. To justify the enslaving and conquering of indigenous peoples, popular thought was, “These people are not as sophisticated as we are. They can’t handle the land. Our culture is so superior to theirs ... at that point the superiority concept was there for sure,” she said. Today, most world leaders, including Pope Francis and his predecessors, Pope Benedict XVI and Pope John Paul II — condemn the Doctrine of Discovery. Yet the attitude has seeped into and in some ways has been codified into the laws of the United States, Sister Alice said. Especially during Martin Luther King weekend, Sister Alice said, “I think it is important, and it’s important for me as somebody with a white, Christian background, to understand how these kinds of attitudes seep into people and into the different ways we organize ourselves, and how little we question.”

Dr. Joan Ferrante and Lynnessa Hillman, both leaders with the Mourning the Creation of Racial Categories Project, encouraged participants to also question the creation, purpose and necessity of racial categories. “The MCRC project draws on the arts to tell the stories of how people in the United States have been divided into unequally valued categories,” said Ms. Hillman. “What MCRC is all about is taking a deep dive into looking at how these racial categories came to be and how we sustain them in the United States for centuries.” Mr. Fisher, who prior to his current position as a civil rights protector, was a journalist for the Cincinnati/Kentucky Post, said that from his viewpoint, America was founded on racism and sexism, “and has made progress, but not nearly enough progress for those who have been oppressed. Yes, slavery ended after the Civil War and women won the right to vote in 1920, but America still does not grant equality for all,” he said pointing to statistics that show blacks are unemployed and underhoused at much higher rates than whites. “I think America has never fully healed from the poisons of racism and sexism. A wound must be cleansed in order to heal and America has never cleansed the diseases of racism and sexism,” he said.

BRANCHES AND LEAVES OUR FAMILY TREES



Let Us Trace Your Family Ancestry
References Available Upon Request

(859) 620-0177
kaxquin9239@gmail.com

Heaven is at hand

(Continued from page 5)

nature of Christianity is not just an idea, or a program — the nature of Christianity is Christ. When we lose him, we no longer want to know, only shadows remain.” It is precisely against this backdrop of the buffered, enclosed self of our contemporary shadowlands that we hear the command of Jesus, “repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.” We have every opportunity to take up the Word of God and let its truth enlighten us. It is that

Word that leads us to the house of Lord where we “may gaze on the loveliness of the Lord and contemplate his temple” in the most Holy Eucharist. It is only through our Eucharistic Communion with the Lord in spirit and truth that we can break out from the land of gloom and escape the shadowlands. For in the Holy Eucharist, the Kingdom of Heaven — God — is at hand. Let us repent of our unbelief. *Father Phillip W. DeVous is pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Flemingsburg, and St. Rose of Lima Parish, Mayslick.*

McHale's

EVENTS AND CATERING
every detail, every event, every time

859.442.7776 www.mchalecatering.com

We offer many unique Wedding Venues in NKY and downtown Cincinnati

The Grand and Pinnacle ballrooms Covington
The Gardens of Park Hills

Preferred Caterer at The Drees Pavilion and Devou Clubhouse
The Cincinnati Club Downtown Cincinnati
The Center Ballroom at Fountain Square

Partner Venues
Cincinnati Music Hall, Rhinegeist Brewery,
The Prickel Barn Verona Ky.

Here to lend a hand.



St. Charles COMMUNITY

Charlie's Club,

Adult Day Health Program

Monday - Friday
8am - 5:30pm

www.stcharlescommunity.org (859) 331-3224

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

Kate Scanlon
OSV News

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, ‘Fidelity 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



OSV News photo/Gregory A. Shemitz

A placard highlighting words from the U.S. Constitution’s First Amendment is seen during the recitation of the “Rosary 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.

condemned in his encyclical “Fratelli Tutti” what he called “a perverse and barren way of thinking” where ultimately “the law of the strongest prevails.”

“Good and evil no longer exist in themselves; there is only a calculus of benefits and burdens,” the pope said in his critique. “As a result of the displacement of moral reasoning, the law is no longer seen as reflecting a fundamental notion of justice but as mirroring notions currently in vogue.”

“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 institution leader to review the Policies and Procedures and fill out the Application and Acceptance Forms.

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

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

Bulletins:

- January bulletin: posted Sunday, Jan. 1; due Tuesday, Feb. 7.

Training:

- Tuesday, Jan. 24, 6:30–9 p.m., Diocesan Catholic Children’s Home, Ft. Mitchell
- Tuesday, Jan. 31, 6–8:30 p.m., Diocesan Curia, Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, Covington
- Wednesday, Feb. 1, 9–11:30 a.m., Diocesan Curia, Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, Covington

www.virtusonline.org, enter user id and password to access your bulletins. If your Virtus account is inactivated please contact your primary location for assistance.

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

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

IT'S STILL A GREAT TIME TO SELL YOUR HOME

I have clients looking for homes.
Some are even cash buyers!
If you're thinking of selling, give me a call,
I may have someone for your home.



With every home I sell, a contribution is made to the Children’s Miracle Network “helping local kids”.
FOR RESULTS, CALL MARIE WIEDER OF RE/MAX Victory + Affiliates (859) 801-9762

MARIE WIEDER, ABR, SFR, e-PRO
Parishioner Holy Cross Church





319 FAIRFIELD AVE.
BELLEVUE, KY 41073
859-261-3636

Cleves & Lonnemann
JEWELERS

CREATING SATISFACTION SINCE 1932

SPECIALIZING IN REFURBISHED HIGH END WATCHES, NEW AND ESTATE JEWELRY, AND A LARGE SELECTION OF GIA CERTIFIED DIAMONDS.



KWW MECHANICAL, INC.
“A Wischer Family Company”

(859) 261-1100
KWMechanical.com

- Electric
- Plumbing
- Heating &
- Air Conditioning

Residential Service Experts Since 1987





INFINITI OF NORTHERN KENTUCKY

SHOP NORTHERN KENTUCKY’S BEST SELECTION ON NEW, CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED & PRE-OWNED VEHICLES



1945 DIXIE HWY | FORT WRIGHT, KY 41011
www.InfinitiOfNorthernKentucky.com
TOLL FREE: 1-855-842-8906

PEOPLE AND EVENTS



Wee kings

(above) First graders at St. Henry Catholic School, Elsmere, learn about Epiphany and finish the unit making their own majestic crowns.



Knights help children

(above) Every year the Knights of Columbus holds a Tootsie Roll drive to benefit persons with a developmental disability. Pictured, Deacon Bill Theis, program director (l) of Bishop Mulloy Council 1301, presents a check to Bob Wilson, executive director; Diocesan Catholic Children's Home (DCCH). Looking on are Ron Bertsch, Jr., director of Therapeutic Foster Care/Adoption, DCCH and Ron Bertsch, Sr., KofC Council Tootsie Roll Chairman.



Christmas giving

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 a donation 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 or 517; and DirectTV 25.

National School Choice Week education choice celebration, Jan. 24, 10 a.m., Ky. State Capitol, Frankfort. EdChoice Kentucky hosts the annual event with parents, students, educators and public officials joining together to recognize the transformational importance of education. The event is outdoors. Visit EducateKY.com.

St. Peter's Catholic Order of Foresters Court #1492 annual Men's Stag, Jan. 27, 7-11 p.m., Sts. Peter & Paul Social Center, California. Proceeds benefit the COF Scholarship Awards program. Contact 803-3782.

"Meditations on the Nativity: A Concert of Art, Music, and Light," Jan. 28, 8 p.m., pre-concert talk, 7 p.m., Christ Church Cathedral, Cincinnati. Free and open to the public. Visit stellaoneillmusic.com.

Thomas More Observatory presents "Comets: Icy Messengers from the Past," Jan. 28, 7-8 p.m., lecture; 8-9 p.m., night sky viewing. A comet designated C/2002 E3 (ZFT), discovered in March of 2022, is making its closest approach to the Earth on Feb. 1. Join us to discuss this comet and what astronomers can learn from our brief encounters with these icy messengers. Weather permitting, we might be able to spot the comet at the Observatory after the talk. Event is free and open to the public, no reservations

required. Contact rylew@thomasmore.edu.

24th annual Jack and Pat McGarr Euchre Tournament, Feb. 4, Bishop Brossart High School, Alexandria. Register online, McGarrEuchre23.givesmart.com. Contact jackmcgar-reuchre@gmail.com or text/call (859) 250- 4924.

Come celebrate a **First Friday Candlelight Mass** with Sacred Music, Feb. 3, St. Joseph Parish, Crescent Springs, hosted by The Angelico Project. Mass starts promptly at 7 p.m., followed by individual prayer for healing with the Mustard Seed Charismatic prayer teams in the left nave of the church.

Wm. T. (Bill) Robinson III '67 Institute for Religious Liberty Spring Event, Feb. 16, 7-9 p.m., Mary, Seat of Wisdom Chapel, Thomas More University, Crestview Hills. **The IRL presents "Political Partisanship and Its Impact on the Future of Religious Liberty"** featuring keynote speaker Asma Uddin and commentator Dr. William Madges. Ms. Uddin is a religious liberty lawyer and scholar working for the protection of religious expression for people of all faiths in the U.S. and abroad. She is currently the visiting assistant professor of law at the Catholic University of America. Dr. Madges is the chair of the theology department and the faculty director of the Brueggeman Center for Dialogue at Xavier University. All are welcome, RSVP not required. Visit thomasmore.edu/religiousliberty for details.

Newport Central Catholic High School's twenty-second class Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony will be held Feb. 18, Newport Central Catholic gymnasium, social hour, 6 p.m.; dinner and ceremony 7 p.m. Inductees are:

Newsworthy

- Bishop Brossart High School** is proud to announce its 2022 High School Placement Test Scholarship winners:
- St. Joseph School,** Cold Spring: Riley Eberhard, Riley Eviston, Emmalee Parsons, Lidia Schneider, Adam Tarvin;
 - St. Mary School,** Alexandria: Anna Broering, Ella Cooney, Lilly Drees, Abigail Kress, Max Leuderalbert;
 - St. Thomas School,** Ft. Thomas: Maria Everett.

Vince Bonhaus '01, Whitney Cundiff Smith '08, April Gibson Gillespie '08, Brian Haigis '87, Brady Hightchew '12, Steve Pangallo '91 and Jerry Turner '79. The 2010 Girls All A State Champion Basketball Team will be named if "Team of Distinction;" Rob Detzel will receive the Coach Jim Connor Award and Jerry Schneider '52 the Fr. John Hegenauer Community Service Award. Cost \$30. Visit ncchs.com.

Diocese of Covington **Regional Dual-Credit Information Night** presented by James Catchen, Feb. 23, 6-7:30 p.m., Thomas More University, Steigerwald 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 KHEAA 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 3, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Steigerwald Hall, Saints Center, Crestview Hills. This one-day, interactive conference is designed to enlighten, engage and challenge women to seek more within 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 tmukyus/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) 878-6905 or e-mail pamarinedad@yahoo.com.

To be pastoral, look to the Good Shepherd, pope says

Justine McLellan
Catholic News Service

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.”

“When we meet them at school, work or on the streets of our city, why don’t we think instead that we have a beautiful opportunity to witness to them the joy of a Father who loves them and has never forgotten them?” the pope asked.

Being a shepherd is not merely a job, but a “true and proper way of life: 24 hours a day,” he said. Jesus, 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 ourselves.”

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.



CNS photo/Paul Haring
Pope Francis greets nuns during his general audience in the Paul VI hall at the Vatican Jan. 18, 2023.

Cove

CD Special

Federal Credit Union

18 months at

4.25%

APY*

* Annual Percentage Yield 4.25%, \$500 minimum to open, effective January 9, 2023, Penalty for early withdrawal.

Federally Insured
By NCUA

577 Dudley Rd., Edgewood KY 41017

www.CoveFCU.com – (859) 292-9000

MARY, QUEEN OF
HEAVEN SCHOOL

OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29 • 12:30 pm- 2:30pm

NOW OFFERING
PRE-SCHOOL

HALF DAY AND ALL DAY OPTIONS

WHAT DOES MQH OFFER YOUR CHILD(REN)

- 18-1 Student/Teacher ratio
- K-8 STEM Program
- Integrated Technology Instruction with iPads and Chromebooks
- Orton-Gillingham Certified Reading Teachers
- Above National Average in Reading/Math MAP Test Scores
- Area's most Affordable Catholic Education

- K-8 : Art, Music, Computer, P.E.
- K-8 Athletic Programs

859.371.8100 • MQHSCHOOL.COM • @MQHSCHOOL

St. Paul Catholic School

Open House

Sunday, January 29

1:00-4:00 p.m. by appointment

For new families interested in Preschool to 8th Grade for the 2023-24 school year

Tour the school, meet the teachers and learn about each grade level!

Registration for specific times required with appointments beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Register by January 26 at 859-647-4070 or go to stpaulnky.org/school.

- St. Paul Preschool Voted 2020 Best of NKY

7303 Dixie Highway, Florence, Kentucky 41042

stpaulnky.org/school | stpaul1@stpaulnky.org | 859-647-4070

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 evangeliza-

tion. 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.)”



(above) Deacon Brian Cox, newly appointed campus minister with Newman Club students at Northern Kentucky University.



BLESSED SACRAMENT SCHOOL



Open House

Sunday, January 22
12:30 pm - 2:00 pm

Please stop by, take a tour,
and meet our faculty
and administration!

Visit bssky.org for more information!

A FOUR-TIME National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence
1994 - 2007 - 2015 - 2021



PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION IS OPEN! (Fall 2023)

Certificate Specials

3.75%^{APY}

13 Months



4.36%^{APY}

29 Months

433 Madison Avenue-Covington, Kentucky 859-431-0087

Hours: Mon. thru Thurs. 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

\$1,000.00 minimum deposit required for 13 and 29 month certificates. Substantial penalty for early withdrawal. "APY" refers to the annual percentage yield earned on account. Rates are subject to change without notice. Member FDIC.





Hello humankindness

Refresh and recharge.

We appreciate the importance of being a caregiver, and understand the stress that can sometimes result.

If you or a loved one has an procedure scheduled and are uncomfortable with returning immediately home, or simply need a break, our **short-term respite** may be the answer.

To learn more, call 859.426.6400 or visit CHILivingCommunities.org.



Madonna Manor



St. Joseph SCHOOL

OPEN HOUSE

SUN | JAN 29 | 2023
12:30 - 2:30 PM

Pre K - 8th grades

4011 Alexandria Pike
Cold Spring, Kentucky 41076
859.441.2025 | stjosephcoldspring.com





CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

HOUSE CLEANING

Isn't it time you come clean? We don't cut corners, we clean them. Insured and bonded. Discount for senior citizens and first-time clients. Call (859) 760-6408.

SENIOR CITIZEN APARTMENT FOR RENT

In Lakeside Park. It has 2 Bedrooms, Garage, and Equipped Kitchen \$1200 per month Excellent condition, call Tom @ 859-341-7755

NEED A KIDNEY

Kristen Bender Registered at Christ Hospital Nothing out of Pocket 859-322-4998



We're growing! Care Net Pregnancy Services of NKY seeks community/business liaison, bilingual (Spanish) advocate/mentor, and client intake specialist. Scan code for details. Email resume to info@carenetky.org.

GERDES CONCRETE & MASONRY

CONCRETE — Driveways, sidewalks, steps, patios, stamped concrete. MASONRY — Cultured stone, retaining walls, brick pavers, foundation, fireplace, brick & chimney repairs. MISC. — Mini-excavator, Bob Cat & drainage work. Quality work & ref. Call Bill, (859) 331-4733. Messenger advertiser since 1993.

Moore's Painting

The Company you feel safe with Interior & exterior painting. In business since 1988. Members of St. Augustine Parish. Moore's Painting — Union, Ky. — (859) 512-7398

Marco Island, FL

3-min. walk to beach. 1st floor fully furnished 2BR, 2 bath condo. Contact angie@earlfranksflooring.com or (859) 801-8691 for pricing, pictures & availability. View at EarlFranksFlooringFacebook.com

Good Job Remodeling LLC and Handyman

Now accepting small to large jobs. Free Estimates. Licensed and insured. Call Steven at (859) 801-9925

PART-TIME NURSE ASSISTANT

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

GOESSLING LANDSCAPING

New installations, maintenance and tree removal. Find us at GoesslingLandscaping.com Call Norb at (859) 912-0340

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL, COLD SPRING AFTERCARE DIRECTOR

St. Joseph School in Cold Spring is looking for an after-care 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 eurlage@stjoeschool.net or 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

DENTAL ASSISTANT

We are looking for a joyful, mature person with a passion for helping people and a love of hard work and team collaboration. This is a unique, special opportunity for an experienced person who enjoys making relationships and serving others. Must have a minimum of 20 years of stable, verifiable work experience, which can include periods of stay-at-home parenting. Please send letter of interest and resume to Linda.ju1412@gmail.com. Experience the satisfaction of partnering with a team of professional adults who work together to provide excellent care. We look forward to meeting you.

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.

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

PLEDGE 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.

Call Chuck at the Messenger for information on placing your ad in the Classified Advertisements. (859) 392-1500

Catholics must be ‘active participants’ in MLK’s ‘unfinished’ work, Cardinal Gregory says at Mass

Richard Szczepanowski
OSV News

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. — Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is best honored when people “recall to mind and heart that the issues Dr. King placed before our nation have not been adequately accomplished,” and strive to continue his work, Washington Cardinal Wilton Gregory said during a Jan. 15 Mass honoring the legacy of the late civil rights leader.

“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. This year, the holiday will be observed on Monday, Jan. 16. The cardinal told those at the Mass that “despite the

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.”

“We are still a nation with too many strangers. Our lives — when they do not intersect in open hostility — still seem to pass as parallel lines often at great distance from each other,” he said. “We are still discovering, and frequently with great surprise, that we are a diverse people, and that diversity, far from being a threat, can be and ought to be received as a blessing. “

During the Mass, prayers were offered that “the dream for truth and justice of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. inspires all people to work for equality among all members of our society.” The prayer was a reference to Dr. King’s famous “I Have a Dream” speech.

On Aug. 28, 1963, 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 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 as well as one must be active participants in the healing of any residual wounds of racism, bigotry and intolerance that still plague this wonderful ecclesial family of ours.”

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.

LANDSCAPING DESIGN,
INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE

Tree Trimming and Removal
Stump Removal — Drainage & Grading
Seeding & Sodding — Retaining Walls
Walks & Patios — Decks

Stegman
Landscape
&
Tree



(859) 781-1562 Excellence Since 1979

LONNEMAN
PLUMBING

341-7755

JEFF & CHERYL SISKAK859-816-7910
AUCTIONEER—APPRAISALS—ESTATE & COLLECTIONS BUYER
WE HAVE AN IMMEDIATE NEED TO BUY THE FOLLOWING...

- COSTUME JEWELRY
- JUKE BOXES
- SLOT MACHINES
- FENTON GLASS
- ADVERTISING SIGNS
- LICENSE PLATES
- STONE CROCKS & JUGS
- DIECAST CARS & TRUCKS
- MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
- HADLEY & BYBEE
- LEGOS

- BEER & LIQUOR SIGNS & LIGHTS
- COINS & PAPER MONEY
- ROOKWOOD & ROSEVILLE POTTERY
- HOLIDAY ITEMS INC YARD DÉCOR, CERAMIC CHRISTMAS TREES, & ORNAMENTS
- REDS & SPORTING ITEMS BEFORE 1976
- TOYS & BANKS BEFORE 1980
- FIREKING & PYREX MIXING BOWLS & OVENWARE

WE ARE PAYING FAIR MARKET PRICES—WE BUY COMPLETE & PARTIAL ESTATES AS WELL AS COMPLETE COLLECTIONS!

RIZZO

BROS., INC.

PAINTING CONTRACTORS

Est. 1954

Church Decorators • Faux Finishes
Industrial Coatings • Commercial

1564 Water Street, Covington KY 41014
(859) 431-4700
www.rizzobrothers.com

Missed an edition? Current and back issues of the Messenger are available online at covidio.org/messenger.

Senior Resource Center

Established by the St. Charles Community

(859) 261-0746
3705 Winston Avenue,
Latonia, KY 41015



Call, email, or
stop by today!

We will listen, we will help.

mvolpenhein@stcharlescommunity.org



Obituary

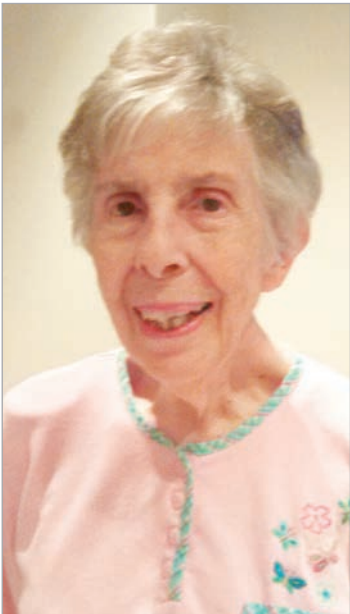
Benedictine Sister Mariana Kirk was born Nov. 23, 1937, to William Iles Kirk and Angela Heile Kirk and given the name Mary Iles. She was their only child.

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, 60th 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 Kirk, O.S.B.

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.

Sister Mariana took time to be an informed citizen via news programs and print materials. 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.

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 1918), while opening up the liturgy of the Mass and the liturgical movement of the Second Vatican Council — all the whys, wherefores 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.

SHOPPER’S GUIDE

Hancock Drain Service Inc.

#1 in the #2 Business



Residential and Commercial

- All Types of Drains
- Problem Lines
- Preventive Maintenance
- Sump Pump Lines
- Jetting, Filming and Locating

(859) 356-6811

info@hancockdrainserviceinc.com



Josh Carter, CIC
Agency Owner
859-341-2662
joshcarter@allstate.com
St. Barbara Parishioner

Insurance and coverages subject to terms, qualifications and availability.
© 2020 Allstate Insurance Company. All Rights Reserved.



Allstate
You're in good hands.
Auto Home Life Retirement

1838 Florence Pike
Burlington, KY

f t in



www.tomrechtin.com
(859) 261-8269

Master HVAC #M04784

PLUMBING • HEATING • AIR CONDITIONING

92 Years Of Family Owned Service!



Schneller & Knochelmann
Plumbing • Heating • Air

Owners
Lisa and Kris Knochelmann

Call (859) 341-1200 www.schnellerair.com

America's Choice in Homecare.

VisitingAngels
LIVING ASSISTANCE SERVICES

Caregivers with character!

Reliable caregivers provide up to 24 hour non-medical care in your home. Hygiene assistance, meals, light housework, companionship. Affordable rates. Top Background Checks.

Cindy Sesher-Director

1099 Burlington Pike, Florence KY • (859) 647-6770

ARC ELECTRIC
AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING, INC.

24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE
Since 1953

ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS • HEATING SYSTEMS • AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEMS

- New installations • Repair all makes and models
- Clean & Service • Humidifiers
- Oil or Propane • Radiant or Gas Heat
- Electronic Air Cleaner • Hot Water Heat Systems

441-7161  **YORK**
INSTALL CONFIDENCE
www.arcelechvac.com Licensed Master HVAC Contractor M02125

BLAU MECHANICAL, INC.
Heating & Piping
Hot Water Steam Vapor
1532 Russell St., Cov. 291-3159

Missed an edition of the Messenger?
Current and back issues of the Messenger are available online at covidio.org/messenger.



KELLY BROS.
LUMBER • DESIGN CO. I EST. 1947

Complete Line of Lumber and Building Materials
Latonia Ave. at 35th St. • Covington KY • 581-0400

Austin Kunz Construction

DRAINAGE SYSTEMS	CONCRETE WORK
◆ French Drains	◆ Driveways
◆ Culverts	◆ Patios
◆ Downspout Extensions	◆ Stamped
◆ Swales	◆ Cleaning & Sealing
◆ Catch Basins	
◆ Channel Drains	

EXCAVATING - GRADING - TRENCHING
RETAINING WALLS - BOBCAT WORK - GRAVEL DRIVES
STUMP GRINDING - WATER LINE REPLACEMENT

Residential **(859) 815-0779** Free Estimates
Commercial **St. Barbara Parishioner** Fully Insured

Call Chuck at the
Messenger to place your ad
in the SHOPPER’S GUIDE.
(859) 392-1500

NEWS BRIEFS

National/World

Sister André, a Daughter of Charity and oldest known person in world, dies in France at age 118

TOULON, France — Andre, a Daughter of Charity and the world’s oldest known person, died at age 118, a spokesman of the nursing home where she died told AFP agency on Tuesday. “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 Andre, a Catholic convert raised in a Protestant family, was born Lucile Randon Feb. 11, 1904. It was 10 years before 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 Andre 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 Andre, 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 “worked a lot of mischief,” said Bishop Robert Barron, who launched the Jan. 13-14 Wonder Conference in Dallas, Texas to show “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 nationwide 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’ throng 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’

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 200 Ukrainian order members have disbursed 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 obviously impeding our work, and we can’t reach areas controlled and occupied by the Russian army.” Sietczynski added that the crippling of Grazyna Aondo Akaa, who worked for Klika, a sister organization run for the disabled by the Dominican order in Krakow, Poland, had highlighted the dangers facing volunteers in the increasingly vicious conflict.



SERVICE IS OUR PASSION.

www.ArlinghausAir.com
(859) 429-0980

VOTED BEST NKY
HVAC MAGAZINE

WE OFFER FINANCING

HM-05428 MPL-7768 OH-47296 PL-48803



CDI Electric Inc.

Quality Service Since 1997
859-291-9189



CHEF BARONE’S CATERING

- Parties •Weddings
- Company Picnics •Lunches, Dinners
- 25 To 1000 People

“Our Foods Taste Good”

Serving Greater Cincinnati
Call Jill
491-6391

1640 Dixie Highway Park Hills, Ky.

MR. SPOTLESS CARWASH

2 Convenient Locations

4679 Alexandria Pike
Cold Spring, KY

515 Terry Lane
Crescent Springs, KY

mrspotlesscarwash.com

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

\$2 OFF ANY RETAIL WASH

MON-FRI 8AM-9AM



LEADING THE REGION IN CANCER DETECTION.

St. Elizabeth Cancer Center is at the forefront of the newest detection technologies.

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.

