Lunch workers play a vital role in the day-to-day operation of our schools, preparing and serving meals to hundreds of children each day across elementary and secondary schools. For many in the profession, their dedication to serving in this vocation comes from a deep-seated love both for the parishes and schools they serve, and for the children, as well.

Anita Green has been working in the cafeteria at Newport Central Catholic High School for 32 years this year, musing that the current principal was, at one point, one of the students that came through her lunch line.

“I love the school, and I love what we stand for,” said Ms. Green, who goes above and beyond for her students — decorating the cafeteria for holidays, and even creating gift baskets for the students to win. The cafeteria staff pay for and put the baskets together themselves.

Also celebrating 32 years is Cheryl Heuser, who originally came to St. Pius X School in Edgewood when her oldest children were in sixth and second grade as a lunch monitor for $3 an hour before moving on to dishwasher.

“I did it because my children went there … and then, you were there,” said Mrs. Heuser, about the importance of Catholic education and dedication to her community keeping her at a Catholic school.

Trudy Carr has also served the lunch program for many years, 31 at St. Agnes School, Ft. Wright. “My grandkids all play sports and run into so many of my kids with their kids playing with grandkids,” she said.

“It came home in a newsletter,” said Mrs. Carr, “we need somebody to be in the cafeteria.” After waiting a week, with the ad still there, Mrs. Carr decided to come to St. Agnes, and has worked there in the lunchroom since.

“I feel very much a part of our school,” Ms. Green chimed in, “and part of our faculty and staff.”

Laura Hatfield, who also worked upwards of 20 years in school cafeterias, now serves as director of Food Services for the Diocese of Covington. “You don’t just fall in love with kids, you fall in love with the schools,” she said, “These ladies work hard. Every day, they work hard. They are a big part of the school.”

### NCCHS St. Joseph Institute provides career-ready skills and trade opportunities

Maura Baker
Staff Writer

In addition to its academic program, Newport Central Catholic High School has begun offering a new program for students interested in pursuing a career in a trade. The St. Joseph Institute, so named as such after the patron saint of carpentry, allows students to gain skills and experience in various trade and technical skills.

Among the fields that the Institute offers students are plumbing, electric, auto mechanics, masonry and welding.

“The idea of the program is to expose the students who are potentially going to look at those fields in a more general sense,” according to Kenny Collopy, principal, NCCHS. “Students are introduced to the various fields so that they can “figure out what they enjoy, and what could potentially be something they would want to look into after their time at NCC.”

(Continued on page 14)
The legacy of St. Blaise of Sebaste

Feb. 3 celebrates the feast of the saint and martyr Blaise of Sebaste, a historical Armenian bishop and physician. His patronage includes physicians, the sick, illnesses of the head and throat, and wool workers.

As bishop of Sebaste, a region in modern-day Turkey, people would come to St. Blaise to cure both bodily and spiritual sicknesses, as he doubled also as a talented physician.

According to legend, St. Blaise was also able to heal animals, and was assisted by them in healing, as well. In the year 346, the governor of Armenia set out to persecute Christians under Emperor Licinius, and St. Blaise was seized. He would be tortured with steels combs, and eventual- ly martyred via decapitation.

Four hundred years after the death of St. Blaise, the apocryphal “Acts of St. Blaise” was written. This account praised the saint’s piety and skill and recount- ed a story in which the imprisoned St. Blaise miraculously healed a young child who was choking on a fish bone when the mother placed the boy at his feet. It is this legend that primarily attributes healing of diseases of the throat and head, as well as choking, to St. Blaise.

On his feast, some parishes will enact the blessing of St. Blaise. During this blessing, two blessed candles are held in a cross-shape by the priest and held over people’s throats—praying, “Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness.”

World Youth Day 2023 — millions of Catholics gather in Lisbon, Portugal

Laura Keener

Editor

The countdown has begun — 25 weeks; 5 days; 13 hours; 8 minutes and 21 seconds (as of this writing) — for World Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon, Portugal. Millions of Catholics will gather Aug. 1-6 for a worldwide encounter with Pope Francis and the Holy Spirit. Among them will be 28 pilgrims from the Diocese of Covington.

Isaac A. Isaak, co-director, Catechesis and Evangelization, is once again leading pilgrims from the Diocese for this unique experience of the Universal Church. Bishop John Jett is also planning to attend WYD Lisbon but will be traveling separately. On Jan. 25, Mr. Isaak gathered the pilgrims for a meeting to know one another and to learn more about World Youth Day and how to prepare. The Messenger reached out to five pilgrims to learn more about them and their thoughts on WYD Lisbon.

In addition to the culminating WYD Mass celebrated by Pope Francis, a common “bucket list” experience many of the pilgrims mentioned is a stop to Fatima — the site of six historical apparitions in 1917.

“My grandma loved Our Lady of Fatima and taught us about the events that happened back in 1917. She would be so excited we’re going, and I think the Lord that he has given us the opportunity,” said Elizabeth Gordon. Ms. Gordon is a 23-year-old pilgrim who will be traveling with her mom and two sisters. The Gordons attend both All Saints Parish, Walton and St. William Parish, Williamstown.

“The highlight for me will be the visit to Fatima, experiencing the wonder and awe of seeing first-hand the site of the apparitions of Our Lady and the Miracle of the Sun,” said Amy Fathman, parishioner at St. Pius X Parish, Edgewood. She will be traveling with her youngest daughter, Norah. “Everything will be new for us, so I am looking forward to experiencing new cultures, witnessing the universality of the Catholic Church, and tapping into the faith, energies and enthusiasm of young folks from around the world,” she said.

Dr. Fathman is also a family nurse practitioner at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center whose research and practice includes natural and holistic women’s reproductive healthcare, including Creighton Model and Nulsetrochology. As a Fertility Education and Medical Management provider, Dr. Fathman said she is hoping to connect with international FEMM colleagues and “perhaps spread the word about tent/fertility awareness,” she said.

Clare Birkeland, a student at Northern Kentucky University, said that she is “currently on a journey towards personal growth in my faith.” The 22-year-old from Michigan said that she had attended the 2020 SEEK retreat in Phoenix, a retreat hosted by FOCUS (the Fellowship of Catholic University Students) and is hoping to relive in and even more profound way the energy and awe of a large Universal gathering.

“Even today I still remember the feeling, when we were celebrating New Years with music and dancing, but when a priest quietly entered carrying the Holy Eucharist in a monstrance, over 9,000 college-aged Catholics dropped to their knees in utmost reverence, silence and respect for Jesus. The profoundness of being there in that moment is another thing that I am seeking in this pilgrimage to Portugal,” Ms. Birkeland said.

Paul Whelan, parishioner, All Saints Parish, Walton, said that he, too, was motivated by a desire to “experience something new for us, so I am looking forward to experiencing new cultures, witnessing the universality of the Catholic Church, and tapping into the faith, energies and enthusiasm of young folks from around the world.”

In a video released Jan. 20, the pope said that even if some young people say they are going to Lisbon “only for tourism,” each person attending World Youth Day is going “because deep down, they are craving to participate, to share, to tell their experience and receive the experience of others.”

“Open your hearts to other cultures,” pope tells young people

Justin McLellan

Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis told young people to always “look to the horizon” and open their hearts to other peoples and cultures.

In a video message to the 400,000 participants registered for World Youth Day 2023, the pope encouraged young people not to “put up walls” that close them in but to “thirst for the horizon” that makes them grow.

World Youth Day is scheduled to take place in Lisbon, Portugal, Aug. 1-6. Pope Francis will attend the event and even publicly registered as a participant with the help of two Portuguese college students after praying the Angelus at St. Peter’s Square in October.

In the video released Jan. 20, the pope said that even if some young people say they are going to Lisbon “only for tourism,” each person attending World Youth Day is going “because deep down, they are craving to participate, to share, to tell their experience and receive the experience of others.”

“Open your heart to other cultures, to other young men and women” attending World Youth Day, he told them.

The motto for this year’s World Youth Day is a passage from the Luke’s Gospel: “Mary arose and went with haste.”

In his formal message for WYD 2023, published in September, Pope Francis said that the figure of Mary shows young people “the path of closeness and encounter” at a time when “our human family, already tested by the trauma of the pandemic, is racked by the tragedy of war.”
DPAA 2023 ‘Rise and Do Not Be Afraid’ making progress

Plans are being implemented for the launch of the 2023 Diocesan Parish Annual Appeal. The crew from A-One Professional Video was at the Curia, Jan. 25, to record segments of the DPAA video. Bishop John Iffert recorded his message on this year’s theme “Rise and Do Not Be Afraid” and Father Mark Keene, vicar general and chair of the Priests Retirement Fund Committee, talked about how important the DPAA is to the care of the diocese’s retired priests. The video will make its debut at the DPAA kick-off dinners at the end of February before making its way to parishes on announcement weekend, March 4 and 5.

In two sessions the evening of Jan. 26, Mike Murray and his staff welcomed 47 DPAA parish team members from 36 parishes for the annual DPAA Parish Team Orientation. During the orientation Parish Teams reviewed diocesan and parish goals and received an explanation on the formula of how parish goals are determined. The overall goal for the 2023 DPAA is $2.65 million. This year’s DPAA will include the popular parish rebate, where all monies collected over a parish’s goal is rebated back to the parish for use in parish ministries and projects.

Coming up soon is the DPAA’s kick-off dinners, which will be held Feb. 28 at The Prizing House in Cynthiana and March 2 at a new location, the Marriott Cincinnati Airport, Hebron. Anyone interested in attending a kick-off dinner should contact their pastor, as seating is limited.

Where is the Eucharist mentioned in the Bible?

The Lord Jesus, on the night before he suffered on the cross, shared one last meal with his disciples. During this meal our Savior instituted the sacrament of his Body and Blood. He did this in order to perpetuate the sacrifice of the Cross throughout the ages and to entrust to the Church a memorial of his death and resurrection. The Institution of the Eucharist is written down in the four Gospels. Here is John’s account, popularly known as “The Bread of Life Discourse:”

Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.

The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us [his] flesh to eat?”

Jesus said to them, “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him.

Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever.” (John 6:47–58)

From the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops online at www.usccb.org/eucharist.
The white-martyr Cardinals’ dinner

On the night of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI’s funeral, Cardinal George Pell hosted a dinner in his apartment for a group of like-minded mourners. All present were delighted that the heroic Cardinal Joseph Zen of Hong Kong, who had been permitted to attend the Requiem by Hong Kong’s thuggery, agreed to join the assembly. The commemorative meal was assembled at 81, Piazza della Città Leonana, Rome, and included the presence of two contemporary “white martyrs” men who had suffered greatly for the faith before they were freed and full of the joy of the Lord.

As Providence would have it, Cardinal Pell, in hosting that dinner, “provided his own Irish wake” (as one of those present remarked after Pell’s unexpected death five days later. It was an apt description of a magical evening, in which the predominant mood of profound gratitude for Benedict XVI animated hours of robust conversation, full of wit and laughter. And as Cardinal Pell remarked afterwards, “Cardinal Zen really was the star tonight, wasn’t he?”

Indeed, he was. At 81 years old and suffering perpetual physical disabilities, the Shanghai-born Salesian cardinal remains incredibly energetic, and eagerly spoke about his work in the Hong Kong jail where the great Jimmy Lai and other political prisoners are held. “The world, it seems, behave decently with Zen, allow him to stay as long as he likes, and don’t (overly) monitor his conversations with the prisoners. The cardinal told me of making several conver-

uits in the prison and was asked what he used for cate-

terical materials. The answers were striking: the Bible and the Catechism of the Catholic Church, of course, but also Dostoevsky’s “The Brothers Karamazov.”

But perhaps the most important element of the evening came when, after Cardinal Pell offered a moving toast to his brother cardinal, the conversation turned to those times when the Lord seems to be deaf to the pleas of his people—times not unlike what many Catholics experience today. Cardinal Zen reminded the group of the appropriate verses of Psalm 41 (4): “Rouse thyself! Why sleepest thou, O Lord?/Awake! Do not cast us off forever!/The hungry devour our strength/But we mourn the 64 million babies lost? He said, first pray that those who seek to terminate the life of the unborn are given the grace to change their hearts. Then, he said, look at the other side of the issue: do not pray that the states that destroy the unborn, but that they may be changed for the good of their own people. So pray for the “men of their word and would stick by what they had promised to do.” To which Chris Patten, strongly suspecting otherwise, replied: “I hope that’s true.”

That brisk exchange raises a question: Is Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Holy See’s Secretary of State, taking his cues from the late Percy Craddock? If so, Cardinal Parolin would better serve the Church’s cause in China if he paid attention to the far more realistic Chris Patten himself. A Catholic, who noted in his diaries that “One of the [Chinese negotiators’] more surreal tactics is to decline to explain what something means unless we offer a concession on our side. In other words, openness, accur-

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Craddock and other career British diplomats assumed that, as Chris Patten puts it, “you have to go along with Beijing rather than risk arguments.” That spinelessness was bad news for her Majesty’s Government in the mid-1990s. It is shameful for the Vatican today.

George Weigel is a senior fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C. His column “The Catholic Difference” is syndicated by the Denver Catholic, the official publication of the Archdiocese of Denver.

He said God chose those at the March for one purpose, “to create a culture of life.” Has he given everyone a role to play? He said, “You are chosen.”

You might follow the hit television series, “The Chosen,” at the show’s website, TheChosen.tv. The show got its start when Dallas Jenkins retells the gospel of Jesus Christ and unites his public ministry. With scenes of Mary Magdalene, Jesus calling each apos-

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Luceat lux vestra

The readings for the fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time—Cycle A—are: Isaiah 58:7-10; 1 Corinthians 2:5-6 and Matthew 5:13-16.

On this Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, we continue our reading (hearing) of the Sermon on the Mount from St. Matthew. We hear the ever-famous statement of the Lord: “You are the light of the world.” (Matt 5:14)

Each time I reflect on this phrase, I am reminded of my experiences at the Easter Vigil over the years and the celebration of the “Lucernarium” (the blessing of the Paschal candle). If you are unfamiliar with this unique celebration of the Church, let me explain.

“The entire celebration of the Easter Vigil must take place during the night…” (Roman Missal, Easter Vigil, p.) “The lights of the church are extinguished” (ibid., 7) so that the faithful and those enveloped in darkness. It is very much the darkness of death and the tomb. In the blackness of the night a light shines forth. It is a light for a small flicker… it is the flame that dances atop the Paschal candle. Even as one’s eyes begin to adjust to the light, it is still very hard to see… and yet, the gaze of all the church is drawn towards it. Ever so slowly the Paschal candle is carried by a deacon (usually) into the center of the church and from there, candles held by the faithful are lighted… the single flame becomes two, then three, and finally many! And it is in the many that the things become visible… not with a harsh light, but with a soft glow.

The Paschal Candle symbolizes Our Lord, Jesus Christ, who has given himself up to suffering and death for each of us—freely—so that we might shine fully in his Divine light and love. St. Athanasius once said, “God became man, that man might become God.” In the image of a flame, we find a paradox of God—the fullness of our being is truly revealed when we give ourselves away. In his famous treatise ‘De Trinitate’, St. Augustine describes the Almighty thus: “The Father is the lover who looks upon and gives to the Son perfect love. It is a love and a light that becomes, two, then three, and finally many! And it is in the many that they become visible… not with a harsh light, but with a soft glow.”

There are Sundays I barely hear my voice when I’m preaching. The gentle drone of toddlers drowns me out. When we surveyed our parish, we discovered that the median age was only 25 years old, that Mass at our parish is crawling with young people, who are highly engaged. Altar servers debate fiercely over who gets the best tasks, storming the sacristy before Mass to claim coveted jobs. The children in the pew whisper loud conversations to the mothers, explaining that the Host looks like bread and that the wine tastes like water.

I attended SEEK23, the annual conference of the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS), at the beginning of January. FOCUS is a faith-based, interdenominational, non-profit, student-run organization that has an important role in the accompaniment of young people. In the book “Sharing the Wisdom of Age” he wrote, “The community that works and struggles in the field of life.”

He continued, “I also urge that we take action! … As elders, we can thank the Lord for the many benefits we have received… We can remain today’s young people, who have their own blend of heroic ambitions and insecurities, that a life without love is an arid life. We can also tell fearful young people that anxiety about the future can be overcome.”

Clearly, the Church as a whole, and each local faith community, needs seniors who take their unique mission seriously. If you have witnessed initiatives fostering the role of seniors as mentors or the effective partnering of young people and elders in your parish, I would love to hear from you. Please e-mail me at serenity@LittleSistersofthePoor.org.

Sister Constance Veit, L.S.P.

Father Daniel Schomaker is pastor, St. Augustine Parish, Covington and director, Office of Worship and Liturgy for the Diocese of Covington, Ky.

How can the elderly help the young

I attended SEEK23, the annual conference of the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS), at the beginning of January. FOCUS is a faith-based, interdenominational, non-profit, student-run organization that has an important role in the accompaniment of young people.

When I arrived in the parish, there were very few children. At some Masses, none. One of my parishes has all ages and particularly delight to chat with older parishioners after daily Mass, but a parish lacking the younger generation has a different dynamic. We can’t compare our Parish to the one that dances atop the Pascal candle. Even as one’s eyes begin to adjust to the light, it is still very hard to see… and yet, the gaze of all the church is drawn towards it. Ever so slowly the Paschal candle is carried by a deacon (usually) into the center of the church and from there, candles held by the faithful are lighted… the single flame becomes two, then three, and finally many! And it is in the many that they become visible… not with a harsh light, but with a soft glow.

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How can the elderly help the young

I attended SEEK23, the annual conference of the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS), at the beginning of January. FOCUS is a faith-based, interdenominational, non-profit, student-run organization that has an important role in the accompaniment of young people. In the book “Sharing the Wisdom of Age” he wrote, “The community that works and struggles in the field of life.”

He continued, “I also urge that we take action! … As elders, we can thank the Lord for the many benefits we have received… We can remain today’s young people, who have their own blend of heroic ambitions and insecurities, that a life without love is an arid life. We can also tell fearful young people that anxiety about the future can be overcome.”

Clearly, the Church as a whole, and each local faith community, needs seniors who take their unique mission seriously. If you have witnessed initiatives fostering the role of seniors as mentors or the effective partnering of young people and elders in your parish, I would love to hear from you. Please e-mail me at serenity@LittleSistersofthePoor.org.

Sister Constance Veit, L.S.P.
Catholic Schools — Following Christ

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

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

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

Kendra McGuire
Superintendent of Catholic Schools,
Diocese of Covington

(left) Students at Holy Cross Elementary, Latonia, are blessed in many ways as they receive spiritual development to keep them centered on following Christ. Adoration is offered to the students weekly. They are taught to enjoy being in the presence of Christ and to offer up prayers and thanksgiving to Him.

(right) Blessed Sacrament School, Ft. Mitchell, second graders live the message of “Catholic Schools Following Christ” as they learn about the saints. Each student chose a saint they want to get to know. Following their research, each wrote a report and dressed as that saint for the annual “Saint Parade” celebrated on All Saints Day.
The prayer intention for February, as recommended by Pope Francis, is that parishes, placing communion at the center, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

The weekly TV Mass from the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption is broadcast locally on The CW, Sundays, or 517; and DirectTV 25.

The prayer intention for February, as recommended by Pope Francis, is that parishes, placing communion at the center, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

*Filled with the Holy Spirit*

Bishop John Iffert and Father Eric Boelscher, pastor, join the newly confirmed of St. Joseph Parish, Crescent Springs, Jan. 31.

**Fish Fry**

**Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22**
St. Mary Parish, Alexandria, Feb. 24, March 3, 10, 17, 4-7:30 p.m.

**Fridays, Feb. 24–March 31**
St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Ft. Thomas, 4:30–7:30 p.m.
St. Joseph Academy, Walton, 4:30–8 p.m.

**Memorial Mass for the Loss of a Child**, March 15, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Burlington. This Mass is being offered for parents and family members who have lost a child through miscarriage, stillbirth, early infant death, abortion, suicide or any other reason. All are welcome. For information, contact the Diocese of Covington Pro-Life Office at (859) 392-1545.

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.

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 $30. Reserve your space at tmukyas@tmw.

**Fish Fry**

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To fund the program, and the construction of an on-campus workshop for the St. Joseph Institute, NCC was able to secure a donation that helped with some of the tools, said Mr. Collopy, and Home Depot even provided a discount as well on purchasing some of the tools for the facility.

Students in the St. Joseph Institute spend their first semester in the on-campus shop, getting hands-on training and learning of various fields. The program’s director, NCC basketball coach Jason Luhn, said that it was the first group of students in the program who helped build out the room used as the workshop.

“Everything from moving all the acoustical tiles, to HVAC, to electrical work, to a plank wall and concrete countertops”—the students built the shop.

In institute’s second semester, students begin internships that take them to work with real local companies in various prospective trades. After attending classes for the day, students spend five days a week with companies such as Edgewood Electric and Bob Sumerel Tire, where they have the opportunity not only to further develop their skills, but to earn some money while working towards these trades.

“We created this because we want our students to be the best versions of themselves. We feel like that’s what God calls us to do,” said Mr. Collopy. “We’re walking with these students and trying to provide these opportunities as early as possible.”

(left and below) Students at the St. Joseph Institute cut wood using various saws.

**NCCHS St. Joseph Institute**
(Continued from page 1)

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We appreciate the importance of being a caregiver, and understand the stress that can sometimes result.
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KRAKOW, Poland — One issue involving World Youth Day perpetually makes headlines months before the event— that of costs. The event taking place Aug. 1-6, 2023, in Lisbon, Portugal, is no exception.

As reported by Reuters, Lisbon’s mayor, Carlos Moedas, was sharply criticized on Portuguese social media after it was revealed his office would spend over $5.4 million (5 million euros) to build a 54,000-square-foot altar for the final Mass of the August event.

“The specifications for the stage were defined in meetings we had with World Youth Day, the Church and the Holy See,” Moedas told reporters, including Reuters, while also acknowledging it was a “very expensive” project.

The Vatican answered immediately saying the final decision corresponds to local authorities. In a statement to Aciprensa news agency, Vatican press office director Matteo Bruni explained that “the organization of the event is decided locally.”

The expensive altar is not the only aspect that created controversy. In October, the Portuguese government announced that public institutions would spend around $190 million in WYD. On Jan. 31, after the uproar about the altar, the government led by socialist prime minister António Costa announced a reduction of the initial figure.

But are these costs as astronomical as they seem? World Youth Day is a major international event of the Catholic Church, one that brings together millions of young people from around the world to pray, learn and meet with the current pope for a handful of days every few years.

Begun by St. John Paul II, known lovingly as the “pope of the youth,” the first WYD was in Rome in 1986 and drew 300,000 people. Less than 10 years later, the final Mass of WYD in Manila, Philippines, gathered 4 million people, as estimated at the time by The New York Times. Three million youth flooded Copacabana Beach in Rio de Janeiro in 2013 for the final Mass with Pope Francis, and an estimated 2 million gathered in Krakow in 2016.

“It is a beautiful event,” Weronika Grishel, a member of the WYD Organizing Committee in Krakow, told OSV News. “I participated in four World Youth Days — in Cologne, Madrid, Rio and Krakow — and I can tell you it was a transforming experience for me, magnifying my faith, bringing joy to my life, creating friendships I cherish for years.”

It is, however, “a costly one.”

Planning WYD is like organizing the Olympics, only with a bigger audience and one absolutely important VIP guest,” she said.
New ‘speaking’ reliquaries for Cathedral relics chapel

Father Jordan Hainsey
Contributor

Thanks to the generosity of benefactors to the St. Paul Relics Chapel, St. Mary’s Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption recently commissioned two new reliquaries to house significant relics from the collection: a piece of the carpal bones of St. Paul the Apostle and the ulna and radius bones of St. Arnold of Arnoldsweiler. Both relics were obtained by Covington’s third bishop, Camillus Paul Maes.

The new reliquaries were commissioned from the renowned sacred art atelier Byzantine Art. Located in Athens, Greece, Byzantine Art has furnished sacred art works for nearly every continent since 1896. Each reliquary is fashioned from bronze repoussé and features both sterling silver and gold plating. They are further accented with freshwaster pearls and colorful alcor stones.

The reliquaries belong to a class of objects in reliquary nomenclature known as “speaking” relics because their visible form is “speaking,” communicating to what relic is contained inside. Speaking reliquaries became popular throughout the Medieval period as churches vied for pilgrims and stops on pilgrimage routes. For Master artisans, these reliquaries became a new medium for expression in their skill and craft, while at the same time creating pilgrims and stops on pilgrimage routes. For Master artisans, these reliquaries became a new medium for expressing their own hand.

The first new reliquary houses a carpal bone of St. Paul the Apostle, patron of the Diocese of Covington. The hand forms the traditional gesture of blessing visible in many traditional icons, and shapes the letters INRI. The letter L is evident that the Tappert relic was known, prompting Father William Tappert to request the relic’s presence in the bishop’s chapel. Eventually it would find its way to St. Pius William T. Mulloy notes the relic’s presence in the bishop’s private chapel. Eventually it would find its way to St. Pius William Tappert at the shrine in Arnoldsweiler so relics could be displayed, thereby animating a saint’s body during liturgical celebrations or processions. In this way, the saint could literally bless, teach and heal the faithful with his or her own hand.

The second new reliquary houses the left arm bones (ulna and radius) of St. Arnold of Arnoldsweiler, a harpist and singer in the court of Charlemagne. St. Arnold is hailed as a patron saint of musicians, organists and makers of musical instruments. Shown reaching upward, the reliquary’s hand takes on the gesture of strumming, communicating that the saint was a musician in this life and that, through the relic’s compelling display, he now sings God’s praise forever as a saint.

While obscure to America’s faithful today, St. Arnold would have been widely known to Bishop Maes and the German Catholic immigrants of the 19th century. As Bishop Maes focused on the building of a new Cathedral, another “building” program was happening just down the street at Mother of God Church: the building up of sacred music.

In 1879, Father William Tappert became the pastor of Mother of God Church with his brother, Father Henry, as parochial vicar. Coming from Duren, in Germany’s Rhineland, the two brothers transplanted European classicism to Northern Kentucky. Father Henry brought with him a classical music education and set to work right away as Choir Director. The musical programs at Mother of God Church became famous on both sides of the Ohio and Licking Rivers for their Cecilian reform music which promoted and emphasized chant and polyphonic works. Other notable German composers of the day would call Mother of God home, too, adding to the growing chorus.

It is clear by historical accounts that Mother of God had become synonymous with truly fine sacred music. And, with such a program, it is evident that the Tappert brothers, and indeed the faithful, looked for a patrons from their homeland to aid them in their noble endeavors: St. Arnold.

In 1886, Pope Leo XIII formally recognized St. Arnold’s cult for the Archdiocese of Cologne and canonized him, prompting Father William Tappert (likely at his brother’s bechoning), to request Bishop Maes write to obtain relics of St. Arnold for not only Mother of God Church, but other churches in the Diocese of Covington. On Nov. 23, 1886, Bishop Maes wrote Philipp Cardinal Reventlow, Archbishop of Cologne, requesting relics of St. Arnold. Providence appeared to be at work as revived interest in St. Arnold initiated renovations at the shrine and the apparent opening of the saint’s tomb for authentication, restoration and the procurement of relics.

On Dec. 15, 1886, Cardinal Krementz wrote to Bishop Maes that it gave him “great joy to grant the wish.” The Archbishop forwarded Bishop Maes’ request to a Father Schulte at the shrine in Arnoldsweiler so relics could be obtained.
procured, and on Jan. 5, 1887, the relics of St. Arnold arrived in Covington. In the accompanying letter, Father Schulte noted the “considerable” size of the relic and that, after examination by a Dr. Rollen of Düren, it was found to be “part of the shank of the left arm.” Father Schulte closed his letter wishing that “Your Excellency foster the veneration of St. Arnold and... that St. Arnold may, through his intercession, assist you and all who honor him fervently.”

Further evidence reveals Bishop Maes fulfilled Father Schulte’s hope for devotion and veneration of St. Arnold in Covington. After a large piece of the arm bone was sent to Mother of God Church (still beautifully enshrined in a reliquary in their undercroft), it appears Bishop Maes created smaller relics from the large bones, evidenced by striation cuts across the surface of the ulna and radius. Also, within the relic archive is a small medicine box from G. A. Zwick Apothecary, once located at 11th Street and Madison Avenue. Evidently recycled, Bishop Maes added a sticker of his coat of arms to the box, wrote his name on it as authenticator, and added the inscription “Reliquiae di S. Arnoldi” — Relics of St. Arnold. The small ephemeral box became in essence a precious reliquary itself for small bone fragments of the saint yet to be sealed in little cases (theca).

With the passage of time though, it appears the name of St. Arnold faded from the memory of Covington. That is, until the bones were rediscovered in 2021 among some long-forgotten archival materials from the days of Bishop Maes. The relic of St. Paul had a similar fate. When St. Pius Seminary in Erlanger closed, the relic was moved to storage, but rediscovered in 2020 when the St. Paul Relics Altar was established at the Cathedral. Today, the addition of these new relics highlights Covington’s precious saints and brings them back to life, again. In relic tradition, the finding of bones lost or forgotten is called an inventio — a discovery, an event often clothed with divine significance. Some might even say it’s miraculous. And indeed, such findings have always ushered in new artistic creations, legends — in the truest sense, and most importantly, faith. What the inventio of each of these relics means for the life of the local Church is undoubtedly unfolding. The hope for these bones though, just like the 300-plus others that surround them in the altar is the same: that they will not only reach out to us, but that they will speak to us of “the peace that surpasses all understanding” (Philippians 4:6).

The new “speaking” relics can be seen in the St. Paul Relics Chapel located beneath the baldachin of St. Mary’s Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption. The altar contains over 300 relics including some of the Church’s newest saints and blesseds.

Father Jordan Hainsey is administrative assistant to the Bishop and custos of the Holy Relics, Diocese of Covington, Ky. If you would like to donate relics or make a contribution in support of the Cathedral’s relic collection, contact Father Hainsey at jhainsey@covdio.org or (859) 392-1500.
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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.

GROUNDKEEPER
St. Stephen Catholic Cemetery in Ft. Thomas, KY, has an immediate need for a full-time Groundskeeper. Primary responsibilities include labor-intensive tasks associated with interments, maintenance, repair, construction, cleaning, and operation of the Cemetery’s facilities and grounds. Experience operating backhoe equipment would be helpful. Interested individuals should contact Stephen Koplyay, SPHR by email or by fax at skoplyay@covdio.org or 859-392-1589.

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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. The aftercare program students have a snack, complete their homework, play games, and participate in other activities planned by aftercare workers.
If interested please contact principal, Emily Urlage at eurlage@stjoeschool.net or 859-441-2025.

ST PHILIP MELBOURNE
CATERER 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. Prior experience in coordinating, receiving, managing inventory, cleaning, and maintaining school kitchen. Must comply with health and safety standards. Prepare production records and necessary records and files. 4-6 hours per day. Benefits available for full-time employment
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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.
- February bulletin: will post Sunday, Feb. 5, due Tuesday, March 7.

Training:
- Sunday, Feb. 5, 1-3:30 p.m., St. William Parish, Williamstown
- 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 Marylou Steffen at (859) 932-1590 or msteffen@covdio.org

World Youth Day 2023

(Continued from page 9)

the universality of the Church and to be moved by the fire of so many young people who love Jesus and the Church.

He said he had been hearing “for decades” from people whose lives were changed at World Youth Day in Denver and “has forever wanted to make a pilgrimage to Fatima.” He will be 60 years old by the time he leaves for Lisbon and felt it was time. But more importantly he said, he and his wife will be sharing the experience with three teenage granddaughters (they have 12 grandchildren) and one daughter: “Ilook forward to experiencing it all with all of them,” he said.

Paul Allison said that attending World Youth Day wasn’t even on his radar. But when the 21-year-old learned about the trip he felt a strong desire to go — like God was calling him — although he didn’t have the means to go.

Time to focus on costs

(Continued from page 9)

any public money. Instead, they would do a scaled-down event with a budget of $104.4 million (half of the cost of the event in Rio de Janeiro, which left the archdiocese in debt) and launched an effective sponsorship program. Spanish companies provided $3.8 million for the event.

“in order to ensure a peaceful and constructive environment around WYD, it is crucial to be transparent in every aspect of the organization, to organize open bidding processes that grant real competition,” Yago de la Cierva, WYD 2011 executive director, told OSV News, adding that being prudent regarding costs always helps. “Church events should also be accountable.”

The good news is that Lisbon may actually end up coming out ahead on WYD. At least this is what happened in Madrid:

Local organizers entrusted PriceWaterhouseCoopers, one of the big consultancy global firms, with a report of the event’s economic impact in Spain. The report showed a positive impact of $56 million on the Madrid economy and over $100 million more in the country plus $29 million more in tax collection.

Because Portugal is in Europe, it realistically could attract a similar number of tourists and pilgrims as Madrid and Krakow.

Krakow WYD’s total cost was $46 million, and the Polish state provided $4.1 million to the organizers.

Most of the revenue from any WYD comes from participant registration fees. Everyone can participate for free, but a modest registration fee, considered the youths’ contribution to their own event, is required. In Krakow, registration fees were calculated as 81% of the budget. According to the Krakow University of Economics, pilgrims — who also are tourists — left $116 million in the city.

An additional $7.4 million was paid by the WYD Organizing Committee in taxes to the state.

“My experience in the media and among Polish citizens (asking) how come we can finance the church event from our taxes? But the truth is, the event was a huge financial success both for the state and local municipality,” Father Piotr Studnicki, who was spokesman for the Archdiocese of Krakow in 2016, told OSV News. “The benefits and the promotional advantage of organizing such an event are even bigger.”

“Krakow’s researchers counted that the city of Krakow would have to invest $37 million in advertising to have such visibility in the foreign media as they had during those days when Pope Francis was in Krakow,” he added.

Father Studnicki strongly underlined that full transparency is needed along the way: “You can’t play hide and seek with the media. The event is costly, yes, but it has amazing advantages, and the more transparent you are, the more down to earth, the better not only for you, but for the event, which is meant to be a feast of joy and unity, not divisions,” he said.

NOVENA


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The Diocese of Covington invites individuals with a degree and background in Accounting to apply for the position of Internal Auditor. This position reports directly to the Chief Financial Officer. This position updates/maintains the existing Parish and High School audit programs, schedules and performs parish/high school audits, writes audit reports, and as well as other duties in the Finance Office. Minimal requirements include a degree in Accounting with at least two years of experience, including auditing. CPA licensure is preferred. Submit cover letter, resume, salary history, and five references with email address to:

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(Continued from page 9)
Transforming a parish
(Continued from page 5)
as the splendor of truth. For our worship to be truly life-altering, it cannot merely hold to intellectual truth about Jesus, it also must give body to that truth by revealing his beauty.
The proper language of the Mass is poetic. A poetic mindset looks to the future with hope and grasps unnamed realities. It explores inner landscapes, timeless and wide, beauty beyond the reach of everyday language. The Church has always understood that the Mass is less a catechetical lesson and more a dizzying encounter with a Beauty ever ancient, ever new.

Our parishioners have difficulty expressing why the Mass affects them so deeply. They only know it does, even as the children are busy with their own boisterous prayers. They only know they want to tell their friends about it.

I consider that guarding sacred beauty is my fatherly duty. As priest, my intent at Mass is to fade away so Christ might increase, drawing each soul into his gravitation toward the great center. The insistence for imaginative beauty is not something our parish has invented as a matter of personal taste. It’s already present in the ancient Mass. Our task is to be attentive, to reach out and touch the hem of Our Lord’s garment.

It’s interesting that this seemingly impractical insistence on the poetic has resulted in quite measurable results—a growing parish, enthusiasm for evangelization, and lives changed. Our choice for beauty has had stunning results, none more than the dawning knowledge of each parishioner who comes to Mass that they are known and loved.


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Messenger
Over Catholic protests, Minnesota lawmakers enact right to abortion law

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**National/World**

Pope Francis expresses ‘great sorrow’ over ‘spiral of death’ in Holy Land, while tensions reach maximum levels after terror-marked weekend

JERUSALEM — Religious and world leaders condemned the violence which engulfed Jerusalem and the West Bank over the weekend leaving 10 Palestinians and seven Israelis dead, pushing tensions to an all-time high in recent times and creating fears of yet another wave of reciprocal attacks. Landing in Israel on a pre-scheduled trip, U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken condemned the “shocking” Jan. 21 terrorist attack that took place outside of a Neve Yaakov synagogue in Jerusalem following Sabbath prayers on International Holocaust Memorial Day. He called on Israelis and Palestinians to not inflame tensions amid the deadly surge of violence. Blinken met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and planned to meet with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas in Ramallah Jan. 31. The shootings took place following days of violence in the West Bank and Gaza, and another attack left two Israelis injured just outside of the Old City in the Palestinian village of Silwan where Jewish settlers have established themselves and an archaeological site. Nine Palestinians — who according to Israel were members of an Islamic Jihad terrorist cell — and one civilian, an older Palestinian woman, were killed. A 13-year-old Palestinian boy was among those killed in the Friday shooting. Pope Francis expressed his “great sorrow” on hearing the news of the attack. “The spiral of death that increases day after day is unimaginable.” “This is no less than an attack on Pakistan,” Sharif said in a tweet published Jan. 30. “The nation is overwhelmed by a deep sense of grief. I have no doubt terrorism is our foremost national security challenge.”

Mosque suicide bombing targets police, dozens dead

BRIEF: PESHAWAR, Pakistan — Dozens of people, mostly police and security forces, were killed in a suicide bombing at a mosque in northeastern Pakistan. According to the Associated Press, an estimated 300 people were inside the mosque, located in a secure police compound in Peshawar, when a militant blew himself up in one of the deadliest attacks against security forces in the country. As of Jan. 31, the death toll had risen to 88 as rescue workers continued to recover bodies underneath the rubble. More than 190 people were wounded in the attack. After visiting the site of the attack, Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed his condolences to the victims and their families and said the “shock scale of the human tragedy is unimaginable.” “This is no less than an attack on Pakistan,” Sharif said in a tweet published Jan. 30. “The nation is overwhelmed by a deep sense of grief. I have no doubt terrorism is our foremost national security challenge.”

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Over Catholic protests, Minnesota lawmakers enact right to abortion law

ST. PAUL — Gov. Tim Walz on Jan. 31 signed into law a bill passed by Minnesota lawmakers that places a right to abortion for any reason and without a limit on viability into state law. In a party-line vote, Democrats in the Minnesota Senate had passed the bill 34-33 in the early morning hours of Jan. 28. The House had approved the measure Jan. 19. Pro-life and pro-abortion advocates gathered in large numbers outside the Senate chambers at the State Capitol in St. Paul shortly before the debate began about noon Jan. 27. In that debate, which stretched over 15 hours, Democrats rejected multiple Republican amendments to the Protect Reproductive Options, or PRO Act, before the final vote on Jan. 28.

Knights launch initiative to bring men to heart of Christ

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Knights of Columbus fraternal organization is launching a new initiative: Cor: Catholic Men’s Fellowship. As part of the initiative, Knights of Columbus councils are being asked, in consultation with their pastor, to organize monthly meetings where Catholic men can gather to deepen their faith. “The content and structure of the meetings are left to the individual councils to decide, but they should all have three elements: prayer, faith formation and fraternity,” explained Jimmy Dee of Knoxville, director of evangelization and faith formation for the Tennessee Knights of Columbus. “Catholic meetings could take many forms, Dee said — including a Bible study group, a prayer group, a group that gathers to discuss spiritual books — depending on the interests of the participants. Councils could sponsor several Cor meetings, each with different content and structure, he said. The meetings will be open to all men of a parish, not just Knights, Dee said, and they shouldn’t be seen as in competition with faith formation programs that already exist in a parish. Cor is not designed to replace the many activities the Knights sponsor, according to Dee. “It is a new initiative to expand on the good things you’re already doing,” he told council leaders during a recent meeting at the Catholic Pastoral Center in Nashville. “The name of the initiative is drawn from the Latin word for heart, cor, and is inspired by the motto of St. John Henry Newman, “Cor ad Cor Loquitur,” which means “Heart Speaks to Heart.”

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The experience of the sacrament of penance in the Roman rite will be slightly different this Lent, thanks to approved changes in the English translation set to take effect in a few weeks.

Starting Ash Wednesday — which takes place this year on Feb. 22 — the prayer of absolution will include three modifications, so that the revised version will read as follows:

“God, the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of his Son has reconciled the world to himself and poured out [formerly “sent”] the Holy Spirit for [previously “Holy Spirit among us for”] the forgiveness of sins;

through the ministry of the Church may God grant [instead of “give”] you pardon and peace.

And I absolve you from your sins in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

The new text was adopted by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops during its Spring 2021 meeting, with the Vatican’s Dicastery (then-Congregation) for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments approving the text in April 2022. As of April 16, 2023, the Second Sunday of Easter known also as Divine Mercy Sunday, the revised formula for absolution is mandatory.

“The essential part of the absolution formula has not changed,” said Father Andrew Menke, executive director of the USCCB’s Secretariat for Divine Worship, during an Oct. 25, 2022, webinar co-sponsored by his office and the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions.

During his presentation, Father Menke admitted the bishops had debated whether the minor changes were worth undertaking. However, he said the consensus favored striving for a more accurate translation from the Latin.

Father Menke noted penitents “who can be a little scrupulous” might panic if priests — many of whom “have said this prayer literally thousands of times” — inadvertently use the old form of absolution.

“They might be concerned (that absolution) doesn’t count,” he said.

Yet he stressed that “the heart of the sacrament” remains intact, and the absolution is still valid.

While not a major alteration, the update to the text nonetheless offers “a wonderful opportunity to reiterate and teach the importance of the sacrament of penance as a staple for living the Christian life,” Father Dennis Gill, director of the Office for Divine Worship at the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, told OSV News ahead of a Jan. 31 webinar he plans to give on the topic. “It’s also a wonderful opportunity to catechize about the sacrament itself.”

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References Available Upon Request

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