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School lunch workers Trudy Carr (31 years, St. Agnes), Anita Green (32 years, Newport Central Catholic) and Cheryl Heuser (32 years, St. Pius X).

‘We do it for the students,’ say school lunch workers celebrating over 30 years of dedicated service

Maura Baker
Staff Writer

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 now 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

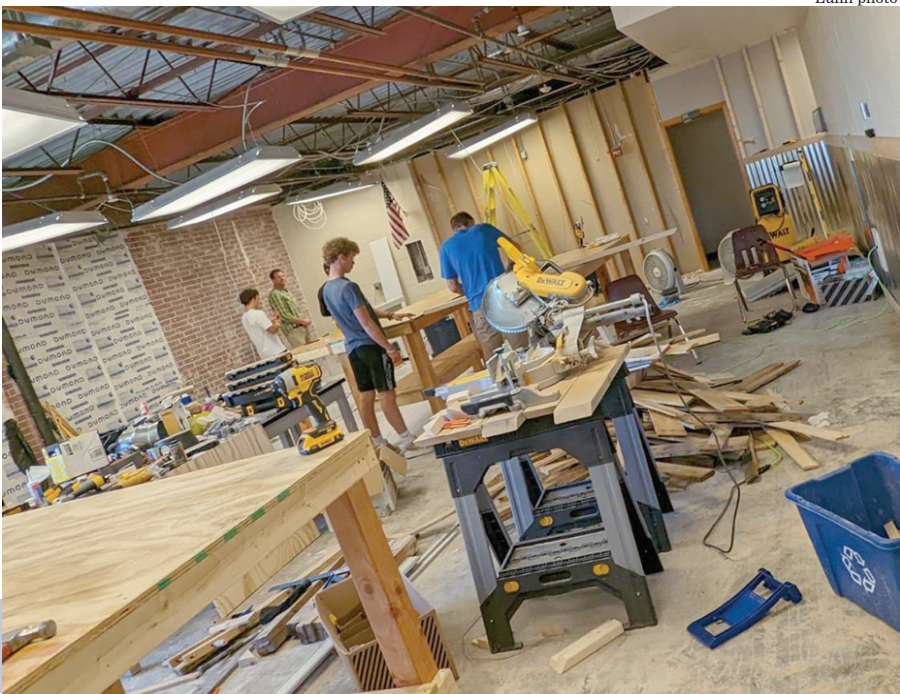
In addition to its academic program, Newport Central Catholic High School has begun offering a new program for students interested in pursuing a career in a trade. The St. Joseph Institute, so named as such after the patron saint of carpentry, allows students to gain skills and experience in various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

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Students work to set up and build the institute’s “shop” on Newport Central Catholic’s campus.



Luhn photo

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

Laura Keener
Editor

The countdown has begun — 25 weeks; 5 days; 13 hours; 0 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.

Isaak 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 Iffert is also planning to attend WYD Lisbon but will be traveling separately. On Jan. 25, Mr. Isaak gathered the pilgrims for a meeting to get 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 Marian 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 thank the Lord that he has given us the opportunity,” said Elizabeth Gordon. Ms.



(above) Isaak A. Isaak, co-director, Office of Catechesis and Evangelization, welcomes 28 pilgrims and their families to an information and meet-and-greet session, Jan. 25.

(above right) The Howard family — Adam, Christopher George and Annette — and (right) Amy and Nora Fathman listen and take notes as they prepare for World Youth Day Lisbon 2023.



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, energy, 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 Naprotechnology. 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 teenFEMM 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

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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 Sebastea, 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 316, the governor of Armenia sat out to persecute Christians under Emperor Licinius, and St. Blaise was seized. He would be tortured with steel combs, and eventually martyred via decapitation

Four hundred years after the death of St. Blaise, the apocryphal “Acts of St. Blaise” was written. This account praised the late bishop’s piety and skill and recounted 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.”



Formato Margherita, Wikimedia commons photo

St. Blaise prays over a young boy choking on a fish bone for healing in this historical engraving. On the left, a caduceus, a staff wrapped by two snakes and a symbol for the medical profession, can be seen.

‘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 in 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 26 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.

(right) Bishop John Iffert recorded his message for the 2023 Diocesan Parish Annual Appeal
(below) Mike Murray welcomes team members at the DPAA Parish Team Orientation.



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.



CNS photo/Paul Haring; Oct. 4, 2012

An altar boy carries a cross with the words in Italian “Jesus, Bread of Life,” as Pope Benedict XVI celebrates Mass outside the Sanctuary of the Holy House in Loreto, Italy, Oct. 4, 2012.



Official Appointments

Effective Sept. 1, 2022

Dr. Charles Kelly
To: Diocesan Catholic Children’s Home Board of Directors
Term: Six years

Effective Jan. 1, 2023

Lisa Knochermann
To: Catholic Charities Advisory Board
Term: Three years

John Garvey
To: Diocesan Finance Council
Term: Six years

By order of
the Most Rev. John C. Iffert
Bishop of the Diocese of Covington
Jamie N. Schroeder
Jamie N. Schroeder, Chancellor

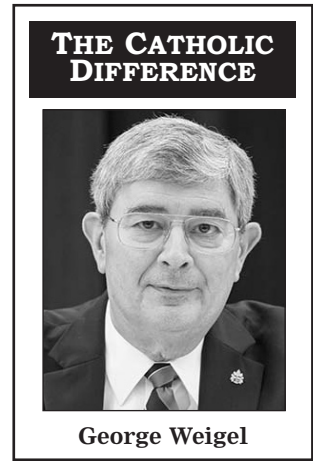


Bishop’s Schedule

- | | |
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| Feb. 4
Vigil Mass, Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, 4:30 p.m. | Feb. 9
Presbyteral Council meeting, 1:30 p.m.
Confirmation, St. Patrick Parish, Maysville, 7 p.m. |
| Feb. 7
Board of Trustees meeting, Pontifical College Josephinum, Columbus, 8:30 a.m. | Feb. 10
Diocesan Board of Education meeting, 9 a.m. |
| Advisory Council meeting, 9:30 a.m.
Confirmation, St. Timothy Parish, Union, 7 p.m. | Feb. 11
Vigil Mass, Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, 4:30 p.m. |

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



vided 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 91 years old and suffering irritating 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

Kong, who had been permitted to attend the Requiem by Hong’s Kong’s thugocracy, agreed to join the party. The company assembled at #1, Piazza della Città Leonina, could thus marvel at being in the presence of two contemporary “white-martyrs:” men who had suffered greatly for the faith but had remained unbroken and full of the joy of the Lord.

As Providence would have it, Cardinal Pell, in hosting that dinner, “pro-

vided 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 91 years old and suffering irritating 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 wardens, it seems, behave decently with Zen, allow him to stay as long as he likes, and don’t (overtly) monitor his conversations with the prisoners. The cardinal told of making several converts in the prison and was asked what he used for catechetical 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 remarkable moment 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 44 (“Rouse thyself! Why sleepest thou, O Lord?/ Awake! Do not cast us off forever!”); remembered that those verses had been part of the Introit for Sexagesima Sunday in the old Roman liturgical calendar — and then proceeded to chant, from memory and in impeccable Latin, that entire Introit (which can be heard here: [youtube.com/watch?v=b6gn-Gmj9tk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b6gn-Gmj9tk))! Not unexpectedly, the conversation eventually touched on current Vatican China policy, of which Cardinal Zen has been a vocal and persistent critic. The issue, the Hong Kong prelate insisted, was the character of the Beijing regime, which lived in a different ethical universe, lied in negotiations, and could never be counted on to keep agreements it made. This, of course, was precisely what had turned the Vatican’s Ostpolitik in east central Europe in the 1970s into a fiasco: the Vatican negotiators’ refusing to concede the totalitarian “regime factor” involved, and therefore negotiating with communist governments as if they were run-of-the-mill authoritarians rather than mortal enemies of biblical religion.

Confirmation of Cardinal Zen’s analysis of the built-in perfidy of the Chinese communist regime came at virtually the same time as that dinner; when the British publisher Allen Lane released “The Hong Kong Diaries of Chris Patten,” which the last British governor of the Crown Colony had kept from his arrival in 1992 until the British withdrawal in 1997. The leading China policy mandarin in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in those days, Sir Percy Cradock, had told Patten that, while the Chinese leaders “may be thuggish dictators,” they were also “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, accuracy and transparency are themselves regarded as Chinese concessions.”

Cradock 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 enough 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.

You are chosen

You might follow the hit television series, “The Chosen,” if not, please do. Creator Dallas Jenkins retells the gospel of Jesus Christ and unveils his public ministry. With scenes of Mary Magdalene, Jesus calling each apostle, an encounter with Nicodemus and seeing the drama unfold in the first three seasons was incredible. More from Mother Mary and the wedding at Cana, Jesus greeting his friends Lazarus, Mary and Martha, John the Baptist, and the preparation and delivery of the Sermon on the Mount were powerful. The Feeding of the 5,000, and all the miracles along the way, the tension with the Romans and Jewish hierarchy make the multi-series historical drama educationally captivating.

It is free, found on many streaming services and its own free app, this crowd funded series just released the 24th episode, with another 30 planned. The production has reached nearly 500 million people around the world, with a goal of over one billion followers. I believe it has helped strengthen folks’ relationship with Jesus and encouraged study of Scripture, it certainly has for me.

Jesus is played by Catholic actor Jonathan Roumie, who was a speaker at the 50th Annual March for Life in Washington D.C. last month. He is billed as the headliner for the National Men’s Conference, Cintas Center, Saturday, March 25. Men get your tickets — [Nationalmensconference.com](https://www.nationalmensconference.com)

Roumie unashamedly shared his pro-life stance at the March. He said his faith journey has grown by playing the role of Jesus, and years ago committed to follow the prompting of the Holy Spirit. He feels blessed by his choices but acknowledges those choices have subjected him to protest and persecution.

He said God chose those at the March for one purpose, “to stand together and fight the noblest and worthiest of causes possible — to allow the unborn the right to enter into the world and defeat the forces that wish to destroy their very evidence.” Then he recited Psalm 139.

How can we make a difference in this fight for life as we mourn the 64 million babies lost? He said, first pray the rosary, and quoting St. Padre Pio, the rosary is the greatest weapon against the devil. As God is real, he says so is Satan, the father of lies, trying to deceive us that abortion causes no harm to the individual or society.

He warned and spoke of what he sees in mainstream media with film, television and music, pushing us to reject God, light and life, promoting hypersexuality. The road to destruction is wide, so enter the narrow gate where the Kingdom of Heaven awaits.

Everyone is called to live out this chosen role. For those who do not know, we can share it. Then all can freely accept it or reject it. Like the series namesake reminds us, and Roumie stated on the stage at the March for Life, we are so dearly loved and chosen by God. Let us fulfill that mission, accept the invitation to the wedding feast, but dress appropriately and fitting for the King’s heavenly banquet so we may enter.

Another way we accept our chosen role and share the faith and truth, especially with God’s little ones, could be as a mentor, foster or adoptive parent at DCCH Center for Children and Families. Contact DCCH at (859) 331-2040 or www.dcchcenter.org.

Ronald M. Bertsch is director of Therapeutic Foster Care/Adoption for the DCCH Center for Children and Families, Ft. Mitchell.

Jesus is the Chosen One — the Messiah, the one to die for sin and rise for eternal life. Just as the Israelites were called his chosen people, you too are chosen in the sense that God selected/picked you to enter a covenant relationship with him. For what purpose? To love him, to know him, to be with him forever in heaven.

We are adopted into God’s family when we accept this offer. Once accepted, we do not just live for ourselves but for God and others. We are called out of darkness into his marvelous light. The Hebrew meaning originally referred to the Chosen people as being selected by Yahweh to worship him only, and to fulfill the mission of proclaiming the



truth.

Matthew’s Gospel 22:14, “Many are called but few are chosen,” may seem at first a contradiction. However, the parable of the wedding banquet indicates all the chosen were first called to the feast, but some were not willing or simply didn’t respond. Then the king sent his servants to invite all — the Gentiles. I wonder why some refuse or ignore the invitation. Do people lose their faith, or were they never taught? Can you help proclaim the truth, worship and follow the two great commandments? Love God — love neighbor.

Luceat lux vestra

The readings for the fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time — Cycle A — are: Isaiah 58:7-10; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 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 Easter fire and the lighting of the Pascal 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, 3) “The lights of the church are extinguished” (ibid, 7) so that the faithful find themselves 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 blinding for such a small flicker... it is the flame

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 in the church are drawn towards it. Ever so slowly the Pascal 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 the that things become visible... not with a harsh light, but with a soft glow.”

The Pascal Candle symbolizes Our Lord, Jesus Christ, who has given himself up to suffering and death for each of us — freely — so that we might share 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; the Son is the beloved, who receives the love of the Father and reflects it back perfectly; and the perfect love that exists between the Father and the Son brings forth another person, who is the Holy Spirit. God is a communion of ‘persons,’ whose being can only be fully known when he is giving himself away.”

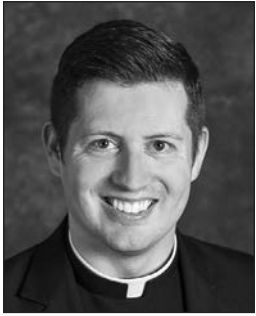
In the same way, the flame of the Pascal candle is not diminished in giving itself away, quite the contrary; it is in the sharing that the candle is revealed.

On the cross, Jesus gives himself to us — he shares with us his love and light. It is a light and a love that must burn within us so that it might be given and shared. “One loving heart, sets another on fire” says St. Augustine. And our world needs to be filled with the light of God. Humanity is lost in the darkness of error and of sin. We need to be able to see who we are — a child of God — made in his image.

As followers of Jesus Christ and the Good News he brings, may we understand that we are his light in the world... BUT, let us be sure to keep in our hearts and on our lips the end of the Gospel — Luceat lux vestra — “Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in Heaven.” (Matt 5:16) The light we have been given MUST burn before others.

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

GO AND GLORIFY



Very Rev. Daniel Schomaker

PEW AND PULPIT



Father Michael Rennie

towards the altar. The toddlers squeal when the sanctus bells ring. A number of teenage girls sing in the schola. We’re one big family at prayer.

It wasn’t always this way. When I arrived in the parish, there were very few children. At some Masses, none at all. I love parishioners of all ages and particularly delight to chat with older parishioners after daily Mass, but a parish lacking the younger

Transforming a parish through love and beauty

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, thus Mass at our parish is crawling with children, 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 pews whisper loud commentary to their mothers, explaining that the Host looks like bread but is, in fact, Jesus. One little boy, in a symbolic act, once rolled an apple

demographic lacks a future, so I asked visiting young families what was missing. They replied that they desire reverent worship. They want to be challenged by beauty and immerse their children in the fullness of Catholic culture and devotion. They want their children not only to be told that Jesus loves them, but for them to see, hear, smell, and feel it.

I set out to offer a Mass that would appeal to children as well as adults. We started using incense, gave the altar servers cassocks, fixed up the unused organ, and added some Latin and chant. We reintroduced colorful old devotions like veiling statues in Lent, the Rorate Caeli Mass, and Eucharistic processions. In short, we used the already-existing liturgical treasures of the Church to curate a sense of imaginative wonder. The goal is not a consumerist worship experience but, rather, a transcendental one.

This is all it took. In five years, our parish has almost doubled in attendance and overflows with people of all ages. Every Sunday we give God our most beautiful liturgical gift, incarnating our worship into poetic prayer because the Mass is a lived reality, an open door to eternity. The sacramental grace of the Eucharist reveals itself to even the smallest child and draws us into the universal embrace of God’s love.

God is Truth, but he is also Beauty. These two virtues are linked, which is why the medievals referred to beauty
(Continued on page 14)

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.

GUEST



Sister Constance Veit, L.S.P.

asked him about his ministry, thinking that a university parish must be a perfect combination of generations and backgrounds. I was surprised by his reply!

He told me that it is actually quite challenging for him and his collaborators because various age groups have different needs and aspirations and they live more or less separate lives. Whenever the parish invests time or funds in one age cohort, he said, the others seem to resent it.

How sad! I am passionate about bringing young people and seniors together and assumed this type of parish would be the ideal place for intergenerational relationships.

The young priest told me that he has succeeded in bringing teens to visit seniors in a local assisted living facility but it is more difficult to interest active seniors — those still living on their own — to get more involved in the parish where they could engage with families and young people.

We brainstormed about how he might motivate young people to perform acts of service for seniors living in the community — from shoveling snow and helping with home improvements, to helping seniors get up to speed with the internet and social media.

We also talked about how he might draw young and old together for social events in the parish as well as how the generations might join forces to serve the community.

Pro-life work, outreach to individuals dealing with poverty and groups living on the peripheries, ecological

initiatives and fund-raising efforts to support refugees are just a few examples of charitable efforts that could be undertaken by intergenerational parish teams.

Finally, I shared my conviction that older people have a special calling — an authentic mission — to mentor the young and inspire hope in them by sharing their own life experiences, dreams and wisdom.

Even when they seem accomplished and self-sufficient, young people need guidance and affirmation. They want role models and wisdom figures who look on them with fresh eyes, discern their potential and accompany them on their journey.

In “Christus Vivit” Pope Francis wrote, “The community has an important role in the accompaniment of young people; it should feel collectively responsible for accepting, motivating, encouraging and challenging them. All should regard young people with understanding, appreciation and affection, and avoid constantly judging them or demanding of them a perfection beyond their years.”

Pope Francis’ words to older people shows his concern for them, but also shows his conviction that they have a serious responsibility to younger generations. As I feel myself aging, I sense this responsibility very personally.

In the book “Sharing the Wisdom of Age” he wrote, “What do I ask of the elders among whom I count myself? I call us to be memory keepers ... where prayers of supplication and songs of praise support the larger 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 remind 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 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 is the communications director for the Little Sisters of the Poor in the United States and an occupational therapist.

Catholic Schools — Following Christ



(left) St. Joseph Academy, Walton, preschool students learning to genuflect. When entering or exiting church, Catholics reverence to Jesus, who is truly present body, blood, soul and divinity in the Blessed Sacrament enclosed in the tabernacle, by genuflecting.



(above) St. Joseph Academy, Walton, students and faculty participate in the annual Eucharistic and Marian procession on the campus of All Saints Church and St. Joseph Academy.



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



(above) Newport Central Catholic High School views its local parish communities as more than just “feeders” but as truly a part of the school community, which make up the living Body of Christ. Throughout the year, students travel to a different local parish church for an all-school Mass. Students are proud to introduce fellow classmates and teachers to their faith community.



(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.



(left) Students at Blessed Sacrament School, Ft. Mitchell, spread the light of Christ at Christmas this year by caroling throughout the surrounding neighborhoods. They cheerfully gave their time and talent after school hours, and their beautiful voices spread joy to every home they visited.

PEOPLE AND EVENTS



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.

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, 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.

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.

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.

“Discovering the Essential Role of the Lay Person in God’s Plan” retreat based on the teachings of Pope St. John Paul II, Feb. 17, 7–9 p.m. and Feb. 18, 9 a.m.–3 p.m., St. Philip the Apostle Church, Morrow, Ohio. Visit www.PresentationMinistries.com or call (513) 373-2397.

Lunch provided to all who pre-register.

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: Vince Bonhaus '01, Whitney Cundiff Smith '08, April Gibson Gilespie '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.

32nd annual Mardi Gras for Homeless Children, Feb. 21, 6–9 p.m., NKY Convention Center, Covington. All you can eat food and drinks from dozens of local restaurants and vendors, live music, parade, local celebrities, live and silent auction prizes, and more. Tickets: \$100; VIP tickets \$120.

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.

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.

Fish Frys

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.

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NCCHS St. Joseph Institute

(Continued from page 1)

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.

Luhn photos

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 mov-

ing 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.



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WYD in Lisbon is coming up, so it must be time to focus on costs

Paulina Guzik
OSV News

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.



OSV News/Vincenzo Pinto, Reuters pool

Young people from Portugal are pictured with the World Youth Day cross and their country’s national flag at the end of Mass celebrated by Pope Francis in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican in this Nov. 22, 2020, file photo. WYD 2023 will take place Aug. 1-6 in Lisbon, Portugal.

“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.

There were two main altars in Krakow, one at Blonia Park, close to the city center, and the other at Campus Misericordiae (the Field of Mercy), where the final Mass took place. According to the financial report presented in December 2016 by the WYD Organizing Committee, the total cost of the venue in Blonia Park, including not only the altar but organizational expenses of three live events and a reconciliation zone with confessionals, cost \$5.5 million (the cost of just the altar in Lisbon), and the latter venue in total, including the altar and organization of a Saturday vigil and final Mass, was \$8.6 million.

“You have to provide security — utmost priority — for the people standing at the altar; it can’t be provisional,” Grishel added, emphasizing that some expect the church

to organize a full-scale event featuring one of the most famous individuals in the world — the pope — for little to no cost.

“World Youth Day committees organize a religious event, yes, but it is a professional event as well, where hundreds of professional musicians perform, where hundreds of people are seated for Mass, where huge technical background is needed, including sound and TV camera systems,” she said. “This costs, and they can’t do it for nothing.”

Controversies in Europe regarding public investment in religious events are frequent. WYD Madrid organizers foresaw those tensions and made the decision not to accept

(Continued on page 13)

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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 artworks for nearly every continent since 1926. Each reliquary is fashioned from bronze repoussé and features both sterling silver and gold plating. They are further accentuated with freshwater pearls and colorful zircon stones.

The reliquaries belong to a class of objects in reliquary nomenclature known as “speaking” reliquaries 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 objects fueled with meaning for the sacred liturgy.

Speaking reliquaries took various forms from heads to arms and feet. Egbert, the bishop of Trier (977-93), commissioned the first known surviving body-part reliquary: a portable altar of St. Andrew made to house the saint’s sandal. The earliest reliquary head, that of St. Maurice, was commissioned by the king of Burgundy in the 9th century. While the head reliquary is no longer extant, 17th century sketches provide a powerful glimpse of Medieval devotional life. Reliquaries in the form of arms were much more common however, with hundreds of examples surviving in museums and church treasuries today.

Arm reliquaries were popular because of their innate ease to stand upright near the altar, but perhaps more so because of their sacred imitable gesture. By showing a saint’s hand in the form of blessing, clergy could carry or display the reliquary, thereby animating a saint’s body during liturgical celebrations or processions. In this way, the saint could literally bless, touch and heal the faithful with his or her 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 **IC XC**, an abbreviation for the Greek words Jesus (**IHCOYC**) Christ (**XPIC-TOC**) which includes the first and last letter of each word. The hand, then, communicates the Name of Jesus, the “Name above every name” (Paul’s Letter to the Philippians 2:9).

Bishop Maes received the St. Paul relic on March 20, 1900, along with 24 other large relics from Bishop Gustave Joseph Waffelaert of the Diocese of Bruges, Belgium. It is evident that the relic was treasured by Bishop Maes and his successors, as a July 10, 1947, inventory by Bishop William T. Mulloy notes the relic’s presence in the bishop’s private chapel. Eventually it would find its way to St. Pius Seminary in Erlanger where it was offered for veneration.

The second reliquary houses the left arm bones (ulna and radius) of St. Arnold of Arnoldsweiler, a harpist and singer from the court of Charlemagne. St. Arnold is hailed as a patron saint of musicians, organists and makers of musical instruments. Shown reaching upward, the reli-

quary’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 Düren, 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 patron 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 beckoning), 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 Kremenz, 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 Kremenz 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



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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

(far left) Cathedral’s new speaking reliquaries
(left) Sketch by Nicholas Fabri de Peiresc of the reliquary head of St. Maurice, Paris, 17th century. Bibliothèque nationale de France
(above left) G. A. Zwick Apothecary box of Bishop Maes
(above right) Portable altar reliquary of St. Andrew’s sandal, Trier, 10th century. Trier, Cathedral Treasury

eneration 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. Evidentially 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 (*thecae*).

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 stor-

age, but rediscovered in 2020 when the St. Paul Relics Altar was established at the Cathedral. Today, the addition of these new reliquaries highlight 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” reliquaries can be seen in the St. Paul Relics Chapel located beneath the baldacchin of St. Mary’s Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption. The altar contains over 300 relics including some of the Church’s newest saints and blessed.
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@coudio.org or (859) 392-1500.

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

World Youth Day 2023

(Continued from page 2)

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 1993 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. “I look 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.

“The Lord invited me into saying yes to it and provided in the exact ways that I needed, through multiple people from my home parish of St. Agnes. Without the incredible generosity of these people, going on this pilgrimage would not be a possibility for me,” Mr. Allison said.

Mr. Allison said that initially he was excited for simply the experience of going and gathering with the Universal Church. And while that still excites him, his gratefulness for his parishioners and in meeting the pilgrims he will be traveling with, he is realizing WYD Lisbon as “an apostolic experience”— an experience of being called and sent.

“It is clear that this pilgrimage is just as much about sending us forth as it is gathering us together,” said Mr. Allison. “I am expecting for the Holy Spirit to light our hearts on fire in a new way during this week that will propel us out on mission back to the diocese, our workplaces, schools and families.”

(See related story on page 9.)

Time to focus on costs

(Continued from page 9)

any public money. Instead, they would do a scaled-down event with a budget of \$54.4 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 \$18.8 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 WDY. 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 \$256 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 \$4.4 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.

“I remember protests 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 \$127 million in advertisement 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.

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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, 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: Stephen Kopyay by email or fax. SKopyay@CovDio.org or 859-392-1589. EOE



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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.

Father Michael Rennie is pastor of Epiphany of Our Lord parish in St. Louis, MO. His book, "The Forgotten Language — How the Poetics of the Mass Can Change Your Life" releases March 2023.



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NEWS BRIEFS

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. 27 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 woman, were killed. A 13-year-old Palestinian boy was identified as the shooter in the Silwan attack, and a 14-year-old Israeli 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 does nothing other than close the few glimpses of trust that exist between the two peoples,” he said following his weekly Angelus prayer Jan. 29.

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 details of 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. Cor 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.”

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 150 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 “sheer 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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New translation tweaks to sacrament of penance take effect this Lent

Gina Christian
OSV News

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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