Catechumens and candidates gather with Bishop Iffert, Feb. 26, for annual Rite of Election

Laura Keener
Editor

The annual Rite of Election was held Feb. 26 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington. In two solemn ceremonies, pastors and chaplains from 29 parishes in the Diocese of Covington and Thomas More University and Northern Kentucky University presented 76 catechumens and 136 candidates to Bishop John Iffert.

Catechumens are unbaptized individuals seeking to enter the Catholic Church. During the Rite of Election each was called forward by name, received a blessing from Bishop Iffert and had their name inscribed in the Book of the Elect, which Bishop Iffert signed, declaring them the Elect — God’s chosen people.

Candidates are baptized Christians seeking full communion with the Catholic Church. They, too, were called by name and received a blessing from Bishop Iffert.

Since August, both the candidates and catechumens have been participating in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults program at their parish. At this year’s Easter Vigil they will receive the sacraments of initiation — baptism (catechumens), first Communion and confirmation (catechumens and candidates) — and will become the newest members of the Church.

“I want to begin today by welcoming everyone here,” Bishop Iffert said as he began his homily, reflecting on the reason why the candidates and catechumens have been called to gather at the Mother Church to be received as the elect of God.

Some, he said, would say that today’s celebration is a time to come to the Mother Church of the diocese and to meet the Bishop; others would say it’s motivating to witness the number of people entering the Church, and still others would say it is to experience the Universal Church.

“That’s not why we’re here. We’re here for a very narrow pur-

(Continued on page 17)
Laura Keener
Editor

Bishop John Iffert, Matt Hollenkamp, general chair and Linda Rawe, leadership gifts chair, welcomed over 120 guests to the Diocesan Parish Annual Appeal kick off dinner, Feb. 28, at The Prizing House in Cynthiana, Ky. This year’s DPAA theme is “Rise and Do Not Be Afraid.” The goal for this year’s DPAA is $2.65 million. Eighty-three percent of the money raised through the DPAA is used to help fund diocesan ministries like care for retired priests, vocations, pro-life, Catholic Charities, religious education, campus ministry, Cristo Rey Parish and Thomas More University. Ten percent is used to fund service grants, which are awarded to various ministries who serve the poor and vulnerable in the local community. Like in year’s past, all monies collected over a parish’s goal is rebated back to the parish to help fund parish ministries and projects.

At the dinner, Mrs. Rawe announced the results from Phase 1 of the leadership gifts phase of the DPAA. Since February, a group of volunteer solicitors have been reaching out to a group of select donors “to set the pace” for this year’s DPAA. These solicitors have brought in a DPAA Phase 1 record of $544,280. That evening’s dinner, along with the upcoming DPAA dinner March 2 in Hebron, is Phase 2 of the leadership gifts phase. Guests at the dinner in Cynthiana donated or pledged over $27,000. “We are so thankful for the gift of each of you and for your amazing support,” Mrs. Rawe said.

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At kick-off dinners, DPAA chairs report record donations and pledges in leadership gifts Phase 1

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Lent at the Cathedral
Stations of the Cross —
Fridays, through March 31, 6:30 p.m.
No Stations March 10

24 Hours with the Lord —
Twelve consecutive hours of Eucharistic Adoration and confessions
March 10, Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, noon-midnight
March 17, Holy Cross Church, Latonia, noon-midnight

Memorial Mass
for the Loss of a Child
A Memorial Mass for any person who is grieving the loss of a child will be held 7 p.m., Wednesday, March 15, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Burlington.
The Mass is for parents, grandparents, family members and friends of those who have lost a child through miscarriage, stillbirth, abortion, early infant death, illness, suicide, accident or any other reason.
The Pro-Life Office of the Diocese of Covington is sponsoring this service and wishes to emphasize that all people, not just Catholics, are invited to attend this Mass.
Information on local support groups will be available at a reception following the Mass.

Benedictines in Covington
An exhibit honoring the Benedictine legacy, brings together important artifacts from the history of Immaculate Conception Church at Steptown in Kentucky.
The exhibit is on view now to March 31, 2023, in the Mass Crypt Chapel, Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington.
The Cathedral’s open hours are Monday–Friday 9 a.m.–3 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m., and Sunday, 11:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m. Mass.
For information on the Benedictine Oblates of St. Cosmas Deane, Covington, or St. Walburg Monastery, Villa Hills visit CovOblates.org.

Parish Lenten Activities
Stations of the Cross
St. Joseph Parish, Camp Springs, Monday, Feb. 27, 7:30 p.m.
Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish, Erlanger, Thursdays, 5 p.m.
Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish, Erlanger
Exposition, Thursdays, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
Confessions, Fridays, 3–3:30 p.m.

Bible study “The Holy Eucharist,” March 6, 8 and 9, 6:30–8:30 p.m.
Penance service, March 21, 6:30 p.m.

A Wired Family —
Social Media & the Adolescent Digital Tribe
The Safe Environment Office of the Diocese of Covington welcomes Stephen Smith, founder of A Wired Family, March 7, 7–9 p.m., Bishop Bossart High School, Alexandria. Mr. Smith will speak on how social media is affecting not only the mental health of children and teens but also their privacy.
Adults only. No cost, no reservations required.

(above, left) Bishop John Iffert greets attendees at the DPAA kick-off dinner in Cynthiana, Feb. 28.
(center) Matt Hollenkamp, DPAA general chair, introduces Linda Rawe, DPAA leadership gifts chair and her husband, Randy.
(above, right) Attendees watch the 2023 DPAA “Rise and Do Not Be Afraid” video.
(right) Attendees smile as they wait for the DPAA dinner and program to begin.

(Continued on page 16)
Ash Wednesday, a reminder of our ‘campaign of Christian service’

Maura Baker  
Staff Writer

With Ordinary Time coming to a pause, the Lenten Season began, Feb. 22. Community members, diocesan staff and students from Covington Latin School came together for a Mass celebrating Ash Wednesday, 10 a.m., at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington. The Mass was celebrated by Bishop John Iffert.

In his homily, Bishop Iffert notes how the Lenten season is referred to sometimes as a ‘campaign of Christian service.’ While the term campaign, he says, often calls to mind ideas such as a political or military campaign, “clearly none of these campaigns is what our prayer today is calling us to.” However, some qualities of these types of campaigns may still hold true to our Lenten campaigns.

“We remember that Jesus calls the children of the kingdom to be as cunning and diligent as those who seek profit in the ways of the world,” said Bishop Iffert.

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Churchmen of the Year

It was then-Father Gudziak who urged Major-Archbishop Shevchuk, the newly-elected head of the largest of the Eastern Catholic Churches, to meet with me when Shevchuk and I were both in Rome in April 2011. Eight weeks before, I had spent two hours with Metropolitan Hilarion Alfeyev of the Russian Orthodox Patriarchate of Moscow, who had said more than a few bitter (and false) things about the UGCC during our encounter at the Library of Congress.

I had written a memorandum on that meeting, which Gudziak thought his former colleague should see while Shevchuk was meeting various Vatican officials (often starry-eyed about Russian Orthodoxy) after his accession to the metropolitan see of Kyiv-Halych. The new major-archbishop was terribly busy but made an hour available, during which I was struck both by his immediate friendliness and by his remarkable calm as he read through a memorandum that petitioned serious ecumenical difficulties for him — his only remark while reading the memo being: “Oh, dear.”

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, Major-Archbishop Shevchuk has inspired his Church and the entire Ukrainian people through daily reflections that address Ukraine’s suffering through the lens of a 40-crustiform faith. He has remained at his post as Kyiv has been bombarded and again by the aggressors, maintaining a rigorous schedule of prayer and liturgical words that demonstrate his deep commitment, and that of his entire Church, to maintain a spiritual life of praise, worship and intercession under the most challenging conditions.

The major-archbishop has also worked unfatigably to educate the Roman authorities on the realities of the war, its cause, and Russia’s barbaric conduct of its “special military operation,” once giving Pope Francis a fragment of a Russian mine that had destroyed the front of a Greek Catholic Church at the beginning of the war.

Archbishop Gudziak, while leading and renewing his archeparchy, has been tireless in supporting the official publication of the Archdiocese of Denver.

Somewhere along the way, about two minutes ago, I looked up the word “Lent” in a World Book dictionary and found the definition to be less than impressive or inspiring, that is, “the forty weekdays between Ash Wednesday and Easter, observed in many Christian churches as a time for fasting and repenting of sins.” Quadragesima . . . the first Sunday of Lent.1

Please trust me and don’t turn to page 12, because there’s far more to it than that! Not now, but sometime during the next few days — you pick the right time — try to expand that definition of Lent in your own words. Draw from past experiences to find out what you are experiencing as a Christian right now. Define it in a prayer or in a series of words that come to mind, one after another. For example: acceptance of the here and now, sacrifice, silence, sorry giving, grace, appreciation, loving, caring, seeking, faith, inclusion, pain, sin, patience, stubbornness forever and by all means, forgiveness. Don’t let me put words in your mind or in your personal notes. It’s a love task for you and the Holy Spirit.

What needs work in your life right now? What nagging habit or doubt or destructive attitude has crept in that you would love to see dash out? That might well be answered in the spontaneous words that travel from your mind to pen or keyboard. Don’t be discouraged if nothing gets on your page at the first sitting or during that first walk you take with a kindly notebooks. If something comes to mind while driving, please pull over to a safe spot before trying to write it down or to record it. Heaven can wait.

Is there someone you know — stranger or loved one — who needs your prayers or a smile or a helping hand right now? Is there a bitter grudge or a seemingly ungettable disagreement with someone that never has been resolved or settled peacefully that weighs heavier and heavier every day? Is it time for a special reconciliation that is long overdue?4

Some years ago, a dear friend's father had endured three heart attacks in short order. His life was in danger. During Lent, that daughter and father had been estranged and out of touch for six long years. Eventually during Lent, that daughter regretted that it took a serious health threat for her to take the first step toward their reunion and to then turn out to be a fruitful reconciliation for both who reconciled and gave thanks for their renewed love and relief.

This year, our celebrant's homily before Ash Wednesday's week challenged us to be fortified by the Mass's readings, while also urging each of us to become and remain a “light of the world.” The daily disappointing, frightening and devastating news of wanton murder anywhere and everywhere, violent destruction of property, theft, street beatings, violent attacks in classrooms on playgrounds and in school buses. The constant display of cruelty and brutality could not be more discouraging, he expounded. Yesterday on the news, I saw two young boys, cheered on by classmates, viciously attack and use a nine-year-old girl for a punching bag, loudly encouraged by both sexes, believe it or not!

The beauty of Lent is that it can work wonders, but it needs our attention and cooperation — the sooner the better. As an adult, has there ever been a time when you felt quickly and flies away just when we were about to get “into it.”

Are you, no doubt, too busy with life and responsibility to make the effort this time around? Of course! Is that a legitimate excuse to pass up this simple exercise this Lent? No need a little helper, a guide! Life happens. All struggle.

Thomas Merton once prompted my Lentenics with this unconditional surrender in his beautiful and unique self-examination. Thoughts in Solitude: “My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself and the fact that I think that I am following your will not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the deeper meaning of the events that I am to pass through is to lead me closer to you. And I believe that I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road through I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust in you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and will never leave me to face my perils alone.”

The time is now, dear reader and friend... for you are the light of the world.

Ray Smith is a commissioned Lay Pastoral Minister for the Diocese of Covington.
A unique encounter

The readings for the second Sunday of Lent — Cycle A — are: Genesis 12:1-4a; 2 Timothy 1:8b-10 and Matthew 17:5

On this Second Sunday of the Holy Season of Lent, we hear St. Matthew’s account of the Transfiguration of the Lord. The Church through the apostles Peter, James and John get to have a unique encounter with God… we get to “see” Jesus in all of His divine glory. For the first century Jew, to whom Matthew is specifically writing, they would immediately have seen a connection between Jesus and Moses. We, 21st century Christians, are able to see a see a connection between what happened on the Mountain of Transfiguration (sometimes referred to as Mt. Tabor) and what happens at each Holy Mass. I am the pastor of Saint Augustine Parish in Covington, and in order to enter into our church building (even if you use the handicap ramp) you must ascend… you must make your way “up” the mountain as it were… like Moses going up the mountain of Sinai and Jesus up the mountain of Tabor. Upon entering the church, the closer you get to the tabernacle, where the Lord is present in the Most Blessed Sacrament, you must continue to go up… 8 steps. St. Augustine church has been designed, like many others, so that we can have a tangible and “sacramental” experience of climbing the mountain to meet God. A true and authentic encounter with God requires ascendant dimension… specifically spirituality… raising our hearts and minds and spirits to heaven.

When we come before God, we are called to listen. “Listen to Him” the Father says to the apostles in the Gospel today. Unfortunately if you are like me, you much prefer to talk. You and I have to explain to God everything that is going wrong and how we need him to help us… even though “he knows exactly what he needs to do for us, we ask him” How many of us, however, really stop to obey the Father’s command to listen? Many times we are afraid to listen because we don’t want to hear what God has to say because it contrary to our way of thinking or our “plans” and we really don’t want to change. But Jesus reminds us, as he does Peter, James and John… “do not be afraid… Remember… unlike us, God is incapable of acting contrary to His nature… and as St. John reminds us, “God is love” So, God cannot, not love us! Even in our stupidity when we stop loving Him through the daily bible readings. In addition to the Scriptures, he writes, “The Lord speaks to us through our brothers and sisters, especially in the faces and the stories of those who are in need.” So our first task this Lent is to listen to Jesus speaking to us in the Word of God and in other people. Pope Francis offers us a second Lenten proposal. Referring again to the Transfiguration, he suggests that we resist the temptation to take refuge in a religiosity made up of dramatic, mountaintop experiences, but that we “go down to the plain” steeped by these experiences to be “artisans of synodality” in ordinary life. As I reflect on this theme, I am transported back to Lent of 2020, when we were suddenly thrust into a surreal situation with the onset of COVID-19. The first weeks of the pandemic, which coincided with Lent, were intense on both the spiritual and practical levels. Strangers in hazmat suits walked among us in our homes for the elderly and we were forced to bury ourselves under layers of PPE. As COVID struck more and more residents, a dark cloud hung over us — a mix of grief and fear of the unknown. There were also lents of intense light, however. As we went into lockdown, we were deprived of daily Mass, but we watched it online each day. We managed to find grace and strength through meditation on the Lenten readings and spiritual communions.

As we felt the shadow of death engulfing us, I had a strong sense that Christ was present in the midst of it all — as he is in his transfigured or risen glory, but in the vulnerability of his passion and death. I also had a heightened sense of mission, believing that Christ was counting on me to love and serve the elderly to the best of my ability despite the many obstacles continually posed by COVID. Regardless of the seemingly dire circumstances in which we found ourselves, I knew that Lent, we never doubted the presence of Christ in the person we serve the elderly. As our bishop, Bishop J. B. Meehan, had always said, “Never forget that the Poor are Our Lord.”

Now that the pandemic has largely receded, we have descended the mountain, so to speak, back to a more normal life. Yet we are confronted with new issues indicating that life in our Homes will never be quite the same.

Our greatest challenge is the critical shortage of qualified caregivers to assist us in our apostolate. Like half of the nursing homes across the United States, our Homes have been forced to limit the number of new admissions because we have not been able to recruit and retain enough staff members to care for the full number of elderly residents we could accommodate.

How can it be, I often ask Our Lord, that at the very moment when the needs of seniors are greater than ever due to the ravages of the pandemic, and the population of elderly persons is growing exponentially, there are fewer caregivers prepared to meet their needs?

Individually and as a society, we need to show greater esteem and gratitude to caregivers. We need to advocate for more educational opportunities and incentives for young people to enter the field of geriatrics, for better working conditions, compensation and benefits, and for care and support for those experiencing exhaustion or burnout.

These suggestions may seem like a departure from our Lenten theme, but I believe that Our Lord is speaking to us through the elderly — whom St. Jeanne Jugan called the mouthpieces of God — and we need to listen.

As we deepen the ideal of journeying together in a spirit of isnodality, let us come down from the mountain convinced that the eldest members of the human family are everyone’s concern.

Sister Constance Veit is the communications director for the Little Sisters of the Poor in the United States and an occupational therapist.

Moments of doubt

VIEWPOINT

Sister Christa Kreinbrink, O.S.B.

Sometimes one needs a wider perspective to see progress. Each Monday I look at my calendar to see what the week holds. Meetings, deadlines, trips to somewhere, planning. The week can seem filled with small bits of business, repeats of prayer weeks.

Periodically I pull out a calendar from a previous year to look for something, and then page through it. I am reminded of people that I met or worked with on a project, meetings that resulted in good decisions or outcomes. And if the result wasn’t so good or the effort failed, I may have learned from it.

In the tradition of the Church, we are told, “It is time to go up to heaven and hear the voice of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit, who speak to us in the Word of God and in other people.” So our first task this Lent is to listen to Jesus speaking to us in the Word of God and in other people.

One collecting prayer in our Liturgy of the Hours book transforms these moments of doubt into an expression of faith. I am grateful to Sister Deborah Harmeling who wrote it: “God our Creator; by your loving design the world passes safely into darkness and returns again to light. We give into your hands our unfinished tasks, our unsolved problems and our unfulfilled hopes. We commend each other and those who are needy to your care, knowing that you bring us to completion. We commend the name of Jesus, who is our unfailing light and hope and who abides with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.”

Unfinished tasks; Unsolved problems; Unfulfilled hopes; …

You bring all things to completion.

Very Rev. Daniel Schomaker

March 3, 2023

Very Rev. Daniel Schomaker

March 3, 2023

Up and down the mountain this Lent

Jesus’ Transfiguration is one of the most dramatic scenes in the Gospels. It is a central image of Lent, reminding us that during this season we are invited to ascend a high mountain with Jesus to live a unique spiritual experience.

Pope Francis has chosen the Transfiguration as the theme for his Lenten message this year. Highlighting the voice coming from the cloud, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him” (Mt 17:5), he asks us to listen to Jesus.

“Lent is a time of grace to the extent that we listen to him as he speaks to us” in the word of God, which the Church offers us in the liturgy.

“We say that Word not fall on deaf ears;” Francis writes, suggesting that even if we cannot attend daily Mass, we can still study the daily bible readings.

In addition to the Scriptures, he writes, “The Lord speaks to us through our brothers and sisters, especially in the faces and the stories of those who are in need.”

Our greatest challenge is the critical shortage of qualified caregivers to assist us in our apostolate. Like half of the nursing homes across the United States, our Homes have been forced to limit the number of new admissions because we have not been able to recruit and retain enough staff members to care for the full number of elderly residents we could accommodate.

How can it be, I often ask Our Lord, that at the very moment when the needs of seniors are greater than ever due to the ravages of the pandemic, and the population of elderly persons is growing exponentially, there are fewer caregivers prepared to meet their needs?

Individually and as a society, we need to show greater esteem and gratitude to caregivers. We need to advocate for more educational opportunities and incentives for young people to enter the field of geriatrics, for better working conditions, compensation and benefits, and for care and support for those experiencing exhaustion or burnout.

These suggestions may seem like a departure from our Lenten theme, but I believe that Our Lord is speaking to us through the elderly — whom St. Jeanne Jugan called the mouthpieces of God — and we need to listen.

As we deepen the ideal of journeying together in a spirit of synodality, let us come down from the mountain convinced that the eldest members of the human family are everyone’s concern.

Sister Constance Veit is the communications director for the Little Sisters of the Poor in the United States and an occupational therapist.
Karen Kuhiman  
Correspondent

When women are seeking guidance for discerning a religious vocation, Notre Dame Sister Marla Monahan, diocesan Vicar for Religious, suggests the search begin with the Women Religious of the Diocese of Covington. The Vocation Directors of the Diocese have walked that path themselves and welcome the opportunity to accompany those who follow today. Three vocation directors share stories about what drew them to their orders and reflect on the discernment process.

The Sisters of Notre Dame were Sister Ruth Lubbers' teachers at St. John School, Covington, (now Prince of Peace) and Notre Dame Academy. When her family took walks in the neighborhood or attended events at St. John's, they often witnessed the sisters sitting with their mending or relaxing on the porch at the end of the day. "They always seemed to be having fun, having a good time together, and sometimes welcomed us to join them," said Sister Ruth. "I felt very much at home as we spoke with them. Throughout my days as a student, I knew they cared for us. That was very important to me."

The charism of the Sisters of Notre Dame is one of sharing and recognizing God's goodness and provident care. "The first part comes from our spiritual mother, St. Julie Billiart; the second comes from our German roots and how God cared for our foundresses and sisters in Germany," Sister Ruth said. "That sustains me; to be reminded of the good within life, within others, and within myself. God's loving care in all of that allows me to be more trusting as I go about and proclaim God's goodness. My parents were people of service, so my goal of being of service to others was part of my discernment. And service is an important aspect of the ministry of the Sisters of Notre Dame." Divine Providence Sister Leslie Keener said, "Our name arose from those who witnessed what the Sisters were doing for people and referred to us as 'sisters of providence.' The Sisters became God's providence for others by trusting in God's provident care. That is who we still are today."

Sister Leslie said that she was attracted to the lived charism of the Congregation of Sister of Divine Providence even before she knew what the written charism was. "One of our virtues is simplicity. We try to be God's providence to others in whatever way we can by simply showing up as ourselves, being authentic, and trusting God," Sister Leslie said. "Trusting, in general, has always been difficult for me. The Sisters are 'what you see is what you get.' That allowed me to be myself to grow into who I was becoming."

Like Sister Ruth, Sister Leslie saw the Sisters of Divine Providence enjoying each other's company. "There was so much energy, and they were free to be themselves. That gave me, a shy person, permission to be myself," Sister Leslie said. "God's way of caring for me has been to surround me with people who are intentional about trusting in God and serving others. Sometimes, people speak of women religious as if we were a thing of the past. We are not. Our predecessors built schools, hospitals and universities; the mission now is with the poor, as our other missions continue to develop."

As vocations promote, Sister Leslie sees her ministry as a ministry of accompaniment. By accompanying women as they discern a vocation, Sister Leslie can help determine if the Congregation is a good fit. If it is, she encourages her to continue her journey with the Congregation. If that is not, she helps her find a community that would be right for her. "Witnessing a monastic community or a contemplative community would be a better fit," Sister Leslie said.

Although some women entered religious life at a young age in the past, that is no longer the case. Sister Leslie entered at 24; women today enter in their 30s and 40s.

"That is a good thing" said Sister Leslie. "People must have time on their own and some experiences before they make a life commitment."

Sister Leslie continued, "In general, in walking with college students, I find they are afraid of making a bad choice that will ruin their lives. I explain that things can be changed if you make a choice that doesn't fit. There are ways to pray through it, and as with most big life decisions, you have lots of chances along the way to say yes or no. That knowledge can take the pressure off."

Sister Ruth adds, "The discernment process is similar to the engagement period for couples as they get to know each other better. The different stages of discernment give you comfort and the ability to reaffirm your decisions or lead you to realize that religious life is not your calling."

Benedictine Sister Cathy Bauer of St. Walburg Monastery also came to her religious vocation at age 24 but wasn't sure what her role would be. She knew she was called to serve, but not in a newer community and not as a teacher.

"The long-established monastic life of the Benedictines, with its rhythm of prayer calling the community back together throughout the day, their charism of hospitality and their mission of service, drew her to her vocation. Her desire to work among the poor and her background in social work led her to missionary work in Tanzania. By listening with the ear of her heart, she found her call to mission was in Kentucky."

Sister Cathy said, "Having more choices can make the decision-making process seem difficult or lead us to believe we would be happier if God gave us fewer choices. People often think, 'There is only one way to do this, and I must do it correctly.' But we know that life is like a garden of beautiful opportunities. The religious communities are very life-giving. In the decision-making process, by sharing our thoughts with others, we can make decisions about the future, leading to a life of joy."

The Vocation Directors try to make it easy for people to find them and thus provide various opportunities for seekers to explore the possibility of a vocation throughout the year.

Vocation Ventures 2023, March 31 - April 1, offers single Catholic women, 18-45 the opportunity to meet women religious from different communities. They will share their homes and vocation stories and offer a glimpse into religious life as lived today.

The Sisters remind us that parents and grandparents are in an excellent position to encourage a young person to accompany them on a religious vocation. Catholic Sisters Week is March 8-14, 2023, and that presents an opportunity for a casual discussion with a young person about the importance of having women religious accompany us on our journey.
The gift of hope
Karen Kuhlman Contributor

Through its many ministries, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Covington lives the teaching of Jesus. Catholic Charities’ Jail Ministry unites the Fifth Beatitude, “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy,” with the Fifth Corporal Work of Mercy, “To visit the imprisoned.”

Jail Ministry coordinator Dave Capella and his volunteers bring that mercy to the incarcerated, those about to be released, their families, friends and victims of crime. John Lubrecht, a Catholic Charities jail minister, has been visiting the Boone County Jail for four years. He has met with many inmates, but one young man and his family have made a lasting impression on him.

When John visits inmates, he never asks why they are incarcerated, he asks why they decided to meet with him. Do they want him to pray with them, talk with them or take a break from their cell?

A young man, who had never been in trouble before, was incarcerated at the Boone County Jail. He was emotionally in dire straits, and his mother was overwhelmed with worry about potential disastrous consequences. “My son, Paul, got in trouble, and I panicked. I’d had a previous association with Catholic Charities and reached out to them for help.” Dave Capella responded and emailed his volunteers, explaining the situation and requesting immediate assistance.

When John arrived at the jail 15 minutes later, he found a crying, broken 20-year-old man. From that day on, he visited the young man every Saturday for three years. John explained, “We think much is to be gained for the people who meet with us. We pray with them, talk with them; we are present to them. I tried to be that positive person Paul could talk with and count on. We hear a lot about transfor- mational experiences; I witnessed a remarkable transformation.”

John wanted to ensure that once Paul was out, he would stay out. “I will work with you for as long as it takes, as long as you make me one promise: You are never going to go back.” Paul responded, “I promise you that when I get back, I will never want to help me again. I would stand in the dark, but I didn’t want to do it again. I had hurt them so badly that I just couldn’t think of anything they wanted to know or how he could best support Paul. His mother said the hardest part was seeing Paul incarcerated; he asks why they decided to meet with him.

An essential component of John’s successful ministry to Paul was the unparalleled support from Paul’s mother and uncle. In preparation for his weekly visits, John contacted Paul’s mother and uncle, asking if there was anything they wanted to know or how he could best support Paul. His mother said the hardest part was seeing Paul behind bars, but she knew he had to learn from his mistakes. She leaned heavily on the support of John and her brother. With his background in law enforcement, her brother was impressed with John’s commitment to visiting Paul week after week for three years.

“Paul’s mother and uncle are grateful for John’s commitment to Paul and the others he serves through Catholic Charities’ Jail Ministry. They hope their story will inspire others to consider volunteering for the ministry.”

For information about the Jail Ministry Program or if you are interested in volunteering contact Dave Capella at dcapella@covingtoncharities.org or (859) 581-8974 ext. 117. Note — While John’s story of dedication to Paul and his family is beautiful, Catholic Charities jail ministry volunteers typically don’t visit someone with inmates or get involved with family members to this extent. Catholic Charities volunteers visit in pairs and meet groups of inmates to read Scripture, pray, teach classes and listen. That is how the spirit moves within the ministry.

St. Vincent de Paul NKY’S 100th Birthday Bash Bourbon Raffle

First Prize
First Prize
Pappy Van Winkle (15 year) Weller (12 year)
Weller Single Barrel Weller Antiqua 107
Weller Full Proof Weller CYPR Weller Special Reserve

Second Prize

Third Prize

Fourth Prize

Purchase Tickets Online
ONLY 500 TICKETS SOLD
$100 PER TICKET

Visit www.svdpnkys.org for more information
You need not be present to win. Winners to claim prizes at 2455 Crescent Spring Rd, Erlanger, KY. Must be 21 years of age to enter.

JOIN US EACH FRIDAY DURING LENT

Adult & Kid Dinners Include 2 Sides

Dine In/ Take-Out

Drinks/Beer • Desserts Available for Donation

St. Barbara’s

4:30-8:00

Bob Lee Special (bailed Thighs & 4 Shrimp) $13
Ribs (1/2 Lb) $15
Baked Tater Tri-tip $12
Cod Fish Dinner $12
Fish Sandwich (only one cod filet) $10
49¢ Fish & Chips $6
Cheese Pizza $7
Stixs — Apple Sauce, Baked Potato, Cole Slaw, French Fries, Green Beans, Mon ‘n Cheese, Tossed Salad

THRU

@ 7:30!

Drawing to be held March 18 at 6:30 p.m. (EST) at our Centennial Celebration Event at Blessed Sacrament Undercroft, 2407 Dixie Highway, Fort Wright, KY on March 17, 2017. Live on our Facebook page @SVPDNorthernKentucky.
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) One way that Bishop Brossart High School students and staff follow Christ is by attending an optional weekly Rosary on Thursday mornings before school.

(above) Students and teachers at Saint Philip School celebrate that God is Good, All the Time!

(above) Students at Prince of Peace School follow Christ by collecting and donating meals to the Rose Garden Mission.

(above) Students at Prince of Peace School follow Christ by collecting and donating meals to the Rose Garden Mission.

(above) Students at the Catholic School of Covington spend their annual Day of Service out in the community doing service as they are encouraged to help those around them.

(right) Students and staff of Sts. Peter and Paul collect donations and assemble bags for the poor.

For more information about the Department of Catholic Schools, call (859) 392-1500 or e-mail asmorey@covdio.org.
Cling the gender divide

Villa Madonna Academy High School has earned the College Board AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award for achieving high female representation in AP Computer Science Principles exams, one of the criteria honored by the AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award have expanded girls’ access in AP computer science courses.

The prayer intention for March, as recommended by Pope Francis, is for victims of abuse: that those who have suffered harm from members of the Church, may they find within the Church herself, a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

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 DirecTV 25.

**Putting Out into the Deep**, Lenten Mission with Msgr. William Cleves, St. Agnes Church, Ft. Wright, March 8, 15, 22 and 29, 7-8 p.m. Each evening Msgr. Cleves will focus on a Scripture passage, followed by Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction. Confessions will be offered during Adoration.


The Bishop Brossart Softball and Volleyball teams will host their 2nd annual Euchre Tournament, March 10, Hegewisch Hall, Alexandria. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.; tournament begins 7 p.m. Top prize is $500. Cost $25 per player (includes food, water and pop). Beer and wine will be available for purchase. Contact ckermer11@icloud.com to register or for more information.

Morning of Reflection on Lectio Divina, March 11, Blessed Sacrament Parish, Ft. Mitchell, a mini-retreat for anyone wanting to know more about their spiritual lives or the process of discernment. Presentations begin at 9 a.m., Mass 10 a.m., Holy Hour; conclusion 11 a.m. Everybody is welcome.

Sacred Heart Dinners, an opportunity for those discerning a call to the priesthood to meet with Father Conor Kunath and other clergy to ask questions. Parents and family members are encouraged to attend as well. The next dinner is March 12, Blessed Sacrament Parish, Ft. Mitchell, beginning at 5 p.m. with Eucharistic Vespers, after which dinner is provided. To be included, contact the Vocations Office, (859) 592-1500 or your parish priest.

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) 332-1543.

“The Book of Wisdom” a workshop hosted by the Office of Catechesis and Evangelization and presented by Father Timothy Schehr, March 10 and April 22, 8-11:30 a.m., at the Curia, Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, Covington. Father Schehr is a retired biblical scholar and former professor at Mount St. Mary’s School of Theology at the Atheneum of Ohio. This book encourages readers to seek wisdom. But where do we begin such a search? Cost $15. Register online https://covid19.org/oces/catholic-bible-study/ or call (859) 332-1529.

The St. Cecilia Altar society annual Spring Craft Bazaar, March 19, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Table rental, call (859) 336-8235. Tables are $85 for a 9’ x 9’ space, which includes a table and electricity (first come, first served).

Bishop Brossart High School, Alexandria, Art Gallery will host the Elementary School Art Show, March 19, noon-4; March 24 and 25, before, during and after the Senior Play; and March 26, noon-4.

Thomas More University will host its 25th Bishop William A. Hughes Award Dinner, March 26, 6 p.m. Dress Pavillion, Covington. Three awards will be presented to individuals who have shown leadership in the community and made significant impact on Catholic education: Alan Pickertt, executive director of Catholic Charities; Raymond G. Helbert, Ph.D., executive director of the Wm. T. (Bill) Robinson III ’71 Institute for Religious Liberty (IRL) and Wilbert Eagerler ’51; J.D., honorary chair of the Thomas More University Second Century Campaign Steering Committee.

A personal Lenten Pilgrimage of five historic churches of the Diocese of Covington, April 1, rain or shine. Walk (or drive) any part of the 4.3-mile pilgrimage route. Start at any church on the route, any time. The churches: Cathedral Basilica of Assumption, St. Benedict, St. Augustine, St John Evangelist and then Mother of God — open at 9 a.m. for Eucharistic Adoration, with closing Benediction, 2 p.m.

Our Savior Parish, Covington, March 31, noon-6 p.m.
St. Benedict Parish, Covington, March 3, 17 and 31, 5-7 p.m.
St. Mary Parish, Alexandria, March 3, 10, 17, 4-7:30 p.m.
St. Matthew Parish, Morning View, March 10, 17, 24, 31, 4:30-7 p.m.

Holy Cross District High School, Covington, 5-8 p.m.
Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish, Erlanger, 4-8 p.m.
St. Augustine, Augusta, every Friday through March 31, 5 p.m. until fish runs out.
St. Augustine Parish, Covington, 4-7 p.m.
St. Barbara Parish, Erlanger, 4:30-8 p.m.
St. Bernard Parish, Dayton, 5-7 p.m.
St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Ft. Thomas, 4:30-7:30 p.m.
St. Edward Parish, Cynthiana, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., 5-7 p.m., (859) 298-5932
St. Francis Xavier Parish, Falmouth, Knights of Columbus, 4-7:30 p.m., (859) 321-9733
St. James, Brooksville, 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
St. Joseph Academy, Walton, 4:30-8 p.m.
St. Joseph Parish, Camp Springs, 4-7:30 p.m.
St. Patrick Parish, Taylor Mill, 4:30-7:30 p.m.
St. Timothy, Union, drive-thru, credit card only, 4:30-7 p.m., Dine-in 5-7:30 p.m.
St. William Parish, Williamstown, drive-thru only, 4:30-7 p.m.

Mother of God offers Mass at noon. An informational booklet will be available at the church where you start your journey. RSVP CovLentenPilgrimage@gmail.com.

The Thomas More University Observatory and Professor Wes Ryle invite you to the next two lectures: ‘night sky viewings, “Fusion Power: Energy Savior or Hopeless Dream?” on March 25 and “JWST: At Work At Last!” on April 29. Lectures are at lecture in Steigerwald Hall – Saints Center, with a 9 p.m. night sky viewing at the Thomas More Observatory. Event is free and open to the public, no reservations required.

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) 678-0855 or e-mail pamarzadas@yahoo.com.**
Retrouvaille helps couples on the brink of divorce restore their marriage

Maura Baker
Staff Writer

In July of 1998, Ed and Diane Fisher attended a weekend session of the Retrouvaille program: a Catholic-based initiative aiming to help couples on the brink of divorce. Twenty-five years later, the Fishers remain in their marriage and are still actively involved in Retrouvaille as coordinators in the Cincinnati area.

“It really helped us. It gave us tools to talk to one another in a calm and rational manner,” said Mr. Fisher, reflecting on his experience with Retrouvaille. “It got us back on track to realize that we’re the same people now as we were when we first got married, that we loved each other then and still love each other now.”

Retrouvaille describes itself as “primarily a practical program to improve communication, build stronger marriages, and help couples reconnect.” The program seeks to rebuild marriages and a loving relationship through communication. Presenters like Ed and Diane Fisher are not marriage counselors, but couples who share their stories and the tools they use to reform their marital relationships.

“Our last weekend in Cincinnati got 25 couples. We have three teams, all married, who went through the Retrouvaille program — and they all presented that weekend,” said Mr. Fisher, who also noted the involvement of a couple who attend Retrouvaille remain married following the program.

With three sessions a year, January’s Cincinnati Retrouvaille session has passed — although, another comes around the corner as the next Retrouvaille weekend begins April 14. Couples interested in the program are invited to visit https://helpourmarriage.org/ for information.

Lenten Eucharistic meditation 2: The hunger for God

USCCB/Eucharistic Revival Team

This Eucharistic meditation is designed to help you spend 30 minutes to an hour in meditation and silent prayer with Jesus during the Eucharist. You can unite yourself spiritually to the church or adoration chapel with the Blessed Sacrament, you can invite yourself to remain in your marriage and are still active in a calm and rational manner, and still love each other now.

Ed and Diane Fisher are not marriage counselors, but couples who share their stories and the tools they use to reform their marital relationships.

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Panda Preview Night
March 21 | 6:30-8 pm

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how to get ready for high school.

Attention 8th graders!
Come and take another look at all that
Notre Dame Academy has to offer!

Reservations are required
for this event.
You can register by scanning
this QR code to the right:
(Deadline: March 18)
New asteroids named for pope who led Gregorian calendar reform and three Jesuit astronomers — brings total to 32

Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Three Jesuit astronomers and the 16th-century pope who commissioned the Gregorian calendar have recently been honored with having asteroids named after them.

The new additions include: “562971 Johannhagen,” honoring Austrian Jesuit Father Johann Hagen, who was serving as director of the Georgetown University Observatory when Pope Pius X called him to Rome in 1906 to be the first Jesuit director of the new Vatican Observatory; “551878 Stoeger,” honoring U.S. Jesuit Father Bill Stoeger, a cosmologist and theologian who died in 2014; and “565184 Janusz,” honoring Polish Jesuit Father Robert Janusz, a philosopher and physicist on the staff at the Vatican Observatory.

A working group of the International Astronomical Union also approved of the designation of “560974 Ugoboncompagni,” honoring Ugo Boncompagni, who was elected Pope Gregory XIII in 1572.

The working group approved and published the names in its bulletin Feb. 7, the Vatican Observatory said in a press release Feb. 28. There are now 32 asteroids named after Jesuits.

Pope Gregory began the tradition of having papal astronomers and observatories. He commissioned German Jesuit Father Christopher Clavius to help with the reform of the calendar, which took his name, the “Gregorian” calendar, and still today is an internationally accepted civil calendar.

This is not the first asteroid named after a pope, however.

According to the Minor Planet Center’s asteroid orbital database, the “8661 Ratzinger” was named after Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the future Pope Benedict XVI, after it was discovered in Germany in 1990.

“The asteroid’s discoverer chose to name it after the German theologian, who was head of the Vatican Congregation of the Doctrine of Faith at the time, honoring him as “one of the most authoritative voices in the Vatican.”

“Under his supervision, the Vatican opened its archives in 1998 to enable researchers to investigate judicial errors against Galileo and other medieval scientists,” the center’s database said.

“According to the IAU, the assignment of a particular name to a particular asteroid — minor planet — comes about through a process that can, in some cases, take decades,” the Vatican Observatory said.

“Naming rights cannot be purchased,” it said, and “names of pets or names of a commercial nature are not allowed.” Proposed names are then judged by the working group committee.

The very first asteroid, Ceres, was discovered by an Italian priest, Theatine Father Giuseppe Piazzi, in 1801. The 1000th asteroid to be designated was named Piazzi in his honor in 1923, a lunar crater was named after him in 1855 and a large feature on Ceres, possibly a crater, imaged by the Hubble Space Telescope has been informally named Piazzi.

More than 30 objects on the moon are named after Jesuits, starting with the Riccioli Crater named after Jesuit Father Giovanni Battista Riccioli, who developed the system, still in use today, of naming lunar objects. He led the naming and cataloging of many of the moon’s larger craters, including the “Sea of Tranquility” where the Apollo 11 mission landed three centuries later.
Representatives from non-profit agencies and ministries across Northern Kentucky joined together with the Diocese of Covington Pro-life Office for a meeting, Feb. 21, in Bishop Howard Memorial Hall, Covington. The goal of this meeting was collaboration; the formation of a Pregnancy Care Network seeking to “improve the overall health and well-being of childbearing families in Northern Kentucky” by providing aid and support to families and mothers in need.
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Isn't it time you come clean? We don't cut corners, we clean them. Insured and bonded. Discount for senior citizens and first-time clients. Call (859) 760-6408.

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Messenger

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Dental Assistant for small, laid back dental office replacing a part-time dental assistant. 2 Working Operatories. Team approach. 20 to 27 hours a week. On the Job training if limited experience. Chairside assisting for fillings, crowns, extractions, impressions, xrays. Contact Dr. Messmer (859) 431-5234.

**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.

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

**PRINCIPAL - 8TH GRADES AND PRESCHOOL**
St. Joseph School, Bardstown KY, is a nationally recognized Blue-Ribbon school. We are seeking a principal who can carry forward the strong leadership of our retiring principal. Applicants must be a practicing Catholic and meet the requirements as outlined by the Archdiocese of Louisville. The principal oversees our K-8th grades and Preschool. There are a total of 415 students and 42 faculty and staff. Applicants are asked to submit their letter of interest and resume by March 22, 2023 to: St. Joseph Search committee, PO Box 548 Bardstown Ky. 40040 or by email: tbradshaw@stjochurch.com

**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 comfortable with a team approach to projects, and can manage deadlines under a steady workload. Interested individuals may send a resume with references with contact email addresses to Stephen Koplyay, SPHR by email to skoplyay@covdio.org, or by fax to 859/392-1589.

**PART-TIME DRIVERS**
Morning and/or afternoon hours available. Northern KY routes. Transport passengers to/from Day Activity Programs. CDL not required. Apply in person or mail resume to: BAWAC, Inc., Attn: Transportation Mgr., 7970 Kentucky Dr., Florence, KY 41042 Fax: 859.371.1726; Phone: 859.371.4410 Email: hr@bawac.org E.O.E.

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL**
Saint Dominic, a Blue Ribbon School in Springfield, KY, is seeking a principal for the 2023 – 2024 school year who possesses leadership and communication skills necessary to promote dynamic educational growth and staff development. Our school has an enrollment of 220 PreK – 8th students, along with a dedicated, highly motivated and experienced staff. The town of Springfield has strong enrollment growth potential, as well as strong parental and community support. Candidate must be a practicing Catholic, have teaching experience and be certified or working toward administrative certification. Competitive salary commensurate of qualifications and on the diocesan salary scale. Applicants are asked to submit a letter of interest and resume by March 15, 2023 to: St. Dominic Church Attn: Principal Search Committee 303 West Main Street Springfield, KY 40069

**INTERNAL AUDITOR**
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 Koplyay by email of fax, SKoplyay@Covdio.org or 859-392-1589. EOE

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Now accepting online jobs. Free Estimates. Licensed and Insured. Call Steven at (859) 801-9925

**STAFF WRITER**
The Messenger, the Diocese of Covington’s official weekly newspaper, is seeking a full-time Staff Writer to join its editorial team. This position requires a broad range of abilities including excellent writing, proof-reading and digital content development. Must be a practicing Roman Catholic. If you enjoy meeting people and desire to draw others to the Catholic faith through your creative work submit a resume, references, and writing samples to Stephen Koplyay by email to skoplyay@covdio.org, (859) 392-1589. EOE

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**CARE Net**
Care Net is now hiring: Nurse Manager RN with RDMs experienced in obstetrics to provide limited OB ultrasounds. 12-18 hrs/wk, 1st shift, Mon-Thurs. Active Ky license required. RDMs Advocate RDMs experienced in obstetrics to provide limited OB ultrasounds. 12-18 hrs/wk, 1st shift, Mon-Thurs. Active status on registry & current sonography certification required. Nurse Advocate RN to enter training for limited obstetrical ultrasounds. 12-18 hrs/wk, 1st shift, Mon-Thurs. Active Ky license required. Send resume to info@carenetky.org or scan code

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In business since 1990. Members of St. Augustine Parish.
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**GROUNDSKEEPER**
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.

**Call Chuck at the Messenger for information on placing your ad in the Classified Advertisements. (859) 392-1500
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CEMETARY PLOTS
2 Floral Hills Cemetery plots and 2 vaults. In the popular Gethsmane section of the Cemetery or any available plots of your choosing. The plots and vaults together are selling for $3,500. A $9600 value if purchased from directly from Floral Hills.

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DENTAL ASSISTANT
Our family dental practice is seeking an assistant to join our team. Full time Mon-Thu. No experience necessary but preferred. Benefits available. 401K. Please email resume to drdansheridan2@gmail.com or Call 859-635-1736.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Covington is adding services and growing, and this is an exciting time to serve in our local Church. If you have a desire to work in an environment where you can truly make a difference by serving others, Catholic Charities seeks candidates to fill the following positions:

Accounting Associate
Catholic Charities is seeking to hire a part time Accounting Associate. This is a non-exempt, part-time, hourly position, 20 hours a week. Under the general direction of the Controller, assists with all activities in connection with financial and business matters, including budgeting, accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll, financial reporting, external audit, policies, and procedures for transacting financial business.

Administrative Assistant to Marketing and Fund Development
Catholic Charities is seeking to hire a part time Administrative Assistant to the Marketing and Fund Development staff. This is a non-exempt, part-time, hourly position, 24 hours a week. Under the direction of the Institutional Advancement Manager assists with maintaining accuracy of donor database by entering and updating information, sending acknowledgements, providing reports, assist with event implementation and in the production of print and electronic marketing materials.

Parish Kitchen, Weekend Staff
Parish Kitchen is a special ministry that serves a free lunch daily in Covington to anyone hungry. We are looking for one or more individuals to work part-time on weekends who feel a call to serve within the context of this ministry, and who are capable of working with the population we do. This is a paid position, working selected Saturdays and Sundays from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. to help prepare a meal, supervise volunteers who assist serving between 11:30 – 1:30 and clean up after closing. Ideally, two weekend staff work together to oversee all aspects of this operation. Prior experience in one or more would be a strong plus: food service, ministry, and social work. You may be scheduled as few as once a month, or up to 4 or 5 times per month, depending on your availability and need.

To learn more details about any of these job opportunities, please visit our website at https://www.covingtoncharities.org/news-events/job-opportunities.

CEMETARY PLOTS FOR SALE – ST. MARY
Three adjacent cemetery plots at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery, Ft. Mitchell, Section 9-8, Lot 254, for sale. $3000 for all three
Call Greg Reardon 1-205-706-0048

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

For more information about Catholic Charities, please visit www.covingtoncharities.org

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We have an immediate need to buy the following:
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If you have any of the above items, please call Chuck at the Messenger for information on placing your ad in the Classified Advertisements.
(859) 392-1500

For more information about Catholic Charities, please visit www.covingtoncharities.org
Rather than foment hate and seek revenge, Palestinians and Israelis need to engage in dialogue in the pursuit of peace, Pope Francis said.

After praying the Angelus with an estimated 20,000 visitors in St. Peter’s Square Feb. 26, he repeated his call for dialogue to prevail over hate and revenge.

At least 62 Palestinians and 12 Israelis have been killed this year according to reports by the Palestinian Authority and Israeli foreign ministries, outpacing violence in the Holy Land last year which was the bloodiest on record.

Pope Francis also expressed his concern over recent terrorist attacks in Burkina Faso, where Islamic extremists took responsibility for killing more than 70 soldiers and taking five hostages in an attack on a military convoy Feb. 24.

On the first Sunday of Lent, the pope reflected on the day’s Gospel reading from St. Matthew in which the devil tests Jesus in the wilderness. He explained that Jesus does not succumb to the devil’s efforts to tempt him and instead responds with the word of God.

“You do not argue with the devil,” said the pope, “you do not dialogue with the devil.”

He urged Christians to keep Scripture at the center of their lives, so that they may turn to it in moments of temptation as Jesus did.

Dialogue, not revenge, must prevail in the Holy Land, pope says
Ash Wednesday
(Continued from page 9)

“This campaign begins with compunction, with sorrow for our sins. This is one way our Christian campaign is different than all the others. The others are focused on one’s own ego, ambitions, hungers,” but, according to Bishop Iffert, “our Lenten campaign is the opposite. “It focuses on recognizing that we are limited and sinful.”

“We are invited to admit that we cannot be our own God, that we cannot do this on our own. That we cannot save ourselves — we are powerless and reliant on our God to pursue the way of holiness and sanctification.”

(Continued from page 1)

“Remember, that we are dust… but not just any dust. But, during Ash Wednesday Mass, the ashes of blessed palms from the previous Palm Sunday are smeared in the shape of the cross on the foreheads of the congregation. “Remember, that we are dust… but not just any dust. But, dust into whom God breathed his divine spirit, for whom God has taken our nature to himself. To whom God has promised eternal life.”

Rite of Election
(Continued from page 1)

For catechumens, Bishop Iffert analogizes the Rite of Election to a sports physical required of athletes, “to have the doctor sign off to say that you have a certain level of fitness to be able to engage in that sport... you’re doing something very much like that today… you’re doing something very much like that today… you’re doing something very much like that today… you’re doing something very much like that today…”

“Paul is not only referring to physical death but also spiritual death. To be out of relationship with God. To feel only shame and guilt. To have no need for a declaration of fitness. Today, we invite you here to rejoice in that to rediscover the unity we already share. And to give thanks that the Holy Spirit is prompting you towards greater unity with us, so that here — to the cathedral and to me — to testify that you are fit now to enter into this season of purification… to focus on the coming sacraments you are to receive, especially for those of you who are catechumens the sacrament of Baptism… to desire with your heart and to seek to become one with Christ.”

Reflecting on the Scripture reading, how death entered the world through the sin of one man — Adam, so to man has been redeemed through the gift of justification of one man — Jesus Christ, (Romans 5:12-19), Bishop Iffert explained that St. Paul is not only referring to physical death but also spiritual death.

“Baptism… to desire with your heart and to seek to become one with Christ.”

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

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March 3, 2023
17
VATICAN CITY — Considered one of Caravaggio’s best masterpieces, “The Entombment of Christ” was created during the artist’s formative period in the late 16th century. The painting was one of more than 100 works of art Pope Pius VII commissioned to give his church a new face. The master’s “difficult” personality and behavior often left his patrons and customers frustrated. Only after the artist’s death did the Vatican Museums purchase the painting, which was created in 1610.

The major oil painting was commissioned to decorate the wall above the altar in a chapel of the church of the Oratorians’ Santa Maria in Vallicella Church, also known as “Chiesa Nuova,” in Rome. Pope Pius VII instead put it safely in his picture gallery where it can be admired today as part of the Vatican Museums’ vast collection.

“The painting was one of more than 100 works of art Pope Pius VII was forced to give up as part of a peace treaty between Revolutionary France and the Papal States in 1797. However, when the masterpiece was returned in 1816, it did not end up back in its original home: a side chapel in the Oratorians’ Santa Maria in Vallicella Church, also known as “Chiesa Nuova,” in Rome. Pope Pius VII instead put it safely in his picture gallery where it can be admired today as part of the Vatican Museums’ vast collection.

While the canvas, which measures 10 feet by 6.6 feet, survived the plunder, its deeper meaning and function as an altarpiece is usually lost on most visitors. As Quatremére de Quincy, a French architect who fiercely opposed taking art away from Italy, warned in 1796: “Eradicating the context in which a work was created irreparably impairs its legibility.”

To explain how to read Caravaggio’s piece “in situ,” the Oratorians invited Alessandro Zuccari, a leading expert on Caravaggio and professor of art history at Rome’s La Sapienza University, to give a lecture at their church Jan. 24.

“The massive oil painting was commissioned to decorate the wall above the altar in a chapel of the church. Completed in 1603, the work shows Nicodemus and the apostle John struggling with the heavy, lifeless body of Jesus to place him on an anointing stone and prepare his body for the entombment,” Zuccari said.

Caravaggio used Michelangelo’s Pietà in St. Peter’s Basilica for inspiration, Zuccari said, and created a similarly striking form of Jesus draped helplessly in someone’s arms and included a similar hand holding him up, gripping his flesh by the wound on his side. It was also a nod to his namesake, he said. Born Michelangelo Merisi, Caravaggio wanted to be the Oratorian’s founder St. Philip Neri.

In Caravaggio’s Entombment, three women are looking on with their own personal expressions of grief and different gestures of prayer: the Blessed Virgin Mary extends her arms wide like a cross, Mary Magdalene bows her head and Mary the wife of Clopas, throws her arms up and gazes toward the heavens.

Bathed in bright light, the crucified Jesus is the painting’s focal point, but his finger is firmly touching the anointing stone below with its sharp cornerstone edge glinting in the light and jutting out toward the viewer, Zuccari said. It is the prophetic sign of victory over death in Psalm 118:22, “The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.”

However, when the painting can be seen at the altar during Mass, the genius of Caravaggio’s composition truly comes through, Zuccari said. A copy of Caravaggio’s Entombment was put above the altar in 1797. The copy “is not exactly the best,” he said, “but it is at least useful” for getting an idea.

Father Maurizio Botta, an Oratorian priest at the parish, demonstrated the effect for Catholic News Service Jan. 25.

“The painting’s cornerstone falls precisely at the center of the altar where the priest stands. When the priest elevates the host, it appears as if he is reaching up to receive the body on the wall and suddenly, for the congregants kneeling, as if he is reaching up to receive the body on the altar where the priest stands.”

The massive oil painting was commissioned to decorate the wall above the altar in a chapel of the church. Completed in 1603, the work shows Nicodemus and the apostle John struggling with the heavy, lifeless body of Jesus to place him on an anointing stone and prepare his body for the entombment. The massive oil painting was commissioned to decorate the wall above the altar in a chapel of the church. Completed in 1603, the work shows Nicodemus and the apostle John struggling with the heavy, lifeless body of Jesus to place him on an anointing stone and prepare his body for the entombment.

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Continental Synodal Assembly

“We are children of the Resurrection,” say participants in Middle East Continental Synodal Assembly

BEIRUT — As the continental phase of the synod travels across the globe in February and March, with sessions in Europe, Oceania, North America, Asia, Africa and Latin America, the Middle East encounter fell during a time of grief following the tragic earthquake Feb. 6 in Syria and Turkey. Rebuffing the richness and diversity of its apostolic churches, the Continental Synodal Assembly for the Middle East gathered Feb. 13-17 in Lebanon. Representatives from Eastern Catholic Churches — Maronite, Melkite, Syriac, Chaldean, Coptic, Armenian — as well as from the Latin Church — were present. In their closing statement, the Middle East assembly’s participants said their meeting “comes in difficult circumstances for our region,” especially economic and humanitarian, in particular “the devastating earthquake that struck our brothers in Syria and Turkey.” Participants “raised daily prayers for the intention of the victims, the wounded and the displaced in the stricken areas.” During the assembly, participants broke off into working groups where patriarchs and laypeople from all Eastern rites worked together. “I think this is a great beginning. It’s a new day in the life of the universal church,” Lebanese Maronite laywoman Suzy El Hage told OSV News. “I think the sun is rising on all of us and the Holy Spirit is very happy … We are from different countries and many churches (rites), but we have many things in common.”

Discovery of ‘Pilgrimage Road’ reveals archaeologists’ race against time

JERUSALEM — One of Israel’s leading archaeologists working on the Pilgrimage Road excavation near Jerusalem’s Temple Mount said that with so much new construction underway around the Holy City the rush is on to document and preserve the past before it’s too late. “Right now in Jerusalem we have about 14 excavations running — and we have 30,000 registered artifact sites in all of Israel,” said Yehiel Zelinger, a Jerusalem Region archaeologist for the Israel Antiquities Authority with some 30 years experience in the field here. “We have to catch as much as we can right now because otherwise we won’t have the data,” he told OSV News. One of the major projects getting a lot of attention over the last decade is the discovery of what is believed to be a 2,000-year-old pilgrim walking path, or stepped street, in Jerusalem’s City of David National Park Area. It connects the Pool of Siloam on east Jerusalem to the foot of the Temple Mount, and was likely familiar to Jesus Christ as well as the millions of Jewish pilgrims here during their ascent to the Temple. “The most important thing is to publish (findings) for the scientific community and for the public,” said Zelinger, who also teaches archaeology at a local university. “It has to be built on facts and once more we are trying to work with facts — coins, pottery, carbon footing, magnetic fields — all these things are methods that build up the story.”

Dominicans invite Catholics to join 9-month rosary novena and D.C. pilgrimage

WASHINGTON — The Dominicans are inviting Catholics nationwide to participate in a nine-month rosary pilgrimage this fall in Washington. To participate in the novena, Catholics are asked to recite a prayer nine times over the course of nine months — on the 30th of each month, from Jan. 30 to Sept. 30. People can say the prayer more frequently if they wish, and pray the rosary too. While the novena begins Jan. 30, the faithful can join at any time. At the end of the nine months, a pilgrimage will take place at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington on Sept. 30, the vigil of Rosary Sunday. The free event includes talks, adoration, confession, Mass, and, of course, praying the rosary. The novena text and more information can be obtained at rosarypilgrimage.org.

Spanish church vows to resist new ‘anti-life laws’

MADRID — Catholic bishops in Spain have bitterly criticized new laws liberalizing abortion and gender reassignments in their latest clash with the Socialist-led government of Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez. “We are not doing well — indeed, we are following a path of ruin for the person and society,” Bishop Domingo Fernandez de Córdoba said in a Feb. 16 letter to the faithful. “It is as if all the demons had been unleashed, and we see lies, violence, human rights violations and evil in all its forms emerging everywhere. We cannot confront such evil with a political program — the demons can only be expelled with prayer and fasting.” The bishop made the comments as new laws were enforced allowing 16-year-olds to obtain abortions up to 14 weeks without informing their parents, and to re-register their gender without medical or legal procedures. In a Feb. 22 family, Cardinal Carlos Osoro Sierra of Madrid said life and peace were being “eaten and endangered daily” not only by violence and armed conflicts, but also by “such practices as abortion and euthanasia,” adding that defining life had become “the new frontier” for addressing social questions.

ArchbishopBernardino Auza, the Vatican’s nuncio to Spain, told a Feb. 21 conference at Madrid’s Catholic Francisco de Vitoria University the Sanchez government was “focused too much on objectives the church does not share.”

After papal visit, spirit of Iraq continues to revive

Mosul, Iraq — From the devastating war in 2003 to the three-year occupation of Mosul by Islamic State militants, Iraq is often portrayed as a land caught in a spiral of violence and personally doomed to remain in a state of instability. However, for Dominican Father Olivier Poquillon, Iraq is steadily rising from the ashes of war and taking its rightful place among the community of nations. While Iraq also has faced the global challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of economic inflation, the Dominican priest said the country is on the path toward rebuilding a lasting foundation for the new generation. Father Poquillon is representing the Dominicans to UNESCO’s flagship program “Revive the Spirit of Mosul,” an initiative that intends to rebuild the ancient city and its historical and religious landmarks that were destroyed or heavily damaged during the devastating occupation of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, commonly known as ISIL. Among the sites being rebuilt, the UNESCO program is also working toward rebuilding the Al-Tahera Syriac Catholic Church, which Pope Francis visited during his historic pilgrimage to Iraq in March 2021.

National/World
THE DIOCESAN PARISH ANNUAL APPEAL...

Our DPAA is conducted as both a parish and Diocesan effort. The DPAA provides the necessary funding to support and promote Catholic education; parish and campus ministry; foster vocations; as well as promoting the Respect for Life Initiative. Additionally, through the Campaign’s support, Catholic Charities and many agencies in our Diocese are able to provide services to those individuals in northern Kentucky whose lives are affected by life’s challenges such as poverty, hunger, and economic hardship.

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- Complete the DPAA pledge form mailed to your home or available at your parish
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Please Make a Pledge on Commitment Weekend

March 11 & 12