Dear Brothers and Sisters,

He is risen! He is truly risen!

Happy Easter! May your joyful celebration this day help you to come to know the Risen Lord and to be his witness among your family, friends, the Church and even to the ends of the earth.

Because many parishes have (beautifully) embraced the tradition of song and hymnody, there is a text of the Easter Mass that you may not hear on Easter Sunday. It is the Easter Antiphon, the first words that the Roman Missal offers to be spoken (or sung) to God’s people on Easter morning.

I have risen, and I am with you still, alleluia.
You have laid your hand upon me, alleluia.
Too wonderful for me, this knowledge, alleluia, alleluia.

(Cf. Ps 139:18, 5-6)

Who is the one who speaks these words and proclaims himself risen from the dead? Clearly, it is the Lord Jesus Christ. The one who breathed his last on the cross takes air and speaks once more.

And to whom does he speak? Who does the risen Jesus acknowledge with wonder and thanksgiving? God the Father, of course. To the one who loves him and to whom he responds with complete love and fidelity, Jesus cries with welcoming joy. He trusted completely in the Father’s assurances. Now Jesus, the firstborn of the new creation, sings his love and awe.

The words of the antiphon are borrowed from Psalm 139, but the Church uses these words to invite Christians into the encounter between God the Father and God the Risen Son. Resurrected life is, first and always, a relationship with the living God.

Among us there are those of you who God has been drawing with bands of love toward baptism. We rejoice for you! By baptism and incorporation into Christ, you receive the gift of adoption as sons and daughters of God. By that same gracious action, God gives us to one another as brother and sister in Christ. We are awed and grateful.

Inspired by the newly baptized, we all renew our baptismal promises at Mass on Easter Sunday. The text that introduces those promises reminds us that we are committed to serving God in the Church. Our life of grace flows from our relationship with the living God and is lived in the community formed by Jesus. We have new life in the love of God, so that we can love God and one another.

As you renew your baptismal promises, please remember this truth and join your heart to Jesus’ song of greeting and joy: You have laid your hands upon me, alleluia. Too wonderful for me, this knowledge, alleluia, alleluia.

Happy Easter everyone! Because Christ has sought us out and called us into relationship with himself, we now have a share in his resurrection. May the realization that our eternal life with God has already begun, lead us to love one another as Jesus loves.

Yours in the awe and joy of the Resurrection,

+Bishop of Covington
**PALM SUNDAY**

**Palm Sunday: ‘The Lord Jesus has drawn close to us and accompanies us’**

Laura Keener  
**Editor**

The 10 a.m. Palm Sunday Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, began outside. Holding their palms, worshipers stood in prayer as Bishop John Iffert invited them to walk with Jesus into Jerusalem as the Church begins to commemorate and celebrate the Paschal Mystery of Jesus’ passion, death and resurrection. “… with all faith and devotion, let us commemorate the Lord’s entry into the city for our salvation, following in his footsteps, so that being made by his grace partakers of the Cross, we may have a share also in his Resurrection and in his life,” Bishop Iffert said.

Sprinkling the crowd with holy water, Bishop Iffert blessed the people and palms. Afterward, the Bishop’s Choir led both the singing and the procession around the back of the Cathedral, through the Cathedral gardens then through the Madison Ave. doors, with Bishop Iffert at the end carrying a large spray of palms and greenery.

Palm Sunday Mass begins Holy Week, the most sacred week in the liturgical year. The Palm Sunday liturgy quickly turns from the triumph of Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem to the Gospel reading of his passion and death — the only Gospel reading in which the congregation will enclam twice when in the Gospel Precursus Pilate asks, “Then what shall I do with Jesus?”

The Gospel passage also shares how Peter, one of Jesus’ most trusted and loved disciples, denies Jesus three times as he is taken away to death on cross. It is Peter who, even the authority he shared with them (the apostles) when he commissioned them to go out into the world to proclaim the kingdom of God … had spoken in Peter a devotion such that he ceased to call Jesus rabbi. Now he called Jesus Lord and Master.

And, when Jesus asks Peter, who do you say that I am? “The answer had welled up in Peter like a gift from heaven,” said Bishop Iffert. “He couldn’t help but speak it — you are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” — and now, as the moment of Jesus’ death approaches — a reality that Peter at first refused to believe and now dreads and fears — Peter is following at a distance.

“In my own life this pattern is so clearly visible to me. I know from some of you that you see it in yourselves as well,” said Bishop Iffert. “We have an early example of Jesus’ call, an encounter with the Lord and Master. For a season our hearts are on fire, expanding … And then, life happens. The same anxieties that cause Peter to look away from Jesus and sink into the sea, they take hold of us too. The same dread of insecurity that will lead Peter to deny that he even knows his Lord — fear — takes hold of our minds and hearts … how many times did Jesus say to Peter and to us, ‘Do not be afraid?’”

Bishop Iffert gave some examples of what following Jesus from a distance looks like today. Instead of praying, distractions like sleeping-in, reading a book, watching a program or completing a task take precedence. The inability or unwillingness to forgive. When others are seen as different or inferior from oneself. Sometimes these patterns harden into racism, ageism, sexism or other patterns of closing ourselves off from the real lives of others,” Bishop Iffert said. “Jesus never observes our suffering from a distance. In his passion, Jesus draws near, that’s what the love of God is like.”

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The Bishop’s Choir led the singing and the outdoor procession of the palms that were placed before Jesus as he entered Jerusalem. The procession began at the Cathedral’s north door, and ran through the Cathedral gardens.

Surrounded by political servers, Bishop Iffert carries a spray of palms and greenery representing Christ’s triumphant entrance into Jerusalem, as he brings up the rear of the procession.

Bishop Iffert blesses the palms and people by sprinkling them with holy water.

A young worshiper listens as Bishop Iffert begins the prayers for the Palm Sunday procession.

Bishop Iffert raises the chalice during the consecration of the Precious Blood.

The Knights and Dames of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre joined in the Palm Sunday procession.
You’re invited to an introductory gathering of now-forming Squires of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre

Messenger Staff Report

Deepening the spiritual life. Formation in Catholic doctrine. The practice of prayer and charity. If these things feed your yearning for greater meaning in your life, then mark your calendar for April 19.

The Knights and Dames of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem invite you to an introductory gathering for young Catholics ages 20 to 35 who are interested in learning about the now forming Squires of the Holy Sepulchre, an auxiliary of the Order in the Diocese of Covington. The gathering will be held Wednesday evening, Apr. 19, 8:30 PM at Mary Seat of Wisdom Chapel, Thomas More University. Once established, discerners will meet every other month for liturgical events of the Order held throughout the year.

“They are a woven fabric of hope reflecting the heartbeat of our pro-life mission, past, present and future.”

The Knights of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre, an auxiliary of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre with Lieutenancies around the world. The Squires movement in France and Canada has inspired other Lieutenancies around the world. Msgr. Gerald Twaddell, Prior of the Section. “They were established to provide a path for young Catholic men and women to engage in a deeper spiritual life experience through association with the Knights and Dames so that they may grow in the virtues that lead to a true following”

(Continued on page 20)

Official Appointments

Effective June 1, 2023

Dr. Rachael Lemkuhl
To: Board of Trustees, Thomas More University
Term: Three years

Joseph Roosel
To: Board of Trustees, Thomas More University
Term: Three years

Susan Sturgeon
To: Board of Trustees, Thomas More University
Term: Three years

Ted Zalla
To: Board of Trustees, Thomas More University
Term: Three years

Appointed by the Most Rev. John C. Iffert
Bishop of Covington

Jamie N. Schroeder
Chancellor

Diocesan leaders presented with ‘Hero at Heart’ award

Bishop John Iffert of the Diocese of Covington and Faye Roeh, director of the Office of Pro-life (left), were both presented with the 2023 “Hero at Heart” award sponsored by Kentucky Right to Life. Commemorating 50 years of “saving hearts and lives,” the award recipients are the “tapestry of pro-life Kentucky,” according to Addia Wuchner, director of Kentucky Right to Life. “They are a woven fabric of hope reflecting the heartbeat of our pro-life mission, past, present and future.”

The Hero at Heart award is named for Admiral Bill McRaven, author of The Hero Code. The award recipients “reflect all the characteristics Admiral McRaven wrote about,” not the powers of a fictional superhero, but the “magnanimity of heart and passion to stand unwavering in defense of pre-born children.”

The Squires movement in France and Canada has inspired other Lieutenancies around the world.

Ministry of Lector

Twelve seminarians from St. Vincent Seminary, Latrobe, Penn., were recently instituted into the Ministry of Lector by Bishop John Iffert of the Diocese of Covington, Ky. The seminarians are from the dioceses of Pittsburgh, Covington, Ogdensburg, and Charleston, as well as Mary Mother of the Church Abbey, Richmond, Virginia, and St. Vincent Archabbey. The lector reads the word of God in the liturgical assembly, except the Gospel, in the Mass and other sacred celebrations, recites the psalms between the readings, and can also present the intercessions.

From the Diocese of Covington (from left) are: Henry Bischoff, seminarian; Bishop Iffert; Bradley Whitle, seminarian; and Benedictine Father Edward Mauz, Seminary rector.

Ministry of Lector

April 7
Celebration of the Lord’s Passion, Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, 3 p.m.

April 8
Easter Vigil, Cathedral Basilica, 8:30 p.m.

April 9
Easter Mass, Cathedral Basilica, 10 a.m.

April 11
Diocesan Curia re-opens Advisory Council meeting, 9:30 a.m

April 17
Good Shepherd dinner, Pontifical College Josephinum, Columbus, 6 p.m.

April 18
Pontifical College Josephinum Board of Trustees meeting, 10 a.m.

April 19
Confirmation, St. Francis Xavier Parish, Falmouth, 7 p.m.

April 20
Directors meeting, 9:30 a.m.
Priest Holy Hour, Cathedral Basilica, 3 p.m.

April 21
All-school Mass, St. Timothy Parish, Union, 8 a.m.

April 22
Mass for the Spiritual Motherhood of Priests, Blessed Sacrament Parish, Ft. Mitchell, 10 a.m.

Vigil Mass, Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, 4:30 p.m.

April 23
Mass, St. Anthony Parish, Taylor Mill, 10 a.m.

April 24
Confirmation, St. Barbara Parish, Erlanger, 7 p.m.

April 25
Confirmation, St. Francis Xavier Parish, Falmouth, 7 p.m.

April 26
Confirmation, St. Barbara Parish, Erlanger, 7 p.m.
An outpouring of Divine Mercy

Maura Baker
Staff Writer

Divine Mercy Sunday (known also as the Feast of Divine Mercy) is a yearly feast taking place on the second Sunday of Easter. This year, the feast takes place on Sunday, April 16.

The origins of Divine Mercy Sunday reside with St. Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun living in the early 1900s. According to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ website, “mankind’s need for the message of Divine Mercy took on dire urgency in the 20th Century, when civilization began to experience an ‘eclipse of the sense of God’ and, therefore to lose the understanding of the sanctity and inherent dignity of human life. St. Faustina received visions of Jesus, who requested her to paint the iconic ‘Divine Mercy’ image — featuring that mercy pouring out in rays from his Sacred Heart. Jesus also requested to St. Faustina that the first Sunday after Easter Sunday be established as the Feast of Divine Mercy, according to St. Faustina’s diaries: ‘I want the image solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter, and I want it to be venerated publicly so that every soul may know about it.’” (Diary, no. 341)

The official designation of the feast occurred alongside the canonization of St. Faustina, on April 30, 2000, and the devotion was actively promoted by the pope at the time, Pope John Paul II. Since then, the devotion has garnered rapid growth and is now widely celebrated by Catholics.

Images of the Divine Mercy are often set prominently in churches for veneration during Masses and vespers on that day.

Chaplet of Divine Mercy

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy was also given to St. Faustina to be prayed to intercede for Christ’s mercy: “Encourage souls to say the chaplet which I have given you” (Diary, no. 1541). “Whoever will recite it will receive great mercy at the hour of death… Even if there were a sinner most hardened, if he were to recite this chaplet only once, he would receive grace from My infinite mercy. I desire that the whole world know My infinite mercy” (Diary, no. 687).

Opening prayer:
You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unthwartable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty yourself out upon us.

On each of the 10 “Hail Mary” beads, pray:
V. For the sake of his sorrowful Passion, O my Jesus, have mercy on us and upon the whole world.

Conclusion
Repeat three times:
Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Closing Prayer
Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself. Amen.

Or:
O God, whose mercies are without number and whose treasure of goodness is infinite, graciously increase the faith of the people consecrated to you, that all may grasp and rightly understand by whose love they have been created, through whose Blood they have been redeemed, and by whose Spirit they have been reborn. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Divine Mercy by Eugeniuss Kazimirovski, 1934.
At first signs of abuse, getting professional help is critical

Laura Keener
Editor

April 7, 2023

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Each week during the month of April, the Messenger, in collaboration with the diocesan Safe Environment Office, will share information to help parents and all responsible adults to gain a greater understanding of child abuse, its effects and ways to prevent or cope.

To learn more about the short-term and long-term effects of child abuse, the Messenger reached out to Dr. Marilyn Schleyer. Dr. Schleyer has 30 years’ experience as a psychology and mental health professional. She is also an Associate member of the Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence, Melbourne, and is a member of the Diocesan Review Board.

“Trauma has a profound neurobiological impact on the child’s brain. It will change the structure and function of the brain,” Dr. Schleyer said.

Bending and attachment are one of the most important brain processes needed for a child to learn and grow. It is an instinctual process and develops a very healthy brain.

“Children who are being abused are told by their abuser that if they disclose any information to anyone that they or someone they love will be harmed. So, the child is isolated, they become withdrawn. It becomes dangerous, which is devastating to see,” Dr. Schleyer said.

“Remember the child’s brain interprets what is happening to them,” said Dr. Schleyer.

As the child’s “fight or flight” response kicks in, both in the acute stages and long term, they can become aggressive — verbally and physically lashing out at family and friends, cutting themselves, destroying objects or abusing animals.

“They’re not going to lash out at the perpetrator or the abuser because that’s dangerous,” she said. Dr. Schleyer said it’s important to remember that this is not a behavioral problem, instead it is part of the brain’s coping response to what is happening.

Remember the child’s brain interprets what is happening or has happened to that child through a worldview. So, it’s not just the perpetrator, it is the entire world that becomes dangerous, which is devastating to see,” Dr. Schleyer said.

“The brain is amazing,” she said, explaining that the brain develops certain coping mechanisms to help the child deal with the frightening and overwhelming experiences.

“The coping mechanisms are actually just survival tools. When the child’s feeling helpless, terrified, afraid and sometimes unable to escape the dangerous situation, the child’s brain develops coping mechanisms and the one that is the most pronounced is dissociation,” Dr. Schleyer said.

“Disassociation is a way that the brain mentally blocks off thoughts and feelings and memories. ‘Teachers, parents, friends may start noticing that they just seem spacey It’s a daydream effect,’ she said. ‘It numbs the child, they are not feeling.’

And while this does help a child get through what they are experiencing, it has detrimental long-term effects. It interferes with their ability to function in school, their ability to function socially and their ability to complete the daily activities of living.

‘Parents think they’re disobeying but they are not — they’re dissociated. This isn’t something they are trying to do, it is something their brain is doing for them to protect them,’ she said.

‘As the child grows into adolescence and adulthood with a dissociative brain, all of the mental blocking-off has interfered with the developmental stages of what a person needs to go through in order to be a healthy, functioning adult human being,’ Dr. Schleyer said.

This can affect dating relationships, the ability to function in the workforce and the ability to take care of their own children. ‘So, while in childhood, to an extent, it is an effective survival tool, it becomes a detriment over time.”

What is difficult for parents and caregivers is that the child will rarely share that the abuse is happening to them. Sometimes, they never disclose even after years or decades of therapy. Dr. Schleyer’s recommendation is that, at the first signs of a child becoming withdrawn or exhibiting unusual behavioral changes, “see your pediatrician.” A pediatrician will rule out any physical reasons for the changes and then make a referral to a qualified child counselor.

“It takes a profound amount of intense psychotherapy to get the child back on the developmental railroad track,” Dr. Schleyer said. But it is possible with loving parents or caretakers who are willing and able to work with the child in a stable and safe environment.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Resources Available Upon Request
(859) 620-0177
kaxquin9239@gmail.com

Tickets are only $20. Drawing will be held on April 29, 2023 at the Swing Into Spring event. Proceeds benefit the children living at DCCH Center.

Participants need not be present to win. Must be 18 years of age or older to play.

Purchase tickets online at DCCHCenter.org/Raffle
We only live, only suspiro, consumed by either fire or fire. T. S. Eliot wrote those words and, with them, suggests chaos works precisely by disintegration of what is stable. In fact, sleeplessness, of restlessness and disintegration. In fact, the god of boredom, timidity, and rigidity. With him, you will never disintegrate, but you might suffocate. However, while the god of disorder, of fertility, of risk, of creativity is the god who keeps a lot of people sane and alive.

Chaos and order, fire and water, don’t much like each other. However, both demand the respect accorded a deity. God is the great stillpoint and God is also the principle of integrality. Thomas Aquinas once defined the human soul as made up of two principles, the principle of energy and the principle of integration. One principle keeps us alive and the other keeps us glued together. These two principles, while in tension with each other, desperately need each other.

Choosing our own storm

In other words, if you elicit questions, you better be ready to give some answers. This means that you have to bone up on your theology, your apologetics, your Scripture, your philosophy, and your church history if that sounds daunting, remember that in the last 25 years or so there has been an explosion of literature in just these areas, focusing precisely on the kinds of questions that young seekers tend to ask—and most of it is available readily online.

A fourth and final suggestion that I would make is simply this: be kind. Sherry Waddell, whose “Forming Intentional Disciples” has become a modern classic in the field of evangelization, says that a crucial first step in bringing someone to the faith is the establishment of trust. If someone thinks that you are a good and decent person, she is far more likely to listen to you speak about your faith.

May I be blunt? Even the most casual glance at Catholic social media reveals a plethora of obnoxious behavior. Far too many seem intent upon trumpeting their own correctness, focusing on narrow issues that are unintelligible and irrelevant to most people, and tearing down their enemies.

I fear that this reality on social media may be an amplification of attitudes in the Church outside of the digital space. These attitudes are intemperate to evangelization. A colleague of mine has related that in his conversations with the alienated and unaffiliated that what keeps them away from the Church is their experience of what they describe as meanness from believers. Both online and in real life, it kind. No one will be interested in hearing about the faith life of obviously bitter and unhappy people.

So, let us have our marching orders: proclaim the Lord Jesus Christ to all nations. Let us start with our own parishes, our own families. And let us never settle for maintenance of the status quo.

A celebration of God’s love


Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Father Michael R. Heinlein is a theologian, teacher, and award-winning author.

One of the most quoted descriptions of the Eucharist is from the Second Vatican Council’s Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, “The Eucharist, which is ‘the new and last supper,’” which calls the Eucharist the “source and summit” of Christian living.

But what is sometimes overlooked is the specific context of that famous line — that of sacrifice. “Taking part in the Eucharistic sacrifice, which is the source and summit of the whole Christian life; the line reads, ‘they (the faithful) offer to God the Divine Victim to God and offer themselves along with it’ (No. 12).”

The intrinsically sacrificial nature of the Eucharist is reinforced, too, at the very start of the Catechism of the Catholic Church’s section on the Eucharist, which states that we “participate with the whole community in the Lord’s own sacrifice by means of the Eucharist” (No. 1122).

In short, sacrifice is at the heart of the Eucharist, the source of our living: “The bread that I give you is my flesh for the life of the world” (John 6:51).

What does this mean for us? At the end of Mass, we often hear the familiar words “Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.” It seems to me this instruction contains a blueprint for how to live Eucharistically, and therefore sacrificially.

We give God glory in offering our lives as Christ did. This is to live as St. Paul, in his letter to the Romans, instructed Christians: “Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship” (12:1). Each one of us is called to live a life of sacrifice in imitation of Christ.

Not one of us is without the burden of our own cross in life. In some way we each suffer and find suffering and selflessness. But what we do with these realities is what defines our lives of discipleship.

Jesus said to take up our cross and follow him. He also told us to lay down our lives for others. What is forgiveness but laying down our lives for others — joined through the Eucharist to the pattern of Christ’s sacrifice — our struggles, anxieties, fears, difficulties, pains and sufferings are all transformed and given their meaning and purpose. And Jesus’ sacrifice was rooted in love for others. He told us, “No one has greater love than this” (John 15:13). In short, “whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it” (Matt 10:25).

In the Eucharistic sacrifice, where we encounter and receive Jesus Christ, we are conformed to the only way of life worth living and given the grace we need to sustain our efforts in doing so. The sacrament shows us how to offer our lives to God and Christ and draw from the source of all life as the means to gain life forever.

At Mass, we are drawn up into the sacrifice of the Lord who died to set us free. We lay down our very selves with him. Bread and wine are changed and transformed, but so too are our lives and sacrifices — into something good and life-giving.

As the late Cardinal Francis E. George, O.M.I. once said, “The freedom Christ gives us with himself in the Eucharist is more than freedom to do; it is also freedom to give ourselves totally, even to the point of self-sacrifice, as Christ gave himself to death on the cross.”

Like Jesus, if we accept and carry our crosses well — allowing the Eucharist to reveal what must be the heart and goal of our lives — then they will bring nothing but good things. By offering ourselves with Christ, we can transmit his abundant graces and blessings for others in their quest for conversion, sanctification and friendship with God. The Eucharist shows us how, by making a sacrifice of our lives — in union with Christ’s, we can carry God’s life to ourselves and others.

Michael R. Heinlein is author of “Glorifying Christ: The Life of Cardinal Francis E. George, O.M.I.” and currently in formation for the Association of Pauline Cooperators. His commentary has been provided by OSV News.
Serra Club IGNITE workshop helps ‘spark’ vocation ministry

Maura Baker
Staff Writer

“The Holy Spirit is moving, not just in our diocese, but across the United States, to inspire people to be more aware of the need for us to be more intentional about vocation ministry,” Donna Heim, Vocations’ Committee Chair for the Diocesan Serra Club for Vocations in Diocese of Covington said, promoting the Serra Club’s upcoming IGNITE Vocation Ministry Workshop.

“As Pope John Paul II said, vocation ministry is everyone’s business.”

Upcoming on August 5 of this year, this workshop is being held in collaboration between both the Diocese of Covington and Archdiocese of Cincinnati, and is endorsed both by Archbishop Dennis Schnurr and Bishop John Iffert.

“its mission is to be intentional about building a culture of vocations in every parish,” said Ms. Heim.

According to Nick Winnike, former Serra Club president for the Diocese of Covington and current coordinator for the IGNITE workshop, the event is catered towards parish leaders and community members, to inform them about the resources, programs and ministries offered by the Serra Club to help promote and inspire vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

“The Serra Club USA developed this IGNITE program to help individual parishes with vocation promotion,” said Mr. Winnike, “and then, Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky were together at a regional meeting — and decided that, if the workshop would be hosted on either side of the river, we ought to invite the other side of the river to participate as well, and that’s how it came to be.”

Thanks to Serra Club USA, the workshop is not only free to the Diocese of Covington and Archdiocese of Cincinnati, but is also free to attend, as well. Additionally, every resource, tool and ministry introduced at the workshop is free to the parishes and diocesan communities, as well. These programs include the Melchizedek Project, priest Holy Hours and altar server awards, all of which are already active within the Diocese of Covington.

Registration for the workshop opens April 10. The workshop lasts 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. on August 5, at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains, Cincinnati.

Individuals interested in participating are encouraged to reach out to their pastors or parish office.

National Eucharistic Revival aims to form disciples on mission with new Easter series

WASHINGTON — The National Eucharistic Revival announced it will release what it called the “first-of-its-kind” mystagogy series of weekly catechetical reflections throughout the Easter season to “invite all Catholics deeper into the mysteries of Christ by reflecting on the truth, goodness and beauty of the Mass,” a news release on the series said.

“Mystagogy” is an intentional deepening of a disciple of Jesus Christ’s understanding of the faith following the reception of the sacraments — particularly in the period between Easter and Pentecost. The series, titled “Beautiful Light: A Paschal Mystagogy,” is being offered through the Heart of the Revival Newsletter, a weekly publication of the National Eucharistic Revival, which was established in June 2022 to provide resources to reaffirm and deepen the Easter faith of Catholics across the country. It begins April 13, the Thursday before Divine Mercy Sunday, and runs through May 25, the Thursday before Pentecost. Seven prominent Catholics will write articles for the series: Archbishop Charles C. Thompson of Indianapolis; Sister Maria Miguel Wright of the Dominican Sisters of Mary; Mother of the Eucharist, biblical scholar and author Jeff Cavins; Archbishop J. Peter Sartain of Seattle; Canadian priest and author Father Harrison Ayre; Kately Javier, coordinator for Adult Formation and Hispanic catechesis for the Washington Archdiocese; and Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, who is president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. To access “Beautiful Light: A Paschal Mystagogy,” subscribe to the Heart of the Revival Newsletter at eucharisticrevival.org/heart-of-the-revival-newsletter.
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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

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

This Lent, the Newport Central Catholic High School community kicked off its partnership with Dynamic Catholic Institute supplementing its religious curriculum. Headquartered in Erlanger, the Dynamic Catholic Institute has as its mission to “re-energize the Catholic Church in America by developing world-class resources that inspire people to rediscover the genius of Catholicism.” These include both print and digital resources for individuals and parish sacramental preparation programs as well as parish retreats and pilgrimages.

At NCCHS on Ash Wednesday, the entire school community began collectively reading Dynamic Catholic’s most recent publication, “Holy Moments,” written by Matthew Kelly, founder of Dynamic Catholic. They also sent the book to parents and alumni so that they, too, could participate. Father A.J. Gedney, chaplain, talked to the students about Holy Moments in his homily at the all-school Ash Wednesday Mass.

Holy moments, Father Gedney said, can be moments of blessing when something good happens or we experience moments of success. But they can also be moments “when things are less than ideal; even when bad things happen. We can choose to turn those into a holy moment.”

Whenever we suffer or are grieving or are embarrassed or are betrayed, “we have two options. One is to sulk … Why this? Why now? Why me?”, said Father Gedney. “The other choice is to turn it into a holy moment. To acknowledge the suffering saying, ‘Lord, I don’t want this to happen. This is awful.’ Then to accept it, to consent to the suffering, it doesn’t make the suffering worse, but it gives our suffering meaning.”

Taking Father Gedney’s instruction to heart, every Friday the students at NCCHS identify a holy moment — good or bad — that they experienced during the week. They write it down and post it on the bulletin board in the cafeteria.

“We try to help them visualize that this really can have an impact on our everyday lives and on other people around us,” said Patty Grothaus, religion teacher.

NCCHS plans to continue offering Dynamic Catholic faith-building reading material in its summer reading selections. Then, they will pick up again with a collective reading project and activity when school starts in the fall.

Students at NCCHS are already familiar with Dynamic Catholic offerings. For the last several years they have participated in both the Best Advent Ever and the Best Lent Ever programs. “The students love Matthew Kelly, they already know who he is,” said Mrs. Grothaus. “And when you find something that the students respond to, you want to keep doing it.”
Chrism Mass

Priests, through their ‘strengths and weaknesses’ call the Holy Spirit into the faithful through Christ, Bishop Iffert preaches at Chrism Mass

Maura Baker

People from parishes, schools, religious institutes and Catholic organizations from across the Diocese of Covington gathered at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, to celebrate the annual Chrism Mass, April 4. In this special celebration, the Bishop consecrates Chrism and other blessed oils which are taken back to parishes for use in liturgical celebrations throughout the coming year.

The Chrism Mass was celebrated by Bishop John Iffert of the Diocese of Covington, his second year presiding over this Mass. The Mass was also attended by priests from across the Diocese who not only assisted in the consecration of the Holy Chrism, but gathered to celebrate the Eucharist in the midst of their fellow priests and people from all over the diocese.

“As we do this, we in the same manner that men became seminarists and consecrated to the priesthood for one of two reasons,” Bishop Iffert began his homily to a congregation that filled nearly every pew of the Cathedral. “They either knew a priest in their life who they admired so much and they want to be like, or they knew one they didn’t admire and thought, ‘I can do better than that.’”

As Bishop Iffert’s mother was hospitalized later in life, this priest would come to her every Tuesday with candy and sit with her. One day Bishop Iffert asked his mother why she was always cold toward him, to which his mother replied, “You believed in me and it has never been easy.”

Bishop Iffert would continue to tell the story of a priest he admired from his own diocese, known for his “loud” and “brash” personality and penchant for whiskey. However, while a young Bishop Iffert admired this priest, his mother was always “cold toward him.”

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Pope says be close to those ‘abandoned’ like Christ: unborn, migrants

Justin McLelean
Catholic News Service

The unborn, migrants, the elderly and the disabled are “living icons” of Jesus that call Christians to draw close to those who feel abandoned just as Christ did on the cross, Pope Francis said.

In his homily for Palm Sunday Mass in St. Peter’s Square April 2, the pope reflected on the phrase Jesus uttered on the cross in St. Matthew’s Gospel, and which echoed through the square when sung in the responsorial psalm: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

The pope said, “Christ, in his abandonment, stirs us to seek him and to love him and those who are themselves abandoned, for in them we see not only people in need, but Jesus himself.”

According to the Vatican gendarmes, some 60,000 people were present in St. Peter’s Square for the Mass. Fighting off coughs as he began his homily but otherwise speaking without difficulty, Pope Francis said that in his Passion, Jesus experienced the distance of God so he could be “completely and definitively one” with humanity.

An Easter Octave challenge

Gretchen R. Crowe
OSV News

“This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.”

Easter is here! Alleluia, he is risen! We have made it through our Lenten fast, we have walked with the Lord during his passion and death, and we rejoice now in his resurrection. It is, quite rightly, a time for feasting and celebration. But how might we appropriately celebrate the Easter season? Too often, I find that my efforts of growing in the spiritual life that begin on Ash Wednesday abruptly end with the Triumph. Sound familiar?

It may be worth considering, as we enter into this new season, how we might use the coming weeks to intentionally continue to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ? What fruit might we carry over from our Lenten experiences? How might we be able to have the best Easter yet?

To do this, we might start by considering the Church’s great gift of the Easter Octave. There is no better time in the year to celebrate than Easter Sunday and the week that follows.

For eight days in a row, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Easter in what is “an unparalleled opportu


If your Lenten commitment was to attend daily Mass throughout the season, don’t stop now! As Emmons explains: “During the Octave of Easter the Mass readings tell us the beautiful Resurrection story so that we can take time to ponder the reality that Calvary was not the end. Each of us can relate to the sadness, confusion and then elation of the disciples on the Emmaus road. Like Mary Magdalen we can encounter the risen Lord in the garden. In our hearts we can rise with daily Mass during the Easter Octave is a powerful way to enter into the new season and to reflect upon the gift of the Resurrection.

There are other ways, too, of celebrating the Octave. Perhaps your family can have ice cream every day? Perhaps you pick one thing you really love to do, but never make time for, to do every day: a hobby, a nap, time with a good book.

Perhaps, too, you can involve your parish community in your Easter Octave challenge. How might you be able to celebrate together? One parish I know advocates for turning Easter Friday into “Meating Friday” — a chance for the community to come together, after weeks of meatless Fridays, to celebrate with a feast on the Friday during the Easter Octave.

We might also use the Easter Octave to read Scripture — the Resurrection narratives in all four Gospels are a great place to start — or commit to additional devotions. Or pick up a new spiritual book? Any healthy habits that we forge during the Easter Octave can be carried over into the whole Easter season, and hopefully beyond.

Alleluia, he is risen! What a gift we have in our risen Lord. “This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.”

Gretchen R. Crowe is the editor in chief of OSV News.
Eucharistic meditation 7: Waiting for the Lord

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 Eucharistic adoration. Even if you cannot be physically present in a church or adoration chapel with the Blessed Sacrament, you can unite yourself spiritually to the Eucharist as you spend this time in prayer.

The grace I seek: To believe that Jesus longs to bring me into his rest in the fullness of time

Pray: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Become aware of the silence and emptiness of this Holy Saturday. Let yourself imagine Jesus in his suffering and death, now enclosed in a cold tomb. He did it for you.

Thank Jesus for the gift of himself in the Paschal Mystery.

Ask for the grace: Jesus, help me to believe you will give me rest.

Scripture Meditation

“Therefore, a sabbath rest still remains for the people of God. And whoever enters into God’s rest, rests from his own works as God did from his. Therefore, let us strive to enter into that rest.” (Hebrews 4:9–11a)

Reflection Question

In the busyness of life, is there an area of your heart where you have stopped waiting for the Lord? Where do you most long for rest? As you imagine yourself waiting outside of Jesus’ sealed tomb, share this with him. Ask Jesus to give you rest in his perfect timing.

Spiritual Meditation

“Something strange is happening — there is a great silence on earth today, a great silence and stillness ... Rise, let us leave this place. The enemy led you out of the earthly paradise. I will not restore you to that paradise, but I will enthrone you in heaven ... The kingdom of heaven has been prepared for you from all eternity.” (An ancient homily on Holy Saturday, Liturgy of the Hours)

Stewardship and Mission Services

Due to a planned retirement, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington, KY (www.covdio.org) seeks candidates for the position of Director of the Office of Stewardship and Mission Services. The message of stewardship has been part of the salvation history of the Church. All of the teachings of stewardship come directly from the Gospels, the Old Testament, and the letters of the New Testament. Stewardship is the way God expects us to live, with gratitude and with awareness that everything we have is a gift. The goals of this office are straightforward and include: stewardship formation and education; research and planning; development of diocese-wide support for parishes, ministries, and schools in areas of programs; and business and fund development, especially the Diocesan Parish Annual Appeal which makes so many diocesan services possible. This office also works to spread the message of Mission through prayer, education, works of justice, and providing financial support to activities and organizations such as the Seminarian Education Fund; Religious Retirement; International and Domestic Needs; Peter’s Pence; and Operation Rice Bowl. The Director represents the Bishop of Covington and the Office throughout the Diocese and the community-at-large to develop relationships and support. S/he provides a wide variety of services to pastors and parishes, including stewardship conferences, programs for school children, and estate planning seminars. We seek an outgoing, creative, faith-filled Catholic individual with a servant’s heart and the expertise and experience to lead, manage, and inspire others to support diocesan initiatives. We require an individual with significant experience in comprehensive fundraising at a senior level, including experience with planned giving, major gifts, and annual giving programs. Those interested in this opportunity may submit a letter of interest along with a comprehensive resume or C-V, including compensation history and experience with planned giving, major gifts, and annual giving programs. We now stock a complete line of home health aides that include elevated toilet seats, grab bars and personal showers.

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We now stock a complete line of home health aides that include elevated toilet seats, grab bars and personal showers.
Catholic groups back UN on climate change

UNITED NATIONS — Various Catholic groups praised a United Nations’ resolution that calls on the International Court of Justice to outline countries’ obligations for protecting the earth’s climate, and the legal consequences they face if they don’t carry those out. The resolution was pushed by Pacific Islander youth and by the Small Island nation of Vanuatu, whose future is threatened by rising sea levels and cyclones. The U.N. General Assembly adopted the resolution by consensus March 29. ICJ opinions are nonbinding but hold significant moral and legal weight. Supporters of the U.N. resolution hope the international court’s forthcoming advisory opinion regarding climate protections-expected in about two years—will urge world governments to speed up their climate action. Carmelite Father Eduardo Agost Scarel of the Lainzùli O.S.B. Movement told OSV News the resolution “is asking the international court to issue an informed opinion on the legality or otherwise of the current failure of States to comply with the existing normative framework to care for the earth’s climate, and to highlight inconsistencies, noncompliance and loopholes.” Ambassador Paul Beccalello Hill, the Order of Malta’s permanent U.N. observer, told OSV News at the U.N. March 30, “What that resolution stands for, we stand for.” He added, “At the end of the day, if you are an island state, and you’re facing the possibility of the extinction of your island” with its people forced to migrate to higher ground.

Kenyans relieved deadly anti-government protests suspended

NAIROBI, Kenya — Catholics in Kenya began Holy Week with a sigh of relief after the opposition called off violent anti-government protests. Protests that started March 26 left at least three people dead, property destroyed and places of worship torched. On April 2, amidst Catholic bishops and other religious leaders’ endless push for dialogue, President William Ruto and opposition leader Raila Odinga agreed to talk. Ruto had threatened to migrate to higher ground. On April 2, amid Catholic bishops and other religious leaders’ endless push for dialogue, President William Ruto and opposition leader Raila Odinga agreed to talk. Ruto had threatened to migrate to higher ground.

Florida Senate advances six-week pregnancy ban with increased funding

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (OSV News) — The Florida Senate April 3 approved a bill to ban abortions after six weeks, a proposal supported by the state’s Gov. Ron DeSantis, who is widely expected to launch his bid for the Republican presidential nomination soon. Senate Bill 300, the Heartbeat Protection Act, would prohibit most abortions in the state, with exceptions for women who are victims of rape or who face a mortality risk associated with the pregnancy. The bill would also make exceptions for cases of a diagnosis of a fatal fetal anomaly until the third trimester. SB 300 also allocates some funds to crisis pregnancy centers, and restricts the use of abortion drugs via telemedicine, requiring in-person visits rather than the distribution of those drugs by mail. If signed into law, the new bill would only go into effect if the state’s current 15-week ban is upheld amid an ongoing legal challenge before the Florida Supreme Court. DeSantis, a Catholic, indicated in March he would sign the bill if it reaches his desk. In an April 3 post on their website noting the bill’s Senate passage, the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops noted that while the bill is “imperfect,” the conference “strongly supported” the legislation calling it a “tremendous improvement over current law.”

Texas Catholic bishops back school choice bill amid public funding debate

AUSTIN, Texas — The Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops has backed a set of bills in the state’s Legislature supporting a voucher program for parents of special needs children by saying they give parents more say in their child’s education, but critics argue such a program would strip crucial funds from public schools.

Pope adjusts canon law appeal period

VATICAN CITY — Saying he wanted to protect the rights of members of religious orders facing expulsion, Pope Francis on April 7, 2023

RICHMOND, Va. — Two people were arrested March 29 after causing a disruption at a pro-life event on the Richmond campus of Virginia Commonwealth University, according to multiple local media reports. The group Students for Life held an event at Virginia Commonwealth University March 29, according to MediaPipe’s social media tracking.

Vatican News Briefs

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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.

Flea Market, Diocesan Catholic Children’s Home, Ft. Mitchell, year-round, 8:30 a.m.– noon, Monday, Thursday, and Saturday; (Dec.– April, Monday, Thursday and every 3rd Saturday). Donation drop-off during Flea Market hours.

Morning of reflection — a mini retreat on discernment — with Father Conor Kunath, April 15, Undercroft, Blessed Sacrament Parish, Ft. Mitchell, 9 a.m., presentation and discussion; 10 a.m., Mass; and 11 a.m. Holy Hour with confession available.

St. Mary’s Ladies Society's Indoor Yard and Bake Sale, April 15, 8 a.m.—2 p.m., St. Joseph Parish, Cold Spring, Memorial Hall. Donations of household items can be dropped off April 13 and 14, 10 a.m.—4 p.m. No clothes or TVs. Call (859) 635-2051.

Thomas More Saints take on the University of Cumberlands Patriots at its new baseball home, Thomas More Stadium, Florence, April 15, starting at noon in a double header. Arrive early and see former major league player David Justice throw out the first pitch. Bobby Young, former Thomas More player who was later drafted by the Pittsburgh Pirates, joins Justice to catch the first pitch. The University will honor all previous baseball championship teams at the game as well. Admission is free. For more details, visit tmuky.us/tmstadium.

Emmet Cahill returns to Mother of God Church in concert, April 19, with a meet-and-greet at 6:15 p.m., concert at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Cahill is a soloist and lead singer in Celtic Thunder. The Mother of God Contemporary Ensemble will also perform, starting at 7:10 p.m. Tickets are $50 for the meet-and-greet and concert, and $35 concert only. Purchase tickets online at or at the door. Contact Cindy Duesing at cduesing@twc.com or (859) 512-1063.

The Thomas More University Observatory and Professor Wes Ryle invite you to a lecture/night sky viewing: “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.

Our Lady of Light Ministries Youth Rosary and Mass, May 6, 11 a.m., Our Lady’s Farm, Falmouth. Sign up to be part of the rosary or Mass, call (606) 331-9603. Bring a picnic lunch and spend the day.

The World Apostolate of Fatima 33-day Fatima Consecration to Jesus through Mary starts April 10. Consecration Mass will be held May 13 at Our Lady’s Farm, Falmouth. Register at fatimaconsecration.org or call (859) 394-7472 or e-mail Theresa@bluearmy.org.

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.

Saving lives with blood donations
Bishop Mulloy K of C 1301 in cooperation with Hoxworth Blood Center held a blood drive. Shown here (l-r) are Bruce Mirrieless, Grand Knight Bob Hassman, and Carl Laersen.

VMA receives STEM grant
Villa Madonna Academy High School/Junior High received a $10,000 STEM grant from the National Society of Professional Engineers — Northern Kentucky chapter. The grant will help modernize Villa’s chemistry equipment with hotplates with magnetic stir bars, glassware, and scientific equipment that can interface with computers for advanced data collection. David Mavricos, VMA physics and AP capstone teacher, wrote the grant and accepted the check on Villa’s behalf at NSPE-NKY membership meeting at Sanitation District No. 1 in Ft. Wright. Pictured (from left) are: Tyler Means, NSPE-NKY president-elect, Terracon Consultants; Nick Hamberg, NSPE-KY president, Jedson Engineering; and David Mavricos.

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.

Our Lady of Light Ministries Youth Rosary and Mass, May 6, 11 a.m., Our Lady’s Farm, Falmouth. Sign up to be part of the rosary or Mass, call (606) 331-9603. Bring a picnic lunch and spend the day.

The World Apostolate of Fatima 33-day Fatima Consecration to Jesus through Mary starts April 10. Consecration Mass will be held May 13 at Our Lady’s Farm, Falmouth. Register at fatimaconsecration.org or call (859) 394-7472 or e-mail Theresa@bluearmy.org.

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.

5th and 6th grade students at St. Anthony lead the school through meditative and prayerful Shadow Stations to help get ready for Holy Week.
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**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 Kopylay, SPHR, by email or by fax at skopylay@yahoo.com or 859-392-1589.

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This position is responsible for developing and implementing communication strategies and resources to share and educate the general public about the work of St. Vincent de Paul. Typical communication vehicles include newsletters, press releases, social media, event materials and websites. This position will also assist with development meetings and in the management and coordination of fundraising/awareness-raising events.
Health insurance benefits and employer paid life insurance available with this position. Participation in our 403B plan with a match, volunteer dental, vision and supplemental life insurance are also options for this position.
The full job description can be found on our website: https://www.nhminc.org/employment-opportunities/
Interested candidates can apply online or send their resume to Laura Betts at lbetts@nhminc.org.

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**Part Time Administrative Assistant**
Reporting to our Executive Director, our Administrative Assistant will be responsible for a variety of administrative and clerical tasks important to running an effective day-to-day operation of St. Vincent de Paul. Duties of the Administrative Assistant include providing support to our staff, and office support as needed.

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Sister Mary Belle Borros, C.D.P.
Sister Mary Belle (aka Sister Paul Marion) Borros died peacefully at Holy Family Home, March 28, 2023. Born Mary Belle Elizabeth to Marion and Pauline (Wichmann) Borros of Covington, KY in 1934, she was a professed member of the Congregation of Divine Providence for 68 years.

Sixteen years of teaching ministry saw her serve at four elementary schools in Kentucky and Ohio, as well as principal of St. Michael School in Ripley, Ohio (1966-1970).

A deeply spiritual woman, in 1973 she was one of five Sisters missioned by the Congregation to begin its Aletheia House of Prayer in Melbourne, Ky. Called in 1978 by her Provident God to minister to the more than 140 women living at the Congregation’s Jeanne d’Arc Residence in New York City, she took up her new mission with love and enthusiasm. To better serve her residents, during the next eight years she became an auxiliary police woman with the NYC Police Department, learned to speak Spanish, and earned a certificate in Spiritual Development from the New York Archdiocesan School of Spirituality.

In 1986, Sister Mary Belle began what she described as “one of the most privileged times of my life, to minister to and learn from our elderly Sisters.” Her gentle demeanor, great kindness, sense of humor and ability to “go with the flow” recommended her well for appointment as Animator of the Congregation’s Holy Family Home in Melbourne.

Serving the Sisters there until 1997, after a brief sabbatical she responded to yet another call of Providence, becoming Assistant Director of Activities at St. Charles Care Center in Northern Kentucky. Sister Mary Belle retired to Holy Family Home in 2014, where she took up a full-time ministry of prayer. Health issues recommended her move to the Holy Family Health Care Center in 2017.

She will be missed by her religious community, the Sisters of Divine Providence, and her neses, nephews, cousins, and many friends, especially her close friend and CDP director of Associates Donna Esposito. Her brothers Hodge, Thomas and David preceded her in death.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in the Immaculate Conception Chapel, Holy Family Home, Melbourne on Saturday, April 1. Burial in the convent cemetery followed.

Memorials may be sent to the Congregation of Divine Providence, 500 Saint Anne Drive, Melbourne, KY 41059.

Obituary
Sister Mary Belle Borros, C.D.P.
Candidates participate in a discernment and formation period of from six months to a year. Squires make formal promises and a commitment to remain a Squire for at least one year and to share in the life and spirituality of the Order through participation in the community of the local Section. This commitment, according to Msgr. Twaddell, is founded on three pillars: a solid formation in Catholic doctrine, a deepening of the spiritual life, and the practice of works of charity and prayer in favor of the Christians of the Holy Land. There are no dues or financial obligations asked of a Squire. A Squire’s participation in the Section can include assisting at the Order’s liturgies and Masses as an usher, lector, Eucharistic Minister, or altar server. They may also assist at the Llliancy’s Investitures, participate in the Section’s retreats, or organize pilgrimages. In addition, Squires have access to mentors from whom they can find guidance in their spirituality as well as in life experience.

“Our Squires will have two mentors available to them,” said Sir Nelson Rodriguez, who along with Msgr. Twaddell, serves as the Co-Vice Chancellor of Squares for the Order’s North Central Llliancy. “Squires will have one member of the clergy for regular spiritual guidance and one lay Knight or Dame who is a seasoned professional in their field from whom Squires can choose to learn and grow.”

Squires of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem were originally established in 1923 by Baron de Lormais, chancellor of the Llliancy of France, who wanted to interest young people in works of charity and prayer in favor of the Christians of Palestine. Its statutes were adopted and approved by the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, who encouraged their adoption by other countries. The Squires disappeared during the Second World War, but in March 1999, France re-established the Squire movement, which continues to grow today.

Since then, the Squires movement has spread to Toronto and Montréal in Canada, and most recently to the United States, where the Grand Master of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, His Eminence Cardinal Fernando Filoni, KCCHS, approved its formation in the North Central Llliancy, with the first Squires attached to the Covington-Lexington Section in the Diocese of Covington.

“Young Catholic men and women should find being a Squire exhilarating and having the potential to give a deep meaning to their lives,” said Msgr. Twaddell. “We hope this is what our future Squires will discover who will join us.” For more information, visit www.eohsjcovington.org/squires.
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Supplying Food to Hungry Families Is the First Step in Transforming Communities

When ministry leaders with Cross Catholic Outreach set out to transform the impoverished communities of Santa Rosa de Lima, Guatemala, they knew addressing the urgent need for food would have to be their priority.

"You can rarely succeed with long-term mission work if you ignore basic human needs. Desperately hungry people are understandably focused on survival, and their first goal is always to make sure their children are fed. Only when that need is addressed can they focus on programs to break the cycle of poverty and build a better future," explained Jim Cavnar, CEO of Cross Catholic Outreach, one of the largest and most successful Catholic charities serving the poor in Latin America.

Within Guatemala, one of the countries that Cross Catholic Outreach serves, the ministry is currently working with Catholic leaders in the Diocese of Santa Rosa de Lima. There, extreme hunger and the medical hardships it creates have been impacting thousands of Guatemalans without drawing much attention from the world at large, even though most of the victims are babies and young children. Fortunately, through Cross Catholic Outreach — and the support of compassionate Catholics in the U.S. — the local clergy now believe helping families escape the hardships of chronic hunger is possible.

"Malnutrition has a terrible impact on poor children, and this crisis is particularly deadly in Guatemala's remote, rural regions. There, families live too far from hospitals and clinics capable of helping them. A serious lack of resources and inadequate food production create the perfect conditions for malnutrition to thrive," Cavnar said. "Poor mothers are forced to choose which of their children to feed on a given day, and they watch in despair as their sons and daughters weaken, grow gaunt and lose the will to live."

Cavnar went on to explain the major difference between hunger and malnutrition.

"Most Americans think of hunger as a temporary thing — a pain that will eventually be relieved — and, praise God, that’s often the case. A child in the U.S. may go hungry at times, but that hunger isn’t usually a life-threatening issue," he said. "The poorest Guatemalan children may have to endure hunger for weeks or months on end, and at that point, they begin to manifest signs of mental and physical damage that may become irreversible."

Stunted growth is one of the most common physical problems Cavnar has seen, and the harm it does to a child’s body is lasting.

"Thankfully, Church leaders in Guatemala have been working with Cross Catholic Outreach on an ambitious plan to distribute food where it is needed most. [See related story on opposite page.]" "Santa Rosa’s Catholic leaders are eager to feed the vulnerable in their diocese, but they need our help and they depend on the support of compassionate American Catholics. Contributions will allow Cross Catholic Outreach to ship large quantities of donated food to the diocese for distribution through feeding programs, schools and other diocesan outreach.

"The more who contribute to this mission of mercy, the more we can accomplish. So we are asking for people to be generous in their response," Cavnar said. "I’m confident we’ll have a major impact on hunger in Santa Rosa if American Catholics get involved."

Readers interested in supporting Cross Catholic Outreach food programs and other outreachs to the poor can contribute through the ministry brochure inserted in this issue or send tax-deductible gifts to: Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC 2442, PO Box 97168, Washington, DC 20090-7168. The ministry has a special need for partners willing to make gifts on a monthly basis. Use the inserted brochure to become a Mission Partner or write "Monthly Mission Partner" on mailed checks to be contacted about setting up those arrangements.

Cross Catholic Outreach Endorsed by More Than 115 Bishops and Archbishops

Cross Catholic Outreach’s range of relief and development work to help the poor overseas continues to be recognized by a growing number of Catholic leaders in the U.S. and abroad.

"We’ve received more than 115 endorsements from bishops and archbishops," explained Jim Cavnar, CEO of Cross Catholic Outreach. "They’re moved by the fact that we’ve launched outreachs in almost 40 countries and have undertaken a variety of projects — everything from feeding the hungry and housing the homeless to supplying safe water and supporting educational opportunities for the poorest of the poor. The people have also been impressed by Cross Catholic Outreach’s direct and meaningful response to emergency situations, most recently by providing food, medicines and other resources to partners in Haiti, El Salvador and areas of Guatemala impacted by natural disasters."

Archbishop Thomas Rodi of Mobile, Alabama, supports this mission, writing, "It is a privilege for me to support Cross Catholic Outreach. This organization funds ministries to our neighbors in need in Africa, Asia, Central and South America, and the Pacific. Through the generosity of so many, the love of God is made visible to many who are coping with the most difficult of daily living conditions."

In addition, many of the bishops and archbishops are encouraged that Pontifical canonical status was conferred on Cross Catholic Outreach in September 2015, granting it approval as an official Catholic organization. This allows the ministry to participate in the mission of the Church and to give concrete witness to Gospel charity.

"Your work with the Diocesary for Promoting Integral Human Development is a strong endorsement of your partnership with the work of the Universal Church," Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone of San Francisco said. "By providing hope to the faithful overseas, by feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, delivering medical relief to the sick and shelter to the homeless, and through self-help projects, you are embodying the Papal Encyclical Deus Caritas Est."
Catholic Leader Laments the Impact of Guatemala’s Hunger Crisis: “You Can See the Pain in Their Eyes”

In the Diocese of Santa Rosa de Lima, Guatemala, most poor families rely on farming for survival, and because their remote villages are isolated, many are dependent on the success of their local harvest. This becomes a dangerous gamble in years when nature does not cooperate.

“When harvests are poor, household incomes can also dry up, leading to a critical shortage of food,” explained Jim Cavnar, CEO of Cross Catholic Outreach, a respected Catholic charity working in the region. “In no time, children become hungry and start missing more meals, and the signs of malnutrition start to appear. It’s tragic, and you can see the pain in their eyes.”

[See related story on opposite page.]

“This suffering must end.”

Jim Cavnar, Cross Catholic Outreach

When Cavnar encountered this crisis on a visit to the Diocese of Santa Rosa de Lima in Guatemala, it immediately reminded him of a passage in Chapter 16 of the Gospel of Luke, he said.

“There, in Luke, Jesus tells a parable about a poor man living on the doorstep of a man with plenty. The poor man’s needs are ignored, though he longs for something simple — just the scraps from the rich man’s table. When both die, the affluent man is told for turning away from a situation he could easily have helped solve. Simply put, he ignores a neighbor in need. I believe we are faced with a modern-day example of that parable today in Guatemala, a country so close to our own.”

Statistics certainly back up Cavnar’s view. Guatemala — less than a three-hour flight from Houston or Miami — has the highest levels of extreme hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the fourth-highest level in the world. With their limited access to employment and educational opportunities, many of the country’s remote indigenous people have begun feeling hopeless. Some have resigned themselves to eating one small meal of tortillas each day, and they are in anguish seeing their children languishing on the brink of starvation as a result.

Thankfully, in the Diocese of Santa Rosa de Lima, Catholic leaders are working with Cross Catholic Outreach to end extreme hunger through an ambitious plan that will also set local families on the path to long-term health through improved nutrition. In partnership with Cross Catholic Outreach, large shipments of food will be secured and distributed to those who need help most.

“My team is committed to providing the food these desperate families need, and I’m confident Catholics throughout the U.S. will join our cause by helping to sponsor those shipments,” Cavnar said. “This suffering must end.”

Cross Catholic Outreach’s plan is simple but very cost-effective because it relies on obtaining and delivering nutritionally formulated meat packets known as Vitafood. This fortified rice product is specifically designed to improve the health of malnourished children and is distributed to the parishes. In the parishes the food is distributed by the parish priest and local community leaders, who determine which families have the greatest need in the community. A small container of Vitafood can make a big impact, according to Cavnar.

“Vitafood is extremely flexible. It is rice- or lentil-based, and it comes in several different varieties. It can be prepared straight from the package or flavored with additional ingredients to suit local tastes,” he explained. “Providing the optimal balance of vitamins, minerals, protein, fiber, fat and carbohydrates that a child’s hungry body needs. What’s more, because these Vitafood meals are donated to us, we only need to cover shipping costs to deliver the food to our partner in Guatemala. That means every dollar donated to this project can put 14 nutritious meals in the hands of a family in need.”

Cavnar’s current goal, is to secure the support of American Catholics to fund the effort.

“The diocese is eager for the help, and we have the logistics set. All we need now is the support of compassionate Catholics willing to help a neighbor in need,” Cavnar said. “And once we have fully addressed the hunger issues in Santa Rosa, more can be done to ensure the long-term prosperity of these people. We have big plans for Santa Rosa, and I believe the world will be stunned by the transformation of that area when our work is done. Our expectation is that thousands of lives will be changed.”

How to Help

To fund Cross Catholic Outreach’s effort to help the poor worldwide, use the postage-paid brochure inserted in this newspaper or mail your gift to Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC82442, PO Box 97168, Washington, DC 20090-7168. The brochure also includes instructions on becoming a Mission Partner and making a regular monthly donation to this cause.

If you identify an aid project, 100% of the donation will be restricted to be used for that specific project. However, if none is named for the project then needed, funds will be re-directed to other urgent needs in the area.
Has it ever struck you that when Jesus relates stories and tells parables, he often uses the natural world and seldom, if ever, tells stories about his profession? I would think somewhere along the line, he would tell aparable of the kind of wood needed for a job, or the necessity to plane down a log and what that does to the log. Seems like there should have been one about success or failure in making a piece of furniture, doesn’t it?

Instead, Jesus compares us to sheep who know the voice of the shepherd. He tells about a sower and where seeds land. “Look up at the sky,” he says and see the colors — it will give you a clue. Jesus encourages the people to ponder the wildflowers and the birds of the air to get a sense of God’s gracious providence. It’s obvious that Jesus loved this Earth.

In 2015 Pope Francis wrote the challenging encyclical “Laudato Si.” It begins, “Praise be to you, my Lord.” In the words of this beautiful canticle, St. Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. “Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with colored flowers and herbs.”

Pope Francis reminds us in this letter of the appeal of St. John Paul II, who wrote in his very first encyclical, “Redemptor Hominum,” “The destruction of the human environment is extremely serious, not only because God has entrusted the world to us men and women, but because human life is itself a gift which must be defended from various forms of debasement. Every effort to protect and improve our world entails profound changes in lifestyles, models of production and consumption, and the established structures of power which today govern societies.”

Pope Francis calls Earth, “Our Common Home.” He challenges us to protect it and to work together to seek ways to change the destructive practices that are destroying it. All of the last three popes have written in various encyclicals about their concern for the future of our planet.

Because of the seriousness of this crisis, the Vatican Office for Promoting Human Development created a plan for dioceses, parishes and families to adopt. It’s called the “Laudato Si Action Platform.” The Sisters of Divine Providence have taken seriously the adoption of the Platform in our communities and have pledged to spread the word about what parishes and families can do in their ordinary lives to care for our common home.

The Sisters of Divine Providence invite families, parish representatives, young adults, youth and any interested person to its Province Center Thursday evening, April 20, 7-8:30. Father John Converset, MCCJ will share reflections on God’s call to humans to care for his creation. Following will be a panel discussion on the Action Platform — a sharing on one parish’s experience in implementing it, suggestions on ways to excite children and high schoolers to live responsibly to preserve our planet and a sharing on simple suggestions of things we all can do to make a difference for our Earth.

For more information check out the website cdpkentucky.org or our Facebook page Sisters of Divine Providence, Melbourne, Ky.

Sister Lynn Stenken, CDP is the director of Religious Education at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, California, and a member of the C.D.P Laudato Si Platform Committee.

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Divine Providence Sister Lynn Stenken
Messenger Contributor

Pope Francis ENCYCLICAL LETTER

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