April 28, 2023

In This Issue

- **2022 DPAA**
- **Rosarian monastery**
- Sisters service day
- St. Anne Retreat Center
- **School safety training**
- Mark your calendar
- 'Be Witnesses'
- **ACUE**
- **Eucharistic Revival**
- Governor's scholars

Moving? Wrong address?

Call the circulation desk, (859) 392-1570

Bishop's Schedule
Commentary
People and Events
Shopper's Guide1
VIRTUS1
Classifieds10
News Briefs

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

MESSENGER



Spiritual Motherhood celebrates 10 years of praying for priests, their protection and sanctification

Maura Baker

Staff Writer

A Mass was celebrated, April 22, in commemoration of the 10year anniversary of Spiritual Motherhood of Priests in the Diocese of Covington. The Mass, celebrated by Bishop John Iffert, was held at Blessed Sacrament parish, Fort Mitchell.

Established during the papacy of Pope Benedict XVI, the ministry of Spiritual Motherhood involves women "adopting" priests as their sons, whom they will pray for, for the rest of their lives, even if the priest precedes them in death. In the Diocese of Covington today, about 300 women have committed themselves to Spiritual Motherhood.

Bishop Iffert began his homily at the Mass with gratitude for the Spiritual Motherhood of Priests, thanking them "for keeping me and my brother priests in prayer and for encouraging each other in

Using the Rose Garden Home Mission in Covington as an example of a "chaotic," outward ministry — where the love of Christ is freely and abundantly given to those in need and that everyone is excited and loves to be a part — he asked the Spiritual Mothers to "focus" their prayers.

"If we want people to be excited to be Catholic Christians; to be excited about the life of the Church, let's allow a little more of that mad devotion to others ... Pray for me, that I can integrate that energy in my own life. Pray for our priests that they can make that turn to be directed in the person of Christ, to reach out and touch the people Christ reached out to and touched. To feed the people that Christ fed. To live that way, pray for us diligently ... that we may become the Church that submits ourselves to God's mercy."

(above right) During Mass, the Spiritual Mothers pray

(left) Bishop Iffert presents a rose representing her spiritually adopted priest-son to one of the new Spiritual

together the prayer of commitment.

As part of the Mass, a commitment ceremony was held to welcome new "mothers" into Spiritual Motherhood. During the ceremony, which begins with a prayer prayed by all the mothers for the protection and sanctification of their priest-sons, each new Spiritual Mother is given a rose to represent her priest-son. The rose is placed before the Blessed Mother's altar as the new Spiritual Mother offers prayers for her priest-son. Following, she adds her name to a list of all the Spiritual Mothers in the Diocese of Covington as a written commitment, as well.

Women interested in Spiritual Motherhood may contact Mary Anne Gronotte at (859) 468-4732.

2022 DPAA comes to a close with record-breaking contributions

Maura Baker Staff Writer

With the 2023 Diocesan Parish Annual Appeal underway, the 2022 appeal comes to a close in the Diocese of Covington. As the largest fund raising and stewardship

endeavor in the diocese, the DPAA helps to fund important ministries across the diocese.

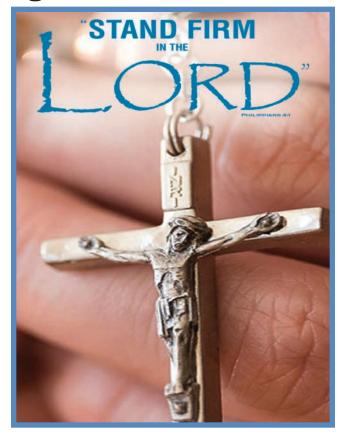
The 2022 DPAA brought in a record breaking 4 million dollars in donations, all of which will be used to fund the diocese and its community. Additionally, all but two parishes in the diocese managed to reach their collection goal this year— and any parishes that raised any extra money above their goal will have those funds returned to them for their own projects and growth.

Matt Hollenkamp, leadership gifts chair for the 2022 appeal, notes the "incredible impact" that will be felt in the

diocese following the 2022 DPAA's success. "It's very rewarding knowing our Diocesan ministries and parishes are receiving the benefits of making this happen. This is such a big accomplishment. I'm so grateful to the commitment of our donors," he said, attributing the campaign's success to "our generous faith community and the dedication to our Catholic Church."

"I think we collectively did a wonderful job telling our story. I also can't thank Bishop John enough for his leadership and support. None of this happens without him," Mr. Hollenkamp said.

The 2023 DPAA seems to likewise be on track for success, with Mr. Hollenkamp returning as general chair this year. As of the time of this article, the 2023 DPAA has raised over \$300,000 more than the amount gathered this time last year.



Serving with the sisters

Women religious of the Diocese of Covington joined with community members of all ages, including at least a dozen students, Saturday, April 22, for a day of service. Starting with prayer, the sisters and those gathered set out to five different agencies in Northern Kentucky, lending a hand and support wherever needed.







Rosarian Monastery moves from Melbourne to Ft. Wright

Laura Keener Editor

The Rosarian Monastery has relocated from its location at St. Anne Retreat Center, Melbourne, to the former convent at St. Agnes Parish, Ft. Wright. The move was completed the weekend of April 15.

The Rosarian Monastery in the Diocese of Covington is home to four Rosarian priests — Father Anil Baa; Father Susairaj Jesurajan, Father Georg Mathew and Father Berdinand Nicholas, superior. The Rosarians first came to the Diocese of Covington in June 2019 as the diocese's first order of contemplative men religious.

The Congregation of Rosarians was founded in 1928 by Father B.A. Thomas, O.M.I. and is the first indigenous contemplative and penitential congregation in Asia. According to its website, Rosarians "(w)itness Christ with the charism of Marian contemplative life of love and reparation rooted in humility ... Rosarian spirituality is based on the Marian contemplation of the mysteries of the rosary centering life on the Holy Eucharist." The congregation prays unceasingly for the needs of the world and in reparation for the sins of the world.

Likewise, in the Diocese of Covington, their primary ministry is prayer. The Rosarian priests spend three to four hours each day before the Blessed Sacrament praying for Bishop John Iffert and for the needs and people of the diocese. And while they are a contemplative order they are not cloistered and can, therefore, serve as confessors and spiritual directors and preside at Mass for sick or vacationing parish pastors.

"Their vocation is a vocation of prayer, and to help others to grow in prayer," said Bishop Iffert. "I'm actually hoping that by moving to the former convent at St. Agnes that they will develop a little bit more of a community around them ... that perhaps priests will begin to seek them out for

confessions and as spiritual directors, and, perhaps, they can build a connection with people who will seek them out for spiritual direction, as well. They might get to know benefactors who will help them in their life. I think it could be a blessing for them and for the diocese."

Messenger file photo



In February, Bishop John Iffert welcomed two Rosarian priests — Father George Mathew and Father Susairaj Jesurajan - who have come to join the Rosarian Monastery in the Diocese of Covington. Pictured (from left) are: Rosarian Father Anil Baa; Father Mathew; Bishop Iffert; Rosarian Father Berdinand Nicholas, superior; and Father Jesurajan.

Messenger April 28, 2023 3

St. Anne Retreat Center closes while diocese considers options for the building

> Laura Keener Editor

Two high school retreats and a men's Cursillo retreat held between January and March of this year, marked the final retreats at St. Anne Retreat Center, Melbourne. St. Anne Retreat Center officially stopped operating in December and retreat staff have either retired, were able to continue employment at a parish, school or organization within the diocese or found employment outside of the diocese. Organizers of the high school and Cursillo retreats held earlier this year chose to forego the hospitality and amenities usually offered at a retreat center — like cooked meals — rather than find an alternative available retreat center.

These retreats, however, may not be the last retreat to be held at St. Anne's.

"The future of the retreat center is being studied right now," said Bishop John Iffert in an interview April 20. "We're looking at all the options and whether that building can be used for another purpose."

The building, the former provincial house for the Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence, was constructed in 1919. In an effort to right size their buildings with current needs, the Sisters sold the building and much of the surrounding property to the Diocese of Covington in 2012, and the diocesan retreat center began. As the diocese continues to contemplate the future of the building and property, the welfare of the Sisters, whose administrative offices, the Providence Center and retirement home, Holy Family Home, as well as the Sister's cemetery are located directly adjacent to the St. Anne Retreat Center, will also be respected.

"We can't use or sell that building for a use that would interrupt their daily life or threaten their cemetery," said

The decision to close St. Anne Retreat Center was largely financial. "The economic obstacles there are huge," said Bishop Iffert.

For the 2023 fiscal year, the diocese was projecting a subsidy of over \$560k. That is over and above revenues received from retreats. These funds would come directly from the cathedraticum, which is assessed on parishes and is used to fund the work and ministries of the diocese. Historically the subsidy has been over \$450k a year since the opening of the retreat center. This financial gap persisted even though the Retreat Center and its staff were operating at capacity.

We were not going to be able to work our way out of this," Bishop Iffert said.

Additionally, a 2015 study revealed that the building was structurally sound and sturdy but needed \$15m in maintenance updates — electrical, plumbing, HVAC — just to continue operations.

As an example, Don Knochelmann, diocesan director for Buildings and Properties, shared that the electrical

educational facilities.

panel at St. Anne Retreat Center is so outdated that it no longer meets Duke Energy's standards. If the electrical system were to become damaged, the entire electrical system would need to be updated before service could be restored. The boiler system has similar age related issues.

"So there were these, I call them ticking time bombs, that are out there," Bishop Iffert said. "We were not making good headway in catching up to the needs of the building."

That estimate was for maintenance updates only, he said,

and did not include any renovations to update and convert the space into a modern retreat center.

"It doesn't include anything to create ensuite bathrooms or individual thermostats or any of those kinds of things that we regularly get in the feedback that people want in a retreat center," said Bishop Iffert. "Those millions that we're talking about don't even touch that.'

And, that estimate is now eight years old. Over these last eight years construction costs have risen dramatically across the board.

"You would expect those costs to increase nine percent a year. In our economy, the last four years, it has probably doubled," said Bishop Iffert.

And while the dollars and cents are part of the economic equation, a significant part that Bishop Iffert simply could not reconcile is the opportunity costs — the other much needed ministries and opportunities that were left $unfunded \ or \ underfunded \ -- \ like \ Hispanic \ ministry \ or$ youth and family ministries — because of the large subsidy needed to keep the retreat center functioning.

"This is very important to me. When I talk about this being an economic decision, I'm not saying that I value money. Money itself is not very meaningful to me. It's what the diocese is giving up, the opportunities that are there," said Bishop Iffert.

"To put that in perspective, our diocesan budget is a little over \$8 million. So, the subsidy for the retreat center, above what people were paying for the retreats, was \$1 out of every \$16 we collect from parishes," he said.

Bishop Iffert said that he does value retreats. In fact, retreats were a significant part of his vocation story. Currently he is the episcopal moderator for Teens Encounter Christ in New Orleans, Louisiana, a retreat center that had a significant impact on him when he attended there as a teen. The goal, he said, would be for the diocese to find a way to offer a retreat experience "in a less expen-



He said he is grateful that there are several retreat centers close by — like the Jesuit Spiritual Center in Milford, Ohio and the Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center in Norwood — that offer good options for parishes, Cursillo and personal retreats.

For now, the St. Anne Retreat Center awaits the Holy Spirit to inspire and enlighten what its next use will be for the Diocese of Covington.

Mark your calendar

Friday, May 5

First Friday Veneration of the True Cross Noon – 1 p.m., Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington

Friday, June 2

Deacon Michael Elmlinger, Ordination to the Priesthood

6 p.m., Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption

Sunday, June 11

Feast of Corpus Christi, Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption

Adoration and confessions begin after 10 a.m. Mass

Corpus Christi procession, 2 p.m., marks the beginning of 40 Hours devotion, concluding Tuesday, June 13.



Bishop's Schedule

Diocesan Board of Education meeting, 9 a.m.

Confirmation, St. Henry Parish, Elsmere, 7 p.m.

Mav 3

Newport Central Catholic High School end of the school year Mass, Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, 10 a.m.

Catholic Charities Corporate Board meeting, 1:30 p.m.

Confirmation, St. Paul Parish, Florence, 7 p.m.

First Communion Mass and May crowning, Cathedral Basilica, 10 a.m.

Confirmation, St. Catherine Parish, Ft. Thomas, 7 p.m.

Advisory Council meeting,

Diocesan Finance Council meeting, 2 p.m.

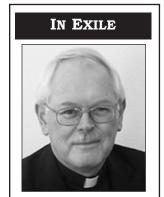
Confirmation, Blessed Sacrament Parish, Ft. Mitchell, 7 p.m.



COMMENTARY

Struggling to give birth to hope

After Jesus rose from the dead, his first appearances were to women. Why? One obvious reason might be that it was women who followed him to his death on Good



Father Ron Rolheiser

Friday, while the men largely abandoned him. As well, it was women, not men, who set off for his tomb on Easter morning, hoping to anoint his dead body with spices — so it was women who were in the garden when he first appeared.

But there is, I believe, a deeper and more symbolic reason. Women are the midwives. It is generally women who attend to new birth and women who are more paramount in initial-

ly nurturing new life in its infancy.

In any birth a midwife can be helpful. When a baby is born, normally the head pushes its way through the birth canal first, opening the way for the body to follow. A good midwife can be very helpful at this time, helping to ease that passage through the birth canal, helping ensure that the baby begins to breathe, and helping the mother to immediately begin to nurture that new life. A midwife can sometimes mean the difference between life and death. She makes the birth easier and healthier.

Jesus' resurrection birthed new life into our world, and in its infancy that life had to be specially midwifed, both in its emergence and in the initial breaths it took in this world. The resurrection birthed many things, and these had to be midwifed; initially by the women to whom Jesus first appeared, then by the apostles who left us their eyewitness accounts of the risen Jesus, then by the early Church, then by its martyrs, then by the lived faith of countless women and men through the centuries, and sometimes, too, by theologians and spiritual writers. We still need to midwife what was born in the resurrection.

And many things were born in that event — an event as radical as the original creation in what it gave birth to. The resurrection of Jesus was the "first day" a second time — the second time light separated from darkness. Indeed, the world measures time by the resurrection. We are in the year 2023 since it happened. (Christianity was born with that event. New time began then. But scholars calculated that Jesus was 33 years old when he died and so they added 33 years so as to begin new time with the date of his birth.)

Prominent within what the resurrection gives birth to and what needs still to be midwifed, is hope. The resurrection gives birth to hope. The women in the Gospels who first met the resurrected Jesus were the first to be given a true reason for hope and were the first to act as midwifes of that new birth. So, too, must we. We need to become midwives of hope. But what is hope and how is it given birth in the resurrection?

Genuine hope is never to be confused with either wishful thinking or temperamental optimism. Unlike hope, wishful thinking isn't based on anything. It's pure wishing. Optimism, for its part, takes its root either in a natural temperament ("I always see the bright side of things") or on how good or bad the evening news looks on a given day. And we know how that can change from day to day.

Hope has a different basis.

Here's an example: Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, a deeply faith-filled scientist, was once challenged by an agnostic colleague after making a presentation within which he tried to show how the story of salvation history fits perfectly with the insights of science regarding the origins of the universe and the process of evolution.

Teilhard went on to suggest, in line with Ephesians 1, 3-10, that the end of the whole evolutionary process will be the union of all things in one great final harmony in Christ

An agnostic colleague challenged him to this effect: That's a wonderfully optimistic little schema you propose. But suppose we blow up the world with an atomic bomb. What happens to your optimist schema then?

Teilhard answered in words to this effect: If we blow up the world with an atomic bomb, that will be a set-back, perhaps for millions of years. But what I propose is going to happen, not because I wish it or because I am optimistic that it will happen. It will happen because God promised it – and in the resurrection God showed that God has the power to deliver on that promise.

What the women who first met the risen Jesus experienced was hope, the kind of hope that is based on God's promise to vindicate good over evil and life over death, no matter the circumstance, no matter the obstacle, no matter how awful the news might look on a given day, no matter death itself, and no matter whether we are optimistic or pessimistic. They were the initial midwives helping to give birth to that hope. That task is now ours.

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser is a theologian, teacher, and award-winning author.

7 Awesome songs to sing this Easter season

"Jesus is risen and we shall arise: give God the glory! Alleluia!"

It was on the final note of that refrain Easter morning

GUEST

Gretchin R. Crowe

that my almost 4-year-old daughter, Anne, let her voice ring through the cathedral — and keep ringing for about an extra four beats with her arm thrust outward like she was Elsa singing "Let It Go."

It was adorable and panic-inducing at the same time. We were on Verse 1, I thought. How enthusiastic will she be by the time we get to Verse 4?

To say Anne was pumped for Easter would

be an understatement. Of course, she was excited for the day, the Easter basket, the egg hunts and the rest. But she might have been most excited about finally being able to say the "A word," which, naturally, had been taboo during the long six weeks of Lent — particularly long to a little girl who is accustomed to saying whatever she wants at whatever time she likes.

So, to celebrate Easter and our renewed ability to be able to shout our praise to God at the top of our lungs, we put together an "Alleluia! He is Risen!" Easter playlist. If you are also rejoicing in your Alleluias this Easter season, some of these tracks that have a special place in our Easter season might be of interest to you.

"Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!" This traditional hymn (mentioned above), written by Herbert Brokering and set to the tune of "Earth and All Stars," is a mainstay during Easter at our parish, and every year I forget how much I love it. I understand why my daughter wants to sing out the chorus and proclaim Christ risen!

"Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's "Messiah." We can't do without this classic that is sometimes more associated with Christmas than Easter, and which is chock full of the A-word (or technically the H-word in this case). There is a lot of mumbling during the majority of the song, but the conducting and the Hallelujahs are solid. "For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth!"

"Agnus Dei" by Michael W. Smith. This gradually building version starts with Alleluias that feel like they are full of the wonder and newness of the Resurrection. "Alleluia, Alleluia, for our Lord God Almighty reigns!" Full disclosure: The kids think this song is kind of boring, but I first heard this in college while on a retreat, and it maintains a special place in my heart.

"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today." Another classic hymn that is so iconic that it practically can't be the Easter season without it. My favorite verse is the third, bringing us directly from the passion of Good Friday into the joy of Easter: "But the pains which he endured, Alleluia! Our salvation hath procured, Alleluia! Now above the sky he's king, Alleluia! Where the angels ever sing, Alleluia!"

"Resurrection Day" by Matt Maher. OK so this song doesn't actually have an "Alleluia" in it, but anyone who's read my column for any length of time knows that I am a big fan of Maher's music — and I have now officially succeeded in indoctrinating my children. The intro guitar riff, plus the drums, and the "We sing for joy, we shout your name, we celebrate your Resurrection Day!" lyrics make it so full of Easter joy that it's a must-listen in our house (and a must-dance).

"Glorious Day (Living He Loved Me)" covered by the Daughters of St. Paul. Fine, this doesn't technically have any Alleluias in it either, but it is such an Easter favorite in our home that I can't leave it off the list. The lyrics take the listener on a journey from the Incarnation through the passion and resurrection, and finally to the promise of the Second Coming that it's hard not to be filled with joy while listening. "Living, He loved me; Dying, He saved me; Buried, He carried my sins far away. Rising, He justified freely forever; One day He's coming; Oh glorious day, oh glorious day."

"This Is the Feast of Victory." Finally, this Lutheran hymn is based on Revelation 5 and is filled with triumph—and a boatload of Alleluias—that make it a delight to sing. "Power, riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!"

Indeed it is. May your Easter season continue to be filled with enthusiastic praise to God. Alleluia!

Gretchen R. Crowe is the editor-in-chief of OSV News.

VOL. 93 **MESSENGER** NO. 16

Official newspaper of the Diocese of Covington

Cathedral Square • 1125 Madison Ave. • Covington, Ky. 41011-3115 Telephone: (859) 392-1500 E-mail: messenger@covdio.org www.covdio.org (UPS-403-650) Published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington, Ky.; 44 issues a year (weekly except from June 1 to mid-August, when published every other week; not published the week after Easter and two weeks at Christmas/New Year's). Subscription rate: \$19 per year; \$40 foreign. Periodical Postage paid at Covington, KY 41012 and additional mailing office Cincinnati, Ohio 45203. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to MESSENGER, 1125 Madison Ave., Covington, KY 41011-3115.

Advertising deadline: Wednesday noon, 9 days prior to publication date.

Editorial deadline: Friday noon, 7 days prior to date.

Subscriptions, address changes: Contact Circulation Dept. at above address.

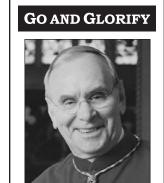
Bishop John C. Iffert Publisher
Laura Keener Editor, General Manager
Chuck Brinkman Advertising Manager
Laura Gillespie Production Coordinator/Designer
Maura Baker Staff Writer

COMMENTARY

Good Shepherd Sunday

The readings for the fourth Sunday of Easter — Cycle A — are: Acts 2:14a, 36-41; 1 Peter 2:20b-25 and John 10:1-10.

"I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep and mine know me." (John 10:14)



Bishop Roger J. Foys, D.D.

Today we celebrate what has come to be known as Good Shepherd Sunday. The readings today highlight the Lord as the Good Shepherd who knows his sheep and whose sheep know him.

In modern times people oftentimes are offended by being referred to as sheep. They seem to think this is an insult and claim that they are not sheep who blindly follow any shepherd. After all, they can think for themselves

and they — and they alone — can decide what is best for

People who feel this way are often missing the point in Jesus referring to himself as the Good Shepherd. In the culture of Jesus' day, his listeners would hardly have been offended by being called sheep who were cared for by the shepherd.

The shepherd in Jesus' time was wholly committed to guarding the sheep under his care. So much so, that the sheep would recognize and respond to the voice of their shepherd.

The shepherd protected the sheep from thieves and from wild animals — with his own life. He would gather the sheep at nightfall and sleep across the gate of the fold to prevent anyone from harming the sheep. That, my friends, is commitment. That is caring. That is devotion. Looking at sheep and shepherd from that perspective should keep at bay any resentment at being referred to as sheep.

The beautiful Psalm 23 is a great comfort to us: "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want ... he refreshes my soul. He guides me in right paths ... Even though I walk the dark valley, I fear no evil, for you are at my side ... You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes; you anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows. Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for years to come." (1-3a, 3b4,5,6)

The Lord cares for us, he watches out for us, he comforts us, he walks alongside us through our joys and our sorrows, our successes and failures, our good days and bad days. He never abandons us! In modern parlance, the Lord has our backs.

Today, on this Good Shepherd Sunday, we also celebrate World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The Lord has promised that he will give us shepherds after his own heart. (Jeremiah 3:15) On this Good Shepherd Sunday we pray especially to the Lord that he provides us with good shepherds — shepherds who will both lead and walk with God's people, who will care for them, who will suffer for and with them, and even die for them.

We have the Lord's promise and the Lord's promises are always kept. To be sure, the Lord continues to call shepherds, but there are so many voices contrary to the voice of the Lord that his voice oftentimes gets drowned out. Let us therefore pray to "the master of the harvest to send good shepherds to care for his people." (Matt 9:38)

The Lord is indeed our shepherd — the Good Shepherd! And for that, let us be grateful.

Most Rev Roger J. Foys, D.D. is Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Covington, Ky

The gift of liminal space

A friend asked me recently how I was handling my "liminal space." I must have given him a quizzical look, because I had no idea what he was talking about, so he

quickly explained. Have you ever b



VIEWPOINT

Alan Pickett

Have you ever been through a liminal space? Now that I know what he meant, I suspect you have. Liminal refers to (1) "occupying a position at or on both sides of a boundary or threshold," and (2) "relating to a transitional or initial stage of a process."

In my case, I am preparing to retire; and because of circumstances outside of my control, my retirement has been

delayed — just a little — from March 31 to May 31. No big deal, but actually a gift. With one foot in and the other foot out, I am sometimes torn, but at the same time blessed. A liminal space is a good place to take stock, reflect back and plan ahead. I am enjoying these moments.

For my entire career, I have always given 100 percent to my work, and for the past 8-and-a-half years, I have been privileged to lead our ministry at Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Covington. I thought when I started at Catholic Charities that I would ease into retirement more gradually. As it turns out, I was as committed as ever to my work, and I continued to give 100 percent. Is that because I always blindly jumped in, or was God's call more clear?

During this liminal time, especially over the past few weeks, I have been trying to process all the emotions, feelings and plans that have washed over me as I consider

how ministry to others has shaped me. At Catholic Charities, we see God's presence every day in the people we serve and in the work we do. I recognize the gift of so many people walking alongside to help me — to help us — serve in our various ministries of God's mercy to the marginalized, broken, despondent and hopeless. I am thankful.

All of us go through various transitions throughout life. Perhaps you are finishing the school year, or maybe even graduating. You might be preparing for marriage or starting a new job. If you are from my generation, you might be anticipating a first grandchild or starting to think about what you will do in retirement. Whatever transition might be looming in front of you, don't miss the opportunity to see the blessings in your current state, and be careful what you are planning to do next. As the saying goes, "if you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans."

Recently a priest reminded me that faith is an action verb. We cannot simply think our way into believing, but we must consciously decide to choose faith and then act on that. God is always calling us, but we do not always listen.

Many years ago, I started praying about how to answer God's call. Through the various trials and struggles that all of us encounter over a lifetime, God led me right here. I have been blessed beyond measure.

Today, I am more in love with God and neighbor than ever, and I will never be the same. I don't know what the future holds, but I am assured by God's presence in my life that whatever comes next will also be blessed.

If you are anticipating an upcoming transition, I encourage you to embrace the possibilities of the unknown in that liminal space. Consider how is God calling you? And how will you act on his call?

Alan Picket is executive director of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Covington, Ky

Vashti said 'NO' (Esther 1:1-22)

The person most often remembered from the book of Esther is the woman who gives her name to the book, the one who took her life in her hands and approached the king, uninvited, to demand life for her people (Esther 4:1-

Musings

Sister Fidelis Tracy, C.D.P.

7:10). But today I am musing about another woman in that book. When invited to come to the king she said, "no."

It is not easy to say "no" to one who is powerful, to one who can thwart or harm us. It is difficult to say "no" when the culture or society in which we reside is challenged by our refusal. And it is difficult to say "no" to deeply ingrained habits or to conveniences to which we have become accustomed. It is easier to go with the

flow, to do what is expected, to give in to the cultural mores and to rest in what is comfortable. It is hard to be different, to choose what is outside the normative in our environment

She is Queen Vashti. Some say she died beheaded, perhaps, or stoned. Some say she was banished to a dark dungeon called rebellion or is unslaked in a desert called defiance. Do not believe them. She dwells freely in the spirit of all who know their dignity and demand respect, all who speak truth and ask others to honor the truth they speak. They call her "Uppity woman" and she wears it as a badge.

She gathers with the women — dancing, singing and conversing. There is no hierarchy among them. They gather and rejoice in the freedom to dance and sing, to honor each other and to care for all that makes life lovely. From this community they draw strength to oppose the destructive forces that their culture condones and supports. From here they protect creation and all that sup-

He is King Ahasuerus, great king of Persia, ruling over 127 provinces, 127 doubled, squared, raised to the tenth power obedient before him. Admired for his vast possessions, the beauty of his robes and furnishings, his treasures. "Come princes, come to the celebration, praise him for his fine purple robe, his golden throne, his ruby-bejeweled crown." They gather and admire. He orders her to come so that they might admire him for her beauty and his possession of her qualities.

Then it happened unannounced, uninvited. Slipping through a fissure in the wholeness of the culture, charged, its static skin attracted bits of reason. No. It is not an angry or violent "no," but an honest dignity, a quiet word of truth. "I do not come. I am Vashti. I am celebrating in my community."

Not flung, not shouted, simply stated, "No." But have no doubt, this "no" will not be received gracefully. Power will resist whatever threatens the status quo of the social expectations or habits of the culture. The guests demand she be replaced as queen lest all the wives in the land find the power to refuse to obey their husbands (Esther 1:16-20).

There are people who have power over me because of position or because of a role given by vote or social status. Even more powerful are the habits that have become part of my life and my expectations of convenience. There are biases that are part of my upbringing that have power to influence my judgements. Racism has power over me. Expectations for many different conveniences lead me to take more from the earth than the earth can safely give. Consumerism is engrained in my being. These have a tyranny over me more powerful than people in power. It will take the strength gained from community to oppose these expectations and habits.

Each time one says "no" to habits that harm the planet or the human community, others will find courage to do the same. Am I able to say "no" to destructive habits, to conveniences, to expectations and judgements that rob

(Continued on page 17)

Be Witnesses

"Wake up the world! Be witnesses of a different way of doing things, of acting, of living!"

— Pope Francis

Religious Communities in the Diocese of Covington

Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery www.stwalburg.org

Brothers of the Poor of St. Francis www.brothersofthepoorofstfrancis.org

Passionist Nuns www.erlangerpassionists.com

Sisters of Divine Providence

www.cdpkentucky.org Sisters of Notre Dame

www.sndusa.org

Sisters of St. Joseph the Worker www.ssjw.org

Public and Private Associations

Franciscan Daughters of Mary www.fdofmary.org

Missionaries of St. John the Baptist www.msjb.info

Ever faithful

Karen Kuhlman Messenger Correspondent

The Sisters of the Congregation of Divine Providence (CDP) follow the example of their founder, Blessed John Martin Moye, and are guided by the fundamental virtues of poverty, simplicity, apostolic charity, and abandonment to Divine Providence. These attitudes give dynamism to their life of faith and are essential to their charism — according to the CDP community they are the virtues that Jesus himself embraced. The Sisters

embrace that same trust in God's grace: they strive to do what depends on them and leave the rest to God — even in the face of difficulty.

Sister Janet Bucher has lived her life in that manner. Sister and her family were members of St. Aloysius Church,
Covington, and she was a student in the parish school. She recognized the call to religious life in her teens and has been a Sister of Divine Providence for almost seven decades. Abandonment to God's Providence has been her guide and source of strength during difficult times.

Through the decades, Sister Janet taught in various Diocesan schools; but it was her 15 years of experience teaching the students at Bishop Howard School in Covington that led her to a ministry that continues today.

Our Savior Church, 246 E.Tenth Street, Covington, is traditionally an African American Catholic parish. Bishop William Howard established Our Savior as a mission of the Diocese of Covington to serve African American Catholics in 1943, and it became a parish in 1981. The Diocese founded Our Savior Schools in 1943; parish children attended those schools until integration finally allowed African American children to attend school with

all of America's children. The high school closed in 1956; the grade school closed in 1963. Today, Our Savior Church remains a parish, tending to parish residents' spiritual and physical needs, and welcomes everyone who enters its doors.

Father Allen Bradley was both pastor and administrator of Our Savior until illness required that he relinquish his administrative duties. Bishop William Hughes, familiar with Sister Janet's work at Bishop Howard, asked her to take on the parish administrator's role — temporarily. Bishop Hughes said, "We'll try this for a few years and see how it works." So, she began her ministry there in 1991, seeing to a church administrator's day-to-day business office tasks.

"Temporary" has become permanent, and Sister Janet continues in that capacity today and remains the only woman parish administrator in the Diocese of Covington.

When she began her ministry, Sister took walks through the Our Savior neighborhood, looking for familiar faces. She visited with people she had come to know through her Bishop Howard School days and made new friends by initiating conversations with neighborhood residents.

In those days, St. Elizabeth Hospital was still on 21st Street in Covington, so Sister Janet visited parish area residents hospitalized there. She made herself available for friendly conversations, offering an ear to hear the patients' worries and concerns. When illness resulted in Father Bradley's departure, Sister moved into

the parish house adjacent to the church. She wanted to live in the community, to be nearby and accessible to parishioners whenever needed.

"When I arrived, many residents in the community lived in single-family homes, apartments, or Section 8 housing. That has changed along with the demographics of the population," said Sister Janet. "Most of the elders I got to know on my walks through the neighborhood have gone to heaven. Today, many young people no longer attend church. Many residents lost

their homes to make way for new housing; multi-storied apartments have replaced their homes. Though displaced residents received vouchers to assist with rental costs, many could not afford to remain in their former neighborhoods. Some elders moved to the Golden Towers, while others were scattered around the area, losing their sense of community. Many properties once available for rent to Covington residents have been converted to Airbnb. Those short-term rentals and other available properties are not affordable to low-income people."

The loss of those long-time residents has dramatically affected the community, but Sister Janet is ever faithful in her ministry. Her devotion to God and the people of God is unwavering, as is her dedication to bringing people together in God's name.

Every year, she hosts a celebration in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. with a breakfast on the Saturday morning before Martin Luther King Day. Sister Janet celebrates Kwanza (December 26 – January 1), the annual celebration of African American culture, with a reception but says of her efforts, "I might not get it quite right, but I keep on trying!"

Despite changes in the neighborhood over the years of Sister Janet's ministry, the Catholic essentials remain at Our Savior Church: Sunday morning Mass is at 9:30 a.m. and is celebrated every Sunday of the month by priests in rotation; Father Robert Ross on the 1st, 2nd, and 5th Sundays, Msgr. William Cleves on the 3rd Sunday, and Father Michael Comer on the 4th Sunday faithfully bring the Mass and the Eucharist to the congregation. Two parishioners lead the congregation in hymns, and another provides piano accompaniment.

Sister Janet wants those who usually attend Mass at their home parish to know they are also welcome to attend Sunday Mass at Our Savior Church. She says, "the Mass is celebrated in the traditional form at Our Savior. And, as permitted by the Catholic Church in churches around the world, touches relevant to the culture are reflected in the interior. Our Savior Church expresses some of that relevance with African cloth around the altar and paintings of a black Jesus and a black Mary."

In addition to her ministry at Our Savior Church, Sister Janet has long been involved with issues of social justice in the Diocese of Covington, such as the 2008 founding of the Northern Kentucky Emergency Shelter and her participation in Jail Ministry. She was awarded the "The Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice" in 2021, the highest papal honor that can be awarded to the laity in recognition of distinguished service to the Church.



Sister Janet Bucher, CDP, receiving the "The Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice" award in 2021.





JOIN US MAY 14 FOR THE MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

10AM - 3PM

Brunch reservations are available from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

- Adults 12 & Up \$44⁺⁺, Kids 4-11 \$9⁺⁺, Kids 3 & Under N/C
- Family photos available until 1:30.
- The à la carte menu will not be available.
- Reservations are required, please call 859-491-2400 or email reception@metropolitanclub.net with member name, # in your party and your preferred time.

METROPOLITAN CLUB

Business Matters, Community Matters, Belonging Matters

PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS WELCOME metropolitanclub.net

SDIE Mome Improvement





cdielectric.com 859.291.9189





Making your remodeling dreams a reality!

Specializing in:

Additions • Whole House • Bathrooms Kitchens • Basements

Marty Grosser, CGR



859-441-0012 grosserco.com



Your Decking, Railing, and Building Supply Experts
Call or Email for your free estimate!

www.pilotlumber.com | sales@pilotlumber.com
238 Grandview Ave. Bellevue, KY | 859-491-0100
302 Washington St. Alexandria, KY | 859-635-2125

Call Chuck at the *Messenger* for information on placing your ad in the Spring Home Improvement Advertisements.

(859) 392-1572

PEOPLE AND EVENTS



Honoring the first class to graduate

Officer Mike Brown of the Bellevue Police Department attended intensive training last summer to provide the D.A.R.E. program to fourth and fifth grade students at Holy Trinity School. On April 12, Holy Trinity received a plaque memorializing the first D.A.R.E. class to be graduated from the Bellevue Police Department. Pictured here at the plaque presentation is Paul Pelgen, fourth and fifth grade teacher at Holy Trinity, Michele Calre-Bosch, Principal, Officer Brown, Jacqueline Flores, a fifth grade student, and Bellevue Mayor Charlie Cleves.

The weekly TV Mass from the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption is broadcast locally on The CW, Sundays, noon to 1 p.m. Viewers can tune-in on the following channels: antenna 12.2; Spectrum 117 or 25; Cincinnati Bell 17 or 517; and DirectTV 25.

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.

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 (859) 331-9919. Bring a picnic lunch and spend the day.

St. Anthony Parish, Taylor Mill, Ladies' Spring Tea, May 13. 2:15– 4:30 p.m., in the parish's Fleming Hall. Tickets are \$10 and available at parish office.

through Mary starts April 10. Consecration Mass will be

St. Joseph Parish, Crescent Springs, indoor flea market, June 2–3, 8 a.m.–3 p.m. in Noll Hall. Donations can be dropped off: May 27, 10 a.m.–4pm, May 29, 10 am.–2 p.m. or May 30–June 1, 10 a.m.–8 p.m. NO adult clothing, mattresses,

entertainment centers or china cabinets. Call (859) 341-6609.

held May 13 at Our Lady's Farm, Falmouth. Register at fati-

maconsecration.org or call (859) 394-74720 or e-mail

Theresa@bluearmy.org.

Mount St. Mary's Seminary & School of Theology will

2023 Parish Festivals

St. Anthony Parish, Taylor Mill, June 2-3, 6-11 p.m.

St. Augustine Parish, Covington, June 9–10, 5–11 p.m.

St. Pius X Parish, Edgewood, July 14–15, 6 p.m.–12 a.m.; July 16, 4–10 p.m.

Holy Cross Parish, Latonia, July 21, 6–11 p.m.; July 22, 5–11 p.m.

St. Thomas Parish, Ft. Thomas, July 28, 6–11 p.m.; July 29, 5–11 p.m.

St. Joseph, Cold Spring, August 4-5, 6-11 p.m.

Blessed Sacrament School Boosters Corn Roast, Ft. Mitchell, August 11, 5:30–11:30 p.m.

host a seminar, "Leading a Liturgical and Vocational Household" for parents and future parents June 3, 8:30 a.m.—1 p.m. Participants will receive insights about how to raise a vocationally aware family with consistent prayer routines; includes Mass, breakfast and lunch. Register online athenaeum.edu.

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.



Learning about Baptism

First graders at St. Henry Catholic School, Elsmere, learned about the Sacrament of Baptism and pretended to "baptize" their favorite stuffed animal. The students made a baptismal garment and candle out of paper, and then promised to teach their favorite in the faith.



Recess visitor

Sgt. Mike Metzger of the Elsmere Police Department stopped by St. Henry School, Elsmere, for recess this past week. Sgt. Metzger is 2000 graduate of St. Henry School and a 2004 graduate of St. Henry District High School.





491-6391

Park Hills, Ky.

1640 Dixie Highway



Pope decides women will be voting members of Synod of Bishops

Cindy Wooden

Catholic News Service

At least three dozen women will be voting members of the assembly of the Synod of Bishops in October, Pope Francis has decided.

In a decision formalized April 17, "the Holy Father approved the extension of participation in the synodal assembly to 'non-bishops' — priests, deacons, consecrated men and women, lay men and women," the synod office said in a statement April 26.

Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich, relator general of the synod, told reporters April 26 that about 21% of the synod's 370 members would not be bishops and at least half

of that group would be women.

Adding women and young people to the membership will make sure "the church is well represented" in the prayer and discussions scheduled for Oct. 4-29 at the Vatican, the cardinal said. "It will be a joy to have the whole church represented in Rome for the synod."

"As you can see, the space in the tent is being enlarged," Cardinal Mario Grech, synod secretary-general, told reporters, echoing the title that had been chosen for the working document for the just-completed continental phase of the synod. The document said that in local and national synod listening sessions there were consistent questions about how to promote greater inclusion in the

Catholic Church while staying true to church teaching.

"The Synod of Bishops will remain a synod of bishops," Cardinal Grech said, but it will be "enriched" by representatives of the whole church.

The pope's decision to expand the categories of synod members, the April statement said, "is in continuity" with the Catholic Church's growing understanding of the synodal dimension of the church and "the consequent understanding of the institutions through which it is exercised."

Since the Synod of Bishops was reinstituted after the Second Vatican Council, the voting members of the synod have all been men. The membership was primarily cardinals and bishops, except for the 10 priests — and recently one religious brother — elected by the men's Union of Superiors General.

Now, rather than the Union of Superiors General selecting 10 voting members, the office said, it will elect only five priests or brothers. And the women's International Union of Superiors General also will elect five sisters or nuns.

Past synods have included women as non-voting "auditors," a group that included many women.

Pope Francis has done away with the "auditor" category of synod participant, the Vatican said. Instead, there will be a group of 70 non-bishop members representing "various groupings of the faithful of the people of God," including priests, consecrated women, deacons and laypeople from every part of the world.

The pope will choose the 70 from a list of 140 people selected by bishops and organizers of six regional groupings of bishops and by the Assembly of Patriarchs of Eastern Catholic Churches. The six regional groups are: the council of bishops' conferences of Latin America and the Caribbean, known as CELAM; the Council of Bishops' Conferences of Europe; the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar; the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences: the Federation of Catholic Bishops and the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops together.

Each of the seven bishops' groups will nominate 20 people, the statement said, and "it is requested that 50% of them be women and that the presence of young people also be emphasized."

In addition to the 10 religious elected by their groups of superiors and the 70 non-bishop members nominated by continental groups, Pope Francis may include "non-bishop members" among the members he appoints.

And, since the leadership of the synod secretariat will be full members, that includes Xavière Missionary Sister Nathalie Becquart, undersecretary of the synod. Cardinal Hollerich added that after all the work they did preparing the synod, "it would be very unfair" to exclude them as members.

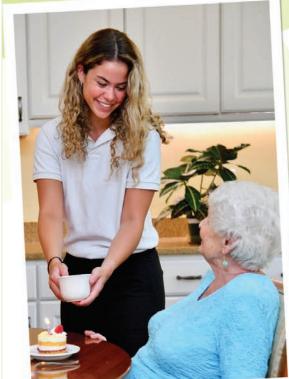
Most synod members will be bishops elected by their episcopal conference or by their Eastern Catholic bishops' synod. The number of delegates each conference can elect depends on the size of the conference. Bishops' conferences with more than 200 members — like the conferences of Italy, Brazil and the United States — will elect five members.



CNS photo/Cindy Wooden

Xavière Missionary Sister Nathalie Becquart, undersecretary of the Synod of Bishops, speaks to Iacopo Scaramuzzi, a reporter for La Repubblica, in the Vatican press office April 26, 2023. The Vatican had just announced Pope Francis' decision to have women and laymen as voting members of the synod.

Here to lend a hand.





Charlie's Club,
Adult Day Health Program

Monday - Friday 8am - 5:30pm



EVENTS AND CATERING every detail, every event, every time

59.442.7776 www.mchalescatering.com

We offer many unique Wedding Venues in NKY and downtown Cincinnati

The Grand and Pinnacle ballrooms Covington
The Gardens of Park Hills

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

Partner Venues

Cincinnati Music Hall, Rhinegeist Brewery, The Prickel Barn Verona Ky. Messenger April 28, 2023 11

Nuns, monks are 'beating heart' of the church, pope says

Carol Glatz

Catholic News Service

The prayers of nuns and monks are like "oxygen" for all members of the Catholic Church, Pope Francis said.

"Their prayer is the invisible force that sustains the mission," he told people at his weekly general audience April 26.

As part of his series of talks about "zeal" for evangelization, Pope Francis spoke about nuns and monks. These are "sisters and brothers who renounce themselves and renounce the world to imitate Jesus on the path of poverty,

chastity, obedience and to intercede on behalf of all."

They are also great evangelizers, he said.

People might wonder how men and women religious who live in monasteries and convents help the proclamation of the Gospel, the pope said. "Wouldn't they do better to put their energies into the mission" by evangelizing outside a monastery and in the world?

"In reality, monks and nuns are the beating heart of the proclamation," he said, and "their prayer is oxygen for all the members of the body of Christ."

In fact, the pope said, the patron saint of missions is a nun, St. Thérèse of Lisieux. Writing about discovering her vocation, she said, "I understood that the church had a heart and that this heart was burning with love."

"My vocation is love!" she wrote. "In the heart of the church, my mother, I shall be love."

Contemplative nuns and monks, the pope

said, pray and work in silence for the entire church.

"This is love: it is the love that is expressed by praying for the church, working for the church, in the monasteries," he said. This love for everyone "is translated into their prayer of intercession."

"Among monks and nuns there is a universal solidarity," Pope Francis said. Whatever happens in the world, it finds a place in their hearts, and they pray."

Their hearts are like "an antenna," he said. "It picks up what happens in the world and prays and intercedes for this. And in this way, they live in union with the Lord and with everyone "

"They weep for their sins — after all, we are all sinners — and they also weep for the sins of the world, and they pray and intercede with their hands and heart raised up," he said.

"They are the true strength, the true force that carries the people of God forward," he said, praying that God bless the church with "new monasteries" and "new monks and nuns to carry the church forward with their intercession."



CNS photo/Vatican Media

Pope Francis holds a portrait of himself while greeting visitors after his weekly general audience April 26, 2023, in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican.



2 Convenient Locations

4679 Alexandria Pike Cold Spring, KY

515 Terry Lane Crescent Springs, KY

mrspotlesscarwash.com



ACUE schools—sharing the love of God

Andrew Vandiver

Messenger Correspondent

"Even if they just come out feeling the love of God, that is worth it," said Julie Dupont, the 2022-2023 Annual Fund Chair of the Alliance for Catholic Urban Education ("ACUE"), as she reflected on how Catholic education can bring the presence of God to children living in difficult circumstances.

According to the Diocese of Covington website, ACUE has spent decades working within the inner-city areas of the diocese to ensure local children have access to a Catholic education. ACUE includes six urban grade schools—Holy Cross, Covington; Holy Family, Covington; Holy Trinity, Bellevue; Prince of Peace, Covington; St. Anthony, Taylor Mill and St. Augustine, Covington. It relies on the generous support of donors and volunteers, like Mrs. Dupont, who provide local families with much needed financial support in order to put a Catholic education within reach.

Mrs. Dupont recently recorded a video message with A-1 Professional video for the annual ACUE Annual Appeal major donor recognition reception. In telling her story, Mrs. Dupont hopes to encourage Catholics and non-Catholics alike to support ACUE. In the video, she describes how her six years of service on the board of ACUE was motivated, in significant part, by a personal experience with the ACUE schools.

Fourteen years ago, Mrs. Dupont met a woman and her five children through a local charity. The family was homeless and living in shelters throughout Northern Kentucky.

This chance encounter led to a number of "God moments" according to Mrs. Dupont in her video message. Through the assistance of Mrs. Dupont's family, the mother was able to secure a more permanent housing situation which happened to be located within walking distance of Holy Family School.

When they visited Holy Family to consider enrolling the three older children, Mrs. Dupont immediately felt the power of the Holy Spirit. Through tuition assistance provided by ACUE, the mother was able to send the children to Holy Family.

The younger two children would later attend Holy Trinity, another ACUE school, located in Bellevue.

"The teachers were amazing and compassionate, and the love they demonstrated to these kids was absolutely

A GREEN ENTERPRISE

phenomenal," said Mrs. Dupont.

The impact of receiving a Catholic education was undeniable. One of the older children went through RCIA and was confirmed in the Catholic Church. Two of the boys were baptized and received the sacraments of reconciliation and first Communion.

Unfortunately, the family faced new challenges over the years that led to the children being separated from their mother. For a time, Mrs. Dupont and her husband fostered the children and later assisted with finding long term homes for them.

Two of the girls in the family were eventually adopted by a family that Mrs. Dupont met through ACUE. This was another "God moment" according to Mrs. Dupont.

This experience continues to inspire Mrs. Dupont as she helps families through ACUE.

"The number of children who are currently experiencing trauma has significantly increased over the years. ACUE is committed to assisting these children within the

HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL

(center, left) Julie DuPont, ACUE's first female general chair, and (center, right) Pauline Baumann, ACUE's first female honorary chair, visit with students at Holy Trinity School, Bellevue. ACUE, an acronym for the Alliance for Catholic Urban Education, is comprised of the Diocese of Covington's six urban Catholic elementary schools and work to help ensure that a Catholic education is financially feasible for families in the urban core.

diocese," said Mrs. Dupont.

"Donations to ACUE have a big impact on the lives of children by exposing them to a safe place, strong Christian values, and a solid education."



Messenger April 28, 2023 13

Eucharistic concomitance and the Resurrection

Brother Linus Martz, O.P.

Contributor

"We know by faith that Jesus Christ, the eternal Word with his assumed human nature whole, resplendent, and never more alive, now dwells forever in the glory to which he calls us."

When we speak about Jesus, the "Lord of glory" who "became flesh and dwelt among us" (1 Cor 2:8; John 1:14), we often use rare words or phrases specially crafted to express the mystery of his being. Hypostatic union is one of them: the two natures of Christ are united in his one person. Consubstantial appears every Sunday in the Creed: the Father and the Son are one in substance. We would also do well to restore concomitance to our collective vocabulary. The doctrine of concomitance, taught in 1551 by the Council of Trent, captures a marvelous truth about the Eucharist and thus about Christ who "being raised from the dead will never die again" (Rom 6:9). During our nation's Eucharistic revival, thinking through concomitance can and will inflame our devotion to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

At first glance, concomitance may seem simple. The Son of God becomes fully present—Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity—under both sacramental species used at Mass. What used to be bread and what used to be wine are equally, substantially changed into our Lord by his own divine words. Only the species or "forms" of bread and wine remain. Therefore, according to concomitance, we do not receive "more" when we receive from both the chalice and the host, nor "less" if only from one. This doctrine is practically important especially when both forms are newly offered (or newly discontinued) for the communion of the faithful. In Holy Communion, the whole Jesus is always received under either form.

If concomitance is true, then why have two forms? The priest consecrates bread and wine separately in imitation of Christ, who did so at the Last Supper and told us to do

Chris D.

Thon, OD

Joseph T.

Mando, MD

Aaron R

Noll, MD

Crestview Hills, Florence

500 Thomas More Pkwy · Crestview Hills KY 41017

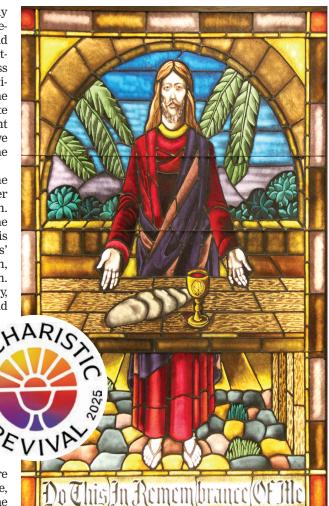
859-341-4525 www.midwesteyecenter.com Jenny

McKenzie, O.D.

what he had done. Christ gave his Body and Blood to the disciples separately precisely because this Body and Blood would soon be separated for them, in the free outpouring of his redemptive love. The Mass is a sacrifice because it is this one sacrifice, the unique sacrifice on the Cross. The daily offering of sacramentally separate Body and Blood reveals and makes present the one sacrifice of Calvary, so that we may all join in Jesus' self-offering to the Father.

While making present the awesome mystery of the Cross, the Mass never turns back the clock on our redemption. For Christ has only one body, and in the Eucharist precisely this human body is signified and offered. On the cross, Jesus' body and blood were separated. In death, his human soul was separated from both. But on the third day, for his and our glory, the one body of our Savior was raised and exalted, in the real re-union of his real humanity. This body ascended into heaven and sits at the Father's right hand. And it is this body that Christ offers us at every

Concomitance signals this reality. We receive the Body and the Blood separately, commemorating the Passion of our Lord. But we know by faith that Jesus Christ, the eternal Word with his assumed human nature whole, resplendent, and never more alive, now dwells forever in the glory to which he calls us. We cannot hear enough that it is



this one, risen Body that we receive in Holy Communion, or that it is to this glory that it will lead us.

BrotherLinus Martz is a Dominican Friar of the Province of St. Joseph headauartered in NewYork. Brother Linus entered the Order of Preachers in2018. His article was originally posted Dominicana Journal, online at dominicanajournal.org, and has been reprinted with Keener photo

A stained-glass window of Jesus instituting the Eucharist located in the vestibule at Blessed Sacrament Church, Ft. Mitchell.





NORTHERN KENTUCKY MONUMENT

Guaranteed Lowest Prices with written estimate

3701 Winston Avenue • Covington, KY (Ritte's Corner in Latonia)

Customized/Personalized Service

- Cemetery Lettering, Vases
- Bronze and Granite Markers

www. schott-monument-company.com (859) 291-6657

Evening Appointments Available



Diocesan high school students accepted to Governor's Scholars programs this summer versities and colleges, both in the state of Kentucky and

In 1983, Kentucky government leaders came up with a plan, rising from concern that Kentucky's brightest youth were leaving the state to take their talents elsewhere, not realizing the potential of utilizing their talents within their home state. From this idea, the Governor's Scholars Program was born as a three-week residential program where high school students statewide could engage in a cocurricular community of peers, honing skills in leadership, civics, and economics.

The Governor's Scholars Program, alongside its sister programs, Governor's School for the Arts and Governor's School for Entrepreneurs, provide students with opportunities to grow academically, meet peers their age from across Kentucky, and eventually earn scholarships to unibeyond.

This year, 52 students from the diocese were accepted to participate in Governor's Scholars (GSP), Governor's School for the Arts (GSA) and Governor's School for Entrepreneurs (GSE).

2023 Governor's Scholars

Bishop Brossart High School, Alexandria

GSP—Evan Callahan, Michael Cooney, Alexandra Gulley, Cecilia Phirman

GSA—Reagan Golden, Jackson Schabell

Covington Catholic High School, Park Hills

GSP—Parker McKinley, Alexander Moening, Andrew Worrall, Michael Zechella

GSA—Dillon Cain, Jonathan Ghazala (Alternate)

GSE-Freddie Caldwell, Adam Donelan, Owen Goudelock, Alexander Moening

Covington Latin School, Covington

GSP—Isaias Bement, Monica Juelg, Karina Stankova GSE—Coey Cheng

Holy Cross District High School, Covington

GSP-Ryan Ehlman, Gabriel Reed, Isabella Saalfeld, Jenna Saalfeld

Newport Central Catholic High School, Newport

GSP-Emma Beck, Tyler Kevill, Samuel Krebs, Christian Woods

GSA—Samuel Krebs

GSE-Ben Bucher

Notre Dame Academy, Park Hills

GSP-Lucy Bailey, Lydia Dusing, Mia Kent, Hannah Renaker, Clare Shay, Gabrielle White -Nadin Asad, Chanduni Herath, Mary Cathrine

Kelly, Keira Lucas, Molly Rawe, Sophia Santos

GSE-Emma White

St. Henry District High School, Erlanger

GSP— Sydney Bollman, Morgan Bonno, Molly Krallman, Raymond Neiheisel

GSA—Alejandra "Ali" Decima

St. Patrick High School, Maysville

GSP-Madgalene Porter, Taylor Watts

Villa Madonna Academy, Villa Hills

GSP— Adam Brandstetter, Adam Hassoun, Adam Kolar

GSE— Xavier Thomas



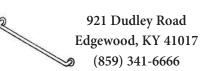
Stewardship and Mission Services

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 a list of references that includes contact email addresses, by email or by fax to Stephen Koplyay, SPHR, at skoplyay@covdio.org or 859-392-1589.



"Specializing in residential and commercial plumbing repair parts"

Specialized Plumbing Parts Supply Inc.





We now stock a complete line of home health aides that include elevated toilet seats, grab bars and personal showers.

JEFF & CHERYL SISKA 859-816-7910 AUCTIONEER – APPRAISALS – ESTATE & COLLECTIONS BUYER WE HAVE AN IMMEDIATE NEED TO BUY THE FOLLOWING...

- COSTUME JEWELRY
- JUKE BOXES SLOT MACHINES
- FENTON GLASS
- ADVERTISING SIGNS
- LICENSE PLATES

LEGOS

- BEER & LIQUOR SIGNS & LIGHTS COINS & PAPER MONEY
- ROOKWOOD & ROSEVILLE POTTERY HOUDAY ITEMS INC YARD DÉCOR, CERAMIC CHRISTMAS TREES, &
- STONE CROCKS & JUGS
 DIECAST CARS & TRUCKS
 TOYS & BANKS BEFORE 1976
 TOYS & BANKS BEFORE 1980
- MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS FIREKING & PYREX MIXING BOWLS
 - & OVENWARE
- WE ARE PAYING FAIR MARKET PRICES—WE BUY COMPLETE & PARTIAL ESTATES AS WELL AS COMPLETE COLLECTIONS!

ORNAMENTS

Messenger April 28, 2023 15

Protecting God's Children for Adults Safe Environment Trainings

Diocese of Covington who in any way provide a safe environment for

Step 1: Contact parish/school institution leader to review the Policies and Procedures and fill out the Application and Acceptance Forms.

Step 2: Go to www.virtus.org and click on Registration. Follow the prompts to create an account and to request a background check. Selection.com is a secure site; the background check is posted on your

For all employees and volunteers of the account and you receive a copy if you request it during the registration process. You will sign up for a VIRTUS training class during the registration.

> **Step 3: Your account becomes** active when your background check, VIRTUS session and Acceptance Form are posted on your account. You will

receive 12 bulletins per year. You will

receive e-mail notices at system@pub.virtus.org unless your computer program blocks them.

- April bulletin: posted Sunday, April 2; due Tuesday, May 2.
- May bulletin: will post Sunday, May 7; due Tuesday, June 6.

www.virtusonline.org, enter you user id and password. If your account is suspended contact your primary location where you volunteer or are employed. Your primary location contact information is found under your Contact Tab.

VIRTUS Training:

- Tuesday, May 2, 6-8:30 p.m., Diocesan Curia, Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, Covington
- Wednesday, May 3, 9-11:30 a.m., Diocesan Curia, Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, Covington

Note: If your Training Tab is missing or you cannot access your account, contact your parish, school or institution. For other difficulties, contact Marylu

(859) 392-1500 or msteffen@covdio.org

SHOPPER'S GUIDE

Hancock Drain Service Inc.



#1 in the #2 Business

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

(859) 356-6811

info@hancockdrainserviceinc.com

RANDY'S BRICK CLEANING & RESTORATION

New & Old Brick • Deck Cleaning & Sealing **Complete Pressure Cleaning of Concrete** Insured & Prompt • Residential & Commercial

(Home) 859-694-3532 (Cell) 859-640-3121



(859) 261-8269





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



Caregivers with character!

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

Cindy Sesher-Director

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



24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE **Since 1953**

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

441-7161

www.arcelechvac.com





hwcg.com/NorthernKentucky 859-372-1200

Austin Kunz Construction

DRAINAGE SYSTEMS

- ◆French Drains ◆Swales ◆Culverts
 - **♦ Catch Basins**
- ◆Downspout
- Extensions
- ◆Channel **Drains**
- ◆ Driveways ◆Patios
 - ◆Stamped

CONCRETE WORK

◆Cleaning & Sealing **EXCAVATING - GRADING - TRENCHING** RETAINING WALLS - BOBCAT WORK - GRAVEL DRIVES

Residential Commercial (859) 815-0779 St. Barbara Parishioner

STUMP GRINDING - WATER LINE REPLACMENT **Fully Insured**

Financia



Randy, Linda & Eric Rawe

859-415-0991 **Guiding You** Through Retirement

541 Buttermilk Pike, Ste. 108 Crescent Springs, KY 41017 www.rawefinancialgroup.com

randyrawe@rawefinancialgroup.com

Securities and advisory services offered through Common Member FINRA/ SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser. nwealth Financial Network®.



TREE SPECIALIST Tree Removal * Pruning * Stump Grinding **Fully Insured**

Call or Text (859) 308-9843

BLAU MECHANICAL, INC.

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

Missed an edition of the Messenger?

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

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

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Moore's Painting The Company you feel safe with

Interior & exterior painting. In business since 1988. Members of St. Augustine Parish.

Moore's Painting — Union, Ky. — (859) 512-7398



We're expanding our life-affirming medical team!

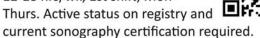
Care Net is now hiring:

RDMS 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-



Send resume: info@carenetnky.org or scan code.

GOESSLING LANDSCAPING

New installations, maintenance and tree removal. Find us at GoesslingLandscaping.com

Call Norb at (859) 912-0340

Good Job Remodeling LLC and Handyman

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

HOUSE CLEANING

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

PART-TIME SPANISH TEACHER

St. Cecilia School, A National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence in Independence, Kentucky, is seeking a part-time Spanish teacher to join our staff for the 2023-2024 school year. We are looking for someone who is energetic and passionate about working with students. Interested candidates should send a cover letter, resume, and references to Principal Jeanetta Kathman at jkathman@stcindependence.org and indicate Spanish in the subject line.

GERDES CONCRETE & MASONRY

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

Call Chuck at the *Messenger* for information on placing your ad in the Classified Advertisements. (859) 392-1572

PRINCIPAL

The Saint Agnes Catholic Community, Louisville, is presently conducting a search for a principal for the 2023-2024 school The mission of Saint Agnes School is to embrace and educate students in a Catholic community, empowering them to lead faith-based lives. Candidates should be Roman Catholics active within their own parish and strongly committed to the mission of Catholic education. Excellent communication skills and proven administrative abilities are also essential requirements necessary to continue the strong academic program and Catholic tradition of our school.

Saint Agnes School is a four-time Blue Ribbon school and a recipient of the United States Department of Education's Green Ribbon Award. Saint Agnes has a current enrollment of 507 students, comprising two classes of each grade Pre-K-8th. The new principal will lead a dynamic staff that includes an assistant principal, counselor, resource teachers for elementary and middle school, an admissions coordinator, and special area teachers in Art, Music, PE, Spanish, STEAM, and Library.

Applicants must have both strong classroom and administrative experience and must meet the Archdiocese of Louisville requirements for principalship. Salary and benefits will be commensurate with experience and Archdiocesan guidelines.

Please send to: Principal Search Committee **Saint Agnes Catholic Community** 1800 Newburg Road Louisville, KY 40205 Or email to: apply@stagneslouisville.org

Larry's Tree Service

(859) 635-8528 or 240-4563

Reasonable Rates — Free Estimates FIREWOOD — Senior Citizen Discounts Available

FACILITIES MANAGER POSITION

St. Catherine of Siena Parish seeks candidates for the position of Facilities Manager. The successful candidate for this full-time, first shift position will be responsible for the care and maintenance of our campus. Experience not required but welcome. Will train with our current Facilities Manager until his retirement in mid-June. Work will include, but not limited to, light maintenance, landscaping, carpentry, electric, plumbing and repair; painting; leaf and snow removal; custodial and other cleaning. Will direct and supervise a small permanent staff plus summer helpers. Must be honest, punctual, and dependable for this responsible position, willing to learn and work. Must be able to lift and carry 75 pounds. Competitive wage, insurance package and generous pension contributions; friendly and relaxed work environment. Will interact with parish and school staff, as well as volunteers and parishioners, in a friendly and helpful manner. Need not be Catholic, but must be living in a way consonant with Catholic values. Interested candidates are asked to please send a cover letter and resume to Dennis Hicks at dhicks@stcatherineofsiena.org.



Are you a force for good in our community? Do you want the opportunity to share Christ's love daily in a very visible way?

Come join us! St. Vincent de Paul NKY has two positions available.

Communications and Engagement Coordinator

This position is responsible for developing and implementing communication strategies 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 website. This position will also assist with development mailings 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, voluntary dental, vision and supplemental life insurance are also options for this

job description can be found on website: https://www.svdpnky.org/employment-opportunities/

Interested candidates can apply online or send their resume to Lou Settle at lou.settle@svdpnky.org.



St. Agnes Catholic Church, Louisville

St. Agnes Parish is dynamic community started in 1873 by the Sisters of Mercy in Louisville, Kentucky. In 1892, the Passionists were granted parochial rights to the Parish, and continue to support the faith ministry today. Currently, the Parish consists of a growing school and faith-based worship and service. We currently have 11 staff members and are looking to add to our team!

The Parish is looking for someone who can lead the business aspects of the Parish, focusing on financial administration while leading the Parish Office staff. Strong organizational skills, financial savviness, ability to handle high volume and time sensitive requests, empathy and awareness of self and others will allow for success in this position. The position is designed to be fully in person, but a hybrid work schedule may be considered for the right candidate.

The position is a Regular Full-Time job, exempt from any overtime. Offered benefits include:

- 13 holidays
- 2 personal days
- Sick Time
- Vacation
- Health benefits
- Retirement savings opportunities

Please review the job description at https://bit.ly/AgnesManager . Resumes should be sent to Pam Slagle at pslagle@stagneslouisville.org.

Marco Island,

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

Messenger April 28, 2023 17

Educational diversity, Eucharistic devotion are strong features of 2023 class of new priests, report says

WASHINGTON — Ahead of the 60th annual World Day of Prayer for Vocations April 30, a newly released report shows what one researcher called greater "consistency of age," more diverse educational backgrounds and a commitment to Eucharistic adoration among men preparing for priestly ordination. On April 25, the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University released the 2023 $\,$ "Survey of Ordinands to the Priesthood," a report made directly to the Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. CARA's executive director, Jesuit Father Thomas Gaunt, told OSV News that the age of men set to be ordained this year has "started to level out," with "more consistently younger men entering seminary and beginning their theological studies in their early 20s — basically after having finished college — and then being ordained four to five years or so later." Overall, this year's ordinands are on average 33 years old, with most having attained college or graduate degrees in a range of fields. Close to 75% said Eucharistic adoration had been part of their preseminary prayer life, with 66% regularly reciting the rosary. Hispanic ordinands are projected to increase in the coming years, and on balance, the 2023 report offers "hope" regarding priestly vocations as religious demographers continue to assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on religious practices, said Father Gaunt.

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

St. William Parish is seeking a Director of Religious Education. 15 – 20 hours per week. Pay is commensurate with experience.

Job duties include:

- To run the CCD program, Children's liturgy. VBS program
- Monitor / teach the RCIC / RCIA programs
- Monitor / run the adult faith program and Youth group
- Update religious section of St. William / St. John's church website
- Monitor Virtus compliance
- Update Camino program regarding the sacraments
- Update the bulletin boards with educational information

Requirements for this position: MS Office (Word, Excel, Outlook). If interested, please contact Fr. Benton Clift at St. William Church 859.824.5381.

OFFICE STAFF

St. William/St. John Mission Parish is seeking Office staff. This is a part-time position of approximately 15 hours per week. Pay is commensurate with experience. Job duties include: Answering parish phone calls, sorting incoming mail and correspondence.

- Inventory of supplies and ordering
- Processing invoices and issuing payments
- Data entry/church records
- Participate in the preparation of scheduled reports to the Diocese
- Work with member
- Work with members of the Diocese when necessary/attend meetings
- Provide backup with other office staff as needed
- Assist with parish events (Fish Fry, Festival, etc.)
 Requirements for this position: MS Office (Word, Excel, Outlook), Accounting software, answering phone calls professionally and being helpful to those who may stop in the office with questions or needing assistance.
 If interested, please contact Fr. Benton Clift at St. William Church 859.824.5381

Vashti said 'NO'

(Continued from page 5

others of their dignity or the earth of its resources? Can I say "no" when it entails giving up comforts or routine habits. Can I say "no" when I sense that I am judging others unfairly because of subtle racism in my heart?

Vashti dares us to move beyond our expectations of comfort, convenience and extravagance when it depletes our earth or deprives others of their needs, she invites us to move beyond engrained bias that resides in our hearts. Vashti is alive in all who oppose the extravagant wants and needs that harm our planet, our fellow creatures, our neighbors. You will hear her voice in Greta Thunberg, Malala, and in Pope Francis' "Laudato Si." Let us join the

Divine Providence Sister Fidelis Tracy is a retired theology professor at Thomas More University, Crestview Hills, Kv



Are you hungry to help?



1 in 8 Kentuckians face food insecurity.

The need for food is growing at an unprecedented rate. Please donate today to join St. Vincent de Paul in making a difference.



To learn more, visit www.svdpnky.org



We are here to help you navigate through the maze of senior resources.



FREE Service Call, email, or stop by today!

3705 Winston Ave, Latonia, KY **(859) 261-0746**

seniorresource@stcharlescommunity.org

Home Improvement





859-261-8269

www.tomrechtin.com

Proudly Serving You Since 1964.











Messenger April 28, 2023 19

NEWS BRIEFS

National/World

Michigan third grader launches 'Kid's Bible in a Year with Teddy' podcast

NEWPORT, Mich. — When he grows up, third-grader Teddy Howell, a member of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Newport, and wants to be a podcaster and a priest. At 9 years old, he already has achieved one of those goals with the recent launch of his podcast: "Kid's Bible In A Year with Teddy." In each 10minute episode, released Sundays and Wednesdays, Teddy leads his listeners in prayer and through a series of Bible verses. Teddy has been given permission by Ascension Press to use the "Catholic Bible Chronicles" as his reference. Subscribers can listen to Teddy's podcast on Apple Podcasts, Spotify and other podcast hosting platforms. If the youngster's podcast sounds familiar, that's because it's inspired by Father Mike Schmitz's chart-topping podcast, "The Bible in a Year (with Fr. Mike Schmitz)." The priest, of the Diocese of Duluth, Minnesota, created the Bible podcast with Scripture scholar Jeff Cavins with the backing of Ascension. Teddy's podcast is geared toward other children; Father Schmitz podcast addresses some adult themes not suitable for young children. "I like to read about the Bible, and I pray," Teddy said. "If you want to follow me, you can subscribe if you want."

Catholic bishops hail abortion ban that makes North Dakota 'a sanctuary for life'

BISMARCK, N.D. — North Dakota has enacted a near-total ban on abortions, with limited exceptions in cases of rape and incest up until the sixth week of pregnancy. On April 24, Gov. Doug Burgum signed into law SB 2150, which amended North Dakota's state code to prohibit abortion. Burgum said in a statement provided to OSV News that the bill, which takes immediate effect, "clarifies and refines existing state law ... and reaffirms North Dakota as a pro-life state." SB 2150, which had majority support in both the state House and Senate, excludes cases in which abortions deemed medically necessary to prevent death or serious health risk to a pregnant woman, as well as abortions performed on victims of rape or incest up until the sixth week of pregnancy. "We rejoice that North

Dakota has taken this important step toward making the state a sanctuary for life," said an April 24 statement from the North Dakota Catholic Conference led by Bishop David D. Kagan of Bismarck and Bishop John T. Folda of Fargo. The conference stated "banning abortion is not enough," stressing that "everyone, including the state government, must respond with love so that women and families receive the support and care needed so that abortion becomes unthinkable."

Pope names members of Dicastery for Evangelization's first section

 ${\tt VATICAN\ CITY-Pope\ Francis\ has\ appointed\ 19\ people\ as}$ members of the Dicastery for Evangelization's first section and has named another 15 as consultants. The first section, led by Italian Archbishop Rino Fisichella, formally is known as "Section for Fundamental Questions regarding Evangelization in the World," and has responsibility for promoting evangelization, missionary discipleship, catechesis and Christian social engagement in countries where Christianity already is well established. Pope Francis also has given the section responsibility for planning the Holy Year 2025. Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York is among the new members, as is Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, pro-prefect of the second section of the dicastery, that is responsible for "the first evangelization and new particular churches," what traditionally has been known as the church's mission territories. The 19 new members include three women; the 15 consultants include nine priests, a religious brother, two women and three laymen. Among them are Salesian Sister Cettina Cacciato Insilla, a professor of catechetics in Rome; Chiara Amirante, founder and president of the New Horizons Community; Curtis A. Martin, founder and CEO of FOCUS, the Fellowship of Catholic University Students; and Petroc Willey, a professor of catechetics at Franciscan University of Steubenville.

DeSantis lowers Florida's threshold to impose death penalty, signs legislation criticized by state's Catholic bishops

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis signed a bill April 20 that will eliminate the state's requirement that

juries in capital punishment cases agree unanimously to recommend death sentences. The legislation, which has met criticism from the state's bishops, lowers the number of jurors needed to hand down a death sentence to the lowest threshold of any U.S. state, from 12 to eight. In an April 20 statement on his approval of the legislation, DeSantis said, "Once a defendant in a capital case is found guilty by a unanimous jury, one juror should not be able to veto a capital sentence." But in an April 13 statement after the Florida Legislature passed the legislation, Michael Sheedy, Florida Catholic Conference executive director, called it "stunning" that Florida lawmakers "would weaken a common-sense law passed just six years ago that required unanimous agreement by a jury in order to sentence someone to death."

Judges block Texas executions in day hailed by Catholic leaders as victory for life

AUSTIN, Texas — Texas was without any scheduled executions April 21 after judges intervened in capital punishment cases to allow two men on death row a new opportunity to clear their names. A Texas judge on April 19 canceled the scheduled execution of a death-row inmate in the state after a new appeal in the case claimed he was wrongfully convicted on false testimony from two key witnesses in his 2001 trial. The same day, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of another Texas death-row inmate, Rodney Reed, in his efforts to seek DNA testing his appeal argues may prove his innocence. The Catholic Church teaches that the death penalty is morally inadmissible and that the church is committed to its global abolition. Jennifer Carr Allmon, executive director of the Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops, told OSV News that "it's the first time in my life and in my career that we have had a day in Texas where abortion is illegal and there are no scheduled executions on the Texas Department of Criminal Justice website." Allmon said she believed the mood on capital punishment is shifting in Texas, which has a reputation for being one of the biggest death penalty states. "We had a really exciting day," she said. "It felt like life was winning, which was really encouraging.'



NOW HIRING AIRPORT SHUTTLE DRIVERS!



Starting \$10-13/hr + tips on all trips Opportunity to make \$18-22/hr



Flexible work schedule



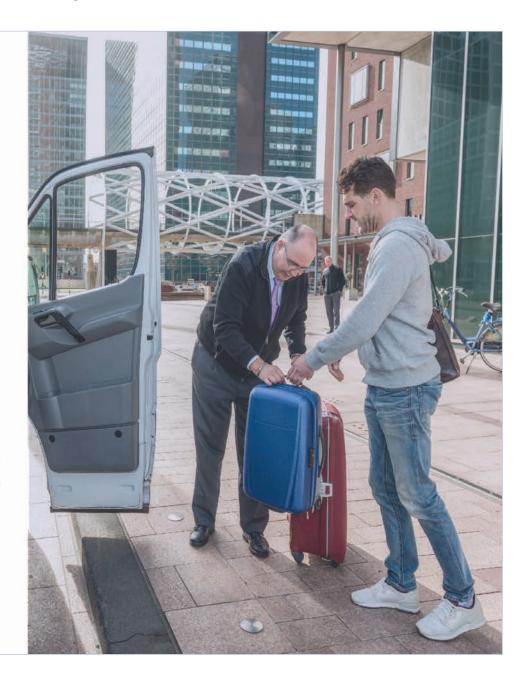
Medical, Dental, Vision, 401k Matching FT Only | 3rd Shift FT: Fully Paid by Company

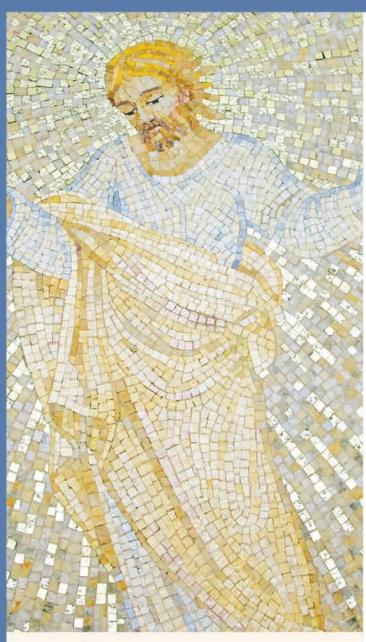


Perfect for Retirees!

APPLY NOW:

executivetransportation.org/careers







THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Goal: \$2,650,000

Total Commitments as of 3/31/23: \$2,726,185.53

Number of gifts: 4,209 Parishes over Goal: 23

WAYS TO GIVE -

- Cash/Check
- Stock
- Matching Gifts
- Pledge (final payment due 3/31/24)
- Online at www.covdio.org



Numbers reflect pledges and gifts recorded as of March 31, 2023

Parish	Donors	2023 Goal	2023 Commitment	Over Goal* (Under)
Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption	85	\$42,100	\$97,379.20	\$55,279.20
All Saints Parish	49	\$62,400	\$29,556.00	(\$32,844.00)
Blessed Sacrament Parish	187	\$165,800	\$141,313.13	(\$24,486.87)
Cristo Rey Parish	4	\$44,600	\$2,550.00	(\$42,050.00)
Divine Mercy Parish	30	\$29,700	\$11,310.00	(\$18,390.00)
Holy Cross Parish	83	\$25,600	\$39,041.25	\$13,441.25
Holy Redeemer Parish	3	\$2,900	\$1,850.00	(\$1,050.00)
Holy Spirit Parish	77	\$31,000	\$31,485.00	\$485.00
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish	168	\$125,300	\$113,068.00	(\$12,232.00)
Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish	162	\$82,700	\$123,568.00	\$40,868.00
Mother of God Parish	104	\$57,300	\$98,815.00	\$41,515.00
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish	54	\$38,100	\$35,352.44	(\$2,747.56)
Our Savior Parish	10	\$2,700	\$6,275.00	\$3,575.00
St. Agnes Parish	202	\$150,100	\$136,478.95	(\$13,621.05)
St. Ann Mission	17	\$8,200	\$14,945.00	\$6,745.00
St. Anthony Parish, Taylor Mill	40	\$17,000	\$23,915.00	\$6,915.00
St. Augustine Parish, Augusta	60	\$16,500	\$24,500.00	\$8,000.00
St. Augustine Parish, Covington	68	\$22,200	\$47,995.00	\$25,795.00
St. Barbara Parish	173	\$105,400	\$110,520.00	\$5,120.00
St. Benedict Parish	47	\$25,400	\$23,635.00	(\$1,765.00)
St. Bernard Parish	12	\$17,400	\$9,750.00	(\$7,650.00)
St. Catherine of Siena Parish	76	\$79,100	\$69,240.00	(\$9,860.00)
St. Cecilia Parish	157	\$83,300	\$63,903.00	(\$19,397.00)
St. Charles of Borromeo Parish	10	\$10,700	\$8,475.00	(\$2,225.00)
St. Edward Mission, Owenton	4	\$2,100	\$1,000.00	(\$1,100.00)
St. Edward Parish, Cynthiana	35	\$9,000	\$23,375.00	\$14,375.00
St. Francis Xavier Parish	42	\$18,200	\$16,680.00	(\$1,520.00)
St. Henry Parish	145	\$67,000	\$86,430.00	\$19,430.00
St. James Mission, Minerva	6	\$4,500	\$1,800.00	(\$2,700.00)
St. James Parish, Brooksville	5	\$12,300	\$8,400.00	(\$3,900.00)
St. John Mission, Dividing Ridge	5	\$3,900	\$875.00	(\$3,025.00)
St. John the Baptist Parish, Wilder	16	\$3,000	\$31,410.00	\$28,410.00
St. John the Evangelist Parish, Carrollton	13	\$27,300	\$15,000.00	(\$12,300.00)
St. John the Evangelist Parish, Covington	47	\$24,800	\$29,135.18	\$4,335.18
St. Joseph Parish, Camp Springs	43	\$43,500	\$37,175.00	(\$6,325.00)
St. Joseph Parish, Cold Spring	309	\$94,900	\$143,094.00	\$48,194.00
St. Joseph Parish, Crescent Springs	127	\$162,200	\$109,565.03	(\$52,634.97)
St. Joseph Parish, Warsaw	9	\$6,900	\$2,720.00	(\$4,180.00)
St. Mary of the Assumption Parish	306	\$121,800	\$134,269.00	\$12,469.00
St. Matthew Parish	5	\$12,100	\$1,900.00	(\$10,200.00)
St. Patrick Parish, Maysville	71	\$49,300	\$35,378.60	(\$13,921.40)
St. Patrick Parish, Taylor Mill	98	\$60,300	\$45,931.00	(\$14,369.00)
St. Paul Parish	130	\$104,400	\$102,930.00	(\$1,470.00)
St. Philip Parish	56	\$9,500	\$30,844.98	\$21,344.98
St. Pius X Parish	334	\$216,900	\$223,889.04	\$6,989.04
St. Rose of Lima Parish	15	\$10,100	\$9,065.00	(\$1,035.00)
St. Therese Parish	127	\$28,500	\$56,155.00	\$27,655.00
St. Thomas Parish	148	\$81,500	\$85,165.73	\$3,665.73
St. Timothy Parish	165	\$163,200	\$159,175.00	(\$4,025.00)
St. William Parish	33	\$22,500	\$25,800.00	\$3,300.00
Sts. Boniface & James Parish	11	\$14,400	\$6,650.00	(\$7,750.00)
Sts. Peter & Paul Parish	16	\$28,200	\$29,875.00	\$1,675.00
Transfiguration Mission	3	\$2,200	\$910.00	(\$1,290.00)
Friends	7	\$2,200	\$6,668.00	\$6,668.00
Totals	4,209	\$2,650,000	\$2,726,185.53	\$76,185.53

Please note these numbers are preliminary. As of April 24, 2023, they have not been reconciled with the Diocesan Finance Office.

Questions, please call the Diocesan Stewardship Office at 859-392-1500.