

- 2 **Platinum Jubilees**
- 2 **Eucharistic Revival**
- 2 **You're invited**
The Solemnity of Corpus Christi
- 3 **You're invited**
Cross the Bridge for Life
- 3 **Deacon aspirancy program**
- 3 **TMU Academic Center topping**
- 3 **Meet the chimeras**
- 6 **'We Choose Life'**
- 7 **Foster parents**
Meet the Nathes
- 8 **Rose Garden addition**
- 9 **Parish festivals**

Moving? Wrong address?
Call the circulation desk,
(859) 392-1570

Bishop's Schedule	3
Commentary	4
People and Events	9
VIRTUS	12
Shopper's Guide	15
Classifieds	16
News Briefs	19

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Keener photo

Students at St. Mary School, Alexandria, show their excitement, May 10, as Bishop John Iffert and the parish community celebrate the groundbreaking of Phase 2 of its Cultivating Legacy Campaign.

St. Mary's Parish and school working together, 'Building God's Kingdom' one phase at a time

Laura Keener
Editor

The excitement that typically comes at the close of every school year was amplified, May 10, at St. Mary School, Alexandria, as students, faculty, staff and honored guests celebrated the beginning of Phase 2 of the Cultivating Legacy Campaign at St. Mary Parish. Phase 2 adds a new building that will be home to four new classrooms and a multipurpose space and gym.

As the groundbreaking began, students wearing t-shirts bearing the image of a construction crane and the slogan "Building God's Kingdom" excitedly processed out to the portion of the parking lot that will soon be transformed into a new building. Bishop John Iffert, Father Joseph Gallenstein, pastor; Father Edward Brodnick,

parochial vicar; Father Albert Ruschman; Deacon Timothy Britt; Kendra McGuire, diocesan superintendent of Schools and Don Knochelmann, diocesan director, Buildings and Properties; joined Jennifer Geiman, principal, for the groundbreaking ceremony.

Thanking the members of the parish's Future Needs Committee and the Cultivating Legacy Capital Campaign co-chairs, Father Gallenstein said, "We are very fortunate to see a vision become a reality."

Quoting his history professor, Msgr. John Tracy Ellis, Father Gallenstein said, "'Bishops get books written about them while the nuns do all the work.' Similarly, pastors often get the accolades, while the laity do all the work. We simply would not be here today

(Continued on page 10)



With praise and thanksgiving to the eternal Triune God,
the Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington requests the honor
of your presence at the ordination of

Michael Kenton Elmlinger

to the sacred Priesthood of Jesus Christ through the power
of the Holy Spirit and the imposition of hands
by the Most Rev. John C. Iffert, Bishop of Covington

Friday, June 2, 6 p.m.

Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption,
1130 Madison Avenue, Covington



You are cordially invited to
a Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving
for Priestly Ordination
Celebrated by

Father Michael Elmlinger

Saturday, June 3, 5 p.m.

St. Paul Parish,
7301 Dixie Hwy., Florence



Deacon Michael
Elmlinger

Father Quill and Father Ruschman celebrate their 70 year ‘Platinum’ Jubilee

Staff report

Six priests celebrate jubilees this year, two of which notably celebrating 70 years of service to the Diocese and its people. Bishop John Iffert said of the service of Platinum jubilarians Father James Quill and Father Albert Ruschman:

“Father Albert Ruschman was born near the beginning of 1929. Father James Quill was born just before the end of the same year. Between their birthdays, the stock market crashed, marking the beginning of the Great Depression, Vatican City gained its independence from Italy, and the Academy of Motion Pictures awarded the first Oscars. They were ordained together in 1953. That same year saw the end of the Korean War, the inauguration of Dwight D. Eisenhower, the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, the polio vaccine, and the discovery of the double-helix structure of human DNA. Just ponder everything these two incredible priests have witnessed in their years; the technological and social change they have seen. Through it all, the Gospel of Jesus Christ remains their guiding light.

“I see Father Ruschman just about as often as I see any priest in the diocese. Whenever the people are gathered for a celebration, Father Al Ruschman is there. That is especially true if the celebration is in one of the rural parishes in the Diocese of Covington. Father Ruschman knew what it was like to “smell like the sheep” long before Pope Francis every popularized that phrase.

“Father Quill was appointed the Director of Radio and Television Activities for the Diocese of Covington in 1960. This was the time between Life is Worth Living and The Fulton Sheen Program. I



Father James Quill



Father Albert Ruschman



imagine Bishop Ackerman, in his first year as Bishop of Covington, hoping to make good use of this new media to spread the Catholic message to the people of Northern Kentucky. The talented Father Quill, that young professor at St. Pius X Seminary with his newly minted Doctor of Sacred Theology degree, would be just the man he needed to help teach and proclaim the Word.

“That’s just the assignment that stands out as most unique in Father Quill’s life of ministry. He also served as professor and vice-rector at St. Pius X Seminary, faculty at Thomas More College, and he was a pastor for more than 20 years. This is a tremendous life of service given as gift to our local Church.

“Between the two of them, these two priests came out of retirement five times to serve as temporary adminis-

trators of parishes. It speaks to their devotion and commitment. I add my sincere admiration and congratulations to those of the priests and people of the Diocese of Covington for the priestly ministry of Father Ruschman and Father Quill.”

Father James Quill

An alumnus of Covington Latin School, class of 1945, Father James Quill was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop William T. Mulloy, May 30, 1953 — at the age of 23. Being two years younger than the canonical minimum age for priestly ordination, Father Quill required a dispensation from Rome. In fact, it was at Covington Latin that a teacher, Msgr. Thomas Finn, invited a young Father Quill to try out the seminary, something he pursued immediately after his time at CLS.

In his time as a priest, Father Quill has served as a teacher at both St. Pius X Seminary between the late 50s to the early 70s and Thomas More College in 70s. He’s been a pastor at Blessed Sacrament Parish, Ft. Mitchell and St. Joseph Parish, Crescent Springs, and, since his retirement in July of 1994, has come out of retirement several times to serve as temporary administrator to parishes in need across the diocese.

Father Albert Ruschman

For Father Ruschman, it was his father who encouraged his vocation to the priesthood from an early age. As a child, he was given a calf by his father with the idea that the cow would later be sold to purchase Father Ruschman’s first chalice — something that Father Ruschman indeed followed through with.

Father Albert Ruschman was ordained alongside Father James Quill at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, May 30, 1953. Before his retirement in 1999, Father Ruschman served as pastor at St. Joseph Parish, Warsaw; St. Barbara Parish, Erlanger; St. George Parish, Jenkins; St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Ft. Thomas and Blessed Sacrament Parish, Ft. Mitchell.

Father Ruschman will be celebrating a public Mass for his jubilee year at St. Thomas Parish, Fort Thomas — where he had taken up residence following his retirement. The Mass will be on June 4, 10:30 a.m. with a reception to follow. All are welcome.

Pray to the Precious Blood of Jesus as Corpus Christi approaches

Bishop John Iffert is returning to pastors the decision to distribute the Precious Blood. Distribution of the Precious Blood may resume on the solemnity of Corpus Christi, June 10–11. In the weeks leading up to this momentous occasion in the life of the Diocese of Covington, the Messenger will focus on the Precious Blood in its Eucharistic Revival offerings. This week the Messenger turns to St. Catherine of Siena, doctor of the Church, whose feast day is April 29.



Constant Prayer of St. Catherine of Siena to the Precious Blood of Jesus

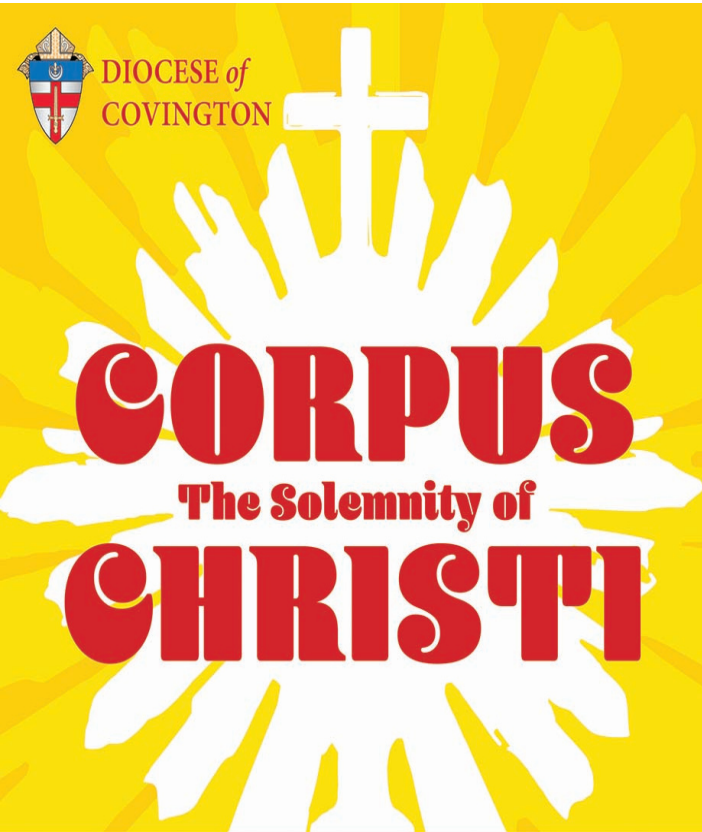
“Precious Blood,
Ocean of Divine Mercy:
Flow upon us!

Precious Blood,
Most pure Offering:
Procure us every Grace!

Precious Blood,
Hope and Refuge of sinners:
Atone for us!

Precious Blood,
Delight of holy souls:
Draw us!

Amen.”



The Solemnity of Corpus Christi

Bring the family

Sunday, June 11, 2 p.m.
Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington

Schedule of Events

Sawdust carpet making
Saturday, June 10, 5:30 p.m., Cathedral garden

Liturgy of the Word service and Eucharistic Procession
Sunday, June 11, 2 p.m.

40 Hours Devotion

Sunday, June 11, following 5 p.m.
Mass through 6 p.m., Tuesday, June 13

Note: The Blessed Sacrament will be reposed for 8:30 a.m. Mass on both Monday and Tuesday.

Private security detail will be present at the Cathedral during the overnight hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m., Sunday and Monday.

Confessions

Monday, June 12, 6–9 p.m.

More information including a parish digital and social media kit is available online at <https://covdio.org/CorpusChristi>.



Deacon program aims to provide a more fulfilling experience for candidates

Maura Baker
Staff Writer

Formation to the permanent diaconate is a five-year process; the first two years consisting of an “aspirancy” program focusing on discernment, with three years of formation to follow.

In preparation for the upcoming new class of aspirants to the diaconate, the aspirancy program has been revised — with three primary goals in mind:

- Bring men and their wives together to help them in the discernment process.
- Enhance interaction of Aspirants and their wives with current deacons and wives.
- Deepen a man’s spiritual life through enhanced prayer, sacramental experiences and faith-sharing.

For the past few years, aspirancy consisted of 10 catechesis classes, according to Deacon Brian Cox, president of



the Diaconate Assembly. “What we’re doing now is joining forces with the Archdiocese of Cincinnati in their LPMP (Lay Pastoral Ministry Program.)”

The previous program left aspiring deacons unprepared for the master’s level courses required of them in the deacon formation programs.

Some men becoming deacons, “haven’t been in school for 30 years,” said Deacon Cox, “and then, all of a sudden, we’re jumping into master’s level classes. So, with this program, our guys will be more prepared to be on an equal playing field with the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.”

Taking the classes together will also help to build important comradery between future deacons, said Deacon Cox, both within the Diocese of Covington and neighboring Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

This two-year schooling certificate is a rigorous pro-



TMU Academic Center topping

(left) Dr. Judith Marlowe, chair of the Thomas More Board of Trustees and Bishop John Iffert add their names to the final construction beam of the new Academic Center. Thomas More University held a final beam blessing and topping ceremony, May 12, to commemorate the installation of the final construction beam. Bishop John Iffert gave the blessing. The 34,000 square foot Academic Center is planned to open in the summer of 2024 and will house advanced technology and improved classroom environments and be home to a 375-seat auditorium, a technology and prototype lab, the Dr. Anthony ’65 & Geraldine ’66 Zembrodt Center for Leadership, Entrepreneurship & Innovation, the Center for Faith, Mission and Catholic Education, and the College of Business.

Getting to know the chimeras that have been atop the Cathedral for many years; part 3

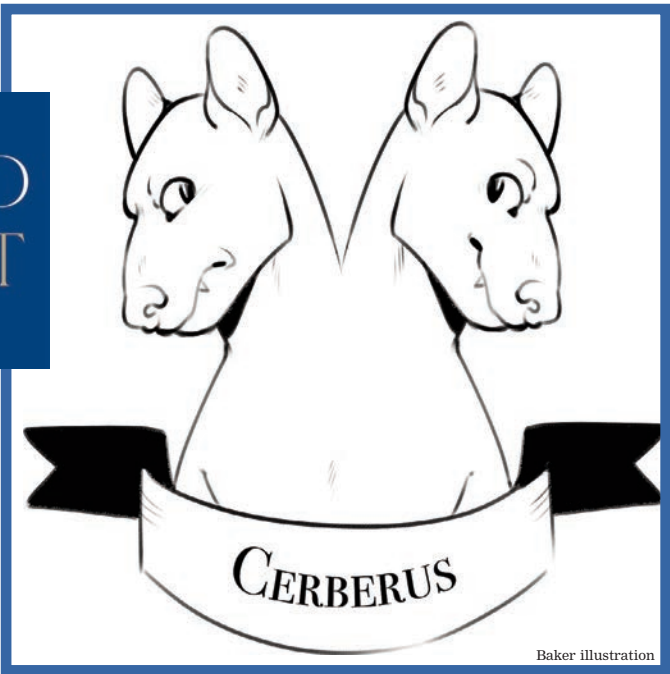
Maura Baker
Staff Writer

With the chimeras still missing from the Covington skyline, the 2023 Cathedral Campaign “Restored in Christ” is underway, with the goal to “preserve and restore the stone and masonry exterior of the Cathedral just as Bishop Maes and his architects had visualized and seen it over a century ago,” according to campaign materials.

As the “Restored in Christ” initiative unfolds over the next several months, thanks to the cataloguing of Stephen Enzweiler, Cathedral historian and archivist, the Messenger will illustrate and introduce many of the chimera. This week we meet Cerberus.

I’m Cerberus, a name that carries significance as both myself and my cousin on Paris’s Notre Dame are constructed after the beast from Greek mythology—the three-headed hound that guarded the Underworld. While certainly a ferocious and frightening creature, my name, “Cerberus,” possibly derives from a Proto-Indo-European word “kerberos”, meaning “spotted” — it’s amusing to think the stalwart guard dog of the realm of the dead would be named something as mundane as “Spot,” don’t you think?

Unlike some of my fellow chimera, I look quite different from the Cerberus designed by Eugène Viollet-le-Duc for the Notre Dame — my cousin is sleeker, with thinner snouts on three heads, while I have only two!



gram, two to three nights a week through the school year, in order to “better prepare” aspirants for the diaconate formation program. All classes will be held at the Athenaeum, Cincinnati, Ohio.

It’s been a fast process, said Deacon Cox, with talks about revising the aspirancy program beginning only late last year. “Gearing up,” he said, began in late January, and with a due date in the Fall, “myself and several other deacons are getting together and steamrolling through this” to revise the program, he said.

2023 Cross the Bridge for Life

You’re invited to this annual celebration of life

Sunday, June 4

Festival Park, Newport

Festivities including face painting and live music to begin at 1 p.m.

Walk across the Purple People Bridge at 2 p.m.

More information at



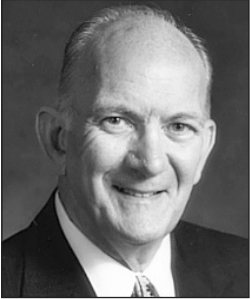
Bishop’s Schedule

- | | |
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| May 20
Vigil Mass, Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, 4:30 p.m. | May 26
Villa Madonna Academy graduation, Mother of God Church, Covington, 10:30 a.m. |
| Covington Latin School graduation, Cathedral Basilica, 7 p.m. | Notre Dame Academy graduation, NKY Convention Center, Covington, 4 p.m. |
| May 21
Mass and May Crowning, St. Joseph Parish, Camp Springs, 10 a.m. | Holy Cross High School graduation, Thomas More University, 7 p.m. |
| Bishop Brossart High School graduation, Thomas More University, Crestview Hills, 2 p.m. | May 27
St. Patrick High School graduation, St. Patrick Church, Maysville, 1 p.m. |
| Vespers/Sacred Heart Dinner, All Saints Parish, Walton, 5 p.m. | May 28
Mass and adult Confirmation, Cathedral Basilica, 10 a.m. |
| May 23-24
Priest formation day, St. Joseph Heights, Park Hills, 10 a.m.– 4:30 p.m. | May 29
Diocesan Curia Closed — In observance of the Memorial Day holiday |
| May 23
Covington Catholic High School graduation, Thomas More University, 7 p.m. | May 30
Advisory Council meeting, 9:30 a.m. |
| May 25
Presbyteral Council meeting, 1:30 p.m. | May 31
Building Commission meeting, 2 p.m. |
| St. Henry District High School graduation, Thomas More University, 7 p.m. | |

The importance of generativity

Somewhere along the way, I was taking a walk with the little daughter of a dear friend. Her mother was visiting my aunt and, to give them a chance to spend some

ALONG THE WAY



Ray Smith

time together and recall old times, I offered. They accepted, so off we went for several walks around the block.

Not long into our stroll, the little one — age six or seven — stopped in her tracks, looked up to me and said, “Tell me about God.”

That was the day I began to learn about “generativity” — the act of passing down stories, experiences and yes, even wisdom at times, to the younger generation. That incident took place about 60 years ago. All these years, without really knowing what it was that I was doing, I have done my best to listen carefully to questions and to share information, stories, experiences and even opinions with youngsters who display a curiosity and an interest in “listening back.”

The strange thing about generativity is it’s working place. It usually happens between youngsters and oldsters who are not even related. Typically, it happens between neighborhood children and some grandpa figure who lives up the same street, between teacher and student or between coach and athlete.

It sometimes happens between parent or grandparent

and child, but that seems to be quite rare. You know the story — “They just won’t listen to me.”

Our parish priest at the time set me to thinking again about this on the one time when he shared a personal experience in his homily. He was asking a group of small children about what family members give them. The discussion quickly centered around what they receive, specifically, from their grandparents.

One child said their grandfather took them fishing. Another couldn’t wait to tell Father about the wonderful cookies received from his grandmother. Finally, another little boy answered this way: “Every week I go over to my grandfather’s house and he gives me history.”

“Really,” Father replied, and must have put on a very curious face because the young man gave a full report about stories told to him, experiences shared with him, and family memories passed down during those wonderful visits.

Father was so enthralled with the boy’s revelation that he built his homily around the privilege of, and the need for, family sharing — generativity.

It reminds me of a magnificent futuristic fantasy call “Fahrenheit 450” penned by the famous science-fiction author, Ray Bradbury.

Somewhere in the future, books had to be hidden in television sets with false fronts, under radiator covers or even in the slots of electric toasters. Houses and commercial buildings were completely fireproof. Firemen are “fire men” who carry blowtorches and who seek and find books to be burned on the owner’s front lawn. They like it best when children are made to watch the travesty.

The hero, Montag, is a futuristic “St. Paul” who pock-

ets “David Copperfield” during a book raid and reads it in secret. Instant conversion! Montag renounces the firemen’s motto, “Burn them (the books) to ashes and then burn the ashes” and thereafter seeks refuge in the country with the “Book People” who too, have defied the government’s edicts that books are rubbish and that reading them is “sheer perversity.”

They refuse the government’s notion that the only way to be happy is for everyone to be made equal, that is, “everyone must be alike — we must burn the books.” It is a government that would burn the books about lung cancer because their existence would cause the smokers to panic.

The “Book People” risk jail and even death to keep tradition alive and to pass down the wisdom, knowledge and experiences contained in books. In essence, they become the books, as do their children and their children’s children.

To eliminate books would lead to the elimination of all human knowledge.

The “Book People” are willing to risk all to keep that from happening. Such is the value of “generativity” to them.

Fortunately, I truly hope we still live in a country that lets teachers, friends, parents and grandparents share a wealth of life’s experiences and earned wisdom with the next generation.

The only risk? A few lost minutes of some television program. God help us!

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

The blessing of reaching out to the elderly

The COVID-19 public health emergency has officially ended and summer promises happier times in the months ahead. And yet our surgeon general, Dr. Vivek H. Murphy, has just issued an advisory signaling a new public health

GUEST



Sister Constance Veit, L.S.P.

threat in our country.

The issue is loneliness. It’s actually not a new problem at all, but an invisible epidemic that has been spreading through our society unchecked for many years.

In an essay in the *New York Times* in April, Dr. Murphy asserts, “We need to acknowledge the loneliness and isolation that millions are experiencing and the grave consequences for our mental health, physical health

and collective well-being.”

Dr. Murphy warns that loneliness is “more than just a bad feeling.” It often leads to anxiety and depression — but that is not all.

It is also associated with increased risk of heart disease, dementia and stroke.

Loneliness carries with it a more significant risk of premature death than either smoking or obesity.

Dr. Murphy also noted that social disconnection is linked to reduced performance in the workplace and at school as well as diminished social engagement.

To combat this epidemic of loneliness, Dr. Murphy proposes a three-pronged national framework aimed at rebuilding social connection and community.

The first point in Dr. Murphy’s plan is to strengthen our social infrastructure through programs, structures and policies that support healthy relationships.

The second point is to renegotiate our relationship with technology — we need to learn to put down our devices in order to be more present to each other.

Third, each of us needs to reach out and rebuild relationships in our personal lives.

Although all three elements are important, I’d like to focus on the third point in this framework — our personal relationships — and I suggest that we begin by reaching out to the elders in our families and neighborhoods, many of whom suffer from a lack of meaningful relationships, though they have many gifts to share with others.

Summertime brings with it many opportunities for family-centered events — graduations, weddings, reunions, picnics and vacations — but do we always make the effort we should to include our elders, especially if they have mobility, communication or memory issues?

The summer months can be a dangerous time for seniors, especially those below the poverty line and those who live alone.

Heat waves quickly become deadly for seniors who lack air conditioning as well as those who have chronic conditions that make it difficult for their bodies to acclimate to temperature fluctuations.

For example, rising temperatures can cause renal failure in persons with kidney problems and they exacerbate dehydration from medications like diuretics, which are commonly prescribed to older persons.

Twenty years ago, hundreds of seniors died in Paris and other French cities during a summer heat wave, seemingly forgotten by family members who were away on vacation.

French society was criticized for this obvious neglect of the elderly but similar incidents have recently

occurred in our country with seniors dying in their own homes due to a lack of air conditioning during periods of extreme heat.

Many U.S. cities have now set up public cooling centers and regulations for air conditioning in public housing.

But the first line of defense for vulnerable seniors should be the attentiveness of family members and kind neighbors.

For many years Pope Francis has been challenging us to live in a greater spirit of solidarity by reaching out to those both near and far, especially those on the peripheries of society.

He often directs our attention to the needs of seniors, condemning neglect of the elderly and calling on us to strengthen bonds between the generations.

The first time he spoke publicly about the elderly was at World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro in 2013. This summer Pope Francis will join young people for World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal.

He has intentionally linked this celebration, whose theme is focused on the Virgin Mary in the Visitation, to the third World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, which falls just a few weeks prior to the events in Lisbon.

As we prepare for these two celebrations this summer, let’s stay close to the seniors in our lives, strengthening our emotional and practical bonds with them and remaining attentive to their wellbeing.

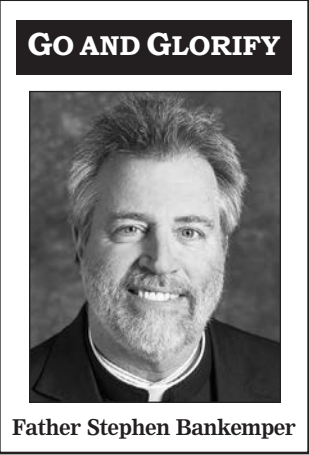
We will be blessed as we reach out to them, just as Mary was blessed in her encounter with her elderly cousin Elizabeth.

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

How does Jesus leave and remain?

The readings for the Ascension of the Lord — Cycle A — are: Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 1:17-23 and Matthew 28:16-20.

Contained in this great feast of Ascension is one of the great paradoxes in our faith. On the one hand, we celebrate Jesus leaving his life on earth and returning to the realm of heaven. At the same time, Matthew reports



Jesus’ last words as, “And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”

How does Jesus leave his apostles/us and yet remain with them/us?

Part of the reason Jesus’ leaving and remaining seem paradoxical to us is because we are used to speaking of heaven as a physical place, as if Jesus is going somewhere; and because our idea of heaven is so different from our experience of earth, we often have the

unconscious thought that it is also far away. Pope Benedict XVI addresses this in Part Two of his book on Jesus:

“The New Testament ... describes the ‘place’ to which the cloud took Jesus, using the language of Psalm 110:1, as sitting (or standing) at God’s right hand. What does this mean? It does not refer to some distant cosmic space ... God is not in one space alongside other spaces. God is God — he is the premise and the ground of all the space there is, but he himself is not part of it ... His presence is not spatial, but divine. ‘Sitting at God’s right hand’ means participating in the divine dominion over space. (p.283)”

Jesus ascends, not to some place other than earth, but enters, now with his body, into a “communion of power and life,” as Benedict puts it, with the living God. And because God is always present to his creation, so is Jesus.

“Because Jesus is with the Father; he has not gone away but remains close to us. Now he is no longer in one particular place in the world as he had been before the ‘Ascension’: now, through his power over space, he is present and accessible to all — throughout history and in every place. (p. 284)”

The upcoming feast of Pentecost gives us another way to understand Jesus’ absence and presence. In John’s Gospel, Philip says to Jesus, “Lord, show us the Father; and we shall be satisfied.”

Jesus answers, “He who has seen me has seen the Father; how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father in me?” (John 14:9b-10a)

In the same way, in her in whom the Spirit resides, Jesus resides. We profess this in the Nicene/Constantinopolitan Creed: “I believe in the Holy Spirit ... who proceeds from the Father and the Son.”

The doctrine of the Trinity tells us that the presence of the Spirit also brings the presence of Jesus.

It is good to understand all this intellectually, but it is also important that it have some impact in our lives. Brother Lawrence of the Resurrection, a 17th-century Carmelite friar; can, in his idea of the “practice of the presence of God,” provide some help here. There is not room here to expound on his practice, but the book about it is easily found.

Practicing the presence of Jesus is a good practice, for it helps us know viscerally his presence, even as we know it intellectually. Knowing Jesus’ absence and presence both intellectually and viscerally can bring us to a deeper understanding of his ascension.

Father Stephen Bankemper is pastor, St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Ft. Thomas, Ky

They will know we are Catholic by our home

On Christmas Day, after celebrating with our family all day, my husband and I were bundling up our girls to face the frigid temperatures and head home for the night. This past December was particularly cold, wasn’t it? So



cold, in fact, that many people suffered from water pipes freezing and bursting, particularly on Christmas and the day after.

Unfortunately, we were one of those families. Just as I was zipping my daughter’s coat, my husband told me he had received a message from our landlord regarding water in our apartment. Long story short, my little family of four along with our cat and nearly 80-

pound dog have been enjoying the hospitality of my parents since the New Year while searching for our new home.

As we toured house after house, I began to say to my husband, “they are Catholics” when we entered the front door or even as we walked up the driveway. This “Great Search,” as I have come to think of it, has led me to the question: What makes a Catholic home?

There are things we do as Catholics that have become so ingrained in us that we do them naturally. Even in college, I hung a Crucifix or at least a cross over the doorways, almost like a reflex. I would be willing to guess that behind at least one of those crucifixes in your home are Palms you received on Palm Sunday, maybe even a few from the year before as well. Or perhaps they are on the mantel, to keep them out of reach of small children and playful cats.

The Catholic calendar for 2023 is hung in the kitchen, though they have become a bit harder to find these days. In a drawer; a pile of prayer cards or a stack of Sunday bulletins you saved to remember the date of that event from four weeks ago. I like to call these our “every day Catholic” things. Subtle reminders of our Catholicism working in our daily lives, almost without thought.

Then there are our “conscious effort Catholic” things, things that go beyond that natural reflex. Perhaps you have a holy water font by the front door and remember to use it every day. Statues of St. Francis or Mary in your garden, even a specifically dedicated Marian Garden. Images of the Holy Family, special Saints, the Pope or bishop hung around the home. Maybe you have an altar or prayer table set up for family prayer time with changing items for the liturgical season. These items took more deliberate thought to set up or plan out.

As I was preparing this article, I was talking with coworkers and family about how hypocritical I feel trying to define a Catholic home as if I am some expert trying to tell people what they should be doing. In our apartment, we had a cross over every doorway and palms tucked in them. We had a holy water font, but honestly, we received it as a wedding gift and put it up then kind of forgot about it. We had an image of the bishop on the fridge, but it was an easy enough image to get considering he is my boss, and we didn’t feel right throwing it away.

I had to take an honest look at myself and realize I was doing very little of the “conscious effort Catholic” things in my own home. Who am I to say anything to anyone. That’s when I was reminded, it’s not about the things, “every day” or “conscious effort.”

What makes a Catholic home are the souls that reside within. When we walk into our homes and the homes of other Catholics, we should feel it as much as we see it. The things we put in our home that communicate our Catholicism to others should be there to serve as reminders to ourselves. Reminders to stop and pray together as a family, reminders of Christ’s sacrifice for us, reminders to seek the Lord and spread peace and love to everyone around us. And while we should strive to be “conscious effort” Catholics in decorating our homes, the true goal is to be “conscious effort” Catholics in how we speak and how we act.

It’s not an easy task. We will succeed some days and feel that we failed miserably on others. All we can do is start with where we are and work to build up the Spirit and peace within so that, hopefully, people who come into our home will say, “they are Catholic.”

Sarah Torres is the archivist for the Diocese of Covington, Ky

Eucharistic heart of Mary: Tabernacle, Monstrance and Minister

Catholics who want to grow in holiness and virtue can’t do much better than focusing on the two pillars of our spiritual treasure — the Eucharist and Mary – which anchor us as little else can.



The Eucharist teaches us the value of presence, self-sacrifice and communion, and reveals the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. Mary gives us the model of Christian discipleship: She is the portrait of what it looks like to fully embrace God’s love and his will wherever we are.

One could spend a lifetime contemplating these two gifts, but we usually don’t get around to consid-

ering how they are connected. As the three-year National Eucharistic Revival in our country begins to ramp up, taking time to meditate on the eucharistic heart of Mary can enrich us.

We Catholics have done a bang-up job of linking what happens on the altar at Mass to the sacrificial death of Jesus that won our salvation. Mass is a perpetuation of Calvary: Through it, we stand at the foot of Christ’s cross and receive the life-giving fruit of his total gift of self.

But the Mass also perpetuates the joyful mysteries of

Nazareth and Bethlehem. By the power of the Holy Spirit, called down at every Mass, bread and wine are transformed into the body, blood, soul and divinity of Christ. The Word becomes flesh in Eucharist; the Incarnation is extended to us. In this sacrament, the Son of God “pitches his tent” with humankind (cf. John 1:14), only now Christ comes to dwell not just with us, but with-in us.

The key to the synergy between Mary and holy Eucharist lies in this mystery of incarnation. The Angelus prayer can help us unpack it.

— “The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary, and she conceived of the Holy Spirit.” One way to understand what occurred at the Annunciation is to realize that by carrying Jesus in her womb, Mary became the tabernacle of God’s real presence. Never before had the Most High been Emmanuel, God-with-us as one of us. God in the flesh.

— “Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it done unto me according to your word.” Mary’s fiat, her total embrace of God’s plan for her, makes the divine presence visible. After seven childbirths, I can attest that pregnancy is public, whether you want it to be or not. As the child within her grew, Mary became more than just a tabernacle of God’s presence. She was a living monstrance, as well. Pope Benedict called Mary’s visit to her cousin Elizabeth “the first Eucharistic procession.” Just as a monstrance reveals the Eucharist for our adoration, Mary’s body and her obedience to God’s will reveal the action of God’s extraordinary grace in her life. As Pope

(Continued on page 17)

We Choose Life



Pro-Life Office

of the Diocese of Covington

Mission Statement

The Pro-Life Office of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington, guided by our bishop, promotes the sanctity and legal protection of human life from conception to natural death through prayer, pastoral care, public policy and education.

Prayer for Life

Only with prayer — prayer that storms the heavens for justice and mercy, prayer that cleanses our hearts and souls — will the culture of death that surrounds us today be replaced with a culture of life.

—U.S. Catholic Bishops, Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities

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- Join thousands of Catholics as we seek to transform our culture.

<https://www.respectlife.org/prayer-and-action>

Three reasons why teens and young adults are important in the fight for life

Marina Mason
Contributor

Young people drive culture and have been vital to the success of almost every major social movement throughout history. In our current digital age — where information, news and opinions can spread across the entire world in mere seconds — it is more important now than ever for Gen Z and Gen Alpha to get educated about the crisis of abortion and take a courageous stand for life.

By the numbers, abortion is one of the largest scale human rights atrocities in the world today. Over the past 50 years, based on numbers reported for 1973-2020 by the Guttmacher Institute (a pro-abortion policy research organization) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, there have been more than 60 million human beings killed through abortion in the United States. In 2020, the CDC reported 198 abortions per 1,000 live births. That's approximately 1 in 5 pregnancies ending in abortion every year, which means around 20 percent of the U.S. population is currently missing because of abortion.

We know that every abortion eliminates a unique, unrepeatable human being. It is not enough to simply condemn the practice in private; we must support women so that abortion becomes unthinkable. Great strides have already been taken to protect life in Kentucky, but we must continue this momentum to turn the tide in our lifetime, and that starts with recognition of the unique role and gifts of every young person.

Young adults and teens offer three crucial things to the pro-life movement:

1) They naturally drum up excitement and enthusiasm about the life issue. Whether in-person or online, young people are seemingly always advocating for social causes or issues about which they feel passionate. Whether it's a button on their backpack, their favorite pro-life t-shirt, or a petition link in their Instagram bio, young people are especially adept at spreading the word on the things they care about — effortlessly persuading others to care, too.

On social media, young pro-life advocates know what is funny, what is trending and how to reach their peers in a relatable way. Especially when engaging with pro-abortion messages online, there is genuine value in knowing whether to write a full essay in the comments section, or to just post a funny reaction meme which conveys your point more quickly (and humorously).

2) They are the hands and feet of the movement. Literally. Young people have natural energy and vitality because of their youthfulness that allows them to do creative kinds of activism. From knocking on innumerable doors for a pro-life candidate, to participating in a 5k fundraiser for their local pregnancy resource center, to rapidly responding to a pro-abortion event on their campus — young people have much physical and mental energy to be effective pro-life advocates when it really matters the most.

For teens in Kentucky, going to the annual National Pro-Life March in Washington D.C. usually means hopping on a bus and riding anywhere from 10 to 16 hours overnight (snack and potty breaks included, of course). After arriving early in the morning and going straight to the March, they join hundreds of thousands of



(above) Northern Kentucky University students at the 2021 March for Life in Washington, D.C.
(left) Marina Mason, Appalachian Regional Coordinator for Students for Life of America.



other pro-life advocates on a trek through our nation's capital. These trips are a ton of fun, but let's be honest: sleeping on a cramped bus to then immediately march outside in the winter? It takes grit. But that is something young people naturally have in spades.

3) They are the future of the Pro-Life movement. This is common sense. Any movement that does not continuously recruit or evangelize new members will eventually die out. This is why Students for Life of America fills such a crucial role within the pro-life movement.

Our organization honors the hard work of our predecessors in the pro-life movement by making sure their efforts aren't going to waste. To be good stewards of their sacrifices, we make it possible to pass the baton on to the next generation — the Post-Roe Generation. And what does taking that baton look like?

In states like Kentucky, much of the hard work has mostly been done. Pro-life legislation — created and passed while most of us were still too young to vote at all — is currently in effect and saving thousands of preborn lives within the Commonwealth. However, the battle isn't over yet.

If we allow ourselves, our friends or our communities to grow complacent in advocating for the preborn, we could see these protections undone in the not-so-distant future by abortion supporters. Just as a nation should not dissolve its military in times of peace, neither should pro-life efforts cease in states with legal protections for the preborn. We must continue to be alert and change hearts and minds in a life-affirming manner.

To learn more about how young people can get involved, go to studentsforlife.org — and remember these words from Proverbs 31: "Speak up for those who can't speak for themselves. Speak up for the rights of all those who are poor." Let's all use our voices (our time, talents and resources) to speak up for the voiceless.

Marina Mason is the Appalachian Regional Coordinator for Students for Life of America, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that serves more than 1,300 pro-life student groups in all 50 states. Her work involves training, mentoring, and mobilizing pro-life students in Kentucky and Tennessee to abolish abortion in our lifetime. She can be reached at mmason@studentsforlife.org.

For more information about the Pro-Life Office or to be added to our e-mail newsgroups, visit us online at www.covdio.org/prolife/ or call (859) 392-1500.

Foster parenting has ‘a lot of challenges and difficulties, but there’s also a lot of joy’

Andrew Vandiver
Correspondent

May is National Foster Care Awareness Month, and the Diocesan Catholic Children’s Home (DCCH), Ft. Mitchell, will be honoring local foster parents with a special dinner and recognition ceremony on May 22 at The Gardens of Park Hills.

Two local foster parents, Tobias and Rachel Nathe, will be in attendance. Mr. and Mrs. Nathe are parishioners at St. Anthony Parish in Taylor Mill and are currently serving as foster parents. At a time of great need for Kentucky’s children, they are encouraging others to consider doing the same.

“There is a desperate need for these children to find homes and it’s one way to really live out your Christian call,” said Mr. Nathe.

Of course, the idea of serving as a foster parent might be intimidating for many families. Nevertheless, that shouldn’t discourage them from finding a way to help. “I think everybody’s called to do something to help these kids, it could be respite, it could be making a meal when they (a foster family) take in a new placement, it could be babysitting, it could be donating to organizations,” said Mrs. Nathe.

When Mr. and Mrs. Nathe were first considering serving as foster parents, they were advised to start with respite care. Respite care is a form of short-term care provided to children in the foster care system. It provides relief for foster parents from their obligations as caregivers in instances where they must be away overnight or for a weekend.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Nathe emphasized the importance of prayer in discerning whether to serve as foster parents. “There are going to be a lot of challenges and difficulties, but there’s also a lot of joy,” said Mrs. Nathe.

One challenge is the uncertainty that comes with fostering. Some families go into fostering with the mindset that they will eventually want to adopt a child. Others are only hoping to provide short term relief to needy children and their parents. The goal is always reunification, but a lot can happen along the way.

“There is always the grace of God there to get you through,” said Mrs. Nathe as she reflected on common concerns she hears from potential foster parents.

“We came into this with the idea of surrender from the beginning,” responded Mr. Nathe. “If something unexpected or difficult happens, we’ve already surrendered that



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over... it’s not nearly as difficult as people think it’s going to be.”

Mr. and Mrs. Nathe also emphasized that there is support for foster parents. DCCH offers continuing training, mentoring and family gatherings. “It’s a supportive environment,” said Mr. Nathe.

Ron Bertsch is director of Therapeutic Foster Care/Adoption at DCCH. According to Mr. Bertsch, DCCH received 4,694 referrals for children needing a foster home

last year. As of early May, DCCH had already received 1,854 referrals during this calendar year.

Anyone interested in learning more about DCCH’s foster care program, or other opportunities to help children in need, may contact Mr. Bertsch at (859) 331-2040.

On June 1st, DCCH will be starting its free training program for those interested in foster or adoptive parenting and respite care.

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Rose Garden Mission lays foundation for new addition

Maura Baker
Staff Writer

The Rose Garden Home Mission, Covington, is a primary mission of the Franciscan Daughters of Mary — women religious who operate within the Diocese of Covington. The mission itself provides food, clothing, medical and pregnancy care and other necessities to those in need within its community, operating primarily through donations and volunteers.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, “donations have increased,” said Mother Seraphina, mother superior of the Franciscan Daughters. “Even the lobby, where we invite our friends to come in and hang out with us, has become like a staging area.”

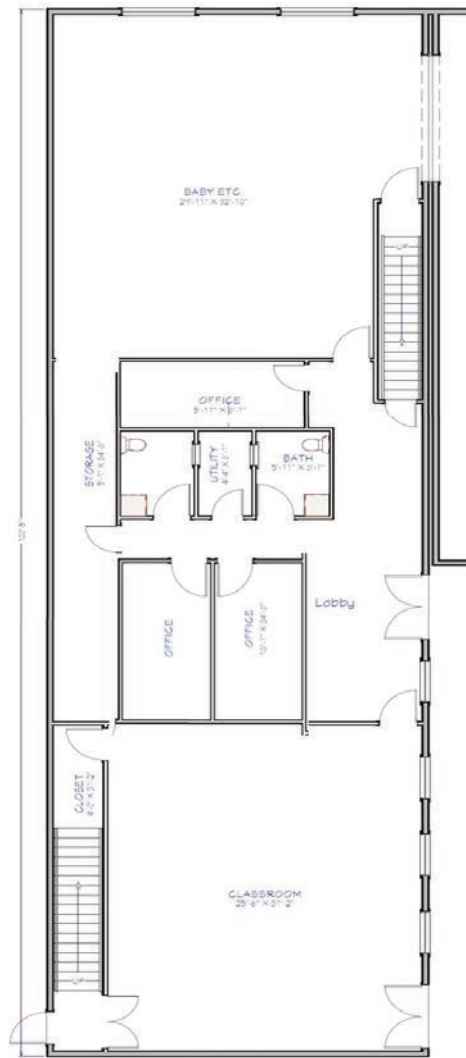
A need for additional space was identified and, the Friends of the Rose Garden Mission, an organization that “financially assists the Franciscan Daughters of Mary in their work of providing assistance, hope and dignity to the poor of Covington by purchasing and maintaining the building that houses the Rose Garden Home Mission,” agreed that the Franciscan daughters needed more room to conduct their work in the facility — thus starting the project to build a new addition onto the pre-existing building.

“It’s going to be two stories, where the first floor will be mostly pregnancy care and all the material support will be on the second floor — all storage,” said Mother Seraphina. “This way, it’ll open more space in the main body of the

mission.”

With the addition dedicated primarily to maternity and pregnancy care, Mother Seraphina hopes that this new construction will help to provide additional privacy to mothers in need. “This will give us the opportunity to give them more dignity by having it be a part from the whole thing, and so they don’t have to worry about their privacy being invaded — and they can talk about it openly.”

At the time of this article, permits have been obtained for the addition’s foundation, which has been laid out already — with permits for the remaining construction pending.



(left) A layout of the proposed addition to be constructed.
(above) Pavement outside of the Rose Garden Mission is broken up to make room for construction.
(right) Workers work to lay the foundation of the Rose Garden Mission’s new addition.



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Excited to receive Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time, children from St. Anthony School, Taylor Mill, celebrate their First Communion.

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.

Newport Central Catholic High School Summer Youth Camps: boys and girls basketball, baseball, drama, football, boys and girls soccer, softball and volleyball. For camp dates and to register go to <https://gofan.co/app/school/KY6479>. For information e-mail jschulkens@ncchs.com.

The Sisters of Notre Dame need items for its 101st Annual 4th of July Festival, including services, sports items, jewelry, gift certificates and antiques. Call Margie at (859) 392-8229 or, e-mail mschnelle@sndusa.org. Items can be dropped off during the day at 1601 Dixie Hwy. in Park Hills or arrangements can be made for pickup.

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.



Learning history while playing games

While studying the American Revolution, 5th graders at St. Agnes, Fort Wright made arcade games using their knowledge of the tension brewing between the Patriots and the British. Each game relates to an event that was significant during the Revolution.

Sisters of Notre Dame Furniture Sale Dressers, tables, desks, shelves, recliners, chairs, & more! Any donation. All must go! Located behind St. Joseph Heights at garages. 1601 Dixie Highway, Covington, KY. Friday, May 19 and Saturday, May 20, 2023, 8am – 2 pm. For information, call 859-291-2040

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.

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

Bishop Brossart High School Men’s and Women’s Golf Outings at A J Jolly Golf Course. 35th annual Ladies Outing, June 15, \$90. Call 781-4337 for reservations. 44th Annual Men’s, June 16 \$100. Call 635-2108 for reservations.

Serra Club for Vocations, Northern Kentucky day at the Florence Y’Alls Thomas More Stadium, June 29, 6:30 p.m. Vouchers are \$10 with half going to support the Serra Club. Tickets available online <https://www.ticketreturn.com>; use the code “SerraClub” in the special offer code field. The Y’Alls will be playing the Trois-Rivières Aigles from Canada. Contact Mike Murray at (859) 630-4228 or mmurray@covdio.org.

2023 Parish Festivals

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

St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Fort Thomas, June 2, 7–11 p.m., June 3, 5:30–11 p.m.

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

St. Paul Parish, Florence, June 9–10, 6–11 p.m.; June 11, 3–7 p.m.

St. Joseph Parish, Camp Springs, Saturday, June 10, 4–11 p.m.

St. Edward Ice Cream Social, Cynthiana, June 11, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

St. Joseph Academy Pigfest, Walton, June 16–17, 5–11 p.m.

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

St. Therese Parish, Southgate, June 15, adult night 6–10 p.m.; June 16–17, 6–11 p.m.

Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish, Erlanger, June 23–25

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.

St. Philip Golf Ball Drop and Festival, Melbourne, August 19, 5–11 p.m.

St. Barbara Rocktoberfest, Erlanger, September 8–10

St. Agnes Parish, Fort Wright, September 22–24

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’ foot-steps. 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.



Hope, healing and healthy smiles

In April, which marked the sixth anniversary of the free dental clinic at the Rose Garden Center for Hope and Healing, Delta Dental of Kentucky gave 200 oral hygiene kits to the Rose Garden Home Mission of the Franciscan Daughters of Mary, for distribution to dental patients and to food pantry clients. Brad Drew, Delta Dental’s regional account executive, delivered the supplies to (left to right) Ellen Curtin, volunteer, Mother Seraphina, FDM and Sheila Carroll, Executive Director of the Center. Dental waiting lists are long, and more volunteers are urgently needed. Dentists, hygienists and assistants can email rghmclinic@gmail.com for details.



(above) Bishop Iffert raises his arms during the blessing saying, “...Send your Holy Spirit upon this ground, bless and sanctify it. Through the gift of your eternal wisdom, grant that the ground we break today for your glory and our own wellbeing may progress, day by day, to its successful completion.”



(above center) Bishop Iffert circumnavigates the perimeter of the worksite sprinkling the ground and the people present with holy water.

(above right) Jennifer Geiman, principal, St. Mary School, Alexandria, stands during the prayer and blessing of the future of the St. Mary School multipurpose building and gymnasium.



(left) Participating at the groundbreaking's official first digs are: (from left) Father Edward Brodnick, Father Albert Ruschman, Father Joseph Gallenstein, Bishop Iffert, Deacon Timothy Britt, Kendra McGuire and Don Knochelmann.

Phase 2 is a \$3.7 million project, which will essentially build the housing for four classrooms and a multipurpose room/gym. Phase 3 will add functionality to the new building — bleachers, gym flooring, basketball goals, lockers and a concession stand as well as renovating existing classrooms and the cafeteria. As vision becomes reality in Phase 2, parish leaders anticipate that momentum will generate donations and pledges to complete Phase 3.

“Nearly every generation of Catholics here in Alexandria has been asked to rise to the occasion to respond to the pressing needs of the community of faith,” Father Gallenstein said, “not so that they may be self-satisfied or self-referential but so that the Gospel would be proclaimed, the faith would be taught, the sacraments would

(Continued from page 1)

but for all of your hard work and all of your generosity. Thank you.”

St. Mary Parish has been especially careful not to build more than it can finance with its Cultivating Legacy

Campaign, which is why the project has been broken into phases. Phase 1 included the addition of a parking lot and an elevator connecting the church and the undercroft. It was blessed and dedicated in August 2021 and was completed under its \$800k budget.



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During the groundbreaking, May 10, St. Mary School students entertained those present with their enthusiastic fingerplay songs.

be celebrated, the people of God would grow more like Christ himself – in humility and in service — so, in that Catholics would be an integral and vibrant part of the larger Campbell County community.” Cultivating Legacy, he said, is “our challenge, our turn to assess the needs and respond with courage and trust.”

Mrs. Geiman also expressed her gratitude to the St. Mary Parish community and all those who have played a part in the campaign. “This phase will ensure we meet the growing needs of our parish and school,” she said.

Mrs. Geiman outlined how the new building will benefit students now and in the future, saying, “This building will not only transform our campus but also the opportunities we offer our students and parishioners. We will finally have a large gathering space to celebrate together. Our new preschool classrooms will ensure the successful program continues and thrives. Our students will benefit from up-to-date facilities such as a STEM lab and music

room.”

Looking at the preschool students whose classrooms overlook the soon-to-be construction site, Mrs. Geiman said, “I know the preschool teachers are very excited about the demo tomorrow, especially during nap time,” drawing a chuckle from the crowd.

Bishop Iffert shared his gratitude and support of the campaign saying, “My role is to be a voice of caution in a lot of these projects ... because I’m convinced that you all have put together the resources and can manage the resources to undertake this project ... I’ve said ‘Let’s do this!’ Let’s break ground today,” said Bishop Iffert. “Nothing we have, including our own life and our own talents, really belongs to us. It’s only been given to us to care for and to decide how to use to give glory to God ... Thank you for the care that you have shown and for investing part of what God has entrusted to you — your time, your talent and your financial support — to get us to this time.”



In his closing remarks, Bishop Iffert also addressed the students. “You are going to face some very special temptations during the next year,” he said. “There’s going to be a lot of noise.” Bishop Iffert encouraged the students to resist the temptation to be distracted by the sounds and excitement of construction. “Be strong. Think about what it’s going to be like to be in those new spaces ... think about the good that is to come.”

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Protecting God’s Children for Adults Safe Environment Trainings

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

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

Step 3: Your account becomes active when your background check, VIRTUS session and Acceptance Form are posted on your account. You will receive 12 bulletins per year. You will receive e-mail notices at system@pub.virtus.org unless your computer program blocks them.

Bulletins:

- May bulletin: posted 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:

- Saturday, May 20, 9– 11:30 a.m., St. Patrick Parish, Parish Hall, Taylor Mill
- Tuesday, June 13, 6–8:30 p.m., Diocesan Curia, Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, Covington
- Wednesday, June 14, 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 Steffen at (859) 392-1500 or msteffen@covdio.org



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KEYNOTE SPEAKER FR. JIM SICHKO
a Papal Missionary of Mercy from the Diocese of Lexington.

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Prayer, love of Christ are source of strength to share Gospel, pope says

St. Francis Xavier offers the faithful, especially young people who are itching to make a difference in the world, a wonderful example of how to find courage in prayer and spread the joy of the Gospel, Pope Francis said.

“Look at Francis Xavier, look at the world’s horizon, look at people in so much need, look at so many people suffering, so many people in need of Jesus, and go, be courageous,” he told people at his weekly general audience in St. Peter’s Square May 17.

As part of his series of talks about “zeal” for evangelization, Pope Francis spoke about the Spanish Jesuit missionary, St. Francis Xavier, who is the patron saint of missions together with St. Thérèse of Lisieux.

St. Francis Xavier is sometimes considered to be “the greatest missionary of modern times,” the pope said. “But you cannot say who is the greatest, who is the least, because there are so many hidden missionaries who, even today, do so much more than St. Francis Xavier.”

What makes a missionary great is the act of going, of leaving one’s homeland to preach the Gospel, the pope said.

This is what apostolic zeal looks like, he said. “We have to nurture this so much and we learn by looking at these men, these women” who have been missionaries.

The pope detailed the life of St. Francis Xavier, who was born into a noble family in Spain in 1506 and then met St. Ignatius Loyola, another Spanish nobleman, while studying in Paris.

He became one of the first members of the new Society of Jesus founded by St. Ignatius, and he wanted to become a missionary.

He was sent to still unfamiliar lands in Asia, embarking on a voyage full of hardship and danger, and encountering new languages and cultures, the pope said.

St. Francis Xavier spent 11 years in mission, spending more than three and a half of those years just traveling by boat, reaching India, Sri Lanka, Malacca in modern-day Malaysia, the Maluku Islands of Indonesia and Japan.

He baptized and cared for the sick and he taught prayers and the catechism to children; in the Maluku Islands, he translated the catechism into the local language and put it into verse so it would be easier to learn through song, Pope Francis said. The saint planted in Asia the seeds of Christianity that would bear great fruit.

“Francis Xavier had the apostle’s restlessness to keep going further,” and he dreamed of going to China, “with its culture, its history, its greatness,” he said. “Even today China is such a cultural center, with a great history, a very



Pope Francis greets members of Mosaiko, a Rome organization for LGBT Christians, at the end of his weekly general audience in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican May 17, 2023.

beautiful history.”

But the saint got sick and died at age 46 on an island off the coast of China in 1552.

His very intense missionary activity always was “combined with prayer, in union with God,” because he knew that was where he drew his strength, the pope said. Also, “he was not an ‘aristocratic’ missionary: he always went with the neediest, the children who were the most in need of education, catechesis, the poor, the sick.”

“The love of Christ was the strength that drove him to the farthest frontiers, (facing) hardships and constant danger, overcoming setbacks, disappointments and discouragement, indeed, giving him consolation and joy in following and serving (Christ) to the end,” he said.

Pope Francis asked that the faithful to look to the saint for inspiration to experience the same zeal

for living and proclaiming the Gospel.

“To the many young people today who have some restlessness and don’t know what to do with that restlessness, I say, look at Francis Xavier” and the many people in the world who need Jesus, he said.

“May the Lord give us all the joy of evangelization, the joy of carrying this very beautiful message that makes us, and everyone, happy,” he said.

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Labor Department finds hundreds of children illegally employed at McDonald’s restaurants

Kimberley Heatherington
OSV News

The family-friendly reputation of fast-food giant McDonald’s was recently spoiled when three franchises that own more than 60 Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland and Ohio locations were found by the U.S. Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division investigators to be in violation of federal labor laws.

The restaurants illegally employed 305 children, some as young as 10, according to the Labor Department.

The Labor Department said May 2 the adolescents worked “more than the legally permitted hours” and performed “tasks prohibited by law for young workers.” The Labor Department’s news release stated the unpaid 10-year-olds “sometimes worked as late as 2 a.m ... they prepared and distributed food orders, cleaned the store, worked at the drive-thru window and operated a register. The division also learned that one of the two children was allowed to operate a deep fryer, a prohibited task for workers under 16 years old.”

“It’s a tragedy that we are seeing a return of child labor in this country,” Clayton Sinyai, executive director of the Catholic Labor Network, told OSV News. “Ten-year-old

children belong in school, not operating the deep fryer in a restaurant.”

Fines totaled \$212,544 in civil penalties against the employers. The McDonald’s locations are operated by Bauer Food and Bell Restaurant Group, both based in Louisville, Kentucky, and Archways Richwood based in Walton, Kentucky.

The Labor Department reports that more broadly, it “found 688 minors employed illegally in hazardous occupations in fiscal year 2022, the highest annual count since fiscal year 2011.”

Wage and Hour Division district director Karen Garnett-Civils in Louisville said in a statement, “We are seeing an increase in federal child labor violations, including allowing minors to operate equipment or handle types of work that endangers them or employs them for more hours or later in the day than federal law allows.”

Garnett-Civils added, “An employer who hires young workers must know the rules. An employer, parent or young worker with questions can contact us for help understanding their obligations and rights under the law.”

Father Christopher Mahar, an official in the Vatican’s

Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, told OSV News, “It is essential that families receive the integral support that they need, from states and social services, so that children are not even considered as a solution for financial difficulties.”

“Now is the time to eliminate all forms of child labor,” added Father Mahar.

“As Pope Francis has indicated, children have a right to play and to dream. Exposing them to the potential harms of the workplace cuts short that reality,” he said. “The way we protect the dignity of children today determines what the world of tomorrow will look like.”

Kevin Cassidy, director of the U.S. office of the International Labor Organization, told OSV News that “when children under the age of 18 work with dangerous machinery, equipment and tools, or in difficult conditions such as work for long hours or during the night, this is considered hazardous work.”

Hazardous work for children is prohibited under the ILO’s “Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (No. 182),” which was ratified by the United States in 1999.

The ILO is a Geneva, Switzerland-based specialized agency of the United Nations, and has confronted the issue of child labor since its 1919 founding. It sets international labor standards, and advises the U.S. government concerning policy. The Vatican delegates a permanent observer to the U.N. and its agencies, and Pope Francis has offered messages to ILO gatherings.

“Child labor deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and is harmful to their physical and mental development,” Cassidy explained. “Ending child labor in all its forms should be the goal of all countries.”

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UK bishop denounces new IVF method resulting in first baby born with DNA of three people

Simon Caldwell
OSV News

LIVERPOOL, England — An English Catholic bishop has denounced the first reported births of “three-parent” babies in the UK as “deeply concerning.”

Auxiliary Bishop John Sherrington of Westminster said the creation of babies by mitochondrial donation treatment (MDT) was unethical because the process involved the destruction of two embryos to create a single new life.

His remarks came after *The Guardian* newspaper reported May 9 that “first U.K. baby with DNA from three people” was born after the new in vitro fertilization (IVF) procedure.

“It shows a further step in the technical manipulation of new life with the loss of human life as part of the technique,” said Bishop Sherrington, lead prelate for life issues of the Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales.

“The technique depends on the destruction of two human lives who had inherent dignity and rights and must be protected from their creation as persons in order to create a third embryo and life,” he said in a May 11 statement published on the bishops’ conference website.

“It also fractures the child from biological parenthood,” he continued. “It steps into the unknown world of genetic engineering with manipulation of the human germline.”

“The gift of life, to be respected and treated with dignity from conception to natural death, is a mystery which cannot be reduced to technical manipulation,” the bishop added.

In 2015, the U.K. became the first country in the world to legalize the genetic modification of the human germ line in an attempt to fight inherited diseases.

It created a legal framework to permit two methods of mitochondrial transfer in the hope of curing illnesses such as muscular dystrophy.

Mitochondria are the biological power packs that give energy to nearly every cell of the body. If defective, cells can be starved of energy, causing muscle weakness, blindness, heart failure and death in extreme cases.

The procedures covered by the regulations include “three-parent” IVF by which material is extracted from an ovum and inserted into a donor egg before it is fertilized by the father’s sperm.

The second technique, pronuclear transfer, involves up to four parents creating two embryos which are destroyed before the maternal embryo is cloned and repackaged with parts from the donated embryo.

Research on MDT is being pioneered in the U.K. by scientists at the Newcastle Fertility Center, which in 2018 became the first and only national center licensed to carry it out.

The Guardian used the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to ask how many children have been created by the technique.

It discovered that the Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority, the regulator, has permitted the creation of 30 babies by pronuclear transfer although “less than five” have been born. No details of the births were provided.

The Anscombe Bioethics Center, an Oxford-based institute serving the Catholic Church in the U.K. and Ireland, in a May 11 email to OSV News, explained that in creating each baby, two embryos were “functionally destroyed by the removal of their pronuclei and parts of both used to create a third embryonic human.”

“This is the destruction of two embryonic human individuals to create a third individual,” it said in its press statement.

“This is primarily unethical due to the destruction of two unique innocent human beings who had inherent dignity and rights. It is also unethical for two other reasons: the fracturing of biological parenthood, and the potential for serious unintended consequences.”

Anscombe said that the technology carried “serious implications for the identity of the newly created baby, who will now have no right to identify information about her egg mother when they grow up.”

The institute also questioned the safety of the technology, saying “it is a mistake to assume that the nucleus and the mitochondria have no deeper connection, and that the former can be transferred without any consequence.”

It cited the findings of Paul Knoefler — a researcher and professor of cell biology and human anatomy at the University of California, Davis — that “there is strong evidence that the mitochondrial genome, for example, ‘talks to’ the nuclear genome, and has ‘pervasive effects on cellular and organismal functioning.’”

Professor David Albert Jones, director of Anscombe, said: “Every child newly conceived is to be welcomed and we hope this new human life brings joy to his or her parents, but some ways of conceiving children involve risks or harms to the child.”

“This is a new and unnecessary technique that does not add to the safety of IVF involving an egg donor, but adds further risks,” Jones added.

“As with all IVF involving egg or sperm donors, this fractures parenthood and it is essential that the child is at least given identifying information about his or her egg donor parent. It is a fundamental human right to know about our biological origins.”

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Eucharistic heart of Mary

(Continued from page 5)

Benedict put it, “The children exulted, the mothers exulted. ... imbued with the joy of the Holy Spirit ...”

— “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.”

Mary didn’t keep Jesus to herself; she gave him to the whole world. Shepherds visited the stable where she gave birth. Crowds, disciples, religious leaders, pagan soldiers — Jesus lived among them all. Mary gave her son to all of us, placing his body into our hands. In a way, the Mother of God is the most extraordinary of all extraordinary ministers of holy Communion.

Of course, all this doesn’t end with Mary. By God’s grace, we are all tabernacles, monstrances and ministers. Like her, every baptized Christian is a tabernacle of God’s indwelling presence. Our bodies and our lives hold the hidden presence of God himself. And this is not figurative. As St. Paul writes, “Do you not know that your

body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own?” (1 Cor 6:19).

The choices we make and the purpose that guides us reveal this reality. We are monstrances when we choose self-sacrifice over self-interest, and when we accept our own suffering as a gift and willingly accompany others in theirs. We reveal the face of God by recognizing his image in every human being and by answering the call to follow him, to become more like the Master every day.

And more, we are sent to bring Jesus into the world as Mary did. We are not to keep Christ for ourselves or merely show him to others. We are told to give freely what we have freely received (cf Matt 10:8) — our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

Jaymie Stuart Wolfe is a Catholic convert, freelance writer and editor; musician, speaker, pet-aholic, wife and mom of eight grown children, loving life in New Orleans.



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Marian library seeks to show Mary through ancient eyes, new perspectives

Gina Christian
OSV News

A research library at an Ohio university houses what it calls “the largest dedicated collection of materials on Mary in the world” — and its doors are as open as the Blessed Mother’s arms.

“We are here for everyone, including people with a personal devotion, artists looking for inspiration, academics and theologians,” Sarah Cahalan, executive director of the Marian Library at the University of Dayton in Dayton, Ohio, told OSV News.

Founded in 1943, the Marian Library lives up to its motto of “De Maria numquam satis” (“Never enough

about Mary”). Its books, periodicals, articles, prints and religious artifacts — combined with resources in an array of disciplines, including patristics, biblical studies, church history, spirituality, hymnography and iconography — represent 100 languages and form an impressive repository that only one institution can match, said Cahalan.

“It’s not a competition, but obviously the Vatican had a significant head start,” she admitted.

The library, which supports a number of Marian studies programs offered by the school, led to the creation of the International Marian Research Institute, which hosts the online Marian Forum to promote academic research

on Mary.

Currently, the Marian Library is hosting the two-part art exhibit “East Meets West,” which features a private collection of Ukrainian works by women icon makers of the Lviv School in Ukraine, along with selections from the library’s own Ukrainian Marian Collection, which was established in 1981 by Marian Library employee Helen (Halyna) Nkolyshyn.

For Nkolyshyn, who died in 2000, assembling the Ukrainian Marian Collection was a “passion project,” said Cahalan. “Her family had to leave Ukraine because of religious persecution, and her work has become increasingly relevant again.”

The Lviv School women iconographers have brought a contemporary vision to the genre, employing “distinctive styles, color schemes and really interesting (techniques) that people have responded well to,” said Cahalan.

Seeing Mary through fresh eyes is a goal of the Marian Library, one that informs its acquisitions policy, she said.

Cahalan and her colleagues seek to incorporate “more geographic diversity” in the library’s materials by adding pieces from African, Indigenous and other cultures.

“We are actively working to acquire materials that demonstrate the global reach of devotion to Mary, and give a more comprehensive overview of what that devotion looks like today,” she said, pointing to Our Lady of Kibeho, Rwanda — the only Vatican-approved Marian apparition in Africa — as one example.

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National/World

It’s unfair, humiliating if only the rich can build a family, pope says

ROME — Starting a family and having children has become a kind of herculean task when instead it should be valued and supported by everyone, Pope Francis said at a meeting in Rome on Italy’s severe decline in population growth. Today’s culture “is unfriendly, if not hostile, to the family, centered as it is on the needs of the individual, where individual rights are continually claimed and the rights of the family are not discussed,” the pope said at the meeting May 12. Women face “almost insurmountable constraints,” he said, especially as they are often forced to choose between having a career and being a mother or caring for family members who are frail or need special care. Sponsored by the Foundation for Natality and the Italian Forum of Family Associations, the conference was being held May 11-12 in Rome. In his talk, Pope Francis said that bringing children into the world is often seen as a task the family should be dealing with on its own. The consequence of that, he said, is “only the wealthiest can afford, thanks to their resources, greater freedom in choosing how to shape their lives. And this is unfair, as well as humiliating.”

N.C. Legislature overrides governor’s veto of 12-week abortion ban

RALEIGH, N.C. — North Carolina’s Legislature, May 16, overrode the Democratic governor’s veto of a 12-week abortion ban, allowing the measure to be enacted. The bill, an outlier among states that have passed abortion restrictions since Dobbs, now becomes law despite a pressure campaign from Gov. Roy Cooper for lawmakers to reject it. The Care for Women, Children and Families Act (SB 20) would prohibit elective abortions after 12 weeks, as well as implement new safety requirements for abortion clinics and additional funding for resources, including adoption and foster care services, as well as some paid parental leave. Cooper made a pitch to voters to pressure Republican state lawmakers against overriding his veto. If just one Republican legislator had not backed an override effort, the state’s current 20-week

abortion ban would have remained in place. The bill has been backed by the state’s Catholic bishops. In a joint statement on May 15, Bishops Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte and Luis R. Zarama of Raleigh said they “welcome the (bill’s) increased protections for unborn human lives.” Arguing that “while this bill is not perfect,” the bishops nevertheless “hope it will become law to advance protection for unborn children and support for mothers in need.”

FDA advisory panels back over-the-counter sales of birth control pills

WASHINGTON — A panel of federal advisers voted May 10 in favor of a pharmaceutical company’s request to sell a type of their birth control pills over the counter and without a doctor’s prescription, clearing the way for the Food and Drug Administration to approve such sales of oral contraception. Currently, a woman seeking to use birth control pills must do so with a doctor’s prescription. But in a unanimous vote following a two-day joint meeting of two FDA advisory committees, the federal advisers offered their support to selling the company Perrigo’s product, Opill, without a prescription. The vote will likely pave the way for the agency to approve the sale of birth control pills over the counter, which will impact ongoing debates about abortion policy post-Roe. While some have called for expanded access to contraception in the wake of the Supreme Court’s reversal of Roe v. Wade last year, others have argued that their misuse without medical supervision could cause more unintended pregnancies. In a guide about the church’s teaching on issues including contraception, the National Catholic Bioethics Center said that while contraception “is never to be directly intended,” its use for “therapeutic means needed to cure diseases is not illicit, even if it results in a foreseeable impediment to procreation — provided the impediment is not directly intended for any motive whatsoever.”

Missouri lawmakers ban gender reassignment surgery, treatments for minors

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Missouri lawmakers passed a bill May 10 banning certain types of medical or surgical gender reassignment procedures for minors who identify as transgender, as well as a measure blocking transgender student athletes from competing on sports teams opposite their biological sex. The legis-

lation banning some treatments for transgender minors would prohibit certain types of hormonal or surgical gender reassignments including puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones. The measure regarding transgender student athletes would apply from kindergarten through college at both public and private schools in the state, at the risk of the schools’ state funding. Both measures would expire in 2027. Supporters of prohibitions on medical interventions for minors who identify as transgender say such efforts will prevent them from making irreversible decisions as children they may later come to regret as adults. Critics of such measures argue that preventing those interventions could cause other harm to minors such as mental health issues. The bills will be considered by Republican Gov. Mike Parson, who previously indicated to local media that he supports the bills.

Ugandan church desperate to fight a plague of human trafficking

KAMPALA, Uganda — Government figures show that more than 24,000 Ugandans seek household jobs in the Middle East annually, driven out of the country by poverty, unemployment, domestic violence and family breakdown. Thousands of them become victims of human traffickers. In 2021 alone, up to 28 Ugandan migrant workers died in the Middle East, according to Uganda Human Rights Commission. The situation has compelled the Catholic Church to intensify awareness campaigns to end human trafficking in the country. Bishops, priests, sisters, catechists and other church leaders have been visiting homes, villages, churches, and public places to educate the people on the dangers of human trafficking. The church leaders want the government to strengthen and speed up efforts to reduce poverty and unemployment so that vulnerable Ugandans, especially girls and women, are not lured to travel overseas. Archbishop John Baptist Odama of Gulu in northern Uganda encouraged others, including human rights organizations, to join the church in tackling human trafficking, a plague of the country. “We need each other to address this evil trade that is killing our people and subjecting them to inhuman conditions,” he said, urging the government to arrest anyone engaging in human trafficking. “I appeal to church leaders and other stakeholders to spread awareness about the dangers of human trafficking and report any evils that promote this illegal activity,” Archbishop Odama told OSV News.

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All Saints Parish	56	\$62,400	\$33,556.00	(\$28,844.00)
Blessed Sacrament Parish	240	\$165,800	\$151,943.13	(\$13,856.87)
Cristo Rey Parish	5	\$44,600	\$3,200.00	(\$41,400.00)
Divine Mercy Parish	35	\$29,700	\$13,695.00	(\$16,005.00)
Holy Cross Parish	116	\$25,600	\$50,085.00	\$24,485.00
Holy Redeemer Parish	7	\$2,900	\$3,050.00	\$150.00
Holy Spirit Parish	102	\$31,000	\$38,695.00	\$7,695.00
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish	206	\$125,300	\$139,295.00	\$13,995.00
Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish	199	\$82,700	\$140,206.00	\$57,506.00
Mother of God Parish	131	\$57,300	\$108,380.00	\$51,080.00
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish	60	\$38,100	\$35,952.44	(\$2,147.56)
Our Savior Parish	10	\$2,700	\$6,275.00	\$3,575.00
St. Agnes Parish	245	\$150,100	\$163,723.95	\$13,623.95
St. Ann Mission	25	\$8,200	\$26,530.00	\$18,330.00
St. Anthony Parish	58	\$17,000	\$31,560.00	\$14,560.00
St. Augustine Parish, Augusta	66	\$16,500	\$24,570.00	\$8,070.00
St. Augustine Parish, Covington	82	\$22,200	\$48,505.00	\$26,305.00
St. Barbara Parish	246	\$105,400	\$132,075.22	\$26,675.22
St. Benedict Parish	59	\$25,400	\$27,555.00	\$2,155.00
St. Bernard Parish	14	\$17,400	\$10,550.00	(\$6,850.00)
St. Catherine of Siena Parish	111	\$79,100	\$81,925.00	\$2,825.00
St. Cecilia Parish	182	\$83,300	\$66,112.00	(\$17,188.00)
St. Charles of Borromeo Parish	25	\$10,700	\$11,495.00	\$795.00
St. Edward Mission, Owenton	6	\$2,100	\$2,100.00	\$-
St. Edward Parish, Cynthiana	42	\$9,000	\$24,000.00	\$15,000.00
St. Francis Xavier Parish	48	\$18,200	\$21,705.00	\$3,505.00
St. Henry Parish	177	\$67,000	\$94,495.00	\$27,495.00
St. James Mission, Minerva	10	\$4,500	\$2,300.00	(\$2,200.00)
St. James Parish, Brooksville	24	\$12,300	\$17,050.00	\$4,750.00
St. John Mission, Dividing Ridge	8	\$3,900	\$1,275.00	(\$2,625.00)
St. John the Baptist Parish, Wilder	18	\$3,000	\$34,410.00	\$31,410.00
St. John the Evangelist Parish, Carrollton	26	\$27,300	\$24,042.00	(\$3,258.00)
St. John the Evangelist Parish, Covington	54	\$24,800	\$30,895.18	\$6,095.18
St. Joseph Parish, Camp Springs	54	\$43,500	\$43,865.00	\$365.00
St. Joseph Parish, Cold Spring	354	\$94,900	\$152,329.00	\$57,429.00
St. Joseph Parish, Crescent Springs	191	\$162,200	\$135,125.03	(\$27,074.97)
St. Joseph Parish, Warsaw	12	\$6,900	\$3,130.00	(\$3,770.00)
St. Mary of the Assumption Parish	355	\$121,800	\$149,999.00	\$28,199.00
St. Matthew Parish	16	\$12,100	\$4,520.00	(\$7,580.00)
St. Patrick Parish, Maysville	86	\$49,300	\$46,878.60	(\$2,421.40)
St. Patrick Parish, Taylor Mill	118	\$60,300	\$49,376.00	(\$10,924.00)
St. Paul Parish	165	\$104,400	\$119,412.00	\$15,012.00
St. Philip Parish	70	\$9,500	\$37,240.98	\$27,740.98
St. Pius X Parish	421	\$216,900	\$266,714.04	\$49,814.04
St. Rose of Lima Parish	26	\$10,100	\$13,635.00	\$3,535.00
St. Therese Parish	155	\$28,500	\$62,340.00	\$33,840.00
St. Thomas Parish	193	\$81,500	\$100,340.73	\$18,840.73
St. Timothy Parish	231	\$163,200	\$173,128.13	\$9,928.13
St. William Parish	46	\$22,500	\$26,557.00	\$4,057.00
Sts. Boniface & James Parish	21	\$14,400	\$8,810.00	(\$5,590.00)
Sts. Peter & Paul Parish	87	\$28,200	\$52,285.00	\$24,085.00
Transfiguration Mission	5	\$2,200	\$1,410.00	(\$790.00)
Friends	11	\$-	\$7,268.67	\$7,268.67
Totals	5,422	\$2,650,000	\$3,160,809.30	\$510,809.30

QUESTIONS: PLEASE CALL THE DIOCESAN STEWARDSHIP OFFICE AT 859-392-1500.