Staff report

The Serra Club for Vocations hosted its annual picnic for women religious, June 21, at Ryland Heights Country Club. The event was co-chaired by Serrans Gary and Sally Badarik and Bill and Jean Zeck with planning assistance by Notre Dame Sisters Marla Monahan and Ruth Lubbers and Divine Providence Sister Fran Moore. The picnic is co-sponsored by Diocese of Covington.

In addition to a summer picnic lunch of fried chicken, bratts and metts, fruit, baked beans, potato salad and pineapple-pretzel fluff, the Sisters were treated to boat and carriage rides. Sisters could also exercise their skills at corn hole and shuffleboard and test their luck at bingo.

The mission of the Serra Club for Vocations NKY is to promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life in the Diocese of Covington. Its members not only pray for vocations but also sponsor events, like the picnic for women religious, an annual dinner for priests and a luncheon for seminarians, to demonstrate appreciation for these vocations and the people called to them.

For more information on the Serra Club visit https://serranky.com.

Sister’s delight in picnic, hosted by the Serra Club
Duveneck frieze and wall diaper reinstated in Cathedral’s Blessed Sacrament Chapel

Father Jordan Hainsey
Contributor

Thanks to the generosity of parishioners and friends of St. Mary’s Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, funds from the 2023 DPAA rebate were used to reinstate the historic frieze and diaper wall pattern designed by renowned artist Frank Duveneck for the Cathedral’s Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

Building the Cathedral was the dream of Covington’s third bishop, Camillus Paul Maes. Begun in 1894, construction of the nave, apse and transept of the new cathedral was complete by January 1901. Funds had dissipated, however, halting the costly construction of the planned facade and the addition of stained-glass windows; instead, a plain, brick wall closed the nave and temporary frosted glass windows were installed. Correspondence from the period shows, though, that while work was suspended on the outside, Maes’ vision for the interior was just beginning.

For Bishop Maes, the beating heart of the Cathedral was the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, and as such, the decoration in this space was paramount. Perhaps drawing on the striking mural work from Bruges’ Basilica of the Holy Blood in his native Belgium, Maes saw the large blank walls as an opportunity to visually catechize the faithful on the Eucharist.

There was seemingly no doubt in Maes’ mind either as to who should complete the artworks for the space: Frank Duveneck. Duveneck was no stranger to Covington’s ecclesial landscape; growing up on Greenup Street in the mid-19th century, Duveneck served first as an altar boy at old St. Joseph Church (now razed, but at that time just behind the present Cathedral), before becoming an apprentice to Brother Cosmas Wolf, O.S.B., and his team at the Covington Altar Stock Building Co., which operated out of St. Joseph Church. Duveneck would have studied Christian iconography, composition and narrative, along with practical skills like gessoing a canvas, mixing paint, and working on underpaintings.

It was here that Brother Cosmas recognized Duveneck’s talent and, in a February 25, 1866 letter to Duveneck and his parents, recommended him for studies in Europe. Three years later, Duveneck arrived at the Royal Munich Academy.

In Munich, Duveneck was surrounded and influenced by old masters like Frans Hals, Rembrandt and Peter Paul Rubens. Duveneck’s innate talent paired with the technical and classical skills he studied made him an immediate success and catapulted his career as a painter across Europe. Fellow artists and critics in both Europe and

(Continued on page 15)
The Messenger returned from the Catholic Media Conference in Baltimore, June 9, with a first-place designation for Best News Writing on a Local or Regional Event in the Weekly Newspaper division.

The annual conference is hosted by the Catholic Media Association. In addition to networking and learning from each other the best ways to communicate the Gospel message today, Catholic journalists from across the United States submit its best work in nine divisions — All Member Awards, Communication Awards, Magazine Division, Newspaper Division, Spanish Language Division, Book Awards, Alumni Magazine Awards, Student Journalism Awards and Gabriel Awards, which includes documentaries, film, radio and television — for first, second, third and honorable mentions awards.

"Together, we become better Catholic communicators as we learn from each other; and stronger Catholics as we inspire each other by simple, faithful witness," said Amy Kawula, president, Catholic Media Association, in her commentary published in The Catholic Journalist about the conference. This is the second year that the CMA offered a hybrid conference, with journalists not able to attend in-person joining in virtually. "We are a faith-filled family that supports, encourages and prays for one another. We call on the Holy Spirit to continue to lead our association (Continued on page 11)
The blessing of reaching out to the elderly

On Sunday, April 14th, 1912, Father Thomas Byles celebrated Mass aboard the Titanic, just forty days into its historic maiden voyage. It was “Low Sunday,” the first Sunday after Easter, and the priest was heading to New York to officiate at the wedding of his brother, William. Those who were on board recalled how he preached a homily about using prayer as your life’s work, and the sacraments to save your soul in a spirit of shipboard peace. That night, he was walking up the deck, wearing his toga and praying his breviary, when the Titanic struck that fatal iceberg.

As though he was the captain himself, Father Byles remained on the ship to hear confessions and offer prayers. Twice, he was offered a seat on a lifeboat, but he declined in order to hear confessions and offer support to those on board. He used prayer as a method to strengthen the social fabric and community. Byles remained on the ship to hear confessions and offer support to those on board.

Byles declared a saint. It was led by Father William his brother was a martyr for the faith. Shortly after 2 a.m., the ship slipped into the Atlantic and disappeared. Some 1,500 people perished in the tragedy, and one of them was Father Byles. His body was never recovered.

The first point in Dr. Murthy’s plan is to strengthen our social infrastructure through programs, structures and policies that support healthy relationships. The second point is to reframe our relationship with technology — we need to learn to put down our devices in order to be more present to each other. The 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 relationship ties, though they may have 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 periphery 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 strategically 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 be close to the seniors in our lives, strengthening our emotional and physical 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.

Recalling Father Thomas Byles, ‘priest and martyr’ during new Titanic crisis

On Sunday, April 14th, 1912, Father Thomas Byles celebrated Mass aboard the Titanic, just forty days into its historic maiden voyage. It was “Low Sunday,” the first Sunday after Easter, and the priest was heading to New York to officiate at the wedding of his brother, William. Those who were on board recalled how he preached a homily about using prayer as your life’s work, and the sacraments to save your soul in a spirit of shipboard peace. That night, he was walking up the deck, wearing his toga and praying his breviary, when the Titanic struck that fatal iceberg.

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Byles declared a saint. It was led by Father William his brother was a martyr for the faith. Shortly after 2 a.m., the ship slipped into the Atlantic and disappeared. Some 1,500 people perished in the tragedy, and one of them was Father Byles. His body was never recovered.

Days later, in Brooklyn, William Byles and his fiancée went ahead with their wedding, a low Mass presided over by a different priest, a friend of the bride. After the ceremony, they changed into clothes for mourning, and returned to the same church for a requiem Mass. A year later, William and his wife traveled to Rome and were granted a private audience with Pope Pius X, who heard the story of Father Byles. The pontiff told William his brother was a martyr for the faith.

While the pope recognized Father Byles as a martyr, it was not until 2015 that a movement would emerge to have Father Byles declared a saint. It was led by Father Graham Smith, who was the pastor of St. Helen’s Church at the time, the same parish which Father Byles once served.

Father Smith said of Father Byles’ heroic sacrifice, “He’s an extraordinary man who gave his life for others. We need, in very old parliance, to raise him to the altar, which means that the Vatican will recognize him as a martyr of the Church. We are hoping and praying that he will be recognized as one of the saints within our canon.”

While Father Byles’ cause for sainthood remains open, it has not advanced very far. There have yet to be any miracles attributed to the Titanic’s priest, but he is remembered for his selflessness in the most dire of circumstances.

As the doomed ship Titanic is again in the headlines, we have a chance to recall Father Thomas Byles, who sacrificed his own life in order to remain behind with those doomed to die in the cold waters of the Atlantic, and to invoke his intercession for all those in danger while at sea.

Deacon Greg Kandra is an award-winning author and creator of the blog, “The Deacon’s Bench.” This piece originally appeared at Alleluia.org and has been reprinted to the Messenger by OSV News.
June 30, 2023

**Commentary**

**GO AND GLORIFY**

Very Rev. Daniel Schomaker

**Do you get what it takes?**

The readings for the thirteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time — Cycle A — are: 2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16a; Romans 6:3-4, 8-11 and Matthew 10:37-42.

On this thirteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time, we hear in the Gospel of St. Matthew the conclusion of the “Missionary Discourse” of Jesus. Jesus details the conditions necessary, and the rewards received for being one of his followers — especially those who today have been called to religious life. I think it is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on who we are at the ontological level — the level of being.

We learn from the Book of Genesis, that God made humanity in his own image and likeness. From the very beginning the Almighty has desired that we be divinized — be god-like. Our first parents took this a little too far — they desired not to be like God, but to be gods. The ones who determine the good, the just, the right, the holy etc. Unless we are blind to what is going on in our society, this “original sin” sub-sists and abounds all around us. How often do we hear comments like “my truth?”

So, who am I? What is the most central and distinguishing characteristic of my life? If the answer is anything but, “I am a child of God,” it’s time for some introspection.

What is the greatest commandment? Jesus responds: “You shall love the Lord your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” (Matt 22:37) God first… always! And who is God but Jesus, in communion with the Father and the Holy Spirit (the Godhead).

Although not as explicit in the Gospel for this weekend, Jesus is reminding us that love for him, love for God, must be primary in our lives over and above all else.

“Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.”

Remember that in the context of this teaching, Jesus has not been fully revealed as the second person of the most Holy Trinity. But, he is placing himself equal to God. In the Decalogue (the Ten Commandments), the first three commandments are about God, the very next — number four — is “honor your father and mother.” And just so everyone is on the same page, to “honor” in this particular context means to glorify. Jesus is sure! St. Augustine of Hippo once said: “Do not follow just any road, but that which Christ trod.” This road seems hard, but it is safe.

A disciple of Jesus Christ — a Christian — must be willing to see themselves with the authenticity as God sees them, and through an act of the will offer everything, all of who we are, for his sake. Which means accepting the cross — yes, those difficulties and sufferings in our own lives but also death — death to my needs, my wants, my desires.

From the perspective of our country’s early leaders, we can find a deeper meaning. Freedom is not a gift bestowed upon us by other men, but declared as our inalienable rights to life, liberty and pursuit of happiness endowed by our Creator.

The founding fathers envisioned a society where people were free to make their own choices in life, but also one in which people assumed the responsibility that goes along with those choices.

Exercising freedom means doing so in a responsible and respectful way.

Restated by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1941, in a State of the Union Address, as the Second World War raged in Europe, FDR outlined four fundamental freedoms.

He stated all people around the globe should have the right to freedom of speech and expression, freedom to worship God in their own way, freedom from want, and freedom from fear of war and tyranny.

When we, my fellow disciples, do this, the reward is being.

**Freedom**

With Independence Day coming up, think about freedom.

Defined as the power or right to act, speak or think as one wants without hindrance or restraint. Is that it?

There are two seas in Palestine, the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea. The Jordan river flows into both.

The Jordan flows into the Sea of Galilee making it fresh. All kinds of fish are living in the Sea of Galilee providing food for the communities around it and fresh water to drink. There are trees and vegetation lining its shores, providing nourishment and shelter for the wildlife that live there. The people use its waters to boat and swim. Jesus might have played in its waters when he was young.

The Sea of Galilee is healthy because the Jordan river flows in at one end and the water flows back out as the Jordan continues flowing toward the Dead Sea.

The Dead Sea, on the other hand, is just that — dead. All the water it receives stays there, none flows out. The Dead Sea is toxic, about 10 times saltier than the oceans. No living organisms live in its waters except a few species of algae and bacteria. It doesn’t provide water or nourishment to any animals or plant life. It is good for

**God’s gifts**

very little other than tourism and salt production.

Just as the Jordan river provides water, our heavenly Father gives all of us his love in many blessings. All good things we have are gifts from him. We are given these gifts for our own benefit and to share them with others.

Some of our share our gifts and are alive like the Sea of Galilee. Others keep God’s gifts for themselves and don’t share them. The gifts become useless, and these people become like the Dead Sea, toxic and unhappy.

When we volunteer our time and talents, we perform needed service to others. When we share our financial resources with the Church and worthy charities these funds are put to work improving the lives of those in need. When we share God’s love with those around us we spread the joy of God’s love.

Sharing God’s love is easy to do. There are thousands of ways to do this. When we smile at someone, say a kind word, visit someone who is sick or lonely, when we comfort someone who is sad or perform any kind deed, we share God’s love with them.

In that way we let the love of God flow through us and into others, like the water through the Sea of Galilee.

When we share that love it grows and nourishes others as it does us.

Deacon Michael Keller is assigned to St. John the Evangelist Parish, Carrollton, and Transfiguration Mission, Perry Park.
**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.

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**One year post-Dobbs, the nation remains divided**

On June 24, 2022, the United States Supreme Court handed down its decision on Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization, freeing the states to set their own laws regarding abortion. A year later, our nation is split: 20 states have bans in effect or restrictions after 6 to 20 weeks. Another 5 more state bans have been blocked by legal challenges. The remaining 25 states permit abortion, in 6 cases up to the moment of birth.

Let us pray that every citizen comes to respect the right to life of every human being, regardless of age or circumstance. And may Kentucky never again see the 2021 toll of 4,441 babies lost to abortion.

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**God’s providence and the pro-life cause**

Father Conor Kunath

Contributor

I often hear people say that God doesn’t answer their prayers. It always surprises me because my experience has been that God answers nearly all my prayers. This disparity between experiences has forced me to try and figure out why other people’s prayers are not being answered. Thus far, the only explanation I have found is that some people remember and pay attention and others don’t.

When I am praying for some intention, I am always certain to make note of what it is that I asked for and to review them each day, looking to see the ways God may have responded to my request. So far, only a few prayers remain unanswered. I think that is simply because of their magnitude, for example, one of my daily prayers is for the conversion of all sinners. I suspect it is only a matter of time until it is fulfilled in ways that I could not have imagined.

When we spend time convinced that God is not listening to us or is unwilling to answer our prayers, it can become easy to fall into despair. As despair deepens and our conviction that God is not listening grows, so does our willingness to give up on prayer entirely — especially when the world confronts us with so many other troubling problems, from war and disease to political unrest and economic issues. A host of worries conspire with our despair can slowly draw us away from God and prayer.

When we give up on prayer, we begin to place our confidence and trust in places where they do not belong. We convince ourselves that the right politicians or the right policy or whatever else will solve the problem and free us from our growing despair. Of course, those solutions never really free us, so the vicious cycle continues. This is when a bit of awareness can go a long way in freeing us from despair and misplaced hope.

I remember when I first began to be aware of God’s movements in my life. It was much later in life than one might expect. I had already been a priest for over a year and had just begun to work through the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola with a small group of lay women. The core image of the exercises is conversation with God. The retreatant’s heart speaks to God, and God’s heart speaks back.

In those first weeks of the Exercises one of the themes that emerged for me was light versus darkness. In the midst of this a good friend encouraged me to look up a famous painting. “The Calling of St. Matthew,” by Caravaggio. The power of that image, in part, comes from Caravaggio’s use of light and darkness as Jesus calls Matthew out of where he was and into the light. The light of Christ inspires Matthew to get up and leave his former life behind to follow Christ as a disciple.

What was most striking to me was that my friend had no idea that I was already pondering deeply these themes of light and darkness, and that God was powerfully at work in my life at that time. She had no idea how much this image would captivate and inspire me. She just thought it was a nice picture.

It is the daily awareness of answered prayers that reveals such coincidences as spiritual gifts. God is calling out to us. God is working in our lives. We have to be attentive to discern his quiet work in the world.

On June 24, 2022, God’s work was manifest to all who were willing to look. It was on that day that the long struggle over the issue of legal abortion reached a climactic moment. In a shocking decision, the Supreme Court overruled both Roe vs. Wade and Planned Parenthood vs. Casey. Certainly this was a momentous day in the history of our country and the worldwide culture of life. But for us as Catholics this moment had the clear marks of being the work of God.

The decision was made public on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, a day when we celebrate and honor the tremendous mystery of Christ’s incarnation. It is because God chose to enter into our flesh that we can celebrate the human heart of Jesus Christ — the heart in which Christ loves each of us.

This solemnity acknowledges that a human heart beats in the very heart of the Trinity and that the incarnation raised our humanity to a special dignity. How manifestly appropriate, then, that the day when we celebrate the uniqueness of Christ’s humanity also reclaimed the humanity of unborn children.

June 24th is also special because it is normally the day when we celebrate the Nativity of John the Baptist, the greatest of the prophets. It was John the Baptist who kept in his mother’s womb at the arrival of Mary, the mother of Jesus. As well, June 24th is the birthday of Nellie Gray, founder of the annual March for Life in Washington D.C. For all of this to happen on the same day is nothing short of miraculous. God was clearly at work in the events that took place last year.

Now do you see why I am a little incredulous when people say that God does not answer their prayers? If we look, we cannot miss God’s providence at work in our nation and in our lives. To say God does not hear our prayers is absurd.

All throughout the Gospel when people seek out Christ it is because they have heard about the wonderful signs and miracles that he had been performing. In our own day, when you give your Catholic witness, remember that great signs are done in your midst even now. Remember that the God who desires each of us for himself is truly mighty. And remember that “If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”

Father Conor Kunath is vocation director for the Diocese of Covington, Ky.; chaplain, Notre Dame Academy and the Serra Club and parochial administrator, St. Boniface and James Parish, Ludlow. This essay is based on his sermon at the October 2022 Diocesan Pro-Life Mass.
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Collection dates will take place during the months of July and August, and will vary according to individual parishes.

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St. Vincent de Paul enters 25th year of offering heat relief to vulnerable neighbors

Maura Baker
Staff Writer

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Northern Kentucky, a ministry in the Diocese of Covington which provides necessities and care to vulnerable members of the community, enters the 25th year of its annual “Summer Breeze” program this year.

This program, sponsored by St. Elizabeth Healthcare, began June 1 and runs through August 31. It is the only heat relief program in Northern Kentucky, and provides both AC units and fans to those who require respite from the hot and humid Northern Kentucky summer.

Karen Zengel, executive director of St. Vincent de Paul, said that for “a lot of folks out there who struggle to breathe, the heat and humidity makes it harder to breathe, so you need that kind of relief to maintain your health over the summer.”

For those in need suffering from medical conditions such as asthma or COPD, St. Vincent de Paul offers air conditioning units free of charge to them once every five years. Additionally, anyone in need of heat relief from the summer weather can receive a fan once every two years.

“This program is essential to making sure members of our community stay healthy as temperatures rise,” said Ms. Zengel. “Being able to provide these valuable resources to our neighbors in need is an important initiative for us as an organization and our community. We are grateful for the support that has allowed us to continue serving the community.”

According to Ms. Zengel, last year, 378 AC units and fans were distributed, and St. Vincent de Paul expects a “similar amount this year as well.”

“We budgeted for that,” she said, “and that was part of the sponsorship provided by St. Elizabeth.”

The Summer Breeze program is made possible by financial support from donors and foundations like St. Elizabeth Healthcare and the Agnes Nordloh Charitable Trust. More information on the ministry of St. Vincent de Paul and the Summer Breeze program can be found online at www.svdpnky.org.
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.

St. Mary’s Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, offers Veneration of a relic of the True Cross on the first Friday of every month, from noon–1 p.m. Confessors are present and confessions are heard in silence and concludes with a blessing and the opportunity for the faithful to come forward to venerate the True Cross relic. The monthly veneration is sponsored by the Knights and Daughters of the Covington-Lexington section of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. The next is Friday, July 7.

Notre Dame Urban Education Center, Covington, is seeking adult and high school volunteers to tutor children in grades K-9 in reading, English and math in its Summer Academics program held in June. For information, call (859) 281-4497 or e-mail Sister Maria Therese at smtherese@nduec.org. Volunteers 18 and older must be VIRTUS compliant.


First Friday Mass followed by a healing service, July 7, St. Joseph Church, Crescent Springs, 6:30 p.m. with music by the Sacred Heart Praise Band. Mass at 7 p.m. Sponsored by the Mustard Seed Catholic Charismatic Community. For information, call (859) 341-0532.

The Mustard Seed Catholic Charismatic Community sponsors a monthly Third Tuesday prayer gathering, 7-8:45 p.m., Blessed Sacrament Parish Center. Fr. Mitchell. Join us July 18 with prayer, a worship music, teach, witness, and healing prayers. For information, call (859) 341-0532.

Family and friends will host the 7th annual Fly High Event, July 22, Bethany Services, 510 E. Willow, Waverly, 7-11 p.m. Entry fee is $12 and under are free. $5 corn hole tournament. Proceeds benefit the St. Mary School, Alexandria, Mitch Kramer scholarship. Contact Paige Kramer Schmitt (859) 601-9467 or e-mail flyhigh-event2@gmail.com.

The third and final 2023 alumni exhibition is “Ameliorative Practice,” the artwork of Jennifer Baldwin ’76 in the Eva G. Farris Art Gallery at Thomas More University, July 7–Aug. 3, with a closing reception Aug. 3, 5-7 p.m. Visit thomasmore.edu/artgallery.

Statistical evidence proves that parishes with an intentional vocations ministry bear the fruit of holy marriages and single life, priestly and religious vocations. Learn more Aug. 5, when the Diocese of Covington and Archdiocese of Cincinnati Serra Clubs co-host “Ignite — a Vocation Conference,” full of information and brainstorming for a personalized parish plan, Mass and food. No cost to attend. Register at mwvmaine@gmail.com or donnahleim@gmail.com.

Knights of Columbus St. Timothy Council #15221 21st annual golf tournament Aug. 19, 1:30 p.m., Boone Links Golf Course. Cost is $130 per player, $60 foursome. Visit http://www.sttimothygolfouting.com.

Bishop John Ertll will celebrate Vesperas, Sunday, Sept. 17, 2 p.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, to honor couples celebrating milestone wedding anniversaries — 1st, 25th, 30th, or 60th — in 2023. Anniversary couples RSVP by July 18 at covdio.org/wedding-vepers/ or contact Lisa Taylor at (859) 352-1533 to register. Reservations are only required for anniversary couples, family members and guests are welcome to attend.

2023 Parish Festivals

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<tr>
<th>Sisters of Notre Dame</th>
<th>101st 4th of July Festival, Park Hills, July 4, 1-6 p.m.</th>
<th>Sts. Peter and Paul July Picnic, California, July 29, 2-7 p.m.; Aug. 26, 2-7 p.m.</th>
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<tr>
<td>St. Pius X Parish, Edgewood, July 14-15, 6 p.m. -12 a.m.; July 16, 4-10 p.m.</td>
<td>St. Joseph, Cold Spring, August 4-5, 6-11 p.m.</td>
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<td>Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Burlington, July 16, 4-10 p.m.; July 17, 5, 6 p.m. -12 a.m., July 16, 4 p.m. -10 p.m.</td>
<td>Blessed Sacrament School Boosters Corn Roast, Ft. Mitchell, August 11, 5:30-11:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Holy Cross Parish, Latonia, July 21, 6-11 p.m.; July 22, 5-11 p.m.</td>
<td>St. Mary Parish, Alexandria, August 11, 8 p.m.-12 a.m., August 12, 5 p.m.-11 p.m.</td>
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<td>St. James Parish, Brooksville, July 21-23</td>
<td>St. Joseph Parish, Crescent Springs, August 11-13</td>
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<td>St. Augustine Parish, Augusta, July 21-23</td>
<td>St. Bernard Parish, Dayton, August 18, 6-11 p.m., August 19, 5-11 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Thomas Parish, Ft. Thomas, July 28, 6-11 p.m.; July 29, 5-11 p.m.</td>
<td>St. Philip Golf Ball Drop and Festival, Melbourne, August 19, 5-11 p.m.</td>
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Holy Cross District High School, Covington, Aug. 25, 6 p.m.-midnight; Aug. 26, 5:30 p.m.-midnight.

St. Augustine Parish, Augusta, Aug. 25–27

St. Cecilia Parish, Independence, Sept. 2, 5-11:30 p.m.; Sept. 3, 4-11:30 p.m.; 4-11:30 p.m.

St. Barbara Rockboterfest, Erlanger, September 8-10

St. Agnes Parish, Ft. Wright, September 22-24

St. Benedict Parish, Covington, September 22-23

DCCH Center for Children & Families, Sept. 30, 2-10 p.m.

Save the date — Sept. 23, a day of recollection and exploration into the interconnectedness of the mind, body and soul at St. Joseph Heights, Park Hills, featuring speakers: Mgr. William Clever, Kathy Kramer and Jessica Marshenkov. This day will be one of growth and renewal. Cost is $80, which includes the program materials, activities and a catered continental breakfast and lunch. For information e-mail holylistenings@gmail.com.

A faith-based support group, New Beginnings provides separated and divorced individuals the opportunity for healing and growth. In this group, participants find new understanding of themselves and their relationships and gain courage to discover new life. Registration is required. Visit https://covdio.org/new-beginnings-2/ or call (859) 352-1533, ext.1392. The next session will be held on consecutive Tuesdays, Aug. 29 – Oct. 17, 7-8:30 p.m., Holy Trinity Elementary School, Bellevue.

Retrovius has helped tens of thousands of couples at all stages of disillusionment or misery in their marriage. This program can help you, too. For confidential information or to register for the September 2023 program beginning Sept. 8-10, call (603) 486-6822, or visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com.
Situated in Covington, the Notre Dame Urban Education Center was established in 2009 to serve the children of Northern Kentucky by offering “transformative educational programs to individuals and families, providing support, restoring hope and promoting a fully human life for all,” according to its website.

The Education Center, which is sponsored by the Sisters of Notre Dame, offers programming year round for school aged children — from early learning and summer programs, to the Homework PLUS program, which takes place during the school year and offers assistance with children’s homework along with the resources and tutoring needed for them to succeed in their education and assignments.

This summer, NDUEC launched its new “Sewing Corner,” inspired by some students who had expressed that they “wanted to learn how to sew,” according to Erin Woods, director of Development and Mission Advancement at the Notre Dame Urban Education Center, “and, when someone says something like that, it’s put on our radar. We were very eager to help pursue that.”

Ms. Woods said that she “took it upon (herself)” to reach out to NDUEC’s donors, and, “before I knew it, we had five sewing machines donated,” she said.

“We had materials, patterns, ribbon — everything you could possibly need ... we’re very excited to see this sewing corner come full circle.”

Using the resources provided by NDUEC’s sewing corner, one student, Chyanne, proudly expresses that she “really enjoyed making my own skirt. I’m proud that it turned out great.”

Her tutor, Sandy, said that “Chyanne has a natural talent for sewing. She is very creative and full of ideas. It will be exciting to see what she makes next.”

Also new to the NDUEC, starting in the fall, the center will be able “provide transportation to and from the center for some of our students,” Ms. Woods, thanks to donations allowing the center to purchase a van for transportation. “That’s pretty big for us,” she said. “We’re really hoping that we can increase enrollment and reach more students, so that more students have the opportunity to come and see what the center has to offer.”

This year, NDUEC plans on hosting an open house inspired event, Sept. 21, from 5 to 7:30 p.m., inviting those in the community to see the education center in action. Enrollment for early learning and Homework PLUS programs are currently open, with sessions starting September 5 and lasting until May.
The Messenger’s winning entry, written by Laura Keener, editor, was a five-week series entitled “Tech Tuesdays.” Tech Tuesdays was a collaborative effort between the Messenger and the Diocese of Covington’s Schools Office exploring technology use in schools and the home and its affects on students and families.

“What I really like about Tech Tuesdays, and the reason I submitted it to the CMA, is the collaboration between the Schools office and the diocesan newspaper,” said Mrs. Keener. “The series demonstrated the unique ability of how a weekly newspaper can assist diocesan offices in communicating concerns and solutions to the people of the diocese.”

Kendra McGuire, superintendent of Schools, and principals of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Covington, created a weekly communication to parents in an effort to engage them in discerning how technology is affecting their children and their families and to share strategies to mitigate its negative effects. To broaden its effect, the Messenger followed the weekly theme, sharing information with readers and interviewing principals, students, parents and experts.

“This is awesome. It is a brilliant idea and everyone in the organizational Church should consider embracing a similar concept,” the CMA awards committee wrote in The Catholic Journalist on its analysis of “Tech Tuesdays.” “How is technology affecting our lives, for better and for worse? Who can even answer that? It’s HUGE. What’s innovative here is the approach: don’t just put your head in the sand. And also, don’t try to tackle it all at once. Instead, do the Catholic thing and set aside regular time for prayer and reflection and unfold it. The beauty of this structure is that it lets you take issues apart and focus on them one at a time. And by returning to issues and interrelated issues, you gain new perspectives and vantages. It also lets you learn from one another.”

Messenger award
(Continued from page 3)

CDP jubilarians
The Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence recently celebrated the jubilees — 60 and 70 years of professed religious life — of four of its members. Pictured are: Sister Barbara Bohr, provincial; Sister Mary Dudley and Sister Georgianna Aafghanul, both 60 year jubilarians; sitting: Sister Paula Gaha, 60 years and Sister Ruth Nadieckseibernd, 70 years.

Father Joey Shelton of St. James Church in Brooksville invites you to our Festival July 21 – 23
Annual Ice Cream Social
Homemade Ice Cream and Specialty Cakes
Major Raffle • Silent Auction
Ice Cream Social, July 23rd, Noon – 6 p.m.
Enjoy Ice Cream, Grilled Burgers, Dogs, Fish, Pulled Pork and “all the fixins”

Fish Fry, July 21st, 4 – 7 pm
Pulled Pork Dinner, July 22nd, 5 – 8:30 pm
Come to the beautiful southeast part of the diocese for a day of family fun and homemade treats!

CARENET
Pregnancy Services of Northern Kentucky
Donate at carenetky.org or scan the code.
Cross Catholic Outreach Combats Extreme Hunger in Developing Countries With Vitafood

Cross Catholic Outreach, a trusted Catholic ministry based in Florida, has mobilized donors throughout the U.S. to help relieve extreme hunger in the developing world through a wonderful food resource known as Vitafood. These fortified meal packets are scientifically formulated to energize and strengthen malnourished children and families. Volunteers from U.S. Catholic parishes, schools and groups can package the meals, which are then loaded into large shipping containers and sent overseas to schools, orphanages and other Catholic partners serving the poor. A single container can make a life-transforming impact, keeping crucial feeding programs running or providing immediate relief when disasters strike.

"We organize food packing events in the U.S. to assemble the ingredients into portioned meal packets. But at this stage, we are looking for donors to help us ship this food to Catholic missions around the world," said Tim Pavlicek, CEO of Cross Catholic Outreach. "Church leaders in developing countries are eager to help the poor in their communities, but they need the food. Vitafood shipments are critical to them. In some cases, the meals can save lives."

According to Cavanar, Vitafood is an extremely flexible resource. It comes in several different varieties and can be prepared with additional spices or ingredients to suit local tastes. Its impact is incredible with the optimal balance of vitamins, minerals, protein, fiber, fat and carbohydrates for a hungry child’s body. This tried-and-tested formula is suitable for more than just severely malnourished children. These meals are also important to the health and physical well-being of children and adults who are healthy but at risk of becoming malnourished.

What’s more, because donations and volunteers supply the Vitafood packets at little or no expense, Cross Catholic Outreach is able to keep costs low. This means that for every dollar donated, the cross nutrients meals can be sent to families in need. "Very few donations a person can make will achieve this much hung for the buck," Cavanar pointed out.

In the past year, global inflation and the impact of Russia’s war on Ukraine have made this outreach even more important to the poor, according to Cavanar.

"Food shortages and inflation have definitely increased the risks of malnutrition, so our goal is to support Church leaders as they work to protect those most at risk," he said. "As I see it, this is our opportunity to be a blessed instrument of mercy. It is our chance to further the work of the dedicated priests, nuns and Catholic lay missionaries who are doing such critical things they can to respond to this threat."

Readers interested in supporting Cross Catholic Outreach food programs and other outreach can contribute through the ministry brochure inserted in this issue or send tax-deductible gifts to Cross Catholic Outreach, Days AC01251, PO Box 97168, Washington, D.C. 20090-7168. The ministry needs partners willing to make gifts on a monthly basis. You can use the insert brochure to become a Cross Mission Partner, or write "Monthly Mission Partner" on mailed checks to be contacted about setting up those arrangements.

Cross Catholic Outreach Endorsed by More Than 115 Bishops, Archbishops

Cross Catholic Outreach’s range of relief work to help the poor overseas is being recognized by a growing number of Catholic leaders in the U.S. and abroad. "We’ve received more than 100 endorsements from bishops and archbishops," said Tim Pavlicek, CEO of Cross Catholic Outreach. "They’re moved by the fact that we’ve launched outreach programs in more than 90 countries and have undertaken more than 1,200 projects — everything from feeding the hungry and housing the homeless to supplying safe water and Catholic education for the poorest of the poor. Church leaders have also been impressed by our direct and meaningful response to emergency situations, most recently by providing food, medicines and other resources to partners in Haiti, El Salvador and areas of Guatemala impacted by natural disasters.

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

In addition to praising Cross Catholic Outreach’s accomplishments, many of the prelates are encouraged that Pontifical canonical status was conferred on the charity in 2015, granting it approval as an official Catholic organization. This designation allows Cross Catholic Outreach to participate in the mission of the Church and to give a concrete witness to Gospel charity in collaboration with the Holy Father.

"Your work with the Diocese for Promoting Integral Human Development is a strong endorsement of your partnership with the work of the Universal Church," Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone of San Francisco said. "By providing hope to the faithful overseas by feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, delivering medical relief to the sick and shelter to the homeless, and through self-help projects, you are embodying the papal encyclical Deus Caritas Est."
U.S. Catholics Play a Major Role in Addressing Chronic Hunger in ‘Forgotten’ Nicaraguan Communities

Driving on the paved Pan-American Highway, you may never notice the life-threatening poverty Cross Catholic Outreach is trying to address. To see it, you would need to venture off the main road and go down one of the dirt paths that extend into the rural countryside.

“Travel one of those dirt roads and, before long, you’ll encounter the signs of Nicaragua’s extreme poverty — the flimsy shacks, the thin children in tattered clothes, the backyard wells infested with bugs, and the lack of electrical infrastructure. The poverty here may be ‘out of sight, out of mind’ to some, but God and his Church are aware of it. It’s our duty as believers to do something about it,” said Jim Cavanaugh, CEO of Cross Catholic Outreach, a global relief and development ministry working in these impoverished areas.

During the dry season, the small farming villages one passes on the dirt roads seem like throwbacks to the Dust Bowl years in America’s past. The landscape is that desolate. The poverty is that heartbreaking. But that is where the similarities stop. In Nicaragua, there is no New Deal to rescue families from poverty. Many have been trapped generation after generation.

“Better weather doesn’t provide any solutions either. During rainy periods, the poverty endures. In those seasons, you will find the same impoverished children, but this time with muddy feet and faces,” Cavanaugh said. “Yes, whatever the time of year, this poverty persists — and there is never enough to eat.”

That, he added, is why supplying nutritious food to Nicaragua’s poor has become a priority for local Church leaders, Cross Catholic Outreach and many U.S. donors. The focus on food is critical, because malnutrition can cause terrible, long-term health problems, especially for children.

“The local men and women work hard, but most are struggling to feed their families with meager earnings,” Cavanaugh explained. “As a result, their children are often hungry — some even become malnourished — and that condition can be very dangerous. It puts their sons and daughters at risk of long-term mental and physical ailments, and it also weakens their immune systems, an added risk as we continue to struggle through the impacts of global inflation.”

There is an educational impact as well. When children reach school age, skipping breakfast becomes common, so they arrive for class with an empty stomach. After hours of studying math and grammar, some have nothing for lunch either. These hungry children struggle to concentrate in school and often fall behind. Worse still, they may be pulled out of school altogether to help support their struggling families. Because future opportunities are being traded for daily meals, these children end up in a desperate situation.

“But there is hope now since the Church is involved and working hard to provide solutions,” Cavanaugh added. “In many parts of the world, our distribution partners supply food to a vast network of local institutions, including parishes, schools and feeding centers that are fighting hunger in the trenches. These partners know the people and have created programs to deliver the food where it is needed most. With the help of our donors, we are able to fund food expenses and arrange for food shipments into the country. Working together, we’re having a big impact.” [See feature story on opposite page.]

Cavanaugh believes even more can be done if U.S. Catholics remain committed to supporting the Church’s efforts financially.

“I’m optimistic my Catholic brothers and sisters here in the U.S. will be eager to help — now that they understand the hardships hunger creates and the lives that are at stake,” he said. “Large or small, every gift they contribute will matter. That’s because every gift has life-transforming potential, particularly through programs that feed children.”

How to Help

To fund Cross Catholic Outreach’s effort to help the poor worldwide, use the postage-paid brochure inserted in this newspaper or mail your gift to Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC82521, PO Box 7768, Washington, D.C. 20009-7768. The brochure also includes instructions on becoming a Mission Partner and making a regular monthly donation to this cause.

If you already use the project, 100% of the donation will be spent in the country or area of your choice. However, if there is an excess for the project, funds will be redirected to other projects in the same country or area.
Remain faithful to what counts, no matter the cost, pope says

Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Jesus says to have no fear of ridiculous, persecution or criticism for being faithful to the Gospel, but to be afraid of wasting one’s life chasing after trivial things, Pope Francis said.

“Jesus, however, says not to fear, not because everything will be alright in the world, no, but because we are precious to his Father and nothing that is good will be lost,” he said.

The pope said the valley of Gehenna was used by the inhabitants of Jerusalem as a large garbage dump. Jesus used this image, the pope said, “in order to say that the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna.”

Jesus was telling the disciples that they do not need to fear “those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna.”

The pope said the disciples would undergo for being faithful to the Gospel, “a fact that is still a reality,” he said.

“It seems paradoxical: the proclamation of the kingdom of God is a message of peace and justice, founded on fraternal charity and on forgiveness, and yet it meets with opposition, violence, persecution,” he said.

“Jesus, however, says not to fear; not because everything will be alright in the world, no, but because we are precious to his Father and nothing that is good will be lost,” he said.

This requires renouncing “the idols of efficiency and consumerism,” he said, “so as not to get lost in things that end up getting thrown out, as they threw things out in Gehenna back then.”

It also means renouncing chasing after things and achievements instead of dedicating oneself to people and relationships, the pope said.

Some examples, he said, include: parents who know they “cannot live for work alone,” but also “need enough time to be with their children”; priests and religious who dedicate themselves to service without “forgetting to dedicate time to be with Jesus”; and young people who are busy with “school, sports, various interests, cell phones and social networks, but who need to meet people and achieve great dreams, without losing time on passing things that do not leave their mark.”

Pope Francis said the faithful should reflect on what they fear and consider the danger of “not pleasing the Lord and not putting his Gospel in first place” and pray to be “wise and courageous in the choices we make.”

After reciting the Angelus, Pope Francis prayed for the families and victims of violence in a women’s penitentiary in Támara, Honduras.

Reports said gang violence in the prison left 46 women dead June 20. One group of female prisoners, armed with guns and machetes, gained access to the cell blocks of their rivals, news reports said.

Some of the women, who were locked in their cells, were burned to death and attacked with gunfire and the machetes, reports said.

The pope said he was “very saddened” by the “terrible violence between rival gangs,” which caused death and suffering.

“I pray for the deceased, I pray for their families. May the Virgin of Scapular, mother of Honduras, help hearts to open to reconciliation and to creating space for fraternal co-existence, even within prisons.”
Cathedral’s Blessed Sacrament Chapel

(Continued from page 2)

America became drawn to the bold, vital brushstrokes of his portraiture and landscapes.

In 1888, Duveneck married one of his students, Elizabeth Boot. The couple had one son, but his wife died of pneumonia just two years after their wedding. Duveneck was devastated.

In 1896, Maes returned to the United States where he set- tled in Covington. Elizabeth’s death marked a slowing in his work; the now wealthy and famous painter began to lead a life of obscurity in the shadow of St. Joseph Church — the place he first discovered his vocation as an artist.

In 1903, Bishop Maes began a dialogue with Duveneck to decorate the Cathedral with Duveneck frieze and diaper pattern. Designed using a traditional lattice pattern, Duveneck alternated small crosses for our Lord, fleur-de-lis for Our Lady. Among the pages of sketches for the Cathedral murals were not just decoration to fill visual space, but something more akin to an orchestra performing a great symphonic work. The space was to wrap and console the faithful with, to give life — just like the Eucharist.

Duveneck eventually sent Maes sketches with the bishop found “striking.” Fruited sketches, cross-overs, preliminary paintings, and trips to Europe to study vents, testibly testify that this was no grand commission for Duveneck. It was his own raison d’être — the most important reason for his existence, the most important works of his career.

By 1920, however, the murals had already begun to show signs of wear from the glues used to hold them to the wall. The canvas panels had rippled and begun to pull away. The murals were soon taken down to be relined, restored, and reinstated.

Though undocumented, it is likely at the same time water damage and temperature stress fractures in the plaster led to the frieze and diaper pattern being canvased over to maintain the walls’ integrity. By the mid-20th century, the frieze and diaper pattern were gone and entirely forgotten. One hundred years later, they would come back to life.

In 2020, as the Cincinnati Art Museum prepared to mount the exhibition “Frank Duveneck: American Master,” Father Jordan Hainsey examined Duveneck’s sketchbook. Among the pages of sketches for the Cathedral murals was a full-page of the diaper pattern. It was unclear though what this diaper pattern was for. The answer came two years later when the Cathedral historian, Sir Steve Enzweiler, found a ca. 1910 photograph showing the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, replete with Duveneck’s frieze and diaper pattern.

Given the Cathedral’s historical significance and the artistic importance of Frank Duveneck’s designs for the space, plans began to reinstate the Duveneck frieze and diaper pattern as the Cathedral project for the 2023 DPAA Rehearse.

Working with Evergreene Architectural Arts of New York, an on-site painting conservator removed a segment from the ca. 1920 wall canvas to expose the original Duveneck frieze and diaper pattern on the plaster.

Reference points and tracings were taken so that the design and scale of the recreated frieze and diaper pattern could be reinstated entirely as Duveneck had designed and executed them. Referencing and utilizing color samples from the wall, murals and extant Cathedral artworks, the murals and extant Cathedral artworks (things like the side shrine stencil diapers added to the Cathedral post-Duveneck), Evergreene Architectural Arts has reinstated the historic frieze and diaper pattern, true to Duveneck’s vision.

Executed on canvas using archival pigments and var- nishes, the reinstated frieze and diaper pattern have been created and installed by expert artisans and craftsmen, ensuring that the longevity of these new artworks last for generations to come.

Visitors and faithful to the Cathedral now have the unique opportunity to see the Blessed Sacrament Chapel that Maes and Duveneck saw and experienced over a century ago.

To learn more about the Cathedral Basilica, visit CovCathedral.com.
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**VOLUNTEER DRIVER**

St. Benedict Church, Covington, is looking for a Volunteer Driver for their Festival Shuttle Bus. Dates are September 22nd & 23rd from 4 until 11 PM. Please call Greg for more information 859-743-0223.

**CAFETERIA POSITIONS- DIOCESE OF COVINGTON SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM**

The Diocese of Covington School Lunch Program is currently seeking dedicated individuals to join our team in various positions within our school cafeterias. These important roles contribute to the successful operation of our school lunch program, ensuring the provision of nutritious meals to our students.

Positions available are Cafeteria Manager, Food Prep Staff, Servers, & Dishwashers. These positions are available at various positions within our school cafeterias. These important roles contribute to the successful operation of our school lunch program, ensuring the provision of nutritious meals to our students.

We offer competitive compensation and benefits packages for eligible employees. Exact details will be discussed during the interview process.

To apply please go to www.covdio.org/employment, School Related Openings, Employment Application Non-Teacher, send completed application to: St. Catherine of Siena Parish 1125 Madison Ave. Covington Ky. 41011.

**FACILITIES MAINTENANCE POSITION**

St. Catherine of Siena Parish seeks candidates for a full-time position on its Facilities Maintenance team. The successful candidate for this first shift position will assist our Facilities Manager in caring for our campus. Experience not required but welcome. Work will include light maintenance, landscaping, carpentry, electric, plumbing and repair; painting; leaf and snow removal; custodial and other cleaning. Must be honest, punctual, and dependable; willing to learn and work. Must be able to lift and carry 75 pounds. Competitive wage, 100% employer-paid health insurance for the employee, and generous pension contributions; friendly and relaxed work environment. 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 Don Grothaus at dgrothaus@stcatherineofsiena.org.

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**TUTORS AND ACADEMIC COACHES**

The Diocese of Covington is currently seeking professional tutors/academic coaches for the Parish school with documented learning disabilities.

Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in your content area or field related to learning differences required. Excellent English communication skills required. Must possess the ability to interact with a diverse student population. Needs for Biology, Business, Chemistry, Computer Science, History, Mathematics, Psychology, and Sociology.

For more information, contact Dr. Andrea Millani (mila-ni@thomasmore.edu) or the ILD department at 859-344-3582 (ild@thomasmore.edu).

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In Alexandria is hiring two special people. The first position requires a mature, dedicated, energetic person who has experience working with children of all ages and can work 5 days per week from 1:30 to 6:15 pm. The second position is a teacher's aide position that requires someone, 18 years or older who can work Monday through Friday from 1:30-6:15 pm. If you are looking for a very rewarding job and love working with children, please contact Dee Manning at 859-635-4531 or at mexdeemanning@fuse.net. Come join the fun and be part of a great team!!

**CEMETARY PLOTS FOR SALE**

2 Plots available in the Garden of Prayer Section of Floral Hills Cemetery Taylor Mil 859-371-5789

Call Chuck at the Messenger for information on placing your ad in the Classified Advertisements. (859) 392-1572
“Because I always sin, I should always have a remedy.”
These practical words of St. Ambrose, fourth-century bishop of Milan and doctor of the Church, point us to the unique relationship of the Eucharist to sin — a relationship that the Catechism pithily sums up by saying “holy Communion separates us from sin” (CCC 1390).

At first reading, it might be tempting to dismiss this as some kind of superstitious nicety. In fact, critics and skeptics of the power of Eucharistic grace often choose such an erroneous, dismissive explanation. This can perhaps be easy to do when — like many aspects of our faith — claims can often be made without much understanding.

But when we come to truly understand the grace made available to us in the Eucharist, it makes perfect sense to call it a remedy. Again, the catechism puts it clearly: “as bodily nourishment restores lost strength, so the Eucharist strengthens our charity” (CCC 1394).

We know Christ is the remedy to Adam’s disobedience. His way reverses Adam’s way, for those who choose to follow it. As our own needed remedy, however, Christ does not wave a magic wand. He offers an invitation that is accepted when we take up his cross, when we walk his way of charity, truth and obedience. That means that our hearts, minds and wills must be shaped and defined by his own. This is where we can see the effectiveness of his remedy is rooted.

Blessed James Alberione — an Italian priest, founder and visionary — articulated the significance of adoring Christ in the Eucharist as a constitutive element to the Pauline spirituality he was inspired to establish. He explained that a daily visit with Christ in the Eucharist was essential, calling it “the meeting of our soul and of all our being with Jesus.”

One of the more well-known passages in Alberione’s written corpus is his use of several images to explain the reciprocal nature of that very meeting. Among these descriptions, it’s particularly relevant here to consider our encounter with Christ in the Eucharist as “the patient with the Doctor of souls” or “the heart led astray who finds the Way.”

We can’t begin to accept the call to discipleship without understanding our relationship to Christ like this. For if we don’t see ourselves in need of a remedy to sin, then it follows that we don’t consider ourselves in need a savior. But if we can begin to recognize that Jesus is truly as he tells us, “the way and the truth and the life” (John 14:6), then we not only take up the task of following him, but of conforming ourselves to him. As a patient, we see in the Divine Physician the remedy for what ails us. We see in him the way out of pointless paths our wayward hearts can lead us.

As Alberione explained so clearly, in our reception of the Eucharist and in the time we spend with Christ in the Eucharist, we will evermore become like him. If we want a remedy to our sin, we must allow our hearts to be made like Christ’s, our minds to be formed like Christ’s and our wills to be shaped into Christ’s.

All of this — truly the antidote to the poisonous effects of sin — becomes remedy to our ailments. May we never take this for granted, and may we find frequent recourse to the Doctor who will heal our every ill.

Michael R. Heinlein is author of “Glorifying Christ: The Life of Cardinal Francis E. George, O.M.I.” and a promised member of the Association of Pauline Cooperators.
Top Knight ‘gratefully’ commemorates court’s 2022 Dobbs ruling

WASHINGTON — The head of the Knights of Columbus “gratefully” commemorated the first anniversary of the Supreme Court’s Dobbs decision overturning Roe v. Wade, saying that “today, and for generations to come,” the June 24, 2022 ruling “will be viewed as one of the most significant human rights achievements in our nation’s history.” “By allowing abortion on demand, including late-term abortions up to birth, Roe had a devastating impact on women and took the lives of over 60 million unborn children,” Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly said in a June 22 statement from New Haven, Connecticut. The Supreme Court issued its Dobbs ruling in a case involving a Mississippi law banning abortion after 15 weeks, in which the state directly challenged the high court’s previous abortion-related precedents in Roe v. Wade and Planned Parenthood v. Casey. The Supreme Court ultimately overturned its own prior rulings, undoing nearly a half-century of its own precedent on abortion and returning the abortion issue to the states. Earlier in June, Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington, Virginia, who is chair of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities, issued a statement on the Dobbs anniversary, saying that “we have much to celebrate” but also said, “The work that lies ahead continues to be not just changing laws but also helping to change hearts, with steadfast faith in the power of God to do so.”

After cyclone’s destruction, Peruvians face dengue epidemic

TRUJILLO, Peru — Cyclone Yaku’s path through Peru’s northern region in March was so destructive that its direct effects, such as the destruction of homes by floods and landslides, and indirect effects, especially an unprecedented outbreak of dengue fever, are still being felt today. In cities such as Trujillo and Piura, people who lost everything in the rains have faced not only unemployment and food shortages but also the struggle against Aedes aegypti — the dengue-transmitting mosquito that has reproduced prolifically in the many areas still flooded. With more than 160,000 people infected by the disease and at least 287 deaths, Peru is experiencing one of the worst dengue epidemics in its history. It has become the country with the second highest number of cases in the Americas, after Brazil. Curious Peru, dioceses and church organizations have been working continuously to help cyclone victims and the sick, distributing thousands of donations and visiting those most affected. In Piura, where more than 44,000 people are infected, the church has continuously donated medicine to clinics treating dengue patients. “Following the example of our Lord Jesus Christ, the church is committed to the integral health of the human person. She seeks to heal both the wounds of the body and those of the soul; she prays and acts for the physical and spiritual health of the human person,” said Archbishop José Antonio Eguren of Piura while visiting a hospital.

Bishop Iffert bless the World Youth Day pilgrims

Twenty-eight pilgrims from the Diocese of Covington will attend World Youth 2023 in Lisbon, Portugal, Aug. 1-6. Bishop John Iffert will be joining the pilgrims at WYD. As the final days of preparation approach, the pilgrims attended Mass together Saturday evening at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption. At the end of Mass before dismissal, Bishop Iffert bestowed a blessing on the pilgrims. Following Mass, they had dinner together and shared their excitement about the upcoming experience. In his homily, Bishop Iffert said, “Tonight we send these pilgrims to receive the blessings and encouragement of our Holy Father, the successor of Peter, the vicar of Christ on earth — Pope Francis. We pray that you will be strengthened by this pilgrimage experience and that your faith will see you through all the challenges of life and help you to be a guiding light in the life of the Church.”
Thousands gather to honor martyrs old and new in Ukraine

STRADCH, Ukraine — Thousands gathered at a beloved pilgrimage site in Ukraine to honor martyrs slain in Soviet times, while mourning soldiers killed in Russia’s current full-scale invasion of their land. Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk, head of the global Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, was the principal celebrant at a June 26 Divine Liturgy on the grounds of Stradch, a Marian spiritual center in the Lviv region with a rich history of religious devotion. The liturgy marked the date in 1941 when Father Mykola Konrad, pastor of Stradch’s church, and layman Volodymyr Pryima, the parish’s cantor, were shot by retreating Soviet troops as they brought holy Communion to a sick woman in the village. Both Father Konrad and Pryima, who are buried at Stradch, were among the 30 martyrs beatified by St. John Paul II during his 2001 pastoral visit to Ukraine. Several armed Ukrainian ground patrol troops and local police officers guarded the annual pilgrimage, which had been canceled last year due to Russia’s invasion. Archbishop Shevchuk — joined by close to half of Ukraine’s Catholic bishops, as well as Metropolitan Archbishop Borys Gudziak, head of Ukrainian Catholics in the U.S. — said he wished to “thank God and the Ukrainian army that we have this day, that we are alive, that we can come together here today.” He lauded “the men and women who fight with their blood, and who fight this very moment” to repel Russia’s aggression, and assured bereaved Ukrainian military families on hand that “your tears are our tears.”

Church activists struggle against growing slavery-like labor in Brazil

SÃO PAULO — The number of people working in slavery-like conditions in Brazil is the highest in 11 years. With 1,443 identified cases from Jan. 1 to June 14, the first half of 2023 already has the highest number of such occurrences in Brazil since 2012. And since most exploited workers do not report their cases to the authorities, experts warn the given available data is only the tip of the iceberg. French-born Dominican Brother Xavier Plassat, who coordinates the area combating contemporary slavery at the bishops’ conference’s Land Pastoral Commission, said that a labor reform carried out in 2017 during former President Michel Temer’s administration (2016-2018) is one of the causes of the record numbers this year. “The labor reform had a harmful effect on that situation, especially due to the legalization of outsourcing in all fields,” Brother Plassat told OSV News. Before that, the core activities of a company could not be performed by outsourced workers. Isolte Wichinieski, one of the Land Pastoral Commission’s national directors, said that during President Jair Bolsonaro’s tenure (2019-2022) companies and individuals were not held accountable for breaking labor laws. Temer’s and Bolsonaro’s administrations’ “gradually sapacitized the government’s capability to monitor slave labor in Brazil,” Brother Plassat said. Sister Roselei Bertoldo, a missionary of the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, who is a member of the Brazil bishops’ conference’s special committee to combat human trafficking, believes things are beginning to change since President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva took office in January.

Newly named ‘venerable,’ Sister Lucia spread Fatima message throughout her long life

ROME — Venerable Lucia was only 10 years old when she and her two younger cousins told their friends and family that they had seen the Blessed Virgin Mary at Fatima in 1917. Mary first appeared to Lucia, 9-year-old Francisco Marto and 7-year-old Jacinta Marto May 13, and the apparitions continued once a month until October 1917. The Catholic Church has ruled that the apparitions and the messages from Our Lady of Fatima were worthy of belief. On June 12, Pope Francis declared Sister Lucia “venerable,” with a decree recognizing the Fatima visionary’s heroic virtues. Pope Benedict XVI waived the standard waiting period for Sister Lucia’s cause, opening it in 2008. The Diocese of Coimbra, Portugal, completed its investigation and forwarded documentation to the Holy See’s Congregation (since renamed Dicastery) for the Causes of Saints in 2017, the apparitions’ centennial year. Three months later, Pope Benedict XVI canonized Francisco and Jacinta.
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**Total**                         | 5,958  | $2,450,000 | $3,495,949.00  | $845,949.00       **

**NEW WAYS TO GIVE -**
- Cash/Check
- Stock
- Matching Gifts
- Pledge (final payment due 3/31/24)
- Online at www.covidio.org

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