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With this issue the *Messenger* begins its summer publication schedule. The next *Messenger* will be dated June 16, followed by issues June 30, July 14, July 28 and Aug. 11. With that issue the *Messenger* will resume its weekly schedule through Dec. 15. May you and your family have a safe, enjoyable and blessed summer!
— The *Messenger* staff

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



Thomas More University's commencement took place May 13, at Thomas More Stadium, Florence. The University honored their newest alumni as more than 330 graduates gathered in the stadium with family and friends in attendance to celebrate their achievements.



Vandiver and submitted photos

(left) The 2023 graduation season commenced, May 12, with Thomas More University's baccalaureate Mass celebrated by Bishop John Iffert. (above) The afternoon sun blazing through the stained-glass windows at Mary, Seat of Wisdom Chapel bathed the graduates in diffused light.



Seek good for yourself and others Bishop Iffert encourages TMU graduates

Andrew Vandiver
Messenger Correspondent

Bishop John Iffert joined Thomas More University's Class of 2023 for its baccalaureate Mass, May 12, at Mary, Seat of Wisdom Chapel.

At the baccalaureate Mass, Bishop John Iffert cautioned the students against the "great poison of narcissism" and an "interest in self detached from any other paradigm" that "diminishes our dedication to the common good." Instead, he encouraged the students to follow the commandment of Jesus and "apply all that has been given to you here at Thomas More, seeking not only good for you, not only good for your own family, but good for others." In doing so, "this will save us from the poison of narcissism. This will save all the other good ideas of our culture and society from moving into extremes that poison us."

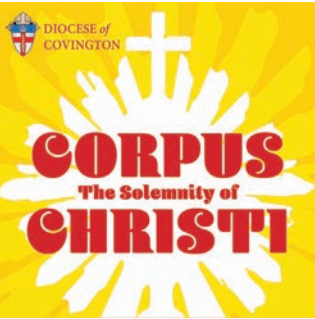
The next day, Thomas More University's commencement took place at Thomas More Stadium, Florence. The University honored their newest alumni as more than 330 graduates gathered in the sta-

dium with family and friends in attendance to celebrate their achievements.

"I would like to thank our faculty for guiding and helping you to explore and to engage in your education here at Thomas More," Dr. Joseph Chillo, president of TMU, said to the class of 2023. "They ensure that our mission is timely and relevant because we know the value of every alumnus in fulfilling their ability to examine the ultimate meaning of life, their place in the world, and their responsibility to others."

All three of the University's colleges participated in one ceremony. Three hundred and eighty-three individual graduates received 389 degrees which were conferred upon 320 undergraduate and 69 graduate students.

One hundred and thirty-four undergraduate students were the first in their family to achieve the goal of a higher education degree. The class includes representatives from 12 states and five countries, with five military veterans among their ranks.



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

The Solemnity of Corpus Christi

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/](https://covdio.org/CorpusChristi)
CorpusChristi.

After 50 years — to God give the glory and gratitude for the gift of the priesthood

Laura Keener
Editor

Father Ryan Maher, rector and the parishioners of St. Mary Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, celebrated, May 21, the golden jubilee of Bishop Emeritus Roger Foys. Bishop Foys celebrated 10 a.m. Mass, with a reception in his honor immediately following in Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium.

Fifty years ago, on May 16, 1973, Bishop John King Mussio ordained Bishop Foys a priest for the Diocese of Steubenville. In 2002, he was called to the episcopacy as the tenth Bishop of the Diocese of Covington.

In his homily, reflecting on Jesus’ promise to his apostles that he will never leave them, Bishop Foys said, “The great thing about the Church is that we are a community of believers who come together to support each other, to worship the Lord, to bask in his life and in his light.”

When Bishop Foys was a young priest, he attended the golden jubilee of a priest that, to this day, has impressed him. As the elder priest was being honored, he deflected accolades and said, “Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but to God give the glory.” Bishop Foys said he shares that same sentiment as he intended to forgo a public celebration of his 50th jubilee. Bishop John Iffert convinced him other-



(above, left) Bishop Roger Foys was the celebrant, May 21, at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington. Following Mass the Cathedral parish held a reception honoring Bishop Foys’ golden jubilee.



(above, right) Attendees at the reception applaud as Bishop Foys arrives.

wise, referencing St. Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians, “...if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy” (26).

“He said, ‘What we celebrate is the priesthood when we celebrate jubilees,’” Bishop Foys said. “I want to thank him (Bishop Iffert) for all the kindness he has demonstrated to me and to the diocese ... we are blessed to have him.”

“I thank the Lord, first of all, for his gift of life and then for the gift of parents who passed on the faith to us by their own way of life. I have more to be grateful for than I deserve. The Lord has been good to me. I thank the people of the parishes I served ... I thank all the parishioners here at the Cathedral and all the people of the Diocese of Covington who have for these 21 years been so gracious, kind, loving and forgiving ... thank you and God bless you. What we do today is we give the glory to God.”

About Bishop Foys, Bishop Iffert said, “From the

moment I met Bishop Roger Foys, I have thought of him as a true Christian gentleman. He is thoughtfulness personified. Bishop Foys is a man of devoted prayer and a steadfast friend to many. Even among the young priests he ordained are those who count him not only as a spiritual father; but also the best of friends. When we say that we stand on the shoulders of giants, we are speaking of men like Bishop Roger Foys. After 50 years of priestly service, 21 as a bishop, he remains an inspiration to me.”



Trinity Sunday

This Sunday, June 4, the Church celebrates a great mystery — the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity. In his column on page7, Father Daniel Schomaker refers to the stained-glass window from St. Peter Claver Church, Lexington (pictured above) to express an understanding of the Trinity. Three separate and unique persons — Father, Son and Holy Spirit — who are all God, One God. The Father is God, but not the Son or the Holy Spirit; the Son is God, but not the Father or the Holy Spirit; and the Holy Spirit is God, but not the Father nor the Son.

In confirmation, the Holy Spirit is at work ‘with certitude,’ said Bishop Iffert at Pentecost Mass

Maura Baker
Staff Writer

Nearly 30 adults from across the diocese received the sacrament of confirmation at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, as part of the morning Mass on Pentecost Sunday, May 28.

In his homily, Bishop Iffert, who celebrated Mass on the feast of Pentecost, reminded the congregation and confirmandi of the gift of the Holy Spirit.

“We hear Jesus in the Gospel of John saying to his apostles, ‘I have more to share with you, but you cannot understand that yet,’” in reference to his death and resurrection as our Savior, “I will send you the Holy Spirit, the paraclete, and he will instruct you in all things.”

“And in fact, that is exactly what is witnessed in the Gospel,” Bishop Iffert said, “that even the apostles, even those who are closest to Jesus, even with him and travelled with him and received the fullness of his teaching and instruction in his life ... they did not know what to make of it. They did not understand.”

Only after the Pentecost gift, when the Holy Spirit descended upon them, “were they able to move out boldly into the world and proclaim what Jesus had done for us only with the gift of the Holy Spirit— only with that great blessing, were they able to fathom, understand and have the wisdom to know how to

share the Gospel, of the Lord’s saving love, and how we are set free from sin and death in the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ.”

Speaking of the sacrament of confirmation, Bishop Iffert mentions that, unlike that first Pentecost, it is “rare,” that “when we celebrate the sacrament, that people manifest spiritual gifts, like speaking in tongues or speaking in prophecy. But, in every case, we know with certitude that the Spirit is at work, and we see a different kind of witness to the Spirit in this age of the Church ... we see champions and heroes of the faith who care for God’s creation and teach others to do so. We live in the age of the Church. We live in the age of saints and heroes.”



(above left) Candidates for the sacrament of confirmation stand at the Pentecost Mass, May 28.



(above center) Bishop Iffert blesses a candidate for confirmation as part of the sacrament.

(above right) Moving down the aisles, Bishop Iffert anoints the congregation with holy water.



Diocesan priests celebrate Sapphire and Ruby jubilees

Six priests celebrate jubilees this year, one of which, Father Robert Reinke, celebrating 65 years of service, and two, Msgr. William Neuhaus and Father Richard Bolte, celebrating 40.

Sapphire Jubilee, 65 years Father Robert Reinke

Originally from Bellevue, KY, Father Reinke was ordained Dec. 15, 1957, in the chapel of the North American College in Rome, Italy — where he had studied theology for four years prior.

While a sophomore at St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati, Bishop William Mulloy became aware of Father Reinke’s desire to join the priesthood and encouraged him to continue his studies at Covington Latin School — while Father Reinke did not want to teach, initially, he was assigned to teach at Covington Latin for seven years following his ordination.

Prior to retirement, Father Reinke had served many parishes across the Diocese, including the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington; St. Paul Parish, Florence; Mother of God Parish, Covington; St. Anthony Parish, Taylor Mill; St. Joseph Parish, Crescent Springs; Sts. Boniface and James Parish, Ludlow; Holy Cross Parish, Latonia; and St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Newport. He retired as pastor of St. Vincent de Paul in 1997, but since came out of retirement to serve as a sacramental minister at Sts. Boniface and James, Ludlow, between 2003 and 2005.

“Anyone can rejoice in the midst of new life and growth. It takes a special priest who trusts in God’s divine providence to pastor faithfully in the midst of loss and grief,” said Bishop John Iffert. “Father Reinke was pastor of St. James Parish in Ludlow when Bishop William Hughes merged St. Boniface and St. James into a single



Father Robert Reinke



Msgr. William Neuhaus



Father Richard Bolte



parish. He served that grieving and reconciling community for six years. The parish history notes that Father Reinke revived the parish pastoral council and founded several new pastoral initiatives. Demographic trends would not steal his zeal for Christ’s people!

“Father retired in 1997 when the parish he had led for a decade, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, was merged into the newly formed Holy Spirit Parish in Newport. Another loss. A few years later, though, Father Reinke returned to Sts. Boniface and James to serve the people from his first pastorate as Sacramental Minister for two more years. At a time of many significant griefs and difficult headwinds for the Catholic Church, we can learn something from the dedication and devotion of a priest like Father Reinke, who brought new life and activity out of difficult demographic trends and consolidation. What a loving example of faithful service in painful times.”



Bishop’s Schedule

June 2
Michael Elmlinger priesthood ordination, Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, 6 p.m.

June 3
Father Michael Elmlinger First Mass of Thanksgiving, St. Paul Parish, Florence, 5 p.m.

June 4
Father Albert Ruschman’s 70th Jubilee Mass and celebration, St. Thomas Parish, Ft. Thomas, 10:30 a.m.

Cross the Bridge for Life, Newport, 1:15 p.m.

June 6
Advisory Council meeting, 9:30 a.m.

Vespers and Priests Jubilee Celebration, Cathedral Basilica, 4:30 p.m.

June 8
Directors meeting, 9:30 a.m.

With One Heart — Next Generation Parish meeting, St. Thomas Parish, 12 p.m.

Rose Garden Mission Partners in Hope for the Poor dinner, Receptions, Erlanger, 6 p.m.

June 11
Mass, Cathedral Basilica, 10 a.m.

Corpus Christi Procession, Cathedral Basilica, 2 p.m.

June 15
Priest Holy Hour, Cathedral Basilica, 3 p.m.

Ruby Jubilee, 40 years Msgr. William Neuhaus

Msgr. William Neuhaus is an Erlanger native, having attended St. Henry grade school and high school alongside his brothers. While always interested in the priesthood, Msgr. Neuhaus didn’t seriously consider the vocation until after he had graduated from Thomas More College and University of Cincinnati’s College of Law. He would be ordained to the priesthood July 15, 1983, and retired officially in 2017.

In his time as a priest, Msgr. Neuhaus has been an associate of sev-

eral parishes, defender of the bond and judge for the diocesan Tribunal and faculty of Thomas More College. He’s served as pastor at St. John the Evangelist, Carrollton; St. Thomas Parish, Ft. Thomas; and St. Joseph Parish, Camp Springs, as well as rector of Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption between 2006 and 2014.

“I am usually a talker, but Msgr. Bill Neuhaus is one of the priests that makes me just want to be quiet and listen to what he has to say,” said Bishop Iffert. “He is a conversationalist extraordinaire who always has a clever anecdote, a wry bit of humor, or an interesting historical tidbit to share. He is ‘a priest’s priest.’ His judgment is held in highest regard by his brother priests. His company is sought after and treasured. His steady support and encouragement are always available to the generations of priests coming up behind him. Priests like Monsignor lend life and strength to their brother priests. I am grateful for him.”

Ruby Jubilee, 40 years Father Richard Bolte

Ordained to the priesthood June 4, 1983, Father Richard Bolte had thought about becoming a priest from a young age, a vocation that was solidified thanks to the influence of priests both at his parish growing up, and at Covington Latin School years later.

Much of his early priesthood was dedicated to the students at Holy Cross District High School, Latonia, starting as a part-time religion teacher before his role expanded to full time, and eventually taking on the additional duty of guidance and counselling in the school.

In his priesthood, Father Bolte has also served as the pastor of several parishes including Corpus Christi and Holy Spirit Parish in Newport, and is currently serving the diocese as pastor of St. Timothy Parish, Union.

“Teaching in a high school for a decade, pastoring a parish through a merger (Corpus Christi Parish and Holy Spirit Parish), leading one of the fastest growing parishes in the diocese through the development of a parish school and now a significant school expansion and a church renovation, Father Bolte has done it all with joy and verve,” said Bishop Iffert. “And still he has a heart for evangelization. Father Bolte and his joyful community at St. Timothy Parish continue to inspire many seekers through the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults. Most recently they are initiating efforts to minister with and to Hispanic Catholic neighbors. Priests like Father Bolte are heroes to me!”

Official Assignments

Effective July 11, 2023

Rev. Michael K. Elmlinger
To: Parochial Vicar, St. Timothy Parish, Union
From: Seminary studies, St. Vincent Seminary, Latrobe, Penn.

Rev. Douglas J. Lauer
To: Parochial Vicar, St. Henry Parish, Elsmere
From: Medical leave of absence

Rev. Samuel K. Owusu
To: Parochial Vicar, Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish, Erlanger
From: Parochial Vicar, St. Timothy Parish, Union

Rev. James P. Schaeper
To: Residence, Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington
From: Residence, Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish, Erlanger
Continues other duties

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

Jamie N. Schroeder

Jamie N. Schroeder
Chancellor

Catholic Charities Reach and Teach Scholarship awarded

Staff report

At its Advisory Board meeting, May 22, Catholic Charities awarded its annual Reach and Teach Scholarship to Kendall Hemsath, a senior at Notre Dame Academy. Miss Hemsath has been a Reach and Teach mentor for two years. She will be using her \$500 Reach and Teach College Scholarship at Miami University, in Oxford, Ohio where she plans to double major in Finance and Spanish.

Catholic Charities' Reach and Teach program is designed to improve academic success and promote self-confidence and positive choice-making for middle school students. The mentor and mentee work after school together one day a week for 26 weeks. This year Ms. Hemsath mentored two middle school students.

In her essay for the scholarship Miss Hemsath wrote, “These girls have brought immense joy to my life. They have taught me that there are new friendships to be found in places you least expect it and there is something you learn from each person you meet. Our relationship has not



stopped with the end of mentoring.”

Donna Moreland, Catholic Charities mental health school counselor and Reach and Teach Mentor Program coordinator, said, “Kendall is exactly what the Reach and Teach program is all about. A positive role model, responsible and very energetic. We wish Kendall good luck and know she will be very successful.”

Kendall Hemsath, a senior at Notre Dame Academy who was awarded the Catholic Charities "Reach and Teach" mentor scholarship, is seen here being congratulated by the two middle school students she mentored.



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‘Adoration is like sunbathing — you let the sun shine on you, as you truly are,’ says cardinal

Paulina Guzik
OSV News

Monthly adoration has become a new normal for pilgrims visiting St. Peter’s Square. For Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, papal almoner, who led a monthly Vatican outdoor Holy Hour May 9, adoration is a crucial hour of any day.

“St. Peter’s Basilica is finally becoming a sanctuary, not merely a touristy place,” he told OSV News. “The Vatican is full of people throughout the day, but after 7 p.m., when the basilica closes, the square empties and people go to enjoy the restaurants.”

With adoration, which the cardinal said will most likely happen on a weekly basis in the future, “the square reminds everyone even in the evening that it’s a holy place of prayer,” he said.

Monthly Holy Hours at St. Peter’s Square began March 14 and take place every second Tuesday of the month from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. in front of St. Peter’s Basilica.

“There is no homily, only three fragments of the Gospel are being read and we meditate in front of Eucharistic Jesus,” Cardinal Krajewski, who distributes the Vatican’s charity funds on behalf of the pope, told OSV News.

The first adoration, on March 14, was led by Cardinal Mauro Gambetti, a Franciscan who is archpriest of St. Peter’s Basilica. “Cardinal Gambetti, as former custodian of the General Custody of the Sacred Convent of St. Francis in Assisi knows how crucial prayer is for places of tourist interest,” the papal almoner said.

Every month, a different cardinal is asked to lead the adoration on St. Peter’s Square. For Cardinal Krajewski, daily adorations are “key.”

“Adoration is like sunbathing — you let the sun shine

on you, as you truly are,” he told OSV News. “The monstrance is in the shape of the sun. When we sunbathe, we don’t say anything, we just put our face toward the sun in silence, and it’s the sun shining on us,” the cardinal stressed.

“So adoration is to charge our batteries in silence. Silence speaks in adoration, during which God sees us in truth, because in front of God, there is no pos-

Adoration in the Diocese of Covington

Every Third Thursday — at 3 p.m., a Holy Hour is held at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington. Bishop John Iffert and the priests of the Diocese are there to lead prayer. Confessions are also available. The faithful are encouraged to join.

40-Hour Devotion

Sunday, June 11, 6:30 p.m. to Tuesday, June 13, 6:00 p.m.

Adorers are needed.
To sign-up visit <https://covdio.org>.

sibility to fake anything, we just kneel there as we are,” Cardinal Krajewski said.

“Yesterday on St. Peter’s Square there was not a single cellphone ringing. What does it mean? That we need that silence for our spiritual life, that we long for it, that’s why we come for adoration.”

Cardinal Krajewski said he learned from Pope Francis that an hour of adoration daily is crucial for him personally to “stay in the line of the Gospel. To start to think and act according to the logic of the Gospel.”

“Choosing adoration on St. Peter’s Square to be held on a Tuesday, Pope Francis sends a signal — meeting with the pope comes on Wednesdays, during the general audience, but meeting Christ comes first,” Cardinal Krajewski told OSV News.

The papal almoner stressed that different people were telling Pope Francis that the basilica cannot become merely a museum. “It had to be a place of prayer. And the square — in which we witnessed the funeral of St. John Paul II and recently Benedict XVI, the place in which we see the new pope for the first time, but first and foremost, a

burial place for so many first Christians — just has to be a place of prayer.

“Adoration calms you down because you let God look at you, and that’s the biggest strengthening you can get, because you get a sense of what is God’s will and differentiate it from your own,” Cardinal Krajewski said. “For the first Holy Hour, 2,000 people came. And there will be more for sure.”



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COMMENTARY

Join Vincentians in helping those bearing sufferings ‘we are incapable of suffering’

Did you know that the St. Vincent de Paul Society was not actually founded by St. Vincent de Paul?

VIEWPOINT



Karen Zengel

Blessed Frederic Ozanam came up with this idea, prompted by a challenge in a lively discussion group that expressed doubt in the good of the Catholic Church and a perceived lack of “action” from Catholics to help the poor.

Frederic was a young university student but took this challenge very seriously. He gathered some friends and spoke about actively helping the

poor, face to face, shoulder to shoulder. His idea took root and 190 years later, our Vincentian vocation is thriving in 150 countries around the world.

Throughout his short lifetime, Frederic articulated his developing mindset surrounding active charity as a way to grow closer to God, seeing the suffering of Christ on the cross through the experiences of others.

I recently came across my new favorite quote from Frederic Ozanam: “Help honors when to the bread that nourishes it adds the visit that consoles, the advice that enlightens, the friendly shake of the hand that lifts up the sinking courage; when it treats the poor man with respect not only as an equal but as a superior; since he is suffering what perhaps we are incapable of suffering; since he is the messenger of God to us, sent to prove our justice and our charity; and to save us by our works.”

This quote captures exactly what our Vincentian ministry strives to achieve — material support in a time of crisis, but equally important, a visit from friends, offering empathy, encouragement and hope.

Even more striking to me is when Frederic speaks

about treating the poor man as a superior because he is weathering a storm that many would not survive. The neighbors we serve are tough as nails. Many overcome significant hardship, just to be faced with another obstacle. We are here to reassure them that they are not alone. This experience brings us closer to Christ, our Savior.

The need is great in our community. We took a premature sigh of relief once the pandemic challenges seemed to clear. However, we all feel the new trials that have emerged.

For our neighbors who were already struggling, the rollback of COVID relief efforts coupled with rising prices for food and rent have been disastrous. There is an extremely limited stock of affordable housing. Our neighbors are working, earning well above minimum wage. However, at \$15/hour, \$1,200 in rent is nearly half of your income. There isn’t much left. Our food pantry helpers are meeting people who have never asked for help, at rates significantly higher than last year.

I am bothered by these unending challenges. My faith is certainly tested. But I am not worried. As part of St. Vincent de Paul, I get to see these challenges addressed, one at a time, every day.

Prior to the pandemic, the typical request for rent or utilities was in the range of a few hundred dollars. Our parish conferences could handle most requests easily. Today, it is common for these requests to exceed \$1,000. Often our neighbors first search for a way to cover the pending obligation. Late fees compound and another important expense emerges. Before they know it, they are even further behind and have no choice but to reach out for help. This takes so much courage. For that alone, they deserve the utmost respect.

Here is a recent example of where we were ultimately able to help:

Jane and Clay owed \$1,600 for utilities and faced an impending shut-off. They have three young children. Two children have special needs and require full-time care. Clay got hurt and was unable to work, so he lost his job. He is still recovering. They fell behind on their utilities

and the utility company put them on a payment plan to help them manage their expenses. Jane found work 30 minutes away. When it came time to pay the monthly bills, she made the decision to pay a lapsed car payment instead of the utility bill, so that she could get to work. After missing the utility payment, the utility company required the outstanding amount in full or face shut-off. While another local agency offered to help with \$400, they still needed to find the remaining \$1,200.

Can you imagine the anxiety and fear that Jane and Clay faced? While every circumstance is unique, needs like this are quite common.

So far this year, we have provided \$492,000 in rent and utility assistance to people like Jane and Clay. How do we help with these seemingly insurmountable requests for assistance? We do it together.

Just like our neighbors who are struggling, we are not alone! We are grateful that we live in a generous and caring community. We also have a support structure within St. Vincent de Paul called “twinning” where parish conferences help each other.

A Vincentian team works closely with a neighbor, exhausting all avenues to provide support. If there is still an outstanding amount, an e-mail is sent to the servant leaders of our 31 parish conferences, explaining the situation, the steps taken and the remaining need. Within a couple of hours, (and sometimes just minutes!), our Vincentians answer the call to meet the financial need, providing relief for the troubled neighbor.

Frederic Ozanam also wrote, “I would like to embrace the whole world in a network of charity.”

His vision has been realized. We see it in action here nearly every day. This network is responsive, creative and compassionate. This network is built on a foundation of faith and hope, bolstered by every miracle that reveals itself through these opportunities to serve.

Though the problems are daunting, it is beautiful to see how God’s grace unfolds each and every time. If you would like to witness the glory of God in these incredible moments, please reach out! There is plenty of room to

Praying as a Christian


incarnationally when we pick up that voice.

Mystical Prayer: Praying mystically is not a question of having extraordinary spiritual experiences — visions, raptures, ecstasies. Mysticism is not about these things. Mystical experience is simply being touched by God in a way that is deeper than what we can grasp and understand in our intellect and imagination — a knowing beyond head and heart. Mystical knowing works this way: Your head tells you what you think is wise to do; your heart tells you what you want to do; and your mystical center tells you what you have to do. For example, C.S. Lewis, in describing his conversion experience, tells us that the first time he knelt down and acknowledged Christ, he didn’t do it with enthusiasm. Rather, in his famous words, he knelt down “as the most reluctant convert in the history of Christendom.” What compelled him to do that? His words: “God’s harshness is kinder than human gentleness, and God’s compulsion is our liberation.” We pray mystically whenever we hear and listen to the most compelling voice of all inside us, the one that tells us where God and duty call us.

Affective Prayer: All devotional prayers (adoration of Christ, litanies, rosaries, prayers asking for the intercession of Mary or a saint, and the like) are ultimately affective prayer; as are all forms of meditation and contemplation. They all have the same intentionality. What is that? In the Gospel of John, the first words out of Jesus’ mouth are a question. People are looking at him in curiosity, and he asks them, “What are you looking for?”

There are four distinct kinds of Christian prayer: There is Incarnational prayer, Mystical prayer, Affective prayer, and Priestly prayer. What are these? How are they different from each other?

IN EXILE



Father Ron Rolheiser

Incarnational Prayer: St. Paul invites us to “pray always.” How is this possible? We can’t always be praying — or can we? What Paul is inviting us to do is what Jesus asks of us when he tells us to “read the signs of the times.” In asking this, Jesus is not suggesting we read every political, social or economic analysis we can find. Rather, he is inviting us to look for the finger of God in every event in our lives.

My parents’ generation called this being attuned to “divine providence,” that is, looking at every event in our lives and the major events of our world, and asking ourselves: “What is God saying in this event?”

One must be careful in doing this. God doesn’t cause accidents, sickness, heartbreak, wars, famine, earthquakes, global warming or pandemics; neither does God cause lottery wins or our favorite sports team to win a championship, but God speaks through them. We pray

That question remains throughout the rest of the Gospel as an undergirding. A lot of things are happening on the surface, but underneath, there remains always the one nagging, restless question: “What are you looking for?”

Jesus answers that question explicitly at the end of the Gospel, on the morning of the resurrection. Mary of Magdala comes looking for him, carrying spices with which to embalm his dead body. Jesus meets her, but she does not recognize him. He then repeats the question with which he had opened the Gospel: “What are you looking for?” and gives us its real answer. He pronounces her name in love: “Mary.” In doing this, he reveals what she and every one of us are forever looking for; namely, God’s voice, one-to-one, speaking unconditional love, lovingly saying our name. At the end of the day, that’s what we all are looking for; to hear God pronounce our name in love. All devotional prayer, whether it be for ourselves, for others, or for the world, has this as its ultimate aim.

Priestly Prayer: Priestly prayer is the prayer of Christ through the Church for the world. The Christian belief is that Christ is still gathering us together around his word and the Eucharist. And we believe that whenever we come together, in a church or elsewhere, to gather around the Scriptures or to celebrate the Eucharist, we are entering into that prayer. This is generally called liturgical prayer; this kind of prayer is Christ’s prayer, not our own. Moreover, it’s not a prayer first of all for ourselves or even for the Church, but one for the world — “My flesh

(Continued on page 21)

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MESSENGER

No. 21

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It’s a mystery to us all

The readings for the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity — Cycle A — are: Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 and John 3:16-18.

This weekend, we celebrate not what God has done, but who God is — it is the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity.

GO AND GLORIFY



Very Rev. Daniel Schomaker

The easiest way to explain the Trinity is to exclaim with complete determination and sincerity: “It’s a mystery!” This is not an evasion of trying to explain God. Generally, we use the word “mystery” to describe an idea or situation that is out of reach. While this is partially true, it’s not all the facts. Our English word “mystery” comes to us from the Greek “mysterion” or the Latin “mysterium.”

The best definition of these words would be to “shut the mouth.” In other words, when we are confronted with something so amazing, so spectacular, so awesome, and well, so beyond us, the only response is to close our mouths after trying to say something but having nothing come out — this is mystery.

As I was discerning priesthood, I was fascinated by a particular stained-glass window in the entrance of the old St. Peter Claver Church in Lexington (see page 2). It was the Trinity window. It expressed very simply our understanding of who God is as Trinity. Three separate and unique persons — Father, Son and Holy Spirit — who are all God — One God. It states that the Father is God, but not the Son or the Holy Spirit; that the Son is God, but not the Father or the Holy Spirit; and that the Holy Spirit is God, but not the Father nor the Son. This is the truth of who God is — revealed in Natural Law, Sacred Scripture, and Sacred Tradition.

It can be confusing to say that we believe in a God who is One and Three; oh, and we mean that this is who he is for all eternity — always One and always Three. This confusion is a good thing. A really good thing! St. Augustine famously said: “If you understand it, it’s not God.”

St. Patrick is known for explaining the Trinity using a shamrock. Every individual shamrock is one, but it is made up of three separate and unique leaves — a trinity found in nature.

In the seminary, during our studies on the Doctrine of God, we were taught to count in different ways. A group of five for example can be counted: One, two, three, four, five. But it can also be counted as: “One, one, one, one, one.”

God is one divine unity made up of three unique persons. This is important for us, because we have been made in the image and the likeness of God himself — just as God is a communion of unique persons, we are also. We are social by nature, and we need each other.

St. John reminds us in sacred Scriptures that “God is love.” We have learned through time that this means, following St. Thomas Aquinas, “to will the good of the other.”

Love is outward focused, never inward. Do not confuse love with romanticism — love is not an emotion (although it has emotive qualities); love is an act of the will — why Jesus can command us to “love our enemies.”

On this Trinity Sunday, let us all come to a better understanding of ourselves in THE TRUTH (not our truth — which is a falsity). Let us will the good of each other as we work together for the betterment of our families, communities and nations, and so assist each other along the path to eternal life, where there will be no more speculation about who God is for we will see and understand him completely for who he is.

Father Daniel Schomaker is pastor, St. Augustine Parish, Covington and director, Office of Worship and Liturgy for the Diocese of Covington, Ky

Welcoming creativity

Five days a week at work I am welcomed by a coaching tip e-mailed to my inbox. The tips are based on a variety of assessment tools such as the Enneagram, DISC and VIA Character Strengths. The tips recognize strength and often offer a suggestion for further growth.

GUEST



Sister Kimberly Porter, O.S.B.

I received a tip a couple of months ago that suggested I would benefit from a creative outlet such as a hobby or other activity to nurture my spirit. Unlike some other tips, this one kept coming back to mind. Maybe it was the refreshing nature of this suggestion which resonated with an oft neglected part of myself when life gets busy.

Taking this suggestion to heart, I have taken up the art of quilling. Quilling is the art of rolling and shaping paper strips to form designs.

I was introduced to quilling by a sister from Minnesota who shared the quilling art made into cards. My dad then gifted me with a beginner’s kit for my birthday. What has ensued is curiosity, excitement at learning something new, and joy in the process.

This curiosity and joy are also spilling into other parts of my life. The level of concentration as I’m working is also supporting my efforts to be more present in my prayer and daily life.

As spring heads toward summer, I encourage you to find what feeds your soul. Be open and curious to the invitations around you. Sometimes the most unexpected encounters invite us to a new possibility which brings us joy and even some fun.

Blessings on your exploring and welcoming the invitations in your life.


Benedictine Sister Kimberly Porter is a professed member of the Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery, Villa Hills, Ky. Her reflection is from the community’s blogspot “School for the Lord’s Service.”

More than ever, we need diocesan news media

When my wife bought a Subaru a few years ago, we not only got a car. We also received a company magazine called “Drive.” Subaru is trying to use a “membership magazine” to build a relationship with us as well as sell us more stuff. We usually toss the magazine in our recycling bin.

I thought of this recently when I saw a diocesan ad recruiting a newspaper editor. The job was clearly meant to be part of the public relations office, and the job description was to “highlight the good works of the diocese and its partners and to obtain positive coverage of diocesan programs, services and events.”

GUEST



Greg Erlandson

Now dioceses, like corporations, do want and need public relations efforts, especially after the past two decades of allegations and controversies. And diocesan officials can be forgiven for wanting “good news” and positive stories after the hammering they’ve gotten.

As the church celebrated World Communications Day May 21, however, I would argue that developing “membership magazines” is an incomplete assessment of what the People of God need — indeed, of what the church needs. There are many threats facing the church, from ersatz diocesan news efforts that are really fronts for partisan political agendas, to a stressed secular media that has a shrinking number of journalists, especially religion journalists. Their reports are often sloppy, shallow or incomplete. And the polarization that infects both church and state also infects the third estate, making it harder for a Catholic voice to be heard unless it is found to be ideologically agreeable.

But the greatest threat may be a lack of institutional faith in the value of Catholic news media and the courage to support it at the local level.

Secular and Catholic local newspapers are both closing at a breathtaking pace. What’s left are “news deserts” where those seeking information are driven to national news organizations or whatever they find on the Internet — sources with agendas often quite different from those of the diocese.

Whether it’s “culture wars” or just “culture confusion,” Catholics often find themselves on the front lines

but disarmed, lacking both information and formation.

What they need is solid, trustworthy, courageous journalism that gets the story right, be the news good or bad. Catholic journalism that does its job well will develop a relationship of trust between the diocese and its people, between the church and its people, providing the information necessary to withstand the bad and celebrate the good. Propaganda only suffices in a bubble, its recipients unwilling or unable to engage the world.

One advocate for such journalism is Pope Francis. Earlier this year, he told Catholic journalists that theirs “is a noble profession: to convey the truth.”

The pope told his own Vatican journalists in 2021 that for a news organization to be effective, “it is necessary to make sure everyone has enough freedom to work, that they have the ability to take risks and not go and ask permission, always permission ... this is paralyzing.”

To make church communications effective, the people responsible for that communication must have the trust of, and access to, church leaders. If every story needs to be vetted at the top, if only good news is allowed to be told, readers will get the message quickly enough. These are strategies for breaking the back of local Catholic media.

Diocesan newspapers, once the pride of the U.S. Catholic church, are struggling. When they disappear, all that is left are the press releases most Catholics never read. On issues like gender debates, immigration, guns, or the entire panoply of right-to-life issues, the Catholic voice is increasingly muted exactly when it should not be. And positive efforts at engagement, from synods to Eucharist revivals, need a healthy media to inform and mobilize as well.

Catholic journalism is in crisis, but crisis always signifies opportunities. Some dioceses are closing their news media, but others are investing more in their multimedia efforts.

Independent but church-affiliated organizations are also investing more in newsgathering. Our Sunday Visitor, for example, stepped in to fill a vacuum left by the bishops’ closure of the domestic offices of Catholic News Service.

On this World Communications Day, it is worth saluting those diocesan news efforts that continue to do their job despite shrinking staff and shrinking resources. They strive to be both the voice and the ears of the local church, helping to make all of us more informed and better formed.

Greg Erlandson is an award-winning Catholic publisher, editor and journalist whose column appears monthly at OSV News.

Letting kids know they’re loved is “exactly the purpose” of fostering, said DCCH foster couple

Maura Baker
Staff Writer

May was National Foster Care Awareness Month, and it is foster parents who take on the ministry of caring for children in the foster care system. Gary and Trish Galbraith are foster parents who work through the Diocesan Catholic Children’s Home (DCCH)’s foster program, having fostered nearly 20 children since completing their training in 2015.

Approved on the 28th of May that year, the Galbraiths have been fostering children in need for the past eight years.

In 2014, Mrs. Galbraith, who was working for Children’s Hospital, was caring for a patient from China. The lady who had taken him worked for an organization from China that helped children to get adopted overseas, and, after hearing his story, Mr. and Mrs. Galbraith began to look into adopting him as they and their family had felt that “God put it on their hearts.”

While he ended up being adopted by another family, this was the catalyst that drove the Galbraiths to pursue the training to become foster parents with the DCCH.

“We knew we had made the right decision that, yes, God was tugging on our hearts about fostering or adopting — not necessarily for this boy, but we were able to find out that it was full circle ... that’s when we were praying about everything,” said Mrs. Galbraith.

“That’s when our eyes were opened about teens and kids here that need foster and adoption, and that’s when we looked around into places and found DCCH.”

To the Galbraiths, connecting with the families of the children they care for is their “favorite part” — “to help the kiddos and to know that when they go back home, they have hopefully taken something from your house, but it’s great when you can stay connected,” said Mrs. Galbraith, “it’s great when you can have the families be part of your family as well, even when you don’t adopt the kids ... if you really care, and you build a bond, then hopefully it’s something that you can keep. Or, at least them to know that if they need something that you guys are there.”

Foster parents are something that is “very, very needed,” according to Mrs. Galbraith, “We can’t all do every-



Ron Bertsch, executive director of Therapeutic Foster Care and Adoption for the DCCH Center for Children and Families, with wife, Julie Bertsch, along with Gary and Trish Galbraith, foster parents, at the DCCH’s 2023 ‘Swing into Spring’ event — where the Galbraiths were honored for their contributions as foster parents with the DCCH.

thing, but we can all do something.”

Those who can’t adopt can foster, and those that can’t foster can do respite — “everybody needs a break and that gives kids somebody else to talk to and have somebody else care about them.”

“You hear it all the time,” said Mrs. Galbraith, “people saying ‘oh, I can’t do that because I would get too attached’ (referring to foster children eventually leaving the home) ... but, that’s exactly the purpose, to get very attached and let them know that you’ve loved them that much.”

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



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

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) 261-4487 or e-mail Sister Maria Therese at smtherese@nduec.org. Volunteers 18 and older must be VIRTUS compliant.

Notre Dame Urban Education Center has open registration for the Summer Academics program for students in grades K-9, June 5-29, Monday–Thursday. The Early Learning program for 4- and 5-year-olds is now accepting registrations. Early Learning begins Sept. 5 and ends May 16. For information, call NDUEC at (859) 261-4487 or e-mail Sister Maria Therese at smtherese@nduec.org.

Mass followed by a healing service, St. Joseph Church, Crescent Springs, June 9. Music by the Sacred Heart Praise Band starts at 6:30 p.m., with Mass at 7 p.m. Sponsored by the Mustard Seed Catholic Charismatic Community of the Diocese of Covington. For information, call (859) 341-5932.

Marriage Encounter retreat June 9–11, Our Lady of Visitation, Cincinnati. Register at esharing.org or call Andy and Melanie Reinersman at (859) 653-8464. Learn how to make your marriage better.

Mornings of Reflection with Father Conor Kunath: “5 More Things,” June 10; “5 Last Things,” July 8, both are from 9 a.m.–noon, Divine Mercy Parish, Bellevue,

Meet Chris Goddard, the new executive director for Catholic Charities, at an Open House, June 15, 4-6 p.m., Catholic Charities, Latonia.

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.

The Mustard Seed Catholic Charismatic Community sponsors a monthly Third Tuesday prayer gathering, 7-8:45 p.m., Blessed Sacrament Parish Center, Ft. Mitchell. Join us June 20 with praise & worship music, teaching, witnesses, and healing

prayers. For information, call (859) 341-5932.

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.

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) 341-5932.

Statistical evidence proves that parishes with an intentional vocational 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 nwinnike@gmail.com or don-nakheim@gmail.com.

Bishop John Iffert will celebrate Vespers, Sunday, Sept. 17, 2 p.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, to honor couples celebrating milestone wedding anniversaries — 1st, 25th, 50th, or 60+ — in 2023. Anniversary couples RSVP by July 18 at covdio.org/wedding-vespers/ or contact Lisa Taylor at (859) 392-1533 to register. Reservations are only required for

2023 Parish Festivals

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

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

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

Sisters of Notre Dame 101st 4th of July Festival, Park Hills, July 4, 1–6 p.m.

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

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

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

Sts. Peter and Paul July Picnic, California, July 29, 2–7 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. Mary Parish, Alexandria, August 11, 6 p.m.–12 a.m., August 12, 5 p.m.–11 p.m.

St. Bernard Parish, Dayton, August 18, 6–11 p.m., August 19, 5–11 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, Ft. Wright, September 22–24

St. Benedict Parish, Covington, September 22–23

anniversary couples; family members and guests are welcome to attend.

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) 392-1500, ext.1592. The next session will be held on consecutive Tuesdays, Aug. 29 – Oct. 17, 7 – 8:30 p.m., Holy Trinity Elementary School, Bellevue.



Happy retirement to CCHS academic support teacher
The entire Covington Catholic community extends their deepest gratitude to Linda Matz for her 17 years of dedicated service at CCHS and 49 years in education and wishes her an extraordinary retirement filled with joy and fulfillment. As an Academic Support Teacher, Mrs. Matz empowered students to overcome challenges and reach their full potential. She was instrumental in creating the CCHS Academic Support program researching area schools and using her; at that time, over 30 years of educational experience to bring best practices together for the program. She was also the CCHS KTIP teacher representative, observing and instructing new teachers along with the administration to improve their skills. “Ms. Matz is an incredible educator who has dedicated her life to her students and her profession,” said Anthony Zechella, assistant principal and dean of academics. “Her students found her to be tough but fair, demanding but supportive ... She will be missed throughout our learning community.”



Crossing the street to meet the neighbors
(above) Sixth grade students from St. Henry, Elsmere, walked to the new City of Elsmere Building located right across from the school. They toured the facility and were given the opportunity to learn about police reports by interviewing a police officer.

Visiting King Tut and his treasures
(left) Sixth grade students from St. Agnes, Fort Wright went to the Center of Science and Industry (COSI) earlier this month to check out the temporary exhibit King Tutankhamun: His Tomb and His Treasures. In Social Studies class, students have learned about a variety of ancient civilizations such as Ancient Egypt.

Congratulations eighth graders and seniors of the

Class of 2023



- Blessed Sacrament School,
Ft. Mitchell

Holy Cross School, Latonia

Holy Family School,
Covington

Holy Trinity School,
Bellevue

Immaculate Heart of Mary
School, Burlington

Mary, Queen of Heaven
School, Erlanger

Prince of Peace Montessori,
Covington

St. Agnes School, Ft. Wright

St. Anthony School,
Taylor Mill

St. Augustine School,
Covington

St. Catherine of Siena
School, Ft. Thomas

St. Cecilia School,
Independence

St. Henry School, Erlanger

St. Joseph School,
Cold Spring

St. Joseph School,
Crescent Springs

St. Joseph Academy, Walton

St. Mary School, Alexandria

St. Patrick School, Maysville

St. Paul School, Florence

Sts. Peter & Paul School,
California

St. Philip School, Melbourne

St. Pius X School, Edgewood

St. Therese School,
Southgate
- St. Thomas School,
Ft. Thomas

St. Timothy School, Union

Villa Madonna Academy,
Villa Hills

Bishop Brossart High School,
Alexandria

Covington Catholic High
School, Park Hills

Covington Latin School,
Covington

Holy Cross District High
School, Covington

Newport Central Catholic
High School, Newport

Notre Dame Academy,
Park Hills

St. Henry District High
School, Erlanger

St. Patrick High School,
Maysville

Villa Madonna Academy,
Villa Hills

*“Wherever I go
from here,
Lord, let me be
strong in faith
and poor in
Spirit. Make me
a disciple after
your own heart.”*

— Bishop John Iffert



Families, schools, Bishop Iffert honor graduates

Bishop John Iffert and Kendra McGuire, superintendent of schools, attended high school graduations in the diocese May 17 – 27. This is a pictorial salute to the class of 2023. God bless, grads!

Baker, Keener and Ziegler photos



Covington Catholic High School



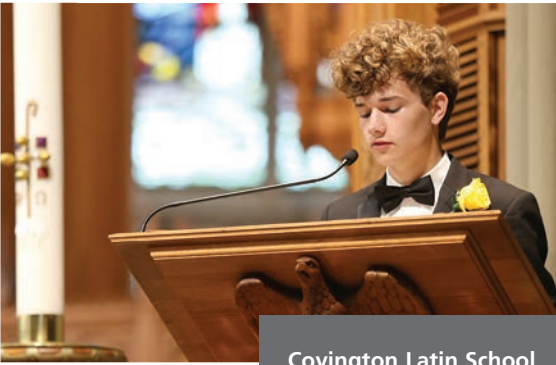
St. Patrick High School



Villa Madonna Academy



St. Henry District High School



Covington Latin School



Notre Dame Academy



Newport Central Catholic High School



Holy Cross District High School



Bishop Brossart High School

GRADUATION 2023



May 2023

Dear Graduates of the Class of 2023,

Congratulations to all of our graduates in Northern Kentucky! I am asking God’s blessing on your future endeavors.

I attended the graduations of all nine Catholic High Schools again this year, as well as the baccalaureate Mass and graduation for Thomas More University. I was able to personally extend my regards for your achievement and my high hopes for future success to those graduates.

Congratulations also to all of you graduating from Pre-K, Kindergarten, and eighth grade. A special shout out to all our young people graduating from public high schools and universities. Way to go!

I am not invited to all your graduations, and I could not possibly attend them all if I were, but I want you to know that your bishop and your Church family are very proud of your accomplishments and hopeful for your future.

Recently, in *America* magazine, Richard A. Levins, professor emeritus of Applied Economics at the University of Minnesota, quoted from a standard micro-economics textbook. “A rich man’s cat may drink the milk that a poor boy needs to remain healthy. Does this happen because the market is failing? Not at all, for the market is doing its job — putting goods into the hands of those who have the dollars to vote.”

I remember a very similar sentence in my own Microeconomics 101 textbook from years ago. It is a sentiment that seems fundamental to a rational economist trained in the school of Adam Smith. Any Christian, however, must surely recognize from this statement that market forces alone are not sufficient to ensure that our economy or society functions virtuously or even morally. The economist, no doubt, would tell you that such is not the function of the market. If virtue, morality, and charity are among our goals, something more is required.

To meet the challenges that lie before you, you graduates will be formed in various ways of seeing and engaging with the world. Many of them can contribute substantially to the quality of life for God’s people and foster the pursuit of knowledge. But it is also true that every field, approach, ideology, and study can also be distorted and taken to extremes.

One who pursues a love of law may well end up falling into legalism. Chemistry might lead a person to embrace a materialistic view of the world. One who trains to become a surgeon might be tempted to see the human body and human person in a merely mechanical way. Even a desire to honorably serve one’s country in the military can deteriorate into militarism or a “might makes right” fallacy. The pride we take in a job well done and in supporting ourselves, can be distorted into an isolating individualism.

There is one paradigm, one code, one manner of acting in the world that can correct the tendency toward extremes and error in every other system of thought. That central and correcting belief is the commitment to love.

I encourage you graduates, as you make your way in the world, please embrace the conviction that you are created by love for love. Whatever field or approach you make your own, balance it with the greatest commandment — love the Lord your God with your whole heart, mind, and strength and love your neighbor as yourself.

Love corrects the danger of extremes in every school of human thought. Charity heals excess. The great commandment calls us back from enthroning self-interest as the sole determiner of right and rational judgment.

The Gospel of Jesus will never allow us to stand idly by as a neighbor suffers malnutrition. It will never allow us to believe that a person’s dignity depends on whether or not she has the dollars to vote.

St. Augustine is quoted as saying, “Love, and do what you want.” He means that pure love flowing from and patterned after the love that is God’s nature will never allow us to offer any evil. It will purify every way of knowing and manner of acting. This kind of love will lead us to long for what is truly in our best efforts and to desire for ourselves what is in service to the common good.

Graduates, brothers and sisters in Christ, as you move out into the world, I pray that you will know every kind of success. So love, because love never fails.

Yours devotedly in the Lord,

Bishop John C. Iffert



2023 Graduates

“On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me. And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him.” (John 15:20-21)



Bishop Brossart High School

Landon Bain*
Robert Beckerich
CoraLynn Bertsch***
Brandon Bezold
Katherine Broering***
Abigail Brondhaver*
Roman Carr
Makenzie Code***
Colin Combs*
Jacob Crowley***
Miranda Csordas***
Mitchell Enderle
Chloe Federle
Brooklyn Garlich**
Sadie Geiman***
Logan Geiman
Lauren Gooderson***
Brooke Groneck
Thomas Grosser
Amelia Haun
Chloe Hein***
Hayley Hickman***
Grace Holtkamp
Mary Holtz**
Claire Hummel***
Nolan Jordan
Brayden Ketron
Amy Klocke***
Morgan Kramer**
Hannah Kramer***
Molly Kramer***
Tyler Kreidenweis*
Katelynn Kremer*
Anthony Kruse*
David Leuderalbert**
Olivia Lloyd***
Ella Machenheimer***
Derek Martin**
Olivia Martin
Logan Meyer**
Mason Meyer
Jacob Moellman
Evan Moore
Natalie Neltner***
Evan Orth**
Luke Piscitello**
Jillian Planeaux***
Jack Poe**
Alexis Prather*
Ponchita Pratumvang***
Colin Ratcliff
Jackson Rath**
Logan Rauen***
Natalie Reis***
Isabella Rowe**
Ethan Ruschman***
Dylan Ruschman
Austin Schadler
Nathaniel Schalk**
Griffin Schuetz***
Lily Schultz**
Luke Schumacher***
Savannah Seiter***
Mason Sepate
Gregory Sheffel
Brooke Shewmaker***

Caroline Stamper*
Lucas Steffen
Ava Thomas***
Michael Tomes***
Elijah Twehues**
Alana Underwood**
Robert Verst***
Jameson Voelker*
Grace Whelan***
Samuel Willike
Logan Woosley*



Covington Catholic High School

Grant Nicholas Ackerman**
Tyler Brian Arkenau
Liam Nicholas Barker**
Henry David Bell*
Oliver Pius Bent
Alexander Michael Bernhardt***
Joseph Vincent Bezold
Anthony Joseph Bishop**
Hayden David Bishop**
Alexander Michael Bloemer*
John Matthew Bolin***
Benjamin Riley Brian*
Luke Miller Broering
Ryan John Brogan**
Zachary Joseph Brown*
Connor Michael Burke*
Thomas Harlan Burns
Thomas Michael Cahill*
Jackson Jacob Chamblee
Brian Robert Cheek
Tucker Jay Christopher
Nicholas Henry Clark**
Michael West Cody**
Graham Michael Coomes*
Benjamin Wesley Daniels**
Mitchell Paul Davey
Mack Cole David*
Jackson West Dendy***
Jonah Charles Deters
Colin Joseph Detzel
Jacob Kyle Dickman***
Joseph Aidan Dierker***
Noah Ryan Dirks*
An Gia Le Do***
Mitchel Massman Drees*
Beckett Christopher Dunham
Sean Scott Dusing**
Andrew Harvey Ellis***
Colin Nicholas Esmeier*
Michael Vito Finn*
Jonathan Robert Fitz***
Blake Eric Folke*
Thomas James Frondorf**
Trevor Dalton Fryman**
Dominic James Gates***
Maxwell Urban Gerwe***
Parker Joseph Greis**
John Christopher Harris***
Alexander Thomas Helson
Mason Patrick Heyob**
Christian Luis Hodge

Cooper Douglas Hodge***
Landon Joseph Hodge
Lucas Robert Hurst
Evan Blair Ipsaro
Aiden Jerome Jones**
Grey Patrick Jordan*
Luke James Kirby
Nicholas Charles Klaiss Jr.
Seth Andrew Knipper***
Nathan Charles Kraemer*
William Daniel Kreutzjans*
Daniel Stephan Kyntchev**
Maximillian Joseph Lawrie*
Nathaniel Lawrence William Lind**
Ethan Scott Lindbloom***
Ayden August Link
Brennen Michael Lucas
Brendon Anthony Marcum
Jase Michael Matheny
Brendan Michael McConn**
Kascyl Shannon Kelly McGillis*
Zachary Michael Molique*
Colin Murphy Monohan*
Andrew Lawrence Nader
Owen Michael Napier
Michael Thomas Nerswick
Nathan Jack Newsom*
Joseph Anthony Planicka*
Nicholas James Prospero***
Mitchell Thomas Pugh*
Tyler James Rennekamp***
Nathan Michael Resing***
Caden Robert Richards**
Zaccary Christian Roberts*
John Paul Rolfsen
Ethan Michael Roszkowski*
Ty Matthew Rottinghaus **
Greggory Broghan Rust
Nathaniel Edwin Sandmann
Oliver Ernest Jackson Schaefer*
Benjamin Charles Scheffter
Stephen Alexander Schewe**
Thomas John Schramm
Trevor Thomas Schumacher
Ty Joseph Shelton
Ralph Edward Simpson Jr.
Nicholas Mace Smith
Colin Stephen Stahl
Tyler Michael Steffen**
Thomas Michael Stenken
Travis Thomas Stewart
Joshua Henry Strange**
Abram Walter Studer
Brian Alexander Sumner***
Mason Matthew Sweeney
Nicholas Joseph Thapar**
Macklin James Tierney**
William Edwin Tranter IV**
Jayden Richard Trimble***
John Paul Vinicombe*
John David Voelker**
Matthew Sean Voet***
Ryan James Wagner
Nathan David Warner*
Henry August Wendt**
Alexander Kenneth Williams***

Brent Allan Young*
Christopher Michael Young Jr.***
Mitchell Paul Zembrodt*



Covington Latin School

Ignatius Aloysius Archambault IV**
William Harold Barton***
Ella Marie Blair*
Anthony Michael Brown***
Olivia Paige Brown***
Andrew Joseph Browning***
Gunnar Arthur Brummett***
Katie Cheng***
Landon David William Corry*
Nora Yasmine Eddnadni**
Rebecca Elizabeth Ehrman
Thomas James Ehrman*
David James Faller***
Marielle Rosché Gearding***
Ian Patrick Giblin**
Lilly Annice Hagan***
Auburn Harvest Hardin***
Thomas Michael Holocher*
Joshua Jacob Howell
Sunoor Kaur Hundal***
Charles David Kuhn***
Garrett Thomas Maines*
Austin Johnnie Matheny**
Mary Frances Meyer***
Scarlett Kennedy Mullins
Evan Patrick Murray***
Kaylin Avery Myers***
Lucy Elisabeth Obermeyer*
Evan James Paul***
Lindsay Marie Powers**
Jackson Lee Richardson***
Lora Joy Shartzert***
Michael Thomas Shaw
Julia Taylor Smith***
John Paul Sodergren***
Elliana Sue Stegman***
Gianna Elizabeth Syfert***
Vijay Emerson Thimmadasaiah***
Sakurako Watanabe***
Owen Chance Wilson**
Ethan Wong**



Holy Cross District High School

Theresa Ann Marie Allen
Aleah Catherine Arlinghaus***
Maya Elizabeth Benito*

Natalie Maria Bessler**
Alexis Starlight Best
Walter James Bezold**
Luke Joseph Bloemer***
Sarah Elizabeth Bottom***
Iain Nicholas Bronson
Brenna Marie Burton**
Owyn Edward Casey
Arthur Alexander Chapa*
Annah Victoria Chisenhall***
Matthew Anthony Coutinho***
Lauren Grace Crowley***
Hannah Lynn Darnell
Zoe Sparks Doerger***
Jared Maxson Davis***
Jason Thomas Dorning**
Matthew James Dreas***
Carter Thomas Engle***
William Preston Fuller***
John Samuel Gibson
Abigail Anne Goldizen
Andrew Joseph Grimes**
Annalee Martha Grout***
Riley Atticus Harber***
Megan Rae Heine***
Julia Renee Heist***
Hannah Hailey Hensley
Anthony Christos Himonidis*
Rylee Morgan Hood***
Jonah Benjamin Huber***
Maya Michelle Hunt***
Madison Ruth Hurtt**
Gabriel Dominic Huth
Matthew Joseph Igel***
Caleb Mickel Kahmann**
Joel Francis Kaiser***
Ashton Noah Kennedy
Wyatt Gardner Kerwin*
Sadie Lea Kimberlin***
Holley Danielle Kohler
William Conrad Lachmann**
Aiden Monty Laile*
Hudson Jane Lasita***
Nejai Myrie Lewis**
Elizabeth Grace McCoy**
Evan Douglas McGlothlin
Jacob Lee Meyer
Alexis Ann O'Daniel**
Alyssa Marie Perkins***
Caryss Noelle Pouncy**
Sydney Marie Quercioli***
Noah Alexander Riley
Stephanie Ann Ross***
Anthony Thomas Russell
Braidon Micheal Schuler**
Christopher Elijah Siracuse***
Jacob Christopher Smith*
Hannah Noelle Stapleton*
Brooke Kathleen Suetholz
Matthew Wyatt Sunday***
Jacob Cole Talbert***
Samuel Robert Thomson
Owen Saint Franklin Townsend*
Rylee Kathleen Veneman*
Clara Catherine Venneman***
Adelaide Elizabeth Ward
Javier Christopher Lashawn Ward
Ryan Lee Ward**

Sydney Elizabeth Weibel***
Michael Benedict Weller**
Kennedie Mikeal Welliver**
Nathaniel Charles Wendt***
Maxwell Anthony White
Abigail Rile Williams**
Steffan Deshawn Wills, Jr.
Mia Nicole Wilson***
Callie Gabirella Wright*
Joshua Henry Wynn***
Sarah Elizabeth Wynn
Abigail Elise Young



Newport Central Catholic High School

Kayla Rose Ahlbrand***
Chad Jonathan Atkins
Ryan Louis Barth*
Casey Marie Berry
Jocelyn Chan Bin***
Jeffrey Dale Bishop
Jacob Emmett Boden
Kayleigh Jane Brooks
Amelia Helen Brun*
Mia Marie Buemi*
Ava Marie Combs
Morgan Grace Davis
Amina Sara Daye**
Madelyn Marie Dee***
Ethan Montgomery Deinlein
Brennan Michael DeMann**
James Conrad Doecker***
Karly Marie Enginger***
Cole Abram Fausz
Christopher Jacob Gavin**
Kailey Maeve Gearding**
Polly Sunshine Gold
Natalie Ann Haigis
Kollin Nicholas Hunter
John Daniel Declan Kessen
Joelle Brooke Kinnett*
Camryn Renae Kohrs*
Thomas James Krallman**
Coby Joseph Kramer*
Emma Kathleen Krebs***
Matthew Warren Landrum
Baleigh Renee McCulley
Leah Ryan Meyer**
Allison Jane Meyers
Josh Robert Morgan
Elijah Gabriel Morgan
Ryan Anthony Mullen
Kiley Renee Murphy***
Annika Bryn Ober***
Grant Alexander Powell***
William Henson Rapier***
Brady Thomas Reckers
Elizabeth Marie Roderick*
Sofia Eileen Rodriguez
Nicholas Joseph Rouse*
Luke Matthew Runyon
Garrett James Schoulties***
Nicholas Edward Shafer
George Thomas Simons*
Alyssa Paige Smith***

GRADUATION 2023



Notre Dame Academy

Taelyn Ackley***
Sophia Anderson***
Grace Autry***
Elizabeth Barton
Maria Bishop***
Caroline Boehmer***
Brynne Bolger
Emily Braun
Jillian Bricking***
Ella Broucker**
Charlotte Bruns***
Alexandra Cain***
Lindsey Carothers***
Elizabeth Chun***
Megan Chun***
Kennedy Clark***
Chelsea Collins***
Zoe Collins
Caroline Colvin***
Jaden Conner***
Isabelle Cook***
Evelyne Cusumano
Victoria Danneman*
Lucy Dickman***
Taylor Diebold**
Isabella Dinkens
Elizabeth Duffy***
Kaylee Elliott***
Gabrielle Epplen**
Rachel Finke***
Samantha Flowers**
Jaiden Ford***
Aziza Forgiel
Adele France***
Hailey Fullenkamp***
Alexandria Gardner***
Frances Gartner***
Monica Geiman***
Kate Graves***
Ellie Greenwell***
Kiely Jane Greis**
London Griffin**
Alexandra Hansen
Abigail Hardin***
Kendall Hemsath***
Katrina Hillebrand***
Anna Hillenbrand**
Kayla Hostetler***
Noelle Hubert**
Ava Hundemer
Emily Ink**
Ava Jacobs***
Karissa Janiszewski
Natalie Janzaruk***
Allison Jones***
Ava Jones***
Meredith Jones*
Sarah Jones*
Taylor Jones***
Addison Kahlig***
Kira Kent***
Brianna Klaene*
Abigail Klesa***
Leah Kokocinski***
Caroline Kramer***
Jada Kramer***
Lainy Kruger***
Chance Loschiavo
Natalie Lovell**
Anna Lubbe*
Riley Maddox***
Bella Marita***
Peyton Mast***
Leona Mckenzie

Josie McManus**
Anna Meade***
Taylor Meenach
Evelyn Meyer***
Ava Middendorf*
Isabelle Minning***
Mia Montello**
Allison Mosser***
Britton Murphy
Tara Neuhaus**
Annalise Neurohr***
Baillie New**
Natalie Newsom
Natalye Nguyen**
Alexus Nicholson**
Sydney Nolan**
Kayla Northcutt***
Katya Olivia
Ava Orwig
Addyson Osborne***
Alexis Ott
Abigail Otto**
Emma Paley***
Rachel Panko***
Hanna Peace
Abigayle Porter**
Margaret Poulos**
Gabrielle Puglisi**
Riley Quinn*
Elissa Romer***
Kendall Romito**
Madison Russell***
Lily Sassler***
Caroline Scheper
Keira Schneider***
Kamden Schrand**
Gia Schultz***
Abigail Schutzman***
Kylie Schutzman***
Brynne Seither***
Abigail Sheely***
Larissa Shoemake***
Kate Slocum***
Madeline Sora***
Tori Sova
Sophia Stacy***
Candace Stallmeyer***
Madison Steffen
Holly Steimer***
Elle Steinbrunner***
Ava Summe**
Hope Sweeney***
Kathryn Thomas***
Madeline Thomas**
Abigail Unkraut***
Jaden Wagner***
Gracyn White***
Ellison Wright***
Andrea Zeis***
Claire Zimmerman**



St. Henry District High School

Sidney Arstingstall***
Paige Arthur***
Henry Barsan***
William Bartlett***
Allison Belton
Aloysius Bessler
Benjamin Bisbee
Olivia Boglarsky**
Quentin Bolton***
Hannah Bosch
Riley Bowen***
Makayla Breetz
Gracie Butler

Lucy Chaplin***
Cassidy Cline
Jenna Connett**
James Constant***
Austin Cutcher***
Jadyn Danbury*
Elizabeth Deis***
Julianne Dirst***
Madeline Durstock***
Allyson Egan*
Kassidy Evans*
Moirra Fagarang***
Braden Fedders
Gabrielle Ferris
Brooke Finke*
Reagan Fredrick**
Tyler Goetz
Andrew Goodwin***
Jack Goodwin***
John Grayson***
Thomas Haas*
John Hammond*
Wade Hammond***
Sydney Hennessey***
Julia Hudepohl**
Hope Huser
Sean Ihrig***
Chilota Iloegbunam***
Brooke Ives**
Lanie Jones*
Ethan Kaiser
Andrew Kakara
Meredith Kappes***
Alana Keipert**
Keira Keipert*
Kaelyn King**
Faye Kirchgassner*
Savannah Koch**
Carson Kute***
Charlie Lange***
Daniel Lee***
Cameron Lemmond***
Samantha Lewis***
Emma Littrell***
Autumn Logan
Ameliya Lynn***
Christina Marsh**
Samuel Martin

Meredith Maschinot
Isabelle McCarthy
Daniel McMahon
Reganne McMain***
Faith McNamara***
Jackson Miller
James Mirick
Morgan Mueller**
Isabella Nocero**
Tess Parks***
Katelyn Payne**
Isaac Portwood***
Anna Quinn**
Kyra Rabess**
Dylan Raleigh*
Madelyn Rapp*
Rhet Ravenscraft*
David Reding**
Mitchell Reh
Matthew Resing*
Breanna Riegler***
Abbi Rigacci**
Sophia Rodino***
Gabriella Rolfsen***
Dixon Ryan
Mary Schlinkert***
Amanda Schlueter***
Grace Schmid**
Carson Schmidt*
Megan Schoulthies***
Josie Schroder***
Olivia Schuck
Anay Sehgal
Owynn Serra***
Lucas Skelton
Rachel Stancheck**
Lauren Stearns***
Ava Stich***
Madelyn Stiles*
Elizabeth Tabor***
Megan Thomas**
Ella Thompson
Kevin Tobergte**
Erin Toebe**
Alicia Trapp*
Zander Vaillancourt
Henri Verbruggen
Avery Vieth

Nicholas Webster
Anna Wilson***
Mitchell Wolking***
Megan Wulfack
Kyle Ziegelmeier



St. Patrick High School

Alexandra Jane Arn***
Alexis Marie Boone
Scarlette Anette Cardenas***
Navaeh Liliana Dorantes
Kaylen Nicole Gallenstein*
Mercedes Clare Hedgecock***
Yisel Madrigal Ignacio
Gilberto Koch***
Caroline Simons McKay***
Hadley Faith Mellenkamp***
Elizabeth Shannon
Nuernberg**
Rhiannon Grace Nuernberg**
Sophia Nadine Parker***
Isabella Leann Riggs
Mya Sheree Rogers
Makenna Rylee Roush***
Logan Bryce Alexander
Stahl***
Garrett Robie Tesmer



Villa Madonna Academy

Sydney Agriesti***
Vincent Alquizola*
Evan Barker***

Ava Borchers***
Asha Bosley***
Brogan Callioni***
Alex Carroll***
Joseph Case***
Liam Collins***
Elijah Cordonnier*
Keegan Davis***
Macey Dumas*
Chase Fischer
Rachel Fuller
Joshua Graner
Joey Grannen***
Ian Halpin***
Hope Hampton**
Avery Hildenbrand
Owen Kovacic***
Olivia Mann*
Katherine McDonald***
Aidan McGraw***
Kathryn McLagan***
Sophia Messmer**
Andrew Nichols***
Erin O'Connell***
Meghan O'Connell***
Molly O'Connell***
Bria Patel***
Piper Petry*
Hunter Pickens
Brooklyn Pickens*
Mary Pikar*
Anna Popham***
Audrey Powell***
Sophia Schaeffer***
Griffin Slazyk***
Jacob Smith***
Shawn Stephens
Maria Tankersley***
Madeline Timm***
Atziri Uzoukwu***

*** Summa Cum Laude
** Magna Cum Laude
* Cum Laude
+ Thomas More Scholar
++ Thomas More Fellow



GRADUATION 2023



Congratulations graduating pontifical servers
Students at Covington Latin School assist Bishop John Iffert as pontifical servers at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, and for pontifical celebrations at parishes throughout the diocese. Given the intricate nature of pontifical celebrations these servers are specially trained and spend many hours serving at the altar. Pictured here with Bishop Iffert, this year's graduating pontifical servers are (from left) Lindsay Powers, John Sodergren, Andrew Browning and Lilly Hagan.

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
|  | Robert Blaine Espinosa |
| THOMAS MORE UNIVERSITY | Heaven B. Evans |
| Thomas More University | Juli Bryann Ezell** |
| College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences | Elizabeth Gail Fahey |
| Ada Victoria Adams* | Landon Christian Finn |
| Emily Renee Aisenbrey | Mattison Dee Fisher* |
| Myles Allen Anderson | Maggie Irene Flanagan |
| Sydney Cameron Arrowood | Garrett A. Flynn*** |
| Reagan Atwood | Elizabeth Marion Ford*** |
| Hannah Marie Back*** | Autumn Olivia Frank |
| Amanda Hope Baker | Garrett L. Gabbard |
| Kayla M. Baldrige | Rianna Jeanelle Gayheart |
| Elizabeth Jane Barker | Jackson Gregory Gear |
| Kimberly Angelique Beatty | David James Gilbert |
| Kyle Edward Beier | Jacob Douglas Glass |
| Axel Christopher Bell | Christopher Patrick Guarasci |
| Stanislav Valentin Beresford | Isabel Alexandra Guerra |
| Brooke Alexandra Bird | Ruth Ann Hahn*** |
| Hannah Kaitlin Bishop*** | Natalie Rae Hamilton** |
| Kevin Joseph Bissonnette*** | Brianna Sky Hammond |
| Emma Isabelle Blake | Cora Jean Hansel |
| Zoe C. Blasingame | Melissa Ann Harris |
| Ryland Samuel Bowman- | Michael Thomson Harris |
| Ellen | Emily J. Hartline*** |
| Michelle Andrea Brachetti* | Andrew Joseph Hemmerle |
| Evelyn Ruth Brauer** | Ana Paola Herrera Ferruffino |
| Trey Louis Brausch* | Faith Elizabeth-Lynn |
| Kaitlyn Hope Bredestege | Herrmann |
| Brady Brunsman | Julie Hertlein* |
| Emily Christine Burkholder* | Abby Jo Hightchew |
| Alexa F. Canup* | Hatmaker* |
| Sebastian Carlos* | Christopher Alexander Hill |
| Lucy K. Carrigan | Duncan Alexander Hoffman** |
| Emily Giglia Carroll Martin | Kai L. Hoosier |
| Jason Christopher Cassidy* | Christine J. Huck |
| Kethan Jamal Clark | Raymond Joseph |
| Annabel Lee Clayton*** | Hummeldorf |
| Taylor Leigh Clos* | Mallory Lynn Hynes |
| Ashley Elizabeth Cooper* | Lori Ann Jackson |
| Jerry Edward Cooper III | Robert James Jurek Jr. |
| Madison G. Davis | Caleb Kent* |
| Caitlin Dianne Dawson*** | Torri Rayne King |
| Abigail L. Deaton | Margaret Elizabeth Kinney |
| Lillian Marie Delk | Dominic Caston Lemma*** |
| Riley Richard Wolfgang Dietz | Diante Elisha Lesperance |
| Madelyn Mae Dinkins***+ | Matthew Lee Lewis |
| Haley Everett Dougherty | Jonathan M. Litzler* |
| Sarah Rose Dougoud | Monica Ashley Luebbers |
| Davon Deshun Earle | Geri Lea Mains |
| | Taylor Anne Malone |
| | Adrian Marie Marquez |
| | Hudson Jacob Wayne |
| | Montgomery |
| | Rebecca C. Mowen |
| | James Mulenga |
| | Hannah M. Mullane* |

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Kaitlyn Nicole Mulvaney | Pompey Jr. |
| Alyssa Nicole Murphy | Samantha L. Potter |
| Kameron A. Nab*+ | Logan Peter Rauen* |
| Zachary Ryan Neal | Elainey Michelle Reno* |
| Joseph Henry Neff* | Ansley Elisabeth Rooks** |
| Michelle Elizabeth Neiser | Isabella Grace Schatzman |
| Tori Rae Neltner | Jessica Taylor Schloemer |
| Zachary Michael Ober | Rachel Allison-Ka Schultz |
| Mariah Maelynn Palmer* | Alexandra Grace Schutte |
| Sidney Martin Mitchell | Jeffrey James Sears |
| | Macee Leigh Seshier |
| | Natalie Shabanov Saida |
| | Jacob X. Shriver |
| | Demetric Develle Simmons Jr. |
| | Rachael A. Skibbe |
| | Samantha Sloan |
| | Alexis A. Slusser |
| | Matthew Mitchell Smith |
| | Destiny A. Souder** |
| | James Lucas Spindley |
| | Jenna Nicole Squires |
| | Olivia Marie Staverman*** |
| | James Phillip Stebbins |
| | Alexandria Nicholle Stevens |
| | Jacob Wayne Summers |
| | Shannon Marie Swikert |
| | Michael Wayne Switzer Jr. |
| | Kendall J. Thompson |
| | Kaylee Briannan Thornsburg |
| | Brian Douglas Tolle |
| | Harley J. Tomlin |
| | Yennefer M. Trevino-Heun |
| | Shelby L. Turner |
| | Laurna A. Verbrugghen** |
| | Jordan L. Vice |
| | Andrew Thomas Wahl |
| | Maura S. Weber* |
| | Serah Mason Whitacre*** |
| | Corey Douglas White |
| | Wilder Joseph Wichman |
| | Craig Dwayne Wills Jr. |
| | Chloe Elizabeth Woeste*** |
| | |
| | St. Elizabeth College of Natural & Health Sciences |
| | Alyssa Ann Albrinck |
| | Hannah Allen |
| | Zoie Pandely Barth*** |
| | Kaylee B. Beal |
| | Rachel Ann Berwanger |
| | Brooke Alexandra Bird |
| | Angel M. Brewer |
| | Trevor Brown |
| | Kelly Rae Buerkley |
| | Jared Isaiah Bulluck |
| | Sonya Ann Burns |
| | Jenna Nicole Cayze* |
| | Madison Leigh Coombs** |
| | Alexis Christina Crandall |
| | Jensen Shae Craycraft |
| | Dylan Doverspike |
| | Cassandra Drago* |
| | Sean William Dressman |
| | Jennifer Lynn Eckert |
| | Jenna Marie Elfers |
| | Gabriella Marie Enders* |
| | Jasmine Renee Eshman |
| | Danielle Rae Fisk |
| | Sidney David Fox |
| | Mark Alexander Gilkison |
| | Kodie R. Goble |
| | Ashlei M. Green* |
| | Melisa Halilovic |
| | Nicole Christen Holbrook |

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Noah J. Howard | Rebecca Buchanan** |
| Courtney E. Hurst | Caroline L. Buddenberg |
| Olivia E. Jackson*+ | Walker Arnold Buelow |
| Erik Alan Johnson III | Jeanette Bushman |
| Marissa Adrienne Kah | Matias Caramuti |
| Kathryn R. Kearns* | Christopher Joseph Carlson** |
| Georgia F. Kelly | Jacob Daniel Caruso* |
| Xela McKinney Klockow | Kieran Edward Casey |
| Mason L. Kramer | Michael Bradley Castellini |
| Kathryn Danielle Kreimer | John Scheible Clark |
| Alyssa Michelle Kurtz | Mckenna Arleen Clark |
| Carynn A. Lee | Zander Antonio Coakley |
| Xinyi Li | Simon Eduardo Colmenares |
| Michael Connor Logan** | Herrera Sr. |
| Sawyer Quinn Lorentz***+ | James Paul Copple |
| Zak Mairose | Karen Crabtree |
| Brittany Nicole Mangel | Gavin Singh Dail |
| Hailey Marie McAdoo* | Brenna Elizabeth Dane |
| Emily Ann Mcclanahan | Clara Justine Davenport* |
| Patrick August McCormick | Heather DeAtley |
| Ryann Meddings | Noah Thomas Detrick |
| Delaney Jo Mederer | Maxwell Dierig* |
| Rebecca Nicole Mitchell* | Josue Doll |
| Hunter Chase Nantz* | Roques Demontre Dowdy |
| Kayla Marie Nichols | Jacob William Elbert |
| Seth Ryan Noel | Hanan H. Elgusain |
| Dennis Robert Peltram | Victoria Sue Ertel |
| Kevin Patrik Peltram | Reese P. Foster |
| Brooke E. Perry | Jennifer Marie Foulk |
| Casey Allen Ragle | Deborah Gafner |
| Lauren Elizabeth Rankin | Annika Mae Gels* |
| Rebecca Judith Rauch | Olivia Grace Glore* |
| Madyson Marie Reekers- | Sarah Mae Glutz |
| Dehnert | Shelby Desiree Green |
| Michelle Paige Rhodes | Deandre Lamar Griffin Jr. |
| Maria Bernadette Rice***++ | Amos Cunningham Griffith |
| Patience V. Robison | Gabriel Antonio Guevara |
| Jade Rodgers | Ortiz* |
| Chase Andrew Scheben** | Matt Scott Gullette* |
| Abigail Grace Schutte | Kyle Frederick Gutfreund |
| Kelsey Lynn Schweizer | Evan J. Haas |
| Branden Scott Semones | Hannah Marie Halbig |
| Caitlin Renee Sheridan* | Jaymee Lawrence Hale |
| Emily Simon | Jackson Christopher Hall* |
| Faith E. Smiddy | Ross P. Halverstadt |
| Hannah Mae Spergin | Martha Ann Hamblen |
| Collin Webber Strasburger | Cayla Mae Hamilton |
| Delphous Edward Thomas IV | Adrian Harris |
| George Tidswell | Chelsea Lynn Hartzler |
| James A. Traub | Clarrissa Dannielle Harvey |
| Spencer N. Trimpe***++ | Trey Joseph Hennekes |
| Devin J. Webster | Daniel James Henry |
| Erica Michelle Willis | Austin Lee Hergott |
| Savannah E. Wright | Austin Christian Hoeh |
| Emma F. Zink* | Jennifer M. Hogan |
| | Shay Anthony Horton |
| | Jordan Edward Houze |
| | Amanda Howard |
| | Amanda Huckaby |
| | Valerie Renee Hudepohl |
| | Rachel Sophia Hummel |
| | Casey James Humphreys |
| | Tyler Dawson Hurst |
| | Cayla Michelle Hutchinson* |
| | Maleek B. Jarrett |
| | Jaya Nicole Jensen* |
| | Madison Taylor Johnson |
| | Bryson Edward Jones* |
| | Dawson Jones |
| | Madison L. Jones |
| | Jessica Lynn Kelley* |
| | Kyle C. Kelley |
| | Sandra Kerr |
| | Christopher A. Koehler*** |
| | Kevin Kummer |
| | Kindra M. Kuntz |
| | Crystal Lynn Lawrence |
| | Ebony Cherree Linzy |
| | Matthew Mitchell Lodge*** |
| | Jessica Sade Loving |
| | Christopher Jay Lowry |
| | Tori Nicole Lykins |
| | Mya Mairose |
| | Phoebe Mae Mairose |

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Bailey Micheal Martin | Brooke Lee Ramsey |
| Andrew Dillon Martini | Laxmi Shova Rana Magar |
| Ian Robert Martini* | Kathleen Marie Ray |
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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:

■ 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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Experts hail U.S. surgeon general’s social media warning for youth mental health

Kimberley Heatherington
OSV News

For parents still wondering if social media can be harmful to their children’s mental health, U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy had a warning May 23: “We are in the middle of a national youth mental health crisis, and I am concerned that social media is an important driver of that crisis — one that we must urgently address.”

The “Surgeon General’s Advisory on Social Media and Youth Mental Health” is 21 pages of details and statistics succinctly summarized in the accompanying U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) press release: “While social media may offer some benefits, there are ample indicators that social media can also pose a risk of harm to the mental health and well-being of children and adolescents.”

Since HHS reports that almost 95% of young people ages 13-17 use social media — with more than one out of three saying they are on social media “almost constantly” — the scope of Murthy’s concern is nearly universal.

“The most common question parents ask me is, ‘is social media safe for my kids’. The answer is that we don’t have enough evidence to say it’s safe, and in fact, there is growing evidence that social media use is associated with harm to young people’s mental health,” Murthy noted in the same press release. “Children are exposed to harmful content on social media, ranging from violent and sexual content, to bullying and harassment. And for too many children, social media use is compromising their sleep and valuable in-person time with family and friends.”

Experts told OSV News they welcomed the surgeon general’s announcement.

“Not only does the surgeon general’s report call for something to be done — it calls for something to be done fast,” said Amanda Raffoul, an instructor in the pediatrics department at Harvard Medical School, and a fellow in the division of adolescent and young adult medicine at Boston Children’s Hospital.

“I think that the surgeon general’s report can help to amplify some of the concerns that the research community — as well as in policy and child mental health more broadly — has had for the past couple of years,” Raffoul told OSV News. “It doesn’t call for a complete ban or a complete restriction on social media for minors, but it indicates some paths forward for policy makers — and especially the social media platforms — to help ensure that kids can be online, and have it be safe, and not harmful, for them.”

The HHS notes that “among the benefits, adolescents report that social media helps them feel more accepted (58%), like they have people who can support them through tough times (67%), like they have a place to show their creative side (71%), and more connected to what’s going on in their friends’ lives (80%).”

Nonetheless, excessive use of social media poses serious consequences, with the HHS observing “recent research shows that adolescents who spend more than three hours per day on social media face double the risk of experiencing poor mental health outcomes, such as symptoms of depression and anxiety; yet one 2021 survey of teenagers found that, on average, they spend 3.5 hours a day on social media. Social media may also perpetuate body dissatisfaction, disordered eating behaviors, social comparison, and low self-esteem, especially among adolescent girls.”

Almost half (46%) of teens ages 13-17 said social media made them feel worse about their body image. Hate-based social media content also is “often” or “sometimes” encountered by 64% of adolescents.

Jessica Heldman, a child rights professor at the University of San Diego and a member of its Children’s Advocacy Institute, said Big Tech companies must nonetheless be held responsible for the harm done to youth.

“They are learning to starve themselves, harm themselves, and loathe themselves as they replace sleep and healthy activity with hours on social media,” Heldman said of teen social media users. “Yet, social media platforms continue to profit off of algorithms and design features that push harmful content to children and make it nearly impossible to disengage from their platforms.”

“This advisory emphasizes what is truly at stake,” Heldman told OSV News, “and it dispels any notion that social media platforms are somehow so different from other products that they should be allowed to operate with impunity.”

Christopher McKenna, a digital security expert, founder of Protect Young Eyes and a keynote speaker at the 2022 National Catholic Educational Association conference, noted that “in culture today, we tend to treat children

as if they are mini adults. And that is simply untrue. Childhood is unique. The brains of children are unique. They are in a unique developmental phase.”

McKenna praised the HHS’ policy suggestions, which include policymakers strengthening safety and privacy standards; greater transparency by tech companies; parental instruction to kids about responsible online behavior; limiting of online time by children; and prioritization by researchers to establish social media standards and evaluation.

“We are experimenting on children,” said McKenna. “We can’t wait for science to catch up with the experience that parents and educators are observing firsthand.”



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Evangelizer’s strength comes from practicing what one preaches, pope says

Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — The most powerful and effective method of evangelization is to live according to what one teaches and preaches, Pope Francis said. “I can recite the Creed by heart, I can talk about everything we believe in, but if your life is not consistent with that, it will get you nowhere,” he told people at his weekly general audience in St. Peter’s Square May 31.

What attracts people to the Gospel, he said, is seeing consistency in the way Christians live, seeing that “we, Christians, live the way we say and do not pretend to be Christians,” who, instead, live a “worldly” life.

The pope continued his series of talks about “zeal” for evangelization by focusing on Jesuit Father Matteo Ricci, a 16th-century Italian missionary who spent 28 years evangelizing in China and bringing Western science to the continent. He died in Beijing in 1610, at the age of 57.

His missionary spirit represents “a living and relevant model” for evangelization today, said Pope Francis, who advanced the Jesuit’s sainthood cause in 2022 by recognizing his heroic virtues.

“His love for the Chinese people is a model,” he said, but what is most important is “his consistency,” his witness as a Christian.

Father Ricci is known as a great missionary because “he brought Christianity to China,” the pope said, and he is “great” because he was “a great scientist, he is great because he is courageous, he is great because he wrote so many books, but he is great, above all, because he was consistent with his vocation, consistent with that desire to follow Jesus Christ.”

Christians, he said, should ask themselves whether they are living in harmony with what they believe, “Am I consistent, or am I a little so-so?”

After St. Francis Xavier first tried to enter China in the 1500s, another 25 Jesuits after him tried and failed to enter the country, the pope said. However, Father Ricci succeeded. He and a confrere spent years preparing for their mission to China by studying the language and customs, and then they spent another 18 years to get to Beijing.

Father Ricci is a “great example of apostolic zeal” because “with perseverance and patience, inspired by an unshakeable faith, Matteo Ricci was able to overcome difficulties and dangers, mistrust and opposition,” Pope Francis said.

What was his secret? What path did his zeal take him? the pope asked. “He always followed the path of dialogue and friendship with everyone he met, and this opened many doors for him to proclaim the Christian faith.”

The pope explained how the priest adopted some aspects of Chinese culture by first dressing like the Buddhist monks of the region, “but then he understood



Pope Francis smiles at a service dog after his weekly general audience May 31, 2023, in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican.

that the best way was to assume the lifestyle and clothing of the ‘literati’ or Chinese scholars. “He studied their classical texts in depth, so that he could present Christianity in positive dialogue with their Confucian wisdom and the customs of Chinese society.”

This is “inculturation” — the same approach used in the early centuries of the church, when the early church theologians “enculturated” the Christian faith in dialogue with Greek culture, he said.

Matteo Ricci was admired and respected as a man of science, but the most important of all his efforts was “the proclamation of the Gospel,” the pope said. But the credi-

bility he earned through his sincere and wise scientific dialogue “gave him authority to propose the truth of the Christian faith and Christian morality.”

He gave witness by living a life of virtue and prayer, because “it is prayer that fuels the missionary life,” and by living a life of charity and helping others, by being humble and shunning all honors and riches, which all led “many of his Chinese disciples and friends to embrace the Catholic faith,” the pope said.

“This is the consistency of evangelizers,” he said. The greatest strength of the best missionaries “is consistency; they are consistent” with what they teach and live.

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Shrinking minority is hoarding wealth, power

Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — People of faith and those working in the fields of science, economics and politics need to work together to help care for life and humanity’s common home, said Cardinal Michael Czerny, prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

“Principles of interconnection and co-responsibility frame the climate as a common good and the planet as our common home. The call to protect, care and regenerate it must be a priority for everyone, regardless of one’s belonging to this or that religion or none at all,” he said May 23.

“Important contributions include the scientific consensus, inspiration, introspection, careful consideration of what has to change; political commitment to coordinate these changes; religious inspiration, motivation and orientation; and popular movements from below to care for both our most vulnerable siblings and our common (home),” he said.

The cardinal spoke at a round table discussion titled, “Hope for the Earth. Hope for Humanity,” sponsored by the dicastery in collaboration with the Swedish Embassy to the Holy See as part of Laudato Si’ Week May 21-28.

Pope Francis highlighted the start of the week after praying the “Regina Coeli” with visitors in St. Peter’s Square May 21, inviting everyone “to collaborate in the care of our common home. There is such a need to put our capabilities and creativity together!”

He also told visitors they would receive guidebooks about his 2015 encyclical “Laudato Si’, on Care for Our Common Home,” which the dicastery prepared in collaboration with the Stockholm Environment Institute. Titled, “Our Common Home: A Guide to Caring for our Living

Planet,” the 20-page, full-color guide connects scientific facts and figures on key environmental issues with reflections and teachings from the encyclical.

In his talk May 23, Cardinal Czerny said that “faith and science, economy and politics are all needed so that people, in dialogue, might care for life and our common home.”

Inspired by the pope’s encyclical, “this is exactly the message of ‘Our Common Home’ guidebook,” he said, expressing his hope that people would apply it at home, school, church and elsewhere around the world. “May it also inspire further fruitful dialogue between communities of faith and of science.”

“Together faith and science can inspire genuine ecological conversion based in fact and driven by faith,” he said. “Science and faith share some core values and purpose capable of illuminating and orienting how to fix our broken societies and broken planet.”

Environmental responsibility and social justice go hand in hand, he said. “Resource extraction, production, pollution and waste disproportionately harm communities that benefit least from these activities.”

That also means the way today’s economies are run and developed must change, he added, because they “rely on the unsustainable burning of fossil fuels; the current market pushes harmful levels of consumption that pollute the environment with garbage as well as our souls and spirits with insatiable greed.”

“But this wild license to consume is enjoyed by a shrinking minority of the global population that hoards power and wealth and appears to lack any sense of the genuine common good,” Cardinal Czerny said.

Essential then to changing the status quo is the contribution climate scientists can make “by clarifying and



CNS photo/screen grab from SEI

The cover of “Our Common Home: A Guide to Caring for Our Living Planet” is seen in this screen grab. The booklet, published Feb. 14, 2023, by the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) and the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development connects the science of climate change, biodiversity and sustainable resource use with the messages of Pope Francis’ 2015 encyclical “Laudato Si’, on Care for Our Common Home.”

explaining the everyday experiences of vulnerable communities suffering extreme climate disasters,” he said.

Also, the land rights of local and Indigenous peoples “must be strengthened to regenerate our soils and protect all species,” the cardinal said. “It is the education of youth and the empowerment of women that bring about the best possible social and environmental outcomes; and it is concern for intergenerational justice that will ensure a bright and meaningful future for our youth.”

Economic priorities will need to “shift from raw profit toward integral human development,” he said, and local communities will have to act, especially regarding food waste, air pollution, water insecurity and biodiversity loss.

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Praying as a Christian

(Continued from page 6)

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Father Stenger and the Parishioners of

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

in Historic CAMP SPRINGS

Invite You To Our

SUMMER FESTIVAL

Saturday, JUNE 10, 2023

4:00 p.m. – 11 p.m.

* BOOTHS * KIDS GAMES *

* DUCKY DOWNS * WINE & ALCOHOL RAFFLES *

* \$1,500 MAJOR RAFFLE * LIVE ENTERTAINMENT *

Outdoor Grill,

Homemade Desserts & Beer Garden

Directions: Take AA Highway (Rt. 9) from Wilder. Go 9 miles to Rt. 547 exit. Turn right and go 1 mile to church.

Information (859) 635-2491 Lic #0603



CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2023

- **43** graduates headed to **27** universities and the United States Marine Corps
- **361** scholarships totaling **\$15.8 million**
- **86%** played sports
- More than **6,200** hours served in high school



ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY
AUBURN UNIVERSITY
AUGUSTE ESCOFFIER SCHOOL OF
CULINARY ARTS
AVA MARIA UNIVERSITY
BELMONT UNIVERSITY
BELLARMINE UNIVERSITY
COASTAL CAROLINA UNIVERSITY
FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY
HILLSDALE COLLEGE
NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY
PURDUE UNIVERSITY
RICE UNIVERSITY
THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

THE UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA
TRANSYLVANIA UNIVERSITY
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI
UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME
UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
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Notre Dame Academy, preparing graduates to be outstanding female leaders serving the world.



Congratulations Class of 2023!

60% of NDA's Class of 2023

received half tuition or more in scholarships and grants at the institution she plans to attend

Members of the
CLASS OF 2023
were offered
\$18.8 million
in the form of direct
scholarships and grants



Members of the
CLASS OF 2023
performed

8,985

hours of service
in four years at
Notre Dame Academy

82%

of Notre Dame Academy
alumnae graduate
from four-year
colleges within

4 years

(6 year average at KY state public
universities is 57%)

A Catholic Education at Notre Dame Academy is an investment worth making.

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