Jenna Hail is a rising senior at St. Henry District High School. She is the second youngest of four children of Lucas and Melissa Hail, parishioners at St. Agnes Parish, Ft. Wright. Jenna is the only Hail to have a State ring in athletics, earning that achievement as manager of the 2021 SHDHS championship volleyball team. She loves and plays basketball and enjoys golf. Her penmanship is impeccable, and she has an intense interest in writing and typing and blogging. She loves celebrating birthdays, especially her own. She’s a typical 18-year-old, preferring to be with her friends rather than her family except for her dog, Ruby. What makes Jenna unique is that she has Down’s Syndrome.

“I grew up Catholic and I’ve always known that I wanted to send my children — all of my children — to Catholic schools,” said Mrs. Hail, Jenna’s mother.

And that’s exactly what happened for the two oldest Hail children. But when it became time for Jenna to begin Kindergarten, her Catholic education was not as certain. A meeting and conversation with the pastor and principal and Jenna was accepted as a kindergarten student at St. Agnes School, Ft. Wright. But with limited training and resources at the school, the year didn’t go as smoothly as hoped. Mrs. Hail was told that the public school system would better serve Jenna’s educational needs.

“I remember a time when Jenna was at the public school and she wanted to wear her big sister’s uniform to school…she knew that she was not included,” said Mrs. Hail.

When Jenna was ready to matriculate to Middle School, and with new leadership at St. Agnes School, Mrs. Hail requested that Jenna be admitted as a student. She was, and successfully completed her sixth, seventh and eighth grade years there. After graduation, she was accepted as a student at St. Henry District High School.

As Jenna and her family look forward to all the monumental events of senior year, one would think that Mrs. Hail’s advocacy for Catholic inclusive education would be coming to an end. But, in fact, it’s just igniting.

Kendra McGuire, superintendent of Schools, recently announced to Bishop John Efft that the Diocese of Covington has been accepted as a FIRE Foundation affiliate. Mrs. Hail and other moms — Jeannett Hasselbeck and Jenifer Ericson — who also have children with special educational needs, are leading the effort to assist Mrs. McGuire in fundraising and implementing the FIRE Foundation’s programs and processes for the 2023-2024 school year.

“This is really exciting, and I think most of the schools are ready for this,” said Mrs. McGuire.

For over 25 years, the FIRE Foundation has made it possible for partner Catholic schools to hire special educators and to acquire learning materials and technology that create successful learning experiences for all children.

The FIRE Foundation, based in the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Missouri, was founded by parents, like Mrs. Hail, who shared a common dream — for their children with special needs to attend their parish schools with siblings and friends.

Mrs. McGuire said that the Diocese’s Inclusive Education Committee will begin its planning focusing, initially, on four areas: funding a diocesan director of inclusive education position to help schools improve and advance services; funding for special education teachers or aides; providing resource materials, and providing training and trainees for teachers, teacher aides and anyone in the classroom.

The need for teacher training and school resources for children with developmental, educational, and emotional differences is substantial. Mrs. Hail said that Jenna “wears her disability on her face.” But that’s not the case for most children.

Mrs. McGuire said that people might be surprised to know that currently nearly 1,000 children in Catholic schools require some kind of accommodation to meet their unique educational needs. These include children with autism, dyslexia, ADHD and myriad of other disabilities. And since these disabilities fall on a spectrum, often it is not obvious that a child is struggling with a disability.

“In general, its milder disabilities that we serve,” said Mrs. McGuire. “It’s harder for us when students have more moderate to even more severe types of disabilities; that’s where we really start to struggle.”

Mrs. McGuire said the process of onboarding a student with a disability at a Catholic school is similar to the process at public schools — the diagnosis is reviewed and the student’s needs in the classroom are evaluated. “Most of our schools have intervention teachers that help the classroom teacher. We have been doing this for quite some time. What we’re trying to do now is expand it,” she said.

Ohio and some other states provide public funding for special education, even for private schools. But Kentucky doesn’t. Being named a FIRE Foundation affiliate is the answer to the prayers of many to help make the dream of a Catholic education for children of all abilities a possibility. And when everyone is welcome, the benefits multiply.

“Jenna has taught me so much,” said Natalie Tracey, one of Jenna’s classmates and friends at SHDHS. “She accepts me without any judgement. She expects nothing but quality time. What an amazing gift that is to have in a friendship.”

Jenna and Natalee met in religion class last year.

“I can’t imagine not having my friend Jenna in my life. She is truly the most beautiful gift I and so many others will ever receive from God,” said Natalee. “I love how we both can be ourselves 100 percent together because we know that we both love each other as ourselves.”

Natalee challenges everyone to see differences and disabilities not as “a bad thing” but as a gift.

“Everyone has struggles but that doesn’t mean they deserve less of a chance. Every school, especially Catholic schools, should teach students the true meaning of love and acceptance.”
Local students art up for bid at Cassba online

Laura Keener
Editor

This year’s Cassba will feature a new, creative and youthful component sure to help raise funds in support of the mission and ministries of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Covington.

The 2023 Student Art Gallery and silent auction will be launched later this summer online at https://egivesmart.com/events/wN6/i/ as part of the Cassba online and in person event.

Each diocesan high school was asked to encourage its best artists to blend their talent, faith and stewardship to create and donate an original artwork for Catholic Charities’ silent auction. Six schools participated. Many of the artists shared with the Messenger the inspiration for their artwork. Pictures of the artwork along with the artists’ comments are featured with this article.

The online Student Art Gallery will open for online bidding at the beginning of August and will conclude on Aug. 27 at the Cassba event at the Drees Pavilion, Covington.

“We have such a rich art history in our diocese, everything from Frank Duveneck to Benedictine Sister Emmanuel Pieper … and we have very talented art students in our Catholic schools,” said Dawn Fletcher, Cassba planning committee member. “I wanted to help foster that connection between the schools and Catholic Charities and I thought this is a great way to do it.”

Another important connection for Mrs. Fletcher was for the students to live their faith in everything that they do, not just religion class or Mass on Sunday.

“I think that so often we separate our musical talents or artistic talents, data talents, leadership talents and we put them all on the secular side and then we just say, ‘Sunday belongs to God and everything else goes to the world,’” Mrs. Fletcher said. “I want to encourage them to express their faith through their art.”

For information about Catholic Charities, Diocese of Covington or the Cassba visit www.covingtoncharities.org. (See more on page 6.)

Auburn Hardin
Covington Latin School
Framed painting of the exterior of the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, rose window.

Sadie Lea Kimberlin
Holy Cross District High School, Covington
Title: “Give and Receive”
Multi-media sculpture depicting two elderly hands reaching out of crocheted items composed of wood, acrylic paint, wire, yarn and clay.

From the artist: “My art teacher gave an assignment to make a piece of art in the vein of Frank Stella. I immediately had the idea to make something with crochet; with crochet I could make something with concentric colors and shapes, like Stella,” said Sadie Lea. “I have been crocheting since third grade. I was taught by St. Joseph the Worker Sister Margaret Mary Perez; she was legally blind. She was my mentor and one of my best friends up until she passed away from cancer. She was one of the most amazing people I have ever met in my entire life. I have always been drawn to hands and how they represent oneself as well. You can tell a lot from a person from their hands, and we are all most familiar with our hands out of our bodies. I wanted the piece to be about faith and how I often feel like I am having a conversation with God where I am simultaneously offering up my faith, sorrows, joys, while also begging for relief and answers to questions that no one can answer. The piece can also be seen as someone offering up their faith to those around them, sharing it. In my church we talk about being drenched with faith and I believe that I got that point across.”

Reagan Hill
Newport Central Catholic High School
White pencil drawing on black paper of an ethereal image of the Blessed Mother, Mary.

Leah Patchell
St. Patrick High School, Mayville
Colored pencil drawing of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

From the artist: Karen Heller, art teacher at St. Patrick High School, said, “When I spoke to Leah about her artwork in May, she said that since she had created her artwork during the month of May, she wanted to do something to honor Our Lady. Leah said that she has always been drawn to this image of Our Lady over other images of her. Leah chose colored pencil because she is most familiar with it and likes the way it blends.”
Kenton County Library hosts Covington Latin School exhibit launching centennial celebration

Laura Keener
Editor

To join in Covington Latin School’s 100-year anniversary celebration, the Local History and Genealogy Department of the Kenton County Library, Covington, is hosting a sampling of artifacts on loan from the school’s archives.

Some of the featured artifacts include a banner with the Covington Latin School seal; yearbooks; a photograph of Bishop Howard who founded the school in 1923 and of the first headmaster, Father John Kroger; a hat, tie and armband, donated by Father Albert Ruschman, that students wore on the days the bishop was scheduled to visit; and journals, written by students chronicling school, local and world events.

(Continued on page 13)
Pass the biscuits

I received an invitation to tour the St. Vincent de Paul facility in Crescent Springs and the hour I spent with Karen Zengel and Lou Suttington is one I will always remember. I had been told to bring some clothing items to be donated at the facility and I left with me the story of a child’s birthday. I remember the excitement on my little girl’s face when she opened her gift plate – a beautiful ceramic plate that was given to her by the BVMs. I learned that her father was a police officer and he had worked hard to earn money to buy her this special gift. When I saw the happy tears in her eyes, I knew I had chosen the right facility to volunteer at.

The SVDP facilities in Crescent Springs are remarkable. They are all about helping people in need. There are places where seasonal items are stored to help our neighbors in need. If you have trouble deciding what to buy for SVDP, you can write a check. SVDP can purchase food from the Freestore Food Bank and use these discounted items to help people in need. There is a place for personal care and health items. You can borrow a piece of durable medical equipment, such as a transport wheelchair, for as long as you need it. These devices are provided to those in need.

The storefront in Crescent Springs is a remarkable place. There are beautiful items of clothing, but the number of people coming to this facility is truly amazing. I was grateful to be a part of this community and to offer all that I could to such a well-run organization of faithful stewards.

Thank you for inviting me.
This summer Catholics around the world are invited to participate in two exciting, intergenerational opportunities that speak to the depth — or lack thereof — of our faith. It would speak to our character, to our values, to us. It would reveal what is really important in our lives. It would show us what we truly want in the person of his Son, Jesus Christ.

In the meeting between Mary and Elizabeth, between young and old, God has been and will be with us to the end of the world. Jesus has given the Holy Spirit to the Church in which and through which we and the people involved, we would love to hear them. Call the office or e-mail me at dhasling@homonhomes.org. In the meantime, I encourage you to get involved in our mission. We need you. We need God. Together, we'll make homeownership affordable and feasible for those who struggle to achieve homeownership on their own.

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Emma Linkugel
St. Henry District High School, Erlanger
Title: “Gathered as the Body of Christ”
Framed colored pencil drawing of students attending Mass.
From the artist: “Sometime near the end of the school year, I saw an entire row of students join hands during a prayer assembly. At that moment, I felt inspired and thought it was so beautiful how they were united in faith,” said Emma. “The picture stuck in my head for a while afterwards and quickly came to mind when brainstorming for the next project in art class. My art teacher, Mrs. Katie VonHandorf, encouraged me to follow through with the idea and to donate the finished product to the CaSsba auction. This was the last piece I would make as part of my three years of art studies at St. Henry District High School. I wanted to make a piece that I will be proud of when I look back on my high school art. I was even more excited that my work could raise funds for those in need. Making the piece allowed me to express my gratitude for my Catholic school experience, and for my Catholic faith. I more fully realize God’s grace in giving us a community of fellow believers by instituting the Church. The stained-glass windows were my favorite part to draw because they were fun and relaxing. Drawing the individual students and other details definitely took some determination, but overall, the process was gratifying and fulfilling.”

Nathan Resing
Covington Catholic High School
Title: “Jesus”
Canvas painting of Jesus.
From the artist: “I chose to portray Jesus, the reason being that I am very involved in my faith life,” said Nathan. “To me, art is special because everyone chooses to portray something different, as we all have different interests. Even if we were to paint, draw, etc., the same thing, it would still look different because we all have different ways of expressing the topic. In my Jesus piece, I chose to do a ‘painterly styled’ piece as it was something I struggled with. For most of my art career at CovCath, I tried to portray everything as accurate and as perfect as possible. However, it wasn’t until senior year in which I decided to be different. For this piece, I worked a little quicker and didn’t try to perfectly replicate my source. I originally had a blue background, but I feel like black worked really well and made Jesus’ figure pop. My pallet had to expand a little bit for this piece. With all of this said, I really just wanted to show all my classmates who I am and what I stood for.”

Here to lend a hand.
St. Charles Community
Charlie’s Club, Adult Day Health Program
Monday - Friday
8am - 5:30pm

Thomas More University Accelerated & Graduate Program
Designed for Working Adults
Flexible Start Dates
859-344-3333 | accelerate.thomasmore.edu

Programs Starting June 19:
Associate of Arts in Management
Bachelor of Business Administration
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology
Bachelor of Arts in Ethical Leadership
Master of Arts in Ethical Leadership

Scan the QR code to learn more and apply:
Messenger

July 28, 2023

People and Events

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 21, Cincinnati Bell 17 or 517; and DirectTV 25.

St. Mary's Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, offers Veneration of a relic of the True Cross, on the first Friday of every month. Free noon to 1 p.m. admission is offered concurrently. The monthly veneration is held in silence and concludes with a blessing and the opportunity for the faithful to come forward to personally venerate the True Cross relic. The monthly veneration is sponsored by the Knights and Dames of the Covington-Lexington section of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

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. For information, call (859) 281-8407 or e-mail Sister Maria Therese at smtherese@nduec.org. Volunteers 18 and older must be VITAS compliant.

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 July 18 with praise & worship: music, teaching, witnesses, and healing prayers. For information, call (859) 341-0822.

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. 1, when the Diocese of Covington and Archdiocese of Cincinnati Serra Clubs co-host “Ignite — A Vocation Conference,” full of information and transforming for a personalized parish plan. Mass and food. No cost to attend. Register at nwskiene@gmail.com or donnaheims@gmail.com.

Catechist workshop “The Mission of Sharing the Catholic Faith,” Aug. 5, 8-11 a.m., St. Barbara Parish, Erlanger. All parish catechists are invited to join and receive practical ideas, spiritual formation, preview new resources and the new certification program. Certification hours received. RSVP by July 24, https://covdio.org/register/.

Thomas More University night at Thomas More Stadium, Florence, will be August 12, 5:30 p.m. First 1,000 fans into the ballpark get a Tommy Mo mascot bobblehead, courtesy of Ryan Mullingers. After the game, stay for live music as the band 24/7 performs a mix of tunes from the ’80s, ’90s and current day. Get your discount tickets using promo code “TMI” at tmuky.us/23yalls.

Your discount tickets using promo code ‘TMU’ performs a mix of tunes from the ’80s, ’90s and current day. Get your discount tickets using promo code “TMI” at tmuky.us/23yalls.


The Class of 1963, St. Thomas School, Ft. Thomas, is celebrating its 60-year reunion. There is a luncheon planned for Sept. 10, 2023, 1 p.m., Summit Hills Country Club, Edgewood. Contact Carol Clear Combs at: cleargirl89@comcast.net or (513) 253-6272.

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) 882-1233 to register. Reservations are only required for anniversary couples; family members and guests are welcome to attend.

Best wishes for Fr. Aby Parishioners at St. Henry, Elsmere, gathered after all Masses this weekend to wish Fr. Aby Thampi good luck on his new assignment as Parochial Administrator at St. John the Evangelist, and St. Ann Mission, Covington

Volunteers needed!!!

We need help with: Stocking Pantry Shoppers Thrift Store Senior Homebound Delivery eBay*

*Please call 859-291-6799 to inquire about these opportunities. Scan the qr code or go to beconcerned.org to sign up.

2023 Parish Festivals

St. Joseph Parish, Crescent Springs, August 11–13
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.
Holy Cross District High School, Covington, August 25, 6 p.m.—midnight, August 26, 5:30 p.m.—midnight;
St. Augustine Parish, Augusta, Aug. 25–27
St. Cecilia Parish, Independence, Sept. 3, 5–11:30 p.m.; 4, 4–11:30 p.m.; 4, 1–10 p.m.

St. Barbara Rocktoberfest, Erlanger, September 8–10
St. Patrick School, Maysville, Sept. 8, 6–10 p.m.; Sept. 9, 6–10 p.m.; Sept. 10, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.
St. Timothy Oktoberfest, Union, Sept. 15, 6–11 p.m., Sept. 16, 5:30 p.m.–12 a.m., Sept. 17 12:30–6:30 p.m.
St. Agnes Parish, Ft. Wright, September 22–24
St. Benedict Parish, Covington, September 22–23
DCCH Center for Children & Families, Sept. 30, 2–10 p.m.

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, meals 2–8 p.m., 2–11 p.m.; Aug. 26, meals 2–8 p.m., picnic 2–11 p.m.; Sept. 23, Oktoberfest 6–11 p.m.
St. Joseph, Cold Spring, August 4–5, 6–11 p.m.
Blessed Sacrament School Boosters Corn Roast, Ft. Mitchell, August 11, 5:30–11:30 p.m.
St. Mary Parish, Alexandria, August 11, 6 p.m.–12 a.m.
August 12, 5 p.m.–11 p.m.

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Save the date — Sept. 22, a day of recollection and exploration into the interconnectedness of the mind, body and soul at St. Joseph Heights, Paris Hills, featuring speakers Mary William Cleves, Kathy Kramer and Jessica Maddenkamp. This day will be one of growth and renewal. Cost is $65, which includes the program materials, activities and a catered continental breakfast and lunch. For information e-mail holylisten- ing246@gmail.com.

St. Joseph Church, Camp Springs, will be hosting their Oktoberfish Fish Fry, August 11–13, 4–7:30 p.m. Dine-in and carry-out available, more information at www.stjoseph-campsprings.org.

DCCH Children’s Home Flea Market, Ft. Mitchell, year round, 8–11 a.m. – noon, Monday, Thursday and Saturday; (Dec. — April, Monday, Thursday and every 3rd Saturday). Donation drop-off during Flea Market hours or at drop-off box anytime.

PEOPLE AND EVENTS
ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION
PARISH FESTIVAL
Alexandria, KY

Friday, August 11th 6:00 PM till midnight
Saturday, August 12th 5:00 PM till 11:00PM

DELICIOUS CHICKEN DINNERS
Served Saturday 3:30 to 7:30 PM
Dine In or Carry Out

♫ Live entertainment by Bunker Boyz on Friday
Live Entertainment by Borderline 360 on Saturday

**$3,600 GRAND RAFFLE**
Funnel Cakes ** Sno-Cones ** Grill & Concessions
Bounce Houses ** Nerf Shot ** Ladder Ball ** Beat the Dealer
Big Six ** Pot of Gold ** Air Mail ** Combination Raffle

VISIT Bourbon Booth — Experience a tasting and
purchase a Bourbon mixed drink
Come join us for an enjoyable weekend of family, food, and fun!!!

Local family creates scholarship for Diocese of Covington students to attend Thomas More University

Staff report

A new scholarship opportunity is available to students from select schools within the Diocese of Covington, Kentucky who choose to attend Thomas More University. The Guilfoyle Family Scholarship Fund is made possible through a gift from Catherine and Mark Guilfoyle, and provides assistance in the form of tuition, books or other direct education expenses. The Guilfoyles have both led successful careers in the legal sector and are active in philanthropy in the region.

The scholarship fund is needs based and gives preference to students who graduate from Covington Latin School, Holy Cross District High School and St. Henry District High School. Second preference is given to students who graduated from diocesan elementary schools including St. Anthony, St. Augustine, Holy Cross, Holy Family, Holy Trinity, and Prince of Peace.

“We established this scholarship to help deserving students receive the Catholic liberal arts education that we benefited from,” explains Mrs. Guilfoyle. “Thomas More University is a treasure for our local community, and we are very proud to support its mission.”

Many of the schools given preference to are part of the Diocese of Covington Alliance for Catholic Urban Education (ACUE) program. ACUE works to ensure that children attending school in the inner-city areas of the diocese and who have socio-economic challenges, have access to a quality, Catholic education. The Guilfoyle Family Scholarship provides an additional resource as they matriculate into higher education. “For many years we have strongly supported ACUE,” adds Mrs. Guilfoyle. “Many ACUE students come from impoverished or underprivileged backgrounds, so it was important for our family to help some graduates from these six elementary schools attend Thomas More.”

Missed an edition? Current and back issues of the Messenger are available online at covdio.org/messenger.
Olivia Staverman, life-long a parishioner of St. Henry parish, Erlanger, and alumna of Thomas More University, will be entering into the novitiate of the Mercedarian Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament in Cleveland, Ohio this September.

“It’s been something that’s been on my heart since third grade,” said Ms. Staverman, who recalls a seminarian visiting her class for recess while going to school at St. Henry. “He would come and play with us at recess, and I thought that was the coolest thing ever,” she said, “You have a young seminarian, wearing a cassock, playing kickball with us at recess... and, just the joy he had was a joy that I knew I wanted.”

Ms. Staverman said that she knew that it was a joy that she could “only obtain through giving the entirety of (her) life to the Lord.”

In high school, Ms. Staverman really began to explore a religious vocation, having discussed it with religion teachers and surrounding herself with friends who “shared the same love for Jesus.”

At a YOUTH 2000 retreat, a program now called SUMMIT, Ms. Staverman while in adoration, fell in love with the Lord in the Eucharist.

“It was a type of love that totally transformed my outlook and my desire. In other words, this is real,” she said, reflecting on the retreat.

Choosing which religious order to enter wasn’t an easy task, and Ms. Staverman toured many local convents in the area, but felt that “none touched her heart in the way a lot of people with religious vocations really talk about.”

After graduating high school, Ms. Staverman went to study at Thomas More University, studying theology and educational studies, since having taught at both Holy Trinity in Bellevue and Immaculate Heart of Mary in Burlington.

Her decision to join the Mercedarians was mostly inspired by the Mercedarian sisters who attended the SUMMIT22 retreat, where Ms. Staverman acted as a panelist.

“They’re diversity oriented, and they have Jesus in the Eucharist at the forefront of their mission — which is what spoke to my heart,” said Ms. Staverman.

Ms. Staverman will be going to Baton Rouge at the end of September, to the Mercedarian’s formation house there — Sept. 24, she will officially enter postulancy.

To other young people considering vocations, Ms. Staverman advises to “be not afraid” to sit with the Lord and to invite him into your heart.
Pope to young people: To tackle life’s ups and downs, look to the elderly

The Gospel calls Christians to bring the elderly to the center of their lives and away from the margins of families, politics and financial markets that harass them as “unprofitable waste” in society, Pope Francis said.

“The good and the bad are intertwined to the point of sharing life, they become one, so that the future may be constructible,” he said.

In his homily, the pope related the elderly’s role in society to the three parables Jesus tells in the day’s Gospel reading from St. Matthew.

In the first parable, the devil plants weeds among a wheat crop while the householder is asleep, but rather than tell his slaves to pull them up he allows them to grow.

“In this fruitful exchange we can learn the beauty of life, build a fraternal society and in the church we can allow for encounter and dialogue between tradition and the newness of the Spirit,” he said.

Cardinal Kevin J. Farrell, prefect of the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life—which organizes the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly—said to young people who was going to attend World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal, which is scheduled for Aug. 1-6. The gesture represents the elderly’s commitment to “pray for the departing youth and accompany them with their blessing,” the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life said in a statement.

Shortly after, Pope Francis appeared at the window of the papal studio overlooking St. Peter’s Square with a pilgrim’s cross to five young people traveling to Portugal.

“May the closeness of these two days be an invitation to promote an new alliance between generations of which there is so much need; so that the future may be constructible together, in the sharing of experiences and reciprocal care between young people and the elderly,” he said after praying the Angelus.

Noting the strong heat waves in many countries and recent flooding in South Korea, Pope Francis called on governments to act concretely to reduce polluting emissions, and he asked the estimated 30,000 people in St. Peter’s Square not to forget the ongoing migration crisis in northern Africa.
Protecting God’s Children for Adults Safe Environment Trainings

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

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

Step 2: Go to www.virtus.org and click on Registration. Follow the prompts to create an account and to request a background check. Select “View” to access your account. You will receive a background check on your account. You will receive 12 bulletins per year. You will receive an e-mail notice at system@pub.virtus.org unless your computer program blocks them.

Steps:
- Monday, July 31, 6-8:30 p.m., Bishop Brossart High School, Alexandria
- Thursday, August 3, 6:30-8 p.m., Diocesan Catholic Children’s Home, Ft. Mitchell
- Sunday, August 13, 1-3:30 p.m., Notre Dame Academy, Room 112, Park Hills

(859) 647-8770

Note: If your Training Tab is missing or you cannot access your account, contact your parish, school or institution. For other difficulties, contact Marylu Stoffen at (859) 392-1500 or msteffen@covdio.org

VIRTUS Training:

Wednesday, July 26, 6-8:30 p.m., St. Isidore Parish, Meeting Hall, Erlanger

July bulletin: posted Sunday, July 2; due Monday, Aug. 7.
August bulletin: posted Sunday, August 6; due Tuesday, Sept. 5.
www.virtusonline.org, enter your user id and password. If your account is suspended, contact your parish leader who will contact Virtus.

You will receive 12 bulletins per year. You will receive an e-mail notice at system@pub.virtus.org unless your computer program blocks them.

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

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

Step 2: Go to www.virtus.org and click on Registration. Follow the prompts to create an account and to request a background check. Select “View” to access your account. You will receive 12 bulletins per year. You will receive an e-mail notice at system@pub.virtus.org unless your computer program blocks them.

Steps:
- Monday, July 31, 6-8:30 p.m., Bishop Brossart High School, Alexandria
- Thursday, August 3, 6:30-8 p.m., Diocesan Catholic Children’s Home, Ft. Mitchell
- Sunday, August 13, 1-3:30 p.m., Notre Dame Academy, Room 112, Park Hills

(859) 647-8770

Note: If your Training Tab is missing or you cannot access your account, contact your parish, school or institution. For other difficulties, contact Marylu Stoffen at (859) 392-1500 or msteffen@covdio.org

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CAFE & RESTAURANT POSITIONS

CAFETERIA POSITIONS - DIOCESE OF COVINGTON SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

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

Positions available are Cafeteria Manager, Food Prep Staff, Servers, & Dishwashers. These positions are available at various schools within the Diocese of Covington.

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

To apply please go to www.covdio.org/employment, School Related Openings, Employment Application Non-Teacher, send completed application to: Diocese of Covington Attn: Laura Hatfield SLP Director, 1125 Madison Ave. Covington Ky. 41011.

Job Opportunities at Catholic Charities.

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Covington is adding services and growing, and this is an exciting time to serve in our local Church. If you have a desire to work in an environment where you can truly make a difference by serving others, Catholic Charities seeks candidates to fill the following positions:

Mental Health School Counselor
We are seeking a part time (30 hours per week) counselor for our School-Based Counseling Program for the upcoming school year. The position is 30 hours per week or 5% FTE for 195 months. Necessary qualifications include MSW or Master in clinical counseling and State Licensed (preferred) or license eligibility; experience with assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of youth; a demonstrated ability to engage with parents and school staff, and solid record-keeping and organizational skills.

Mental Health Agency Counselor
We are seeking a full-time counselor for our agency’s mental health program. The position includes general counseling services to individuals, couples and families. Necessary qualifications include MSW or Master in clinical counseling and State Licensed (preferred) or license eligibility, experience with assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of youth; a demonstrated ability to engage with parents and school staff, and solid record-keeping and organizational skills.

Parish Kitchen, Weekend Staff
Parish Kitchen is a special ministry that serves a free lunch daily in Covington to anyone hungry. We are looking for one dedicated, committed individual to join our team on a regular basis. You may be scheduled as few as once a month, or up to 4 or 5 times per month, depending on your availability and need.

Additional details about each of the above opportunities can be found on our website at https://www.covingtoncharities.org/news-events/job-opportunities. Please contact Shannon Braun directly at sbraun@covingtoncharities.org if you would like to learn more about any of these opportunities.
We offer many unique Wedding Venues in NKY and downtown Cincinnati

The Grand and Pinnacle ballrooms Covington
The Gardens of Park Hills
Preferred Caterer at The Drees Pavilion and Devou Clubhouse
The Cincinnati Club Downtown Cincinnati
The Center Ballroom at Fountain Square
Partner Venues
Cincinnati Music Hall, Rhinegeist Brewery, The Prickel Barn Verona Ky.

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“It’s a Who’s Who of Northern Kentucky,” said Amy Darpel, development director for Covington Latin School, about the names of the students who have written in the journals and have gone on to become leaders in Northern Kentucky, proving one of the school’s taglines, “Leaders Start Here.”

For many months, Mrs. Darpel, along with other CLS staff, has been pouring through the school archives cataloging items to be displayed during the centennial year celebrations. Her personal favorite on display is the journals.

“This is something that we use to tell stories about local history,” said Mrs. Winterberg. “We switch it out every month or so and put a different display or story featuring something about Northern Kentucky history.”

The CLS display will run until the middle of August. The library also will be featuring CLS history on its local history and genealogy website page, www.kentonlibrary.org/genealogy.

Mrs. Darpel learned of the opportunity to have artifacts displayed at the library from a mom of an alumna. Bobbye Winterberg is a librarian working in the Local History and Genealogy department. When the space became available, Mrs. Winterberg called Mrs. Darpel to see if they would be interested in filling the space.

“A common theme looking through the journals and the yearbooks and the photos is the strong legacy of families at CLS and the impact these alumni have on the community,” — the grandfather and then his sons and, beginning in 1992, daughters, “they all went here. You see the legacies build up and then those children become community leaders as well.”

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Russian missile destroys
Transfiguration Cathedral’s
central altar in Odesa

ODESA, Ukraine — A Russian attack on a key Ukrainian port city has partially destroyed a historic Ukrainian Orthodox cathedral and UNESCO World Heritage site, prompting international outrage and pledges to rebuild. Amid a July 26 nighttime attack by Russia on Odesa, an X-22 anti-ship missile struck the Ukrainian Orthodox Holy Transfiguration Cathedral (Spaso-Preobrazhensky Cathedral). The missile directly hit the central altar, as a result of which the cathedral building and the three lower floors were partially destroyed, while the interior and icons were significantly damaged. The missile was one of 19 various kinds launched against the city that evening in a barrage that killed one and injured 22, including four children. Since abandoning the Black Sea Grain Initiative on July 17 — a deal brokered by Turkey and the United Nations to ensure vital grain supplies from Ukraine to Africa, the Middle East and Asia — Russia has relentlessly targeted Odesa, the key port for such shipments. “We cannot allow people around the world to get used to terrorist attacks. The target of all these missiles is not just cities, villages or people. Their target is humanity and the foundations of our entire European culture,” said Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Along with the cathedral, almost 50 other buildings, 25 of them architectural monuments, had also been destroyed that night in Odesa’s historic center, which as a whole forms a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Amid violent protests, Kenyan bishops plead for peace

NAIROBI, Kenya — Catholic bishops in Kenya appealed for end of violence and dialogue, as scores died in anti-government protests. The opposition has called around new taxes and a rising cost of living. The bishops are worried that escalating protests called by Raila Odinga, the main opposition leader against President William Ruto’s government, have been turning too violent and disruptive — threatening the stability of the East African nation. Parts of the capital, Nairobi, the port city of Mombasa, and several towns across the country have become battle zones on July 19 as protesters blocked roads, burned tires and stoned cars in response to Odinga’s latest call for protests. Archbishop Anthony Muheria of Nyeri, reading parts of the Kenyan bishops’ statement in Nairobi on July 19. “We realize that many are struggling to afford essential goods and services, to secure stable employment, or are facing financial hardships that affect education and health care access,” he said.

Catholic pro-life sidewalk counselor asks high court to review buffer zone precedent

WASHINGTON — A Catholic sidewalk counselor has asked the U.S. Supreme Court to review one of its previous rulings and a New York law prohibiting pro-life protesters from approaching people outside abortion clinics, the law firm representing her said July 21. Becket, a Washington-based religious liberty law firm, said it is representing Debra Vitagliano as she asks the high court to review its 2000 ruling in Hill v. Colorado, which involved a Colorado law enacted in 1995. That law regulated First Amendment activity within 100 feet of an entrance to any health care facility and prohibited approaching a person within eight feet without their consent to provide any protest materials or counseling. According to Becket, Vitagliano is a devout Catholic and occupational therapist for children with special needs, who feels called to share alternatives with women considering abortions. A Westchester County, New York law establishes a 100-foot zone around abortion clinics, which is inclusive of public sidewalks, and prohibits anyone from getting within eight feet of another person in that radius without explicit consent, similar to the law upheld in Hill.
Diocesan Youth Minister hosts first event — THRIVE!

Angie Poat, diocesan Youth Minister, welcomed over 30 youth leaders and parish youth ministers for a two-day youth ministry leadership retreat entitled THRIVE!, July 20. Members from the Jesuit Spiritual Center, Milford, Ohio, helped lead the retreat with meditative and energizing praise and worship music. (below, left) During an opening ice breaker, Mrs. Poat divided participants by their favorite Cincinnati chili parlor — Skyline or Gold Star. Once in their perspective groups, participants introduced themselves to a person they didn’t know and shared their go-to menu item. (below, right) With meditative music playing in the background, participants close their eyes and listen for God’s word. (bottom) Participants get to know each other with the help of several ice breaker activities.

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