

- 2 Cassba student art auction
- 3 CLS history at the library
- 3 Official assignments
- 3 Call for testimonials
- 7 Parish festivals
- 8 TMU Guilfoyle scholarship
- 9 Olivia Staverman’s vocation story
- 16 THRIVE! retreat

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Bishop’s Schedule	3
Commentary	4
People and Events	7
Shopper’s Guide	11
VIRTUS	11
Classifieds	12
News Briefs	15

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

Diocese of Covington schools accepted as an affiliate by FIRE Foundation

Laura Keener
Editor

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 Iffert that the Diocese of Covington has been accepted as a FIRE Foundation affiliate. Mrs. Hail and two 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 2024–2025 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 sub-



Jenna Hail and her friends from St. Agnes School gather for a photo shoot among a field of sunflowers before they headed off to high school. While the BFFs have chosen different high schools, they remain friends. Pictured from left: Jenna, Anna Pohlman, Molly Rawe, Mia Napier, Lexi Mauller and Kayleigh Ransom.

stantial. 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, ADD and 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 Natalee 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.”

Natalee and Jenna 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 launch later this summer online at <https://e.givesmart.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.



Reagan Hill

Newport Central Catholic High School

White pencil drawing on black paper of an ethereal image of the Blessed Mother, Mary.



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.”



Leah Patchell

St. Patrick High School, Maysville

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 her 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)

Covington Latin School Centennial Celebrations

Sept. 7–10, Founders Weekend

Sept. 7, Founders Day Celebration — 9 a.m., proclamations; 10 a.m., day of service; 6–8 p.m., happy hour at Hotel Covington

Sept. 8, Visit classes, 1–3 p.m.; 6 p.m. Reds game in the Riverboat Suite

Sept. 9, Super Reunion Weekend, class reunions for all classes and student-led tours, 1–5 p.m.

Sept. 10, Mass at the Cathedral, 2 p.m. with picnic following

Oct. 26, Alumni banquet

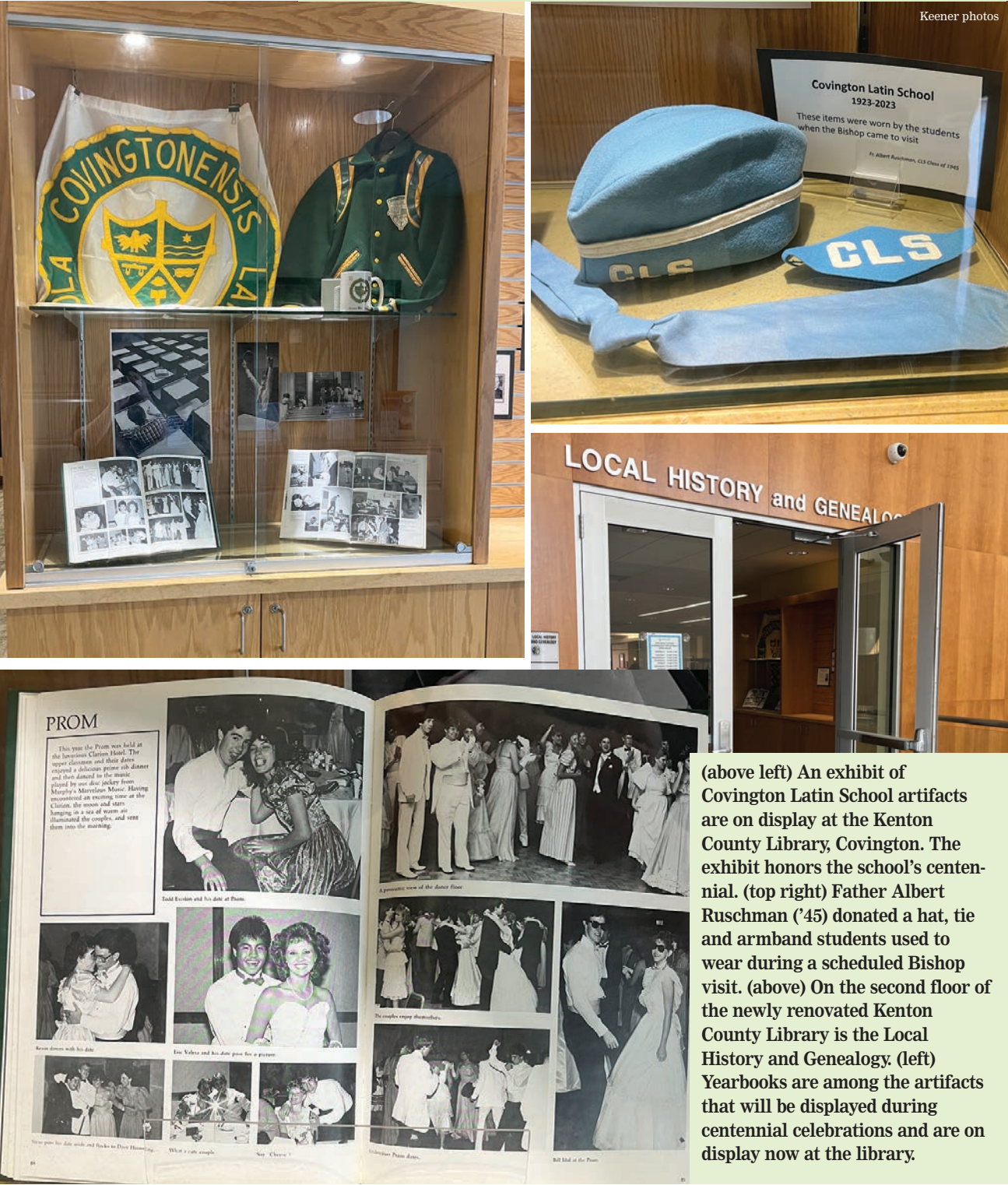
Nov. 2, Mass for dearly departed

Nov. 9, Veterans Day Mass and reception

Dec. 7, Headmaster reception

April 27, Grand Event





(above left) An exhibit of Covington Latin School artifacts are on display at the Kenton County Library, Covington. The exhibit honors the school's centennial. (top right) Father Albert Ruschman ('45) donated a hat, tie and armband students used to wear during a scheduled Bishop visit. (above) On the second floor of the newly renovated Kenton County Library is the Local History and Genealogy. (left) Yearbooks are among the artifacts that will be displayed during centennial celebrations and are on display now at the library.

Official Assignments

Effective July 1, 2023

Very Rev. Raymond N. Enzweiler, V.F.
To: Dean, Campbell County Deanery
Term: Three years
Continues other duties

Rev. Msgr. Dominic K. Fosu, V.F.
To: Dean, Southwest Deanery
Term: Three years
Continues other duties

Very Rev. Britton C. Hennessey, V.F.
To: Dean, Southeast Deanery
Term: Three years
Continues other duties

Very Rev. Ryan L. Maher, V.F.
To: Dean, Covington Deanery
Term: Three years
Continues other duties

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

Jamie N. Schroeder
Mrs. Jamie N. Schroeder
Chancellor



Call for testimonials

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Northern Kentucky is celebrating 100 years of service to the people of the Diocese of Covington.

To share your story on how the Society has impacted you and/or your family, e-mail messenger@covdio.org with the subject line: Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Your story may be featured in the upcoming *Messenger* supplement highlighting the Society's centennial. The deadline for submissions is Sept. 14.



Bishop's Schedule

July 31–Aug. 6
World Youth Day, Lisbon, Portugal

Aug. 13
Mass, Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, 10 a.m.

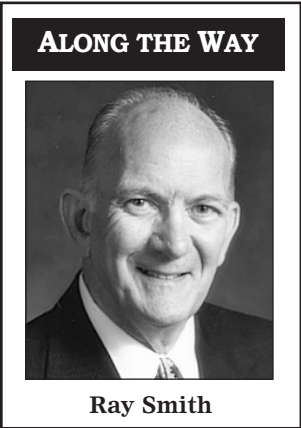
Aug. 13
Vocations BBQ, K of C hall, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Burlington 5 p.m.

Aug. 14
Catholic Charities Corporate Board meeting, 1:30 p.m.

Vigil Mass, Solemnity of the Feast of the Assumption, Cathedral Basilica, 5:30 p.m.

Aug. 15
The Solemnity of the Feast of the Assumption — Diocesan Curia closed

Somewhere along the way — a few years ago in a previous column — you met my long-time friend, Anonymous, one of the greatest writers and storytellers who ever lived. Well, Anonymous is at it again, not just



with some clever quips, but rather with this tender family tale, told in the first person:

“When I was a kid, my Mom liked to make breakfast food for dinner every now and then. And I remember one night when she had made breakfast after a long, hard day at work, Mom placed a plate of eggs, sausage and extremely burned biscuits in front of my dad. I remember waiting to see if anyone noticed! Yet all my

dad did was reach for his biscuit, smile at my Mom and ask me how my day was at school.

“I don’t remember what I told him that night, but I do remember watching him smear butter and jelly on that biscuit and eat every bite.

“When I got up from the table that evening, I remem-

ber hearing my Mom apologize to my dad for burning the biscuits. And I’ll never forget what he said: ‘Honey, I love burned biscuits.’ Later that night, I went to kiss Daddy good night and asked him if he really liked his biscuits burned. He wrapped me in his arms and said, ‘Your Mommy put in a hard day at work today and she’s real tired. And besides, a little burned biscuit never hurt anyone.’

“Life is full of imperfect things and imperfect people. I’m not the best at hardly anything and I forget birthdays and anniversaries just like everyone else. But what I’ve learned over the years is that learning to accept each others’ faults — and choosing to celebrate each other’s differences — is one of the most important keys to creating a healthy, growing and lasting relationship.

“And that’s my prayer for you today ... that you will learn to take the good, the bad and the ugly parts of your life and lay them at the feet of God.

“Because in the end, God is the only one who will be able to give you a relationship where a burnt biscuit isn’t a deal-breaker.

“We could extend this to any relationship. In fact, understanding is the base of any relationship, be it husband-wife or parent-child or friendship.

“Don’t put the key to your happiness in someone else’s pocket — keep it in your own. So please pass me a biscuit ... yes, the burned one will do just fine.

“And please pass this along to someone who has enriched your life. Be kinder than necessary because everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle.

“Life without God is like a pencil not sharpened — it has no point.”

When Auburn won college football’s national championship years ago, a reporter interviewed the quarterback, Cam Newton, everybody’s All-American and Heisman Trophy winner. He was asked how he took his team down the field in the final minutes that led up to the winning field goal. “It’s a God thing,” he answered, “and I thank God every day.”

Many liturgies I have heard thus far in a long life have been about walking with God and knowing who God is by knowing Jesus, “who is the refulgence of his glory, the very imprint of his being and who sustains all things by his mighty word. When he had accomplished purification from sins, he took his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high, as far superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. Let all the angels worship him.” (Hebrews 1:1-6)

When this was written, Anonymous just might have been there, too.

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

Thank you for inviting me

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 Settle was amazing. I have donated items at this location for twenty years, so I thought I



knew what this facility was all about. Here’s what I learned:

The “staff” is comprised of 45 paid employees and countless volunteers. Staff is the wrong word though to describe the commitment, love and dedication that these people bring to work each day. Any commercial enterprise would be fortunate to have them.

SVDP, in turn, holds their associates in high esteem, maintaining a “low-key” environment

that is high on employee appreciation. I know that the Catholic Church teaches about the dignity of work and the value of the individual worker; now I see what that looks like.

I’ve donated clothing items over the years, some still with tags on them. I never knew that the volume of clothing donations was so huge that high school kids can earn service hours by helping to sort the donations.

Items are separated into categories such as clothing, shoes and purses. They are also sorted into retail saleable and those that are stained or torn. The best goes into the SVDP stores (Crescent Springs has more storage space

than other smaller stores) but nothing is wasted. The other clothing, purses and shoes are “baled” into huge bundles that can be sold and shipped internationally. These baled items are then broken down into pieces that can be re-sewn into new items or used as rags. Every button, every zipper, every buckle can be repurposed and used in other countries, providing both industry and resources to our poorest neighbors.

The storefront in Crescent Springs is a remarkable place. There are beautiful items of clothing, but the number one seller is housewares. I’m glad that I donated that InstaPot that I dusted more often than I cooked with it. They also sell books for children and grownups. I came home and pulled some books from my own shelves that have turned into dust collectors and are now on their way to becoming money-makers again.

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, as long as you agree to bring it back when you no longer need it. There are places where seasonal items are stored for the next holiday, where coats are stored for the coat drive, where fans and air conditioners are stored for Summer Breeze. You don’t have to know if this is the “right time” to donate, SVDP will take care of the timing.

Crescent Springs also has a Food Pantry, with twice weekly pantry hours. People can come and “shop” for their families twice a month and select from meats, dairy, produce, canned and dry goods. There are also cleaning items and personal care items that are not covered by SNAP benefits.

SVDP can provide three-day motel vouchers for people with an emergency need for shelter; along with bus passes

and food. Try to imagine the types of food you would need to live in a motel room for three days, with only a microwave for cooking.

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 give to people and to other SVDP locations that run low on necessities. This will maximize every dollar you give to help our neighbors in need.

It was a truly uplifting experience to take the tour of the St. Vincent de Paul facility and to spend an hour in the company of these wonderful Vincentians. From call center to home visits, from retail shopping to a “lending library” of wheelchairs and walkers, from local to international assistance for our brothers and sisters in Christ, I am proud to be a part of this community and to offer all that I can to such a well-run organization of faithful stewards.

Janice Wurtz is a member of Blessed Sacrament Parish, Ft. Mitchell, Ky, and former controller for ACUE (the Alliance for Catholic Urban Education) in the Department of Catholic Schools, Diocese of Covington.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Northern Kentucky is celebrating its 100th anniversary in the Diocese of Covington. If you would like to share how the Society of St. Vincent de Paul has impacted you and/or your family, share it with us at messenger@covdio.org with the subject line: Society of St. Vincent de Paul in the subject line. Your story may be featured in the upcoming Messenger supplement highlighting the Society’s centennial.

COMMENTARY

If these walls could talk — restoring the history of The Dunbar School

HONK (Housing Opportunities of Northern Kentucky) is wrapping up the rehab of a house at 437 Spring Street in Elsmere. This is no ordinary rehab, nor is this an ordinary house. 437 Spring is the site of one of the first schools in the area to formally educate African American children not long after the end of slavery. It was started in the late 1800s by leaders of the African American community in the Erlanger/Elsmere area. Among those leaders were two formerly enslaved people, Thomas and Fannie Green, and a deacon of a local church, Mat Slaughter. The school founders most certainly recognized the power of a good education. Born into slavery in the mid-1800s, Thomas and Fannie Green, would’ve been forbidden from a formal education. As their family grew and their freedoms evolved, they would’ve undoubtedly wanted to make a better life for the next generation. The school at 437 Spring eventually became known as The Dunbar School. Looking at it now, you wouldn’t know it had been a school. It doesn’t have the traditional features you’d expect to see, like a tower, a school bell, or chalkboards. It’s two-stories tall, has a front porch, and otherwise looks like a house. In fact, I didn’t realize the significance of this property until the prior owner shared

GUEST



David Hastings

details as we were signing the purchase contract. Prior to HONK, the same family had owned 437 Spring for the past 70 years. They were the same family that added a second story, dug out the basement by hand, and otherwise converted the one-room schoolhouse into a four-bedroom home in the 1950s. History is a matter of perspective. And once it’s written, it’s taken as truth. There are many facets to this story that we’re still learning about. For this reason, this evolving story will be shared on our website at www.honkhomes.org/Dunbar. This will allow changes to be made as we discover new details about this unique property and the people surrounding it that sought to make a better life for themselves. There, you will learn about the Green’s daughter, Nellie, and her son, Thomas, the college educated grandson who taught at Dunbar. You’ll also see the growing list of those that are making this rehab possible. The active pursuit of making a good life — your best life — is what draws me to the stories of the people surrounding The Dunbar School. It is also what draws me to the mission of HONK. If you have stories to share about The Dunbar School and the people involved, we would love to hear them. Call the office or e-mail me at dhastings@honkhomes.org. In the meantime, I encourage you to get involved in our mission. We need help in all ways you can imagine. Together, we’ll make homeownership affordable and feasible for those who would struggle to achieve homeownership on their own. *David Hastings is executive director of Housing Opportunities of Northern Kentucky (HONK), Covington, Ky*

Bring generations together this summer

This summer Catholics around the world are invited to participate in two exciting, inter-related events in the life of the Church. The World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, Sunday, July 23, and World Youth Day is being celebrated in Lisbon, Portugal during the first week of August. To highlight his desire for the young and the old to deepen their bonds with one another, Pope Francis chose to draw the themes of these two celebrations from a single biblical passage – that of the Visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth, found in the first chapter of St. Luke’s Gospel. This biblical passage is often associated with the

GUEST



Sister Constance Veit, L.S.P.

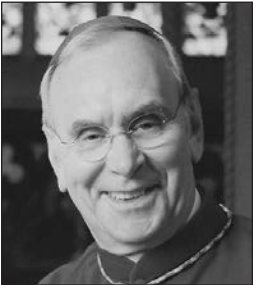
Advent season, since the Visitation occurs between the angel Gabriel’s announcement to Mary that she would become the mother of the Savior; and the birth of her Savior-Son in Bethlehem. But echoes of the Visitation are quietly woven into our daily prayer life as Catholics. Part of the traditional Hail Mary prayer — Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb — is drawn from Elizabeth’s greeting to her young cousin when the Virgin arrived to visit her: The Magnificat — the exuberant hymn of praise to God sung by Mary during the Visitation — is repeated every evening, year-round, by all those who pray the liturgy of the hours. As we sing this canticle day after day, it imprints itself on our memories and on our souls. But I think that even as we repeat the Hail Mary and the Magnificat each day, we tend to take for granted the encounter from which these texts were born. By focusing our attention on the Visitation this summer, Pope Francis is inviting us to find new meaning in this scene. In his messages for the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly and World Youth Day, the pope presents the Visitation as a significant intergenerational encounter:

“In the meeting between Mary and Elizabeth, between young and old, God points us towards the future that he is opening up before us,” he wrote. “Indeed, Mary’s visit and Elizabeth’s greeting open our eyes to the dawn of salvation: in their embrace, God’s mercy quietly breaks into human history amid abundant joy.” Pope Francis continued, “I encourage everyone to reflect on that meeting, to picture, like a snapshot, that embrace between the young Mother of God and the elderly mother of St. John the Baptist, and to frame it in their minds and hearts as a radiant icon.” Following the pope’s advice, we could add the first chapter of St. Luke’s Gospel to our summer reading list, especially verses 39-56! The pope is asking us to do more than just frame an image of the Visitation in our minds, however. He is also inviting us “to make a concrete gesture that would include grandparents and the elderly.” He challenges us, “Let us not abandon them. Their presence in families and communities is a precious one, for it reminds us that we share the same heritage and are part of a people committed to preserving its roots ... Let us honor them, neither depriving ourselves of their company nor depriving them of ours. May we never allow the elderly to be cast aside!” To the pope’s suggestions that we reflect on the biblical text of the Visitation and make a concrete gesture to include the elderly in our lives, I would like to add a third suggestion for this summer: Just as it is important for the young to reach out to the old, the opposite is also true. If you are an older adult with young people among your relatives or neighbors, why not honor the spirit of World Youth Day by reaching out to them with a gesture of welcome or support? Pope Francis really believes that the young won’t make it without their elders. He has said that if older people do not reach out to the young, the latter “will no longer see the things that must be done to open up the future ... If grandparents fall back on their melancholies, young people will look even more to their smartphones. The screen may stay on, but life will die out before its time.” Let’s do all we can to make sure that life does not die out before its time. Whether you are young, like Mary, or older, like her cousin Elizabeth, this summer set aside some time to reach out to someone who is not from your own age

What’s your wish?

The readings for the 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time — Cycle A — are: 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12; Romans 8:28-30 and Matthew 13:44-52. “Ask something of me and I will give it to you.” (1 Kings, 3:5)

GO AND GLORIFY



Bishop Roger J. Foys, D.D.

Who has not heard, at some time or another in one’s life, the story (or some version of the story) of Aladdin’s Lamp? Rub the lamp and poof! — a genie appears and grants three wishes. Wow! Who wouldn’t like to experience that? Three wishes. Have you ever thought what those three wishes would be if it were you who were in possession of that lamp? Three wishes. No

holds barred. Three wishes. What would they be? The answer to that question would reveal a great deal about us. It would reveal what is really important in our life. What our priorities are. What and who really matters to us. It would speak to our character, to our values, to our perception of ourselves and of others. It would also speak to the depth — or lack thereof — of our faith. Well, in today’s first reading from the First Book of Kings we don’t hear about Aladdin but from the Lord. He appeared to Solomon in a dream and said to Solomon, “Ask something of me and I will give it to you.” (1 Kings, 3:5) Solomon could have asked for anything. Anything! He could have asked the Lord for a great army to vanquish his enemies, for he was a king. He could have asked for endless riches. He could have asked for unlimited power. He could have asked for other kingdoms. He could have asked for a long life. He could have asked for anything. But what did he ask for? Solomon asked for “an understanding heart to judge (his) people and to distinguish right from wrong.” (1 Kings 3:9) WOW! Who saw that coming? Solomon had the chance of a lifetime — the Lord was willing to give him whatever he wanted. WHATEVER HE WANTED!! He could have been selfish — but instead he chose to be selfless. His first thought was not about himself but about the people he was chosen to govern. And what was the Lord’s response to Solomon’s selfless request? “The Lord was pleased that Solomon made this request. So God said to him: ‘Because you have asked for this — not for a long life for yourself, nor for riches, nor the life of your enemies, but for understanding so that you may know what is right — I do as you requested. I give you a heart so wise and understanding that there has never been anyone like you up to now, and after you there will come no one equal to you.’” (1 Kings, 3:10-12) Thus, even to this day we speak of a Solomonic Decision or of someone having the Wisdom of Solomon. It is highly unlikely that we will ever find a magic lamp whose genie will grant us three wishes. It is also highly unlikely that the Lord will appear to us as he did to Solomon and ask us what we want with a promise to provide it for us. But the truth is that the Lord has already given us everything and anything we could possibly want in the person of his Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus came to earth to save us from our sins. Jesus died on the cross out of love for us. The Father and the Son sent us the Holy Spirit with the promise that they would be with us to the end of the world. Jesus has given us the Church in which and through which we and the community of believers, work out our salvation so as to spend eternity with the Lord. What could we possibly want that is as precious as all that the Lord has already given us? *Most Rev. Roger J. Foys, D.D. is Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Covington, Ky*

cohort. If you do, your life, and the lives of others, will be richly blessed. *Sister Constance Veit is the communications director for the Little Sisters of the Poor in the United States and an occupational therapist.*



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.”



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

St. Mary’s Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, offers Veneration of a relic of the True Cross, on the first Friday of every month, from noon–1 p.m. Confessions are 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) 261-4487 or e-mail Sister Maria Therese at smtherese@nduec.org. Volunteers 18 and older must be VIR-TUS 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) 341-5932.

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 donnakheim@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://covidio.org/register/>.

Thomas More University night at Thomas More Stadium, Florence, will be August 12, 6:36 p.m. First 1,000 fans into the ballpark get a Tommy Mo mascot bobblehead, courtesy of Ryan Mufflers. 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 “TMU” at tmukyus/23yalls.

Knights of Columbus St. Timothy Council #15211 21st annual golf tournament Aug. 19, 1:30 p.m., Boone Links Golf Course. Cost is \$110 per player; \$400 foursome. Visit <http://www.sttimothygolfouting.com>.

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: cleargirl1008@aol.com or (513) 253-9273.

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 covidio.org/wedding-vespers/ or contact Lisa Taylor at (859) 392-1533 to register. Reservations are only required for anniversary couples; family members and guests are welcome to attend.

Save the date — Sept. 23, a day of recollection and exploration into the interconnectedness of the mind, body and soul at St. Joseph Heights, Park Hills, featuring speakers Msgr. William Cleves, Kathy Kramer and Jessica Muehlenkamp. 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 holylistening24@gmail.com.

St. Joseph Church, Camp Springs, will be hosting their Oktoberfish Fish Fries, October 7, 14 and 21, 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, 8:30 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.

2023 Parish Festivals

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.

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, Aug. 25, 6 p.m.–midnight; Aug. 26, 5:30 p.m.–midnight

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

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



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



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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.



Mark and Catherine Guilfoyle, whom the scholarship is made possible through.

The scholarship fund is needs based and gives preference to student 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 covidio.org/messenger.



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St. Henry parishioner plans to enter novitiate, inspired by the ‘Lord in the Eucharist’

Maura Baker
Staff Writer

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.



Olivia Staverman (right) pictured with her family. Ms. Staverman will be entering the novitiate with the Mercedarian Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament this September.

Something old, something new

St. Ann Mission, Covington, celebrated its 136th annual St. Ann Novena, July 18-26, with its new parochial administrator, Father Aby Thampi, as celebrant. Father Thampi began his new assignment on July 11. As in the recent past, deacons of the Diocese of Covington were the homilist, this year reflecting on the theme — The Beatitudes. On July 25, Deacon Michael Keller from St. John Parish, Carrollton, was the homilist, reflecting on the beatitude — Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. In his opening remarks, Deacon Keller said that he considers being with the people of St. Ann for their annual novena an honor and that he finds true inspiration from their devotion to St. Ann.

(right) At the shrine bearing a statue of St. Ann with her daughter Mary, dozens of lighted vigil candles lift the prayer intentions of the faithful. St. Ann is the patroness of Christian families, mothers, grandmothers, housewives, pregnancy, pregnant women, women in labor, and sterility, among others.

(below) After novena prayers and Mass, Father Aby blesses worshipers with a relic of St. Ann.



Keener photos

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Pope to young people: To tackle life’s ups and downs, look to the elderly

Justin McLellan
Catholic News Service

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 banish them as “unprofitable waste” in society, Pope Francis said.

“Let it not happen that by pursuing the myths of efficiency and performance at full speed we become unable to slow down to accompany those who struggle to keep up,” he said in his homily at a Mass for World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly in St. Peter’s Basilica July 23.

“Please, let us mingle and grow together,” he said.

Elderly persons in wheelchairs were seated in the front row before the altar and alongside Pope Francis. Several grandparents with young children in tow were scattered among the estimated 6,000 people in attendance in the basilica.

“We need a new alliance between young people and the elderly,” Pope Francis told them in his homily, “so that the sap of those who have a long experience of life behind them will nourish the shoots of hope of those who are growing.”

“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 — was the main celebrant at the altar. The theme for this year’s celebration was “His mercy is from age to age,” taken from St. Luke’s Gospel.

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 until harvest for fear of uprooting the wheat with it.

“The good and the bad are intertwined to the point of appearing inseparable,” Pope Francis said. But, “Christians, enlivened by hope in God, are not pessimists, but neither are they naive people who live in a fairy-tale world, who pretend not to see evil and say ‘all is well.’”

“No, Christians are realists: they know there is wheat and weeds in the world,” he said.

The pope noted the common temptation to create a “pure” society and church that risks making people “impatient, intransigent, even violent toward those who



Pope Francis greets 100-year-old Lucilla Macelli before celebrating Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican, marking World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly July 23, 2023.

have fallen into error.”

“In that way, together with the weeds we pull up the good wheat and block people from moving forward, from growing and changing,” he said. Instead, by “beating the temptation to divide the wheat from the weeds, we are called to understand the best ways and moments to act.”

The elderly, who have “already come a long way in life,” he said, are examples of embracing life’s beauty as well as its challenges.

“Old age is a blessed time also for this reason: it is the season to be reconciled, to look with tenderness at the light that has advanced despite the shadows, in the faithful hope that the good wheat sowed by God will prevail over the weeds with which the devil has wished to infest our hearts,” said the pope.

He also recalled the parable of the tiny mustard seed that grows into a large bush where birds make nests among its branches.

“At the beginning we are a small seed, then we are nourished by hopes, we fulfill projects and dreams, the most beautiful of which is becoming like that tree, which doesn’t live for itself but makes shade for who wants it and offers space for who wants to build a nest,” said Pope

Francis.

He said that grandparents and grandchildren “grow together” like the tree and the birds that settle in its branches, where they “learn the warmth of home and experience the tenderness of an embrace.”

Urging the elderly and young people to engage with one another, the pope turned to the parable of the yeast in which a whole batch of bread is leavened by a small measure of yeast. He encouraged the young and elderly to “mix with one another” and to “come out from yourself to join with others.”

Such intergenerational interaction, he said, “defeats individualism and selfishness, and helps us generate a more humane and fraternal world.”

After Mass, five elderly people in St. Peter’s Basilica symbolically handed over a pilgrim’s cross to five young people traveling to 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 young person who was going to attend World Youth Day and his grandmother on either side of him. The pope noted the significance of a day dedicated to celebrating the elderly right before World Youth Day begins.

“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 constructed 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 20,000 people in St. Peter’s Square not to forget the ongoing migration crisis in northern Africa.



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Bulletins:
■ July bulletin: posted Sunday, July 2; due Monday, Aug. 7.
■ August bulletin: will post Sunday, August 6; due Tuesday, Sept. 5.

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:
■ Monday, July 31, 6–8:30 p.m., Bishop Brossart High School, Munninghoff Family Performing Arts Center, Alexandri
■ Thursday, August 3, 6:30–9 p.m., Diocesan Catholic Children’s Home, Ft. Mitchell
■ Sunday, August 13, 1–3:30 p.m., Notre Dame Academy, Room 112, Park Hills (Spanish)

■ Monday, August 14, 6:30–9 p.m., St. Barbara Parish, Sterling Event Center, Erlanger
■ Sunday, Sept. 10, 1– 3:30 p.m., St. Edward School, Cafeteria, Cynthiana

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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 from August 16th, 2023, through May 31st, 2024. The position is 30 hours per week or 75% FTE for 9½ 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. This is 40 hours a week, some evening hours. Necessary qualifications include MSW or Master in clinical counseling and State Licensed (preferred) or license eligibility, experience with assessment, diagnosis, and treatment 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 or more individuals to work part-time on weekends who feel a call to serve within the context of this ministry, and who are capable of working with the population we do. This is a paid position, working selected Saturdays and Sundays from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. to help prepare a meal, supervise volunteers who assist serving between 11:30 – 1:30 and clean up after closing. Ideally, two Weekend staff work together to oversee all aspects of this operation. Prior experience in one or more would be a strong plus: food service, ministry, and social work. 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.

Covington Latin 100 years

(Continued from page 3)

“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 at the Kenton County Library right now is the journals.

“It’s pretty historical in nature. I’ve read them all, they’re amazing,” she said pointing out an entry from 1938 about the Czechoslovakian government yielding to Adolf Hitler. And while she describes herself as a “history nerd,” the most endearing aspect of the journals, she said, is how they prove the adage “the more things change, the more things stay the same.”

“These are kids writing and they are complaining about the Latin teacher or they’re complaining about an assignment. If we did this assignment today, this is exactly what the students would write about,” Mrs. Darpel said. “The students are still the same, they’re still bright, they’re still articulate, they’re great writers but they are still kids and the same themes develop. When it comes to school stuff, it’s the same stuff.”

The Kenton County Library is in the process of scanning these journals to make them available to the general public 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.

“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 blog.

As the CLS community continues to celebrate its 100 years of “teaching goodness, discipline and knowledge,” (from the school’s motto: Bonitatem et disciplinam et scientiam, doce me), Mrs. Darpel is excited to share some of the lesser-known accomplishments of its students.

“Like, for example, this is our boxing team from years ago and they did pretty well,” she said pointing to a black and white photo. “We have a T-shirt that reads, ‘Undeclared Football since 1923.’ That is actually a fact. In 1955 we did have a football team and they were undefeated,” she said.

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.

“You recognize the names and see the legacies that have come after that,” — the grandfather and then his sons 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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NEWS BRIEFS

National/World

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 23 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 rallied 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 became battle zones on July 19 as protesters blocked roads, burned tires and stoned cars in response to Odinga’s latest call for protests. Archbishop Martin Kivuva Musonde of Mombasa, president of the Kenyan bishops’ conference, said there was no justifiable reason for the violence, while highlighting the ensuing injuries, property damage, trauma and loss of lives. “The high cost of living has created a burden on individuals and families, making it difficult for them to meet their basic needs

and maintain a decent standard of living,” said 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 county law prohibiting pro-life protesters from approaching people outside abortion clinics, the law firm rep-

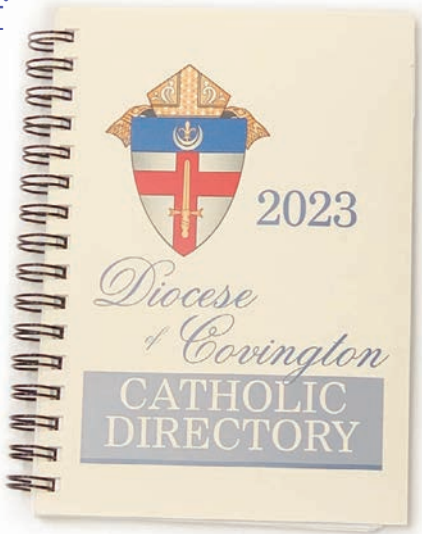
resenting her said July 21. Becket, a Washington-based religious liberty law firm, said it is representing Debra Vitagliano as she asks the high court to review its 2000 ruling in Hill v. Colorado, which involved a Colorado law enacted in 1993. That law regulated First Amendment activity within 100 feet 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.

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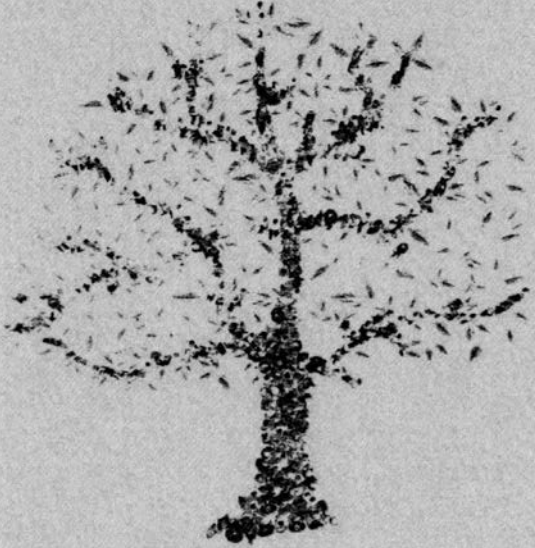
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Diocesan Youth Minister hosts first event — THRIVE!

Staff report
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 energiz-

ing 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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