

2	Villa Madonna Academy Bishop celebrates Mass
2	Call for testimonials St. Vincent de Paul
3	EOHSJ Bishop’s Dinner Squires welcomed
3	Official appointments
3	TMU Dyslexia Institute
6	SUMMIT 23 Meet Paul Allison
9	Parish festivals
10	Pope visits Mongolia

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

Bishop’s Schedule	3
Commentary	4
People and Events	9
VIRTUS	14
Shopper’s Guide	15
Classifieds	16
News Briefs	19

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

Seminary Ball returns for 2023 event with new program and updates

Maura Baker
Staff Writer

The Seminary Ball, hosted annually in the autumn by the diocesan Office of Stewardship and Mission Services, returns Oct. 27 for its 2023 event.

In addition to these changes are changes to the event’s program itself. In years past, the diocese’s seminarians would sing a choral song together to the attendees of the ball. This year, however, the participation of the seminarians will be a little different.

“In place of the singing, we’re going to do live interviews with



Friday, October 27, 2023

6:00 p.m..... Cocktail Hour – Light Hors D’oeuvres
7:00 p.m..... Dinner & Program
9:00 p.m..... Music provided by The Mix Band

Complimentary Bar: 6:00 - 11:00 p.m.
Wine, Beer, Soft Drinks and Water

Northern Kentucky Convention Center
1 West RiverCenter Boulevard
Covington, KY 41011

Complimentary Parking Available at the
Kenton County Parking Garage

Hosted at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center, the event includes live string music, cocktail hour, dinner and dancing. The Seminary Ball is a major event promoting vocations in the Diocese of Covington and is the Office of Stewardship and Mission’s primary fundraiser for seminarian education.

This year, changes have been made to the event’s program to “make the ball more enjoyable for everyone involved,” said Jim Hess, director of the Office of Stewardship and Mission.

Changes to the evening include an extension of the open bar to be open the whole event instead of until after dinner, hors d’oeuvres will be served during cocktail hour and the cocktail hour ballroom is to be open all evening so that guests who do not want to dance may still enjoy the ball and socialize.

the seminarians with Bishop Iffert,” said Mr. Hess, “and he’ll be conducting those interviews and asking them questions about themselves, their time at seminary and maybe their vocation story.”

In addition to this, the video typically played for Seminary Ball attendees will feature a “day in the life of a seminarian” as opposed to the usual interview format.

“I think it’ll give people a great opportunity to hear directly from the seminarians and to see them engaging with each other and with the bishop,” Mr. Hess said.

All are invited to attend the Seminary Ball, with RSVP’s available until October 13. More information on attending the ball and on sponsorship can be found online on the diocesan website, <https://covdio.org/seminaryball/>.

Family Faith Formation series kicks off at St. Joseph Parish, Crescent Springs

Laura Keener
Editor

Helping parents discuss sensitive topics with their children as they grow in virtue together is one of the priorities for Father Eric Boelscher, pastor, and administrators, faculty and staff at St. Joseph Parish, Crescent Springs.

Their initial effort in implementing this priority has been the organization of the St. Joseph Parish Family Faith Formation speaker series — a monthly series of five talks from experts in their

(Continued on page 17)

**St. Joseph Parish
Family Faith Formation
Speaker Series**

Sept. 13
“Why Belong? The Importance of a Church Community” with Allen Hunt.

Oct. 4
“Imaging the Divine in Parenthood in the Everyday” with Jack Beers.

Nov. 8
“Anxiety, Depression, Bullying and a Path to Prevention and Peace” with Abby Schaber.

Feb. 7
“Protecting Young Eyes and Creating Safer Digital Spaces” with Chris McKenna.

March 6
“Freedom in Truth: Anchoring Kids with a Faith the World Can’t Steal” with Ashley Marshall.



ALLEN HUNT
WHY BELONG?
THE IMPORTANCE OF A CHURCH COMMUNITY

September 13, 2023
6:30 - 7:45

**St. Joseph Parish
Family Faith Formation
Speaker Series 2023-24**

***We are requesting
that ONE parent from each family
attend this important talk.**

Bishop Iffert urges VMA students to ‘stay awake’ in service to others

Laura Keener
Editor

Pam McQueen, principal, and the faculty, staff and students of Villa Madonna High School welcomed Bishop John Iffert to campus, Sept. 1, for Mass opening the 2023–24 school year. Students led the music, and filled the roles of servers, lector and cantor.

The Gospel reading from Matthew (25:1–13), has Jesus telling the parable of the five wise and five foolish bridesmaids. The wise bridesmaids had brought extra oil for their lamps in case the bridegroom was delayed. The foolish bridesmaids did not.

The bridegroom was long overdue, and the foolish

bridesmaids’ lamps burned out; they had to leave to get more oil. When the bridegroom arrived, the foolish bridesmaids were not there to enter the celebration. When they returned, they banged on the door and begged to be allowed in. The bridegroom looked at them and replied, “I do not know you.”

“This doesn’t mean that he doesn’t recognize their voices,” Bishop Iffert said in his homily. “This means he doesn’t recognize himself in them. He doesn’t see the friendship that should be there. He doesn’t see the devotion.”

Bishop Iffert equates the situation to a couple that in the heat of an argument declares, “I don’t even know you

anymore.”

“This is what Jesus is saying to them. The image of Christ that should be there to correspond to the call of holiness, just, is missing because we failed to live for others. We failed to live life for Christ. He warns us against that failure and calls us to faithfulness ... Jesus invites us to be attentive, most of all to growing in his image but also in loving the people he sends our way to serve ... Let us stay awake together; being sensitive to Christ wherever we see him, judging correctly what is needed and acting for goodness and holiness in the world.”

Keener photos




(above) Bishop John Iffert is the celebrant and homilist for the opening school year Mass at Villa Madonna Academy High School, Sept. 1.

(above right) Students offer each other the sign of peace.

(far right, right center, and below far right) Students actively participated in the Mass as singers, musicians and cantor.

(below) Bishop Iffert distributes holy Communion to students.





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.

Knights and Dames welcome Squires at annual Bishop’s Dinner

Laura Keener
Editor

The Equestrian Order of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem Diocese of Covington held its annual Bishop’s Mass and dinner, Aug. 31, with Bishop John Iffert. The social event is a time for Knights and Dames of the order to express their gratitude to the bishop.

After dinner, Msgr. Gerald Twaddell, prior of the Covington section of the Order, announced the establishment of the order’s first Squires, not only for the local Lieutenancy but in the United States.

Squires are young Catholics, ages 20 to 35, and are an auxiliary of the Order in the Diocese of Covington. “They were established to provide a path for young Catholic men and women to engage in a deeper spiritual life experience through association with the Knights and Dames so that they may grow in the virtues that lead to a true following of the Lord,” said Msgr. Twaddell in an April *Messenger* article.

Five of the six Squire investees attended the dinner. The Squires will be formally invested Sept. 14 at Mary, Seat of Wisdom Chapel on the campus of Thomas More University.

In his comments at the dinner Bishop Iffert said, “I love to see that you are making it very intentional to encourage young people to participate in the spirituality of the Equestrian Order of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. I think that’s an incredible gift to share with them.”

At the dinner, Sir Stephen Enzweiler and Sir Nelson Rodriguez unveiled the cape that the Squires will receive at the investiture. To keep costs down for the Squires, Sir Enzweiler handmade the capes. The Squires will wear the cape at all official liturgical events.

On behalf of the Order, Sir Enzweiler presented Bishop Iffert a check for the diocese’s Seminary Education Fund, saying “It’s important for us to have good priests, well educated, well formed. Men who step forward out of the world to devote their lives to the holy priesthood, to dedicate their lives to the one true faith, and to the one Lord and Savior of us all — Jesus Christ.”



(above) Sir Stephen Enzweiler and Sir Nelson Rodriguez unveil the Squires cape, Aug. 31, at the annual Bishop’s Dinner hosted by the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. (right) The dark navy cape with velvet collar is designed after the French lieutenancy’s Squire cape and includes the order’s identifying red Jerusalem Cross.

(below) In gratitude from the Order, Sir Enzweiler presents Bishop Iffert with a check for the Seminary Education Fund.



Thomas More University announces Kentucky’s first Dyslexia Institute

Staff report

A truly one-of-a-kind initiative, Thomas More University’s School of Education launches the commonwealth’s first Dyslexia Institute. The institute supports students and the greater community through sharing resources that are intentionally designed to promote awareness and create change by highlighting the dyslexic profile. Programming through the institute includes

assessment clinics, teacher training, direct family support and more.

“Thomas More is the first university in the commonwealth to have a dyslexia specific resource for our students and our community,” said Kayla Steltenkamp, Ph.D., assistant professor in the School of Education.

Dr. Steltenkamp is a renowned expert in the field of lit-

(Continued on page 14)



Kayla Steltenkamp, Ph.D., assistant professor at Thomas More University’s School of Education, instructs college students.

Official Appointments

Effective September 2023

John Banchy

To: Board of Trustees, Thomas More University
Term: Three years

Yvan Demosthenes

To: Board of Trustees, Thomas More University
Term: Three years

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

Jamie N. Schroeder

Mrs. Jamie N. Schroeder
Chancellor



Bishop’s Schedule

Sept. 9

Diocese of Covington
Pastoral Council meeting,
Curia Boardroom, 10 a.m.

Building renovation
groundbreaking/ blessing,
Villa Madonna Academy,
Villa Hills, 4 p.m.

Sept. 10

100th anniversary of
Covington Latin School
Mass, Cathedral Basilica of
the Assumption, Covington,
2 p.m.

Sept. 12

Advisory Council meeting,
9:30 a.m.

Sept. 14

Mass, Olivia Staverman
novitiate of the Mercedarian
Sisters of the Blessed
Sacrament, St. Henry Parish,
Elsmere, 6:30 p.m.

Sept. 16

Mass, Sisters of Notre Dame
Jubilee, St. Joseph Heights,
Park Hills, 10 a.m.

Sept. 17

Wedding Vespers, Cathedral
Basilica of the Assumption,
2 p.m.

The work is hard, the reward is great

A few Wednesdays ago, I attended the kick-off for St. Mary’s Wednesday Evening Religious Education (“WERE”). This program is provided for our parish children who are not enrolled in a parochial school. My husband teaches the 5th grade class and all three of my children have attended — even #3 who currently attends a parochial school.

VIEWPOINT



Karen Zengel

In speaking with the parents, our Director of Youth and Family Ministry acknowledged that this commitment is not easy. After long school days and workdays, after extracurricular activities and family commitments, driving your child(ren) to WERE will be challenging some evenings. Despite this reality, she closed with an enthusiastic call to action.

She talked about how overcoming the challenge is worth it, describing her shenanigans to bring energy to the program, to ensure that our children had no doubt they were welcomed, and most importantly, loved. She described a future where our children not only learn about our faith, but they also get involved and invite others to join.

As she talked, you could feel the enormous love that Susan has for our faith and for our children. You could not help but smile (and maybe feel that lump in your throat for this emotional mom) as she described her vision for growing our Church through active engagement with our children.

The principal goal of St. Vincent de Paul is to help our Vincentians grow in holiness. We do this through service and friendship. Just like Susan’s enthusiasm with the WERE students, we must share the same kind of enthusiasm for our ministry, and ultimately, our faith. The work

is hard — we must acknowledge this — but the reward is great.

Extension and revitalization are two terms used frequently in St. Vincent de Paul’s ministry. These efforts are also important to our Church, with St. Vincent de Paul being just one avenue to share and to grow in our faith.

Without the addition of new Vincentians and a renewed energy among our existing Vincentian brothers and sisters, this ministry would cease to thrive. This year, St. Vincent de Paul NKY celebrates 100 years of friendship, service, and spirituality. I can only imagine that during this century of existence there were some challenges. Those challenges were met with resilience and renewal, leading to a deep relationship with Christ for so many committed to this journey.

The invitation to serve starts with a smile, followed by a friendly conversation to get to know someone. However, it cannot stop there.

Ensuring that each person has a job to do is so important to continuing that warm welcome. People join St. Vincent de Paul to become an active member of a faith community, not a visitor. This is where the seeds of friendship take root.

Veteran Vincentians learn about the interests and talents of those wishing to join to determine how they can actively participate in the ministry. Simple acts such as writing Thank You’s to donors or sending follow-up cards to those we visit are quick ways to provide opportunities for involvement. Maybe a new member can offer a gift that the parish conference lacks?

Using technology to improve effectiveness, organizing an event or drive, or volunteering in the call center or in one of our stores are other unique ways to leverage the talents of those who join our ranks. There is much to do and sometimes we are tempted to let the experts continue in the interest of just getting it done. Creativity and delegation lead to a more meaningful engagement and, ultimately, commitment from these new members. By engaging them and utilizing their unique gifts, new

Vincentians feel needed, accepted and loved. Just like our Catholic faith, formation is fundamental to making the most of the Vincentian experience. Learning about the founders of the Society and their reasons for building this ministry reinforces the role the Society plays in the living Church. And, yes, there are rules. In fact, there is something called “The Rule,” a governing document that shapes our approach to the ministry.

Just like those students who might sometime drag their feet to go to WERE, there can be some grumbling about The Rule. However, you cannot help but have a healthy respect for the structure that started with a humble beginning of 7 young men in Paris in 1833 to over 800,000 Vincentians in 150 countries around the world. The formation and structure guide us on our spiritual journeys.

Here in our Diocese of Covington, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is present in 30 parishes, with 630 members committed to seeing the face of Christ in those around us through friendship and service. We welcome all who are interested.

Is it hard work that sometimes takes us out of our comfort zone? Yes! Is it worth it? Yes!

The Vincentian experience is more than a volunteer opportunity — it becomes a way of life that promotes meaningful connections and fosters profound spiritual growth. We are keenly aware that we meet Jesus every day in the faces of those we serve and in the faces of those who share this vocation with us. As an extension of the Church, we see, feel, and share with enthusiasm the love of Christ.

If you are interested in becoming part of St. Vincent de Paul, please contact Notre Dame Sister Judith Niewahner at smjudith.niewahner@svidpnky.org. We would love to hear from you!

Karen Zengel is executive director, Society of St. Vincent de Paul Northern Kentucky.

Thoughts on World Youth Day in Lisbon

I’ve just returned from World Youth Day in Lisbon, my fourth experience of this unique gathering. I had attended the celebrations in Madrid (2011), Krakow (2016), and Panama (2019), but in many ways, this one was, for me, the most memorable.

WORD ON FIRE



Bishop Robert Barron

First, a few general remarks. I believe that World Youth Day is one of Pope John Paul II’s greatest gifts to the Catholic Church, its appeal continuing unabated some 40 years after it was launched. Though naysayers have consistently predicted, or even called for, its demise, this international confab of young Catholics shows no signs of running out of steam.

As is always the case, this World Youth Day in Lisbon featured armies of kids from practically every nation on earth, simultaneously celebrating their nationalities and their common Catholic affiliation, effortlessly resolving the potential tension between those identities. And as always before, this one centered around the presence of the successor St. Peter; the visible sign of the Church’s unity.

Though Pope Francis is, by any measure, an old man, he, by virtue of his office and his personal charisma,

drew young people to him like a magnet. By some estimates, a million and a half people showed up for the closing Mass.

I had the privilege of speaking on five separate occasions in Lisbon. My first engagement was with a huge crowd of young people from France. Because I had studied in Paris for my doctorate and hence had some facility in the language, the French bishops had asked me to address this group.

When I arrived at the venue — an expansive area near the Tagus River — the French kids were dancing to and singing with a very energetic band onstage. Then, they were regaled by a video presentation from a very popular French footballer, who evidently lives his Catholic faith with enthusiasm. Judging from their boisterous reaction, I gathered that they were delighted that this sports hero was on their own spiritual team.

Next, I came out, clutching my prepared text more than a little nervously since I hadn’t spoken French in public for nearly 30 years. But the kids seemed able to tolerate my American accent. I spoke to them of their own marvelous spiritual heritage, expressed so richly in the great cathedrals of Amiens, Reims, Notre Dame de Paris, and Chartres, buildings that had sung so powerfully to me when I was a student in their country. And I urged them not to cave into the fashionable secularism of our age, an ideology that effectively kills the spirit.

My next talk took place the following day in a charming auditorium at the University of Lisbon. At the invitation of the Vatican Dicastery on Education and Culture, I

had been asked to address a group of teachers, professors, and administrators on the topic of Catholic education.

Taking my cues from St. Bonaventure and St. John Henry Newman, I argued that Christ the Logos must stand at the heart of the circle of university disciplines and that he does so noncompetitively, not compromising the integrity of the other subjects, but rather making them more luminous and beautiful. I was particularly moved by the eagerness and enthusiasm of the young scholars and aspiring teachers who listened to me that afternoon.

Then, that evening, I gave an extended homily at the Benediction service offered to over 12,000 young Americans who had assembled in a large park in the northern section of Lisbon. The weather was perfect, the mood was festive and yet prayerful, and when the Eucharist was brought forth, a very moving silence fell over the massive throng.

I spoke to the young people about proclaiming the real Christ and not a watered-down simulacrum. When the real Jesus is declared, I said, hearts are set on fire. I concluded my remarks that night with the reminder that, though our culture is obsessed with safety, a religion that places before our eyes on a regular basis the image of a man nailed to a cross is not a religion that puts a high premium on safety. The Church is not interested so much in keeping us safe as preparing us for spiritual adventure and the embrace of our mission.

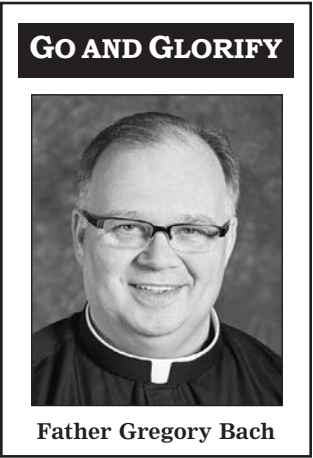
(Continued on page 14)

If today you hear his voice

The readings for the twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time — Cycle A — are: Ezekiel 33:7-9; Romans 13:8-10; and Matthew 18:15-20.

“If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.”

When I was in the second grade, around the time of my First Communion, I felt called to the priesthood. There were no trumpets blaring or angels singing. I felt like it was always there. It came to me in the stillness of



Father Gregory Bach

the night. When I was in grade school, I thought about it every day. I couldn’t see myself doing anything else but being a priest.

After grade school, that’s when the noise entered my life. The noise of the world surrounded me trying to drown out the voice of God.

Even in the loudest moments, in the shouting of our culture could not completely drown out the voice of God. In those

moments when I wanted to hide from my vocation, or run away from the call, the voice of God kept getting stronger, calling me to the priesthood. I finally entered the seminary and was ordained when I finished my studies.

There are many songs, readings, and prayers that speak of surrendering to the will of God. In surrendering I found peace. “If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.”

Bishop Emeritus Roger Foys said in a recent homily speaking about a monastery that was very quiet, “You could hear a snowflake touch the ground.”

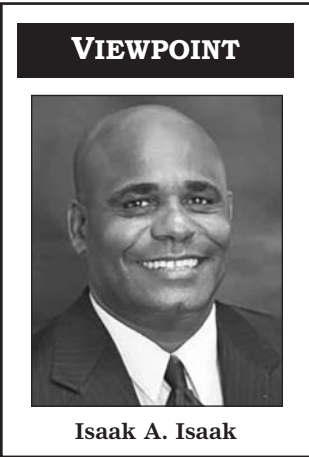
That is such a good analogy of how God speaks to us, in the quiet, in the stillness of our heart, he calls out. It is those moments in our life where we turn off the TV, turn the volume down on the radio, or set the phone aside for a few minutes that we can clearly hear God whispering, “this is what I am calling you to do.”

“If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.”

Father Gregory Bach is assistant to the Bishop and vice-chancellor, Diocese of Covington, Ky

The Divine Pedagogy (teaching)

Who taught Abraham to be a great man of faith, the great Patriarch of Israel? Who taught Moses to lead his people, the nation of Israel, from the slavery of Pharaoh in Egypt to the Promised Land? Who taught Joshua and Caleb to be the great military leaders of their people Israel? Who called and taught the great Prophets, like



Isaak A. Isaak

to me.

Jesus himself, who is God in the flesh, taught his disciples and the people of his time in person. It is AWE-SOME! Yes indeed, it is awesome to learn from the divine mouth of Jesus about God and his mission on earth. Jesus’ teaching of his disciples and the people of his time is also called the “Divine Pedagogy.”

Today, are you able to sit down with God as in the old days to learn from him? Jesus himself tells us in the Gospel of John 14:18, “No, I will not leave you, nor forsake you as orphans — I will come to you.”

How does Jesus come to you and me? In the same Gospel of John 14:16-18, Jesus says “And I will ask the Father and He will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads to all truth.”

The secular world cannot receive him because it is not looking for him and does not recognize him. But you know him because he lives in you. He will not abandon you as orphans – he will come to you.

When does a person truly become an orphan? When he or she does not know God or does not have a relationship with God. When he or she does not participate in the divine food — Jesus, the Eucharist.

Jesus said, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to

me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.” (John 6:35). “...unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you cannot have eternal life within you. But anyone who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, ...for My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink” (John 6). “Anyone who eats My flesh and drinks My blood remains in me, and I in him. I live because of the living Father who sent me; in the same way, anyone who feeds on Me will live because of Me...” (John 6:56-69).

It was God himself. This is called the Divine Pedagogy (teaching).

The people of Israel, after crossing the Red Sea, camped under the foot of Mount Sinai to learn directly from God himself. God himself camped with them under a mighty cloud with his mighty thunder. This is the Divine Pedagogy. Learning from God himself is inspiring

Jesus comes to us through his Word, the Eucharist, the sacraments, and through the mighty power of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is the very presence of God within us and all believers, helping us live as God wants and building Christ’s Church on earth. By faith, we can appropriate the Holy Spirit’s power each day. He is here to remind us of Jesus’ teachings, miracles, passion, death, resurrection and ascension. He is here to strengthen us to fight against the devil and all his demonic powers. He is here to sanctify us, to be like Jesus Christ.

I have experienced the Holy Spirit, not only during my baptism and confirmation but especially during World Youth Days. In Rio de Janeiro, I attended Sunday Mass with four million people, who did not speak the same language, but gathered around one altar of Jesus Christ, under the Vicar of Christ on Earth, Pope Francis. This was my first time crying uncontrollably in the middle of morning Mass. At first, I did not know what to do about my weeping, because I did not know what was happening to me. But later, I realized this was indeed the Holy Spirit. Because of his joyful and gentle presence in my life, I ended up sobbing. I had never experienced this much joy and peace in my life.

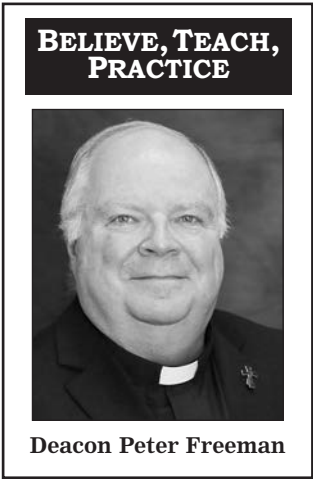
Now, I realize that the Word of God and the sacraments of the Church are powerful sources of the Holy Spirit. If you want to experience healing, joy and the awesome peace of the Holy Spirit, attend Sunday Mass — not out of an obligation but for the love of Jesus.

Let the Holy Spirit guide your life and embrace you with his joy, peace and healing powers. You just need an open heart and mind to him. Do not be afraid of him. He is here to help you and love you. If you experience him daily, he will start to guide you on how to live your life on this earth.

The Divine Pedagogy continues. Amen!
Isaak A. Isaak is co-director of the Office of Catechesis and Evangelization.

Forming a Catholic conscience

Even though the election for President of the United States isn’t until November 2024, today’s political climate has moved everything up. It seems that as soon as a politician is elected to office, his or her first order of business



Deacon Peter Freeman

is to start running for office in the next election — no matter how far off it is.

If you are like me and many other Catholics I talk to, you are not happy with our current government’s actions and not happy with what seems to be our options for voting in the future. Maybe at times you are considering not even voting.

However, while we are faithful Catholics, we are also citizens of this great country we live in. It’s

hard not to take a position or to just give up on voting for anyone.

There are too many objectionable platforms, issues and personalities in the upcoming elections. In addition to that, too many candidates just want to attack their

opponents and not even coherently state what their platforms are. Special interest groups do their best to muddy the waters as well.

It’s not too early to start looking at all the candidates for office and their positions on issues and try to form an informed decision as to who to vote for. What is a faithful and moral Catholic to do? How do we vote and at the same time feel comfortable that we have made a good moral choice?

Fortunately, we have help in our decision-making that has been provided by the Bishops in the United States. It is called “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship.” I have always believed that it should be every Catholic voter’s guide as to what the Church teaches and how to make moral decisions when voting.

Here is what “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship” has to say about making our decisions as to who to vote for:

“Catholics often face difficult choices about how to vote. This is why it is so important to vote according to a well-informed conscience that perceives the proper relationship among moral goods. A Catholic cannot vote for a candidate who favors a policy promoting an intrinsically evil act such as abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide, deliberately subjecting workers or the poor to subhuman living conditions, redefining marriage in ways that violate its essential meaning, or racist behavior; if the

voter’s intent is to support that position. In such cases, a Catholic would be guilty of formal cooperation in grave evil. At the same time, a voter should not use a candidate’s opposition to an intrinsic evil to justify indifference or inattentiveness to other important moral issues involving human life and dignity.”

Since no candidate has policies free from the intrinsic evil described, we can’t really vote for anyone, right? I think it’s important to note the wording in the last paragraph, “if the voter’s intent is to support that position.”

It is possible to vote for a candidate but not support the candidate’s policies or position on a certain issue. Our Bishops go on to say:

“When all candidates hold a position that promotes an intrinsically evil act, the conscientious voter faces a dilemma. The voter may decide to take the extraordinary step of not voting for any candidate or after careful deliberation, may decide to vote for the candidate deemed less likely to advance such a morally flawed position and more likely to pursue other authentic human goods.”

Since there are so many issues involved in the upcoming election season, and so many candidates, I believe it’s never too early to start reviewing what the Church teaches regarding moral issues versus the positions candidates are taking.

The issue of abortion and marriage rights will take

(Continued on page 15)

SUMMIT 23 — breaking prayer outside the box

Laura Keener
Editor

All high-school aged students in the Diocese of Covington are encouraged to attend this year’s SUMMIT 23. SUMMIT 23 is a weekend Eucharistic retreat of prayer, music, interactive activity zones that engage creativity and witness talks.

Paul Allison, a senior at the University of Kentucky and graduate of Covington Catholic High School, is one of the speakers that will be sharing a witness.

“Prayer has been redefined for me,” he said. “It’s actually a relationship. It’s a time of growing in friendship and relationship with the God of the universe, with Jesus Christ the person and with the Holy Spirit living inside of you. I’m excited to break the box of what a lot of high schoolers might think of prayer as and show that prayer is actually exciting.”

SUMMIT 23 is organized and sponsored by the diocesan Office of Catechesis and Evangelization. The retreat will be held at Notre Dame



Mr. Allison has attended several SUMMIT retreats when it was known as YOUTH 2000 and just recently returned from World Youth Day in Lisbon.

“I’m really excited to just share about my own my own experience of the faith and just share about my relationship with Christ,” said Mr. Allison in an interview about the upcoming retreat. “You can have all these different crazy things but when it comes down to it, like relationship and prayer is what matters.”

Mr. Allison said that he has been fortunate to have “incredible people” who have mentored, taught and invested in him. “Who have loved me, really,” he said.

Academy, Park Hills, Oct. 6-8. Bishop John Iffert will kick-off the retreat Friday evening with a witness talk and will lead Eucharistic adoration. This year’s retreat is open only to high-school aged students. Chaperones are not required as supervision is being provided. Early bird registration is available until Sept. 20. Information and registration information is available online at www.covdio.org/Summit23.

Paul Allison (center) and friends pictured here at Damascus, Centerburg, Ohio. Mr. Allison will share his witness at the diocesan SUMMIT 23 Eucharistic retreat, Oct. 6-8, at Notre Dame Academy, Park Hills. All high-school aged students are invited.





Senior Resource Center

Established by the St. Charles Community

A little help can make a big difference.



3705 Winston Ave, Latonia KY
(859) 261-0746
seniorresource@stcharlescommunity.org

Listening.
Caring.
Helping.
Providing the tools for seniors and families to navigate aging services.

BRANCHES AND LEAVES OUR FAMILY TREES



Let Us Trace Your Family Ancestry
References Available Upon Request

(859) 620-0177
kaxquin9239@gmail.com

Caring for our common home: Eucharistic solidarity

USCCB
“As people of faith and goodwill, we should be united in showing mercy to the earth as our common home and cherishing the world in which we live as a place for sharing and communion.” – Pope Francis’ message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation (Sept. 1, 2016)

From the beginning, our Divine Creator gave us the responsibility to look after the world (Genesis 1:26-31). In his address for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation in 2016, Pope Francis said caring for our common home “entails a loving awareness that we are not disconnected from the rest of creatures but, joined in a splendid universal communion.” This means recognizing our duty to care for our environment as an important way of expressing our love for God and our gratitude to him.

As Catholics, we worship a God who entered into the material world as part of creation. During Mass, we profess that Jesus “by the Holy Spirit, was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man,” and we believe in

his continued presence in our physical reality. This is especially true during Mass, when “fruit of the earth . . . fruit of the vine and work of human hands” become the Eucharist: the Body and Blood of Christ. This celebration, in which God is presented to us — most especially through the conversion of bread and wine — is the core of our Catholic faith.

In *Laudato Si* no. 236, Pope Francis helps us understand the profound connection between the Eucharist and care for creation. “It is in the Eucharist that all that has been created finds its greatest exaltation . . . The Eucharist joins heaven and earth; it embraces and penetrates all creation . . . in the bread of the Eucharist, ‘creation is projected towards divinization, towards the holy wedding feast, towards unification with the Creator himself.’ Thus, the Eucharist is also a source of light and motivation for our concerns for the environment, directing us to be stewards of all creation.”



Slum priests celebrate reparation Mass after presidential candidate pours insults on Argentine pope

Eduardo Campos Lima
OSV News

As Argentines prepare to elect their new president Oct. 22, a group of clergy close to Pope Francis launched an unprecedented intervention in the highly charged political atmosphere in the South American country.

The Archdiocese of Buenos Aires’ group of “curas villeros,” Spanish for “slum priests,” celebrated a reparation Mass for the insults targeting Pope Francis by the presidential candidate who won the primaries in August, Javier Milei, who has been quoted as calling the pontiff an imbecile and said his support of the poor is evil.

Father José María Di Paola, known as Padre Pepe, said in his homily that “it is unworthy of a candidate” to say such things, including denigrating social justice, “when social justice is part of the Gospel, part of the Church’s social doctrine.”

The priests who said the Mass explained the insults were heard more and more often, even boosting Milei’s popularity and that was the reason the Mass was celebrated.

A large crowd turned out for the Mass in the villa 21-24 neighborhood in Buenos Aires Sept. 5, and faithful were seen holding pictures of Pope Francis in a sign of support. A big banner reading ‘In solidarity with the Pope and the poor’ stretched above their heads.

Milei, an economist who describes himself as an anarcho-capitalist and was elected for Congress in 2021 with an anti-establishment rhetoric, has insulted the pontiff — his countryman — on numerous occasions during TV interviews and on social media posts over the past years.

Most of such attacks are apparently related to the pope’s endorsement of social justice, defined by Milei as an “aberration.” In 2022, when the pontiff defended the idea that people should pay taxes in order to protect the poor’s dignity, Milei tweeted that the pope is “always standing on the evil’s side” and accused him of having poverty as a model.

Those ideas have been customarily accompanied with insults. The long list includes calling the pontiff an “imbecile who defends social justice,” “leftist son of a b* preaching communism,” and “the representative of the evil one.”

Milei, who has been repeatedly compared by analysts to former U.S. President Donald Trump and former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, is a fierce supporter of the minimal state. His platform includes extreme measures, like adopting the U.S. dollar as the Argentine currency and closing the country’s Central Bank.

Although he professes the Catholic faith, Milei reportedly has a number of spiritualist beliefs and has been studying the Torah with a rabbi every week.

In his most recent interviews, he apparently preferred to avoid new controversies and declared that he respects Pope

Francis as the Church’s leader and as a head of state.

That new attitude was not enough to convince at least part of Argentina’s Catholics, who account for 62.9 percent of the population, although according to the CIA World Factbook from July 2014, 92 percent of the country was nominally Catholic at the time. Analysts say that most people do not relate the elections and the pontiff, so those offenses may not have impacted the votes of many Catholics.

But some people, especially in the poor neighborhoods, have been outraged, said Father Lorenzo de Veddía, known as Padre Toto, a longtime cura villero in a slum in the Barracas district of Buenos Aires who was one of the priests celebrating the Sept. 5 Mass.

“One can notice that many people have not liked so much aggressiveness, so many insults and so many lies,” he told OSV News.

The Mass in support of Pope Francis — and “of the poorest in our country” — as the invitation said, was said at Padre Toto’s parish, one of the many which were accompanied with great interest by the then-Archbishop Jorge Mario Bergoglio.

The curas villeros’ movement was organized at the end of the 1960s to give special attention to the residents of the poor neighborhoods, which had a fast growth in the second half of the 20th century. The priests not only play a religious role among the poor, but also actively participate in the communities’ daily life, helping them to organize and fight for their rights to be respected.

During his tenure as a bishop and then as the Archbishop of Buenos Aires, the pope had a special connection with many members of that movement. Dozens of them took part in the reparation Mass.

(Continued on page 12)



St. Vincent de Paul NKY Vehicle Donation Program



Donating your car is easy!
Donating your vehicle provides meals, beds and hope to our neighbors in need. Giving a vehicle of Hope to St. Vincent de Paul NKY is hassle free. We make it easy by handling the pickup, paperwork and provide a tax receipt *Consult your tax advisor.

Schedule your free & convenient pick-up.

Receive a donation receipt. That's it!

Simply call or complete our online donation form.

Call: 859-426-2649 or visit: www.svdpnky.org to get started.

“Is it possible to make my knee feel better without surgery?”

- Jason, Fort Thomas, KY



At St. Elizabeth our sports medicine team is here to help you with nonsurgical and physical therapy options—to get you back to what you love doing, quickly. We understand you have questions, and at St. Elizabeth we personalize care with answers you need.



Do you have questions?
Visit stelizabeth.com/AskUs



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 VIRTUS compliant.

Notre Dame Urban Education Center is seeking to hire a part-time van driver to bring children from local schools to the Center from 2-4 p.m., Monday through Thursdays. Driver must be VIRTUS compliant. Call (859) 261-4487.

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.

Join the Sisters of Divine Providence on Sept. 10, 12:30 p.m., for a hike, either in the woods or on the pavement/level ground. The hike begins in front of St. Anne Province Center. At 2 p.m., we will gather in the Mary Garden for a prayer service to celebrate the Season of Creation. Refreshments to follow. All are welcome — children, young people, and not so young people — for any or all of the activities. No RSVP required.

St. Joseph Parish, Crescent Springs, welcomes all parents to attend its inaugural Family Faith Formation Speaker Series, Sept. 13, 6:30-7:45 p.m., in the church. The first topic is “Why Belong? The Importance of a Church Community” with speaker



Free clinic again takes home the Gold

Franciscan Daughter of Mary Mother Seraphina and Sheila Carroll, APRN and executive director of the Rose Garden Center for Hope and Healing, proudly display the Center's third Gold Standards award from the National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics (NAFC). Gold represents the highest level of achievement for breadth and delivery of patient services, responsiveness, efficacy, policies and administration.

The Center, which is Northern Kentucky's only free walk-in primary care clinic, is the health ministry of the Rose Garden Home Mission of the Franciscan Daughters of Mary in Covington. The Mission provides free healthcare, as well as food and family resources to all who ask, and its work relies entirely on donations and volunteers.

To volunteer as a medical, psychological or dental professional, or as a receptionist, contact the Center for Hope and Healing at rghmclinic@gmail.com.

2023 Parish Festivals

St. Barbara Rocktoberfest, Erlanger, Sept. 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. Matthew Parish, Morning View, Sept. 17 Noon-7 p.m.

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

St. Benedict Parish, Covington, September 22-23

Sts. Peter and Paul, Sept. 23, Octoberfest 6-11 p.m.

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

Allen Hunt. Mr. Hunt is a former mega church pastor and is now a member of the Dynamic Catholic Board of Directors. Mark your calendar for the next in the series, “Imaging the Divine in Parenthood in the Everyday,” with Jack Beers, Oct. 4, same time, same place.

You're invited to the Notre Dame Urban Education Center, Covington, “Cheers to a New School Year” open house, Sept. 21, 5-7:30 p.m. Learn about its mission, tour the Center, enjoy good food and drinks, and meet the staff and Board of Directors.

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.

The Sisters of Divine Providence welcome Brice Mickey, vice president of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Beech Acres Parenting Center for a discussion on **“Dealing With Our Biases: Working Toward Equality & Justice,”** Sept. 23, 1-4 p.m., Province Center, Melbourne. Register by Sept. 18 at secast@cdpkentucky.org.

A Marriage Encounter Experience will be held on September 29-October 1 at the Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center in Norwood, Ohio. Sign up at esharing.org or call Andy and Melanie Reinersman at 859-653-8464.

St. Joseph Church, Camp Springs, will be hosting their Oktoberfish Fish Fries, October 6, and 13, 4-7:30 p.m. Dine-in and carry-out available, more information at www.stjosephcampsprings.org.

The Institute for Religious Liberty welcomes Stephanie Barclay, director, Notre

Dame Law School Religious Liberty initiative, as the keynote speaker for its fall event, Oct. 19, 7 p.m., Steigerwald Hall in the Saints Center of Thomas More University's campus. Guest commentators include Holly Hinckley Lesan, International Center for Law & Religion Studies at Brigham Young University (BYU) Law School and Gary Greenberg, retired principal in the Cincinnati law office of Jackson Lewis P.C. and president of the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati. For information visit thomasmore.edu/religiousliberty.

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.

A faith-based support group, New Beginnings provides separated and divorced individuals the opportunity for healing and growth. In this group, participants find new understanding of themselves and their relationships and gain courage to discover new life. Registration is required. Visit <https://covdio.org/new-beginnings-2/> or call (859) 392-1500, ext.1592. The next session will be held on consecutive Tuesdays, Aug. 29 - Oct. 17, 7 - 8:30 p.m., Holy Trinity Elementary School, Bellevue.

Save the date for Thomas More University's fall interfaith event hosted by the Wm. T. (Bill) Robinson III '67 Institute for Religious Liberty on Oct. 19, 2023. The event begins at 7 p.m. with Stephanie Barclay as keynote speaker. Barclay directs Notre Dame University's Law School's Religious Liberty Initiative, which promotes freedom of religion or belief for all people through advocacy, student formation, and scholarship. More details to come. Visit thomasmore.edu/religiousliberty for more information.

Retrouvaille has helped tens of thousands of couples at all stages of disillusionment or misery in their marriage. This program can help you, too. For confidential information or to register for the September 2023 program beginning Sept. 8-10, call (513) 486-6222, or visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com.



Celebrating summer with friends

One of St. Henry Catholic School, Elsmere's traditions is holding a grade level summer gathering for students and parents. These gatherings give the students the opportunity to see their friends during the summer and to meet new students as well. Fifth graders from St. Henry recently met at South Fork Park in Florence.

Pope recounts the joy, goodness, humility he saw in Mongolia

OSV News

Pope Francis said he knows people wonder why he traveled close to 6,000 miles to Mongolia to visit a Catholic community of only 1,450 people. “Because it is precisely there, far from the spotlight, that we often find the signs of the presence of God, who does not look at appearances, but at the heart,” he told thousands of people gathered in St. Peter’s Square for his weekly general audience Sept. 6. Following his usual practice of speaking about a trip at the first audience after his return, the pope said that during his Sept. 1-4 stay the country’s capital, Ulaanbaatar, he encountered “a humble and joyful church, which is in the heart of God,” but one that was excited to find itself at the center of the universal church’s attention for a few days. “I have been to the heart of Asia, and it has done me good,” the pope said. The missionaries who arrived in Mongolia in 1992 “did not go there to proselytize,” the pope said. “They went to live like the Mongolian people, to speak their language, the language of the people, to learn the values of that people and to preach the Gospel in a Mongolian style, with Mongolian words.” Here is his trip in briefs.

Pope arrives in Mongolia, the ‘heart of Asia’

ULAANBAATAR, Mongolia — Greeted with “aaruul,” a dried yogurt cheese, which he tried, Pope Francis arrived in Ulaanbaatar for a four-day visit. After the nine-hour, overnight flight from Rome, the pope’s arrival Sept. 1 was low key. Battsetseg Batmunkh, Mongolia’s foreign minister, met him at Chinggis Khaan International Airport and had a brief meeting with him in the airport VIP lounge. Afterward, the pope was driven into the city for a day of rest at the headquarters of the Catholic Church in Mongolia, the Apostolic Prefecture of Ulaanbaatar. During his flight from Rome, the pope, who had said he was going



Pope Francis and Mongolian President Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh wave to a small crowd watching an official welcome ceremony in Sükhbaatar Square in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, Sept. 2, 2023. CNS photo/Lola Gomez

to the “heart of Asia,” told reporters traveling with him that Mongolia is a vast country with a very small population and a great culture that needs to be understood more with the senses than with the intellect. He also suggested they listen to the music of 19th-century Russian composer Alexander Borodin, who wrote “In the Steppes of Central Asia.”

Pope begins Mongolia visit with talk of peace, respect for the Earth

ULAANBAATAR, Mongolia — In a land bordering both Russia and China, and having deep ties with both, Pope

SUMMIT23

A High School Eucharistic Retreat

Faith. Food. Friendship. Fun.
Journey to the **SUMMIT** with us!

Diocese of Covington

Location: **NDA**

OCTOBER
6 - 8
2023
(not an overnight retreat)

DIocese of COVINGTON
OFFICE of CATECHESIS
AND EVANGELIZATION

RSVP: Sept 20th (early bird rate)

www.covdio.org/Summit23

A photograph of Pope Francis walking alongside an elderly Mongolian woman named Tsetsege. Both are using walking sticks. Pope Francis is wearing his white papal robes and a zucchetto. The woman is wearing a traditional white Mongolian robe with a large, ornate silver belt buckle. They are walking outdoors, and a portion of a red and white ger is visible in the background.

Pope Francis and a woman named Tsetsege leave a ger on the grounds of Sts. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, Sept. 2, 2023. The Mongolian woman, who uses only one name, found a statue of Mary in a garbage landfill and gave it to missionaries; it is now venerated in the cathedral as Our Lady of Heaven. CNS photo/Lola Gomez



Members of a mounted honor guard, dressed in armor, ride past Pope Francis and Mongolian President Ukhnaagiin Khürelsükh during the official welcome ceremony for the pope in Sükhbaatar Square in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, Sept. 2, 2023.

Francis told Mongolian leaders their country can play “a significant role in the heart of the great Asian continent and on the international scene,” particularly in peacemaking. After paying tribute to Mongolian history at a statue of Genghis Khan outside the State Palace early Sept. 2, the pope invoked the “Pax Mongolica” of the 13th and 14th centuries when peace reigned throughout the conquered lands of the vast Mongolian empire. In a country with only about 1,450 Catholics, just a few hundred people came to Sükhbaatar Square outside the State Palace to see the pope. After the formal welcome in the square, Pope Francis held a private meeting with Mongolian President Ukhnaagiin Khürelsükh in a ceremonial ger, sometimes referred to as a yurt.

Pope encourages little Mongolian flock in faith, unity, witness

ULAANBAATAR, Mongolia (CNS) — In a cathedral shaped like a ger, Pope Francis met leaders of Mongolia’s tiny Catholic community, offering them encouragement but also reminding them that faith and unity must be at the center of their lives. Without daily prayer and respect for the structure and unity of the church, “our strength will fail, and our pastoral work will risk becoming an empty delivery of services, a roster of duties that end up inducing only weariness and frustration,” the pope said Sept. 2. At the Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul in Ulaanbaatar, the pope met with Cardinal Giorgio Marengo, apostolic prefect of Ulaanbaatar, and with the priests, religious and lay volunteers who minister to Mongolia’s 1,450 Catholics and offer education, health care, food, shelter and other social support to thousands of others. Pope Francis praised the churchworkers for making love for the poor their “calling card” but assured the government and those suspicious of the church that “the Lord Jesus, in sending his disciples into the world, did not send them to spread political theories, but to bear witness by their lives to the newness of his relationship with his Father; now ‘our Father.’”

Pope, Mongolian religious leaders vow to promote harmony, shun violence

ULAANBAATAR, Mongolia — The 86-year-old Pope Francis and other religious elders gathered in a ger-shaped theater to speak of the earth and the divine, harmony and beauty, peace and the human family. In Mongolia, where all religion was brutally repressed for seven decades under communist rule, Pope Francis paid tribute Sept. 3 especially to Mongolia’s Buddhists, the largest religious group in

the country; beginning in the late 1930s, thousands of Buddhist monks were condemned to death and hundreds of Buddhist temples were destroyed. The pope prayed that the memory of past suffering would give all Mongolians “the strength needed to transform dark wounds into sources of light, senseless violence into wisdom of life (and) devastating evil into constructive goodness.” Leaders of the Buddhist, shamanist, Muslim, Evangelical, Seventh-day Adventist, Latter-day Saints, Hindu, Shinto, Baha’i and Russian Orthodox communities in Mongolia also spoke at the event in Ulaanbaatar’s Hun Theatre.

Jesus is the answer to human longing, pope says at Mass in Mongolia

ULAANBAATAR, Mongolia — Like the land struck by a “zud,” the human heart has a thirst and longing that can be alleviated only by the God of love, Pope Francis told Mongolians gathered for Mass in Ulaanbaatar’s Steppe Arena. Countless generations of Mongolians have feared the “zud,” an extreme weather event of drought or impenetrable ice that decimates herds and flocks. In his homily at the Mass Sept. 3, Pope Francis emphasized the day’s response to Psalm 63: “My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.” He said “We are that dry land thirsting for fresh water; water that can slake our deepest thirst. Our hearts long to discover the secret of true joy, a joy that even in the midst of existential aridity, can accompany and sustain us.” Every person thirsts for happiness, for direction and for meaning in life, the pope said. But “more than anything, we thirst for love, for only love can truly satisfy us, bring us fulfillment, inspire inner assurance and allow us to savor the beauty of life.” Pope Francis told the estimated 2,000 people in the arena that “the Christian faith is the answer to this thirst; it takes it seriously, without dismissing it or trying to replace it with tranquilizers or surrogates.” The Mongolian Catholic community numbers only about 1,450, but hundreds of Catholics from throughout Central Asia traveled to Ulaanbaatar for the papal Mass. While the Chinese government refused to allow any Catholic bishop or priest from the mainland to attend, small groups of lay Catholics managed to cross the border to see the pope, and official church delegations arrived from Hong Kong and Macau. Bishops and pilgrims also came from South Korea and Vietnam.

(Continued on page 12)

The Perfect Fit For Your Future.



Senior Living Lodge Apartments available now!



CALL US TODAY!
(859) 331-3224

www.stcharlescommunity.org



✓ Engaging Community

✓ Chef Prepared Meals

✓ Housekeeping

✓ Private Duty Nursing

✓ Recreational Activities

(Continued from page 11)

Charity is motivated by love, not designed to win converts, pope says

ULAANBAATAR, Mongolia — Pope Francis ended his four-day visit to Mongolia where Catholic missionaries began — with charity. Blessing the new House of Mercy in Ulaanbaatar Sept. 4, the pope insisted that while Catholic charitable and social service activities have attracted Mongolians to the church, the service is motivated by love alone. Pope Francis used his speech to the charity workers and volunteers “to reject certain myths,” including one about why Catholics offer education and health care, feed the hungry, shelter the homeless and care for widows and orphans. A big myth, he said, is that “the Catholic Church, distinguished throughout the world for its great commitment to works of social promotion, does all this to proselytize, as if caring for others were a way of enticing people to ‘join up.’ No! Christians do whatever they can to alleviate the suffering of the needy because in the person of the poor they acknowledge Jesus, the son of God, and, in him, the dignity of each person, called to be a son or daughter of God,” the pope insisted.



CNS photo/Lola Gomez

Pope Francis greets Choiijiljav Dambajav, abbot of the Buddhists’ Zuun Khuree Dashichoiling Monastery in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, at the end of his meeting with representatives of Christian churches and other religions at the city’s Hun Theatre Sept. 3, 2023.

Slum priests celebrate reparation Mass

(Continued from page 7)

Father di Paola, Padre Pepe, a close friend of Pope Francis, said in an interview to radio La Patriada Sept. 3, that Milei’s attacks are not only against the pontiff, but against the Church as a whole.

“It is an attack on Catholic law, on the Church’s social doctrine. He is virtually saying that the Church’s social doctrine is bulls*** exactly because it points to social justice,” Father di Paola declared.

According to sociologist Marcos Carbonelli, a researcher of Argentina’s National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET) and an expert on the nation’s religious dynamics, said that although “the curas villeros are prestigious agents,” their ability to influence the election is “low.”

“The world of the poor in Argentina is very fragmented nowadays,” he stressed.

Milei received significant support in many villas in Buenos Aires, which have been historically connected to Peronism, a left-wing movement based on the ideas and legacy of Argentine ruler Juan Perón (1895–1974).

With its devalued currency, Argentina has triple-digit inflation and 40 percent of the population lives in poverty — which sparks anger toward traditional politics. The latest polls show that Milei remains ahead of challengers with at least 32 percent of support, while left-winger Sergio Massa is in second with 26 percent and right-winger Patricia Bullrich is behind with 20 percent.



OSV News photo/Agustin Marcarian, Reuters

A woman prays while holding a newspaper with an image of Pope Francis during a Mass celebrated Sept. 5, 2023, to rebuff verbal attacks on the pontiff by presidential candidate Javier Milei, of La Libertad Avanza coalition, in Buenos Aires.

- Air-Conditioned
- Capacity 400
- Beer License
- Non-Smoking
- Open to all

Call 363-4311 for details

ST. CECILIA CHURCH HALL

5313 Madison Pike, Independence

Receptions, Dances, Parties



CDI Electric Inc.

Quality Service Since 1997

859-291-9189



CHEF BARONE'S CATERING

- Parties •Weddings
- Company Picnics •Lunches, Dinners
- 25 To 1000 People

"Our Foods Taste Good"

Serving Greater Cincinnati

Call Jill

491-6391

1640 Dixie Highway Park Hills, Ky.

U.S. bishops’ delegation sees hard realities, pastoral needs of farmworkers

Ann Hess
OSV News

YAKIMA, Wash. — “The church doesn’t have a mission; the mission has a church,” said Bishop Joseph J. Tyson of the Diocese of Yakima, not quite pounding the table. Later, he told the group, “Our migrant ministry is the model for all of our ministries — the parish is bigger than the building.”

A group of 24 modern apostles were able to witness a glimpse of this during an Aug. 28-29 pastoral visit organized by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Subcommittee on Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees and Travelers. Participants from the USCCB, the Catholic Migrant Farmworker Network and related ministries met in Yakima to witness, support, and learn from the migrant ministry carried out by the diocese.

During the visit — also considered an episcopal encounter with migrants under the title “Christ in the Heart of the Migrant Farmworker Today” — participants visited both the work and living sites of some of the Mexican-born agricultural workers who grow and harvest the fruit and vegetables that Washington state ships around the world.

The visiting delegation also had opportunities to talk to the workers and learn about their work, their challenges and their motivation to provide for their families back home. Helder Hernandez, the poverty, education and outreach coordinator of the USCCB’s Justice, Peace and Human Development office, told OSV News these conversations gave him a new perspective.

“It’s seeing them in the eye and recognizing that they are created in the image and likeness of God, and to know that they have a name, that they have a dignity given to them by God,” he said. “They are our brothers and sisters who deserve to live a dignified life.”

The State Department of Commerce reports that Washington is the largest producer of apples, blueberries, hops, pears, spearmint oil and sweet cherries, and the second largest producer of apricots, asparagus, grapes, potatoes and raspberries, in the U.S.

But the work is poorly paid, backbreaking, and low in status. Growers looking to hire have historically drawn those with few options, including some of Washington’s oldest residents — its Indigenous people — and its newest (including immigrants from Europe, Asia and Latin America at different times). In Washington, white Americans from rural and disadvantaged parts of the country were the primary labor pool until relatively late in the 20th century, according to a University of Washington report.

While about 70 percent of farmworkers are year-round residents of Washington, and make up a substantial percentage of the Yakima Diocese’s Catholic parishioners, the rest either follow the harvest, or are here on an H-2A temporary agricultural visa. In either case, they are often separated from the support of their home communities for months at a time.

“They are homesick, anxious and can’t sleep sometimes,” said Father Jesús Mariscal, parochial vicar at St. Paul Cathedral in Yakima. “There is a lot of ministry to be done in these little communities. It is only by being there, that you can discover how to help.”

The diocesan migrant ministry dates back to the 1960s, according to the diocese. A migrant ministry program that involves seminarians began in the summer of 2011, soon after Bishop Tyson became Yakima’s shepherd.

Encompassing seven counties in Central Washington, the Yakima Diocese serves about 176,000 Catholics in 39 parishes and three mission churches, with about two-thirds being Hispanic. During the harvest, an estimated 100,000 migrant workers reside in the region, according to the diocese’s episcopal vicar.

The delegation visited an orchard in nearby Zillah, where pickers, elbows flashing, were harvesting apples. Later, the group toured a fruit-packing plant.

The most riveting encounter for many participants was

rity purposes once they return at the end of the workday; they must ask permission to go to the store and are not allowed out to just take a walk. The fence around the property shocked the delegation.

Migrant camps house the families that follow the harvest as well as some H-2A workers. They may be a combination of tents, trailers, and other temporary structures.

In Wenatchee, about a two hour drive from the city of Yakima, Sandra Barros of St. Joseph Catholic Church, described how they carry out ministry there. “We bring



OSV News photo/courtesy of Ana Contreras and USCCB

Migrant farmworkers share their experiences with the U.S. bishops’ delegation on August 28, 2023, as Father Jesús Mariscal (far right), parochial vicar at St. Paul Cathedral in Yakima, Wash., looks on.

a visit to FairBridge Inn. Formerly a hotel, it now houses about 1,300 H-2A workers.

The workers’ H-2A visas are for temporary work only; the employer is required to provide employment opportunities for at least three-quarters of the number of hours in the job offer. Employers must provide housing for employees.

According to one of the workers who stays at FairBridge, about \$108 is deducted weekly from each paycheck to cover the workers’ food, although the amount depends on the contract workers have with their employer.

At the hotel, a panel of four men who had left their families at home in order to work in Yakima described their lives. They get up early to catch a 5 a.m. bus that takes them to the orchards. They have two 15-minute breaks, a lunch period and are bussed back to FairBridge at 2:30 p.m., where dinner is served at 4:30 p.m.

Workers said they appreciate the evening activities organized by the church, especially Mass. One noted that in his native Mexico, he attends Mass weekly, but it is difficult to figure out how to find Mass when he is working here. Another said that it helps to have life be more than just work and the phone, and he enjoys taking English and guitar classes.

There are difficulties described by some of the workers. They explained the men are locked in the grounds for secu-

food, and diapers for the families, but most of all, we bring the sacraments.”

Many of the young people are not in one place long enough to receive a conventional preparation for first communion or confirmation. Barros has built a mailing list of 300 families since 2019, and she communicates with them year-round. “They feel we are with them,” she said.

Hernandez was also touched by how the workers establish a sense of community, especially through their faith. He added that the migrant ministry within the Yakima Diocese is a model for different areas of ministry because it centered on walking alongside migrants as brothers and sisters “to collectively build upon the kingdom of God on this land.”

The last stop of the pastoral visit was a migrant camp in Monitor, near Wenatchee, where the three bishops present — Bishop Tyson, and Bishop Eusebio L. Elizondo and Bishop Frank R. Schuster, both auxiliary bishops of the Archdiocese of Seattle — concelebrated Mass and the workers shared a feast with the delegation.

Esther Morash, who has been organizing Wednesday night Masses at the migrant camp for 15 years, which was the seed of the ministry locally, said, “I’ve never met nicer people than these farmworkers. When they leave, they always turn around and say, ‘thank you.’”



319 FAIRFIELD AVE.
BELLEVUE, KY 41073
859-261-3636

Cleves & Lonnemann
JEWELERS

CREATING SATISFACTION SINCE 1932

SPECIALIZING IN REFURBISHED HIGH END WATCHES, NEW AND ESTATE JEWELRY, AND A LARGE SELECTION OF GIA CERTIFIED DIAMONDS.



SYNTHETIC OIL CHANGE & TIRE ROTATION

Most Vehicles **\$89.95**

We SERVICE all Makes and All Models!

INFINITI
INFINITI OF NORTHERN KENTUCKY

1945 Dixie Hwy Fort Wright KY 41011

Call us at 888-902-4731



KW MECHANICAL, INC.
"A Wischer Family Company"

(859) 261-1100
KWMechanical.com

- Electric
- Plumbing
- Heating &
- Air Conditioning

Residential Service Experts Since 1987



Kentucky’s first Dyslexia Institute

(Continued from page 3)

eracy and dyslexia and leads the new initiative. “The Thomas More University Dyslexia Institute is a preeminent source in Kentucky to disseminate the latest research, share practical resources with the community, and to transform the instruction and intervention for all dyslexic children and adults,” adds Dr. Steltenkamp.

All Thomas More education graduates are trained in identifying the characteristics of dyslexia and developing targeted interventions for student success. Further, they gain real world experience as they participate in the facilitation of the Dyslexia Institute’s programming. This gives pre-service teachers a solid foundation in content knowledge and effective instruction for all students.

Outside the School of Education, Thomas More University also has the Institute for Learning Differences, which offers continuous support to dyslexic college students while they are earning their degree.

The Dyslexia Institute is one aspect of a new suite of offerings from the School of Education called the Education VILLA. Transformational offerings from the Education VILLA are set to roll out in three phases, with the Dyslexia Institute being part of phase one, launching in the 2023-24 academic year.

“We are going to be taking a leadership role in shaping K-12 education in the commonwealth,” said University President Joseph L. Chillo. “The vibrancy of our communities in Northern Kentucky and throughout the commonwealth require stronger schools and the most important investment that we can make is to ensure that every student has access to high-quality education and excellent teachers who care deeply about the education of children.”

More about Dyslexia

- Dyslexia is a language-based learning disability.
- Dyslexia refers to a cluster of symptoms, which result in people having difficulties with specific language skills, particularly reading.
- About 85% of students with a primary learning disability experience difficult in reading and language processing in line with dyslexia.
- As many as 15–20% of the population have some of the symptoms of dyslexia, including slow or inaccurate reading, poor spelling, poor writing or mixing up similar words.
- Dyslexia runs in families; parents with dyslexia are very likely to have children with dyslexia.

Information provided by the International Dyslexia Association.

St. Matthew Parish Picnic and Dinner

Sunday, September 17, 2023
Noon to 7:00 PM

Fried Chicken or Roast Beef Dinners served 12:30PM -6:30PM

Family Fun and Great Food

Bingo • Activities • Music •Cake Auction • Hourly Split the Pots
Silent Auction • Inflatables • Kid’s Games • Hay Ride

Grand Raffle, Quilt Raffle, and Plenty of Games
Grand Raffle Prizes: \$500 (1), \$100 (3), \$50 (4)

13782 Decoursey Pike, Morning View, KY 41063
Phone 859-356-6530

Located in SE Kenton County on KY 177, South of Latonia

From Campbell County, KY 536 From Alexandria to KY 177 then south to the church.

Synod assembly won’t be secret, but won’t be open to press

Cindy Wooden

Catholic News Service

The Synod of Bishops is not a television show or a parliamentary debate, and its discussions will not be open to the public or to reporters, Pope Francis said.

“We must safeguard the synodal climate,” the pope responded Sept. 4 when asked by journalists about access to the discussions at the assembly of the Synod of Bishops Oct. 4-29.

“This isn’t a television program where you talk about everything; no, it is a religious moment, a religious exchange,” he told reporters flying back to Rome with him from Mongolia.

The synod process began in October 2021 with a succession of listening sessions on the parish, diocesan, national and regional levels focused on creating a more “synodal Church,” where each person feels welcomed, valued and called to contribute and to share the Gospel.

After so many Catholics around the world devoted their time and their prayers to the process, an initial idea was to livestream the general discussions from the synod hall or at least allow reporters some access.

Pope Francis made it clear on the plane that would not happen. An official summary of the day’s discussions — without saying who said what — will be made by the synod’s communication committee, led by Paolo Ruffini, prefect of the Vatican Dicastery for Communication.

Beyond the anonymous, summarized points, journalists will try to interview participants to at least get individual points of view about the day’s synod work.

Pope Francis told reporters that each synod member — including women and laymen for the first time — would have three or four minutes to address the assembly. Each address will be followed by three or four minutes of silence “for prayer.”

“Without this spirit of prayer, there is no synodality, it’s just politics, parliamentarianism,” he said.

Having a committee summarize the discussions for the press is necessary “to safeguard the religiosity (of the synod) and safeguard the freedom of those who speak” but may not want to do so publicly, he said.

“But more open than that, I don’t know,” he said. “The commission will be very respectful of the speeches of each person and will try not to gossip, but to recount things about how the synod is progressing that are constructive for the Church.”

Protecting God’s Children for Adults Safe Environment Trainings

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

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

Step 2: Go to www.virtus.org and click on Registration. Follow the prompts to create an account and to request a background check. Selection.com is a secure site; the background check is posted on your account and you receive a copy if you request it during the registration process. You will sign up for a VIRTUS training class during the registration.

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

Bulletins:

■ September bulletin: posted Sunday, Sept. 3; due Tuesday, Oct. 3.

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:

■ Sunday, Sept. 10, 1– 3:30 p.m., St. Edward School, Cafeteria, Cynthia

■ Wednesday, Sept. 20, 1:30–4 p.m., Catholic Charities, Training Room, Latonia

■ Wednesday, Sept. 27, 9–11:30 a.m., Diocesan Curia, Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, Covington

■ Wednesday, Sept. 27, 6–8:30 p.m., Diocesan Curia, Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, Covington

■ Tuesday, Oct. 17, 9–11:30 a.m., Diocesan Curia, Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, Covington

■ Tuesday, Oct. 17, 6–8:30 p.m., Diocesan Curia, Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, Covington

■ **VIRTUS Coordinator meeting**, Thursday, Sept. 21, Curia, Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, 3:30–5:30 p.m.

Note: If your **Training Tab** is missing or you cannot access your account, contact your parish, school or institution.

For other difficulties, contact Marylu Steffen at (859) 392-1500 or msteffen@covdio.org

World Youth Day in Lisbon

(Continued from page 5)

My fourth presentation was the next day at a gorgeous church in downtown Lisbon. Five hundred or so young people were packed into that space for one of the official dialogue-catecheses.

This year, Pope Francis wanted the bishops not simply to speak to the youth but to enter into conversation with them. My formal discourse was on the true nature of freedom. In the presence of an eerily lifelike statue of John Paul II perched against the side wall, I told the crowd that authentic freedom is not doing what one pleases but instead the disciplining of desire so as to make the achievement of the good first possible and then effortless.

As obvious examples, I laid out the process whereby one becomes a free speaker of a foreign language or a free player of the piano or a free golfer. In all of those cases, freedom is tantamount to the interiorization of the relevant disciplines, laws, and practices — and most certainly not to mere liberty or license. I very much enjoyed the subsequent discussion I had with a panel of young people. Our topic was social media, and I was not altogether surprised to hear that their assessment was decidedly more negative than positive.

The fifth and final talk was a session with a large group of well over a thousand. At the Pope's request, this gathering was to be more contemplative than instructional.

Thus, there was a Eucharistic procession and Benediction, and afterward, I spoke on the nature of prayer.

I emphasized that prayer is best construed as a conversation between friends, involving both talking and listening, both words and silence. I made the practical recommendations that they should take up the rosary and the Jesus Prayer and should make a daily Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament a priority.

In the midst of my pilgrimage, I made a visit to the Shrine at Fatima, located about an hour and a half outside of Lisbon. I found it to be one of those curiously radioactive places — like Lourdes, like Chartres, like Jerusalem — a spot where heaven and earth seemed to meet. Particularly moving to me were the tombs of the two shepherd children — Jacinta and Francisco — that are located in the basilica, not far from the little grove of trees where the Mother of God spoke to them in 1917.

I will admit that the week was a tad grueling: lots of speeches, lots of walking, enormous crowds of people everywhere. But it was exhilarating as well, and full of grace.

Bishop Robert Barron is bishop of the Diocese of Winona-Rochester, Minnesota. Article originally published at WordOnFire.org

A Catholic conscience

(Continued from page 7)

center stage but, the Church makes it clear that these are only two intrinsically evil positions out of several.

I can't suggest strongly enough that all faithful Catholics in the United States download or read online the entire teaching of our Bishops found in "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship." It will help you make an informed decision about who to vote for and, possibly, make you feel more comfortable with your choice.

You can find the document at: www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/upload/forming-consciences-for-faithful-citizenship.pdf.

Join me in praying for our country and our Church. May God bless you always!

Deacon Peter Freeman is assigned to St. Philip Parish, Melbourne.

Moving? Wrong address?

Call the circulation desk,
(859) 392-1570

SHOPPER'S GUIDE

Hancock Drain Service Inc.

#1 in the #2 Business



- Residential and Commercial
- All Types of Drains
 - Problem Lines
 - Preventive Maintenance
 - Sump Pump Lines
 - Jetting, Filming and Locating

(859) 356-6811

info@hancockdrainserviceinc.com

Austin Kunz Construction

DRAINAGE SYSTEMS

- ◆ French Drains
- ◆ Culverts
- ◆ Downspout Extensions
- ◆ Swales
- ◆ Catch Basins
- ◆ Channel Drains

CONCRETE WORK

- ◆ Driveways
- ◆ Patios
- ◆ Stamped
- ◆ Cleaning & Sealing

EXCAVATING - GRADING - TRENCHING
RETAINING WALLS - BOBCAT WORK - GRAVEL DRIVES
STUMP GRINDING - WATER LINE REPLACEMENT

Residential (859) 815-0779 Free Estimates
Commercial St. Barbara Parishioner Fully Insured

Tom Rechtin
Heating & Air Conditioning

www.tomrechtin.com
(859) 261-8269

Master HVAC #M04784

PLUMBING • HEATING • AIR CONDITIONING • INDOOR AIR QUALITY

Over 95 Years of Family Owned Service!



Call 859.757.4779 • www.skpha.com

America's Choice in Homecare.

Visiting Angels
LIVING ASSISTANCE SERVICES

Caregivers with character!

Reliable caregivers provide up to 24 hour non-medical care in your home. Hygiene assistance, meals, light housework, companionship. Affordable rates. Top Background Checks.

Cindy Seshier-Director
1099 Burlington Pike, Florence KY ▪ (859) 647-6770

ARC ELECTRIC
AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING, INC.

24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE
Since 1953

ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS • HEATING SYSTEMS • AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEMS

- New installations • Repair all makes and models
- Clean & Service • Humidifiers
- Oil or Propane • Radiant or Gas Heat
- Electronic Air Cleaner • Hot Water Heat Systems

441-7161
www.arcelevac.com

YORK
INSTALL CONFIDENCE
Licensed Master HVAC Contractor M02125

Elite
Tree & Construction Group

TREE SPECIALIST
Tree Removal * Pruning * Stump Grinding
Fully Insured
Call or Text (859) 308-9843

Homewatch CareGivers

859-372-1200
hwcg.com/NorthernKentucky

RAW Financial

859-415-0991
Guiding You Through Retirement

541 Buttermilk Pike, Ste. 108
Crescent Springs, KY 41017
www.rawefinancialgroup.com
randyrawe@rawefinancialgroup.com

Randy, Linda & Eric Rawe

Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/ SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser.

BLAU MECHANICAL, INC.
Heating & Piping
Hot Water Steam Vapor
1532 Russell St., Cov. 291-3159

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

Call Chuck at the **MESSENGER** to place your ad in the SHOPPER'S GUIDE. **(859) 392-1572**

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

HOUSE CLEANING

Isn't it time you come clean? We don't cut corners, we clean them. Insured and bonded.
Discount for senior citizens and first-time clients.

Call (859) 760-6408.

GERDES CONCRETE & MASONRY

CONCRETE — Driveways, sidewalks, steps, patios, stamped concrete.
MASONRY — Cultured stone, retaining walls, brick pavers, foundation, fireplace, brick & chimney repairs. MISC. — Mini-excavator, Bob Cat & drainage work. Quality work & ref. Call **Bill**, (859) 331-4733.
Messenger advertiser since 1993.

CAFETERIA MANAGERS- DIOCESE OF COVINGTON SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

The Diocese of Covington School Lunch Program is currently seeking dedicated Cafeteria Managers to join our team at St. Anthony, Taylor Mill, and St. Joesph, Crescent Springs. The important role of Cafeteria Manager contributes to the successful operation of our school lunch program, ensuring the provision of nutritious meals to our students.

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

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

I WANT TO BUY A CAR

Subcompact/compact car. Under 10,000 miles.
Good condition. Local driving only
Contact Sarah (859) 640-5616 or segood03@gmail.com

Good Job Remodeling LLC and Handyman

Now accepting small to large jobs.
Free Estimates. Licensed and insured.
Call Steven at (859) 801-9925

Marco Island, FL

3-min. walk to beach. 1st floor fully furnished 2BR, 2 bath condo. Contact angie@earlfranksflooring.com or (859) 801-8691 for pricing, pictures & availability.
View at [EarlFranksFlooringFacebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/EarlFranksFlooring)

THE NOTRE DAME URBAN EDUCATION CENTER

Is looking for Tutors and students. If you love seeing children learn and have a couple hours a week free, NDUEC is a great place to volunteer.

If your child struggles to get their homework completed each day NDUEC is the place for them.

Tutoring sessions begin September 5th, runs Monday-Thursday 3-5. If interested in either one please call **859-261-4487** for more information.

Moore's Painting

The Company you feel safe with

Interior & exterior painting.
In business since 1988. Members of St. Augustine Parish.

Moore's Painting — Union, Ky. — (859) 512-7398

The Bill & Betsy



Adult Day Health Care & Medicaid Transportation

31 Spiral Drive, Florence, Ky

We are **HIRING!**

As a medical model adult day care, we also provide daily transportation to and from not only our center, but also for individuals who have jobs in the community and we need you!

We have a part time transportation position open 15-20 hours per week. Duties includes daily maintenance of buses, some light maintenance work and PRN driving (coverage for vacations, etc.) Hourly rate \$15.50 per hour for daily duties, \$17 per hour for PRN driving duties. Ability to drive a bus a must. This is a wheelchair lift accessible bus. Does not require a CDL. No holidays, no weekends, no evenings! Training provided. Contact Kym Hodge, Transportation Manager at 859-525-1128 or email her at khodge@csadultday.org

SEE THE ABLE, NOT THE LABEL

Part of The Point/Arc Family of Programs



Gulf Shores, AL Beachfront Condominium Rentals

1-2-3 bed beachfront units and 4 bed beach resort house. Owner direct rates save you \$S!! Call or text Chris or Larry Ashley at 1 (502) 396-2287.
B.A. Beach Properties—Your Kentucky Condo Connection!

ST. STEPHEN CEMETERY GRAVE SPACE FOR SALE

Section 23. Block C. Lot 303. Grave #1. Asking \$1,400.00.
Contact Janet Green (937) 725-6413
E Mail greenjanet6413@yahoo.com


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 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.

Jail Ministry Coordinator
include: Develop and maintain resources that address needs of the incarcerated, the newly released, and their families; Provide a diocesan framework for the recruitment, certification and training of volunteers to participate in jail/prison ministry; coordinate and lead the jail ministry advisory committee and engage with members to provide support to jail ministry volunteers; participate in the Northern Kentucky Reentry Team; and monitor and provide support to the family support group. Necessary qualifications include bachelor's degree in a human service field; Experience in pastoral ministry preferred; Ability to network and coordinate activities with community partners dedicated to working with prisoners, ex-offenders, and their families; Knowledge and understanding of community resources in Northern Kentucky; Strong boundaries, communication skills and excellent with details.

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.





Join Care Net's life-affirming team!

Pregnancy Services of Northern Kentucky

Part-Time RDMS Nurse Manager
Perform limited obstetric ultrasounds and STI testing. RN & RDMS licenses required. 12-18 hrs/wk, 1st shift, Mon-Thurs.

Part-Time RDMS Advocate
Perform limited obstetric ultrasounds. Active registry status & sonography certification required. 12-18 hrs/wk, 1st shift, Mon-Thurs.

Part-Time Business/Community Liaison
Help build financial support for Care Net. 15 hrs/wk, Mon-Thurs.

Visit carenetnky.org/employment, scan the code or call (859) 431-9178.



Call Chuck at the *Messenger* for information on placing your ad in the Classified Advertisements.
(859) 392-1572

Family Faith Formation serves

(Continued from page 1)

field to talk with parents and to provide them with age-appropriate resources to go home and begin conversations with their children.

“Father Boelscher really wants to help families that are raising children,” said Sally Zeck, principal, St. Joseph School, Crescent Springs. “We want to make sure that everybody knows that they’re invited. We want to pack the church.”

The first speaker in the series will be Allen Hunt, a member of the Dynamic Catholic Board of Directors and former pastor of a mega church. Mr. Hunt will be speaking on the topic “Why Belong? The Importance of a Church Community.” All presentations are from 6:30–7:45 p.m. and are held at St. Joseph Church, Crescent Springs.

Mrs. Zeck said that the speaker series has been organized by Father Boelscher and Jennifer Zumbiel, a parishioner and mother of four. An important part of the series is what happens after the talk, when the parents return home – that’s where the transformational conversations take place. To help parents implement these conversations, Father Boelscher and Mrs. Zumbiel have created resources to help guide the process.

These resources are especially important said Ellen Beiersdorfer, assistant principal. “When you get home you’re like, I’m not sure how to implement that. You can forget about what you’ve learned because you’re going back into your life. These resources will encourage you so that doesn’t happen.”

While the series is designed to help parents lead their families in faith, two of the topics focus on very practical challenges parents today are facing that their parents did not. On Nov. 8, Abby Schaber, a licensed clinical counselor and owner of Brightside Counseling, will speak about “Anxiety, Depression, Bullying and a Path to Prevention and Peace.” On Feb. 7, Chris McKenna, founder and CEO of Protect Young Eyes will speak on “Protecting Young Eyes and Creating Safer Digital Spaces.” For a complete list of topics and dates see the box at right.

“Growing in faith shouldn’t be optional for Catholics, it’s foundation to who we are,” said Mrs. Zeck. “This is your family. If you want to raise strong Catholic individuals, we want to help you. We’re bringing people to St. Joe’s that are going to be able to help you and give you guidance.”

There is no cost to attend, and reservations are not required. Simply show up with an open mind and open heart.

McHale's

EVENTS AND CATERING

every detail, every event, every time

859.442.7776

www.mchalecatering.com

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.

OCTOBERFEST

PRESENTED BY STS. PETER AND PAUL CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 23

Hickory Grove Picnic Grounds • 6PM–11PM

2780 Wagoner Road California, KY 41007

BANDS • Steve McDaniel (6–8PM) • Eagle Creek Bluegrass Band (8–11PM)

BEER, SOFT DRINKS, BRATTS, METTS, HOT DOGS,
PRETZELS & BEER CHEESE

NO ADMISSION CHARGE

NO COOLERS ALLOWED • PLEASE BRING A CHAIR

IKW

MECHANICAL, INC.

A Wischer Family Company

(859) 261-1100

KWMechanical.com

- Electric
- Plumbing
- Heating &
- Air Conditioning

Residential Service Experts Since 1987

“Specializing in residential and commercial plumbing repair parts”

Specialized Plumbing Parts Supply Inc.

921 Dudley Road

Edgewood, KY 41017

(859) 341-6666

We now stock a complete line of home health aides that include elevated toilet seats, grab bars and personal showers.

‘Courageous Catholic medicine’ needed more than ever

Maria Wiering
OSV News

When a group of health care professionals opened a Catholic medical clinic in De Pere, Wisconsin, in 2015, it took overcoming logistical and financial hurdles, and the opinions of skeptics who questioned a need for it at all. “The large majority of people thought it would take a miracle to start a clinic like this,” said Dr. Robin Goldsmith, St. Gianna Clinic’s co-founder and medical director. “Many, many people felt there was no need for such a clinic. They didn’t understand what the difference would be or what the purpose would be.”

Eight years later, the comprehensive primary care clinic has a robust patient roster, serving people of all faith and no faith, Goldsmith said, with the tagline “Truly Excellent. Always Faithful.” But the move required courage — a virtue needed like never before, say Catholics in the medical profession. “Be Not Afraid: Courageous Catholic Medicine” is the theme of the Catholic Medical Association’s 92nd annual educational conference Sept. 7-9 in Phoenix. This year’s conference chairman Dr. Timothy Millea said the theme was chosen in 2020, and in the short time since, ethical, ideological and legal issues have mounted.

“The last two-and-a-half, three years have been relentless for us,” said Millea, a retired orthopedic spine surgery specialist in Davenport, Iowa. “We’re dealing with all of the abortion-related issues, national and state.” In addition to challenges to Catholic consciences posed by multiple federal agencies, he added the CMA is facing the push for “assisted suicide, state by state.”

The conference aims to hold up models of courage who put their Catholic faith and values at the heart of their work, sometimes at the risk of reputation and professional opportunities.

“We’re here at this point in time, in history, for a reason,” said Millea, who also chairs the CMA’s health care policy committee. “Silence is basically surrender, and we’ve got to be in the game on this.”

Millea said the phrase “be not afraid” recalls St. John Paul II’s homily from his 1978 papal inauguration Mass, where the newly elected pope urged the faithful to have courage through Jesus Christ.

“We need to remember it’s time for us to show up, stand up and speak up, and that’s in a voice — as we’re all called to do — with charity and clarity, looking for the good of the others,” Millea said of medical professionals. “And they may vehemently disagree with us, they may attack us in so many different ways. But that doesn’t mean we don’t continue bringing that message.”

Catholic medical professionals need not only courage but also conviction about their values and how their faith informs the care they provide, Millea said.

“Courage is not really optional. If it was optional, we wouldn’t have a Catholic Church today,” he said, noting that all Catholics can find inspiration in the courage of the apostles and church fathers.

In addition to policy concerns — especially safeguarding robust conscience protections amid pushback from members of Congress, federal courts and the Biden administration — CMA members are concerned that changes to residency program expectations or board-certification requirements may affect Catholic doctors and medical professionals pursuing particular fields, Millea said.

“You have a medical student that wants to become an OB-GYN, but he or she is very pro-life. We’re on the cusp of a situation where residency programs won’t take them” because they will not participate in abortions, he said.

“We are really losing the freedom to choose not just our career pathway, but we’re being impeded from ... committing to our beliefs,” Millea said. “When that ideology and those types of counterproductive goals are being proposed by the political and legislative and judicial processes, it doesn’t matter what the channel is it’s coming through. We’ve got to counter it, whether it’s at a local school board level, or whether it’s at the level of the White House or Capitol Hill.”

Pediatricians, Millea said, are especially under pressure to provide “gender-affirming care” for children and teens, as recommended by the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics. Aspiring pediatricians who believe transgender interventions on minors are unethical may be impeded or barred from entering that speciality, he said.

In March, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ doctrine committee released guidance to Catholic health care institutions that addressed as an “immediate concern” medical care for treatment of “gender dysphoria,” especially “surgical or chemical techniques that aim to exchange the sex characteristics of a patient’s body for those of the opposite sex or for simulations thereof.”

Such interventions should not be performed, the document said, because they “do not respect the fundamental order of the human person as an intrinsic unity of body and soul, with a body that is sexually differentiated.”

Challenges to Catholic beliefs across the health care landscape have prompted some CMA members to explore creative ways to practice medicine.

Goldsmith said there are about a dozen other clinics in the United States like St. Gianna Clinic, with an explicitly Catholic mission and adherence to the “Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services” outlined by the USCCB.

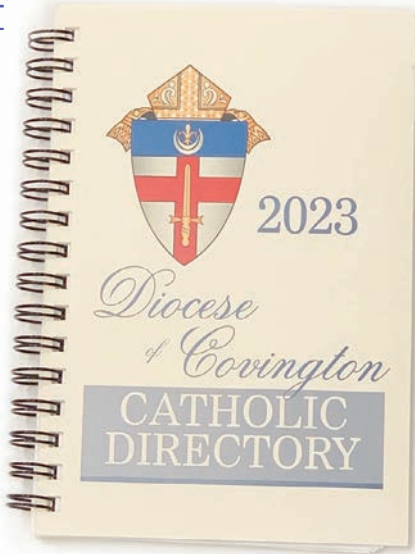
“There is a great desire among health care professionals to be able to practice according to the faith,” said Goldsmith, who is giving a plenary talk at the CMA conference.

Have the Diocese at your fingertips

Purchase the official 2023 Diocese of Covington Catholic Directory

The directory features:

- Diocesan statistics
- Names and contact information for all the priests of the Diocese
- Priest birthdays and ordination days
- Information on local communities of Women Religious, including the names of Sisters
- Parish information including Mass and confession times
- School information
- Brief biographies of the Diocese’s 11 Bishops
- Plus an advertisers section for your next home project



Call Chuck at (859) 392-1572 or
e-mail Cbrinkman@covdio.org

Only \$20

MR. SPOTLESS
CARWASH

WIN A BRAND NEW
2024 TAHOE



*Unlimited members are automatically entered
mrspotlesscarwash.com/tahoesweepstakes

NEWS BRIEFS

National/World

Across the nation, aborted children will be remembered and mourned

PHILADELPHIA — A coast-to-coast observance this month will commemorate the souls of children lost to abortion. The National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children will take place Sept. 9, with services and gatherings at some 225 locations across the country. About 56 of those locations are gravesites for the remains of aborted children, while the majority are memorials. Now in its 15th year, the event — which is annually held on the second Saturday of September — is jointly sponsored by two Midwestern-based organizations, Citizens for a Pro-life Society in Michigan and the Pro-Life Action League in Illinois. Tracing its origins to the 1988 burial of some 1,200 aborted babies at Holy Cross Cemetery in Milwaukee, the occasion — which was initiated in 2013 — has become “an important opportunity for healing from abortion,” Eric Scheidler, executive director of the Pro-Life Action League, told OSV News. Participants have “really appreciated” the chance to “put the focus on the children’s lives and express sorrow at their passing,” he said. For women who have had abortions, the chance to express their “regret and mourning” is cathartic, Scheidler said. He noted the events take place in “locations already set up for difficult emotional experiences: churches and cemeteries,” where “we expect people to shed tears.” “Whether you were pushed into that choice, or you made it yourself, the reality is that abortion is an incredible tragedy,” said Scheidler, noting that a willingness to face such pain offers a chance to “reconcile with our pasts ... and to ask for God’s healing, to come and infuse our memories and experiences, and transform us.”

‘We will recover’ after arson strikes historic Oregon church

SALEM, Ore. — Oregon’s Catholic archbishop joined some 300 faithful for Mass in the rain, hours after a devastating fire had heavily damaged their historic church in Salem. “My heart is really just filled with emotion,” said a visibly moved Archbishop Alexander K. Sample of Portland, adding he was “deeply saddened by what has happened to your house.” An overnight fire that broke out Aug. 31 destroyed the roof and interior portions of

St. Joseph Catholic Church, the oldest Catholic parish in downtown Salem, Oregon. No casualties were reported. The fire was quickly ruled an arson and Billy James Sweeten, 48, was apprehended and charged with first-degree arson. “This is a sad day,” St. Joseph’s pastor Father Jeff Meeuwsen told local media, speaking just before he joined Archbishop Sample and faithful for an Aug. 31 afternoon Mass, celebrated in the church parking lot under pop-up tents and a huddle of umbrellas. ”

Polish family’s beatification highlights debate over church’s wartime role

WARSAW, Poland — When Józef and Wiktoria Ulma are beatified with their children Sept. 10, eight decades after they were shot by Nazis for sheltering Jews in their farmhouse near the village of Markowa in southeastern Poland, it will be a graphic reminder of the heroism shown by many Catholic Poles during the Holocaust. “Under communism, no public discussion was allowed about what really happened here during World War II — systematic research only started later,” explained Father Piotr Mazurkiewicz, a former secretary-general of COMECE, the Commission of the Bishops’ Conferences of the European Union. “This lack of a Polish voice in post-War debates on the Holocaust generated false views about events in Poland,” the priest said. “In today’s secularized conditions, things are changing and there’s growing interest in why people risked their lives for others, very often in acts of religious witness.” The case of the Ulmas is just one of many brought to light by recent research. Wiktoria was pregnant with the couple’s seventh child, and villagers who buried the bodies report that Wiktoria had begun to give birth during the massacre. And while some experts have warned against exaggerating the extent of help given to Jews, others have welcomed the opportunity to establish a more accurate record of wartime events.” Alina Petrowa-Wasilewicz, a Catholic journalist and author, told OSV News, “Proper work is now being done, taking Polish perspectives into account and the heavy price paid by many, including hundreds of priests and nuns who risked their lives to rescue persecuted Jews.”

As ‘hands and feet of Christ,’ Catholic Charities helps Floridians

PERRY, Florida — Catholic aid workers are rolling up their

sleeves to help tens of thousands after Tropical Storm Idalia slammed into the nation’s Southeast. “I just feel horrible for residents, that they had to go through this,” Matthew Knee, president and CEO of Catholic Charities of Northwest Florida, told OSV News. Initially a Category 4 hurricane, Idalia made landfall Aug. 30, hitting Florida’s Big Bend area — where the state’s panhandle meets its peninsula — as a Category 3 tropical storm, and the largest to touch down in the Big Bend area in more than 125 years. Although no fatalities as yet have been reported, Idalia caused flooding, wind damage and record-level storm surges, leaving more than 400,000 customers in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina without power. Knee, who spoke with OSV News by phone as he visited affected communities, said Catholic Charities was working to provide both immediate emergency assistance as well as long-term recovery, as part of “(keeping) people in their homes and in their communities” and “serving the poorest of the poor.” That work is “in our blood; it’s who we are and what we do,” said Knee. “We are the hands and feet of Christ.”

Excitement about 2024’s National Eucharistic Congress is growing

INDIANAPOLIS — Local and national organizers of the National Eucharistic Congress — which will take place in Indianapolis July 17-21, 2024 — have been meeting virtually for some time. But for the first time, scores of them met in person in Indianapolis Aug. 30 at Lucas Oil Stadium, where in less than a year tens of thousands Catholics will gather for the closing Mass of the historic event — the first such event in 83 years. The congress will launch the third year of a three-year National Eucharistic Revival, an initiative of the U.S. Catholic bishops to renew devotion to the Eucharist. “The Holy Spirit is inviting the United States to find unity and renewal through a grassroots National Eucharistic Revival,” Jaime Reyna, event lead for the National Eucharistic Congress, said, quoting remarks from a letter written by executive director Tim Glemkowski. “This movement — discerned and approved by the bishops of the U.S. — is critical to rekindling a living faith in the hearts of Catholics across America, unleashing a new missionary chapter at this pivotal moment in church history. ... The goal is to start a fire, not a program.” More than 25,000 have already registered for the event, said Reyna. “We just have a lot of people who are excited about gathering.”



SEPTEMBER

15

6 PM to 11 PM

16

5:30 PM to Midnight

17

12:30 PM to 6 PM

• ST. TIMOTHY PARISH, UNION •

FRIDAY

DANCE NIGHT!

OPENER:
Ruca

HEADLINER:
Crown Watts

GREAT FOOD
RIDES & GAMES

SATURDAY

ROCK NIGHT!

OPENER:
Dylan Vaughn

HEADLINER:
The Whammies

LIVE MUSIC!

SUNDAY

FUN DAY!

The Charitables
WITH SPECIAL GUEST
Steve Cifford
and Friends

DUCK RACES\$

THANK YOU TO OUR
2023 SPONSORS!













SEMINARY BALL



OCTOBER 27, 2023

NORTHERN KENTUCKY
CONVENTION CENTER

NEW THIS YEAR

Cocktail Hour – Light Hors D'oeuvres

Complimentary Bar: 6:00-11:00 p.m.
Wine, Beer, Soft Drinks and Water

Cocktail Hour Ballroom
will re-open for socializing
after the program

“THE ALMIGHTY

HAS DONE GREAT THINGS FOR ME.” LUKE 1:49

REGISTER/LEARN MORE AT • COVDIO.ORG/SEMINARYBALL • 859-392-1500