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Children & Families  
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Missed an edition? Current and back issues of the *Messenger* are available online at [covdio.org/messenger](http://covdio.org/messenger).



CNS photo/Paul Haring

Pope Francis uses incense to venerate an image of St. Therese of Lisieux during a prayer vigil in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Oct. 1, 2019. "Joy is not found in the things which surround us, but lives only in the soul," St. Therese once said.

## St. Thérèse teaches simplicity, love, trust, pope says in apostolic exhortation

### Catholic News Service

St. Thérèse of Lisieux, long one of Pope Francis' favorite saints, teaches Christians "the little way" of love, self-giving, concern for others and complete trust in the mercy of God, the pope said in a new document. "At a time when human beings are obsessed with grandeur and new forms of power, she points out to us the little way," he wrote. "In an age that casts aside so many of our brothers and sisters, she teaches us the beauty of concern and responsibility for one another." Published Oct. 15, the pope's letter is titled, "C'est la Confiance," the opening words of her phrase, "It is confidence

and nothing but confidence that must lead us to Love." The papal letter is subtitled, "On confidence in the merciful love of God." The pope wrote that "at a time of great complexity, she can help us rediscover the importance of simplicity, the absolute primacy of love, trust and abandonment, and thus move beyond a legalistic or moralistic mindset that would fill the Christian life with rules and regulations and cause the joy of the Gospel to grow cold."

To read the entire document visit the *Messenger* website at [covdio.org/messenger](http://covdio.org/messenger).

## After SUMMIT 23 success, diocesan youth invited for 'follow up' THRIVE Worship Night

Maura Baker  
Staff Writer

Following the success of the SUMMIT 23 Eucharistic retreat for high schoolers early this October, retreatants are eager for ongoing experiences of community, praise and worship and Eucharistic adoration, said Angie Poat, diocesan youth minister.

"Efforts are underway to network and empower students and



adult mentors to provide follow-up experiences, particularly THRIVE events, YDisciple small groups and regional and deanery youth ministry," she said.

THRIVE! is a ministry initiative introduced by Ms. Poat when she came into the role of diocesan youth minister, with objectives to foster and grow youth ministry and ministers within the Diocese of

Covington.

As a follow up to the aforementioned SUMMIT 23, a THRIVE! Worship Night will be held for high schoolers and college students alike, upcoming Oct. 28, 6-8 p.m. at Thomas More University's Steigerwald Hall. The night will be "an uplifting night of faith and friendship," said Ms. Poat, and will include chances to connect with others in faith, praise and worship music, Eucharistic Adoration, and, of course, pizza.

"This month, THRIVE is nestled between the recent high school SUMMIT 23 Eucharistic Retreat and the upcoming National Catholic Youth Conference in which four busloads of high school pilgrims will be traveling to Indianapolis. While both are often life changing experiences, they are infrequent," said Ms. Poat.

However, THRIVE! events are regular within the Diocese, and aim to "develop strong Catholic communities among youth and form leaders ... this month's THRIVE! is a timely follow-up and reunion for SUMMIT attendees and a great kick-off event for NCYC pilgrims. It is free, accessible and provides young people the valuable time and space to connect through authentic friendships, music and prayer experiences."



# St. Vincent de Paul Northern Kentucky honors two long-time Vincentians

Laura Keener  
Editor

St. Vincent de Paul Northern Kentucky (SVdPNKY) hosted its annual Feast Day celebration at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, Sept. 23. This year also marks the Centennial anniversary of St. Vincent de Paul Northern Kentucky.

Every year, a Vincentian is honored with the Norb DeJaco Vincentian Service Award. Clarence Martin of St. Joseph Parish in Cold Spring is this year’s honoree.

Mr. Martin has been part of St. Vincent de Paul for more than 30 years. The reason for his longevity, he said, “it’s just the overwhelming requests that we get on a weekly basis, not only in our parish but also the whole Northern Kentucky Society finds an awful lot of people that need help.”

His peers describe him as compassionate, fair and someone who always gives generously of his time. Mr. Martin is known to deliver groceries, furniture and other basic needs to those he has served. He has used his handy-man skills to help those he visits, even replacing windows.

“We are one of the very few agencies that make home visits,” Mr. Martin said, explaining that from the parish councils, two Vincentians visit the homes of needy families to accommodate the requested need and to pray with the family. It’s not unusual for the home visit to uncover additional, sometimes even more urgent, needs. “We’ll get in there and find that the children don’t have proper clothing or even beds ... the children will be sleeping on the floor,” said Mr. Martin. Vincentians are usually able to fulfill these needs too.

The Society also recognized its longest serving Vincentian, Bill Schawe of St. Anthony Parish in Taylor Mill. He started his Vincentian vocation in 1949.

“I was in high school and they only had two people in St. Vincent and they talked me into it,” said Mr. Schawe. “I was just helping them out, helping the needy.”

For over 30 years, Mr. Schawe drove the St. Vincent de



Clarence Martin

Paul truck in the wee hours on Thursday mornings to pick up over 250 cases of pizzas to bring back to the SVdPNKY distribution center; so that other Northern Kentucky agencies could give pizzas to those in need. Today, you will find Mr. Schawe unloading the cases of pizzas from the truck and then loading them into the cars of the other partner agencies.

Mr. Schawe encourages others to consider joining the Vincentians at their parish. “If you’ve got the time it’s well worth it helping people,” he said. “We help some really



Bill Schawe

poor families.”

“We celebrate the Feast Day of St. Vincent de Paul by honoring our Vincentians who are committed to loving their neighbors through service,” said Karen Zengel, executive director of SVdPNKY. “We value the opportunity to gather and reflect on St. Vincent’s de Paul’s approach to ministry, which we incorporate into everything we do.”

To learn more about St. Vincent de Paul Northern Kentucky, their work to support local neighbors in need, and how you can become a Vincentian, visit [svdpnky.org](http://svdpnky.org).

Cooley photos



## Candlelight Mass

The October Candlelight Mass was held Oct. 6 at Divine Mercy Parish, Bellevue. Father Martin Pitstick, pastor, was the celebrant and Alexis Hendy, parishioner at Divine Mercy Parish, was the lector. October is the month of the rosary and following Mass congregation processed around the church and into the courtyard praying the rosary. Candlelight Masses are held on first Fridays until June. Confessions are at 6 p.m., Mass at 7 p.m. and a young adult social follows Mass. The next Candlelight Masses will be at St. Patrick Parish, Maysville, Nov. 3 and at St. Joseph Parish, Crescent Springs, Dec. 1. The diocesan Office of Catechesis and Evangelization and The Angelico Project organizes the event.





# Is your child anxious, depressed or bullied? Explore a path to peace at St. Joseph Parish, Crescent Springs

Laura Keener  
Editor

St. Joseph Parish, Crescent Springs, continues its Family Faith Formation series, Nov. 8. It's next speaker is Abby Schaber, a licensed professional Clinical Counselor and owner of Brightside Counseling. She will be speaking on "Anxiety, Depression, Bullying and a Path to Prevention and Peace."

"In a world where interactions take place online more and more and more it's become a more prevalent issue with students because it's (bullying) so easy to do anonymously," said Ellen Beiersdorfer, assistant principal. "We've seen struggles within our classrooms with understanding social interactions and how to handle these more challenging situations with their peers. It's definitely become a topic that is brought to us more and more by students, by parents, by teachers. I think there's absolutely a need in our community to talk about how to handle this with children."

The 75-minute talk will be held at St. Joseph Church and begins at 6:30 p.m. Everyone who has an interest in the health and wellness of children is welcome to attend.



**ABBY SCHABER**  
ANXIETY, DEPRESSION,  
BULLYING & A PATH TO  
PREVENTION & PEACE

**November 8, 2023**  
6:30 - 7:45



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

*\*All parents from every grade  
are encouraged to attend.*



Acolyte installation

Seminarians from Saint Vincent Seminary, Latrobe, Pennsylvania, were instituted into the Ministry of Acolyte Oct. 11 by Most Rev. Jacques Fabre-Jeune, C.S., Bishop of the Diocese of Charleston, South Carolina. Among those instituted was Henry Bischoff of the Diocese of Covington. He is pictured, left, with Bishop Fabre-Jeune, center, and seminary rector Father Edward Mazich, O.S.B.

### High School Open Houses

Prospective students and their parents are invited to explore academic opportunities at the Catholic high schools in the Diocese of Covington at an upcoming open house. Meet the teachers, visit the campus and discover ways that each student can be challenged academically, while developing their faith life.

**Oct. 22**  
Villa Madonna Academy,  
Villa Hills, 1–3 p.m.  
(grades K–12)

**Oct. 29**  
Bishop Brossart High  
School, Alexandria,  
1–3:30 p.m.  
  
Covington Latin School,  
Covington, 1 p.m. and  
3 p.m.

**Nov. 5**  
Covington Catholic High  
School, Ft. Wright,  
1–3:30 p.m.  
  
Notre Dame Academy, Park  
Hills, 1–3 p.m.

**Nov. 8**  
Newport Central Catholic  
High School, Newport,  
6–8 p.m.

**Nov. 9**  
Holy Cross District High  
School, Covington,  
6:30 p.m.

**Nov. 19**  
St. Henry District High  
School, Erlanger, 1–5 p.m.

**Schedule a visit**  
St. Patrick School,  
Maysville, Contact the  
school


### 40 Hour Devotion

This year, the three-year Eucharistic Revival is in its parish phase. To help unite parishes around the Eucharist, Bishop John Iffert, at the request of the diocesan Worship Committee, has asked pastors to host 40 Hours of continual Eucharistic adoration.

These 40 Hours will be scheduled sometime during the year, from now until July 2024, when the revival culminates with a Eucharistic Congress, July 17–21, 2024, at Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis. Discounted tickets for the Congress are available through the diocesan Office of Worship and Liturgy; an application is online at covdio.org.

### Upcoming 40 Hour Devotions

Oct. 20, 2023, St. Augustine Parish, Augusta  
Oct. 27, 2023, St. John Parish, Carrollton  
Nov. 3, 2023, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Burlington  
Nov. 17, 2023, St. Joseph Parish, Cold Spring  
May 3, 2024, St. Joseph Parish, Camp Springs  
(The schedule will be updated as needed.)



### Bishop's Schedule

**Oct. 21**  
St. John Cemetery Visitation,  
Ft. Mitchell, 10 a.m.  
  
St. Mary Cemetery Visitation,  
Ft. Mitchell, 11 a.m.  
  
St. Stephen Cemetery  
Visitation, Ft. Thomas,  
12:30 p.m.

**Oct. 22**  
Mass, Cathedral Basilica of  
the Assumption, Covington,  
10 a.m.

**Oct. 24–26**  
Collegial sharing among  
Bishops Conference, Sacred  
Heart School of Theology,  
Franklin, Wis

**Oct. 26**  
Diocesan Review Board  
meeting, 10 a.m.

**Oct. 27**  
Diocesan Board of Education  
meeting, 9 a.m.  
  
Seminary Ball, NKY  
Convention Center,  
Covington, 6 p.m.

**Oct. 28**  
Vigil Mass, Cathedral Basilica  
of the Assumption, 4:30 p.m.



# DCCH – A Christmas wish come

Ron Bertsch  
Contributor

Skylar, a thirteen-year-old blonde boy with fair complexion, met the Wilson family and changed all their lives. Skylar was a resident at DCCH Center in 2015.

To appreciate this unique story, let us back up. Kristin Wilson is described as an adventuresome, intelligent, kind, and compassionate woman. She has always wanted to help people, especially children! Growing up in Fort Wright as a teen, she had close family, great parents, two sisters and a brother. She attended St. Agnes and Notre Dame Academy.

As a young woman, Kristin took leave from college and traveled to Houston, Texas, working with La Casa de Esperanza de los Ninos. She started fostering two young children orphaned by the scourge of AIDS. Her community service has always been part of her life, including work in Cincinnati. Upon graduation from NKU, Kristin traveled first to Alaska working as victim advocate in a domestic violence shelter.

Kristin and her husband Rob settled back in Lakeside Park and had three children. Julia age ten, Ethan seven, and Sydney just five when she interviewed and was gladly hired as a case manager for the Therapeutic Foster Care Team at DCCH in 2009.

Her wonderful spirit of giving and kindness extended to all her families and youth she supervised. No surprise Kristin agreed to help when DCCH residential program sought additional staff to assist with youth to serve as a volunteer family so they could enjoy a Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday outside the campus walls. The Wilsons brought two girls from DCCH Center for earlier holidays, but Ethan would ask for a boy next time.

Now back to Fall of 2015, Kristin sat with Skylar and others during the annual HALO (Helping All Little Ones) pre-thanksgiving luncheon. HALO is a volunteer group that helps DCCH in countless ways.

Skylar’s therapist, Kerrie Brittingham, saw a connection and thought the Wilsons would be a good fit for Skylar’s holidays. That 2015 holiday season went so well; they continued serving as his mentor family. His permanency plan was still undecided.

Kristin completed her master’s degree and resigned from her case manager position in April 2016 for another job opportunity. However, the Wilsons continued volunteering with Skylar. Eventually, his plan became adoption.

Several options were considered but his bond with Ethan, and the entire Wilson family, including their extended relatives was strong. Rob and Kristin answered affirmatively to become his foster adopt family. They attended classes, underwent a home study, and Skylar moved in with them full-time on September 29, 2016. Later finalizing his adoption.

Ethan got his wish as years prior, he once wrote a letter to Santa, asking for a brother.

Young teen brothers, just a couple of months apart in age, Skylar and Ethan immediately found a common interest in the Magic Card game which became their favorite pastime. Rob finished remodeling to add another bedroom for Skylar. He seemed to fit into their family so easily, Kristin said. Skylar enjoyed many of the things the family enjoyed. Their family loved skiing and snow tub-



(above) The Rob and Kristin Wilson family.  
(left) Skylar at Grand Canyon on a family vacation



ing at Perfect North in the winter; and Skylar was excited to learn to snowboard. He even got his first job at age 15, working at the ski rental shop. When Kristin picked him up after his first day, he told her that Perfect North was about the best job a kid could ever have.

In the summer he loved camping with the family in their RV. He loved biking, hiking, swimming, and kayaking. It did not seem to matter where they went, he was as happy about visiting a state park in Pennsylvania as he was about visiting the Grand Canyon. He still likes to camp with the family today, and now he brings his little dog, Daisy with him.

The family reports that the Wilson home seems quieter. Both boys have moved out and are living on their own. Ethan is on the west coast, and Skylar lives in an apartment in Clifton. Kristin confided that he keeps it tidier, but anything is an improvement from how he kept his bedroom at home. Skylar works at a local restaurant and studies at Cincinnati State. He desires to become a chef.

The Wilsons have three open bedrooms and God only knows what use they might serve in the future!

Ronald M. Bertsch is director of Therapeutic Foster Care/Adoption for the DCCH Center for Children and Families, Ft. Mitchell.

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# DCCH – Going the extra mile

Ron Bertsch  
Contributor

Children in foster care is the best way to define Jenny and Jerry’s mission field.

They have two children by birth and over the years added eight more by adoption. Remarkably only two were biological brothers and they arrived years apart.

Jenny and Jerry Miles have fostered many other children and enjoy time with 12 grandchildren. This couple just celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary.

In August 2023, they welcomed one more young man from DCCH residential into their home. They stated that if this 13-year-old needs an adoptive home, he will stay.

In their own words, “we have found there to be a tremendous need for foster and adoptive parents. Hundreds of children are suffering from rejection in their lives, in need of a family. They are often confused but always need someone to love and care for them.”

The Miles family from Independence really go the extra mile when it comes to caring for these young men. In recent years, they have fostered and adopted only teen boys, a population of youth most new foster parents fear or perhaps for lack of confidence will not accept.

Jenny and Jerry said, “it takes time for the wounds of rejection to heal, however the rewards are great and the difference that you can make in the life of a child is awesome.” They advocate for this young male population.

The Miles have always been realistic, they do not accept more children than they can provide the utmost attention. They need time to acclimate comfortably with the family. This has meant one child every few years typically.

When they adopted a son in 2019, we at DCCH assumed that might be their final adoption. However, in 2023, Jerry reached out to us again and said we believe we have life in us to care for one more child. They recognized that their older sons had grown up and had successfully been launched, so space was available both in the home and in Jenny and Jerry’s schedule.

The Miles expressed that their health was good to keep on fostering. They had everyone’s approval and support, and Jerry’s teaching and coaching basketball allows him a direct influence on the youth they foster.

As the director of foster care/adoption at DCCH, I hear people claim they might be too old to foster or adopt. Jerry and Jenny who are 67 years old, is my proof that age is not necessarily the limiting factor in doing God’s work. Decent health, support system and a desire matter most. Folks who worry about finances should not, as health insurance and monthly stipends reimburse a foster family for most of the costs in caring for a child. Even through adoption financial help is available from Kentucky and federal funding.

Going the extra mile, Jerry presented at their church this past summer. Knowing his and Jenny’s time and talent to adopt more children is coming to an end, they wanted to help recruit the next generation of foster/adopt families.

Jerry challenged his fellow parishioners with this message, “we as Christians are called to be the light of the world, to be the salt of the earth. We are called to make a difference in this world.” Jerry quoted Scripture from James 1:27, “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.”

Jerry continued in his presentation, “If the Christian does not step up and give a child a home/a family, he said our adversary will. Jenny and I have worked with several foster care placement agencies before DCCH. Some others promote the world’s agenda in finding homes for these kids. He said DCCH Center for Children and Families located in Ft. Mitchell, the old St. John and St. Joseph Orphanages of year’s past is different. They are celebrating their 175th anniversary of caring for the needs of NKY children. We have found the staff of DCCH love kids and really care about the homes/families that they approve and place the children too. It is so important to find people who respect a biblical value system so the children do not end up in another broken family situation. The key word in all of this is love. God’s Word tells us that God is love and that we are supposed to love God with all our heart and to love others as ourselves.”

Consider joining us in this ministry of foster parenting, adoption, or mentoring youth. It is a one way to fulfil God’s commission to us. Please inquire, contact Ron Bertsch from DCCH at 859-331-2040 or gather more information at [www.dcchcenter.org](http://www.dcchcenter.org).

*Ronald M. Bertsch is director of Therapeutic Foster Care/Adoption for the DCCH Center for Children and Families, Ft. Mitchell.*

(right) Jerry and Jenny Miles





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1. Administrative support for COF fraternal outreach events and programming such as fall prevention classes for senior citizens, mission trips for college aged students, Spirituality Tap In talks in bars and coffee shops by Catholic Priests, and educational scholarships for all ages.
2. Assist in providing a Catholic overlay to the financial portfolios of the faithful through research, analysis, proposal preparation, and world class customer service.

This role offers career/advancement opportunities, training to get you up to speed on our processes, and is located in our beautiful, new office in Ft Mitchell. Our team values a culture of teamwork, personal development, fun, and the full embrace of Christ’s message of treating everyone in the image and likeness of God.

Interested in learning more? Contact Roger Bockweg, Catholic Order of Foresters, and let’s talk! You can email me at [rbockweg@catholicforester.org](mailto:rbockweg@catholicforester.org) or call or text me at 513-379-5315.

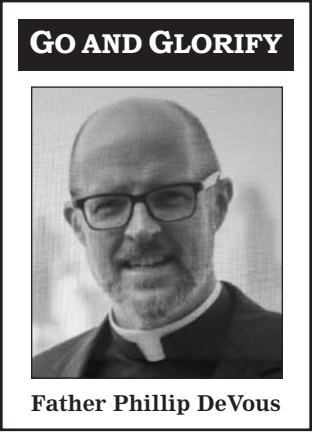


COMMENTARY

The will of God and the Eternal Word

“Almighty ever-living God, grant that we may always conform our will to yours...”

That is certainly a lovely and righteous prayer. It is also an aspiration that lies at the very heart of all the evangelization efforts of the Church: To show the world how to conform our will to the will of God and the way of Christ.



Father Phillip DeVous

However, there seems a powerful spirit in the air that equates “whatever we want right now” with the will of God. Whenever one interrogates this spirit, in whatever form it manifests itself, one notes a high degree of “presentism.”

Presentism is that notion that whatever everyone is excited or agitated about right now must somehow be a manifestation of the Holy Spirit, and thus, the will of God. The assumption of those enthralled by the spirit of presentism is, “of course this is what Christ wants for me and the for the Church.”

Authentic discernment must start with a first principle, the markers of which are given to us by the Prophet Isaiah: “For the sake of Jacob, my servant, of Israel, my chosen one, I have called you by your name, giving you a title, though you knew me not. I am the Lord and there is

no other; there is no God besides me.” To conform our will to God’s we must begin with the conviction — one that embodies a paradox — that God is totally other than me and immediately present to me. It is God who calls me, not I who calls God. Precisely because God is totally other than me, and all of creation, is it possible for God to be present to me.

This paradoxical reality is a mystery of the faith — a truth that we can perceive and engage with, but cannot exhaust with our limited, human understanding. Such a mystery is something that must be engaged and embodied in the life of faith more than it can be “understood” in the intellectual sense. Yet, that spirit of presentism wants to reduce the mystery and lighten the weight of the paradox, with the seeming aspiration of wanting to make a passing moment the “eternal present.”

St. Paul reminds the Church that the “gospel did not come to you in word alone, but also in power in the Holy Spirit and much conviction.” This is an important point for us to absorb as we seek to conform our will to God’s.

The Gospel, the faith, is not just a matter of words to be shaped to the demands of our present proclivities, but a Divine Revelation, meant to shape our preferences and direct our proclivities to the Divine. As the Second Vatican Council’s Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, “Dei Verbum,” teaches:

“In His goodness and wisdom God chose to reveal Himself and to make known to us the hidden purpose of His will (see Eph. 1:9) by which through Christ, the Word made flesh, man might in the Holy Spirit have access to

the Father and come to share in the divine nature (see Eph. 2:18; 2 Peter 1:4) ... By this revelation then, the deepest truth about God and the salvation of man shines out for our sake in Christ, who is both the mediator and the fullness of all revelation (Ch. 1, para. 2).”

So, if we seek to conform our will to God’s and to the way of Jesus Christ, we must start with Christ. Not ourselves. Not the present nor its enthusiasms, but Christ.

Jesus’s sole concern and mission is the glorification of his Father and the salvation of man by his sharing the life of God. This twin mission of Jesus is made manifest in the present through the witness, work and worship of the Church, so that we may be directed to the eternal, to the kingdom.

For us to conform our will to the will of God we must look beyond the present to the Eternal Word, Jesus Christ. Further, we must learn to see through the many manifestations of Caesar, which always present themselves as immovable enthusiasms and inevitable powers to be compromised with.

The image of Caesar impressed upon the coin was thought to be a power so great that its “present” would never pass. Yet, Caesar is long gone. His image worn away with the passage of time. But the divine image living in the fabric of every person’s soul is eternal.

As we seek to conform our will to God’s, let us “be cleansed by the very mysteries we serve.”

*Father Phillip W. DeVous is the pastor of St. Charles Parish, Flemingsburg and St. Rose of Lima Parish, Mayslick, Ky*

Managing the growing chorus of opinions

As our children get older, the number of voiced opinions under our roof seems to be growing exponentially by the day.



Gretchen R. Crowe

Blessing 1 wants to listen to one particular kind of music; Blessing 2, another; Blessing 3 points. Blessing 1 wants to watch one particular TV show; Blessing 2, another; Blessing 3 screeches. Blessing 1 wants to play with a particular toy; Blessing 2 inevitably wants to play with the same toy; Blessing 3 tackles and attempts to eat said toy. What we eat, when we go to the grocery store, which playground we visit, who gets to hold the phone during grandparent FaceTime, how long is bathtime, how short is bedtime, which four snacks must be consumed in 30 minutes, how much dinner is enough dinner; how much dessert is too little dessert, how many crayons/Legos/marbles/playing cards need to be poured out on the floor in order to achieve a satisfactory playtime experience — in all things, there is a constant flurry of various points of view, all stemming less from a desire to achieve the common good and more from the individual will. (Parents sometimes included.)

“So. Many. Opinions.” I find myself frequently remarking to my husband. It’s wonderful, of course. We wouldn’t

change a thing. But, boy, the dynamics of decision-making in our home have drastically changed over the past six years. And, inevitably, tears flow or tempers flare when opinions differ. In other words, we live in a community.

— Helping your domestic church Managing this community — primarily the points at which authoritarian rule necessarily trumps spirited democracy — is a constant balancing act, as every community leader knows. With this in mind, I went looking for some ground rules for our domestic church. And I ended up, interestingly enough, doing a deep dive into the Vatican’s proposed “attitudes for participating in the synodal process,” released in the September 2021 official handbook of the Synod on Synodality. Thinking about them in the context of a domestic church was an interesting exercise. Several resulting ideas, based on principles from the handbook, are as follows:

— Take time for sharing, with honesty and courage at its roots. We should encourage our little ones to speak from their hearts, sharing their opinions and their reasons for those opinions. They should not be dismissed because they are little.

— Listen to one another with humble hearts. Once we invite our children to speak, we owe them the dignity of our undivided attention. Put phones down, remove AirPods, look our little ones in the eyes.

— Redefine winning. For example, we should try not to simply declare a “no” to snacks, but also a “yes” to an earlier dinner; mindful of small, hungry tummies.

— Be open to conversion and change. Perhaps our kids have a point that we parents haven’t considered. Maybe

they have a suggestion that might enhance family life. Parents should seek to be open to a shift in our own, sometimes narrow or self-centered, thinking.

At the same time, as is true in the context of the universal church, we know there are things on which our domestic churches cannot compromise.

— Mass and prayer time are non-negotiables. Participation is required, and negative attitudes must be checked at the door.

— Following God’s commandments is also not negotiable: we must put God first, be respectful, not hurt others, not take what isn’t ours. We must tell the truth and speak the truth in love.

— We must love God with our whole hearts, and think about our neighbors — or brothers and sisters — as much as we think about ourselves.

— Invoking the Holy Spirit for proper discernment within our family, we must say “no” to the temptation to follow individual desires and “yes,” always, to the will of God and the teachings of the church.

Such is the way of holiness; such is the path to heaven, and we owe it to our children to show them the way.

When the synod for America ended in December 1997, Pope John Paul II remarked on how “my soul is opened through the action of grace towards God, who is the source of ‘every good endowment and every perfect gift’ (Jas 1:17).”

As we continue to grow and journey together, may our domestic churches — and our universal one, as well — confidently be able to say the same.

*Gretchen R. Crowe is the editor-in-chief for OSV News. Her column has been provided by OSV News.*



# The presence of God

I recently attended a lecture by Sister Olga Wittekind, O.F.M. from Oldenburg, Indiana. She talked about the presence of God, and I took some notes. I would like to share some of my notes with you. I think the presenta-

tions were very good and relevant. She said that some of God’s attributes are goodness, beauty and kindness and these attributes could become our attributes also. When we pray, we acknowledge these attributes of God and then go out to others and share them. Prayer is our spontaneous response to the mystery of God. God’s Spirit works within us to lead us to prayer, and we acknowledge God’s presence in prayer. She said that we should notice everything in our day. “Where do we put our energy? How does this energy connect with God?”

When we have an inner critic, we should put it aside and know that God loves us for who we are. She encouraged us to be compassionate as our heavenly Father is compassionate. This is what we can give as gift to others. God is with those who are suffering, God is in the suffering with them. We should ask “How have I been able to bring God’s presence to others? When are we present to others and when are we a present (gift) to others?” Henri Nouwen in the book “Reaching Out” asks, “How has God’s presence in my life gone out to others?” I listen to a daily reflection on the website of USCCB and sometimes Deacon Arthur Miller from the Archdiocese of Hartford closes with the statement asking, “God what are we going to do today?” *Benedictine Sister Barbara Woeste is a professed member of the Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery, Villa Hills. Her article was original published on the community’s blog <http://stwalburg.blogspot.com>.*

VIEWPOINT



Sister Barbara Woeste, O.S.B.

# All shall be well

Questions, questions, questions. Life is full of questions, and I am always asking them. I want to know how everything works.

When I cannot figure out a solution or understand a statement, I am like a dog with a bone. I shake it, put it down, pick it up, shake it some more, run around with it and growl at anyone who approaches. As soon as I decide to quit, I think of another thing to try, then I try the same fixes thinking that this time they will work. As I fret about the problems of our world — unrest, violence, war, environmental disasters — I begin to question what

God is doing. It is hard to accept that God does not redirect us to the divine intentions for creation. I muse about the reflections of Julian of Norwich, an anchorite in 15th Century England. One of the prominent features of her reflections was that she continually questioned, doubted and finally accepted the insights she received, but then returned to questioning and doubt. She recorded her reflections on her life experience. Although I do not share her experience of visions, I do tend to come to beliefs, then question, accept, then return to the questioning. Faith life is like that. It is just hard to affirm what I do not understand or what does not work out the way I expect. That is where I find something I have in common with Julian of Norwich. Julian reports wonderful insights she has had about God. She delights in recounting how it is God who made all things and all that God made is “well-made.” She understands that no matter how big or small a creature is, it is well-made and held in existence by the love of God. Even the lowly hazelnut resting in her hand is held in existence by God’s love. She calls God and Jesus her loving mother. This mother will not let any harm come to us. Her most typical way

MUSINGS



Sister Fidelis Tracy, C.D.P.

to address God is as “My courteous Lord.” I have always found courtesy attractive but not thought of courtesy as a primary attribute of God. All of this is beautiful and consoling. But these thoughts lead her to the question of sin and ultimately of hell. The bone that Julian keeps shaking is the question of sin and hell. If God made everything good, how can there be sin and evil? Of course, it is obvious that these do exist. But how? She asks God over and over to explain to her how it is so. While God replies, the answers do not satisfy. She agrees to believe without understanding because it is the teaching of the Church. She speaks of other things for a few chapters but always comes back to her questions. How can there be sin and hell since God makes all things well and God is always courteous and merciful? In her cleverness, she finds different ways to try to get God to give her a satisfactory answer. One approach is to say to God, I believe there is a hell, but show me who is there. It seems that she is saying, “Prove it.” God reveals she cannot be shown if anyone is there. And she moves on. Her next attempt to get proof is to say to God, I believe but show me hell. Finally, God tells her that she cannot be shown hell and that she will never understand in this life but in heaven she will understand and that will be her greatest joy. Meanwhile, God says, she must remain assured that “All shall be well, all shall be very well, all manner of things shall be very well.” God assures her of this over and over until her restless questioning is finally quieted. God does not tell her to deny suffering and evil but to trust in God’s power, intention and care. Julian does not resort to being a Pollyanna. God never demands that. But trust and hope are essential. As we question the turmoil, unrest, war, violence, and environmental disasters of our day can we hear God’s assurance? When we ask what God is doing, perhaps we can quiet our minds long enough to hear our courteous God saying, “All shall be well, all shall be very well, and all manner of things shall be very well.” *Divine Providence Sister Fidelis Tracy is a retired theology professor at Thomas More University, Crestview Hills, Ky.*

# Question: Can mistakes be made when it comes to private revelation?

Q: I have a question on discernment of private revelations. I don’t mean big ones like Medjugorje, etc., but individuals who say they “have had a word from the Lord.” Couldn’t this be just their own opinion interpreted as God talking? (Ireland) A: Yes, this is a concern. With these kinds of more personal private revelations, we always need to be aware of the possibility that a person could be mistaking their own opinion for God’s will. The church never expects us to take such revelations uncritically and at face value. Even the “big” approved private revelations such as Our Lady of Lourdes and Fatima are never obligatory for the faithful to believe in, despite being a recognized part of the life of the church to the point of having feast days on the general liturgical calendar. After very careful objective investigations, the church only ever acknowledges them as “worthy of belief” — i.e., that we may believe in and follow them, not that we have to. Because very personal supposed private revelations

GUEST



Jenna Marie Cooper

like the one you mentioned do not go through any formal approval process, it’s important to regard them with a healthy skepticism. A technical term for such revelations, where a person has an interior sense of words coming to them, is “locutions.” Locutions are considered extraordinary phenomena. As such, they are not necessary to our life of faith — unlike the essentials of prayer, catechesis, growth in virtue and the sacraments. In fact, St. John of the Cross, a doctor of the Church and one of our foremost authorities on the theology of the spiritual life, goes so far as to counsel those who think they are receiving locutions to basically ignore them! In his work “The Ascent of Mt. Carmel,” he goes so far as to note that on judgment day, God will call to task many of those who received (or thought they were receiving) locutions, because they neglected their actual obligations and duties of their state in life. If a person believes they are receiving private revelations, they should be mindful of the possibility that they may be misinterpreting their own interior experience on the one hand; or, on the other, of the danger of becoming prideful or letting their presumed locutions distract them from the normal responsibilities of a faithful Christian. It’s important for that person to bring up their perceived revelations in an honest and open way with a confessor or qualified spiritual director. And any spiritual experience that leads someone to commit a sin, or to dis-

obey legitimate authority in the church, or believe something contrary to the church’s teachings, should automatically be rejected as a false revelation. That all being said, we as Catholics do believe that God can and does communicate his particular will for us in the unique circumstances of our lives, whether this being discerning our vocation or state in life or discerning how to apply the teachings of the Gospel in specific concrete situations. Another great spiritual master, St. Ignatius of Loyola (most famous as the founder of the Jesuits), wrote extensively on the process of discerning God’s will. St. Ignatius acknowledges the possibility that God might, in rare situations, make his will known in extraordinary ways, such as through locutions and visions. But it’s far more common that God will communicate with us in subtle ways and in the context of a regular and devoted prayer life. Namely, when we are striving for holiness and make a point to be open to God in prayer, we will know something is of God by the sense of peace we feel; and we will likewise know that something is not God’s will for us when it induces a sense of anxiety. *Jenna Marie Cooper, who holds a licentiate in canon law, is a consecrated virgin and a canonist whose column appears weekly at OSV News. Send your questions to [CatholicQA@osucom](mailto:CatholicQA@osucom).*



# DCCH — WINGS Foster Care and Adoption Program — soaring on the generosity of a dedicated team

Ron Bertsch  
Contributor

DCCH celebrating 175 years in the NKY community gives reason to reflect on a recent chapter of its history. As the director of the foster care program since its inception in April 1999, it has been a tremendous privilege and blessing.

Right from the start foster families wanted to become a forever family to the children in their care freed for adoption, in order to support this continuum DCCH added an adoption license in 2002. As of today, 422 total children have been cared for under this umbrella of services. This includes eleven young adults between 18-21, who were part of the Independent Living Program operating since 2017.

DCCH celebrated 159 youth who finalized adoptions and anticipates reaching 175 adoptions in 2024, hopefully before the end of our 175th anniversary. When I think of the families and children whose lives have been dramatically changed, it is rewarding. I just love it when folks reach out to give updates.

Besides the adoptions, 97 children successfully reunited with birth parents or relatives. Thirty-two youth found adoptive homes within other agencies, and 13 youth emancipated from foster care or independent living services with good outcomes. In total, DCCH boasts a 78 percent successful discharge rate, while less than 8 percent of youth disrupted a foster home to enter residential or psychiatric hospital setting.

Before coming to the Diocesan Catholic Children’s Home, I had worked for the KY Cabinet for Health and Families Services for 13 years as foster care case manager and recruiter. In 1999 John Ross, programs director, and prior executive director, Notre Dame Sister Jean Marie Hoffman, hired me to start and lead the foster care program. We titled it, “WINGS” (Where Individuals Nurtured Grow Strong).

Writing policy and procedures, recruiting new families, training parents in a 30-hour preservice curriculum was in full swing. Meeting new families, helping children find comfort and permanency with adoption is the most fulfilling part of the job. Likewise, witnessing children reunite with parents or relatives is also rewarding. Numerous adoption stories have been told but some reunification stories find a special place in our history too.

I recall three such stories where the odds for reunification seemed impossible. Parents with years of addiction and lifestyle obstacles seemed insurmountable. Between 80 percent and 90 percent of the children in foster care have parental history of drug abuse or addiction that usually leads to neglect and for some, other forms of abuse.

Each of these standout stories involved a sibling group of a brother and sister unit. Two cases involved birth fathers who died while the children were in foster care. One death was a vehicle accident that indicated drug use, and the other from a relapsed overdose. The moms had spent time in jail and in rehabilitation centers. Through a long and careful reintroduction both moms beat the odds and were reunited with their children.

The third story was both a mom and dad, who together recovered from addictions and proved stability to have their children return to their home. I cannot describe the children’s happiness, and for us social workers to experience these family’s unfiltered joy is truly memorable.

In these past twenty-four and a half years, a substantial number of dedicated and talented staff have contributed to the program’s success. Rachel Rauck was our first case manager, quickly following was Stephanie Rowland. Notre Dame Sister Pamela Geiger, who with over 10 years holds the record for the longest termed case manager, not counting her other years as DCCH school principal, residential worker, and her current position with development. Ashley Steele Ross, Dave Rolph, Kathy Wise, Kristin Wilson, Shellie Blair, Lydia Wall Clark, Abby Thompson, Mel Sells Shannon, Tasha Heisel, Nichole Hutchinson Tucker, Jessica Geiman, Danielle Thamm, Nick Prior, Alison Bucklen, and Jen Ingle have all been case managers with DCCH Foster Care Team.

The therapy services under the clinical direction of Cheryl Taylor and now Emily Burch offer skilled counselors credited for the children’s emotional recovery. Also adding value is DCCH’s consulting child psychologist, Dr. Fran Hoffman who has worked alongside the entire 24-plus years. Child Psychiatrists, Dr. Carol Willis until her retirement and Dr. Justine Sever Chilelli who now offers medication management and diagnosis to the children needing such care.

We are grateful for the support and work of so many, including our past and present board members, development staff, administrative staff, and two other executive



The DCCH Foster Care Team at the 175th Family Fest Sept. 30, 2023 (standing back row, from left) Jessica Postel, Brittany Powell, and Ron Bertsch, (seated front row, from right) Aimee Baker and Sarah McAdams.

directors, retired Bob Wilson, and current Denise Govan. Gay Trame, Tim Lucas, Patty Kissel, and Pam Vonderhaar are also due special recognition for long term support.

As the program grew, Tim Murphy offered ongoing training to families. Preservice training was turned over to veteran foster and adoptive parent Gene Blair, who shared tremendous insight for the preparation of new families. At the end of 2020 Gene retired, Sarah Messmer Lusher took on this role continuing this great tradition.

The “WINGS” Program flourishes and can provide services for children and youth needing foster care, adoption, and independent living support, but DCCH always needs to recruit more good foster and adoptive families. Please pray for the intercession of St. Joseph, the foster father of Jesus to help inspire more foster and adoptive parents as their model, and to heal the children, and create a yearning for Jesus in this life and the next.

*Ronald M. Bertsch is director of Therapeutic Foster Care/Adoption for the DCCH Center for Children and Families, Ft. Mitchell.*

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

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.

Bishop Brossart High School, Alexandria, Art Gallery presents "St. Francis of Assisi," a display of St. Francis statues on loan from St. Mary/Bishop Brossart alumni. Statues range in size from 3 inches to 4 feet tall and represent both indoor and outdoor statues. Show dates are Sundays only, Oct. 1-29, noon-4 or by appointment (859) 630-2874.

The Eva G. Farris Art Gallery at Thomas More University presents "The Secret Garden: Hidden Dreams, Quiet Screams, Whispers that Seep from the Leaves" an exhibition by Stephanie Berrie, Oct. 13-Nov. 2. Gallery talk is Nov. 2, 3:30-4 p.m., and closing reception 4-7 p.m.

The ninth annual Catholic Men's Eucharistic Procession, Oct. 21, beginning with Mass celebrated by Archbishop Dennis Schnur, 8 a.m., Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains, following Mass, a two-mile procession through downtown Cincinnati; 11 a.m. benediction, Old St. Mary's Church. For information call (513) 305-6719 or visit facebook.com/holynamencincinnati.

The Newport Central Catholic Drama Department presents "Friends Forever Cabaret," Oct. 27 and 28, 7 p.m. in the school's Ciafardini Family Blackbox Theatre. Tickets available at the door: students, \$5; adults, \$7.

St. Barbara, Erlanger, Turkey Shoots, Saturdays Oct. 21, Oct. 28, Nov. 4 and Nov. 12, 12-4 p.m., 12 gauge only. Beer, soft drinks and food available. Call (859) 380-9260.

Musica Sacra Cincinnati returns to begin the 47th year of Cathedral Concerts Sunday, Oct. 29, at 3 p.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington. Under the baton of musical director, L. Brett Scott, this program will feature Joseph Haydn's Mass in C Major. The pristine acoustics of the Cathedral Basilica, along with its inspiring gothic architecture and sacred art, provide lovers of music and the arts an opportunity to hear large-scale sacred choral music — in the setting for which it was originally intended. All Cathedral Concerts are open to the public



For the birds

Second and third grade students at St. Patrick School, Taylor Mill, learned about birds and types of feeders that attract them. First, they made prototypes out of paper, string and tape. Next, they discovered construction and design modifications that needed to be addressed in the final build. Finally, the students took their prototypes home and built sustainable feeders to hang at school.

with no admission charge. A freewill offering is gladly accepted. Visit [www.cathedralconcertseries.org](http://www.cathedralconcertseries.org) for information on this concert and the 2023-2024 season.

St. Peters COF Court #1492 annual matching funds Turkey Raffle, Nov. 4, the Social Center of Sts. Peter & Paul School, California. BINGO, raffles and plenty of food. Proceeds benefit Sts. Peter & Paul School for updating school furnishings. Call Jeanette Geiger at (859) 803-3782.

St. Joseph Parish, Cold Spring, PTO Craft Show accepting vendor applications for its craft show Nov. 4, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.



Blessing the family pets

St. Henry Catholic Parish and St. Henry Catholic School, Elsmere, celebrated the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, Oct. 4, with the traditional blessing of pets. Our second grade students even made special "party" hats for the occasion.

Table prices include 8-foot tables and two chairs. One table: \$30; two tables: \$50, electric available for an additional \$2.50 per table. Set up the evening before the craft show available. Contact Rebecca Stidham at [fawn.stidham486@gmail.com](mailto:fawn.stidham486@gmail.com).

A faith-based support group, New Beginnings provides separated and divorced individuals the opportunity for healing and growth. In this group, participants find new understanding of themselves and their relationships and gain courage to discover new life. Registration is required. Visit <https://covdio.org/new-beginnings-2/> or call (859) 392-1500, ext.1592. The next session will be held on consecutive Thursdays, Oct.12 – Dec. 7, 7 – 8:30 p.m., Holy Trinity Elementary School, Bellevue.

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.



Saints serving community

On Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2023, Thomas More University closed normal daytime activities on campus, allowing faculty, staff, and students to participate in the third annual Saints Serve, a day of service benefiting local non-profits and charities. The campus-wide event encourages the Thomas More community to come together and assist those in need throughout northern Kentucky and the greater Cincinnati region.

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# The Eucharist has the power to draw hearts to Jesus, pope says

**Carol Glatz**  
*Catholic News Service*

St. Charles de Foucauld, a turn-of-the-19th-century hermit, demonstrates how a life of meekness, tenderness and eucharistic adoration evangelizes, Pope Francis said.

The saint was known to remain in prayer “at Jesus’ feet, before the Tabernacle,” for hours a day, “sure that the evangelizing force resides there and feeling that it is Jesus who will bring him close to so many distant brothers and sisters,” the pope said Oct. 18 at his weekly general audience in St. Peter’s Square.

“And do we, I ask myself, believe in the power of the Eucharist? Does our going out to others, our service, find its beginning and its fulfillment there, in adoration?” the pope asked, encouraging everyone to rediscover the sense of adoration before the Eucharist.

Continuing a series of audience talks highlighting saints who demonstrate zeal or passion for evangelization,

Pope Francis said St. Charles made Jesus and the poor “the passion of his life” after living his youth “far from God, without believing in anything other than the disordered pursuit of pleasure.”

“The first step in evangelizing,” the pope said, is to “fall head over heels” for Jesus so that love will show in one’s life. If this does not happen, “we risk talking about ourselves, our group, a morality or, even worse, a set of rules, but not about Jesus, his love, his mercy.”

The pope said he sees this tendency in some new movements that spend a lot of time talking about their organization, their new spiritual path or “vision of humanity,” and “do not know how to talk about Jesus.”

St. Charles understood the importance of the laity in the life of the church and “he reminds us that ‘there need to be lay people close to priests, to see what the priest does not see, who evangelize with a proximity of charity, with goodness for everyone, with affection always ready to be given,’” he said, citing the saint’s writings.

However, the pope said, they need to be “holy lay people” in love with Jesus, not “climbers” in search of something else

“We priests need so much to have next to us lay people who seriously believe” in Jesus, he said, and who, with their witness, “teach us the way” and help the priest understand he is not an “official” or administrator, but is “a mediator, he is a priest.”

St. Charles is “a prophetic figure for our time,” Pope Francis said.

He demonstrated “the beauty of communicating the Gospel through the apostolate of meekness,” welcomed everyone as a brother or sister and showed “the evangelizing force of tenderness,” Pope Francis said.


“Goodness is simple and asks us to be simple people, who are not afraid to offer a smile,” he said, encouraging Catholics to imitate “God’s style” of being close, compassionate and tender with others.

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## Diocesan Catholic Children’s Home — 175 Years

THE MESSENGER • OCTOBER 20, 2023

### DCCH’s mission assures that everyone is part of a ‘community of love,’ says Bishop at anniversary Mass

**Maura Baker**  
*Staff Writer*

This year, the Diocesan Catholic Children’s Home celebrates its 175th anniversary. As part of the celebration a Mass was held, Oct. 7, at Blessed Sacrament Church, Ft. Mitchell. The pews were filled on that sunny October morning with friends and fellows alike of the DCCH, coming together to celebrate the 175 years that the DCCH has spent caring for Northern Kentucky’s children and families.

The Mass was celebrated by Bishop John Iffert, with concelebrants Father Mark Keene, vicar general and pastor of St. Agnes, Ft. Wright; Father Damian Hils, pastor, and Father Suraj Abraham, Blessed Sacrament Parish. Deacons Jim Fortner and Jim Baynes, both of Blessed Sacrament Church, assisted.

Denise Govan, DCCH’s director, opened the Mass welcoming everyone to the anniversary celebration. For 175 years, the DCCH has been “blessed beyond measure to have the privilege to love and care for children and families,” she said. “From the

Benedictine Sisters, to the Sisters of Notre Dame and many, many talented individuals all called to serve — we thank them, for caring for our children, and keeping them safe.”

“Today is another example of how there is just so much to be grateful for and thankful for in the world,” Bishop Iffert began his homily. “Today we celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Diocesan Catholic Children’s Home, and we also celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary ... I’m sure there are many, many rosaries that have been prayed over the years for the staff and the children at DCCH — and before that at St. John’s orphanage,” he continued, “And so, we remember today that we want to renew our devotion to the Blessed Mother and her intercession, and we invite those who are rosary prayers among us to remember the children at DCCH, and the staff there, as well.”

In the Mass’s Scripture reading, Jesus is seen healing lepers while travelling between the borders of Galilee and Samaria. “What the scriptures come to is Jesus in his ministry is trying to reach beyond the bounds of division,” said Bishop Iffert,

“he’s trying to get beyond that dividing wall that would keep Samaritans and Jews from worshipping and giving thanks together. He’s trying to unite the family of God ... we see that we maintain this faith in Christ, we grow together in the peace of Christ when we sing and worship together.”

“The faith of our Lord Jesus Christ should exclude no one, but should bind us all together. One family of faith,” he said Bishop Iffert continued, “...and so we rejoice today, that this ministry of Jesus — leaving no one out and assuring that everyone is part of a community of love, everyone is part of a family of faith — is reflected in the Diocese of Covington in the work of the Diocesan Catholic Children’s Home, of making sure that no one is left to walk alone, but that everyone has the right to be incorporated into a family of support and encouragement.”

He concluded his homily, saying, “Be one body of Christ, and may we all find family in one another. This is the will of Jesus Christ. Thank you to all who work to make this a reality in our world today.”



# DCCH continues to bring Christ’s healing to children and families in Northern Kentucky

Most Rev. John C. Iffert  
Bishop of Covington

The Diocesan Catholic Children’s Home Center for Children and Families is older than the Diocese of Covington. Our Diocese was established in 1853, but the St.



Bishop John Iffert

John’s Orphanage Society (the precursor of DCCH) was formed in June of 1848 to establish an orphanage in Kenton County, KY. The name has changed and the mission has evolved, but our Catholic Children’s Home is still striving to provide care for children and their families. Today DCCH services include residential treatment, foster care, adoption, independent living, targeted case management, therapy and counseling services for children, adolescents, adults, couples, and families. Where the religious sisters and lay workers once focused on providing a loving, orderly environment for children whose families could not care for them, highly skilled professionals are now needed to assist children and families who have experienced significant trauma. There is still a need for your involvement at DCCH.

People from around the Diocese serve as volunteers and members of the Board of Directors. Parishes and individual benefactors provide many kinds of support. Individuals are needed to serve as mentors and adult role models for the young people who are in residence at DCCH. And of course, those loving families who can open their hearts to a child (or children) in need of foster care are specially treasured gifts indeed.

All of this work is a continuation of Jesus’ own ministry. Jesus healed many as a sign of the Kingdom of God. In cleansing a leper or causing a flow of blood to dry up, in casting out a demon or healing a withered hand, Jesus not only brought physical healing, but he restored the person to ritual cleanliness and to full participation in the life of the community. Jesus overcame division and restored people to the families and communities who loved them.

He expanded his disciples’ way of seeing the world. Although many of his disciples were rejected by family for their faith in Jesus, Jesus teaches us that family can be enlarged. “For whoever does the will of my heavenly Father is my brother, and sister, and mother” (Matt 12:50). He invites us to take care of one another and to offer our lives for one another.

Again, Jesus sets the example for his disciples. “Let the children come to me” (Mark 10:14), Jesus says. And so we know that those who are young, overlooked or marginalized have a claim to our affection and our zeal to receive them and provide for their care. In fact, these little ones become an example in Jesus’ teaching for the way we all must live to be admitted to the Kingdom of God.

The Diocesan Catholic Children’s Home Center for Families and Children continues the ministry of Jesus. I invite you to help DCCH to bring healing to children and families in Northern Kentucky in Jesus’ name.

# Lasting legacy 175 years in the making

Denise Goven  
Contributor

The adage, “time flies, when you are having fun,” is so true. On Sept. 10, 2023, I had officially spent 175 days at DCCH as the President and CEO, and boy oh boy has it been fun. However, the contrast between 175 days and 175 years is almost unfathomable for me to grasp. I am extremely proud to be serving as the leader of this incredible organization that has remained true to the mission of serving children and families impacted by child abuse and neglect for 175 years.



Denise Goven

It has been my life’s purpose to lead and serve others. When I completed my master’s program at NKU in 2018, my mom gave me a little gift box. The jewelry lover in me was hoping for a new bracelet or necklace. Inside the box was a recycled nick knack of a small graduate in a cap and gown with the following quote underneath, “For these I know the plans God has made for you!”

Underneath there was a handwritten note from my mom with the following:

*Niser Kay (her nickname for me), this quote, “I know the plans I have for you,” is God reassuring you that your faith in Him would be rewarded. God wasn’t saying he would come down and make everything easier for you, rather God reminds us that even though life is hard, we must have faith. Put simply, when we walk with God, our lives will be full of joy and thoughts of peace. Remember these six steps as you continue to answer the call to serve:*

- Pray often.
- Go with your gut.
- Read God’s word.
- Seek out spiritual guidance.
- Accept the callings God gives you, and there may be more than one in life.
- Learn from others’ stories about their lives, leadership and legacies.

I share this personal story as I firmly believe God has been at the center of DCCH’s 175 years of service to children and families. We hope you will join the legacy and be a critical part of the next 175 years.

Denise Goven is president and CEO of DCCH Center for Children and Families, Ft. Mitchell, Ky



Bishop John Iffert  
together with  
Bishop Emeritus Roger J. Foy  
and the Priests, Deacons,  
Religious and Lay Faithful  
of the Diocese of Covington  
send prayerful best wishes  
and congratulations to  
DCCH  
Center for Children & Families  
on their  
175th Anniversary  
“In All Things  
Give Thanks”

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on its  
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# DCCH Center for Children and Families celebrates 175 years

## Staff report

This year, DCCH Center for Children and Families is celebrating 175 years of caring for Kentucky's most vulnerable children and families. There have only been three executive directors at DCCH since 1989, with Notre Dame Sister Jean Marie Hoffman stood in that role for 25 years. Bob Wilson was executive director from 2014-2023, and Denise Govan now serves in that position as President and CEO.

Founded in 1848 as St. John's Orphan Society, the name was changed to St. John's Children's Home in 1957, when the Sisters of Notre Dame assumed charge of the residence.



Bob Wilson

In 1961, the Diocese of Covington announced the merging of St. John's Orphanage and St. Joseph's Orphanage in Cold Spring into one facility in Ft. Mitchell. The name was changed to Diocesan Catholic Children's Home. In 2012 the name was changed to DCCH Center for Children and Families and is still affiliated with the Diocese of Covington.

Many individuals and families have been served over the

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Congratulations, DCCH Center for Children and Families, on celebrating 175 years! Thank you for making a difference in the lives of thousands of children.

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DCCH  
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to learn more.



past 175 years and that history lives on at DCCCH. When visiting the DCCCH campus, there are photos from the early 1900s and always someone to tell a story about the past and the future of the agency.

A portrait of a smiling woman with short, white hair. She is wearing a dark, patterned jacket over a white top. A large, yellow rose corsage is pinned to her left shoulder. The background is a blurred green, suggesting an outdoor setting.

**Sister Jean Marie Hoffman**

shifted its focus to meet the changing mental health needs of children who have experienced trauma and families who may be at risk. Today, DCCH provides around the clock residential treatment for children ages six to 14 with significant emotional and behavioral challenges, often related to extreme neglect and/or sexual, physical, and emotional abuse.

“My years at the Diocesan Children’s Home were blessed years. I just thoroughly enjoyed working with staff and children and their families,” said Sister Jean Marie. “Seeing children make a difference in their lives. It was so interesting, you would see a child come with very little belongings, very angry because they’re being sent to the Children’s Home, they did not want to be there. And of course, they were scared because they did not know where they were coming and what the big building was about. But it was such a blessing to see how these children changed through their time at the home. And what a difference we have made having them in our care.”

DCCH also provides therapeutic foster care and adoption services, an independent living program, targeted case manage-

ment, and outpatient therapy, which is open to the public. Founded in 1848, DCCH strives to improve the lives of children who have been impacted by childhood trauma and to bring families together for a bright, healthy, and happy future.

"I am extremely proud to be serving as the leader of this incredible organization that has remained true to the mission of serving children and families impacted by child abuse and neglect for 175 years," said Denise Govan, president and CEO. "As we look to the future, I see a road paved with years of care and love and remember that God has carried DCCH through a lot in 175 years and will continue to be there for us."



Members of the DCCH Center for Children and Families' HALO League hosted a traditional Thanksgiving Day celebration for the children in residence. HALO (Helping All the Little Ones) has been caring for the children at DCCH over 20 years. Game Night, cookouts, bowling, pool parties and roller skating are just a few of the monthly activities this group enjoys doing with the kids.

Looking for a great way to get involved? The HALO league is a fun group of men and women who attend to the social and emotional needs of the children and staff of DCCH Center for Children and Families.

This group organizes and attends monthly events with the children in residence at DCCH. In June, HALO took the children to World of Golf to play putt-putt along with a pizza party and to the DEFY trampoline park. Upcoming activities include: craft nights, trunk or treat, and stuffing St. Nick stockings. We are always looking for new members and new ideas.

Meetings are held the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at DCCH. If you would like to get involved, please contact Vicki Boerger, DCCH volunteer Coordinator at [vboerger@dcchcenter.org](mailto:vboerger@dcchcenter.org) or Laura Arlinghaus at [adp621208@gmail.com](mailto:adp621208@gmail.com).

You can also help HALO fund these fun events for the children by registering your Kroger card to DCCH/HALO. DCCH gets a percentage quarterly from Kroger. Register at [KrogerCommunityRewards.com](http://KrogerCommunityRewards.com). Organization #TA964.

# HOLLY JOLLY

## DAYS

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# Helping children in need

Since 1848, DCCH Center has helped thousands of children in need. Our mission is to express God’s love through quality care and compassionate services. What was once a traditional orphanage, where children would live until they were either emancipated or adopted, is now a multi-faceted agency focused in several areas:

## Residential Treatment Program

Our Residential Treatment Program serves boys and girls, ages six through 14, who have been removed from their homes, in many cases due to extreme neglect and/or physical, sexual, and emotional abuse. DCCH Center cares for 40 children who live full-time in home-like apartments

while receiving personalized behavioral therapy to help them constructively address their traumas and move into a family-setting placement upon discharge. These children bear profound social, emotional, and behavioral challenges stemming from the unfathomable pain they have suffered. Due to the extreme nature of the abuse they’ve endured, DCCH Therapists estimate 95 percent of children in our Residential Treatment Program suffer from PTSD and nearly 100 percent display General Anxiety Disorder.

Studies show that trauma experienced in childhood can lead to neurological impairment. These children are at higher risk for autism spectrum behaviors, learning disabilities, ADHD, depression, and suicide. When children are abused, they cannot integrate the overwhelming amount of negative and damaging sensory input and they cope by displaying anger, inappropriate behavior, shutting down emotionally, and even self-harming. Focused, consistent therapy, using appropriate and established methods, give children the tools to “rewire” their brains and learn how to appropriately respond to sensory input. We provide

these fragile children with a safe place to sleep, healthy meals, appropriate clothing and shoes, specialized education, and intensive behavioral therapy to move them out of pain and suffering to a place where they find a strong sense of security, peace, and hope.

## Therapeutic Foster Care Program

DCCH’s Therapeutic Foster Care Program (TFC) recruits, trains, and supports foster families willing to open their homes to children in need.

Therapeutic Foster Care is slightly different from traditional foster care because the behaviors and needs of the children may be more challenging due to their abusive pasts. Children from throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky are placed

into loving homes and cared for by foster parents who have received comprehensive training and ongoing support services from DCCH. Every month, the TFC Team receives an average of 300 referrals for children in need of a foster home placement and the devastating heroin epidemic in our region is a driving factor in these referrals. Seventy percent of children placed by TFC have been impacted by heroin in some way — from parental incarceration to death by overdose. The DCCH Therapeutic Foster Care Team is committed to meeting the enormous demand for caring, committed foster families in our area.

## The Therapy Center at DCCH

The Therapy Center offers quality therapy and mental health services, including individual, family, and marital therapy, as well as grief counseling and more. Launched in 2012 and open to the public, The Therapy Center at DCCH is a natural extension of DCCH and its commitment to serving children and families in our community. Experienced staff members work closely with clients to help them identify, assess, and meet their needs and goals. We empower clients to build and strengthen meaningful

relationships with themselves and others.

## Guardian Angel School

Many children in our care also have serious learning deficits. Our on-campus school, Guardian Angel, provides specialized education with a focus on behavior modification and attaining grade-level skills. Each classroom of 10 students is staffed with one teacher and a DCCH childcare worker who knows each child’s history and behavioral issues. Children feel safe and supported in their classrooms and this continuity of care allows for more personalized instructional time and less time managing negative behaviors. Guardian Angel School implements an innovative, behaviorally based program that prepares the children to succeed and meet the educational challenges facing them as they move into a less restrictive school environment when they leave DCCH.

## School-Based Therapy Services


DCCH provides therapists to nine schools in the Northern Bluegrass Region. Children may be referred to a therapist by a teacher or parent. By having therapists immediately available to these children, they are able to work with them “in the moment” as well as in scheduled therapy sessions. Our licensed therapists provide a safe emotional space and guidance for children who are experiencing challenges either at home or school.


## Targeted Case Management

The Targeted Case Management (TCM) program is a wrap-around service provided to children identified as at-risk of being removed from the family home. When DCCH receives a referral, the Case Manager works to determine the needs of the child and their family, which are usually many and complex, by doing a comprehensive assessment and developing a treatment plan that is monitored.

(Continued on page 20)

# Congratulations DCCH on 175 Years of Service for Children and Families





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DIOCESAN CATHOLIC CHILDREN’S HOME

Helping children in need

(Continued from page 19)

Treatment plans may include facilitating access to housing and/or transportation assistance, medical treatment, substance abuse treatment, or mental health services. Primary interventions facilitated via Target Case Management are less intrusive, restrictive, and expensive compared to the costs related to residential and foster care placements that would occur if coordinated services were not provided. This front-end intervention provides care and services children need to remain with their families, instead of being removed from their homes because of a family crisis.

Independent Living

DCCH started the Independent Living Program in 2017. We help young adults who have been in foster care and

have recommitted to state care once they turned 18. These adults may elect to reenter the system before their 19th birthday. DCCH helps locate an apartment close to the individual’s work and school. We also furnish the apartment with items they will keep when they leave the program. Every adult works with a case manager and therapist to help guide them along their journey. Our team assists by helping remove barriers and guaranteeing success. You can help too! Consider becoming a mentor to these young adults. You can provide much needed support. Some mentors teach skills, donate new or gently used furniture, or prepare dinners. If you have, or know of a foster child who may be eligible for this program, contact Ron Bertsch to learn more.

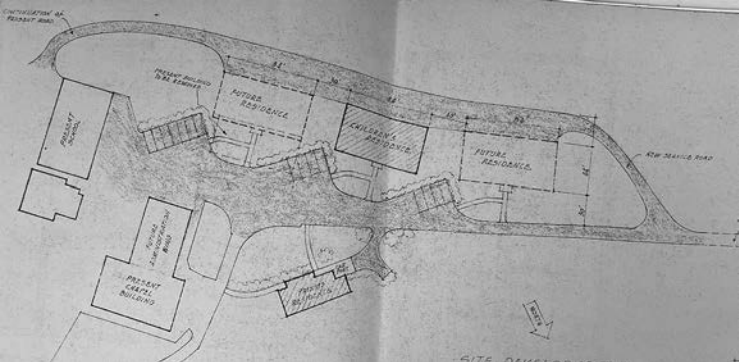
Annual Funding Support

DCCH Center receives the majority of its funding from the Commonwealth of Kentucky on a per child/per day

basis. Even with additional financial assistance from the Diocese of Covington and United Way, we count on fundraising efforts and investment income to cover the significant shortfall between what we are reimbursed by the state for our Residential Treatment services and what the actual cost is to provide them. Our most recent cost report leaves that gap in funding at an all-time high — \$2.3 million. Every dollar DCCH receives is leveraged to meet our residents’ unique needs, leaving very little funding for capital projects and improvements. We rely heavily on philanthropic support from generous individuals, foundations, and corporations to help cover the costs of our Residential Treatment Program as well as these much needed, but often delayed, capital projects.

For more information or to find out ways you can help, contact: Amy Pelicano, development director; (513) 518-4257 or e-mail [apelicano@dcchcenter.org](mailto:apelicano@dcchcenter.org).

A timeline of the history the Diocesan Catholic Children’s Home



(above) The site development plan for St. John Orphanage on Orphanage Road, Ft. Mitchell. In 1868, the current 60-plus acre property was purchased. In 1961, the Diocese of Covington merged the St. John’s Society with the St. Joseph Orphanage of Cold Spring into the current property. While the name has changed the site has proven to be a stable home for the Diocesan Catholic Children’s Home.

(right) The former St. Joseph Orphanage pictured next to the former St. Joseph Church, Cold Spring.



icated in spring of 1871, housing nine girls. Benedictine nuns were in charge of the facility.

1885

St. John’s began accepting boys as well as girls, creating the need for additional buildings. By 1892, a three-story facility with classrooms, playroom, dormitories and living quarters was completed.

1923

St. John’s Orphans Society celebrated its 75th anniversary. Approximately 50 children lived at the facility. An estimated 1,200 people attended a special mass held at Mother of God Church in Covington.

February 10, 1926

A major fire consumed the school building. The fire’s origin was traced to a furnace. Fortunately, no one was injured in the blaze. Four months later lightning struck, causing a fire in another one of the buildings. In July, the Society announced plans to build a new school and rectory.

1927

Almost \$100,000 was raised for the project and construction began. By Labor Day 1928, the financing was completed. By 1929, 104 children lived in the new facility.

March 5, 1935

Fire again claimed a place in the history of the home. The Chapel, dining room, and the kitchen were consumed by the blaze. By Thanksgiving 1935, the damages of the buildings were repaired.

January 1949

St. John’s celebrated its 100th anniversary. Records show 118 children lived here at that time.

1957

Orphanage name changed to St. John’s Children’s Home. Sisters of Notre Dame assumed charge of the residence.

July 11, 1961

The Diocese of Covington announced the merging of St. John’s Orphanage and St. Joseph’s Orphanage in Cold Spring into one facility in Fort Mitchell. The name was

For more than 175 years, the Diocesan Catholic Children’s Home has served the needs of more than 3,500 children in Northern Kentucky. Each of these children has become part of our family tree.

June 4, 1848

First meeting of the group destined to organize a home for Catholic orphans in Kenton County. The St. John’s Orphan Society selected Frank Derhaber as Chairman and started with \$62.56 capital.

January 28, 1868

Building and property off Lexington Pike (now Dixie Highway) were purchased for about \$17,000. Property formerly housed St. Aloysius Seminary. New orphanage ded-

CONGRATULATIONS, DCCH CENTER,  
ON 175 YEARS!

Under Bishop Toebe, St. John Orphanage was designated as a Diocesan orphanage for girls. In 1885, Bishop Maes welcomed boys to St. John Orphanage, requiring the need for three-story brick annex. The annex included bedrooms for the boys, classrooms and playroom.



DIOCESAN CATHOLIC CHILDREN’S HOME



Under Bishop Toebbe, St. John Orphanage was designated as a Diocesan orphanage for girls. In 1885, Bishop Maes welcomed boys to St. John Orphanage, requiring the need for three-story brick annex. The annex included bedrooms for the boys, classrooms and playroom.



(above) The children at St. John's Orphanage awaiting their meal.



(above) Children at St. John's Orphanage getting cleaned up for supper.



(above) Notre Dame Sister Jean Marie Hoffman, childcare worker, at Diocesan Catholic Children's Home, getting ready to serve supper to the children.



(above) To meet the needs of the children, DCCH opened the on-campus in 1966. A 1987 clipping from the *Messenger* shows students celebrating Catholic Schools Week.



(above) Notre Dame Sister Mary Rosetta Conrad greets a Diocesan Catholic Children's Home social worker along with residents at DCCH.

changed to Diocesan Catholic Children's Home.

**June 30, 1963**

The current residential building was dedicated with room for 48 children in four family- style apartments, central kitchen, chapel, and convent.

**September 1966**

The program was changed to meet the needs of children with serious emotional disabilities. Guardian Angel School began holding classes on campus.

**May 1989**

Sr. Jean Marie Hoffman, SND is named Executive Director.

**1996**

Renovation of the Residential Building was completed from dormitory to individual bedrooms for the children.

**July 1997**

H.A.L.O (Helping All the Little Ones) League is formed to provide additional funding for the organization.

**June 1998**

DCCH celebrated its 150th anniversary.

**July 1, 1998**

Assessment/Crisis Stabilization/Treatment (ACT) Unit opened as a short-term placement for children with emotional and behavioral needs.

**April 1999**

Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) Program launched to assist

(Continued on page 22)



DIOCESAN CATHOLIC CHILDREN’S HOME

(Continued from page 21)  
the needs of children in a home based environment.

**August 2000**  
Flea Market first opened its doors to help fund programs at DCCH.

**June 2002**  
DCCH becomes a state-licensed adoption agency for our TFC Children.

**June 2008**  
ACT Unit converts six beds to residential treatment beds.

**September 2011**  
Equine Therapy added to residential treatment program.

**January 2012**  
The Therapy Center at DCCH officially opens, providing quality mental health services to children, adults, couples and families.

**April 2012**  
The new Sisters of Notre Dame Welcome Center and relocated Guardian Angel School are dedicated.

**February 2013**  
Construction begins in the Residential Building to expand the children’s living spaces. Six new beds are added, raising the total bed count to 40. These new beds allow DCCH to serve approximately ten more children per year.

**December 2014**  
Bob Wilson is named Executive Director.

**August 2017**  
The new Independent Living program started to assist young adults transition from foster care to being on their own.

**July 2019**  
Targeted Case Management program begins assisting families in Northern Kentucky with wrap-around services.

**March 2023**  
Denise Govan is named Executive Director.

**June 2023**  
DCCH celebrates its 175th anniversary.



(above) Notre Dame Sister Catherine Marie Lowe, childcare worker, listening to two residents read her a story.



Fancy clothes, lighted trees, festive decorations, bountiful food, lots of presents and Santa, as pictured in this 2016 photo, the HALO League makes sure that the children at DCCH enjoy the festivities of Christmas.



Jessie Geiman, case manager, DCCH; Kira and Miriah Persinger, and Ron Bertsch, director of Therapeutic Foster Care/Adoption, DCCH, celebrate Adoption Day at the courthouse in March 2018. The girls are the 99th and 100th children who found their forever families through adoption at DCCH. “100 Lives Changed,” a private event marking the milestone achievement of 100 children who found forever families through adoption, was held June 21, 2018, at the DCCH festival grounds. The event celebrated, recognized and congratulated the over 100 children and 62 families who adopted through the Special Needs Adoption Program at DCCH. Chad and Melinda Persinger are the proud parents of the 100th adopted child.  
For more TFC and adoption stories, see pages 4, 5 and 8.





VATICAN CITY — Warning against a humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza and ongoing conflicts elsewhere, Pope Francis has called for a day of fasting, penance and prayer for peace in the world Oct. 27. “War does not solve any problems, it only sows death and destruction. It increases hatred, multiplies revenge. War erases the future,” he said at the end of his general audience talk in St. Peter’s Square Oct. 18. “Our thoughts go to Palestine and Israel,” he said to applause. “Casualties are rising and the situation in Gaza is desperate,” he said. “Please, may everything possible be done to avoid a humanitarian catastrophe.” What is also “disturbing,” he said, is the possibility the conflict will spread just as so many other battles of war are being waged in the world. “Please,” he said, “let us continue to pray for peace in the world, especially in tormented Ukraine,” a tragedy that is no longer talked about but continues. “Silence the weapons. Listen to the cry of the poor, the people, the children, for peace,” the pope said.

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis will celebrate a memorial Mass Nov. 3 for Pope Benedict XVI and cardinals and bishops who have died in the past year. The Mass will take place at the main altar in St. Peter's Basilica at 11 a.m., the Vatican announced. Pope Benedict died Dec. 31 at the age of 95. The previous day, the Nov. 2 feast of All Souls, the pope will celebrate Mass at the Rome War Cemetery, the burial place of members of the military forces of the Commonwealth who died during and immediately after World War II. The 426 men buried there died between November 1942 and February 1947.

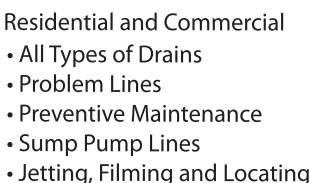
They came from the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand and South Africa. Also on the pope's liturgical calendar for November is his celebration of Mass for the World Day of the Poor. He will preside over the liturgy Nov. 19 in St. Peter's Basilica.

Buenos Aires — Eight priests have been transferred to a prison notorious for torture and deplorable conditions as the Nicaraguan regime again ramps up its repression of the Catholic Church. The churchmen were moved Oct. 15 to El Chipote prison on the outskirts of the nation's capital, Managua, after being held under house arrest in the National Seminary of Our Lady of Fatima, sources told independent Nicaraguan news organization La Prensa. Six of the priests had been abducted by police and paramilitaries from their parishes and parish residences between Oct. 1 and Oct. 9 in the dioceses of Esteli, Jinotega and Bluefields. Two other churchmen from the Diocese of Esteli, being held in the seminary, were also moved to El Chipote, according to La Prensa. The priests were identified as Father Osman Amador Guillén, diocesan Caritas director, who was taken from the cathedral residence on Sept. 8; and Father Eugenio Rodríguez Benavides. The transfer of the priests from the national seminary to El Chipote followed news that Father Harving Padilla, parish priest in the municipality of Masaya, escaped the archdiocesan seminary in Managua after being held there for 16 months. He fled the country Sept. 28, according to Nicaraguan media outlet Confidencial. La Prensa reported 13 priests are currently imprisoned in Nicaragua, including Bishop Álvarez. Most of

the imprisoned priests are from the Diocese of Estelí, where Bishop Álvarez is apostolic administrator.

NAIROBI, Kenya — On the day the world celebrates efforts to combat hunger and food insecurity, a bishop in Ethiopia was warning that his people were still dying of hunger, a year after a ceasefire ended a deadly conflict in the northern region of Tigray. Bishop Tesfasellassie Medhin of Adigrat said he wanted the world to know the situation in the region was still critical, and deaths were occurring due to serious food shortages and malnutrition. “The situation is very bad. Many parts of the region experienced failed harvests due to drought, and food aid distribution had also stopped,” Bishop Medhin told OSV News in an interview ahead of the World Food Day. “People are dying of hunger. The hospitals are also reporting increased cases of malnutrition. It is very frustrating.” More than 20 million people need food assistance in Africa’s second most populous nation after the Horn of Africa’s worst drought in decades and a two-year conflict in the Tigray region on top of it. On Oct. 16, the globe rallied to mark the World Food Day, an annual awareness and action day against hunger and malnutrition, reminding of the importance of food security and access to nutritious food for all. It also addresses the importance of sustainable agriculture and food production. On Oct. 17, the world observed International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, in 2023 celebrated under the theme: “Putting dignity in practice for all.”

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The Diocese of Covington School Lunch Program is also seeking candidates for St. Paul, Florence, part-time cook/prep position.

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To apply please go to [www.covdio.org/employment](http://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.

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The Catholic Conference of Kentucky (CCK), located in Frankfort, is the official public policy agency of Kentucky’s four Roman Catholic Dioceses. Its mission is to represent the Church and the state’s Catholic Bishops to elected officials and government agencies at the state level.

The associate director will: Publicly advocate for positions taken by CCK, including but not limited to testimony in legislative hearings, written newspaper op-eds, blog posts; Build relationships to implement public policy; Educate parish, school, and Church-affiliated audiences in the Catholic vision of Faithful Citizenship; Assist with advocacy events; Maintain the CCK website and social media accounts; Prepare press releases and other media communications.

Applicants for the position must be an active and committed Catholic. The ideal candidate will have: Experience in communications, including engagement with social media; an academic degree or substantive training in theology; Knowledge of law or public policy; Community organizing/experience in community education; Ability to build strong relationships; Exhibit a personable demeanor; Work collaboratively with a small team

Interested candidates should submit their resumes and other relevant documentation on or before November 1, 2023 to [cckstaff@cck.org](mailto:cckstaff@cck.org) or by mail to Catholic Conference of Kentucky, 1042 Burlington Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601. Visit [www.cck.org](http://www.cck.org) for more details.

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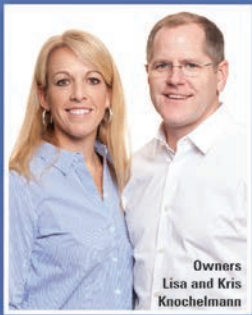


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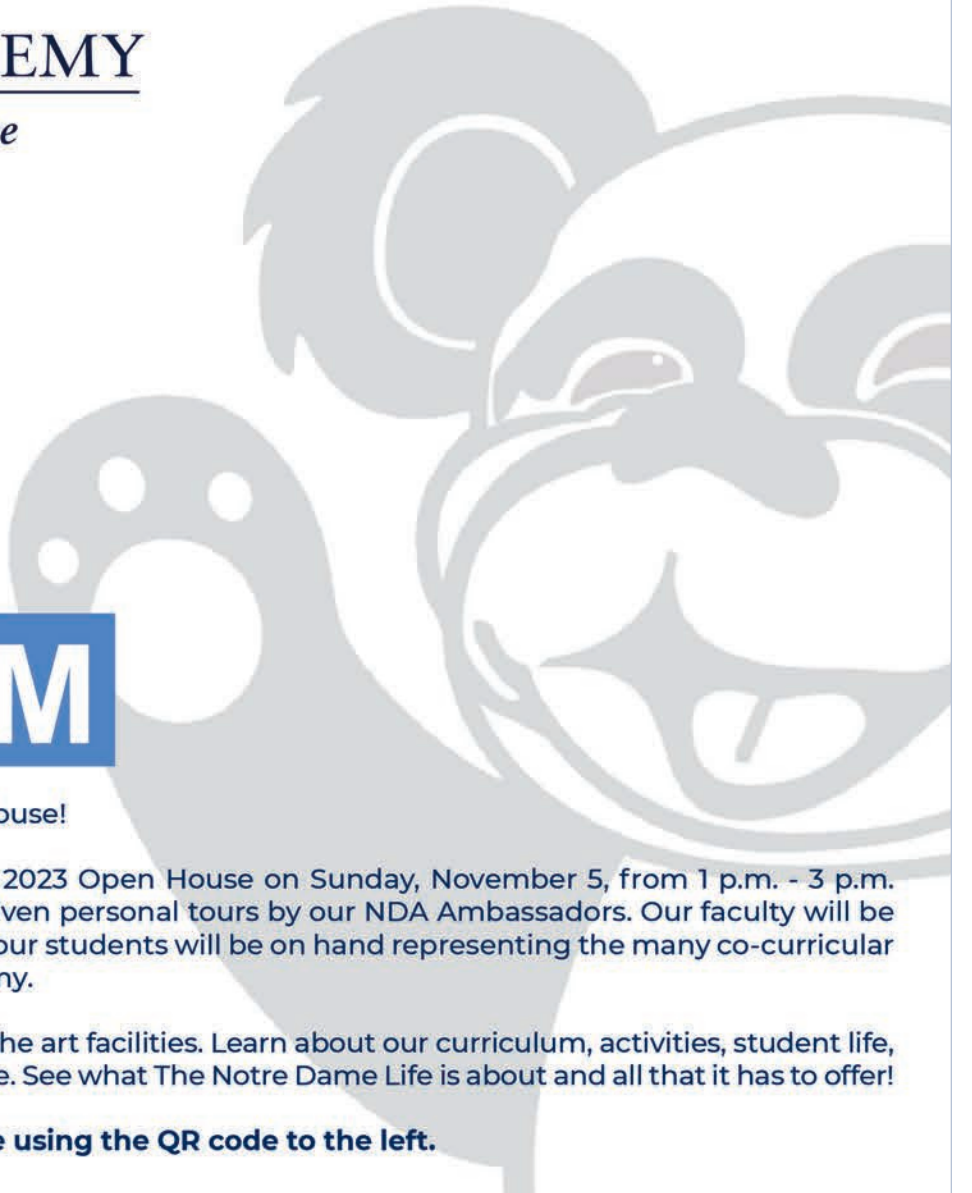
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