The Thomas More University School of Education welcomed media to an open house, Nov. 1, to formally announce initiatives in the recently launched Education VILLA — an umbrella of innovative programming that answers regional educational needs and positions the University as a leader in shaping K-12 education in the commonwealth.

“This not only a new chapter for Thomas More University, but certainly a new chapter for the School of Education,” said President Chillo. “This is a wonderful opportunity for us to understand our place and certainly our responsibilities to others as we look at the field of education and the role that we play as a university.”

The School of Education’s transformational new initiatives are set to roll out in phases over the next several years. The new model is called the Education VILLA, which stands for: Visualizing educators of excellence through Innovative methods promoting Leadership and Learning in an Atmosphere of growth, critical thinking, and research. The name draws on Thomas More University’s history as a teaching college, founded to train Catholic school teachers as Villa Madonna College in 1921.

“Thomas More University graduates the best teachers in Northern Kentucky and these updates will provide our aspiring educators with even more opportunities to engage their learning with the highest quality materials and technology,” said Christy Petroze, Ed.D., School of Education chair. “These experiences will provide a platform for faculty and students to be more...”

(Continued on page 17)
The saints imitate the life of Christ through the Beatitudes, Bishop Iffert preaches at All Saint’s Mass

Maura Baker  
Staff Writer

Nov. 1 celebrates the Solemnity of All Saint’s, a Holy Day of Obligation in the Catholic Church which honors all saints, known and unknown, in Heaven.

A Mass during the solemnity was celebrated in the evening by Bishop John Iffert, at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington.

The Gospel at the Mass, which famously has Jesus introduce the Beatitudes, was addressed by Bishop Iffert in his homily. “As I contemplated them before this Mass, I was very focused on realizing that what Jesus is doing is he’s proclaiming the Beatitudes not just as a disembodied law code that he urges us to participate in, but instead he’s laying out for us the virtues we’re going to see him in mind in his acceptance of the Cross, in his walking the path to Jerusalem. He urges us then to join in his mission.”

“Jesus lives out what it means to be meek by enduring under false accusations,” Bishop Iffert continued, describing also how Jesus embodies what it is to mourn in his mourning of his own death in the garden, and the mourning of Lazarus, and how he embodies what it is to hunger and thirst for righteousness — even crying out on the Cross, “I thirst.”

“The Beatitudes are Jesus’s way of explication and enunciating for us what it means to be a disciple — what it means to be Christ-like,” Bishop Iffert said. “Every one of the saints that we venerate and review this evening … every one of them has, in some way taken up that teaching of Jesus, taken up that teaching of the Beatitudes, and in some way fully imitated the life of Christ.”

“Tonight we remember all of those holy people in who we have seen some witness of the life of Christ,” Bishop Iffert concluded his homily “and in studying their lives and rejoicing in the life that have revealed to us … we begin to see the picture of Christ’s love for us, the way we are to follow and how we might give glory to his name.”

Sacred Music Concert  
Cello, Violin, Flute & Piano  
November 18th, 7pm  
St. Augustine, Covington  
FREE
In Episode 4 of Around the Diocese, Bishop John Iffert speaks with Carol Hodge about the Mustard Seed Community—the Catholic Charismatic movement in the Diocese of Covington. Check it out online at covdio.org.

High School Placement Test

The Department of Catholic Schools announces the annual High School Placement Test Saturday, Dec. 9, 9 a.m. to Noon

The High School Placement Test is administered to current 8th grade students who are interested in attending a Catholic high school in the Diocese of Covington. High School Placement Test Scholarships will be awarded to students only from the high school where the student took the test.

The registration process is coordinated through each individual high school. For further information, contact any secondary school listed or the Department of Catholic Schools at (859) 392-1500.

Bishop Brossart High School, Alexandria
www.bishopbrossart.org

Covington Catholic High School, Park Hills
www.covcath.org

Holy Cross District High School, Covington
www.hcdhs.com

Newport Central Catholic High School, Covington
www.ncchs.com

Notre Dame Academy, Park Hills
www.ndapandas.org

St. Henry District High School, Erlanger
www.shdhs.org

St. Joseph Academy, Villa Hills
www.stjosephacademy.org

The following schools do not administer the standard High School Placement Test. Contact the school directly for admission information.

Covington Latin School, Covington
www.covingtonlatin.org

Entrance exam: Dec. 9, 9 a.m. or Feb. 17, 9 a.m.

St. Patrick High School, Maysville
www.stpatschool.com

Schools in the Diocese of Covington accept students of any race, color and national or ethnic origin who otherwise meet the criteria for admission.

Rainbow awes Eucharistic procession

Mary Queen of Heaven Parish, Erlanger, concluded its 40 Hours devotion, Oct. 20–22, with a Eucharistic Procession around the parking lot led by Father Kevin Kahmann, pastor. At the very end it started sprinkling but God showed his love with a rainbow over the church and 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

Nov. 17, 2023, St. Joseph Parish, Cold Spring
Dec. 15, 2023, St. John Parish, Carrollton
May 3, 2024, St. Joseph Parish, Camp Springs
(The schedule will be updated as needed.)
Society St. Vincent de Paul — a fantasy team of faith, love and hope

A few weeks ago, a friend of mine organized an inaugural Mother/Son Fantasy Football league and invited my son and I to field a team. The buy-in was $50, with half the proceeds dedicated to fill gaps at our St. Vincent de Paul Cold Spring Pantry. I had absolutely no experience in Fantasy Football, but there was no question that I would participate. First, I love a good competition. Second, the league benefited a cause very near and dear to my heart. Finally, and most important to me, it presented the opportunity to spend time with my “growing up too fast” 10-year-old son, a budding potential future sports analyst who loves to talk stats with his Dad ALL THE TIME.

Fantasy Football allows you to select players from across NFL teams to build a dream squad. It starts with the draft where you pick a solid group of players from which to choose every week to build a line-up to defeat your competition. Thanks to my son, our team is doing well at this point in the season. He’s smart about his choices and I have grown confident in his ability to bring us to victory each week. My husband will tell you I am becoming rocky about this whole experience, even though my only role on this team is to remind Abe to set our line-up and to check the scores throughout the weekend.

Just like a Fantasy Football league, we have choices to make every day. We can be lulled into believing that we have thought-out decisions will lead us to realize our ideal lives — achieving great things, enjoying comfort and happiness. We convince ourselves that with the right choices, we can control the outcome. When life is running smoothly and we observe others facing hardship, it is tempting to attribute their situation to the choices they made along the way.

However, if we take a moment and pause to think about our lives, we come to realize that there are many factors that can affect our best-laid plans. It requires humility to recognize that we cannot always direct the end result. Humility is one of the essential virtues of St. Vincent de Paul. The Society’s governing document, called The Rule, states: “Humility is accepting the truth about our frailties, gifts, talents, and charism, yet knowing that all God gives us is for others and that we can achieve nothing of eternal value without His grace.”

As Vincentian servants, we must be careful not to fall in the trap of thinking we can defeat poverty with good advice and well reasoned decisions. In our encounters with our neighbors in need, we quickly come to realize that we do not have all the answers. But we do have the gift of God’s love that we must share liberally.

God has also blessed us with other resources that offer relief in a time of crisis thanks to the kindness and generosity of others. We are not expected to solve all the problems of those who are struggling, but we are expected to share hope for a brighter tomorrow.

Blessed Frederic Ozanam, the founding father of the Vincentian family of the Society said, “Knowledge of the poor and needy is not gained by poring over books or in discussions with politicians, but by visiting the slums where they live, sitting by the bedside of the dying, feeling the cold they feel and learning from their lips the causes of their woes.”

Our role is to surrender ourselves to God’s will, allowing Him to work through us by dedicating time and attention to the less fortunate. Meeting our neighbors where they are with compassion and empathy enables us to witness firsthand the need for God’s help to carry us through. These experiences offer an opportunity to practice and strengthen our faith, ultimately spreading hope and reassurance that no one is ever alone in their time of need.

Even in Fantasy Football, careful planning and reason-able choices do not always guarantee a win. Frankly, injuries on our team make the week ahead look challenging. Regardless of player combinations, it doesn’t look like there is much we can do to beat the odds.

Maybe this is audge to remind me that the odds is the ultimate commissioner and only He can dictate the outcome. I am fairly certain that His outcome is not for us to stay on top in our Fantasy Football league. Instead, I think He’s telling me that the most important victory is the time I get to spend with my son.

As part of St. Vincent de Paul, we are called to show God’s love by spending time with and encouraging those in need, rather than judging or second-guessing someone’s choices by the outcome. We “win” when we are a con-duit for healing love and faith, sharing hope regardless of circumstances.

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

Each October the Catholic Church in the United States observes Respect Life Month as a time to focus on the protection of God’s precious gift of human life. The theme of the month varies from year to year, but it usually concentrates our attention on the issue of abortion.

Each October we celebrate the theme was “Living Radical Solidarity.” Bishop Michael F. Burbidge, chairman of the Bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities, explains, “While ending legalized abortion remains our pre-eminent priority, the most immediate way to save babies and mothers from abortion is to thoroughly surround mothers in need with life-giving support and personal companionship. This is radical solidarity.”

The bishop Burbidge noted, “Being in radical solidarity with women who are pregnant or raising children in diffi- cult circumstances means putting our love for them into action and putting their needs before our own.”

The bishop cited Pope Francis, who has emphasized the importance of our ability to bring about change. “We are called to proclaim that human life is always precious — it is not to be played with!”

In a press conference after his recent trip to Marseille, France, the pope spoke of both the beginning and the end of life. “You don’t play with life, neither at the beginning nor at the end. You don’t play with it,” he insisted.

Speaking of the refugee crisis in the Mediterranean, the pope said, “God will bless us, if on land and at sea we know how to take care of the weakest, if we can overcome the paralysis of fear and the disinterest that, with velvet gloves, condemns others to death.”

He spoke of the mindset that radical solidarity requires. “Let us unchain the modern civil society, start anew by listening to the poor who should be embraced, not counted, for they are faces, not numbers. The change of direction in our communities lies in treating them as brothers and sisters whose stories we know; not as trou- ble-provoking problems or casting them away sending them home; it lies in welcoming them, not hiding them; in integ-grating them, not evicting them; in giving them dignity.”

The real social evil in our world today, the pope observed, is not so much the increase of problems, but the decrease of care. “Who nowadays becomes a neighbor to the young people left to themselves, who are easy prey for crime and prostitution? Who is close to people enslaved by work that should make them free? Who cares for the frightened families, afraid of the future and of bringing children into the world? Who listens to the groaning of our isolated elderly brothers and sisters, who, instead of being appreciated, are pushed aside, under the false pretenses of a supposedly dignified ‘death’ and ‘suffering’ that is more ‘salty’ than the waters of the sea? Who tends of the unborn children, rejected in the name of a false right to progress, which is instead a retreat into the selfish needs of the individual?”

These forceful words of Pope Francis present many fields of action calling out for our pro-life convictions and engagement.

It is in involving ourselves in the full breadth of situations in need of our care and commitment that a credible and truly radical solidarity will emerge.

All members of the Body of Christ has unique gifts and abilities, different interests and convictions. Each of us has an unrepeatable, God-given mission — but we are all called to be artisans of the culture of life.

Through our prayers, words and actions we are all called to proclaim that human life is always precious — it is not to be played with!

Sister Constance Veit is the communications director for the Little Sisters of the Poor in the United States and an occupational therapist.
Death doesn’t end bonds of love

As I write this, today is All Souls Day, and I feel very humbled to share this story with you:

“Sister!” His voice was as familiar as ever, although it had been well over a year since he’d greeted me from a bed — last time, it was in a hospital: now he was resting in a bed at home. I’d been grateful for the in-between times when Rich could stand and give us all hugs. After a valiant battle with cancer for over two years, he was now in the twilight of his life on earth.

Being at the bedside of a dying person is a threshold to the sacred. The man I remembered as so strong and tall could no longer stand up to embrace me, yet the warmth of his eyes and the serene expression of his face radiated a glow that settled my heart. As I sat by his side, Rich showed interest in what I had been up to — especially the Eucharistic Revival.

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Matthew Perry’s surprising prayer reminds us to pray, even for the famous

He continued in a 2022 podcast with Tom Power promoting his book: “The best thing about me, bar none, is that if somebody comes to me and says, ‘I can’t stop drinking, can you help me?’ I can say ‘yes’ and follow up and do it,” Perry said. “When I die, I don’t want ‘Friends’ to be the first thing that’s mentioned. I want that to be the first thing that’s mentioned. And I’m gonna live the rest of my life proving that.”

He wrote: “Decades of struggling with God, and wrestling with life, and sadness, all was being washed away like a river of pain gone into oblivion.” In years past, he had prayed for fame. For better or for worse, that prayer was answered. But now he had prayed “for the right thing.”

He experienced wondrousness. “Even the plants in my house, which I had never even noticed before, seemed in sharp focus, more lovely than it was possible to be, more perfect, more alive.”

Obviously, this isn’t John of the Cross. And his “Friends, Lovers, and the Big Terrible Thing: A Memoir” used the f-word a fair amount, which I do not remember from “The Dark Night of the Soul.” And yet, our lives are meant to be a journey to union with God. And in his struggles, Perry seemed to have sought this. He told an interviewer: “I would like to be remembered as somebody who lived well, loved well, was a seeker.” Perry said. “And his paramount thing is that he wants to help people.

That’s what I want.”

Be prepared


When St. Francis of Assisi was confronted with the thought of death towards the end of his life, he called his friars together and said to them with courage: “Brothers, let us begin to do good because till now we have done only a little.”

Have you ever felt like that before? Do you reflect on your life and remember those ways in which you could have done more? Maybe we have ignored a call from God to reach out to help others by serving outside of our comfort zone. Or maybe, just maybe, our lamps are burning out because we haven’t prayed, listened, by which we can receive grace which is the fuel we need to help us serve others — to be ready.

Let us end this reflection by fixing our eyes on the conclusion of the Gospel: those who were ready entered in to O AND GLORIFY

We must be prepared at all times, for we know neither the day nor the hour that our good Lord will come and take us home.

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

Kathryn Jean Lopez

Weoremember the truth of the soul of Matthew Perry and the consolation of his life.

I’ve known enough public figures in my life to know that it can be a lonely, desperate experience, even if you’re not living the Hollywood life. Pray for the repose of the soul of Matthew Perry and the consolation of his family and friends. And remember that there is not even one of us who could not use a prayer. Desperation creeps into the lives of those of us who have a more schooled understanding of God. It is because we are sinners that we need a savior. Savor the gifts of God more.

Go and Glorify

Sister Alicia Torres, F.E. is managing editor for the “Heart of the Revival” the newsletter of the National Eucharistic Revival. online at www.EucharisticRevival.org. Her commentary has been reprinted with permission.

Her commentary has been provided by OSV News.

Canvassers that we need a savior. Savor the gifts of God more.

Kathryn Jean Lopez is a senior fellow at the National Review Institute and editor-at-large of National Review. Her commentary has been provided by OVT News.

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**We Choose Life**

**Pro-Life Office** of the Diocese of Covington

Mission Statement
The Pro-Life Office of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington, guided by our bishop, promotes the sanctity and legal protection of human life from conception to natural death through prayer, pastoral care, public policy and education.

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**Lifeline: A phone call away**

More educational sessions at New Hope followed. The staff prayed with Destiny. She started gathering her supplies and nesting in her little apartment. One evening she allowed me to escort her to the Community Baby Shower hosted by the Pregnancy Care Network of Northern Kentucky, where she received gifts, learned about the resources available from various organizations, and connected with St. Elizabeth representatives to preregister for her delivery.

Reflecting on Destiny's journey, Sarah McAdams, her DCCH case manager for Independent Living, said, "It has been so reward-

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**Ronald M. Bertsch**
Director, DCCH Center for Children and Families

Here at DCCH we witness firsthand the necessity of strong child and family support programs. Lives can blossom with timely, loving intervention — or be blighted by neglect, foster care breakdowns and gaps in "wraparound" social services big enough to steer babies bugg-
gies through. This is a story of one client’s struggles. May she inspire you to open your heart, perhaps even your home, to children, teens and young women desperate for shelter and love.

Ms. Destiny was referred to our Independent Living Program when she turned 18 and left the foster care sys-
tem. Her state social worker described her as a likeable, caring, physically active young woman who was able to cook and do laundry, enjoyed crafts and liked keeping her room clean. She had just finished her high school classes, had a fast-

food job, and hoped to get a driver’s license and someday attend Gateway Community College to build a better future.

When we showed Destiny an apartment furnished by generous donations to DCCH’s Flea market, it was love at first sight: “Can I move in right now?” Once she was settled, it was time to consider her next steps for reaching independ-
ence. But the more we learned of Destiny’s his-
tory, the harder it looked.

Destiny had a great deal of trauma, losses and wrong turns in her past to overcome. Drug addiction had ravaged much of her family, killing her father before she was born, sending her mom into rehab centers and prison. As a teenag-
er Destiny was moved through 11 different fos-
ter homes, treatment centers and emergency shelters throughout Kentucky. A forever family was never found.

After her older sister was killed in what Destiny believes was domestic violence, she sank into deep depression and even attempted suicide. Risky behaviors drew her; including drugs and alcohol — until one day she came to a remarkable resolve: The girl who had endured so much trauma, and who had only a few, fractured family relationships remaining to cling to, was going to find a way to make a better life.

As Destiny grew to trust and rely on the DCCH staff, social work students, her therapist and Rachel, her community mentor, she learned that help was always just a phone call away. She would call for a trip to the doctor, dentist, counselor, work or gro-
cery. Once she called to ask about attending her high school grad-
uation ceremony at NKU. She accepted my offer to take her, and she met me in her cap and gown, smiling from ear to ear.

Months later, her call brought big news; pregnancy. DCCH connected her with New Hope Center, where she met with a counselor. But late one Thursday afternoon Destiny called again: she had an urgent appointment at New Hope because she and her boyfriend wanted an abortion, but her counselor asked her to come in and talk first. Could she have a ride? I was already grab-
bing my keys.

I sat praying in the lobby while Destiny met with Mrs. Angela. When they set another appointment in a week, I silently thanked God, and on the drive home I carefully asked how she felt about her meeting and her big decision. "I’m scared to death," she replied. "Did you know all the risks there are with having an abortion? I don’t think I am going to do it!"

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For more information about the Pro-Life Office or to be added to our e-mail newsgroups, visit us online at www.covdio.org/prolife/ or call (859) 392-1500.
Staff report

The Emergency Shelter of Northern KY (ESNKY) officially opened their winter shelter today, welcoming those adults in the community that need a place to sleep as temperatures begin to drop.

"Today for the fifteenth year, we welcome women and men to come here for a warm bed to sleep in as they need it," said ESNKY Executive Director Kim Webb. "We believe homelessness is an emergency and that everyone needs and deserves a bed to sleep in. Only when this necessity is provided do human beings have the ability to recover from homelessness."

The shelter held an Open House and a Shelter Blessing over the course of the end of October and early November to prepare for the opening. They opened the doors to the community and more than 75 volunteers, supporters, community and religious leaders attended the events. People brought winter gear like hats, gloves and coats along with needed kitchen items like paper goods and coffee. Religious leaders from around the region attended and gave their blessings for the shelter, its work and those who need its services. Attendees toured the shelter to see it in action and two guests currently staying at the shelter spoke about what it’s like to be homeless in Northern Kentucky.

"We are unique and provide an innovative approach to sheltering," said Webb. "When an individual does not have shelter, they are often in crisis. We meet individuals where they are, offering services when they need them and removing barriers like entry requirements and program commitments which are often hard to meet when an individual is in crisis."

The organization provides emergency shelter and a transitional housing work program to adult men in need year-round. The winter shelter provides beds to women from November to March. All adults can access daytime services like laundry, showers, and the Navigation Center year-round.

"We find that sometimes all a person needs is a bed for one night and then they are able to self-resolve and carry on. In fact, most of our guests spent less than 14 nights with us. If you think about it, that’s the length of a paycheck. That’s all they needed," said Webb. "That’s the benefit of a low barrier, night-by-night, emergency shelter. We can give our guests what they need when they need it."
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 DirecTV 25.

Parish Kitchen needs your help. Parish Kitchen needs new sleeping bags and new blankets for guests. Many of our brothers and sisters spend these long winter nights in unheated spaces or outdoors. Your gift of new sleeping bags and blankets will not only warm their hearts and souls but may even save their lives. Donations can be dropped off at Parish Kitchen, 1616 Madison Ave., Covington, 8 to 11 a.m., Monday thru Friday. The drive is held Nov. 15–30. Any questions call 581-7745.

Thomas More University and Dr. Austin Hinkel present The Solar System’s Time Capsules: Unlocking the Secrets of Asteroids & Comets, Saturday, Nov. 18, Lecture at 7 p.m. in Steigerwald Hall followed by a viewing in the Observatory at 8 p.m. his event is free, open to the public, and appropriate for all ages. No reservations are required. thomasmore.edu/observatory.

The next United in Prayer for Peace in the World will be Nov. 20, 6 p.m., at the Bell Tower, Goebel Park, Covington. Come in person or join online through Facebook live via the Sisters of Notre Dame or the Sisters of Divine Providence Facebook or the United In Prayer pages. Praying together is a sign of hope and unity, and a moment of peace and encouragement for others and ourselves as a praying community. This prayer is hosted by Sisters of Notre Dame, Sisters of Divine Providence, and the Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg.

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 Daughters of the Covington-Lexington section of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

The Cathedral Concert is Nov. 12, 3 p.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington. The CCM Brass presents a musical tribute to the late Betty Glover, formerly the head of the brass department – as well as personal friend of the late Dr. Robert Schaffer and trombonist with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. The public is invited with no admission charge. Visit cathedralconcertseries.org for more information.

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

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, 6:30 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.
Bonitatem et disciplinam et scientiam, doce me.
Teach me goodness, discipline, and knowledge.
Covington Latin School — educating leaders for the community and the Church

Most Rev. John C. Iffert
Bishop of Covington

In 1923 Bishop William Howard was interested in establishing a pre-college program that would “establish and maintain a high standard for educational work” in the Diocese of Covington. To do that he turned to the European school model. From the concept of the “Bishop’s School” he took the idea of an academy where the diocesan bishop and select priests personally offered a classical education. From the German gymnasium system, Bishop Howard borrowed the idea of beginning secondary studies after 6th grade. From those inspirations came an accelerated, Catholic, college-preparatory education that made a difference from its inception.

It is clear that the Covington Latin School has helped to develop many community leaders over the years. At almost every meeting or community event I attend, someone will introduce themselves as an alumnus of Covington Latin. These gifted graduates make incredible contributions to Northern Kentucky every day and their appreciation for the classical education they received is evident.

Covington Latin School also helped educate many priests of the Diocese of Covington. Even our most recently ordained priest, Father Michael Elmlinger, is a Covington Latin School grad. Msgr. Ronald Ketteler (God rest his soul) loved to tell the story of the bet between Bishop Ackerman and an Archbishop of Chicago. The Archbishop could not cotton the tales of academic exceptionalism that surrounded Covington Latin School. He dared Bishop Ackerman to send two young men to Mundelein Seminary to see how they would fare against the Chicago men coming out of Archbishop Quigley Preparatory Seminary. With glee, Msgr. Ketteler would tell of an initial struggle for our hometown team, but eventually the two Covington Latin men finished first and second in their graduating class.

Today the Bishop’s School continues its traditional mission, while seeking to expand services for gifted learners who are neurally diverse. The school provides an encouraging and supportive community for accelerated learners and recognizes that students have individual needs and may progress through the program at different rates.

Congratulations to the Covington Latin School on 100 years of exceptional service to gifted people for the extraordinary Northern Kentucky community. You have, no doubt, exceeded Bishop Howard’s expectations. This bishop is certainly grateful for your contribution to the community and Church.

May you always serve the Lord by forming good, knowledgeable, and disciplined young men and women in the way of truth and faith. Ad Multus annos!

Most Rev. John C. Iffert
Bishop of Covington

Bishop John Iffert together with Bishop Emeritus Roger J. Foys and the Priests, Deacons, Religious and Lay Faithful of the Diocese of Covington send prayerful best wishes and congratulations to Covington Latin School on their 100th Anniversary

“In All Things Give Thanks”
John Kennedy
Contributor

Much has changed since Bishop William Howard envi-
sioned and designed a “small, rigorous school for training
selected students to serve the cause of truth” in September
of 1923. He modeled this new school in the diocese,
Covington Latin School, on European Bishops’ Schools
where students began college preparatory school after
sixth grade.

While much has changed, much of his vision is time-
less and universal with students a century later still study-
ing the classics, learning Latin, and serving God in the
cause of truth.

Students still live the motto: Bonitatem et disciplinam
et scientiam doce me — Teach me goodness, discipline, and
knowledge — that is etched in stone above the main
entrance to the school. No matter what era a student
matriculated from Covington Latin School, these impor-
tant concepts combined with a strong Catholic identity
would serve as the foundation of a lifelong devotion to truth and God.

I always point out to our students that
being able to have weekly Mass in the
Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption and
serve as pontifical servers are privileges
not seen in every Catholic school across
the country.

We welcomed back many classes this
past September to cele-
brate the centennial of this school and 100 years
of producing leaders in all aspects of life — reli-
gious, military, government, law, medicine, busi-
ness, and family.

Covington Latin School not only supports
the academic success of their students but
also supports their spiritual growth too. Through participation in the Mass, sacra-
ments, prayer and community service, the students are
growing in their relationship with Jesus and learning how
to care for others and the world around them.

I want to especially thank the faculty, staff, headmas-
ters and priests who have served the students at
Covington Latin School over the past century. The success
of the school and its graduates are due to their commit-
tment to Catholic education and their dedication to teaching.

As Covington Latin School celebrates 100 years
of Catholic education in the Diocese of Covington, and
on behalf of the Department of Catholic Schools, I con-
gratulate them on this important milestone. I look
forward to Covington Latin School continuing this tradi-
tion of excellence and preparing the future generations of
students for success in this world.

Kendra McGuire
Superintendent of Schools

Just a few months ago, students across
Northern Kentucky returned to school for
the 2023-2024 school year. For those of us who
are parents, educators or long-time students,
the start of each new school year can seem
routine. But at Covington Latin School, this
year marks the school’s 100th year anniver-
sary and is a time to celebrate!

Covington Latin School has a long-stand-
ing history of excellence in Northern
Kentucky. Over their 100-year history, more
than 3,000 students have successfully com-
pleted their rigorous program of studies.

Today, Covington Latin School continues to
meet the needs of the academically gifted by
offering programs to help students excel and
accelerate their learning.

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Throughout 100 years, goodness, discipline and knowledge
permeate every moment and every student

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gious, military, government, law, medicine, busi-
ness, and family.

While Covington Latin School has changed
in many ways — there are females attending, lay
teachers lead the classrooms, and military drills
are still not conducted in the front parking lot —
the essence of goodness, discipline, and knowl-
edge permeate every moment and every stu-
dent.

We will continue this celebration throughout
the year culminating with our centennial grad-
uation class of 2024.

John Kennedy is headmaster of Covington
Latin School, Covington, Ky.
Covington Latin celebrates Centennial among community

Amy Darpel
Contributor

On Sept. 7, 1923, the dream of Bishop Francis Howard was realized. It marked the first day of school for Covington Latin School.

One hundred years later, the mission and vision of the Bishop’s School has not changed. Bright students are offered an opportunity to have an education that best fits their needs. It is a school like no other in the diocese or the region.

Despite some changes, like the addition of female students in 1992, a Prep 8 year in 1990, and a Prep 7 in 2016, the same classical education remains steadfast.

To celebrate this milestone, Covington Latin School is holding celebrations throughout the year to commemorate the 100 extraordinary years of educating the best and brightest in the region.

To commemorate our Founders Day, Covington Latin spent the day dedicated to community service. Students began the day with proclamations from the Mayor of Covington, Joe Meyer ’64, Judge Executive of Kenton County Kris Knochelman ’87, and State Senator Chris McDaniel ’93. Each shared their experiences with Covington Latin School, and each challenged and inspired students to serve the community and each other.

Following the proclamations, students, teachers, par-...
ents and alumni/ae participated in a Day of Service, surpassing the goal of 1,923 hours of community service across the area. Alumni from across the country gave back to their community as a testament to the servant leadership they learned from their time at CLS.

The day concluded with parents, alumni/ae, and friends of Latin School coming together at Hotel Covington for a kickoff celebration. The celebrations continued on Friday with alumni/ae visits to classes followed by 75 alumni, faculty, and families attending the Reds game in the Riverboat Suite. The night was perfectly capped off by fireworks at the stadium.

On Saturday, CLS hosted a Super Reunion for everyone celebrating an anniversary year and anyone who wanted to stop in. Hundreds of alumni stopped by to see displays, including a Model T from 1923 and Model A from 1930, thanks to Gary Pranger ’71.

To conclude the weekend, the entire community was invited to celebrate Mass with Bishop John Iffert. The Mass was concelebrated with local alumni priests, which made the Mass even more special.

This well-attended event culminated in an old-fashioned picnic in the Kohlhepp Family Forum.
Family and CLS — critical formations

My stint at Covington Latin School was from September 1958 to June 1962. I went to CLS because my two older brothers, Bill '57 and Bob '59, and my father Clifford '33 — all of whom I looked up to very much — preceded me. It may have been the smartest thing I’ve ever done because the discipline, study habits, work ethic, logical thinking process and Father Robert Vater’s power problems that I learned there have stayed with me throughout my career and lifetime. For these reasons, the Kohlhepp family has long been a big supporter of CLS, and we now expect that to continue well into the future. The school (now 6 grade levels — 7th through 12th) remains a hidden jewel of a school in Covington, Kentucky. Also, I’ve made lifelong friends from my time at CLS, including from our prestigious class of 1962. Quite often, I thank the Lord for His guidance for directing me to and through CLS because I’m confident I wouldn’t be what I am today if not for Covington Latin. Family and CLS have been critical formations for me in my life!

Jerry Kohlhepp
Class of 1962

CLS teachers guide, support and challenge

Covington Latin School holds a very special place in my life. It offers me a unique education: being intellectually challenged, making new strong connections with others and being set up for success in college, my career and life. At CLS, I have been challenged in many different ways, such as course material and homework. For example, this is my fourth year of Latin, and learning new words in a different language and reading Latin challenges me daily. Homework also challenges me because it offers a deeper understanding of the subject by providing extra practice. At the previous school I attended, there was no such challenge, which is one reason why CLS has been essential in my academic and personal growth. Also, CLS allows me to make connections with not only other students but teachers. CLS has fantastic teachers who genuinely care for their students. The classes are small, which gives me and other students more personal attention. This allows us to understand the subjects in class, to interact with one another, to discuss ideas and always to ask for help from the teachers if needed. The teachers are always here to guide us, support us and challenge us. Finally, the curriculum at CLS sets us up for success in college by offering many collegiate-level classes, such as AP and honors classes. These classes prepare us for the workload and difficulty of college, as well as set us up for excellent work ethic for the rest of our lives. CLS also prepares me for standardized tests like the ACT, which can get me into an excellent university. I plan to double major in physics and math in college, and without CLS, I don’t think I would be as prepared.

Lucas Doyner
Class of 2024

A safe environment for academic risk-takers

The culture at CLS is quite a departure from public schools in the area, even those with a long reputation for academic and athletic excellence. At CLS, staff, families and students alike are supportive and genuinely kind people. There is no sentiment of entitlement, and students are taught kindness rather than how to hurt/step on others to get ahead. Differences are celebrated at CLS rather than simply providing lip service or used in such a way to bolster the organization’s reputation in the area of diversity. It is a safe environment for kids who are bright, enjoy learning and are academic risk-takers. Teachers at CLS care about the kids they are teaching, and communication with school is impressive.

Amanda Burgher
Parent

Parent

An alumnus, student and parent share what sets Covington Latin School apart

For generations of families the unique academic experience at Covington Latin School was a welcome discovery and, once found, embraced and kept. Here an alumnus, a student and a parent share what they value most at CLS.

Living the motto — ‘Teach me goodness, discipline and knowledge’

Gemma Feldman
Contributor

My journey at Covington Latin School has been nothing short of transformative. As a 12th grader, I’ve had the privilege of immersing myself in an environment that truly embodies our school’s motto, “Teach me goodness, discipline and knowledge.” These words are not mere platitudes but rather a way of life that we are encouraged to embrace and integrate into every aspect of our education and character development.

One of the cornerstones of my experience at CLS has been the emphasis on servant leadership. We are constantly reminded of the importance of giving back to our community and the world.

The belief that we can make a positive impact on the lives of others has been instilled in us since day one. Through countless service opportunities and projects, I’ve learned that leadership is not about power or prestige but selflessly serving others. This invaluable lesson has shaped me into a more compassionate and responsible individual, and I am grateful to CLS for emphasizing this aspect of our education.

The Catholic faith formation at Covington Latin School has been an integral part of my journey. As a Catholic, I’ve always appreciated how our school encourages us to deepen our faith through religious studies, prayer and participation in various faith-based activities. It’s heartwarming to be part of a community where my beliefs are respected and celebrated.

The learning environment has allowed me to grow in my faith and develop a deeper understanding of the Catholic principles that guide my life.

CLS’s commitment to academic rigor through a classical education has shaped my intellectual growth. The emphasis on subjects like Latin, classical literature and philosophy has not only expanded my knowledge but also honed my critical thinking skills.

The classical approach to education challenges us to think deeply, seek truth and engage with the great minds of the past. It has prepared me to excel academically and to tackle the challenges of higher education with confidence.

Covington Latin School has been a place where I’ve not only acquired knowledge but also learned the importance of goodness, discipline and servant leadership. It has deepened my faith and provided me with an academic foundation rooted in classical education.

I am genuinely grateful for the opportunities and the lifelong values CLS instilled in me. My journey here has not only prepared me for success but also for a life dedicated to making the world a better place through knowledge, service and faith.

Gemma Feldman is a student of Covington Latin School, class of 2024.

Congratulations to Covington Latin School, celebrating 100 years of providing a quality, Catholic education to the Diocese of Covington.

Thomas More University provides students with something much more than job training. They learn to harness the power of their passions to solve problems and discover truth. Most importantly, they learn the clarity to become the person they were created to be. This is the power of the liberal arts in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition. Students come here looking for more and take the opportunity to Make it More.

Make it More
The Catholic University of the Diocese of Covington

333 Thomas More Pkwy., Crestview Hills, KY 41017 / themoreu.edu / 859.341.5800

(above) A 1949 debate team demonstrates one of the tenants of a classical education.
Covington Latin School: 100 years of educating leaders

Sarah Torres
Diocesan Archivist

Exceptional education for Catholic youth has been the goal of the Bishops of Covington since the beginning. Bishop George Carroll, the first Bishop of Covington, had endeavored to establish a “Bishop’s school” during his tenure. While he served the diocese, Bishop Camillus Maes, the third Bishop of Covington, instated the policy of “no school, no pastor” and successfully opened six Academies, including Villa Madonna. It was this torch of love for education and the youth of the Catholic Church that was passed on to the third Bishop of Covington, instated the policy of “no school, no pastor” and successfully opened six Academies, including Villa Madonna. It was this torch of love for education and the youth of the Catholic Church that was passed on to Bishop Howard’s belief was that no worthy student would be turned away due to lack of tuition funds. From its establishment, Bishop Howard worked to establish scholarships for the boys in attendance at Covington Latin. During the Depression, families were asked to pay “only what was fair” and Bishop took care of the rest.

Over the years, the curriculum of Covington Latin has seen developments while always maintaining its standard of excellence. In 1931, military drill was introduced and would continue until the early 1970s, much to the displeasure of many students. In 1945, Bishop William Mulloy became the sixth Bishop of Covington, bringing with him more developments to the school’s curriculum. That school year courses included four years of Religion, Latin, English, Mathematics, Speechcraft, Chant and Military Science; two years of Science, History German and Spanish; three years of Greek were optional. A wide variety of extracurricular activities were also established during this time including basketball, bowling, boxing, baseball, choir, literary club, science club and the school newspaper, The Leader.

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In the 1980s, discussions began about merging Covington Latin and Villa Madonna. While both schools worked towards similar goals and catered to high achievers, philosophical differences and a reluctance from both sides to relinquish control of their own school lead Bishop Hughes to cease all discussion of the matter in December of 1982.

In 1982, Covington Latin would officially open its door to female students, enrolling forty-one girls that year.

Covington Latin has continued to grow and develop to fulfill the mission and dream of the Bishops who gave it life. Today, the Latin School stands as a living example of the Diocese’s strive for education excellence and continues to help create the great, Catholic future leaders of our country.
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL NKY – JOIN OUR TEAM!

Advancement Director Opportunity

The Advancement Director is responsible for planning and implementing a comprehensive relationship development strategy with our individual and corporate supporters and community foundation partners. The Advancement Director works closely with our Executive Director, spreading a message of hope for the less fortunate within our community.

The ideal candidate must have five years or more experience in fundraising and a proven track record of setting goals and motivating and working with a team (internally and externally) to reach those goals. The ideal candidate must also be an effective written and oral communicator, dedicated to delivering the good news of our ministry.

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

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

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


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

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Thomas More University launches bold education program

(Continued from page 1)

innovative and creative in our preparation to meet the challenges of the education landscape today." The first phase of the Education VILLA is complete, as classrooms were equipped with state-of-the-art technology and upgraded furniture made possible through the generosity of an alumnus donor.

At the media event, Kayla Steltenkamp, assistant professor, TMU School of Education, shared how even small, barely noticeable furniture features aid in the efficiency of the classroom. For example, smaller, lightweight tables can easily be moved for group discussions. Additionally, these tables have colored edges allowing for quick and easy group breakdowns — yellow over here, blue over there and red right here. Other tables have a high-gloss tops that can be used as dry erase boards.

Phase two is currently in progress and includes the launch of a first-of-its-kind Dyslexia Institute which was announced in August 2023. Dr. Steltenkamp is spearheading the launch of the Dyslexia Institute and has for many years made overcoming the educational challenges of students with dyslexia a focus.

A lot of our coursework we’ve redesigned to help make sure that our students are identifying and understanding strategies to work with students with dyslexia, she said. “We just want to help people and to grow as community and partnerships to work with students with dyslexia,” she said.

In the coming years, we’re going to be announcing a new Honors Cohort model for University students with an expected application opening date of January 2024.

The benefit of that for us is that we will be a small program and will be able to do different things to support students individually to map their path purposefully with some kind of personalization,” said Alissa Ayres, director, TMU Graduate Programs in Education. “Particularly the Diocese of Covington needs a principal training program and they need us to be able to provide that service.”

Another important aspect of the Education VILLA is that it will provide educational continuity for students throughout their life as they grow in their profession.

Students will have the opportunity to come to us for undergraduate or come to us for the master’s program then, through their life as they grow in their profession.

The Professional Development Institute is something that we think is really important,” said Dr. Steltenkamp. “We have a lot of things that we are already doing and we have great ideas that we want to continue to do,” for teachers in the Diocese of Covington.

A STEM Institute that features a partnership with the Thomas More University Biology Field Station is phase three and is expected to launch in 2026.

Phase four includes several advanced graduate degrees that are currently in development with projected launch dates ranging from 2025 to 2027. One of the most needed is the Principal Program, which includes both a master’s and an education specialist.

“It’s just an incentive for some of our high performing students to have some extra initiatives and partnership with schools,” said Dr. Steltenkamp. “Teacher retention is difficult, even the teacher shortage is difficult, so it’s an opportunity to partner with some of our local schools to help relieve that burden.”

The final element of phase two is a suite of professional development offerings for current professionals in the education space.

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The Professional Development Institute is something that we think is really important,” said Dr. Steltenkamp. “We have a lot of things that we are already doing and we have great ideas that we want to continue to do,” for teachers in the Diocese of Covington.
The heinous killing of dozens in Egbekaw village in Cameroon’s volatile South West region has strongly condemned “the atrocious act,” Bishop Aloysius Fondong Abangalo of Mamfe. “Up till this moment, we cannot find any reasons to justify this heinous act,” Bishop Abangalo vehemently condemned “the atrocious act,” saying the massacre “of so many innocent men, women and children... is an intrinsically evil act because it violates the Fifth Commandment of the Decalogue: You shall not kill.”

Bishop Abangalo also commented on the decision, expressing his support to the bottom of my heart. Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said Italians had given him and his wife, Claire, “hope and faith back in humanity.” “The Italians have shown us care and loving support and I wish the UK authorities were the same,” he said. “I’m very proud to say Italy has Italian citizenship and I thank the Italian government and the Italian people from the bottom of my heart.”

Christians cancel Christmas celebrations in solidarity with Gaza

AMMAN, Jordan — Churches in Jordan are canceling Christmas celebrations in solidarity with Gaza as violence in the Palestinian enclave mounts. The leaders of Jordan’s Council of Church Leaders announced on Nov. 5 the cancellation of all festivities and events to express deepening concern over the escalating humanitarian crisis engulfing Palestinian civilians in Gaza. Viewed as a poignant gesture of respect for the innocent victims and the reverent sacrifices made by those in Gaza and the West Bank, the Council has urged for a solemn observance of Christmas through prayer and religious rituals. It said that Christmas bassets, gift distributions for children, decorative initiatives, and scout parades would be canceled. “We canceled the external celebrations of Christmas. The decision was made to focus on the spiritual meaning of Christmas — the birth of Jesus. It’s solidarity with the people of Gaza,” Father Ridz Bader told OSV News. He directs the Catholic Center for Studies and Media in the Jordanian capital. “We will focus only on the religious celebration, including worship services and songs inside the churches and nothing outside the churches.” Father Bader explained.

Church appeals poised to uphold gun ban for domestic abusers

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court appeared poised to uphold a federal law prohibiting those under domestic violence restraining orders from owning firearms. The case concerns the constitutionality of a federal ban on firearms possession by those under domestic violence restraining orders. A federal law enacted in 1996 prohibits those subject to domestic violence restraining orders from possessing firearms. The case concerns Zaycky Rahim, a Texas man who was placed under a restraining order after assaulting his girlfriend in 2019 and threatening to shoot her. Rahim later took part in other crimes, including his involvement in five shootings, after which authorities searched his home and charged him with violating that federal ban.

The measure, advanced by the Ohio Physicians for Reproductive Rights and Ohioans for Reproductive Freedom, will legalize abortion up to the point of fetal viability — the gestational maturity at which a baby may be capable of living outside the uterus — and beyond, if a physician decided an abortion was necessary for the sake of the mother’s life or health. Cincinnati Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr said in a Nov. 7 statement the amendment’s passage “shows that there remains a desperate need for conversion of hearts and minds to a culture of life in our country one that respects the inherent dignity and sacredness of every human being from conception to natural death.”

Italy grants citizenship to critically ill UK 8-month-old

ROME — The Italian government granted citizenship to Indi Gregory, an 8-month-old child suffering from a degenerative disease who is at the center of a legal battle in the UK, to keep her on life support. After a Nov. 6 emergency meeting, the Italian Council of Ministers said the resolution granting citizenship was made after the Vatican-owned Bambino Gesù children’s hospital expressed its willingness to offer treatment for the child who suffers from mitochondrial disease, an illness that prevents cells from producing energy. “The Italian government has also commented to the hospital management and the family its commitment to cover the costs of health treatments that are deemed necessary,” the council said. In a statement released by Christian Concern, a nonprofit advocacy group working with the family, Indi’s father, Dean Gregory, said Italians had given him and his wife, Claire, “hope and faith back in humanity.” “The Italians have shown us care and loving support and I wish the UK authorities were the same,” he said. “I’m very proud to say Italy has Italian citizenship and I thank the Italian government and the Italian people from the bottom of my heart.”

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The Fourth Quarter Bourbon Raffle

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OPEN HOUSE

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