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Celebrating 60 and 70 years of consecrated life

Bishop John Iffert and Notre Dame Sister Marla Monahan, vicar for religious, hosted a luncheon, Nov. 4, at the Metropolitan Club, Covington, for this year's jubilarians celebrating 60 and 70 years of consecrated life. In his comments to the jubilarians Bishop Iffert expressed gratitude for the women religious for "keeping alive a spirit in the life of the Church that is not quite so prone to judgementalism — a generosity of spirit. Thank you for that example of a balanced approach, of that energy that can compel justice but, at the same time, that generosity of spirit that can prevent us from our most wrathful kind of self ... Thank you for the prayers you offer for me and for the Diocese of Covington. Thank you for the service you offer to me and to the Diocese of Covington."

Pictured with Bishop Iffert are: (seated, from right) Sister Ruth Nadicksbernd, C.D.P., 60 years; Sister Mary Carol Hellmann, O.S.B., 70 years; Sister Sharon Portwood, O.S.B., 60 years; Sister Mary Dudley, C.D.P., 60 years; (back row, from left) Sister Mary Luann Bender, S.N.D., 60 years; Sister Paula Gohs, C.D.P., 60 years; Sister Georgianna Abplanalp, C.D.P., 60 years; Sister Mary Tereze Deye, S.N.D., 60 years; Sister Mary Margaret Hemmerle, S.N.D., 70 years; Sister Mary Shannon Kriege, S.N.D., 60 years and Sister Mary Judith Averbeck, S.N.D., 60 years.

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

Thomas More University launches bold education program to train leaders in the classroom

Laura Keener
Editor

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)



At a media event, Nov. 1, President Joseph Chillo formally announced initiatives in the recently launched Education VILLA — an umbrella of innovative programs to meet the educational needs of the region.

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.”



(above left) The congregation stands at the All Saint’s Day Mass, a Holy Day of Obligation.

(above right) Bishop John Iffert preaches the homily at the All Saint’s Day Mass, Nov. 1, at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington.

(right) Deacon Jerry Franzen wafts incense over the Gospel.



Bishop Brossart student creates painting for Thanksgiving card

Kate Lonneman, a student at Bishop Brossart High School, Alexandria, was selected as the artist for Bishop John Iffert’s 2024 Thanksgiving card. Her artwork, which features a watercolor landscape dotted with small sheep and a shepherd to guide them, was inspired by the Psalm 23, reading, “The Lord is my shepherd”— the same quote will be featured alongside the artwork on the front of the cards.

“I knew I wanted to do a watercolor landscape,” Ms. Lonneman said, describing her thought process behind the artwork, “so I was looking through pictures, and the light through the clouds really spoke to me.”

The card featuring Ms. Lonneman’s artwork will be sent out across the diocese alongside a letter from Bishop Iffert, where recipients will be encouraged to write their Thanksgiving intercessions on the inside of the card.

Sacred Music Concert

Cello, Violin, Flute & Piano

November 18th, 7pm

St. Augustine, Covington

FREE



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.)

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.hchscov.com

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

Notre Dame Academy, Park Hills
www.ndapandas.org

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

Villa Madonna Academy, Villa Hills
www.villamadonna.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.

Around the Diocese

With Bishop Iffert

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.



Bishop's Schedule

- | | |
|---|---|
| Nov. 11-16
USCCB general meeting, Baltimore | Nov. 19
Mass, Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, 5:30 p.m. |
| Nov. 16
Priest Holy Hour, Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, 3 p.m. | Nov. 21
CCK meeting, Louisville |
| Nov. 18
Closing Mass at NCYC, Indianapolis, 8 p.m. | |

COMMENTARY

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” teenage 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 that I am becoming cocky 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 well 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 charisma, 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 richly blessed us with 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

Society said, “Knowledge of the poor and needy is not gained by pouring 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 reasonable 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 a nudge to remind me that God 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 more 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 conduit for fostering love and faith, sharing hope regardless of circumstances. Karen Zengel is executive director, Society of St. Vincent de Paul Northern Kentucky.

Artisans of the culture of life

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.



This year’s 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 accompaniment. This is radical solidarity.” Bishop Burbidge noted, “Being in radical solidarity with women who are pregnant or raising children in difficult circumstances means putting our love for them into action and putting their needs before our own.” The bishop cited Pope Francis, who has emphasized that such radical solidarity presumes a transformation of the heart and the creation of a new mindset.


I believe that this new mindset — and our credibility as the People of Life — must arise from a profound understanding of the inviolable dignity of every single human life, through every stage of life, with special attention given to those who are the most frail or in situations of the greatest vulnerability. Although abortion is an issue of utmost urgency, we cannot limit our pro-life enthusiasm to this issue alone. Our commitment to human life must be all-embracing, or it will not be credible at all. Pope Francis often voices this all-embracing concern for human life. 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, the church and 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 troublesome problems or chasing them away, sending them home; it lies in welcoming them, not hiding them; in integrating 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 freer? 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 and ‘sweet’ death that is more ‘salty’ than the waters of the sea? Who thinks 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. Each member 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:

GUEST



Sister Alicia Torres, F.E.

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.

“I thank God for my Catholic Faith, I thank God for the Eucharist, for Jesus. Because of this, I know I am going to heaven.” Rich was a convert, entering the

“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

Church when he was 42. But, there was no presumption on his part as he later mentioned spending time in purgatory first. I told him we could let God worry about that.

As the visit ended, his son, who is a priest, and I prayed with him. After making the Sign of the Cross, Rich held my hand tightly as we each spoke words out loud to the Lord — in petition and gratitude. We all knew it would be the last time I would see Rich in this life. I told him I’d miss him, but I’d see him again one day.

Early in the morning two weeks later, I was making my Holy Hour. As I rested in Jesus’ Eucharistic Presence, I suddenly became aware of Rich, as if I was holding his hand again... and in my heart, I spontaneously said, “It’s okay, you can go home now.” Then that sense of his presence peacefully faded. About an hour later, his son called me to say his dad had passed.

Death will find each of us one day. However, death doesn’t end our bond with those we love. As members of Christ’s Mystical Body, we are mysteriously united. This is most palpable when we stay close to Jesus, when we participate in Mass and spend time in silent worship and adoration of the Holy Eucharist.

Let’s hold on to the hope that one day we will indeed be reunited with those we love so deeply in the halls of heaven, where every tear will be wiped away!

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.

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

“God, please help me,” Matthew Perry whispered. “Show me that you are here. God, please help me.” In his memoir, the late actor described an encounter where he unmistakably knew God’s presence. He had been struggling with addiction. He even thought he was dying. But the peace that he received when he cried out to God

GUEST



Kathryn Jean Lopez

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: help.”

He wrote that “everything was different now. I could see color differently, angles were of a different magnitude, the walls were stronger, the ceiling higher, the trees tapping on the windows more perfect than ever, their roots connected via soul to the planet and back into me.” He described “one great connection created by an ever-loving God — and beyond, a sky, which had been before theoretically infinite was now unknowably endless. I was connected to the universe in a way I had never been.” He

“with the desperation of a drowning man” — which would ultimately be how he would die — was something he would go back to, to stay sober, and to remember the truth of God, the truth of more.

I have no reason to believe Perry was schooled in St. Ignatius Loyola, but like a good Ignatian student, he would return to that moment to remember the certainty of God. He had gone from hating himself to feeling “safe” and “taken care of.”

experienced wonderment. “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.”

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.” And in the days since his death, people have testified to being helped by Perry. Actor Hank Azaria, who appeared on “Friends,” posted on Instagram about how Perry accompanied him to Alcoholics Anonymous meetings. “As a sober person, he was so caring and giving and wise and he totally helped me get sober.”

As it happens, I’ve always associated Matthew Perry with heaven. I suspect he’d be pleased to know that. My introduction to the actor was not “Friends,” it was a somewhat silly short-lived sitcom, “Second Chance,” where he played a teenager who was visited by his older self. St. Peter had sent him back to put his younger self on the straight and narrow. I went back and watched a half-episode after the news of Perry’s death. It wasn’t high art. But it got me praying. Back then and now.

Perry’s is not the first celebrity death that prompted an examination of conscience for me. When I was a teen,

Be prepared

The readings for the thirty-second Sunday of Ordinary Time — Cycle A — are: Wisdom 6:12-16; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and Matthew 25:1-13.

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 but 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 the wedding hall and the door was closed.

It is a moment that we stir up and anticipate in every Mass with the word: “Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb” (Rev. 19:9).

Like the five wise virgins seated with the bridegroom, let our participation in the Eucharistic meal today be a reason to thank God for counting us among that worthy of his table and at the same time help us to desire and work hard to be admitted to the eternal Eucharist banquet in his kingdom. Let everyone be careful not to be left outside of that mysterious door where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

Our God calls out to us repeatedly telling us to be ready for that day when our lives will be required of us. 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.

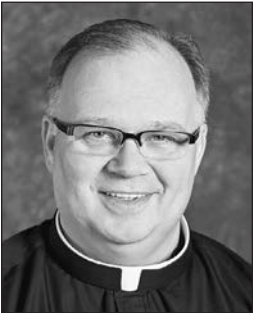
Father Gregory Bach is assistant to the Bishop and vice-chancellor, Diocese of Covington, Ky

he had me thinking of God. Later, though I was not a religious watcher of Friends, he made me laugh on occasion. Did I ever pray for him? I don’t remember. We should never encounter anyone and not pray for them. Even on our screens. Maybe especially on our screens — we live enough of our lives on them, after all.

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 even 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 this hour and day. We’re not guaranteed another. Keep your eyes on heaven. Our second chance is now, in confession and the sacramental life.

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 OSV News.

GO AND GLORIFY



Father Gregory Bach

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.

Lifeline: A phone call away

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 baby buggies 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. Destiney was referred to our Independent Living Program when she turned 18 and left the foster care system. 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 Destiney 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 independence. But the more we learned of Destiney's history, the harder it looked.

Destiney 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 teenager Destiney was moved through 11 different foster homes, treatment centers and emergency shelters throughout Kentucky. A forever family was never found.

After her older sister was killed in what Destiney 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 Destiney 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 grocery. Once she called to ask about attending her high school graduation 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 Destiney 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 grabbing my keys.

I sat praying in the lobby while Destiney 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!"

More educational sessions at New Hope followed. The staff prayed with Destiney. 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 Destiney's journey, Sarah McAdams, her DCCH case manager for Independent Living, said, "It has been so reward-



Destiney with her son. Through DCCH Center for Children and Families, Destiney was able to choose life for her baby and receive the supports needed to graduate from college and make a happy and healthy home for herself and her son.

ing watching Destiney become a mom. Her love, dedication and care for her baby is powerful to witness. When Destiney was in labor she called me to come in the delivery room with her. Despite my discomfort, my heart melted, and I said yes."

Sarah continued, "Destiney is a strong woman, and watching her become a mother to her precious infant boy is one of the most rewarding experiences I have had as an IL manager. The fact she asked me to witness the miracle of her bringing life into this world is not lost on me and is something I will always remember and cherish."

It is no exaggeration to say that Destiney's turbulent youth could have been fatal. But her resolve to thrive, plus her willingness to accept compassionate help and community support, instead brought her healing. A recent New Hope fundraiser video features Destiney, who proudly shows her baby boy and celebrates the remarkable gift of life she chose.

We at DCCH share Destiney's joy and sense of celebration, without forgetting the many wounds and losses we also see in those we serve. May more hurting youths grow up to shine as Destiney does, and may many more families and individuals open their lives to help ignite brighter futures through foster care and adoption.

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.

ESNKY opens winter shelter, open house and blessing events energize volunteers and build donations

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.”

(from left to right) Pastor Jake Kollman, Seven Hills Church, Florence; Pastor Melissa Stephens, Florence Christian Church, Florence; Father Daniel Schomaker, pastor, St. Augustine Church, Covington; Divine Providence Sister Janet Bucher, pastoral administrator, Church of our Savior, Covington; Father Mark Keene, vicar general of the Diocese of Covington; Father Mike Comer, pastor, Mother of God Church, Covington; Pastor Tyler Monquin-Lee, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Cincinnati; Rabbi Matthew Kraus, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati and Rabbi Ari Jun, Jewish Community Relations Council, Cincinnati, stand before the newly opened winter shelter.



Please join us for our
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to benefit our neighbors in need.

Saturday, November 18, 9:00 AM at Thomas More University



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PEOPLE AND EVENTS

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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, 1561 Madison Ave., Covington, 8 to 11 a.m., Monday thru Friday. The drive is held Nov. 15–30. Any questions call 581-7745.

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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 Dames 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.

The 16th annual St. Vincent de Paul Northern Kentucky Turkeyfoot Trot 5k Run/Walk will be held Nov. 18, 9 a.m. at Thomas More University. Check-in for the race will begin at 7:30 a.m.; Early check-in and packet pick-up is Nov. 16, 10 a.m.–8 p.m. and Nov. 17, 10 a.m.–6 p.m. at Tri-State Running Company, Edgewood. Registration is available online through race day at svdpnky.org.



Pets need blessings, too
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, 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.

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COVINGTON LATIN SCHOOL

*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



Most Rev. John C. Iffert

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!

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.

Covington Latin School mission and vision

The Covington Latin School’s vision is to invite gifted students to achieve their full potential through rigorous Catholic education, preparing them to exceed their own expectations and provide the world with their unique talents.

At the core, the mission of Covington Latin School is a Catholic institution prompted by the Gospel message of Jesus Christ to accelerate the unique abilities of its students by fostering an environment rich in belonging, classical in thought, modern in approach, which cultivates leadership in service to others.

Do you belong here?

Covington Latin School will hold its entrance exam Dec. 9 and Feb. 17 at 9 a.m.

For information visit
www.covingtonlatin.org.



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”*

Covington Latin School — Time to celebrate!

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 anniversary and is a time to celebrate!

Covington Latin School has a long-standing history of excellence in Northern Kentucky. Over their 100-year history, more than 3,000 students have successfully completed 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.

Covington Latin School not only supports the academic success of their students but also supports their spiritual growth too. Through participation in the Mass, sacraments, prayer and community service, the students are growing in their relationship with Jesus and learning how



Kendra McGuire

tion of excellence and preparing the future generations of students for success in this world.

to care for others and the world around them.

I want to especially thank the faculty, staff, headmasters 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 commitment 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 congratulate them on this important milestone. I look forward to Covington Latin School continuing this tradi-



In this edition, the *Messenger* staff is proud to share in the 100-anniversary celebration of Covington Latin School. Congratulations to Headmaster John Kennedy, the faculty, staff, students and alumni — you should be rightfully proud of continuing the legacy of educating leaders in service to the Church and community. We are grateful to have Maura Baker, CLS '16, as a part of our team.

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

John Kennedy
Contributor

Much has changed since Bishop William Howard envisioned 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 timeless and universal with students a century later still studying 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 important 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.

The chapel on the third floor on campus serves as a vivid memory for generations. I have had the privilege of attending reunion Masses in the chapel, and each class would remember the lack of air conditioning and comment how much tougher their class was based on their enduring the heat!

We welcomed back many classes this



John Kennedy

past September to celebrate the centennial of this school and 100 years of producing leaders in all aspects of life — religious, military, government, law, medicine, business, 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 knowledge permeate every moment and every student.

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


John Kennedy is headmaster of Covington Latin School, Covington, Ky

CONGRATULATIONS

Covington Latin School

100 YEARS

ACCELERATING TOMORROW'S LEADERS



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Congratulations and Happy 100th Anniversary

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On 100 Years of Educating and Inspiring Tomorrow's leaders



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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-

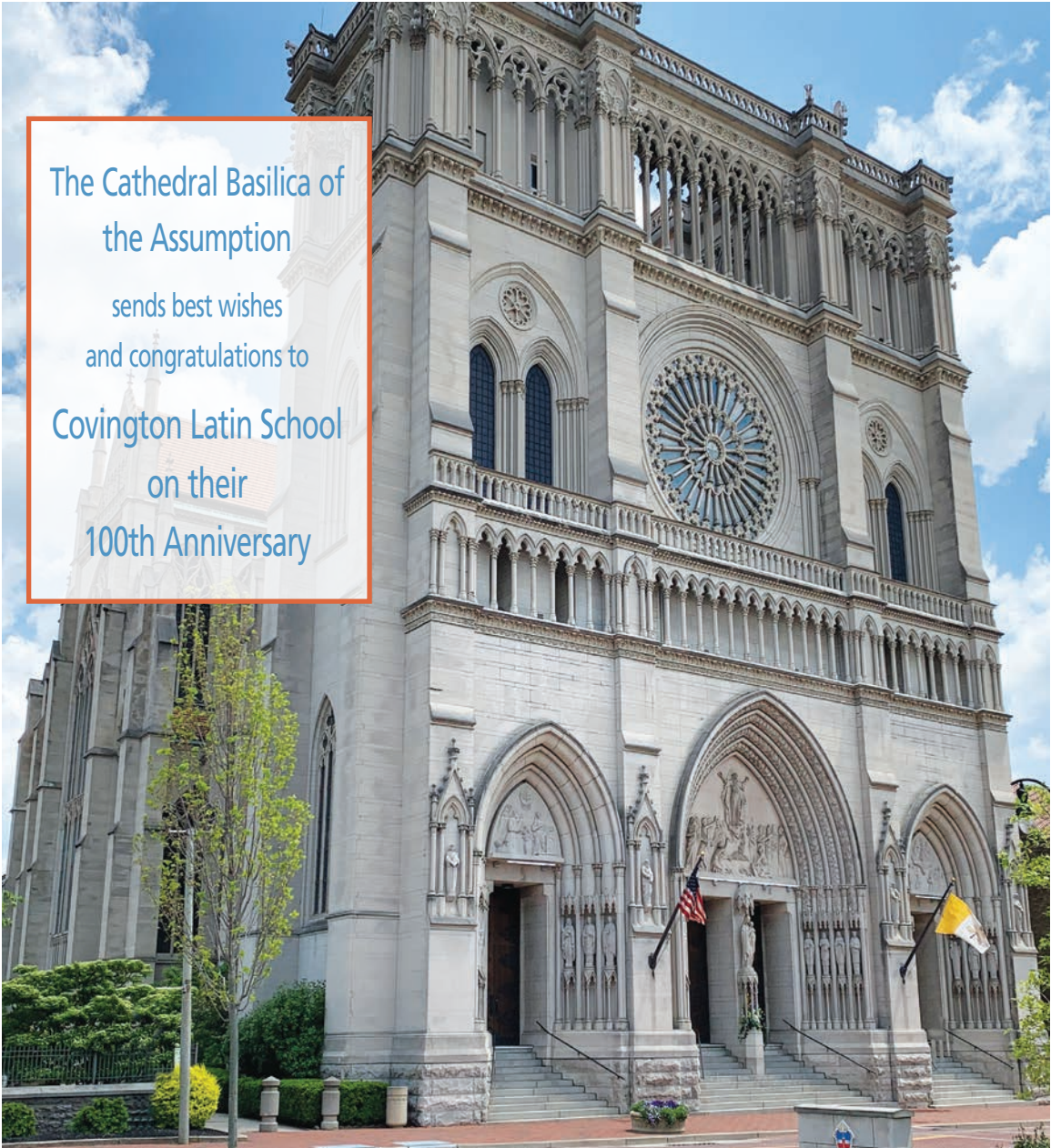
(Continued on page 13)



(above left) Bishop John Iffert celebrates Mass honoring the 100 anniversary of Covington Latin School, Sept. 10, at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption. Con-celebrating (from left) included several alumni priests (from left) Father Albert Ruschman '45, Father James Schaeper, Father Michael Elmlinger '16 and Father Daniel Noll '68. Deacon Gerald Franzen '60, assisted.
(above right and above on page 13) Students, parents and alumni gathered for a Day of Service, Sept. 7. In honor of the schools opening in 1923, the goal was to perform 1,923 hours of service, together they achieved 1,956 hours of service to the community.



(above) After the Centennial Weekend Mass, Bishop John Iffert gathered with the Pontifical Servers for a photo at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption. Covington Latin School students have the unique opportunity to, as pontifical servers, assist Bishop Iffert at the altar for all pontifical celebrations.
(below) Covington Latin School alumni were treated to a Cincinnati Reds game from the Riverboat Suite on Friday evening of Founders Day weekend. Pictured (from left) are: Dave Kramer '76, Andy Schoettker '77, Ralph Huller '63 and Bruce Fisher '63.



The Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption
sends best wishes
and congratulations to
Covington Latin School
on their
100th Anniversary



(Continued from page 12)

ents and alumni/ae participated in a Day of Service, surpassing the goal of 1923 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 host-

ed a Super Reunion for everyone celebrating an anniversary year and anyone who wanted to stop in. Hundreds of alums 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.

DBL Law

Congratulations to Covington Latin School on its 100 year anniversary!

DBL Law supports the Covington Latin School's Mission of being a Catholic institution prompted by the Gospel message of Jesus Christ to accelerate the unique abilities of its students by fostering an environment rich in belonging, classical in thought, modern in approach, which cultivates leadership in service to others.

A modern multi-story building with large glass windows and a classical facade, illuminated at night. The DBL logo is visible on the top right corner of the building.

This is an advertisement.

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A close-up photograph of two hands, one older and one younger, clasped together in a gesture of support or prayer. In the background, a bowl of orange-colored food is visible.

Hello humankindness

A photograph of a brick church building with a steeple, identified as Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish & School.

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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.

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 many 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 for-

mations 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. I am genuinely grateful for my CLS education; it has gotten me to where I am today and who I will become.

Lucas Dwyer
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

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.

This nurturing 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 '24.

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 human reason to solve problems and discover truth. Most importantly, they have the chance 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.**

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(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 Carrell, 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 to the fifth Bishop of Covington, Bishop William Howard. One of his first undertakings as Bishop of Covington was to personally oversee the development of a Latin School in Covington.

Covington Latin was established to offer “boys of talent” preparatory training for higher education. The school was designed to be small and rigorous, offering a curriculum based on the Classics including four years of Latin and Greek. All boys in the Diocese who had completed the sixth grade were required to take the comprehensive entrance exam, which had been developed by Bishop Howard and Father Kroger, the school’s first Headmaster. Those who did well were enrolled in the “Bishop’s School.”

The Latin School called many places “home” in the first years of development. In September of 1923, the first classes

of Covington Latin began in a small brick residence called “the Old Shine” on Twelfth Street. Within two years, the student population had outgrown the available space and Msgr. Henry Tappert of Mother of God granted the school use of three rooms within their parish school on Sixth Street.

In November of 1926, the school moved to the former Knights of Columbus Home on Eleventh Street. The old building gave itself for the student of Covington Latin until it became clear that the expense of repairs and renovations was too great to continue. In November of 1940, the building was destroyed and became the location of the new Latin School building. Within a year, the new three-story building was completed and served as home for the students as well as the diocesan Office of the Superintendent of Education and the *Messenger* for several years.

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 1933, military drill was introduced and would continue until the early 1970s, much to the displeas-

ure 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*.

In the 1980s, discussion 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 discuss of the matter in December of 1982.

In 1992, 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 has a living example of the Diocese’s strive for education excellence and continues to help create the great, Catholic future leaders of our country.



An all-school photo from 1929 in front the Knights of Columbus Hall (formerly the Methodist Episcopal Church). The school was moved to the new location from Mother of God Church due to booming enrollment.



Debate and speech are tenets of a classical education. (above) The 1962 debate team proudly display their trophy.

(below) In the 1950s and 1960s students at Covington Latin School participated in military drills. The drills were in lieu of a physical education program.



(below and bottom left) A picture of students in 1982 in the biology lab. (above) In 2011 a new biology/STEM lab, taught by Dennis Whitehead '62 who taught at the school for over 40 years. (above, right) The first class of female students entered in 1992. Here is a photo of the girls’ basketball team in the 1990s.

(above center) Ping pong is a Latin School tradition which continues today. Pictured here, in 1979, a group of students rally around the ping pong table.

(above) Isaak Henry '18 and Katie Moellman '18 at the school’s performance of Beauty and the Beast. CLS plays range from classical Greek to modern contemporary.



(above) Graduation 2021, at Covington Latin School the traditional graduation dress has been tuxedos for boys and in 1995 black dresses for the girls.

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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.

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 gen-



A wall in the reception area of TMU Education VILLA features pictures of the university’s early days when it was Villa Madonna College, a college dedicated to educating teachers for the Northern Kentucky community.

erosity 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 breakouts — 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 resource as well.”

Phase two will also see the introduction of a new Honors Cohort model for University students with an expected application opening date of January 2024.

“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.

“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.

“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 undergrad or come to us for the master’s program then turn around and come back for the Principal Program,” said Ms. Ayres. “We hope it goes live in the Fall 2025.”

In the final phase of the Education VILLA, the University looks to create substantial scholarship opportunities for upperclassmen. Further details about each phase are to come.

“In the coming years, we’re going to be announcing a new model for those juniors and seniors to make sure that as they complete their preparation to be the next generation of teachers that they are not being burdened by debt,” said President Chillo. “How do we do that in a very inten-

tional way to ensure that they’re successful in their careers, but more importantly, successful in serving the schools and the communities they are in?”

For more information on the School of Education’s Education VILLA, visit www.thomasmore.edu/educationvilla.

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Additional details about each of the above opportunities can be found on our website at <https://www.covingtoncharities.org/news-events/job-opportunities>. Please contact Shannon Braun directly at sbraun@covingtoncharities.org if you would like to learn more about any of these opportunities.

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