



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



Newport Central Catholic blessed and dedicated its newly renovated third floor and Science Learning Center, Jan. 17. (above left) At the ribbon cutting are (from left) Kendra McGuire, superintendent of Schools; Ken Collopy, principal, NCCHS; Beth Sketch, chair, NCCHS Science Department; Pat Burke, campaign chair and Bishop John Iffert. (above right, from right) Chris Zurmehly, director of Field Services, KLH Engineering; Don Knochelman, director, Buildings and Properties and Nathan Lewis, Education Studio Director, KLH Engineering, attend the dedication. (below, left) Bishop Iffert blesses the crucifixes that will hang in the new classrooms. (below right) With the new messaging on the wall behind him, Pat Burke, capital campaign chair, speaks with a guest. (bottom, left) NCC student ambassadors attend the blessing and dedication. (bottom, right) Father AJ Gedney, NCC chaplain, accompanies Bishop Iffert as he blesses the newly renovated space.



NCCHS celebrates blessing of Science Learning Center

Laura Keener
Editor

Newport Central Catholic High School celebrated the blessing and dedication, Jan. 17, of its newly renovated third floor — the first project of its \$13 million multi-project “Looking Up Capital Campaign.” Over 100 people — school administrators, teachers, students, alumni and community members — gathered at the newly renovated space, which includes the state-of-the-art Science Learning Center, for the blessing by Bishop John Iffert. Also, in attendance

for the ribbon cutting were, Kendra McGuire, superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Covington; Ken Collopy, principal, NCCHS; Beth Sketch, chair, NCCHS Science Department and Pat Burke, campaign chair. “We are so grateful for the support of our benefactors for this incredible space,” said Mr. Collopy. “This project within the Looking Up Capital Campaign will have the most direct impact on student learning. It gives Newport Central Catholic High School a competitive advantage in the area of STEM and takes learning

(Continued on page 6)

Youth come together to celebrate Christ

Bella Young

Multimedia Correspondent

Coming off the heels of an awe-inspiring National Catholic Youth Conference, where over 12,000 Catholic youths gathered to worship, the diocese knew it had to keep the fire burning inside the hearts of those who attended.

To do this, Angie Poat, Diocesan youth minister, invited those who attended NCYC to attend a special Thursday night Mass at Holy Cross Church, Covington. Mrs. Poat called this Mass, “An initiative to bring young people together.”

With this goal in mind Father Michael Hennigan, pastor, Holy Cross Parish and Deacon Jerry Franzen both spoke about the joys of Mass and the love God has for us.

“It all comes down to the love he has for us.” Father Hennigan said in his homily which focused on the sacrifices Jesus made for us, born out of the love he has for all.

Father Hennigan also spoke of the importance of the Eucharist. He explained that one of the oldest human traditions is gathering around food and drink to tell stories and relate to each

other.

Father Hennigan pointed out that this is the same tradition that the Mass follows. We gather in one place, we share the story of the Gospel and teachings of the Lord, we eat the body and we drink the blood.

Deacon Franzen, before Mass, gave a lesson about the virtue of Vatican II. Saying that the purpose of Vatican II was to not only to encourage but also to make room for the active participation of laity at Mass.

After Mass there was a reception. Those that gathered for the reception enjoyed food and drink, which Father Hennigan pointed out to the high-schoolers was second only to the consumption of the Eucharist — the true body, blood, soul and divinity of Christ.

With this renewed passion for Christ high schoolers, college students and adults have the opportunity to attend bi-monthly THRIVE! events. These events create a space to worship and praise the Lord, garner a sense of community and network with peers. The next THRIVE! event is on Feb. 8 and is a good time for all.

Young photos



(above) Dexter Brent, CovCath senior, is the lector for the first reading.
(bottom left) Father Hennigan receives the gifts from two NCYC attendees.
(bottom right) Young Catholics join in singing the opening hymn.



Leadership Gift solicitors gather as the 2024 DPAA enters its first phase

Laura Keener

Editor

Standing in for Jeff Jehn, leadership gifts chair for the 2024 Diocesan Parish Annual Appeal, Linda Rawe, general chair, welcomed leadership gift solicitors to the annual Diocesan Parish Annual Appeal luncheon, Jan. 23. The annual luncheon is hosted by Bishop John Iffert and organized by Jim Hess, director, and the staff of the diocesan Office of Stewardship and Mission Services. Mr. Jehn, who will be leading the leadership gifts phase, is away on a mission trip, explained Mrs. Rawe.

“Many of you already know Jeff Jehn because he is the president of the Serra Club, which does so much good work for our priests and seminarians and women religious, and he also has been involved as a DPAA solicitor,” said Mrs. Rawe.

During the leadership gifts phase of the DPAA, 200 of the diocese’s top donors are contacted and are invited to participate at the same or higher level as last year. This first phase sets the tone and momentum for the DPAA. The success of

the leadership gifts phase and the work of the leadership gifts solicitors is announced at the DPAA kick-off dinners Feb. 15 and Feb. 29 in Maysville and Erlanger, respectively. The solicitors will begin making calls Jan. 29, concluding Feb. 14. Mrs. Rawe thanked the solicitors and encouraged them to review the many ministries supported by the DPAA — the work of the Church — which demonstrates the importance of the DPAA.

“This is helping the future of our Church, and we want our parishes and our diocese to be prosperous ... to continue our good work,” Mrs. Rawe said.

Mr. Hess talked about the theme for this year’s DPAA, “Zeal for Your House Will Consume Me,” which is taken from the Gospel that will be read on Announcement Weekend, March 2–3.

(Continued on page 3)



(above) Linda Rawe, general chair, 2024 Diocesan Parish Annual Appeal, welcomes volunteers to the annual leadership gifts solicitors luncheon, Jan. 23.

(Continued from page 2)

“I love this line in Scripture because I love the idea of being driven by zeal. Zeal is our love in action,” Mr. Hess said.

In his remarks to solicitors, Bishop Iffert also spoke to theme of the DPAA.

“It helps me to remember that when we’re talking about zeal for the house of the Lord, what the Scripture is pointing toward is zeal for the temple of the Lord, which is really the presence of the Lord — the place where God dwells with his people, the place where heaven and earth touch, the place where one can worship, where one can repent, where one can offer sacrifice,” Bishop Iffert said. “The house of the Lord for which we are zealous is really anywhere where God is present, anywhere where God’s love touches hearts, anywhere where we can pray together, anywhere where we can repent together, anywhere where we can serve together.”

In closing, Bishop Iffert offered words of gratitude for the solicitors and their work and for the generosity of the people of the Diocese of Covington.

“I am just so grateful for everything you do. And I’m so grateful for our local Church here in Northern Kentucky. People are generous with their resources and generous with their time and you’re a great sign of that and I appreciate it,” Bishop Iffert said.



(above) Jim Hess, director, Stewardship and Mission Services, introduces the theme for this year’s DPAA, “Zeal For Your House Will Consume Me.”

Casey Guilfoyle and Ken Oleynik select from the 200 top donors five people to call during the leadership gifts phase of the DPAA.

DPAA important dates

- Feb. 15 and 29**
Kick-off dinners, Maysville and Erlanger
- Feb. 24-25**
Pre-announcement weekend
- March 2-3**
Announcement weekend
- March 16-17**
Commitment weekend



Without interruption Traditional Latin Mass continues in Covington

Staff report

In a letter to parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Jan. 19, Bishop John Iffert announced that a priest and church building for the celebration of the Traditional Latin Mass has been located.

Beginning Sunday, Jan. 21, St. Ann Mission, 1274 Parkway Ave., Covington, will welcome Our Lady of Lourdes Parish to share its church building. Father Matthew Cushing, pastor, All Saints Parish, Walton, will celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass according to the 1962 *Missale Romanum*. Mass times are 7 a.m. and 9 a.m.

“I know that this change is, in many ways, a setback and that there will be much effort needed ahead to regain the community and quality of liturgy that you have

enjoyed,” Bishop Iffert said in his letter. “I look forward to assisting Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in achieving ongoing stability and in your goal of promoting beauty and reverence in the Church’s worship.”

Bishop Iffert will visit the parish at St. Ann Mission Jan. 28, preaching at each Mass and joining parishioners for “dialogue about the future of the parish” between Masses.

“I eagerly await being with you that day,” Bishop Iffert said. “I give thanks to God for you, and I pray for you diligently during this moment of difficult transition. I am grateful to all who are willing to labor within the Church for the Glory of God.”



(above) Ephesus in the modern-day province of Izmir, Turkey, is where St. Paul wrote his first letter to the Corinthians

In the Footsteps of St. Paul Pilgrimage to Greece

Spiritual Reflection

On this journey, feel the spirit of the New Testament as you walk in the footsteps of the great apostle St. Paul, patron of the Diocese of Covington. Experience the places where Paul lived and preached, gaining a deeper understanding of the biblical narrative.

Highlights of the Journey

3-night Cruise: Sail through the enchanting Greek islands of Mykonos, Patmos and Santorini.

Ephesus, Turkey: Explore the ancient Roman city that played a significant role in the life of Paul the Apostle.

Acropolis in Athens: Stand in awe of this iconic symbol of ancient Greek civilization.

Corinth: Discover the biblical town where Paul stood before the tribunal and explored the Agora and the Bema.

Philippi: Visit the place where Paul delivered his first sermon in Europe and baptized Lydia, the first Christian.

Dates

October 22 to November 1, 2024

Cost

Base per person rates: Double \$5,490; Single \$6,490; Triple \$5,440

Information contact

Collette

1-800-581-8942

Refer to booking #1221094



Bishop’s Schedule

Jan. 27
Vigil Mass, St. Timothy Parish, Union, 4:30 p.m.

Jan. 28
Mass and pastoral visit with Our Lady of Lourdes Parishioners at St. Ann Mission, Covington, 7 a.m.–10:30 a.m.

Jan. 29–2 Feb.
Catholic Schools Week

Jan. 30
Advisory Council meeting, 9:30 a.m.

Covington Deanery meeting, 12 p.m.

Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Joseph Parish, Crescent Springs, 7 p.m.

Jan. 31
Catholic Schools Week Mass, Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, 10 a.m.

Sacrament of Confirmation with St. Bernard/Divine Mercy/ Holy Spirit Parishes, at Holy Spirit Parish, Newport, 7 p.m.



In Episode 5 of *Around the Diocese*, Bishop John Iffert speaks with Sam Krebs, a senior at Newport Central Catholic High School, about his experience at NCCHS and the upcoming Spring production, “SpongeBob SquarePants the Musical.” Check it out online at covdio.org.



Mass for World Day for Consecrated Life

Feb. 3, 10 a.m.

Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington

Bishop John Iffert, celebrant

Come honor our women and men religious.

“God looked at everything He had made and found it very good. Evening came, and morning followed — the sixth day. Thus, the heavens and the earth and all their

VIEWPOINT



Sarah Torres

array were completed. On the seventh day God completed the work He had been doing; He rested on the seventh day from all the work He had undertaken. God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it He rested from all the work He had done in creation.” Genesis 1:31-2:3

Growing up, my parents did everything in their power to make dinner a family affair. With four children all involved in sports, scouting, theater, youth group, volunteer obligations, it was no small feat to get everyone around the table at one time. Sometimes, dinner was at 4:30 p.m. before everyone had to head off; other times, dinner was at 7:30 p.m. when, most of the time, everyone was home for the night. The one night that family dinner was guaranteed was on Sunday.

Sunday family dinners

As we have grown up, Sunday family dinner has remained a priority for our family. Now that three of us are paired, and two of us have our own children, it’s a larger group than ever before. Still, every week we meet at one of the family homes, giving everyone the opportunity to host and everyone the opportunity to rest, and share a meal. It takes effort, planning and prioritizing to make it a reality but seeing all the siblings and spouses together and the cousins running around makes it all worth it.

In many ways the Sunday family dinner, for me at least, mirrors the Lord on the seventh day. On the seventh day, the Lord rested, and when we are all together you can feel a sense of rest and reset for the coming week.

That may sound a bit unbelievable. Finding relaxation in a house: with three children under three, at least two or three pets, often a football game on with very passionate fans, and several woman trying to get dinner on the table — it’s not exactly a quiet or peaceful environment. However, I have found that a scene does not necessarily need to be “peaceful” to provide a sense of inner peace.

Peace through the chaos, I’m sure I’m not the only person to have experienced this. Yes, the house is loud and crowded, but there is also so much love. It’s in that love that I find peace. My dad and husband working together on home repairs, my children and nephew learning to play together, my sisters and mom sharing stories about

their week and laughing together in the kitchen. Being surrounded by so much love provides me with a sense of inner rest and helps to prepare for the week ahead.

There is another part of the creation story that reminds me of my family Sunday afternoon gatherings. After each day, God looked over all he had made and found it was good. When our family is together, I am reminded that things are good.

We are not perfect, by any means. There are people missing from the group, which is something that could easily destroy the inner peace found if we allow ourselves to dwell on it. But, rather than focus on the things that are not the way we would like them to be, I look over our family as God does and see that it is good. Being together reminds me that there is so much for us to be grateful. Despite the difficulties that we, and every family, struggle with, we always have each other. Our families continue to grow in number and love. There is so much to be thankful for and being together every week helps to remind us of that.

This Sunday, when you sit down to dinner, whether it’s with a large group of family and friends or a quiet meal by yourself, think about it being the seventh day. Take the time to find rest and inner peace and to look over all that surrounds you and say to yourself “it is very good.”

Sarah Torres is the archivist for the Diocese of Covington, Ky.

Is hell empty? I think not, but I hope I’m wrong

Sometimes you hope to be wrong.

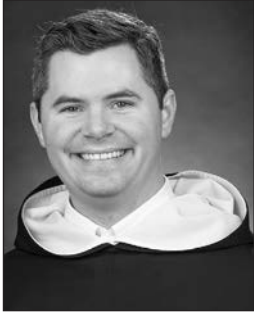
For example: A good friend that I made in college seminary discerned out of formation and began to pursue a relationship with a young woman. I didn’t think they were a match. I told him as much. (Graciously, he did not end our friendship over my opinion.)

He continued to pursue her. Years later, they’re happily married. They’re very devout. And they’re raising a beautiful family. I was wrong, thank God!

I feel the same way about hell. I think there are a lot of souls lost for eternity because they’ve refused God’s love. I hope I’m wrong. But I don’t think I am.

Hell is on my mind because of a comment Pope Francis recently made. During an interview on Jan. 14 on “Che Tempo Che Fa” on Italy’s Nove channel, the pope was asked how he imagines hell. The Holy Father responded, “It’s difficult to imagine it,” and added, “What

GUEST



Father Patrick Briscoe, OP

I would say is not a dogma of faith, but my personal thought: I like to think hell is empty; I hope it is.”

You can imagine the reactions on social media. Some commentators declared the pope had decreed hell was empty. Others offered more nuanced responses. Catholic speaker Chris Stefanick said on X, “It seems to me that, in scripture, God *desires* that all men be saved but explicitly warns us that many are not.” Another X user, Father Joseph Krupp, wrote in a post, “Why freak out over the Pope saying he hopes hell is empty? What kind of psychopaths hope hell is full?” I certainly hope it’s empty.

But there’s enough evidence in Scripture and tradition to give one pause. I might hope hell is empty, but I think that it’s probably not.

Jesus warns in the Gospels how our attachments can keep us from heaven’s joy. “If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed than with two hands to go into Gehenna, into the unquenchable fire” (Mark 9:43). Jesus seems to be saying that it’s possible to reject his love and cling instead to our own desires. We can put things between us and God.

Jesus admonishes us, putting us on alert for the judgment that will come on the last day. Those sorted on the right will enter into the Father’s house. Those on the left who have ignored the way of life prescribed in the Gospel will be told, “Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matt 25:41).

St. Paul frequently writes of the possibility of damnation. The book of Revelation offers some pretty graphic imagery about the torments of fire and brimstone that await those who belong to the devil.

Based on the teaching of Jesus and the witness of Scripture, the church has long taught that love of God is incompatible with grave sin. Those who refuse to repent will perish (cf. Lk 13:5).

St. Thomas Aquinas teaches that this eternal punishment is just. He writes: “Now after their fall the angels could not be restored. Therefore, neither can man after death: and thus the punishment of the damned will have no end. ... [J]ust as the demons are obstinate in wickedness and therefore have to be punished forever, so too are the souls of men who die without charity, since ‘death is to men what their fall was to the angels.’” It’s not possible to repent after death.

And the examples of men and women who have wronged little ones, preyed on the faithful, ignored the poor, waged wars and committed countless other crimes that cry out to heaven for vengeance are too numerous to mention here.

Did they repent? I hope so. Do I think it is likely? No. I hope I’m wrong.

Father Patrick Briscoe, OP, is editor of Our Sunday Visitor. Follow him on Twitter/X @PatrickMaryOP.


COMMENTARY

The authority of Christ, the Kingdom of God, spiritual combat

The readings for the fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time — Cycle B — are: Deuteronomy 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 7:32-35 and Mark 1:21-28.

Throughout his Gospel, St. Mark makes it clear that our earthly existence is the time of “fulfillment” because the Kingdom of God is at hand. By this, he means Jesus

GO AND GLORIFY



Father Phillip DeVous

Christ is the Kingdom of God come in the flesh, in history and to us. We know he is God because he teaches with authority: “He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.”

Contemporary Christians struggle with accepting the reality of supernatural evil — the kind of evil characteristic of the Satanic, the demonic and of all sin.

Supernatural, metaphysical evil tends to be recast as a mere metaphor for psychological problems or as analogy to describe large scale “bad” that defies easy comprehension.

I think this is because contemporary Christians are deeply influenced by the ambient culture, where a materialist understanding of the world and the human person is regnant. There can even be a sense within the Church, having imbibed this materialistic, worldly spirit — as the theologian, Hans Urs von Balthasar, has noted — that God has been “secularized” in the lives of believers. This leads to a kind of blindness to spiritual truth, making it difficult to grasp the meaning of the encounter between Jesus and the man with the unclean spirit.

However, exorcising unclean spirits is one of the ministries Jesus performs with regularity throughout the New Testament. It is plain fact of Divine Revelation that Jesus has come to deliver us from evil. It should be noted that his authority over unclean spirits is a manifestation — an epiphany — of his power and being as God. This authority is inseparably connected in the theology of the Gospels to Jesus’s power to forgive sin — the great supernatural evil that afflicts us all.

Now let us be clear about what we mean by sin in the light of what we are here considering. The theologian, Margaret Turek, defines it well: “Sin, therefore, is a failure to respond with grateful love and righteous conduct to the goodness of the Lord. It is manifest in transgressions (deeds) that bespeak a deliberate turning away from God. Sin as deed is thus unmasked as a refusal to exist in intimate co-existence with God. Sin indicates a spurning of the Lord’s love; it is a forsaking of God.”

The goal of unclean spirits, of the demonic, is to prompt us to turn away from God, to reject Christ, to spurn the Lord’s love, and, ultimately, to forsake God. Whereas Jesus Christ comes to bring us into his new order of Divine Love, the demonic seeks to keep us trapped in the order of sin and in a state of alienation from God.

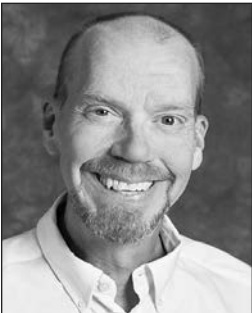
This prompts us to understand our earthly life as the time of our necessary, unavoidable spiritual combat with the forces of the demonic and the order of sin it presses upon us. The demonic most effectively influences us through unacknowledged, unexamined and unconfessed sin. The demonic works most successfully in alienating us from Christ by simply encouraging us to be content with spiritual mediocrity and “natural” explanations (nee’ excuses) for everything.

This is why the sacrament of penance and reconciliation is so essential to our practice of the faith. Without the regular examination of our consciences under the light of the Holy Spirit and guided by the Word of God, we risk living large swaths of our life under the order of sin.

Further, without regular confession — seriously prepared for — we run the risk of giving corrupt witness to the Lord. It is precisely such corrupt witness that earns the rebuke of Jesus toward the man with the unclean

If my calculations are correct (and they rarely are) when you read this article, we will be less than a month until Ash Wednesday 2024 and you will already be deep

BELIEVE, TEACH, PRACTICE



Deacon Timothy Britt

at Rice University, President Kennedy said, “We choose to go to the moon ... not because (it is) easy, but because (it is) hard.”

Is that why we choose to do hard things? Simply because they’re hard? I guess there could be some value in that. Like climbing a mountain just because it’s there. I guess there could be some value in doing a hard thing simply for the feeling of satisfaction or accomplishment or bragging rights. Isn’t that why we put Armstrong and

Not because it’s hard

into planning how you will observe this sacred season. It is with that in mind that I ask you to recall the words of President John F. Kennedy speaking before congress on May 25, 1961. President Kennedy said, “I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to the Earth.”

Later that same year, in another speech, this time

Aldrin on the moon and returned them safely to the Earth back in 1969? ...to prove our superiority in the world?

But when we do a hard thing wouldn’t it be better if we did it to gain more than just the feeling of satisfaction or bragging rights? Wouldn’t it be great if there were something that we gained in ourselves from doing hard things — strength, courage, confidence, wisdom — things that make us able to do the next harder thing ...and then another harder thing after that?

Because, you know, for us followers of Jesus Christ the best reason to do anything is to further or deepen our relationship with Christ and to build up the Kingdom of God in the world.

To that end, I suggest that each and every one of us over the course of the 40 days of Lent, choose to do something hard not just because it’s hard or — like the mountain — because it’s there or for bragging rights or for the feeling of satisfaction, but with the goal being to gain the strength, courage, confidence and wisdom that will enable us to further or deepen our relationship with Christ and to build up the Kingdom of God in the world.

And may our prayer be that we be blessed with grace that enables us to see the hard things as not really all that hard; but simply the things we do, and that we continue to do them, through the 50 days of the Easter season and beyond.

Deacon Timothy Britt is assigned to St. Mary Parish, Alexandria, Ky

Sheep and goats (Matt 25:31-46)

There is no promise that prayer will be filled with wonder and glory. It would be nice to have experiences of the nearness of God, to be filled with a sense of God’s glorious being. Of course, it is fidelity to showing up and

MUSINGS



Sister Fidelis Tracy, C.D.P.

being ready to speak with God that counts. That is what I have been told. Fidelity is the key — not emotional highs or peak experiences. Still, it might be reassuring to have some felt sense of God’s nearness during prayer.

I sometimes find myself complaining about the lack of Jesus’ consoling presence with me during my times of prayer. Why do I not have experiences like those of saints who write of their encounters with God? Could not an

angel come and reassure me of God’s presence? Jesus could appear and hand me the graces I need. I would be satisfied with a tangible sense of the presence of Jesus near me.

Julian of Norwich had a profound experience of God as she gazed at a hazelnut in her hand and realized that it was loved by God and, therefore, contained all of God’s presence right there in her hand. Hildegard of Bingen felt so close to God that she declared that she was a feather on the breath of God.

Other saints record God calling them to specific actions. Their recording of the experience seems like an actual physical voice with clear instructions. They saw God or heard a voice that made their path clear. I flail about in uncertainty while others hear clear directives. It would be so helpful for choices and decision making to know clearly of God’s presence.

I was complaining about God’s response to my desire for a peak experience when I heard the Gospel reading about the sheep and the goats. The ones on the right and the ones on the left. As I prayed to see God more clearly and know of God’s presence with me — see the Christ before my eyes — I heard an answer that was challenging rather than consoling.

In the passage there is a statement which occurs four times. What more emphasis could be placed in a passage than a fourfold repetition? The sheep are told that they have actually seen and ministered to Jesus.

How? They want to know how and when. The assurance they receive is that they have seen Christ in the sick, the imprisoned, all manners of people in need of welcome and assistance. The goats did not respond to the Christ before them in people who were neglected and in need.

My world is similar to that of the sheep and goats. There are people in need of food and drink, people who are cold and without sufficient clothing, homeless people sleeping in the open air; people who are sick without access to health care. There are prisoners and unwelcome immigrants in need of welcome. They are right before me. They are the Christ that I can see and touch.

At first it is disappointing to hear this — to know that the peak experience I long for is available in ways that call for my compassion and effort, my outreach and sacrifice. It takes time for the wonder of it to set in.

Jesus, God made human, is present right before my eyes, inviting me to accept that nearness and respond. In other words, there are peak experiences consistently available to me if only I look. Surely, I am being told that prayer is not focused on experiencing the consolations of God but on seeking the God of consolations in my very mundane and challenging life.

The Christ is before me, inviting me to reach out in care or to wonder at the beauty of God’s creation.

Divine Providence Sister Fidelis Tracy is a retired theology professor at Thomas More University, Crestview Hills, Ky

spirit, who says, “I know who you are — the Holy One of God.” The rebuke of Jesus was not because the man spoke untruthfully. Rather, he was an unworthy witness to the holy, speaking from a place of total alienation from God, and from deep within the order of sin.

The Kingdom of God is at hand in the presence of Jesus Christ in the Word of God, in the holy sacraments, through the power of the Holy Spirit at work within the Church. Consequently, Christians can live decisively

against the order of sin. We can live according to Christ’s new order of divine love and truth. We can give worthy witness with living faith in the holy one of God and sing joyfully to the Lord, the rock of our salvation.

“Oh, that today you would hear His voice: Harden not you’re your hearts.”

Father Phillip W. De Vous is pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Flemingsburg and St. Rose of Lima, Mayslick.

Elementary Open Houses

Looking for a great school? **Catholic Schools Week in 2024 will be celebrated Jan. 28 to Feb. 3**, under the theme “United in Faith and Community.” Catholic grade schools in the Diocese of Covington will be hosting open houses around this time and each invite you to come and meet the teachers, parents and students.

- Blessed Sacrament, Ft. Mitchell, Jan. 21, 12–2 p.m.
- Holy Trinity, Bellevue, Jan. 28, 12-1:30 p.m.
- Immaculate Heart of Mary, Jan. 23, 8 a.m.–12 p.m.
- Mary, Queen of Heaven, Erlanger, Jan. 28, 12:30–2:30 p.m.
- Prince of Peace, Covington, Jan. 28, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. and April 18 4–6 p.m.
- St. Anthony, Taylor Mill, Jan. 28, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.
- St. Augustine, Covington, Jan. 28, 12–1 p.m.
- St. Catherine of Siena, Ft. Thomas, Feb. 1, 5–8 p.m.
- St. Cecilia, Independence, Jan. 28, 12–2 p.m.
- St. Henry, Elsmere, Jan. 28, 12:30–2 p.m.
- St. Joseph, Cold Spring, Jan. 28, 12:30–2:30 p.m.
- St. Joseph, Crescent Springs, Jan. 28, 12–2 p.m.
- St. Joseph Academy, Walton, contact the school office for more information or to arrange a tour. (859) 485-6444.
- St. Mary, Alexandria, Jan. 28, 12–2 p.m.
- St. Patrick, Taylor Mill, Feb. 4, 12–2 p.m.
- St. Paul, Florence, Jan. 28, 12–3 p.m.
- Sts. Peter and Paul, California, Jan. 21, 12–2 p.m.
- St. Pius X, Edgewood, Jan. 28, 12:30–2 p.m.
- St. Therese, Southgate, Feb. 1, 6–7:30 p.m.
- St. Thomas, Ft. Thomas, Jan. 21, 1–3 p.m.
- St. Timothy, Union, Jan. 20, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
- Villa Madonna Academy Elementary, Villa Hills, Feb. 4, 1–3 p.m.

NCCHS

(Continued from page 1)

opportunities to a new level. The renovations to the Science Learning Center were intentionally designed to increase engagement, collaboration and flexibility thus maximizing student learning — and you cannot beat the view!”

The renovation design makes maximum use of the stunning view of the Cincinnati skyline. Before the renovation, the third floor was the standard design of hallway down the middle the floor with classrooms on either side. Only the classrooms on the northside of the floor benefited from the view. The new design has the hallway stretching the entire length of the floor-to-ceiling north-facing windows, with the classrooms on the south side of the hallway. The north wall of each classroom is also made of floor-to-ceiling glass, but not just any glass — smart glass. With the flip of a switch the glass walls go from clear to opaque — for both safety and privacy.

The hallway is not just a walk-through space, it features a variety of flexible seating for students to read, relax or chat with fellow students, all while taking in the stunning view. At the east end of the hallway, is a flexible modular classroom; the interior non-glass hallway walls feature the schools new messaging, “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden,” (Matt 5:14) painted in the school’s colors — blue and gold.

But the project is more than a hallway with a view — a lot more. The 10,000 square foot renovated space consists of six learning environments — chemistry, biology, physics, shared laboratory, makerspace and the flexible classroom — that house six six-foot interactive touchscreen displays. Four snorkel systems allow the space to stay free of fumes during experiments, while two laboratory prep areas house a dishwasher, refrigerator, student created work and, soon, live animals — fish, snakes, turtles and lizards.

“The day has finally come! I cried when I walked into my new classroom because of the beauty and all of the opportunity it holds,” said Mrs. Sketch. “This is going to affect every single one of our students in a huge way. It’s impossible to predict the future, but this space is built for uncertainty. It’s adaptable — so no matter what the future holds, we are prepared and can ensure our students are college ready.”

The “Looking Up Capital Campaign” includes projects not focused on building and renovating spaces but also building and reinforcing the Catholic faith. The NCCHS community used a portion of the money raised to eliminate debt and with that cost savings have hired a full-time campus minister.

“Our schools in the diocese put faith first and that is no exception here,” said Mr. Collopy.

“Today we gathered to celebrate and bless this new Science Learning Center,” said Mrs. McGuire. “It gives us the opportunity to see how the past can help shape our future. To all those present today whose gifts contributed to this amazing learning space, we are all truly grateful. Your success and generosity are a testament to the learning that takes place here on The Hill. And today with Bishop’s blessing and God’s grace we pray that another 100 years of learning will take place here shaping the future of our local community and the world around us.”

In his remarks Bishop Iffert praised the school community for investing not only the physical space of the school building but also the faith life of its students.

“It really is a very impressive feat that you’ve carried out, to be able to raise these kinds of funds to support Newport Central Catholic and the education that happens here, the formation of faith that happens here, and to provide these kinds of facilities for the next generation of new young leaders,” said Bishop Iffert.

“What I want to see here at NCC, and at all of our high schools, is the realization of the living mission of Jesus. ...I think that when we put that investment in those relationships, relationships centered on Jesus — spiritual friendship, spiritual modeling, spiritual mentorship, spiritual companionship — I believe is exactly where we need to be in promoting that pillar of faith here at NCC and around the diocese. ...I am thrilled that we’ve been able to bring new people and resources to this campus who have the capacity to witness to the faith of Jesus Christ and to call our young people to it. That’s a win for everybody.”

In addition to thanking benefactors and supporters, Mr. Collopy acknowledged that, through the intercession of Mary, God continues to bless the efforts of NCCHS.

“We pray here to Our Lady of Providence and she certainly has interceded on our behalf. We have put our efforts in as well and that has really come to fruition,” he said.

Coming this spring with the “Looking Up Capital Campaign” is the groundbreaking of the long-awaited \$7.9 million, on-campus, multi-purpose athletic complex, which will provide a home field for boys’ and girls’ soccer, track and football and a practice facility for baseball and softball.



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PEOPLE AND EVENTS

The weekly TV Mass from the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption is broadcast locally on The CW, Sundays, 10 —11 a.m. Viewers can tune-in on the following channels: antenna 12.2; Spectrum 117 or 25; Cincinnati Bell 17 or 517; and DirectTV 25.

St. Mary’s Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, offers Veneration of a relic of the True Cross, on the first Friday of every month, from noon–1 p.m. Confessions are offered concurrently. The monthly veneration is held in silence and concludes with a blessing and the opportunity for the faithful to come forward to personally venerate the True Cross relic. The monthly veneration is sponsored by the Knights and Dames of the Covington-Lexington section of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

Learn more about the Walking with Purpose parish program. Volunteer leaders at St. Barbara Parish, Erlanger, will share how WWP is transforming hearts and bringing women closer to Christ. This complimentary, 30-minute virtual event will be held Jan. 31, 7 p.m. Register at www.walkingwithpurpose.com/events. WWP helps women to learn how to read Scripture and apply it to day-to-day life; invest in the hearts of other women and create community in the parish; go deeper into the Catholic faith, connecting Sunday Mass to the rest of the week.

Join us for THRIVE Peer Ministry Leadership Training – for high school and college leaders – Feb. 8, 6-8 p.m., at the Curia. Attend as an individual peer leader or with your parish, school, music, or retreat team. Newcomer’s welcome. RSVP at covidio.org/youth/

CONNECT Junior High Retreat, “Arise,” Feb. 10, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., at Thomas More University. Open to all sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-grade students. Register at covidio.org/youth/ by Feb. 1.

A Marriage Encounter Experience will be held on Feb. 16–18 at the Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center in Norwood, Ohio. Interested parties can call Andy and Melanie Reinersman at (859) 653-8464.

St. Agnes Parish, Ft. Wright, fish fry beginning Feb. 16 every Friday until March 15, 5–8 p.m.

St. Benedict Parish, Covington, Holy Name Society’s fish fry, every Friday during Lent except Good Friday, 4:45–7 p.m. Carry-out available. Bingo follows on Feb. 16, March 1 and 15.

New Manna Retreat: Dining in the Desert will be held at Mother of God Church Hall, Covington, Feb. 17, 8 a.m.–4 p.m. In this one-day retreat, Fr. Thomas Picchioni will explore the four different faces of the Real Manna come down from heaven and how with each face comes a different understanding, a different response and even a different relationship. RSVP appreciated to Anne Raispis at sproutingstumpministries@gmail.com or call/text at (859) 803-8890.

Start the Lenten Season with an hour of harp music by Dr. Diane Schneider, Feb. 18, 3–4 p.m., St. Benedict Church, Covington. Free will offerings will be accepted.

The William T. (Bill) Robinson III ‘67 Institute for Religious Liberty presents “Who’s My God”, an interfaith dialogue, Feb. 21, 7–9 p.m. in Steigerwald Hall in the Saints Center on Thomas More University’s Campus. This interfaith dialogue will feature a panel of experts led by moderator Brian Adams, Ph.D., who chairs the governing board for international NGO A Common Word Among Youth. Experts include: Shakila T. Ahmad representing the Muslim faith,



Celebrating 75 years

Paul and Margie Klee celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary Jan. 15, a testament to a lifetime of love and dedication. The Klee family has flourished, expanding to include 25 grandchildren and 34 great-grandchildren. The family tree stands tall with 105 members across four generations, a testament to the enduring bonds that Paul and Margie have fostered. Margie has prayed many rosaries as she counts it a blessing to have raised 10 kids and a strongly connected family of 105 members.

Brett Greenhalgh a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Thomas More professor Hannah Keegan representing the Roman Catholic religion and Rabbi Gary P. Zola, Ph.D., of the Jewish faith. For more information visit thomasmore.edu/religiousliberty.

Newport Central Catholic High School announces its 23rd class of inductees into its Athletic Hall of Fame: Tyler Barto ’02, Bob Brunemann ’70, Olivia Huber Bryant ’12, Anastasia Little Frey ’04, Glenn Meyers ’89, and AJ Simon ’95. Also being honored as the “Team of Distinction” is the 2002 Boys Soccer Regional Champion Team. NCCHS will be awarding the Coach Jim Connor Award to Dave Meyers ’98 and the Father John Hegenauer Community Service Award to Mark and Carol Keller Buemi ’82. The induction ceremony is Feb. 24, at the Newport Central Catholic Gymnasium, beginning with a social hour at 6 p.m.; followed by dinner and ceremony at 7 p.m. Cost \$30, prior to Feb. 12, online at <https://gofan.co/event/1323351?schoolId=KY6479>. Contact the NCC School Office at (859) 292-0001.

2024 Thomas More Women’s Conference, March 15, 8 a.m.–1 p.m., Steigerwald Hall, Saints Center. An interactive conference designed to enlighten, engage, and challenge women to seek more within their lives and careers. The 2024 Women’s Conference explores the topic of “Responsibility to Others.” Information available at tmukyus/tmwc. Cost: \$50 for alumni and friends; free for current students/faculty/staff. Special rates available for high school groups.

New Beginnings is an 8-week program for separated or divorced individuals, which provides an opportunity to heal and move forward despite a complicated situation. Led by facilitators who have been through their own personal losses, this program invites participants to move toward their own new beginning. The next session will be held on consecutive Thursdays – Jan. 25, Feb. 1, Feb. 8, Feb. 15, Feb. 22, Feb. 29, March 7, and March 14, 2024, 7-8:30 p.m., Holy Trinity Elementary, Bellevue. Register at covidio.org/new-beginnings.



2024 March for Life

(above top) Students from St. Henry District High School, Erlanger and (above bottom) members of the St. Barbara Parish, Erlanger, were among the thousands of people who took part in the 2024 March for Life in Washington, D. C., Jan. 19. Instead of organizing a trip to Washington, D.C. like in years past, this year the Diocese of Covington organized a trip to Frankfort, Ky., to participate in the second annual March for Life Kentucky, Jan. 23. The Messenger will report on Ky.’s march in next week’s edition.

Amid cold and snow, national March for Life pledges solidarity with moms and children

Peter Jesserer Smith
OSV News

Against gray skies and falling snow, thousands of people flocked Jan. 19 to the nation’s capital for the national March for Life, gathering them under the theme “With every woman, for every child,” showing their resolve amid the piercing cold to make abortion eventually “unthinkable” in the U.S.

The March for Life began in response to the U.S. Supreme Court’s 1973 decision in *Roe v. Wade*, which once legalized abortion nationwide, and gathers pro-life advocates from across the U.S. This year’s march — its second year since the Supreme Court overturned *Roe* in 2022 — took place as winter weather put much of the U.S. in a deep freeze, snarling transportation and canceling flights.

While the crowds appeared smaller than in years past, this year’s march showed a movement eager to up its game to help American society embrace a culture that affirms and

supports the dignity of all human life, and not just for the unborn.

Jeanne Mancini, president of March for Life Education and Defense Fund, and others emphasized during the March for Life Rally that not only was the national march there to stay, but pro-life marches would be multiplying throughout all 50 states in the coming years.

“We will keep marching every year at the national level, as well as in our states, until our nation’s laws reflect the basic truth that all human life is created equal and is worthy of protection,” Mancini told the thousands gathered on the National Mall.

Speaker after speaker at the march rally emphasized its theme of making abortion “unthinkable,” in particular by emphasizing the culture-changing and life-saving work of pregnancy resource centers and related efforts.

House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., addressed the crowd and shared that he himself was once an unplanned pregnancy for his parents,

just teenagers at the time, who chose life.

Johnson said the U.S. House of Representatives passed two important pieces of legislation right before the march: the Pregnant Students’ Rights Act for colleges and universities to follow and another bill that prohibits the Health and Human Services Department from excluding pregnancy resource centers from obtaining federal funds.

Johnson criticized President Joe Biden for his administration’s efforts to prevent pregnancy resource centers from accessing these grants under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.

However, speakers at the march acknowledged that the end of *Roe* came with both successes and setbacks for the pro-life movement. Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., a Catholic lawmaker and co-chair of the House Pro-Life Caucus, told those gathered that they should remain “undeterred.”

“We will never quit in our defense of the weakest and most vulnerable,” he said.

Aisha Taylor, author of “Navigating the Impossible: A Survival Guide for Single Moms,” took to the rally stage and reminded the crowd, “It was people like you who helped people like me to choose life for my unborn twins.”

“I am eternally grateful for that pregnancy center,” she

(Continued on page 20)

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Catholic Schools

THE MESSENGER • JANUARY 26, 2024

Celebrating
Catholic Schools Week
Jan. 28–Feb. 3



Catholic Schools
United in Faith and Community

Catholic schools — collaborators with families in education and faith

Bishop John Iffert
Diocese of Covington

Growing up, our local parish and Catholic school were at the center of our family life. We only did those things that happened at our church or school. Besides family, farm, church and school, who had time for anything else?

Most of our childhood friends were classmates. My parents’ friends were largely the parents of those same schoolmates. For a time, Mom was PTA president and nearly all my parents’ volunteer commitments flowed from that involvement.

I know that my parents also felt that the sisters and lay teachers who taught us were their allies and close collaborators in raising us. The sisters and teachers did more than pack our heads with information and processes. They shared my parents’ desire that we should grow up with faith in Jesus, a sense of service and living for others, and a moral compass that would help us navigate the world with integrity.

It is no exaggeration to say that our Catholic school was an extension of our family life, and it felt like it. I still



Bishop John Iffert

remember second grade when one of the girls in class called Sister Doris Jean “Mom” and Sister’s gentle smile and embrace in return. She was the one who cared for us and gave her best for us each day, like a mother would. And she carefully informed our mothers and fathers about our successes and failures; our need for lessons that could only be given and reinforced at home.

They were in this together — teachers and parents, brothers and sisters in the Lord — and we were often reminded to obey Sister as if she were Mom or Dad. We were warned that whatever we received once at school, we would get twice at home. Since what we received at school was love, respect, and mostly gentle correction when we needed it, things worked out well.

I was already thinking of writing about the link between family and our Catholic schools when I met Sam Krebs, a senior at Newport Central Catholic. When I sat down to talk with Sam about his Catholic school, practically the first words out of his mouth were, “There is such a strong sense of family here.

Everyone wants the best for you.” I was so pleased to hear that what I had experienced in Catholic schools 50 years ago, is still alive and well. Our schools are extensions of and servants to our Catholic families.

First as student and later as pastor, that has been my constant experience of our Catholic schools. Everyone wants the best for one another. Our faculty and staff not only want the best for our students, but they apply themselves to seeking the best for and soliciting the best efforts from every student. They love and treasure each life and potential as a gift from God, just like family would.

What is unique about our Catholic schools is that the truth we long to share with our students includes a life of faith and a love of learning and service that begins with love for the one who made the world and its peoples. In this, we are partners with parents and grandparents in forming the lives of their young people.

Our Catholic schools are like extended family. They share a mission with parents for the education and formation of the whole person to be a disciple of Jesus and a contributor to the common good.

This Catholic Schools Week, I am grateful that this work continues and is a strong support to families in our Church and community. Thank you to all who give of themselves for Catholic education as a primary investment in our families, young people, and the future of our communities. Like a family, we all pull together, wanting the best for every young child of God.



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Celebrating Catholic schools

Kendra McGuire
Contributor

It's time to celebrate Catholic schools! Catholic Schools Week begins on Sunday, Jan. 28, marking the 50th anniversary of this annual celebration.

What do we celebrate about Catholic schools? Everything!

For hundreds of years Catholic schools have been helping young learners grow in their Catholic faith and in academics. The fruits of this work are hard-working individuals who are making great contributions to the world around us. This year we celebrate our past, present and look to the future.



Kendra McGuire

A few weeks ago, I was blessed to celebrate with the community of Newport Central Catholic. Bishop Iffert was visiting the school to bless the new science labs that had just been renovated. Being at this event shows us how the past shapes our future. It was through the generous support of the community, many of which are alumni, who helped to update and transform the learning space for future generations of students. These supporters found success in their own lives and, recognizing their educational foundation, wanted to share their gifts with others. This is a living example of the message Christ shared with us which is also taught and modeled through years of Catholic education. Every day we see this kindness and generosity across our schools and this support helps us continue serving students.


Today our schools are working hard to pass on the Catholic faith to the next generation of students. They are learning the teachings of the Catholic Church by studying sacred Scripture and the catechism. The students are

(Continued on page 13)

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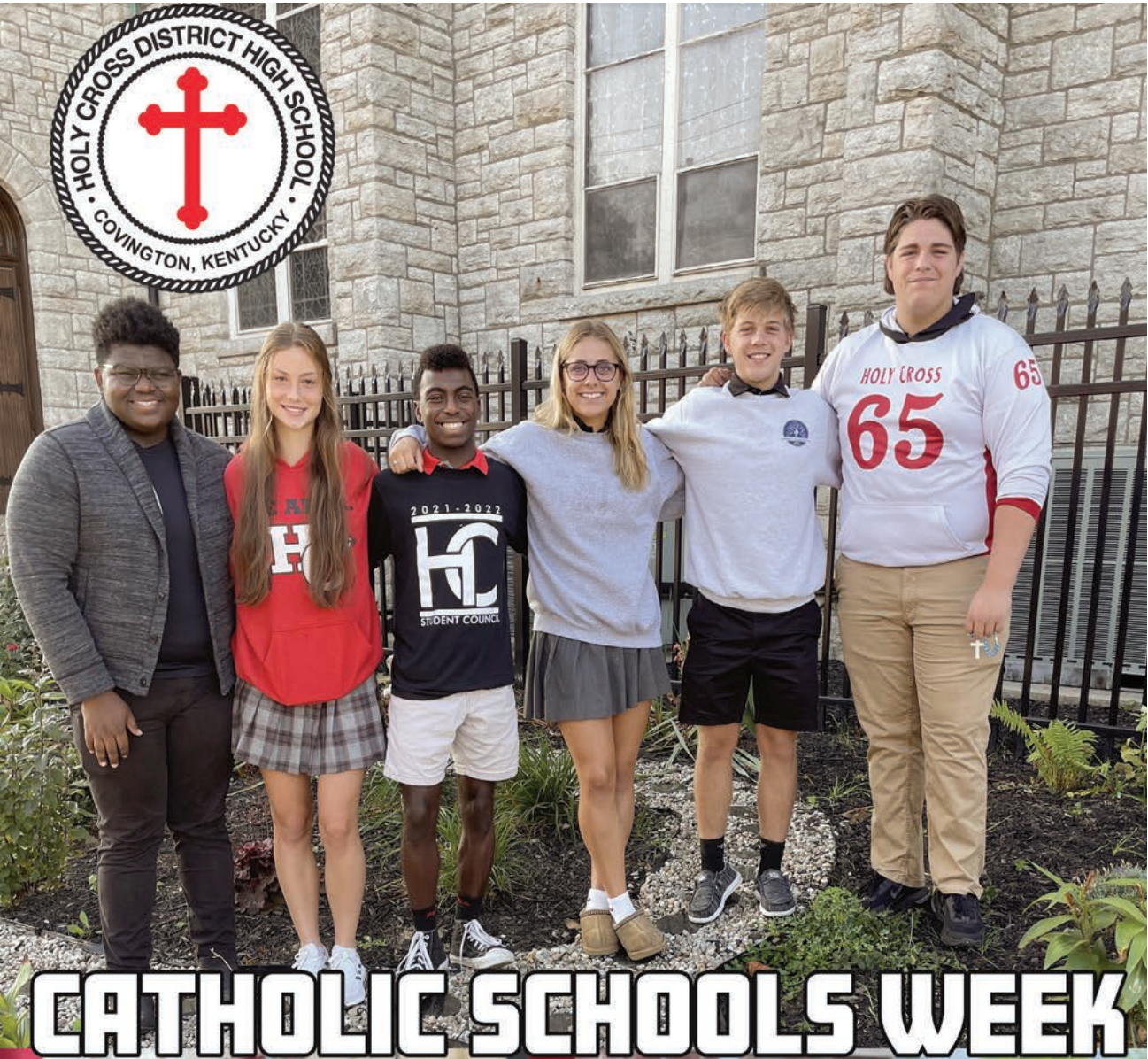
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Celebrating Catholic schools

(Continued from page 11)

learning about virtues, sacraments and the works of mercy. Students are also learning how to live their faith. We do this through service opportunities, attending Mass, Adoration and the sacraments. And students learn through their daily interactions how to be Christ to one another. Our faith is the foundation of our lives and this focus on faith opens the door to student growth in academics, athletics and extra-curricular activities too.

As we look at our world today, there are many uncer-

tainties and challenges never experienced before in human history. Through Catholic education we are preparing the next generation to go out into the world and make a positive difference during the midst of these troubling times. Our schools are helping students identify their gifts and teaching them to discern how God is calling them to be used. With a purpose and God as their guide, these students will be ready to go out into the world to serve God and one another.

This year's Catholic Schools Week theme is "Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community." Our schools

truly are united by our Catholic faith in a community that supports one another. And in a world that promotes the false sense of community in the digital space, our Catholic school communities are needed now more than ever. Let us pray for the dedicated faculty and staff whose work has great impact on the future. And let us pray for our students — past, present and future, that they will continue living the lessons they learned throughout their Catholic education and put Christ first in their life today and always.

Kendra McGuire is superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Covington, Ky.

Catholic schools grow relationships to God

David Cooley
Contributor

Education is a ministry of the Catholic Church because there is an undeniable thread between the general pursuit of knowledge and the journey of understanding who we are in the universe. We cannot come to fully know ourselves and the world around us unless we come to know the Creator of all things.

The goal of education is not to get into the best university or to be successful at a desired career. The goal is not even for an individual to ultimately obtain his or her financial freedom. It is so much deeper than that. Education is good for its own sake. There is something innate in us that makes us want to find the truth.

And the Truth is a person. It is not enough for us to just be financially free,



David Cooley

we long to be completely free. And we will only be completely free when we come to know, love and serve our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is a foundation that is missing in secular education, and it is one of the many reasons why Catholic schools are so important.

Education cannot and should not only be an intellectual exercise. Not only must the intellect be formed, but the will must be formed as well. This is why Catholic schools put such an emphasis on a complete formation of the human person. Human beings are intellectual, physical, spiritual, emotional and social beings. We long for communion with each other and with God.

We are made for so much more than a career. We are made for God, and we are restless until we understand this and

give over our lives, which are a complete gift, back to God. Learning about God must be part of a student's education; however, Catholic schools are designed to not only be a place where we learn about God, but, more importantly, to be a place where we can encounter and grow in our relationship with Him.

To know about Jesus is to love him, and to love him is to serve him. Only on this path can we truly learn to know and love ourselves, and to love and serve our neighbors.

Our Catholic schools can and do prepare students for college and the work force, but they go way beyond that. Our Catholic schools do form good citizens that will contribute in a positive way to society, but that is just a happy accident. Our Catholic schools have great athletes, but they are more concerned with forming disciples of Christ and future saints than anything else. Now is the perfect time for all of us to double down on our faith, be bold and proud Catholics, and let our children know that it is way more important for them to get into Heaven than it is for them to get into Harvard.

David Cooley is co-director of the Office of Catechesis and Evangelization, Diocese of Covington, Ky.



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Catholic schools — united in faith, in service as Christ



Bishop Brossart High School

"Charity First" is the motto Bishop Brossart High School students strive to follow throughout their four years as a Mustang. The act of service is consistently present in the students' lives. Students participate in service in many ways such as class level service days, community service projects, team/club service opportunities and spontaneous opportunities due to community need. In addition, service is not limited to the student body. The faculty and staff are actively involved in service within the community, setting a positive example for the students of Bishop Brossart High School.

Yearly, the students of Bishop Brossart participate in a grade-level service day. Students, teachers and parent/family volunteers go out into the community and perform various acts of service. Cleaning, mulching, painting, moving heavy furniture, organizing in community centers and working in daycares are just a few examples of the service provided to the community. Following the act, students gather and reflect on their experiences. As a result of the service, students' awareness of community needs grow. With such awareness, many students continue to volunteer independently at many of these locations. In addition, clubs and sports teams will also go out into the community and serve others. Uniting as a team or club and serving others offers great opportunities for the students to witness the importance of giving to others.

The students, faculty and staff of Bishop Brossart have also contributed to many causes over the years. When Eastern Kentucky was hit with devastating floods a few years ago right before the start of the school year, the school rallied and purchased many supplies to send to the region. All of this was coordinated without being in school, yet the community came through and helped those in need. Other examples of spontaneous opportunities were raising money for hurricane relief, tornado relief and various charities. Helping those in need is a high priority for the Mustang family.

Throughout the school year, sponsored by different clubs and organizations, the Brossart students, faculty and staff collect various items needed in the community. One example includes a giving tree during Advent coordinated by our Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Assisting in giving children a great Christmas is an amazing service to others. Another example is the annual food and supplies drive before Thanksgiving which provides necessary supplies to local families in need. The amount of supplies purchased by the students to give to others is amazing to witness.

Finally, multiple times throughout the school year, students purchase food and supplies and give them to CARE Mission. Each year, Bishop Brossart and Campbell County High School unite in this service opportunity. Two rival schools uniting to provide service to those in need shows the character of these fine young men and

(Continued on page 15)

CELEBRATE
CATHOLIC
SCHOOLS WEEK



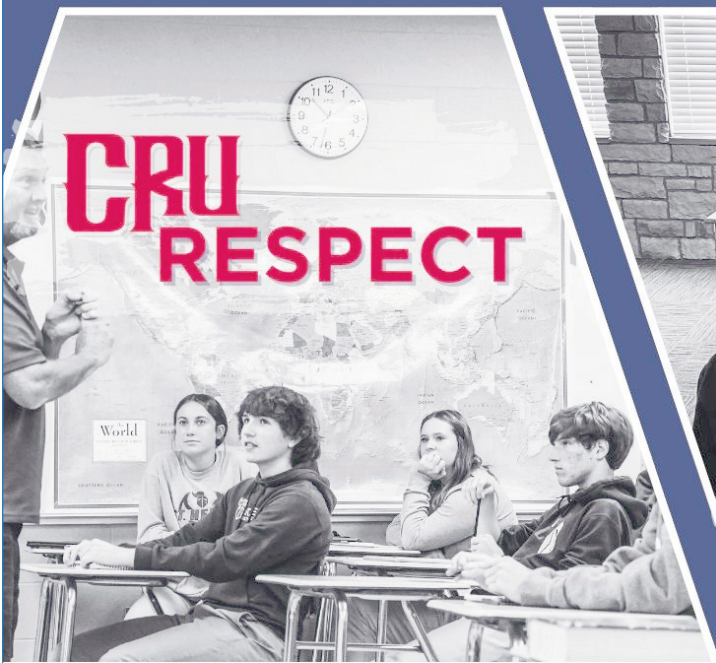
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ST. HENRY
DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL




shdhs.org

COME AS **MANY**, LEAVE AS **ONE**

(Continued from page 13)

women.

Bishop Brossart students know very well the theme of “Charity First.” The school community is very proud of their countless hours of service in the community and generous spirit in providing monetarily when called upon. The love shown to their neighbors makes all associated with the school proud to be a part of the Mustang family.



Covington Catholic High School

In an era where educational institutions often grapple with balancing academic rigor and holistic development, Covington Catholic High School stands out for its unwavering commitment to fostering a deep relationship with Christ among its faculty, staff and students. The school’s approach is not limited to religious classes; it extends into the very fabric of the daily school life, from the incorporation of Catholic sacraments to annual retreats, and community service initiatives.

At the heart of Covington Catholic’s spiritual foundation is the integration of Catholic sacraments into the school day and year. The administration recognizes the importance of providing opportunities for students to engage with their faith regularly. Masses and other sacraments are seamlessly woven into the school schedule, allowing students and staff to partake in moments of reflection and worship. This intentional incorporation of religious practices helps create an environment where faith is not just taught but lived.

One standout feature of Covington Catholic’s commitment to spiritual development is its annual retreats for each grade level. These retreats serve as a cornerstone for building a sense of community, fostering student bonding and deepening individual connections with Christ. Among these retreats, the sophomore retreat to Wyoming is a unique and transformative experience. The picturesque landscapes and outdoor experiences provide a breathtaking backdrop for self-reflection, prayer, spiritual growth and building bonds that last a lifetime.

Community service is another integral aspect of Covington Catholic’s commitment to following the examples of Christ. Students actively participate in various service initiatives, embodying the principles of compassion and social responsibility instilled in them through their faith. By engaging in acts of kindness and service to others, students not only contribute positively to their communities but also deepen their understanding of the Catholic teachings on charity and goodwill.

Religion classes at Covington Catholic go beyond the academic study of doctrine; they serve as a platform for meaningful discussions about faith, morality and social justice. These classes provide students with the knowledge and tools to navigate the complexities of the modern world while remaining rooted in Catholic identity. The curriculum is designed to encourage critical thinking, fostering an environment where students can explore and question

their faith in a supportive and intellectually stimulating manner.

The school’s Catholic identity is not confined to religious classes alone; it permeates every aspect of the CovCath culture. From the symbols adorning the hallways and classrooms, to the prayers before sporting events, Covington Catholic High School creates an environment

(Continued on page 16)



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CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

(Continued from page 15)

that consistently reinforces the values of the Catholic faith.

Covington Catholic stands as a beacon of how educational institutions can successfully blend academic excellence with the nurturing of a deep and abiding faith.

Covington Catholic High School is a 2016 Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, award winning, college preparatory high school located in Park Hills, Kentucky, operating within the Catholic Diocese of Covington. It is an all-male school of 498 whose mission is to embrace the Gospel message of Jesus Christ in order to educate students spiritually, academically, physically and socially.



Covington Latin School

In the records of education history in the Diocese of Covington, one name stands out with a legacy that spans a century — Covington Latin School (CLS). Established in 1923 by the visionary Bishop William Howard, CLS was founded with a singular purpose: to provide a superior education for bright students across the Diocese.

A Visionary Beginning: Bishop Howard's foresight led to the creation of Covington Latin School as an institution committed to academic excellence and the cultivation of intellectual curiosity. The school's foundation was laid on

the principles of classical education, emphasizing the importance of critical thinking, rigorous study and a deep appreciation for the arts and sciences.


Educating the Bright Minds: For the past century, CLS has been a beacon of education for gifted students within the Diocese of Covington. Its distinguished faculty and challenging curriculum have consistently produced graduates who excel in various fields, from academia to business, medicine and the arts. The school's commitment to nurturing the talents of its students has made it a respected institution known for producing well-rounded leaders within our community and nation.

Role and Relationship to the Diocese: CLS plays a vital role within the Diocese of Covington as a center for academic excellence. It serves not only as an educational institution but also as a symbol of the diocese's commitment to providing high-quality education to its gifted and talented youth. The school has been a cornerstone in the diocesan mission to empower students with the tools for success, both academically and spiritually.

Moreover, CLS maintains a collaborative relationship with fellow Catholic schools within the diocese. The shared commitment to Catholic values and academic rigor fosters a sense of community among these institutions, creating a network of support for the educational growth of all students.

A Beacon of Classical Education: CLS remains true to its classical education roots, emphasizing the timeless values of critical thinking, intellectual curiosity, and a well-rounded education that teaches the whole student. CLS's classical education hinges on our goal for students to be able to speak, read, write, and learn critically. Classical education is an education in wisdom and virtue where students have historically learned the foundation of grammar, oratory and rhetoric, and logic. The most important skills we teach our students are the hardest to find - basic thinking skills. These are not rooted in STEM, but the even more useful language and communication areas that our education has focused on since its induction.


As Covington Latin School celebrates its rich history and looks toward the future, it stands as a testament to the enduring impact of Bishop Howard's vision. Through decades of unwavering dedication to academic excellence, CLS remains a cornerstone of education in the Diocese of Covington, shaping the minds of generations to come.



Disciples For Life


And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28



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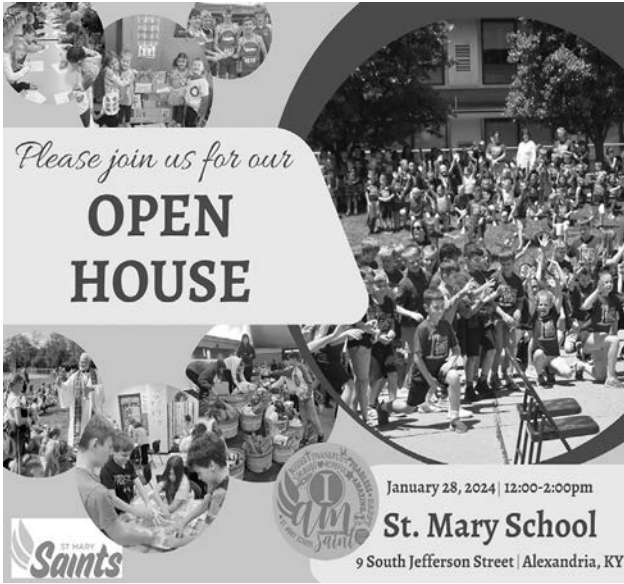
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Holy Cross District High School

Holy Cross District High School has a proud tradition of providing a strong faith-filled education for students. Since its founding in 1929, the vision has transformed to meet the ever-changing needs of students.

HCDHS has undergone a transformation that makes it in some ways unrecognizable to alumni from past eras. The dream was to build HCDHS into one of the strongest schools in the area. There have been expansions in curriculum, extracurricular activities, and the campus. And yet, despite this growth, HCDHS has retained the virtues and advantages of the small school fondly remembered by alumni — small classes, a supportive family atmosphere, individual attention and a high level of involvement.




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St. Mary School

9 South Jefferson Street | Alexandria, KY



The student body of HCDHS is diverse, with students coming from an amazing range of socioeconomic and academic backgrounds. Over the years, the school's curriculum has grown to match this diversity. Five levels of study and individualized scheduling allow students to take courses that will challenge them. The flexibility and variety of the curriculum enable students to move back and forth among different levels as their preferences and development dictate.

HCDHS has continued to expand its curriculum. Advanced Placement courses are offered in English and Physics. HCDHS works with Thomas More University, Northern Kentucky University and The University of the Cumberlands to offer dual credit courses in calculus, American history, foreign policy, world history, Spanish and biology. Students earn actual college credits while at HCDHS and transfer these credits to other colleges. A skilled and motivated student, taking full advantage of this curriculum, can get a tremendous head start on his or her college education — a financial and educational benefit.

Beginning in the 2019-20 school year the Practical Engineering and Design program was introduced. Here, students interested in careers in engineering, architecture, graphic/product design, as well as technical careers, are given a foundation.


The award-winning Academic Enhancement Program, the first of its kind in the diocese, permits students with learning disabilities to have a full high school experience and receive the benefits of a Catholic education. Over the past four years the Academic Transitions Program has been developed to aid students who do not have a diagnosed disability but still need academic support in areas of time management, organizational and study skills as they transition into high school.


HCDHS offers a wide range of extracurricular opportunities, which allow students to develop and discover talents, friendships and experiences. Almost 90 percent of the students participate in at least one extracurricular activity and 75 percent participate in one of the 21 athletic teams. More important, every graduate of HCDHS has performed a minimum of 100 hours of community service. Students perform service on their own time, helping to make HCDHS an integral part of Northern Kentucky and fostering a community spirit that will last a lifetime. What also lasts forever is a deep-rooted connection to the HCDHS family, forged in a thousand different ways during a student's four years here.

HCDHS provides students with a spiritual and educational foundation so that each can develop his or her dreams into the brightest future.


Celebrating Catholic Schools Week

Jan. 28–Feb. 3





The Catholic Newman Center
at Northern Kentucky
University



Newport Central
Catholic High School

Newport Central Catholic is synonymous with family. Families work together to meet the needs of its members to foster growth. The small school environment and caring staff allow each student the opportunity to feel a sense of connection and support during successful times, trying times and those in between.

Families can have a variety of looks, but the difference between any school and a school that labels itself as a family, is the amount of care that permeates its programs. At Newport Central Catholic, like the majority of schools in the area, they offer Advanced Placement (AP), Honors and Dual Credit (DC) classes for their ambitious and academically focused students. They offer academic support by way of their Academic Enhancement (AE) Program for students with diagnosed learning disabilities. They also offer a variety of electives to keep academic interest levels high for all students by way of classes like Bio Technologies, Law and Justice, Battle Re-enactments, Rock and Roll History, Engineering and Investing and Financing, just to name a few.


The St. Joseph Institute program offers hands-on experience with carpentry, plumbing, electric and the opportunity to practice such skills with community partners by way of internships and co-ops. NCC's brand new Science Learning Center with 21st Century equipment will take learning to the next level with real world experience in the Science field. These academic offerings are an important piece of who they are, but their focus is on forming the whole person: Faith, Character and Academics.

In the fall of 2023, through the support of the Looking Up Campaign, Bradley Barnes filled the brand new role of Campus Minister to increase the formation of Faith on The Hill. Mr. Barnes supports the foundational pillar of Faith ensuring it stays as the school's top priority. He, along with Theology teachers, Patty Grothaus and Father Jacob Struab, plan all-school Masses at local parish churches, all-school prayer services such as outdoor rosary at the Grotto overlooking downtown Cincinnati, First Friday alumni Masses in the St. John Paul II Chapel, community service trips to local non-profit organizations, Kentucky March for Life to the Capitol and Senior retreats at Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center. With further support from Father Ross Kelsch, pastoral administrator; Father AJ Gedney, school chaplain and Deacon Barry Henry, NCC focuses on keeping what is most important at the forefront of our formation, no matter the background of their students. Everyone (students, staff, parents/guardians, alumni) are at different places in their relationship with God. Their experience is about furthering progress in that relationship.

Such progress ultimately improves the character of students. As they strive to act as Christ, they also develop academically and more importantly as better people. These faith and academic initiatives are not the only efforts that

help with character development, another foundational pillar of NCC. NCC students may participate in one or more of the 22 school-sponsored, extracurricular clubs and organizations. NCC also offers 20 sports programs in which students can compete and develop physically. More than 92 percent of students compete in varsity, interscholastic athletic programs.

As Newport Central Catholics idealistically strives to be Christ-like, they know there will be shortcomings in their efforts. On The Hill, they prefer to frame such instances as opportunities for growth. With this mindset, they attempt to form the whole student in Faith, Academics and Character.



Notre Dame Academy

Catholic Schools Week is the perfect time to reflect upon the far-reaching impact of Catholic education, especially regarding the holistic development of students. Guided by the rich educational heritage of the Sisters of Notre Dame, Notre Dame Academy (NDA) is dedicated to cultivating transformative leaders embracing God's goodness. Their mission is to provide a robust education empowering young women to make a positive difference in the world; however, their commitment to a Catholic worldview goes beyond academic excellence — it encompasses the integral formation of the human person.

A Catholic education at Notre Dame Academy embraces the complete individual: body, mind, emotions and spirit. In doing so, NDA students are not only prepared for post-secondary education and professional life, they also gain an understanding of ethics and social awareness, explore the transcendental and receive religious education.

Notre Dame Academy is blessed with a strong tradition of academic excellence where the focus on education transcends traditional boundaries. NDA's Catholic worldview incorporates knowledge along with spiritual and moral values that prepare students for a life of success, community service and personal fulfillment. Their commitment extends further than preparing students solely for successful careers; they strive to nurture the young women of NDA with a sense of purpose and a dedication to making a positive impact on the world. NDA's rigorous academic programs captivate students' interests and encourage critical thinking and compassion, promoting personal and intellectual growth.

Their goal at NDA is to form individuals who not only excel in their professional life but also carry with them the values and principles that provide them with a purposeful and impactful life.

Rooted in the educational principles of the Sisters of Notre Dame, the curriculum at NDA focuses on the human dignity of each person as an image of God. An important part of a Notre Dame Academy Catholic education is learning ethical awareness and a responsibility for all God's children. An important element in the formation of ethical and social awareness at NDA is service learning. Through the Catholic Social Teaching class and Service Program, NDA students become the hands and feet of

(Continued on page 18)

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CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

(Continued from page 17)

Jesus and gain a deeper understanding of responsibility and empathy. NDA’s commitment to ethical education encourages compassionate leaders who contribute to the common good.

Spiritual development is also an integral part of a Catholic education at Notre Dame Academy. Through prayer, service, religious education and active participation in the sacraments, students cultivate a deep relationship with God. This spiritual development is a transformative experience for the young women of NDA which prompts an awareness of the transcendental. Through prayer, reflection and spiritual guidance, students experience self-discovery and a connection with the divine.

At the core of its mission at Notre Dame Academy is religious education. They are wholeheartedly committed to providing a profound and meaningful understanding of Catholic teachings and values. Through active engagement in religious studies along with participation in liturgical celebrations, Christian service initiatives and retreats, NDA students have many opportunities to grow in their faith and spirituality. At NDA, they celebrate their Catholic Identity everyday by living the Gospel message of Jesus through kindness and generosity to others, respect for life, community service and striving to use their God given gifts. The goal at Notre Dame Academy is to provide a premier Catholic education infused with the spirit of St. Julie Billiart proclaiming God’s goodness and provident care. They believe that in doing so, they are empowering students to live their faith authentically in every aspect of their lives.

Notre Dame Academy is a Catholic college preparatory school of 506 students in Park Hills, Ky. The only all-girls

school in Northern Kentucky, Notre Dame Academy has long embraced the mission of educating young women to make a difference in the world.

NDA has been recognized three times by the U.S. Department of Education as a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. NDA has more than 10,000 alumnae who live and work in 50 states and nine countries. For more information about Notre Dame Academy, go to www.ndapandas.org.



St. Henry District High School

St. Henry District High School is taking bold steps to elevate its educational programs and enrich student experiences. Within the last year, SHDHS has introduced a new flex system to provide students with a more personalized and flexible approach to their learning.

Each day, students are allowed to select from various academic enrichment workshops, independent learning, prayer and reflection, or the gymnasium if they need to exert some energy. Some examples of these workshops include but are not limited to American Sign Language, Cru OTM (Organizational Time Management), Math/English tutoring, Chemistry Jam Session, Art Room and many others.

St. Henry District High School is also committed to empowering its students through the power of faith, connection and hope through its Sources of Strength organization. This program is led by the high school’s counselors, as well as student peer leaders. This year, SHDHS’s Sources of Strength led the Red Ribbon Week Camp, and last year, SHDHS implemented our Trusted Adult campaign. A Trusted Adult benefits our students by offering mentorship, emotional support, and overall security to SHDHS students. St. Henry is proud that over 97 percent of students have a trusted adult within the school building.

SHDHS is thrilled to announce that they will add a new football program for the 2024-2025 school year. SHDHS will start Junior Varsity in 2024 and have their first Friday night under the lights in the fall of 2025. The football program will bring even more than just playing on Friday night. The football program will help increase our cheerleading and band activities and engage our student base outside of school. The program will create opportunities for

our community to come together for prayer and to celebrate athletic achievements.

St. Henry teachers, students, parents and “Cru” community are excited to witness the positive impact these programs will have on our school.



St. Patrick School

In 1983, Pope St. John Paul II created dialogue around the idea of a “New Evangelization.” The mission of this New Evangelization, described in his encyclical *Redemptoris Missi* (1990), consists primarily of bringing back to the faith those who were once fervent believers and have fallen away, i.e. the baptized (<https://www.saintjohn-institute.org/the-new-evangelization/>). St. Patrick School promotes the call of evangelization to its students, and, in turn, promote the call to our community.

At “St. Pat’s” students hear the call of evangelization in their everyday routines. Students learn the Gospel message when they attend Mass twice a week, when they are taught in religion class, when they see Christ in one another and treat everyone with dignity and when they meet Christ face-to-face in Eucharist Adoration each week. Students see administration, faculty and staff live the faith through their work and how they serve as role models for spreading Christ’s love and mercy.

All of these influences inside the St. Patrick School building create an atmosphere within the student body to spread the Gospel message of faith and salvation outside the building and into their community. Each month, the Junior class takes part in the St. Vincent de Paul Mobile Food Pantry in Mason County. Whether it is packaging items or helping families carry items to their vehicles, the class shows the care and concern we have for neighbors in need.

During Catholic Schools Week, the whole school (PreK-12) collect items for care packages to send to active military members serving stateside and abroad. They honor First Responders by praying with them at St. Patrick’s Blue Mass and providing treats for local departments. Classes also promote coat drives, food drives, take care of the parish cemetery, donate time and food to the local women’s shelter and spend time with elderly members of the community in the local nursing home.

Each of these activities show the community how they are called to be the hands and feet of Christ and carry his message to those who desire an encounter with God.

St. Patrick’s is proud to carry out the mission of the New Evangelization and, hopefully, bring the baptized back to the faith. Just as important, they want everyone they meet to see and recognize that they are followers of Christ who are joyfully spreading his word and his love.



Villa Madonna Academy

Villa Madonna Academy High School’s Catholic, Benedictine education is one founded on hallmarks that include Love of God and Neighbor; Community and Hospitality; Stewardship and Prayer and Scholarship and Service.

At the heart of outstanding academics and creative

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY AS TO STUDENTS

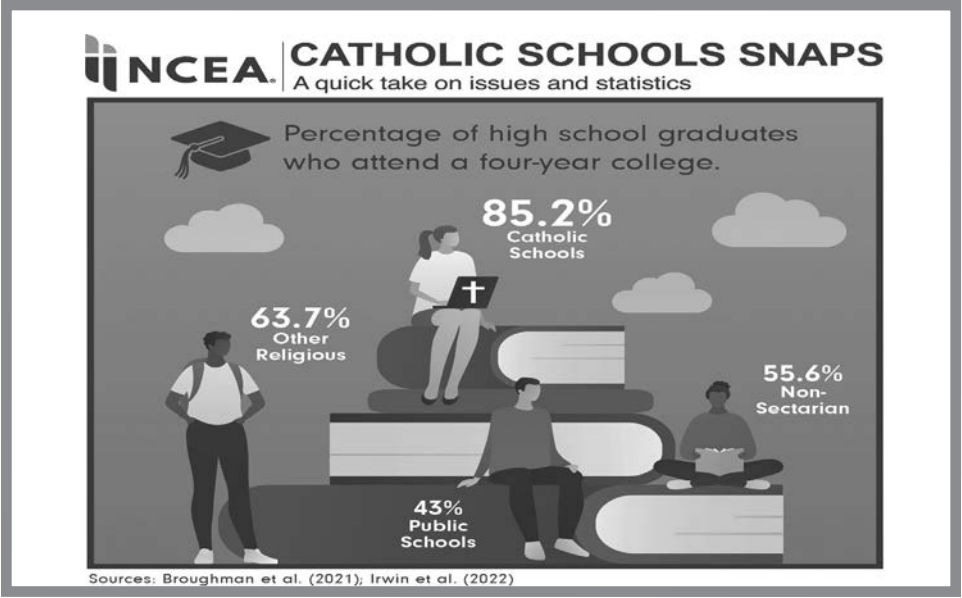
Diocesan Policy states that “No person shall be refused admission to any church, school or institution or membership in any Catholic society or organization solely on the grounds of race or nationality.” In keeping with this policy, the schools under the auspices of the Department of Catholic Education, Diocese of Covington, do not discriminate on the basis of race, color or national or ethnic origin. Students of any race who meet the individual school’s eligibility requirements are admitted to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded to students at that school and that school does not discriminate on the basis of race in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarships and loan programs and other school-administered programs. The names and addresses of these schools are listed below.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

- Bishop Brossart - 4 Grove Street, Alexandria, Kentucky 41001-1295
- Covington Catholic - 1600 Dixie Highway, Covington, Kentucky 41011-2797
- Covington Latin - 21 East Eleventh Street, Covington, Kentucky 41011-3196
- Holy Cross - 3617 Church Street, Covington, Kentucky 41015-1498
- Newport Central Catholic - 13 Carothers Road, Newport, Kentucky 41071-2497
- Notre Dame Academy - 1699 Hilton Drive, Covington, Kentucky 41011-2705
- St. Henry - 3755 Scheben Drive, Erlanger, Kentucky 41018-3597
- St. Patrick - 318 Limestone Street, Maysville, Kentucky 41056-1248
- Villa Madonna Academy - 2500 Amsterdam Road, Villa Hills, Kentucky 41017-3798

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

- Blessed Sacrament - 2407 Dixie Highway, Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky 41017-2994
- Holy Cross - 3615 Church Street, Covington, Kentucky 41015-1430
- Holy Family - 338 East Sixteenth Street, Covington, Kentucky 41014-1304
- Holy Trinity School - 235 Division Street, Bellevue, Kentucky 41073-1101
- Immaculate Heart of Mary - 5876 Veterans Way, Burlington, Kentucky 41005-8824
- Mary Queen of Heaven - 1130 Donaldson Road, Erlanger, Kentucky 41018-1088
- Prince of Peace - 625 Pike Street, Covington, Kentucky 41011-2148
- St. Agnes - 1322 Sleepy Hollow Road, Ft. Wright, Kentucky 41011-2795
- St. Anthony - 485 Grand Avenue, Covington, Kentucky 41015-0219
- St. Augustine - 1840 Jefferson Avenue, Covington, Kentucky 41014-1165
- St. Catherine of Siena - 23 Rossford Avenue, Ft. Thomas, Kentucky 41075-1298
- St. Cecilia - 5313 Madison Pike, Independence, Kentucky 41051-8611
- St. Edward - 107 North Walnut Street, Cynthiana, Kentucky 41031-1299
- St. Henry - 3825 Dixie Highway, Erlanger, Kentucky 41018-1863
- St. Joseph - 6829 Four Mile Road, Camp Springs, Kentucky 41059-9507
- St. Joseph - 4011 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, Kentucky 41076-1817
- St. Joseph - 2474 Lorraine Avenue, Crescent Springs, Kentucky 41017-1493
- St. Joseph Academy - 48 Needmore Street, Walton, Kentucky 41094-1028
- St. Mary - 9 South Jefferson Street, Alexandria, Kentucky 41001-1398
- St. Patrick - 318 Limestone Street, Maysville, Kentucky 41056-1248
- St. Patrick - 3285 Mills Road, Taylor Mill, Kentucky 41015-2480
- St. Paul - 7301 Dixie Highway, Florence, Kentucky 41042-0366
- Sts. Peter & Paul - 2160 California Crossroads, California, Kentucky 41007-9713
- St. Philip - 1400 Mary Ingles Hwy., Melbourne, Kentucky 41059-9701
- St. Pius X - 348 Dudley Road, Edgewood, Kentucky 41017-2698
- St. Therese - 2516 Alexandria Pike, Southgate, Kentucky 41071-3298
- St. Thomas - 428 So. Ft. Thomas Avenue, Ft. Thomas, Kentucky 41075-2295
- St. Timothy - 10268 Hwy 42, Union, Kentucky 41091-9591
- Villa Madonna Academy - 2500 Amsterdam Road, Villa Hills, Kentucky 41017-3798



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

learning lies the Benedictine culture that makes VMA who they are and distinguishes them from other schools. It is a subtle culture which one can immediately connect with, for a Benedictine education creates an enduring set of values which forms part of Villa students' identity long after graduation. Villa graduates continue their education everywhere from Harvard to USC, from MIT to the University of Michigan — and everywhere in between. Wherever they go, their Villa education is the foundation for their academic and spiritual development.

Integral to this Benedictine education is the faculty, the heart and soul of the school. Called to their vocation of teaching in a Catholic school, Villa teachers live the very values rooted in the Gospel and upon which the school is founded. Villa teachers are life-long learners, impacting the growth of both the individual and the student community. They seek God's presence in all things, in the events of daily life, and Villa students learn through their teachers how to treat each other as they would treat Jesus. Villa's high school is a place of mutual respect and trust, a place where teachers arrive early and leave late as they

work with students, a place where the personal and college counselors create a roadmap to success early in freshman year, and a place where students are entrusted with countless leadership opportunities that allow them to live their faith.

There is truly a divine presence at Villa as teachers and students carry out the mission of the Church. In Mass with Father Baiju, chaplain, in visits to the Monastery infirmary where they visit the sick or to Madonna Manor where they work with the elderly, to their concern for the underserved through mission work and our love of the young through service work, from respect for all things entrusted to them to the welcoming hospitality that embraces them, there is a real sense of community and love of God and neighbor.

Villa's academic program is outstanding, as evidenced by three national Blue Ribbon awards and the most recent *Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence Lighthouse Award*. Villa's theology program includes retreats for grades 7-12 and an extensive Benedictine component that connects Villa with the other U.S. Benedictine high schools: The

Benedictine Mentor Program, Exchange Program, Ambassador Program and Campus Program. At the heart of all of this, the teachers lead the charge: "I look at my students, and I see Christ in them."

Villa Madonna Academy High School is an outstanding Catholic, co-ed school with teachers, students and parents who know each other by name, respect each others' gifts, provide each other with opportunities to succeed, affirm each others' strengths, seek what is best for all in the community, and who demonstrate reverence and respect for everyone and everything. Through the commitment and dedication of the Villa faculty, Villa graduates are confident in relationships with diverse cultures and religions, respectful of all people and their viewpoints, innovative and independent thinkers, committed to meaningful service and inspired by a sense of community and Benedictine purpose rooted in the Gospel.

Villa Madonna Academy reminds from the Rule of St. Benedict: Your way of acting should Be different From the world's way.

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Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Fort Mitchell, Kentucky, is seeking a full-time Director of Liturgical Music. The director will be responsible for overseeing the parish music program as the principal pianist, organist, and adult choir director. This includes planning, in collaboration with the clergy, and playing music that enhances worship and encourages congregational participation for three weekend masses, funerals (about 40 per year), weddings, and occasional special liturgical celebrations. This will involve building up and leading our adult choir, working with cantors, directing the hand bell choir twice a year, and assembling and leading extra musicians for Christmas, Easter, and Corpus Christi. Pay is commensurate with experience. For more information, please contact the Business manager, Carol Rector: crector@bscky.org or 859-331-4302.

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Catholic Charities
Diocese of Covington

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Covington is adding services and growing, and this is an exciting time to serve in our local Church. If you have a desire to work in an environment where you can truly make a difference by serving others, Catholic Charities seeks candidates to fill the following positions:

Mental Health Agency Counselor

We are seeking a full-time counselor for our agency's mental health program. The position includes general counseling services to individuals, couples and families. This is 40 hours a week, some evening hours. Necessary qualifications include MSW or Master in clinical counseling and State Licensed (preferred) or license eligibility, experience with assessment, diagnosis, and treatment and solid record-keeping and organizational skills.

Parish Kitchen, Weekend Staff

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National March for Life

(Continued from page 8)

said, adding that her presence among them was part of her pledge to “pay it forward” for all the support she had received to choose life.

Benjamin Watson, a former NFL tight end, said pro-life advocates must embark on “a new fight for life” that also addresses the factors behind abortion, and he connected those efforts to the wider struggle for peace and justice in society.

“Roe is done, but we still live in a culture that knows not how to care for life,” Watson said.

Thousands of Catholics participating in the march came from prayer vigils and Masses held that day or the evening before.

At the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington, Virginia, preached to a crowd of 7,000 gathered for a vigil Mass that was followed by a National Holy Hour for Life.

At the morning Mass in the basilica Jan. 19, Bishop Earl K. Fernandes of Columbus, Ohio, encouraged Catholics not to get discouraged by setbacks in the pro-life movement but to recall how Jesus Christ “fell three times under the weight

of his cross but he got back up.”

“Even after defeats we get back up and we march for life in radical solidarity with women and children,” he said.

As the snow continued to fall, thousands of marchers took to the streets to march between the Capitol and the Supreme Court buildings as the song “God bless America” rang out through the loudspeakers.

Before she went to the rally stage and on to march, Mancini told OSV News what she hoped people take away from the March for Life — besides “a lot of snowballs.”

“I hope that they take away that the pro-life movement is about the full flourishing of both mom and baby,” she said.

Protecting God’s Children for Adults Safe Environment Trainings

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■ Jan. bulletin: posted Sunday, Jan. 7; due Tuesday, Feb. 6.

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■ Monday, Feb. 5, 9–11:30 a.m., Diocesan Catholic Children’s Home, Miller Building – Training Room, Ft. Mitchell

■ Wednesday, Feb. 7, 9–11:30 a.m., Diocesan Curia, Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, Covington

■ Wednesday, Feb. 7, 6–8:30 p.m., Diocesan Curia, Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, Covington

■ Thursday, Feb. 29, 9–11:30 a.m., Diocesan Curia, Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, Covington

■ Thursday, Feb. 29, 6–8:30 p.m., Diocesan Curia, Bishop Auditorium Memorial Auditorium, Covington

■ Tuesday, March 5, 6:30–9 p.m., Diocesan Catholic Children’s Home, Miller Building – Training Room, Ft. Mitchell

■ Thursday, March 19, 9–11:30 a.m., Diocesan Curia, Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, Covington

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DCCH celebrates Sister of Notre Dame’s retirement after 30 years — and the sisters’ 67 years in service to children and families

Maura Baker
Staff Writer

The cafeteria of the Diocesan Catholic Children’s Home was packed with employees, past and present, friends and family alike, Jan. 23, to celebrate the retirement of Notre Dame Sister Pamela Geiger, after 30 years of committed service to the DCCH. The evening also celebrated the Sisters of Notre Dame as a whole — who have been helping staff the children’s home for the past 67 years, and have been involved in the ministry there since it was known as St. Joseph’s Orphanage in 1877.

“Your enthusiasm and dedication to the children and families is unmatched,” Denise Govan, CEO of the DCCH, said to Sister Pamela at the party, “congratulations on your hard work and ministry. It isn’t easy to believe that 30 years have gone by, your contributions have been priceless, and your loyalty has been incomparable.”

“I’ve been blessed to have known and worked with Sister Pam for the past 23 years,” Ron Bertsch, director of the Therapeutic Foster Care, Adoption and Independent Living Programs, commented



(left) Notre Dame Sister Pamela Geiger holds a parting gift presented to her Jan. 23 at her retirement party from the DCCH — a shadowbox of paper butterflies colored by children in residence.

(above) The Sisters of Notre Dame, who were commemorated for their 67 years of contributions to the DCCH, raise their hands to be recognized.

(bottom left) Denise Govan, CEO of the Diocesan Catholic Children’s Home, gave remarks to those present at Sister Pamela’s retirement party.



on Sister Pamela’s time at the DCCH. “She worked directly with the foster care adoption team for 10 of those years. Sister is a humble servant of God. She inspired me with her dedication and deep spiritual faithfulness. Her love for

the children and families has changed many lives.”

Ms. Govan also thanked the DCCH’s sponsors, and the Sisters of Notre Dame for their service to the DCCH, saying, “Thank you for being here this evening, thank you for your years of service and countless acts of love and kindness.”

During the night, Sister Pamela was presented with two gifts — the first being a framed shadowbox filled with paper butterflies designed and colored by residents of the children’s home, and the second, a plaque to be hung in the DCCH’s lobby commemorating the contributions of the Sisters of Notre Dame as a whole.

One of the biggest joys of working with the DCCH was the children, said Sister Pamela, and “helping them through their trauma”— whether it was directly as the principal of the school or in the foster care program, or indirectly in the development office. “I really enjoyed my years here,” said Sister Pamela, “Those 30 years — it doesn’t seem possible that half of my life was spent here.”

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Saint names in Eucharistic Prayer I

Father Luke Spannagel
USCCB

As we reflect on the Intercessions of the Eucharistic Prayers, perhaps it is a good time to address all those saint names in Eucharistic Prayer I. Who are all those people? Of course, the first list begins with Mary and Joseph and then the “blessed Apostles and Martyrs,” including Peter, Paul, Andrew (Peter’s brother), James (“the Greater”: the brother of John), John, Thomas, James (“the Lesser”: the son of Alphaeus), Matthew, Bartholomew, Simon (“the Zealot”) and Jude (also called Thaddeus).

Continuing this first list of saints in Eucharistic Prayer I, as Charles Belmonte notes, “Five popes head the list: St. Peter’s first three successors, Linus, Cletus, Clement; then two popes of the third century, Sixtus II and Cornelius; Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, the intrepid defender of Catholic unity; the Deacon Lawrence, who when his persecutor demanded from him the ‘treasures’ of the Church, showed him hundreds of poor people; Chrysogonus, a Roman priest who carried out the holy work of comforting the Christians who were in prison; two brothers, John and Paul, both officers of the [Roman] imperial palace, who were put to death under [the emperor] Julian the Apostate; and lastly, Cosmas and Damian, two Oriental physicians who gave their aid freely, and at whose graves there occurred “yet more cures than they had effected in their lives” (*Understanding the Mass*, p. 158).

As for the second list of saints in Eucharistic Prayer I, we ask for “some share in the fellowship” of several saints who were martyrs. Belmonte continues, “It mentions, in the first place, John (here obviously St. John the Baptist), and then seven men, followed by seven women, all mar-

tyrs. Stephen is the first deacon, whose glorious martyrdom is recounted in the Acts of the Apostles (6:8-7:60). Two apostles come



next: Matthias, elected to take the place of Judas (Acts 1:15-16) and probably left out of the first list so as not to exceed the number of twelve, and Barnabas, St. Paul’s companion in his first missionary journey. Ignatius is the famous bishop of Antioch, sentenced to be fed to the wild beasts in Rome under [emperor] Trajano. Besides their names and the place of their martyrdom, little else is known of Alexander, the priest Marcellinus, and the exorcist Peter, who were all put to death in the great persecution of [emperor] Diocletian. The list continues with the names of the two young girls, Felicity and Perpetua (their names form the expression ‘everlasting happiness’), who confessed their faith at Carthage [in North Africa]; and of Agatha and Lucy in Sicily. It concludes with the names of two young martyrs beloved by the Romans, Agnes and

Cecelia; and of Anastasia, martyred at Sirmium and later honored in Rome” (*Understanding the Mass*, pp. 159–160).

All these saints are important because they were among the many early witnesses to Jesus Christ and the Christian faith. These are our spiritual fathers, our older brothers and sisters in Christ, who showed us that our faith was worth living and dying for. They showed us that, strengthened by the true presence of Christ in the Eucharist and the presence of the Holy Spirit in their hearts, they could overcome any persecutions and sufferings, even to the point of being killed. These saints give us great hope, and their prayers for us give us confidence that we, too, can live out the faith as they did, that we can live our life in Christ every day and look forward to the glory of heaven!

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NEWS BRIEFS

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New ‘deeply Catholic’ university focuses on science and tech

LOS ANGELES — Catholic Polytechnic University, a new Catholic university focused on STEM education and research, aims to enroll its first class of students this fall. The Los Angeles-area university seeks to provide students a unique “deeply Catholic” postsecondary education that excels in science and technology. “What we’re building is like a Catholic Caltech or a Catholic MIT,” co-founder and president, Jennifer Nolan, told OSV News, naming the famous technology research universities, California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, California, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Massachusetts. “We’re already presenting at conferences and have people doing research under Catholic Polytechnic.” The university will offer science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM, classes and a core curriculum that includes history, English, philosophy and theology. Catholic ethics will play a role in the university’s science education. Catholic Polytechnic is now accepting undergraduate and graduate applications for the fall 2024 semester. The university has the backing of local church leaders. Los Angeles Archbishop José H. Gomez approved the university and blessed its effort in January 2020. The new university will initially offer bachelor’s and master’s degrees in computer science. Nolan said the university aims to accept 30-50 students for its first year of operations.

‘Witch hunt continues’ as Nicaragua creates spiritual vacuum

LIVERPOOL, England — Human rights defender Bianca Jagger has accused the Nicaraguan dictatorship of creating a spiritual vacuum in the country by its purge of Catholic clergy. Jagger, 73, founder and chair of the Bianca Jagger Human

Rights Foundation, said the Jan. 14 expulsion of two bishops, 15 priests and two seminarians to the Vatican was part of a campaign by President Daniel Ortega and his wife, Vice President Rosario Murillo, to crush all political resistance in the country. In a Jan. 19 telephone interview with OSV News, Jagger said a total of 203 priests and seminarians have been exiled since mass protests against the government in April 2018. The expulsions included eight clergy in a group of 222 prisoners of conscience released and forcibly exiled to the United States in February 2023. Jagger is a former actress and the first wife of rock star Mick Jagger. The couple married in Saint-Tropez in a Catholic ceremony in 1971 but divorced in 1978. Jagger last visited her native Nicaragua in 2018, when the anti-government protests swept through the country. Besides the expulsions, the Ortega regime also “took over 27 universities between December 2021 and August 2023, including the John Paul II Catholic University, denying “thousands of children and young people ... access to an education and a professional career.” Jagger called for international sanctions on the regime.

Biden administration new abortion initiatives

WASHINGTON — On the 51st anniversary of the now-overturned Roe v. Wade decision, President Joe Biden called for the restoration of Roe in federal law and said his administration said it would take new steps to “protect access to safe and legal medication abortion.” Biden also argued voters have rejected abortion restrictions at the ballot box. Since the Supreme Court’s June 2022 Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization decision that reversed Roe, voters in Ohio, California, Kentucky, Michigan, Montana, Vermont and Kansas either rejected new limitations on abortion or expanded legal protections for it. “On this day and every day, Vice President Harris and I are fighting to protect women’s reproductive freedom against Republican officials’ dangerous, extreme, and out-of-touch agenda,” Biden said. Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington, Virginia, the U.S. bishops’ pro-life

chairman, rebuked Biden, the U.S.’ second Catholic president, in a statement given to OSV News. “On the somber anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision that unleashed 50 years of abortion-on-demand on our country, the Biden-Harris Administration reaffirmed their single-minded extremism on abortion — rather than committing real help to mothers and their unborn children,” he said. “We are all called to serve every mother in need and every child in the womb with our love and support while also advocating for life-affirming policies that assist mothers and protect their vulnerable unborn children.”

High court allows removal of razor wire at Texas border

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Supreme Court Jan. 22 allowed Border Patrol agents to cut through or remove razor wire installed by Texas on a portion of the U.S.-Mexico border as part of the state’s effort to prevent illegal border crossings. A closely divided court in a 5-4 vote sided with the Biden administration, granting their emergency request that argued the state of Texas prevented federal agents from performing their duties, as the wire deterred them as well as migrants. Migrants have been injured by the sharp wire, per emails from state employees. Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Amy Coney Barrett, joined with the court’s perceived liberal wing — Justices Ketanji Brown Jackson, Elena Kagan and Sonia Sotomayor — siding with the Biden administration. Justices Samuel Alito, Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh and Clarence Thomas sided with Texas. Catholic immigration advocates have condemned the wire as inhumane. Dylan Corbett, executive director of Hope Border Institute, which has an affiliated clinic that has treated injured migrants, said that “although this ruling doesn’t yet resolve the central issue of Texas’ many actions to militarize the border, it is important.” The case remains before a lower court judge and is one of several ongoing disputes about immigration policy between Texas officials and the Biden administration.

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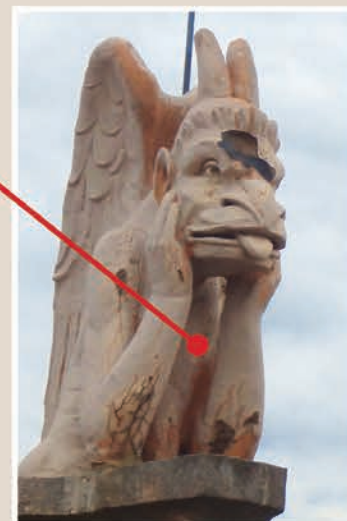
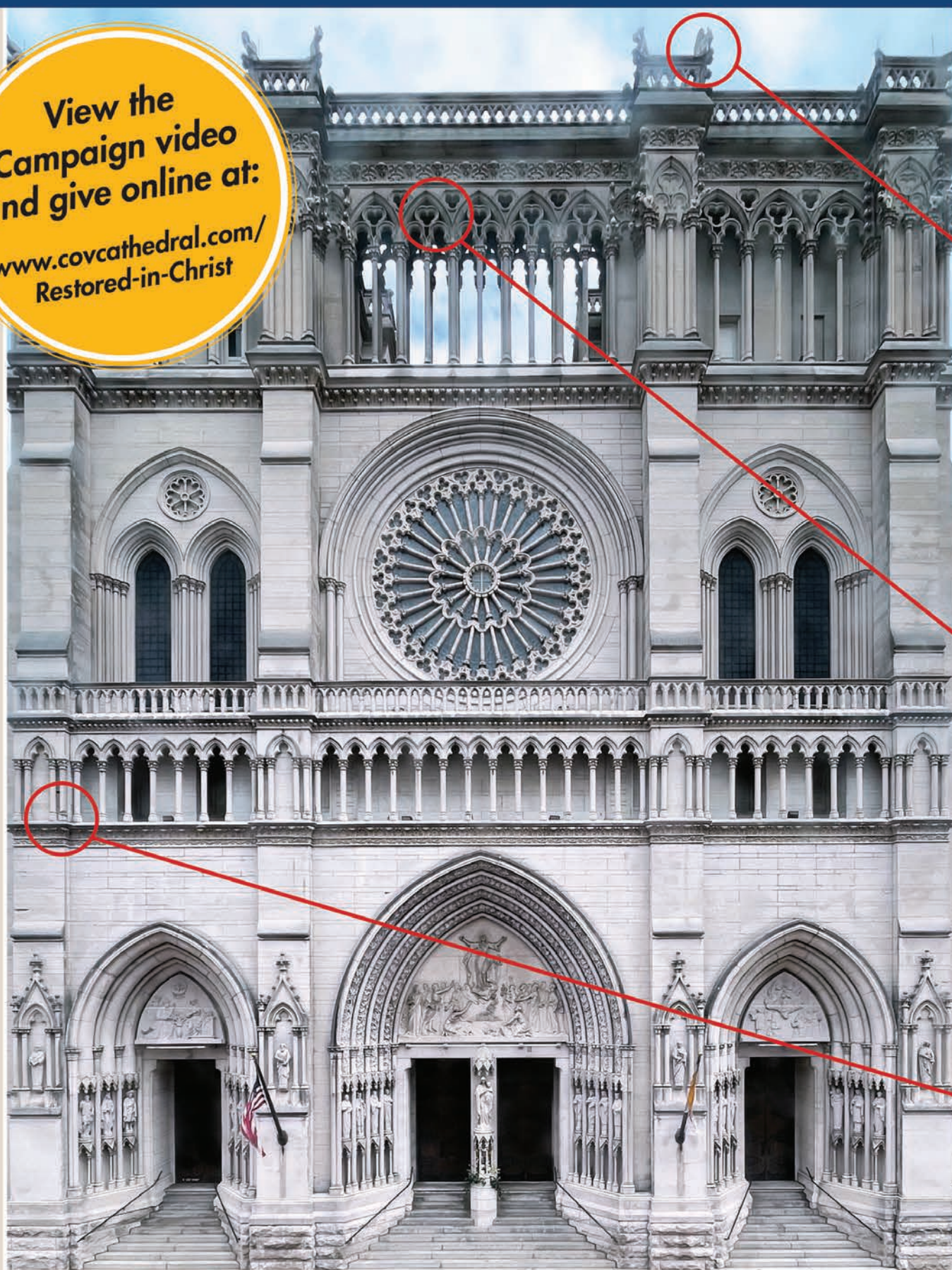
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