

- 2 Pro-life essay banquet
- 2 Pilgrimage to Greece
- 2 Date correction
Cathedral Concert Series
- 2 Dine in or Drive thru
St. Timothy's Fish Fry
- 3 Pro-life essay contest
Congratulations finalists
- 3 TMU names director
Center of Faith, Mission and Catholic Education
- 3 St. Patrick's Day celebration
- 8 CRS Rice Bowl
- 9 Fish Frys
- 10 Eucharistic revival
- 11 Serrans and the Emergency Shelter
- 11 OSV Kids
- 16 St. Elizabeth
New 'Butterfly Suite'



Daylight Savings Time begins March 10

Messenger readers are reminded to set their clocks ahead one hour before going to bed this Saturday. Your local fire department also reminds you to change the batteries in your smoke detectors.

Bishop's Schedule	3
Commentary	4
People and Events	9
Classifieds	12
Shopper's Guide	14
VIRTUS	14
News Briefs	15

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



(left) Bishop John Iffert addresses guests at the DPAA kick-off dinner, Erlanger. (above) Kendra McGuire, superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Covington, converses during the DPAA kick-off dinner's "ministry fair." (right) Jim Hess, director, Stewardship and Mission Services, welcomes guests to the dinner.



(below) Guests at the Feb. 29 DPAA kick-off dinner in the Receptions reception hall, Erlanger.



(below right) Linda Rawe, the 2024 DPAA general chair, speaks.

'Bam!' Second DPAA kick-off dinner in Erlanger highlights enthusiasm, zeal for the body of Christ

Maura Baker
Staff Writer

The second Diocesan Parish Annual Appeal kick-off dinner was held, Feb. 29, at Receptions, Erlanger. The theme for this year's DPAA is "Zeal for Your House Will Consume Me." Bishop John Iffert and Linda Rawe, the DPAA's general chair, welcomed nearly 600 people — priests, parishioners and Curia staff.

The night began with a ministry fair where Curia offices, as well as groups benefiting from DPAA grants, shared information on the services they provide to the Diocese and the local community. This year's DPAA video was also shown for the second time as well, with the first time being at the first kick-off dinner, Feb. 15, in Maysville.

Linda Rawe, as she spoke to guests during the evening's program, commented on the "excitement and joy" of a little boy from Prince of Peace — a diocesan ACUE school — who said, "BAM!... everything changed when he learned about God's love," said Mrs. Rawe. "He is clearly zealous about Church and serving God — what a beautiful witness," she said.

Mrs. Rawe also comments on how, in the video, Bishop Iffert "asks us to pray — pray that the zeal of Christ literally takes possession of our lives, everything we can offer, to bring others to come and know Christ." She said, "Through the outreach of the DPAA ministries, we evangelize and bring others to Christ."

Additionally, when parish goals are exceeded, the funds collected over the goal are rebated back to the parish to help fund parish projects and ministries. "These help our parishes to prosper and grow," she said.

"When we engage in stewardship, when we offer from our hearts, it's a sure sign that the Lord is doing something creative and wonderful in our lives," Bishop Iffert said, following Linda Rawe's address.

He connects "zeal," the first word of the DPAA's theme, with the word "enthused" — literally "in theos," he said, "To be enthused is to be filled with the spirit of God ... what a wonderful gift to live knowing that the spirit of God fills us and is growing in us."

Bishop Iffert said, "This is the purpose for which we are created. Enthusiasm, zeal. Zeal for building up the body of Christ."

So far, it was announced, around \$600,000 had been raised for the DPAA via sponsors at the leadership gifts phase, exceeding last year's total at this time by \$100,000.

The DPAA video was shown at all Masses in all parishes of the diocese during announcement weekend, March 2 and 3. Commitment weekend, March 16 and 17, will allow everyone to make their gift or pledge while at Mass. Donations can also be made online at www.covdio.org.

Young photos



(above left) Faye Roch, director, diocesan Pro-Life Office, opens the Pro-Life Essay Contest banquet with an explanation on this year’s theme.
(above center) Kendra McGuire, superintendent of Catholic schools, reads one of the third-place essays.
(right) Bishop Iffert stands with the first, second, and third place winners (from left) Finley Clifton, Ryan Roeding, Grant Krahe, Kate Mueller and Bishop John Iffert.
(below) Bishop Iffert and Kate Mueller, the first-place winner.



Eighth-grade essays define and testify to the pro-life message ‘Radical Solidarity’

Bella Young
Multimedia Correspondent

Parents, teachers, principals and students gathered for fellowship and celebration in Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, March 5. There they celebrated the 20 eighth graders who were finalists in this year’s diocesan Prolife Essay Contest.

Every year the Pro-Life Office invites eighth graders from across the diocese to submit entries. This year 250 essays were submitted to the contest, placing the 20 finalists in the top eight percent of entries.

Each one of the essays submitted were to speak to the sanctity and dignity of life in relation to this year’s theme, “Radical Solidarity,” chosen because it is also the theme of the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops’ pro-life initiatives this year.

Ava Arnzen, a finalist from Blessed Sacrament School, Ft. Mitchell, defined in

her prolife essay what Radical Solidarity means to her, “Not many people know the meaning of radical solidarity, to me it means that you are going to put another person in front of you and help them with whatever it may be.”

To begin the evening Faye Roch, the director of the Pro-Life Office, thanked the teachers, principals and parents for continuing to foster a prolife culture both in schools and at home. Mrs. Roch also spoke of her hopes for the students, “My hope is that a seed is going to be planted in the hearts of the students, and they are going to remember the

(Continued on page 14)



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

Greece: In the Footsteps of Paul the Apostle

with Optional 3-Night Journey to Rome Post Tour Extension

Join Bishop John Iffert, Father Eric Andriot and Father Aby Thampi

Dates
October 22 to November 1, 2024

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 include
Daily Mass
3-night Greek Islands and Turkey cruise
Tours of Athens, Corinth, Ephesus and Philippi

Cost
Base per person rates: Double \$5,490; Single \$6,490; Triple \$5,440. (Price locked-in until April 22)

Information contact
Collette
1-800-581-8942
Refer to booking #1221094

Date Correction

The Cathedral Concert Series concludes its 46th Season

With a Musical Celebration of J.S. Bach’s 339th Birthday, Sunday, March 17, 3 p.m., Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington.

Concert Organist Terry McCandless will return to offer a program of organ music by Bach, by his family, relatives, and students.

Other than Cathedral musicians, Terry McCandless has appeared on the concert series more than any other individual artist, and with good reason. His programming is always a pleasure to hear, and a story to learn making him a fan favorite.

Both Cathedral Organs will be heard, and Mr. McCandless’ expertise at the historic Matthias Schwab Organ adds depth to this concert experience.

The public is welcome with no admission charge. A freewill offering is gladly accepted. Visit www.cathedralconcertseries.org.



Dine in or Drive Thru a Fish Fry: Episode 3
Join Bella Young, multimedia correspondent and Maura Baker, staff writer, as they visit the St. Timothy Parish, Union, fish fry! Hear what the volunteers and patrons say about what makes their fish fry so special. To watch go to covidio.org/messenger.

Eighth-Grade
Pro-Life Essay Contest
2023–2024 Finalists

Blessed Sacrament School, Ft. Mitchell	St. Paul School, Florence
Ava Arnzen	Samantha Laws
Livi Riordan	Will Young
Immaculate Heart of Mary School, Burlington	St. Pius X School, Edgewood
Andrew Witte	Davin Gates
	Maura Dwyer
	Kaia Tilden
St. Agnes School, Ft. Wright	St. Timothy School, Union
Stella Berger	Grant Krahe
	Kate Mueller
St. Anthony School, Taylor Mill	Liam McCormack
Emilio Miguel Rodriguez	Rylee Schmidt
St. Cecilia School, Independence	Sts. Peter and Paul School, California
Morgan MacDonald	Lucinda Phirman
St. Henry School, Elsmere	Villa Madonna Academy, Villa Hills
Elijah Boemker	Amaia Lainhart
St. Joseph School, Crescent Springs	
Finley Clifton	
Ryan Roeding	

Thomas More University names its first
director for the Center of Faith, Mission
and Catholic Education

Bella Young
Multimedia Correspondent

Thomas More University has appointed Hannah Keegan as its inaugural director for the Center of Faith, Mission and Catholic Education. The announcement was made in a press release Feb. 19.

Mrs. Keegan has served as an adjunct professor for the Theology Department for the past five years. With a master’s degree in theology and bachelor’s in philosophy, Mrs. Keegan is not only qualified in experience but in education as well.

In the press release, Dr. Kevin Reynolds, senior vice president for Mission and University Advancement, said ‘As an educator, scholar, community leader and passionate advocate for her Catholic faith, Hannah will bring the vision of the center to life.’

The mission of the Center for Faith, Mission and Catholic Education is, according to the press release, “...To cultivate an authentic Catholic culture throughout Thomas More University by serving as a catalyst for transformative faith experiences, intentional mission integration and creative Catholic educational programs on campus and in the wider community.”



Hannah Keegan

In an interview with the *Messenger*, Mrs. Keegan said, “My goal is for it to become a place of encountering Jesus on campus for the students, faculty and staff, administration and the wider community.”

Mrs. Keegan said she also hopes to, “bring departments together in a dialogue.”

The Center for Faith, Mission and Catholic education is hosting an event in collaboration with the Thomas More Observatory, Math and Physics and Theology departments as a first step towards that goal. The event will host Dr. Massimo Roberto, branch leader of the Near-Infrared Camera of the James Webb Space Telescope. Mrs. Keegan says this event is a perfect example of the open dialogue that she is hoping to accomplish with this Center.

“We are hoping for increased dialogue ... we want to highlight and deepen what is already beautiful in our community,” she said.

Annual St. Patrick’s Mass celebrates Irish heritage

Maura Baker
Staff Writer

Northern Kentucky and Cincinnati possess a rich Irish heritage — and the feast of St. Patrick, patron saint of Ireland, is the time of year to celebrate this heritage. For the 32nd year (excluding 2021 and 2022 due to COVID-19 restrictions), a special Mass will be held, March 14, at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, to commemorate St. Patrick and the area’s

Irish families and heritage. According to Mr. Steve Burke, a member of the Fenians, an organization that has been dedicated to preserving the area’s Irish culture, and part of the committee organizing the Mass, this celebration “kicks off” local St. Patrick’s Day celebrations. The Mass will be celebrated at 6:30 p.m. by celebrant Father

Ryan Maher, rector of the Cathedral, with festivities following in Molly Malone’s pub in Covington.

The Mass will be joined by The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, whose Glee Club will perform, along with the

(right) A chromolithograph greeting card for St. Patrick’s Day featuring an image of the iconic patron saint of Ireland, from the Missouri History Museum, dated 1909. Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.



Emerald Society Pipe & Drum Corps. Also participating in the Mass will be members of the St. Patrick’s Division Hibernians, as well as the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Our Lady of Knock Division.

This year’s Mass, said Mr. Burke, especially commemorates the memory of Tom McGovern — who died earlier this year and was “instrumental” to coordinating the Mass for years. He was an “incredible leader in the local Irish-American community,” said Mr. Burke.



Bishop’s
Schedule

March 10
Mass and install Permanent Deacon candidates to Ministry of Acolyte, Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, 10 a.m.

March 12
Advisory Council meeting, 9:30 a.m.
Catholic Charities appreciation dinner, Receptions, Erlanger, 6 p.m.

March 13
St. Philip Lenten series, St. Philip Parish, Melbourne, 7 p.m.

March 14
Directors meeting, 9:30 a.m.
Thomas More University Board meeting, Thomas More University, Crestview Hills, 1:30 p.m.

March 17
Mass, Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, 10 a.m.

COMMENTARY

Winning Pro-Life Essay — I was hungry, and you fed me

It was a morning like any other. My stomach grumbled, and I felt the deep pain of hunger in the pit of my stomach. I knew the day would bring only a few small

PRO-LIFE ESSAY WINNER



Kate Mueller

morsels of food. I was born into poverty-stricken Ethiopia, and I lived there until the age of four when I was adopted.

I am here living with a wonderful family and several other adopted sisters. I am able to walk the earth today because my birth mother recognized the dignity and worth of all life. My parents also understand this, and they created a welcoming home for their children. Knowing the pain of hunger myself, I understand how poverty and food-scarcity could lead to women terminating the life in their own womb rather than facing the struggle of not being able to raise their child. By offering support such as childcare and food relief to poverty-stricken mothers, we can offer hope and compassion during a pivotal time in their lives.

By having a mother who embraced my innate, God-given dignity, my life was spared. My birth mother lived in poverty in a small town in Ethiopia. She could barely feed herself, and she knew she would not be able to take care of me when I was born.

Instead of taking the easy way out, she chose to carry and give birth to me. She put me in an orphanage that had more resources than she could ever provide. She had tears in her eyes as she watched me leave and go to a place where she knew I would get the care I needed. Because of her selfless decision, I am able to realize the worth of life.

Scripture states, “For I know well the plans I have in mind for you — oracle of the LORD —plans for your welfare and not for woe, so as to give you a future of hope” (New American Bible Revised Edition, Jeremiah 29:11). My birth mother knew that God had a plan for my life, and she understood that my life was meaningful, no matter the circumstances I was born into. All life is precious regardless of the condition.

It is our responsibility to support struggling mothers and families in our community. According to a recent study, “The average cost of childcare for one child in the U.S. is about \$10,900 per year.” (The Economic Impact of Childcare by State) This puts additional stress on mothers with a limited income.

This was the case with my younger sister who was adopted at birth. Her mom lived in Cincinnati, and was not able to provide for her, so she made an adoption plan.

The lack of support mothers receive with new children is devastating. To help alleviate this, I have taken the initiative to offer free babysitting services in my community. By using my service, families can have time to attend to health concerns, be active in their faith network and work to provide for their families. As leaders of our faith, we need to lend a helping hand to impoverished

mothers. It is our duty as young Catholics to pray for leaders in our country to pass legislation and welcome new life.

Providing meals for lower income children and moms is essential to supporting families as they welcome new life into their homes. I prioritize helping lower-income children because I remember when I was in Ethiopia and would only receive a small portion of food.

Go Pantry collects and distributes food to malnourished children in Boone County. We need to raise awareness in our community about this beneficial service to our neighbors who need additional support to feed their families.

Attending to the needs of the poor is our call from God. The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us, “The corporal works of mercy consist especially in feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned and burying the dead. Among all these, giving alms to the poor is one of the chief witnesses to fraternal charity: it is also a work of justice pleasing to God” (2447).

Feeding poor families brings alive the teachings of the Church.

To conclude, all life is precious and deserves dignity and respect. When we support struggling women and families in both speech and action, we bring our faith to life. Let us answer God’s call for us to help our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

Kate Mueller is an eighth-grade student at St. Timothy School, Union, and is the first-place finalist in this year’s Diocesan Pro-Life Essay Contest. This is her winning essay.

Let Lent be Lent

to draw us out of ourselves into the contemplation of a higher world. They are designed to disorient us and to compel us to see things differently.

When we allow a disco celebration to take place inside a sacred space, we, quite literally, desecrate the place, we render it un-holy, for “holy” means “set apart.”

The thousands upon thousands of pilgrims who came to the Canterbury Cathedral over the centuries to visit the tomb of St. Thomas Becket were seeking access to the mystical dimension that lies beyond this world. They came from the ordinary realm of shopping, farming, entertainment, and family, and they knew that they would return to that realm after their pilgrimage. But they also knew that the church was something else, something strange and alluring, and they most certainly did not want it transformed into farm fields or village streets or a bawdy dance hall.

St. John of Damascus said that prayer is “raising the mind and the heart to God,” and the Church teaches that Lent is, par excellence, a time of prayer. So let us, during this holy season, cultivate “cathedral space” in our lives; please let us not permit the secular and the ordinary to dominate that space.

The second item that I chanced upon was an advertisement in a Catholic Church for Ash Wednesday. Next to a symbol representing ashes in the sign of the cross, it said, “Ashes say you belong.”

Now, don’t get me wrong. I’m sure those who put up that ad had nothing but good intentions, and there is certainly nothing in the world wrong with making people feel welcome. But once again, for Pete’s sake . . .

When the priest or minister applies the ashes to someone’s forehead, he says either “Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return” or “Repent and believe the Good News.” In other words, the ashes are not meant as a

sign of welcome. They are meant to be the starkest possible reminder that we will die and that our bodies, even if they are young and beautiful, will inevitably return to the dirt of the earth and that we are sinners who have rebelled against God and who need to radically turn our lives around. In a word, the ashes are dark, alarming, somber — and meant to be so.

The Church in which I came of age — which is to say, the Church of the immediate post conciliar period — was, if I can put it this way, relentlessly positive. Joy, peace, God’s love and forgiveness, the goodness of all things, eternal life — these were what we exclusively talked about, sang about, insisted upon. And all of those are indeed central to the Bible and the great spiritual tradition. But so are suffering, loss, God’s judgment and demand, the fallenness of the world, deep and painful resistance to God, etc. I would challenge you to read any two pages of the Bible, Old Testament or New, and not encounter this darker side of our religion.

Lent is a privileged time during the liturgical year when we are encouraged to come to grips with our sin, our mortality, our moral frailty, and our need for forgiveness. I guess I found that advertisement so off-putting because it obfuscated the message of Lent and interfered with the proper spiritual dynamic of the season.

Not everything has to be chirpy and upbeat in the religious order. In point of fact, I believe that one reason so many have opted out of the Church is that our presentation of the faith has become superficial, unreal, niceynicey.

So, as we enter into these forty days, I say, “Let Lent be Lent!”

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

WORD ON FIRE



Bishop Robert Barron

The clip showed hundreds of young people gyrating to throbbing dance music, cups of beer in their raised hands, as lights flashed all around them. You could plainly see above them the gorgeously decorated ceiling of the cathedral and receding into the background the hauntingly beautiful gothic nave.

Having visited Canterbury Cathedral a number of times, I knew that not at all far from where this nightclub scene was playing out was the site where St. Thomas Becket was murdered by agents of King Henry II in 1170. In other words, the present-day managers of the cathedral felt it was just fine that very near the place where one of England’s greatest saints gave his life for the faith a disco should break out.

The dean of the cathedral, Dr. David Monteith, said, “Whether people choose to come to Canterbury Cathedral primarily as worshippers, sightseers or attendees at our events—which include classical concerts, light and sound installations and craft workshops—it’s always joyous to see them discover this incredible place anew and on their own terms.” For Pete’s sake ...

The whole point, of course, is that cathedrals are not meant to be experienced “on our terms.” They are meant

Chick-fil-A and the devil’s lie

As I embarked on my new teaching career at Seton High School, my wife, always supportive and insightful, would occasionally stumble upon stories or articles she believed would resonate with my students. Often, I would incorporate the story into a lesson plan and even use it as part of an assignment.

VIEWPOINT



Chris Goddard

On one such occasion, she came across a blog post titled “I Can’t Be Everyone’s Chick-fil-A Sauce” by Amy Weatherly. Not only was it charmingly written, but it also carried a timeless message that I felt would deeply resonate with my students given their struggles with acceptance and individuality. The context was particularly fitting for Seton High School, where Chick-fil-A was a staple menu item in the cafeteria and held a special place in the hearts of the young ladies attending the school.

Set against the backdrop of a casual lunch gathering for their young children’s play date, Amy couldn’t help but make a curious observation about her friends’ choice of dipping sauce. As they indulged in their meals, she observed that not every mother opted for the iconic Chick-fil-A sauce with their chicken. To her wonder, some of her friends actually preferred alternatives like Polynesian sauce or even plain ketchup. She thought, who doesn’t like Chick-fil-A sauce?

Amy’s poignant message underscores the invaluable truths that we discussed in class that day and a conversation that I would occasionally revisit with them throughout the year — the message that God made them exactly how he wanted them to be and that he loves them for who they are. And the only person they had to please was God, their Father.

In an era where depression and anxiety disproportion-

ately affect a significant portion of young adults, finding solace in the realization that we can’t please everyone, be universally liked or measure up to others in every aspect, is a message worth discussing with our youth and, for that matter, one worth reminding ourselves. Essentially, striving to be everyone’s favorite or to emulate someone else’s success is a lie, akin to believing you can be everyone’s preferred Chick-fil-A sauce — a notion propagated by the devil himself.

As part of this particular assignment, we read the blog post together. Afterward the students were asked to journal about a time when they felt inadequate or “less than” what they felt they should be. Every student recalled such a situation and its lasting effect. They shared the pain that stemmed from being excluded by their lifelong grade school friends once they began their freshman year of high school and new friend groups were formed. Others shared the sting of being excluded from a social event or the pain of someone posting a mean or untrue post about them on social media.

Other students remembered being cut from a sports team or not getting a role in a play, or not achieving a personal goal. On the flip side, some shared how they were guilty of making someone else feel “less than” or inadequate and their regret for making them feel so.

As a class, we discussed that their value comes from God — not from their academic and athletic achievements, nor from their physical appearance or popularity. To believe otherwise is to fall victim to the age-old lie of the devil. A deception as ancient as creation itself when the devil convinced Adam and Eve that they were lacking in knowledge.

Finally, we delved into Amy’s antidote for combating feelings of inadequacy. As she so simply and humorously stated in her blog post, it’s imperative to remember, especially when confronted with the devil’s lies ... “to repeat these words. Scream them if you must: I CAN’T BE EVERYONE’S CHICK-FIL-A SAUCE” ... and that’s perfectly okay.

Chris Goddard is executive director for Catholic Charities, Diocese of Covington, Ky

In praise of singing

The first thing I noticed about our parish was the music. Everyone sang. From the moment the opening hymn began, the sanctuary was filled with a robust chorus. I looked around and couldn’t believe my eyes (or ears) — adults, children, women and men were all singing at full voice.

VIEWPOINT



Laura Kelly Fanucci

I grew up in a typical Catholic church where the congregation mostly listened to the choir or cantor, so I came to assume the same whenever I’d visit a new parish. You might find beautiful instrumental music or an exceptional choir, but rarely would the people in the pews respond with more than a mumbling “Amen.”

But now our parish has changed my mind.

It’s a foretaste of heaven to look around Mass and witness the full participation of the people of God. Turns out, the wider Church agrees.

In the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy issued by the Second Vatican Council, we find robust encouragement for active participation: “Religious singing by the people is to be intelligently fostered so that in devotions and sacred exercises, as also during liturgical services, the voices of the faithful may ring out according to the norms and requirements of the rubrics” (Sacrosanctum Concilium, 118).

What’s more, this vocal participation in the liturgy

becomes a means for grace: “And the people reply to God both by song and prayer ... when the Church prays or sings or acts, the faith of those taking part is nourished and their minds are raised to God, so that they may offer Him their rational service and more abundantly receive his grace” (Sacrosanctum Concilium, 33).

All this makes me wonder: are we teaching younger generations of Catholics how to sing?

Few sports fans would refuse to stand and sing for the national anthem or “Take Me Out To The Ball Game.” Many drivers belt out their favorite tunes on the radio in the car. But do we bring the same enthusiastic participation to Mass?

Of course, context matters. Worship is meant to be reverent, not raucous. But full and active participation in the liturgy means not just silent respect but singing, too. The cantor or choir are meant to be the leaders we follow, not the soloists we watch. We are not spectators but participants in these sacred mysteries.

My high school choir director often quoted St. Augustine that “singing is praying twice.” Sacred song sinks into our bones, giving God glory. We don’t need to be professional singers or have perfect pitch, only to raise our voices in praise and thanksgiving together.

If your own singing has lagged as an adult, what a perfect practice to add to your Lenten observance — singing more at Mass. Remember that your children, grandchildren and all young people in the pews are watching. What are we teaching children by the way we sing?

You might start by singing more at home. Growing up, my family added a sung grace after the traditional “Bless us, O Lord” prayer. Today my own family sings a short hymn before dinner to match the liturgical season. Each night I get to hear voices, old and young, warble “Lord,

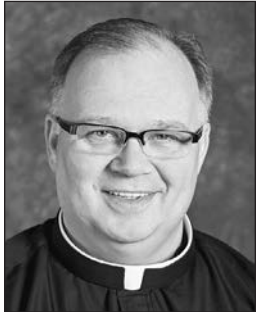
God so loved the world

The readings for the fourth Sunday of Lent — Cycle B — are: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23; Ephesians 2:4-10; and John 3:14-21.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son.” You see that bible quote held up a lot, John 3:16.

It seems that in our world today the word love is thrown around quite a bit. Love this. Love that. At times I find myself using the word kindness in referring to people that I love. The real definition of love is much more than the word kindness.

GO AND GLORIFY



Father Gregory Bach

To truly know what love is, I turn to my favorite philosopher, Winnie the Pooh. Winnie the Pooh has a great quote on love, “Love is just a word until someone comes along and gives it meaning.”

The Father, in his great love, has sent his only begotten Son to be one

like us in all things but sin. Unconditional love. A love that knows no end. The greatest love the world has ever seen.

To use the Winnie the Pooh quote we can see that Jesus came along and gave it meaning. He gave it meaning in the Scripture we read, in the miracles he performed, in those moments when he poured out his love to us all.

Of course, the greatest showing of love is in his suffering, and in the cross he bore. He was crucified for our sins and the gates of heaven were opened wide. That is the love that we should emulate, an unconditional love that reaches those in need.

We may not perform a miracle, or preach the Gospel on a street corner, or have that great and awesome love of the Father, but slowly we can make efforts, to allow the love of God to fill our hearts on our pilgrim way to heaven.

St. Augustine, I believe, is quoted with saying, “God loves each of us as if we are the only person in the world.” That is an awesome quote especially along our path of Lent into holy week and to Good Friday.

It is in the dying and rising of Jesus that we see the true, everlasting and unconditional love. Jesus enters into our life and gives it meaning.

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

Who Throughout These Forty Days” and remember how Christ came for all of us, from toddlers to teenagers to tired adults — and everyone in between.

Music makes us human. From the first rhythms of our mother’s heartbeat in the womb, we grow attuned to the world through song — lullabies, childhood ABCs, birthday celebrations and holiday favorites. But if we stop singing in worship — out of insecurity, boredom, habit or sheer laziness — we miss what full participation in the liturgy means: the grace it brings us and the glory it gives to God.

In its ancient roots, the word “enthusiasm” means to be inspired or inhabited by God. This Lent, let us bring our enthusiasm to Mass and pray together in song, that we might all be filled with God’s Holy Spirit, from generation to generation.

Laura Kelly Fanucci is an author, speaker, and founder of Mothering Spirit, an online gathering place on parenting and spirituality. Her column has been provided by OSV News.

Pope, still recovering from illness, urges the prideful not to judge

Justin McLellan
Catholic News Service

The sin of pride “ruins human relationships” and is an evil that “poisons the feeling of fraternity that instead should unite humanity,” the pope wrote in the catechesis for his general audience in St. Peter’s Square March 6.

Still recovering from illness, Pope Francis told visitors an aide would read his talk because he could not read well due to a cold. The pope entered St. Peter’s Square in the popemobile and wearing a coat in the brisk weather, but he struggled to lift himself into the vehicle after the audience and instead left the square using a wheelchair.

After his general audience Feb. 28, the pope was taken to a Rome hospital for what the Vatican said were “diagnostic tests,” and during an audience March 2, he told people he had bronchitis.

Pope Francis took the microphone only for his initial and final greetings. At the end of the audience, he renewed his invitation “to pray for the populations that suffer the horror of war in Ukraine, in the Holy Land and in other parts of the world.”

“Let us pray for peace, let us ask the Lord for the gift of peace,” he said.

In the main speech read by Msgr. Pierluigi Giroli, Pope Francis said that “the prideful (person) is one who thinks he or she is much more than he or she really is; one who frets to be recognized as greater



Pope Francis shares a moment with a child after his weekly general audience in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican March 6, 2024.

CNS photo/Lola Gomez

than others, always wants to see his or her own merits recognized and despises others by deeming them inferior.” The pope’s speech cited St. Gregory I, the seventh-cen-

tury pope who called pride the queen of all vices.

Hidden within pride, Pope Francis wrote, is the “radical sin” of claiming to be like God. He explained that the sin of Adam and Eve recounted in the Book of Genesis was caused by pride, since the serpent that tempted them said that by eating the fruit of the tree of knowledge “you will be like gods.”

Those who suffer from an inflated sense of pride, the pope wrote, are quick to make “irrevocable judgments on others, who seem to them hopelessly inept and incapable,” and he explained that prideful people “forget that in the Gospels Jesus assigned us very few moral precepts, but on one of them he was uncompromising: never judge.”

The pope wrote that one knows when he or she is dealing with a prideful person when, by offering a small criticism or even a harmless observation, the other “reacts in an exaggerated manner” and “goes into a rage, shouts, breaks off relationships with others in a resentful way.”

“There is little one can do with a person sick with pride,” Pope Francis wrote, suggesting that patience is the only option when dealing with a prideful person who cannot be spoken with or corrected.

Salvation, however, “comes through humility,” he wrote, which is “the true remedy for every act of pride.”

“It is useless to steal anything from God, as the proud hope to do, because he wants to give us everything after all,” he wrote, urging Catholics to make use of Lent “to fight against our pride.”

After his catechesis, Pope Francis greeted a delegation of bishops from American Methodist churches who had met with officials from the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity March 5.



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Papal preacher warns of rise in overly academic theology

Justin McLellan
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Western theology risks becoming an abstract and rationalized conversation among academics rather than a tool for nourishing the faith of God’s people, the papal preacher said.

“Theology, above all in the West, has increasingly moved away from the power of the Spirit to rely on human

wisdom,” Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa, told members of the Roman Curia during a Lenten meditation March 1.

Pope Francis did not attend the meditation, though Cardinal Cantalamessa told those present that the pope was following his talk remotely. Several other cardinals were in attendance.

Modern rationalism has “demanded that Christianity present its message dialectically,” subjecting it to modes of research and discussion that are philosophically acceptable, he said. But “the danger inherent in this approach to theology is that God becomes objectified, he becomes an object which we talk about, not a subject with whom or in whose presence we talk.”

A purely rationalistic form of theology makes it become “more and more a dialogue with the academic elite of the moment and less and less nourishment for the faith of God’s people,” the cardinal said.

“You only get out of this situation by prayer; by talking to God before you even talk about God,” he said. Quoting St. Evagrius Ponticus, a fourth-century Christian monk, Cardinal Cantalamessa said, “If you are a theologian, you will truly pray, and if you truly pray you will be a theologian.” He then cited the example of St. Augustine, who he said produced his “most lasting” theology through speaking with

God in his “Confessions.”

Faith, he noted, “does not oppose reason, but supposes reason, just as grace suppose nature.”

Reflecting on Jesus’ words from St. John’s Gospel — “I am the light of the world” — Cardinal Cantalamessa said that Jesus is like the sun whose radiance does not reveal itself but rather the things of the world in their proper light.

For this reason, the cardinal said, St. John urged people in his letters not to love the things of the world, since they are the source of lust and pride. Worldliness, he said, “is the equivalent in the religious and spiritual environment to what in the social sphere we call secularization.”

“This is the most necessary fast of all today: fasting from the world,” Cardinal Cantalamessa said.

Yet the cardinal was quick to note that the world he referred to is not “the world created and loved by God,” nor the people of the world “whom, on the contrary, we must always go meet, especially the poor; the last, the suffering.”

In fact, “mixing oneself with this world of suffering and marginalization is paradoxically the best way of separating oneself from the world,” since it removes one from the “principle that the world rests on: selfishness.”

Cardinal Cantalamessa said the root cause behind the modern spirit of worldliness is “the crisis of faith,” since it is faith that makes Christians “no longer of the world.”

“Christ substitutes the worldly model,” which he said is governed its own trinity: pleasure, power and money. “But are we sure that in our own small way, we ourselves are immune to it?”

However, the cardinal said Christians can be consoled by Jesus’ prayer to his father for his disciples in St. John’s Gospel: “I do not ask that you take them out of the world but that you keep them from the evil one,” Jesus prayed. “As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world.”



Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa, preacher of the papal household, offers a Lenten meditation for members of the Roman Curia and Vatican employees in the Paul VI Audience Hall at the Vatican March 1, 2024.



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A story of hope from Honduras

Rony lives with his wife Reina and their two sons, Emilson, age 14, and Maynor, age 9, about two hours from Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras.

Like many children in Latin America, Emilson loves to play soccer. And when his parents asked him about his future, he didn't hesitate to say he wanted to become a professional soccer player:

"We have to make an effort," Reina told Rony. "I know that with God's help, everything can be done."

So, despite the distance and the expenses involved, Rony took a leap of faith and enrolled Emilson in a soccer academy in Tegucigalpa.

Rony is a farmer who grows corn, beans, and bananas. But it's hard to get good harvests

Rony and his family.



Bean soup with chayote squash

- 1 onion, diced

1 red bell pepper, diced

2 garlic cloves, minced

2 tablespoons of olive oil

3 15-oz cans of red beans, drained and rinsed

2 cups of water

1 vegetable bouillon cube

1 yellow chili, seeded and minced

1 jalapeño, seeded and minced

1 15-oz can diced tomatoes with liquid

Juice of 1 lime

2 chayote squashes, peeled, seeded and cut into cubes, or summer squashes

Fresh cilantro

4 cups of cooked white rice
- Sauté onion, bell pepper and garlic in oil until translucent. Add beans, water and bouillon, and heat thoroughly. Add yellow chili, jalapeño, tomatoes, lime juice and chayote. Simmer on low for about an hour. Add cilantro and serve over rice.

Makes 4-6 servings

Lenten Recipe Provided by CRS (Catholic Relief Services) Rice Bowl, this recipe is meat-free for Lent.



working in the Dry Corridor — an area impacted by high temperatures and lack of rain. Droughts have become more frequent and storms stronger. “Nowadays, we don’t know when winter starts or when it ends,” explains Rony.

Determined to support Emilson’s dream, Rony participated in a Catholic Relief Services project, which helped him repair an old reservoir and install a low-cost irrigation system with pipes and hoses that uses very little water to grow

his crops. He also learned to let the harvest residue rot — instead of burning the land — because the residue becomes the soil’s fertilizer.

Thanks to the watering system and his new skills, Rony can harvest his crops even if it doesn’t rain. His produce and income are now enough to feed his family, pay the soccer academy’s fees, and help people in his community.

Today, Rony has even become an advocate for caring for the environment. And he feels it is his responsibility that others do too.

“I have learned a lot about how to take care of, value and protect the natural resources that the Lord has given us, such as water,” he says. “That’s the best way to guarantee the lives of our families and the animals.”

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Baked Tilapia Dinner

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Kid's Fish Dinner

Cheese Pizza

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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.

Bishop Iffert and the priests of the Diocese of Covington will pray a Holy Hour for survivors of sexual violence and for the sanctification of priests, 3 p.m., every third Thursday monthly, at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington. All are welcome.

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.

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.com/tmwc. Cost: \$50 for alumni and friends; free for current students/faculty/staff. Special rates available for high school groups.

The Divine Mercy Choir from the shrine of Divine Mercy, Vilnius, Lithuania, will be live in concert at St. Patrick Church, Taylor Mill, singing the music of St. Faustina, March 21, 7 p.m. First class relics of St. Faustina and Bl. Father Michael Sopocko will be available for veneration. This will be an unforgettable event.

Covington Lenten Pilgrimage March 23, with five stational churches opening their doors to pilgrims 9 a.m.–2 p.m. Adoration will be held in each of the Churches, with benediction at 1:45 p.m. The churches are Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Mother of God Church St. Augustine Church, St. Benedict Church and St. John Church. You choose your starting and ending points and whether to walk or drive the route.

The Center of Spirituality at St. Walburg Monastery, Villa Hills, will host Sister Tonette Sperando who will speak on “Hospitality: A Gospel Way of Living,” March 23, 9:30–11:30 a.m. All are invited.

St. Catherine of Siena Church, Ft. Thomas, welcomes the Kissell family for a presentation on “Learning to Trust in God While Living a Life of Suffering,” March 24, 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.,

Carson Kissell will lead the Divine Mercy Chaplet, bring your rosary. Hear how Carson’s gesture of redemptive suffering went viral on social media and how the family’s suffering has transformed to peace and joy.

“Another Look at the Causes and Consequences of the Modern Pornography Epidemic,” a webinar for survivors and those who care for them, March 25, 6:30–8 p.m. CDT. This talk will look at the differences in patterns of porn use between men and women and related differences in patterns of male and female sexual offending. The talk will serve two purposes. First, many victims hold themselves responsible for their experiences of abuse. By discussing factors which contribute to a person choosing to sexually abuse someone will hopefully help people see that this is not true. Second, is a discussion on how the rapidly growing prevalence of pornography is a risk factor for increased rates of abuse in our society.

Holy Cross District High School, Covington, 26th annual mulch sale. Students will deliver mulch to your home, business or rental property anywhere in Kenton, Boone and Campbell Counties and will put it anywhere on your property, starting March 30 and continuing for at least four weeks. Call (859) 392-8999 for information.

St. Augustine Parish, Covington, will celebrate Tenebrae, Spy Wednesday, March 27, 6 p.m. All are welcome.

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 Tuesdays – March 19, March 26, April 2, April 9, April 16, April 23, April 30, and May 7, 2024, Time: 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Catholic Charities – Diocese of Covington, 3629 Church St., Covington. Register at covdio.org/new-beginnings.

DCCH Children’s Home Flea Market, Ft. Mitchell, year-round, 8:30 a.m.– noon, Monday, Thursday, and Saturday; (Dec.– April, Monday, Thursday and every 3rd Saturday). Donation drop-off during Flea Market hours or at drop-off box anytime.

Sisters of Notre Dame, Park Hills, Women’s Retreat Weekend, April 6–April 7, the theme is “Forgiveness.” Cost is \$50 for materials and meals. Commute only, no overnight stays left. For information call Margie Schnelle at (859) 392-8229.

Covington Latin School will host a College and Career Fair for all Diocese of Covington high school students, April 23, 5:30–7:30 p.m. in the school courtyard and cafeteria. Come learn about careers,

programs and scholarships from popular colleges and local businesses.

It is time for Spring cleaning! **The Sisters of Notre Dame are in need of items for their 102nd annual 4th of July festival.** We are looking for services, sports items, jewelry, gift certificates, antiques, anything you can think of. Re-gift to the sisters. If you have items to donate call Margie at (859) 392-8229 or e-mail mschnelle@sndusa.org. Item drop offs during the day at 1601 Dixie Hwy., Park Hills or arrange a pickup.

Fish Frys

Fridays, Feb. 16–March 8

St. Mary Parish, Alexandria, 4:30–7:30 p.m.

Fridays, Feb. 16–March 15

St. Agnes Parish, Ft. Wright, 5–8 p.m.

Fridays, Feb. 16–March 22

St. Augustine Parish, Augusta, 5–7 p.m.

St. Barbara Parish, Erlanger, 4:30–8 p.m.; drive-thru closes 7:30 p.m.

St. Benedict Parish, Covington, 4:45–7 p.m.

St. Bernard Parish, Dayton, 5–7 p.m.

St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Ft. Thomas, 4:30–7 p.m.

St. Edward Parish, Cynthiana, 5–7 p.m.

Father Bealer Knights of Columbus, 605 Lytle Ave., Elsmere, lunch 11 a.m.–2 p.m., dinner 4:30–8 p.m.

St. Francis Xavier Parish, Falmouth, Knights of Columbus, 4–7:30 p.m.

Holy Cross District High School, Covington, 5–8 p.m.

St. James Parish, Brooksville, 4–6:30 p.m.

St. Joseph Academy, Walton, 4:30–8 p.m.

St. Joseph Parish, Camp Springs, 4–7:30 p.m.

Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish, Erlanger, 4–8 p.m.

St. Patrick Parish, Taylor Mill, 4:30–7:15 p.m.

St. Paul, Florence, 4:30–7:30 p.m.

St. Pius X Parish, Edgewood, 5–8 p.m.

St. Thomas Parish, Ft. Thomas, 4–7:30 p.m.

St. Timothy Parish, Union, dine in 5–7:30 p.m.; drive thru 4:30–7 p.m.

Fridays, Feb. 16–March 29

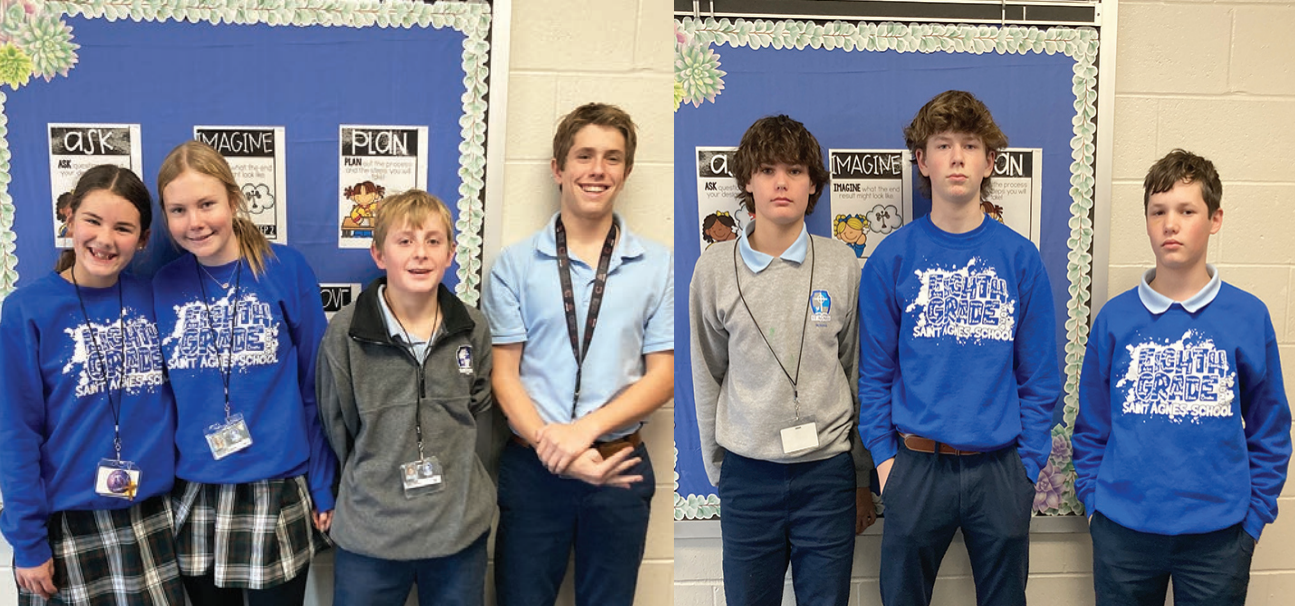
St. Augustine Parish, Covington, 4–7 p.m.

Fridays, March 8, 15 and 22

St. Matthew Parish, Kenton, 4:30-7:00 PM.

Friday, March 22

Our Savior Parish, Covington, starts at 12 p.m.



St. Agnes School finishes first and second at Sifma

The eighth-grade enrichment class at St. Agnes School, Ft. Wright, recently participated in a nation-wide stock market game sponsored by the Sifma Foundation. Out of 72 teams regionally, St. Agnes earned the #1 and #2 spots in the middle school division. Five St. Agnes teams ranked within the top ten. Pictured (above left, from right) Team #1: Maddie S., Lizzie L., William B. and Jackson O.; (above right, from right) Team #2: Brock B., Lincoln J., and Asa M.

Sharing merciful love: forgive all injuries

Marilyn Santos
USCCB

Forgiving someone is necessary in our everyday lives. And yet it is often the hardest thing to do. This is something that I am, at times, painfully aware of as I strive to lead a Christ-centered life.



For me, it has been hardest to forgive the people I love or care deeply about. Sadly, often it has been easier to forgive someone I despise or care for very little. It reminds me of the saying, “You always hurt the ones you love,” the paradox that those who give us the most joy can also be the cause of the deepest sorrows and hurts. I can easily forgive an acquaintance or colleague for a disrespectful act, but not so easily do I forgive a relative or dear friend.

The level of hurt goes hand in hand with my level of love. It is in these moments I struggle to remember that the One who loves the most, Jesus, died on the Cross for me to do exactly this: forgive.

During Lent, we often focus on renewing our faith, with the Triduum and Easter Sunday as the fulfillment of the Paschal Mystery. But this mystery is not a once-a-year remembrance of a historical event. As members of the Body of Christ, we relive and encounter this mystery and perfect gift at every Mass.

We are incorporated into the Paschal Mystery at our baptism: we are baptized into the suffering, death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus. This means that,

while throughout our lives we share in his suffering and death, we are assured that any pain and dying will ultimately lead to resurrection.

I remind myself that forgiveness does not mean it is wrong or even “sinful” to experience anger or feel hurt. It is how I resolve those feelings that makes a difference. I

cannot change the past. I need to resist the temptation to stew in my strong emotions, waiting for the opportunity to “get back at” the other person.

Clinging to my hurt and anger, as understandable as it may be, in the end only harms me. When I carry anger and hurt it affects all of me and drags me down, blinding me to the holy moments around me. It may also blind me to recognizing any personal culpability.

When God calls me to forgive, he is offering me a gift of freedom. While many in our society may see forgiveness as a weakness, to forgive and move forward is a sign of strength in the Lord. If I am truly to reconcile with the person who has injured me, forgiveness is foundational and non-negotiable.

At every Eucharist, redemption and reconciliation are made present as Christ offers his body for the salvation of the world, for our forgiveness. Reconciliation is at the heart of every Mass, not only as a memorial of the Paschal Mystery, but in the penitential rite, the Gloria, the Kyrie, and the Lord’s Prayer, in which we ask for the Lord’s mercy and forgiveness.

I remember a time when I had been extremely hurt in word and action by a friend who is also a priest. I struggled for various weeks with my inability to forgive him and avoided going to Mass when he was the celebrant. Until one day I “misread” the schedule and ended up at Mass with him as the celebrant.

Not only did those prayers strike my head and heart, but the Gospel for the day was Matthew 5:20-26, which includes: “Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift.” The message was so clear to me.

St. Paul wrote “... [bear] with one another and [forgive] one another; if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do” (Colossians 3:13). As we learn to offer others forgiveness, we can move forward and pursue reconciliation.

Forgiveness does not necessarily mean that I am able or even should resume relationships with people who have done me great harm. Sometimes relationships are harmful and/or dangerous for my spiritual, emotional and physical well-being.

Accepting and receiving the gift of forgiveness requires a growing relationship with God and a trust that he sees and knows all things. As my relationship with God continues to grow, it becomes enough for me to know that if someone who has harmed me does not ask for my forgiveness or acknowledge their wrongdoing, it is okay. God sees all things, understands all things, and will deal with things in the best way.

Increasingly, I am content to leave most things to him, but I am still a work in progress. And every time I encounter Christ in the Eucharist, I am reminded that he never asks anything of me that he himself has not first done — including forgiveness. Even when the other person rejects my forgiveness or is unable to acknowledge that they needed to be forgiven, I remain a vessel of God’s mercy.



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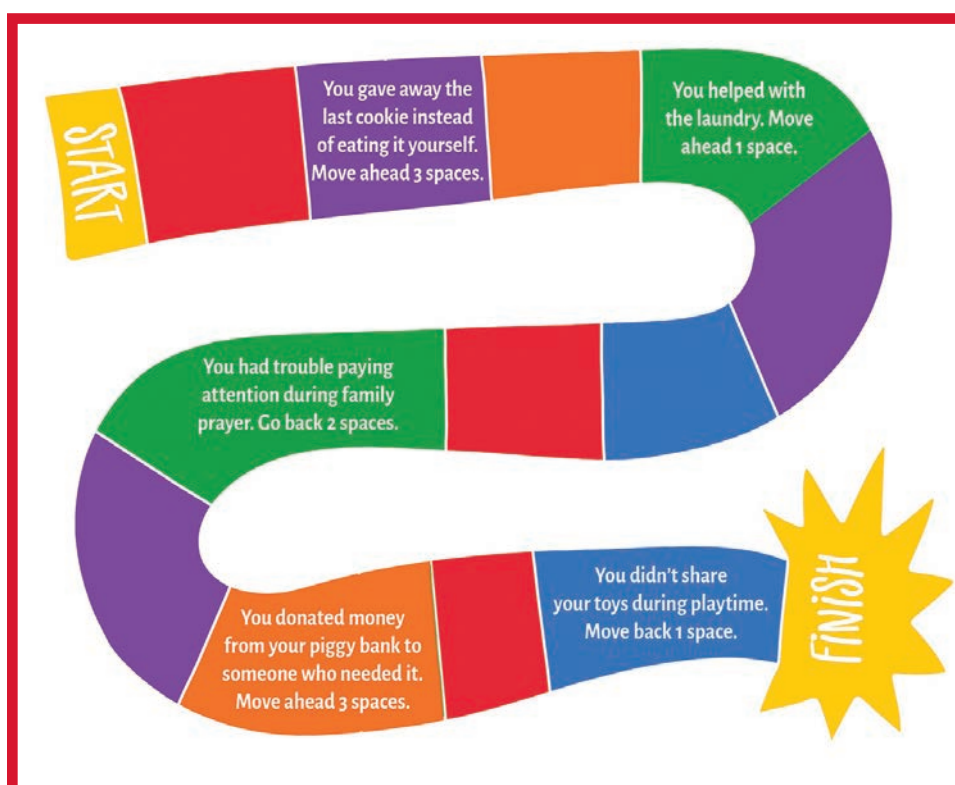
Jesus is speaking with Nicodemus, who is wondering if Jesus is truly the Messiah promised by God. Jesus tells

Think about what happens to seeds planted in the ground, warmed by the sun and watered by the rain. In today's Gospel Jesus tells Philip and Andrew what will happen to him. Just like the seed

— What does Jesus mean when he says we must be willing to give up our lives?



The Serra Club for Vocations, Northern Kentucky gathered at Thomas More University, Feb. 20, for its monthly luncheon meeting. At the meeting, Club members heard a presentation offered by Kim Webb, executive director for the Emergency Shelter of Northern Kentucky, Covington. Pictured (from left) are Alan Pickett, Serran, Ms. Webb, Benedictine Sister Cathy Bauer, Serran, and Jeff Jehn, president, Serra Club. For information on the Serra Club for Vocations, Northern Kentucky, visit <http://www.serrankv.com>.



As your family moves through Lent, you'll have good days and bad days. Use this game to learn about some ways you should (and shouldn't) observe Lent. On each turn, flip a coin. If you get tails, move one space. If you get heads, move two spaces.



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SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

Notre Dame Academy (NDA), in Park Hills, KY is seeking a financial professional with strong communication skills to fill the role of Senior Accountant. Reporting directly to the Director of Finance, HR and Operations, the Senior Accountant will support the Director of Finance, HR and Operations with the administration of the financial affairs of Notre Dame Academy.

Job responsibilities for the Senior Accountant position include processing daily cash receipts, bank reconciliations, accounts payable, accounts receivable and credit card processing. Additional responsibilities include preparing and recording monthly journal entries, account reconciliation and analysis, supporting the budgeting process and managing the FACTS Database used to bill all students. Accounting experience and strong Excel skills are required. Experience with QuickBooks is preferred.

Qualifications include a bachelor's or master's degree in accounting or related field. A minimum of 5 years of accounting experience in a not-for-profit business is preferred. This is a full-time position with excellent benefits.

Notre Dame Academy is a Catholic all-girls high school sponsored by the Sisters of Notre Dame. NDA has a rich tradition of success and excellence. Interested candidates should submit a cover letter, resume and salary requirement to Mrs. Marilyn Slaughter at ndahr@ndapan-das.org. Resumes will be reviewed until the position is filled.

CHANCERY SECRETARY

The Diocese of Covington invites qualified, actively-practicing Roman Catholics to apply for the position of Chancery Secretary. This position fulfills vital logistical and operational functions, and requires a motivated self-starter with a love for the Church, an interest in service, and a demonstrable history of maintaining confidentiality. Other requirements include experience and comfort with using Microsoft 365 software, helpful and pleasant communications skills regardless of the medium, and exceptional attention to detail. Interested candidates may send a letter of interest along with a comprehensive resume, including compensation history and at least five appropriate references with email contact information, by email or fax to Stephen Kopylay, SPHR, skopylay@covdio.org, fax 859/392-1589.

Job Opportunities at Catholic Charities.



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

Mental Health Agency Counselor

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

Parish Kitchen, Weekend Staff

Parish Kitchen is a special ministry that serves a free lunch daily in Covington to anyone hungry. We are looking for one or more individuals to work part-time on weekends who feel a call to serve within the context of this ministry, and who are capable of working with the population we do. This is a paid position, working selected Saturdays and Sundays from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.to help prepare a meal, supervise volunteers who assist serving between 11:30 – 1:30 and clean up after closing. Ideally, two Weekend staff work together to oversee all aspects of this operation. Prior experience in one or more would be a strong plus: food service, ministry, and social work. You may be scheduled as few as once a month, or up to 4 or 5 times per month, depending on your availability and need.

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

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

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

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Vatican Year of Prayer resource available free online

Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis has asked Catholics to dedicate 2024 to intensifying their prayer lives in preparation for the celebration of the Holy Year 2025, and the Vatican has published a resource guide to help them.

“Teach us to Pray,” a 76-page volume prepared by the Dicastery for Evangelization, was published online in Italian in late February and made available in other languages in early March.

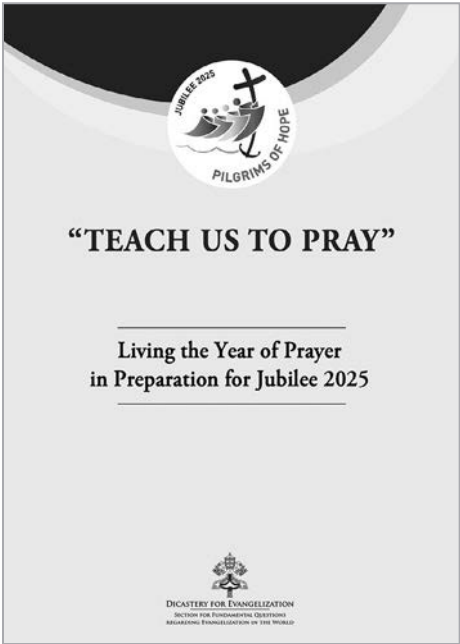
Pope Francis launched the year in late January, saying it would be “dedicated to rediscovering the great value and

absolute need for prayer in personal life, in the life of the church and in the world.”

The Dicastery for Evangelization said the booklet is “an invitation to intensify prayer, understood as a personal dialogue with God,” and can help people reflect on their faith and their Christian commitment in the various contexts of their lives.

It includes selections from Pope Francis’ general audience talks about prayer and looks specifically at ways to strengthen people’s prayer experiences at home — for example, by praying before and after meals and at the start and end of the day — in their parishes, at a local shrine, on retreat and by visiting a monastery. The booklet also has suggestions for encouraging teens and young adults to pray and for improving parish-based catechesis on prayer for both children and adults.

“In this Year of Prayer, all communities are invited to promote times of Eucharistic Adoration, an indispensable element for encountering the Lord,” the booklet said. While “each community should find the most appropriate ways and times to develop



CNS photo/jubilaum2025.va

The cover of “Teach us to Pray,” a 76-page resource for celebrating 2024 as the Year of Prayer, is seen in this screen grab. The booklet is available free online from the Vatican’s website for the Holy Year 2025.

this practice that brings so many fruits of holiness to the Church,” the resource guide provides suggestions.

The Catholic Church began celebrating Holy Years in the 1300s as “a special time to meditate on the great gift of divine mercy that always awaits us, as well as the importance of inner conversion,” the booklet’s introduction says. The Year of Prayer is meant to help Catholics individually and as a community to prepare to receive God’s grace.

“May prayer be the compass that guides, the light that illuminates the path and the strength that sustains us on the pilgrimage that will lead to entering the Holy Door,” the traditional sign of having made a jubilee pilgrimage, the booklet said. “Through prayer, may we arrive at the Holy Door with our hearts ready to welcome the gifts of grace and forgiveness that the Jubilee offers as a vivid expression of our relationship with God.”

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Reporting to our Executive Director, our Administrative Assistant will be responsible for a variety of administrative and clerical tasks important to running an effective day to day operation of St. Vincent de Paul. Duties of the Administrative Assistant include providing support to our staff, assisting in daily office needs and managing our ministry's general administrative activities. The ideal candidate should have excellent oral and written communication skills and be able to organize their work using Microsoft Office.

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Interested candidates can apply online or send their resume to Amy Smith at amy.smith@svdpnky.org.



PRINCIPAL

Notre Dame Academy (NDA) in Park Hills, Kentucky seeks a mission-driven, qualified professional to serve as the Principal directly reporting to the President of NDA to assume duties in July 2024. The Principal is a full-time position responsible for providing visionary leadership, fostering a culture of academic excellence and ensuring the holistic development of students in alignment with the school's mission and values.

Notre Dame Academy is a Catholic all-girls high school sponsored by the Sisters of Notre Dame. NDA has a rich tradition of success and excellence. Interested candidates should submit a cover letter and resume to Mrs. Trish Miller at ndahr@endapandas.org. Upon submission, candidates will receive a search prospectus outlining further details about the position and the application process. This position will be posted until filled.



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Pro-Life Essay winners

(Continued from page 2)

importance of the sanctity of life.”

During the event highschoolers from St. Henry District High School and Notre Dame Academy’s prolife clubs read excerpts from 16 of the finalists’ essays.

“We humans were made to help one another as a community, as a unit. We weren’t made to care for only ourselves but instead made to help others in the community,” wrote Emilio Miguel Rodriguez, an eighth grader from St. Anthony School, Taylor Mill. This theme was carried

throughout the night as more excerpts were read, and more students were celebrated.

As the end of the night neared, it became time for the top four essays to be read in their entirety. It was announced to the audience that there was a tie for third place, so instead of the traditional top three essays being read, it was the top four. Tied for third place was Ryan Roeding and Finley Clifton, both from St. Joseph School in Crescent Springs. In second place was Grant Krahe from St. Timothy School, Union. In first place was Kate Mueller, also from St. Timothy School. Miss Mueller’s essay can be read in its entirety on page 4.

After awards and certificates were handed out to the students, Bishop John Iffert spoke on what it means to be prolife and commended the students on their thoughts. “... How pleased I am that so many of your essays evince this wonderful sense that ... this life we have, this very being that we have, everything that we are, is a gift to us from God.”

The event concluded with a blessing from Bishop Iffert and a round of applause from all in attendance to celebrate, one more time, the accomplishment of those 20 eighth graders.

Protecting God’s Children for Adults Safe Environment Trainings

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

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

Step 2: Go to www.virtus.org and click on Registration. Follow the prompts to create an account and to request a background check. Selection.com is a secure

site; the background check is posted on your account and you receive a copy if you request it during the registration process. You will sign up for a VIRTUS training class during theregistration.

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

Bulletins:

■ March bulletin: posted Sunday, March 3; due Tuesday, April 2

www.virtusonline.org, enter you user id and password. If your account is suspended contact your primary location where you volunteer or are employed. Your primary location contact information is found under your Contact Tab.

VIRTUS Training:

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

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

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

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

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National/World

Bishop near Rome decrees alleged Marian apparitions ‘not supernatural’

VATICAN CITY — The Marian apparitions claimed to have taken place outside of Rome were decreed “not supernatural” by the local bishop. Since 2016, Gisella Cardia has claimed to be seeing visions of the Virgin Mary in the central Italian town of Trevignano Romano, some 30 miles north of Rome, after bringing a statue of Mary with her from a trip to Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina, which she said began to shed tears. Bishop Marco Salvi of Civita Castellana, the diocese that includes Trevignano Romano, said that he had established a commission of experts in theology, canon law and psychology in April 2023 to investigate the claims. And on March 6, the diocese published its results, decreeing a “constat de non supernaturalitate,” or a refutation of any supernatural origin for the claimed apparitions.

As Haiti descends into chaos, priests vow to stay and minister to the people

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — As the nation of Haiti spirals into further violence and chaos due to armed gangs overtaking the government, Catholic clergy there are reported to be remaining in place to serve the populace. “Where can we go? We have to stay in the midst of the people,” said Haitian native Father Eugène Almonor, an Oblate of Mary Immaculate and chaplain of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia’s Haitian Catholic Community, told OSV News regarding his order’s determination to stay in Haiti. “It is our mission to be with them and to try to support them, to accompany them.” Father Thomas Hagan, an Oblate of St. Francis de Sales who has lived and worked in Port-au-Prince since 1997, said in a March 3 livestreamed Mass that “probably in all the years I’ve been in Haiti, I don’t think it’s ever been as bad as it is right now.” Father Hagan, who in July 2023 brokered a truce among four gang members, divulged that his own life might be at risk. “We cannot continue (like this),” Father Almonor said. “Now is the time to stop. Because we want to live in serenity and peace.”

Irish bishops urge immediate end to Israel-Hamas hostilities

MAYNOOTH, Ireland — Ireland's Catholic bishops called on

Israel and Hamas to immediately end hostilities in the Holy Land as the war triggered by the Oct. 7 attacks enters its sixth month, and U.N. agencies warn that children are dying of starvation in Gaza. “What is happening in this region cannot be morally justified,” the hierarchy said in a March 5 statement from their spring plenary assembly in Maynooth. “We call on the Israeli government to comply with basic human and international standards in ensuring that Palestinians have full and unimpeded access to food, water and basic safety requirements,” the bishops said. They also called “on Hamas to release all hostages and to end missile attacks on Israel.” In a post on social media, the head of the World Health Organization warned that children are dying of starvation in northern Gaza. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the agency’s visits March 2-3 to the Al-Awda and Kamal Adwan hospitals were the first since early October. A lack of food resulted in the deaths of 10 children and “severe levels of malnutrition,” while hospital buildings have been destroyed, Ghebreyesus said. The Hamas-run health ministry in Gaza reported over the same weekend that at least 15 children had died from malnutrition and dehydration at the Kamal Adwan hospital. A 16th child reportedly died March 3

at a hospital in the southern city of Rafah.

Bishops call for fasting, prayer as abortion is enshrined in French constitution

PARIS — French bishops called for fasting and prayer as abortion was enshrined in the constitution by an overwhelming 780-72 vote, accompanied by a standing ovation when the result was announced as the parliament met in Versailles. After several months of legislative process, the French Congress, a special body composed of both chambers of parliament, revised the country's 1958 constitution to enshrine women's "guaranteed freedom" to abort, making France the first country in the world to explicitly include the right to abortion in its constitution. French bishops called for "fasting and prayer" in a March 4 statement with the Pontifical Academy for Life releasing its own communique on the same day, saying, "There can be no 'right' to end a human life." French President Emmanuel Macron described the March 4 move as "French pride" that had sent a "universal message."

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St. Elizabeth’s new ‘Butterfly Suite’ — a place to grieve infant loss

Bella Young
Multimedia Correspondent

The loss of an infant is something no parent should have to go through. For the Loudens however, it was their reality, when, in 2004, their daughter Alexis Mackenzie Louden was stillborn.

“A huge piece of my heart died with me that day,” said Lisa Louden on the website of the Missing Alexis Foundation.

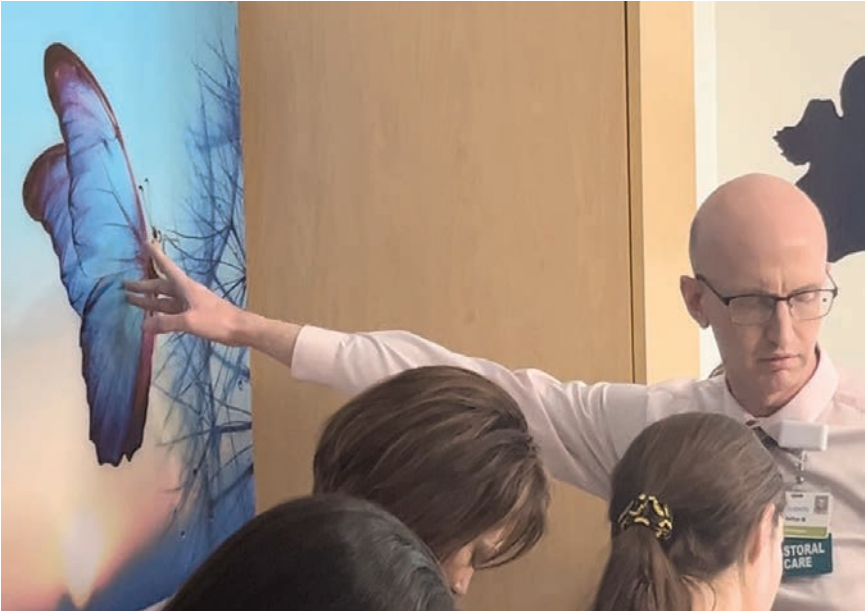
This Foundation was created in 2008 to support families

suffering from infant loss. The website explains that the mission for the foundation is, “To encourage, promote and provide support, compassion and healing to families who have experienced the loss of a child through miscarriage, prematurity, stillbirth, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and all other forms of antenatal and neonatal death as well as to educate those people who support them.”

Currently the support they offer comes in the form of “delivering memory boxes, hosting the annual HEARTS support group, sponsoring the annual NKY Walk to

The Missing Alexis Foundation’s latest philanthropic effort comes in the form of the “Butterfly Suite” at St. Elizabeth Family Birth Place, Edgewood.

“This initiative, a testament to our unwavering commitment to compassion and support during life’s most challenging moments, has been made possible through a generous donation from the Missing Alexis Foundation,” said Elle Adams, director of Women’s and Children’s Services at the Family Birth Place, in an article from St. Elizabeth’s internal newsletter.



Also in the newsletter, Ms. Adams said, “This suite has been thoughtfully designed to offer a peaceful private space for families to bond with their babies, cherish precious memories and begin the process of healing.”

A mural of butterflies greets those who enter the Butterfly Suite. Butterflies are the international symbol of infant loss and the room’s namesake. Also noticeable are the comfort items that are meant to bring families peace during their time of grief.

The Butterfly Suite was blessed Feb. 29 by a member of the St. Elizabeth Pastoral Care Team. During the blessing it was asked that God watch over the room and all who found themselves within its walls. That they may find peace and grace in his presence.

(above left) The butterfly mural that can be seen as you enter the room.
(above right) Member of the St. Elizabeth Healthcare Pastoral Care Team blesses the room.

Remember; and the annual Angel Ball Gala,” according to the foundation website.

ing it was asked that God watch over the room and all who found themselves within its walls. That they may find peace and grace in his presence.



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