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

## Seminarian soon ordained to the transitional diaconate cites 'God's grace' in helping him throughout his journey

Maura Baker  
Staff Writer

"I feel like God has prepared me over the span of my life," said Joshua Heskamp, a 36-year-old seminarian who will be ordained to the transitional diaconate May 18, 10

more opportunities to be a presence of God's love and mercy for others. Especially through my words and actions."

He said, "I'm looking forward to helping people to know Christ more deeply."



With praise and thanksgiving to Almighty God,  
the Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington  
requests the honor of your presence  
at  
the Ordination to the Transitional  
Diaconate of

**Joshua David Heskamp**

+++

through the power of the Holy Spirit  
and the imposition of hands by the

**Most Reverend John C. Iffert**  
Bishop of Covington

on Saturday, May 18, 2024  
at 10 o'clock in the morning

**Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption**  
1130 Madison Avenue,  
Covington, Kentucky



**Joshua Heskamp**

Parish: St. Patrick Parish,  
Taylor Mill

Seminary: St. Vincent Seminary,  
Latrobe, PA

a.m., at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington. This ordination is a sort of "final stage" before ordination as a priest. "I feel ready," he said, "with the help of God's grace, to embrace this vocation.

Having received Holy Orders, Mr. Heskamp expressed when asked about his ordination, "will give me

Mr. Heskamp said that his decision to pursue a vocation in the priesthood began with a homily when he was 13 years old, on Vocation Sunday. "The Holy Spirit moved in my heart," he said, "that maybe this was something he was calling me to do."

It took "23 years to get to this point," Mr. Heskamp said, "but that was initially what sent me down the path and since then it's just been  
*(Continued on page 18)*

## Cathedral restoration project well underway — construction beginning in coming weeks

Maura Baker  
Staff Writer

The "Restored in Christ" cathedral project is well underway — contractors have been chosen, contracts have been signed and a pre-construction meeting, April 23, has confirmed the construction schedule



[www.covcathedral.com/restored-in-christ](http://www.covcathedral.com/restored-in-christ)

as the actual repairs to the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption's, Covington, façade will begin in the upcoming months.

Preparations have continued in the past week as well, as gargoyles on the side of the building will soon be joining their chimera cousins at Boston Valley Terra Cotta in New York soon. Cranes around the Cathedral have taken contractors from TRISCO Systems, an Ohio based company, to investigate these grotesques to see if



A contractor is lifted up the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption's façade on the side of Madison Avenue, Covington, to assess a gargoyle for damage.

they are in need of such repairs. TRISCO will also be performing such repairs later down the line.

"Three gargoyles are going to be sent there," said Don Knochelmann, director, Buildings and Properties, but others may join them as well if the need arises.

These contractors are also checking for spots that need minor work, according to Mr. Knochelmann. "They're also going up and measuring some of the really detailed work you see on the front, some of the capitals and some of the columns." These sorts of fixes, Mr. Knochelmann said, will take time because "they're all custom made."

This investigation type work will continue for the next few weeks, he said, and afterwards people can expect to see more action and materials on the site.

A covered walkway will be put up in times of active construction, Mr. Knochelmann added, and the cathedral will remain entirely accessible through the entire process. Other planned construction past the façade includes roofing tiles and protective glass over the stained Cathedral's glass windows.

As for the chimeras that famously graced the Covington skyline, and have been taken down since March 2023, Mr. Knochelmann expressed that they will be making their return either fall of this year or spring 2025.

# Cross the Bridge for Life returns for another day of celebrating life

**Bella Young**

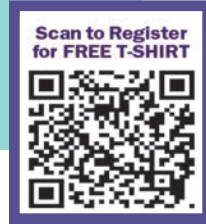
*Multimedia Correspondent*

What started in 2005 as a small event celebrating life has snowballed into the music, food and face painting that is now the Cross the Bridge for Life event. On Saturday, June 1, all are welcome to come participate in the crossing of the purple people bridge in support of the gift of life. Peggy Piccola, administrative assistant, diocesan Pro-Life Office, describes the event as ecumenical, inviting everyone to come and support the life at all its stages and abilities.

Coming up on the 20-year anniversary of Cross the



Bridge for Life this year is not the first-time accommodations have been made to suit the growing crowd. The



starting point of the walk has been moved since the events inception, now starting at the festival grounds. The size of the event has only grown. This year there will be 11 different information booths, one ultrasound truck, a live band, balloon animals, face painting and a free t-shirt. Mrs. Piccola said it should be a “nice, fun, family friendly day.”

All of this is possible thanks to the generous donations of the Cross the Bridge for Life sponsors, a full list of which can be found on [www.crossthebridgeforlife.org](http://www.crossthebridgeforlife.org). To register for the event, go to the website or scan the QR code.



(above, left) Kendra McGuire, superintendent, Catholic Schools, welcomes guests to the annual ACUE donors appreciation luncheon, April 18, at Prince of Peace School, Covington. (above, center) Second-graders dance and sing “This Little Light of Mine.” (above and bottom, right) Student ambassadors sit and talk with guests during the luncheon.



(above, left) Bishop John Iffert enjoys the performances by Prince of Peace students. (above, center) Kindergarteners were the lead performers for the day’s entertainment. Here they sing about how we’re all a part of the same world. (above, right) Randy Rawe, an ACUE donor and guest at the luncheon, enjoys the performances.

## ACUE donors take a joyful trip to paradise at annual appreciation luncheon

**Laura Keener**  
*Editor*

Welcome to a tropical paradise, you’re part of the family, was the mood at Prince of Peace School, April 18, as the Alliance for Catholic Urban Education (ACUE) welcomed benefactors for its annual donor appreciation luncheon. The school auditorium was decorated in palm trees and tropical paper flowers with the lunch menu featuring Polynesian chicken. But the highlight of the afternoon were the students who performed fingerplay songs centered on family, education and God’s love.

As the kindergarten students took the stage, the first group of entertainers for the day, a second grader offered her expert review to the donor sitting next to her. “This is really good. I watched the rehearsal yesterday and they were so good I cried. I cried because I was happy,” she said smiling from ear to ear.

The primary students and middle school students performed equally well-done skits. A parody to Pink Floyd’s,

“Another Brick in the Wall, Part 2,” — “We all need an education ... We need prayer in the classroom” — resonated with the Boomer crowd and had many in the audience in tears, happy tears. “I am a C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N ...,” sung accelerando, had the audience laughing as they tried to keep up, while the performers didn’t miss a beat before they playfully collapsed in feigned exhaustion.

“Let’s just make it official. This is an official diagnostic tool. If you did not enjoy that you are dead inside. Thank you all so very much. That was a real joy,” said Bishop John Iffert about the students’ performance.

Bishop Iffert said that years ago he learned of a school in Ohio who was working on its mission statement. The mission statement they had proposed was to “form scholars, citizens and saints.”

“I’ve always loved that. That’s almost the perfect mission statement for Catholic Education,” he said. “What is distinct and true of our Catholic education is that our

*(Continued on page 7)*



# A morning of information, says Deacon Cox about diaconal meeting

Bella Young  
Multimedia Correspondent

Men and their wives who are interested in discerning a call to diaconal ministry are invited to attend an information meeting about the permanent diaconate. Deacon Brian Cox, assistant to the director in the Office of Deacon and Deacon Formation, said the meeting would be a “great morning of information.”

Deacon Cox is a member of the Deacon Advisory Team, spearheaded by Msgr. Gerald Reinersman, the director for the Office of Deacon and Deacon Formation. It is the goal of the Deacon Advisory Team to grow the diaconal ministry within the Diocese of Covington and provide support for the deacons who have already been ordained.

Msgr. Reinersman said, “It is just a meeting to give men and their wives information. The big question

for many people these days is how much time it will take, what is it going to ask of me, how much will it cost.”

Both Msgr. Reinersman and Deacon Cox note the importance of discernment. Deacon Cox said, “the hardest part of discernment is saying yes ... once you make that call it is hard to put the cat back in the bag.”

On the day of the meeting, the Deacon Advisory Team will be there to “give sessions on the admission process and then lay out the formation program itself, the timeline and the cost,” said Msgr. Reinersman.

Men and their wives interested in attending the Deacon Information Meeting, RSVP with Deacon Cox, BCox@covdio.org, or Msgr. Reinersman, GREinersman@covdio.org.

## Deacon Ministry Information Meeting

May 4, 9 a.m.–noon

Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, Covington

Men interested in discerning a call to the permanent diaconate in the Diocese of Covington are invited to an information session with directors Msgr. Gerald Reinersman and Deacon Brian Cox. Reservations requested, (859) 392-1500 or bcox@covdio.org or greinersman@covdio.org.

## Official Assignment

Effective April 15, 2024

**Rev. Roberto C. Becerra**

To: Parochial vicar, Cristo Rey Parish, Florence

From: Service in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati

Assigned by the Most Rev. John C. Iffert Bishop of Covington

*Jamie N. Schroeder*

Jamie N. Schroeder  
Chancellor



## Priests pray at monthly Holy Hour

Bishop Iffert and the priests of the Diocese of Covington 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. The next Holy Hour will be May 16.

## Official Appointments

Effective May 16, 2024

**Mary Ciafardini**

To: Alliance for Catholic Urban Education Development Advisory Board  
Term: Two years

**Michael Haas**

To: Alliance for Catholic Urban Education Development Advisory Board  
Term: Two years

**Clare Ruehl**

To: Alliance for Catholic Urban Education Development Advisory Board  
Term: Two years

**Andrew Vandiver**

To: Alliance for Catholic Urban Education Development Advisory Board  
Term: Two years

**John Walcutt**

To: Alliance for Catholic Urban Education Development Advisory Board  
Term: Two years

Effective July 1, 2024

**Matthew Bain**

To: Diocesan Catholic Children’s Home Board of Directors  
Term: Six years

**Matthew Verst**

To: Diocesan Catholic Children’s Home Board of Directors  
Term: Six years

Appointed by the Most Rev. John C. Iffert Bishop of Covington

*Jamie N. Schroeder*  
Jamie N. Schroeder  
Chancellor

# Safe Environment office to host informative event on the impact of human trafficking, how to help

Maura Baker  
Staff Writer

An estimated 49.6 million people were living in modern slavery in 2021, including 27.6 million in forced labor and 22 million in forced marriage, according to the International Labour Organization.

“Human trafficking is a heinous crime that exploits the most vulnerable through threats of violence and abuse of power to maintain control over victims,” writes the anti-human trafficking initiative webpage of the Salvation Army.

This Child Abuse Awareness month, it’s important to learn the warning signs of and how to prevent and protect against this crime that affects an estimated 3 million children, reported in 2022.

That’s why Julie Feinauer, director, and the Office of Safe Environment, are holding an event, May 14, to help tackle these topics. The event, held in the Covington Curia, begins at 5:30 p.m.

“Human trafficking is a big problem in the Northern Kentucky and Cincinnati area,” said Ms. Feinauer.

“It’s important to learn the warning signs,” she said, “so what we’re hoping is this training will teach people about the problem and help them understand why it’s something that we deal with —

and, hopefully, what we can do to help those individuals in their situations and how we can prevent the systemic problem.”



## Human trafficking: The impact, and how to help

May 14  
5:30–9 p.m.

Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, Curia, Covington



## Bishop’s Schedule

**April 28**

Mass and Sacrament of Confirmation, Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, 10 a.m.

Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption Parish celebration, Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, Covington, 11:30 a.m.

**April 30**

Covington Deanery meeting and lunch, Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, 12 noon

Administer the Sacrament of Confirmation, Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish, Erlanger, 7 p.m.

**May 1**

Mass, St. Joseph the Worker 50th anniversary, All Saints Parish, 10:30 a.m.

Public and homeschool High School seniors’ baccalaureate Mass, Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, 5:30 p.m.

**May 2**

2nd quarter all-staff meeting, Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, 9:30 a.m.

Deans meeting, 1:30 p.m.  
Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Philip Parish, Melbourne, 7 p.m.

**May 3**

Mass with the Congregation of Divine Providence, St. Anne Province Center, Melbourne, 11 a.m.

**May 4**

Diocese of Covington Pastoral Council meeting, 10 a.m.

**May 5**

First Communion Mass followed by May Crowning, Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, 10 a.m.

**May 6**

Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Patrick Parish, Taylor Mill, 7 p.m.

## The demands of truth and the joys of life eternal

The readings for the fifth Sunday of Easter — Cycle B — are: Acts 9:26-31; 1 John 3:18-24 and John 15:1-8.

It has long been my observation that people are more social than truthful. For a variety of reasons this makes sense, ranging from reasons of evolutionary biology, to simply having good manners, to the very way we learn. After all, most people operate by mimesis, which means by imitation. Because of that, truth does not matter as much as getting along.

What they believe to be true is based on what the people around them believe. The challenge

with this way of learning and being is obvious. If nearly everyone else is operating in the same way, what we believe or understand to be “the truth” can be corrupted and/or falsified due to the circular nature of mimetic learning.

Despite the difficulties in achieving the truth of any matter, it is important we take seriously the category of truthfulness. At a minimum, truth is a constraint on human corruption, pathology and power. The recognition of the constraint of truth on power is at the heart of the question Pontius Pilate posed to Christ, “what is truth?” It is THE QUESTION that confronts our disintegrating

anti-culture in the Western world. It is the question posed by an ever-expanding technocratic power that finds the intrinsic, inviolable dignity of every human person to be an irrelevant question as it decrees there shall be no limits — natural or supernatural — to power.

St. John in his first letter enjoins us to avoid setting up a false binary between love and truth. This is a binary we too often see in certain schools of contemporary theology, spirituality and pastoral practice, to tragic effect, if one’s goal is the perfection of divine love. As St. John teaches us, “children, let us love not in word or speech, but in deed and truth.”

That is certainly sound counsel, but how do we know if we have accomplished that? Fortunately for us St. John’s letter gives us the “metrics” to examine our success: “...His commandment is this: we should believe in the name of his son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us. Those who keep his commandments remain in him, and he in them, and the way we know that he remains in us is from the Spirit he gave us.”

Now we must note that “the Spirit he gave us” is the Spirit of truth. And that Spirit of truth points to the truth of everything, along with its divinely ordained purpose given in nature and revealed and brought to perfection and fullness through grace.

The Spirit he gave us is not some “super emotive state” that confirms us in our feelings, nor is it some bureaucratic exercise that ratifies the preferences of the age, but rather a divine revelation. This revelation opens us up to the eternal truth of the entire cosmos and our nature as perfected, elevated and yes, resurrected

through the “wonderful exchange effected in this sacrifice.”

It is this wonderful exchange between God and man, grace and nature, flesh and spirit, and life and death that has “made us partakers of the one supreme Godhead.” It is this glorious exchange which allows us to come to God’s truth and make “make it ours by a worthy way of life.”

Now this glorious reality which is revealed, and gifted to us, is a demanding one because it demands truthfulness. And the truth, as already noted, is not a product of feelings or power or wishes. Just as Jesus is, Truth is.

As the philosopher and theologian, John Milbank, has noted concerning the demands of truth: “The pursuit of truth risks total isolation. The more one lives, the more one sees this. It is the Via Crucis (the way of the Cross). Truth Incarnate was eventually entirely isolated. But this proved the seed of universal community, the Church, in His Resurrection.”

Thus, it is in believing in the name of Jesus Christ and in being connected to him who is the vine, and where we become the branches, that we see that which is social and personal united to that which is totally, eternally truthful. And is precisely through this holy communion that God is present to his people, and it is how he imbues us with heavenly mysteries. Through this, we pass from a corrupted and even idolatrous sociality, “to newness of life” which brings us “the joys of life eternal.”

*Father Phillip W. De Vous is the pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Flemingsburg and St. Rose of Lima Parish, May’s Lick.*

## Miracles of our time

they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me.” (John 17: 20-21)

At this unsettling time in our nation, it might help to reflect on stories from our religious tradition that show us another way and the grace of coming together in Christ. Two narratives, in particular, come to mind.

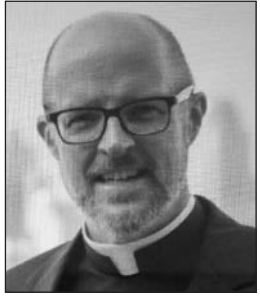
Saul’s (Paul’s) conversion is not only historically pivotal, but an inspiring sketch of amazing personal and ideological transformation. It’s easy to get caught up in the dramatic details of the Acts 9 account: the flashing light from the sky, Paul’s falling to the ground, the voice of the unseen Jesus, and Paul’s ensuing blindness and refusal to eat or drink for three days.

What might escape us is the enormity of Paul’s change of heart. The same individual who only recently had been “breathing murderous threats against the disciples of the Lord,” intending to round them up and “bring them back to Jerusalem in chains,” became the indefatigable and uncompromising ambassador of the Gospel, without whom, arguably, Christianity may not have flourished past his own era.

The second account is the Council of Jerusalem (Acts 15), the gathering at which the leaders of the early Church decided not to “trouble the Gentiles who turn to God” with the precepts of traditional Judaism, particularly the requirement of circumcision. Verse 7 notes that “much debate had taken place.”

I’ve often mused that this has to be one of the greatest understatements in the entire Bible. The mere thought that a person might bypass observation of Mosaic decrees that were held so sacred in the Jewish tradition had to have been an abomination to many, especially the “Pharisees who had become believers” (v. 5). And yet, this revolutionary decision by the Church’s earliest leaders paved the way for Christianity to evolve into a global religion, reaching even to modern-day offspring of pagan European clans half a world away.

### GO AND GLORIFY



Father Phillip De Vous

### VIEWPOINT



Don Brockmeier

American life.

Pundits have described the mentality of many in our culture as “tribal,” emphasizing the tendency to surround oneself almost exclusively with friends, social-media contacts and news sources reflecting an individual’s own perspective, and correspondingly, to avoid any of the same who might threaten one’s cherished and ever-more-petrified views.

In “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship” our bishops remind us of the importance of participating in political life: “In the Catholic Tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation.” But we are called to do so civilly and charitably.

“Tribalism” can be seductive, enticing us to partake in bitter, and even dehumanizing, rhetoric regarding those whom we might consider our “opponents.” Some of those we may be tempted to bash anonymously for their views may be the very parishioners who gather with us around the Lord’s table. As such, the tribal mindset can threaten our unity as the People of God for which Jesus so fervently prayed: “I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that

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# Eucharistic consecration — trust, surrender, believe, receive

This past Lent, leading up to Divine Mercy Sunday, I read a book by Matthew Kelly from Dynamic Catholic and made my Eucharistic consecration by following “33 Days to Eucharistic Glory.”



VIEWPOINT

Ronald M. Bertsch

Highly recommend the read and devotion to Jesus, fully his body, blood, soul and divinity within our grasp every day. When not possible, praying the spiritual communion, shared and repeated in the pages of the book are available.

It seems there are folks who are lost, searching for meaning in their lives and struggling with various addictions or problems. As a social worker at DCCH

Center for Children and Families, birth parents and children in foster care might be lost. I want so badly to share with them the good news and how Jesus is readily available. Maybe there are people in our own family, some friends too, who might be missing out and we want to tell them.

Taking pointers from the days of study within the book, I know the first step is making sure I am putting in the effort myself. First care for yourself, examine your own life before pointing out how others can improve.

Like the ocean of mercy ready to be poured out to anyone seeking God’s forgiveness, we have in the Eucharist a divine storehouse filled with every virtue. The more time we spend with Jesus, the more abundantly we can draw from this storehouse. Every invitation to receive Jesus is an immeasurable honor — it can be life transforming.

Our priorities reveal who and what we love. How much time do we spend in adoration? Are we ready to make sacrifices to show our love? The book touches on several saints who lead by example. Eucharistic miracles are recounted to help us deepen our faith.

“Our lives are just a pilgrimage,” Mr. Kelly says, we are but passing through this world. Should we ponder the four last things — death, judgement, heaven and hell? Many might be deceived that we have a long time, but we do not. He calculated the number of weeks an average person walks on earth. We do not want to waste one of them. Choices have consequences, so live like there is no tomorrow but with the right mindset. A grateful heart will let God direct our way.

One chapter really spoke to me, considering how we can so easily be tempted into fear of missing out or as Mr. Kelly phrases it, FOMO. It robs us of making decisions, settling into a routine, a relationship, a job, always thinking something better might be around the corner. It robs us of focusing on Jesus and what is his will for us.

Throughout the book, we read “trust, surrender, believe and receive.” What better motto for us as we contemplate the treasures and love Jesus has for us if we but seek him? Let us all find our way in his will, setting boundaries for keeping our lives holy, choosing each holy moment, and perhaps then we can share it with our family, friends and a child who needs a mentor, foster or adoptive parent.

To learn more about mentoring, fostering or adopting a child, contact DCCH at (859) 331-2040 or stop by its Open House, Sunday, May 5, 2024, at DCCH 75 Orphanage Rd, Ft. Mitchell, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

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

# Being human together

News sources recently covered the terrible attack on the people gathered in a theater in Russia. One of the first reports included pictures of the shrines that were set up in various places to remember and mourn those who had been killed.



MUSINGS

Sister Fidelis Tracy, C.D.P.

I was struck by the similarity of these flowery displays with the ones which appear when there are tragedies in our own country. If the context had not been clear, I might have thought that these shrines were in Kentucky, Ohio or Indiana. Sadly, there are so many reports of mass tragedies that the flowery groupings adorned with pictures of the deceased are immediately identifiable as places of mourning.

The emotions on the faces of the crowds were identical to the emotions on the faces of my neighbors when violent events happen near home. I was momentarily profoundly aware of our shared humanity, of what we have in common, of the connections that are much more important than our differences. Casting others as enemies seemed a denial of the reality of who and what we are.

The world appears to be more and more divided into opposing groups — warring nations, warring political parties, warring cultures. As our lives move forward it is easy to form sides, to oppose each other, to amplify our differences.

We form opinions about those we categorize as “the others.” These are in my group. Those are “other.” That nation is an ally and this other is an enemy nation. We are tempted to tie all that is unacceptable to the enemy nation and perhaps even all the people who live in that country.

More and more our common humanity becomes abstract and we see others merely as members of this or that group, members of this or that sect, nation, political persuasion. Our common humanity recedes to the background.

The truth is that we are never human alone. Our humanity is predicated on relationship. We are only truly human when we are in relationship with others. Ultimately, we are one shared humanity. All of us participate in the acts of each of us. I share humanity with those who were attacked and also with the attackers. That is the hardest truth for me to accept.

In the first creation story (Gen1) creation involves the creation of at least two (male and female) on the sixth day, with an implication that the difference is part of the whole. In the second creation narrative (Gen2), creation is not complete until there are two with a promise of a community of equals who are comfortable in the presence of each other. Humanity demands relationship and mutuality. We can only be human together. When we oppose others, we oppose a part of our own humanity.

Accepting the other as part of myself when the other acts contrary to what I understand as good or appropriate is difficult. In the case of terrorism this is especially difficult. How can I see those who inflict destruction and death as part of myself, of my humanity? How can I deal with my own temptations to revenge and retaliation? Do I participate in oppressive structures that lead others to violent reactions?

While the news media broadcasts the devastating actions of various persons and groups, I look around my neighborhood, family, community, workplace and see that the vast majority of those I know are good, loving, charitable people. I am surrounded by good and caring humans. I share humanity with them as surely as I do with those who seek violence. I am convinced that they vastly outnumber the violent parts of humanity.

It may be hard for me to identify my part in global violence, but I can easily recognize that some of my responses to those close to me may contribute to the rejection of our common humanity. I share in the humanity that manifests itself in loving actions and in destructive acts. Cultivating loving responses to all contributes to the development of a caring global community that abhors violence.

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

# My trip to Washington and the USCCB

Last week I went to Washington D.C. to attend the NDDI (New Diocesan Directors Institute) for Youth Ministers. It is sponsored by the National Federation for Youth Ministry (NFCYM) in partnership with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. My expectations were hopeful but somewhat guarded. Truth be told, I was afraid.



VIEWPOINT

Angie Poat

Preparing for the trip, I was cognizant of another youth ministry conference that I attended 20 years prior. I had left my young children behind, in very capable care. However, in flight, I felt like I came “unglued.” Separated from my children, in a speeding airborne object that I could not control, my mind raced. Not only was I afraid of being separated from my children and flying, but I was also hesitant about what awaited me upon landing. Would the conference reveal my inadequacy, highlighting the things that I was doing incorrectly or still had yet to implement? Why would the Lord entrust me to care for so many teenagers?

The outcome of the first conference was positive. I learned strategies, explored innovative programs, networked, bought books, took copious notes, and did everything I could to be a better youth minister. I returned home with a head full of ideas to implement and a sharp vision for youth ministry, accompanied, however, by a greater distaste for flying.

Decades passed with fruitful ministries and four beautiful gown children (one of whom is ironically a pilot!). And yet, the residual fear of both flying and being “good enough,” which lay dormant, was now exposed by the invitation to fly to Washington. What now? I really felt called to attend. Going would be the cumulative equivalent of attending the World Series for baseball fans, the Vatican for Church history enthusiasts, and a Taylor Swift concert for Swiftie fans. I prayed.

In my prayer, I heard the same rebuke directed to me that Jesus spoke to the disciples frightened in a storm, “O you of little faith ... Why do you doubt?” (Matthew 14:31). Having read that passage dozens of times in both my personal prayer time and as teacher, it was as if Jesus spoke it to me personally. He also reminded me that grace builds upon nature and how would his grace increase if I tried to fix, control or look for a loophole. I surrendered.

I bought a plane ticket and was committed physically. The flight was flawless. The weather was perfect, and I was privileged to fly with a seasoned traveler and spiritual friend. My husband, children, and multiple prayer groups covered me spiritually in prayer. Fear one conquered. Grace received.

It was about two-thirds through NDDI that I surrendered my heart and intellect to the Lord. No more guarding, judging or comparing myself to others. Grace upon grace poured forth. Lessons came gently and easily through the Institute presenters, prayer, colleagues and at the nation’s Capital, the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and the USCCB.

Lesson 1 — “Christ leads. We accompany.” NFCYM Motto. This is liberating news for all of us perfectionists and people pleasers, there are very few things that we can actually fix. Like Christ on the road to Emmaus, we accompany people by listening to their stories, break

(Continued on page 14)

# Be Witnesses

*“Wake up the world!  
Be witnesses of  
a different way  
of doing things,  
of acting, of living!”*

— Pope Francis

## Religious Communities in the Diocese of Covington

Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg  
Monastery [www.stwalburg.org](http://www.stwalburg.org)

Brothers of the Poor of St. Francis  
[www.brothersofthepoorofstfrancis.org](http://www.brothersofthepoorofstfrancis.org)

Passionist Nuns  
[www.erlangerpassionists.com](http://www.erlangerpassionists.com)

Sisters of Divine Providence  
[www.cdpkentucky.org](http://www.cdpkentucky.org)

Sisters of Notre Dame  
[www.sndusa.org](http://www.sndusa.org)

Sisters of St. Joseph the Worker  
[www.ssjw.org](http://www.ssjw.org)

## Public and Private Associations

Franciscan Daughters of Mary  
[www.fdoofmary.org](http://www.fdoofmary.org)

Missionaries of St. John the Baptist  
[www.msjb.info](http://www.msjb.info)

## Thank you, Brothers!

**Karen Kuhlman**  
Correspondent

When young family members claim exhaustion in a bid for sympathy, their elders might paraphrase Winston Churchill: “Well, isn’t the work of the world done by tired people?” Those who have labored in the vineyard of the Diocese of Covington since its inception in 1853 would undoubtedly agree.

The impact that the priests of Catholic orders and the men and women of religious communities have had on our Commonwealth is evidenced in every corner of the diocese. Seeking only to serve God, they put themselves last on every list of things of importance.

Much of the good at work in our lives today results from the efforts of those disciples who labored to build the city of God on a foundation of God’s love. Working together, they set the cornerstone for our thriving society. International Religious Brothers Day is celebrated on May 1, feast of St. Joseph the Worker. This occasion allows us to learn about the role of Religious Brothers in our lives.

The Brothers of Mary opened the door to a future of unlimited opportunity for young men when they accepted the 1885 invitation of Bishop Camillus P. Maes to assist with the education of the young men of the diocese. The Brothers staffed St. Joseph Boys School on 12th Street in Covington and offered business courses in bookkeeping and accounting. In 1925, the Brothers agreed, at Bishop Francis Howard’s request, to open a high school for boys. In that inaugural year, the Brothers of Mary welcomed the first Covington Catholic High School students to classrooms at the Mother of God School on 6th Street in Covington. Today, the Brothers of Mary’s legacy is unmistakable at the Park Hills campus of Covington Catholic, where over 500 young men receive the education envisioned by Bishop Maes 139 years ago.

Another community of men religious, the Christian Brothers, were administrators and teachers at Newport Catholic High School beginning in 1964. Their association with the school ended in 1992 after 28 years when they could no longer fully staff it.

Our diocese is home to Brother William Anuszkiewicz, Brothers of the Poor of St. Francis (C.F.P.), where he lives locally in retirement. In prior years, Brother William taught in the boarding school operated by the Franciscans and the Burlington, Iowa, public school system. He enjoyed those experiences of teaching in parochial schools in Cincinnati and for the Hamilton County Penal System for 12 years in a literacy program for those incarcerated there.

As he reflected on his vocation, Brother William said, “Our founder, Brother John Phillip Hoover, was a master teacher who instilled in us the importance of always being prepared before

entering the classroom. My community has been outstanding in permitting our members to try new things.”

Another community of men religious, the Christian Brothers, were administrators and teachers at Newport Catholic High School beginning in 1964. Their association with the school ended in 1992 after 28 years when they could no longer fully staff it.



The Brothers of the Poor of St. Francis are pictured in this Messenger file photo, Feb. 2024, at the Mass celebrating World Day of Consecrated Life. Brother William Anuszkiewicz is pictured in the center and Brother Rock Larsen on the far right.

Brother Rock Larsen, C.F.P., explained that the Brothers of the Poor of Saint Francis, founded in Germany in 1850, arrived in America in the late 1800s.

Some of their establishments in Cincinnati were short-lived; the one that lasted the longest was Mount Alverno, in what is now Delhi. The school for boys was not a reform school but a home for boys who had problems with school or their parents and needed a strict schedule. Mount Alverno was in operation until the early 1970s. It closed because there weren’t as many students, and the brothers were getting older and ready to retire.

The Franciscans sponsored a boarding school in Arkansas from 1921 to 1993. Parents were not sending their children to boarding schools, and the aging brothers needed a break. The closing brought Brother Rock to Covington in 1993. It was a good fit for him as there were already brothers here. He taught at St. Mary of the Assumption in Alexandria until 2001, then at St. Therese in Southgate. Though he retired in 2013, he continued substitute teaching when needed.

There was a local friary until 2018, but many Brothers are deceased. Today, there are two Brothers in Covington and eight in Cincinnati, one in Arkansas, two in Iowa, and one in New Jersey. The Brothers gather once a year in Milford, Ohio.

Brother Rock said, “My vocation has meant a lot to me, especially after the closing of the boarding school in Arkansas. I enjoyed gathering recently with some of the other local brothers and all of the consecrated women religious of the Diocese for a nice liturgy and meal. Covington has been a very good experience. It is a nice-sized city, and I am kept busy as a volunteer, greeting visitors and giving tours of the Cathedral to seniors and school groups.”

Happy International Religious Brothers Day, May 1, to all the Brothers who have labored in the vineyard of the Diocese of Covington.

For more information about consecrated life in the Diocese of Covington, contact Sister Marla Monahan at [mmonahan@covdio.org](mailto:mmonahan@covdio.org) or (859) 392-1569.

# Diocesan high school students accepted to Governor’s Scholars programs this summer

**Maura Baker**  
Staff Writer

In 1983, Kentucky government leaders came up with a plan, rising from concern that Kentucky’s brightest youth were leaving the state to take their talents elsewhere, not realizing the potential of utilizing their talents within their home state. From this idea, the Governor’s Scholars Program was born as a three-week residential program

where high school students statewide could engage in a co-curricular community of peers, honing skills in leadership, civics and economics.

The Governor’s Scholars Program, alongside its sister programs, Governor’s School for the Arts and Governor’s School for Entrepreneurs, provide students with opportunities to grow academically, meet peers their age from

across Kentucky, and eventually earn scholarships to universities and colleges, both in the state of Kentucky and beyond.

This year, over 60 students from the diocese were accepted to participate in Governor’s Scholars (GSP), Governor’s School for the Arts (GSA) and Governor’s School for Entrepreneurs (GSE).

## 2024 Governor’s Scholars

### Bishop Brossart High School

GSP— Luka Bertsch, Ethan Haubner, Noah Koetting (alternate), Kaitlyn Kramer

GSA— Elly Clift

### Covington Catholic High School

GSP— Dillon Cain, Logan Johns, Sean Schierberg, Jacob Thomas, Tyler Turnpaugh, Dolan

### Whelan

GSA— Christian Pastura, Maxx Ruth, Andrew VonLehman

### Covington Latin High School

GSP— Matthew Bier, Elizabeth McWhinnie

GSE— Russel

Johnsonbaugh, Jack Rauf

### Holy Cross District High School

GSP— Joseph Coutinho, James Holtz, Isabella Lehmkuhl (alternate), William McElheney

GSA— Rya Crigger, Jocelyn Monson, Alexander Murray, Savannah Weibel

### Newport Central Catholic High School

GSP— Elena Potts, Madison Wolf

GSA— Genevieve Howard

### Notre Dame Academy

GSP— Ava Deegan, Hannan Dusing, Ashley Neltner, Julianne Shriver, Josephine Stallard, Emma White

GSA— Lillian Atzinger, Marisa Bloemer, Chloe Dunham, Abigail Fischer, Katherine Heuker, Olivia Koop, Abigail Price

GSE— Madeline Janszen, Katherine Heuker (alternate)

### St. Henry District High School

GSP— Jason Bish, Wendy Daniels, Nathan Francis, Grace Gulla, Stefany Nix, Claire Schild

GSA— Lucille Bolton, Magdalene Jump, Alexander Krueer, Sarah Littrell

### St. Patrick School

GSA— Ethan Klee

GSE— Karlee

Mellenkamp, Levi Ripato

### Villa Madonna Academy

GSP— Andres Elizalde Reyes, Isaac Stricker

# National Eucharistic Congress promises ‘profound impact’ for families, says family life director

INDIANAPOLIS — Catholics will come to Indianapolis in the tens of thousands for the National Eucharistic Congress July 17-21 — some as individuals, some as couples, some as groups. And some will come as families. “The church is a family of families,” said Gabriela Ross, director of the Indianapolis Archdiocese’s Office of Marriage and Family Life. “It just makes sense for them to be here for the congress!” Ross, who serves on the NEC planning team for the congress’s family track, said fami-

**The Diocese of Covington has tickets available** to purchase at the reduced price of \$200 each, which will be sold on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Contact Shannon Barnes in the Worship Office at [sbarnes@covdio.org](mailto:sbarnes@covdio.org) for more information.

**Tickets DO NOT cover** transportation, housing, or meals and are non-transferrable for any reason.

lies coming together to spend time focusing on the Eucharist is important. “This is such a unique moment in the life of the Church,” she said. “It really is an incredible

opportunity for families that will have a ripple effect. But it takes families to come to create those ripple effects when they go back to their communities and take their lived experience and witness to the faith.” Whether planning on attending the congress or not, there are ways for families to be involved and focused on the Eucharist ahead of time, said Ross. The National Eucharistic Revival website offers resources in English and Spanish for families and children of different ages at [eucharisticrevival.org/revival-resources](http://eucharisticrevival.org/revival-resources). Options include videos and activities on eucharistic saints, the Mass, small group discussions and more.

## ACUE donors luncheon

(Continued from page 2)

schools are concerned with forming saints — people living holiness of life and witness that into the world. Thank you so much for everyone who helps our schools, and especially our ACUE schools, to keep that mission alive, to keep that first purpose going and to help set young hearts and minds alive, like this, to give that witness to the world.”

In her opening remarks, Kendra McGuire, superintendent for Catholic Schools, welcomed and thanked ACUE donors for helping to provide tuition assistance for the nearly 500 students who attend the diocese’s five urban elementary schools — Holy Trinity School, Bellevue; Holy Cross School, Prince of Peace School and St. Augustine School, Covington and St. Anthony School, Taylor Mill.

“For families in the urban areas, finances often limit their educational options, but your support gives them an opportunity to choose a school where their child is provided a great education, where their child is welcomed, where their child is safe and where they are loved,” Mrs. McGuire said.

More than an excellent education, Mrs. McGuire said, ACUE schools provide for its students “a foundation in faith, which will hopefully lead them to a strong relationship with Jesus throughout their earthly lives and into eternal life with Him ... I pray that God continues to bless you for your kindness and your generosity.”

Following the luncheon, guests were invited on a student-led tour of the school.

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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.

**"A Biblical Walk Through the Mass" video presentation by Edward Sri** explores the extraordinary Biblical roots of the Liturgy and reveals what it all means and why it all matters. This fascinating tour of the Mass will renew your faith and deepen your love for and devotion to the Holy Eucharist. In the St. Barbara Parish Sterling Event Center, Erlanger, April 20, 11:30 a.m.–4 p.m. A light lunch will be served. Register at [stbarbarak.org](http://stbarbarak.org) click on Biblical Walk.

**First Friday Mass followed by a healing service**, May 3, St. Joseph Church, Crescent Springs, begins at 6:30 p.m. with music by the Sacred Heart Praise Band, Mass at 7 p.m. Sponsored by the Mustard Seed Catholic Charismatic Community of the Diocese of Covington. Call Carol at (859) 341-5932.

**Deacon Ministry information meeting** May 4, 9 a.m.–noon, Bishop Howard Memorial Hall, Covington. Men interested in discerning a call to Diaconal Ministry in the Diocese of Covington are invited attend an information session with the directors of the Deacon Formation Program. Wives are encouraged to attend. Reservations are requested. Contact: Deacon Brian Cox, [BCox@covdio.org](mailto:BCox@covdio.org), or Msgr. Gerald Reinersman, [GReinersman@covdio.org](mailto:GReinersman@covdio.org), (859) 392-1500.

Diocesan Catholic Children's Home, Ft. Mitchell, Foster Care/Adoption free **Open House**, May 5, 1:30–3:30 p.m. Learn more about the need for foster and adoptive parents, mentors and respite providers. There are many ways to support children. Visit [DCCHCenter.org](http://DCCHCenter.org) or call (859) 331-2040 but no registration is required.

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](mailto:mschnelle@sndusa.org). Item drop offs during the day at 1601 Dixie Hwy, Park Hills or arrange a pickup.

**Graduating seniors connect here** — the Newman Connection connects graduating seniors to the Catholic campus ministry at their chosen college before they get to campus. To connect, students or parents simply visit <https://signupnc.newmanministry.com/> and fill out the form.

**The Mustard Seed Catholic Charismatic Community of NKY sponsors a monthly Third Tuesday prayer gathering** 7-8:45 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament's Parish Center, Ft. Mitchell. Join us May 21 for praise & worship music, teaching, witnesses and healing prayers. Call Carol at (859) 341-5932.

**"An Evening of Catholic Culture" an art show** featuring the work of some of our region's most talented Catholic artists. Cocktails, live music, and dinner-by-the-bite will be provided. Keynote speaker is Father James Sullivan, O.P. and Holly Schapker is the first-ever Fra Angelico Award honoree. Cincinnati Club, Cincinnati, June 13, 6 p.m. Complimentary parking at Garfield Garage, 13 W 9th St. Register online at [angelicoproject.org](http://angelicoproject.org).

**Thomas More Summer Theatre Workshop**, July 8-19, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. This two-week long workshop is for students (grades 10-12) to explore and enhance their per-

forming arts skills in a fun and supportive environment. The workshop will provide a unique blend of acting, voice, movement, and stagecraft workshops. Participants have the chance to collaborate with their peers, build confidence, and create lasting memories. To register, visit <https://form.jotform.com/240565535346055>.

**Parents of Addicted Loved Ones, (PAL)** is a support group that meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 6:30–8 p.m. at Catholic Charities, Latonia. It provides continuing education and support, at no charge, for parents with a son, daughter or spouse suffering from addiction to alcohol or drugs. No cost. Just come — 3629 Church Street, Latonia. For more information contact Client Care at (859) 581-8974.

Donate a bike —Change a Life! **Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Covington started a new ministry, Pickett's Corner in 2023.** The new ministry distributes and repairs bicycles to those in need in the area. Most people receiving a bike use it for transportation to work, store or doctor appointments. Adult-size bikes need. E-mail [pickettscorner23@gmail.com](mailto:pickettscorner23@gmail.com) if you have a bike to donate. The volunteer team will pick it up.

**Bishop Brossart High School Theatre Summer Camp for students** in grades K-9, a one-week camp to learn about all aspects of theatre and put on a full production musical, "The Lion King." Call the school for information.



*Commitment to serve*

Using "tip money" from a parish event, 7th and 8th graders of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish Confirmation Group continue their service commitment by buying the staples and then making sandwiches and purchasing water for the Emergency Shelter of Northern KY. The bag lunches are in the background.



*Teacher for the day*

One of our popular silent auction items at St. Henry Catholic School's annual fundraiser is "teacher for the day." This year's "gym teacher for the day" winner kept this year's kindergarteners in line.

## We Choose Life



### Pro-Life Office

of the Diocese of Covington

#### Mission Statement

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

## St. Gianna Baretta Molla – Doctor, Mother and Pro-life Inspiration

Sue Kathman

Contributor

Gianna Beretta Molla was a physician, wife and mother of four children when she died at the age of 39 on April 28, 1962. She accomplished a lot in her few short years, but she accomplished even more in death with her canonization in May 2004. Hers was the last canonization performed by Pope John Paul II and the first attended by the spouse of the person being canonized. Her three living children were also present, as well as several of her siblings.

Gianna's journey to sainthood started as a young girl growing up in Italy. She was the tenth of 13 children, five of whom died in infancy from the Spanish flu, and the eldest from tuberculosis at the age of 18. Whereas many parents would have questioned God, the faith of Alberto and Maria Baretta never wavered.

This was consistent with and reinforced by their daily prac-

of men and women."

She had three children in the next three years, Pierluigi, Maria Zita and Laura. She dedicated herself to "forming a truly Christian family."

In 1961, she became pregnant with their fourth child. Almost immediately, doctors discovered a tumor in her uterus alongside the fetus. They gave her three choices: an abortion, which would end the life of the unborn child but save her life and allow her to continue to have children; a complete hysterectomy, which would preserve her life, but take the unborn child's life, and prevent further pregnancy; or removal of only the fibroma, which offered no promise of health for her but would save the life of her baby.

Catholic teaching affirms what medical science, the natural law and Christian tradition teach, that the child in the womb has a fundamental human right to life. Nevertheless, Gianna could have morally chosen the hysterectomy. Under the principle of "double effect," the child's death would not have been chosen for its own sake but rather, accepted as an unfortunate consequence of efforts to save the life of the mother.

Gianna didn't hesitate. She chose to have the kind of operation that would not endanger the life of her child. The tumor was removed.

With every pregnancy, Gianna had suffered from excessive vomiting and delayed, painful deliveries. Throughout the even more difficult fourth pregnancy, she dedicated herself to her family and her medical practice. She continually stressed to her doctors her wish: "If you must decide between me and the child, do not hesitate: choose the child. I insist on it. Save the baby."

In April 1962, Gianna's fourth child Gianna Emanuela, was born by caesarean section. Pietro recalled later: "I still see Gianna, on Easter morning in 1962, in the maternity ward of the Monza hospital, she took the child in her arms with great effort, she kissed her and looked at her with a sadness and an anguish that to me are the proof of her awareness that she would soon orphan her. From that day, her pain became constant."

A week later, Gianna passed away from septic peritonitis, likely incurred at delivery.

Soon the story of Gianna's sacrifice began to spread beyond the local area. A few months after her death the Province of Milan awarded her a posthumous medal for her professional commitment to the medical profession. Cardinal Giovanni Battista Montini, present at the ceremony, was moved by Gianna's story. Later, when he was named Pope Paul VI, he began the canonization process.

Two years after their mother's death, Gianna's second child Maria Zita, died from kidney disease. Gianna's beloved husband, Pietro, died in 2010 at the age of 98.

Today, Pierluigi, Laura and Gianna Emanuela are continually called upon to share their testimony. They describe their mother as a woman who loved the good things of life — skiing and climbing, music, playing the piano and the accordion, painting, attending concerts. She liked to dress well, and she drove a motorcycle and car. Though she had small children, she didn't give up her profession. She lived life to the fullest.

Gianna Emanuela, who's also a doctor and a mother, dedicates herself full-time to spreading Gianna's message of commitment to life, family and the medical field and her sacrifice on behalf of the life of her child.

St. Gianna's intercession is responsible for two miracles officially recognized by the Church, both of which occurred in Brazil and are linked to "impossible" pregnancies that had a happy ending.

How fitting it is that Gianna is the patron saint of wives, families, doctors and unborn children. Her feast day is celebrated on April 28.



Photograph taken in 1946, on the occasion of Father Giuseppe's ordination to the priesthood. From left: Enrico (future Father Alberto), Gianna, Ferdinando, Father Giuseppe, Virginia, Francesco and Zita

### Prayer to St. Gianna for Health Care Professionals

Dear St. Gianna, you who knew that Christ Himself was present in each of your patients, and who chose medicine as a way to serve Him, we entrust to you the health care professionals of our times.

We ask you to take into your care in a special way those who do not know Christ, beseeching the Holy Spirit to fill their hearts with love since God is Love. We ask you to comfort those who are Christians. Keep their eyes focused on their Divine Savior, and never let them forget that He is present before them and through them.

You who knew so well the challenges of combining your work with your family life, take care of the families of our doctors, nurses and health care workers. Help them to know that in their generosity, they too are serving God.

Intercede for the health care workers who are sick in body or in spirit, overwhelmed by the high price their bodies and their spirits must pay in order to assist others.

Ask God to bring the souls of the health care professionals who have died into the mercy of his loving embrace.

St. Gianna Molla, pray for them and pray for us.

Amen.

tices. Alberto rose at 5 a.m. to serve the 5:30 a.m. Mass every morning. Maria fixed breakfast for Alberto after Mass and then took the children to 7 a.m. Mass. In the evenings the family gathered to pray the rosary.

Their deep faith greatly influenced their children. Giuseppe, an engineer, became a diocesan priest. Virginia, a doctor, became a nun and missionary to India. Enrico, also a doctor, became a priest, taking the name Father Alberto. He spent his life faithfully serving the poor and died in 2001 after more than 50 years as a priest. He spent 33 of those years as a missionary and doctor in Brazil. He was declared venerable by the Church this past December.

Gianna was a diligent medical student earning degrees in medicine, surgery and pediatrics. She considered the field of medicine to be her mission in life. In addition, she was active in the St. Vincent de Paul Society and Catholic Action, a movement dedicated to spreading and living the social teachings of the Church. Today, both of these groups still carry out their missions throughout the world. Her dream to join her brother Father Alberto in Brazil to provide medical services to the poor, especially gynecological care for women, was thwarted by her unstable health.

She chose instead to help mothers, babies and the poor in her own community and decided that her vocation was marriage. She soon met Pietro Molla, an engineer. She was 32 years old, and he was 42. They married in September 1955. He travelled often for his work, and her letters to him show that she was very much in love with him. Before their marriage, she wrote to Pietro, "Love is the most beautiful sentiment that the Lord has put into the soul

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

# Faith, hope, love are antidote to pride, pope says at audience

Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

While the virtues of prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance are the marks of a righteous individual, the virtues of faith, hope and love emphasize a connection to other people fueled by belief in God and reliance on prayer, Pope Francis said.

“The Christian is never alone. He or she does good not because of a titanic effort of personal commitment, but because, as a humble disciple, he or she walks behind the master Jesus,” the pope said April 24 at his weekly general audience.

Bundled up in a coat on a chilly spring morning, Pope Francis continued his audience talks about virtue, distinguishing between the “cardinal” — meaning “hinge” — virtues of prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance, which are essential for living a righteous life, and the “theological” or New Testament virtues of faith, hope and charity.

The cardinal virtues were espoused and promoted by ancient philosophers well before the development of Christianity, the pope said. “Honesty was preached as a civic duty, wisdom as the rule for actions, courage as the fundamental ingredient for a life that tends toward the good and moderation as the necessary measure not to be overwhelmed by excesses.”

Christianity, he said, did not replace that ethical heritage, but “enhanced, purified, and integrated” it with the teachings of Jesus about faith, hope and love.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, the pope noted, says the three theological virtues “are the foundation of Christian moral activity; they animate it and give it its special character. They inform and give life to all the moral virtues.”

Those virtues, he said, also are “the great antidote to self-sufficiency” and prevent a good person from falling into pride.

“Pride is a poison; it is a powerful poison: one drop of it is enough to spoil an entire life marked by goodness,” the pope said.

If people perform good works only “to exalt themselves, can they still call themselves virtuous? No,” he said.

“Goodness is not only an end, but also a way. Goodness needs a lot of discretion, a lot of kindness,” the pope said. “Above all, goodness needs to be stripped of that sometimes too unwieldy presence that is our self.”

Greeting Polish pilgrims, Pope Francis noted that April 27 is the 10th anniversary of the canonization of St. John Paul II. “Looking at his life, we can see what man can achieve by accepting and developing within himself the gifts of God: faith, hope and charity.”

Amid an ongoing debate about liberalizing the nation’s



Pope Francis greets visitors at the end of his weekly general audience in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican April 24, 2024. CNS photo/Lola Gomez

abortion laws, Pope Francis asked Polish Catholics to “remain faithful to his legacy. Promote life and do not be deceived by the culture of death.”

Expressing his ongoing concern about wars in Ukraine,

the Middle East and Myanmar, Pope Francis encouraged people to ask, through the intercession of St. John Paul, “for the gift of peace to which he, as pope, was so committed.”

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# Local women religious lead Day of Service

**Bella Young**  
*Multimedia Correspondent*

The Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery, Sisters of Divine Providence, Sisters of Notre Dame and other volunteers took to the community for a day of service. More than 50 volunteers went to seven different locations across Northern Kentucky, looking to fulfill the theme of “being the Eucharist.”

The mission and ministry of Brighton Center, Two River Apartments, Newport, is to “create opportunities for individuals and families to reach self-sufficiency through family support services, education, employment and leadership,” said Notre Dame Sister Ruth Lubbers. The Newport location of the Brighton Center is specifically run for senior citizens. The five volunteers that served there played bingo and provided company for the residents. One returning volunteer said that it was a wonderful opportunity to engage and see Christ in others.

The DAV, Disabled Veterans of America, Erlanger, “help people who have been in service make the transition from service to civilian life,” said Sister Ruth. The seven volunteers at the DAV made paper flowers. “We were sent to assemble these flowers; it was a wonderful time.” According to the DAV website they, “advocate for those men and women who defend the American way of life.”

At the DCCH Center for Children and Family, Ft. Mitchell, Sister Ruth said, “Their services include residential treatment, foster care, adoption, independent living, targeted case management, therapy and counseling services.”

To help DCCH and their constituents, the five volunteers focused on the beautification of the building and landscape. The volunteers painted and gardened so that those who work and live at DCCH can enjoy their surroundings.

Those that went to the Emergency Shelter of Northern Kentucky, Covington, were tasked with disinfecting the

dormitories and making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. In regard to the services they offer, Sister Ruth said, “They want to provide lifesaving and life changing low barrier shelter and services for the adults in our community. They believe that homelessness is an emergency, and that shelter is a basic necessity and is provided so human beings have the ability to recover from homelessness.”

Holy Spirit Parish Outreach and Garden, Newport, “believes that Jesus came to reveal the fulness of God’s love for us and they continue to celebrate that love through praise, sacraments, service and community,” said Sister Ruth.

Part of its ministry is a food pantry and with their new location they are able to have a community garden as well. The volunteers at this location split up to help organize the pantry inside and do gardening outside.

Once the work was completed, volunteers returned to Mother of God Church, Covington, for reflection. A volunteer shared about their experience, “We were impressed by the person who ran it and one of the regular volunteers ... just how they treated the people that came in, how committed they were to doing this.”

At HONK, Housing Opportunities of Northern Kentucky, Latonia, Sister Ruth said, “They have been around since 1991 ... trying to provide affordable housing for lower income families. They can become homeowners ... they help them become mortgage ready, so they are able to be

homeowners.”

The volunteers that went to the house in Latonia did some gardening. One of the volunteers reflected, “It was like a jungle when we got there ... it was looking good by the time we were done for the day.”

There was also a group of volunteers at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Erlanger. “They have been around for 100 years. Doing a wide variety of things to provide for people by food, clothing, and money for utilities,” Sister Ruth said.

The volunteers at St. Vincent de Paul helped organize clothes on the shelves and made sure they were correctly labeled.

With a gathering afterward at Mother of God Parish, Covington, it gave everyone a chance to reflect on the work they did, the lives they touched and the good they spread. With plates full of pizza and hearts full of love the general consensus appeared to be that being Eucharist for others is



(top right) Volunteers socialize over a game of bingo with the residents of Brighton Center, Two Rivers Apartments, Newport.

(above left) Volunteers work in the garden at Holy Spirit Parish Outreach and Garden, Newport.

(above right) Sisters of Notre Dame Maria Francine Stacy and Anita Marie Stacy make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches at the Emergency Shelter of Northern Kentucky, Covington.



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# Showing the Host: An invitation and a gift

Father Luke Spannagel  
USCCB

“Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.” After his genuflection to Our Lord really present in the Most Holy Eucharist, the priest raises the chalice with the host and proclaims these words of St. John the Baptist (Jn 1:29). This part of the Mass is called the “Showing of the Host.”

The current *General*

and the Bride represents us, the Church, whom Jesus is coming to wed... When you hear those words at Mass, do you realize that you are receiving a wedding invitation? You are being called to participate in the marriage feast of Jesus and his Church” (*A Biblical Walk Through the Mass*, pp. 138, 140).

We are so blessed by his invitation and the gift of Jesus himself. What do we do now? The only right thing to do is to be honest with the Lord about his generosity and recognize that without his grace and mercy, we could never be worthy of such a gift. Thankfully for us, the words of the centurion from the Gospel (see Matt 8:8) summarize well what our response should be. After the showing and



*Instruction of the Roman Missal* includes a paragraph on this part of the Mass: “Then the Priest shows the faithful the Eucharistic Bread, holding it over the paten or over the chalice, and invites them to the banquet of Christ; and along with the faithful, he then makes an act of humility, using the prescribed words from the Gospels” (GIRM, 84). There is really a communication going on here. Like St. John the Baptist, the priest is proclaiming the presence of the Lord Jesus and pointing him out so that everyone may know he is with us. Then the priest extends an invitation to those who are able to partake in this special gift, the Holy Eucharist.

“Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.” As Edward Sri indicates, “these words are taken from a climactic moment in the book of Revelation and indeed, the entire Bible (Rv 19:9).” The scene is set as the great multitude in heaven is singing together the Lord’s praises. Sri continues, “And the angel instructs John to write: ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb’ (Rev 19:9). What is the festive supper of the Lamb? It is the Lord’s Supper, the Eucharist. First of all, the supper and the Lamb bring to mind the Passover supper in which Jews would sacrifice a lamb and eat of it as the main course of the meal... But this passage tells us something even more dramatic. In Revelation 19:6-9, the Lamb is revealed to be a bridegroom! And that means this Passover supper is a wedding feast. The Bridegroom-Lamb is Jesus,

“Lamb of God,” the priest and the people respond, “Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.”

As the Diocese of Peoria teaches, “We respond to this invitation of the priest to receive the Lord Jesus in the Holy Eucharist with humility. Like the centurion servant who recognized himself unworthy to have the Lord ‘under his roof’ to heal his child, it calls to mind our humility—and the Lord’s divine majesty that He can do this work despite our weaknesses” (*A Study of the Mass*, p. 19). As Edward Sri notes, these words of the centurion are also a prayer that “expresses a great faith that surpasses many others in the gospels and amazes even Jesus: he believes Jesus can heal from afar, simply by speaking his word... Jesus praises this man for his faith. Just like the centurion, we recognize our unworthiness to have Jesus come under the ‘roof’ of our souls in holy communion. Yet just as the centurion believed Jesus was able to heal his servant, so do we trust that Jesus can heal us as he becomes the most intimate guest of our soul in the Eucharist” (*A Biblical Walk Through the Mass*, p. 142).

The Diocese of Peoria reminds us: “it is for this reason that Jesus came into the world, as ‘people who are well do not need doctors, sick people do!’ ‘I have come to seek out those who are lost!’ In the Holy Eucharist, Jesus seeks us out! He comes to our doors and He knocks. Our reception of Communion is an opportunity to allow Him into our

# My trip to Washington

(Continued from page 5)

bread, and share stories about Christ, then pray to have eyes to see and ears to hear truth.

Lesson 2 — “Unity. Support. Action.” USCCB goals. The United States Bishops are networked and organized with a staff of highly trained and prayerful individuals who seek to foster unity and communion in prayer, support local dioceses, and work together on national issues. Like Jesus, and the Pope, their role is to serve and not be served. I met directors of various offices, and in the style of the USCCB, youth ministers advocated on behalf of the needs of the youth their diocese. Our voices were heard, we were valued and seen.

Lesson 3 — “Listen. Teach. Send.” The proposed, National Pastoral Framework for Ministry with Youth and Youth Adults, to be voted on in June by the Bishops. This work is based on Pope Francis’ post-synodal apostolic exhortation on youth, *Christ is Alive!* This will mark the third framework document for Catholic Youth Ministry. I am looking forward to the wisdom, relevance, and guidance that it will offer.

Lesson 4 — “You are loved.” “You are not alone.” “You matter.” — The opening words Christina Llamas, Executive Director of the National Federation of Youth Ministry presentation to youth ministers.

The words of the last lesson were the same words spoken to me by a guest who requested to meet with me the first week I started my job at the Curia. Reading from a note scrawled on scrap paper, my visitor was intent, “Please do everything you can to make sure that teenagers know that we (the Church) see them, hear them and value them — let them know they matter, they are not alone, they are loved.”

I did not fully absorb the depth of those words when I heard them in my young life, early ministry, or even 10 months ago. However, my takeaway from my trip to Washington and the USCCB is that I am seen, known and valued by God. This is not my ministry. I cannot fix most problems. I cannot earn God’s love. I am his beloved child. I am more than enough. And so are you. And so are the teenagers and adults who live in your home and community.

Listen. Walk. Accompany. Support. Teach. Serve. Christ leads! Be not afraid! Let your guard down and let us walk (or fly) together with Christ, for together we thrive!

Angie Poat is youth minister for the Diocese of Covington, Ky.

hearts...” (*A Study of the Mass*, p. 19).

The Lord Jesus, of course, knows our failings. That he wants us anyway is what makes his love so powerful and so amazing. That he would offer his very Body to us is even more amazing. It is natural for us to desire to repay a kindness, but what do we do when the kindness is the greatest gift in the history of the world? Thankfully, the rest of the Mass will help us to know what to do!

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# Thomas More honors three community members at 26th annual Bishop William A. Hughes Award dinner

**Staff report**

Honorees of this year's Bishop William A. Hughes Award included Robert M. Hoffer, managing partner for DBL Law; Bob Sathe, chairman of MCF Advisors; and Coach Jim Connor ('50), former director of athletics, baseball coach and men's basketball coach for Thomas More, who was honored posthumously.

The event, now in its 26th year, is hosted by Thomas More University and held at Drees Pavilion, Covington.

Robert Hoffer received the Bishop William A. Hughes

Award. The award has been bestowed annually since 1996 to honor those who have made significant contributions to Catholic higher education. Mr. Hoffer was recognized for his involvement with and fundraising for many local Catholic institutions and schools, including Notre Dame Academy, Covington Catholic High School, Diocesan Catholic Children's Home (DCCH), St. Elizabeth Foundation, Carmel Manor, Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, and various ministries of the Diocese of Covington. Additionally, Mr. Hoffer has shared his time and talents volunteering for various organizations serving the community, including Housing Opportunities of Northern Kentucky (HONK), the Kenton County Airport Board, American Heart Association, and Covington Cursillo.

Bob Sathe received the St. Thomas More Medallion, the University's highest non-academic service award for extraordinary service to the University and to communities which it serves. Mr. Sathe has led many fundraising efforts, in addition to serving as a trustee at Thomas More University and as a member of the executive committee of the Wm. T. (Bill) Robinson III '67 Institute for Religious Liberty.

Notably, Mr. Sathe currently serves as co-chair for Thomas More University's Second Century Campaign — It's time for More, which recently surpassed \$37.5 million in support. Mr. Sathe has played a role on many boards throughout the region including Playhouse in the Park, Carnegie Arts Center, Cincinnati Ballet, Fine Arts Institute, Metropolitan Club,

Coldstream Country Club, Cancer Family Care, Boy Scouts, Red Cross, and Bethesda Hospitals.

Coach Jim Connor ('50) was posthumously honored with the Dr. Raymond G. Hebert Distinguished Service Award, which recognizes those who have made a significant contribution within the University.


Known for his dedication, fairness and gentlemanly demeanor, Coach Connor returned to his alma mater from 1978-1990 to serve as athletic director, also coaching baseball and men's basketball. In addition to Thomas More, Coach Connor coached at Newport Catholic High School, Boone County High School, and Bellarmine College. His Thomas More career basketball record stands at 133-235.

Notably, he was named NAIA District 32 Coach of the Year in 1981 and inducted into the Bellarmine College Sports Hall of Fame, and the Northern Kentucky Athletic Directors' Hall of Fame. Together with the Thomas More Boosters, he spearheaded the construction of the Connor Convocation Center. He is widely regarded for his legacy of sportsmanship and dedication to athletic excellence. The Dr. Raymond G. Hebert Distinguished Service Award was accepted by Coach Connor's family, including his son Terry Connor '92, who currently serves as vice president and director of athletics for Thomas More University.

In recognition of the impact Coach Connor had on the lives of many student athletes, President Chillo announced plans for the University to commission a statue of Jim Connor, to be placed outside the Connor Convocation Center.




(above) Thomas More University President Joe Chillo (left) and Board of Trustees chair, Dr. Judith Marlowe ('69) (right) present Bob Hoffer (center) with the 2024 Bishop William A. Hughes Award, April 17. The award recognizes those who have made significant contributions to Catholic higher education.



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# Curia director's winning screenplay shares Catholic story of peaceful resistance

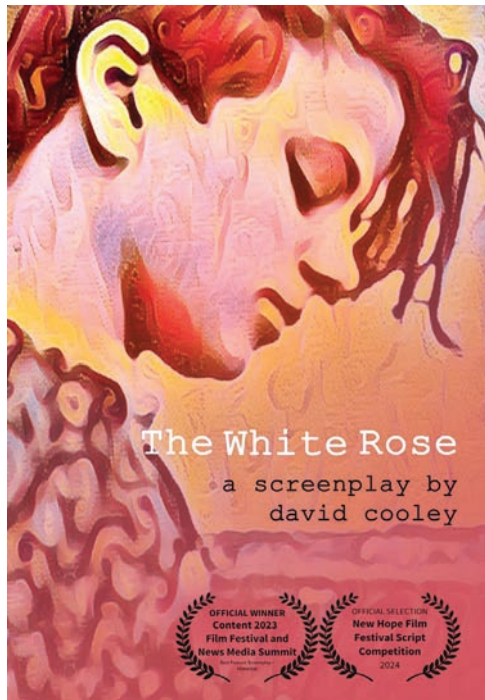
Bella Young

Multimedia Correspondent

David Cooley, co-director for the Office of Catechesis and Evangelization, has served the Diocese of Covington for the past 11 years. Recently however, he took to New Hope, Pennsylvania, where his latest project won Best Screenplay. While winning is an impressive feat in and of itself, it was the story Mr. Cooley said, that made it all that more impressive, "It won because of the story I told."

Mr. Cooley told the story of Sophie Scholl and her activist group, The White Rose. This activist group actively distributed anti-Nazi propaganda in the form of written leaflets, during the height of the Nazi regime. Through the distribution of these pamphlets, The White Rose practiced what Mr. Cooley called a "peaceful resistance." What truly woke Sophie Scholl up to the evils of the Nazis was the Catholic Church.

"Part of this group, especially Sophie, part of their awakening to what was really going on was the Catholic Archbishop of Munster, Clemens August Graf Von Galen. Sophie and her brother Hans read



some of what he said. This then inspired Sophie to read the works of St. Augustine, and she was very influenced by his thought. She would quote St. Augustine in her leaflets," Mr. Cooley said.

Mr. Cooley also said it is not lost on him how remarkable it is that a screenplay with such a heavy religious influence won top prize at a secular film festival.

"Having faith in general can be mocked and this story shows that religion and our faith do have an important purpose, it influences the way people think," he said.

Mr. Cooley said that while he does not have delusions of grandeur when thinking about what is next for his screenplay, he does hope that he is able to share The White Rose's story.

"I am going to network and try to meet some directors and producers. I do hope that people become more aware of them and their story," Mr. Cooley said. "It isn't really about me, it was a story that needed to be told."

# Seminarian soon ordained

(Continued from page 1)

walking with God."

"It's been a journey," he said, "A long journey to get to the point of where I felt like now is the right time."

"It's been God's grace and mercy. Times of accepting God's grace and times of resisting God's grace ... a windy, windy journey."

When faced with challenges on his path to ordination, Mr. Heskamp said that it was trust in God that helped him to overcome.

"I really trust that God is going to accompany me through my vocation," he said, "in all of my success, but also, more importantly, in all of my failures and sinfulness and brokenness."

As his interview with the *Messenger* concluded, Mr. Heskamp expressed his gratitude to the Diocese of Covington, and its people, "for all their prayers and support."

"It means a lot to me that they're supporting me in this vocation," he said, saying that he hoped to see them present at his ordination, and hoped to "minister to them in the future."

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**A better world can't be built 'lying on the couch,' pope tells children**

VATICAN CITY — Peace can spread and grow from “small seeds” like including someone who is left out of an activity, showing concern for someone who is struggling, picking up some litter and praying for God’s help, Pope Francis told Italian schoolchildren. “At a time still marked by war, I ask you to be artisans of peace,” the pope told some 6,000 Italian schoolchildren involved in the National Network of Schools of Peace, a civic education program designed to teach the children to care for themselves, their friends, their communities, the world and the environment. During the gathering April 19 in the Vatican audience hall, Pope Francis led the children in a moment of silent prayer for their peers in Ukraine and in Gaza. “In a society still prisoner of a throwaway culture,” he told them, “I ask you to be protagonists of inclusion; in a world torn by global crises, I ask you to be builders of the future, so that our common home may become a place of fraternity.”

**Human rights advocate: Dictatorship profanes Nicaraguan churches**

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — Authorities in the city of León, Nicaragua, chose an unusual place for setting up a boxing ring and staging prize fights: the courtyard of the local cathedral. They even scheduled the matches for April 19 — just as Bishop René Sándigo of León was celebrating his birthday. “The boxing ring was a dismal gift that the dictatorship sent to Monsignor René Sándigo on his birthday. The dictators didn’t even respect that. Criminal, vulgar and temple-profane dictatorship,” Martha Patrica Molina, a Nicaraguan lawyer who documents hostilities against the Catholic Church, posted on X April 20. “The Sandinista dictatorship orders the mayors’ offices to use the atriums of parishes to carry out pagan activities and thus desecrate churches,” she said in another April 20 post. “Masses have had to be suspended in some churches” due to noise, Molina said. The staging of spectacles outside of places of worship escalates the repression against Catholics in Nicaragua, where regime of President Daniel Ortega and his wife, Vice President Rosario Murillo, have branded priests and bishops as “terrorists” and “coup mongers,” while curtailing public demonstrations of faith — such as processions and patron saint celebrations.

**Brazil’s bishops alarmed over growing number of land disputes under Lula’s government**

SÃO PAULO — The number of conflicts over land, water or forest territories has grown in Brazil in 2023, attaining 2,203 cases and impacting more than 950,000 people, according to the bishops’ conference’s Land Pastoral Commission. Those have been the highest figures in the history of the report produced every year since 1985 by the commission, known by the Portuguese acronym CPT. In 2022, the commission identified 2,050 conflicts, with 923,000 people affected by them. President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva pledged during the presidential campaign in 2022 that he would ensure Indigenous peoples’ rights and support landless workers. But his tenure’s first year has been disappointing for many, including for CPT agents. “The current administration has been open to dialogue with us and

has taken important measures, like removing many invaders from the Yanomami territory last year. But it’s not enough, it’s not what we expected,” Ronilson Costa, one of the CPT’s coordinators, told OSV News. Indigenous people are at the top of the list of victims of violence related to land disputes, the report said. The Yanomami are the largest relatively isolated tribe in South America. They live in the rainforests and mountains of northern Brazil and southern Venezuela. Costa said that grileiros keep stealing public lands and the government has been failing to act.

**Pope clears way for canonization of Oblates of the Holy Spirit founder**

VATICAN CITY — As doctors were preparing to certify the brain death of a Brazilian man in 2010, members of a local Catholic charismatic prayer group began to pray for a miracle. Pope Francis recognized the healing of the man, “Paulo G.,” in Uberlandia, Brazil, as the miracle needed for the canonization of Blessed Elena Guerra, an Italian nun who founded the Oblates of the Holy Spirit. The pope signed the decree April 13, but the Vatican has not announced a date for the canonization of the nun who, in 1959, was the first person beatified by St. John XXIII. The Dicastery for the Causes of Saints posts brief biographies and descriptions of recognized miracles on its website. For beatification, the Vatican requires either proof that the candidate was a martyr or a miracle attributed to the candidate’s intercession with God. Another miracle is required for canonization. Pope Francis also recognized the martyrdom of a priest and a layman killed in 1936 during the Spanish Civil War, clearing the way for their beatification. Father Gaetano Clausellas Ballvé spent 20 years caring for residents in a home for the elderly. Antonio Tort Reixachs was married and the father of 11 children; he was arrested and shot for hiding priests and religious in his home.

**Haiti violence, lawlessness forces longtime U.S. missionary priest to evacuate**

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — As Haiti’s capital spirals into lawlessness, a longtime U.S. missionary has been forced to evacuate — while Haitian Catholics in the U.S. are doubling down on prayer for their troubled homeland. Father Thomas Hagan, an Oblate of St. Francis de Sales, returned to the U.S. in mid-April after some three decades of ministering in Port-au-Prince through Hands Together, the nonprofit he founded in 1986 to provide educational, pastoral and humanitarian development to Haiti’s largest and poorest slum, Cité Soleil. News of Father Hagan’s departure was announced in an April 18 post to

the ministry’s Facebook page. “Haiti continues to rage in chaos and violence,” wrote Hands Together executive director Doug Campbell in the post. “After several weeks in that environment, we knew it was time (for Father Hagan) to leave.” Gang warfare has rendered Port-au-Prince “a city under siege,” said International Organization for Migration chief in Haiti Philippe Branchat. In Philadelphia, more than 200 Haitian Catholics from that city as well as New York and New Jersey gathered April 20 for 12 hours of prayer and intercession for peace in Haiti. Father Eugène Almonor, an Oblate of Mary Immaculate and chaplain of the Haitian Catholic Community of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, said the situation in Haiti — where his parents still live — is untenable. “We cannot continue (like this),” said Father Almonor.

**‘Power of prayer’ behind passage of U.S. aid to Ukraine bill**

PHILADELPHIA — Ukrainian Catholics in the U.S. are breathing a sigh of relief and prayers of gratitude, after a bill for aid to Ukraine cleared the House of Representatives following months of delay, political infighting and even openly anti-Ukrainian sentiment among some lawmakers. On April 20, the House approved \$61 billion in aid for Ukraine, part of a \$95 billion foreign aid package that includes Israel, Gaza, Taiwan and other U.S. allies in the Indo-Pacific region. “Ukrainians are very grateful to people of goodwill in the global community, and in a special way to Americans who are in solidarity with (Ukrainians’) valiant struggle for God-given dignity,” Metropolitan Archbishop Borys A. Gudziak of the Archeparchy of Philadelphia, head of Ukrainian Catholics in the U.S., told OSV News. “They’re also very grateful to American Catholics, most of whom not only understand, but pray and help.” Archbishop Gudziak said “anything that keeps Russia from advancing in Ukraine is to be welcomed,” since such support represents “a defense of life, liberty, and our freedom of conscience.” Those freedoms have come under intense persecution in areas of Ukraine occupied by Russian forces, whose attacks continue aggression launched in 2014 with the illegal annexation of Crimea and the fomenting of separatist factions in Ukraine’s Donetsk and Luhansk regions. With Russian forces persecuting believers of nearly all faiths in occupied areas of Ukraine, “many people are just coming to a fuller understanding of the realities on the ground,” said the archbishop. The passage of the bill represents “our prayers being answered,” said Eugene Luciw, president of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America’s Philadelphia chapter and a member of Presentation of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Church in Lansdale, Pennsylvania. “It started off with a very stark scenario. ... How can we account for this without the power of prayer?”



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All Saints Parish	32	\$58,800	\$19,340.00	(\$39,460.00)
Blessed Sacrament Parish	168	\$158,600	\$132,204.00	(\$26,396.00)
Cristo Rey Parish	8	\$55,000	\$5,450.00	(\$49,550.00)
Divine Mercy Parish	40	\$39,600	\$13,269.00	(\$26,331.00)
Holy Cross Parish	72	\$19,800	\$40,038.00	\$20,238.00
Holy Redeemer Parish	7	\$2,800	\$1,950.00	(\$850.00)
Holy Spirit Parish	68	\$38,800	\$34,735.00	(\$4,065.00)
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish	108	\$134,900	\$87,005.00	(\$47,895.00)
Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish	136	\$74,400	\$116,822.69	\$42,422.69
Mother of God Parish	63	\$58,600	\$52,910.00	(\$5,690.00)
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish	3	\$44,000	\$625.00	(\$43,375.00)
Our Savior Parish	11	\$3,600	\$3,780.00	\$180.00
St. Agnes Parish	156	\$140,700	\$128,844.38	(\$11,855.62)
St. Ann Mission	11	\$8,800	\$3,865.00	(\$4,935.00)
St. Anthony Parish	20	\$16,800	\$17,750.00	\$950.00
St. Augustine Parish, Augusta	51	\$29,800	\$25,420.00	(\$4,380.00)
St. Augustine Parish, Covington	35	\$25,300	\$58,035.00	\$32,735.00
St. Barbara Parish	151	\$104,300	\$107,277.38	\$2,977.38
St. Benedict Parish	28	\$23,200	\$20,570.00	(\$2,630.00)
St. Bernard Parish	12	\$19,000	\$10,690.00	(\$8,310.00)
St. Catherine of Siena Parish	90	\$71,000	\$44,804.00	(\$26,196.00)
St. Cecilia Parish	109	\$74,100	\$49,993.00	(\$24,107.00)
St. Charles of Borromeo Parish	6	\$11,800	\$4,690.00	(\$7,110.00)
St. Edward Mission, Owenton	4	\$3,400	\$1,200.00	(\$2,200.00)
St. Edward Parish, Cynthiana	26	\$15,200	\$12,875.00	(\$2,325.00)
St. Francis Xavier Parish	31	\$19,500	\$13,930.00	(\$5,570.00)
St. Henry Parish	116	\$58,700	\$80,260.00	\$21,560.00
St. James Mission, Minerva	12	\$4,700	\$2,435.00	(\$2,265.00)
St. James Parish, Brooksville	5	\$13,100	\$10,550.00	(\$2,550.00)
St. John Mission, Dividing Ridge	6	\$3,800	\$1,850.00	(\$1,950.00)
St. John the Baptist Parish, Wilder	4	\$3,000	\$2,770.00	(\$230.00)
St. John the Evangelist Parish, Carrollton	9	\$27,300	\$20,400.00	(\$6,900.00)
St. John the Evangelist Parish, Covington	41	\$23,500	\$27,570.21	\$4,070.21
St. Joseph Parish, Camp Springs	44	\$51,800	\$35,465.00	(\$16,335.00)
St. Joseph Parish, Cold Spring	236	\$82,600	\$99,116.90	\$16,516.90
St. Joseph Parish, Crescent Springs	146	\$160,100	\$114,094.26	(\$46,005.74)
St. Joseph Parish, Warsaw	12	\$8,400	\$2,750.00	(\$5,650.00)
St. Mary of the Assumption Parish	278	\$132,000	\$110,788.81	(\$21,211.19)
St. Matthew Parish	3	\$13,000	\$2,115.00	(\$10,885.00)
St. Patrick Parish, Maysville	70	\$55,300	\$48,920.00	(\$6,380.00)
St. Patrick Parish, Taylor Mill	96	\$59,100	\$46,411.77	(\$12,688.23)
St. Paul Parish	107	\$108,200	\$98,379.31	(\$9,820.69)
St. Philip Parish	50	\$14,200	\$24,370.40	\$10,170.40
St. Pius X Parish	235	\$207,500	\$179,163.00	(\$28,337.00)
St. Rose of Lima Parish	11	\$10,000	\$5,830.00	(\$4,170.00)
St. Therese Parish	61	\$23,600	\$46,630.00	\$23,030.00
St. Thomas Parish	181	\$101,800	\$94,848.11	(\$6,951.89)
St. Timothy Parish	222	\$173,300	\$173,235.00	(\$65.00)
St. William Parish	26	\$22,900	\$19,055.00	(\$3,845.00)
Sts. Boniface & James Parish	19	\$14,300	\$14,785.00	\$485.00
Sts. Peter & Paul Parish	13	\$27,600	\$4,320.00	(\$23,280.00)
Transfiguration Mission	1	\$2,600	\$25.00	(\$2,575.00)
Friends	11	\$	\$14,300.00	\$14,300.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3,551</b>	<b>\$2,700,000</b>	<b>\$2,403,463.86</b>	<b>\$(296,536.14)</b>

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