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Baker photos

(above left) Carrying the monstrance, Bishop Iffert walks in the procession.



(above right) Religious and lay people walk together during the procession around the Cathedral.

Solemnity of Corpus Christi kick-offs the Campaign of Mercy — calls to mind the connection between Christ's sacrifice in the Eucharist and our sacrifice to others

Maura Baker
Staff Writer

The Solemnity of Corpus Christi was celebrated, June 2, at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, beginning with prayers and a Eucharistic Procession. After being rained out and held inside last year, this year's procession was able to process around the outer perimeter of the Cathedral — singing hymns as passers-by in cars leaned out of their cars to take photos of the event.

Coinciding with the solemnity this year was the beginning of the diocesan-wide Campaign of Mercy, encouraging participation in Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. (See related story on page #.)

During his homily, Bishop Iffert recalled a service project he attended around 2007 to Haiti, with a group of students from Purdue University.

He told the congregation how, during this trip, the group stopped and visited a hospital for children and young people with "severe disabilities."

"We stopped there to visit and play with the children," he said, "and I still remember one young person in particular. His name was Peterson."

Peterson was a child with severe hydrocephaly, with brittle bones whose head was as large as the rest of his body. According to Bishop Iffert, Peterson spent most of his life in bed or being pushed around in a wagon because he could not support the weight of his head.

"Many of the young people who traveled with us came by and said hello to Peterson," Bishop Iffert explained, "and then moved on to go out and play with some of the other children who were there. But Isabelle, who had a grand spirit, stayed with Peterson pretty much the whole time."

Bishop Iffert said how Isabelle would sit with Peterson, talk to him and read

(Continued on page 10)



(above) Leading the procession in song, the Cathedral choir partakes in the Corpus Christi procession.

Cross the Bridge for Life — walking a different path but supporting the same cause

Bella Young

Multimedia Correspondent

This year the 19th annual Cross the Bridge for Life event brought in 1,500 participants, despite not being able to walk the traditional route due to the ongoing questions surrounding the structural integrity of the Purple People Bridge, Newport. People young and old gathered to walk the abridged path in celebration of life.

Leading the group were members from the Knights of Columbus, marching with their swords drawn. Following them was the color guard of St. Patrick Division No. 1, of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Behind the color guard and donning the Cross the Bridge for Life banner were the American Heritage Girls. Bishop John Iffert of Covington was the first among the crowd to start walking, smiling and engaging in conversation with others who were celebrating the gift of human life.

Before the walk, Anna Mitchell, co-host of the Son Rise Morning Show on Sacred Heart Radio, opened the event. “We are here to celebrate the gift of life, so thank you all for being here.” She went on to thank those who organized the event as well. Mrs. Mitchell also pointed out the increase of ministries present at this year’s event. With 20 different pro-life ministries present, there was more than enough to learn and do.

Bishop Iffert took the stage to lead the audience in prayer and reflect on what was being celebrating that Saturday morning. “We are here to strengthen one another in our support for life.” He went on to pray, “every human life flows from your [Gods] love and is produced from an abundance of love flowing out into the world ... we ask you always to receive that life, support our neighbor, build one another up, to provide for one another, and be stewards of your creation.”

At the conclusion of the walk everyone was able to visit the ministry booths that were there to share their mission and work. Some of the ministries in attendance were affiliated with Diocese, including St. Elizabeth Hospital, the Franciscan Daughters of Mary and the Diocesan Catholic Children’s Home. Other ministries were not affiliated with the Diocese — 7 Hills Church, Embrace Grace and Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America, but despite their affiliations all the ministries came together in one place to help celebrate life.

In addition to the ministry booths, there were also activities for children to enjoy. Balloon artists, face painters, including one of the Franciscan Daughters of Mary, free pizza and an ice cream truck, were all in attendance as well. With activities for people of all ages to enjoy, it was a celebration of life at every stage and all abilities.



(left) Bishop Iffert addresses the crowd of hundreds at the start of the event

(right) The St. Henry District High School mascot has a fun interaction with one of the children

(bottom left) Hundreds walk in celebration of life

(bottom right) A young patron orders from the ice cream truck



Young photos



The Healing Journey: The Mental Health of Survivors

A webinar for survivors and those who care for them, June 24, 6:30–8 p.m. CDT.

Any form of clergy sexual abuse will profoundly impact the survivor and disrupt their functioning in some way. Using data from his survey of adult clergy sexual abuse survivors, Dr. Pooler will outline the frequency and types of psychological and spiritual injuries that occur and will overview the healing process. He will also outline how resilience and growth after abuse are normative. Dr. Pooler will describe and explain why prioritizing mental health is important for survivors and their allies by integrating insights from his clinical practice and research.

David Pooler is professor of Social Work at Baylor

University and the director of the adult clergy sexual abuse advocacy and research collaborative. He is a national expert on the tragic phenomenon of adult clergy sexual abuse.

For more information contact Paula Kaempffer, coordinator for Restorative Practices and Survivor Support for the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis: kaempfferp@archspm.org. Register below in advance for this meeting. After registering, you will receive a confirmation e-mail with the link to join the meeting. Please save this because it will allow you entry into the webinar.

You're Invited!

Open house at Parish Kitchen celebrating their 50th anniversary

Monday, June 17

Stop by between 4–7:00 p.m.

1651 Madison Ave., Covington

Sample guests' favorite meals, tour the building and visit with friends. Parking is available for the Parish Kitchen celebration at neighboring Kroger.



June 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Migrants and refugees from southwestern and southern Asian countries — such as Syria, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh — travel to Europe by the Balkan route, which runs through southeastern Europe. Since 2018, migrants traveling this way have ended their journeys in refugee camps.

Late in 2020, a fire in one camp in Lipa, Bosnia-Herzegovina, forced 1,500 of these refugees to live outdoors during the cold and snow of winter. Pope Francis responded with a donation to build structures to accommodate the refugee families and unaccompanied minors.

Your contribution to Peter's Pence helps fund not only all the activities of the dicasteries of the Roman Curia that assist the pope in his ministry, but also several solidarity projects that aid those most in need.

To learn more about the ways in which Peter's Pence supports the Holy Father's ministry of mercy, visit www.obolodisanietro.va/en/cos-e-l-obolo.html (English) or www.obolodisanietro.va/es/cos-e-l-obolo.html (español).

Please prayerfully consider supporting this year's Peter's Pence collection as an act of mercy and charity. Join our brothers and sisters in faith from around the globe to help Pope Francis carry out his ministry to the Universal Church and reach out to the most marginalized in our world.

Thank you and may God bless you abundantly.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop John C. Iffert
Diocese of Covington

*Be a sign of
mercy.*

For more information visit, www.usccb.org/peters-pence



**Bishop's
Schedule**

June 15

Mass for the St. Vincent de Paul Regional Council, Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, 8 a.m.

June 17

Parish Kitchen 50th anniversary celebration, Parish Kitchen, Covington, 4 p.m.

June 18–21

Good Leaders, Good Shepherds retreat

June 21

Mass for Parish Kitchen's 50th anniversary, Mother of God Church, Covington, 3 p.m.

June 22

Mass for the Sisters of Notre Dame community jubilee, St. Joseph Heights, Park Hills, 10:30 a.m.

"Praise Fest" Mass, St. Philip Parish, Melbourne, 4:30 p.m.

June 23

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

June 25–27

Seminarian retreat, St. Meinrad Archabbey

June 27

Florence Y'all's Game, Thomas More Stadium, 6:30 p.m.

Father Mark Keene, 40 years of the priesthood and his journey of discernment

Bella Young

Multimedia Correspondent

Celebrating his Ruby Jubilee, 40 years in the priesthood, Father Mark Keene took a moment to reflect on his journey, from discernment up through these 40 years. Father Keene has not only become further enamored with his vocation but has also come to appreciate his discernment journey.

Growing up, Father Keene had no shortage of religious influence.

"When I grew up, Catholicism was important. I grew up in Louisville and back then you had several hundred Catholic grade schools and dozens of Catholic high schools ... back then the church would be packed on Sundays, and I always thought, 'We do a lot of good stuff as a Church.'" He went on to say, "I went to Trinity High School in Louisville, which was a Catholic high school, and we had some really good religious programs."

These religious influences were not just present in his community and education however, Father Keene had many family members who also lead a religious life. "And I have a lot of religious in my family, three of my mom's sisters are Ursuline sisters. One was the CFO for the Owensboro Diocese, Sister Joseph Angela, another Sister Eloise, was principal in several schools including one of the largest ones in Louisville, and Sister Regina taught math and ran the retreat center there at Maple Mountain ... I knew all of my mom's sisters and they were just neat, interesting people."

Though he had an abundance of religious influence in his life, Father Keene can point to one moment — a



Father Mark Keene



moment of solitude — that he says was, "important in my religious development, more fundamental than the call to the priesthood..."

With all of the external influences on his journey to the priesthood, it was this moment of solitude, at 10 years old, that made Father Keene acutely aware of the beauty of God and his creation. "...was an experience I had one evening, after going to Confession at our parish church, which was within walking distance from our home. As I left the church, I looked up at a beautiful, star-lit sky. I had this overwhelming sense that there was this great goodness in Creation, a goodness that completely eclipsed everything ... Years later, I had to ask myself if I thought that experience was something real or emotional ... or both I suppose. I decided that it was at least both, and that I had to take it seriously as a person. Priesthood came after that, but certainly this was an important event in my Catholic vocation."

Upon graduating high school Father Keene was awarded an athletic scholarship to play football at the University of Kentucky, Lexington. It was here that he found a unique love of learning,

specifically in the sciences.

"I took a lot of different courses, sort of generally looking to go into medical school." Father Keene even worked at St. Joseph Hospital in Lexington for a short time, while

he admired the work of the doctors and nurses it is not what he wanted to do.

"I sort of realize that wasn't what I wanted to do, so I thought about being a priest. I have always liked the rituals and the intellectual background of Catholicism ... I liked the liturgical year; I think it is a neat way of teaching us about the faith," he said.

Once Father Keene entered the seminary, he again met someone who had great influence over his religious journey. "An important influence/support for me in staying in the seminary, and then deciding to become a priest was Father Thomas Barnes. When I first met Father Barnes, through a mutual friend at the Newman Center at the University of Kentucky, he was the executive vice-president of Citizens Union National Bank in Lexington. We have been friends ever since, over 43 years now. His insights, supports, challenges, example and prayers, after my parents (which I discussed with you), has been the most important/significant influence in my vocation."

Father Keene was ordained a deacon in 1983, and one year later was ordained a priest. His first assignment was at St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Ft. Thomas, and Covington Latin School, Covington, as a religion teacher. After his time there he moved to St. Joseph Parish, Crescent Spring, where he was a full-time associate pastor. After six years there he was assigned to St. Benedict Parish, Covington, where he was a pastor. It was another six years at St. Benedict Parish before he was assigned to St. Agnes Parish, Ft. Wright, where he has been for 25 years as pastor. While retaining his position at St. Agnes, Father Keene now also works for the Diocese of Covington as vicar general.

Father Keene's 40 years of priesthood and his journey of discernment has been guided by those closest to him and his desire to learn more and more about his faith. Serving five assignments throughout his 40 years, Father Keene is known by many, and is now a guiding force in others faith journey.

The art of hospitality through the lens of works of mercy

In referring to hospitality as a “lost art” we acknowledge that there is, in fact, an art to extending hospitality. It requires discipline, a desire to grow in skill and a smattering of joyful creativity.



ANGELICO PROJECT

Jayne Murphy

Having been made in the image and likeness of a Triune God, we were brought into existence for loving relationships. We were made to reflect our maker. Which means the virtue of hospitality begins by gazing upon the Creator. He planted seeds, crafted what is good, rested in appreciation, and — before the fall — he put mankind to work serving the needs of creation and each other.

Among those needs was the need to be recognized, known. Through the virtue of hospitality we respect the unique individuals we encounter — God’s precious gifts to the world. When we welcome and serve, when we invite and acknowledge, we please God by uplifting and honoring his beloved children.

The work of hospitality begins with an invitation — the planting of seeds. Our Lord invites us to know, love and serve him. Those who have accepted that invitation attract others to do the same. Receiving an invitation to almost any event brings on a warm glow at the realization that we are acknowledged, included, loved. Following Christ’s example, we prayerfully discern who our Lord wants us to welcome and serve. From close relatives to casual acquaintances, there are connections which may need strengthening. By inviting others to spend time in an enriching relationship with us, we imitate our loving God and direct them toward their greatest encounter.

Next come the corporal works of mercy — the crafting

of what is good. Just as Our Lord started with simple clay and breathed the spirit of life into man, the corporal works of mercy set the stage for spiritual relationships. The humble needs of each human body — food and drink — are the foundations of Christian hospitality. When offered with love and all the beauty one can muster, these ordinary actions become extraordinary witnesses to Love.

Most of us think BIG. We hear “feed the hungry” and mentally jump to public displays of charity, such as founding a food pantry. After all, Christ did feed 5,000 with meager resources. If we can’t imitate that, we embrace failure.

The Master wants us to take heart and remember the majority of his examples were small, even individual, encounters such as having an unlikely drink with the woman at the well or campfires with the Twelve. Loving service to those God has placed in one’s path, such as family and friends, has eternal merit.

As any good artist will tell you, ply your craft with small daily efforts. For the art of hospitality, as lived through the works of mercy, exercise creativity and a pleasantly sacrificial attitude. Give repeated drinks in the bottomless sippy cup to a thirsty toddler. Purge your closets of neglected items that others could be wearing and distribute un-utilized household items to those in need via the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Unless you volunteer with the prison ministry, you may not have access to the incarcerated. But you can offer the Chaplet of Divine Mercy while visiting our Lord, in the Eucharist for love of us. Consider doubling your dinner recipe then freezing the extra in preparation to share with those who are ill or grieving. Imagine doing all in hospitality as the hands and loving heart of Christ.

Once a relationship has been corporally crafted — rest in appreciation. We talk. Prayer is communication. It is a verbal and spiritual relationship with a loving God cultivated through both speaking and listening. Developing a communicative relationship with the One who made us in his image and likeness trains us to connect with those

he has placed in our lives.

Whether it takes place in your cluttered kitchen with a piping hot cup of her favorite tea blend or involves an ice-cold beer at his routinely frequented pub, a relationship born of hospitality leads to discussions with Spirit. Counseling the doubtful or instructing those who simply do not know the Truth flow naturally in times of relaxed togetherness. Being present is often the most comforting spiritual work of hospitality.

A godly relationship wills the good of the other. Occasionally, our attempts to extend hospitality end unpleasantly, stimulating growth in patience, forgiveness and courage. When we encounter a soul headed toward harm, it is loving to correct them. St. Thomas Aquinas tells us fraternal corrections should be, “private, charitable and rare.”

Despite — after the fall — difficulties, we were made for the community. We grow closer to Our Lord by imitating him in sacrifice and bringing others to him through service.

The orderly pursuit and practice of hospitality is alive and well. Under the guise of the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, the art of hospitality plants healthy seeds of inclusion, inspires creativity and encourages the appreciation of those our Lord calls “beloved.” Hospitality is our sacred duty and our joy.

Jayne Murphy is a wife, mother, and grandmother living in Cincinnati, Ohio. Her recent retirement, having spent 20 years as a home educator, opens the door to more opportunities working at her parish, the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains. Her background in publishing, spiritual writing, and education allowed her to join forces with her friend, professional chef Giovanna Trimpe, to co-author “Holy Chow Hospitality.” The book contains Biblically inspired recipes for multicultural food and nourishing relationships. Her column first appeared in Illuminated, the digital newsletter for the Angelico Project online at <https://angelicoproject.org> and has been reprinted with permission.

Measuring a life of ministry

At Mass celebrating his 40th jubilee, June 3, Father Thomas Robbins preached a homily describing the ministry of the priesthood. Here is that homily.

There is a Broadway show that has a song that opens the second act. It has lyrics that go, “five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes, five hundred twenty-five thousand moments so dear; how do you measure . . . measure a year?” There is another verse that goes on to ask, “How do you measure the life of a man?”

We are gathered here this afternoon to celebrate and thank God for 50 years that I have been able to serve the Lord in a variety of ways. But how do you measure a life of ministry? We could get mathematical, and count the number of baptisms, weddings, funerals and anointings and so on; but that is just a bunch of numbers. And while statistics are interesting in baseball; they don’t really measure a life of ministry.

That song which asks, “How to measure the life of a man?” Continues with the refrain, “how about love, seasons of love.” And that is what we are celebrating here today.

The call to the priesthood is a call to reveal the love of

Christ in our lives. Anniversary celebrations are a time of reflection. It is a time to look back; but also a time to look to the future. None of us know what the future holds in store for us; but we all are called to make the love of the Lord present no matter what we may be called to do.

If a priest is to be anything he is to be a sign of the real presence of the face of God’s love in human flesh; and a priest has to be a person who will inspire others to reflect the image of the Lord in acts of self-sacrificing for the good of others. The vocation to the priesthood has its challenges. When I was ordained, I made a commitment to celibacy, a commitment to obedience; and a commitment to service. Just as the priesthood is a gift from God; so is the grace to fulfill those priestly commitments.

When I was ordained, I think that I probably had some expectation of what to expect in the years to come. I expected that there would be some long hours that I would have to put in; I expected that there would be calls in the middle of the night to anoint someone who was dying and to comfort their family; I expected that there would be some situations where I would be called on to minister to a family who had lost a child; and I would feel very inadequate because I really didn’t know what to say that would wipe away their tears or make sense out of a senseless situation.

I knew there would be some difficult parishioners that I would encounter who would not understand what I was trying to do. And of course there were some things that I did not count on; for example, I never dreamed that, never having an accounting class in my life, I would be placed in charge of a parish that has numerous employees and a

million dollar-plus budget.

And I reflect back over the years of my seminary training and I know now that I would gladly have traded all of the Greek that I took and have used in my 50 years of ministry for one good class on how to fix a broken toilet. But I knew that every vocation has its difficulties and unexpected challenges and that in the priesthood it would be no different.

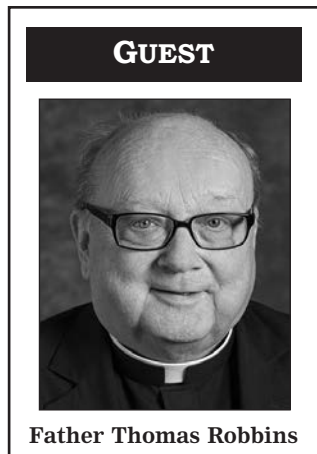
However, I did discover over the years that God’s providence and generosity would exceed anything that I imagined. And I would venture to say that experience is not something that is unique to my priesthood.

As a priest I came to realize that there will be no difficulties that I would experience that the Lord would not prepare me to cope with. For every cross that I encounter, I will also have the chance for resurrection. For every difficulty that I have had, there have also been many joys and satisfactions that can make the bad times fade into the forgotten past.

Today we are celebrating the Feast of Corpus Christi. The Gospel today is the recounting of the Last Supper where Christ instituted the Eucharist, and it is also when the sacrament of Holy Orders was instituted as well. This feast should remind us that we are all in this together. We are all part of the body of Christ. We are to help and support one another, no matter what our situation in life may be.

As a priest celebrating the Eucharist, proclaiming the Gospel, administering the sacraments, walking with the people of God who have been entrusted to our care,

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GUEST

Father Thomas Robbins

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Happy Father's Day

The readings for the Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time — Cycle B — are: Ezekiel 17:22-24; 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 and Mark 4:26-34.

It is not often that the secular culture aligns with the culture of the Gospel, much less supports it. Whether intended or not, wanted or not, this weekend's secular recognition of fathers, along with May's recognition of mothers, does just that.

What we number as the fourth commandment (Jews and members of many Protestant denominations call it the fifth) — "Honor your father and your mother" — is part of the list of commandments Moses brought down from Mt. Sinai, described in Exodus 20:1-17. It was a significant and fundamental idea in Judaism. The commandment is repeated, along with the other nine, in Deuteronomy (chapter five), and is referred to in other sections of the Old Testament, such as Leviticus and Malachi. The synoptic Gospels record Jesus as referring to it, and Paul refers to it in more than one of his letters, for instance to the Ephesians, to the Romans and to Timothy.

There are two reasons a father should be honored. The first is obvious, and is expressed well by Sirach: "With all your heart honor your father; and do not forget the birth pangs of your mother; Remember that through your parents you were born; and what can you give back to them that equals their gift to you?" (Sir 7:27-28)

The "United States Catholic Catechism for Adults" adds to that a little: "Respect for parents derives from a grateful heart toward those who gave us the gift of life and nourished, loved, and supported us throughout all our stages of growth." (USCCA, 377)

Fathers who take part in the giving of life and then nurture it deserve the honor both of their children and of society.

But Christian fathers have a second and even more important responsibility: to create, with their wives, what various fathers of the Church and popes have called a "domestic church." As the "Catechism of the Catholic Church" puts it, The Christian home is the place where children receive the first proclamation of the faith. For this reason, the family home is rightly called "the domestic church," a community of grace and prayer, a school of human virtues and of Christian charity. (CCC 1666)

Again, the "United States Catholic Catechism for Adults" expands on this: "The Christian family forms an environment within which faith is professed and witnessed. When family members pray together, engage in lifelong learning [about the faith], forgive one another, serve each other, welcome others, affirm and celebrate life, and bring justice and mercy to the community, they help each other live the faith and grow in faith." (USCCA, 376)

We must not ignore the influence a father has on the faith life of his children. There are many factors, of course, that determine if or to what degree people live their faith, but studies show the example of the father to be very significant: anywhere from 38 percent to 44 percent of children continued to practice their faith as adults when the father took the lead in bringing them to church and practicing other aspects of a life of faith. That figure is even higher when both parents went to church.

A father who participates in giving life to children and then nurtures that life surely deserves the honor of his children and of society, but the Christian father who takes seriously his "privileged duty" of raising his children to know, love and live for God, by witnessing to and proclaiming the faith, will just as surely deserve everlasting honor in heaven.

Christian fathers, if you have joy seeing your children, partly through your efforts, succeed in this world,

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Eucharistic pilgrimage shows unity among diversity

After participating in the launch of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage in New Haven, Connecticut, I had the grace of rejoining it in New York.

Although a New York native and frequent visitor to the Big Apple, the pilgrimage introduced me to areas of the city that I had never seen or experienced.

Over the course of four days, Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament visited many parishes, schools, health-care institutions and even Central Park. He found himself at home among the most devout and made himself known even among those who do not know him.

We Little Sisters were blessed to participate in several pilgrimage events,

each of which showcased a unique neighborhood or aspect of New York.

One day we participated in stops at a Catholic nursing home and high school in the Bronx. The next day we attended Mass at the Mother Cabrini Shrine in upper Manhattan and then went to a prayer vigil at St. Vincent Ferrer church in the Upper East Side, the city's wealthiest neighborhood.

On Trinity Sunday, we attended Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral and then climbed up on the pedestrian level of the Brooklyn Bridge to witness the handover of the Blessed Sacrament from the Archdiocese of New York to the Diocese of Brooklyn.

Finally, after processing along some the borough's oldest streets, we prayed at Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Cathedral.

That our participation in this portion of the Eucharistic Pilgrimage began in a nursing home seemed so natural to us. We felt right at home as we knelt among

the wheelchairs in the chapel of St. Patrick's Home, thanking God, who never forgets the poor and lowly, that the pilgrimage organizers had not forgotten them either.

Similar sentiments filled our hearts as we prayed with people of all ages at Cardinal Hayes High School in the South Bronx later that day. The setting and music were modest, but the preaching and prayers were lively, heartfelt and very real.

Surely, Jesus was pleased to be among those who were so aware of their need for him.

Like the evening at Cardinal Hayes, the program at St. Frances Cabrini Shrine the next day was bilingual and the congregation predominantly Spanish-speaking.

The Shrine is home to Cabrini Immigrant Services, which offers much-needed assistance to newcomers from all over the world.

Once again, it was touching to see Jesus at home among simple people seeking refuge and a second chance in life.

Later we found ourselves in one of the most beautiful neo-gothic churches I have ever seen. We enjoyed reflections drawn from Dominican saints and listened to Latin motets exquisitely sung by a schola clothed in crisp cassocks and surplices.

As simple as the previous evening had been, this night's program reflected the architectural, artistic and musical richness of the church.

Sunday's celebration at St. Patrick's Cathedral also showcased the church's spiritual and artistic riches.

At the conclusion of Mass, Cardinal Timothy Dolan offered Benediction outdoors on the front steps of the Cathedral and then hundreds of people followed the Blessed Sacrament in procession through Manhattan.

Jesus was truly among us!

As the nearly 15-mile procession reached its climax on the Brooklyn Bridge, hundreds of tourists walked around, seemingly oblivious to what was happening, but some stood respectfully as the throng of faithful advanced across the Bridge, singing and praying in English, Spanish and Latin as cars sped in both directions on the

(Continued on page 17)

The presence of Jesus

What a beautiful realization to actually see the parallel between the two. These passages helped me to experience the Mass in a deeper way. I was really taken however, with the presence of God in a cloud. It made me think of the story in 1 Kings when the Levitical priests brought the, "Ark of the Covenant of the Lord to its place, the inner Sanctuary of the house, the Holy of Holies ... the cloud filled the house of the Lord so that the priests could no longer minister because of the cloud, since the Glory of the Lord had filled the house of the Lord."

Our Lord's presence in a cloud is a common theme in Scripture. Some examples:

"Moses entered the tent, the column of cloud would come down and stand at its entrance while the Lord spoke with Moses. On seeing the column of cloud stand at the entrance of the tent, all the people would rise and bow down at the entrance of their own tents." Exodus 33:9-10

"The Glory of the Lord settled upon Mt. Sinai ... the cloud covered it for six days." Similarly, as when after the offerings were made at the consecration of the Temple in 1 Kings 8:10-11, "The cloud filled the House of the Lord so that the priests could no longer minister because of the cloud, since the Glory of the Lord had filled the house." Exodus 24:16

"The Lord came down in a cloud and stood with him there and proclaimed His name, 'Lord' ... Moses at once knelt and bowed down to the ground." Exodus 34:5, 8

All of these references to the presence of God in a cloud spoke to me of the part of the Mass where the priest calls down the Holy Spirit over the bread and wine so they may be transfigured into the Body and Blood of our Lord in an unseen and unbloody way. It's been a great meditation for me in that moment at Mass to ask the Lord to fill the temple (church) with his cloud of glory; and to

(Continued on page 9)

GUEST



Sister Constance Veit, L.S.P.

each of which showcased a unique neighborhood or aspect of New York.

One day we participated in stops at a Catholic nursing home and high school in the Bronx. The next day we attended Mass at the Mother Cabrini Shrine in upper Manhattan and then went to a prayer vigil at St. Vincent Ferrer church in the Upper East Side, the city's wealthiest neighborhood.

On Trinity Sunday, we attended Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral and then climbed up on the pedestrian level of the Brooklyn Bridge to witness the handover of the Blessed Sacrament from the Archdiocese of New York to the Diocese of Brooklyn.

Finally, after processing along some the borough's oldest streets, we prayed at Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Cathedral.

That our participation in this portion of the Eucharistic Pilgrimage began in a nursing home seemed so natural to us. We felt right at home as we knelt among

VIEWPOINT



Mother Seraphina Quinlan

Recently, during the sisters' Holy Hour (we begin each day with two hours of Adoration) while reading Exodus 24, I couldn't help but notice how much it resembled our

Catholic Mass. Now, I have learned over the years that the Old Testament is the prefiguration of Jesus' coming and that the Mass is the fulfillment of Jewish worship, but reading it in the Scriptures was a whole new experience for me.

The entire overview of Exodus 24 has Moses relating the Word of the Lord to the Israelites, who respond, "We will do everything the Lord has told us," followed by an offering of animal sacrifices.

Then the 70 elders with Moses, "beheld the God of Israel ... They saw God and they ate and drank." And the Glory of the Lord descended upon Mt. Sinai in a dense cloud, where Moses could speak to God face to face.

At Mass, we read the Word of the Lord and the congregation accepts all that is spoken by replying, "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

Following that is the offertory, where we offer ourselves and our intentions to the Lord, which culminates with the Holy Spirit descending upon the bread and wine. Through which the Words of Consecration, they change into the real and true presence of our Lord Jesus Christ, then we see God and eat and drink. Upon receiving him, we have an opportunity to talk with him whom we have received, "face to face."



THOMAS MORE
UNIVERSITY
Make It **More.**

See you at TMU!

City of Crestview Hills Summer Concert

Friday, June 28, 6:30–10 p.m.
Parking lot adjacent to Republic Bank Field at Thomas More University
Free concert featuring Doghouse and ESC4P3 (Journey tribute band).
No outside food or beverages.
For more information, visit:
crestviewhills.com

Transfer Student Open House

Tuesday, June 18 and
Thursday, June 27, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
Thomas More University Office of Enrollment
Visit between 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. to meet with an enrollment counselor, navigate the admission process, learn about transfer student scholarships, and ask questions about Thomas More University. Bring a copy of previous college transcript(s) for an evaluation of your courses.
To RSVP visit:
apply.thomasmore.edu/portal/preview

Concert for Conservation

Friday, July 27, 3–9 p.m.
Thomas More Biology Field Station,
8309 Mary Ingles Highway
Fun and fellowship on the Ohio River, including live bluegrass music, guided hikes, tours of the Biology Field Station laboratories. Proceeds benefit conservation and public outreach programs.
RSVP required, visit: tmuky.24rhccsite

Wm. T. (Bill) Robinson III '67 Institute for Religious Liberty presents "Who's My God?" Part II Interfaith Dialogue

Sept. 19, 7–9 p.m.
Thomas More University Ziegler Auditorium
The interfaith panel includes Imam Ayman Soliman, Brady Lighthall, Msgr. William Cleves, and Rabbi Meredith Kahan and will be moderated by Brian Adams, Ph.D. of A Common Word Among the Youth (ACWAY). All are welcome, free of charge.
For more information, visit:
thomasmore.edu/religiousliberty

Josh Ostertag on 'finding his niche' as Thomas More Campus Minister

Submitted by Thomas More University

Josh Ostertag, Thomas More class of 2020, joined the University as campus minister in May 2023. After finishing his first year on the job, Ostertag reflects on his path to discerning his vocation, growing the Bishop Roger J. Foys Ministry & Service Scholarship at Thomas More, and his advice to today's college student*

Q: What drew you toward studying theology as a student at Thomas More?

Ostertag: In high school, my sophomore year, I received the Sacrament of Confirmation and that really sparked in me — I didn't notice it at the time — God's grace moving in me to love the Catholic faith and the Catholic Church



(above left) Josh Ostertag, campus minister for Thomas More University.

(above right) (from top) Demonstrating just a few of the activities Mr. Ostertag is involved in: the Thomas More campus ministry delegation to the 2024 SEEK Conference, gathering for Agape Latte where fellowship and coffee are shared, and a recruitment visit to Chaminade Julienne Catholic High School in Dayton, Ohio.



and to pursue it. I started getting involved in high school youth ministry, as well as different Bible studies. Ultimately, when I was searching for colleges, I didn't know what I wanted to study. I had just assumed, because of my academic track record, I was like, "Oh, I'll do something like engineering or medicine" because those are prestigious fields. But then as I was visiting universities, I didn't really know what I wanted to study and I didn't feel quite at home until I went with a priest in the Diocese to a seminary in Columbus. It was at the seminary that I really felt at home. So, I entered seminary for my first year of undergrad. There, you're studying philosophy and theology and I just fell in love with those disciplines as a personal interest. It's what I wanted to do; it's what I loved. There was no practical element really to it. It wasn't like, "I wanted to study this so I can get this job," it was just studying it for the sake of loving it. After I had discerned out of seminary and transferred to Thomas More, I wanted to continue studying those things. Ultimately, again, love of the intellectual life and love of theology led me to getting a graduate degree in theology as well.

Q: What were some of the highlights from your first year working as campus minister?

Ostertag: After I got my graduate degree, I wasn't sure exactly what I wanted to do. This job opened and it seemed like something that would be interesting to me. I was wanting to do something in the field of ministry or teaching theology, and I think I just love working with college students. Being beyond secondary education is something that I've just really enjoyed: building relationships with students, meeting new students, as well as part of my job is recruitment. I get to go into high schools and tell them about Thomas More, about campus ministry, about the Bishop Foys Scholarship. I kind of get the best of both worlds;

I get to work with high school students as well as college students. It's exciting; this incoming class of students, a lot of them I've met at their high schools, I've met at different admissions events on campus. I'll get to see them come into Thomas More and then see them throughout the years here. It's really a great privilege to build relationships with them as well. A highlight of the first year is seeing students get passionate and involved on campus, because a lot of the programming/the events that we do, is run by students. Seeing students find something

they're interested in and just run with it is great. We're hoping to build on that momentum.

Q: What are you looking forward to in your second year?

Ostertag: Year two is continuing to build and ride that momentum that we've formed with the current students, but then also we have a great incoming class. Right now, it's around 50 Bishop Foys scholars. These are students that are looking to take their passion for the faith, their passion for ministry — a lot of these students are doing the campus ministry in their high schools and so really taking what they love, finding what they love, what they're passionate about, and having them bring that here to campus, to enliven campus, build a sense of community within campus ministry, [and] to get more students involved. I think year two feels much more ambitious than year one. Year one was settling in, getting used to the flow of things, but now it's coming to the point where I remember, "Oh, last year we did this; last year this happened." I know how the year runs and so we're going to be able to do more things to engage more students, and hopefully provide a more holistic and qualitative experience for the students.

Q: What advice do you have for current or incoming college students?

Ostertag: Advice I give to students all the time is to find your niche; find what you're interested in and get involved. I would say the only regret I have of my time in undergrad was not being involved enough. I think what you put in, is what you get out; so, what you put into your experience here as a student is going to make your experience better. That's going to be different things for different people: it could be your academics; it could be a club; or student government; or your work study; or something [else]. Finding really what you're interested in and just going for it makes such a great experience. Another piece of advice I would give is to really engage in the mission of the University, to not allow your education to simply just be a step, a jumping point, to a job. I think that's important of course — you need a job to live, but I think education is so much more than about what it does for you, but also about what it does to you. How your education can transform you interiorly, to make you a better person. Those things we talk about all the time in the mission [of Thomas More University]: the meaning of life, your place in the world, and your responsibility to others. Really actually grappling with those and engaging with those, and discovering it in all the disciplines of academics, from the natural sciences to the fine arts, to languages. Everything, to really engage "truth." Finding truth: where it's found and seeing how that relates to the bigger picture of your life, and your life in the world.

*The Bishop Roger J. Foys Ministry & Service Scholarship seeks to involve Catholic students in a thriving campus ministry program. High school seniors who are admitted to Thomas More and have at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA may apply. To learn more, visit: thomasmore.edu/foys.

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.

The Notre Dame Urban Education Center (NDUEC), Covington, is seeking adult and high school volunteers to tutor children in Grades K-9 in reading, English, and math in its Summer Academics programs held in June. Call Brandi at 859-630-9475 or email at blenihan@nduec.org. Volunteers 18 and older must be VIRTUS compliant.

Notre Dame Urban Education Center has open registration for the Summer Academics programs held Monday–Thursday from June 3–27, for students in grades 1-9. The Early Learning program for 4- and 5-year-olds is now accepting registrations. Early Learning begins on Tuesday, Sept. 3, and ends May 15. Call NDUEC at 859-261-4487, or email Sister Maria Therese at smtherese@nduec.org.

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

The Sisters of Notre Dame will be holding their 102nd festival on Thursday, July 4, and are looking for individuals or families that would like to volunteer from 11 a.m.—5 p.m. High School and middle school students can earn service hours and use them for the upcoming school year. Call Margie at (859) 392-8229 or email mschnelle@sndusa.org.

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.

St. Agnes parish, Ft. Wright, is hosting a free dinner date for married couples, June 15, 7–9 p.m. Come for good food, a short talk, a little music and a night to enrich your marriage. Jack Beers, a certified Catholic Mentor, will be speaking on the art of listening and how it can elevate any marriage. For information or to RSVP (limited seating) contact Anita Dunn at adunn@saintagnes.com. Deadline to register is June 10.

Introductory online group classes for the Marquette method of Natural Family Planning (NFP), Tuesday, June 18, 7 p.m. and Tuesday, July 30, 7 p.m. For more information and to register, contact Angela Hobbs, BSN, RN, MMCP, at angela@giftofyourfertility.com or (270) 735-3883. Visit www.giftofyourfertility.com.

Are you a current college student considering a transfer? Join the Thomas More University Office of Enrollment for one of two Transfer Student Open House days. Meet with an enrollment counselor, navigate the admission process, learn about transfer student scholarships, and get your questions answered. Feel free to bring a copy of your previous college transcript(s) for an admission decision and evaluation of your courses. Transfer Student Open House days are on June 18 and June 27, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. RSVP at tmuky.us/transfer24.

Bishop Brossart High School golf outings. Get your foursomes together for a great day on the course. Both outings will be held at A J Jolly Golf Course and include 18 holes with cart, a great dinner at the course, beer and refreshments, prizes and guaranteed fun. 35th Annual Ladies Outing, June 20. 44th Annual Men's Outing, June 21. Visit <https://e.givesmart.com/events/Cs1/> to register, donate or sponsor.

"Praise Fest," June 22, 2–8 p.m., St. Phillip Parish, Melbourne, featuring the following musical groups: 2 p.m., Mother of God Contemporary Ensemble; 3 p.m., Thomas More Praise & Worship; 4:30 p.m., Mass, celebrated by Bishop John Iffert; 6 p.m., Dan Walsh & Friends and 7 p.m., Lee Roessler. Food trucks available. Bring a cooler and chair.

2024 Parish Festivals

St. Therese , Southgate June 14–15, 6–11 p.m.	St. James , Brooksville July 26, 4–7 p.m. July 27, 5–8 p.m. July 28, noon–6 p.m.	St. Augustine , Augusta Aug. 23 and 24, 5–10 p.m. Aug. 25, 11 a.m.–6 p.m.
St. Joseph Academy , Walton June 14 and 15, 5:30–11 p.m., Pig Fest	Sts. Peter and Paul , California July 27 and Aug. 24, Picnics Sept. 21, Oktoberfest	Holy Cross District High School Aug. 23, 6 p.m.–12 a.m. Aug. 24, 5:30–12 a.m.
Mary, Queen of Heaven , Erlanger June 21–22, 5–11 p.m. June 23, 12:30–5 p.m.	St. Joseph , Cold Spring Aug. 2–3, 6–11 p.m.	St. Cecilia , Independence Aug. 30–31, 7–11 p.m., Sept. 1, 6–11 p.m. Family Day, Sept. 12, 1–10 p.m.
Immaculate Heart of Mary , Burlington July 12, 6 p.m.–midnight July 13, 5 p.m.–midnight July 14, 4–10 p.m.	St. Joseph , Crescent Springs Aug. 2 and 3, 6 p.m.–midnight Aug. 4, 3–9 p.m.	St. Benedict , Covington Sept. 20 and 21, 5–11 p.m.
St. Pius X , Edgewood July 12–13, 6 p.m.–12 a.m. July 14, 4–10 p.m.	St. Mary , Alexandria Aug. 9, 6–11 p.m. Aug. 10, 5–11 p.m.	St. Agnes , Ft. Wright Sept. 27–29, Oktoberfest
St. Thomas , Ft. Thomas July 19, 6–11 p.m. July 20, 5–11 p.m.	St. Philip , Melbourne Aug. 17, golf ball drop and festival	

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>.

Summer Preview Day – July 11. The Thomas More University Office of Enrollment is hosting a fun-filled evening for those kicking off their college search. See the new academic center on campus, meet enrollment staff to talk about scholarships and campus life, discuss your major of interest with faculty in your field, and enjoy a tour of the TMU campus. Submit your RSVP at tmuky.us/summer2024.

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.

Rising high school seniors can now apply for admission and scholarships at Thomas More University. Those who plan to attend college immediately after high school in fall 2025, and complete an application to Thomas More by July 15, 2024, will receive priority scholarship consideration. It's free to apply, with no essay required, and optional to submit standardized test scores. Take advantage of this opportunity at: <https://gothomasmore.org/freshman/>.

Bishop John Iffert will celebrate Vespers at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, to honor couples celebrating significant wedding anniversaries in 2024. Married couples celebrating their 1st, 25th, 50th, or 60+ wedding anniversary in 2024 are invited to the Vespers celebration on Sunday, Sept. 15, 2 p.m. Anniversary couples RSVP by July 16, at covdio.org/wedding-vespers/ or contact Lisa Taylor at (859) 392-1533 to register. Reservations are only required for anniversary couples; family members and guests are welcome to attend.



Welcome Deacon Heskamp

Parishioners at St. Anthony Parish, Taylor Mill, welcomed newly ordained Deacon Joshua Heskamp with an ice cream social the evening of May 29. Bishop John Iffert assigned Deacon Heskamp to the parish for his final year of priestly formation. He will be ministering at the parish when he is not attending seminary classes, typically during summer, Christmas and Easter breaks. Deacon Heskamp is a diocesan seminarian studying for the priesthood at St. Vincent Seminary, Latrobe, Penn.

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.

Resources

Charlotte Lozier Institute: science, data and medical research on the value of human life; lozierinstitute.org

Kentucky Right to Life: State affiliate of the National Right to Life Committee.
<https://kyrighttolife.org/>

Cincinnati Right to Life: regional resources and news;
cincinnati.righntolife.org

Little Pills That Kill: abortion pill information; littlepillsthatkill.com

New Hope Pregnancy Center H3Helpline: the Help, Hope, Healing ministry provides free, confidential after-abortion care at four locations in Northern Kentucky; 859-341-0766

Project Rachel: Catholic post-abortion ministry of pastoral counseling, peer-to-peer ministry, spiritual direction and mental health referrals; 513-784-0531 or hopeandhealingcinci@gmail.com

The Silent Scream: 1984 narrated by former abortionist Dr. Bernard Nathanson, 28 mins; on YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hstRrYsbffM>

The more things change ...

Laura Strietmann

Contributor

Jubilant hearts of pro-lifers two years ago in the month that the Catholic Church dedicates to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. On June 24, 2022, a 50-year goal of the movement was reached when the United States Supreme Court overturned *Roe v Wade*, the egregious 1973 decision that legalized abortion for any reason in all 50 states.



Laura Strietmann

deformed America is hardly an understatement. Besides the loss of more than 63 million preborn lives, the damage to families, women, men and our society over those 50 years is almost impossible to summarize.

In the two years since the jubilation and celebration of *Roe's* demise, much has changed — yet much has stayed the same. We are living the paradoxical lesson of Frenchman Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr, who wrote in 1849, “The more things change, the more they stay the same.”

What things have changed?

A whirlwind of state laws protecting the preborn has swept

across America.

Overall, 21 states now protect life in the womb to a greater extent than *Roe* allowed.

New pro-life laws were enacted here in Kentucky and our nearby neighbors of Indiana, Tennessee, Missouri and West Virginia.

In Kentucky and these border states, the rate of measurable abortions has plummeted to almost zero.

Praise God for these changes to protect life in the womb! But while pro-life Kentuckians watch and pray, warning signs flash around us.

In November 2023, Ohio voters enshrined abortion in the womb by amending the Buckeye state's constitution.

Missouri and 11 other states may have abortion amendments on the ballot this November.

Our neighbor Illinois has seen astronomical growth in abortion since the fall of *Roe*, a 69 percent rise.

Out-of-state women accounted for 40 percent of Illinois' abortions, double the prior rate.

Nationally, at least one in five abortions comes from this so-called abortion tourism.

And while the patchwork of state regulations has changed the geography of abortion vastly, the change is not just in state lines. With or without access to an abortion, women can take the lives of their children at home through self-administered chemical abortion. Self-administered chemical abortion rates have risen dramatically in recent years and are now estimated at nearly 60 percent of all abortions. These numbers do not show up in official state abortion tallies.

Yet more change could be on the way. Here in June, the month of the Sacred Heart, pro-lifers await another major decision by the Supreme Court. The *FDA v Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine* case was heard in March and will determine the legal standing of the use of the chemical abortion drug mifepristone, key to the at-home abortion regimen.

So, amidst all this flux, turbulence and change, does anything stay the same?

Yes! The truth of our Catholic faith has stayed the same from the beginning of time. Now and always, Jesus Christ is Redeemer, Son of God, second Person of the Trinity and Lord of all creation. In time and for eternity, Jesus came to rescue humanity from our sins. Praise God, and thank him for his unchanging love, the love that sustains us as we work and pray in defense of every human life.

It is also an unchanging truth that each life is precious because only human beings are made in the image and likeness of God. “God created man in his image; in the divine image He created him; male and female He created them” (Gen. 1:27). Using the word “created” three times emphasizes the importance of humans, the pinnacle of all creation. To create is deliberately to bring into existence, and no person, born or unborn, is a mere clump of cells. Each of us has been called into existence with a divine plan and purpose.

Nor has God changed his command to bear new life and to love children: “Be fertile and multiply” (Gen. 1:28). Over and over God has shown how much he loves children: “Truly children are a gift from the Lord; the fruit of the womb is a reward” (Psalm 127:3). He knows each child in the womb, created in his image and likeness: “For You drew me forth from the womb, made me safe at my mother's breasts ... Since my mother bore me You are my God” (Ps. 22:10–11).

Unchanged too is God's commandment to love and serve the poor, the least among us and all who are outcast by the world. “This is the message you have heard from the beginning: we should love one another, unlike Cain who belonged to the evil one and slaughtered his brother” (1 Jn. 3:11–12). Surely children in the womb are the poorest, relying completely on another, their mother. Today the preborn are the most outcast in America, and the 50-year toll of elective abortion surpasses the total of all American soldiers killed in every war.

Though abortion borders, laws and methods will shift, we will hold firm and proclaim and uphold the beauty and sanctity of life, and we trust that our efforts will strengthen and flourish by remaining rooted in the truth of Christ.

Laura Strietmann, executive director of Cincinnati Right to Life, has been working in the pro-life movement for 17 years.

Abortion Pill Reversal

24/7 Helpline: 877-558-0333

Non-Urgent Inquiries: 614-885-7577

info@apr.life

Reasons for seeking abortion

Overall, common exceptions to abortion limits are estimated to account for less than 5 percent of all abortions.

Rape and incest: 0.4 percent

Risk to the woman's life or a major bodily function: 0.3 percent

Other physical health concerns: 2.2 percent

Abnormality in the unborn baby: 1.2 percent

Elective and unspecified reasons: 95.9 percent

Data from Charlotte Lozier Institute.

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

Bishop Iffert thanks priests during Solemn Vespers and jubilarian celebration

Bella Young

Multimedia Correspondent

Priests from across the Diocese came together, not only to celebrate Solemn Vespers but also to celebrate their brother priests' jubilees. Father Thomas Robbins celebrated his Golden Jubilee (50 years), Father Mark Keene celebrated his Ruby Jubilee (40 years) and Fathers Gregory Bach and Samuel Owusu celebrated their Silver Jubilee (25 years) — a combined 140 years of experience in the priesthood.

These four priests have been responsible for teaching, pastoral care and ministry, spiritual guidance and vocations ministry. Leaving an incalculable mark on the Diocese of Covington, and the lives of those they have impacted.

In his homily, Bishop John Iffert spoke to the priests in attendance saying, "Today we celebrate four men who between them have 140 years of living with hearts for others, and every year we gather at this time of year for this kind of celebration so that we can remind ourselves why we choose this life. How Christ first came to call us and why we responded with joy, and to remember that every year we are called to be renewed in that commitment, to be renewed in that joy. And with a little more wisdom, a little more care, a little more patience, a little more gentleness and generosity, for our lives for others."

Bishop Iffert continued to thank those in attendance for the dedication to their vocation.

"Thank you to our jubilarians this year and let me say as your bishop, thank you to each one of you who are gathered here this year to celebrate these men in our shared priesthood. Thank you for your largeness of heart, thank you for the fullness of spirit, thank you for the moments where you've had to lick your wounds, thank you for when you've had to take your bumps, and you chose to hang in there to a life of Christ, and serve God's holy people; because you know that's the way forward in the life of service and spirit. Thank you. It's a dangerous life to live, but I think most of us would not trade it for anything."



Bishop Iffert stands for a picture with the Jubilarians (from left) Fathers Gregory Bach, Thomas Robbins and Mark Keene.

The presence of Jesus

(Continued from page 5)

fill the temple of my spirit.

After receiving the Body of our Lord, we are sent forth in the world to bring his presence to everyone we meet. This moves me to go from loving and worshiping God at Mass, to loving and serving our neighbor, just as the Lord commanded.

At the sisters' ministry, the Rose Garden Mission, this is the heart of what we do. All the work we do helping moms make good choices in their pregnancy, helping families with children by giving them their material needs, giving the hungry food, the ill medical and dental care is done for the love of God and love for our neighbor.

For this reason, the Mission has no paid staff, everyone is a volunteer. This way, they come to help us because they love God and not to make a paycheck. And we insist that the volunteers live up to their calling to love God and neighbor by what they say and do. It is intentional, beginning with one another (the other volunteers) and everyone they interact with while there. Those who have difficulty with this are first encouraged to make a concerted effort to be loving to others. If it persists, they are disinvited to participate with us in ministry.

Having an atmosphere of loving kindness has really caused some of our neighbors to make significant changes in their lives. One woman told us that she stopped using drugs six years prior because we loved her. She thought to herself that if we love and care for her, maybe she should love herself and do what is good for her.

A man had been coming to receive food for some time and was always gruff and disagreeable, but we were always kind to him and didn't put any importance in any of his grumblings. He used to make a list of things he needed and we would look to see if they had been donated, but he put a different name down on the paper each time. I said to him one day, "Oh, so we are Anthony today?" He burst out with such laughter, that we all joined him in his joy. From that day forward he became a friend and loved to make the sisters and volunteers laugh.

"Anthony" reminded me of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who saw in the poor Jesus in his "distressing disguise."

Mother Seraphina Quinlan is mother superior for the Franciscan Daughters of Mary, Covington.

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(above) At the start of the prayers, Bishop John Iffert kneels before the monstrance with Deacons Joshua Heskamp and Gerry Franzen.
 (above right) Bishop Iffert preaches the homily during the Corpus Christi prayer service.
 (left) Knights and Dames of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem process before the cross out of the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington.
 (right) Bishop Iffert welcomes guests to the kick-off event for the Campaign of Mercy.

CARE NET
 Pregnancy Services of Northern Kentucky

ANNUAL BANQUET
 Thursday, May 9

Watch live & give online!
 carenetky.org/banquet-online
 or scan the code. Program begins live at 7 pm May 9 or watch the replay later.

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.
 Joshua 1:9

Solemnity of Corpus Christi

(Continued from page 1)

to him — mopped his brow, petted him and tried to soothe his loneliness. “Suddenly I saw Isabelle pop up and run out the front door,” he said, “and I followed her; and found her being physically sick in the driveway in the front of the house ... her compassion for Peterson so strong, that she felt it in her body.”

Bishop Iffert continued, saying, “I thought of Jesus when he was moved with mercy. He felt mercy in the gut for those who were like sheep without a Shepherd.”

He then went on to describe how the group on the service trip would gather in the evening for discussion and prayer; and he asked the question, “Where did you see Jesus today?”

Isabelle was quick to speak, he said. “And she answered with one word, Peterson.”

Isabelle was a pharmacy student, Bishop Iffert said, and she “shared how the feelings overwhelmed her,” and also something that she had told Bishop Iffert as he met her on the driveway — “Father John,” she said, “the thing that I just can’t stand, the thing that hurts me so much is that Peterson would not have this suffering if his mother had had a generic multivitamin during her pregnancy. Three and a half cents a day for a multivitamin, would have prevented all of this suffering.”

Bishop Iffert smiled to the congregation, and said how he remembered thinking how Isabelle had found her purpose in life, that day.

He then went on to describe the liturgy on Holy Thursday, and the washing of the feet. “Jesus makes for us that connection of kneeling in front of one another,” he said, “lowering ourselves before them and putting their needs first ... There is, it seems to me, in the heart and tradition of the Church from the very earliest days, this beautiful connection between the gift that Jesus gives us in his body and blood and the call that he issues for us to be Christ to one another.”

“Today we gather to adore the Body and Blood of Jesus,” Bishop Iffert said, “To rejoice and give thanks to this gift. This strengthens us — and today in a special way as we kick off a campaign of the works of mercy. We want to acknowledge that connection between the way we pour out mercy on one another, and the way we reverse and venerate and love and adore the Body and Blood of Jesus.”

Inviting the crowd gathered, Bishop Iffert said to “come and join me in this work of mercy, come and join me in reflecting on the merciful work we share, come and join me and let’s pray together — asking ourselves where we see Christ, where we experienced his grace and what Christ has asked us to do.”

Following prayers and the procession, all gathered across the street in St. Mary’s Park for an ice-cream social commemorating the official kick-off of the Campaign of Mercy.

Deacon Jim Fortner, chief operating officer for the Diocese of Covington, welcomed those gathered to the event, saying, “On Friday, we had a meeting with the bishop, and we were talking about this strategic initiative, and this is the kick-off of the Campaign of Mercy ... this is his specific project that he’s been working on in our pastoral plan.”

During the kick-off, representatives from Diocesan ministries highlighted the importance of service and acts of mercy by sharing real life witnesses they experienced while the crowd enjoyed soft-serve ice cream and company before the rain came later that afternoon.

To learn more about the Campaign of Mercy, and to view recordings of witnesses and speeches given during the kick-off event, visit <https://covdio.org/mercy/>.

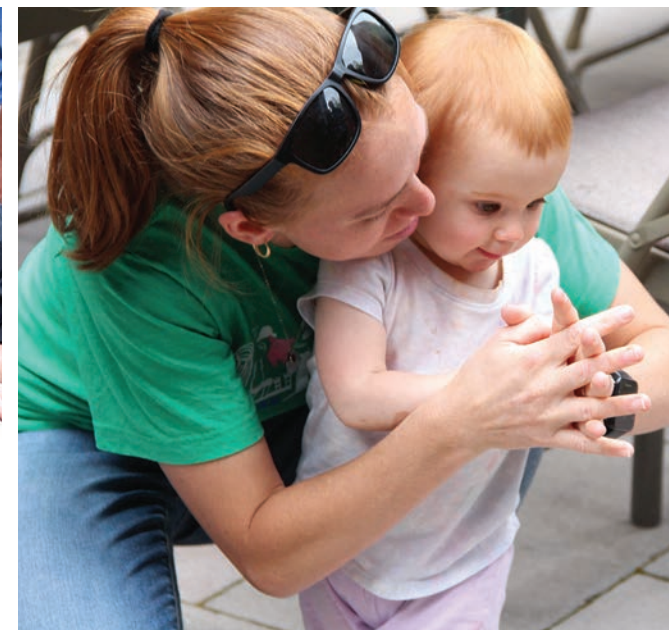


(above far left) People wait in line for ice cream during the Campaign of Mercy kick-off.

(above center left) A young child and her mother pause their ice cream treat to pray.

(above center right) Deacon Jim Fortner, Curia chief operating officer.

(above far right) Chris Goddard, director of Catholic Charities and Campaign of Mercy chair.



Bishop John Iffert joins young adults for summer cook out

A group of young adults, primarily from Mother of God Parish, Covington, gather regularly for catechesis and companionship. On May 29, the group and their families invited Bishop John Iffert to join them in Mother of God's garden for a cook-out — enjoying hot dogs, sausages and good company together as a community.

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What we all want: ‘We want to see Jesus’

Sister Kathryn J. Hermes

Just before Jesus entered into the last weeks before his Passion and death, we find in the Gospel of John’s 12th chapter these two bits of dialogue:

The Pharisees said to one another as they watched the crowds listening to Jesus: “Look, the whole world has gone after him” (John 12:19) and the Greeks asked Philip, one of Jesus’ apostles, “Sir, we would like to see Jesus” (John 12:21).

As the Eucharistic Pilgrimage winds its way through cities and countryside and pilgrims meet around Jesus in Mass and adoration, fellowship dinners, educational talks,

and needs the Lord. Why? Let’s face it, this great faith of ours began with 12 guys walking with Jesus around the lake. St. Augustine teaches us what the Eucharist is about, not just the Eucharist in itself, but the Eucharist as it moves, changes, deepens us, nourishes you, me, all of us together to become the walking presence of Jesus for others We’re able to walk the streets of our lives, nourished [by] the Eucharist, and be the heaven.”

Chima Adiole, one of the pilgrims on the Serra Route, shared how being able to walk the streets of Jesus is deepening her prayer: “Because we have a lot of time with Jesus in the Eucharist, whether during adoration in the

sion on May 24 from St. Albert in Albertville, MN, to the parish of St. Michael. “It is just mind-boggling,” he said. “It has been so beautiful to see how excited people are for the Lord to come. Seeing towns come to life, church bells ringing, people coming out and singing, making time to be with the Lord is striking, and it fills me with so much hope.”

The amazing thing is that this Jesus who walked with the apostles throughout Galilee is walking in your life also. Being able to join the Eucharistic caravan isn’t necessary to meet him. He is waiting for you in the church nearest you, at Mass and in Holy Communion, or in the quiet of an

adoration chapel. You can make your own Eucharistic pilgrimage to Jesus in a church near you. One young woman who made her own mini-pilgrimage in Boston since she wasn’t able to join the launching of the Seton Route of the Pilgrimage in New Haven, Connecticut, reflected on how much God cherishes us and how he wants a relationship with us. All of us. “God wants us to bring our successes, failures, talents, and brokenness to him. He already knows everything. He is just waiting for us.”

So in these weeks of Pilgrimage, allow the Lord to find you. Go out to meet him. Find some quiet time just to be with him. Talk to him about your life. Tell Jesus what’s worrying you, your problems, something beautiful you saw



ministry, and service, the “whole world” has this amazing opportunity to be with the Lord now visibly in their midst.

We read in the Gospels that Jesus touched the hearts of people even when he was just passing through their village, like Zacchaeus. He changed the lives of those who entered into conversation with him, like the Samaritan woman. As people watched him from afar, probably knowing very little about him, they felt this attraction to him: “We would like to see Jesus.”

People came to Jesus in crowds, certainly, but each one of them had something personal that ignited this desire within them to see the Lord with their own eyes, to hear him, to be known by him, to be his friend.

In a conversation between Cardinal Dolan and Marina Frattaroli posted on the Catholic NYC Facebook page on May 25, Cardinal Dolan brought out this very aspect of the Eucharistic Pilgrimage: “Now here’s the thing. What a magnificent ancient Christian devotion: pilgrimage. You’re doing what Jesus did on Palm Sunday, you’re doing what Jesus did on the Way of the Cross. This is phenomenal. This walking together in company with the Lord. It’s a microcosm of life itself.”

Marina knows what she is talking about when she speaks of reaping harvests of grace connected with the Eucharistic Revival. She stated: “The Revival taught me about the doctrine of the Eucharist, and, ultimately made me join the Catholic Church ... I’m on this pilgrimage because joining the Catholic Church has been such a grace-filled experience for me, and I want to share those graces with others.”

Bishop Whalen, Auxiliary Bishop of New York, said in a homily to those who were joining the Eucharistic Caravan in Westchester County, NY, “We have a hunger for the Lord. Our city, our country has a hunger for the Lord

van or processions in the streets, my understanding of prayer has broadened beyond what I understood before. Praying could be saying the Rosary with my team in the van, singing hymns during Eucharistic processions through the streets of San Rafael, and it could also be interacting with parishioners after Mass at the Cathedral in Reno. Importantly, praying is also listening to the Lord speak to my heart throughout the course of the day.”

Matthew Heidenreich, one of the Perpetual Pilgrims on the Marian route, walked with the faithful in the proces-

today, your plans, even your dreams. You are always welcome at Mass. There, in the Eucharistic Liturgy, as Bishop Whalen explained in his homily, “We are once again at the Last Supper. We once again stand with Mary and John at Calvary. We run out with Peter and John to the empty tomb. The Paschal Mystery comes alive in each of us. We’re able to walk the streets of our lives, nourished at the Eucharist, and be the heaven.”

Find out how to join the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage at <https://www.eucharisticpilgrimage.org>.

National Eucharistic Procession comes to Cincinnati

Elizabeth Ann Seton route

July 1-7

July 1

10:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Walk from Cedarville Community Park to Green County Expo Center, Xenia

4:30 p.m.–7 a.m.

St. Brigid Church 175th Anniversary Eucharistic Celebration

Starts at Green County Expo Center

July 2

7:30–9:30 a.m.

Holy Mass and solemn departure process, St. Brigid Church, Xenia

9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Walk from Xenia Station to Walton Park, Spring Valley

6–7 p.m.

Holy Hour, St. Francis de Sales Church, Lebanon

July 3

7:30 a.m.

Morning Mass, St. Francis de Sales Church, Lebanon

9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Walk from Bicentennial Park in Lebanon to Kings Mills Bike Trail

Access

5:30–9 p.m.

Evening prayer vigil, St. Gertrude Church, Cincinnati

July 5

7 a.m.

Morning Mass, St. Gertrude Church, Cincinnati

8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Walk from McDonald Commons Park in Madeira to St. Cecilia Church, Oakley

July 5 (continued)

6 p.m.–8 p.m.

Holy Hour and cookout, St. Cecilia Church, Oakley

8:30–9:30 p.m.

Eucharistic Procession from St. Cecilia Church, Oakley to St. Mary Church, Hyde Park.

July 6

8:45–9:45 a.m.

Eucharistic procession from Holy Cross-Immaculata Church, Mount Adams to the Cathedral Basilica of

St. Peter in Chains in downtown Cincinnati.

10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Eucharistic Festival and Mass celebration, St. Peter in Chains, Cincinnati

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Sisters on the river — celebrating women religious

The Serra Club for Vocation's yearly picnic for women religious was set on the water as 105 women religious joined Serrans, priests, seminarians and Bishop John Iffert on a riverboat cruise over the Ohio River aboard BB Riverboat's *River Queen*.

Women religious enjoyed the "perfect" summer weather with games, sight-seeing from the boat's upper decks, live music by the Noyz Boyz, prayer and cook-out style food including hamburgers and grilled chicken. Gift bags were given to the sisters by the Serra Club as they disembarked as thank yous for their service,

Bishop Iffert expressed gratitude to the Serrans and women religious for inviting him along. "Just know of our love and our respect, and every good thought and desire for you always," he said to the sisters before offering a meal prayer.

Bishop Iffert expressed gratitude to the Serrans and

Baker photos



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Spiritual Mothers pray for our priests

(right) Twenty-two women from around the diocese joined hundreds of others in the ministry of "Spiritual Motherhood" during a ceremony, June 1, at St. Pius X Parish, Edgewood. Spiritual mothers pray daily for an adopted, anonymous "priest son." New spiritual mothers offer roses and prayers to the Blessed Mother as part of the ceremony.



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

Bulletins:

- June bulletin: posted Sunday, June 2; due Tuesday, July 2.

The monthly e-mail reminder of a new bulletin posted will come from system@pub.virtus.org.

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

VIRTUS Training:

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- Tuesday, June 18, 6-8:30 p.m., Diocesan Curia, Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, Covington
- Thursday, July 18, 9-11:30 a.m., Diocesan Curia, Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, Covington
- Thursday, July 18, 6-8:30 p.m., Diocesan

Curia, Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, Covington

- Tuesday, July 30, 9-11:30 a.m., Diocesan Curia, Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, Covington
- Tuesday, July 30, 6-8:30 p.m., Diocesan Curia, Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, Covington
- Wednesday, Aug. 7, 9-11:30 a.m., Diocesan Curia, Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, Covington

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

■ Tuesday, Aug. 27, 6:30-9 p.m., St. Francis Xavier Parish, parish hall, Falmouth

Note: If your Training Tab is missing or you cannot access your account, contact your parish, school or institution. For other difficulties, contact Marylu Steffen at (859) 392-1500 or msteffen@covdio.org

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Measuring a life of ministry

(Continued from page 4)

spending time in prayer, these are the main works that all aspire to and want to perform. These are the works that have touched the lives of the faithful and that in turn have given meaning and purpose to their lives.

I think we have all experienced time and again that it is Christ who is at work in us. I believe that there is no way that some of the marvelous moments of grace could have happened by our own doing. With all our faults and shortcomings, the Lord is using all of us to build up his kingdom here on earth.

Pope Francis in his homily at Christmas Mass this year talked about the joy of the priesthood. He said that joy should be one of the hallmarks of our priesthood and it should be the distinguishing characteristic of each and every priest.

As I look back over the jobs I had, to think I was destined to be a priest — I loaded semi-trucks for a greeting card company, I worked in a drug store, I was a dispatcher for the Ludlow Police Department, I worked in a TV repair shop, I was a security guard — being a priest is the only job that I have been able to hold.

Also, the example of my parents and many of the priests that I was fortunate to live with have had a great impact on me.

As we gather this afternoon, we all should examine our lives and see if we are truly joyful in our present situation, no matter what it may be. No matter how difficult all of our lives may seem, we need to put things in God's hands because he will guide us through any situation.

As we continue this afternoon let us be thankful for the gift of the priesthood in both the joyful moments and challenging times that life may give each and every one of us. And in closing, I just want to thank all of you for being here this afternoon. You have touched my life in one way or another and I want you to know how much I appreciate it. May God bless and be with all of you.

Father Thomas Robbins is a retired priest of the Diocese of Covington, Ky., and chaplain and teacher at Holy Cross District High School, Latonia.

Happy Father's Day

(Continued from page 5)

what joy will you experience seeing your children, partly through your efforts, live in everlasting bliss with God in the world to come!

God our Father, in your wisdom and love you made all things.

Bless these men, that they may be strengthened as Christian fathers. Let the example of their faith and love shine forth. Grant that we, their sons and daughters, may honor them always [meaning now and in the life to come]

with a spirit of profound respect. Grant this through Christ our Lord. (Book of Blessings, Chapter 56)

Father Stephen Bankemper is pastor, St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Ft. Thomas, Ky.



www.covcathedral.com/restored-in-christ

Eucharistic pilgrimage

(Continued from page 5)

Bridge below.

Once again, I was struck by Jesus' humility in allowing himself to be carried among his people in the ordinariness and grittiness of city life.

Our pilgrimage afternoon concluded in the Maronite Cathedral of Our Lady of Lebanon.

I later learned that this church had been built in the mid-1800s by a Christian group tracing their lineage back to the original pilgrims who landed in Plymouth in 1620.

By the early twentieth century, the group's numbers were diminishing, while the number of eastern-rite Syrians and Lebanese in New York was growing. The

church of the pilgrims was remodeled and reconsecrated, becoming Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite church.

As we knelt in the Maronite Cathedral singing "O Sacrament Most Holy," "Tantum Ergo" and finally, "Holy God We Praise Thy Name," it struck me that we had sung the same hymns and witnessed the same tradition of Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament along each stop of our pilgrimage.

Regardless of the great diversity we witnessed in New York, there were elements common to each celebration.

How beautiful it is to realize that in the midst of such great diversity, there is profound unity in the Body and Blood of Christ.

Sister Constance Veit is the communications director for the Little Sisters of the Poor in the United States and an occupational therapist.

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Parish	Donors	2024 Goal	2024 Commitment	Over Goal* (Under)
Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption	117	\$45,800	\$124,443.64	\$78,643.64
All Saints Parish	56	\$58,800	\$36,204.35	(\$22,595.65)
Blessed Sacrament Parish	256	\$158,600	\$176,852.77	\$18,252.77
Cristo Rey Parish	10	\$55,000	\$6,050.00	(\$48,950.00)
Divine Mercy Parish	60	\$39,600	\$16,334.00	(\$23,266.00)
Holy Cross Parish	110	\$19,800	\$53,989.44	\$34,189.44
Holy Redeemer Parish	11	\$2,800	\$4,553.85	\$1,753.85
Holy Spirit Parish	121	\$38,800	\$57,220.00	\$18,420.00
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish	242	\$134,900	\$158,043.00	\$23,143.00
Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish	208	\$74,400	\$140,676.65	\$66,276.65
Mother of God Parish	166	\$58,600	\$116,033.00	\$57,433.00
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish	5	\$44,000	\$850.00	(\$43,150.00)
Our Savior Parish	14	\$3,600	\$7,330.00	\$3,730.00
St. Agnes Parish	264	\$140,700	\$172,142.08	\$31,442.08
St. Ann Mission	23	\$8,800	\$17,760.00	\$8,960.00
St. Anthony Parish	61	\$16,800	\$30,200.00	\$13,400.00
St. Augustine Parish, Augusta	63	\$29,800	\$28,595.00	(\$1,205.00)
St. Augustine Parish, Covington	94	\$25,300	\$82,503.56	\$57,203.56
St. Barbara Parish	287	\$104,300	\$152,322.14	\$48,022.14
St. Benedict Parish	62	\$23,200	\$34,533.00	\$11,333.00
St. Bernard Parish	19	\$19,000	\$12,440.42	(\$6,559.58)
St. Catherine of Siena Parish	120	\$71,000	\$76,125.00	\$5,125.00
St. Cecilia Parish	135	\$74,100	\$59,012.00	(\$15,088.00)
St. Charles of Borromeo Parish	27	\$11,800	\$11,610.00	(\$190.00)
St. Edward Mission, Owenton	13	\$3,400	\$6,207.57	\$2,807.57
St. Edward Parish, Cynthiana	51	\$15,200	\$24,300.00	\$9,100.00
St. Francis Xavier Parish	57	\$19,500	\$26,625.00	\$7,125.00
St. Henry Parish	190	\$58,700	\$99,787.00	\$41,087.00
St. James Mission, Minerva	15	\$4,700	\$2,885.00	(\$1,815.00)
St. James Parish, Brooksville	17	\$13,100	\$13,325.00	\$225.00
St. John Mission, Dividing Ridge	8	\$3,800	\$2,450.00	(\$1,350.00)
St. John the Baptist Parish, Wilder	19	\$3,000	\$8,410.00	\$5,410.00
St. John the Evangelist Parish, Carrollton	27	\$27,300	\$36,771.00	\$9,471.00
St. John the Evangelist Parish, Covington	71	\$23,500	\$41,580.89	\$18,080.89
St. Joseph Parish, Camp Springs	62	\$51,800	\$58,835.00	\$7,035.00
St. Joseph Parish, Cold Spring	313	\$82,600	\$120,684.42	\$38,084.42
St. Joseph Parish, Crescent Springs	231	\$160,100	\$173,891.56	\$13,791.56
St. Joseph Parish, Warsaw	26	\$8,400	\$6,430.00	(\$1,970.00)
St. Mary of the Assumption Parish	373	\$132,000	\$142,370.81	\$10,370.81
St. Matthew Parish	18	\$13,000	\$8,990.00	(\$4,010.00)
St. Patrick Parish, Maysville	103	\$55,300	\$59,410.00	\$4,110.00
St. Patrick Parish, Taylor Mill	140	\$59,100	\$61,014.22	\$1,914.22
St. Paul Parish	172	\$108,200	\$136,312.93	\$28,112.93
St. Philip Parish	66	\$14,200	\$34,350.40	\$20,150.40
St. Pius X Parish	502	\$207,500	\$273,721.79	\$66,221.79
St. Rose of Lima Parish	22	\$10,000	\$11,555.00	\$1,555.00
St. Therese Parish	140	\$23,600	\$59,874.00	\$36,274.00
St. Thomas Parish	272	\$101,800	\$129,409.27	\$27,609.27
St. Timothy Parish	304	\$173,300	\$227,424.48	\$54,124.48
St. William Parish	40	\$22,900	\$27,150.00	\$4,250.00
Sts. Boniface & James Parish	33	\$14,300	\$18,675.00	\$4,375.00
Sts. Peter & Paul Parish	111	\$27,600	\$54,670.00	\$27,070.00
Transfiguration Mission	5	\$2,600	\$305.00	(\$2,295.00)
Friends	17	\$	\$7,189.00	\$7,189.00
Totals	5,949	\$2,700,000	\$3,450,428.24	\$750,428.24

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National/World

Spirit and Scripture combined cast light on life's problems, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christians should read Scripture often, every day if possible, and look to the Spirit if reading the Gospel ever feels dry, Pope Francis said. Even when one has repeatedly read a Scripture passage "without particular emotion," at the right time and in an atmosphere of faith and prayer, "that text suddenly becomes illuminated, speaks to us, casts light on a problem we are experiencing, makes clear God's will for us in a certain situation," the pope said during his June 12 general audience. "To what is this change due, if not an illumination of the Holy Spirit?" he asked. "The words of Scripture, under the action of the Spirit, become luminous." Continuing his catechesis series on the Holy Spirit, Pope Francis reflected on the role of the Spirit in revelation, which he said not only inspired Scripture but "explains it and makes it eternally alive and active." He said that the church "is nourished by reading Sacred Scripture, that is, reading done under the guidance of the Holy Spirit who inspired it." Pope Francis encouraged Christians to dedicate time each day to the practice of "lectio divina," reading and meditating on the Gospel, and recommended they carry a pocket-sized copy of the Gospel with them to read in moments throughout the day.

Pro-life advocates mark 2 years since Dobbs: 'We have a challenge on our hands'

WASHINGTON — Prior to the second anniversary of a landmark decision by the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn its prior abortion precedent, pro-life activists said much of their work remains to be done. Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington, Virginia, chair of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, told OSV News in a June 10 interview "we realized quickly we have a challenge on our hands," pointing to losses at the ballot box after the ruling, with more such contests on the horizon. The Supreme Court issued its historic decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization June 24, 2022. The Dobbs case involved a Mississippi law banning abortion after 15 weeks, in which the state directly challenged the high court's previous abortion-related precedents in Roe v. Wade and Planned Parenthood v. Casey. The Supreme Court ultimately overturned its own prior rulings, returning the issue to the legislatures. After the Dobbs ruling, states across the country quickly moved to either restrict or expand access to abortion. Public support for legal abortion also increased after Roe was overturned, according to multiple polls conducted in the years following the Dobbs ruling. In multiple elections since the ruling, ballot measures on abortion have so far proven elusive for the pro-life movement. Bishop Burbidge said that after two years since Dobbs "there is still reason to celebrate, because we know God's grace is more powerful than all this, but also, we have to embrace the challenge that faces us."

Judge strikes down ban on transgender surgeries, hormonal treatments for minors

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — A federal judge June 11 struck down key portions of a Florida law banning certain types of medical or surgical gender reassignment procedures for minors who identify as transgender. Judge Robert L. Hinkle of Federal District Court in Tallahassee ruled in favor of advocacy groups and families who challenged the 2023 law enacted by Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis, arguing that the law stripped them of parental rights regarding medical decisions for their children. "The state of Florida can regulate as needed but cannot flatly deny transgender individuals safe and effective medical treatment — treatment with medications routinely provided to others with the state's full approval so long as the purpose is not to support the patient's transgender identity," Hinkle wrote. In a statement, DeSantis' office said they will appeal the ruling. "Through their elected representatives, the people of Florida acted to protect children in this state, and the Court was wrong to override their wishes," the statement said. "We disagree with the Court's erroneous rulings on the law, on the facts, and on the science. As we've seen here in Florida, the United Kingdom, and across Europe, there is no quality evidence to support the chemical and physical mutilation of children."



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