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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).



(above) Blue powder rains over a group of cheering students to kick off their color run in celebration of their recent CAPE Blue Ribbon School nomination.  
(left) Many students ended their school day with a smile, covered head to toe in the color run powder.  
(below) Mr. Collopy (back row, third from the left), poses for a photo with many colorful students at the conclusion of the color run.



## Newport Central Catholic rains blue in celebration of CAPE National Blue Ribbon School nomination

Bella Bailey  
*Multimedia Correspondent*

The grounds of Newport Central Catholic High School, Newport, were colored blue, October 8, following a celebratory color run in which students, faculty and staff celebrated their recent CAPE Blue Ribbon School nomination. Blue powder filled the air in celebration of this achievement as students ran around campus greeting faculty and staff. By the end, no one was spared of the blue powder; not even Ken Collopy, principal, who was doused in the celebratory powder by students.

Newport Central Catholic High School applied to be a National Blue Ribbon school in the fall of 2024 with the scores of the 2024 and 2025 graduating classes, both of

*(Continued on page 11)*



## Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption takes center stage in new Dynamic Catholic production

Bella Bailey  
*Multimedia Correspondent*

A film crew from Dynamic Catholic made the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, their home October 2-3, as they filmed for Dynamic Catholic's new project "People of the Eucharist." One in a series of 10 programs, known as "Catholic Moments," that Dynamic Catholic is creating to "hopefully create world-class faith resources and education for Catholics at different points in their life," said Stephen Anderson, content team leader for Dynamic Catholic.

The program being filmed at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption will be focused entirely on the Mass. Along with the full, live Mass that was filmed Oct. 3, the program will be broken into 52 "moments of engagement," said Mr. Anderson, "that will teach people specifically how they can engage in that moment of the Mass."

*(Continued on page 2)*



Bailey photo



# Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption takes center stage

(Continued from page 1)

Bailey photos



“I think we had a total of 11 or 12 cameras going at once to film it and some drone shots, all of that to create this wonderful program on the Mass,” said Stephen Anderson, content team leader. Pictured are those cameras and videographers making the process possible.

The crew will return in November to film the educational moments of engagement, which will be combined with the footage from the Mass.

This is not the first project that Dynamic Catholic has filmed in the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, but it is one of the largest scale projects that has been completed in the space.

“There’s a lot of prep work that goes into something like this,” said Mr. Anderson. “I did try to take a few moments on the day to sit back and look up at the cameras and just soak in the fact that this was happening at such a

big scale.”

Mr. Anderson estimates that there was a total of 11 to 12 cameras on site in addition to sound equipment and drones. “The scale of this thing really blew me away,” he said.

The beauty of the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, in addition to Dynamic Catholic’s pre-existing comfort with the space and staff made it an easy choice to host the filming of the program.

“We think it’s one of the most beautiful churches in the world. We love that space, it’s so bright and beautiful.



When it comes to capturing the beauty of the Catholic Mass, we really couldn’t think of a better location,” said Mr. Anderson.

The program has an expected release date of the summer of 2026 and can be viewed on Dynamic Catholic’s own viewing platform Dynamic+. The series will be free to access and view through this platform on their website.

“Nothing compares to the feeling and grandeur of a full Mass,” said Mr. Anderson. “We believe this will transform the way Catholics, young and old, experience the Mass forever.”



**Annual priests retreat**  
Bishop John Iffert (right) with Father Sebastian White, O.P., (left). Father White was the retreat director for the Diocese of Covington’s annual priests’ retreat, Oct. 13–17, at St. Meinrad Monastery, Indiana. Father Sebastian is editor of Magnificat Publications and director of the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C. The theme of the retreat was “Loved By Jesus, Loving Like Jesus and the Priest.” “It really is a good time for us all to come together and to have some spiritual input from a retreat director; to have some casual time with each other, and to be able to socialize with each other,” said Msgr. Gerald Reinersman, chair of the Priest Continuing Education Committee. The annual retreat is one of five gatherings for priests throughout the year organized by the Committee. The priests also meet quarterly for a day of continuing education. In addition to Msgr. Reinersman, committee members include Bishop Iffert, Father Stephen Bankemper, Father Ray Enzweiler, Father Mark Keene, Father Ryan Maher, Father Robert Rottgers, Father Daniel Schomaker and Father Ryan Stenger.



**2025 Jubilee Pilgrimage**  
**Nov. 22**  
**Maria Stein Shrine of the Holy Relics**  
**Maria Stein, Ohio**  
Join Bishop John Iffert and the Diocese of Covington on a deluxe motorcoach to the home of the second largest Holy Relic collection in the United States. Trip includes Mass, tour and presentation, Little Chapel in the Woods, outdoor Stations of the Cross and buffet lunch. Cost \$250. To register visit [www.covdio.org/jubilee](http://www.covdio.org/jubilee).





# Deacon Tom Nolan celebrates 40 years of diaconal ministry

**Bella Bailey**  
*Multimedia Correspondent*

Deacon Tom Nolan of St. Timothy Parish, Union, recently celebrated 40 years of diaconal ministry with the anniversary of his ordination on June 22. Within his 40 years of ministry, Deacon Nolan has spread the word of God to those he meets and now delivers Communion to those homebound or otherwise unable to attend Mass.

Born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio, Deacon Nolan had a brother and sister. He attended Xavier University, Cincinnati, where he obtained a bachelor's degree in political science with minors in both philosophy and Spanish. Following college, he married and the two "moved around the country for a period of time," said Deacon Nolan, before settling back into the Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky area.

Deacon Nolan and his wife had always been very active in their parish, St. Paul, Florence, so when he approached his wife about becoming a deacon, he said it came as no surprise.

"She was highly in favor of it. She and I were very active in the Church to begin with, and she just saw that as confirmation that's what the Lord wanted," he



Deacon Tom Nolan

Deacon Nolan, however the pair decided to, "wait it out," he said. A year later, the Diocese of Covington announced

said.

It was a close personal friend, Father Angelo Caserta of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, who encouraged his discernment to the diaconate.

"He came to me one day and said, 'I think you're being called to be a deacon,' and I said, 'That's great but we don't have the diaconate in the Diocese of Covington,'" said Deacon Nolan, recalling the conversation. Father Caserta encouraged the Deacon and Mrs. Nolan to sell their house in Kentucky and move into the Archdiocese of Cincinnati for their diaconate program.

"We thought seriously about doing that," said

its new diaconate program, and after consulting a close friend and spiritual advisor, Deacon Nolan applied to the program in 1980. Deacon Nolan, along with a class of four others, became the first deacons ordained in the Diocese of Covington.

Upon his ordination, he was assigned to St. Paul Parish. However, he was not there for long, "three years later a survey was done in Boone County, put together by Bishop Hughes, I was on the committee that did the survey. It was recommended that a new parish be established in Boone County. I was assigned to the new parish along with Father Ed Brodnick, who was the first pastor," said Deacon Nolan. The new parish was St. Timothy Parish, Union, where Deacon Nolan still ministers.

"Right now, my primary ministry is taking care of the needs, the people who are in hospitals, nursing homes and would like to receive all the Communion in their homes," said Deacon Nolan, "over the years my wife and I were heavily involved in various things at St. Timothy. We directed the RCIA program together; we taught the Eucharistic preparation for little children. In the midst of all that I did a lot of weddings, baptisms and various other ministries."

Of all his ministry however, he most enjoyed preaching the word of God, "that became a very strong part of my ministry," he said. Over his 40 years of ministry Deacon Nolan served many "I was called by the Lord to become a deacon, and I'm thankful that I answered the call along with my wife," he said.

# Pilgrimage to Mexico takes pilgrims to Guadalupe, among other religious and cultural sites

**Maura Baker**  
*Staff writer*

The annual tradition of international pilgrimages alongside Bishop John Iffert continues, Sept. 21–26, 2026, as the diocese prepares for the next adventure, this time in

Mexico.

With registration open already, pilgrims will join Bishop Iffert to religious and cultural sites around Mexico — including Guadalupe, the site of one of the first Marian apparitions to St. Juan Diego. Other sites include a walking tour of Mexico City's center, Mass at the tomb of Blessed Miguel Pro, a 1920's Jesuit martyr, and a scenic visit to Puebla, Mexico, and its cathedral.

Although a shorter trip, at six days and five nights, the closer location allows the pilgrimage to be a cheaper and more accessible trip, according to Jim Hess, director of the the Office of Stewardship and Missions Services, who is in part coordinating the pilgrimage. "It's a different kind of pilgrimage, for people who want to stay closer to home or can't spend more than a

week," he said.

This pilgrimage will also be unique due to its more deliberate integration of both religious and cultural sites, offering a well-rounded experience of a country with a rich history of both.

With multiple Marian sites included in the pilgrimage itinerary, pilgrim Julie Fortner is particularly excited to make it her first visit to Mexico. "I just think that it would be a great place to visit and honor Mary," she said, having visited other apparition sites and hoping to make Guadalupe and the Juan Bernardino apparition site her next destinations.

With 16 slots already filled for the trip, registration may fill up quickly. For more information on how to participate in the pilgrimage, or to see the full itinerary visit the pilgrimage's webpage at <https://stcharlespilgrimages.com/iffert>.

*A 6-Day "Our Lady of Guadalupe"*

**PILGRIMAGE to MEXICO**

*with Bishop John Iffert | Diocese of Covington*

**September 21-26, 2026**

Register at [stcharlespilgrimages.com/iffert](https://stcharlespilgrimages.com/iffert)

**Bishop's Schedule**

<p><b>Oct. 18</b></p> <p>St. John Cemetery visitation, Ft. Mitchell, 10 a.m.</p> <p>St. Mary Cemetery visitation, Ft. Mitchell, 11 a.m.</p> <p>St. Stephen Cemetery visitation, Ft. Thomas, 1 2:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Oct. 19</b></p> <p>Pastor installation Mass, Sts. Boniface and James Parish, Ludlow, 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Sacred Heart Vespers and dinner, St. Thomas Parish, Ft. Thomas, 5 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Oct. 19 (continued)</b></p> <p>Evening Prayer for the Dead, St. Pius X Seminary Priests' Cemetery, Erlanger, 3 p.m.</p> <p><b>Oct. 21</b></p> <p>The Pontifical College Josephinum Board of Trustees meeting, Columbus, 8:30 a.m.</p> <p><b>Oct. 22–30</b></p> <p>Jubilee Year Pilgrimage to Rome</p>
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# Jesus provides sustenance, not ready-made answers, pope says

Carol Glatz  
Catholic News Service

Power, possessions and rank do not satisfy the deep desire for real meaning in life, Pope Leo XIV said.

“It is only the resurrected Jesus who can give the true and lasting peace that sustains and fills us,” the pope said in English Oct. 15 during his weekly general audience in St. Peter’s Square.

“We are not truly satisfied with achievements and passing certainties of this world,” he said, “because we are created in the image and likeness of God and through the power of the Holy Spirit we recognize an inexhaustible longing in our hearts for something more.”

Greeting Polish-speaking visitors during the audience, the pope said he was joining them in asking for the intercession of St. John Paul II, whose feast day is Oct. 22.

Calling the Polish-born pope a “witness of hope and guide of young people,” Pope Leo prayed: “May he inspire teachers, catechists and educators to collaborate with parents in forming the consciences of the new generations.”

Before the general audience, the pope received a 12-year-old silver-gray purebred Arabian horse as a gift from a Polish-born horse breeder. Video showed Pope Leo holding its reins and comfortably leading the horse by its bridle in a small courtyard inside Vatican City. The pope often traveled by horse when serving as a missionary in Peru.

The horse, named Proton, was raised at a stud farm in Poland, the Vatican press office said in a statement. Sired by Kahil Al Shaqab, a renowned stallion and show horse, Proton’s maternal grandfather is Hlayyil Ramadan, a world Arabian horse champion, who was born and bred in Jordan by Princess Alia Al-Hussein.

Meanwhile, in his ongoing series of audience talks on the Jubilee theme, “Jesus Christ our Hope,” Pope Leo reflected on how Christ’s resurrection fulfills the desires of every human heart.

“We live busy lives, we concentrate on achieving results, and we even attain lofty, prestigious goals,” he said in his main address in Italian.

“We would like to be happy, and yet it is very difficult to



Pope Leo XIV greets a child from the popemobile as he rides around St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican before his weekly general audience Oct. 15, 2025. (CNS photo/Lola Gomez)

be happy in a continuous way, without any shadows,” he said. “We feel deep down that we are always missing something.”

However, he said, “we were not created for lack, but for fullness, to rejoice in life, and life in abundance.”

“This deep desire in our hearts can find its ultimate answer not in roles, not in power, not in having, but in the certainty that there is someone who guarantees this constitutive impulse of our humanity; in the awareness that this expectation will not be disappointed or thwarted,” the pope said.

The risen Jesus “is the wellspring that satisfies our thirst, the infinite thirst for fullness that the Holy Spirit imbues into our hearts,” he said. “Indeed, the resurrection of Christ is not a simple event of human history, but the event that transformed it from within.”

Just like water quenches thirst, refreshes, irrigates and

renders fertile “what would otherwise remain barren,” he said, “the Risen One is the living wellspring” that always “stays pure and ready for anyone who is thirsty.”

Only Jesus “responds to the deepest questions of our heart: is there really a destination for us? Does our existence have any meaning? And the suffering of so many innocents, how can it be redeemed?” he said.

“The risen Jesus does not bestow upon us an answer ‘from above,’ but becomes our companion on this often arduous, painful and mysterious journey,” he said. “Only He can fill our empty flask when our thirst becomes unbearable.”

Jesus is also “the destination of our journey. Without his love, the voyage of life would become wandering without a goal, a tragic mistake with a missed destination,” he said.

Human beings are “fragile creatures,” who make mistakes, Pope Leo said. But the faithful can “rise again” with the help of the Risen One who “guarantees our arrival, leading us home, where we are awaited, loved, saved.”

To journey with Jesus “means to experience being sustained despite everything, to have our thirst quenched and to be refreshed in the hardships and struggles that, like heavy stones, threaten to block or divert our history,” he said.

“In a world struggling with fatigue and despair, let us be signs of hope, peace and joy of the risen Christ,” he added.



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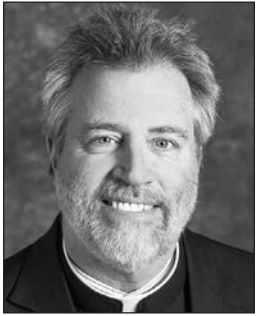
# Support in our ministries

The readings for the twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time — Cycle C — are: Exodus 17:8–13, 2 Timothy 3:14–4:2 and Luke 18:1–8.

The Gospel for this weekend, the story of the corrupt judge and the persistent widow, is well known and often cited, but I have always thought that the story in the first reading, the story of Joshua battling Amalek and Moses praying on the hill above him, deserves to be better known, because it is a good picture of what the Church’s life — and more particularly, parish life — should be.

Moses tells Joshua to engage Amalek in battle. Why Joshua and not Moses? To lead in battle is not Moses’

GO AND GLORIFY



Father Stephen Bankemper

role. It is Joshua’s and the other Israelite warriors’ task to engage their enemies in battle. Just so, it is not the primary role of the pastor to engage in the Church’s duties and activities in the world. That belongs primarily to the lay faithful of the Church. This principle has been explained in many ways by many different spiritual writers and teachers, but I will cite just two examples.

*Lumen Gentium* (“Dogmatic Constitution on the Church”), one of the documents that came out of the Second Vatican Council, after describing the nature of the Church in general, next discusses the nature and purpose of the hierarchy (clergy), and then has an entire section dedicated to the laity (Chapter IV, “The Laity”). Among all the things written about the laity is this general comment: “But by reason of their special vocation it belongs to the laity to seek the kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and directing them according to God’s will. They live in the world, that is, they are engaged in each and every work and business of the earth ... There they are called by God that, being led by the spirit to the Gospel, they may contribute to the sanctification of the world, as from within like leaven ...” (Par 31b)

A second example comes from John Paul II’s Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation, *Christifideles Laici* (“The Lay Members of Christ’s Faithful People”). From the very first sentence of the document John Paul illustrates the role of the laity by using the parable from Matthew’s Gospel of the workers in the vineyard: “The lay members of Christ’s Faithful People ... are those who form that part of the People of God which might be likened to the laborers in the vineyard mentioned in Matthew’s Gospel ...” (Introduction) Lay people “as well are personally called by the Lord from whom they receive a mission on behalf of the Church and the world.” (Par 2d)

Who supports them in their mission? The clergy. Moses does not stand on the battlefield, but climbs a hill from where he entreats the Lord on the warriors’ behalf. The citations describing the priest’s ministry to the laity are too numerous to even mention, so perhaps we should simply look at the nature of priestly ministry, described broadly by noting that the priest, as an extension of the local ordinary (bishop), participates in Jesus’ ministry of Priest, Prophet and King; the One Who sanctifies His people (for their own benefit, but also that “they may contribute to the sanctification of the world”, the quote from above), the One Who teaches and speaks God’s word to them and the One Who shepherds and guides them. I include under “Priest,” one who sanctifies, praying for my people. In fact, I spend more time praying for my parishioners than I do any other one thing, except perhaps homily preparation.

Moses, however, gets tired. His hands fall. He needs the support of Aaron and Hur to

continue his prayer. So, too, the priest gets tired, discouraged, disillusioned, scandalized, doubts himself, is subject to attacks by the Enemy, is tempted in many ways. Some months ago a YouTube video caught the

(Continued on page 13)

# 40 days of prayer

As Catholics, we are familiar with the fact that October is Respect Life Month. One of the ways my parish observes this occasion each year is by participating in 40 Days for Life.

40 Days for Life is an international, non-denominational campaign of prayer and fasting for the purpose of ending the injustice of abortion.

VIEWPOINT



Jamie Schroeder

Each spring and fall, Christians throughout the Greater Cincinnati area come together with Christians around the world for 40 days of prayer; fasting, community outreach and visible witness in defense of the unborn. Locally, it consists of a daily prayer vigil which takes place on the sidewalk in front of Planned Parenthood, the local abortion facility in Cincinnati. This year’s fall campaign began Sept. 24 and will run through Nov. 2.

I had an experience recently that brought home for me the importance of 40 Days for Life. In September, I attended a women’s conference with my daughter. Surprisingly, the very first speaker was a woman who gave her testimony about an abortion she had in 1972 at the age of 17 and her subsequent change of heart after coming to know the love and mercy of Jesus.

The woman described how she sought help from the Planned Parenthood in Cincinnati when she learned of her pregnancy. There, she was told that her baby was just a clump of tissue and that if she gave birth to the baby, she would not be able to go to college or have a career — that essentially her life would be over. They told her she had no other choice but to have an abortion, and she decided to go through with it.

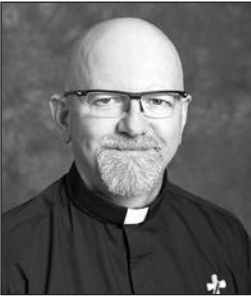
Since the Roe v. Wade decision had not yet been made,

# Just when you think

Just when you think you have life moving in the direction you want, the Lord steps in and gives you a new mission. I wasn’t looking for one, but that doesn’t matter:

Back in July, I was enjoying a nice, simple rhythm, training clients at LA Fitness and continuing my work with the Catholic Leadership Institute. Then, out of nowhere, Bishop Brossart High School reached out to ask if I’d consider teaching ninth-grade religion for 84 students. After prayer and discernment, I realized this was exactly where the Lord was calling me and what I needed.

VIEWPOINT



Deacon David Profit

So, I left my comfortable routine and stepped into the unpredictable world of high school education at a Blue-Ribbon School in Bishop Brossart. There are few days I don’t ask God what he was thinking. I’m not a teacher by trade — I’m a deacon and an exercise physiologist. My time at St. Anne Retreat Center prepared me in many ways, but this is a whole different arena. It’s challenging, frustrating and rewarding, often

all in the same day. It makes me realize why living a healthy lifestyle is important. It takes a lot of energy to keep up with these young folks.

My first concern for these young people is the salvation of their souls. I want them to know the depth of God’s love and the beauty of our Catholic faith. Many don’t attend Mass regularly, and though most have been in Catholic schools since kindergarten, few understand why their relationship with Christ and his Church matters so deeply. I also want them to know that I care and want the best for

abortion was illegal in Ohio, and the woman travelled to New York for the procedure. Years later, after finishing school, marrying and having another child, she had a spiritual conversion and was convinced of Jesus’ love for her and His mercy for what she had done.

As she spoke, I couldn’t help but wonder whether the Planned Parenthood facility that she visited was the same building I pray in front of each fall and spring. 40 Days for Life didn’t exist at the time, but if it had, would the presence of peaceful, prayerful witnesses have helped her know the love and mercy of Jesus before she made her fateful decision? Would it have helped her to see that she did have a choice other than abortion?

I sometimes hear people say that the pro-life movement focuses too much on babies and not enough on mothers. We do focus on babies because they are the innocents whose lives are being ended. However, we also recognize that many of the women who go to Planned Parenthood are desperate and afraid, lacking support and/or financial means, and may be there under coercion or may even be victims of trafficking. For this reason, a variety of pro-life organizations and agencies have been formed to provide the help that is needed. And we pray and sacrifice for all involved, the babies, their mothers, their fathers and those who promote and perform abortions.

Since 40 Days for Life began in 2007, the campaign has grown to include 1,000 cities in 71 nations. One million volunteers worldwide have saved over 25,000 lives — that we know of. One hundred eighty-two abortion centers have gone out of business, including 41 just in the last three months.

But there is still much work to be done. Abortion remains legal in half the states in our nation, including Ohio. Cincinnati has become an abortion destination with 50 percent of Planned Parenthood patients coming from out of state. Abortion numbers are at their highest in over a decade, with medication abortions accounting for two-thirds of an estimated 1,038,000 abortions provided.

(Continued on page 14)

them. The academic aspect is important, but I do not want this to be just another subject or class that they are taking. Faith is an experience, one that transforms the human person into something greater.

So, we’ve gone back to the basics, the parables, the teachings of Jesus, the grace of the sacraments and especially the Eucharist. I’ve walked them through the Mass and explained its profound meaning. It hasn’t been smooth sailing, but there’s progress, and at least I’ve learned most of their names and some of their lingo (though I’m still figuring out what “rizz” means).

Two things stand out from these first two months. First, I have a newfound respect for the teachers at Bishop Brossart. They are incredibly patient, dedicated and generous with their help. Second, I’ve come to understand the weight of my calling. I’m here to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and the beauty of his Church. Some days that responsibility feels heavy, but I’m not backing down from it.

I have no regrets about saying yes. This experience has reawakened something in me. It is the same spark I felt at St. Anne. The challenges are real, but so is the need for the truth of our Catholic faith in the lives of these kids. I feel blessed, humbled, and, yes, slightly deafened by the volume level of ninth graders. They test my patience, but that’s a small price to pay for the chance to plant seeds of faith that may one day take root.

I ask for your prayers for me, for our teachers, and for all those guiding our young people in this AI-driven world and a culture that often devalues faith. With your prayers and maybe a little help from the fall break, I just might make it through. If nothing else, I’ll go down swinging with the Lord and a mighty fine staff at Bishop Brossart in my corner. St. John Baptist de La Salle, pray for us.

Deacon David Profit is a leadership consultant for the Catholic Leadership Institute and is assigned to Holy Spirit Parish, Newport.



# Catholic Charities new counseling service ensures all students are set up for success

Bella Bailey  
Multimedia Corresspondent

At the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year, Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Covington launched a restructured counseling program — CARES, which stands for the Catholic Approach to Resilience, Engagement and Support. Currently the program is being piloted in three diocesan elementary schools, Holy Cross Elementary, Covington; Mary, Queen of Heaven School, Erlanger and Holy Trinity School, Bellevue.

The program was implemented to meet the increasing number of students needing counseling supports, while acknowledging the limited number of counselors available to meet those needs. CARES uses a three-tiered system, ensuring that each child is, “seen, valued and supported not only in academics but also in their emotional and spiritual growth,” wrote Chris Goddard, executive director of Catholic Charities, in the Partners Newsletter.

Catholic Charities has always provided one-on-one counseling. It is still available as tier three and is the most specialized and resource intensive. The two added tiers provide counseling to the broader student populus and small groups.

Jessica Gangwish, counselor to the three pilot schools,

said, “tier one is the classroom groups. They are interactive, age-appropriate lessons. It’s to help with developing skills like emotional regulation, self-awareness, decision-making, communication, relationship building, overall life and social skills. Then cultivating empathy and, something we’re really focusing on is resiliency.”

Tier one counseling is effective for about 80 percent of students according to a research article co-authored by Jannik Nitz of the University of Cologne, Germany and available on the National Institute of Health website.

“Tier two,” continued Ms. Gangwish, “are those supportive, additional, one-to-one check ins or small groups. Part of that is screening the kids to promote early identification and get some early intervening, recognizing skills where students are struggling.” According to the Nitz article on multi-tiered counseling, about 10 to 15 percent of a class would benefit from Tier 2 counseling.

Three months into the pilot program, “it’s been going really, really well,” said Ms. Gangwish. “The schools have been really receptive, the teachers are really receptive, and the parents have been really receptive as well.”

The tiered approach is not new to those in the counseling profession with many public schools using what is known as MTSS, Multitiered System of Supports. The pri-

mary difference between CARES and MTSS is the faith-based support provided through CARES.

“We make it a point in each session to incorporate the faith in any way that we can, whether it be coping using your faith with prayer or Scripture, going to Mass or talking with a pastor,” said Ms. Gangwish.

Karen Kuhlman, a Catholic Charities volunteer, wrote in the Partners Newsletter alongside Mr. Goddard, “By grounding counseling in a Catholic understanding of the human person, the program helps students flourish academically, emotionally and spiritually, equipping them to live out their faith with confidence and purpose.”

Within this new program, there is a heavy emphasis on instilling strong virtues in students from a young age as a form of prevention, allowing them to have these important skills to fall back on.

“Anything major that may come up, we kind of drilled those skills already to prevent anything further down the road. Instilling these skills that are essential life skills that you need as a student, a high school student, in college, in your work, just as basic life skills. Especially communication and managing emotion,” said Ms. Gangwish.

“We are building a system that strengthens not only academics, but also resilience, compassion and hope – qualities that shape the whole person,” wrote Mr. Goddard. “In this way, Catholic Charities is helping our schools prepare students not only for success in the classroom, but for lives of faith, hope and love — lives firmly rooted in Christ.”

# Musica Sacra kicks off 60th season with Cathedral concert

Maura Baker  
Staff Writer

The second longest-running choir in Cincinnati, Musica Sacra, is celebrating its 60th season — opening this month with a concert of sacred music at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, Oct. 26, 3 p.m.

This year’s season will be special, according to Musica Sacra director and conductor Dr. Brett Scott, who has been with the choir for the past 11 years after taking over from founding director Dr. Helmut Roehrig.

A tribute to Dr. Roehrig, according to Dr. Scott, Musica Sacra’s 60th season will consist of a three-concert series. The first celebrates in particular the choir’s long-running relationship with the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption.

“It is my understanding,” said Dr. Scott, “that Musica Sacra has been a part of (the Cathedral’s) concert series since it was started, so we have participated every year

that the concert series has happened. It’s been a wonderful relationship, so of course our first concert will be there.”

The concert at the Cathedral will feature a commissioned piece from choral composer Jessica French — written especially for Musica Sacra, it will be the first public performance of the piece.

“This is the first time we’ve done something like this in our 60-year history,” Dr. Scott said about the composition. “The piece is called ‘Receiving’ and it is for vocals and strings. It will be a highlight of our first concert.”

Musica Sacra defines its mission as to “perform sacred music in sacred spaces.” As such, Dr. Scott expressed his gratitude for their long-standing relationship with the Cathedral. “It’s a wonderful



space,” he said. “It’s visually stunning.”

“We always have a lovely audience ... if you’re going to come to one concert in the series, come to that one. They (the audience) are going to hear two very special pieces,” Dr. Scott said. “We’re grateful as an organization because it is so difficult and so rare for a choir in particular to be able to continue with this work for as long as we have, and it’s a credit to the dedication of the singers, the board, and to all of our supporters — including the Basilica.”

Musica Sacra concerts are free and open to the public. For more information, including details about upcoming performances, visit <https://musica-sacra.org>.



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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.

**Festivals, prayer services, etc. Parishes, schools and Catholic organizations of the Diocese of Covington can now have their event featured on the Diocesan online calendar.** Submit your event at <https://covdio.org/calendar/>.

**Notre Dame Urban Education Center, Covington, needs volunteer tutors** for its Education Center’s Homework Plus Program (Grades K-8). Contact Brandi at (859) 630-9475 or [blenihan@nduec.org](mailto:blenihan@nduec.org).

**St. Thomas Parish, Ft. Thomas, Seniors, upcoming events:** social and game night, Oct. 21; dinner, Nov. 20. Find more details and online payment link: [stthomasnky.org/seniors](http://stthomasnky.org/seniors).

**Northern Kentucky Youth Choir (NKYYC), a regional choir serving people ages 7 (6 reading) to 17, welcomes new singers and families throughout the year.** Programs: Oct. 21 (St. Walburg Monastery, Villa Hills); Nov. 11 (Holly Jolly Caroling at Behringer-Crawford Museum); and the Vatican initiated Pueri Cantores (“children sing”) Festival, Feb. 28 (all day). Autumn weekly rehearsals: Behringer-Crawford Museum. For information e-mail: [nkyYouthChoir@gmail.com](mailto:nkyYouthChoir@gmail.com); text/msg/call: Rebecca Wells (859) 240-3738; Facebook: Northern Kentucky Youth Choir; website: [nkyYouthChoir.org](http://nkyYouthChoir.org).

**“The most significant challenge facing the Catholic Church today is the attrition of our own people,”** Bishop Robert Barron. Only 7 percent of young adults who were raised Catholic actively practice the faith. Do you have an adult child who has fallen away from the Church? Would you like to learn how to help them? If so, attend a six-session workshop guided by the book “Return” by Brandon Vogt, starting Oct. 23, 6:30 p.m. at Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, Curia, Covington. For information and signup contact Gerry Otto at (513) 322-9783 or [GerryOtto.PMD@gmail.com](mailto:GerryOtto.PMD@gmail.com).

**Brady Webb, webmaster of the Catechetical Institute at Franciscan University,** will present a hands-on workshop exploring Franciscan University’s Catechetical Institute’s website, Oct. 25, 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Thomas More University’s Steigerwald Hall, Saints Center, Crestview Hills. This training is for everyone using the CI Website for learning the Catholic faith. Register by October 15, 2025, at [covdio.org/register/](https://covdio.org/register/). Questions? Contact Isaak A. Isaak at [iisaak@covdio.org](mailto:iisaak@covdio.org) or (859) 392-1529.

**St. Pius X Parish, Edgewood, is hosting a Pro-Life Resources Fair,** Oct. 26, 9 a.m.–1 pm. Come meet representatives from these local life-affirming organizations: Care Net Pregnancy Services of NKY, Madonna House of NKY, New Hope Pregnancy Center, Rose Garden Home Mission and St. Vincent de Paul, learn services and support and discover meaningful ways to volunteer in support of the precious gift of life. Questions? Contact Diane at (859) 380-6435.

**Holy Cross District High School open house,** Oct. 26, 1 p.m., at the high school gym. Highlights: faith-based education, A. P., dual-credit, internship opportunities, student-centered curriculum, diverse student experience and highly qualified faculty and staff. Call (859) 431-1335. Visit [www.hchscov.com](http://www.hchscov.com).

**“Sexual Abuse By Clergy And Others Among Indigenous People,”** a webinar for survivors and those who care for them, presented by Father Gerard Mcglone, S.J., Ph.D., Oct. 27, 6:30–8 p.m. CDT. These stories will highlight the colonial theology and colonial concepts of God that often perpetuate the abuse suffered by those in the Global South and those who are on the peripheries. This webinar is made available through the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. To register visit [https://archspm-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_MgHug3JTOGARPPi9F4ELA#/registration](https://archspm-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_MgHug3JTOGARPPi9F4ELA#/registration).

**St. Augustine Parish, Covington, warmly invites all, Oct. 28 immediately following 8 a.m. Mass, to its rosary procession and preparation for an outdoor**



**The St. Paul School, Florence, 7th grade students teamed up with St. Paul’s Walking with Moms in Need. The students learned about the nationwide, parish-based initiative to increase support for pregnant and parenting mothers in need. To raise awareness about this organization, the 7th graders tie dyed t-shirts with the Walking with Moms in Need logo. Students will be permitted to wear these shirts on designated days throughout the school year.**

**Mary statue.** The morning will include blessing of personal statues of Mary brought by participants, reflection on bringing Mary into homes as at the Wedding at Cana and prayers for life causes during Respect Life Month, promoting the protection and dignity of all human life.

**St. Thomas parish, Ft. Thomas, is honored to welcome The Gesualdo Six,** an award-winning British vocal ensemble praised worldwide for their impeccable blend and imaginative programming. The concert is Oct. 29 at 7 p.m. Tickets available at [stthomasnky.org/concert](http://stthomasnky.org/concert).

**Holy Cross High School Athletics presents the Pat Taney Night at the Races on Saturday,** Nov. 1, at the Holy Cross Gym-Monsignor Finn Center, 36th & Church Sts. in Covington, KY. Doors open at 6:30 PM with races starting at 7 p.m. There will be 10 races with a 10-horse field and pari-mutuel betting, silent auction, horse auction, raffles and prizes. Admission is \$15 each and includes 2 beer tickets and water and soda are free. Everyone 21 or over is invited to attend. All proceeds benefit Holy Cross High School.

**An informative workshop on updates and resources on the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults/Children** (OCIA/OCIC) will be presented by Dr. William Keimig, deputy director, Catechetical Institute at Franciscan University, Nov. 8, 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m., TMU’s Ziegler Auditorium, Academic Center. Register for the FREE Workshop by Oct. 29, at [covdio.org/register/](https://covdio.org/register/). Questions? Contact Isaak Abraham Isaak: [iisaak@covdio.org](mailto:iisaak@covdio.org) or (859) 392-1529.

**Campus Ministry night, Thomas More University,** Oct. 30, 6–7:30 p.m., where you can meet campus ministers, find out about the Bishop Foy’s Ministry & Service Scholarship, and discover the many opportunities for service, fellowship, and spiritual development. RSVP at: [tmuky.us/ministry25](http://tmuky.us/ministry25).

**Alive in Christ — Men’s One-Day Retreat,** Nov. 1, 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Memorial Hall, St. Joseph Church, Cold Spring. \$25 registration fee includes continental breakfast, box lunch and retreat materials. Register by Oct. 26 at <https://stjosephcoldspring.com/church/view-only/adult-faith-formation-fall-retreats/> Questions? Contact Vicki Klocke at [vklocke@stjoeparish.net](mailto:vklocke@stjoeparish.net) or (859) 927-2291.

**Newport Central Catholic High School will host “A Thoroughbred Affair” Winners’ Circle** on Nov. 8, on the school campus. The evening features dinner, cocktails, silent auctions and raffles. Cost \$100. Reservations online by Oct. 22: <https://nccwinners2025.givesmart.com/>.

**Women’s One-Day Retreat “Beloved by the Father, Rooted in the Son, Renewed by the Spirit,”** Nov. 22, 9

a.m.–5 p.m., Memorial Hall, St. Joseph Church, Cold Spring. \$25 registration fee includes continental breakfast, box lunch and retreat materials. Register by Nov. 16 at <https://stjosephcoldspring.com/church/view-only/adult-faith-formation-fall-retreats/> Questions? Contact Vicki Klocke at [vklocke@stjoeparish.net](mailto:vklocke@stjoeparish.net) or (859) 927-2291.

**The Office of Catechesis and Evangelization is offering workshops on Books of the Old Testament, presented by Father Timothy Schehr,** retired biblical scholar and former professor at Mount St. Mary’s School of Theology at the Athenaeum of Ohio. Workshops are all held Saturday morning, 10–11:30 a.m., Diocese of Covington, Curia Office. 2025 Workshops – Isaiah: Nov. 1 – Session 1 and Nov. 15 – Session 2. Cost \$35 per session, cash or checks at the door. Register at [covdio.org/bible-workshops](https://covdio.org/bible-workshops).

**An informative workshop on updates and resources on the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults/Children** (OCIA/OCIC) will be presented by Dr. William Keimig, deputy director, Catechetical Institute at Franciscan University, Nov. 8, 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Thomas More University’s Ziegler Auditorium, Academic Center. Register by Oct. 29, at [covdio.org/register/](https://covdio.org/register/). Questions? Contact Isaak A. Isaak at [iisaak@covdio.org](mailto:iisaak@covdio.org) or (859) 392-1529.

**The National Catholic Youth Conference** is a pilgrimage for Catholic high school students, Nov. 20-22, in Indianapolis. Teens spend three days at the nation’s largest Catholic youth gathering and experience the transformative power of the Church and God’s presence through music, talks, community and sacraments. The Youth Ministry Office coordinates the overall pilgrimage (conference ticket, transportation, housing and food). Parishes and schools register as a group. For individuals not identified with a group, contact Angie Poat, [apoat@covdio.org](mailto:apoat@covdio.org). Bus space is limited.

**The Diocese of Covington is coordinating a pilgrimage to World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul, South Korea, for young adults** ages 18 to 35. Bishop John Iffert hopes to join the pilgrims along with a few priests and deacons from the diocese. The estimated cost is \$5,500.00 per person and includes round-trip airfare, transportation, lodging, meals (from WYD) and tours. To reserve your spot, the initial payment of \$350 is due Dec. 31, 2025. The full amount must be paid by March 15, 2027. If you are interested in attending, leading a group, or making donations to help the young adults of our diocese attend, contact Isaak Abraham Isaak at (859) 392-1529 or e-mail [iisaak@covdio.org](mailto:iisaak@covdio.org).



# A living rosary of faith and devotion

## Staff report

The parish and school community of St. Augustine Parish invites students, parishioners, and friends from across the Diocese to join a rosary procession Tuesday, Oct. 28, immediately following 8 a.m. Mass. The procession is part of the preparation for a future outdoor statue blessing.

This event takes place during October, Respect Life Month, a time when the Church reflects on the dignity and sanctity of every human life and just a few days following the Jubilee Day of Marian Spirituality. As the Blessed Virgin Mary is honored through prayer, attendees will recommit to protecting life at all stages — from conception to natural death — and promoting respect, love and care for all God’s children.

During the rosary procession each class will lead a decade of the rosary while carrying a small statue of Mary — a reminder that Our Lady walks with the faithful on every step of their journey of faith.

Participants are invited to bring personal statues of Mary to be blessed during the procession. This symbolizes bringing Mary into your home, just as she did at the Wedding at Cana, interceding and bringing grace into daily life. Through her intercession, Mary helps confront and avoid temptations, and strengthens families, parishes and communities in holiness and prayer. The outdoor statue will be blessed at a later date; this procession serves as preparation and spiritual anticipation for that future blessing.

This rosary procession also connects to St. Augustine Parish’s ongoing “1,000 Rosary Project” — a spiritual initiative inviting families, parishioners and friends throughout the diocese to pray 1,000 rosaries for peace, healing and renewal.

Every rosary prayed becomes a spiritual link in a powerful chain of intercession — uniting homes, classrooms and hearts in one continuous prayer to Jesus through Mary. On Oct. 28th, these prayers will be brought together in thanksgiving, celebrating the grace already at work, recommitting to Marian devotion, praying for the protection of life and invoking Mary’s help to overcome evil in our world.

Whether a student, parent, parishioner or visitor from another community, everyone’s presence at this rosary procession will be a blessing.


“Our children will lead us in prayer that day — reminding us that faith is alive, youthful and joyful,” said Father Niby Kannai, pastor, St. Augustine Parish, Covington. “As we walk together with Mary, may we rediscover the power of the rosary to bring peace to our hearts and unity to our parish family. By bringing Mary into our homes and hearts, as she did at Cana, we invite her grace into our daily lives. May every prayer become a seed of grace for our diocese.”



During the month of October, students at St. Augustine School, Covington, begin each day praying a decade of the rosary after Mass. As part of the parish’s 1,000 Rosary Project, each student was gifted a rosary ring and the students have committed to praying a rosary each day. They begin as a school community at Mass and then throughout the day each child prays two decades in personal prayer; then as a class a decade before lunch and a decade at the end of the day.

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# Tiny Saints brings the saints to life with pitched animated series

Maura Baker  
Staff Writer

It's Carlo Acutis's first day on the job — answering prayers out of “Intercession Station,” a fictional creation by the team behind the “Tiny Saints Show” where the saints work to answer our prayers.

This is the pitch for the first arc of the animated series — pitched for production by the Tiny Saints company, famous for its charms featuring “cartoon-ified” saints and other Catholic religious figures.

Ben West, creative director of Tiny Saints and one of the brains behind the Tiny Saints Show, who has a background in the animation field, is particularly excited for the project as it begins to take shape.

“The big picture is that, as a brand, we’ve always told the stories of the saints, just in a very tiny way,” said Mr. West, “This is an opportunity to go a little bigger.”

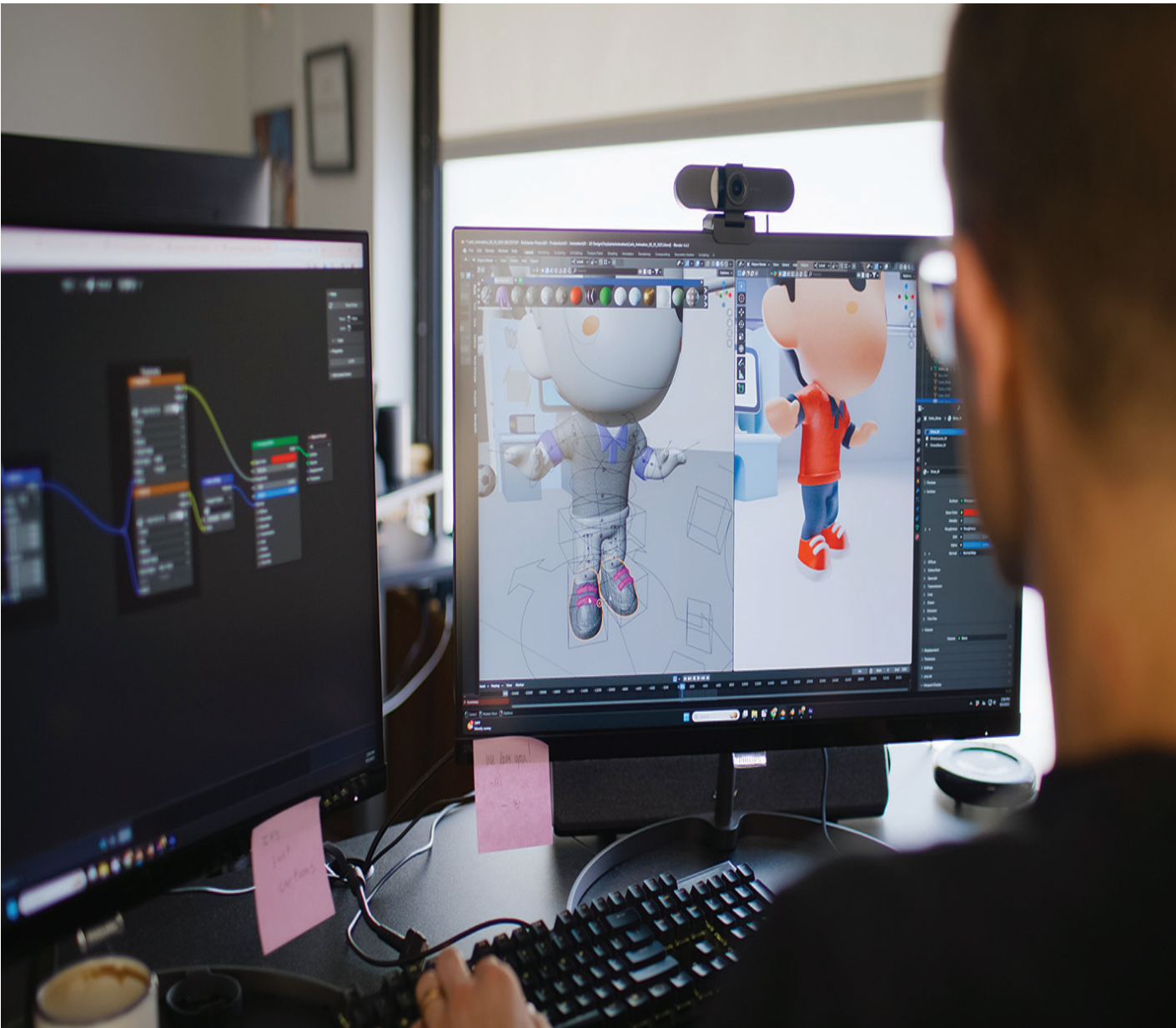
With over \$115,000 raised in two weeks for the campaign, the show is pacing to reach its goal, but support is still needed, Mr. West said, with everything from the concepts, modeling, animation and more all put together by Tiny Saints’ dedicated team.

“The opportunity is here in an independent space where we’ve got a crack team who’s ready to bring a really high caliber animation to life,” Mr. West said. “We’ve got a brand and a group of people who are really passionate about this for all sorts of reasons, both from a storytelling perspective and a faith perspective.”

Faith, of course, being one of the animated series’ primary missions, according to Mr. West, in a culture over-saturated with children’s cartoons lacking heart and conscience.

With the goal to release a “pilot” episode in the spring, Tiny Saints continues to raise funds to bring the show to life — raising money right from their webpage, <https://www.tinysaints.com>.

“We need people’s donations to make it happen,” said Mr. West. “But spreading the word really is what counts for a lot ... we’re thankfully well beyond the halfway point.”



In this promotional image, an artist is seen working on the 3D modelling and rigging for an animated St. Carlo Acutis — the “star” of the pitched Tiny Saints Show.

# Mother of Father Douglas Lauer remembered as sweet, kind, friendly and always with a smile

Laura Keener  
Editor

Patricia Ann Lauer (nee: Eilers), 86, mother of Father Douglas Lauer, peacefully passed away Oct. 2. She lived her life as a loving wife, mother, sister, grandmother, aunt and friend.

Born on Dec. 22, 1938, in Covington, Ky., Pat embodied a kind and loving spirit that touched many lives.

In an interview, Oct. 14, Father Lauer said that the four adjectives that he has repeatedly heard about his mom since her death are that she was sweet, kind, friendly and always smiled.

“That sort of encapsulates a lot of who she was, for people who only knew her for a short time, or people who knew her 60-plus years,” Father Lauer said.

Mrs. Lauer worked many years for Holy Spirit (formerly St. Stephen) Catholic parish and school in Newport as librarian, secretary and bookkeeper. She was a faithful member of Holy Spirit Parish, Holy Spirit Altar Society, Holy Spirit Social Club and the Fraternal Order of Eagles, Ladies Auxiliary #280.

“She tried to help as much as she could,” said Father Lauer, who was a student at the same school. “She spent

much of her time in her younger years, when we were growing up, at the school. She had lots of jobs, and she enjoyed her work.”

Father Lauer said that whatever advice his mother passed on to him and his siblings was communicated not by words but in deeds.

“She always worked hard; she didn’t float around from one thing to another. I think just by the way she lived we learned. She was kind and I think we learned kindness from her,” Father Lauer said.

Family was important to both his parents. They would regularly get together with siblings and their spouses for



Patricia Ann Lauer

games. “They would go to each other’s house and loved to play Euchre,” he said.

From her friends who paid their respects at the funeral, Father Lauer learned that she was “really funny.”

“That was not a side of my mom that I necessarily knew, so it was sort of comical, in a way,” he said. “For her friends, that’s who she was. She didn’t like to be the center of attention, but somehow she was able to make her friends laugh and that’s nice.”

Mrs. Lauer is survived by her sons David (Cincinnati) and Rev. Douglas (Elsmere), her grandchildren Gary and Brittany, her siblings Joan Edgington, John, Nancy Woods, her in-laws, and many nieces, nephews and friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents Frank and Henrietta Eilers, her husband Joseph “Whitey”, siblings Frank, Earl, Catherine Vulhop, Mary Beckerich and Richard.

Mass of Christian Burial celebrated by Father William Cleves was Oct. 6 at Holy Spirit Parish with entombment at St. Stephen Cemetery, Ft. Thomas. Memorials are suggested to Holy Spirit Parish, 825 Washington Ave., Newport, KY 41071.



# ‘Dilexi Te’ defined by charity, continuity and unity

Michael R. Heinlein  
OSV News

Five months into his pontificate, Pope Leo XIV has promulgated his first official document, making as his own the draft of a text unfinished by his predecessor.

Described as an exercise in “continuity” with Pope Francis, the apostolic exhortation is an ode to the 265th Successor of Peter while at the same time a further indicator of the priorities of the 266th. The title “Dilexi Te” (I have loved you) — taken from an expression of Christ’s love for his people in Rv 3:9 — positions the text as complementary to Pope Francis’ fourth and final encyclical letter “Dilexit Nos” (He has loved us), promulgated in 2024. And in the new text, Leo renews Francis’ invitation to “all Christians [to] come to appreciate the close connection between Christ’s love and his summons to care for the poor.”

At the same time, at about 21,000 words, “Dilexi Te” in many ways further manifests Pope Leo’s desire to bring unity to a fractured Church. “I would like that our first great desire be for a united Church, a sign of unity and communion, which becomes a leaven for a reconciled world,” Leo said in his homily at the Mass inaugurating his Petrine ministry.

This unity can be found only in conformity to Christ, and conformity to Christ means loving the least among us, as Pope Leo points out when he writes, “Love for the Lord ... is one with love for the poor.” This succinct thesis — and even the topic itself — sets up the rest of the document as both an invitation to examine consciences and as a framework for growing in unity with Christ and the Church.

Employing what has emerged as characteristically robust Christological underpinnings to support his ecclesial vision — with copious references to Scripture and patristic sources, and a generous survey of historical figures who took seriously the Lord’s words on the topic — Pope Leo squarely situates the love and care due to the poor within the Church’s tradition.

“Dilexi Te” not only draws from the magisterium of Pope Francis, but also several other of Pope Leo’s predecessors, particularly Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI. And in relying on the witness of so many saints and founders of movements — from the familiar St. Francis of Assisi to the lesser-known St. Joseph Calasanz — Leo illustrates the longstanding tradition in the Church for taking seriously, in no divisive or polarizing way, faith’s insistence to care for those in poverty. And Leo does not focus exclusively on material poverty, but also on poverty in all of its forms, such as in the realms of health care, migration, education and issues pertaining to human liberty (the imprisoned).

Building upon this foundation, Leo continues to cement the care for the poor as intrinsic to the Church’s mission by providing intelligent commentary to comprehend how such themes were portrayed in the early Church through to the present day. The text makes implicitly clear that care for the poor should be a unifying issue, as it lies at the heart of orthodoxy and holiness.

To this end, interestingly, Pope Leo positively includes in the exhortation an extended quote from a document produced by then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger’s Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith — Instruction on Certain Aspects of the “Theology of Liberation” — which Leo describes as “a document that was not initially well received by everyone,” in subtle reference to that text’s intention to preserve the best of the proposals of Latin American liberation theology while also keeping in doctrinal check many of its perhaps less doctrinally sound

champions.

An essential, yet difficult, aspect of effecting unity in the Church — itself willed by Christ (see Jn 17:21) — will be Pope Leo’s treatment of Pope Francis’ legacy. There is no denying that the Church Leo now leads is much more divided and polarized than the Church inherited by his predecessor. For ecclesial unity to be nurtured, particularly after a pontificate that was content to let divisions simmer, Leo needs to take the best of Francis and situate it squarely within the Church’s tradition — something Francis himself often had difficulty doing. Leo must also “thread the needle” as he seeks common ground between the Church’s factions and looks for ways to build consensus and communion. From this perspective alone, and to Leo’s great credit, it appears “Dilexi Te” quite adroitly achieves these goals.

While around 40% of the exhortation’s quotes footnote Pope Francis, those which are cited warrant little controversy. And while it seems almost impossible for the pope to say anything in modern times without causing some kind of reaction, the exhortation shouldn’t present intellectual concerns for those who embrace the totality of the Church’s social doctrine. To those shaped more by politics, economics or ideologies, however, which might “lead to gross generalizations and mistaken conclusions” on the poor, Leo warns of “the need to go back and re-read the Gospel, lest we risk replacing it with the wisdom of this world.”

An Augustinian friar and priest, Pope Leo has often quoted St. Augustine of Hippo — and “Dilexi Te” is no exception. The section on Augustine is perhaps one of the document’s most original as it considers care for the poor in light of Augustine’s gift to elucidate and effect ecclesial unity.

Closer consideration of what Leo has to say about his beloved saint, whom he describes as “a vigilant pastor and theologian of rare insight,” is warranted — for therein might exist some clues for what lies ahead on Leo’s intended path toward unity. To this end, consider that, amid the Church’s many contemporary divisions and challenges, Leo writes: “Today, fidelity to Augustine’s teachings requires not only the study of his works, but also a readiness to live radically his call to conversion.” “Dilexi Te,” a document written from the heart of the Church, with a style that encourages communion and with a command to love the poor as Christ did, calls each of us to conformity with Christ — that is, to holiness.

More than all else, attentiveness to Leo’s reflections on St. Augustine, that credible minister of unity and father of the Church, might give clearer insight into where he is guiding the Church. Leo’s exhortation echoes what Augustine taught: “The Church consists of all those who are in harmony with their brothers and sisters and who love their neighbor.” But even more than inviting the Church to live that reality, there might not be anything more timely and needed from a pope than to model it.



OSV News photo/Vatican Media/CPP

Pope Leo XIV signs his first apostolic exhortation, “Dilexi Te” (“I Have Loved You”), in the library of the Apostolic Palace at the Vatican Oct. 4, 2025, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, as Archbishop Edgar Pena Parra, the substitute secretary for general affairs at the Vatican Secretariat of State, looks on. The exhortation will be released Oct. 9.

## 9 things to know about “Dilexi Te,” Pope Leo’s first apostolic exhortation

1. “Dilexi Te” is about love and care for the poor

The apostolic exhortation is addressed “to all Christians on love for the poor,” and explores the topic through the lens of Scripture, church teaching and the witness of the saints.

2. Both Pope Francis and Pope Leo worked on this apostolic exhortation

Pope Francis’ fourth and final encyclical “Dilexit Nos” (“He loved us”), on the human and divine love of Sacred Heart of Jesus, was published Oct. 24, 2024, nearly six months before his death. In the prologue of the exhortation, Pope Leo noted the late pope was preparing this apostolic exhortation on the Church’s care for the poor as a follow-up and gave it its title.

3. Scripture and Church social teaching documents are referenced

Using Scripture, “Dilexi Te” explores mercy and justice toward the poor as shown in both the Old and New Testaments. Several church texts on social justice are also referenced in

“Dilexi Te,” including “Rerum Novarum,” “Mater et Magistra,” “Populorum Progressio,” “Sollicitudo Rei Socialis,” “Laborem Exercens,” “Caritas in Veritate” and documents of the Second Vatican Council.

4. It contains many saintly examples

No less than 33 saints are referenced as examples of holiness in their treatment of the poor sick, imprisoned, uneducated or migrant.

5. Works of mercy, spiritual care and almsgiving are recommended

6. Indifference to the plight of the poor is addressed

7. God has a preferential option for the poor

8. Some may find controversial elements
- Some factions in the Church and society may find some references as controversial within the document.

9. It begins and ends with Jesus’ words.

The first and last words of “Dilexi Te” are the same words of Jesus — “I have loved you (Rev. 3:9)” — spoken to his humble, persecuted church.

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# Newport Central Catholic rains blue in celebration

(Continued from page 1)

whom tested above the national average in multiple categories.

“It speaks volumes on how hard our staff has worked and how hard our students have worked,” said Mr. Collopy, “our staff made a lot of intentional efforts to realign curriculum with standards, whether they are state or diocesan.”

Having back-to-back graduating classes qualify for National Blue Ribbon consideration is, “to my knowledge very uncommon,” said Mr. Collopy, as test scores must be in the top 15% of the nation to be considered. However, the back-to-back qualifications speaks to a changing culture at Newport Central Catholic, one where students have “bought in,” said Mr. Collopy.

“Our students bought into the process of ‘we aren’t testing just to test. We are testing to give data to our teachers

to better meet our needs,’ and our teachers took that data and they did exactly that. They made adaptations in the classroom to help with their learning. I really believe that’s why we were able to achieve not only with the class of 2024 but also 2025,” said Mr. Collopy.

In a school assembly preceding the color run, Mr. Collopy addressed the students saying, “I ask two things of you every day, to show up with good effort and good attitude...we have not focused on attaining these numbers, the focus has been on just giving your best and looking to improve. That is what God calls us to go, give our best. It is not always easy; the results are showing that we doing this at an extremely high level.”

When schools apply to be considered as a National Blue Ribbon School, they are given the option to exclude certain scores. “We looked at various things including demograph-

ics, testing and services. We applied with everyone, we didn’t take anyone out,” Mr. Collopy announced, “These are students in our AP classes, dual credit, honors, also students in our St. Joseph Institute, regular level classes, student athletes, drama. All of those things made all of you National Blue Ribbon Students,” he told them.

Superintendent of Catholic Schools Kendra McGuire spoke at the saying, “This recognition really reflects the hard work and dedication of your school administration, your school staff, and especially you. We are hoping that this is just the beginning of the wonderful future here at Newport Central Catholic,” she said, “you truly are a beacon of light to everyone, and I know this is finally recognizing the achievements your school has made for decades. I look forward to this tradition of excellence to continue for many generations to come.”

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# Communications must always defend, guarantee, share the truth, pope says



CNS photo/Lola Gomez

Participants use their cellphones to record Pope Leo XIV as he addresses them during the Jubilee of Digital Missionaries and Catholic Influencers after Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle celebrated Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican July 29, 2025.

**Carol Glatz**  
*Catholic News Service*

Journalists can help stop those who seek to create divisions through “the ancient art of lying” and ruling by dividing, Pope Leo XIV said.

“You can also be a bulwark of civility against the quicksand of approximation and post-truth,” he told journalists and staff of major news agencies during an audience at the Vatican Oct. 9.

Communications “cannot and must not separate its work from the sharing of truth,” he said.

“Transparency of sources and ownership, accountability, quality and objectivity are the keys to restoring the role of citizens as protagonists in the system, convincing them to demand information worthy of the name,” he said, urging the journalists to “never sell out your authority!”

The pope was speaking to people attending an international conference in Rome Oct. 9-10 sponsored by MINDS International, a global news agency network and think tank aimed at supporting innovation and the digitization of media. Paolo Ruffini, prefect for the Dicastery for Communication, was one of the guest speakers at the conference.

“It is a paradox that in the age of communication, news and media agencies are undergoing a period of crisis,” the

pope said. “Similarly, those who consume information are also in crisis, often mistaking the false for the true and the authentic for the artificial.”

“Information is a public good that we should all protect,” he said, encouraging “a partnership between citizens and journalists in the service of ethical and civic responsibility.”

“One form of active citizenship is to value and support professionals and agencies that demonstrate seriousness and true freedom in their work,” he said, because “this creates a virtuous circle that benefits society as a whole.”

“The world needs free, rigorous and objective information,” he said, quoting the late Hannah Arendt, who warned in her 1951 work, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, that “the ideal subject of totalitarian rule is not the convinced Nazi or the convinced Communist, but people for whom the distinction between fact and fiction and the distinction between true and false no longer exist.”

“With your patient and rigorous work, you can act as a barrier against those who, through the ancient art of lying, seek to create divisions in order to rule by dividing,” he said.

“Communication must be freed from the misguided thinking that corrupts it, from unfair competition and from the degrading practice of so-called clickbait,” he said.

“News agencies are at the frontlines, and are called upon to act in the current communications environment according to principles — unfortunately not always shared — that unite the economic sustainability of the company with the protection of the right to accurate and balanced information,” Pope Leo said.

People working for a news agency “are expected to write quickly, under pressure, even in very complex and dramatic situations,” he said.

For these reasons, he said, “your service requires competence, courage and a sense of ethics,” which are “invaluable and must be an antidote to the proliferation of ‘junk’ information.”

“We are not destined to live in a world where truth is no longer distinguishable from fiction,” he said, calling for greater vigilance so that “technology does not replace human beings, and that the information and algorithms that govern it today are not in the hands of a few.”

“Algorithms generate content and data at a scale and speed never seen before,” he said, and people must ask, “Who controls them?” and who is directing artificial intelligence and for what purposes?

Pope Leo also recognized reporters “who put their lives at risk to inform people about what is really happening” and the many reporters who have died while doing their job.

“They are victims of war and of the ideology of war, which seeks to prevent journalists from being there at all,” he said. “We must not forget them! If today we know what is happening in Gaza, Ukraine and every other land bloodied by bombs, we largely owe it to them.”

“These extraordinary eyewitness accounts,” he said, are thanks to those working “to ensure that information is not manipulated for ends that are contrary to truth and human dignity.”

Pope Leo repeated his appeal for the release of reporters who have been “unjustly persecuted and imprisoned for doing their job,” adding that “doing the work of a journalist can never be considered a crime, but it is a right that must be protected.”

“Free access to information is a pillar that upholds the edifice of our societies, and for this reason we are called to defend and guarantee it,” he said.

“May the Spirit of God, who is truth and strength, and instills meekness and courage, sustain you,” he told the journalists, concluding the audience and imparting his blessing.

## Support in our ministries

*(Continued from page 5)*

attention of the Catholic people. It was purported to be a message from Pope Leo in reaction to the suicide of a priest. It very quickly became known that it was not, in fact, from the Holy Father, and it quickly died, but the message was nonetheless accurate. The priest needs support in his ministry, not for his own sake, but so that he can continue in his ministry and be effective. Without

Aaron and Hur, Moses would not have been able to continue his intercession, and the battle would have been lost. Without support, the priest, too, will eventually fail in his ministry. Not all of that support needs to come from his people — there is his prayer and devotional life, the Eucharist, and the grace of the sacrament of ordination, for examples — but the human support he receives

from his people is vital.

Go back and read this story again in this context. Let us pray for each other, so that we each may persevere in our respective vocations and ministries. Let us care for each other. Let us help each other. Let us love each other.

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



# 40 days of prayer

(Continued from page 5)

ed in the US last year.

And so, I spent an hour on Oct. 5, Respect Life Sunday, praying in front of Planned Parenthood with my husband, my parents and another couple from my parish.

We Catholics are not always comfortable giving public witness to the truth, and recent events in our country

might cause us to be even more apprehensive. But when I think of the woman who gave her witness at the conference, the many women like her, and their babies, I know the discomfort is worth it.

There is still plenty of time to participate in the 40 Days for Life fall campaign. For information and to sign

up for an hour (or more) of prayer, visit <https://www.40daysforlife.com/>.

Jamie Schroeder is chancellor for the Diocese of Covington, Ky

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VATICAN CITY — The apostolic exhortation “Dilexi Te” (“I Have Loved You”) on the church’s love for the poor, “is Pope Leo’s document. It is the magisterium of the church,” although Pope Leo himself wrote that it was begun by Pope Francis, said Cardinal Michael Czerny. The Canadian cardinal, prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, presented the exhortation at a Vatican news conference Oct. 9, the day it was published. Asked what percentage was completed by Pope Francis before his death in April and what percentage Pope Leo added, Cardinal Czerny responded, “It is 100 % Francis, and it is 100 % Leo.” “No new pope starts with an empty desk and a clear agenda,” he told reporters. “We always receive from our predecessors, and we always hand on to our followers.”

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Historic scenes unfolded across the Middle East this week as peace inched closer. In Tel Aviv, Israel, thousands gathered Oct. 11 in a final vigil before the Oct. 13 hostage release. Meanwhile, displaced Palestinians returning to the northern Gaza Strip found “a tsunami” of destruction, as described by Father Gabriel Romanelli, the Catholic pastor of Holy Family Parish in Gaza City. Pope Leo XIV, speaking before the original statue of Our Lady of Fatima in the Vatican, urged leaders to “disarm your hands and, even more importantly, your hearts,” saying peace must be “the fruit of sowing justice and courageous forgiveness.” Aid is now entering Gaza after two years of war, and U.S. President Donald Trump visited Israel and flew for a peace summit in Egypt, where a deal between Israel and Hamas was signed. Father Romanelli, injured in a July Israeli strike, said Palestinian Catholics in Gaza are turning to prayer and perse-

verance: "With the help of God and so many men and women of good will ... this can be done." He said, "Just as the populations that suffered the tsunami ... were able to lift their heads and rebuild their lives — hopefully, Gaza can also rebuild its life."

ST. PAUL, Minn. — From Jan. 10 to Feb. 1, the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis will host “Vatican Unveiled,” an exhibit of the largest collection of papal artifacts outside of Rome, in celebration of the archdiocese’s 175th anniversary. The 19,000-square-foot exhibit — curated by Father Richard Kunst, a priest of the Diocese of Duluth and its vocations director — will be hosted at the Mall of America in Bloomington. Items will include a document with the second-oldest papal signature outside the Vatican and a Swiss Guard uniform, the archdiocese announced in a news release Oct. 6. In a video announcing the exhibit, Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda invited the faithful to see the exhibit. Father Kunst, ordained in 1998, has said he grew up collecting items. Before his ordination, he was a staff member for the late U.S. Sen. Rod Grams, a Republican from Minnesota. The priest has developed a deep knowledge of the items in the “Vatican Unveiled” collection and a “passion for telling their stories,” the archdiocese stated in the news release.

CHICAGO — As federal immigration enforcement ramps up across Chicago, Catholic leaders and parishioners are stepping in to defend immigrants' rights — and their ability to practice their faith. Cardinal Blase Cupich criticized what he called “unnecessarily aggressive tactics” by federal agents, whom he said have overreached in their task of apprehending people. He added that safety and human dignity “are not mutually exclusive” and warned that enforcement efforts appearing to “ter-

rorize and cause chaos” undermine the dignity of all involved. On Oct. 12, parishioners at St. Jerome Church in Rogers Park formed a human chain outside Sunday Mass after alleged ICE agents were spotted nearby. Local Catholics say many immigrants are now too afraid to attend Mass or send their children to religious education. A day earlier, ICE agents denied Catholic clergy permission to distribute Communion to detained Catholics during a Eucharistic procession outside the Broadview detention center. The priests said ICE had been notified in advance. Protests have escalated at the Broadview immigration facility, drawing tear gas and pepper balls. Dominican Father Brendan Curran, who regularly prays at Broadview, described “intimidation,” rooftop snipers, and federal agents “hurling things” at demonstrators. On Oct 9, a federal judge temporarily halted federal agents’ use of tear gas, pepper spray against the protesters.

LA VALLETTA BRIANZA, Italy — A devastating fire has gutted a 17th-century monastery in northern Italy where newly canonized St. Carlo Acutis once received his first Communion. The blaze broke out on Oct. 11 at Bernaga Monastery in La Valletta Brianza, reducing much of the wooden structure to ruins. Thankfully, all 22 cloistered nuns inside survived, with one sister raising the alarm just in time. Archbishop Mario Delpini of Milan expressed deep sorrow, calling the fire a tragic loss of sacred heritage and personal belongings. The monastery had just marked the Jubilee of Consecrated Life and was preparing to celebrate St. Carlo's first official feast day on Oct. 12. A first-class relic of the young saint — a lock of his hair — was saved from the flames, though a crucifix gifted by St. Paul VI remains missing. Authorities suspect an electrical short circuit may have sparked the fire. Investigations are ongoing as the faithful rally in prayer and support. According to the archdiocese, from a young age, St. Carlo was "fond of the nuns" at the monastery. It was there that he was introduced to Bishop Pasquale Macchi. It was Bishop Macchi, the archdiocese said, that informed St. Carlo's parents that the 7-year-old future saint was ready for his first Communion.



# 4TH DEGREE BISHOP FLAGET ASSEMBLY #307

COMPRISED OF THE COUNCILS OF THE DIOCESE OF COVINGTON  
**PRESENTS**



## Ticket of the Month Club

Benefiting the "Chalice Fund" & Other Assembly Charities

1 Ticket enters you into 12 monthly drawings

Win

UP  
TO

\$7,500

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Only

\$10

per Ticket

KY GAMING LICENSE #EXE0002100
Limited Number of Tickets Available

All drawings to be held at 6:00pm on the 1st Tuesday of Each Month

<b>\$250</b> DRAWINGS  JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH	<b>\$500</b> DRAWINGS  APRIL MAY JUNE	<b>\$750</b> DRAWINGS  JULY AUGUST SEPTEMBER	<b>\$1000</b> DRAWINGS  OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER
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Number of tickets ordered \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10.00 each = \_\_\_\_\_ total due.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose a check or money order made out to Bishop Flaget Assembly #307.  
 Please mail to Knights of Columbus, 1204 Mockingbird Ct., Edgewood, KY 41018  
 Your portion of the ticket will be mailed to you.



# Cocktails & Candy Canes

*Benefitting the Senior Resource Center | Established by St. Charles Community*

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The Senior Resource Center guides seniors & their families through the maze of aging services. The Center connects seniors in need with resources to help them remain independent.



**December 9,  
2025**



**5:00pm -  
8:00pm**



**Receptions in  
Erlanger**

1379 Donaldson Hwy, Erlanger, KY 41018

**\$20 Admission | Easy Access | Door Prizes**  
**Hors D'oeuvres | Vendor Tables | Frequent Raffles**  
**Music & Dancing | Silent Auction | Cash Bar**  
**Non-Alcoholic Drinks Included**





*Senior Resource Center*  
Established by the St. Charles Community

**Scan QR code to purchase tickets online  
or call (859) 292-1660 to pay cash or check**





**SEMINARIAN  
Education Fund**  
*Diocese of Covington*

Those ordained by the Diocese of Covington are an active and loving presence of Christ among the people, sharing their faith and participating in the struggles of the people they are serving.

Most priests serve in parishes, while some serve as school chaplains and in other diocesan ministries.

Wherever they serve, priests work in bringing peace, love and justice to those around them.

SEMINARIAN EDUCATION FUND

# COLLECTION WEEKEND

**October  
25 & 26**



## WAYS TO GIVE:

- Cash, money order or check (payable to Seminarian Education Fund)
- Donate online at [www.covdio.org/give](http://www.covdio.org/give)
- Scan the QR code with your phone's camera

