Carthage parish
COMPLETES RENOVATION

By Glenita Browning Carthage, MO

Members of St. Ann Catholic Church, Carthage, welcomed the reopening of the church building during its rededication on Sun., Feb. 27. Bishop Edward Rice celebrated Mass and blessed the newly-renovated church.

The 113-year-old church building received a major renovation with parishioners undertaking the majority of the restoration efforts. The church was emptied for the four-month project with Masses celebrated in St. Ann Catholic School gymnasium.

“The renovation is beautiful. It truly was a parish project,” said Bp. Edward Rice. “Everyone came together with their time, talent, and treasure.”

Fr. Paco Gordillo, pastor, set an ambitious six-week goal for the church renovation, which would have put the completion by Christmas 2021. The work was completed in time for Ash Wednesday and Lent 2022.

“I am so grateful it is done and completed. It was in need of love, attention, and care,” Fr. Paco said. “It is a beautiful church – very inviting now.”

Parishioners sanded and varnished the 34 pews in an old warehouse in town. A painting company was hired for painting the interior including the ceiling of the building. Floors were repaired and new carpeting was added. Parishioners scrubbed the marble sanctuary and cleaned the sacristies. Miscellaneous repairs were also made.

Parishioner Dina Thomas headed the massive renovation project, that was completed without a fund-raising campaign.

The church’s last major renovation was done 30 years ago.

“This couldn’t have happened without the selfless labor, prayers, and financial support of this small parish,” Thomas said, “but in the end, bringing people together in worship and fellowship is the ultimate goal.”

Additionally, Mark Westhoff led the exterior renovation work. Members of the Knights of Columbus power-washed the Carthage marble structure and painted the exterior framework surrounding the beautiful stained-glass windows.

To celebrate the reopening, a two-day open house was held for people to view the work. Masses resumed the weekend of Feb. 26-27.

“It’s been a pleasure to serve the parish in this renovation,” Thomas said.

“Now the real work begins: The parish must offer new ways for its members to grow in holiness and become more intentional disciples of Jesus,” Bp. Rice said. “The parish must discover new ways to witness the faith to others, moving from maintenance to mission!”

The parish was initially formed in 1872 with Masses celebrated by visiting priests. The cornerstone of the church’s current building was laid in 1909. The elementary Catholic school was begun in 1962. It operates today with classes through sixth grade including a preschool.
Catholic health care: a gift to humanity

D id you know that each Catholic hospital is guided by directives of Catholic moral theology called the Ethical and Religious Directives (ERDs)? These directives offer guidance on a host of issues regarding the morality of certain medical procedures, such as end-of-life issues, nutrition, hydration, hospice care, fertility, etc.

Why am I going into all this? Well, I recently attended a workshop for bishops, Feb. 7-9, 2022, in Dallas, regarding the ERDs in the 21st century. It’s a reminder for me of the great work done in our Catholic hospitals and the challenges that they face in healthcare today. We are grateful for the Sister of Mercy, the Daughters of St. Francis of Assisi, the Daughters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary, the Sisters of Charity, and the Visitation Nuns who established our hospitals and selflessly labored in health care here in southern Missouri. We are grateful for those who continue this work today.

The ERDs are nothing new. The first set of directives was produced over 100 years ago, was referred to as “A Surgical Code,” and included 14 directives. In 1948, the first document to bear the name “Ethical and Religious Directives” was issued and expanded to include 60 directives. In 1971, the ERDs were issued for the first time by the Catholic bishops with 43 directives. The year 1995 saw the biggest revision in 50 years, and the directives expanded to 77. As medical knowledge expands, there will certainly be additional directives to cover situations that simply did not exist even a decade ago.

What are the principles expressed in the ERDs? First, respect for human life: covering such issues as abortion, euthanasia, and any direct killing during pregnancy. Second, respect for human fertility: sterilization, contraceptive acts, artificial reproduction. Third, informed consent and the rights of the patient. Fourth, care at the end of life: ordinary means for nutrition and hydration; preparation for death, and ethical sedation to deal with pain. Fifth, spiritual care: above all, the availability of the sacraments of baptism, Eucharist, penance, and anointing. Sixth, the recognition that the ERDs are provisional and will need updating as appropriate to address future medical advancements.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF CATHOLIC HEALTHCARE

The current edition of the ERDs includes a preamble, along with the general introduction, followed by six different parts and a conclusion. The six parts outline the social responsibility of Catholic health care services; pastoral and spiritual responsibility of a Catholic hospital; the professional–patient relationship; issues in the care for the beginning of life; care for the seriously ill and dying; and collaborative arrangements with other healthcare organizations and providers. The last section dealing with collaboration is of utmost importance as more and more Catholic hospitals are in systems that may involve non-Catholic healthcare services.

We are blessed in southern Missouri to have a Catholic hospital in our three major cities: Cape Girardeau, Joplin, and Springfield. In addition, we have a Catholic hospital in Mountain View. At the same time, there are also high-quality non-Catholic hospitals in southern Missouri. The reality is that in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Catholics make up only 5 percent of the general population. Therefore, the majority of non-Catholics encounter Catholicism through Catholic health care. Additionally, the majority of those employed in our Catholic hospitals are not Catholic, and thus the importance of forming new hires—from doctors to cafeteria workers—in the mission and principles of Catholic health care.

The medical profession is constantly evolving with new and better ways to address certain health issues. Simultaneously, just because something is available does not necessarily mean it is right or moral. Thus, the need for ERDs. We pray for our nurses, doctors, and all those in the medical profession that have put their own lives on hold these past two years in order to serve mankind. May Christ, the Divine Physician, bless the work of their hands.

COLUMBUS, OHIO — The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has announced that Bp. Edward Rice will be the next president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.


Bp. Rice was elected by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops during its fall meeting in November. He will begin his term as president on Jan. 1, 2023.
Notre Dame Regional High School

LAUNCHES STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

Cape Girardeau

Notre Dame Regional High School (NDRHS), named a top 50 Catholic high school in the nation since 2005, is embarking on the creation of a new strategic plan that will guide its work through the next five years as they continue the mission to provide a Catholic education that maximizes student potential. Boston-based “Partners in Mission” was chosen to oversee the development of the strategic plan.

“We look forward to this process, to do and teach, and we focus on the whole person: mind, body, and spirit.” — Tim Garner, Principal of NDRHS

As they begin to build the strategic plan, Notre Dame will incorporate the ideas and opinions of constituents throughout the community. A Strategic Planning Steering Committee has been identified, which includes board members, current parents, alumni parents, alumni, faculty, and staff. With the assistance of Partners in Mission, the committee will meet over the course of six months to gather data.

“We recently had our initial kick-off meeting [for the new strategic planning program] and I was mesmerized by everyone that participated, we had such a dedicated and inspiring group,” Garner said. “There was lots of energy in the room, everyone is committed to the future success of Notre Dame Regional High School.”

The Steering Committee is charged with gathering information regarding eight school domains. These domains include Academics, Advancement, Catholic Identity, Enrollment, Facilities, Finance, Governance, and Student Life. The perceived strengths and weaknesses of each of these individual domains will be gathered via surveys, focus groups, and individual interviews with a broad range of constituents in the school community.

In the spirit of the strategic planning theme, “Beyond the Building,” Notre Dame Regional High School will be reaching out to members of the school community, asking them to participate in the various stages of the process. The plan will develop after extensive assessment and analysis, based on stakeholder input, and will include goals, objectives, relevant benchmarks, and an implementation framework. The finished product will serve as a transformational guiding light over the next five years. The hope is that efforts move the school forward in a positive way to provide more opportunities for students to discover their passions; give back to their community; serve and connect with others; and grow in their Catholic faith at Notre Dame Regional High School.

“Beyond the Building” – As it approaches its centennial in 2025, Notre Dame Regional High School, Cape Girardeau, is embarking on the development of a new strategic plan under the theme, “Beyond the Building.” The Steering Committee is charged with gathering information regarding eight school domains: Academics, Advancement, Catholic Identity, Enrollment, Facilities, Finance, Governance, and Student Life. The perceived strengths and weaknesses of each of these individual domains will be gathered via a broad range of constituents in the school community.

Bishop John Leibrecht recently celebrated his 37th anniversary of his episcopal consecration, which was on Dec. 12, 1984. Before his retirement as the fifth Bishop of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, he wrote a standing column in The Mirror entitled, “Walking Together.” At the end of each article, Bp. Leibrecht would normally share a funny story referencing his travels to the schools, or time with friends, family, or other bishops.

The Mirror has decided to share a few of these in an ongoing series entitled, “Another walk through: ‘Walking Together.’” We hope you enjoy them.

ANOTHER WALK THROUGH: ‘WALKING TOGETHER’

January 17, 1986

One of the nicest compliments I received at the time of my first anniversary as bishop here in Springfield-Cape Girardeau came from a student at Springfield Catholic High School. After a Mass, I celebrated with the entire student body at St. Agnes Cathedral. Sam Corning spoke as a representative of the students. He said, “Bishop, I suppose you know that bishops do not stay here long. They become Archbishops and Cardinals because they are such good bishops. We like you very much and want you to stay. So, please mess up.”

January 31, 1986

My parish visits recently took me to Holy Trinity Parish in Springfield, where I visited CCD classes between Sunday Masses. In the first grade, I asked the children if they would say a prayer asking God to bless my work as bishop. “Just say your favorite prayer to me,” I requested. To a little girl, I asked, “What’s your favorite prayer?” She answered, “The one before I eat.”

February 21, 1986

Last Sunday, I visited the CCD classes in St. Joseph Parish, in Advance. It was marvelous! First graders volunteered to show me they knew their prayers. Saying the Our Father, one little guy prayed solemnly: “give us our trespasses…”

February 28, 1986

Recently a friend of mine showed me something printed for a parish celebration. It was a letter from a father to his son, Francis, making his first communion. I enjoyed reading it and hope you do, too.

“Dear Francis, eight years ago today God brought you into this world through the labor of your mother. You are the ongoing fulfillment of God’s covenant made between me and your mother on our wedding day. God’s covenant is that through our marriage, he will be revealed more fully to the world. You, our beloved son, will continue to reveal your True Father to the world long after our work here is finished. For this, we named you Francis Xavier after the patron Saint of the missions. Already, you have abundantly revealed God’s love to us. For the past eight years, God has revealed Himself to you primarily through us, your relatives, and the community of His disciples here at our parish. But today, God’s beloved Son, Jesus, will come to you and be much closer to you than you are to us, your parents. He will, in a real sense, share His life with you. He will be with you through the good as well as the bad. Listen to Him speaking to your heart and follow Him blindly. As He is continually fulfilling His promise to us, He will bring you the fulfillment of His Baptismal promise to you. Dear Francis, we love you very much. Dad.”
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Aurora—The Aurora Council of Catholic Women will have its annual Rummage/Bake Sale on Sat., March 12, 7 a.m.-12 noon, inside the Holy Trinity Catholic Church gymnasium located at Hwy 60 & Carnation Drive.

Belleville, IL—The National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows will offer a five-part Scripture study series entitled, “Religious in America,” on the following Saturdays: March 12, March 19, March 26, April 2, and April 9, in the Shrine Visitor Center. Presenter is Mark Elling, Ph.D. Fee is $50 for the series or $10 for an individual session. Pre-registration is required. For information and registration, go to https://snows.org/ministries/spiritual-program, or call the Shrine, (618) 394-6281.

Billings—St. Joseph Catholic Church will pray the Stations of the Cross every Friday evening during Lent at 7 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

Branson—The Knights of Columbus #6405 will have a Lenten Fish Fry each Friday of Lent, March 4-April 8, 4:30-7:30 p.m., in the Lower KC Hall. Fried fish, fried chicken, fries, hushpuppies, baked beans, cole slaw, and mac & cheese. Cost is $13 per person. Dine-in or carry-out. For additional information, call Dave, (573) 243-5464.

Jackson—The Knights of Columbus will have a Fish Dinner on Fri., March 4-5, 7 p.m., at St. Mary Parish. Fried tilapia, grilled cheese, vegetable stew, cheesy potatoes, green beans, cole slaw, dessert, and drink. Cost: $8 adults, $6 children, $25 family. Children under age 5 eat free.

Kimberling City—Knights of Columbus and Parish Council of Catholic Women will have a Friday Night Fish Fry, Fri., March 4, 4-6:30 p.m. at Our Lady of the Cove Catholic Church located at 20 Kimberling Boulevard. Fried catfish, French fries, cole slaw, rolls, dessert, tea and coffee. Cost: $12 for adults, $6 for children under age 12. Carry-out is available.

Nixa—The Knights of Columbus will have a Fish Fry on Fri., March 4-April 8, 4:30-7 p.m., at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church located at 844 S. Gregg Rd. Fried fish, French fries, hush puppies, cole slaw, and drink. Cost: $12 Adults, $6 for children under age 6; $40 for family of 4.

Scott City—Knights of Columbus and Parish Council of Catholic Women will have a Friday Night Fish Fry, Fri., March 4, 5-7 p.m. at St. Mary Parish. Fried fish, fried chicken, fries, hushpuppies, baked beans, potato wedges, mac & cheese, and hush puppies. Prices: $13, $7 for children, homemade slab, baked beans, potato wedges, and drink. Cost: $12 Adults, $5 for children under age 12. Carry-out is available.

Springfield—Catholic Campus Ministry, O’Reilly Catholic Student Center, K of C Council #11182 will be hosting a Fish Fry on March 25 5-7 p.m. Pick Your Price Donation, with Drive Up Curbside Option and/or sit down dinner available. See you there! 847 South Holland Avenue, Springfield, MO 65806. For additional info, call (417) 865-0802.

St. Agnes Cathedral Lenten Fair

SPRINGFIELD—St. Anne’s Group and the Faith Formation Program of St. Agnes Cathedral, Springfield, sponsored a Lenten Fair on Sun., Feb. 27. The objective of the day was to provide an opportunity for parishioners of all ages to prepare for the Lenten season. Participants could pick up Spiritual material for Lent, create a “Lamb of God” bookmark, visit the saints table, create an Easter card for parish shut-ins, make a Paschal candle, or visit our vocations table. (Submitted photos)

Lenten Friday Fish Fries

Find a Lenten Fish Fry near you at https://dioscg.org/fishfries

REGISTRATION is open!}

https://dioscg.formstack.com/forms/camp_re_new_all

Joplin—The Parish Council of Catholic Women invites you to join them in praying Mary’s Way of the Cross on Fri., March 25, 7 p.m., in Immaculate Conception Parish, located at 3555 S Fremont Ave., Community Room A. Refreshments will be provided. All are welcome!

Springfield—The Parish Council of Catholic Women invites you to pray the Stations of the Cross on Fri., March 25, at 7 p.m., in Immaculate Conception Parish, located at 3555 S Fremont Ave. All are welcome to attend.

Oran—Troops of St. George Troop 102 is an outdoor apostolate for fathers and sons, ages 6-18. Camping, hiking, canoeing, and other outdoor activities. Now is an excellent time to join the troops. For information or to join, contact Anthony Riley, Troop Captain, at TSGr troop@gmail.com or call (573) 837-2556.

Scott City—St. Joseph Home & School will host Music Trivia on Sat., March 12, in the school gymnasium. Cost is $15/player, with a maximum of 18 players per table. Doors open at 6 p.m.; play begins at 7 p.m.; outside food and drink permitted. Round sponsorships are available for $100 each. To RSVP or purchase a sponsorship via call or text to Ashley at (573) 450-9516, or Emily at (573) 275-3312.

Springfield—Followers of Francis Fraternity invites you to the monthly gathering at St. Joseph Parish. If you are interested in learning more about St. Francis of Assisi, living your life in a way where you “Preach the Gospel every day and when necessary, use words,” you are invited to the next monthly meeting on Sat, March 25. For more information, please contact Maureen Gray, (660) 537-0421, or Mike DePue, (417) 881-1381.

Springfield—The Parish Council of Catholic Women in Deaneries 3 & 4 will have a Sunday Cinema on Sun., March 20, at 2 p.m., featuring, “The Reluctant Saint,” in Immaculate Conception Parish located at 3555 S Fremont Ave., Community Room A. Refreshments will be provided. All are welcome!

St. Agnes Cathedral Lenten Fair

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PRINCIPAL SOUGHT FOR CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

St. Mary Grade School in Cape Girardeau is looking for a Principal for the 2022-2023 School Year. Applicant should be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church and with experience in Catholic Elementary Education, preferably with a Masters in School Administration. For more information or an application, please contact Fr. Allan Saunders at (573) 335-0649 or FrSaunders@stmarycathedral.net.

POSITION OPENINGS AT ST. AUGUSTINE SCHOOL, KELSO

St. Augustine Catholic School is seeking a full-time 4th Grade Teacher for the 2022-23 School year. Applicant must be a practicing Catholic, possess an appropriate certification, and hold a Bachelor’s degree. Previous teaching experience at the elementary level is preferred. Applications are available on the school Website, www.stakelso.eduk12.net. Applications may be submitted in person, through mail, or Online to Mrs. Katie Hendricks, Physical Address: St. Augustine School, 231 S. Messmer St., Kelso, MO. Mail to PO Box 97, Kelso, MO 63758. Email to khendricks@stakelso.eduk12.net.

John Carpenter

Speaking on:
"The Science of the Real Presence"

Tuesday, March 29
847 S. Holland Ave
Springfield, MO 65804

7:00 8:00pm Holy Hour
8:00 9:00pm Talk

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
(417) 865-0802 | www.ccm847.org

John Carpenter, MSW, has worked as a Psychiatric Therapist for 40 years in Southwest Missouri. Although raised as the son of a Methodist minister, he became Catholic in 2010. He “caught fire” with enthusiasm for his new faith as he began researching the truth of Marian apparitions, the Real Presence, and other exciting and miraculous facts. He has presented these findings from conferences, parish missions, Catholic radio, to three published books now on Amazon and Kindle.

RESTORED PARISH MISSION EVENT

APRIL 1-2

St. Augustine Church
211 N Messmer St
Kelso, MO 63758

EVENT SCHEDULE
FRIDAY - Catholic Man Night
6:30PM
From Addict to Evangelist: John’s Powerful Conversion Story

SATURDAY - Open to Men and Women
8:00AM
Mass
9:00AM
Identity Restored: Understanding Who You Are, Whose you Are, and Why You Are Here
10:30AM
The Game Changer: The Importance of a Personal Relationship with Jesus Christ

DeSales Catholic Bookstore

Open Tuesday-Saturday 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. & Wed. 7 p.m.
Closed Sunday & Monday

2101 W. Sunshine, Springfield, MO 65807 / Phone: (417) 865-4630, (800) 365-5170
Email: catholicbookstore@theglobal.net / www.desalescatholicbookstore.com

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KHJM 89.1 FM Dexter & the Bootheel
KFSS 94.5 FM Joplin
KQOH 91.9 FM Springfield

Your LOCAL source for all things Catholic!
Distinguished Graduate David Robert spoke Feb. 9 to students in St. Augustine Catholic School, Kelso, during Catholic Schools Week. Robert is the son of Germaine Robert of Kelso. He graduated St. Augustine in 1976 and went on to graduate from Scott City High School, then completed his degree at Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau.

Robert talked to students about advice given to him by “Sr. Beatrice” in the 8th grade. She told him to be the best listener in the room. He used that advice in his hotel career and it lead to great success. He is the co-founder and owner of Midas Hospitality. He has hotels all over the nation and works hard to please his staff and visitors by being a good listener.  

(Submitted photo)

Distinguished graduate speaks on importance of listening
We seminarians were gathered in the chapel for Mass. The reading was the same as today’s first reading from Genesis, where God made a covenant with our father in faith Abram (soon to be renamed Abraham). The lector began. Strange as it may seem, cutting animals in half and walking between them was how the people of that time made covenants.

Before I go further, let me note that the translation from the New American Bible that used then differs from our current New American Bible Revised wording. Today’s version speaks of a “smoking fire pot and a flaming torch” passing between the pieces to mark the covenant. Back then it read, “a smoking brazier and a flaming torch.” When our lector got to that point, he said it was a “smoking brassiere.” We did everything we could do to preserve at least SOME liturgical dignity.

No one laughed out loud, but bodies were shaking all over the place as we contained ourselves as best we could. In the Gospel today, the Transfiguration scene, at least in part, reminds of that covenant as Moses and Elijah appear in conversation with Jesus, the fulfillment of that covenant. God’s voice then proclaims Jesus as his Son and urges all to listen to him.

When the experience concludes, St. Peter is all about wanting to stay there. He is moved by the presence of Jesus and wants it to last. But Jesus leads Peter, James, and John back down the mountain. As a sidebar, I would note that it truly IS a mountain, rising far above the terrain. Mount Tabor is so steep, the winding road to get to the top is miles long!

Ah, how we would like to have such a peak experience, right? Or, if we have had one or more, making those experiences last. But, that’s not how it goes.

What we CAN do is open ourselves to realize that God is ALWAYS with us. Jesus came to bring us to salvation and to help us to remember that it is not we who go to Him, HE COMES TO US AND IS ALWAYS WITH US.

All too often we look for God somewhere other than parking ourselves and opening our hearts to his presence. We look all over for God, when St. John of the Cross tells us that God is waiting for us to let him in! God wants to be one with us… HE’S the one who is pressing for us to make an opening—with faith, hope and love—and to allow him to move into us.

According to St. John, we may not even feel his presence/union, but that doesn’t change the fact that He is there. Opening our minds and hearts in faith permits God’s grace to lead and guide us. His presence will allow us to realize peace no matter what the turmoil—a taste of the eternal peace that is to come as a result of faith, hope, and love.

Jesus says he is always with us until the end of time. And then some!

Father John Harth is a retired priest of the diocese. He lives in Cape Girardeau.

We would like to have such a PEAK EXPERIENCE, right?
Lent is a precious gift that our Church has given to us. It holds out opportunity and invites us. Way back many years ago, my spiritual director, a good and holy Benedictine monk, my spiritual mentor, suggested that during Lent, I should choose a companion to accompany myself on the journey or pilgrimage with its destination being the cross on Calvary’s hill.

The idea was to choose a saint, become intimately acquainted with his or her life (by way of a biography found in the book, The Lives of the Saints), pray daily to that saint, and ask for direction and advice.

That may seem kind of far-fetched! And all too easy. Let us examine the Church’s teaching on the “Communion of the Saints.”

We believe that the saints are still very much a part of the life of the Church even though they are now in heaven. Saints like St. Theresa of Lisieux, who said on her deathbed that she would spend eternity helping the faithful on earth to reach their goal. So the question comes to mind: where is heaven and how are we connected to the saints? Perhaps heaven is not all that far away!

Let us just say that there is a veil that separates this material world from the spiritual world. The communion we have, know it or not, is not only what unites us all in the Eucharist, but exists at all times—even outside of Mass.

The idea is not to imitate the saints, but to be inspired by them. For we must create our own unique reaction to the grace that it held out to us. Grace and the prayers of the saints are always present to us. I am reminded of the various prompts that we may find Online. In trying to solicit a reaction about what a Website offers, we are usually given a choice. “Count me in.” “Got it!” or “Not now.”

When we are offered grace, what is our reaction? Count me in, Got it, or Not now? How often our response is “Not now,” meaning we are not adverse to the idea but we are not ready to deal with it. Putting it off until the future may be a valid and honest answer, but it also might mean that we want to forget it.

When Jesus sent his disciples out on mission, he sent them two-by-two. If we try to make our Lenten Pilgrimage a one-person trek, we might become discouraged and not make it to our destination. Having a companion saint to encourage us along the way, to inspire us by their strong union with God, will spur us on. But we need to learn to hear with the ears of our heart.

Look for a new saint. One that you know little of. I suggest St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein), or St. Henry Cardinal Newman. Both, great companions!

You also might benefit from a Website: “Online Spiritual Journey:” reflections.conceptionabbey.org.

May Blessings be yours this Lent!

Fr. Wissman is a retired priest of the diocese. He lives in Bolivar, MO.
The 29th annual regional Diocesan Youth Conference (DYC), for 7th-12th grade youth, will be held Sat., March 26, in Carthage, MO, and Sat., April 2, in Cape Girardeau, MO. The extended dates and locations will allow for a more convenient and more personal experience. This year, the event will also provide different activities for middle and high schoolers. Youth, of course, may attend more than one conference.

Engaging Catholic speakers, lively praise and worship music led by top musicians, opportunities for quiet prayer, group discussions with peers, and time for games and activities to get to know other teens highlight these annual gatherings. Bishop Rice will celebrate the Sunday (Vigil) Mass with participants at both events.

The speakers for the events include prior Steubenville Mid-America Youth guest speakers:

• **Fr. Agustino Torres, CFR**, a priest with the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, leads street ministry in the Bronx, NY. He is the founder of Corazon Puro, an organization dedicated to forming youth. He hosts the EWTN television shows “Icons” and “Clic con Corazon Puro,” in Spanish.

• **Sister Josephine Garrett**, Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, is a licensed counselor and has served as a school counselor and in private practice. She has also served in vocations ministry and as a national speaker for youth and young adults, speaking to groups of up to 25,000. Raised in the Baptist faith, in 2005 she entered the Catholic Church and began her formation as a consecrated religious in 2011.

The featured musicians have both appeared at Steubenville:

• **Josh Blakesley**, who serves as the music director at St. Anthony of Padua in The Woodlands, TX, is called to make music that moves people to prayer and action. He and his band create music that leads to worship by honoring tradition but engaging the modern Church.

• **Mary Kate Westrich** serves as a music minister at St. Clare of Assisi Catholic Church in Ellisville, MO, and frequently performs music for many other parishes in the Archdiocese of St. Louis. She was a featured musician at the Theology of the Body Institute’s 2020 Virtual Conference and on the Music & Message stage at the 2020 National Catholic Youth Conference. In November 2020, she released her debut self-titled EP.

Registration is $30 per person, per conference date. Event dates and locations for the 2022 Diocesan Youth Conference are:

- Saturday, March 26 at the CRM Retreat Center in Carthage
  - Featuring: Fr. Agustino Torres and musician, Josh Blakesley
- April 2 at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Cape Girardeau
  - Featuring: Sr. Josephine Garrett and musicians Mary Kate Westrich and band.

**WITNESS TALKS**

In the morning, the speakers will be addressing the kerygma, a Greek word meaning “proclamation.” As Catholics, we make a bold proclamation of our salvation through Jesus Christ. Pope Francis states that the First Proclamation, or kerygma, always begins with “Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you.”

“Our speakers will be sharing their personal understanding of what that proclamation means to them and how their life is changed because of it,” said Lynn Melendez, diocesan Director of the Office of Evangelization, Catechesis and Youth Formation for the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. “We will also have two teens or young adults sharing their personal testimony at each conference to describe how they are accepting and sharing the kerygma in their lives. We want to invite and challenge participants to think about what that proclamation means for them and how God is calling them to respond.”

In the afternoon, the speakers will be talking about “truth.” In a culture where at times it is hard to determine what truth really is, youth are asking tough questions such as: Is there such a thing as absolute or objective truth? Does truth change for different people and different circumstances? Why does the Church believe it has the “fullness of truth”? The conference speakers will attempt to answer some of these difficult questions about truth.

**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE 2022 DYC!**

The 2022 DYC is made possible by donations to the annual Diocesan Development Fund under the guidance of the Office of Youth Formation, Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. Scholarships are made possible by the Youth Formation Endowment.

Attend one or more events. Sign up as part of a parish group or with a parent(s); all youth must be chaperoned. For more information, scan the QR code, visit www.dioscg.org/DYC, or contact your parish youth leader.
YOU ARE INVITED!

Our Holy Father Pope Francis has invited the Catholic Church to embark on a journey together. Through listening and discernment rooted in the Holy Spirit, the entire people of God will be called to contribute to a process by which the Church deepens in understanding of Her mission and looks toward the future.

Pope Francis and Bishop Edward Rice invite YOU to join the conversation in your community!

In May of 2021, Pope Francis introduced the Synod on Synodality which is a journey of dialogue and discernment, in which ALL THE PEOPLE OF GOD are called to pray and reflect upon the Holy Spirit’s will for the Church. This synod is not just a convening of Bishops reflecting on a particular topic and advising the Pope. Through our listening and sharing, together we will seek to understand the Holy Spirit’s will.

Our dialogue will focus on how your parish is currently journeying with people in their walk of faith and how the Holy Spirit may be challenging us to grow. Please come and share your experiences, insights, and concerns!

For more info on the Synod, please scan the QR code or check the website at https://dioscg.org/synod-on-synodality-2021-2023/
Preregistration is necessary: If you are a new registrant please go to www.virtus.org and click on “first time registrant” on the left, and follow the prompts to register for Online training. Instructions for the registration process can also be found on the Child and Youth Protection Page of the diocesan Website.


Training sessions are for adults only. The link to updated schedules may be found at www.dioscg.org just above the events calendar.

Along with the VIRTUS “Protecting God’s Children” training for adults, before regularly engaging in activities involving minors and/or vulnerable adults, new volunteer or employees are also required to submit a current Background Disclosure and Authorization Form and the annual Code of Conduct, which are available on the VIRTUS Website and the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau Child and Youth Protection Webpage: www.dioscg.org/child-youth-protection/

For more information, please contact the Office of Child and Youth Protection, childandypueblo@dioscg.org; or Bill Holtmeyer, billholtmeyer@dioscg.org; or Rosie Francka rfrancka@dioscg.org, (417) 866-0841.

Training is currently available Online.

PROJECT ANDREW DINNER

Is He Calling You?

Matthew 4:19

Any young man interested in learning about the priesthood is invited to join us for a dinner with Bishop Rice at St. Michael’s Restaurant.

301 South Ave, Springfield, MO

Wednesday March 23rd, 2022

6:30PM

RSVP BY EMAIL: FRKRICHNER@SCSPK12.ORG

World Youth Day

International Gathering of Youth and Young Adults (ages 16-35)

10 day pilgrimage to Lisbon and Fatima led by Office of Evangelization, Catechesis, and Youth Formation

Diocese of Springfield – Cape Girardeau, MO

July 29 - Aug. 7, 2023

Cost

$3,885 per person

Round-Trip Air from St. Louis, MO

Inclusions: Round-trip airfare, land transportation as per itinerary, hotel accommodations, breakfast and dinner, airport taxes & surcharges, daily Mass, and protection plan (medical/health insurance)

For more info, please contact Lynn Melendez lmelendez@dioscg.org | (417) 866-0841

To view full brochure with itinerary and to register on-line, scan the QR code or go to: https://dioscg.org/wyd
What will you ‘do’ for Lent?

Lent is a time of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. We, as Catholics, are called to walk through the desert with Christ for 40 days and 40 nights. The season of Lent is one of the holiest times of the year as we experience the sorrow of the crucifixion on Good Friday, and then rejoice in the risen Lord on Easter Sunday.

This Lent, strive to grow in your faith and deepen your relationship with Christ. Here are several Lenten programs that can help guide you through your journey.

The Hallow App
Hallow is offering a 40 day prayer challenge during Lent. The #Pray40 Challenge will focus on the last seven words Christ spoke from the cross. Led by Jonathan Roumie, the actor who plays Jesus in “The Chosen,” and Jim Caviezel, who played Jesus in “The Passion of the Christ,” each week will offer meditations, prayers, and reflections centered on the last seven words of Christ.

Ascension Press

Good Catholic
Join Good Catholic, a digital content platform, in their online series “A Holy Lent.” Through videos, prompts, prayers, exams, written reflections, practical actions items, Father Joseph Kirby leads the faithful from Ash Wednesday to the Easter Vigil with the hope to fill you with all the graces Lent has to offer.

Abiding Together
Join Abiding Together this Lent as they journey through “Restore: A Guided Lent Journal for Prayer and Meditation” by Sister Miriam James Heidland. This guided journal for prayer and meditation will help you encounter God’s mercy and healing. There are four phases of healing that focus on the traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and sacrifices.

Other Ideas
• Sign up for Bishop Robert Barron’s free daily Lenten Gospel reflections sent directly to your inbox.
• Do a Lenten book study from Abiding Together.
• Read the “Memento Mori Lenten Devotional” by Sister Theresa Aetheia Noblet.
• Watch a Lenten series on Formed. You can find parish-wide studies, individual studies, studies for the whole family, and studies for kids.
• Download the Amen app for Lenten prayers, meditations, audiobooks and more.

A bonus article from Bp. Edward M. Rice

What will you “do” for Lent? That is a thoroughly Catholic question. Although other denominations do follow Lent and it seems to be more and more popular among other denominations, Catholics are well entrenched in the practices of the 40 days of Lent. Lent conjures up images of Stations of the Cross, ashes, the color purple, fish fries, special Lenten songs, and works of prayer, fasting, and charity.

On Ash Wednesday, Catholics throughout the world pray and fast. It is a powerful day as are the 40 days of the Lenten season. It’s an invitation from the Church to walk more closely with Christ on his journey to Jerusalem. It is an invitation from the Church to make a personal commitment to embrace the cross. Ultimately, it is an invitation to enter into the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus: the Paschal Mystery. When looked at from that point of view, the 40 days of Lent can be life-changing. And any of the “traditional practices” of Lent hopefully lead us to a more profound understanding of sharing in the Paschal mystery.

What are some of the traditional Lenten practices? Well, Lent is a perfect time to experience the mercy of God through the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. Many of our communities will have Penance services with area clergy. Attend these as a family. Some people try to attend daily Mass. I have a personal tradition of reading one of the passion accounts from the Gospels on Friday. Other practices include Stations of the Cross, fasting from social media and television, and I make time to read a good Catholic book, families can pray the family rosary. Remember the old phrase that I use often: “The family that prays together stays together!” Of course, whatever we “do” is not done to earn our salvation. We cannot earn our salvation. It is a free gift. Jesus saves us through his saving action, the Paschal Mystery. I hope that everyone has a plan of action for the 40 days of Lent.

Salvation in Christ
I recently read an article about Lent and one of the practices that were encouraged was to “Stop taking the salvation of the world on your shoulders.” The writer went on to say, “Jesus is the Savior of the world. We are just to help those with whom we have influence. And let us not forget, salvation starts with our own souls and family. Every time you get depressed about the Pope, bishops, priests, religious, and laity, get down on your knees and pray about it. Then, give it over to God, Mary, and the saints to take care of it. We are not God.”

It might be nice to invite someone to participate in one of your Lenten activities with you.

God is still in charge of the Church in the world. We are only his humble servants. These are good words to live by!

RCIA Process is Amping Up
Lent is also the special time when final preparations are made for the reception of the men, women, and children into the Church during the Easter Vigil: those who will be baptized, receive holy Communion, and confirmation are called Catechumens, until after the Rite of Election, when they are then known as the Elect. Those already baptized, who will make a Profession of Faith to be received into full communion with the Church, receive the Eucharist and confirmation at the Easter Vigil, are known as Candidates. Lent is an especially “special” time for the almost 200 new members who seek to enter the Church in Southern Missouri. They enter into this intense time of preparation and become more visible in our communities through the Rite of Sending and Scrutinies in our parishes and missions. Let us remember them in our prayers and please greet them and welcome them in the local community.

Rosary for Peace
On a regular basis, I receive letters from people telling me what I should tell the priests or people to do. I often chide myself: they must think I have a lot more influence than I actually do. But, will I encourage people to pray the rosary for peace in our world? Absolutely! Especially in this time of tension with Russia and Ukraine. We need to heed the message of Fatima all the more. I firmly believe in the power of prayer and intercession of Our Lady, so pray the Rosary—pray the rosary as a family. Pray in Adoration; be with our Lord with peace on your mind and in your heart.

Another letter said I should tell everybody to bow their head at the name of Jesus during the consecration at Mass. I was taught that to bow their head at the name of Jesus in the elevation of the host, “My Lord and my God,” and the tradition of offering the little prayer at the elevation of the chalice, “My Lord and my God,” and the prayer at the elevation of the chalice, “My Jesus, Mercy.” I’ve been doing that since second grade and have passed that pious tradition on to many second-grade classes that I get to visit in the Diocese. So certainly, I will encourage people to bow their head at the name of Jesus in the consecration.

Have a great Lent! 🌞 🌞 🌞