

DIOCESE ANNOUNCES

Annual Clergy Assignments

Springfield

Bishop Edward M. Rice recently released the following clergy assignments **effective Fri., July 1, 2022**, unless otherwise noted.

"Please keep these priests in your prayers as they adjust to their new assignments," said Bishop Rice. "Please pray, too, for their former parishioners and new parishioners during this time of transition."

PASTORAL CHANGES

The Very Reverend Shoby Chettiyath, V.G., Vicar General of the diocese, is appointed Parochial Administrator of St. Francis of Assisi in Nixa. He will conclude his assignment as Pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Springfield.



Chettiyath

The Very Rev. Patrick Nwokoye will conclude his assignment of Pastor of St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Ozark, *effective Aug. 15, 2022*. He will continue his assignment as Pastor of Holy Trinity Parish, in Springfield, diocesan Director of Health Services, diocesan Ecumenical Officer, and Co-Chair of the Catholic/Pentecostal Dialogue, as well as his service as Dean of Deanery 4.



Nwokoye

Rev. Monsignor Thomas Reidy is appointed Pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, in Springfield. He will conclude his assignment as Pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, in Nixa. He will continue to serve as Chaplain at the US Medical Center for Federal Prisoners, in Springfield.



Reidy

Rev. Patrick Teter is appointed Pastor of St. Patrick Mission Church, in Greenfield. He will continue his assignment as Pastor of St. Mary Parish, in Lamar, and conclude his assignment as Pastor of St. Mary Parish, in Seneca.



Teter

Rev. Joji Vincent is appointed Pastor of St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Ozark, *effective Aug. 16, 2022*.



Vincent

The Very Rev. Joseph Weidenbenner is appointed Pastor of St. Mary Parish, in Seneca. He will continue his assignment as Pastor of St. Mary Parish, in Joplin; Chaplain of McAuley Catholic High School, in Joplin, and Dean of Deanery 1. He will conclude his assignment as Pastor of St. Peter the Apostle Parish, in Joplin.



Weidenbenner

Reverend Chori Seraiah will conclude his assignment as Pastor of St. Susanne Parish in Mount Vernon and St. Patrick Mission Church in Greenfield. He will continue his assignment as Pastor of St. George Catholic Church, the Personal Ordinariate community of the Chair of St. Peter, in Republic, MO.



Seraiah

PASTORS

Rev. Colby Elbert, Parochial Administrator of St. Francis Xavier Parish, in Sikeston, is now appointed Pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish, in Sikeston, and Chaplain of Notre Dame Regional High School, Cape Girardeau. He continues as Chaplain at Southeast Correctional Center, in Charleston, MO.



Elbert

Rev. Emmanuel Konyeaso, Parochial Administrator of Ste. Marie du Lac Parish, in Ironton, and Our Lady of Sorrows Mission Church, in Lesterville, is now appointed Pastor of Ste. Marie du Lac Parish, in Ironton, and Our Lady of Sorrows, in Lesterville.



Konyeaso

Rev. Jose Kumblumkal, CMI, Parochial Administrator of St. Francis de Sales Parish, in Lebanon, and the seasonal Sportsman's Chapel in Bennett Springs, is now appointed Pastor of St. Francis de Sales Parish, in Lebanon, and Sportsman's Chapel, in Bennett Springs.



Kumblumkal

Rev. Suganthan Selvin, HGN, Parochial Administrator of St. Joseph Parish, in Billings, is now appointed Pastor of St. Joseph Parish, in



Selvin

Billings, and St. Susanne Parish, in Mount Vernon.

Rev. Raymond Smith, CMF, Parochial Administrator of Sacred Heart Parish, in Springfield, is now appointed Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, in Springfield.



Smith

Rev. Antony Thekkanath, VC, Parochial Administrator of St. John Parish, in Leopold, and St. Anthony Mission Church, in Glennon, is now appointed Pastor of St. John Parish, in Leopold, and St. Anthony Mission Church, in Glennon.



Thekkanath

PAROCHIAL ADMINISTRATORS

Rev. (Bonaventure) Tuan Van Nguyen, CRM, is appointed Parochial Administrator of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish, in El Dorado Springs, and St. Peter the Apostle Mission Church, in Stockton.



Nguyen

Rev. Suresh Samala is appointed Parochial Administrator of St. Michael the Archangel Parish, in Fredericktown.



Samala

Rev. Brian Straus is appointed Parochial Administrator of St. Peter the Apostle Parish, in Joplin, and concludes his assignment as Parochial Vicar of St. Mary Parish, in Joplin, and St. Peter the Apostle Parish, in Joplin. He continues as Chaplain at McAuley Catholic High School, Joplin; Chaplain at Missouri Southern State University, Joplin, and as a diocesan Regional Vocations Promoter.



Straus

Rev. Tomasz Wilk, OSPPE, is appointed Parochial Administrator of St. Augustine Parish, in Kelso, and St. Joseph Parish, in Scott City. He concludes his assignment as Parochial Administrator of St. Michael the Archangel Parish, in Fredericktown.



Wilk

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The next issue of **The Mirror** will be **June 24, 2022**. Sign up to receive the diocesan newspaper via Email in digital format: Contact Debbie Thompson at (417) 866-0841, or Email: dthompson@dioscg.org.





COME, AND
YOU WILL SEE
Bp. Edward M. Rice

June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Our diocese will launch the three-year Eucharistic Revival on June 19, the Feast of The Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi). If your parish is planning to have a Corpus Christi procession, please do all you can to participate. If not, plan to attend with Bp. Emeritus John Leibrecht at St. Agnes Cathedral, Springfield, or with me at St. Mary Cathedral, Cape Girardeau at 2 p.m. that afternoon at both locations. Invite family members and make this a beautiful experience of faith on Father's Day. Come as a family.

SACRED HEART OF JESUS

The month of June is traditionally dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. According to the liturgical calendar the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart is the Friday after Corpus Christi, this year on June 24. Did you know that in the Diocese of Springfield – Cape Girardeau we have 12 churches dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus throughout southern Missouri: in Springfield, Bolivar, Caruthersville, Conway, Dexter, Mountain Grove, Poplar Bluff, Salem, Verona, Webb City, Willow Springs, plus the mission in Thayer. Is there an image of the Sacred Heart prominently displayed in your home? As with the May altar in honor of Our Lady, do you continue the beautiful tradition of a sacred space dedicated to the Sacred Heart throughout the month of June?

Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus originated from Christ himself, as his heart was pierced during the

crucifixion. The Preface for the Mass of the Sacred Heart proclaims, “He poured out blood and water from His pierced side, the wellspring of the Church’s Sacraments.” With that particular focus on His suffering heart, later saints such as St. Lutgarde, a Cistercian, d. 1246; St. Matilda, a Benedictine, d. 1298; and St. Gertrude, a Benedictine, d. 1302, each contributed to furthering the devotion to the suffering, Sacred Heart of Jesus.

However, it was St. Margaret Mary Alacoque who is principally responsible for spreading our modern-day devotion. Over a period of 18 months, from 1673 to 1675, Our Lord appeared to her and requested that he be honored under the image of His Sacred Heart. How were people to show honor to his heart? First, by consecrating themselves to His heart, followed by acts of reparation, little sacrifices (similar to the request

at Fatima), and then a devotion to His human, wounded, Sacred Heart through the practice of the First Friday devotion (receiving Holy Communion, Confession, and spending an hour before the Blessed

Sacrament), and praying the Litany of the Sacred Heart. That is why many parishes have the tradition of having the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on the first Friday of the month. In St. John the Baptist Church, in St. Louis where I was pastor, the parish has the tradition of reciting the litany of the Sacred Heart after the two morning Masses, followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament all day in church so that children could participate, followed by 6:30 p.m.

rosary and benediction. It was a beautiful way to celebrate the First Friday.

Our Lord made 12 promises to those who fulfill the First Friday devotion. These promises include graces, peace, consolation from troubles, blessings, mercy, growth in faith, and an increase in holiness. Of particular importance is that those “who propagate this devotion shall have their names eternally written in my heart.” In addition, those who receive Communion on the first Fridays, for nine consecutive months will have the grace of final repentance: they will not die without receiving the sacraments. And, the 10th promise is directed toward priests: “I will give to priests the power to touch the most hardened hearts.” That is why it is good for priests to have a devotion to the Sacred Heart and propagate it amongst the people of the parish. It helps the priest to be a more merciful confessor!

So, what about you and your home? Is there an image of the Sacred Heart prominently displayed? Does the Heart of Christ reign in your home? Do you offer it reverence with a special place, or pray the Litany of the Sacred Heart during the month of June? And if you are looking for something to do with the kids, how about making a point to visit every parish named after the Sacred Heart and attend Mass. With a little coordination it could be done! And when

June PRAYER INTENTIONS from Bishop Edward Rice



For those who do not know or have distanced themselves from the love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus: *May each of us draw close to the Sacred Heart and know more profoundly His love for us!*

you visit each parish, send a photo to me via Leslie Eidson, to leidson@dioscg.org. Whoever visits all 12 churches will receive a rosary from me. Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us! ©TM



Prayer for Jesus and his most Sacred Heart

The First Friday of each month is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, a devotion specifically promoted by St. Margaret Mary Alacoque.

One of the many ways to honor this day is to pray a prayer in adoration and love of the Sacred Heart.

Below is a traditional prayer prayed on First Fridays.

I adore Thee, I love Thee, I praise Thee, I cry to Thee for mercy, I return Thee thanks, I invoke Thee and confide myself entirely to Thee, O most holy and adorable Heart of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who for the salvation of us all didst submit Thyself to the rigors of Divine Justice, and didst voluntarily accept a birth accompanied with poverty, sorrow and contempt, a life of labor and contradictions, but of kindness for all, and a death full of opprobrium, confusion and sorrow, and who, in fine, for the love of those who wish to be saved through Thy divine charity, dost remain in the Blessed Sacrament of the altar to the end of time. Accomplish, O most adorable Heart, Thy wishes in my poor and miserable heart, which I dedicate and consecrate to Thee forever. Grant that it may live in the sentiments of love and gratitude which it owes Thee, that it may at all times breathe only Thy honor and glory, in order that it may expire in the waters of perfect contrition. Amen.

This post by Philip Kosloski first appeared on [Aleteia](http://aleteia.org), at aleteia.org.

“Devotion to the Sacred Heart helps the priest be a more merciful confessor!”

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**VEN Y
VERÁS**
Obispo Edward M. Rice

El mes de junio está consagrado al Sagrado Corazón de Jesús

Nuestra diócesis iniciará el renacimiento eucarístico de tres años el 19 de junio, fiesta del Cuerpo y Sangre de Cristo (Corpus Christi). Si tu parroquia está planeando hacer una procesión del Corpus Christi, haz todo lo posible por participar. Si no es así, planea asistir con el ob. emérito John Leibrecht en la Catedral de Santa Inés, en Springfield, o conmigo en la Catedral de Santa María, en Cape Girardeau, a las 2 p.m. en ambos lugares. Invita a los miembros de la familia y haz de esto una hermosa experiencia de fe en el Día del Padre. Ven en familia.

SAGRADO CORAZÓN DE JESÚS

El mes de junio está tradicionalmente consagrado al Sagrado Corazón de Jesús. Según el calendario litúrgico, la solemnidad del Sagrado Corazón es el viernes después del Corpus Christi, este año el 24 de junio. ¿Sabías que en la Diócesis de Springfield-Cape Girardeau tenemos 12 iglesias consagradas al Sagrado Corazón de Jesús en todo el sur de Missouri: en Springfield, Bolivar, Caruthersville, Conway, Dexter, Mountain Grove, Poplar Bluff, Salem, Verona, Webb City, Willow Springs, más la misión de Thayer? ¿Hay una imagen del Sagrado Corazón expuesta en un lugar destacado de tu casa? Al igual que con el altar de mayo en honor a la Virgen, ¿sigues la hermosa tradición de un espacio sagrado dedicado al Sagrado Corazón durante todo el mes de junio?

La devoción al Sagrado Corazón de Jesús tiene su origen en el propio Cristo, ya que su corazón fue traspasado durante

la crucifixión. El Prefacio de la Misa del Sagrado Corazón proclama: “Hizo salir sangre y agua de su costado herido de donde habrían de brotar los sacramentos de la Iglesia”. Con ese enfoque particular en su corazón sufriente, santos posteriores tales como santa Lutgarde, cisterciense, m. en 1246; santa Matilde, benedictina, m. en 1298; y santa Gertrudis, benedictina, m. en 1302, contribuyeron a fomentar la devoción al sufriente Sagrado Corazón de Jesús.

Sin embargo, fue santa Margarita María Alacoque la principal responsable de difundir nuestra devoción actual. A lo largo de 18 meses, desde 1673 hasta 1675, Nuestro Señor se le apareció y le pidió que lo honrara bajo la imagen de Su Sagrado Corazón. ¿Cómo iba la gente a honrar su corazón? Primero, consagrándose a su corazón, seguido de actos de reparación, sacrificios pequeños (similares a la petición de Fátima), y luego una devoción a Su Sagrado Corazón humano y herido mediante la práctica de la devoción del Primer Viernes (recibiendo la Sagrada Comunión, confesándose y pasando una hora ante el Santísimo Sacramento),



“**¡La devoción al Sagrado Corazón ayuda al sacerdote a ser un confesor más misericordioso!**”

y rezando las Letanías del Sagrado Corazón. Por eso, muchas parroquias tienen la tradición de hacer la Exposición del Santísimo Sacramento el primer viernes del

mes. En la Iglesia San Juan Bautista, en St. Louis, donde fui párroco, la parroquia tiene la tradición de recitar las letanías del Sagrado Corazón luego de las dos misas de la mañana, seguidas de la exposiciones del Santísimo Sacramento durante todo el día en la iglesia para

que los niños pudieran participar, seguida del rosario de las 6:30 p.m. y la bendición. Fue una manera hermosa de celebrar el Primer Viernes.

Nuestro Señor les hizo 12 promesas a los que cumplan la devoción del Primer Viernes.

Estas promesas incluyen las gracias, la paz, el consuelo de los problemas, las bendiciones, la misericordia, el crecimiento de la fe y el aumento de la santidad. Es especialmente importante la que menciona que los “que propaguen esta devoción tendrán sus nombres escritos en Mi Corazón y nunca serán borrados”. Además, los que reciban la comunión los primeros viernes, durante nueve meses consecutivos, tendrán la gracia del arrepentimiento final: no

morirán sin recibir los sacramentos. Y, la 10ª promesa está dirigida a los sacerdotes: “Daré a los sacerdotes y a todos aquellos que se ocupan de la salvación de las almas, el don de tocar los corazones más endurecidos”. Por eso es bueno que los sacerdotes tengan devoción al Sagrado Corazón y la propaguen entre la gente de la parroquia. ¡Eso ayuda al sacerdote a ser un confesor más misericordioso!

Entonces, ¿qué hay de ti y de tu casa? ¿Hay una imagen del Sagrado Corazón expuesta en un lugar destacado? ¿Reina el Corazón de Cristo en tu casa? ¿Le ofreces reverencia con un lugar especial, o rezas las letanías del Sagrado Corazón durante el mes de junio? Y si buscas algo que hacer con los niños, ¿qué tal si te propones visitar todas las parroquias que llevan el nombre del Sagrado Corazón y asistir a Misa? ¡Con un poco de coordinación se puede hacer! Y cuando visites cada parroquia, envíame una foto a través de Leslie Eidson, a leidson@dioscg.org. Quien visite las 12 iglesias recibirá un rosario de mi parte. ¡Sagrado Corazón de Jesús, ten piedad de nosotros! ©TM

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ANOTHER WALK THROUGH: ‘WALKING TOGETHER’ by Bishop Emeritus John J. Leibrecht

*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.*

November 21, 1986 One of the lighter moments of the recent Fall bishops’ meeting came when Bishop Francis Hurley of Anchorage, AK, was speaking about another topic on the agenda: general absolution of sins. Under certain very restricted circumstances, general absolution can be given to a large crowd of people rather than having them receive the Sacrament of Penance person by person. Bishop Hurley spoke about how few priests he has in his diocese and how far apart his parishes are. “And,” he said, “we have a saying in Alaska that flying by plane to go to confession is too expensive for venial sins and too dangerous for mortal sins.”

December 12, 1986 Ceil is a wonderful woman. Humorous and fun to be with. She is my sister-in-law Sandy’s mother. My brother Jim’s birthday is Nov. 26, which this year was the day before Thanksgiving. At Thanksgiving dinner, Ceil said: “Happy birthday, Jim, even though I’m a day early.” Sandy said: “Early? Mom, Jim’s birthday was yesterday!”

Ceil responded: “I thought your birthday was the day after Thanksgiving. It was last year.”

December 19, 1986 My last two confirmations and parish visitations were at St. Teresa’s in Glennonville at St. Ann’s in Malden. The young people confirmed and all the parishioners at both parishes were a joy to be with. We prayed together and had a good time together. At St. Teresa’s, I wore a beautiful new Mass vestment which was made by one of the parishioners. The pastor, Father Kunkel, after introducing me, said; “Bishop, Charlie here was Debbie’s model (for the vestments).” Charlie responded: “Model! I like that word, Father. Debbie called me her dummy.” At St. Ann’s, I talked with a couple who are celebrating their 58th wedding anniversary this year. “You know, Bishop,” the husband said, “not once in all these years did my wife ever think of divorce. A few times, though, she did think of murder!”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cape Girardeau—Saint Francis Healthcare System is offering **Free Cardiovascular Risk Screenings** each Thursday in June, 7-11 a.m. The screenings are free to the public and include a risk assessment, blood pressure reading, cholesterol testing, and preventative education. Registration is required, to register call (573) 331-3072.

Cape Girardeau—Deanery 6 Council of Catholic Women will have its **quarterly meeting and installation of officers** Tue., June 21 at Immaculate Conception Church, Jackson. Rosary is at 5:45 p.m. in church followed by Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotions and Benediction, and Mass at 6:30 p.m. Meeting will follow in the downstairs Fellowship Room. Every lady from area parishes is welcome to attend. For more information, please contact Ruth Ann Hester at (573) 270-4844.

Conway—Held for over 100 years, Sacred Heart Parish will host its famous and annual **Ice Cream Social**, Sat., June 16, 5:30 p.m. Come enjoy the famous hand-cranked ice cream, bake sale, silent auction games for kids & adults, and food will be available for purchase.

Dexter—Sacred Heart Parish invites you to the **Corpus Christi Procession**, Sun., June 19, 4 p.m. Procession begins at the parish, located at 115 E Market St. and will process around the neighborhood. Altars for prayer will be set up in three different locations, with water for refreshment available at each site. Those unable to join the procession are invited to pray in church. Procession will conclude at the parish with a final Benediction. Refreshments will be served afterward.

Springfield—Well of Life Food Pantry, located at 418 S Kimbrough is in need of volunteers on Fridays, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The pantry is also in need of donations of canned goods and non-perishable items. For questions

and additional information, please contact Tim Manning, (417) 450-0521.

Springfield—St. Agnes Cathedral annual **Garage Sale** will be held in the school gym, located next to the Pallotti Center, Fri., June 17, 7 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sat., June 18, 7-11 a.m. Clothing, shoes, toys, furniture, books, household items, décor and much more. Proceeds to benefit the parish building fund.

Springfield—St. Joseph Church, in Springfield, will host **BeFriender Ministry Training** this summer. BeFriender Training is for those who want to develop a listening ministry within the Church. For St. Joseph Parish, these skills are particularly important in its outreach ministry in the larger community. Sessions will be held on eight Wednesdays, starting on June 8, from 1-2:30 p.m. or 7-8:30 p.m. For more information, contact Don Emge at (417) 865-1112. For more information about the ecumenical BeFriender Ministry, see <https://befrienderministry.org/>.

Springfield—Revive your faith by joining with the **Praise & Worship Prayer Group** every Thursday evening, 6:30 p.m., in the sanctuary at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, located at 2200 W Republic Rd., or join via Zoom. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, this group has been meeting since 2016 and includes many parishioners from across the diocese. For more information, please call Shelly Pichler at (417) 838-2730.

Springfield—**Perpetual Adoration**, in Holy Trinity Parish, has an urgent need for Adorers on Fridays at 2 a.m. and 5 p.m.; Saturdays at 3 p.m.; and Sundays at 4 a.m. and 5 p.m. Substitutes are needed for all hours. For more information, or to sign up, please contact Marilyn Gibson at (417) 224-4043.

Parishes and organizations are invited to submit notices of future events to be printed in the announcements. They will be printed on a space-available basis. There is no fee.



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Qualifications: Bachelor's degree required, theology or philosophy preferred, 2-3 years experience in parish or campus ministry but not required. Must be self-motivated individual, team-oriented. Flexible schedule including some evenings and weekends. FT 10-month salaried with benefits.

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**PAROCHIAL VICARS
(ASSOCIATE PASTORS)****Rev. Daniel**

Belken is appointed Parochial Vicar of St. Mary of the Annunciation Cathedral Parish, in Cape Girardeau; Old St. Vincent Chapel of Ease, in Cape Girardeau; and Lead Chaplain of Notre Dame Regional High School, in Cape Girardeau. He concludes his assignment as Parochial Vicar of Immaculate Conception Parish, in Springfield; Chaplain of Springfield Catholic High School, and as a diocesan Regional Vocations Promoter. He continues to serve the diocese as Associate Director of Worship and Liturgy.

**Belken****Rev. Samson**

Dorival, SMM, is appointed Parochial Vicar of Sacred Heart Parish in Poplar Bluff, and St. Benedict Parish, in Doniphan.

**Dorival**

He will conclude his assignment as Parochial Vicar of Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Branson, and Our Lady of the Ozarks Parish, in Forsyth.

Rev. Jesse Hiett

is appointed Parochial Vicar of St. Agnes Cathedral in Springfield until Aug. 30, 2022, at which time he will return to seminary to continue his studies at Mundelein.

**Hiett****Rev. Nicholas**

Newton is appointed Parochial Vicar of Our Lady of the Lake Parish, in Branson, and Our Lady of the Ozarks Parish, in Forsyth.

**Newton****Rev. Charles**

Peirano is appointed Parochial Vicar of Immaculate Conception in Springfield, and as

**Peirano**

Chaplain at Springfield Catholic High School.

Rev. Timothy

Tran, CRM, is appointed Parochial Vicar of St. Agnes Cathedral Parish, in Springfield, **effective Oct. 1, 2022.** He will continue as Coordinator of the diocesan Office of Tribunal.

**Tran****Rev. Andrew**

Williams is appointed Parochial Vicar of St. Mary Parish, in Joplin; St. Mary Parish, in Seneca; Chaplain of Joplin Area Catholic School System, and Chaplain of Mercy Hospital Joplin. He will conclude his assignment as Parochial Vicar of Holy Trinity Parish, in Springfield; St. Joseph the Worker Parish, in Ozark; and Chaplain at Springfield Catholic High School.

**Williams****RETIREMENT**

Reverend John Braun concludes his assignment as Pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Parish, in Fredericktown, and will retire from active ministry.

**Braun****Rev. Michael**

Casteel concludes his assignment as Pastor of St. Augustine Parish, in Kelso; St. Joseph Parish, in Scott City, and Lead Chaplain of Notre Dame Regional High School, in Cape Girardeau, and will retire from active ministry.

**Casteel****Deacon Joseph**

Kurtenbach concludes his assignment as Parish Life Coordinator at Sacred Heart Parish, in Mountain Grove, and St. Michael Mission Church, in Cabool.

**Kurtenbach****LEAVING THE DIOCESE**

Rev. Gregory Tran, CRM, will

conclude his assignment as Pastor at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish, in El Dorado Springs, and St. Peter the Apostle Mission Church, in Stockton, to return to the Congregation of the Mother of the Redeemer, in Carthage, MO, for a new appointment.

**Tran****OTHER****Rev. John ("J")**

Friedel is appointed Priest Advisor for the diocesan Permanent Diaconate and Chairman of the Endowment Fund for Lay Leadership. He continues his service as Pastor of Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Branson, and Our Lady of the Ozarks, in Forsyth, and as Chaplain at College of the Ozarks, Point Lookout.

**Friedel****Rev. Allen Kirchner**

is appointed Faculty Member and Lead Chaplain at Springfield Catholic High School, and as a diocesan Regional Vocations Promoter. He will conclude his assignment of Parochial Vicar of St. Agnes Cathedral Parish, in Springfield, and as Chaplain at Springfield's Cox Medical Center.

**Kirchner****Deacon Dan**

Vaughn is appointed Director of the diocesan Permanent Diaconate. He continues his ministry in Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Branson, and Our Lady of the Ozarks Parish, Forsyth.

**Vaughn****Deacon Walter Biri**

is appointed Senior Advisor for the diocesan Permanent Diaconate. He continues his ministry in Immaculate Conception Parish, Jackson.

**Biri**

Deacon Michael Fritz is appointed Assistant Director of the diocesan Permanent Diaconate. He continues

his ministry in Holy Trinity Parish, in Marshfield, and as Chaplain at Ozark Correctional Center, Fordland, MO.

**Fritz****Deacon Mark**

Kiblinger is appointed Assistant Director of the diocesan Permanent Diaconate. He continues his ministry in St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Cape Girardeau, where he also ministers as RCIA Coordinator.

**Kiblinger****Rev. Joseph**

Stoverink is appointed a diocesan Regional Vocations Promoter. He will continue as Parochial Administrator of St. John Vianney Parish, Mountain View; St. Sylvester Mission Church, in Eminence, and Sacred Heart Parish, in Willow Springs.

**Stoverink****Rev. Mr. Nick**

Zummo will serve in parish ministry in St. Francis de Sales Parish, in Lebanon, and the Sportsman's Chapel in Bennett Springs, **effective May 20, 2022.** ©TM


**Zummo****FOLLOW US ON
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15TH
ANNIVERSARY

CONGRATULATIONS



**Fr. William Hennecke, Jr.
& Fr. Joseph Weidenbenner**

Fr. William Hennecke, Jr. celebrated the 15th anniversary of his priesthood ordination on June 1. Father Hennecke is the Pastor of the Catholic Church of Our Lady of the Cove in Kimberling City, Missouri.

*Happy Anniversary,
Fr. Hennecke!*


The Very Rev. Joseph Weidenbenner will celebrate the 15th anniversary of his priesthood ordination on June 15. He is presently the Pastor of St. Mary Parish, Joplin; St. Peter the Apostle Parish, Joplin; Chaplain for McAuley Catholic High School, Joplin, and Dean of Deanery 1.

*Happy Anniversary,
Fr. Weidenbenner!*




5TH
ANNIVERSARY

CONGRATULATIONS

**Fr. Charles Dunn**

Fr. Charles ("Chaz") Dunn will celebrate the 5th anniversary of his priesthood ordination on June 24th. He is the Pastor of St. Canera Parish, Neosho and Nativity of Our Lord Mission Church, Noel.

Happy Anniversary, Fr. Dunn!






JOIN US FOR THE

5TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
OF PERPETUAL ADORATION
in Springfield

Current Adorers and those interested in learning more about Eucharistic Adoration are invited to join Bishop Rice and area priests at the Fifth Anniversary Celebration of Perpetual Adoration in the Springfield area hosted by Holy Trinity Parish.

Wed., June 29 *Holy Trinity Parish*
The Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles

Mass will be celebrated at 5:30 pm,
immediately following will be a short talk about Eucharistic Adoration in the Social Hall. Light refreshments will be served.



RSVP by June 22 to Marilyn (call or text):
(417) 224-4043, or Email marilyngibson@outlook.com

Peter's Pence
Collection

Be a sign of
mercy.

June 26, 2022



www.usccb.org/peters-pence



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The Friends of Saint Francis
GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday, August 19, 2022

DALHOUSIE GOLF CLUB

Cape Girardeau | 6:30 am - 5:00 pm

The annual four-person scramble benefits community efforts to feed hungry children in our area through the Tiger Bites Summer Feeding Program and the Backpack Program.



REGISTRATION ENDS TUESDAY, JULY 5.

To register a team or sponsor the event, please visit foundation.sfmc.net/golf or contact Laura Propst, Development Officer - Special Events, at 573-331-5791.

A large white '5' with a blue 'TH' to its upper right. A blue ribbon banner curves around the bottom of the '5', containing the word 'ANNIVERSARY' in white capital letters. The background is blue with small, light blue geometric shapes.

CONGRATULATIONS



Fr. Colby Elbert

Fr. Colby Elbert celebrated the 5th anniversary of his priesthood ordination on June 2. He is the Parochial Administrator of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Sikeston, MO, and Chaplain of Southeast Correctional Center, in Charleston.

Happy Anniversary, Fr. Elbert!



The Friends of Saint Francis to Hold Annual Golf Tournament

Cape Girardeau

The Friends of Saint Francis Golf Tournament will take place from 6:30 am to 5 pm at the world-class Dalhousie Golf Club on Friday, August 19, 2022. The annual four-person scramble benefits community efforts to feed hungry children in our area through the Tiger Bites Summer Feeding Program and the Backpack Program.

The morning tee time is 7:30 am and the afternoon tee time is 1:30 pm. Breakfast, lunch, 18 holes of golf, green fees, golf cart and more are included. Prizes will be rewarded immediately following each flight with hole-in-one and team competition prizes available. Registration ends Tuesday, July 5. To register a team or sponsor the event, please visit foundation.sfmc.net/golf or contact Laura Propst, Development Officer - Special Events, at 573-331-5791.

For more information about The Friends of Saint Francis, visit foundation.sfmc.net.

©TM

Saint Francis Healthcare System is guided by our mission to provide a ministry of healing, wellness, quality and love inspired by our faith in Jesus Christ. Founded by Franciscan Sisters in 1875, our priority remains the same: serve all who enter with dignity, compassion and joy. Serving nearly 715,000 people across Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee and Arkansas, our focus is on patients' outcomes, experience and value.

Anchored by Saint Francis Medical Center, a 306-bed tertiary hospital, and supported by more than 3,000 colleagues and nearly 300 providers in 11 communities, the Healthcare System is a driving economic force in the region. Major services include Primary Care, Gastroenterology, Cancer Institute, Emergency and Level III Trauma Center, Heart Hospital, Neurosciences, Orthopedics, Family BirthPlace and the region's first Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.



Saint Francis
HEALTHCARE

A large graphic celebrating a 20th anniversary. It features the number '20' in a large, white, stylized font with a slight 3D effect. To the right of the '0' is the text 'TH' in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. A dark blue ribbon banner curves across the bottom of the '20', with the word 'ANNIVERSARY' written in white, uppercase, sans-serif letters along its length. The background is a vibrant blue, decorated with several small, light blue triangles of varying sizes and orientations, giving it a festive, confetti-like appearance.

CONGRATULATIONS



Rev. Scott Sunnenberg

The Very Rev. Scott Sunnenberg will celebrate the 20th anniversary of his priesthood ordination on June 24. He is the Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Bolivar; St. Catherine Mission Church, Humansville; diocesan Director of Vocations & Seminarians; Dean of Deanery 3.

***Happy Anniversary,
Fr. Sunnenberg!***



BLAINE AMENDMENTS



For nearly a 150 years, Blaine Amendments have restricted the rights of people of faith, particularly Catholics. Moreover, these “no-aid” provisions have harmed our political culture by misleading generations of Americans to believe that public benefits can under no circumstances be made available to religious institutions.

Nineteenth century “common” schools did not provide a religiously neutral education. In Boston, for example, students were required to recite a Protestant version of the Ten Commandments and read from a Protestant translation of the Bible. Catholics who refused were punished. Catholics responded to this de facto establishment of religion by developing their own school system. Parochial schools continue to be one of the great contributions the Church has made to American life.

Catholic schools developed against the backdrop of strong nativist movements that had grown since the arrival of Catholic immigrants from Ireland and Germany beginning in the 1830’s. The Know-Nothing party may be the most infamous example of this strain of virulent anti-Catholicism. Priests were attacked, and churches were burned. It was in this context that Senator James G. Blaine of Maine worked to amend the U.S. Constitution in 1875 to ensure that no public aid be provided to “sectarian” schools, which everyone understood to mean Catholic schools. The amendment passed in the House but failed in the Senate. However, some states adopted these “no-aid” provisions, and many states were required to include them in their state constitutions as a condition for their admission into the Union. Today, 37 states have Blaine Amendments in their constitutions. However, recent developments give reason to hope that the harms of Blaine Amendments are being remedied.

Trinity Lutheran v. Comer

The Supreme Court struck a major blow against Blaine Amendments in the case of *Trinity Lutheran v. Comer* (2017).

Missouri provided grants to qualifying public and private schools, nonprofit daycare centers, and other

nonprofit entities for the purchase of rubber playground surfaces. Such surfaces are safer for children than gravel or asphalt surfaces.

Trinity Lutheran Church operated a preschool and daycare center. It applied for a grant so that it could resurface its playground with state funding. Missouri ranked Trinity Lutheran fifth among 44 applicants, but denied it a grant because of its religious affiliation. State officials relied on a no-aid provision in the state constitution.

Trinity Lutheran sued, alleging a violation of the Free Exercise Clause, and the case was ultimately heard by the U.S. Supreme Court. By a 7-2 vote, the Supreme Court held that, under the Free Exercise Clause, Missouri may not exclude Trinity Lutheran from grant eligibility because of its religious affiliation.

Drawing on its previous cases, the Court ruled that the Free Exercise Clause “protects religious observers against unequal treatment and subjects to the strictest scrutiny laws that target the religious for special disabilities based on their religious status. Applying that basic principle, this Court has repeatedly confirmed that denying a generally available benefit solely on account of religious identity imposes a penalty on the free exercise of religion that can be justified only by a state interest of the highest order.” [Internal quotation marks, brackets, and citations omitted.]

Missouri expressly discriminated against potential grantees based on religious status by disqualifying them from a grant solely because of their religious affiliation. The state’s policy was therefore subject to the most exacting scrutiny.

Missouri put Trinity Lutheran to a choice: either surrender your religious affiliation or be ineligible for the benefit. When the state conditions a benefit in this way, it punishes the free exercise of religion. Trinity Lutheran had a right to participate in a government benefit program without having to disavow its religious character.

Only a state interest of the highest order could justify the government’s exclusion of Trinity Lutheran on religious grounds. Yet Missouri offered “nothing more” in support of the

exclusion “than [its] policy preference for skating as far as possible from religious establishment concerns.... In the face of the clear infringement on free exercise before us, that interest cannot qualify as compelling.”

Because the case was decided on free exercise grounds, the Court declined to decide whether Missouri’s policy also violated the Equal Protection Clause.

As the U.S. bishops explained in their friend-of-the-court brief with the Supreme Court, “Missouri’s religious discrimination not only contravenes the First Amendment, it is profoundly demeaning to people of faith. Official discrimination based on religion is no less invidious or stigmatizing than discrimination based on other protected traits.” People of faith should not be discriminated against when it comes to publicly available benefits.

Espinoza v. Montana

In 2020, the U.S. Supreme Court took another step towards invalidating Blaine Amendments. On June 30, the Court ruled 5-4 that the Montana Supreme Court erred in finding that the Free Exercise Clause permits the application of a provision of Montana’s state constitution to bar the use of state funds for a tax credit program to support scholarships whose beneficiaries include students at religious schools.

In 2015, the Montana legislature created a scholarship program that provides a dollar-for-dollar tax credit up to \$150 for donations to private scholarship organizations. The Montana Department of Revenue promulgated a rule preventing such scholarships from being used at religious schools, in order to conform with Montana’s Blaine Amendment. Three mothers who used the scholarships to send their children to a private Christian school filed suit. In 2018, the Montana Supreme Court struck down the tax-credit program, holding that it violated the state’s Blaine Amendment.

Applying *Trinity Lutheran v. Comer*’s “unremarkable” conclusion that strict scrutiny applies when the government denies an otherwise available benefit solely because of the would-be recipient’s religious nature, the U.S. Supreme Court found that the Montana Supreme Court’s application of the state

Blaine Amendment to the tax-credit program violated the Free Exercise Clause. Declining to reach the question of whether restrictions on use of funds for religious purposes are generally or per se permissible, the Court found that Montana’s clear reliance on the excluded schools’ religious status brought the case squarely under *Trinity Lutheran*. The opinion’s strict scrutiny analysis dispensed with Montana’s proffered governmental interests in maintaining its funding restriction, including Montana’s argument that the no-aid provision increases religious liberty, finding that “infringement of First Amendment rights ... cannot be justified by a State’s alternative view that the infringement advances religious liberty.”

The USCCB filed an *amicus* brief jointly with a number of allied parties in this case, arguing that Montana’s Blaine Amendment’s reference to religious status rather than use called for the application of *Trinity Lutheran* and that “the status-use distinction collapses in the context of benefits for religiously grounded K-12 education.” After the ruling, the bishops noted that the ruling is “good news, not only for people of faith, but for our country. A strong civil society needs the full participation of religious institutions. By ensuring the rights of faith-based organizations’ freedom to serve, the Court is also promoting the common good.”

Carson v. Makin

The Supreme Court declined in *Espinoza* to reach the question of whether a distinction can be drawn between an entity’s religious status and its use of funds for religious purposes, such that a government can discriminate on the basis of religious use of funds as opposed to religious status. On October 29, 2020, in *Carson v. Makin*, a 1st Circuit panel unanimously answered that question in the affirmative.

Under a state statute, towns in Maine that do not operate a public high school provide money for tuition, up to a set amount, for their resident children to attend a private high school of their choice. But the statute mandates that the funds may only go to “a nonsectarian school in accordance with the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.” This requirement

had been upheld in court twice before, but three families asked the court to revisit the requirement in light of *Espinoza* and *Trinity Lutheran*.

The 1st Circuit relied on Maine's representation that it determines a school to be "sectarian" if it is "associated with a particular faith or belief system and... in addition to teaching academic subjects, promotes the faith or belief system with which it is associated and/or presents the material taught through the lens of this faith." In other words, Maine presented facts supporting the argument that its "nonsectarian" requirement aims at religious use as distinct from religious status.

The court further observed that the nature of the tuition program – in which the funds are made available only to parents in towns without public high schools – indicated that its purpose is to provide those parents with the equivalent of a public education. Therefore, the court reasoned, the program's exclusion of religious schools is properly regarded as a refusal to subsidize religious exercise, rather than to penalize it.

The families sought review from the Supreme Court, which heard oral arguments in the case in December of 2021. The USCCB submitted an amicus brief together with a number of interfaith partners, arguing that a distinction between religious status and religious use of funds is untenable in the context of religious schools, and that the 1st Circuit's decision would create an end-run around *Trinity Lutheran* and *Espinoza*. A decision is expected soon. ©CNS

ATTACKS ON CATHOLIC CHURCHES IN US

At least 139 incidents have occurred across 35 states and the District of Columbia since May 2020. Incidents include arson, statues beheaded, limbs cut, smashed, and painted, gravestones defaced with swastikas and anti-Catholic language and American flags next to them burned, and other destruction and vandalism.



O GOD OUR CREATOR,

from your provident hand we have received our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. You have called us as your people and given us the right and the duty to worship you, the only true God, and your Son, Jesus Christ. Through the power and working of your Holy Spirit, you call us to live out our faith in the midst of the world, bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel to every corner of society.

We ask you to bless us in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty. Give us the strength of mind and heart to readily defend our freedoms when they are threatened; give us courage in making our voices heard on behalf of the rights of your Church and the freedom of conscience of all people of faith.

Grant, we pray, O heavenly Father, a clear and united voice to all your sons and daughters gathered in your Church in this decisive hour in the history of our nation, so that, with every trial withstood and every danger overcome—for the sake of our children, our grandchildren, and all who come after us—this great land will always be "one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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RELIGIOUS
FREEDOM
WEEK



June 22-29, 2022

Religious Freedom Week takes place from June 22, the Memorial of Sts. Thomas More & John Fisher, through June 29, the Solemnity of Sts. Peter & Paul. Join Catholics across the country to pray and act for the freedom to serve faithfully and with integrity. Learn more at www.usccb.org/ReligiousFreedomWeek!



THE MOST HOLY

Body and Blood of Christ

Gn 14:18-20;
Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4;
1 Cor 11:23-26;
Jn 6:51;
Lk 9:11b-17

Several weeks ago, on Thu., April 14, 2022, we began the Sacred Triduum, or the holy three days, in which “the Church solemnly celebrates the greatest mysteries of our redemption” (The Roman Missal, introduction to the Sacred Paschal Triduum, no. 1). We shared with the Lord Jesus at the table of the last supper, grieved for him through his passion and death, and rejoiced with him in his glorious Resurrection.

For seven weeks, we continued to rejoice in the great mystery of his resurrection and the gift of life that he gained for us, and then we celebrated the great 50th day: Pentecost and the guiding gift of the Holy Spirit calling the Church to continue the mission of proclaiming the message of salvation in Christ.

We continue on that mission on June 19, 2022, the Solemnity of The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. Those words, “The Most Holy



SCRIPTURE WISDOM

The Very Rev.
Daniel Robles

Body and Blood of Christ,” conjure different thoughts in the minds of different Catholics. Some think of the physical elements of bread and wine that, through the power of the Holy Spirit and the words of consecration, become the presence of the Lord with us and remain and abide with us as that “real presence,” even after the celebration of Mass has ended. Some others think of the Church itself, the Body of Christ, truly present where two or three are gathered in his name. Still others, while not denying either of the two understandings mentioned above, think of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ as the celebration of the Eucharist. This third understanding seems to be the emphasis of the Church, concerning the Great Solemnity. For in the opening prayer at Mass we pray, “O



Eucharist, he feeds us for the mission, and strengthened and nourished by that heavenly food, He sends us forth on that mission. We are joined with him and to him and he is joined with and to us. He is the head; we are His Body.

What a great gift

God, who in this wonderful sacrament have left us a memorial of your Passion. ...”

In fact, we cannot reflect on The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ without all three of the above being part of our thinking. The Lord allowed himself to be sacrificed upon a cross to give us his life, the same life that he passed on to his apostles on the night of the Last Supper when he said, “Take, eat, this is my Body; take, drink, this is my blood. Do this in memory of me.” He joined them to himself and himself to them. He does the same for us when we recall the same words.

In the celebration of the

the Father of all creation has given!

On the Solemnity of The Most Holy Body and Blood of the Lord, may we remember that, as we share in the “Bread of the Angels,” we are fed and sent to announce that he who died has risen and has called all of creation to be joined with him before the Father in the Spirit: He remains with us today and always and forever and ever. ©TM

The Very Rev. Daniel Robles is pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Poplar Bluff, and St. Benedict Parish, in Doniphan. He also serves as Dean of Deanery 7 of the diocese.

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For Adults

The VIRTUS Protecting God's Children Safe Environment training for adults is available online.

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.

www.dioscg.org/wp-content/uploads/How-to-Register-for-a-VIRTUS-withOnline-Option.pdf

Both in-person and online training sessions are for adults only.

Before engaging in activities involving minors and/or vulnerable adults, new volunteers or employees are required to complete the VIRTUS Protecting God's Children training for adults, submit a current Background Disclosure and Authorization Form, and read, sign and submit 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, childandyouthprotection@dioscg.org; or Bill Holtmeyer, billholtmeyer@dioscg.org; or Rosie Francka rfrancka@dioscg.org, (417) 866-0841.

The
**NATIONAL
EUCCHARISTIC
REVIVAL**
Begins!



*“My flesh for the life of the world”
“Mi carne para la vida del mundo”
“Chính là thịt tôi đây, để cho thế gian được sống”
—John 6:51*

Sunday, June 19th @ 2pm
Feast of Corpus Christi & Father's Day

**COME AS A FAMILY & JOIN US FOR
PROCESSION, ADORATION, & BENEDICTION**

- St. Mary Cathedral, Cape Girardeau: Bishop Edward Rice
- St. Agnes Cathedral, Springfield: Bishop Emeritus Leibrecht

ICE CREAM SOCIALS to follow—return transportation provided!

To volunteer or get more info, visit www.dioscg.org/eucharistic-revival



SCAN ME

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

You are my
inheritance O Lord

1 Kgs 19:16b, 19-21;
Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11;
Gal 5:1, 13-18;
Lk 9:51-62

Materialism in one's self is quick to notice if we take even one-half of a second to examine ourselves. We may notice an overabundance of or a disordered attachment to "stuff" that we do not need or use, or items that may be broken or expired, yet, for some reason, we find ourselves attached to all of it. Perhaps these items have some sentimental meaning, or perhaps we have an anxiety of being without them. Whatever the reason, we often struggle with some sort of attachment to the things of the world.

Throughout the Gospel of Luke, those who exhibit an attachment to things are constantly redirected, if not reprimanded. (Luke 3:11, Lk 5:11, Lk 6:30, Lk 12:33, Lk 14:25-33, Lk 18:22-30) We have another instance of this in our Gospel today (Lk 9:51-62), which may seem harsh; "Let the dead bury the dead..." This is the radical conversion to which each of us are called.

Sinful habits enslave us and lead us away from God. It should be easy to notice when our wealth, our shoe collection, or our love for sports or classic cars takes the place of God in our lives. It is much more subtle when a given relationship begins to become our idol. Even if that relationship is healthy and helps us grow in holiness, we can become overly attached to it. This can happen even with very good things. We can become overly attached to particular mindsets, or specific ways of operating and behaving, even particular methods of prayer.



SCRIPTURE
WISDOM
Fr. Allen Kirchner

Does this mean we are called to give up everything we have or think about and live in complete isolation? Of course not! One of the desert Fathers, Abba Zosimos said, "It is not possessing something that is harmful, but being attached to it." One who has very little material wealth or possessions can be overly attached to what little they do have. Yet, one who has much can live with a spirit of total detachment.

The goal is to recognize everything; material goods, wealth, ideas, relationships, even our very life, as gifts given to us from almighty God, and we should live with a "light grasp" on them. We should give thanks for the opportunity to have them, but we must always be ready to let go of them whenever he asks. The things of this world are mostly good things, but when they get in the way of fully giving ourselves to the Lord, they can enslave us. We the sons and daughters of God are called to live in freedom, not slavery.

We pray that we might have the spirit of detachment exemplified by Elisha today who turned away from everything to serve the Lord, because the love of him is the only thing we take with us into eternity. Truly he is our inheritance. ©TM

Fr. Kirchner is Parochial Vicar of St. Agnes Cathedral, Springfield; Chaplain at Springfield Catholic High School; and Chaplain of CoxHealth, Springfield.



Letters to the Editor from our readers

Priests deserve dignity not slime

The picture in *The Mirror* of 3 priests being green slimed is just a symptom of the diminution of the Church (p. 1, May 27, 2022). We have dumbed down Church teachings and made trivial the role of a priest.

Two of the miscreants had on their habits and collar and the other in plain clothes (which was less troubling). A priest is an under study for Christ and at the Consecration of the body and blood, he is there through the priest's actions to consecrate the bread and wine.

It is almost as if we are sliming Christ or ridiculing him when a priest dresses up like a clown to say Mass. No priest, in my youth, would ever allow themselves to be treated this way. Perhaps you should re-evaluate what you print in your paper and give priests the dignity they have acquired through ordination.

Over 50 years ago, Cardinal Ottaviani, Cardinal Bacci and many others predicted that the priests would become less respected as written in the prophetic *Ottaviani Intervention*.

— Tom Jacques, Hartville, MO

A Letter to the Editor exists to provide a forum for public comment or opinion. It does not represent or express the position or policy of the diocese, the editor, or the publisher: the thoughts contained therein represent the sole expressions of the author. Letters to the Editor may be sent to Editor, 601 S. Jefferson Ave., Springfield, MO 65806-3143, or via Email to leidson@dioscg.org. Letters will be verified so please provide your name, daytime phone number, or Email address. Preference is given to letters that are direct, concise, and/or no longer than 250 words. Letters are published at the discretion of the editor and subject to editing.

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The Mirror

COMING UP IN OUR JUNE 24 ISSUE...



◀ Diaconate
ordination of **Rev.
Mr. Nick Zummo**



◀ Diocese ordains
3 priests: **Newton,
Hiatt, Pierano**



◀ Meet a few of our
"new" Catholics



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Messenger

A quarterly publication by the Missouri Catholic Conference

Missouri Rolls Out School Choice Scholarship Program



June 2022

School choice advocates take note! The Missouri Treasurer’s office is rolling out the new Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts (ESA) program, passed into law in 2021, that allows qualifying students to apply for a scholarship to attend a private or other qualifying school. Scholarships are funded by donations made to scholarship granting organizations called education assistance organizations (EAOs), which distribute the scholarships and provide donors with a state tax credit equal to the amount of their donation. The total amount of tax credits available is currently capped at \$25M, limiting the number of scholarships available to around 3,900. Each scholarship is \$6,375, which is the state “adequacy target,” the amount of money the state allocates to public school districts for each public-school student.

Education scholarships like these have been a priority for school choice advocates for years, including the Missouri Catholic Conference, but passing such a bill in Missouri has proven elusive until last year. House Bill 349, sponsored by Rep. Phil Christofanelli (R-St. Charles), passed the House early in the 2021 legislative session with just 82 votes, the minimum required for passage, before heading to the Senate. The bill was expected to face significant resistance on the Senate floor, but once it was brought up for a vote in the final weeks of session, the Senate voted 20 in favor and 13 against, sending the bill to the governor, who signed it on July 14th.

Since that time, the Missouri Treasurer’s office has selected the education assistance organizations that will distribute the tax credits and the scholarships. It has also published regulations governing the program. In this *Messenger*, you’ll learn more about the program, including which students qualify, donation standards and EAO regulations.



MCC FROM THE
CAPITOL

The accompanying episode of MCC from the Capitol features guests Jeremy Lillig from the Bright Futures Fund and Nicolette Gibson from MoCAPE. Join along as we dive into the program, how it works, and what it means for the students in your life.

Scan here to listen →

Who qualifies for the Missouri ESA program?

The Missouri ESA program, MOScholars, provides scholarship accounts for qualified students using tax credit- leveraged contributions from private donors.

Qualified students, in order of priority, are defined as:

- Any elementary or secondary school student who is a resident of Missouri and resides in an eligible city or county (a county with a charter form of government, or any city with at least 30,000 residents), who:
- Has an approved "individualized education plan" (IEP) developed under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The term "individualized education plan" means: An individualized education program (IEP) as defined in 20 U.S.C. §1414(d)(1)(A)(i); or
- An individual service plan (ISP) that is developed in cooperation with a local educational agency under the IDEA, specifically those provisions pertaining to parentally placed private school children found in 20 U.S.C. §1412(a)(10) and 34 CFR §300.132(b).
- Any IEP or ISP that is proffered for program eligibility must be dated within thirty-six months of the date of the student's application to the program.
- Students with ISPs that are not developed under the IDEA are not eligible.
- OR -
- Lives in a household whose total annual income does not exceed 100% of the free and reduced lunch rate; and, Attended a public school as a full-time student for at least one (1) semester during the previous twelve (12) months; or Is a child who is eligible to begin kindergarten or first grade.

If funding remains available after all students who meet these qualifications have been served, then the next category of qualified student is any student who: Is a member of a household whose total annual income does not exceed 200% of the standard used to qualify for free and reduced lunches and meets at least one of the following qualifications:

- Attended a public school as a full-time student for at least one (1) semester during the previous twelve (12) months; or
- Is a child who is eligible to begin kindergarten or first grade.

What expenses do scholarship funds cover?

Scholarship funds may be used only for eligible program expenses, including: Tuition or fees at a qualified school; Textbooks required by a qualified school; Educational therapies or services from a licensed or accredited practitioner or provider including, but not limited to, licensed or accredited paraprofessionals or educational aides; Tutoring services; Curriculum; Tuition or fees for a private virtual school; Fees for a nationally standardized norm-referenced achievement test, advanced placement examinations, international baccalaureate examinations, or any examinations related to college or university admission; Fees for management of the Missouri empowerment scholarship account by firms selected by the EAO; Services provided by a public school including, but not limited to, individual classes and extracurricular programs; Computer hardware or other technological devices that are used to help meet the qualified student's educational needs and that are approved by an EAO; Fees for summer education programs and specialized after-school education programs; Transportation costs for mileage to and from a qualified school.

Funding Scholarship Accounts

Certified EAOs will utilize MOScholars tax credits to solicit contributions from eligible donors. Donors reserve tax credits through the MOScholars online system, then make a contribution to the certified EAO. The contribution is used to fund scholarships, and the donor receives a tax credit that is used to offset their Missouri tax liability under sections 143 and 153.

The certified EAO is responsible for accepting eligible contributions and submitting supporting documentation from eligible donors, then providing donors with a State Treasurer's Office (STO) approved receipt for the contribution.

See the donation process graphic on the next page

Eligible Contributions

Eligible contributions are monetary donations of \$500 or more, including: Checks drawn on a US banking institution; Money orders; Electronic funds transfers

MOScholars Tax Credits - Special Features and Limitations

- The credit is equal to 100% of a contribution to a certified EAO, not to exceed 50% of the donor's state tax liability for the tax year the credit is used.
- Any portion of the tax credit not used against Missouri tax liability in the year it was first claimed may be carried forward for four (4) subsequent tax years.
- The contribution date is the date the funds are deposited in the EAO's account.
- Tax credit contributions cannot be designated for a particular student.
- The tax credit is not sellable, transferrable, or refundable.
- Prior to issuing tax credits to donors, the Missouri Department of Revenue will check for tax delinquencies and offset any donor credits accordingly.



MOScholars Organization Eligibility

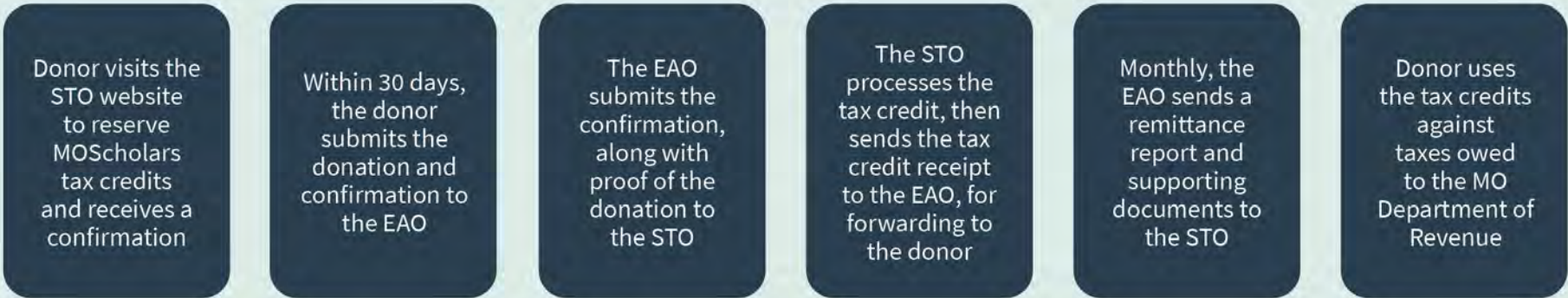
An EAO is a nonprofit organization that, after being certified by the Missouri State Treasurer’s office, can receive qualified contributions from individuals and businesses to award scholarship accounts to qualified Missouri students. The EAO establishes and maintains relationships with eligible schools to create a network of schools students may use scholarship funds to attend.

- An organization that desires to be an EAO must meet the following eligibility criteria:
- The organization is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3).
- The organization is registered to do business and is in Good Standing with the Missouri Secretary of State’s Office.
- The organization has a physical presence in Missouri.
- The organization has not been through a Chapter 7 or Chapter 11 bankruptcy in the seven years immediately preceding the application for certification.
- The organization participates in E-Verify. E-Verify is a web-based system that allows enrolled employers to confirm employee eligibility to work in the United States. E-Verify employers verify the identity and employment eligibility of newly hired employees by matching information provided by employees on the Form I-9 against records available to the Social Security Administration (SSA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Entities receiving allocations of Missouri state tax credits are required to participate in the employment verification program. To learn more about E-Verify or to register, visit: <https://www.e-verify.gov/>
- An EAO may not have a president, officer, or director who owns or operates a qualified school that is participating in the program. Additionally, an EAO may not provide a scholarship account to a child of: a president, officer, or director; a member of the board; or, an employee of the EAO.



More information can be found at <https://treasurer.mo.gov/pdf/MOScholarsEAOGuidelines.pdf>

The Donation Process



Learn more about two Catholic organizations that have been selected to serve as EAOs.



The Bright Futures Fund strives to challenge and encourage students in Kansas City to discover their full potential while developing a personal relationship with Christ. The money raised by this fund fully supports operating costs of our two Bright Futures Schools and subsidizes tuition for nearly 100 percent of students at those schools. Additionally, Honoring Family Scholarships and the Richard and Olivia Mock Scholarship Program provide assistance for families who wish to continue with Catholic education for their children at select Catholic high schools. Through these programs, we aim to develop a foundation of social justice within every student and build communities where families can feel safe and welcome, regardless of economic or immigration status.

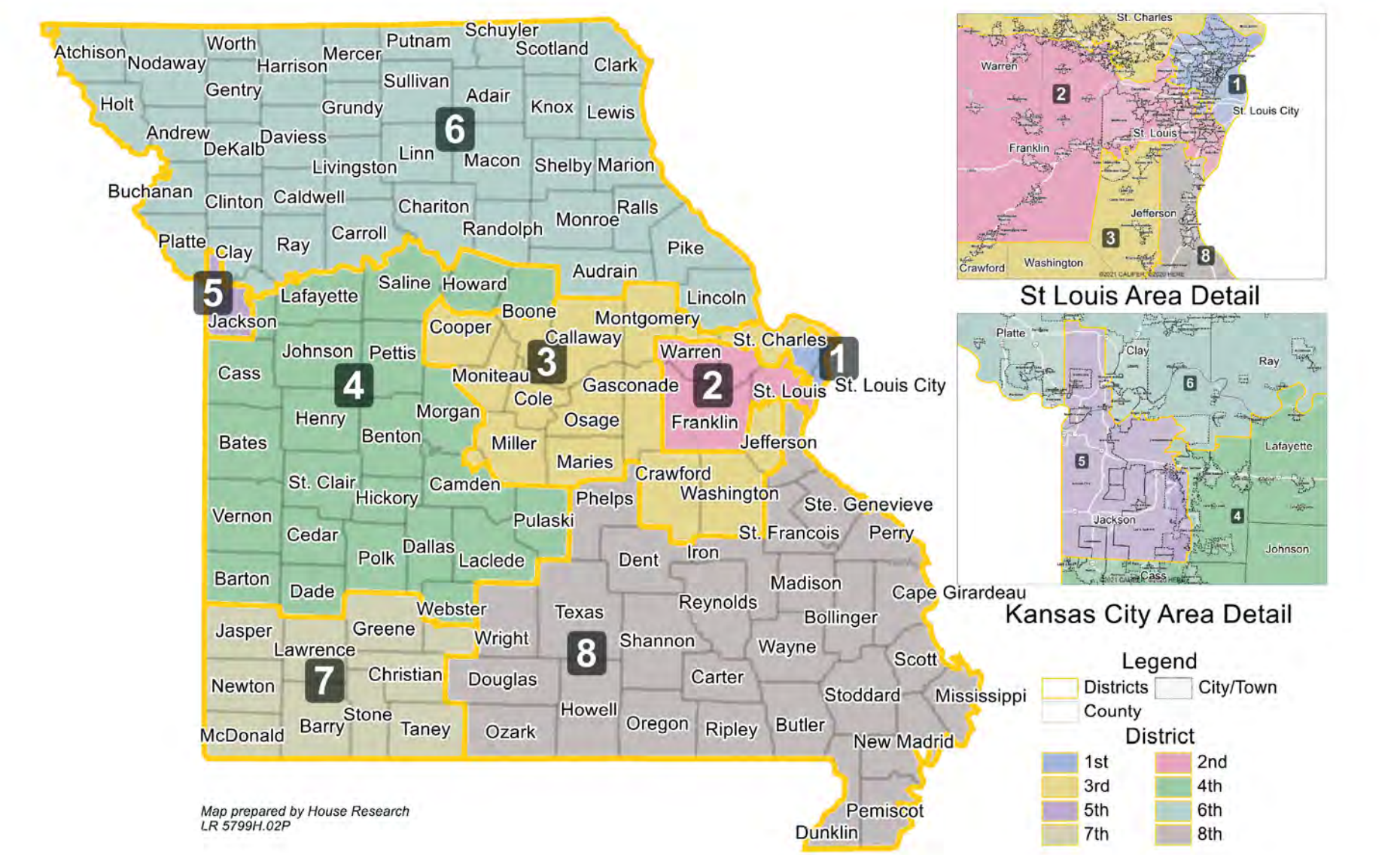
The Bright Futures Fund is an independent 501(c)(3) corporation, with 100% of donations going directly to students. All administrative costs are underwritten by the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph.



The Today and Tomorrow Educational Foundation (TTEF) was founded in 1991 as a 501(c)(3) organization by a concerned group of corporate and civic leaders, and has grown into largest elementary school scholarship organization in the state of Missouri and the 4th largest of its kind in the United States. Since its founding 30 years ago, TTEF has raised more than \$175 million from local and national funding sources to provide need-based tuition assistance scholarships, enabling thousands of St. Louis children to attend the school of their choice.

Today, TTEF provides need-based, tuition assistance scholarships to any eligible family in St. Louis and the surrounding counties who desires to offer their Kindergarten through 8th grade child(ren) a private or parochial elementary school education.

The Missouri General Assembly has completed its work on the Congressional Map for Missouri for the 2022 election cycle. This map will govern the congressional districts until the next U.S. Census in 2030. This map shows the proposed 2022 Missouri Congressional Districts (HCS HB 2909 Perfected) For more information about the end of 2022 legislative session, visit mocatholic.org.

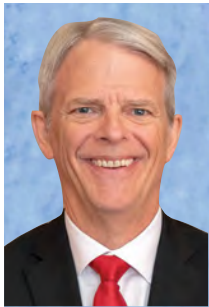




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