



I Don't Have Time for This!

CATHOLIC SCHOOL PRINCIPALS HOLD ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING



PRINCIPALS & DIRECTORS—Bishop Edward M. Rice and Deacon Rob Huff, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, gathered diocesan Catholic school Principals and system Directors for the annual Principal Retreat and Business Meeting in March. The day began with a tour of the St. John Henry Newman Chapel, Cape Girardeau, on the campus of Southeast Missouri State University. The Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau has 23 Catholic elementary schools, including one middle school, and three Catholic High Schools. The speaker for the event was Patty Schneier from the Archdiocese of St. Louis. (*The Mirror*)

Cape Girardeau

by Paula Wright

Diocesan Catholic School Principals gathered in Cape Girardeau on March 7-9, in the Drury Plaza Hotel Conference Center, for their annual business meeting. The theme for this year was, “I don’t have time for this!” The day began with a breakfast and tour of the St. John Henry Newman Center on the campus of Southeast Missouri State University, followed by Mass celebrated by Bishop Edward M. Rice.

“There is nothing more crucial to the success of our Catholic schools than bringing the right people on board, who share our vision and who, in their personal life, are striving to grow in holiness, to be intentional disciples and to be sent forth to witness the faith,” said The Most Rev. Edward M. Rice, Bishop of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. “We are all on a journey of faith.” To support personal faith growth, Bishop Rice and Superintendent Deacon Rob Huff provided principals the opportunity to hear from renowned Catholic speaker, Patty Schneier, a life-long Catholic, housewife, and mother of three from the Archdiocese of St. Louis. She and her husband, Larry, are active Catholics, where Patty cantors at Sunday Mass. Their son, Fr. John Schneier, is a priest of the Archdiocese of St. Louis. For the past 17 years, Patty has been speaking at parishes and Catholic conferences across the United States.

In her presentation, “God, I Really Don’t Have Time for This!” Schneier challenged those in attendance to draw closer to God through simple, daily changes. For example, to hear God’s voice through

listening and obeying Church teaching or by reading and reflecting on God’s word each morning or evening. She recommended Eucharistic Adoration for seeing God.

“Just by being in his presence, God can transform our perspective,” Schneier said. “It is impossible to hold on to anger, bitterness, resentment, etc., when you are in the presence of All Truth and Beauty and Love!”

And, to remain in God’s presence all day, Schneier recommends prayer, the Rosary, and praying with Mary.

“Discover the Rosary in a new way, make it meaningful, and pray it all day long; when emptying the dishwasher or working out, while preparing dinner or waiting in a doctor’s office,” Schneier said. “Use these times to pray the Rosary.”

The afternoon presentation focused on the Theology of the Body. Schneier shared how Pope St. John Paul II’s Theology of the Body had transformed her entire life, specifically in three areas:

- **As in individual:** as a human being, there is a need to be a good steward of both our physical and spiritual life
- **In her marriage:** learning what is real love; free, faithful, total, and fruitful vs. all the counterfeits
- **In her Catholic faith experience:** the physicality of the sacraments means that we can experience God’s love in and through our bodies

“We form our students not just through the externals of Catholic images, or highlighting the liturgical cycle and traditions. It is much more than that,” said

Bp. Rice. “While we develop curriculum consistent with the Catholic teachings, even that is not enough. How crucial it is that we embody what we teach and believe, by our own example of living lives that reflect our Catholic values and virtues.”

Schneier shared five (5) “bite-sized” principles of the Theology of the Body.

1. **Know our story** – Creation, the Fall, Redemption, and our Destiny is all about the body
2. **We are Body AND Spirit** – This is what makes us different from the animals and angels; what we do to our bodies affects our souls and what we do to our souls affects our bodies
3. **The meaning of love** – Free, faithful, total, and fruitful; the opposite of love, according to Pope St. John Paul II is not hate, but being used, exploited
4. **The pattern of God** – God’s love leads to union and communion—always
5. **The measure of the Heart** – Reflect on “Am I loving as God loves or not?”

“This is about MERCY, HOPE, TRANSFORMATION when we are willing to hold the mirror up and look at the dark recesses of our souls, the counterfeits we have settled for in our lives, and the wounds that need to be healed,” Schneier challenged the group, in closing. “Redemption is real. We are not the sum of our past mistakes—we are the sum of our Father’s love for us!! I encourage everyone—no matter what your age or state in life—to discover the Theology of the Body for themselves and let these beautiful truths about the human person transform your lives.” ©TM



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

The Chrism Mass, which [the Bishop] concelebrates with Priests from various regions of the diocese and during which he consecrates the sacred Chrism and blesses the other oils, is among the principal manifestations of the fullness of the Bishop's Priesthood and is considered to be a sign of the close bond of the Priests with him. For it is with the sacred Chrism consecrated by the Bishop that the newly baptized are anointed and those to be confirmed are signed. It is with the Oil of Catechumens that catechumens are prepared and disposed for Baptism. Finally it is with the Oil of the Sick that those who are ill are comforted in their infirmity.

— The Order of Blessing the Oil of Catechumens and of the Sick and of Consecrating the Chrism (OBO), no. 1

In the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, two Chrism Masses are celebrated each year during Holy Week in each of the two cathedrals. It is always a special moment for us together, a Bishop with his priests, in the Cathedral for the celebration of the Chrism Mass. It is further touching to have the people to whom we minister with us at these liturgies as well.

Holy brothers who share a heavenly calling, fix your eyes on Jesus... These words from the Letter to the Hebrews are from the Office of Readings. Since the fifth Sunday of Lent and on through to Holy Saturday, the Church has had us reading from the Letter to the Hebrews, reflecting on the ordained priesthood and how we priests

A priest without people is not a priest

share in the Priesthood of Jesus. The ceremonies of the Chrism Mass, with the renewal of our priestly commitment(s) along with the blessing of the oils to be used for the sacramental life of the diocese, are striking. I daresay, they are rather mystical moments. At least for me they are: I always leave inspired and renewed for the work of the diocese, and I know the clergy do as well.

PRIESTS NEED PEOPLE

In the most recent addition of *Extension Magazine*, there is an article about a seminarian in Puerto Rico. He spoke of his discernment that eventually led to him joining the seminary and the support he received from his family and his home parish. In the article, he offered his own insight into the spirituality of the diocesan priesthood and gave what I thought was a keen insight: "A priest without his people is not a priest."

We recently had two Memorial Masses for the late-Fr. Bob Landewe, first at St. Joseph in Springfield, in December, followed by another Memorial Mass in his hometown of Leopold, on March 15, the actual anniversary of his ordination. *The Mirror* carried an article about him when he retired and, in that article, Fr. Landewe gave his own insights into the priesthood. Looking back on his years and his many assignments, on the verge of retirement, he said, "It was God's people, the folks I was sent to serve, who sustained me. Their friendship, loving care, their tolerance of my weaknesses, and their prayers kept me loving my call."

What was he saying? Similar to the insight of the young seminarian, "A priest without his people is not a priest," or "Without the People of God, there's no need for the priesthood." We could still have the ceremony of the blessing of the holy oils to be used for the sacramental

life of the diocese, but without the people there would be no sacramental life. Without the People of God, the priesthood bears no fruit, it is sterile. At the Chrism Mass, the Church realizes this reality and therefore includes in this sacred celebration, the Mass of Holy Chrism, the blessing of the holy oils for the sacramental life of the Church. It is no mistake that this occurs at the same Mass where the renewal of our promises to serve the People of God take place. The two go together—the priesthood and the people. When they are at their best, they should complement each other. In essence, you couldn't have one without the other.

BLESSING OF OILS

For the blessing of the Oil of the Sick, we asked God to send the Holy Spirit to, "sanctify it for our use... A remedy for all who are anointed with it... And deliver them in every affliction." In other words, the Oil of the Sick is for the people of God. The same with the Oil of Catechumens: we asked God to bless that oil for three effects: that they "may understand more deeply the Gospel of your Christ... may undertake with a generous heart the labors of the Christian life, and... may rejoice to be born anew and to live in your Church" (OBO, no. 22). It's all about the people of God. And finally, the high point of the ritual is the consecration of the Chrism, which is made by mixing the oil "with fragrances or other aromatic material" (OBO, no. 4), usually balsam. The prayers and action provides a rich description of the uses of holy Chrism: "Pour out in abundance the gifts of the Holy Spirit on our brothers and sisters anointed with this oil; adorn with the splendor of holiness the places and things signed by sacred oils; but above all, by the mystery of this oil,

bring to completion the growth of your Church" (OBO, no. 25-2). The blessing of the oils is all about the people of God.

RENEWAL OF PRIESTLY PROMISES

With the people of God in mind, the priests on hand at the Chrism Masses renewed their priestly promises, to resolve once again to be in union with the bishop in the work of the diocese. And for the sake of the people, we resolved once again to be more closely conformed to Christ, denying ourselves in the midst of our sacred duties towards Christ's Church. For the sake of the people of God we resolved once again to be faithful to the holy Eucharist and the other liturgical celebrations; to be faithful to the sacred office of teaching, forsaking any gain but rather being better motivated only by zeal for souls.

Having renewed our promises, I addressed the people of God gathered and asked them to pray for the priests and in a particular way for me: that I am faithful to the apostolic office entrusted to me so that I too might be a living and more perfect image of Christ, the priest, the good Shepherd, the teacher, and the servant of all.

Echoing again the Letter to the Hebrews, "**Holy brothers who share a heavenly calling, fix your eyes on Jesus.**" Let us remember that, "a priest without his people is not a priest." Let us remember that we are privileged to serve the people of God and we welcome them into our hearts. May each of us discover what Fr. Landewe did in his priesthood, that their friendship, their loving care, their tolerance of our weaknesses, and their prayers will keep us in love with the priesthood. Amen. ©TM



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.

May 23, 1986 Last Thursday evening I had the opportunity of blessing the new altar, pulpit, and other church appointments at St. Mary Parish in Lamar. The evening was very happy for all of us who gathered for the celebration. Blessing a new altar is a very symbolic act for us Catholics because of the importance of the Eucharist in our Faith. The church also has new cushioned pews. I "tried them out" before Mass and found them very comfortable. Now that the pews are so comfortable, I told the people, the pastor may not be able to overcome the temptation of preaching very, very lengthy homilies.

June 13, 1986 The following signs of getting older were sent to me in a greeting card

by a good "friend" of mine: You look forward to a dull evening... You sit in a rocking chair and can't get it going... Your knees buckle and your belt won't... Dialing long-distance wears you out... You can't stand people who are intolerant... Your back goes out more than you do.

June 20, 1986 Young people sometimes write letters giving their reasons for wanting to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. One boy wrote: "I ask to be confirmed so that I can be a better follower of Jesus and live out my responsibilities as an adult Catholic. I also want to be confirmed because my parents will kill me if I'm not."



**VEN Y
VERÁS**
Obispo Edward M. Rice

La Misa Crismal que [el obispo] concelebra con los presbíteros provenientes de las distintas regiones de la diócesis y en la que consagra el santo crisma y bendice los restantes óleos, ha de ser tenida como una de las principales manifestaciones de la plenitud sacerdotal del obispo y como un signo de la unión estrecha de los presbíteros con él. Con el crisma consagrado por el obispo son ungidos los nuevos bautizados y son signados los que reciben la confirmación. Con el óleo de los catecúmenos se preparan y disponen para el bautismo los mismos catecúmenos. Con el óleo de los enfermos, estos son aliviados en sus enfermedades.

— Orden de la bendición del óleo de los catecúmenos y de los enfermos y de la consagración del crisma (Orden), nº 1

En la Diócesis de Springfield-Cape Girardeau, se celebran dos Misa Crismales cada año durante la Semana Santa en cada una de las dos catedrales. Siempre es un momento especial para nosotros juntos, un Obispo con sus sacerdotes, en la Catedral para la celebración de la Misa Crismal. Es aún más conmovedor tener a las personas a las que ministramos con nosotros en estas liturgias también.

“Hermanos, ustedes que han sido consagrados y participan de una misma vocación celestial, piensen en Jesús...” Estas palabras de la Carta a los Hebreos son del Oficio de Lecturas. Desde el quinto domingo de Cuaresma y hasta el Sábado Santo, la Iglesia nos ha hecho leer la Carta a los Hebreos, reflexionando sobre el sacerdocio ordenado y cómo los sacerdotes participamos del Sacerdocio de Jesús. Llama la atención la ceremonia de la Misa Crismal, con la renovación de nuestro(s) compromiso(s) sacerdotal(es) junto con la bendición de los óleos que se utilizarán para la vida sacramental de la diócesis. Me atrevo a decir que son momentos bastante místicos. Al menos para mí lo son: Siempre salgo inspirado y renovado para el trabajo de la diócesis, y sé que el clero también lo hace.

LOS Sacerdotes NECESITAN EL PUEBLO

En la última edición de la revista Extension, hay un artículo sobre un

Un sacerdote sin pueblo no es un sacerdote

seminarista en Puerto Rico. Habló de su discernimiento que finalmente le llevó a ingresar en el seminario y del apoyo que recibió de su familia y de su parroquia. En el artículo, ofrecía su propia visión de la espiritualidad del sacerdocio diocesano y daba lo que me parecía una visión aguda: “Un sacerdote sin su pueblo no es un sacerdote”.

Recientemente hemos celebrado dos Misa en memoria del difunto P. Bob Landewe, la primera en San José de Springfield, en diciembre, seguida de otra misa en memoria en su ciudad natal de Leopold, el 15 de marzo, aniversario real de su ordenación. *El Mirror* publicó un artículo sobre él cuando se jubiló y, en ese artículo, el P. Landewe dio sus propias ideas sobre el sacerdocio. Al recordar sus años y sus muchos destinos, al borde de la jubilación, dijo: “Fue el pueblo de Dios, la gente a la que fui enviado a servir, quien me sostuvo. Su amistad, su cuidado cariñoso, su tolerancia hacia mis debilidades y sus oraciones me hicieron seguir amando mi llamada”.

¿Qué estaba diciendo? Como la visión de los jóvenes seminaristas, “Un sacerdote sin su pueblo no es un sacerdote”, o “Sin el Pueblo de Dios, no hay necesidad del sacerdocio”. Podríamos seguir celebrando la ceremonia de la bendición de los santos óleos para la vida sacramental de la diócesis, pero sin el pueblo no habría vida sacramental. Sin el Pueblo de Dios, el sacerdocio no da frutos, es estéril. En la Misa Crismal, la Iglesia se da cuenta de esta realidad y por eso incluye en esta sagrada celebración, la Misa del Santo Crisma, la bendición de los santos óleos para la vida sacramental de la Iglesia. No es un error que esto ocurra en la misma Misa en la que tiene lugar la renovación de nuestras promesas de servir al Pueblo de Dios. Los dos van juntos: el sacerdocio y el pueblo. Cuando están en su mejor momento, deben complementarse entre sí. En esencia, no se puede tener uno sin el otro.

BENDICIÓN DE LOS ÓLEOS

Para la bendición del óleo de los enfermos, pedimos a Dios que envíe al Espíritu Santo para que “lo santifique para nuestro uso... Un remedio para todos los que se unjan con él... Y los libre en toda aflicción”. En otras palabras, el óleo de los enfermos es para el pueblo de Dios. Lo mismo con el óleo de los catecúmenos: pedimos a Dios que bendiga ese óleo para tres efectos: para que “comprendan más profundamente el Evangelio de tu

Cristo... emprendan con un corazón generoso los trabajos de la vida cristiana, y... se alegren de nacer de nuevo y de vivir en tu Iglesia” (Orden, nº 22). Todo tiene que ver con el pueblo de Dios. Y por último el punto culminante del ritual es la consagración del crisma, que se realiza mezclando el aceite con “aromas o materia olorosa” (Orden, nº 4), generalmente bálsamo. Las oraciones y la acción proporcionan una rica descripción de los usos del santo crisma: “Derrama en abundancia los dones del Espíritu Santo sobre nuestros hermanos y hermanas ungidos con este óleo; adorna con el esplendor de la santidad los lugares y las cosas signadas por los óleos sagrados; pero sobre todo, por el misterio de óleo, lleva a término el crecimiento de tu Iglesia” (Orden, nº 25-2). La bendición de los óleos tiene que ver con el pueblo de Dios.

RENOVACIÓN DE LAS PROMESAS SACERDOTALES

Con el pueblo de Dios en mente, los sacerdotes presentes en las Misa Crismales renovaron sus promesas sacerdotales, para resolver una vez más estar en unión con el obispo en el trabajo de la diócesis. Y por el bien del pueblo, resolvimos una vez más conformarnos más a Cristo, negándonos a nosotros mismos en medio de nuestros sagrados deberes hacia la Iglesia de Cristo. Por el bien del pueblo de Dios, resolvimos una vez más ser fieles a la Sagrada Eucaristía y a las demás celebraciones litúrgicas; ser fieles al sagrado oficio de la enseñanza, renunciando a cualquier ganancia, sino más bien motivados únicamente por el celo por las almas.

Tras renovar nuestras promesas, me dirigí al pueblo de Dios reunido y les pedí que rezaran por los sacerdotes y, de manera particular, por mí: que sea fiel al oficio apostólico que se me ha confiado para que yo también sea una imagen viva y más perfecta de Cristo, el sacerdote, el buen Pastor, el maestro y el servidor de todos.

Haciéndonos eco de nuevo de la



TWO BISHOPS—Bishop Emeritus John J. Leibrecht and Bishop Edward M. Rice after the Chrism Mass held April 12 in St. Agnes Cathedral, Springfield. Another Chrism Mass was held in St. Mary Cathedral, Cape Girardeau, the night before on April 11. (Photo by Grace Tamburro/The Mirror)

Carta a los Hebreos: “**Hermanos, ustedes que han sido consagrados y participan de una misma vocación celestial, piensen en Jesús.**”

Recordemos que “Un sacerdote sin su pueblo no es un sacerdote”. Recordemos que tenemos el privilegio de servir al pueblo de Dios y lo acogemos en nuestro corazón. Que cada uno de nosotros descubra lo que el P. Landewe hizo en su sacerdocio, que su amistad, su cuidado amoroso, su tolerancia de nuestras debilidades y sus oraciones nos mantendrán enamorados del sacerdocio. Amén. ©TM





St. Agnes dedicates outdoor classroom

BLESSING & DEDICATION—Bishop Edward M. Rice blessed the new outdoor classroom at St. Agnes Catholic School, Springfield, on Tue., April 5. On hand to celebrate were students, faculty, Fr. Lewis Hejna, pastor of St. Agnes; Jeremy Eck, builder; Paige Duda, principal of St. Agnes School; and Sr. Cecilia Ann Rezac, MS, Director of Springfield Catholic Schools. (Photos by Grace Tamburro/The Mirror)

Three Ursuline Sisters Mark Milestones

Maple Mount, KY

Three Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph that ministered in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau are among 10 Ursuline Sisters celebrating anniversaries of religious profession in 2022.



Sr. Boone



Sr. Monaghan

Sister Eva Marie Boone is celebrating 70 years as an Ursuline Sister. A native of Howardstown, KY, she was a teacher and principal at Sacred Heart Catholic School in Poplar Bluff, MO, from 1977-82. She also taught in Afton, IL, and has ministered in Kentucky, Nebraska, and Indiana. Today, she lives at Maple Mount, where she is a member of the Powerhouse of Prayer.

Sister Michael Ann Monaghan, a native of Central City, KY, is celebrating 70 years. She served as the principal and a

teacher at St. Teresa Catholic School, Glennonville, MO, from 1996-97. She has also ministered as a teacher and principal in schools in Kentucky and New Mexico. Since 2012, she has volunteered in the Finance office at Maple Mount.

Sister Katherine Gertrude Stein, a native of St.

Louis, is celebrating her 60th jubilee. She taught at St. Teresa Catholic School, Glennonville, in 1969. She also taught in Florissant and St. Louis, as well as at several schools in Kentucky and Nebraska. Today, she is retired and lives at the Motherhouse, where she is a member of the Powerhouse of Prayer.

Jubilarian congratulations may be sent to Mount Saint Joseph, 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356. ©TM

Founded at Maple Mount in Daviess County, KY, in 1874, the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph currently minister throughout Kentucky and in Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, and Chile, South America. Visit us Online at ursulinesmsj.org.

Field trip taken on the Solemnity of the Annunciation



Ava, MO

On Fri., March 25, Fr. Joseph Kelly, pastor, took the 5th-8th grade girls from Guardian Angel Catholic School, Oran, and St. Ambrose Catholic School, Chaffee, to the Convent of St. Joseph near Ava, MO, to visit the Benedictines of Mary, Queen of Apostles. Both of the principals, Katrina Kluesner (Guardian Angel) and Laura Enderle (St. Ambrose), as well as several school faculty members, some mothers of the girls, and a few home-schooled young ladies also made the trip. Father Kelly celebrated Mass with the sisters and then the girls had an opportunity to hear from Sr. Sophia Eid, OSB, who spoke to them about the Benedictine life. Sr. Mary Josefa Holcomb, the superior of the community, is pictured with the group. ©TM



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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AROUND THE DIOCESE



PART-TIME POSITION

St. Joseph Catholic Academy in Springfield, MO,

is accepting applications for a part-time Band/Choir/
General Music teacher for the 2022-2023 school year.

Approx. 10-12 hours/week. Applicant must have strong background in music with a Bachelor's program in Music Ed., and be able to direct bands & choirs. Applicant should be enthusiastic, creative, self-motivated and be familiar with current learning standards in music. Christ-like behaviors such as humility, prayerfulness, positive attitude, honesty and strong work ethic are a must. Active Catholic preferred. Submit: cover letter, resume, transcripts, teaching certificate, and contact information for three references by Email to: bjohnson@stjosephcatholicacademy.org. For more information call: (417) 866-0667. **Deadline to apply: May 1, 2022.**



YOUTH & FAMILY DIRECTOR POSITION

Immaculate Conception Parish in Jackson, MO, is currently accepting applications for a Youth and Family Director. Applicants must be a practicing Catholic. For

more information or to apply, please contact Fr. Randy Tochtrap at (573) 243-3182 or by Email at pastor@icjacksonmo.com.



The Mirror: Newspaper of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau USPS Publication 117-330 **Publisher:** The Most Rev. Edward Rice **Editor:** Leslie A. Eidson
Circulation/Advertising: Debbie Thompson, dthompson@dioscg.org Communication Specialist: Paula Wright, pwright@dioscg.org

Published every other week at 601 S. Jefferson, Springfield, MO 65806-3143.

Address all communications to 601 S. Jefferson, Springfield, MO 65806-3107; Telephone (417) 866-0841; Email dthompson@dioscg.org

Periodicals postage paid at Springfield, MO, and additional mailing offices. Vol. LVII No. 26 April 15, 2022 Single copy price, \$0.50 Subscription: \$14 per year.

Digital subscriptions available as an option to USPS delivery with paid subscription. For more information, contact dthompson@dioscg.org.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Belleville, IL—The National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows, in collaboration with King's House Retreat Center, will offer a **Couples Retreat** entitled "Lazarus, Come Forth: Our Path to a Better Future," Fri., April 29-Sun., May 01, at the Shrine Visitors Center and Guesthouse. Facilitators include Mark Dean, OMI, Fr. Sal Gonzalez, OMI, and Scott & Karen Seaborn. Cost is \$350 per couple, lodging & meals included. Pre-registration is required. Information and registration at <https://snows.org/couples-retreat/> or call the Shrine (618) 394-6281.

Buffalo—The Parish Council of Catholic Women will have its **42nd Annual Yard Sale**, Thu., May 5, and Fri., May 6, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., in the St. William Church Hall, located at 404 N. Locust. Sale also includes plants and baked goods.

Everton, MO—Beginning Experience of Springfield will hold a **Beginning Experience Weekend**, Fri., April 29-Sun., May 01 at Maranatha Retreat Center, Everton, MO, for those divorced, separated, and widowed. The weekend is presented by a team of people who "have been there," and who are willing to share their experience to help others. Founded in the Catholic church and rooted in Christian tradition, the ministry's open, ecumenical spirit serves those of all faiths. The quiet, reflective, and spiritual weekend is designed to be a time of closure on the past and renewed hope for the future. Cost is \$110 for double occupancy, \$165 for single occupancy (if available), and includes lodging & meals; scholarships and transportation is available. For information, call Diane, (417) 859-0175 or (870) 688-8829; Barb, (417) 827-3641, or Donna, (417) 529-1085.

Forsyth—Our Lady of the Ozarks Catholic Church, located at 951 Swan Valley Dr. will have a **Rummage and Bake Sale**, Thu., May 12, 7 a.m.-4 p.m.; Fri., May 13, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; and Sat., May 14, 8 a.m.-noon (bag day). Quality household goods, furniture, décor, jewelry, clothing, books, collectibles, and much more.

Glennon—St. Anthony Parish will have its **Annual Spring Dinner**, Sun., May 01, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., in the parish hall. Menu includes kettle beef, dumplings, dressing, all the trimmings, dessert and drink. Cost: adults: \$14, children, ages 6-12, \$8; children under age 5: free.

Kimberling City—Our Lady of the Cove Church, located at 20 Kimberling Blvd will have a **Spring Garage Sale**, Fri., May 13, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. and Sat., May 14, 8 a.m.-noon. Clothing, furniture, appliances and much more! For more information, call the parish office, (417) 739-4700.

Lebanon—St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church, located at 345 Grand Ave. will have

its **Annual Rummage Sale**, Fri., June 3, 7 a.m.-2 p.m. and Sat., June 4, 7 a.m.-noon. Clothes, household items, books, toys, décor, and much more.

Leopold—St. John Parish of Catholic Women will hold its **Annual Rummage Sale** at the Knights of Columbus Hall, on Thu., May 19, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.; Fri., May 20, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.; and Sat., May 21, 7 a.m.-noon. Proceeds to benefit the activities of the PCCW. Contact Geri, (573) 208-6445 with any questions.

Marshfield—Holy Trinity Parish Council of Catholic Women will have a **Rummage Sale**, Thu., May 05, 7 a.m.-5 p.m., Fri., May 06, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sat., May 07, 8-11 a.m. Donations of clean & working household items, jewelry, clothing, toys, outdoor items, holiday décor, antiques & furniture are appreciated and will be accepted on Mon., May 02, and Tue., May 03, at the parish hall behind church. Proceeds benefit PCCW supported charities.

Salem—Sacred Heart Altar & Rosary Society will have a **Night Out on the Town**, Sat., April 30, 7 p.m., at Sacred Heart Church. This dinner fundraiser will benefit Riverways Pregnancy Center and Love Packs. Tickets are \$90 for a table of 6 or \$15 a seat. For more information or to reserve, please call (573) 729-4291 or (573) 247-7521.

Springfield—Holy Trinity Parish will have a **Trivia Night**, Sat., April 30, in the Reidy Social Hall. Cost is \$80/table of 8 or \$10/person and we will place you on a team. Team captains can register their team by calling Margaret DeVoss, (417) 840-8949, or by going to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080e45acad2aa4fa7-trivia>. Doors open at 6 p.m. and trivia begins at 7 p.m. Bring your own refreshments, prizes will be awarded for winners, losers, and best theme! Proceeds from this event will go to building improvements including updates to the audio visual system in the Reidy Social Hall.

Springfield—Knights of Columbus Council #13681 of Immaculate Conception Parish is having a **travel-related fundraiser** and all proceeds will be used for funding the Knights supported charities. Tickets are available until Sun., May 08. For more information, contact Craig Henley, Grand Knight at 1368knights@gmail.com, or telephone (573) 999-3930.

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.



2022 DIOCESAN DEVELOPMENT FUND

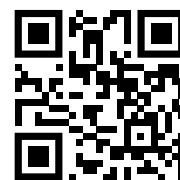
One Church, East to West
COMMUNITIES ON A
MISSION

DDF SUNDAY **MAY 1, 2022**



2022
BISHOP'S
ANNUAL
APPEAL

P for
Funding
Church
Ministries



To learn more ways your DDF contribution impacts your family,
your parish, and your diocese, scan the QR code above, or visit

WWW.DIOSCG.ORG



DDF SUNDAY
MAY 1, 2022

Ministries SUPPORTED BY DDF

- The Bishop's Ministry**
- Advocacy**
- Diocesan Council of Catholic Women**
- Missouri Catholic Conference**
- Faith Formation**
- Child & Youth Protection**
- Family Ministries**
- Evangelization**
- Social Ministry**
- Development & Properties**
- Planned Giving**
- Vocations**
- Campus Ministry**
- Communications**
- Clergy Formation**
- Media Relations**
- Financial Services**
- Liturgy & Worship**
- Religious Education**
- Youth Ministry**
- Priest Formation**
- Marriage Tribunal**
- Adult Formation**
- The Mirror**
- Ministry with Hispanics**
- Catholic Schools**
- Permanent Deacon Formation**
- Project Rachel**
- Ecumenism**
- Health Affairs**
- Respect Life**

2022 DIOCESAN DEVELOPMENT FUND One Church, East to West COMMUNITIES ON A MISSION

*"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...
It was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, ... it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness..."*

Those words, by Charles Dickens, open up his masterpiece, A Tale of Two Cities. And in a very real way, those words can be applied today to the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau.

It is the best of times for us! How can I say that? We have some fantastic initiatives that will help move the diocese forward in the ways of faith, helping us be **"Communities on a Mission."**

In our One Church, East to West, we've had the renewal of our Parish Pastoral Council norms with the focus on our diocesan priorities of holiness, intentional discipleship, and witness to the faith. At the same time, our Holy Father has asked us to participate in a historical Synod, listening to our people and how we can be more effective in holiness, discipleship, and witness in our communities. We are also making plans to participate in the three-year process leading to a Eucharistic Revival among our people.

These and many other initiatives and ministries are supported by the **annual Diocesan Development Fund, the Annual Bishop's Appeal, also known by its acronym: DDF.** Through your financial donation, you share in this good work.

And yet we all know the sobering reality that there is a decline in attendance and participation in the sacramental life of the Church. While some could consider it to be "the worst of times," I choose not to look at the darkness, but rather seek opportunities to shed light. In the midst of the challenges, we continue to prepare couples for marriage, offer youth ministry, prepare catechists and youth ministers to work with our young people, and we continue to promote the sanctity of human life at every stage of life.

With each donation, you become a point of light in the midst of the darkness. You are part of these "best of times." Your participation says you believe that the diocese can grow and better spread the Gospel of Jesus.

As we continue to face the ongoing pandemic and economic challenges, the diocese continues to be on the move, bringing Christ's message of love, mercy, and salvation to those in darkness. **Because of the generosity of DDF donors, the good work of the diocese continues!**

Our Diocesan assessment rate for parishes, (how we fund our diocesan offices), is one of the lowest of ALL the dioceses in the United States! It is currently 0.5% for those with a school and 1 percent for those without a school. This means that the weekly donations to the parish actually stay in the parish. **In order to continue this, however, we must rely upon a successful DDF appeal.**

That is why your donation, every donation matters! With your participation in the **Diocesan Development Fund**, you partner with me in our mission to evangelize southern Missouri. **And, every year, the number of people in the "Crosier Society," those who donate 1 percent of their income to the DDF, continues to grow.** Help me in my work of spreading the faith in southern Missouri. By donating, you support me and you share in the work of the diocese from "East to West," in southern Missouri. That is why I say, it is the best of times, it is the epoch of belief, it is the season of light! I thank you for your financial support.

God bless you.

+ Edward M. Rice



The Most Rev. Edward M. Rice
Bishop of Springfield-Cape Girardeau

ONLINE DONATIONS

For Online donations to DDF, simply go to www.dioscg.org and follow the prompts. Transactions are totally secure.

The DDF video is available for viewing on the diocesan Website before you consider your commitment at www.dioscg.org.

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER - DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Doubting Thomas and our own unbelief

*Acts 5:12-16;
Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24;
Rev 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19;
Jn 10:19-31*

The Second Sunday of Easter is known as "Divine Mercy Sunday. Our Gospel reading today from John's Gospel recounts one of the Post-Resurrection appearances of Jesus Christ to his Apostles. This gospel reading is proclaimed in each of the three Sunday Lectionary cycles, and this shows the significance of these encounters with the resurrected Jesus. This gospel combines two scenes into one story; Jesus' appearance to his Apostles after his resurrection and Jesus' dialogue with Thomas, the Apostle who doubted.

In the Gospel, Jesus appeared to his Apostles, coming through locked doors to say, "Peace be with you," and then he breathed the Holy Spirit upon them, communicating his authority to forgive sins. The Apostle Thomas, who was also called Didymus, however, was not present at this meeting with Jesus. Later, the other Apostles told Thomas of the encounter, but he did not believe them, saying that unless he could "see the nail marks upon Christ's hands and put his finger into the nail marks, and place his hand into



SCRIPTURE WISDOM

Deacon
James Farrar

Christ's pierced side," he would not believe.

A week later, Thomas was with the Apostles when again Jesus came through the locked doors and stood in their midst, saying, "Peace be with you." Jesus then told Thomas to put his finger into the holes in his hands and to place his hand into Jesus' side so that he could believe. Thomas replied by saying, "My Lord and my God".

Part of the mystery of the resurrection of Jesus is that he appeared to his Apostles not as a spirit, but in bodily form. Yet, we do not know exactly what this form must have been like. When Mary of Magdala first encountered Jesus after his resurrection, she did not recognize him until after Jesus spoke to her. When Cleopas and his wife, Mary, were walking on the road to Emmaus, they encountered the risen Jesus, but they did not recognize him even though he walked and talked with them all afternoon, until after he broke bread with them that evening. At one point, Jesus asked if his Apostles had anything to eat, and he then ate a

piece of fish in their presence, proving that his body was more than just a spirit. We know that Jesus' body was no longer bound by space and time because he was able to pass through locked doors to approach his Apostles. Yet, still, they could observe the significant marks of his crucifixion present on his resurrected body.

Thomas and his encounter with the risen Jesus dubbed him with the title of "Doubting Thomas." Our Catholic tradition tells us that this doubting Apostle died a martyr's death for his faith in his risen Lord Jesus Christ. He also became a messenger of God's plan of salvation to India, where as a missionary, he gave his life for the Master whom he doubted and later encountered that day long before. Thomas and his response in his encounter with the Risen Lord, "My Lord and my God," reveals the same response that each of us should make to ourselves every time that we observe the raised bread and the raised chalice of wine at the consecration at every Mass. This is our call to adoration and communication with God the Father as he gives us the gift of the body and blood of God the Son. It has become the exclamation for millions when faced with this Mystery of Mysteries that we are so blessed to be able to observe every time that we attend Mass. Thomas was not necessarily a doubter. Rather, he was a believer, and

he was the model for all of us at every Eucharist, which becomes for us a Feast of Mercy.

Finally, I would like to point out that Thomas, the doubting Apostle, represents the reality of the Church that came along after this first community of Christ's disciples. All but these first few apostles of Jesus did not have the luxury of seeing firsthand the resurrected body and the wounds of Jesus. Those who came along later, including all of us, have to believe without seeing. Like Thomas, we may doubt the news that Jesus, who was crucified and buried, appeared to his apostles. It is our human nature to seek hard evidence to prove that the Jesus who appeared to his apostles after crucifixion is the same Jesus who was indeed crucified. John used Thomas in this story as our representative who obtained the evidence that we must humanly seek. Thomas finds out for each of us who hear the story that the Jesus who was raised is indeed the same Jesus who had died. After we hear the story, and through the gift of the Holy Spirit, we can then stand among those who are forever blessed for having believed without ever seeing. Just as Jesus told his apostles many years ago. God bless you. ©TM

Deacon Farrar serves in Sacred Heart Parish, Bolivar, MO.

OBITUARY | Deacon Thomas ('Tom') Brewer September 25, 1941 -April 6, 2022



Springfield

Deacon Thomas Milton Brewer, the first permanent deacon ordained in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, died peacefully at home on April 6, 2022, surrounded by his wife, Pat, family, and friends. He was 80. May he rest in peace.

Deacon Brewer was born in Oklahoma City, OK, on Sept. 25, 1941, to Milton and Rita Brewer. He graduated from the University of Oklahoma with bachelor and master's degrees in the History of Science. He also earned a Master's degree in Pastoral Studies from the University of Loyola, New Orleans, in 1996.

He was drafted into the army out of Peace Corp training in 1970, and spent two years in Vietnam. After the army, he worked for 16 years as a civilian historian for the United States Air Force. He returned to Oklahoma City in 1980.

In 1984, he met the love of his life Pat Dix. They were married on Sept. 21, 1985.

In 1988, the couple moved to Springfield, MO, for an opportunity for Dr. Patricia Dix to work as a perinatologist for Cox Medical Center. Deacon Brewer

began work with Senior Advantage through Cox Health Systems where he supervised and planned operations of the program that provides a variety of services to some 16,000 people. In 1989, Brewer began volunteering at the US Medical Center for Federal Prisoners, Springfield, as a Eucharistic Minister, bringing Communion and comfort to those who could not go to the chapel.

"I am there to listen to their stories of faith, to facilitate spiritual growth, and to let them know of the abundant grace that is theirs for the taking as baptized Christians and members of the human race," he wrote in a paper for the LIMEX pastoral studies program.

"Ultimately, mine is a ministry of hope and freedom in Christ," he said, "one of reconciliation and community."

In prison ministry, he found his passion! He volunteered there as Deacon/Chaplain until 2004. He then volunteered at the Greene County Jail.

His dedication to and love of prison ministry led him to become the first permanent deacon ordained in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau by Bishop John Leibrecht on Nov. 30, 1997. Deacon Brewer then began visiting the prison three days a week.

Deacon Brewer faithfully served for almost 25 years in St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church,

Springfield, where he baptized numerous babies, served at the altar, and preached and ministered to the word of God.

The permanent diaconate is a "family" ministry, often involving the deacon's wife. Deacon Brewer brought countless adults into the faith as he and his wife, Pat, headed up the RCIA program at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish for many years. A deacon's liturgical ministry is to be a visible reminder of the link between the Church's liturgy and its service to others in the name of Christ, which Deacon Brewer did beautifully. He retired from ministry in 2017.

Deacon Brewer is survived by his loving wife of 36 years, Pat Dix Brewer, two sisters: Margaret (John) Saracco and sister Michelle (Mike) Emmons, Patrick and Scarlett Weis, and beloved grandson, Raphael Weis, numerous nieces, nephews, and his dog, "Roscoe."

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by Bishop Emeritus John J. Leibrecht on Sat., April 9, 2022, in St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church. Cremation will follow at a later date under the direction of Walnut Lawn Funeral Home Ltd., DeGraffenreid-Wood Crematory.

Donations in memory of Deacon Brewer can be made to "The Kitchen, Inc." 730 N. Glenstone Ave, Springfield, MO 65802.

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Challenging choices: jump in as a disciple

*Acts 5: 27-32, 40b-41;
Psalm 30;
Revelation 5:11-14;
John 21:1-19*

Stop teaching in that NAME!", says the High Priest and the Sanhedrin. Responding to the challenge, Simon, now known as Peter, said, "We must obey God not you!" The believing apostles and disciples did that very thing and chose to live as Jesus and taught in his name for the rest of their lives.

If we go back to the time of Jesus' passion and death, we would not have seen a courageous Simon/Peter, with his triple denial of relationship with Jesus. In the midst of adversity, his choice was distancing himself from the one whom he had earlier acknowledged as "the Christ, Son of the Living God." Simon/Peter sank so low, that he felt and experienced no self-worth.

On this 3rd Sunday of Easter, we are given a redeeming vision by friend and disciple/evangelist, John. Yes, something has changed from the



SCRIPTURE WISDOM

Fr. Mark Binder

time of the passion and death of Jesus through the gift of the Resurrection of Jesus.

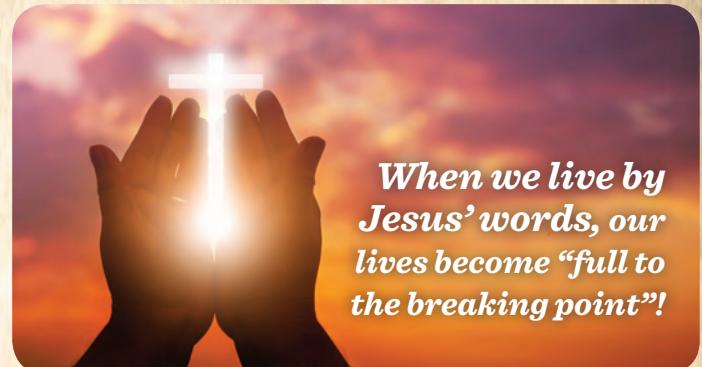
John, in his gospel, remembers the discouraged Peter deciding to return to his former way of life, "I am going fishing!" John and five others decided to go with him. That night, they caught nothing! Nothing! Nada! Zilch! These "professional fishermen" and "failed disciples of Jesus" must be thinking, "We even fail in what we were good at in supporting our families?" John recalls that Peter went back to his former way of life and nothing came of it.

But then, John remembers dawn came, you know 'daylight,' and there is a man on the shoreline cooking something. John remembers that he himself recognized that it was Jesus and said it out loud, "It is the Lord!" Peter got excited and 'jumped in the

lake'...okay, in the Sea of Tiberias.

This jump is a "self-baptism" for Peter ... a 'new found commitment' to Jesus. As he and eventually the others get to Jesus, they find he has some fish and some bread on his grill. Can you imagine: Jesus has a special recipe? It was a recipe of communion that includes forgiveness and reconciliation—TOTAL forgiveness and TOTAL reconciliation! John remembers Jesus directing them to cast their net to the other side and WOW! 153 large fish. Message: When we live by Jesus' words, our lives become "full to the breaking point"! When we offer forgiveness and reconciliation, the forgiven experience their lives "full to the breaking point."

John's redeeming vision tells us that Peter's earlier words of denial are never to be the final words! The dialogue between Jesus and the words of Peter are for all of us called to be



When we live by Jesus' words, our lives become "full to the breaking point"!

faithful believers. "Do you love me?" ... then "Feed my lambs, tend to them, protect them."

Challenging decisions and choices are a part of life in our world. Do we need to 'jump in' and bring others with us to Jesus? Jesus has something (a special recipe) for us to share. He offers communion and says his communion is for you, and it is also for our brothers and sisters: We don't stop at ourselves! "Do you love me? ...Then feed my lambs, tend to them, protect them with the divine loving and caring given to you for them." ©TM

Fr. Mark Binder is a retired priest of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau.



Project Andrew

"Put out into the deep." Lk 5:4

Catholic young men, high school and adults, are invited to dinner with Bishop Rice and area priests to discuss the call of God to serve as future priests. Expect food, vocation stories, and Q&A. Bring a friend. Please RSVP, parents welcome.

When: Sunday, May 22 @ 4:30pm

Where: St. John Vianney, Mountain View, MO
RSVP: fr.stoverink@gmail.com

VIRTUS
Excellence
Builds
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Protecting God's Children®
For Adults

The VIRTUS Protecting God's Children Safe Environment training for adults is available online, and also available live, in-person during the sessions listed below:

Wed., June 1 5:30-8:30 p.m. St. Canera Parish, Neosho

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

Those attending an in-person session must be present for the entire training. 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 Franck, rfranck@dioscg.org, (417) 866-0841.

Cross Catholic Outreach Supplies Safe Water to Poor Families in African Dioceses

Every 15 seconds, a child in a developing country dies from cholera or some other waterborne disease because their water is contaminated with bacteria and parasites.

When a community does not have its own water system — which is often the case in many African nations — the community's women and children must walk for miles over rough terrain each day to find and collect water from a remote source. Even when they are successful in this daunting task, the water they collect can be risky to use because most of these groundwater sources are contaminated. (See related story on opposite page.)

"It is an incredible hardship for these families, but the Church in Africa is working hard to find solutions to these challenges, and we are partnering with bishops in several dioceses to help provide that relief," said Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach,

an official Catholic ministry with a history of success in supporting African missions. The current water projects undertaken by Cross Catholic Outreach will help communities in Ghana, Malawi and Zambia.

"Our mission team is currently working with Bishop Richard Kuuia Baawobr in the Diocese of Wa, Ghana; Bishop Martin Anwel Mtumbuka in the Diocese of Karonga, Malawi; and Bishop George Zumaire Lungu in the Diocese of Chipata, Zambia. Each of these wonderful Catholic leaders has a deep love of the people in his diocese and is very concerned about the water crisis rural families are facing on a daily basis," Cavnar said. "They've identified the areas of greatest need, and we are working with them to ensure those communities are provided with safe, abundant sources of water."

To address this need, Cross Catholic



Cross Catholic Outreach is working to provide safe, clean water sources in poor, rural communities in Ghana, Malawi and Zambia.

Outreach drills wells and installs pumps and enclosures that will protect the quality of the water. Drilling the wells to a depth determined by a local hydrology company ensures they will continue to supply clean water even during the driest season of the year, when substandard wells are known to dry up.

"It is important to do the job to a high professional standard and to provide sturdy pumps at each location because our goal is to have these water systems serve generation after generation, providing safe water for many years to come," Cavnar explained. "We also work with the diocese to create water committees at each well location. These local leaders play a critical role in managing the use of the well and ensuring it remains in good condition. They also set up a community fund to cover the cost of any repairs that become necessary. These additional steps also help extend the water system's effectiveness and longevity."

While the donors who help Cross Catholic Outreach fund these water projects appreciate the care the ministry takes with its work, it is the impact of

providing water to poor families that appeals to them most, Cavnar said.

"Many of our donors are aware of the terrible fatalities caused by waterborne diseases, especially among children," he said. "They value life, and they want to make sure the vulnerable are protected. Giving to support water projects achieves that goal, but it also produces other important benefits because it supports the Church's educational goals and helps families lift themselves out of poverty by eliminating the burden of searching for and collecting water."

Readers interested in supporting Cross Catholic Outreach's many relief programs to help the poor can contribute through the ministry brochure inserted in this issue or send tax-deductible gifts to: Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC02066 PO Box 97168, Washington, DC 20090-7168. The ministry has a special need for partners willing to make gifts on a monthly basis. Use the inserted brochure to become a Mission Partner or write "Monthly Mission Partner" on mailed checks to be contacted about setting up those arrangements.

Cross Catholic Outreach Delivers Impact With Each Donated Dollar

The Bible encourages believers to put their faith into action by giving to others and having a generous heart. So it's no surprise that those who take their faith seriously seek out charitable organizations that align with Catholic social teaching and have a track record of success.

Cross Catholic Outreach is known for its long-standing record of blessing the poor in developing countries — and its commitment to sharing its results with supporters.

"We want as much of the donor's dollar as possible to reach the poor, and the best way to do that is to empower

the Church leaders and programs already working in the trenches in countries like Haiti, Guatemala, Kenya and the Philippines," explained Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach.

This financially responsible approach allowed the ministry to successfully take on 318 projects in 32 countries during the 2021 fiscal year, with an astounding 95.39 percent of donations going directly to serve the poor.

The ministry highlights its impact in a special section of its website located at CrossCatholic.org/impact. There, donors

can learn how cash grants and material aid have benefited children and families around the world by providing nutritious food, clean water, safe homes, Catholic education, disaster relief and much more.

"For example, Cross Catholic Outreach took on the surge in global hunger by taking on 92 food-related projects in 18 countries. Thanks to our supporters, we delivered more than 20 million protein-rich meals to help children and families grow healthy and strong," Cavnar elaborated.

Other successes include blessing 96,417 people with clean, safe water;

building, repairing or upgrading 391 homes for 2,270 people; sponsoring academic scholarships for 4,531 students; and shipping \$17.1 million in supplies to survivors of natural disasters. Donors also funded agricultural projects, medical care, microenterprises, and care for orphans and vulnerable children.

"These Works of Mercy have transformed lives and communities in amazing ways," Cavnar said. "I am deeply grateful for every gift and ask for continued prayers as Cross Catholic Outreach pursues new ventures in the decades to come."

American Catholics Working to End Water Crisis Faced by Poor Families in Africa and Beyond

When families lack access to essential resources for life, like food, water and safe shelter, their time and energy is often consumed with a desperate search for those resources. By necessity, survival becomes their first priority. It dominates their every thought, consumes their valuable time and saps their useful energy. It is a terrible and stressful way to live.

"Some describe this constant daily pursuit of survival without any real progress as 'the deadly cycle of poverty,' because once a family is trapped in it, it steals the potential of one generation after another. Today's children are born

"Water scarcity and unsafe water are at the root of the problem."

Jim Cavnar, President
Cross Catholic Outreach

into the poverty of their parents, and they in turn are unable to offer any hope to their sons and daughters. The tragic cycle just keeps repeating itself," explained Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach, one of the most successful Catholic ministries working to end this kind of poverty around the globe.

According to Cavnar, there are only a few ways to successfully break this cycle of poverty, and one of them involves water.

"When you look for the source of poverty in developing countries — particularly in Africa — you often discover that water scarcity or unsafe water is at the root of the problem," he said. "In the poorest communities, families usually lack access to water and spend enormous amounts of time and energy finding and collecting it. These women and children leave home before dawn and walk miles to the nearest borehole, dam or stream, whether the water there is clean or not. Some even sleep in those remote places just so they can be first in line for water in the morning. That is risky because it makes them vulnerable to wild animals and human predators."

While this risk may seem unwise, the poor consider it an unavoidable trade-off to save precious time. Once the queue starts forming, it can take hours for a family to collect the water they need.

In the dry season, their lives become even more difficult. At certain times of the year, streams and other groundwater sources literally dry up. Then families dig holes in a dry riverbed and wait for muddy water to well up from below so they can fill their buckets.

"It would be bad enough if water



scarcity was the only problem the poor face. But even when water can be found, it is often unsafe for human consumption," Cavnar said. "As you would imagine, water from ponds and streams is used by animals and also becomes contaminated with debris and chemical runoff. Still, these families have no other options, so they drink water polluted by parasites, bacteria and waste — risking their health to quench their thirst. When they become sick, it only adds to their trials and adds to the burdens they must endure in order to survive."

Fortunately, this troubling situation has not been ignored by the Church or ministries serving the poor. In fact,

The search for and collection of water remains a daunting task in many African countries. During dry seasons, holes are dug in the riverbeds. As muddy water slowly seeps up to fill these pits, it is collected for drinking and cooking.

partnerships between dioceses and Cross Catholic Outreach have produced practical solutions to water scarcity problems in Africa and beyond. Very often, American Catholics are part of this important cause too. Their donations fund the wells African communities desperately need.

"We can end the misery of poor families in remote areas of Africa by installing simple deep-water wells in their communities, and American Catholics can play a critical role in that outreach," Cavnar confirmed. "Supplying water has an obvious benefit — it addresses a basic human need. But the impact of these projects goes much deeper. Donors who support our efforts to provide poor communities with clean, easily accessible water are also improving public health

and helping promote the education of needy children. When we install wells in a community, children are sick less often and spend fewer hours searching for and collecting water. That has a huge impact on their education because they can attend classes regularly and have the time and energy to study."

To bring all of these blessings to the poor in Africa, Cross Catholic Outreach recently launched a new *Wells of Salvation* campaign aimed at helping poor families in three African dioceses. (See related story on the opposite page.)

Cavnar's prayer is that hundreds of compassionate Catholics will donate generously so dozens of wells can be installed in these African communities, ending the terrible burdens water scarcity has placed on them.

How to Help

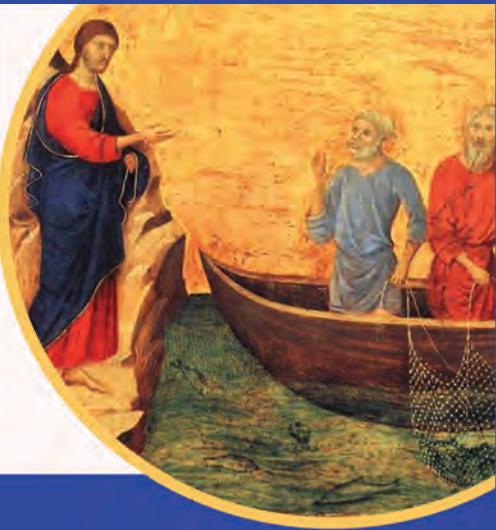
To fund Cross Catholic Outreach's effort to help the poor worldwide, use the postage-paid brochure inserted in this newspaper, or mail your gift to Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC02066, PO Box 97168, Washington, DC 20090-7168. The brochure also includes instructions on becoming a Mission Partner and making a regular monthly donation to this cause.

If you identify an aid project, 100% of the donation will be restricted to be used for that specific project. However, if more is raised for the project than needed, funds will be redirected to other urgent needs in the ministry.



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

SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2022

6:00 p.m.

St. Vincent de Paul Parish

1913 Ritter Drive, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

RSVP by email to Fr. Alex Sutachan at
fatheralex@svparish.com

The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women invites you to the

63rd Annual Spring Assembly

*We are the **Light** of the World*

Keynote Speaker: Donna Cori Gibson
Spirituality Commission Speaker: Fr. Joseph Kelly
Leadership Commission Speaker: Sr. Sharon Miller
Leadership Commission Speaker: Rev. William W. Hennecke, Jr.

Catholic Women OF ALL AGES WELCOME!

April 22nd-23rd, 2022
Drury Plaza Hotel Conference Center
Cape Girardeau, MO

To register & learn more
[visit www.DioSCG.org/theDCCW](http://www.DioSCG.org/theDCCW)



#ListeningChurch



SYNOD CONSULTATION MEETING DATES & LOCATIONS

WED., APRIL 20

10:00 am Sacred Heart Parish – Conway
6:30 pm St. Ann Parish – Malden

THU., APRIL 21

6:30 pm St. Ann Parish – Malden

SAT., APRIL 23

3:00 pm Our Lady of the Cove Parish – Kimberling City
5:30 pm Sacred Heart Parish – Conway

SUN., APRIL 24

9:00 am St. Agnes Cathedral – Springfield
11:30 am Our Lady of the Cove Parish – Kimberling City
11:45 am St. Joseph Parish – Billings

MON., APRIL 25

6:30 pm Sacred Heart Parish – Dexter

TUE., APRIL 26

11:00 am Our Lady of the Cove Parish – Kimberling City
5:00 pm St. William Parish – Buffalo
6:00 pm St. Joseph Mission – White Church

6:00 pm Our Lady of the Cove Parish – Kimberling City

WED., APRIL 27
6:00 pm Holy Trinity Parish – Aurora
6:30 pm St. Teresa Parish – Glennonville

THU., APRIL 28
6:30 pm St. Teresa Parish – Glennonville

SAT., APRIL 30
9:00 am St. Edward Parish – Cassville
10:00 am St. William Parish – Buffalo

SUN., MAY 1
7:00 pm Immaculate Conception Parish – Springfield

MON., MAY 2
1:00 pm Immaculate Conception Parish – Springfield
7:00 pm Immaculate Conception Parish – Springfield

TUE., MAY 3
6:00 pm Holy Family Parish – Shell Knob
6:30 pm St. Mary Parish - Joplin

7:00 pm Immaculate Conception Parish – Springfield

WED., MAY 4
8:15 am Immaculate Conception Parish – Springfield

THU., MAY 5
6:30 pm St. Peter the Apostle Parish – Joplin

FRI., MAY 6
6:30 pm St. Francis of Assisi Parish – Nixa
Session for Teens & Young Adults
**Please RSVP for pizza order*

THU., MAY 12
6:00 pm St. Francis Xavier Parish – Sikeston
6:00 pm St. Mary Parish – West Plains

SAT., MAY 14
11:00 am St. Canera Parish – Neosho
1:00 pm St. Patrick Mission Church – Greenfield
5:00 pm St. Joseph Parish – Billings

SUN., MAY 15

11:00 am St. Francis of Assisi Parish – Nixa
12:00 pm St. Francis Xavier Parish – Sikeston

(Following Mass at noon)
6:00 pm St. Canera Parish – Neosho
6:00 pm St. Denis Parish – Benton

THU., MAY 19

12:00 pm Sacred Heart Parish – Thayer

FRI., MAY 20

6:00 pm St. Francis Xavier Parish – Sikeston

SAT., MAY 21

7:00 pm St. Francis of Assisi Parish – Nixa
TBD St. Francis Xavier Parish – Sikeston

SUN., MAY 22

TBD St. Francis Xavier Parish – Sikeston

► For more info, scan the QR code or check the website at
<https://dioscg.org/synod-on-synodality-2021-2023/>