



MIGHTY SEND OFF—An appreciation dinner was held Nov. 21 in Deanery 5 for the retirement of Fr. Sherman Wall, OMI. Hosted by the area Knights of Columbus, the well-attended event paid tribute to the long-time pastor – 36 years—who retired to his religious community, the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, on Nov. 25, 2021. Father Wall is 90 years old. (*The Mirror*)

HAPPY RETIREMENT, FR. WALL

Willow Springs, MO

“The Diocese of Springfield – Cape Girardeau has a long history of both diocesan priests and religious order priests collaborating together for the good of the diocese,” said Bp. Edward M. Rice at the Nov. 21 retirement dinner honoring Fr. Sherman Wall, OMI.

“Diocesan priests serve in a particular geographic region of the diocese or archdiocese,” Bp. Rice said. “Priests in a religious order are not assigned to particular dioceses.”

However, “No one told that to Fr. Wall!” said Bp. Rice. “He’s been with us for almost 40 years!”

At age 90, Fr. Wall is retiring after 36 years of ministry as pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Willow Springs, and St. Joseph Mission, White Church, MO. He is a member of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

‘IMPROBABLE’ PATH

“I had grown up in a Baptist family and became Catholic at the age of 17,” Fr. Wall told *The Mirror* in 2010. “With the support and encouragement of several friends, I pursued the growing conviction that my destiny was to be a priest.”

Father Wall was ordained to the priesthood on May 30, 1957, for the Oblate Fathers in Pass Christian, MS. Prior to

being assigned to the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Fr. Wall ministered in Minnesota, Nebraska, Wisconsin, and Illinois.

His is an “improbable path,” said Fr. Wall in describing his vocation.

Like being the athletic director for the parish grade school and high school in St. Jean Parish in Duluth, MN.

“My classmates laughed about that,” said Fr. Wall.

And his stint as a religious program director for a local FM radio station in Belleville, IL.

“I received 10 days notice of the obligation and I had no background at all in radio,” Fr. Wall said.

“I have known so many other priests who recognized the same improbability of a priestly vocation in their own story,” Fr. Wall said. “I used to think that this pattern began in the Gospel, but I found evidence in the beginnings of the Old Testament; the same pattern is there, God choosing the most unlikely of candidates.”

Father Wall had 13 addresses in his first 15 years as a priest.

“One of my uncles asked if I just couldn’t get along with anybody,” Fr. Wall said.

SOUTHERN MISSOURI

After 15 years of retreat ministry, the Oblate Fathers asked Fr. Wall to take a year’s sabbatical. At this point, he’d

been a priest for 26 years.

“In the summer of 1985, I was offered the only choice I was ever given in an assignment: ‘north or south?’” Fr. Wall said. “I was already in Minnesota, so I knew what north meant. I picked south.” And he soon arrived to Sacred Heart Church in Willow Springs, and St. Joseph Mission, at White Church.

Considering himself a “country priest,” in an article for his 60th jubilee, Fr. Wall said of his ministry: “The people need to be in charge because someday I won’t be here. I prefer to be their cheerleader, not their leader.”

The man is humble, with a distinct flat-top haircut and a quick wit. He is beloved and known in the community.

“He is never ‘too tired’ or ‘too busy’ to listen,” said Martha Lawler of Willow Springs. “A rare thing in today’s world.”

People noticed.

On April 10, 2021, Fr. Sherman Wall, OMI, was presented the Citizen of the Year award at the Willow Springs Chamber of Commerce annual banquet. The honor acknowledged his pastoral care for the communities of Willow Springs and White Church these past 36 years along with his work with MUNCH (Missourians United to Combat Hunger), the community food pantry and resale store. The outreach ministry is a great

resource for the town of Willow Springs and surrounding community., serving 500-plus families a month.

Described as one who does not enjoy the spotlight, “He exemplifies humility, and it is very endearing,” said Amanda Mendez, Editor of the Howell County News and parishioner at Sacred Heart Parish. “He has been a fixture of our town for 36 years.”

The following is from the award presentation honoring Fr. Wall that was given by Mendez at the Chamber banquet:

“Not just any man could choose to lead a life of service, take a vow of poverty, and sacrifice the potential to have a family of his own, but that is the life that priests choose.

“Over the last year, Fr. Wall has managed the liturgy at his two parishes completely alone. Without a deacon, without any altar servers, without any volunteers to lead the music, he has been there every Saturday and Sunday to bring the Gospel to the Faithful under difficult circumstances.

“And Fr. Wall extends his pastoral care to any and all members of our town in need, not just the members of our church. His leadership at MUNCH has been an enormous blessing to Willow Springs for more than 30 years. Hundreds of families throughout the year rely on the food pantry, thrift store,

FR. WALL // Continued on page 4



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

Abortion has affect on the human family

“When the time comes as it surely will, when we face that awesome moment, the final judgment, I’ve often thought, as Fulton Sheen wrote, that it is a terrible moment of loneliness. You have no advocates, you are there alone standing before God and a terror will rip through your soul like nothing you can imagine.

“But I really think that those in the pro-life movement will not be alone. I think there will be a chorus of voices that have never been heard in this world but are heard beautifully and clearly in the next world and they will plead for anyone who has been in this movement.

“They will say to God, ‘spare him because he loved us,’ and God will look at you and say not, ‘Did you succeed?’ But ‘Did you try?’”

The above words quote the late Henry Hyde, a pro-life member of the Illinois House of Representatives who passed away in 2007. He introduced the legislation barring the use of federal funds to pay for abortion. Before the Hyde Amendment took effect in 1980, an estimated 300,000 abortions were performed annually using federal funds.

We live in a time when many people quickly say, Trust the science.” And that is true especially in regard to the unborn child in the womb. Modern science has shown us that a 15-week child is capable of feeling pain, has a fully formed nose, lips, eyelids and eyebrows, and can suck their thumb. Let’s trust the science on the unborn! Breakthroughs in science have allowed babies to survive at continually younger preterm ages with the proper care and treatment. Let’s trust the science on the unborn! At 15 weeks, an unborn child has a beating heart, can move around in the

womb, can close his or her fingers, and can sense stimulation from outside the womb. Let’s trust the science on the unborn!

LATE TERM ABORTION

A limit on abortion after 15 weeks would bring the United States in line with most European countries, which have adapted their laws to reflect the science. Both Germany and France have 14 weeks gestational limits on abortion. The United States is only one of seven countries that allow

elective abortions after 20 weeks. Americans widely support limits on late-term abortions. Three quarters of Americans want abortion limited to—at most—the first three months of pregnancy. Only 15 percent of Americans believe that abortion should be available during any time of the pregnancy.

In 1940, Congress passed the original law providing the protection of the Bald and Golden Eagle through the Protection Act, prohibiting the take, possession ... of any Bald or Golden Eagle, alive or dead, including any part, nest, or egg. Why would the egg be included? Back in 1940, they trusted the science that said the egg within the mother of the Bald Eagle or Golden Eagle would produce a baby Eagle. In order to protect the Bald or Golden Eagle, they had to protect the egg. They trusted the science!

As medical techniques have improved, medical centers can perform surgeries on fetuses while they’re still in the womb. How can that be? How can you apply the medical knowledge of the human body to the fetus in the womb? Because, even in the womb, we acknowledge its physical makeup

to be a reflection of a human person outside the womb. In other words, medical care and treatment recognizes that the fetus is not some sort of “subhuman form,” but rather a developing human. Let’s trust the science on the unborn!

ABORTION DESTROYS LOVE

While medical advances have given us a greater understanding of the viability of the unborn, we must never forget that abortion is not just a

15%
ONLY 15 PERCENT OF AMERICANS BELIEVE THAT ABORTION SHOULD BE AVAILABLE DURING ANY TIME OF THE PREGNANCY.

moral or religious issue: abortion is a human issue. Abortion has an affect on the human family and a rippling effect on a country and family life. Mother Teresa of Calcutta stated, “Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love, but to use any violence to get what they want. That is why the greatest destroyer of love

is abortion.” And as we look around our culture and our society with its epidemic of violence, she would say, “If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.” Again, abortion is a human issue just as much as it is a moral and religious issue.

“It is a poverty to decide that a child must die so that you may live as you wish.” In this era of the “Me Too” movement, highlighting the sexual harassment and violation of women, Mother Teresa recognized “Abortion is profoundly anti-woman. Three quarters of its victims are women: Half the babies and all the mothers.”

Please pray for those men and women in the pro-life movement, and all those witnessing to life at the 2022 March for Life in Washington, DC, Jan. 19-22, 2022. ©TM



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January 2022

PUBLIC CALENDAR

THU., JAN. 13

The Catholic Center Staff Mass & Meeting
Springfield

SAT., JAN. 15

10:30 a.m. Priesthood ordinations for Rev. Mr. Augustine M. An Pham, CRM, and Rev. Mr. Benedict M. Quy Pham, CRM, at the Congregation of the Mother of the Redeemer, Carthage, MO

MON., JAN. 17

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., CIVIL HOLIDAY
The Catholic Center closed

WED., JAN. 19

Mass with students of St. Ann Catholic School,
Carthage, MO

SAT., JAN. 22

5:30 p.m. Mass for Life & Memorial Mass followed by Rosary, Landmark Roe v Wade decision, St. Agnes Cathedral, Springfield

SUN., JAN. 23

5 p.m. Sinulog Celebration, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, Springfield

MON., JAN. 24

Presbyteral Council Meeting, Sacred Heart Church, Willow Springs, MO

TUE., JAN. 25

Diocesan Development Fund Committee Meeting
The Catholic Center, Springfield;

7 p.m. 'Stump the Bishop' event with students of Catholic Campus Ministry, O'Reilly Catholic Student Center, Springfield

THU., JAN. 27

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

FRI., JAN. 28

8 a.m. Mass with students of St. Augustine Catholic School, Kelso, MO

SAT., JAN. 29

4 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Ambrose Parish, Chaffee, MO;

7 p.m. Extravaganza Gala for Notre Dame Regional High School, Cape Girardeau, Drury Plaza Hotel & Conference Center



VEN Y VERÁS
Obispo Edward M. Rice

El aborto afecta a la familia humana

“Cuando llegue el momento, como seguramente ocurrirá, en que nos enfrentemos a ese impresionante momento, el juicio final, he pensado a menudo, como escribió Fulton Sheen, que será un momento terrible de soledad. No tendrás defensores, estarás ahí solo ante Dios y un terror te desgarrará el alma como nada que puedas imaginar.

Pero realmente creo que los del movimiento provida no estarán solos. Creo que habrá un coro de voces que nunca se han escuchado en este mundo, pero que se oyen hermosa y claramente en el otro mundo, y que abogarán por cualquiera que haya estado en este movimiento.

Dirán a Dios: “perdónalo porque nos ha amado”, y Dios te mirará y no dirá: “¿lo lograste?”, sino “¿lo has intentado?””

Las palabras anteriores citan al difunto Henry Hyde, miembro provida de la Cámara de Representantes de Illinois que falleció en 2007. Presentó la legislación que prohíbe el uso de fondos federales para pagar el aborto. Antes de que la Enmienda Hyde entrara en vigor en 1980, se calcula que se realizaban anualmente unos 300.000 abortos con fondos federales.

Vivimos en una época en la que mucha gente se apresura a decir: “Confía en la ciencia”. Y esto es especialmente cierto en lo que respecta al niño no

nacido en el vientre materno. La ciencia moderna nos ha demostrado que un niño de 15 semanas es capaz de sentir dolor, tiene una nariz, labios, párpados y cejas completamente formados, y puede chuparse el dedo. ¡Confiemos en la ciencia sobre los no nacidos! Los avances de la ciencia han permitido que los bebés sobrevivan a edades cada vez más tempranas con los cuidados y el tratamiento adecuados. ¡Confiemos en la ciencia sobre los no nacidos! A las 15 semanas, un niño no nacido tiene un corazón que late, puede moverse en el útero, puede cerrar los dedos y puede sentir la estimulación desde fuera del útero. ¡Confiemos en la ciencia sobre los no nacidos!

ABORTO TARDÍO

Un límite al aborto después de las 15 semanas pondría a Estados Unidos en línea con la mayoría de los países europeos, que han adaptado sus leyes para reflejar la ciencia. Tanto Alemania como Francia tienen límites de 14 semanas de gestación para el aborto. Estados Unidos es sólo uno de los siete países que permiten el aborto electivo después de las 20 semanas. Los estadounidenses apoyan ampliamente la limitación de los abortos tardíos. Tres cuartas partes de los estadounidenses quieren que el aborto se limite, como máximo, a los tres primeros meses de embarazo. Sólo el 15% de los estadounidenses cree que el aborto debería estar disponible durante cualquier momento del embarazo.

En 1940, el Congreso aprobó la ley original de protección del águila calva y dorada mediante la Ley de Protección, que prohíbe la captura, posesión... de cualquier águila calva o dorada, viva o muerta, incluyendo cualquier parte, nido o huevo. ¿Por qué se incluye el huevo? En 1940, confiaban en la ciencia que decía que el huevo dentro de la madre del águila calva o del águila real produciría una cría de águila. Para proteger al águila calva o real, tenían que proteger el huevo. ¡Confiaron en la ciencia!

A medida que las técnicas médicas han mejorado, los centros médicos pueden realizar cirugías en fetos cuando todavía están en el útero. ¿Cómo puede ser eso? ¿Cómo se pueden aplicar los conocimientos médicos del cuerpo humano al feto en el útero? Porque, incluso en el vientre materno, reconocemos que su constitución física es un reflejo de una persona humana fuera del vientre. En otras palabras, la atención y el tratamiento médico reconocen que el feto no es una especie de “forma infrahumana”, sino un ser humano en desarrollo. ¡Confiemos en la ciencia sobre los no nacidos!

EL ABORTO DESTRUYE EL AMOR

Aunque los avances médicos nos han permitido comprender mejor la viabilidad del no nacido, nunca debemos olvidar que el aborto no es sólo una cuestión moral o religiosa: el aborto es una cuestión humana. El aborto afecta a la familia humana y tiene un

efecto dominante en un país y en la vida familiar. La Madre Teresa de Calcuta declaró: “Cualquier país que acepte el aborto no está enseñando a su pueblo a amar, sino a utilizar cualquier violencia para conseguir lo que quiere. Por eso el mayor destructor del amor es el aborto”. Y cuando miramos alrededor de nuestra cultura y nuestra sociedad con su epidemia de violencia, ella diría: “Si no tenemos paz, es porque hemos olvidado que nos pertenecemos unos a otros”. De nuevo, el aborto es una cuestión humana tanto como una cuestión moral y religiosa.

“Es una pobreza decidir que un niño debe morir para que tú puedas vivir como quieras”. En esta época del movimiento “Me Too”, que pone de relieve el acoso y la violación sexual de las mujeres, la Madre Teresa reconoció que “el aborto es profundamente anti-mujer”. Tres cuartas partes de sus víctimas son mujeres: La mitad de los bebés y todas las madres”.

Por favor, reza por los hombres y mujeres del movimiento provida, y por todos aquellos que darán testimonio de la vida en la Marcha por la Vida de 2022 en Washington, DC, del 19 al 22 de enero de 2022. ©TM



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

*Bishop John Leibracht 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. Leibracht 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.*

April 19, 1985 There are those who *make* things happen, those who *watch* things happen, and those who *wonder* what happened. Experience the happiness of being one of those who *makes* things happen.

May 17, 1985 Last Saturday, after Confirmation at Sacred Heart Parish in Dexter, one of the seniors just confirmed came up to me and said, “I have to ask you a question,” I quickly replied: “Sure, go ahead!” “What’s that little red beanie you wore at Mass?” I told him it is called a zucchetto. With a big grin he asked one more question: “Do all bishops wear them, or just those going bald?”

May 24, 1985 Pentecost is frequently referred to as the ‘birthday’ of the Church. Empowered by the Spirit, the apostles ventured out and, after preaching, received their first converts into the new Church. It seems to me that birthdays are relative. We refer to

the *early* Church, the Church of the *Middle Ages*, and the *modern* Church. But centuries from now, we might be considered the “early” Church or the Church of “the middle ages.” It all depends upon one’s vantage point, doesn’t it?

At a recent birthday celebration, the good-humored discussion turned to defining what is “middle-age?” I recalled the definitions given by several humorists. Ogden Nash said middle age is when you are sitting at home on Saturday night and the telephone rings, and you hope it isn’t for you. Bob Hope quipped: “Middle age is when the candles cost more than the cake.”

Age is relative, including the age of the Church. Whether talking about the Church’s birthday or a friend’s birthday, I like to recall the words of the person who claimed that “youth lasts much longer than young people think.”

FR. WALL // Continued from page 1
and utility assistance MUNCH provides, and those needs were never more urgent than last year.

“A team of volunteers make the daily work of MUNCH go, but Father manages the benefits, meets personally with those in need of utility and cash assistance, and has the impossible task of making the hard decisions about how to use the organization’s finite resources.

“Over the past year, I would say the characteristic that has defined Fr. Wall is ‘fearlessness.’ At the age of 90, in a global pandemic that is supposed to be the most dangerous to him and his contemporaries, he did not turn from his duties. He never stopped performing works of service to this community. With untiring energy, consistency, and an unshakeable sense of duty, Fr. Wall has poured himself out for the people of Willow Springs when no one would have blamed him for taking a break or stepping aside.”

ROOTED IN THE COMMUNITY
Fr. Wall has been active in the Willow Springs Ministerial Alliance, an ecumenical charity group, where he



FIRST COMMUNION—Father Sherman Wall, OMI, is pictured in July of 2021 with the ‘last’ First Communion youth he’ll lead, in Willow Springs. After 36 years of ministry in Howell County, Fr. Wall retired to his religious community base in Illinois on Nov. 25, 2021. (The Mirror)

annually presents at the Lenten Luncheon series, and has served as Council Champlain for the Knights of Columbus Willow Springs Council faithfully for 36 years.

“He has faithfully attended our monthly meetings and has been a great sounding board,” said Mick Gilliam, St. Joseph Mission Church, and Knight of Columbus member. Gilliam has known Fr. Wall for many years. “I have a great affection for him,” he said.

Fr. Wall has a reputation that he can and will help within the limits of his ability.

“Anyone down on their luck knows to show up at his door,” said Patty Carson, St.

Mary Parish, West Plains. “He is a holy, holy person; a wonderful, wonderful man!”

“Fr. Wall has tremendous skill as a homilist. He has more than a lifetime of experience to pull from, and this lends a charm to his homilies,” said Mendez. “Everyone always listens. We don’t know what we would do without him.”

This was a sentiment shared by many.

“Father Wall, you have worked alongside the religious and diocesan priests in this diocese,

under a number of bishops, and your priestly life of charity and zeal have made us better,” said Bp. Rice. “We bishops thank you. The priests thank you. The people you have served thank you. We offer you our gratitude, we offer you our love and we offer you our prayers. And, every once in a while, if you would happen to think of us down here in southern Missouri, I hope it brings a smile to your face and in your charity and zeal, that you would whisper a prayer for us!”

Happy retirement, Fr. Wall.

As Bp. Rice said: “May Our Lady, Queen of the Clergy protect you, and may St. Joseph guide you, *Ad multos annos.*”

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Church tours highlight Christmas in Malden

LOCAL CHURCHES OPEN—On Dec. 19, 2021, St. Ann Catholic Church, Malden, MO, hosted a Church Tour along with six other local congregations. Each church was open for visitors to view Christmas decorations and share fellowship. The other churches that were part of the successful event included First General Baptist Church, Stokelan Drive Christian Church, First Southern Baptist Church, First Presbyterian Church, First Christian Church, and Sunnyvale Baptist Church. St. Ann had a special display in its parish hall of the town of Bethlehem courtesy of Linda Beardsley. “People who live is the surrounding area were able to be together and share fellowship regardless of the differences in religion,” said Kathleen Bader. “The result was fantastic, as many want to do this again next year.” (Submitted photo)



Small group performs big service

SNACK PACKS FOR LOCAL SCHOOLS—Members of Immaculate Conception School’s Students4Life group packed 219 Snack Packs for Jackson R2 public schools, thanks to donations received from the school and parish family. Snack packs are given to students in need of a snack at school during the school day, or maybe even a small pick-me-up before they go home. The Jackson R-2 School District gives out 200 snack packs per week which contain one snack per day (five snacks a week) in large gallon-sized ziplock bags. While over 200 students receive a “Power Pack,” which provides weekend meals to families facing food insecurities, many of those students need extra nutrition during the school week, which is provided by the Snack Packs. Student4Life meets monthly to plan and implement activities that bring attention and awareness to the dignity of all life. (The Mirror)

Young rosary club in Leopold



DEVOTION TO PRAYER—A group of students from St. John Church in Leopold, MO, and St. Anthony Mission Church, in Glennon, MO, have had a young rosary club for the better of 20-plus years ranging in age from kindergarten to 7th grade. They meet on Wednesday afternoons after school to say the rosary. The students take turns leading the prayer, either individually or by grade level. “We are so blessed to have volunteers from our community to help in leading this group, helping to instill in our youth the power of the rosary and the power of prayer in union with our Blessed Mother,” said Aimee Hampton of Leopold. (The Mirror)

Bishop Rice celebrates 35th anniversary



ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY—Bishop Edward M. Rice commemorated his 35th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood on Jan. 3, 2022, with members of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters at Mount Grace Convent in St. Louis. He will also mark 11 years since his episcopal consecration this month, on Jan. 13. (The Mirror)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR, FROM OUR READERS

Where do we find such men?

My wife, JoAnn, and I recently attended a beautiful funeral for retired Fr. Bob Landewe, a diocesan priest who had served in about 22 parishes over a span of 50 some-odd years. During this funeral, I could not help but reflect on our priests whom we have lost and our wonderful priests and bishops we have now. I was struck by the enormity of their lives. Quite honestly, I was having a hard time holding it together in church as I pondered their lives and God's love.

Where do we get such men? They are a testament of God's love for us.

Our priests are truly the best of us. They are heroes. A hero is someone who gives up his life or "spends" himself/herself to help the rest of us. A soldier may put his/her life in great peril running through the line of fire to aid a downed soldier, or even sacrifice himself/herself to give a friend a chance, or to preserve the freedom of this great nation. A police officer may put himself/herself in harm's way to protect someone he or she does not even know. A fireman may literally walk through fire to save a poor helpless child who would not make it out on his/her own. No less, our priests give up everything for the love of each one of us and God. They give up their lives, their own wills—a wife, kids, another occupation—everything, for love. They give it up so that they can get us to

heaven and help us to have the best lives we can have on earth. They do it their whole lives, their entire selves. Though we cannot all be priests, or consecrated religious, how wonderful it would be on earth if all of us did even a tenth of what they do every day.

Indeed, Christ himself, who in his humanity and divinity, sacrificed it all, including a painful death on the Cross, must be so proud of these men. It is hard to imagine, but Jesus' love for us is infinitely greater even than the love of these great men of God.

I am hoping to be in Heaven one day to see it. The day that one of these great men of God is called home. I know I cannot fully fathom the Love Christ has for them, but I can imagine the beaming face of Jesus when he says to them, "Well done my good and faithful servant!" ©TM

Bob Heath
St. Joseph Parish, Springfield

Letters to the Editor are published at the discretion of the editor. They may be mailed via USPS to Editor, The Mirror, 601 S. Jefferson Ave., Springfield, MO 65806, or filed electronically to: leidson@dioscg.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jackson—The Knights of Columbus #6405 will have a **Fish & Chicken Fry** on Fri., Jan. 21, 4:30-7 p.m., in the Knights Hall. Cost is \$13 and carry out is available. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Immaculate Conception Catholic School. For more information, contact Dave at (573) 243-5464.

Kelso—St. Augustine Home and School presents **Music Trivia**, Sat., Jan. 15, in St. Augustine Catholic School. Doors open at 6 p.m. and play begins at 7 p.m. Cost is \$15 per player with max of 8 players per team. Sponsorship opportunities include Round Sponsorship, \$100, and Table Sponsorship, \$25. Proceeds benefit the school. To reserve a table or become a sponsor, please call or text Ashley, (573) 318-6002!

Kelso—St. Augustine Home and School will host the **Annual Euchre Tournament** on Sat., Feb. 12, in the school gymnasium. Doors open at 6 p.m. and play begins at 7 p.m. The \$12 donation at the door includes chili, hot dogs, and Euchre. Outside food and drink are permitted. For questions or more information, please call Sara Ressel, (573) 587-1591.

Leopold—The Parish Council of Catholic Women at St. John Parish will host a **Red Cross Blood Drive** on Wed., Jan. 19, 1-6 p.m., at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Leopold. Please contact the Red

Cross to schedule an appointment; www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive or call 1-800-733-2767. For more information, contact Geri at (573) 208-6445.

Nixa—St. Francis of Assisi Church will sponsor a **March for Life** on Sun., Jan. 23, at 1 p.m. The march will begin with prayer at St. Francis of Assisi Church located at 844 S. Gregg Rd. Participants may also join the march along the route; O'Reilly Auto Parts parking lot at approximately 2 p.m. or Nixa Junior High School at approximately 2:30 p.m.

Scott City—The Knights of Columbus will host its **Third Sunday Breakfast** on Sun., Jan. 16, 7:30-10:30 a.m., in the Knights Hall. Menu includes biscuits and gravy, scrambled eggs, hash browns, homemade pork sausage, yogurt and fruit, all for a donation. The Knights are also taking orders for homemade pork sausage, \$4 lb. available in bulk or link. To order, call Gary at (573) 576-6451.

Springfield—**Perpetual Adoration, hosted by Holy Trinity Parish, has an immediate need for Adorers** on Wednesday, 12 a.m. and Saturday, 12-noon and 5 p.m. Substitutes are needed for all Adoration hours. Please contact Marilyn Gibson (417) 224-4043 to sign up. If you are unable to attend, please consider making a donation to keep our candles burning bright.

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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‘What is love?’

POPE, OTHER ELDERS SHARE STORIES FOR NETFLIX

POPE NETFLIX DOCUMENTARY—Pope Francis is interviewed at the Vatican for “Stories of a Generation,” a Netflix series based on the pope’s book, *Sharing the Wisdom of Time*. The documentary features the pope and other people over 70 sharing their life stories and experiences with filmmakers under 30. The documentary became available on Netflix Dec. 25, 2021.

(CNS photo/Simone Risoluti, Vatican Media)

By Cindy Wooden Rome

Pope Francis, Martin Scorsese, Jane Goodall and a group of less famous “over 70s” talk to young filmmakers about love in the first episode of a four-part documentary which became available worldwide on Netflix on Christmas Day.

The episode “Love,” part of the series “Stories of a Generation,” premiered at the Rome Film Festival in October.

The documentary is based on *Sharing the Wisdom of Time*, a book in which Pope Francis called for creating “an alliance between the young and old people” by sharing their stories.

Published by Chicago-based Loyola Press in 2018, the book featured an introduction by Pope Francis, the stories of 30 older people and reflections by a handful of younger people on “What I learned from an elder.”

Simona Ercolani, director and producer of the Netflix series, told reporters that she started working on the project after reading the book, and then the COVID-19 pandemic struck, hitting Italy early and devastating its elderly population.

The idea to make the series “became urgent because every day we had a

bulletin of deaths,” she said. “We spoke with Netflix, which also felt the urgency of collecting the stories of people, who at that moment were more fragile. They liked this idea of a dialogue between generations—filmmakers under age 30 and contributors over 70.”

“The stories are extraordinary in their normality, because everyone, including Pope Francis, put themselves in a position of relating (to the filmmaker) not just as a grandchild, but human being to human being,” she said.

THEMES CENTRAL TO LIFE

Giovanni Bossetti, nonfiction manager for Netflix Italy, told reporters that the streaming service is all about sharing stories, so “besides the incredible access to the Holy Father” that Ercolani had, the series gave Netflix an opportunity “to tell stories that are completely different and that touch themes that are central” to the life of every person.

Eighteen elders from five continents and speaking four different languages appear in the series’ four episodes: Love, Dreams, Struggle, and Work.

Pope Francis’ commentary on the four themes and reflections from his own life appear in each episode.

While the series is not “didactic” at all, Bossetti said, the elders share important, universal values with the young filmmakers and the viewing audience.

For the Netflix series, Jesuit Fr. Antonio Spadaro, editor of *La Civiltà Cattolica* interviewed Pope Francis while young filmmakers interviewed the other elders.

Francesca Scorsese, 21, interviewed her father, the director and producer, Martin Scorsese.

Father Spadaro told reporters that Pope Francis agreed to participate in the series on the condition that he would not be “the star” of the project but would simply enter into the conversation like the other elders interviewed, “talking about himself and his personal experiences.”

“The stars are the people the pope likes to refer to as ‘the saints next door,’” he said. “They are normal people who are the heroes of daily life.”

“What is love?” Fr. Spadaro asked Pope Francis.

That, the pope responded at first, would be like asking, “What is air?”

“You can say love is a feeling,” or a series of electrical impulses or something akin to magnetic fields drawing together, he said. But one thing is certain: “Gratuity is key. Love is free or it is not love.”

TO BRING THE WISDOM OF THE ELDERS ALONGSIDE THE PASSION OF THE YOUTH IS WHAT IT IS GOING TO TAKE TO CHANGE THE WORLD

Tango, his grandmother Rosa, helping others and the importance of dreaming of a better world all come up in the papal conversation.

Speaking via Zoom, Jane Goodall, the primatologist and

anthropologist, told reporters at the Rome news conference that the film, like her *Roots & Shoots* program for young people, can sow much needed hope by bringing elders and young people together.

“To bring the wisdom of the elders alongside the passion of the youth is what it is going to take to change the world,” Goodall said. ©CNS

3 Rome events to look forward to in 2022



by Hannah Brockhaus Vatican City

Although the coronavirus pandemic continues to affect many people around the world, the beginning of a new calendar year is also a good time to look forward to joyful events to come.

In Rome, the Vatican is planning three important international occasions with Christian hope.

Though crowd sizes may have to be controlled, modern technology and the ability to

connect remotely or through live streaming mean that participation can be unlimited.

As the new year kicks off, here are three Rome events that Catholics can look forward to in 2022.

1 The canonization of Charles de Foucauld

The canonization of Bl. Charles de Foucauld and six other blessed on May 15 will end a stretch of two years and seven months since the most recent canonizations, those of St. John Henry Newman and

four others in October 2019.

A canonization — when the pope recognizes that a holy man or woman is in heaven — is always a blessed occasion for the Church, and many Catholics are likely to rejoice as the French soldier and adventurer, who later became a Trappist monk and Catholic missionary to Muslims in Algeria, is declared a saint.

After his reversion to the Catholic faith, Foucauld wanted to imitate the life of Jesus. He spent his last 13 years living among the Muslim

Continued on next page

FAITH & FELLOWSHIP—A pilgrim attends the canonization of St. John Henry Newman in Rome, Oct. 13, 2019. (Mazur/cbcw.org.uk)

3 Rome Events // Continued from previous page

Tuareg people, a nomadic ethnic group, in the desert of French-occupied Algeria. Also known as Brother Charles of Jesus, Foucauld was killed in 1916 at the age of 58.

On May 15, Pope Francis will also canonize Devasahayam Pillai, a layman from India who was martyred after converting from Hinduism to Catholicism in the 18th century.

Pillai, who is also known by his baptismal name, Lazarus, was beatified in 2012 in southern India. He will be the first lay Catholic from India to be declared a saint.

Seven years after his conversion, Pillai was killed at the age of 40 by gunshot, after he had been falsely accused of treason, arrested, and tortured for three years.

Two religious sisters will also be canonized on May 15: Bl. Maria Francesca di Gesù, the foundress of the

Capuchin Tertiary Sisters of Loano, and Bl. Maria Domenica Mantovani, the co-foundress and first general superior of the Institute of the Little Sisters of the Holy Family.

Bl. César de Bus, Bl. Luigi Maria Palazzolo, and Bl. Giustino Maria Russolillo — three priests who founded religious congregations and institutes — will also be declared saints.

2 10th World Meeting of Families

Though the continued spread of COVID-19 means physical attendance in Rome will be limited, the 10th World Meeting of Families, on June 22-26, will offer ways for any Catholic family to participate.

Organizers have planned hybrid in-person and online meetings, and bishops have been encouraged to hold parallel events in their dioceses.

This will be Rome's third time

hosting the international gathering, which started in 1994. Around 2,000 people will attend the 2022 edition, which is on the theme of "Family love: a vocation and a path to holiness."

Cardinal Angelo De Donatis, the vicar of Rome, said: "Choosing the city that holds the memories of the Apostles Peter and Paul as the main venue for the meeting highlights the original vocation of the Church of Rome which 'presides over the communion of the Churches.'"

The World Meeting of Families will also mark the end of the Amoris Laetitia Family Year.

3 The beatification of Pope John Paul I

Venerable John Paul I will be beatified on Sept. 4 by Pope Francis in St. Peter's Basilica.

Often called "the smiling pope," John Paul I died unexpectedly on Sept. 28, 1978, after just 33 days in office. A

priority of his short pontificate was carrying forward the work of the Second Vatican Council.

But even before he was elected pope, Albino Luciani was known for his humility, emphasis on spiritual poverty, and dedication to teaching the faith in an understandable manner.

In October, Pope Francis recognized a miracle obtained through John Paul I's intercession and gave approval for him to be declared "blessed."

Though beatification ceremonies usually take place in the country most associated with the life of the new blessed, John Paul I will be beatified at the Vatican because he served as a pope.

The miracle attributed to John Paul I's intercession is the 2011 healing of a girl in the Archdiocese of Buenos Aires, Argentina, from a severe form of encephalopathy, a disease affecting the brain. ©CNS



Catholic Men's Night held in Carthage

FAITH & FELLOWSHIP—Bishop Edward M. Rice visited with area men during Catholic Men's Night hosted by St. Ann Parish, Carthage, MO, on Thu., Nov. 11, 2021. (The Mirror)

2022 Diocesan Youth CONFERENCE



Fr. Agustino Torres, CFR

Sat., MARCH 26
Carthage
Congregation of the Mother of the Redeemer Monastery
with music leader Josh Blakesley



Katie Prejean McGrady

Sun., MARCH 27
West Plains
West Plains Civic Center
with music leader Josh Blakesley



Sister Josephine Garrett

Sat., APRIL 2
Cape Girardeau
St. Vincent de Paul Parish
with music leader Mary Kate Westrich



Josh Blakesley



Mary Kate Westrich

FOR ALL YOUTH IN 7TH-12TH GRADE!



Chosen



Broken



Forgiven



Decision

Registration is \$30 per person, per conference date.

For more info, scan the QR Code, visit dioscg.org/DYC, or contact your parish youth leader.

Brought to you by the Office of Youth Formation Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau

VIRTUS[®]
Excellence
Builds
Trust



Protecting God's Children[®]
For Adults

Training is currently 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

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

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

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



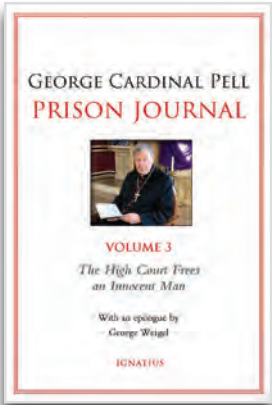
By
George
Weigel

Books for the New Year

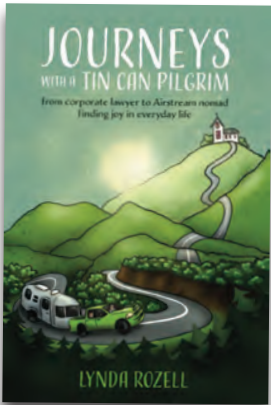
READING SUGGESTIONS FOR SPIRITUAL INSPIRATION

Some suggestions for New Year reading, in the form of books that amuse, inspire, educate or all-of-the-above:

Prison Journal, Volume 3 – The High Court Frees an Innocent Man, by Cardinal George Pell (Ignatius Press). The vindication of Cardinal George Pell by Australia’s High Court in April 2020 was an unalloyed joy amidst Plague Time. With this third volume, Ignatius Press completes the publication of Cardinal Pell’s remarkable prison diary, which has become something of a modern spiritual classic, even as it has introduced the real George Pell to a world audience bombarded for decades by media caricatures of the man.

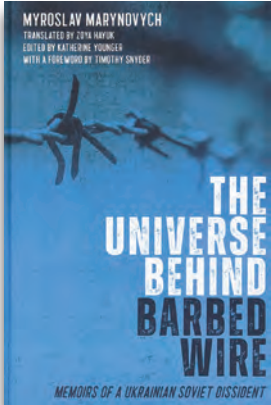


Journeys with a Tin Can Pilgrim, by Lynda Rozell (St. John’s Press). Part memoir, part insightful reflection, part how-to manual, and part travel guide along roads both material and spiritual, this distinctive book recounts a return to Catholic faith that transformed a hard-driving and well-compensated corporate lawyer into a peripatetic pilgrim, traveling the country in an Airstream trailer and doing the New Evangelization



retail in campgrounds around the country. It’s a story of delight in the love of God, coupled with reflections on maintaining spiritual and mental health in the practice and sharing of the faith. Quite unusual, and often quite moving.

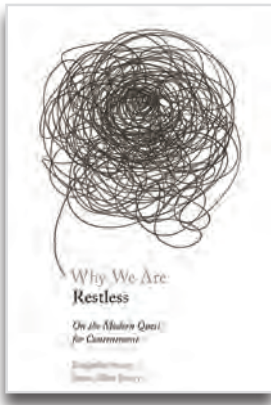
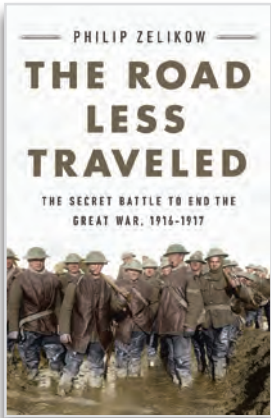
The Universe Behind Barbed Wire: Memoirs of a Ukrainian Soviet Dissident, by Myroslav Marynovych (University of Rochester Press). Dr. Marynovych, another man I am honored to call a friend, spent years in a different sort of campground: Perm Camp 36, the most notorious of the Soviet GULAG labor camps. His crime? Circulating bulletins about the abuse of human rights in the workers’ paradise that Senator Bernie Sanders visited on his honeymoon. Yale’s Timothy Snyder nicely described the life trajectory of this contemporary martyr-confessor in these terms: “When [Marynovych] was arrested at 28, he was an agnostic. When he was released a decade later, he was a Christian ethicist and political thinker. His memoir is a humble, and humbling, account of a man maturing in hell.” Myroslav Marynovych now puts that maturity to work in building a free, democratic, and decent Ukraine, through his work as Vice Rector for Mission at the Ukrainian Catholic University in L’viv and in several parallel enterprises dedicated to fostering solidarity among the Ukrainian, Polish, Jewish, and Crimean Tatar communities in his hard-pressed country. His book deserves a wide readership – not least in the Vatican’s Secretariat of State and the



papal diplomatic corps.

The Road Less Traveled: The Secret Battle to End the Great War, 1916-1917, by Philip Zelikow (Public Affairs). As if there were not enough reasons to dislike elitist, racist, anti-Catholic Woodrow Wilson, now comes a striking re-examination of Wilson’s diplomacy (or lack thereof) at a moment when he and his *consigliere*, Edward House, might have brokered a rational settlement to World War I. That they failed to do so was in part due to their incompetence and in part because of the machinations of the “Welsh Wizard,” David Lloyd George, keen to become British prime minister. Had the opportunities Zelikow describes been seized, there would have been no Lenin or Soviet Union, no Hitler or Nazi Germany, and quite possibly no Great Depression and no World War II. A sad, instructive tale.

Why We Are Restless: On the Modern Quest for Contentment, by Benjamin Storey and Jenna Silber Storey (Princeton University Press): The Storeys make intellectual history come alive in an engaging and accessible way for everyone, as they explain our

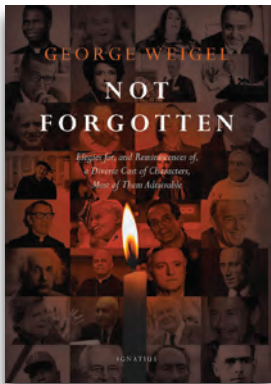
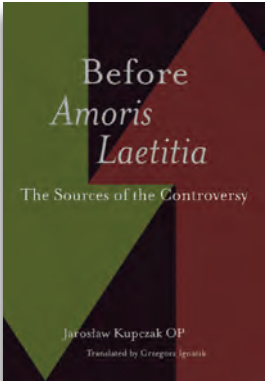



current cultural and political discontents while making creative suggestions for addressing those cankers. An especially good gift for any young (or older) Catholic integralist who imagines that dismantling the liberal political order is the answer to renewing the culture.

Before Amoris Laetitia: The Sources of the Controversy, by Jarosław Kupczak, OP (CUA Press). As the Church ponders its post-Pope Francis future, this careful examination of one of the great controversies of the present pontificate should help all reflective Catholics think more clearly about the stakes in the battle over the character of Christian marriage.

And, if I may: In a season of small-bore public personalities, my **Not Forgotten: Reminiscences of, and Elegies for, a Diverse Cast of Characters, Most of Them Admirable** (Ignatius Press) may be an encouraging reminder that giants walked among us, not so very long ago. ©TM

George Weigel is a Distinguished Senior Fellow and William E. Simon Chair in Catholic Studies at the Ethics and Public Policy Center. His column is distributed by the Denver Catholic, the official newspaper of the Archdiocese of Denver.





27TH ANNUAL

KNIGHTS STRIKING OUT

Bowlathon

FEBRUARY 6, 2022

Enterprise Park Lanes - Springfield | Sunshine Lanes - Springfield | Century Lanes - Nixa

- 12:00 Check in- Registration
- 1:00 start time for the event
- Bowl 3-games, rental shoes and ball for \$15 in advance , \$20 day of event.

More info and registration form at knightsstrikingout.org

EVENT PROCEEDS BENEFIT: Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri, Least Of These, Inc. Christian County Food Pantry, The Kitchen, Inc.

West Plains Christmas project benefits school-aged children

West Plains, MO

St. Mary Catholic Church, West Plains, collected hygiene products before Christmas for the local Bridges program for school-aged children in the community who may not have the necessary items needed to focus on their school work. The lack of hygiene products causes a lot of anxiety and may inspire low self-esteem. The church collected items such as soap, body wash, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, toothpaste, dental floss, toothbrushes, foot spray, Chapstick, shaving cream, disposable razors, etc. The church also gathered close to \$500 in funds, which were donated. ©TM



CHRISTMAS PROJECT—Fr. Maurice Chukwukere, Pastor, St. Mary Catholic Church, West Plains, handed Cyndi Wright, Founder of Bridges, a check representing funds raised for the local organization. Bridges provides support to school-aged children. Also pictured were Ed Hess, Barbara Robinette, and Jody King. Wright's car was full of various hygiene items donated from parishioners from the annual Christmas project at St. Mary Church. (Submitted photo)

Dunn received as Candidate for Holy Orders

RITE OF ADMISSION TO CANDIDACY FOR HOLY ORDERS

Six seminarians declared candidacy for Holy Orders during a Mass with the Rite of Admission to Candidacy for Holy Orders held Nov. 10, 2021, in Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology, in Hales Corners, WI, including diocesan seminarian Daniel Dunn. Dunn is a Theology 1 student for the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau whose home parish is St. John in Leopold, MO. (The Mirror)



SIBLINGS TOP CLASS OF 2022—Michael, Brooklyn, Samantha, and Allison Schulz are siblings and part of the Hollister High School Class of 2022. The four are ranked academically No. 1, 2, 3, and 4 in the Senior Class of 2022. They are members of Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Branson, MO. (Photo by Nathan Papes/Springfield News-Leader/used with permission)

Hollister Siblings Graduate 1, 2, 3, and 4 in Senior Class

Hollister, MO

Meet Michael Schultz, 18, and triplets Allison, Samantha, and Brooklyn Schultz, age 17, sibling seniors who will not only graduate together from Hollister High School in May, but also at the top of their class. The four are ranked academically No. 1, 2, 3, and 4 in their Senior Class of 2022. They are members of Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Branson, MO.

Stan and Kathy Schultz were parents to oldest son Patrick, currently a student at Benedictine College, when they welcomed Michael to the family in April 2003 and then, three months early on Dec. 21, 2003, three tiny baby girls arrived. Because neither twins nor triplets run in the family, the story told is that grandma must have prayed too hard for a girl to join the family ... they got three!

Despite being less than a year apart in age, the siblings were raised to do their best, explore their talents, and find ways to give back. In addition, the family prioritized always eating dinner together, contributing to the closeness they share.

Michael, Allison, Samantha, and Brooklyn are members of the National Honor Society, but they have each pursued their own interests and stay active as leaders in activities they enjoy.

Valedictorian, Allison, is the marching band color guard captain, student council member, and secretary of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA). She has been admitted, first round, to the University of Notre Dame and plans to study accounting or finance.

Salutatorian, Samantha, is president of FBLA, participates in show choir and is the dance coordinator for the student cabinet. She has also competed at the national level as part of the agronomy team. She plans to attend the University of Arkansas and study interior design or plant science.

Brooklyn is ranked third in the class and is editor-in-chief of the yearbook. An avid photographer, she also manages her own photography shoots and is booked for senior pictures, engagement photos, and local events. She has worked for the *Branson Globe* and *Branson Tri-Lakes News*. She has been accepted to the University of Missouri and plans to study journalism with the plan to become an international photojournalist.

Student body president, Michael, is ranked fourth in the class. He is an Academic All-State athlete that has played football, basketball, and golf for his school. He was selected Missouri Boys State and part of the Missouri Leadership Seminar. He plans to study law after high school and hopes to be accepted to either the United States Merchant Marine Academy or the United States Military Academy.

The four siblings believe their close relationship and competitiveness has helped them excel academically. Aware that their constant togetherness will change next year, the brother and sisters are enjoying their time together now. ©TM

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

We hear, but do we truly listen?

*Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10;
Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15;
1 Cor 12:12-30;
Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21*

THE SET-UP:

My friends had a very, VERY lively son who didn't always pay attention. So when Mom wanted to get a point across, she would very gently put her hand under his chin, draw him toward her, and say: Listen to me.

The scene in today's first reading is mesmerizing. People are assembled after some of the Scriptures that had been hidden away during their dominance by other nations are found and proclaimed. They bowed, prostrated themselves on the ground, and wept at hearing the Word of God. They are in awe. They weep. And then they are told to celebrate and rejoice at the love God has for them.

In contrast, Jesus announces the Good News that the promise of the coming Messiah is fulfilled in their presence. Do they bow? Do they prostrate themselves? Are they in awe? Do they weep? Do they celebrate?

No, they want to drive Jesus out of town and throw him off the preci-

**SCRIPTURE WISDOM***Fr. John Harth*

pice. And these are his neighbors!

Those assembled in the time of Ezra the priest and the prophet Nehemiah don't just hear the sounds of the words proclaimed to them; they ABSORB them. The friends and neighbors of Jesus hear, all right, but they don't want to make the connection with what is proclaimed. They've heard all their lives of what is coming, but are not properly disposed when the reality unfolds before them. They don't "get it."

And here we are. We go to church or maybe catch the Livestream, we pray, we receive Communion, we go. But do we "get it?"

Statistics show that church involvement for almost all congregations was dropping off before COVID-19, but the numbers have really sunk since. That has put somewhat of a scare into faith community leadership. What's the answer?

One great step would be not just hearing, but listening to what God is saying to us. Numbers in churches are one way to see where things are going, but not the only way. What's going on in our lives? If we truly believe what we say we believe, we live it. It shows. Sometimes, as St. Francis of Assisi suggests, we need to use words. But many folks SAY what they believe without following that up with LIVING what they believe.

THE FOLLOW UP:

(Do you feel a hand under your chin?)

Efforts are underway throughout the Church to get us more connected with God via the Scriptures, celebration of the Sacraments, and being more aware of what we say and do. It is termed "becoming an intentional disciple," which happens to be the second of three diocesan priorities, right after growing in holiness and before being sent to witness. The call to be an intentional disciple is to move beyond mere hearing what is proclaimed and taught,



but absorbing it into the core of our beings so that it truly SHOWS in our words and actions.

We, the Body of Christ, are reminded today that "rejoicing in the Lord must be your strength." Ideally, God's words permeate our minds, hearts, hands, and voices. We all help to proclaim "liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord."

The passage is already fulfilled with Christ's Kingdom already coming. But it is not here in its fullness. We get to lend a hand in preparing the way for Jesus to come in glory and fulfill his promise.

Are we listening? ©TM

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

OBITUARY | Sister Mary Cordula Wekenborg, SSND

By Sr. Carol Marie Wildt, SSND



School Sister of Notre Dame who served St. Mary Cathedral, Cape Girardeau, in music ministry for 10 years died Dec. 22, 2021.

On June 14, 1932, the second of five children was born to Cordula (Venneman) and John Wekenborg in St. Louis. She was baptized five days later at St. Aloysius Church and named Rosemary Ann. An older brother, two younger brothers, and a sister completed the family.

At the age of five, Rosemary began her education at St. Aloysius School where she was taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND). The family lived across the street from St. Aloysius Convent. Rosemary would help the sisters in the sacristy, do their shopping and she spent many evenings with them. She experienced them as happy and cheerful persons. During these years, her parents wanted the children to take music. The girls took piano lessons and the boys took violin lessons.

After graduating from eighth grade, Rosemary attended Rosati-Kain High School. During her senior year, she would visit the chapel daily and ask Our Lady to show her God's plans for her and to give her the grace to cooperate. One day in November, the co-principal, Sr. Cyprian Marquart, asked her if she would like to go to Sancta Maria in Ripa. When Rosemary told the family, there were tears of joy. Rosemary's mother had two sisters in the SSND community, Sr. Mary Lawrence and Sr. Mary

Cornelius Venneman. Rosemary visited Sancta Maria in Ripa, met Mother Evangela Wagner and registered for the candidature.

Rosemary entered the candidature at Sancta Maria in Ripa on Aug. 31, 1950. The following April, she was able to surprise her parents for their 25th wedding anniversary by playing piano at the Mass for them. Years later, she would also play the piano for their 50th wedding anniversary, as well as their funeral Masses. As a second year candidate, she was missioned to Blessed Sacrament, Hannibal, MO, to teach third and fourth grades, and to be the musician for the parish. She was received into the novitiate on July 29, 1952, and given the name Mary Cordula, in honor of her mother. She professed first vows on July 31, 1953, and final vows on July 31, 1959.

Following profession, she taught at St. Martin of Tours, Lemay, MO, for several months and then was sent to St. Joseph, Manchester, MO, as there was need for a musician. She was then missioned to Sts. Peter and Paul, St. Louis. In 1956, Sr. Wekenborg began 16 years of ministry in California as a teacher and musician at Santa Isabel, Los Angeles; St. Hilary, Pico Rivera; and Holy Family, Linda Vista. At Linda Vista, she was principal and superior. In 1966, she earned a bachelor's degree in music education from Immaculate Heart College in Los Angeles. Leaving California was a sad day for her.

Sister Wekenborg's next mission was St. Mary Cathedral in Cape Girardeau, MO, as a full-time music teacher. After a week's initiation with Sr. Rose Mary (Mary Ann) Linhoff, she learned enough to give instrumental lessons and conduct a band. Later, she formed a guitar group. She spent 10 years at this mission.

In 1982, she began 25 years of ministry at St. An-

thony, Effingha, IL. She was a full-time classroom music teacher in the school, the band director, and directed the parish adult choir. From a sizable donation from the estate of a former choir member, she was able to purchase hand bells. She taught 12 junior high students and formed a superb bell choir. The bell choir performed at special Masses, concerts, dinners, and various community functions.

Sister Wekenborg came to Sancta Maria in Ripa in 2007, and she ministered in many community service projects, especially in the Resource Development Department, and in making sleeping mats out of plastic bags for the homeless. In 2012, she was missioned to Veronica House, The Sarah Community, Bridgeton, MO. As her health failed, she was transferred to Anna House in March 2021. During her years at The Sarah Community, she played for the celebration of the liturgy in the chapel. She passed away unexpectedly in the morning of Dec. 22, 2021.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Dec. 29, 2021, at Theresa Center chapel. Burial was in the Sancta Maria in Ripa cemetery.

Sister Wekenborg is survived by her brother, Charles (Rose) Wekenborg of St. Louis, and her sister, Marydel (Ben) Brewer of Owensboro, KY. She was preceded in death by her parents and her brothers, Robert and Paul.

On the occasion of her 60th anniversary of religious profession in 2013, Sr. Wedenborg wrote, "I am grateful to God for having called me to the religious life, having loved me and guided me all these years."

Memorial gifts may be made for Sr. Wekenborg securely Online at www.ssndcentralpacific.org/donate.

©TM

Totus Tuus

Summer Missionary Opportunity

June 1 - July 29,
2022

Deadline to apply is
March 31, 2022

We welcome applications from dynamic Catholics ages 18 to 24. Applicants must have an authentic faith and be actively living the teachings of the Catholic Church. We prefer one year of college or work experience, but are willing to consider mature graduating high school seniors. No major or area of study is required. This is a great summer job experience for anyone who wants to work in ministry, education or with children in any setting.



For the Diocese of
Springfield-Cape Girardeau



What is Totus Tuus?

Totus Tuus (Totally Yours) is a summer Catholic youth program dedicated to sharing the Gospel and promoting the Catholic Faith through evangelization, catechesis, Christian witness and Eucharistic worship. Our week-long parish youth program assists parents and parishes in evangelizing and catechizing their youth by supplementing the work they are currently doing.

The mission of Totus Tuus is to inspire in young people a true longing for holiness, a deep desire for daily conversion, and an openness to their vocation by constantly challenging them to give themselves entirely to Christ through Mary and by continually strengthening their prayer lives in imitation of her.

Responsibilities Include:

- Work as part of a 4-person team to execute the week-long program at 6 different parishes across the diocese
- Attend a 10 day intensive training in how to facilitate the program
- Prepare for and instruct young people in the faith throughout catechetical lessons
- Lead songs, games, activities and skits designed to help youth grow in their faith
- Be a model and visible witness of the Catholic faith in word and deed
- Pray daily with your team and participate in Mass and the sacraments



A salary of \$450 per week will be paid to the Missionaries for 8 weeks (6 weeks of parish sessions and 2 weeks of training). There is one unpaid week break, July 3-8. Travel, lodging, and food are provided during the 8 weeks as well.

For more information, or to apply to be a Missionary, visit the Totus Tuus page at:

dioscg.org/totustuus/

or contact the Office of Evangelization, Catechesis, and Youth Formation

Lynn Melendez, Director
417-866-0841

lmelendez@dioscg.org



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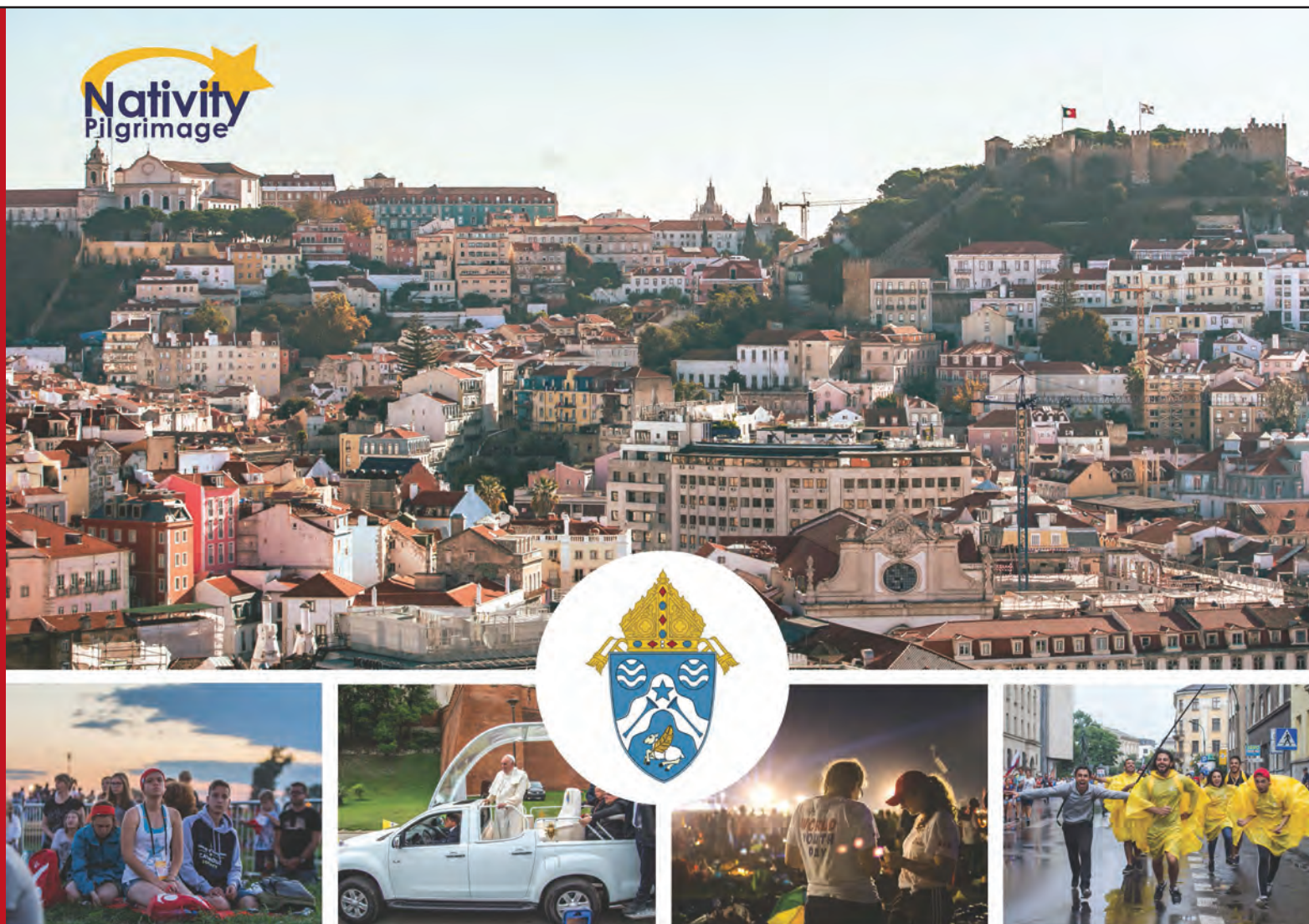
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World Youth Day

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

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WORLD YOUTH DAY, please register for the Online information session to be held on Jan. 10, 2022 (7-8 p.m.). We will have a brief explanation of the trip and take your questions.

Register at: <https://forms.gle/qbHeftnsmgALYoV58>

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

Diocese of Springfield – Cape Girardeau, MO

July 29 - Aug. 7, 2023

Cost
\$3,885 per person

Round-Trip Air from
St. Louis, MO

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

For more information, please contact
Lynn Melendez — lmelendez@dioscrg.org / (417)866-0841

To view full brochure with itinerary and to register on-line, scan the QR code or go to:
<https://dioscrg.org/wyd>



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