

Seven church pilgrimage

MADE IN SOUTHEAST MISSOURI



7 CHURCH PILGRIMAGE—Over 100 youth in the Cape Girardeau area participated in the annual Seven Church Pilgrimage for prayer and adoration on Holy Thursday, April 14. The evening concluded with pancakes at the Kelso Knights of Columbus Hall. The seven “stations” each correspond with the seven “stations” or “places” of Jesus between the Last Supper and his Crucifixion which are prayed and reflected upon at each church followed by prayers for the Holy Father and time for quiet reflection. (Submitted photo)

Cape Girardeau

By Brianna Brown & Mary Kulla

On Holy Thursday, April 14, over 100 young people and families made the Seven Church Pilgrimage in Southeast Missouri. This ancient tradition, credited to St. Phillip Neri, is still practiced by Catholics worldwide. The pilgrimage to seven altars of repose is a time of prayer and adoration reflecting on Jesus’s time between the Last Supper and his Crucifixion. The seven “stations” each correspond with the seven “stations” or “places” that Jesus made is prayed at each church followed by prayers for the Holy Father and time for quiet reflection. The seven stations consist of: Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:39-46); Jesus bound and taken before Annas (John 18:19-22); Jesus taken before the High Priest, Caiaphas (Matthew 26:63-65); Jesus taken before Pilate (John 18, 35-37); Jesus taken before Herod (Luke 23:8-9; 11); Jesus taken before Pilate again (Matthew 27:22-26), and Jesus given the

crown of thorns and led to his crucifixion (Matthew 27:27-31).

This mindful accompaniment to the cross is a powerful and beautiful way to reflect on Jesus’s sacrifice.

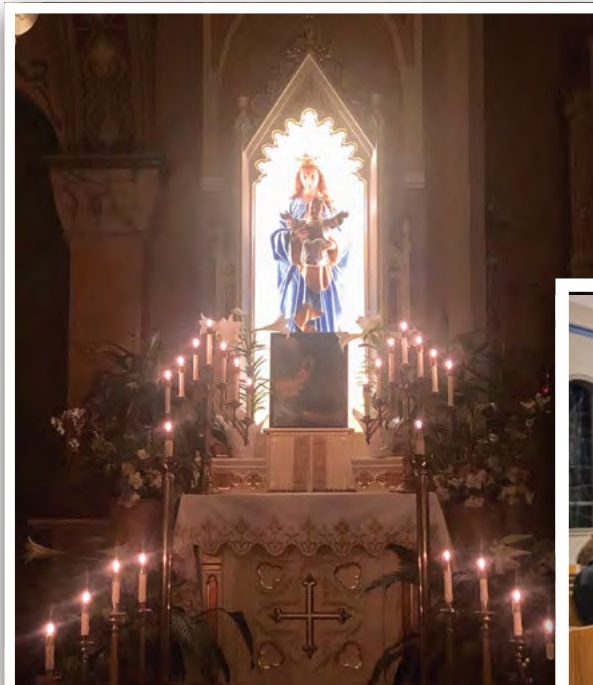
Youth leaders from several area parishes organized this annual event and invited parishioners, especially the youth, to participate. Each group began in their home parish following the Holy Thursday Mass. The evening concluded with all groups meeting at 11 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Kelso, MO where the Knights graciously prepared a pancake breakfast. The group included members from the following parishes: Immaculate Conception, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Mary Cathedral, St. Augustine, St. Lawrence, Guardian Angel, St. Ambrose, St. John, St. Anthony, and several college students from the St. John Henry Newman Center at Southeast Missouri State University. Father Michael Casteel, Rev. Mr. Charles Peirano, and seminarian Robert

Hearnes traveled with the groups, while Fr. Allan Saunders met the pilgrims for pancakes at the end of the journey.

A special thanks goes out to the Kelso Knights, area churches and priests for keeping their churches open and preparing the beautiful altars of repose. The churches included: Guardian Angel, Immaculate Conception, St. Ambrose, St. Augustine, St. Denis, St. John, St. Joseph, St. Lawrence, St. Mary Cathedral, St. Vincent de Paul, and St. John Henry Newman Chapel. ©TM



PANCAKES—Who doesn’t want or need a stack of pancakes after a long pilgrimage of prayer and reflection? The Knights of Columbus hosted a pancake breakfast on April 14 after the Seven Church Pilgrimage made by over 100 in the Cape Girardeau area Holy Thursday night. (Submitted photo)



THE ALTAR is seen in Guardian Angel Parish, Oran, on the Seven Church Pilgrimage held April 14 in southeast Missouri. (Submitted photo)



ST. AMBROSE PARISH, CHAFFEE, was a stop on the Seven Church Pilgrimage held April 14 in the Cape Girardeau area. (Submitted photo)



The next issue of **The Mirror** will be **May 27, 2022**. Sign up to receive the diocesan newspaper via Email in digital format: Contact Debbie Thompson at (417) 866-0841, or Email: dthompson@dioscg.org.





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

Generosity is a core trait of our people

I wish to thank all of the parents, teachers, and principals of both our PSR and parish Catholic schools for supporting the 2022 Lenten Youth Mission of Mercy. The financial support for this year’s project was directed to “Mother’s House,” an outreach center in Hayti, MO, for low-income women with young children. Glenmary Home Missionary Sr. Sharon Miller, GHMS, spearheads this program in Pemiscot County, in the Southeastern corner of the Bootheel So far, the donations are \$21,667!

My curiosity led me to add up all the amounts over the past five Lenten Youth Missions of Mercy for 2018 – 2022 and, as I suspected, we topped the \$100,000 mark! Altogether, the youth of our diocese have raised \$126,229.51 for five Lenten projects, contributing an average of roughly \$24,000 per project.

It takes the cooperation and coordination of so many people for this effort to be successful year after year. Again, I thank the principals and teachers who have to implement the fundraisers. I thank Lynn Melendez, Sr. Janine Tran, CMR, Kim Brayman, Leslie Eidson, Shasta Beckers, Debra Owensby, and Deacon Rob Huff from The Catholic Center for their organization, creativity, and support. It is amazing what we can do together.

The previous projects have been Eden Village, Springfield; Birthright, Cape Girardeau; Whole Kids Outreach, in Ellington; and Children’s Haven in Joplin. On Tue., April 26, I drove to Joplin to participate in the dedication of the Children’s Haven playground that we assisted in our 2021 effort! I am excited for what we will be able to do in the 2023 Lenten Youth Mission of Mercy!!

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Another example of the generosity of our diocese is provided in the report for the Springfield – Cape Girardeau Diocesan Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. This Council consists of eight conferences: St. Mary Parish, Joplin; St. Joseph Parish, Billings; St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Springfield; St. Agnes Cathedral, Springfield; Holy Trinity Parish, Springfield; Holy Trinity Parish, Marshfield; Sacred Heart Parish, Poplar Bluff, and St. Mary Cathedral, in Cape Girardeau. This Council has 142 active members with 84 associates. Donations to those in need of food, furniture, and clothing total \$111,013. And, probably even

service. These figures are just for the Diocesan Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The other parishes of our diocese cooperate with other denominations in supporting food pantries and meal programs. While Catholics make up a small percentage of the general population (4-5%), we can be proud of our efforts throughout southern Missouri in reaching out to neighbors in need. To quote our Holy Father, Pope Francis, “May our acts of mercy never cease.”

MEET ME AT THE GROTTTO

As we enter into the Month of May, dedicated to Our Lady, I have devised a schedule to stop by and pray the rosary at grottos throughout the diocese. Please grab a lawn chair, bring your rosary, and join me! You do not have to be from the parish. People cross boundaries all the time. In case of bad weather, we will

pray the rosary in the church rather than outdoors. I hope to do the same in October, the Month of the Rosary. So, if you have an outdoor grotto of the Sacred Heart or the Blessed Mother, please send an Email to Sarah at spittman@dioscg.org and based on my driving route, I will see which grottos I will be able to visit. The schedule can be found on this page of *The Mirror* and is on our social media platforms. Be assured of my continued prayers during the Easter Season. To quote St. Augustine, “We are Easter people and Alleluia is our song.” ©TM



CHILDREN’S HAVEN

ON APRIL 26, Bp. Edward Rice joined Stephanie Theis, executive director, and members of the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce, friends, and families in celebrating their new improved playground and outdoor facilities at Children’s Haven. Children’s Haven provides temporary emergency care for children of families experiencing a crisis. They were the 2021 recipients of the Lenten Youth Mission of Mercy.

(The Mirror)

more important, there were 12,662 visits to homes and hospitals to visit the elderly and the sick. That reflects 12,577 miles of driving and 11,942 hours of

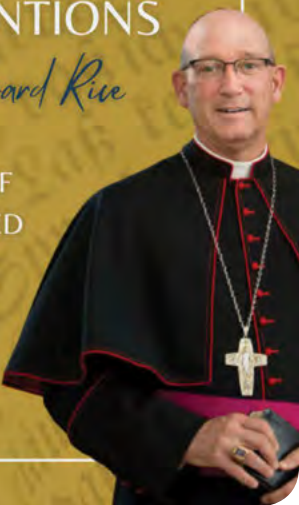
May

PRAYER INTENTIONS

from Bishop Edward Rice

MAY WE KNOW THE JOY OF
THE RESURRECTION, UNITED
WITH THE IMMACULATE
HEART OF MARY.

AMEN.



Meet Me at the Grotto

Come pray the rosary with Bishop Edward Rice!



Sunday, May 15	Sacred Heart, Caruthersville	7pm
Wednesday, May 18	St. John Catholic Mission, Licking	7pm
Thursday, May 19	St. Joseph, Billings	7pm
Sunday, May 22	St. Mary, West Plains	7pm
Monday, May 23	Immaculate Conception, Springfield	7pm
Thursday, May 26	St. Francis de Sales, Lebanon	7pm
Sunday, May 29	Sacred Heart, Salem	7pm



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DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD-CAPE
GIRARDEAU | @DIOSCG







VEN Y VERÁS
Obispo Edward M. Rice

La generosidad es un rasgo esencial de nuestra gente

Deseo agradecer a todos los padres, profesores y directores de nuestras escuelas católicas —tanto de PSR como parroquiales— por su apoyo a la Misión Juvenil de la Misericordia 2022. La ayuda financiera para el proyecto de este año se dirigió a “Mother’s House”, un centro de ayuda en Hayti, Missouri, para mujeres de bajos ingresos con niños pequeños. La Hna. Sharon Miller, GHMS, Misionera del Hogar de Glenmary, encabeza este programa en el condado de Pemiscot, en el extremo sureste del Bootheel. Hasta ahora, ilas donaciones ascienden a \$21,667!

Mi curiosidad me llevó a sumar todas las cantidades de las últimas cinco Misiones Juveniles de Misericordia de Cuaresma para 2018 - 2022 y, como sospechaba, isuperamos la marca de \$100,000! En total, los jóvenes de nuestra diócesis han recaudado \$126,229.51 dólares para cinco proyectos de Cuaresma, aportando una media de unos \$24,000 dólares por proyecto.

Se necesita la cooperación y coordinación de muchas personas para que este esfuerzo tenga éxito año tras año. Una vez más, doy las gracias a los directores y a los profesores que tienen que llevar a cabo la recaudación de fondos. Agradezco a Lynn Melendez, a la Hna. Janine Tran, CMR, Kim Brayman, Leslie Eidson, Shasta Beckers, Debra Owensby y el Diácono Rob Huff del Centro Católico por su organización, creatividad y apoyo. Es increíble lo que podemos hacer juntos. Los proyectos anteriores han sido Eden Village, Springfield; Birthright, Cape Girardeau; Whole Kids Outreach, en Ellington; y Children’s Haven en Joplin. El martes 26 de abril, me dirigí a Joplin para participar en la inauguración del parque infantil de Children’s Haven, al que ayudamos en nuestro esfuerzo de 2021 ¡¡Estoy emocionado por lo que podremos hacer en la Misión Juvenil Cuaresmal de Misericordia 2023!!

SOCIEDAD DE SAN VICENTE DE PAÚL
Otro ejemplo de la generosidad de nuestra diócesis se encuentra en el informe del Consejo Diocesano de Springfield - Cape Girardeau de la Sociedad de San Vicente de Paúl. Este Consejo está formado por ocho conferencias: Parroquia Santa María, Joplin; Parroquia San José, Billings; Parroquia Santa Isabel Ana Seton,

Springfield; Catedral Santa Inés, Springfield; Parroquia Santísima Trinidad, Springfield; Parroquia Santísima Trinidad, Marshfield; Parroquia Sagrado Corazón, en Poplar Bluff, y Catedral Santa María, en Cape Girardeau. Este Consejo cuenta con 142 miembros activos y 84 asociados. Las donaciones a los necesitados de alimentos, muebles y ropa ascienden a \$111,013. Y, probablemente aún más importante, hubo 12,662 visitas a hogares y hospitales para visitar a los ancianos y enfermos. Eso refleja 12,577 millas de conducción y 11,942 horas de servicio.

Estas cifras son sólo para el Consejo Diocesano de la Sociedad de San Vicente de Paúl. Las demás parroquias de nuestra diócesis cooperan con otras denominaciones en el apoyo a las despensas y programas de comidas. Aunque los católicos constituyen un pequeño porcentaje de la población general (4-5%), podemos estar orgullosos de nuestros esfuerzos en todo el sur de Missouri para llegar a los vecinos necesitados. Citando a nuestro Santo Padre, el Papa Francisco, “Que nuestros actos de misericordia no cesen nunca”.

ENCUÉNTRENME EN LA GRUTA

Al entrar en el mes de mayo, dedicado a la Virgen, he ideado un programa para pasar a rezar el rosario en las grutas de toda la diócesis. Por favor, agarren una silla de jardín, traigan su rosario y acompañenme. No es necesario que sean de la parroquia. La gente cruza los límites todo el tiempo. En caso de mal tiempo, rezaremos el rosario en la iglesia y no al aire libre. Espero hacer lo mismo en octubre, el Mes del Rosario. Así

que, si tienen una gruta al aire libre del Sagrado Corazón o de la Virgen, por favor envía un correo electrónico a Sarah en spittman@dioscg.org y en función de mi ruta en coche, veré qué grutas podré visitar. El horario se puede encontrar en esta página de The Mirror y está en nuestras plataformas de medios sociales. Tengan la seguridad de que mis oraciones continuarán durante el tiempo de Pascua. Citando a San Agustín: “Somos el pueblo de la Pascua, aleluya es nuestra canción”. ©TM

The NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL Begins!

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

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

COME AS A FAMILY & JOIN US FOR
PROCESSION, ADORATION, & BENEDICTION
- St. Mary Cathedral, Cape Girardeau: Bishop Edward Rice
- St. Agnes Cathedral, Springfield: Bishop Emeritus Leibrecht
ICE CREAM SOCIALS to follow—return transportation provided!
To volunteer or get more info, visit www.dioscg.org/eucharistic-revival

SCAN ME



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.

September 19, 1986 Did you hear about the couple who celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary? They looked especially good and healthy. When asked their secret, they explained: “On our marriage day, we agreed that whenever we had an argument, we would walk around the block to cool things down. Well, in 75 years, we kept healthy from all the fresh air we got walking around the block.”

October 3, 1986 Sadly, this year marks the 25th anniversary of the wall in Berlin, separating East from West, communism from democracy. Some have escaped over or through the wall. Some have died trying. Even with such a wrenching symbol of division, there is humor. The joke among East Germans is: What is a string quartet? The answer: The East German symphony orchestra returning from a concert to the West.

October 24, 1986 I continue an especially happy part of my work as bishop by visiting parishes on the weekends. Recently, I was at St. Marie du Lac in Ironton to renew acquaintances and celebrate Masses with the good people there. I picked up a copy of the parish bulletin and found that the pastor, Father Anthony Gaydos, continues his practice of peppering his announcements with one-liners. For instance:

- It’s what a person learns after knowing it all that counts.
- Simply going to church doesn’t make you a Christian any more than going to the garage makes you a car.
- It’s sad: We throw flowers at the dead, mud at the living.

Dehumanizing one another diminishes our collective conscience

A female sharpshooter nicknamed "Lady Death" has recently become a Ukrainian folk hero for defiantly

attacking Russian soldiers undercover. The young markswoman fought for several years in eastern Ukraine against Kremlin-backed separatists, before shifting to the front line of hostilities as Russia initiated its full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Her real name has not been made public and photos hide her identity by blurring her face or showing her with a mask. Long range sniper attacks are her area of expertise. As she assassinates enemy combatants, she militantly proclaims, "We must take them all out. These people are not human beings. Even the fascists were not as vile as these orcs. We must defeat them."

Her battle cry, though clearly motivated by the atrocities unfolding in Ukraine, should also prompt some circumspection and soul searching. Whenever we move in the direction of believing that others are "not human beings" and dehumanize them in our thoughts and words, we risk diminishing our own humanity in the exchange. Even in the face of great depravity, we cannot fall prey to thinking that those who commit horrific evils or even war crimes are somehow no longer really human beings.

I was reminded of this recently as I viewed online videos of armed drones firing on Russian tanks traveling along Ukrainian highways. If the mother of a Russian tank driver were to watch a video of her son trying to escape under fire, she would be justly indignant, offended and even more saddened if anyone dared to declare he was "not a human being." In the posted remarks section following these videos, in fact, many commented on the hideousness of a world in which 18-year-old boys have to perish in this manner.

By demonizing others, we no longer acknowledge the transcendent realities common to all human beings: our shared desire for truth, goodness, beauty, and love. Whenever we ignore or negate the important commonalities that unite us in our humanity and instead choose to dehumanize others, the consequences will be dire. Historically, the use of language that dehumanizes others has been a key tactic in marshaling support for atrocities.

Such language has always been central, for example, to acts of genocide. During the latter part of the 20th century, the Tutsis were often denigrated as cockroaches and snakes in Rwanda, culminating in approximately 800,000 men, women and children being

Making Sense Out of Bioethics Fr. Tad Pacholczyk



murdered during a 12-week period in 1994.

President Abraham Lincoln strongly objected to treating any person,

whether slave or free, as "less-than-human" during his 1858 public debate with Stephen A. Douglas. Lincoln rebuffed the idea that African Americans fell outside the "all men are created equal" clause, declaring such a concept to be marked by "an evil tendency, if not an evil design." He repudiated every attempt to "dehumanize the negro... [and] prepare the public mind to make property, and nothing but property of the negro in all the States of the Union."

Still in our nation today, the process of dehumanization continues to derail our thinking and diminish our collective conscience, especially when it comes to those humans who are very young and still in the womb, as well as the elderly and the infirm, the mentally-fragile, and those in

vulnerable medical situations, such as newborn children with genetic defects. By dehumanizing these individuals in a "progressive"

By demonizing others, we no longer acknowledge the transcendent realities common to all human beings: our shared desire for truth, goodness, beauty, and love.

society, we can subject them to a range of unjust actions, from abortion to infanticide to euthanasia. Preborn children, for example, have undergone this dehumanization for decades, being denigrated as "tissue," "pregnancy," or "clumps of cells," to paper over the brutal reality of abortion. To cite one instance, the Website of Planned Parenthood defines a suction abortion as a procedure where a "suction device" is used to "take the pregnancy tissue out of your uterus."

We need to fight against dehumanization both by recognizing and opposing its occurrence in our midst, and by recognizing it within ourselves. The temptation to dehumanize people who are themselves dehumanizing others can also be very strong.

In the end, our shared humanity, from the weakest to the strongest, from youngest to oldest, constitutes an ineradicable bond of unity that should prompt us to spurn our own dehumanizing impulses. Renewing hope for conflict-laden humanity begins precisely in the acknowledgement of each other's humanity, strengthening those fraternal bonds on which peace is grounded. ©TM

Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, PhD earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did postdoctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See ncbcenter.org and fathertad.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Branson—The Knights of Columbus will co-sponsor a **Red Cross Blood Drive**, Fri., May 27, 12-5 p.m., in the Parish Center located at 202 Vaughn Dr. To schedule an appointment, please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: OURLADY. To help fight hunger and if you're able, please bring in a canned food item(s) for those in need! For questions answered, please contact Ed Johnsonbaugh at Edward.johnsonbaugh@gmail.com or call (417) 337-0785.

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

Jackson—Immaculate Conception's St. Ann's Sodality/Council of Catholic Women will have a **Rummage Sale**, Fri., June 10, 7 a.m.-6 p.m., and Sat., June 11, 7 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Parish Center. Nice stuff at a nice price!

Jackson—The Knights of Columbus Council #6405 will have a **Fish & Chicken Dinner**, Fri., May 20, 4:30-7 p.m., in the Lower KC Hall. Fried fish, fried chicken, fries, hush puppies, baked beans, slaw, and homemade mac & cheese. Cost: \$13. Dine in or carry out available. For more information, call Dave at (573) 243-5464.

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 a **Rummage Sale** at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 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 benefit the activities of the PCCW. For more information, contact Geri, (573) 208-6445.

Sikeston—The Women of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church annual **Baby Bottles for Life fundraiser** will be May 08-May 22. Please pick up a bottle from the back of the church and return with your donation. Proceeds will be used to support the work and outreach for Birthright, Cape Girardeau; Aspire PRC, Sikeston; and Biking for Babies. For more information, call the church office at (573) 471-2447.

Sikeston—The Women of St. Francis Xavier have joined the **Mission 100 Project**, along with other churches and organizations in the community. Our commitment is to provide 100 boxes of Kleenex tissue each month for the 100 neediest families in our area. Donations are being accepted for Kleenex, or cash

may be contributed for the project. Please leave in the vestibule of the church, or in the parish center. Envelopes, marked "Mission 100" are in the back of the church. Checks should be made to: Women of St. Francis Xavier, with Mission 100 in the memo line. For more information, please call Jackie Cowan, (573) 471-6245.

Springfield—Well of Life Food Pantry, located at 418 S Kimbrough, is **in need of volunteers** on Fridays, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The pantry is also **in need of donations** of canned goods and non-perishable items. For questions and additional information, please contact Tim Manning, (417) 450-0521.

Springfield—St. Elizabeth Ann Seton will have its **Annual Harvest Home Garage Sale**, Fri., June 10, 7 a.m.-4 p.m., and Sat., June 11, 7 a.m.-1 p.m., with a \$1 bag sale from 12-1 p.m. Many great items; including books, linens, seasonal items, tools, toys, home décor, furniture, office supplies, and much more. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church is located at 2200 W Republic Rd. While you are spring cleaning, keep the Harvest Home Garage Sale in mind. Items will be accepted beginning Sun., June 5, from 1-6 p.m. For information, contact Mary Williams maryw8059@gmail.com or (417) 983-8110.

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

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

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

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

2022
BISHOP'S
ANNUAL
APPEAL

for
Funding
Church
Ministries



2022 DIOCESAN DEVELOPMENT FUND

One Church, East to West
**COMMUNITIES ON A
MISSION**

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KHJM 89.1 FM Dexter & the Bootheel

KFSS 94.5 FM Joplin

KQOH 91.9 FM Springfield

Tune-in: *Learn, Live, Grow, Be Inspired*



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AROUND THE DIOCESE

PRINCIPAL (FULL-TIME)

Immaculate Conception Catholic School, in New Madrid, MO, seeks a Principal for the 2022-2023 academic year. Immaculate Conception School is home to 50 students, Pre-K through 8th grade. For more information, please contact Fr. Dominic Ibok via Email: ibokaugustine@yahoo.co.uk.

KINDERGARTEN TEACHER (FULL-TIME)

St. Teresa Catholic School, in Campbell, MO, seeks a full-time Kindergarten Teacher for the 2022-2023 academic year. Applicants should hold appropriate teaching certification. Applications may be found at dioscg.org, or by email: kimberlymlynn@gmail.com, or by calling the school office: (573) 328-4197.

2ND/3RD GRADE TEACHER (FULL-TIME)

Immaculate Conception Catholic School, New Madrid, MO, is seeking a full-time 2nd/3rd grade teacher and a full-time 6th/7th grade teacher for the 2022-23 school year. Applications are available at icnewmadrid.com and at the school and church offices. For more information, contact the school office at (573) 748-5123 or the church office at (573) 748-5183.

PE/COMPUTER/ART/MUSIC TEACHERS

St. Denis Catholic School, Benton, MO, is seeking a teacher(s) to fill the special classes of PE(2 days), Computer, Art, Music 9:15am-2:45pm for the 2022-23 school year. Applications may be picked up at school and are also available on the school Website, www.stdenisbenton.edu.k12.mo.us, under Forms & Documents. Applications may be returned to school. For questions or inquiry please call Melinda Heisserer (573) 545-3017.

5TH GRADE TEACHER (FULL-TIME)

Immaculate Conception Catholic School, Jackson, MO seeks a full-time 5th grade teacher for the 2022-23 school year. Applicants should hold an appropriate teaching certification. Applications may be found at dioscg.org or by calling the school office (573) 243-5013.

6TH GRADE TEACHER (FULL-TIME)

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School in Cape Girardeau seeks a full-time 6th Grade Teacher for the 2022-2023 academic year. Applicants should hold appropriate teaching certification. Applications may be found at dioscg.org, or by email: kglastetter@svcape.edu.k12.mo.us or by calling the school office: (573) 334-9594.

6TH/7TH GRADE TEACHER (FULL-TIME)

Immaculate Conception Catholic School, New Madrid, MO, is seeking a full-time 2nd/3rd grade teacher and a full-time 6th/7th grade teacher for the 2022-23 school year. Applications are available at icnewmadrid.com and at the school and church offices. For more information, contact the school office at (573) 748-5123 or the church office at (573) 748-5183.

FACULTY OPENINGS AT ST. MARY'S

Joplin St. Mary Preschool and Catholic Elementary in Joplin is looking for positive additions to its school for the 2022-2023 school year! We are accepting applications for a full-time preschool teacher, full-time elementary teacher, a part-time music teacher, and a part-time technology teacher. Candidates must be dependable, positive Christian role models for students. In addition, each candidate must have a strong work ethic, be willing to partner and communicate well with parents, and have a strong desire to be part of a growing, faith-filled team. Active Catholic preferred. Competitive salary, excellent benefits, and a friendly and supportive school environment makes St. Mary's a great place to teach and nurture the whole child! Interested candidates should Email a cover letter, resumé, and letters of reference to Joanne Lown, St. Mary Principal, at jlown@jacss.org.

BAND/CHOIR/MUSIC TEACHER

St. Joseph Catholic Academy in Springfield, MO, is accepting applications for a part-time Band/Choir/General Music teacher for the 2022-23 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 exhibit positive and Christ-like behaviors and be familiar with current learning standards in music. Active Catholic preferred. For more information, Email: bjohnson@stjosephcatholicacademy.org or call: (417) 866-0667.

AFTERSCHOOL CARE MANAGER

St. Joseph Catholic Academy in Springfield, MO is accepting applications for Afterschool Care Manager for the 2022-23 school year. Hours: 3:30-5:30 p.m. each school day. Applicant must have ability to work with ages preschool to 8th grade and exhibit positive and Christ-like behaviors. Manager is in charge of monitoring afterschool snack, homework time, learning activities, and outdoor play. Plan for training August 17, 18, & 19 from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Job begins 8/23. For more information, Email: bjohnson@stjosephcatholicacademy.org or call: (417) 866-0667.

FIRST GRADE TEACHER (FULL-TIME)

Sacred Heart Catholic School in Poplar Bluff, MO is seeking a first grade teacher for the 2022-23 school year. Applicant must be certified with the state of Missouri, be team oriented, work well with children and have the ability to engage children in learning. Active Catholic preferred. For more info, please contact Sacred Heart School, (573) 785-5836, or roberonconstance0@gmail.com, resume may be sent to Sacred Heart School, 111 N. 8th St., Poplar Bluff, MO 63901.



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Saint Francis honored with 2022 Kasten Award

Cape Girardeau

Saint Francis Healthcare System was honored with the 2022 Kasten Award from Community Partnership of Southeast Missouri.

The Kasten Award is the highest honor given to a Community Partnership of Southeast Missouri (CPSEMO) member, named after the founder and former Missouri State Representative, Mary Kasten. The annual award recipient is an individual or organization that exemplifies strength and commitment to the community and whose work is recognized as a building block of support for CPSEMO.

“Saint Francis is honored to receive this prestigious award,” said Jimmy Wilferth, Vice President of Foundation and Marketing at Saint Francis. “We are honored and called to serve the ‘least of these’ in our community, following in the footsteps of our Catholic Franciscan Christian forefathers and tradition. It is our great privilege to come alongside community organizations like CPSEMO and support their mission to improve the lives of the community we care for so deeply.”

Saint Francis extends its healing ministry beyond the walls of the Healthcare System through community

sponsorship and projects, including homeless housing, feeding programs and South Side Farms. For more than five years, Saint Francis has provided shelter for homeless residents in collaboration with CPSEMO. At Jefferson Elementary School, Saint Francis has addressed food insecurity through the weekend

backpack program and Summer Tiger Bites Feeding Program for five years. School children and their families receive food throughout the school year and summer.

A new planned development community initiative, South Side Farms is a working urban farm in south Cape Girardeau. Catalyzed by Saint Francis and overseen by the community, the project aims to positively impact economic development, food access and employment

opportunities for long-term health and wellbeing by providing job training and educational opportunities to the surrounding community.

“The Kasten Award is our highest honor, selected by our staff and awarded to a person or organization whose vision and actions for our community align with our own,” said Dr.

Melissa Stickel, Executive Director of Community Partnership of Southeast Missouri. “Through financial support and numerous community projects, Saint Francis Healthcare System has a passion for Southeast Missouri and continues to profoundly impact the lives of individuals, children and families. We could not think of a better recipient for this year’s award.”

Saint Francis Healthcare System is guided by its mission to provide a ministry of healing, wellness, quality, and love inspired by our faith in Jesus Christ. Founded by Franciscan Sisters in 1875, the priority remains the same: serve all who enter with dignity, compassion, and joy. ©TM



KASTEN AWARD—Dr. Melissa Stickel, Community Partnership of Southeast Missouri, and Jimmy Wilferth, Saint Francis Healthcare System, with the 2022 Kasten Award. (Submitted photo)



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Seating will be available under a large tent

Refreshments will be served afterward

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"I have chosen you, and ordained you,"
—John 15:16

All are invited to the Ordination Mass & Reception!
Livestream available on Diocesan Facebook page.


FRIDAY, MAY 20TH @ 7:00PM




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ORDINATION TO THE SACRED PRIESTHOOD



Rev. Mr. Charles Peirano



Rev. Mr. Jesse Hiell




Rev. Mr. Nicholas Newton

"I have chosen you, and ordained you,"
—John 15:16

All are invited to the Ordination Mass & Reception!
Livestream available on Diocesan Facebook page.

FRIDAY, MAY 27TH @ 5:30PM



ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON
SPRINGFIELD, MO



A LONG ACT CLOSES –

King retires after 50 years of teaching

EPISCOPAL BLESSING—Bishop Edward M. Rice imparted an episcopal blessing upon Cindy King at the closing night of her final play at Notre Dame Regional High School, Cape Girardeau April 10. King is retiring after 50 years of service to NDRHS. *(The Mirror)*

Cape Girardeau by Paula Wright

For 50 years, Cindy King has been the face of Notre Dame Regional High School theater and drama, but after five decades of teaching at Notre Dame, Cape Girardeau, she will be retiring at the end of this school year. Her passion, dedication, and leadership will be tremendously missed.

“I thank Cindy for her dedication to Catholic education. For the past 50 years, she has shared her love of the stage with others and encouraged their talent,” said Bishop Edward M. Rice at the closing night’s performance of her last spring musical, “Once Upon a Mattress,” this April.

“She has been part of a tremendous task, on the front lines of the battle, forming the minds and souls of our youth,” Bp. Rice said. “She has been dedicated to Catholic education and has been part of a greater effort to pass on our Catholic values and form apostles, equipping them to enter the broader world. For that, I thank her!”

TOUGH ACT TO FOLLOW

During her tenure, King has taught Dramatics, Acting I, Stagecraft, English Novel and Shakespeare, Speech, Creative Writing, Critical Thinking, Term Paper, Short Story, and Mythology. In addition, she has sponsored student trips to New York City, served as the English Department chair for numerous years, judged many District Speech Festivals, and moderated the school’s publication the *Bulldog Bulletin*. In 1978-1979, King became Notre Dame’s first girls tennis team coach. But it is her role as director and designer of the annual musical and fall play for which she is most well-known.

“It really hasn’t felt that long, until I began hearing the ‘half a century’

of teaching and theater. Then it feels like a long time!” King said. “In general, the high points of the past 50 years of teaching have been anytime I see growth for a student, the joy in seeing them accomplish a goal they have set. Those bright moments keep you teaching, moments so special to students. Seeing them excel. In theater specifically, I have found great reward in observing students tackle a challenging role and mastering it, their joy and the joy you feel for them is incredible.”

Her former students have accomplished both personal and professional success following high school, including careers in theater and even Broadway.

“For students I have taught, alumni of Notre Dame, it makes me thrilled to see their success,” said King.

King is a Bonne Terre, MO, native and a 1967 graduate of Illmo-Scott City High School. She graduated from Southeast Missouri State University with a Bachelor’s in Education in 1971. King accepted a teaching position at Notre Dame Regional High School the fall of 1972, and she made her directing debut with the 1973 Notre Dame High School spring musical, “Fiddler on the Roof.” The rest is, as they say, history.

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Over the years, King has earned many rewards, honors, and recognitions. She is a 2022 inductee into Notre Dame Regional High School’s Performing and Visual Arts (PAVA) Hall of Fame. PAVA recognizes Notre Dame alumni or past or present faculty who have excelled in the performing or visual arts—dance, music, theater, and visual arts. In 2011, NDHS Education Fund Foundation recognized her with its Annunciation Award for sustaining Catholic secondary education, and in 2016, the school’s

multi-purpose cafeteria became the “Cynthia R. King Performance Hall,” in her honor.

Her many professional accolades include the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau’s Distinguished Teacher Award and Excellence in Teaching awards from both the Missouri Fine Arts Academy and the Missouri Scholars’ Academy. King was named the Southeast Missouri English Teacher of the Year in 2017 by the Southeast Missouri English Teacher Association. Recognizing her work in educating through extra-curricular activities, she was honored with the MO-CAPE Educator of Achievement. Additionally, she was named an outstanding educator by Southern Methodist University.

Her work on the stage has been

makeup, music, and choreography, all opportunities to use her expertise to educate and guide the next generation. She has served in helping other area high schools and community theaters with their productions. And, she has helped many students prepare for auditions and competitions.

PLAYBILL FOR RETIREMENT

King has had a very full calendar over the past 50 years of teaching and theater. What will retirement look like for her?

“I have no plans for retirement. I am really not a bucket person, so I have nothing on a list,” King said. “Basically, my life has been at Notre Dame and it will be time to look beyond that. My current challenge is cleaning out all of the mementos and things I have accumulated over the years and finding good homes for them. Plus, of course, I am still grading papers and



RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Miss Cynthia R. King



highlighted on numerous occasions by local newspapers the Southeast Missourian and TBY (The Best Years) Magazine, and she has been published in the Missouri English Bulletin.

King has dedicated countless hours working with students, both in the classroom and in directing many stage productions, that included working with students on not just acting, but also stage design, lighting, costumes, sound,

closing out the school year.” “Cindy has a lasting legacy at Notre Dame Regional High School and deserves a standing ovation,” said Tim Garner, Principal of NDRHS. “Thank you, Cindy, for such a wonderful gift of 50 years of service to Notre Dame Regional High School.”

A blessed and joyful retirement, Cindy King! ©TM



CHAPLAIN EARNS DOCTORATE

FATHER LAURENT OKITAKATSHI recently graduated on May 7 with his doctorate in Sacred Scripture from The Graduate Theological Union. The Graduate Theological Union is a consortium of eight private independent American theological schools and 11 centers and affiliates. Father Okitakatshi is priest in residence at St. Mary Cathedral, Cape Girardeau, and Chaplain of the St. John Henry Newman Center on the campus of Southeast Missouri State University.

(Photo by Patrick Nwokoye/The Mirror)



The Collection for the Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC)
June 12, 2022

provides grants to Catholic organizations that communicate the Gospel through **print, social media, internet, live stream, television, radio, and podcasts.**



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The global pandemic has made it ever-more apparent the importance in keeping our communities connected through digital means. Please give generously so that we may continue to be One Church, East to West, wherever we may call home in southern Missouri.



"Fare thee Well"

MRS. BONNIE JOHNSON

JUNE 5, 2022

11:30 am to 1:00 pm
Light Lunch

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Cake and Reception

All are Welcome to say Farewell to Bonnie who's been the principal at SJCA for ten years and with our school for 20 years. Thank you, Bonnie, for all you have given to SJCA.

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SYNOD CONSULTATION MEETING DATES & LOCATIONS

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

THU., MAY 26

- 10:00 am Our Lady of the Lake Parish – Branson
- 5:00 pm Our Lady of the Lake Parish – Branson

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



Bishop presents day of recollection to board of directors

Cape Girardeau

On Thu., May 5, 2022, Bp. Edward Rice presented a day of recollection to the board of directors of Saint Francis Medical Center, Cape Girardeau, and its administrative leadership. The day began with Mass at 9 a.m. in the hospital chapel, where Bishop Rice reflected on Chapter 6 of St. John's Gospel, the Discourse on the Eucharist. Particularly, understanding the gift of the Eucharist and its significance in the life of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron of the hospital. Following the celebration of Mass there was a welcome by Justin Davison, interim CEO, followed by two presentations and a lunch.

In the first presentation, Bp. Rice highlighted the importance of days of formation for everyone to instill the mission and values of Catholic healthcare. He highlighted Alexian Brothers Hospital in St. Louis, where highlighted in their "philosophy

of the institution," trustees and administrators should be chosen because "they share our commitment toward those most in need." He also made a point of the "Articles of Faith," one of which states, "We believe that as members of the Church, we are committed to the values and principles expressed and/or implied in the ethical and religious directives for Catholic healthcare facilities as approved by the national conference of Bishops." Of particular importance is the "sense of call," the idea that doctors, nurses, and all employees are more than a "hire." Rather, they are hired for the mission and see in their responsibilities a "sense of call," to better visualize their work in a broader vision of "vocation," so that the profession has a sacred dimension to it.

Bishop Rice's second talk reflected the history of the ethical and religious directives that guide Catholic hospitals in making decisions. The ethical and religious directives began as "a surgical code" over 100 years ago. In 1948, the

surgical code was renamed "ethical and religious directives," and over the years has been expanded to cover situations that did not exist 100 years ago.

With a particular focus on the life of St. Francis, Bp. Rice made note of St. Francis' legacy today. The patron of the hospital was called to rebuild the Church: literally and figuratively. He discovered Christ in the leper; he always desires to be an obedient son of the Church. He loves the Eucharist, he loves the concept of radical poverty, and lived it himself. He loves the poor, and highlighting the incarnation, he had a love for Jesus—his birth and his suffering—to the point where he himself bore the wounds of Christ, the stigmata.

Bishop Rice concluded by referring to the inscription to the front left in the Senate chambers of the Missouri Capitol in Jefferson City: "Nothing is politically right which is morally wrong." He asked Saint Francis Hospital to always be guided by the ethical and religious directives. ©TM



PATRON & MISSION—Bishop Edward M. Rice presented a day of recollection for the board of directors and administrative staff of Saint Francis Medical Center, Cape Girardeau, on May 5, highlighting the charisms of patron St. Francis of Assisi and the ethical and religious directives of Catholic healthcare. (The Mirror)



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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



PLEASE VOLUNTEER at Camp this summer!

In Fredericktown at Camp St. Vincent:
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3F, July 10-15: Nature Director
1F, July 12-17: Boys Senior Counselor (18+)

In Cassville at Roaring River State Park:
1C, June 26-July 1: Cook Assistant
4C, July 18-22: Medical Professional
2C, July 3-8: Senior Counselor (Girls & Boys)
3C, July 10-15: Girls Junior Counselors
3C, July 10-15: Crafts Director & Assistant

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The kittens were blessed by Bishop Emeritus John Leibrecht, so they may prove to be exceptional pets!

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June 30 to July 2, 2022

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- Drink and wash in the water from Massabielle, the grotto where Mary appeared to Bernadette.
- Venerate the relics of Saint Bernadette during her entire visit to your area.

The Mission will arrive in Miami, for the first time on the American continent, and from there it will go on a tour in the United States, giving visitors from all over the country a chance to venerate the relics here, in the American soil.

A plenary indulgence may be obtained during the visit providing the usual criteria are met.

Saint Bernadette has inspired over 3 million pilgrims to Lourdes - France, every year.

This year she is coming to a parish near you!

For more information and to learn about the relics, log on to stbernadetteusa.org

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

How bright is your light?

Acts 15:1-2, 22-29;
Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8;
Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23;
John 14:23-29

The Book of Revelation shares with us today, “The city had no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gave it light, and its lamp was the Lamb.” As I reflect on Jesus being the Light of the World, the light of my life, and the light that gives meaning to our lives, I could not help but hearken back to the Easter Vigil lighting of the Paschal Candle. From it came the subsequent illumination of the church as our individual candles were lit from it. One cannot get a better visual image of what is expected of us, as followers of Jesus Christ, than to be Christ’s light and life in the world. This illumination of the church represents for each of us the light we are to be in our family, our workplace, and in our environment.

During this Easter Season, I find it enriching to simply sit in church and gaze at the Paschal candle, thanking Jesus for being the true light that drives away all darkness.



SCRIPTURE WISDOM
Deacon Mark Kiblinger

I sit and ask myself, “How can I better bring Christ’s light and life into the world?” It seems as if our world always has a dark cloud over it...COVID concerns, countries fighting against one another, the constant political unrest, and all the philosophical differences on just about every subject under the sun that, seemingly, must be aired over all the social media outlets. We can and must be better than this. But how?

One answer lies in today’s gospel reading, “The Advocate ... whom the Father will send in my name will teach you everything.” All too often we do not realize the Holy Spirit’s action in our lives. By virtue of our Baptism and Confirmation, we must embrace the gifts and fruits the Spirit has graciously given to us. Bishop Robert Barron has a YouTube video describing

the fruits of the Holy Spirit and he asks a very penetrating question at the very beginning of the video; “Are these things happening in your life?” Am I a person living the virtues of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control? I have had to take Bp. Barron’s question to heart and realize that some of these fruits of the Spirit I am not living as I should. As a result, I am not bringing the light of Christ into our world as I should.

Living these fruits allows Christ’s light to shine from us into the world which drives out the darkness of hate, jealousy, rudeness, immorality, and the like. We learn how to better love and care for one another. We become a light. We become more selfless. We become a force for good and are willing to confront that which is wrong. We learn how to find the common ground when differences are present.

The early Christian community had differences but learned to come together in loving dialogue. We see this

in today’s first reading from the Acts of the Apostles. The leaders of the Christian movement came together in Jerusalem to discuss whether strict adherence to circumcision and dietary law were necessary. This meeting of Paul, Peter, and many

As followers of Jesus Christ, we are to be Christ’s light and love in the world.

other church leaders was the first ecumenical council; the Council of Jerusalem. I am

so thankful that our Catholic Church, over the centuries, has convened councils to tackle the tough issues that were present at that time.

On this 6th Sunday of Easter, the Good News of our scriptures compels us to look interiorly and make an honest evaluation. Are we bringing the Light of Christ into our marriage, family, community and world? We must do as Jesus asks each of us to do ... to be a light. “You are the light of the world ... your light must shine before others” (MT 5:14, 16). ©TM

Deacon Kiblinger serves in St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Cape Girardeau, where he is the RCIA Coordinator.



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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.

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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.

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The Ascension signals to us a change

*Acts 1:1-11;
Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-95;
Eph 1:17-23;
Lk 24:46-53*

I remember the first day that I first walked through the doors at the seminary in St. Louis. My parents, four of my brothers, and I all took my things up to Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, and were greeted at the front door by Bishop Edward Rice (the Bishop-in-residence at the time). It was all so new to me, but I remember particularly well the feeling of watching my family leave, and knowing that this would be my home for eight years. In reality, I had never been away from my family for very long before, and yet, there I was, watching them leave me and return home, which was over an hour and a half away. Now, to be clear, it wasn't as if they were gone from my life, certainly. Yet, there was a sense that things were going to be different, and that I would have to work more deliberately to stay in contact with, not just them, but with all of my loved ones.

On the surface, the Ascension can seem rather odd. It could seem that we are simply celebrating the



SCRIPTURE WISDOM

Rev. Daniel Belken

fact that Jesus is leaving his disciples alone on earth. He is going back to heaven, since His earthly ministry is finished. However, it is a moment of particular importance to the disciples, because it is a moment in which things are changing, and Jesus encourages them onwards into their work of ministry.

The structure of the lectionary this Sunday is very striking. In the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles and the Gospel, we have one author: Luke. They are joined together chronologically, and the Gospel actually prefaces the first reading, where we get a more detailed account of Jesus's Ascension. When you join both of them together, we are able to get a very accurate picture of what happened that day. If we enter into the readings, we can hear Jesus encouraging them onward to ministry. We can then see them watching Jesus ascend into the sky, and thus, leaving

them alone.

What did the disciples think as Jesus was leaving? Were they excited? Were they shocked that Jesus was going away? Did they worry that this would be as painful as the crucifixion when He was taken from their midst for the first time?

While we might reflect on all of these questions in reading through this Gospel, and even through the account of the Acts of the Apostles, we know that this was not Jesus becoming distant to them. Rather, He was becoming present to them in a different way. In this moment, they are being stretched and challenged to pay attention to the new way that Jesus was going to be present: in the Sacraments, particularly in the Eucharist, and by the power of the Holy Spirit in the Church, which we will celebrate soon in the feast of Pentecost (June 5, 2022).

In our present day and age, we can easily be overwhelmed by the many tasks, priorities, and even sorrows of life. We can start to become so bogged down that we aren't gazing up at the sky, but more so at the ground, wondering where Jesus is, or if he is even present to us at all.

The Ascension gives us encouragement by way of a reminder: Jesus is present with us. It reminds us that, especially in the moments when we feel doubt or discouragement, or even abandonment, that God is still with us. We simply need to push forward and to encourage one another that God is with us: He is with us in the Sacraments; he is with us in the Church, and remains with us always in the Spirit that he sends forth.

Truly, Jesus is not absent: He has ascended, yes, but that is so that he can be with us in so many beautiful ways. We also receive a reminder that, as Jesus ascends, he goes to prepare a place for us as well in the Kingdom of God. Even in this preparation, and what seems to be an absence, he does not leave us truly alone here, but continues to be with us in all sorts of new and wonderful ways. ©TM

Father Belken is the Parochial Vicar of Immaculate Conception Church in Springfield and Associate Director of Worship & Liturgy. He is also a Regional Vocation Promoter and Chaplain at Springfield Catholic High School.



PROJECT RACHEL Abortion Healing Ministry

What is it?

Project Rachel is the Catholic Church's ministry of love, support, and healing for those who have been involved in abortion.

To implement that ministry, our Diocese has created an integrated network of services, including pastoral counseling, support groups, retreats, opportunities for sacramental forgiveness, and referrals to licensed mental health professionals.

Why are we doing it?

It's normal to grieve a pregnancy loss, but the loss of a child by abortion can create a hole so deep in one's heart that it may seem the emptiness can never be filled. With the forgiveness, hope, and healing provided through **Project Rachel Ministries**, many women and men have returned to a loving relationship with God.

How do people get help?

Women and men who have been involved in abortion are invited to contact the diocesan **Project Rachel Ministry** to receive free, compassionate, and confidential help. To learn more, call (417) 242-9300 or Email projectrachel@dioscg.org. A list of ministry resources is available at hopeafterabortion.com.

For more information

Contact **Kim Brayman**, Program Coordinator
Office of Family Life
Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau
601 S. Jefferson Ave., Springfield, MO 65806-3143
kbrayman@dioscg.org
(417) 866-0841 (office) | (417) 866-1140 (fax)

Hurting? Confidentially call (417) 242-9300 or Email ProjectRachel@dioscg.org

These courses are FREE for ALL persons in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau thanks to the generosity of the Missouri Knights of Columbus Religious Information Bureau
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Online Formation Resources



The Franciscan University Online Catechetical Institute makes the riches of the Catholic faith more available and accessible to everyone.

The Online library of video-based catechetical workshops supplement existing diocesan formation and continuing education programs, with tracks for catechists, catechetical leaders, parents, youth ministers, RCIA leaders, and more.

How to set up your account

The Catechetical Institute has developed 18 distinct ministry tracks to meet a variety of catechetical needs. These tracks, however, are merely options. A diocese is free to select any workshops from any track to add to any aspect of its existing certification programs, continuing education requirements, or adult formation outreach. Dioceses are also free to create their own tracks from the workshops offered within various pre-designed tracks.

To set up your individual account:

1. Go to www.franciscanathome.com/scg
2. Scroll down to "Register Online"
3. Click on "My parish or school is already registered, and I would like to set up my individual free account under that institution"
4. Click on "create a new account" in blue lettering
5. Fill in all of the required information.
 - You will need to upload a head-shot photo of

yourself in this information area. If you do not have a picture of yourself, you may upload any photo or image for now and you can come back to update your account with a different photo later.

- Click on "Create a new account" at the bottom of the screen when all information is complete.
- 6. A confirmation Email will be sent to you.
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*****Members of mission churches will have access through their affiliated main parish. (i.e. members of St. Leo, Ava, will sign up through Immaculate Heart Parish, Mansfield).**



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