



The next issue of **The Mirror** will be **August 19, 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.



Deacon retires as 20-YEAR PARISH LIFE COORDINATOR



MASS OF THANKSGIVING—A Mass of Thanksgiving celebrating the retirement of Deacon Joe Kurtenbach as Parish Life Coordinator was held June 19, Father's Day and the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. Pictured were (front) Thomas Brow, (back) Fr. Sugu Selvin, Fr. Tom Dharelli, Retired Bishop Leibrecht, Deacon Kurtenbach, Bishop Rice, Fr. Leo Arockiasamy, Connor Long, and Coulter Brown at the outdoor Mass at Basil Springs, south of Sacred Heart Parish, Mountain Grove. (Submitted photo)

Mountain Grove, MO

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, in Mountain Grove, held its annual picnic on Father's Day, June 19, where they also took the opportunity to celebrate their "spiritual father's" retirement as Parish Life Coordinator.

The Mass of The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) was concelebrated after the picnic with Bishop Edward M. Rice, Bishop Emeritus John J. Leibrecht, who ordained Deacon Kurtenbach, Father Leo Arockiasamy, Father Tom Dharelli, Father Suganthan "Sugu" Selvin. Of course, Deacon Joe Kurtenbach served the altar.

For the past 24 years, Deacon Joe Kurtenbach of Ava has lovingly served as deacon for five Catholic churches in the area: Sacred Heart, St. Michael Mission in Cabool; St. Leo the Great Mission, in Ava; Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, in Mansfield; and St. William Mission, in Gainesville. For the last 20 of those years, he has been Parish Life Coordinator of Sacred Heart and St. Michael. Effective July 1, 2022, Deacon Kurtenbach retired from administration, but not from his ministry as deacon.

"Parishioners are forever grateful for his exemplary Catholic values and his time and dedication given to them," said Andrea Gomez Ferguson, President of the Parish Council of Catholic Women.

"The children of the parishes are especially appreciative of his guidance in cultivating their faith

and love for Christ. "

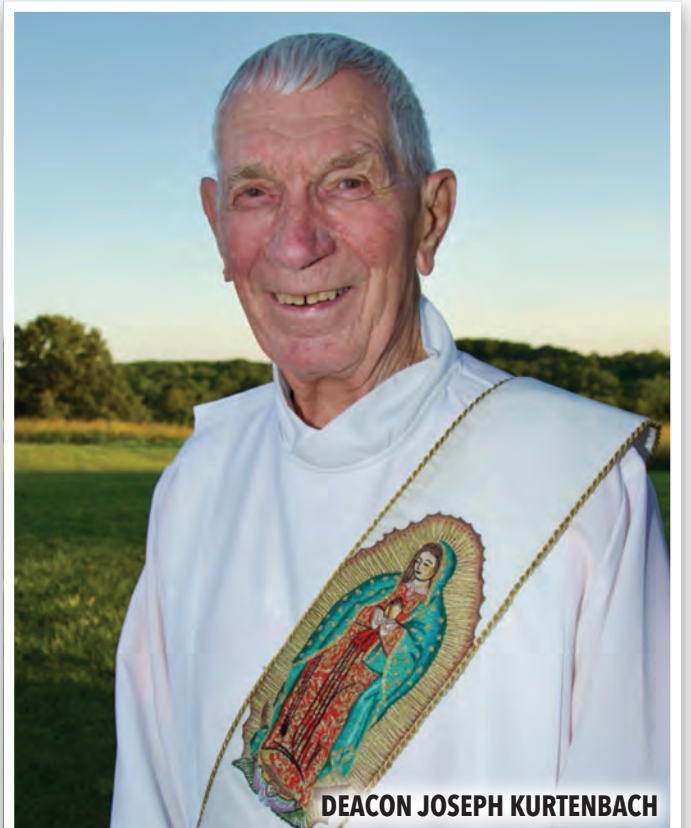
Deacon Kurtenbach has been a guiding force in undertaking the construction of a new rectory and education center at Sacred Heart, which will be completed soon. He spent countless hours traveling from Ava to all the parishes and missions for Sunday Mass, for weddings and funerals, for administration work on Tuesdays and Thursdays in Mountain Grove, to visit the homebound and sick, to take Communion to those who could not make it to church, and for so much more. He did this joyfully and refused any compensation. He was also quick to give away any gifts he received to the less fortunate.

"He is truly a deacon committed to serving his people, living by the precepts of the Catholic Church, and, in turn, being God's servant to all," said Gomez Ferguson.

Joseph Kurtenbach became a permanent deacon after retiring from the University of California. Fifteen years were spent working in nuclear weapons and another 15 years supervising in geothermal energy. He was husband to the late-Marge Kurtenbach and is an active father of three grown children, Julie, Kathy, and Tracy Kurtenbach.

According to Deacon Kurtenbach, the greatest gift he has received as deacon is that of knowing the wonderful people of these five communities.

"They are a gift from God," he said. ©TM



DEACON JOSEPH KURTENBACH



GIFTS FOR BELOVED DEACON—The Sacred Heart Parish Council of Catholic Women (PCCW) presented Deacon Joe Kurtenbach with a crucifix and a statue to be placed in his honor in the new rectory/ education center presently being built at Sacred Heart Parish, Mountain Grove. Pictured were Margaret Miller, Vice President of the PCCW; Deacon Kurtenbach, and Andrea Ferguson, President of PCCW.

(Submitted photo)



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

Safety for our children and youth remains a priority

“Based on the results of our recent site audit of the Diocese of Springfield – Cape Girardeau, the diocese has been found compliant with all audited Articles within the ‘Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People’ for the audit period of July 1, 2019 through March 31, 2022.”

That is the opening of the compliance letter from Stonebridge Business Partners, a company that specializes in compliance auditing and fraud and forensics services for government agencies, contractors, and institutions such as Catholic dioceses. As I’ve stated many times, it is imperative, not just an obligation, that all the (arch)dioceses of the United States must comply to what is commonly referred to as the “Dallas Charter,” “The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People,” established by the USCCB in June 2002 to address allegations of sexual abuse of minors by Catholic clergy. Over the course of the past two decades, however, allegations have also come to light in other religious denominations, in schools, scouts, in the world of sports, Olympic and university athletic programs, and in the entertainment industry. *USA Today* recently did an investigation of a Branson-based evangelical sports camp with rampant abuse. This serves as a reminder of why this work is so important for all of us in all facets of

society. While we were found to be compliant, the management letter that accompanied the compliance letter offered suggestions as to stay the course and improve, such as the implementation of a policy for renewing safe environment training for all volunteers, the implementation of a formal process to conduct in-person visits to all parish and school locations to review documentation, and to enhance the procedures for the monitoring and relocation of accused clergy for residence. We must also avoid any fatigue when it comes to our efforts at protecting children and young people. Sometimes people will say, “Do we really have to do this?” or “What difference is this going to make?” or “Haven’t we done enough?” When we start asking such questions, we are reflecting the “fatigue” that can often accompany this important work. Yes, it requires resources and time and energy from each one of us, but that is the only way we can restore trust in the Catholic Church, her priests and her institutions. We must be hyper-vigilant in this area. We are talking about the protection of students who have been entrusted to our schools and young people that come to our parishes for Mass and spiritual activities. Not to mention all the “public” events and activities each



of our parishes and missions undertake in our local communities: garage sales, chili suppers, fairs, retreats, etc. Because of that, our parishes must be safe havens and every adult must do his or her part to say something if one sees something out of sorts. Once again, I express my gratitude to Mr. Bill Holtmeyer, Director of the Office of Child and Youth Protection, along with Rosie Francka, Associate Safe Environment Coordinator for their dedicated diligence in this area. Rosie, by the way, is retiring later this year, and the diocese owes her a debt of gratitude for her dedicated service, especially to our young people. It is a difficult but essential work and, in a sense, the work will never be done. There is a generation of people that need to be heard, believed,

and healed from abuse of all kinds, not just at the hands of the Church. And from there, we must extend the healing that is needed for families who have experienced trauma caused by such abuse. Since 2002 and the Dallas Charter, there have been many updates and revisions that now address vulnerable adults, mandatory reporting, and the consequences for those who have failed to act or report incidents of “red flag” behaviors, or abuse, or harassment. Recently, the Vatican issued a procedure to address the failure of bishops in these areas specifically. These developments illustrate that we must be tireless in this effort and to avoid the “fatigue” that can often occur. As I bring this column to an end, the good news is we are in compliance with the Charter, we continually strive to do more and improve while we continue to do all we can for the protection of children and youth. What could be more important than to attend to the needs and wellness of our people: spiritually, physically, emotionally, through the safeguards of awareness, safety, vigilance, and procedure? ©TM



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

Before his retirement in 2008 as the Fifth Bishop of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Bishop John Leibrecht wrote a standing column in *The Mirror* entitled, “Walking Together.” At the end of each article, Bp. Leibrecht would normally share a funny story referencing his travels to the schools, or time with friends, family, or other bishops. *The Mirror* has decided to share a few of these in an ongoing series entitled, “Another walk through: ‘Walking Together.’” We hope you enjoy them.

May 15, 1987 I was recently at Sacred Heart Parish, in Webb City. The Confirmation class consisted of several adults who entered the Catholic Church but had never been confirmed: one high school student, one college student, and four adults with physical and mental limitations. It was one of the happiest and most moving confirmations I have ever had (and there have been many!). The mix of young and older people, the mix of parishioners and the four special people—all this created a warm atmosphere for celebrating the presence of the power of God’s Holy Spirit in our lives. I am grateful to the pastor, Father David Miller, to Mary Catherine Krause, the teachers and sponsors for their part in making the evening with the Lord happy for those confirmed, their families, and friends. Before the Mass, I met with the candidates and their sponsors. The adults with the disabilities showed me how they could make the sign of the cross and told me in unison that they were going to receive the Holy Spirit. I turned to one of them, then, and asked: “Do you want to be confirmed?” She responded enthusiastically: “You got that right!”

May 29, 1987 After the Memorial Day Mass at Resurrection Cemetery in Springfield, a little girl waited in line with others to exchange greetings with me. When she finally got to me, she said simply: “Bishop, this is for the poor.” And her clenched hand opened to give me the dimes and pennies she had saved. Children teach me so much—so clearly. **June 12, 1987** I recently spent a weekend at SS Peter and Paul in Pulaskifield and at St. Edward’s in Cassville. The parish visitation included the confirmation of 22 parishioners at SS Peter and Paul. After each of the Masses, I had the opportunity to visit with parishioners and we had a happy time together. At St. Edward’s, I asked the two servers their names. The one said, “Eddie” and the other I didn’t quite hear, so I asked, “Did you say your name was Damen or Damien?” He responded, “Damen.” Then he added with a grin, “But sometimes they call me Demon!”



Youth Donate over \$35k to Mother's House

by Paula Wright Hayti, MO

The 2022 beneficiary of the annual Lenten Youth Mission of Mercy was Mother's House run by Glenmary Sr. Sharon Miller, GHMS. Sister Miller also serves in Sacred Heart Parish, New Madrid.

Founded in 2013 in the small community of Hyati, MO, the vision of Mother's House was to meet the needs of unwed mothers, grandmothers, foster mothers, and other women-caregivers that lacked the resources to support them. Diocesan youth in Catholic schools and Parish Schools of Religion (PSR) spent the 40 days of Lent gathering money to support Mother's House. The final donation was an impressive \$35,495.30.

The need for Mother's House is great, and the donations gathered by the youth of the diocese are much-needed. The town of Hayti, located in Pemiscot County, has no other resources for mothers and children available. The unemployment rate is very high, above the national average, and the poverty rate for Pemiscot County is the highest in the state of Missouri, at 29.1%.* Currently, Sr. Miller serves approximately 220 children from 80 families.

Named specifically to call attention to Mary, Mother's House displays an image of the Annunciation of Mary. "In our non-Catholic area, this image helps start conversation," shared Sr. Miller, director of Mother's House. In addition to meeting the physical needs of those they serve, Sr. Miller

ministers to their spiritual needs as well, and many of those that visit Mother's House call her "mother."

Mother's House provides diapers and wipes free to those who are signed up for the program, and are available in all sizes. Each child will receive enough diapers to last a month, plus wipes. Diapers are only given out once a month, unless due to sickness or a special need requires additional diapers. As part of the program, each child is issued a card and usage is tracked per child. This model offers a convenience to caregivers; if they cannot get in to pick up diapers and wipes, someone else can be designated to pick up the items. It also ensures no child is missed or issued excess supply.

To provide for any other needs, such as beds, dressers, or strollers, Sr. Miller reaches out to her donor resources for help on providing these items. Mother's House can no longer offer used strollers or car seats, but Pemiscot County Initiative now offers car seats and when necessary, Sr. Miller refers to their services.

To uphold the dignity of those who use the services offered by Mother's House, clothing is available to purchase at \$.50 an item. Clothing and shoes are mostly donated, and must be in good condition. A stipend is available to purchase diapers, wipes, and any specific item of need.

"We provide, and try to give, what is needed to nurture a child through early grade school," Sr. Miller said. "Specifically, we are established to support children from ages 0-6 years. We also offer clothing for older

siblings, through size 16, to help mothers that have children of all ages."

Sister Miller is a big proponent of reading to children, and has an area for books where kids can safely play and read. A play area is also set up inside Mother's House for children who come to the facility to have a place while Sr. Miller meets with the caregiver.

"I talk with mothers and caregivers about their situation to see what their needs are, how to help them," Sr. Miller said, "and how to try to help them resolve the situation they find themselves in."

One of her dreams is to eventually set up a "Mother's Day Out" group that can meet monthly. Her hope is that this will create a community for mothers to share experiences, have social contact, and make friends. She would like to set up picnic tables for mothers to meet and just "hang out" with their children and other mothers to extend their networks.

To learn more about Mother's House, "The Little Miracles Center for Mom & Kids," or to check out its wish list/needs list, log on to <https://glenmarysisters.org/mission-wish-list/>. ©TM

**US Census Bureau Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates released in fall of 2019.*

DONATIONS—Located in one of the poorest counties of Missouri, Sr. Sharon Miller, GHMS, collected much-needed supplies for Mother's House in Hayti, MO. The youth of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau raised money in Lent 2022 for Mother's House and recently made a final donation of over \$35,000 to the Glenmary Sisters that run Mother's House.

(The Mirror)



CUTENESS OVERLOAD—Glenmary Sr. Sharon Miller, GHMS, played with a child as a family picked out items at Mother's House in Hayti, MO. Founded in 2013, Mother's House helps meet the needs of unwed mothers, grandmothers, foster mothers, and other women-caregivers that lack the resources to support them. (The Mirror)

2022 ANNUAL
Lenten Youth
Mission of Mercy

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WELCOME NEW PRINCIPALS

by Paula Wright

Springfield

The Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau welcomes five (5) new leaders in its parochial schools for the 2022-2023 academic year. New principals will be joining St. Mary Cathedral, Cape Girardeau; Immaculate Conception, New Madrid; St. Joseph Catholic Academy and Immaculate Conception, both in Springfield.

Alan Bruns, St. Mary Cathedral School, Cape Girardeau

Principal Alan Bruns, St. Mary Cathedral, Cape Girardeau, holds a bachelor's degree in Music Education from Southeast Missouri State University, a Master of Arts in Teaching Degree from Webster University, and a Specialist in Educational Leadership



BRUNS

from William Woods University. Burns has 27 years of educational experience in public schools. He recently retired from

Cape Central Jr.

High School in Cape Girardeau, having been an Assistant Principal for 16 years.

A local, Burns attended St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Elementary School and graduated from Notre Dame Regional High School, where he met his wife of 28 years, Danna: "We have been married for 28 years and have two children: Tyler, who farms in the Kelso area, and Emily, who will be a sophomore at the University of Dayton," Burns said.

Burns is a cantor at St. Vincent de Paul Parish: "I truly love music, especially singing," he said. "As a cantor, I have been blessed to be a part of many diocesan celebrations." Burns has also served as a music director at Camp RE-NEW-All for many years. In addition to music, he enjoys hunting, fishing, and many other outdoor activities.

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (MT 18:19-20)," Burns said, quoting Scripture. "As we gather each school day, we will do so in the presence of our Lord and make Christ a part of everything we do. As we teach our students academics, we will also be teaching them our Faith with the hope of creating young adults who are well prepared for their next step in life."

He is looking forward to getting to

know the students, parents, and staff at St. Mary School: "I am a strong believer in building relationships," said Burns. "I am excited to get to know the parish family at St. Mary and keep a strong relationship between the parish and the school."

Allison Fowler, Immaculate Conception School, New Madrid

Allison Fowler, an alumnus of Immaculate Conception Catholic School, New Madrid, is now the new Interim Principal. Fowler has been an employee with Immaculate Conception School (IC) since August of 2008. She began her career with the school as the preschool aide for two years before moving into classroom teaching. For the last 12 years, she has been teaching various grades, from 4th to 8th grade.

Fowler's family has a long history of Catholic education. Her great-grandparents both graduated from IC in 1918, in addition, Fowler's mother, eight aunts, and uncles, and two sisters all graduated from IC as well. Currently, Fowler has a niece and nephew who are students at IC.

"I value my family life and any time I get to spend with my family. I have a fiancé, Chuck, we have been together for almost 11 years now," Fowler said. "My parents live here in town, along with my oldest sister, her husband, and their



FOWLER

two kids. My youngest sister lives just outside of town, but we are always doing things as a family. Family life is very important to me."

She has many hobbies and interests: "If you ask my family, or anyone else that knows me for that matter, they will tell you that I am always busy doing something," said Fowler. "I love to redo furniture with chalk paint. I started a little side business with that back in 2015. It's called 'Blahs to Awes by Allie.' I also enjoy camping, spending time in our boat on the river; I love anything outdoors. I'm always the one who wants to help take care of everyone also—whenever someone needs me, I'm always there to lend a helping hand."

As an IC graduate, Catholic education is very important to Fowler: "Nothing beats a Catholic education. The academic excellence that our students are able to receive goes above and beyond," she said. "Our students are

about to grow in faith and knowledge of the Church, all while receiving the best education around: Why wouldn't you want to send your child to a Catholic school?"

"As acting principal here at IC, I hope to do my best in leading and guiding each and every one of my students in faith and knowledge," said Fowler. "My heart has always been at IC and always will be. I want to do my part in helping our school thrive for many years to come."

Angela Stevens, St. Joseph Catholic Academy, Springfield

Prior to joining St. Joseph Catholic Academy, Springfield, Angela Stevens, has been a public school educator for 20 years, as a classroom teacher, teacher trainer, principal, and curriculum



STEVENS

instructor: "My desire to serve in my church and continue educating students has led me to St. Joseph Academy," Stevens said. Stevens and her husband,

an investigator for the Missouri State Highway Patrol, have been married for 29 years. Together they have three children. The oldest son is in the army, the middle daughter is starting her first year as a math education teacher in a 4th/5th grade split, and the youngest daughter will be starting high school. The family also enjoys several fur babies: Murphy, a German Shepard; Lucy, a little Maltese mix; Riley, a dog that climbs trees; and Alfred, a great mouser-cat. They also enjoy the outdoors: "We love the water and try to kayak and hang out at the lake as much as we can," she said.

"Catholic education is an opportunity to couple religion and education and be able to practice your firm beliefs in every setting," Stephens said. "Kids have an opportunity to celebrate Mass! I bring the excitement of being able to practice my faith and education with children. I look forward to working with wonderful teachers and students and growing in my Catholic faith."

Mike Johnson, Immaculate Conception School, Springfield

Most recently, Mike Johnson was Assistant (Asst.) Principal at Springfield Catholic High School; and was the Asst. Director of Transportation, the Asst. Curriculum/Instruction

Coordinator, and social studies teacher in the Southern Boone School System. Johnson was also the Director of Admissions, Director of Student Support, Head Baseball Coach, and an Assistant Football Coach in Fr. Tolton Catholic High School, in Columbia, MO.



JOHNSON

Johnson is married to wife, Stephanie, and they have two children, Olivia, who is 9, and Isaac, age 7. The family also has three pups, Riley, Jersey, and Jack:

"Well, because we're not busy enough," Johnson laughingly explained.

Johnson is an avid golfer, and loves watching or playing any and all sports: "My happy place is around any water," he said. "When we can, we try to spend as much time at the Lake of the Ozarks."

"The opportunity to grow young disciples, in my opinion, makes Catholic education worthwhile for our students and families," Johnson said. "I love that our teachers, staff, and administrators can use the teaching of the Catholic Church as a guide for our young people. Even when discussing discipline, which is rooted in disciple, or learner, creates an amazing opportunity for our students, even when they might make negative choices. Those types of teaching moments can only be had in Catholic education."

As Principal, Johnson is looking forward to working with a dedicated faculty and helping to grow the tradition that is Immaculate Conception.

Ashley Harris, Asst. Principal, Immaculate Conception, Springfield

Prior to teaching, Ashley Harris, Assistant Principal, Immaculate Conceptions School, Springfield, received a degree in business



HARRIS

administration at Missouri State University. She realized business wasn't for her and returned to Missouri State to complete her teaching certificate. Harris also

holds a Master Degree in School Administration from Southwest Baptist University. She has been in education for the past 11 years, teaching 3rd,

NEW PRINCIPALS // CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE...

4th, and 5th grade, and has served on numerous committees and curriculum teams. She has also worked during the summer as a Principal in the R-XII District of Springfield Public Schools.

Harris is married to Pete Harris, and together they have two children: Emry, who will be in 3rd grade, and Sam, who will be entering kindergarten. “As a family, we enjoy traveling and spending as much time as possible outdoors,” Harris said. “We like to hike, camp, bike, and fish.”

“I’m looking forward to working with some of the best teachers and staff in the area,” Harris said. “I hope to bring a passion for student learning and growth to the IC team. The largest benefit of a Catholic education is

the ability for the whole child to be educated. In a Catholic school your child will not only receive the highest quality of education, but he/she will grow in their faith day-in and day-out.” ©TM

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Belleville, IL—The **16th annual When Mental Illness Hits Home Conference** will be held in the Shrine’s Visitor’s Center, located at 442 S. DeMazenod Dr., Fri., Aug. 26, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. This conference reaches out to families, friends, and professionals who journey with those with a mental illness and will focus on the topic of “Living in the Now: Moving from Anxiety and Depression to Recovery and Peace.” Cost for the conference is \$40 and includes lunch. For more detailed information or to register, go to www.snows.org/illness, or contact the Shrine at (618) 394-6281.

Springfield—**Vitae Pro-Life Dinner** will be held Fri., Aug 26, 7-9 p.m., in the White River Conference Center, located at 600 W Sunshine St. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. This year’s keynote speaker is Abby Johnson. Tickets are \$75 per person (\$45 tax deductible) All proceeds benefit Vitae Foundation, whose mission is to connect abortion-determined women with lifesaving pregnancy help and ultimately change the culture. Register today by scanning the QR code found at vitaefoundation.org or call (573) 634-4316.

Springfield—**Strengthening and Healing Souls Ministry** will feature Rwandan genocide survivor, **Immaculee Ilibagiza**, Sat., Aug. 27, at Springfield Catholic High School, located at 2340 S. Eastgate Ave. The retreat begins at 9 a.m. with Mass, celebrated by Bp. Edward M. Rice and ends at 5 p.m. with a healing service and benediction led by Fr. Bibin Mathew, CMF. For more information, please contact Shelly Pichler, (417) 838-2730, or Jan Dills, (417) 763-1579.

Springfield—**The 38th annual St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Harvest Home**

Festival will be held Fri., Sept. 9, 5 p.m.-midnight and Sat., Sept. 10, 4 p.m.-midnight at 2200 Republic Rd. This year’s festival includes children’s games, rides & inflatables, laser tag, mechanical bull ride, kid’s talent show, live music, BBQ, fair food, Filipino food on Saturday, silent auction, and more!

Springfield—**SAVE THE DATE!** Holy Trinity Catholic Church will host the first **Catholic Women’s Conference** on Sat., Oct. 15. Please watch for upcoming registration details!

Springfield—Springfield Area Perpetual Adoration at Holy Trinity Chapel has an **urgent need for Adorers & substitutes** on Tuesdays, 9 p.m. and Saturdays, 1 a.m. and 2 p.m. Please contact Marilyn Gibson, (417) 224-4043.

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—You are invited to the **16th annual Festival of Nations**, Sat., Aug. 27, 4-10 p.m., at Sacred Heart Church. Please join us for live entertainment, international foods from 20 countries (carry-out available), games for kids, vendors, and much more.

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



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Messenger

A quarterly publication by the Missouri Catholic Conference



August 2022

The Pro-Life Movement Post-Roe

On June 24, 2022 – the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus – the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, the ruling that established a constitutional right to abortion in 1973. “The Constitution makes no reference to abortion, and no such right is implicitly protected by any constitutional provision, including the one on which the defenders of *Roe* and *Casey* now chiefly rely — the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment,” Justice Samuel Alito wrote in the majority opinion for *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*. The decision was one that the pro-life movement had worked and prayed for during the nearly 50 years following *Roe*. The historic ruling now returns the abortion issue to the individual states. In this issue of *Messenger*, we will provide an overview of the Court’s decision in *Dobbs* and what it means for the pro-life movement in Missouri and across the nation.

Background

In the 1973 case, *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court found that a woman has a fundamental right of privacy to obtain an abortion. However, that right must also be weighed by the State’s interest in protecting the mother and in protecting the “potential” life of the unborn child. Because of a woman’s right to privacy in this matter, the Supreme Court ruled that a state could not prohibit abortion before “viability” — the time that the unborn child could survive outside of the womb. In most cases, viability will occur around 22 weeks post-fertilization, although medical advances continue to push the point of viability to an earlier gestational age. **continued on next page...**



Carter Snead, law professor and director of the de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture at the University of Notre Dame, and Jamie Morris, legislative counsel for the MCC, discuss the significance of the Court’s decision in *Dobbs* and what is next for the pro-life movement in this episode of MCC from the Capitol podcast.

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The *Roe* court also used a trimester framework to set limits on the State’s ability to regulate abortion. The Court held that in the first trimester, the State may not restrict access to abortion for any reason, including the life of the unborn child. In the second trimester, the State may regulate abortion only for the purpose of protecting the life of the mother. After viability, the Court held that the State may regulate and even prohibit abortion, unless an abortion is necessary to protect the life and health of the mother. *Doe v. Bolton* (1973), decided on the same day as *Roe*, clarified that the health of the mother was to be broadly interpreted to include any aspect of the mother’s well-being, including physical, emotional, psychological, and mental health. When taken together, these cases held that states may prohibit abortions after viability as long as there are exceptions for the life and health of the mother, with health being broadly defined to include both physical and mental health.

In *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* (1992), the Court recognized that the State had a substantial interest in the potential of human life, but ultimately upheld *Roe*. The Court eliminated the trimester framework of *Roe* and provided a new test — an abortion law is unconstitutional if its purpose is to place an “undue burden” (defined as a “substantial obstacle”) upon a woman seeking an abortion prior to fetal viability. Where *Roe* relied upon a privacy right, *Casey* relied upon a liberty interest, stating that it is, at its heart, “the right to define one’s own concept of existence, of meaning, of the universe, and of the mystery of human life.”

Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization

The law at issue in *Dobbs* was a 2018 Mississippi statute that banned nearly all abortions in the state after 15 weeks, in clear violation of *Roe* and *Casey*. In his lengthy majority opinion, Justice Alito explained that the Constitution makes no reference to abortion and that a guaranteed right to an abortion was not “deeply rooted in this Nation’s history and tradition.” As Alito explained, when the Fourteenth Amendment – the provision on which defenders of *Roe* and *Casey* relied – was adopted, abortion was banned in three-quarters of the states. By the end of the 1950s, all but four states and the District of Columbia prohibited abortion unless to save the life of the mother.

In addition, the right to an abortion was fundamentally different to other unnamed rights the Court had held to fall within the Fourteenth Amendment, as abortion destroys an unborn human being. “*Roe* was egregiously wrong from the start,” continued Alito. “Its reasoning was exceptionally weak, and the decision has had damaging consequences... It is time to heed the Constitution and return the issue of abortion to the people’s elected representatives.”

Missouri’s “Trigger Law”

The *Dobbs* ruling now returns the abortion issue to the individual states. The Missouri General Assembly passed “The Right to Life of the Unborn Child Act” – a near-total ban on abortions in the state – as part of the 2019 landmark pro-life bill, HB 126. Section 188.017, RSMo. states that “no abortion shall be performed or induced upon a woman, except in cases of medical emergency.” Section B of HB 126 stated that the ban in Section 188.017 would become effective upon notification to the Revisor of Statutes by an opinion from the Attorney General, a proclamation from the Governor, or adoption of a concurrent resolution by the General Assembly that *Roe v. Wade* had been overturned.

On the day of the *Dobbs* ruling, Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt immediately issued a notification to the Revisor of Statutes, triggering “The Right to Life of the Unborn Child Act.” “Today, following the United States Supreme Court’s ruling that overturned *Roe v. Wade*, with the issuance of an attorney general opinion, my Office has yet again reinforced Missouri’s dedication to protecting the sanctity of life, both born and unborn,” Attorney General Schmitt said. “With this attorney general opinion, my Office has effectively ended abortion in Missouri, becoming the first state in the country to do so following the Court’s ruling.”

Governor Mike Parson followed with a proclamation activating the law. “Nothing in the text, history, or tradition of the United States Constitution gave un-elected federal judges authority to regulate abortion. We are happy that the U.S. Supreme Court has corrected this error and returned power to the people and the states to make these decisions,” Governor Parson said. “With *Roe v. Wade* overturned and statutory triggers provided in HB 126, we are issuing this proclamation to restore our state authority to regulate abortion and protect life.”

With these actions, all abortions, except in cases of medical emergency, are now illegal in Missouri.

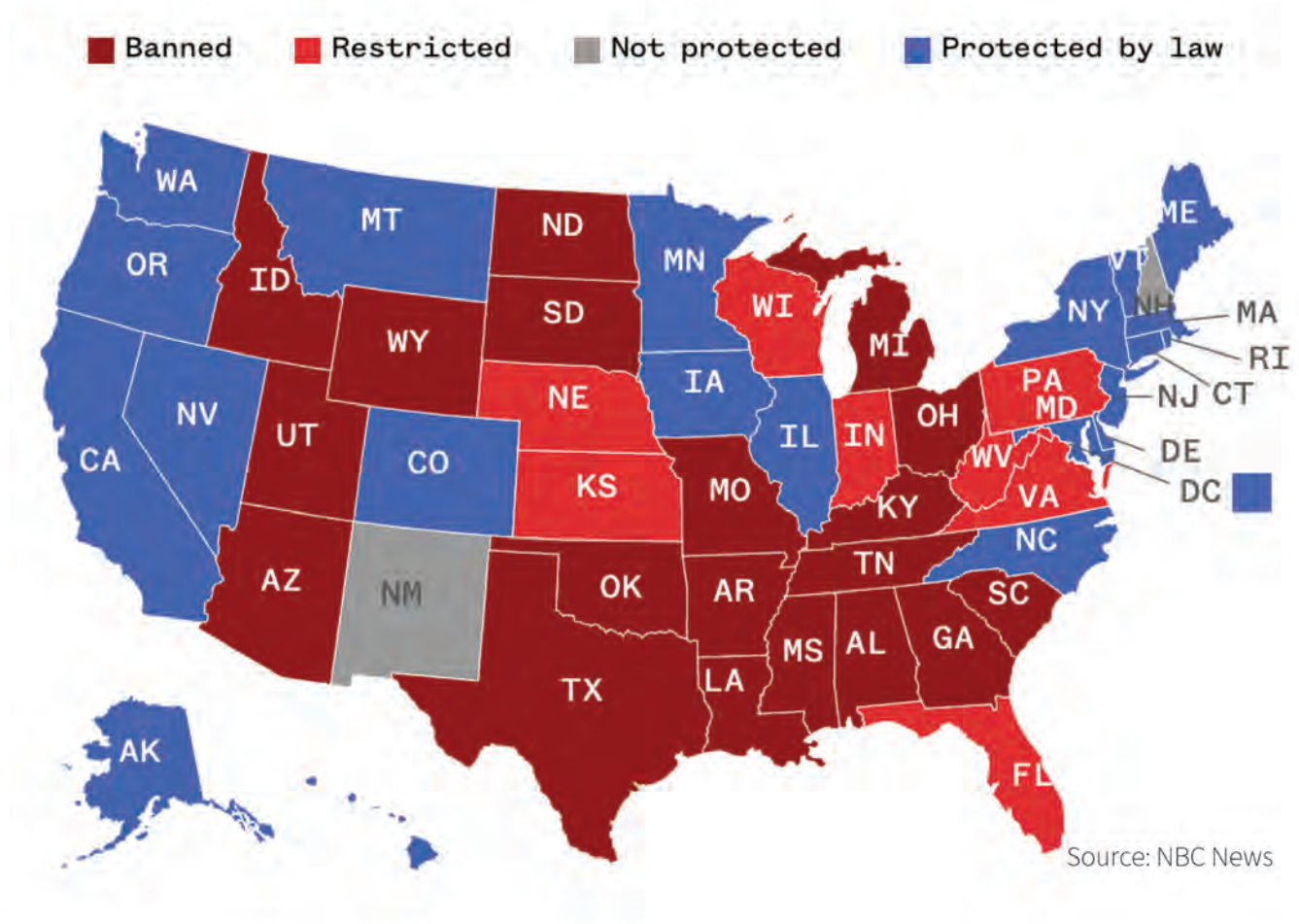


“[I]t is not enough to remove unjust laws. The underlying causes of attacks on life have to be eliminated, especially by ensuring proper support for families and motherhood.”



– Pope John Paul II, Evangelium vitae, 90

Where States Stand on Abortion



What Comes Next

With abortions virtually eliminated in the state, there is much to be thankful for. Nevertheless, we know that our work is not done. The challenges for the pro-life movement in Missouri remain much the same in a post-Roe world because in many ways, the State has been operating in a post-Roe climate in recent years. In 2020, there were fewer than 200 abortions conducted in the state of Missouri. This was a result of decades of work by the pro-life movement in the state and of incremental legislative victories in the Missouri General Assembly. However, we know that many Missouri residents still sought abortions in nearby states with fewer pro-life legal protections. In 2020, 6,578 Missouri women obtained abortions in the state of Illinois.¹ In that same year, 3,201 Missouri women obtained abortions in Kansas, accounting for over 40 percent of that state's abortions.²

The demise of *Roe* and *Casey* represents the end of unjust Constitutional protections for abortion, but not the end of unplanned pregnancies or difficult circumstances for pregnant women. We are reminded of Pope Saint John Paul II's challenge to political leaders in his encyclical, *Evangelium vitae* (The Gospel of Life) – "[I]t is not enough to remove unjust laws. The underlying causes of attacks on life have to be eliminated, especially by ensuring proper support for families and motherhood."³

1 <https://dph.illinois.gov/data-statistics/vital-statistics/abortion-statistics.html>.
2 <https://www.kdhe.ks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/10433/Abortions-in-Kansas-2020-PDF>.
3 Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium vitae*, 90.

The U.S. bishops also remind us that the time to begin the work of building a post-Roe America is now. "It is a time for healing wounds and repairing social divisions; it is a time for reasoned reflection and civil dialogue, and for coming together to build a society and economy that supports marriages and families, and where every woman has the support and resources she needs to bring her child into this world in love."

The MCC stands ready to redouble our efforts to advocate on behalf of expectant mothers and their unborn children. While we continue to give thanks for the end of *Roe*, we know the work to build a culture of life continues.





The U.S. bishops have encouraged the faithful to come together and build a society where “every woman has the support and resources she needs to bring her child into this world in love.” That work can begin in each of our parishes and neighborhoods. As Pope Francis reminds us, the parish is “a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a center of constant missionary outreach.”¹

In his papal encyclical, *Evangelium vitae* (The Gospel of Life), Pope John Paul II reaffirmed the Church’s teaching on the value and inviolability of every human life. *Evangelium vitae* reminds us that, “where life is involved, the service of charity must be profoundly consistent. It cannot tolerate bias and discrimination, for human life is sacred and inviolable... We need then to ‘show care’ for all life and for the life of everyone.”² The 25th anniversary of *Evangelium vitae* in 2020 gave the Church a wonderful opportunity to begin to assess, expand, and communicate resources to pregnant moms and families in need. Parishes are invited, through the support of their bishop and pastor, to join this nationwide effort entitled, Walking with Moms in Need.

To support this initiative, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB) Pro-Life Committee has developed educational, pastoral, and action-oriented resources for parish use, including:

- Tools for documenting an inventory of local resources for pregnant mothers in need.
- Ideas for improving parish responses.
- Prayers for building a culture of life and a civilization of love.
- Reflections on the teachings of *Evangelium vitae*, *Evangelii gaudium*, and *Laudato si’*.

Through the continued efforts of parishes nationwide, we look forward to that day where every pregnant mother in need has the resources and support to choose life. Please visit WalkingWithMoms.com to learn more about this initiative and to pledge to prayerfully walk with mothers in need.

1 Pope Francis, *Evangelii gaudium*, 28.

2 Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium vitae*, 87.



Read and share the digital edition of this Messenger at mocatholic.org



Project Rachel is a diocesan-based network of specially trained priests, religious, counselors, and laypersons who provide a team response of care for those suffering in the aftermath of abortion. In addition to referring for Sacramental Reconciliation, the ministry provides an integrated network of services, including pastoral counseling, support groups, retreats and referrals to licensed mental health professionals. Learn more at hopeafterabortion.com.

“...Our first thoughts are with the little ones whose lives have been taken since 1973. We mourn their loss, and we entrust their souls to God, who loved them from before all ages and who will love them for all eternity. Our hearts are also with every woman and man who has suffered grievously from abortion; we pray for their healing, and we pledge our continued compassion and support. As a Church, we need to serve those who face difficult pregnancies and surround them with love...”

-Excerpt from USCCB Statement on Dobbs Decision

MCC Statement on Dobbs

The Missouri Catholic Conference welcomes the Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, overturning *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*. The MCC has worked and prayed with other pro-life organizations for this day since the Court issued the *Roe* decision in 1973. With the return of the issue to the states, we know our work is not done. The Catholic Church stands ready to continue providing spiritual and material support to expectant mothers and their families through our parishes and ministries, and to advocate on their behalf and on behalf of their unborn children at the state and federal level. We look forward to the day when every child, born and unborn, has the love and support needed to thrive and reach his or her full potential.



FAMILY DEDICATES MARIAN GROTTTO IN AURORA

BISHOP EDWARD M. RICE recently blessed and dedicated a renewed Marian grotto on July 21 at Holy Trinity Parish, Aurora. The Marstall family, Nick, Sarah and children, undertook this renovation in loving honor and memory of their three-year-old daughter Rosalie who died last year in a drowning accident. (Photos by Katie Newton/The Mirror)



22 CELEBRATE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

COME HOLY SPIRIT—The Sacrament of Confirmation was celebrated June 16 at Guardian Angel Parish, Oran, as 21 teens received the gifts of the Holy Spirit (one teen was from St. Ambrose Parish, Chaffee, MO; June 15). The 2022 Confirmation class included: (front) Camden Hahn, Caroline Brashear, Jonah Dirnberger, Ellie Montgomery, Eva LeGrand, Amelia LeGrand, Clayton Hahn, and Westyn Keller; (second row): Pastor Fr. Joseph Kelly, Weston Woods, Rylan White, Cooper Bryant, Ava Forehand, Weston Klipfel, Reid Hobbs, Porter Gadberry, and Fr. David Dohogne, Pastor of St. Henry Parish, Charleston, MO; (third row) Cora Woods, Parker Bryant, Michael Eftink, Bp. Edward Rice, Bennet Lange, John Cozean, Jr., and Ryder Siebert. At the end of Mass, Bishop Rice told the teens he wanted them to remember three words. "Come, Holy Spirit," and to "...speak these words and ask for the help of the Holy Spirit in life." (Photo by Debbie Gaines/The Mirror)

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PASTOR INSTALLED IN SIKESTON

by Sarah Lee Hunter

Sikeston, MO

The church pews were full of excited and thankful parishioners on Sat., July 30, as Bp. Edward M. Rice celebrated Mass and installed Fr. Colby Elbert as Pastor of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Parish, in Sikeston. Father Elbert's parents, Robert and Dottie, were also present in the congregation. Ordained in 2017, Fr. Elbert has been serving the parish as Parochial Administrator since 2021.

Personal involvement was included in the installation, as Bp. Rice invited Parish Staff and Church Volunteers to the Altar by groups, to give recognition

to those individuals for their help and service to the Pastor and church. First to be called were the church and school staff. Then, members of the Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Committee. And lastly, Eucharist Ministers, and Lectors. The closing of the liturgy ended with hearty applause!

After the Mass, a celebration dinner was held in the gym of Saint Francis Xavier Catholic School, which was opened with a prayer by Fr. Elbert. Members of the Parish Council prepared the meal, and a church food committee assisted with drinks and desserts to accompany the fellowship during the joy filled and blessed occasion. ©TM

INSTALLATION AS PASTOR—Father Colby Elbert was installed Pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish, Sikeston, on July 30 by Bishop Edward M. Rice. The Mass was followed by a parish dinner. *(Photo by Missy Barber/The Mirror)*



21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Are you spiritually fit & bound for heaven?

***Is 66:18-21;
Ps 117:1, 2;
Heb 12:5-7, 11-13;
Lk 13:22-30***

At some point in time, most of us will be asked the question: "Have you been saved?" This question may be asked of us by a friend, a family member, a neighbor or coworker, or even by a stranger on the street. So what exactly does this question mean: What answer does the question really seek? The person posing this question basically wants to know if you have accepted Jesus into your life as your personal Lord and Savior and that if you died at this moment, you have the assurance and certainty of going directly to heaven.

In today's Gospel, someone asks Jesus: "Will only a few people be saved"? It's interesting that this question is asked of Jesus. He offers a powerful response: "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough." There seems to be a growing assumption among many



SCRIPTURE WISDOM

Fr. David Dohogne

people today that **EVERYONE** will go to Heaven. Jesus' words in today's Gospel passage prove this to be **untrue**.

While many people may “claim” to “know” Jesus, what is more important is that he knows us! The Lord is reminding us that there are two groups of people: those who truly know him and those who claim to know him. There are those who choose to follow Christ wholeheartedly, who are truly committed and faithful to him by seriously trying to live a holy life with the help of his grace and to live his teachings in their daily lives. I hope that describes everyone reading this article! Then there are those who publicly “claim” and profess to be Christian, but the teachings and example of Jesus have little impact or influence on their lifestyles and choices. Many people simply “assume”

they will be welcomed into heaven merely because they “claim” to know Jesus. As the Gospel says so well: “We ate and drank in your company. You taught in our streets.” Christ responds: “I do not know where you are from. Depart from me.”

This Gospel is actually a foreshadowing of the Final Judgment and reminds us of the reality and existence of heaven and hell. These are eternal destinations. After the Final Judgment, we can't stand at the door of Heaven and say "Lord, open the door for me. I'm ready now, so let me in!" That moment is a little too late! At that moment, we can't change things!

More and more, we are seeing the Christian faith having little or no effect or influence in the lives of many individuals, families, and cultures. Heaven is a free gift, a personal invitation from Christ to live with him forever! What is the most important invitation you have ever received? One that perhaps changed your life forever? It has to be the invitation given to us by Christ!

We are “saved” and redeemed by the grace, power, love, and mercy of Jesus Christ through the faithful

living of our faith. Think of the question asked of Jesus: “What must I do to be saved?” As human beings, we desire a sense of safety and security in life, especially physically and financially. But what about spiritually? When we are young, we may not spend a lot of time thinking about our future, especially our “eternal” future. It is a common practice for many people to buy insurance policies for our cars, homes, and even our lives! Our monetary savings are “insured” by the federal government or private entity. But what about an “insurance policy” for our soul? That is only available through Jesus Christ. Our Lord may be seen as our “spiritual insurance agent,” but he is also the “policy” that protects us. Jesus is the one who will either welcome us into heaven or turn us away. Ultimately, the choice is ours to make. So, choose wisely! Choose Jesus! ©TM

Father Dohogne is pastor of St. Henry Parish in Charleston, MO. He also serves as diocesan Director of Worship and Liturgy and as diocesan Coordinator of Spiritual Deliverance and Exorcism.



Encountering the Eucharist, East to West

Diocesan Pilgrimage

The Corpus Christi processions held on June 19 served as the launch of the three-year *National Eucharistic Revival* in our diocese. Bishop Rice will make a pilgrimage across the diocese called, “**Encountering the Eucharist, East to West**,” traveling to a parish in each deanery from **Aug. 27 through Sept. 3**. Bishop Rice will begin with morning Mass at each location, then expose the Blessed Sacrament for Adoration throughout the day. School classes, families, and other parishioners are invited to sign up for a 30- or 60-minute time period of Adoration with the Blessed Sacrament. The Parish will close with Solemn Benediction at the end of the day.

Encountering the Eucharist Pilgrimage Schedule:

Sat., August 27 **Deanery 4** **Springfield Catholic High School, Springfield**

Bishop Rice will celebrate the 9:00 a.m. Mass to open the Strengthening and Healing Conference in the gymnasium. The Blessed Sacrament will then be moved to the chapel by the front entrance of the school for adoration throughout the day and will conclude at 5 p.m. with a prayer service and Benediction.

Sun., August 28 **Deanery 6** **St. Mary Cathedral, Cape Girardeau**

Sunday Mass at 10:30 a.m. Adoration continues until closing Benediction at 5 p.m.

Mon., August 29 **Deanery 7** **Sacred Heart, Poplar Bluff**

Parish/School Mass at 8:30 a.m. Adoration continues until closing Benediction at 7 p.m.

Tues., August 30 **Deanery 5** **Sacred Heart, Willow Springs**

Parish Mass at 9 a.m. Adoration continues until closing Benediction at 6 p.m.

Wed., August 31 **Deanery 3** **Sacred Heart, Bolivar**

Parish Mass at 8:30 a.m. Adoration continues until closing Benediction at 6 p.m.

Thur., September 1 **Deanery 1** **St. Peter the Apostle, Joplin**

Parish/School Mass at 8:30 a.m. Adoration continues until closing Benediction at 7 p.m.

Fri., September 2 **Deanery 2** **St. Mary, Pierce City**

Parish/School Mass at 8:15 a.m. Adoration continues until closing Benediction at 7 p.m.

“
I encourage your parishioners to visit, especially those who are unfamiliar with Eucharistic Adoration or have never been. Together, let us do whatever we can do to bring more of our faithful to a personal encounter with our Lord in the Eucharist.
– Bishop Edward M. Rice





**LIGHT ONE
CANDLE**
Fr. Ed Dougherty, MM
*The Christophers’
Board of Directors*

We honor Mary throughout this month of August. For starters, we celebrate two important feast days that are linked together by an octave. The Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is held on Aug. 15, which marks the first day of the octave, and the Feast of the Queenship of Mary is held on August 22, which concludes the octave. In addition to these beautiful celebrations, we have a tradition dating back to World War II in which the entire month of August is dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This is not decreed in an official way by the Church, but it remains a beautiful tradition, and it’s worthy to recall the reason for its observance.

In May of 1944, as the war raged on in Europe, Pope Pius XII named August 22 the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, invoking Mary’s intercession in a prayer for “peace among nations, freedom for the Church, the conversion of

Invoking Mary’s Intercession

sinners, the love of purity, and the practice of virtue.”

The establishment of this feast day inspired many Catholics to dedicate the entire month of August to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Decades later, Pope Paul VI saw good reason to move the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary to the Saturday following the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. It created an entire week in June linked together by the theme of the Miraculous Hearts of Mother and Son. August 22 subsequently became the Feast of the Queenship of Mary, and this also makes sense because we now follow our celebration of Mary’s Assumption by honoring her Queenship over heaven and earth.

But tradition holds that we can still declare August dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary due to the extenuating circumstances under which this dedication came about. It is hard to even imagine the



terror that gripped the entire world at that time. Pope Pius XII had been inspired by the message of Fatima to turn to Mary’s intercession on behalf of humanity, and as Mary promised, that intercession came and relative peace was restored to the world. It was an imperfect peace, but it was a dramatic shift from the brink of destruction to which the world had been brought.

The war in Europe came to an end on May 7, 1945, almost exactly one year after Pius XII established the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary; and World War II ended on August 14, one day before the octave that began with Mary’s Assumption and ended with the newly declared Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

That octave now concludes with the celebration of Mary’s Queenship, and we should indeed celebrate the status she holds and the intercession she has extended to all of us. It is a

time to recognize the miraculous hand of God at work in Mary’s life, beginning with her Assumption, when the hand of death was stayed, and she was assumed body and soul into heaven; it’s a time to honor her Queenship over heaven and earth; and it’s a time to grow in admiration for her purity of heart.

So, let’s join our current prayers for peace with all those who prayed for soldiers on the front lines of the war during that tumultuous year between 1944 and 1945, imploring the pure heart of Mary to intercede on our behalf so that Christ will bring peace to the world. ©TM

‘Light One Candle’ is the blog of The Christophers and Fr. Dougherty, MM, sits on its Board. Founded in 1949 by Fr. James Keller, MM, the mission of The Christophers is to encourage people of all ages, and from all walks of life, to use their God-given talents to make a positive difference in the world. The mission is best expressed in The Christophers’ motto: “It’s better to light one candle than to curse the darkness.” For more information: mail@christophers.org

For a free copy of The Christophers’ BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS, write: The Christophers, 5 Hanover Square, New York, NY 10004; or e-mail: mail@christophers.org

ADORATION & ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED AT GUARDIAN ANGEL PARISH



ADORATION & PRIESTHOOD ANNIVERSARY—June 10-12 was a special weekend at Guardian Angel Parish in Oran. Forty-hour Adoration started at 10:30 p.m. on Friday and went through 4:30 p.m. on Sunday. Many parishioners from Guardian Angel and St. Ambrose Parish, in Chaffee, and other local churches took this time before the Blessed Sacrament. Following the closing Adoration, a potluck meal was held at the school gym to celebrate pastor Fr. Joseph Kelly’s seventh anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. He was ordained on June 12, 2015. *(Submitted photo)*



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To Protect and Heal

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and its Affiliates promote a zero-tolerance policy regarding sexual misconduct and are committed to creating and maintaining a safe environment for all of God’s people, one that is free from any form of sexual misconduct, which is antithetical to the teachings of the Catholic Church.



HOW WE PROTECT AND HEAL

Foster and maintain an atmosphere of trust and safety in its ministry to all minors and adults. We have a responsibility to provide a safe environment and actively protect minors and adults from all forms of abuse and are expected to uphold and maintain the highest standard of professional, ministerial, and moral behavior. Committed to this effort, the diocese pledges to work toward healing and reconciliation for those who have been injured and harmed physically, sexually, emotionally, and spiritually through the sexual misconduct by clergy and any other diocesan personnel.

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

Any behavior of a sexual nature that occurs between diocesan personnel and a minor or an adult, which includes: sexual abuse, enticement, exploitation, and any other such behavior, or the appearance of any such behavior, whether in-person, verbal, written, or through the use of technology or other media, that is defined by and contrary to the moral teachings, doctrines, and Canon Law of the Catholic Church; and/or unlawful as described by local, state, and federal laws.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Diocesan personnel who regularly engage in activities involving minors or vulnerable adults are required to attend and complete the designated safe environment training. Clergy, employees, catechetical leaders, and other volunteers may be required to read monthly training bulletins, and/or complete other relevant training when assigned and/or requested by their supervisor or by the diocese. Diocesan personnel are required to annually review The Code of Conduct for Clergy, Employees and Adult Volunteers as part of their ongoing training.

BACKGROUND SCREENING

All diocesan personnel over the age of 18 must complete, sign, and submit Background Disclosure and Authorization. The diocese will conduct a national and local criminal background screening of all diocesan personnel. Random and periodic rescreening will be conducted on all diocesan personnel. Thorough reference checks should also be conducted for potential diocesan personnel.

TO REPORT ABUSE:

- ▶ Any known or suspected **ABUSE OR NEGLECT OF A MINOR** must first be immediately reported to the Missouri Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline at 800-392-3738.
- ▶ Any known or suspected **ABUSE OR NEGLECT OF AN ADULT** must first be immediately reported to the Missouri Adult Abuse and Neglect Hotline at 800-392-0210.
- ▶ In situations of immediate danger, call 911.

This policy applies to all diocesan personnel, including clergy, seminarians, consecrated religious, diocesan, parish and school employees, and all adult volunteers. Any violation of this policy will be grounds for discipline up to and including termination.

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