

November 12, 2021



SUMMIT KICKS OFF RENEWED FOCUS ON EVANGELIZATION

by Paula Wright Springfield, MO

The recent Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau "Evangelization and Discipleship Summits," held Oct. 9 in Holy Trinity Church, Springfield, and on Oct. 10 in St. Vincent De Paul Church, Cape Girardeau, focused on sharing ideas and motivating attendees to move the Church in Southern Missouri from maintenance to mission.

More than 200 persons in parish leadership attended the conferences, including clergy; Parish Pastoral Council members; Catholic school principals; parish directors/coordinates of PSR, RCIA, campus ministry, youth ministry; teachers and catechists.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Attendees heard Deacon Keith Strohm, Executive Director of M3 Catholic Ministries, share his keynote address, "We Are Called to Missionary Discipleship," exploring the joy and importance of missionary discipleship, evangelization, and becoming more fruitful channels of God's love for the world.

Deacon Strohm shared that discipleship is not just about actions or words, but the reality of transformation within the life of that person and in the lives of others who encounter him or her. He shared that for a variety of cultural and historical reasons, parish life in the US generally lacks:

- An experience of discipleship (and personal relationship with Christ) as normative;
- An orientation that is fundamentally outward-focused, toward the world;
- A sense of personal and corporate responsibility for the Church's mission of evangelization – Evangelization is seen as the responsibility of the professional ministerial segment of the Church, or worse, as something protestant and not belonging to the Catholic Church

"Evangelization is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelize" said Pope Paul VI, in *Evangelii Nuntiandi* (Evangelization in the Modern

World) 14." He continued that the road before us is not simply about personal conversion, but about "pastoral" conversion as well, that includes a radical reorientation of the assumptions, priorities, expectations, and goals that characterize our approach to ministry.

In addition, Deacon Strohm provided a breakout session, "Forming the Parish Pastoral Plan for Moving the Parish from Maintenance to Mission." This session focused on the cultural change that must take place within our parishes and the Church.

"A change from the current primary 'mode' of relating to God by doing institutional things, without much regard for interior disposition or relational connection, to a culture of Intentional Faith," he said.

Deacon Strohm shared that the focus should be away from

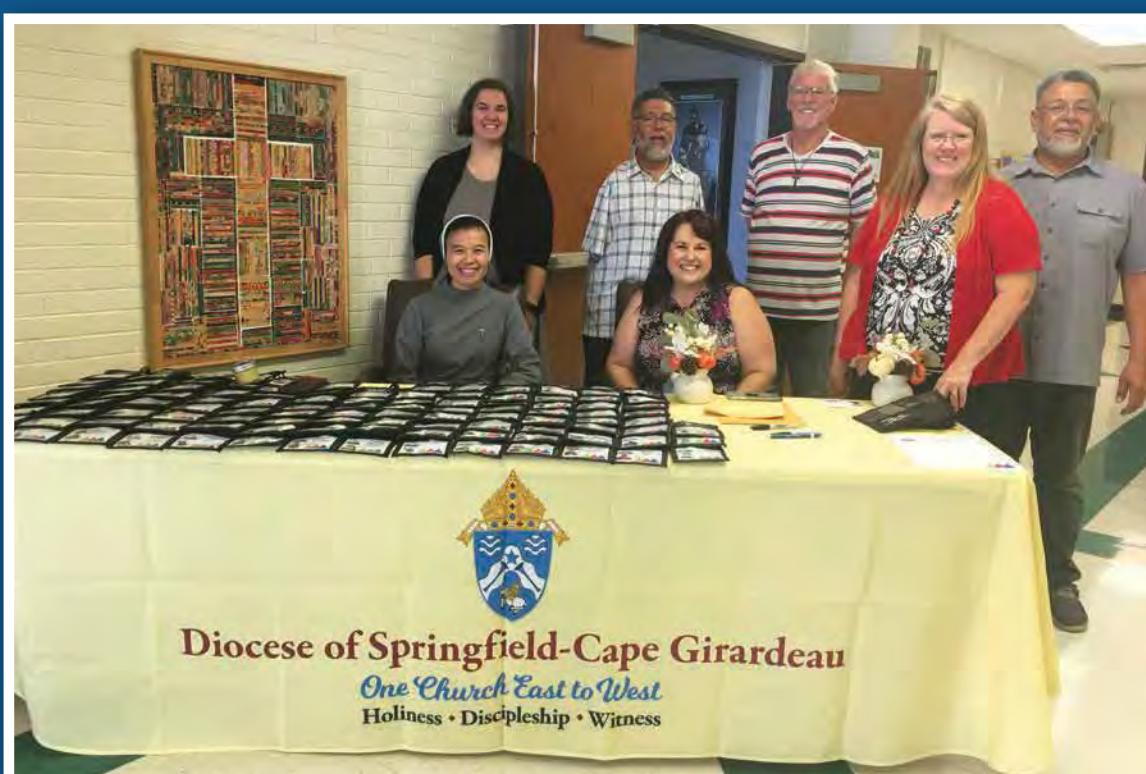
programs and shift to people. "Often a focus on programs ... moves people from program to program without specifically understanding how these programs and processes could be used to make, mature, and mission disciples of Jesus Christ," he said. "A people-focused parish

recognizes that authentic transformation and a life of discipleship emerge from accompanying people on their journey to Christ. Programs don't make disciples, people do. Therefore, person-to-person witness is critical. Disciples are not mass produced ... they are the products of artisanal and hand-made work."

EVANGELIZING CATECHESIS

Dr. James Pauley, Professor of Theology and Catechetics at Franciscan University, led the session, "Evangelizing Catechesis." In this session, he

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

25 by '25!" This is quite an ambitious project – to have 25 men in formation at the seminary by the year 2025. Where did I get the idea? Well, I would like to think it was inspired by the Holy Spirit, but there was also a practical motivation as well. We anticipate the ordination of three men to the priesthood this coming Spring (a tremendous blessing), along with the ordination of one man to the transitional diaconate. At the same time, we had no new candidates enter seminary formation this past August. So, once the three are ordained to the priesthood, we will have only five men in formation. Since we had no new men enter, we can't get any lower than zero! So now is the time to start fresh with our efforts. You can read more about this endeavor on p. 6 of this issue of *The Mirror*.

With the recent workshop on vocations by Rhonda Gruenewald at the Clergy Institute, the formation of Parish Vocation Committees was determined. Gruenewald is returning to the diocese for the upcoming workshops for the committees, Dec. 4 in Springfield and Dec. 5 in Cape Girardeau. All of this culminates into "now" as the perfect time to shoot for the stars and seek out our "25 by '25." In the months to come, you will hear more about promoting vocations. And don't forget about the young women! All the studies show that when we have solid vocation programs for men, the women step up as well. Vocations to the priesthood and vocations to the religious life compliment each other in a beautiful, supportive way. Where to begin? With family life, of course. The renewal of marriage and family life, a daily petition of mine, is the key to the future. Let us ask Our Lady, Queen of the Clergy to bless our efforts at having 25 men in seminary discernment by 2025.

SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING

As we come to the end of the liturgical year, the last Sunday of Ordinary Time is the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, commonly referred to as Christ the King. We celebrate this on Nov. 21 this year. The beautiful opening prayer reminds us, "the whole of creation, set free from slavery... Ceaselessly proclaim your praise." The offertory prayer reminds us, "the human race is reconciled to you."

The closing prayer challenges us to glory, "in obedience to the commands of Christ, the King of the universe." As we look back on this past year with all of its challenges: continuing COVID outbreaks and procedures, supply-chain shortages, wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters, what do we do with it all? We lay it all at the feet of Christ our King. We invite him to be the king of our hearts. Long live Christ the King!

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The next Sunday, following Christ the King, Nov. 28, is the First Sunday of Advent, our annual four-week preparation period for the birth of Christ. In the opening prayer for the first Sunday of Advent we are challenged, "to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming." Are you prepared for the coming of Christ? Recent news stories have highlighted the possible difficulty in purchasing Christmas gifts due to supply chain backlogs. We may not be able to purchase the gifts we want and some even question the availability of Christmas trees.

Maybe this is a call for all of us to have a "Christmas of the heart." I know that sounds like a title from the Hallmark Christmas Channel but maybe now more than ever we need to be challenged to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. A Christmas tree is nice but it is

not essential for the celebration of the birth of our Savior. I love to give and receive gifts but it is not essential for the celebration of the birth of our Savior. I love Christmas gatherings just like everyone else but it is not essential for the

celebration of the birth of our Savior.

Let us use these four weeks given to us prior to Christmas to our advantage. For example, when was the last time you celebrated the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation? Is that not the best way to prepare for the coming of Christ? The closing prayer for the first Sunday of Advent reminds us, "we walk amid passing things." Let us keep our eyes fixed on the things that are eternal.

SECOND COLLECTION FOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Finally, also on the Solemnity of Christ the King, Nov. 21, we will have the second collection for Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri. As we enter into the holiday season, let us be mindful of the less fortunate whom our local charitable agencies serve on behalf of each one of us. I have said many times that we have about 67,000 Catholics in southern Missouri and therefore we should have 67,000 supporters of the work of Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri. Please be generous and always, always keep the work of Catholic Charities and the diocese in your prayers. You can read more about this important second collection on pp. 9-12 in this issue of *The Mirror*.

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Diocese launches '25 by 2025' initiative

FEATURED ARTICLES

- ▶ **25 BY 2025: VOCATIONS A CALLING FOR US ALL PAGE 6**
- ▶ **SECOND COLLECTION FOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES PAGES 9-12**



Nov. 18, 2021 - Dec. 1, 2021

PUBLIC CALENDAR

THU., NOV. 18

FEAST OF ST. ROSE PHILIPPINE DUCHESNE
USCCB
General Assembly, Baltimore

FRI., NOV. 19

Mercy Board Update

7:00 p.m. 'Into the Woods,' Springfield Catholic High School

SAT., NOV. 20

4 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation
St. William Parish, Gainesville, MO

SUN., NOV. 21

SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE
Second Collection for Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri

12-noon Mass, Christ the King Church, Bunker, MO

4 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation, Sacred Heart Church, Willow Springs, MO

6:30 p.m. Retirement dinner and Knights of Columbus Religious Appreciation, Willow Springs

TUE., NOV. 23

6 a.m. Mass, Cause of Our Joy Convent

8 a.m. School Mass, St. Lawrence Catholic School, Monett, MO

THU., NOV. 25-FRI., NOV. 26

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
The Catholic Center closed

SUN., NOV. 28

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

TUE., NOV. 30

Young Priests Meeting*, Mountain View, MO
*those ordained five years or less

WED., DEC. 1

8:15 a.m. School Mass, Sacred Heart Catholic School
Poplar Bluff, MO;

Meeting with Diocesan Deans & Vicar General
St. John Vianney Catholic Church
Mountain View, MO

VEN Y
VERÁS

Obispo Edward M. Rice

La diócesis lanza la iniciativa '25 para el 2025'

“25 by '25!” Se trata de un proyecto bastante ambicioso: tener 25 hombres en formación en el seminario para el año 2025. ¿De dónde he sacado la idea? Me gustaría pensar que fue inspirado por el Espíritu Santo, pero también hubo una motivación práctica. Anticipamos la ordenación de tres hombres al sacerdocio esta próxima primavera (una bendición enorme), junto con la ordenación de un hombre al diaconado transitorio. Al mismo tiempo, el pasado mes de agosto no tuvimos ningún candidato nuevo que entrara en la formación del seminario. Así, una vez que los tres sean ordenados al sacerdocio, sólo tendremos cinco hombres en formación. Como no ha entrado ningún hombre nuevo, ¡no podemos bajar de cero! Así que ahora es el momento de empezar de nuevo con nuestros esfuerzos. Puedes leer más sobre este esfuerzo en la página 6 de este número de *The Mirror*.

Con el reciente taller sobre vocaciones impartido por Rhonda Gruenewald en el Instituto del Clero, se determinó la formación de Comités Parroquiales de Vocaciones. Gruenewald volverá a la diócesis para los próximos talleres de los comités, el 4 de diciembre en Springfield y el 5 de diciembre en Cape Girardeau. Todo esto culmina en el «ahora» como el momento perfecto para disparar a las estrellas y buscar nuestro “25 para el '25”. En los próximos meses, tendrás más noticias sobre la promoción de las vocaciones.

¡Y no te olvides de las jóvenes! Todos los estudios demuestran que cuando tenemos programas sólidos de vocación para los hombres, las mujeres también dan un paso adelante. Las vocaciones al sacerdocio y las vocaciones a la vida religiosa se complementan mutuamente de forma hermosa y solidaria. ¿Por dónde empezar? Con la vida familiar, por supuesto. La renovación de la vida matrimonial y familiar, una de mis peticiones diarias, es la clave del futuro. Pidamos a Nuestra Señora, Reina del Clero, que bendiga nuestros esfuerzos por tener 25 hombres en discernimiento en el seminario para 2025.

SOLEMNIDAD DE CRISTO REY

Al llegar al final del año litúrgico, el último domingo del Tiempo Ordinario es la Solemnidad de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo, Rey del Universo, comúnmente llamado Cristo Rey. Este año lo celebramos el 21 de noviembre. La hermosa oración inicial nos recuerda que «toda la creación, liberada de la esclavitud... Proclama incesantemente tu alabanza». La oración del ofertorio nos recuerda «la reconciliación de los hombres». La oración final nos desafía a la gloria, «obedecer los mandamientos de Jesucristo, Rey del universo». Al recordar este año pasado con todos sus retos: los continuos brotes y procedimientos de COVID, la escasez de la cadena de suministro, los incendios forestales, los huracanes y otros desastres naturales, ¿qué hacemos con

todo ello? Lo ponemos todo a los pies de Cristo nuestro Rey. Le invitamos a ser el rey de nuestros corazones. ¡Viva Cristo Rey!

PRIMER DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO

El próximo domingo, después de Cristo Rey, el 28 de noviembre, es el Primer Domingo de Adviento, nuestro período anual de cuatro semanas de preparación para el nacimiento de Cristo. En la oración inicial del primer domingo de Adviento se nos desafía a «la práctica de las buenas obras [que] nos permita salir al encuentro de» Cristo. ¿Estás preparado para la venida de Cristo? Las noticias recientes han puesto de manifiesto la posible dificultad para comprar regalos de Navidad debido a los retrasos en la cadena de suministro. Es posible que no podamos comprar los regalos que deseamos y algunos incluso cuestionan la disponibilidad de los árboles de Navidad.

Quizá sea una llamada para que todos tengamos una «Navidad del corazón». Sé que parece un título del canal navideño Hallmark, pero quizás ahora más que nunca necesitemos el reto de preparar nuestros corazones para la venida de Cristo. Un árbol de Navidad es bonito, pero no es esencial para la celebración del nacimiento de nuestro Salvador. Me encanta dar y recibir regalos, pero no es esencial para la celebración del nacimiento de nuestro Salvador. Me gustan las reuniones

navideñas como a todo el mundo, pero no es esencial para la celebración del nacimiento de nuestro Salvador.

Aprovechemos estas cuatro semanas que se nos conceden antes de la Navidad. Por ejemplo, ¿cuándo fue la última vez que celebraste el Sacramento de la Penitencia y la Reconciliación? ¿No es esa la mejor manera de preparar la venida de Cristo? La oración final del primer domingo de Adviento nos recuerda que caminamos «en medio de las cosas transitorias». Mantengamos la mirada fija en las cosas que son eternas.

SEGUNDA COLECTA PARA CARIDADES CATÓLICAS

Finalmente, también en la solemnidad de Cristo Rey, el 21 de noviembre, tendremos la segunda colecta para Caridades Católicas del Sur de Missouri. Al entrar en la temporada navideña, tengamos en cuenta a los menos afortunados a los que nuestras agencias benéficas locales sirven en nombre de cada uno de nosotros. He dicho muchas veces que tenemos unos 67,000 católicos en el sur de Missouri y, por tanto, deberíamos tener 67,000 partidarios del trabajo de Caridades Católicas del Sur de Missouri. Por favor, sé generoso y ten siempre —siempre— presente en tus oraciones el trabajo de Caridades Católicas y de la diócesis. Puedes leer más sobre esta importante segunda colección en las páginas 9-12 de este número de *The Mirror*. ©TM

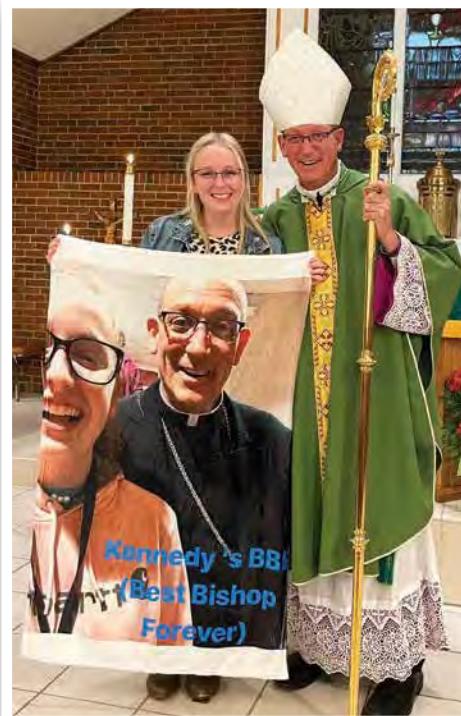
Join Fr. Daniel Hirtz on a Pilgrimage to Mexico February 19-25, 2022

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Biggest fan revealed in Salem

‘**BEST BISHOP FOREVER**’—Kennedy from Salem, MO, may be Bishop Rice’s biggest fan: She had a banner made of a “selfie” photo that she and Bishop Rice had taken at a recent Steubenville Mid-America Youth Conference held in Springfield. The banner reads, “Kennedy’s BBF: Best Bishop Forever.” She took a photo with Bishop Rice on Oct. 31, 2021, when she revealed the banner to Bishop Rice who was visiting the parish. Kennedy’s mom serves as Youth Minister in Sacred Heart Parish, Salem, MO. (The Mirror)



PERMANENT DEACONS & WIVES—Sister Charlotte Flarlong, SSND, facilitated a retreat on Sept. 18 with permanent deacons of the diocese and their wives. Pictured were (front row) Dan and Beth Vaughn, Sr. Charlotte Flarlong, Mary Jane McNamee (wife of the late-Deacon William McNamee), and James and Cindy Soptick; (back row) Al Stoverrink, Tom and Debra Schumer, Jim and Susie Walter, Mike and Pat Evers, Mike and Michelle Fritz, Gary and Joy Steffes, Bill and Mary Keller, Matt and Marcella Fletcher, and Horacio and Socorro Quiles. *(Submitted photo)*

Annual deacons & wives retreat held in Branson

PERMANENT DEACONS & WIVES—The annual Permanent Deacons and Wives Retreat was recently hosted by Our Lady of the Lake Parish, in Branson, MO, on Sept. 18, 2021. The event is an opportunity for the diocese's deacons and wives to gather and share faith, formation, and fellowship. School Sister of Notre Dame and certified Spiritual Director in the diocese Sr. Charlotte Flarlong, SSND, facilitated the retreat. She spoke on discipleship, personal prayer life, spiritual direction, and parish life faith formation.

Spanish liturgy celebrated in Salem

LANGUAGE SKILLS—Pastor Fr. Jose Antoney Thundathil, CMI, recently welcomed Bishop Edward M. Rice to Sacred Heart Parish, Salem, MO, to celebrate a Mass in Spanish with parishioners on Sun., Oct. 31, 2021. A reception followed the liturgy, where Bishop greeted youth dressed in costume and enjoyed good food and fellowship. *(The Mirror)*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Belleville, IL—The National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows will host a **Girls Day Out Vendor Fair**, Sat., Nov. 20, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Get a jump on your holiday shopping with the over 40 vendors, artisans, crafters, and businesses from the St. Louis/Metro East area. Admission is free. For more information, visit <https://snows.org/girls-day-out>, or contact the Shrine at (618) 397-6700.

Belleville, IL—The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate and Shrine staff invite you to the **52nd annual Way of Lights Christmas Display**, Nov. 19-Dec. 21, 2021. Free admission to the outdoor light display—give a donation of \$15 or more and receive a Build-A-Bear Plush Polar Bear (while supplies last). Over one million white lights are featured along a 1.5-mile route depicting the Journey to Bethlehem. Also available are camel, donkey, and pony rides, a petting zoo, and a food tent. The Visitors Center will have a Christmas tree and wreath display, community music performances, Lego® life-sized nativity and brick display. Shop the Shrine Gift Shop. For more information, visit <https://snows.org/wayoflights> or contact the Shrine at (618) 397-6700.

Cape Girardeau—Notre Dame Regional High School will hold its **25th Annual Crafts, Gifts & Collectables Show**, Fri., Nov. 19, 5-9 p.m.; Sat., Nov. 20, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Sun., Nov. 21, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. There will be over 200 vendors, including food and baked goods for sale. Santa will make a stop on Sunday. Admission is \$2 on Friday and Saturday; free on Sunday. Proceeds to benefit the Performing and Visual Arts Departments. For questions

contact Deana Pecord, deanapecord@notredamecape.org, or call (618) 967-2953.

Kelso—Join us at St. Augustine Catholic School for **Breakfast with Santa and a Special Guest** on Sun., Dec. 5, 7:30-10:30 a.m. Sausage, pancakes, eggs, biscuits & gravy, all for your goodwill donation. Bring your camera for photos with Santa and our special guest. All proceeds will help support our 7th and 8th grade students make the March for Life pilgrimage in January 2022.

Kimberling City—The Branson Knights of Columbus will co-sponsor a **Blood Drive** on Fri., Nov. 19, 12-5 p.m., at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church Parish Center at 202 Vaughn Drive. To schedule an appointment, please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and Enter: OURLADY.

Scott City—The Knights of Columbus will host the **Third Sunday Breakfast**, Sun., Nov. 21, 7:30-10:30 a.m. Enjoy breakfast and help support the youth groups of St. Augustine Parish and St. Joseph Parish. The Knights are also taking orders for pork sausage, available in link or bulk for \$4 lb. To order, call Gary, (573) 576-6451.

Springfield—Sacred Heart Catholic Church will hold its **Annual Craft/Vendor Sale** in conjunction with the Midtown Victorian Homes Tour, in which the church will participate. The sale will be Fri., Dec 3, 5-9 p.m., and Sat., Dec. 4, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., in the Parish Hall located at 1609

N. Summit Ave. Vendors and crafters from the Springfield and surrounding area will offer a variety of items. The parish's famous "cookies for sale by the pound" will be available. For more information or questions answered, please contact the parish office, (417) 869-3646.

Springfield—St. Joseph Catholic Church is having a **Thanksgiving Dinner** on Sun., Nov. 21, at 12-noon, in the Parish Hall Gym located at 1115 N. Campbell. Turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, vegetables, salad, and dessert: Dine-in, carry-out or curbside service available. Social distancing will be observed and a facemask is required.

Springfield—Come Holy Spirit, Come! A **REVIVE Mass and Rosary** will be held the first Thursday of every month at 6 p.m., along with praise and worship, at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (SEAS) located at 2200 W Republic Rd. Please come and join us as we raise joyful praise to the Lord!

Springfield—**The Kitchen, Inc.**, has 55 percent Affordable Housing Assistance Program (AHAP) tax credits available for qualifying donations offered through Missouri Housing Development Commission (MHDC). If you have questions, contact Kippie Kutz, (417) 225-7416 (office), or Email kkutz@thekitcheninc.org. **Please discuss with your tax advisor the state tax benefits.**

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.


**SUMMIT KICKS OFF RENEWED FOCUS ON
EVANGELIZATION**

Continued from page 1

presented strategies for creating a catechesis that evangelizes.

"An evangelizing catechesis is focused on Jesus and living one's life in Christ. An evangelizing catechesis doesn't just explain but also proposes, it

provides opportunities to freely respond: it includes convicted testimony, and begins by helping catechists become curious," he said.

He shared a quote from Pope St. John Paul II, "The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ: only He can lead us to the love of the Father in the Spirit and make us share in the life of the Holy Trinity."

The breakout session, "Person to Person Evangelization," was presented by Ryan O'Hara, Content Director Saint Paul's Outreach, a national Catholic organization that ministers to college students on campus. His session focused on how individuals can evangelize, sharing the Gospel message, through small opportunities and encounters they have with others each day. He invited attendees to a series of reflections on their "inflection point," the season of life during which their faith accelerated the most; to describe their life and relationship with God before and after this inflection point; to determine the difference God has made in their life; and to use these reflections as the basis for reaching out to others.

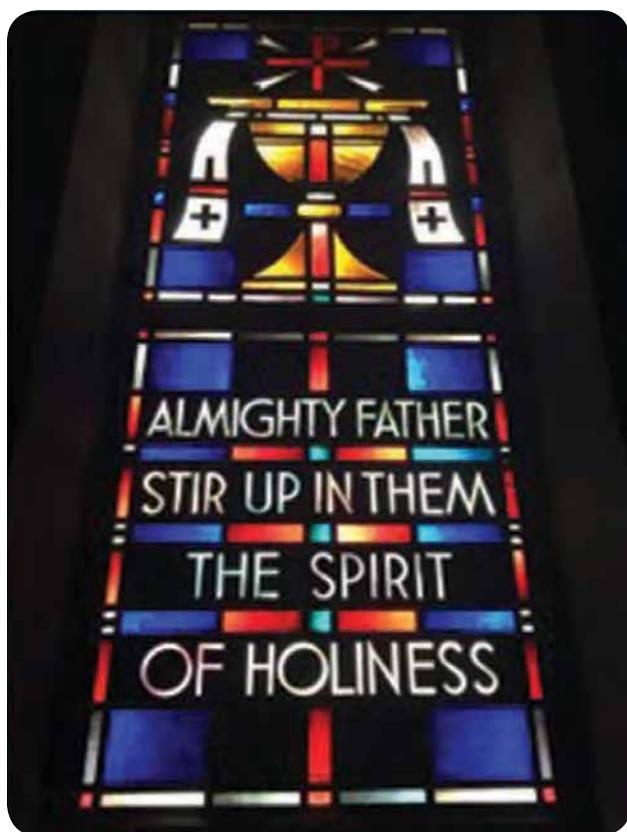
"The summit was right on target with the realities of today, and I am grateful to have attended it," stated an attendee.



PARISH TEAMS—Participants in the diocesan Evangelization and Discipleship Summit in Springfield shared ideas during a breakout session on Oct. 9 in Holy Trinity Parish. (Photo by Dean Curtis /The Mirror)

In addition to the speakers and sessions, parish council and ministry leaders were able to share ideas with each other. The enthusiasm was evident throughout the day, one attendee exclaimed, "I LOVED this summit and can't wait for next year!"

"We are at a critical moment in the Church of Southern Missouri and now is the time to move the parishes of our diocese from 'maintenance to mission' – there is no greater task before us," said The Most Rev. Edward M. Rice, Bishop, of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. There is work to be done and the Summit helped many see the challenges with fresh eyes and hearts; providing enthusiasm and new energy to begin. ©TM



Mountain Grove CCW makes spiritual retreat

By Andrea Gómez Ferguson

Mountain Grove, MO

The Sacred Heart Council of Catholic Women in Mountain Grove, MO, went on an amazing spiritual retreat Sept. 17-19 in honor of the Year of St. Joseph. They prepared for their journey by making a good confession, attending Mass, praying for the Pope's intentions, and receiving a blessing from Fr. Thomas Dharelli, HGN, parochial vicar. In this way, they were allowed to receive The Year of St. Joseph plenary indulgences at many of the stops.

On Friday the ladies toured and prayed the Litany of St. Joseph in the Shrine of St. Joseph in St. Louis, where the only authenticated miracle in the Midwestern United States occurred in 1862. They were privileged to pray over relics of St. Padre Pio and others. They then drove to St. Charles, Missouri to visit the Shrine of St. Rose Philippine Duchesne, co-patron of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, and French missionary religious Sister of the Sacred Heart. She brought formal education and zeal for sharing the love of God to the Missouri frontier in 1818. The women prayed at her gravesite and over her relics.

On Saturday, the ladies toured the grounds of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Snows in Belleville,

IL, and prayed a rosary with retired priest, Fr. Paul Wightman, OMI who served many years in Sacred Heart Parish, in Mountain Grove. He showed them around the retirement community of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate in Belleville. They then spent the afternoon with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet in St. Louis. The religious sisters came over from France to America in 1836 and continue the charism of profound love of God and love of neighbor without distinction. The women were able to say a special Prayer to St. Joseph with one of the sisters in the church. Next, they went to Mass in the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis, which is a beautiful manifestation of the Church's mission to invite all who visit it to open their hearts to Jesus.

Before returning home to Mountain Grove on Sunday, the ladies paid their respects to the deceased at the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in St. Louis. They also stopped to pray the Chaplet of St. Joseph in the Black Madonna Shrine and Grottoes in Pacific, MO, which was built entirely by hand by one religious brother. The ladies were deeply blessed and grateful to have had a weekend devoted to deepening their relationship with God and spiritual renewal. ©TM



SPIRITUAL RETREAT—The Council of Catholic Women of Sacred Heart Parish, Mountain Grove, went on a spiritual retreat Sept. 17-19 in honor of the Year of St. Joseph. Pictured were Barbara Graham, Margaret Miller, Sharon Long, and Andrea Ferguson in the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis. (Submitted photo)



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VOCATIONS: A calling for us all



VOCATION GOALS INSPIRE AND CHALLENGE DIOCESE

HULA-HOOPING PRIEST—Father Brian Straus dropped by for a visit in St. Mary Catholic School on Nov. 3. He spent time hula-hooping and playing football with students. Father Straus serves as one of three diocesan Vocation Promoters. He is also the Parochial Vicar of St. Peter the Apostle Church, Joplin, and Chaplain at McAuley Catholic High School, Joplin, and Chaplain of Catholic Campus Ministry at Missouri Southern University, Joplin. (Photo by Margie Black/The Mirror)

By Paula Wright Springfield

Twenty-five by 2025! That is the goal, and the challenge, for new priestly vocations within the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. Inspired by the need, as well as the hope stirred at the recent Priest Institute, The Most Reverend Edward M. Rice is calling on the diocese to take up the challenge, and he is laying a foundation to successfully achieve this goal: 25 men in seminary formation by the year 2025.

“Our speaker at the recent Priests Institute, Rhonda Gruenewald, author of *Hundredfold: A Guide to Parish Vocation Ministry* and founder of Vocation Ministry at vocationministry.com, really lit a fire under us about promoting vocations around us,” said Bp. Edward M. Rice. “She really instilled a hope in us that even in ‘these days’ or under ‘difficult circumstances,’ the Lord continues to call men and women to serve the Church as priests and consecrated religious ... and we need to cooperate with those calls.”

“Every person has a vocation, a universal call to holiness,” Gruenewald told The Mirror. “It is within that search for holiness that each human being finds his or her purpose in God, a vocation to the priesthood, consecrated life, sacramental marriage,” or the single life.

Further, “Through this vocation, we are sanctified in this life,” Gruenewald said. “Therefore, it is in the interest of everyone to foster a culture of

vocations!”

NEW ROLES FOSTER A CULTURE OF VOCATIONS

To increase reach and refocus energy on inviting vocations, Bp. Rice recently created the role of Vocation Promoters within the Office of Vocations and Seminarians, which Fr. Scott Sunnenberg serves as Director. Father Sunnenberg also serves as Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Bolivar, and St. Catherine Mission Church, Humansville.

“In these years of COVID, most seminaries have taken a hit in enrollment,” said Bp. Rice.

As a result of COVID restrictions, there have been fewer opportunities for seminary visits and other events supporting discernment, including our own diocesan St. Andrew Dinners for young men and Miriam Dinners for women.

“We know that we need to be more intentional about vocations and blanket our high schools and Catholic Campus Ministry settings, for example, with the intention to foster a climate of invitation and model of holiness [with the young], which is why we have three new Vocation Promoters,” said Bp. Rice.

The role of the Vocation Promoter is to:

- Assist in providing access to resources and guidance to help area Catholics discern God’s will for their life;
- Support local priests in

accompanying those who have thought to follow Jesus as consecrated persons, either as priests or religious;

- Work to bring the diocesan vocations efforts to local schools and parishes;
- Connect with local pastors and Catholic school principals to encourage a culture of vocations, especially through local events.

The new Vocation Promoters are:

- **Fr. Alex Sutachan**, serves as Chaplain at Notre Dame Regional High School, Cape Girardeau, and Parochial Vicar of St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Cape Girardeau;

- **Fr. Brian Straus**, serves as Chaplain at McAuley Catholic High School, in Joplin; Parochial Vicar of St. Peter the Apostle Parish, Joplin; and Chaplain of Catholic Campus Ministry at Missouri Southern State University, Joplin;

- **Fr. Daniel Belken**, Chaplain at Springfield Catholic High School, Springfield; Parochial Vicar of Immaculate Conception Parish, Springfield; and diocesan Associate Director of

Worship and Liturgy.

“Specifically we’ll be present in our schools and local parishes as a presence to ask a simple question: ‘Have you considered what God wants you to do with your life?’” said Fr. Belken.

PARISH-BASED VOCATIONS COMMITTEES

In addition to the new Vocation Promoters, the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau is forming Parish Vocation Committees within its parishes and missions.

“The work of promoting vocations to marriage, the priesthood, and religious life is not always an easy task for us to undertake,” said Bp. Rice. “The Scriptures tell us plainly that the harvest is abundant, but laborers are few. Laboring on our own (as clergy) will not be as effective as having parish communities involved in this effort.”

The Parish Vocation Committees are invited to attend a workshop, hosted by the Office of Vocations and Seminarians and presented by Rhonda Gruenewald. These follow-up workshops to the Priest Institute will equip the laity in their new roles. The Vocation Ministry HUNDREDFOLD Workshop in Springfield will be held on Sat., Dec. 4, at Holy Trinity



FR. ALEX SUTACHAN



FR. BRIAN STRAUS



FR. DANIEL BELKEN

‘Total abandonment’: LISTENING TO GOD’S CALL

by Paula Wright

Lincoln, NE

As a missionary, volunteer leader, for *Totus Tuus* (‘Totally Yours’) program in July 2019, the summer before her senior year at Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO), Emily Merz “fell in love with the total abandonment to the Lord I experienced. It was very freeing to me.”

This experience was the beginning of her response to God’s calling her to religious life.

Throughout her senior year of college, Merz found that the more she was open to what God was asking of her, the stronger the message and calling to religious life became. She had been dating, but that relationship ended.

“I continued praying and realized that ever since I was 16, I had been in and out of failed dating relationships, and these were part of God’s plan, to help me see his calling for me,” Merz said.

While attending college at SEMO, Catholic Campus Ministry, specifically the St. John Henry Newman Center, was an important part of her discernment and faith development.

“I can remember meeting people from the Newman Center my freshman year of college and I realized that they really cared about their relationship with the Lord,” Merz said. “I can remember my first visits and thinking, ‘WOW, these people are really Catholic and LOVE their faith!’”

She credits a lot of good friends and role models for their support as she explored and listened to God’s call to her. In addition, the access to priests at

the Newman Center helped support her in discerning her path to religious life.

Merz graduated in May 2020 from SEMO with a Secondary Education degree and spent a year teaching middle school English. Although she enjoyed teaching, the pull to religious life continued.

“A lot of my co-workers were married, but I felt God had a different plan for me, one that would make me happier in life,” Merz said. “I distinctly remember God asking me, ‘Why are you always saying no?’ I realized that to say ‘Yes’ to the call to religious life, a call of love, is a way to love him and be loved by him.”

This month, Emily Merz will enter the first-year discernment program at the School Sisters of Christ the King, a Roman Catholic community of women religious, in Lincoln, NE. The

transition program will prepare her for formation before entering the convent as a postulant in August, 2022. The School Sisters of Christ the King were founded in 1976 to support Sisters going back into Catholic schools as teachers, to provide witnesses of lives totally

I distinctly remember God asking me, ‘Why are you always saying no?’



VOCATION DISCERNMENT—This month, *Totus Tuus* missionary Emily Merz (far right) will enter the first-year discernment program at the School Sisters of Christ the King, a community of consecrated religious, in Lincoln, NE. Merz was active in the St. John Henry Newman Center, on the campus of Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau. (*The Mirror*)

dedicated to God.

“I felt called to continue in teaching and after Googling options, this religious community is the first that popped up in my search,” Merz said. “I researched others and made other visits, but when I visited the School Sisters of Christ the King, it felt like home. I knew this was the place for me.”

Based on her experience, Merz shared her thoughts on what the Church and Catholic community can do that will help young people hear God’s will for their life. She provided the following insights:

- **Promote a family rosary and family prayer.** Show your children your faith and relationship with God.

- **Parents: talk about God in your home,** this is so important to permeate your daily family life with recognition of and love for God.
- **Engage young people where they are:** at school and on social media.
- **Parishes: offer young adult nights with a Mass and/or Bible study or Adoration.** Provide a place for them to develop a relationship with God as well as with their peers.

Please pray for Merz, as she begins her life as God has called her. And please pray for all young people that they may hear and respond to God’s will for their life. ©TM

VOCATIONS *continued...*

Parish, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This workshop will include Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The Vocation Ministry HUNDREDFOLD Workshop held in Cape Girardeau will be on Sun., Dec. 5, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., in the St. John Henry Newman Center. This workshop will include Mass.

“The most positive movement from our workshops for vocations have come from rural dioceses just like Springfield-Cape Girardeau,” Gruenewald said.

“We have worked with over 50 dioceses so far and some are seeing great fruit, such as the Diocese of Stockton, CA, went from 0 to 7 seminarians in 22 months; Grand Island, NE, went from 1 to 9 seminarians in three years, and Ogdensburg, NY, went from 3 to 18 seminarians in three years.”

“Parishes, through their vocation committee, will spur all parishioners, in a variety of ways, to ask God, ‘What is your will in my life?’ If this

is done effectively across the diocese, discernment will be normalized and more men and women will say YES more easily,” said Gruenewald. “With the leadership of Bishop Rice and the priests, and help and support of parishioners, each new vocation committee or ministry at a parish can contribute to this goal of 25 by 2025. It is doable if every parish and school is intentional about helping youth and young adults to find how God is

calling them to serve him—priesthood, consecrated life, or sacramental heaven.”

“Vocations are out there,” said Bp. Rice. “The ‘25 by 2025’ initiative is the beginning of something great for the diocese.”

“We have a goal,” he said, “and let’s go after it.” ©TM



ANNUNCIATION AWARD—Harold Schott, Class of 1951, and the late Judy Schott, are the 2021 recipients of Notre Dame Regional High School's (NDHS) prestigious Annunciation Award. Pictured at the Oct. 22 event in the Jackson Civic Center were Jeff Schott, Harold Schott, Bishop Edward M. Rice, Tim Garner, Principal of Notre Dame Regional High School, Cape Girardeau, and Jesse Schott.

(Photo by Ann Hayes)

Schotts honored with 2021 Annunciation Award

By Ann Hayes

Cape Girardeau

Harold, '51, and the late Judy Schott are the 2021 recipients of Notre Dame Regional High School's (NDHS) prestigious Annunciation Award.

The honor was bestowed by the NDHS Education Fund Foundation Oct. 22 during a dinner program at the Jackson Civic Center.

The award is presented annually to individuals who have devoted immeasurable time, talent, or treasure to sustain Catholic secondary education in the community and whose presence, by word and deed, has enriched the lives of the students of Notre Dame and served as an example for all.

"Harold and Judy have supported Notre Dame Regional High school before their children Jeff Schott, Class of 1982, and their late daughter, Katherine Schott, Class of 1980, graced our halls on Ritter Drive," said Alex Jackson, Director of Development at

Notre Dame Regional High School. "And continued to support us past the graduation of their grandson Jesse Schott, Class of 2012. We are blessed to have such amazing benefactors supporting our efforts to spread the gospel one student at a time."

The couple's son, Jeff Schott, '82, said that while his parents never sought recognition, they were always supportive of Catholic education and that his father continues to believe in its value.

"Catholic education means enough to (Harold) that he is continuing to support it," despite it being nearly 10 years since his grandson Jesse completed his degree at NDHS, Jeff said. "He sees the benefit. That someone notices the importance that he places in it" is gratifying.

"Mom would have been very appreciative" too, Jeff said, adding his mother was a champion of Catholic education. "This would have meant a lot to mom."

Harold retired in 1982 from Schott

Electrical Distributors, a business his father, William B. Schott, founded in 1959 along with his children Dorothy Schott Holland, '54, a previous Annunciation Award recipient; Robert Schott ('57); and Harold. Upon Harold's retirement, his brother Robert became the company's sole owner until the business was sold in 1998 to SMC in Cape Girardeau.

A parishioner of St. Mary Cathedral, Harold is a member of the Knights of Columbus Council #1111, where he has given countless hours of service. He has been a member of the Knights of Columbus for more than 50 years, earning him the title of "Honorary Life Member." Harold is a past Grand Knight, a member of the Third Degree and is a "regular" at the KC Hall at 318 S. Spanish Street, where he serves as chief financial officer, overseeing a trust fund.

He has also been an avid golfer for nearly 50 years, playing an 18-hole round five days a week at Kimbeland Country Club in Jackson, MO. He has 13 holes-in-one to his credit, and with cart

covers and a propane heater, he plays year-round.

Harold's late wife, Judy, was a 1956 graduate of Cairo (IL) High School and a 1959 graduate of Holy Cross School of Nursing in South Bend, IN. The couple was married in 1960. Over her career, Judy served as a registered nurse at Saint Francis Healthcare System, a teacher at Metro Business College, program coordinator with the Muscular Dystrophy Association, and development director from 1993-1995 of the NDHS Education Fund Foundation.

She was devoted to a life of service. She helped coordinate the NDHS Golden Jubilee and was active with the Council of Catholic Women, the St. Mary Cathedral Parish Council, WISER Board Center, the Women's Center and the Safe House. She also served as president of the Saint Francis Medical Center Auxiliary from 1979-1984. She passed away in 2017.

In addition to their son Jeff, Harold and his late wife Judy are the parents of a late daughter, Katherine Schott, '80; grandparents to Jesse (Ciara) Schott, '12; and great-grandparents to Logan Schott, 2. ©TM

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NOVEMBER 21
WORLD DAY
of the POOR

Annual *Second Collection* for Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri

From the Executive Director

As we see the fall leaves changing colors, it triggers memories. For so many of the vulnerable individuals and families we served this past year, those memories are often of fear, loss of employment and income, lack of food, homelessness, depression and personal challenges, loss of childcare and more.



Maura Taylor

The COVID pandemic has left so many struggling and our mission focused staff have provided hope and worked holistically to assist our neighbors in need on a path to recovery and stability. The work has been difficult, because what we do can't be done remotely from home. Working with a homeless family or individual requires us to be present, listening to their personal story, working with them to reduce their barriers to housing and employment and walking alongside them as they work to achieve self-sufficiency.

The pandemic has required everyone to adapt and grow including us. In the last year, we started new programs to address gaps in services, especially for those impacted by the pandemic including opening a temporary emergency shelter for homeless families, which continues to operate and meet the growing need.

We do not do this work alone. Without the generous support of the Catholic community this ministry would not be possible. As Catholics we are called to serve, and we are blessed with donors and volunteers who share their time, talent and treasures to help those in need.

Pope Francis stated in 2016, "Let us open our eyes to our neighbor, especially to our brothers and sisters who are forgotten and excluded, to the 'Lazarus' at our door. That is where the Church's magnifying glass is pointed.... By right but also by evangelical duty, for it is our responsibility to care for the true riches which are the poor."

Please join with us in assisting our neighbors who are struggling every day to meet basic needs, by giving generously to the Second Collection for Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri the weekend of November 20-21.

SUNDAY
NOVEMBER
21



Visit us on Facebook to see
Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri's
ministry in action, through the words and
stories of the people we serve.

TYPE INTO YOUR INTERNET BROWSER
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NOVEMBER 21
SECOND
COLLECTION
for CATHOLIC CHARITIES
of SOUTHERN MISSOURI

Veteran Swaps Shed for Real Home

Sandy joined the U.S. Army to become self-reliant. "I didn't want to raise my son on welfare," she said. She served her country until mounting health problems resulted in an honorable medical discharge. Despite this setback, she still had hopes for a bright future with a career at a family counseling center and a nice home with her husband. "Well my life used to be somewhat luxurious compared to when I was homeless," she said. "I had nice cars and a nice home." The sudden passing of her husband led to deep depression and debilitating headaches. They worsened over the years, leading to homelessness and substance abuse. This resulted in a nomadic existence of depending on abusive strangers for housing. She would eventually be diagnosed with schizophrenia.

After nearly a decade of chaos and abuse, she landed on her grandmother's doorstep. Unfortunately, her grandmother was only able to offer her shelter in an outbuilding that did not have electricity or running water. With no other options, she moved in and lived there for five years.

During this time, her kidneys began to fail. As a result, she turned to the local Veterans Affairs office. They referred Sandy to Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri (CCSOMO). "When I first met Catholic Charities, my situation was pretty rough. Due to my schizophrenia, living in the shed was terrifying at night," she said. It was also humbling for her to live in a



A VETERAN'S HOME—Sandy lived in this ramshackle building without water or power for five years. "People probably don't want to believe that people live in sheds but it happens everyday in America" she said. (Photo courtesy of CCSOMO)

place with no utilities.

Beginning with the first visit, CCSOMO case manager, Carrie, enrolled Sandy into the Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program. Once enrolled, Carrie was able to work with Sandy to evaluate her needs and develop a plan for achieving and maintaining self-sufficiency.

Their first task was to locate and secure permanent housing. This assistance has transformed Sandy's life.

"Catholic Charities has helped me out a lot," Sandy said. "I didn't have money or anything saved up." CCSOMO funding was used to help pay deposits and the first month's rent. This is often an insurmountable barrier for many homeless individuals and families. With this assistance, Sandy was able to move into her new home.

CCSOMO also has provided Sandy with holistic case management to help her maintain long-term housing. For Sandy this meant assistance with the

coordination of VA benefits, access to health care, and community resources. The result is a transformed life after a decade of homelessness. Sandy is grateful for the help that has improved her mental and physical health. "My kidneys, they're healing," she said, with gratitude. "This help from Catholic Charities, has meant the world to me. Otherwise, I don't know where I would be, maybe the hospital or in jail," she said. "Now I have a home, where I can go to bed, and get up and prepare my meals, and just live a normal everyday life with my family. I'm very blessed and happy."

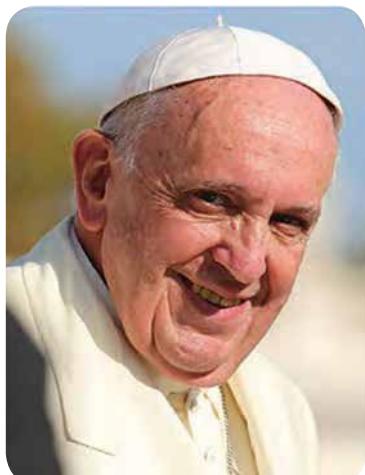
Thanks to the many supporters of Catholic Charities, Sandy once again has a bright future. ©TM

"When I first met Catholic Charities, my situation was pretty rough. Due to my schizophrenia, living in the shed was terrifying at night." - Sandy

NOVEMBER 21
WORLD DAY
of the POOR

The **poor** you will alw
Theme of Pope Francis for the

This year as every year, our Catholic community in southern Missouri has a special opportunity to answer Pope Francis' call to serve the poor: On this Fifth World Day of the Poor, join with parishioners across the Diocese to make a gift that changes the lives of our neighbors in need. Please give generously to the Second Collection for Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri.



Together – we are Reaching Out, Providing Hope, Changing Lives.

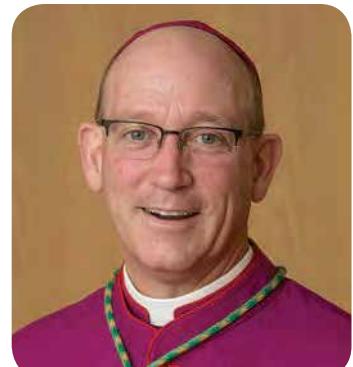
The poor, always and everywhere, evangelize us because they enable us to discover in new ways the true face of the Father. The poor are not people “outside” our communities, but brothers and sisters whose sufferings we should share, in an effort to alleviate their difficulties and marginalization. When we come together to care for the least among us, we care for Christ. ”

- Pope Francis, Message for Fifth World Day of the Poor, 2021.

Catholic Charities does not receive any funding through DDF. We depend on your Second Collection donations to deliver critical services across our diocese's 39 counties. On behalf of all those you will help in the coming year, *Thank you!*

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS
to CCSOMO stay in southern Missouri to help those in need.

“ We are called as Catholics to seek the Father and serve the poor. One of the ways we do this across our Diocese is through the programs and services of Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri. Join me on November 21 as One Church, East to West, in supporting Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri. Together, we can continue Reaching Out, Providing Hope, and Changing Lives. ” - Bishop Edward M. Rice / Springfield-Cape Girardeau



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Thank you!

ways have *with you.*

Fifth World Day of the Poor

NOVEMBER 21

SECOND
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for CATHOLIC CHARITIES
of SOUTHERN MISSOURI



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- Non-congregant Shelter Program
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NOVEMBER 21
WORLD DAY
of the POOR

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of SOUTHERN MISSOURI

Annual *Second Collection* for Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri

Reaching Out, Providing Hope, Changing Lives



SMALL BUSINESS OWNER RECOVERING FROM COVID—The pandemic has been hard on the world and immigrants like Blanca. Although a business owner, she needed help which she got from Catholic Charities. (Photo courtesy of CCSOMO)

Hope through much needed relief

As an immigrant to America, Blanca is no stranger to change. She is also a hard worker.

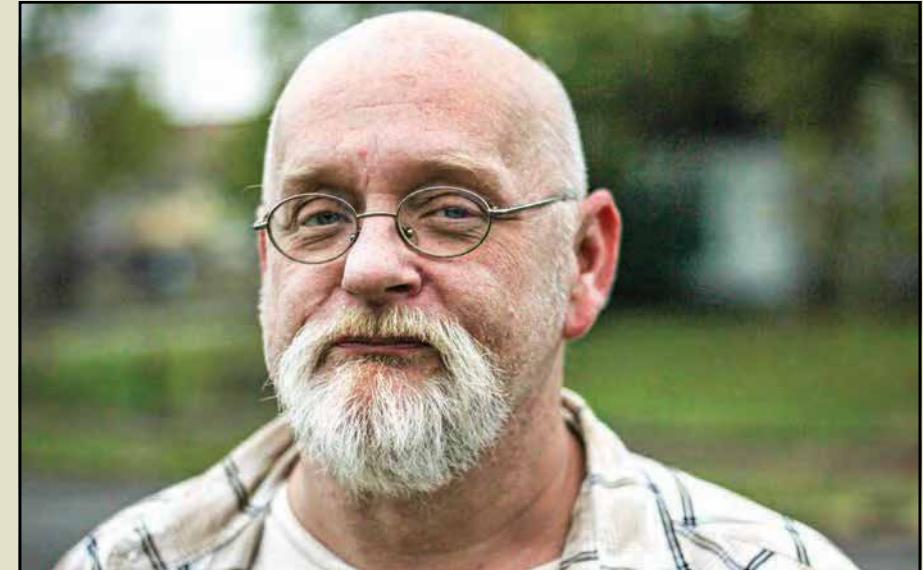
However, the 2020 pandemic was not her only difficulty last year. Along with losing her husband, she lost her income when the pandemic shut down their cleaning business. Then in July, she and her entire family contracted COVID. She is still recovering from long-term symptoms.

Living solely on her disability

income, she has been surviving on nine dollars a month after paying rent. "At any other time, my family would help with food and expenses," she said. "But they have been sick with COVID too."

CCSOMO has helped Blanca during this difficult time with payments for rent and utilities expenses. Blanca is hopeful that during this relief from crushing financial insecurity, her physical symptoms will resolve.

She plans to re-open her cleaning business by the Spring of 2022 and return to financial independence. ©TM



A LIFE BACK ON TRACK—Bill was a member of the middle class until he became homeless. "A good life is not a given. Anyone can lose that life," he said. (Photo courtesy of CCSOMO)

Life happens to all of us

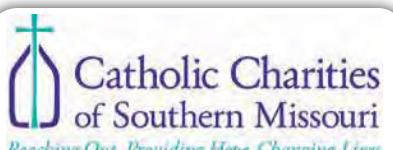
Bill finally comprehended his situation upon visiting a day care center for newly homeless people. "It was scary," he said, "but I learned to survive and how to find resources." While homeless, he also learned about the precariousness of all of our lives.

"Failing is a lot easier than success," Bill said, "and for people from the middle class it just takes a little longer." He admits his prior economic status was privileged. His fall opened his eyes to the fact that survival skills would have only led

to mere survival. To rise again and flourish, he would need help.

"Thanks to Catholic Charities giving without judgment, which is important because it's necessary, my rent is paid and I have a housing stability plan I am using to ensure employment, food security, and self-sufficiency," he said.

"I also have survivor's guilt," he said. "Like a lot of people, I never thought homelessness would ever happen to me. Now I know, you can never give enough and giving is the real reason I survived." ©TM



For households needing rent or utilities assistance, call (417) 268-9998 to schedule an appointment.



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

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

For more information, please contact the Office of Child and Youth Protection,
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Rosie Franck, rfranck@dioscg.org, (417) 866-0841.



'OFRENDA' IN CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY—Artwork and photos of deceased loved ones mark the 'Ofrenda' (altar) in St. Mary Catholic School, Joplin, which commemorates and honors the dead. (Photo by Margie Black/The Mirror)

Dia de los Muertos: souls remembered in Joplin

Joplin, MO

An 'ofrenda' (altar) is placed each year for Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) in St. Mary Catholic School, Joplin. Students, teachers, and families are invited to send pictures of their loved ones who have passed away to be placed on the altar. This is a beautiful way that people in Mexico, Latin America, and several other countries—including the United States—honor their loved ones who have died. This of course coincides with the Catholic Commemoration of the Faithful Departed (All Souls Day), also celebrated on Nov. 2 each year. On this day we especially remember and pray for the souls in Purgatory and all who have died.

The altar will remain available during all of November, the Month of the Holy Souls. ©TM



FAITHFUL DEPARTED—A third grader placed photos on the 'ofrenda' in St. Mary Catholic School, Joplin, of her grandparents who have died. The Catholic Church marks the Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day) each year on Nov. 2. (Photo by Margie Black/The Mirror)



Sr. Veronica Dao Do, CMR with Bishop Edward M. Rice and Bishop Emeritus John J. Leibrecht, and her family on the day of her final profession (June 12, 2021). (Submitted photo)

National Vocations Awareness Week

Nov. 7-13, 2021

GETTING TO KNOW US: CONGREGATION OF MARY, QUEEN

by Sr. Janine Tran, CMR

Springfield, MO

If you have ever gone to Mass at St. Agnes Cathedral Parish, in Springfield, it's hard to miss us. When we first came to Missouri from Australia, our convent was approximately 300 yards from the parish. In our current location, we are now 800 yards away. To those who saw us from afar, we are the "gray nuns," referring to our clothing. For those who work closely with us, they wonder why we are always laughing.

Joy is one of the distinctive qualities of our sisters, the Missionary Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of the World, because our spirituality is Evangelical Spiritual Childhood. We see ourselves as God's beloved children, trusting in his love and being totally consecrated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Mother and Queen. Our guide for living out this spirituality is St. Therese of Lisieux. This conviction calls us to embrace all things with joyful simplicity and to welcome challenges with trusting generosity.

Difficulties have not been few in our congregation's history. In 1670, we were initially established as the Lovers of the Holy Cross by Bishop Lambert de La Motte in Indochina, today Vietnam, to help evangelization efforts, serve "wayward" women, and care for the poor. Religious persecutions swept through the country and many of the

faithful were killed for their faith, including our sisters. Nevertheless, our congregation continued and in 1953, we were canonically erected as a religious institute. In 1954, our congregation migrated to South Vietnam, along with thousands of other Northern Vietnamese who did not wish to live under the Communist regime.

These were grueling years as we sought to put down new roots. The country was at war, there was barely enough to eat and rain brought leaking ceilings. In the same year of 1954, Fr. Bernard Hoàn Bùi, a priest of the Congregation of the Mother of the Redeemer, was sent to our congregation as a chaplain. Under his guidance, our congregation was revitalized and we received a new Constitution and a name change. We were now known as the Missionary Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of the World.

We saw God's fatherly care in the midst of all these sufferings and were further invited to recognize it as the political situation again changed. All of Vietnam became Communist in April 1975 and in the weeks preceding this event, our superiors decided to send a group of us to Australia. Communications between the motherhouse in Saigon and Australia were impossible because of Communist policies. We were welcomed by the Sisters of St. Joseph, learned English, and continued to live our charism of evangelical spiritual childhood,

communal life, and apostolic works in this new homeland. Today, we continue to have sisters in various dioceses throughout Australia.

In 1979, Cardinal Bernard Law, then Bishop of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, invited our sisters to this country to serve the newly arrived refugees from Vietnam. Through God's providence, the United States eventually became our third homeland. In 1986, the Holy See granted permission for us to be established as an American Region, with our motherhouse in Vietnam. We now have communities in Kansas City, MO, St. Louis, MO, and Irving, TX, with sisters serving in schools, hospitals, parishes, and wherever there is a pastoral need. In the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, our congregation of sisters run the Queen of Angels Daycare Center, serve in Immaculate Conception Catholic Elementary School, Springfield Catholic High School, in pastoral care at Mercy Hospital, and in ministry at diocesan offices of The Catholic Center.

GROWING VOCATIONS
Our experience is perhaps not unique to those displaced by war, famine, and poverty. Our hardships are particularly

not more distressing than those who try to be faithful to Jesus' teachings and life. Our story is perhaps most remarkable in that God has continued to bless our small community here in the United States with a small steady stream of vocations.

This past June, we had a sister make Perpetual Profession of Vows: Sr. Veronica Dao Do is from Albuquerque, New Mexico. She was starting a good job, active in her parish with the youth group, and well loved in her circle of family and friends. A chance encounter with one of our sisters nine years ago sparked

Our story is perhaps most remarkable in that God has continued to bless our small community here in the United States with a small steady stream of vocations.

something inside her.

"Perhaps I should give it a chance," Sr. Veronica told herself. The "it" was religious life. She visited our religious community for a "Come and See" retreat to discern God's plan for her life and realized fulfillment can be found in religious life.

Perpetual profession of vows is the final step in a sister's discernment journey. Depending on the community, perpetual profession takes place approximately 10 years after entrance into the community. When a sister makes perpetual profession, she tells God, her community, and the world,



OUR CONGREGATION here in the United States. (Submitted photo)

"I want to belong totally to God. There is no greater joy than this!" She knows there will be challenges and dark times. Every vocation has its crosses and trials, not just religious life. The 10 years of living the life has shown her that. Yet she "knows that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose" (Rom 8:28).

To hear this call and recognize it as coming from God is to discover one's vocation. All of us have the universal vocation to holiness. Each of us also has a specific vocation to the priesthood, religious life, marriage, or single life. For this reason, our congregation hosts two or three discernment retreats a year. We help young women discern, or listen to their heart's deepest longings, and ascertain how God is speaking through their dreams and hopes. The retreat is usually three to four days long and the young women have an opportunity to pray, eat, and live with the sisters.

As we celebrate National Vocation Awareness Week, our sisters give thanks to God for sending us young women to carry on the charism of the community: to remind the world of the joyful simplicity of being God's beloved children. We pray that young people will be open to God's call, wherever it may lead them: priesthood, religious life, single, or marriage. With St. Pope John Paul II, we also want to tell our young people: "Do not be afraid. Open wide the doors to Christ." ©TM

Sister Tran serves as diocesan Associate Director of Evangelization and Catechesis. She also serves her religious community as Director of Vocations. To learn more about the Congregation of Mary, Queen, visit: congregationofmaryqueen.org OR FB@congregationofmaryqueen.



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THE SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

Christ the King, now and forever

*Daniel 7:13-14;
Psalm 93:1, 1-2, 5;
Revelation 1:5-8;
John 18:33b-37*

On the last Sunday of the Church year, Nov. 21 in 2021, we celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. It is not easy for us, living in the 21st century, to appreciate the full meaning of this image. How is Christ our King? Can we appreciate the richness of this image? What do we think of when we hear the word "king"? How do we use it in our daily lives? What do we picture when we hear the word "king"?

In many cities and towns, you might notice a big sign upon which has the word "king" on it, but it isn't a religious sign. Rather, it is an ad for a fast-food place called, "Burger King." Are hamburgers the kings of our day? Some years ago, people would have widely thought you were talking about Elvis Presley if you referred to "the king." In stores, we have king crab, king salmon, and king-size beds. At casinos, people pray to see the king of hearts or the king of spades appear. Of course, on a chess board we have kings, queens, and even bishops. Years ago, when I was visiting a school, a third grader raised his hand and asked, "As a bishop, do you always move diagonally?"

Obviously, Jesus is not king in any of those fashions. Neither is Jesus the king in the fashion of the kings we know from literature or from history. He is not like King Lear in Shakespeare or Richard the Sec-



SCRIPTURE WISDOM

Abp. Jerome Hanus, OSB

ond. He is also not like King George III, whom we all remember from our study of early American history. Nor is Jesus a king like David or Solomon of the Old Testament.

But Jesus is still king. How precisely does Jesus want to be king?

It wasn't a title that he used in relationship to himself. In fact, in the Gospel, there is a definite reluctance to apply this title to Jesus. After he performed the great miracle of the multiplication of loaves and fishes, the people wanted to make him their king. We read in John's Gospel: "Since Jesus knew that they were going to come and carry him off to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain alone" (Jn 6:15).

There were certain aspects of being a king that Jesus did not want to apply to himself or to his followers. At one point, Jesus told his disciples, who asked whether they could have places of prominence and power in his kingdom, that this was totally inconsistent with his mission. Jesus said, "You know that those who are recognized as rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones make their authority over them felt. But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a

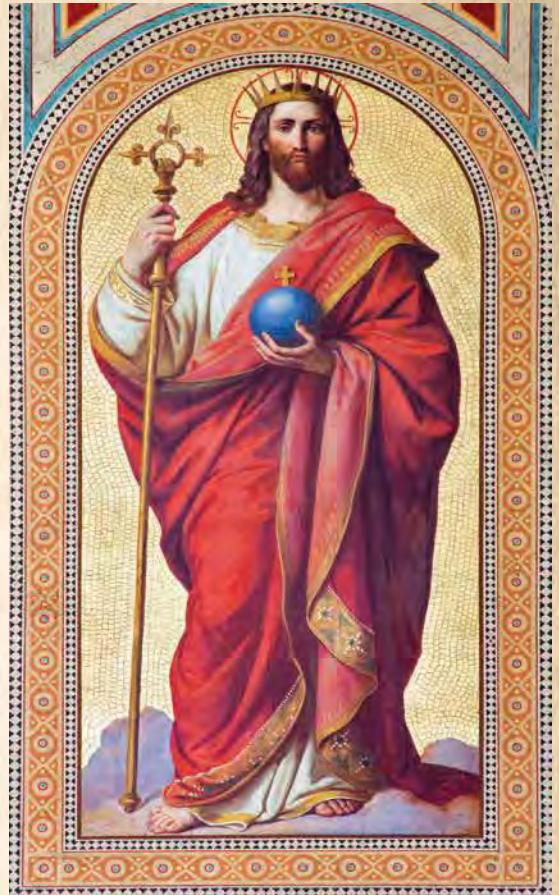
ransom for many" (Mk 10:42-45).

That is how Jesus is King: by giving his life for the people, dying on the cross to free us from our slavery to sin. When Pilate asked him, "Are you a king, then?" Jesus did not deny it. But he clarified it, explaining that he came into the world to give witness to God's faithful love for us, "to testify to the truth" (Jn 18:37). That is the kind of kingship Jesus exercises in the world and that he wants to exercise in us.

Celebrating the Feast of Christ the King, therefore, is an invitation to us to profess our faith in God and to say that we want God's will to govern our lives. If we do that, we will be worthy members of God's kingdom. We will be citizens of the holy nation which is the Church governed by Christ the King.

So, maybe the word, "king," is not something that is commonplace to Americans in 2021. But the religious truth celebrated in this feast is something that is very basic to our lives as Christians. It is, and must be, a daily reality in our spiritual lives. Each time we pray the Our Father, we give expression to this truth. We pray, "Thy Kingdom come!" We pray that the kingdom of God will happen in our lives.

How will that happen? Just remember the next line of the Our Father: "Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." We recognize the Kingship of Christ when we strive to know and accept Christ's will in our



lives. We pray, "Thy will be done." May it be so in our world, in the Church, and in the personal lives of each of us!

©TM

A monk of Conception Abbey, Archbishop Jerome Hanus, OSB, served as Archbishop of Dubuque, IA, from 1995 until his retirement in 2013. He is currently teaching as assistant professor of theology at Conception Seminary College in Conception, MO.

*This article first appeared in *Spirit and Life*, a bi-monthly magazine produced by the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in Clyde, MO. It is reprinted with kind permission. Learn more at benedictinesisters.org.*



1

St. Ann School celebrates All Saints

Carthage, MO—Students in St. Ann Catholic School, Carthage, MO, recently enjoyed the annual All Saints Celebration with crafts, games, costumes and a costume contest. Father Francisco "Paco" Gordillo serves the community as pastor; Fr. Jose Marino Novoa, CMF, is the parochial vicar; and Mikelle Cortez is principal of the school. (*The Mirror*)

1 Students playing the St. Katrina Tekakwitha 'Bow and Arrow' Knock Down the Cups. (*The Mirror*)

2 Preschoolers Madaline and Carlos created their own pumpkins. (*The Mirror*)

3 Father Jose Marino Novoa, CMF, posed with costume winners: 1st place St. Michael (Walter); 2nd Place Guardian Angel (Alan); 3rd Place St. Michael (Joshua) (*The Mirror*)

REFLECTION ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

O Come, O Come Emmanuel & Our Soul's Response!

Jeremiah 33:14-16;
Psalm 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14;
1 Thessalonians 3:12 - 4:2;
Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

On Nov. 28, the First Sunday of Advent, Holy Mother Church celebrates the beginning of a new liturgical year, as she renews the annual observances of various liturgical seasons, feast days, and devotions. Each year, the faithful meditate and live out the mysteries of the faith as revealed in sacred Scripture by concentrating on the four Gospels—as emphasized by one of three of the holy evangelists—with John pervading throughout every Easter. This Advent, our concentration is on the Gospel writer, St. Luke. The invitation message of the Season of Advent is about the harmonious interplay of Christ who came once in time and will come again at the end of time. We make the corresponding response of coming close to him in this lifetime in his earthly kingdom so as to come to be completely with him at the end of our lives in his heavenly kingdom. The responsorial psalm on this First Sunday of Advent fully contains the people of God's response to the two-fold coming of Christ: "To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul."

Hidden within this psalm is the impetus for the Church's creation of

**SCRIPTURE WISDOM****Fr. William Hennecke, Jr.**

the ancient "O Antiphons." These antiphons were believed to have originated as early as the 8th century as a liturgical composition to be sung for preparation of Christ's first coming at Christmas. They also interpreted Christ's second coming at the end of time. Each verse of the "O Antiphons" addresses our Savior with a different title from Scripture: **Key of David**, or, **Rod of Jesse**. In my childhood and adolescent years growing up at St. Mary Cathedral in Cape Girardeau, I remember very well my mother taking my sister and I to experience and hear these Advent hymns sung for eight days as an octave leading up to Christmas. Most familiar of these is **Veni, Veni Emmanuel**, or, **O Come, O Come Emmanuel**. The responsorial psalm, "To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul" parallels this traditional Advent hymn. This Advent hymn is filled with the longing and expectation of both the Old Testament people as they waited in desolate exile for the coming of the Messiah. Psalm 25 contains the timeless response of humanity to search for a Savior. Just as the formation of the Book

of Psalms were believed to have been temple songs composed for worship for the Israelites, so the "O Antiphons" are songs of worship today. They retell both the titles of the Lord and the prophecies of the coming of the Messiah by Isaiah the Prophet. The eight days of the "O Antiphons" are **O Sapientia** (Wisdom), **O Adonai** (Lord and Ruler), **O Radix Jesse** (Root of Jesse), **O Clavis David** (Key of David), **O Oriens** (Dawn of the East), **O Rex Gentium** (King of the Gentiles), and **O Emmanuel** (God with Us). Each one of these titles draws us closer to encountering Jesus at the Advent of his Nativity and to anticipate his final Advent.

Our response to Advent then is to lift up our souls.

There is a force within us that encourages us to open ourselves to this communion with God at Christmas.

The word "psalm" is from the Greek language which means, "twitching or twanging with the fingers." This refers to the action of musical strings resonating or vibrating. Both the psalms and "O Antiphons" beautifully embody the meaning of Advent seen in this interplay of a musician plucking the strings to create music. This is like the encounter of God and all of humanity. This encounter of the coming of Salvation in Jesus allows us to lift up our soul!

As in both the psalms that we hear at Mass, and the "O Antiphons," later sung in Advent, become a resonating movement and a harmonious expression of communion, Christ is coming closer to us. May the birth of Christ this Christmas be for ourselves a coming ever closer to the encounter with Christ in a more intimate, more joyful, and more perfect way! ©TM

Father Hennecke is the Pastor of the Catholic Church of Our Lady of the Cove in Kimberling City, Missouri.

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St. Joseph (Billings) with Fr. Suganthan Selvin, HGN.
(Submitted photo)



St. Joseph (Scott City) with Fr. Michael Castell. (Submitted photo)



St. Joseph (Advance) with Fr. Glenn Eftink. (Submitted photo)

Nappers complete St. Joseph Pilgrimage IN THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

Billings, MO

Pat and Peggy Napper, parishioners at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Billings, MO, recently completed the Year of St. Joseph pilgrimage visiting all six St. Joseph parishes in the diocese and attending Mass there. Following Mass, the priests were very happy to take a photo with them. The Nappers enjoyed their pilgrimage and made many wonderful memories in their travels across the diocese. They were welcomed at each parish warmly and graciously. They were so glad that they were able to make this pilgrimage in the very special Year of St. Joseph. The Year of St. Joseph ends on Dec. 8, 2021, on the Solemnity of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. ©TM



St. Joseph (Ozark) with Fr. Andrew Williams.
(Submitted photo)



St. Joseph (Springfield) with Fr. David Miller, retired (a visiting priest the weekend the Nappers were there).
(Submitted photo)



St. Joseph (White Church) with Fr. Sherman Wall, OMI.
(Submitted photo)



#iGIVECATHOLIC

November 30, 2021

Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau

#iGiveCatholic is a 24-hour Online giving event for the faithful in (arch)dioceses across the nation to unite and raise as many charitable dollars as possible for our participating Catholic parishes, schools, and ministries on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving. This easy, secure, and exciting event offers parish leaders a golden opportunity to fund needed projects such as additional funding of a food pantry, building a needed storage shed, sponsoring a student or two in the parish Catholic school, or sending a youth group to a conference.



Scan the QR code or go to springfieldcg.igivecatholic.org on Nov. 30 when donations for the #iGiveCatholic campaign will be accepted at iGiveCatholic.org from midnight to 11:59 PM CST.

Early Giving Begins Nov. 15

#GIVINGTUESDAY



ST. JOSEPH, PATRON OF THE DYING AND SOLACE OF THE AFFLICTED

How did St. Joseph become known as the "Patron of the Dying" or "Happy Death"? There is nothing recorded in Scripture about how or when St. Joseph died. The last time the Gospels mention St. Joseph is when Jesus was lost in the temple for three days. Therefore, tradition has St. Joseph passing away before Jesus' public ministry. He had a "happy death." This does not mean he had the emotion of being glad or cheerful. It was probably the opposite. St. Joseph most likely would have been worried about Jesus and Mary because he could no longer provide for them. His happiness or blessedness belonged in having Jesus and Mary at his side.

In this month of November, we are called to reflect upon the mystery of death and how "life has changed, not ended" (Eucharistic Prayer for the Mass for the Dead). We look upon St. Joseph as the model of how to welcome eternal life, to invite Jesus and Mary to be at our side in the last moments of this earthly life.

ST. JOSEPH ACTIVITY PACK

We do not know much about St. Joseph. However we do know that he is a model of trust. Celebrate the life and example of St. Joseph with activities from Loyola Press. Email address registration is required.



The pack includes:

- a puzzle to color
- a word search
- a family game idea
- exploration of lessons Jesus would have learned from his parents.

10 ACTIVITIES FOR CATHOLIC FAMILIES IN NOVEMBER

- Find age-appropriate science activity to celebrate St. Albert the Great, patron of scientists (Nov 15)
- Bake a King Cake to mark the Feast of Christ the King (Nov 21)
- Attend a musical performance to honor St. Cecilia, patron saint of music (Nov 22)
- Make a Thankful Turkey project

All Activities are Printable
Noviembre de Actividades
para Las Familias Católicas



Saint Joseph is most powerful against the demons which fight against us at the end of our lives.

- St. Alphonsus de Liguori

ST. JOSEPH MASS



Join Bishop Rice at Immaculate Conception in Springfield on Dec. 8th at 5:30 p.m. to celebrate the Closing Mass for the Year of St. Joseph.



PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH FOR A HAPPY DEATH

O Blessed Joseph, who died in the arms of Jesus and Mary, obtain for me, I beseech you, the grace of a happy death. In that hour of dread and anguish, assist me by your presence, and protect me by your power against the enemies of my salvation. Into your sacred hands, living and dying, Jesus, Mary, Joseph, I commend my soul. Amen.



PODCAST SERIES ON ST. JOSEPH

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YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

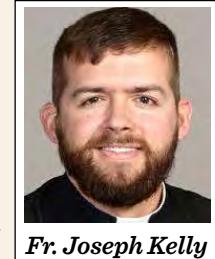


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St. Joseph's Corner Year of St. Joseph

The Holy Cloak of St. Joseph



Fr. Joseph Kelly

A short time ago, I went to visit a very close friend who is the pastor of two parishes in another diocese. On my visit, we were walking through one of his parishes, named after St. Therese of Lisieux, and as we walked through the church I noticed a beautiful statue of St. Joseph that my friend had recently obtained. What was unique about the statue was the fact that St. Joseph was wearing the brown Carmelite habit, with the main part of his body shrouded in a light-brown cloak. Come to find out, the Carmelites have a tradition of including the 'cloak of St. Joseph' in their artwork and statuary, his cloak being a symbol of safety and paternal protection.

Fr. Donald Calloway comments on the 'Holy Cloak' of St. Joseph in his book, *Consecration to St. Joseph*:

"Similar to Mary shielding her children under her maternal mantle, St. Joseph lovingly protects his children under his fatherly cloak. In Catholic devotion, those who love St. Joseph will sometimes pray the Holy Cloak Novena [...] The Holy Cloak Novena is considered one of the most efficacious novenas in the treasury of the Church" (pp. 107-108).

Ordinarily, a novena is prayed for 9 days, but the Holy Cloak novena is prayed for 30 days in honor of the number of years St. Joseph spent with Jesus in this life! How beautiful! Here is an excerpt from the Holy Cloak Novena prayer:

"O Glorious St. Joseph [...] Look upon me as one of your children; defend me from the treachery of my enemies, invisible or otherwise, assist me at all times in all my necessities; console me in the bitterness of my life, and especially at the hour of my death. Say but one word for me to the Divine Redeemer whom you were deemed worthy to hold in your arms, and to the Blessed Virgin Mary, your most chaste spouse. Request for me those blessings which will lead me to salvation. Include me amongst those who are most dear to you and I shall set forth to prove myself worthy of your special patronage. Amen."

Let us all seek to place ourselves under the Holy Cloak of St. Joseph and receive his fatherly protection! ©TM

Fr. Kelly is the pastor of Guardian Angel Parish, Oran, MO, and St. Ambrose Parish, in Chaffee.

Masses for the —Year of St. Joseph—

Dec. 8, 2020-Dec. 8, 2021

Bishop Rice will preside at the following Masses to celebrate the Year of St. Joseph in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau:

St. Joseph School Mass, Springfield Fri., Dec. 3 8:30 am

Immaculate Conception, Springfield* Wed., Dec. 8 5:30 pm

*Closing Mass for the Year of St. Joseph. Live-streamed on diocesan Facebook page.



"Show yourself a father, and guide us in the path of life."

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man.

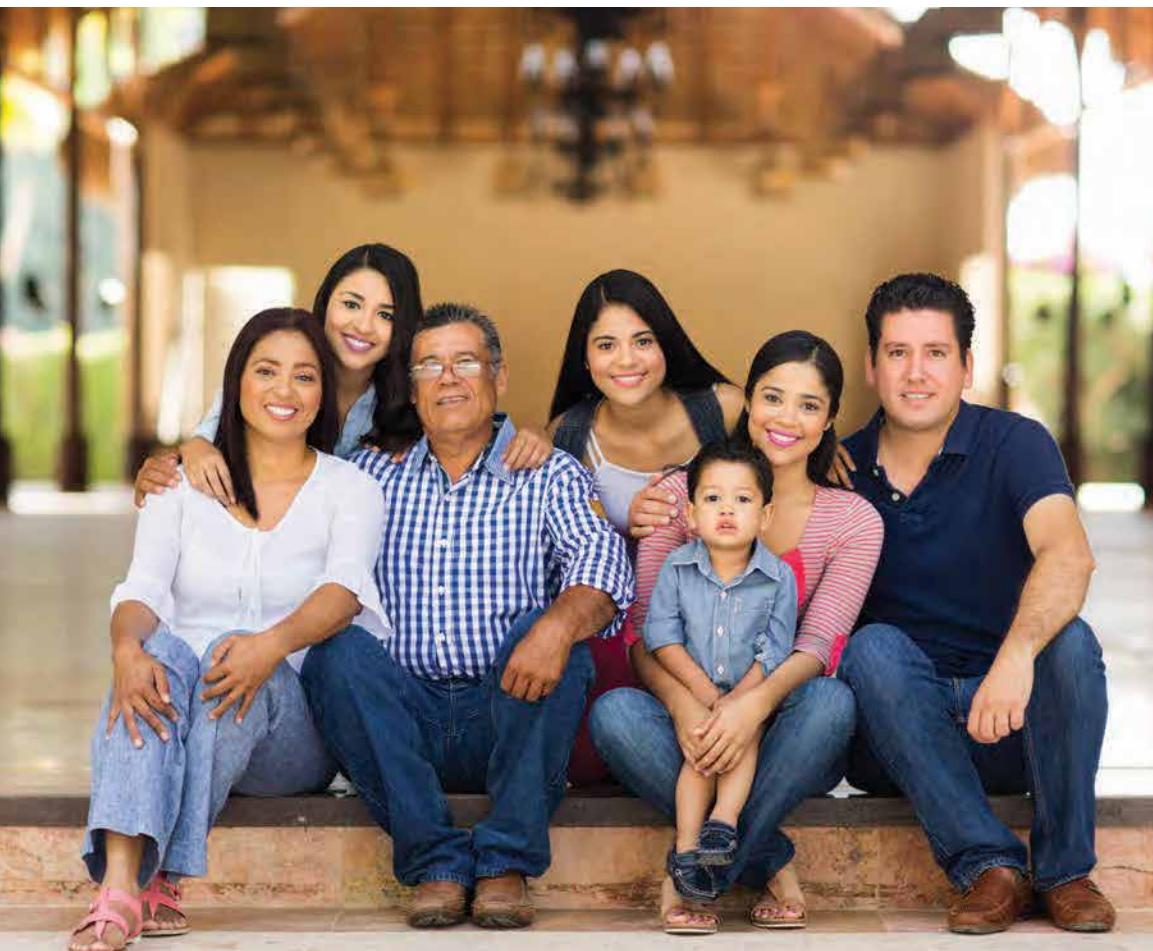
Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage, and defend us from every evil.



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