

Grateful for Our Past...Preparing for Our Future

CAPITAL ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN CONCLUDES

by Paula Wright

Springfield, MO

This year marks the conclusion of the historical Capital Endowment Campaign, the first diocesan-wide capital campaign conducted in the 64-year history of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. What a success it has been! In 2015, three areas were identified as having a primary need for endowed funds support—Vocations, Youth Formation, and the Diocesan Priests' Retirement. The goal of the Capital Campaign was \$15 million, with the hope of having \$5 million in each of the three endowments. True to form, the generosity of the people of southern Missouri was magnificent: Currently, a total of \$22.2 million has been pledged to the three endowment funds.

"The biggest factor in the success of the Capital Endowment Campaign was the overwhelming participation by the Catholics in southern Missouri," said Doug Kissinger, diocesan Director of Development and Properties. "I'm not sure anyone anticipated how strongly the people would embrace this effort."

"Next, you have to credit Bp. Johnston and Bp. Rice for their vision and leadership," Kissinger said. "A big thank you goes to my predecessor, Dr. Gene Aug, for putting a great campaign team together."

The Capital Endowment Campaign started in the Fall of 2015 with the major gift phase. This phase yielded 500 gifts totaling \$8.9 million—not a bad start. About this time, Bp. Johnston was called to serve in the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph.

The Church of Southern Missouri was without a bishop until June 1, 2016, with the installation of Bp. Rice as its Seventh Bishop.

The Parish Phase of the campaign was conducted in three different time frames, moving across the diocese from east to west, beginning in January of 2016 and concluding in March of 2017. In total, 8,772 donors have participated in the Capital Campaign, with a 39 percent household participation, a high level for any diocesan campaign.

THREE ENDOWMENTS

The Capital Endowment Campaign supports three endowment funds: The Seminarian Endowment Fund, the Youth Formation Endowment Fund, and the Priests Retirement Endowment

fund, all of which are professionally managed. As of now, the Seminarian Education Fund is valued at \$7.3 million. Since September of 2018,

\$545,000 has been allocated to seminarian education from

the Diocesan Vocations operating budget.

The diocese currently has 20 retired diocesan priests and at this time it has not been necessary to use funds from the endowment. It is anticipated that distributions from earnings will be necessary in the future as the number of retired priests grows. Currently the market value for the Priests Retirement Fund is \$7.9 million.

The Youth Formation Endowment fund is at \$7.4 million. The endowment has helped fund youth involvement in the

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many thanks go out to Bishop James V. Johnston, Bishop Edward M. Rice, and retired Bishop John J. Leibrecht for their vision and leadership, as well as to the Priests Committee, Capital Campaign Staff and The Catholic Center Staff for their hard work and dedication.

Acknowledgements go to

Most Reverend Edward M. Rice

Most Reverend James V. Johnston, Jr.

Most Reverend John J. Leibrecht

Rev. David F. Hulshof, Clergy Coordinator

Priests Committee

The Very Rev. Shoby M. Chettiyath

Msgr. Thomas E. Reidy

Rev. J. Fergus Monaghan

Rev. Rick L. Jones

Rev. John "J" Friedel

Rev. Allan L. Saunders

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Donna Chandler, Campaign Secretary

Doug Kissinger, Director, Office of Development & Properties



MASS OF THANKSGIVING—The first of a series of Masses of Thanksgiving was held July 7 in St. John Vianney Church, Mountain View. This year marks the conclusion of the historical Capital Endowment Campaign, the first diocesan-wide capital campaign conducted in the 64-year history of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. True to form, the generosity of the people of southern Missouri was magnificent: Currently, a total of \$22.2 million has been pledged to the three endowment funds: Vocations, Youth Formation, and Priests' Retirement. *(The Mirror)*



The next issue of **The Mirror** will be **July 22, 2022**. Sign up to receive the diocesan newspaper via Email in digital format: Contact Debbie Thompson at (417) 866-0841, or Email: dthompson@dioscg.org.



COME, AND YOU WILL SEE

Bp. Edward M. Rice

Life is victorious

In a recent homily, I cited 139 attacks on Catholic Churches in the United States in the past two years, saying that these events are going to get worse depending on the Supreme Court decision regarding *Roe v Wade*. After Mass, a lady approached me and asked me if I ever preach on gun control and banning AK47's. My response was from the heart – there are 23 elementary and three high schools in our diocese and along with our various parish-based PSR programs. I am sure that all parents send their children to the parish school with the expectation that while they are at the parish, they are safe. And, we do our best to provide a safe environment for religious formation and education. At the same time, we all read the headlines and know of the recent devastating loss of 19 young lives and two adults at Robb Elementary in Uvalde, TX, along with the broken families. Am I wrong to say that all parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles want a safe environment where students can grow in the faith and learn?

And it is not only in schools. Recently just going to the store for groceries or anywhere in public can expose us to violence. Bishop Shawn McKnight, the Bishop of the Diocese of Jefferson City, Missouri, in his column in *The Catholic Missourian*, the Catholic paper of the Diocese of Jefferson City, stated, "While the root causes of these recent tragedies are

legion, society has every obligation to improve gun safety as prudence would dictate." Does anybody disagree with that statement? If you do, you probably don't have children or grandchildren. And while I don't have children or grandchildren, I have just under 7,000 students that come to our parishes on a weekly basis for religious formation, to say nothing of the families who come to a parish on weekends for Holy Mass and other events.

May our country live up to the highest standards of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."



May Our Lady of Mount Carmel (July 16) draw us closer to her Son.

With the various shootings in our country, people have begun to criticize the Hollywood entertainment industry for glorifying the use of weapons in movies. When we see so much violent carnage on film, we can easily become desensitized. Then, when we see the actual devastation of war in Ukraine, or hear of actual acts of violence in our own country, we become so immune that it does not affect us. It is very easy to see the images of war in Ukraine and think it's a videogame. It is not a videogame! This is real life—life and death—played out in the lives of people who were devastated at the loss of loved ones.

The same can be said about abortion. Over the past 49 years since the 1973 *Roe v Wade* decision legalized

abortion, we have become desensitized to this loss of life. It is not a "health care" procedure – it is the taking of a human life. And I am reminded on a regular basis of the quote of Ronald Reagan on a billboard along Highway 55 in southern Missouri, "All of those for abortion have already been born." When we fail to see the dignity of human life in the womb, and when we fail to protect life when it is the most vulnerable, we will continue to

go down the slippery slope where we all lose our dignity, all of us become impoverished and human life – whether in the womb, or special needs, or the elderly—is all the more vulnerable to being part of a throwaway culture.

The Diocese of Springfield – Cape Girardeau does so much to help women in need. In a recent column, I outlined the many programs throughout southern Missouri such as LifeHouse Crisis Maternity Home in Springfield, LifeHouse being built in Cape Girardeau, Mother's House in the Bootheel, Whole Family and Whole Kids Outreach and Casa Guadalupe in Ellington, and more. I have challenged our parishes to be "islands of mercy" to respond to women in need. And, regardless of the decision of the Supreme Court, we will continue to offer not just services and goods to those in need, but more importantly, the dignity and respect that all humans deserve. Life is victorious! ©TM



2022 DIOCESAN DEVELOPMENT FUND

One Church, East to West
COMMUNITIES ON A
MISSION

As of **June 30, 2022**,
84 parishes reported
5,884 pledges totaling
\$2,513,477 or **90%** of
the **2022 DDF** goal.



Thank you!



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

Bishop John Leibrecht recently celebrated his 37th anniversary of his episcopal consecration, which was on Dec. 12, 1984. Before his retirement as the Fifth Bishop of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, he wrote a standing column in *The Mirror* entitled, "Walking Together." At the end of each article, Bp. Leibrecht would normally share a funny story referencing his travels to the schools, or time with friends, family, or other bishops. *The Mirror* has decided to share a few of these in an ongoing series entitled, "Another walk through: 'Walking Together.'" We hope you enjoy them.

February 13, 1987 In Cape Girardeau, I had a Mass with children in grades 1-5 from St. Mary's and St. Vincent's. I asked the children a series of questions: Do you like being in a Catholic school? The children responded enthusiastically with yes, yes and their heads bobbed up-and-down to emphasize their yeses. Except for one little guy in the front pew. He shook his head "no" to every question I asked. And he did it with a big smile on his face while looking me right in the eye (I said a special prayer for that little fellow's parents. I suspect they have their hands full!).

February 20, 1987 Last week *The Mirror* carried the story of Father Tom Donnelly's death and burial. In his last months of growing weakness and increasing physical limitations, Father Donnelly never lost his sense of humor. Going into his room one afternoon at Mercy Villa, I

found Father in bed with many tubes attached to his body and several pieces of equipment working to make him more comfortable. It was quite a maze! His eyes were closed so I touched his shoulder. Opening his eyes, he grinned: "Oh, bishop! Pardon me for not getting up."

March 6, 1987 Ideas are funny things. They never work unless you do!

March 13, 1987 When Confirmation candidates approach me at Mass to have their foreheads anointed with the holy chrism, they began by saying: "Bishop Leibrecht, I wish to be confirmed with the name of..." (saying the name they have chosen). Or, some say: "Bishop John, I wish to be confirmed with the name of..." Recently, one young man must have been a little nervous because he began: "Pope John, I wish..."

CAPITAL ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN CONCLUDES ...Continued from page 1

Steubenville Mid-America Youth Conferences, Totus Tuus, National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC), Diocesan Youth Conference (DYC), and many additional youth programs. Since 2017, this fund has contributed \$820,000 to various youth programs. Thousands of youth in our diocese have already benefited from the endowment.

"The Youth Endowment Fund, formed from the Capital Campaign has enabled the youth of our diocese to participate in more youth activities than ever before," said Lynn Melendez, diocesan Director of Evangelization, Family Life, and Youth Ministry. "It has also given parishes and schools the incentive to dream of new ways to minister with youth, knowing they will have financial support to start making those dreams a reality."

"As this very successful Capital Campaign draws to a close, it is so encouraging to know that the three identified needs of the diocese that the campaign was to address have not only been met for today but for the future as well," said Janet L. Smith, diocesan Director of Finance. "The diocesan clergy retirement fund now has a consistent source of revenue to help fund pensions and other retired clergy needs. The Vocation Office can feel secure in knowing that there are funds to cover multiple seminarian tuition and room and board costs each year and now there is no financial excuse for youth to not be able to attend conferences, retreats, and workshops because the Youth Formation Endowment Funds are there for the asking."

All these needs are being met with the earnings on the endowments so the principal will continue to be managed

MASSES OF THANKSGIVING

To celebrate the successful conclusion of the first ever Capital Endowment Campaign, Bishop Edward M. Rice and the Priests Campaign Committee invite everyone to attend a Mass of Thanksgiving followed by a dinner reception at various parishes in the diocese. Mass will begin at 5:30 pm. Please RSVP at the parish if you plan to attend dinner. Masses will be celebrated in the following parishes:

July 14
St. Mary, Joplin

RSVP for dinner to (417) 623-3333 or
Church@stmarysparishjoplin.com

July 19
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Springfield

RSVP for dinner to (417) 887-6472 or
parishinfo@seaschurch.org

July 27
St. Vincent de Paul, Cape Girardeau

RSVP to (573) 335-7667 or
contactus@svparish.com

professionally providing much needed funds, Smith said.

"The generosity of the people in the diocese is nothing short of amazing," said Smith. "It's been my privilege to see the campaign go from a hopeful prayer to a prayer answered."

"As we bring the Diocesan Capital Campaign to a close, I, as the bishop, gather at the altar with a grateful heart," said Bp. Edward M. Rice. "I'm grateful not for the financial success of the Capital Campaign as much as I am grateful for the generosity of our people and the consequences of that generosity. This successful campaign will stabilize our diocese for years to come."

The diocese is very blessed by the generosity and support of each parish and mission. If you can, please join us at an upcoming Mass of Thanksgiving to celebrate the success of the campaign.

"We can never thank God enough for his goodness to us," said Bp. Rice. "What we can do is gather at the altar, raise the chalice of salvation, and call upon His name in gratitude." ©TM

Seven Sisters Apostolate recommit in Webb City



2022 SEVEN SISTERS APOSTOLATE AT SACRED HEART PARISH—Prayer sisters pictured include Terrian Williams, Paula Kamler, Judy Clarkson, Carleen Herbert, Anchoress of Fr. Sutachan Group, and Shannon Newland. Not pictured is Carla Liby. Fr. Gordillo Group: Debbie Streeter, Cathy Spencer, Stephanie Attaway, Anchoress of Fr. Gordillo Group, Linda Cushing, and Laurel Smith. Not pictured: Carol Chapman and Mary Poage. (Submitted photo)

Webb City, MO

Groups of women at Sacred Heart Parish, Webb City, recently committed for another year of service to the Seven Sisters Apostolate during the annual consecration service held during Mass on the Feast of the Sacred Heart to pray for Fr. Francisco "Paco" Gordillo, Fr. Alex Sutachan, and Bishop Edward M. Rice.

"Our priests and bishops are in the middle of a great spiritual battle and they need our help," said Stephanie Attaway. "They feel the tugs of the world in their hearts, minds, souls, and bodies as the evil one fights for their souls and ours."

"Right now, in our post-Christian culture, they need our prayers and fasting more than ever before," Attaway said.

Founded in 2016, the Webb City group was the first Seven Sisters Apostolate in Missouri.

"The first priest we prayed for was [then-pastor] Fr. Rahab Isidor," Attaway said.

The Seven Sisters are arranged with an Anchoress who organizes, informs, and encourages the other six sisters within the group. The Anchoress is the liaison between the pastor and the group,

communicating his prayer requests and needs for which to pray.

"The Seven Sisters sustain me and uplift me when I need it the most. I am so grateful for their spiritual support and encouragement," said Fr. Gordillo, who also serves as Pastor of St. Ann Parish, in Carthage, MO. "I know I have a group of friends and sisters who love me and love my priesthood so much. Their prayers are critical in my life and ministry. It's so comforting to know that when I am busy and dealing with my ministry, there's one of the Seven Sisters in front of the Blessed Sacrament or at home praying for me. The only thing I know is that I need their prayers more than they need mine. I feel loved, cared, protected, and armed because their prayers."

Want to form a Seven Sisters group in your parish? Just start with a visit to the Website, sevensistersapostolate.org. Then share with other ladies in the parish and find those who would like to commit. When ready, contact the apostolate and provide simple information and start praying. The apostolate also provides all its resources in Spanish. Many resources are provided for free and are printable from the Website. ©TM

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The Church of Southern Missouri was blessed at Easter 2022 with the entrance of approximately 188 “new” Catholics who participated in sacraments of initiation during the Easter Vigil in our parishes and missions. Many journeyed to full membership in the Catholic Church through a local Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) program. The Mirror recently spoke with six new members of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, four of which were featured in the June 24 issue. **Here are the remaining two stories!**



Shouyan Tang

Sacred Heart Parish, Webb City, and family

Shouyan Tang, a Sacred Heart Church, Webb City, RCIA candidate, was born and grew up in Asia. After college, she had a job teaching Mandarin to “Westerners.”

Through this experience she gained American & European friends and was impressed with the way they interacted with her.

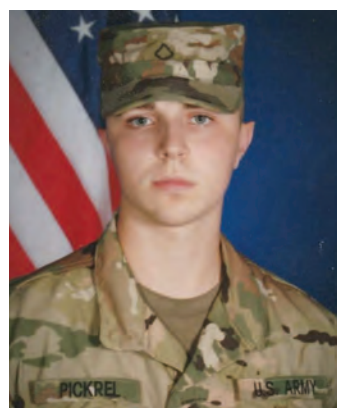
“The way they treat me is different, they don’t judge me,” Tang said. “This was different for me. I used to be shy about telling people where I am from, which college I went to, what my parents do, etc. But I felt very comfortable sharing it with my Western friends.”

She explained that in sharing her life experiences, they had such nice responses and always made her feel good about herself. She asked herself why this was, and determined it was because of their belief (in God).

“I didn’t have any other faith background. After I moved to US, me and my family started to go to church,” said Tang. “In Church, people pray, are good to each other, and help other people. I think that is a really good thing—it is especially good for raising a family.”

Although language is sometimes a barrier, Tang shared that in her faith journey she has enjoyed the welcome, acceptance, and kindness of those sharing her experience.

“All men and women are created equal by God,” Tang said, “I am very glad we send our son to the Catholic school. It’s good for the kids to start to have faith at an early age.” ©TM



Logan Pickrel

St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Nixa

“Hitting a low after a breakup, I found myself stumbling across a video from Fr. Mike

Schmitz who opened the door to Catholicism,” said Logan Pickrel, an RCIA candidate from St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Nixa. “This door led to many more doors opening, and after hearing of my brother’s conversion, I decided to jump in.”

“I was baptized in the Church of Christ, then baptized again in Assemblies of God,” said Pickrel. “The Assemblies of God led me in my faith for almost 10 years. Though James River is a magnificent Church, I found history, culture, and communion to be underwhelming and the Catholic Church has a cornucopia of all what was lacking in the other churches I’ve been in throughout my life.”

Through the RCIA process, Pickrel was grateful for his sponsor and his support.

“Jordan conveyed a spectacular application of the

Church’s values and lifestyle,” he said. “Faithful, always lending an ear, and proper direction to a closer relationship with God.”

“It all seemed to be a little bit intimidating at first, but the doctrine of the Communion of Saints and our Lady were the two pinnacles of Catholicism I had the most difficulty understanding and applying to my life,” Pickrel said. “Not because my previous churches taught that such beliefs were heretical, but more so the fact that our Lord Jesus Christ was the only person I ever prayed to. Coming to not only accept the Catholic Church’s doctrine on the Communion of Saints and our Blessed Lady, but celebrate its practices, has opened the door for me to receive powerful support in my life and prayers.” As he progressed through his RCIA journey, Pickrel enjoyed a closer relationship with God and a full realization of faith in the community of other Catholics and saints of the past.

“I really hadn’t been devoting myself fully to the Church and RCIA for that matter. Due to that, there were a few periods of being lukewarm in my relationship with Christ,” Pickrel said. “During Lent and approaching the Easter Vigil, I eagerly awaited to be in the presence of God in his sanctuary and worship with the community each week.”

His key “ah ha” moment was a verse given to him by an RCIA class visitor: “Every Saint has a past, ever sinner has a future.”

“A visitor came to RCIA one Sunday and gave me that verse and it clicked for me. There is hope for me, a sinner, a hope I’ve found in the Catholic Church,” Pickrel said.

During Lent, he decided to give up cursing.

“It wasn’t easy to kick a deeply-rooted habit, but I found myself being more at ease, stopping myself from cursing has been much easier and when those moments come I pray and say ‘yes Lord,’ and I was immediately relieved of all anger and resentment in the moment that tempted me to curse,” Pickrel said. “God was doing his work, and I just could not wait until Easter to celebrate such a beautiful holiday unlike I ever had before.”

Pickrel finds that the biggest treasure of faith is, “Sharing it. Living each day in sanctification helps give us mastery over sin through Jesus Christ, to live in his love and joy, but getting to share it with those in the Catholic community and outside is the best.”

“Praying with other people, talking about God with other people, it all gives me joy that I can boast in God and give him glory by sharing the Gospel,” he said.

His advice to draw souls to Christ?

“There is hope. God is not out for vengeance. God loves you and desires to receive everyone back to him.” ©TM

A GRATEFUL CHURCH

celebrates and recognizes the following ordination anniversaries in July:

PRIESTS:

Rev. Chori Seraiah, July 8, 10 yrs.

Rev. Ray Smith, CME, July 16, 6 yrs.

Rev. Laurent Okitakatshi, July 16, 5 yrs.

Rev. Rahab Isidor, July 28, 16 yrs.

DEACON:

Deacon Horacio Quiles, July 11, 13 yrs.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Belleville, IL—The National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows will offer a **three-part Scripture study series** entitled, *"Themes in the Gospel of Luke"* on Saturdays, beginning July 16, and continuing on Sat., July 23, and Sat., July 30, 10 a.m.-12 noon. The presenter is Mark Etling, PhD, adjunct professor at the School for Professional Studies at St. Louis University. This program will be held at the Shrine Guild Center; the fee is \$30 for the series or \$10 for individual session; pre-registration is required. Information and registration is available at <https://snows.org/ministries/spiritual-programs/> or call (618) 394-6281.

Belleville, IL—The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate invite you to attend the **79th Annual Novena to Our Lady of the Snows**, Thu., July 28-Fri., Aug. 05, at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows. Each evening will begin with Mass at 7:30 p.m. This year's theme is *"With Mary, Giving Thanks to God."* The Novena Mass will be Live-streamed each evening. For over 75 years, the Annual Novena to Our Lady of the Snows has been a spiritual inspiration for the faithful who have attended. Visit snows.org/novena for more information or call the Shrine at (618) 394-6276.

Cape Girardeau—St. Mary Of the Annunciation Cathedral PCCW will have a **community garage sale**, Sat., July 23, 7-11:30 a.m., in the St. Mary Catholic School gym. Vendor booth cost is \$20 for four tables. For more information, to reserve booth space, or questions, please contact Judy Stricker at (573) 334-5466.

Conway—Held for over 100 years, Sacred Heart Parish will host its famous and annual **Ice Cream Social**, Sat., July 16, 5:30 p.m. Come enjoy the famous hand-cranked ice cream, silent auction, games for kids & adults, and food will be available for your good will donation.

Scott City—The Knights of Columbus will have the **Third Sunday Breakfast**, Sun., July 17, 7:30-10:30 a.m., at the Knights Hall. Biscuits & gravy, pancakes, scrambled eggs, hash browns, and famous homemade pork sausage, all for your good will donation. The Knights are also taking orders for their famous sausage, \$5lb., to be picked up during the breakfast. To order, call Gary at (573) 576-6451.

Scott City—**St. Joseph Parish Rummage Sale** will be held Thu., Aug. 4, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.; Fri., Aug. 5, 7 a.m.-7 p.m., and Sat., Aug. 6, 7 a.m.-Noon, in the Knights of Columbus lower hall.

Sikeston—St. Rose of Lima ministry meets every Wednesday (**except the first Wednesday**) of each month in the old rectory, to tack Ugly Quilts, make **PLARN** that will be crocheted into sleeping mats for the homeless, and to prepare comfort quilts and walker bags for parishioners. **ALL are welcome to join**, no experience necessary! School age children, grades 4-8, are also welcome to help with these projects during the summer months. Come see what we are all about! For more information, contact Sharon Chouinard (call or text) (573) 380-4036. PLARN—plastic yarn made from plastic bags, such as Wal-Mart, Food Giant, Dollar Tree, etc., Making PLARN is simple, and can also be a home project. The need is great!

Springfield—Pro-life volunteers are needed in the MO Right to Life booth for the **2022 Ozark Empire Fair** located in the air-conditioned E-Plex building. The Ozark Empire Fair will run Fri. July 28-Sat., Aug. 6 and volunteers are needed for the following shifts: 10:45 a.m.-2 p.m., 2-5:30 p.m. and 5:30-9 p.m. A training session for volunteers will be held Tue., July 26, 7 p.m., at The Library Station. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Carl Schimek at (417) 551-1135.

Springfield—**A Pro-Life Rosary Prayer Service** will be held Wed., July 13, 11 a.m., in front of Planned Parenthood on Battlefield Rd. Join us to pray for peace in the world, an end to the war in Ukraine, and for a greater respect for human life. For additional information, call Carl Schimek, (417) 551-1135

Springfield—Sacred Heart Parish will hold its **Annual Garage Sale** on Fri., July 29, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., and Sat., July 30, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., in the Parish Hall, located at 1609 N Summit Ave. Household items, clothing, books, home décor, and much more!

Springfield—Revive your faith by joining with the **Praise & Worship Prayer Group** every Thursday, 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—**SAVE THE DATE!** 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 in the announcements. They will be printed on a space-available basis. There is no fee.



Executive Director to Retire

Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri (CCSOMO) announces the retirement of Executive Director/CEO Maura Taylor in December 2022. Taylor has led the nonprofit organization for the last 11 years working with her team to expand needed services to the vulnerable of all faiths in the 39 southernmost counties in Missouri. Under her leadership, CCSOMO has grown from a staff of two and a budget of \$200,000 to an agency with 110 employees and a budget of over \$11 million, operating out of nine offices throughout southern Missouri.

"I have said many times that I felt called to this position to serve the needs of the vulnerable and I have been blessed to have the opportunity to put my faith in action," Taylor said. "I have been able to use my education (MBA), my past experiences, and collaborative work with community partners to address the challenges of helping our neighbors in need in order to create opportunities for long-term impact and change."

Although the humble beginnings of Catholic Charities date to 2009, the agency itself hit the ground running in 2011 with the historic Joplin EF-5 tornado and the floods in southeast Missouri: CCSOMO and its growing staff responded and became the largest provider of disaster case management and home repair/rebuilding services in the area. Since those beginnings, CCSOMO has established over 12 programs that meet local needs, including Homeless and Homelessness Prevention Services; Veteran Services; Home Repairs for Low-income Households; Targeted Case Management for the Developmentally Disabled; LifeHouse Crisis Maternity Home in Springfield, serving homeless pregnant women and their young children; HUD Financial Counseling; Springfield's Rancho Temporary Shelter and Housing Programs for Homeless Families; Community

Re-entry Program; Consumer Credit Counseling Services; Healthy Moms/Healthy Babies; Dedicated Dads; On the Job Construction Training, and more. The success of the Springfield's LifeHouse Crisis Maternity Home has resulted in a capital campaign and plans to build a new LifeHouse in Cape Girardeau to serve southeast Missouri. To date, over \$6 million in funds have been raised and the project is expected to be completed by December 2023.

Under Taylor's leadership CCSOMO has been recognized for its work and received the following awards:

- 2018 Nonprofit Organization of the Year - Drury University Southwest Missouri Nonprofit Excellence Awards
- 2018 Springfield Business Journal (SBJ) Economic Impact Award (6-15 year in business category) - SBJ Economic Impact Awards
- 2021 SBJ Charitable Nonprofit of the Year - SBJ Economic Impact Awards

Taylor has represented CCSOMO and the community on multiple boards and committees at the local, state, and national levels.

The Board will begin a national search to find a person with a mission heart, organizational skills, and experience to take the leadership role and guide an incredible team of compassionate and dedicated staff that works everyday, walking alongside those most vulnerable in our midst and guiding them on a path to self-sufficiency and success. The work of Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri continues: Reaching Out. Providing Hope. Changing Lives. For more information on CCSOMO, its mission, and ministries for all persons, visit www.ccsomo.org. ©TM

For more information, contact John Farmer de la Torre, Director of Communications (417) 720-4213 Ext 103 or Mobile (417) 493-8429.



TAYLOR



16TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Gn 18:1-10a;
Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 5;
Col 1:24-28;
Lk 10:38-42

*So much food to cook!
And the house to cleanse!
It wouldn't have been so bad,
But the Lord brought 12 friends!
Martha worked so hard,
Close to coronary,
Please, I need some help.
Where's that lazy Mary?
She finally found her.
Well, don't that beat!
She's all stretched out at Jesus' feet.
"Jesus, I'm working hard,"
Martha began to wail.
"Mary, she's just lounging.
Tell her to get off her tail!"
"Martha," Jesus said,
"I admire your heart.
But leave Mary be.
She chose the better part."*

Some of us are more like Martha while others lean toward Mary. My father is a "Martha." I don't think he would be ashamed of me saying that. He was never one to sit around, but he sure knew how to work. Dad was a carpenter. His daily prayer was a swing of the hammer. Under a burning sun or in freezing temperatures, day after day, year after year he swung a hammer. And each swing of the hammer was a prayer, a father's prayer that those he loved would have the food they needed and a home to go home to.

At the Feet of Jesus



SCRIPTURE
WISDOM

Deacon Rob Huff

I was more of a Mary. It would drive him crazy. I am married to a Martha. It makes her crazy, too. If you are a Martha, I'll bet we Marys drive you nuts.

Look at the Gospel. Jesus shows up with the whole crew. Martha has to scramble to take care of the surprise guests. She's the Martha Stewart of Bethany. What in the world is she going to feed everybody? Where is the extra leaf for the dining room table? The good dishes need to be unpacked. Maybe Lazarus can run to the market if she could get a list together. And where is Mary? There she is, sitting down at Jesus' feet listening to stories! You can't hardly blame Martha for getting upset.

"Jesus, don't you care that I'm doing all the work while my sister lollygags around listening to you?"

I'll bet she really loved Jesus' reply.

"Calm down Martha. You're worried too much about things that don't really matter. Mary knows what is really important and she can sit here as long as she likes."

Maybe Martha settled down and

relaxed, but personally I think she probably blew a gasket.

If you look closely at the first reading, you can spot another Mary type – Abraham. Abraham asks his visitors if he can bring them some food. He then goes to Sarah and says, "Quick, three measures of fine flour!

Knead it and make rolls." After that Abraham picks out a steer, Scripture says he "gave it to a servant, who quickly prepared it."

I think Martha would have had a problem with Abraham. But Mary wouldn't have. Like Mary, Abraham recognized who his visitor was. He knew he was in the presence of the Lord. He wanted to hear the message. When Sarah heard the message that she would have a son in the next year, she laughed. After all, Abraham was 99 years old and she was 98! Abraham may have had his faults, but he had faith.

I can see him standing in the cool desert air one night, staring up at the stars. Sarah calls, "Abraham, get in the tent. You'll catch pneumonia out there. What are you doing?"

"Counting the stars," Abraham replies. "Someday, our offspring will be even more numerous. God promised." Practical Sarah probably shakes her head, and if you listen closely, you can hear a laugh coming from the tent.

We need the Martha, the Sarah, in us to get things done. But, we need the Mary, the Abraham, to make sure we do the right things. St. Gregory the Great compared Martha and Mary to two sides of our spiritual life. Martha is the active life that honors Christ through her work. Mary is the contemplative dimension that sits at Jesus' feet and listens. St.

While things pass away, love continues.

Gregory states that both are important, but the contemplative is greater since, in

the end, that is what will endure. While things pass away, love continues.

Abraham knew this as he sat under a tree at the Lord's feet. Mary knew this as she sat at Jesus' feet. Another Mary also knew it. She listened at the feet of Jesus as he hung upon the cross. She heard Him forgive those who were executing Him. She would have heard the hammer as it pounded the nails into those feet. And, for the carpenter on the cross, each swing of the hammer was a prayer, a prayer that those he loved would have the food they needed and a home to go home to. And we do. We have the Eucharist for food and he has prepared a home for us in heaven. ©TM

Deacon Rob Huff serves the diocese as Chancellor and Superintendent of Catholic Schools. He ministers in St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Cape Girardeau.

OBITUARY | Sr. Marian McAvoy, SL



A funeral for Sr. Marian (formerly Sr. Marian Joseph) McAvoy SL, who grew up in Joplin, was celebrated July 7 in the Church of the Seven Dolors on the grounds of Loretto Motherhouse in Nerinx, KY. Sister McAvoy, who served eight years as Loretto's president, died June 30 at Loretto Motherhouse. She was 94 and in the 71st year of her Loretto commitment.

Born July 15, 1927, in Kansas City, MO, to Edith K (Nilges) and Bernard F. McAvoy, Sr. McAvoy was baptized Lucille Marie McAvoy. By the time little Lucille was ready for school, her family had moved to Joplin, where her father took charge of the local Sears Roebuck store. Lucille enrolled in St. Peter the Apostle Parish's grade and high school,

graduating in 1945. From high school, Lucille, now known as "Luc," enrolled first at Joplin Junior College, then transferred to Webster College (now University) in St. Louis. There, she earned a bachelor's degree in English, with minors in history and philosophy, in 1949. Luc then returned to Joplin and accepted work at St. Peter's, one year as children's librarian, the next as second grade teacher.

She was received into the Sisters of Loretto at the Foot of the Cross on Dec. 8, 1951. Sister McAvoy earned a master's in English in 1963 from St. Louis University and a master's in pastoral theology in 1969 from Loyola University, Chicago. She lived much of her life in the service of the Loretto Community, including as Loretto's president, serving for two terms from 1978 to 1986. In 1970, Sr. McAvoy had been asked to serve on the first staff for the newly-reorganized government of Loretto as Director of Work Development, remaining in that position until she was

elected Loretto's second president.

Sister McAvoy was interested in international matters and promoted learning in this area throughout her life, encouraging a movement from national independence to global interdependence. As Loretto's president, she designed a project in which a number of Sisters of Loretto had the opportunity to live and work in what was then known as Third World areas. Her emphasis in broadening Loretto's vision continued through her retirement years at Loretto Motherhouse. From 1994-1997, Sr. McAvoy served as adjunct faculty at Webster University, where she particularly enjoyed teaching a seminar on women with a global focus. She was both a member of the national board and executive committee of LCWR (Leadership Conference of Women Religious).

Along with Barron Hilton, Sr. McAvoy initiated the Hilton Fund for Sisters and served as charter member and vice chair of its Board of Directors. For 10 years, she directed the Loretto Leadership Workshop, an annual weeklong

event for elected and appointed leaders from Loretto high schools. Among her earlier ministries, Sr. McAvoy taught in elementary and secondary schools in St. Louis, Illinois, and Kentucky, served in pastoral ministry in Iowa, and was Loretto's Community Group Coordinator from 1997-2001.

Preceding her in death were her parents and five siblings. Among survivors are her brother, Louis (Lou) McAvoy of Kansas City, MO, and several nieces and nephews. Burial was in Our Lady of Sorrows Cemetery on Motherhouse grounds.

Memorials may be made to the Sisters of Loretto for our mission, c/o Loretto Motherhouse, 515 Nerinx Road, Nerinx, KY 40049 or as an Online gift at www.lorettocommunity.org. ©TM

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17TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Be a beacon of God’s hope & optimism

Gn 18:20-32;
Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6-7, 7-8;
Col 2:12-14;
Lk 11:1-13

We read in Genesis of God growing tired of wickedness and the poor choices being made by the people of Sodom and Gomorrah. However, Abraham repeatedly intercedes on their behalf, asking God to look for goodness in the city. Abraham goes so far as to ask, “What if there are at least 10 there?” We see through the conversation that he searches for the slightest sign of goodness within Sodom and Gomorrah. Abraham is persistently looking for a bright spot where, at first glance, there is only darkness.

We need that reminder to look for the good in everyone we meet. Sometimes, it can feel like there is nothing but darkness, and everyone is only looking out for themselves. Yet, there is also an invitation to see with the eyes of Abraham. He displays such hope and dedication



SCRIPTURE
WISDOM

Rev. Mr. Nick Zummo

for the people of God. That is a quality we can incorporate into our own lives. Persistence will always give way to the discovery of light and goodness. After all, light cannot hide in the dark for very long. There is goodness in each of us, so we ought to search confidently for it in those we meet.

There is no person or place beyond the redeeming power of God. We must be careful never to write anyone off or ignore an opportunity to bring God’s peace to the world. Offering encouragement and calling attention to goodness in our world can move people in the right direction. Show them that God brightens our world in a multitude of ways. That mindset of positivity makes a difference, especially for those struggling to see it. Many who



Persistently strive to be a beacon of God’s hope and optimism wherever you are.

are in our churches, or have left our churches, feel inadequate or unwelcome. Those lies make it hard to see the light. What are we to do? If we are to bear witness to God’s loving heart and desire for reconciliation, we must go beyond our comfort zone. We must diligently search for goodness and affirm in it those we meet, even when not immediately visible. Guiding others toward goodness is an important act of charity.

Politics and culture wars teach us to harbor disdain for others, especially those with whom we disagree, but Christ taught us to love and care for

one another. We are all created in the image of God and supported by his grace, so positivity should empower us beyond any cynicism.

Persistently strive to be a beacon of God’s hope and optimism wherever you are. A life of faith characterized by joy is one of the most outstanding witnesses to God’s presence in our world today.

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Zummo is serving in parish ministry in St. Francis de Sales Parish, Lebanon, and in the seasonal Sportsman’s Chapel at Bennett Springs, MO.

OBITUARY | Sr. Mary Lapping, OSU

St. Louis, MO



Sister Mary Lapping, OSU, died peacefully July 5, 2022. A native of St. Louis, she served many years in southern Missouri.

The daughter of Vilray Francis Lapping and Roberta Iona Hamilton, she was born Aug. 20, 1942, in St. Louis. She grew up in Kirkwood, Missouri, and was educated by the Ursulines at St. Peter Elementary School and Ursuline Academy. She entered the Ursuline community on July 19, 1961, and professed her vows on Jan. 20, 1964. She earned a bachelor’s degree in French from Webster University in St. Louis and a master’s degree in pastoral studies from Loyola University in New Orleans. She also completed advanced studies in liturgy and in environmental studies.

Sister Lapping’s first ministry was in her home parish of St. Peter, St. Louis, where she taught in the elementary school from 1966-76. She then moved on to teach in other area elementary schools: Corpus Christi in Jennings, MO, from 1976-78 and Immaculate Conception in Arnold, MO, from 1979-82.

In 1983, Sr. Lapping moved to southern Missouri to begin 15 years of parish ministry. She was a pastoral minister at Sacred Heart Parish in Verona from 1983-84; Sacred Heart Parish in Webb City from 1984-87; St. Joseph

the Worker Parish in Ozark from 1987-88; and St. Mary Parish in Joplin from 1988-91. She served two years as a pastoral associate in Holy Family Parish in Kansas City, later returning to southern Missouri as a pastoral associate in Holy Trinity Parish in Springfield from 1995-99.

In the mid-90s, Sr. Lapping began to sense a push to something called “Earth Ministry.” Although she didn’t know exactly what it was or how to do it, she pursued the idea as a dream. She educated herself in several Earth systems such as organic gardening and forest ecosystem maintenance. She did several internships, one of which led her to cross paths with Brian Swimme, who became a lifelong guide through his books and DVD series, “Canticle to the Cosmos,” and others. Her path led her from hands-on work at the Ursulines’ 144-acre property in Crystal City, MO, to an Earth spirituality office for the community, to an enduring and deepening love of Earth and care for ‘our common home.’

Sister Lapping was also a volunteer English teacher for the Immigrant and Refugee Women’s Project in St. Louis and served 10 years as prioress of the Ursuline community in Missouri.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her younger brother, Tom, and her older half-sister, Bobbie.

Burial was private. A celebration of life will be held later in July.

Memorial gifts may be made to the Ursuline Sisters Retirement Fund, 353 S. Sappington Rd., St. Louis, MO 63122. ©TM



Springfield Pro-Life Event
Friday, August 26, 2022



Keynote
Abby Johnson

Abby Johnson has always been determined to help women in need. That desire led Abby to a career with Planned Parenthood as well as caused her to flee the organization and become an outspoken advocate for the Pro-Life Movement. She went on to write the national best-selling book and movie adaptation, “Unplanned,” about her experiences. Abby is a frequently requested guest on Fox News and a variety of other shows. Today, she continues to advocate for the unborn as the Founder of And Then There Were None which helps abortion facility workers escape the abortion industry.

All proceeds benefit Vitae Foundation whose mission is to connect abortion-determined women with lifesaving pregnancy help and ultimately to change the culture.

Doors Open 6:30 PM
Dinner & Program 7:00 - 9:00 PM
\$75 per person (\$45 Tax Deductible)

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