



## WINTER SHELTER for the homeless opens at Sacred Heart Parish

▲ **OPENING NIGHT**—Father Ray Smith, CMF, salted the sidewalk in front of Sacred Heart Parish, Springfield, in preparation for the arrival of men transported to the Claret Winter Shelter for the Homeless, in Springfield, Feb. 2, 2022. (Photo by John Farmer de la Torre)

Springfield

**O**n the first night of the most recent cold snap, Feb. 2, Sacred Heart Parish in Springfield wanted to find a way to help the most vulnerable in the community. The wind chill was expected to hover near zero, which would make it a difficult time for anyone caught outside. Service providers to the area's homeless population worked quickly to bring vulnerable folks inside, including Community Partnership of the Ozarks, which picked up the first vanload of homeless men from the streets and various day warming centers. These men would have spent the night in the freezing rain, but instead, they were welcomed into the Claret Winter Shelter for the Homeless, and God's loving presence, at Sacred Heart Parish.

The men were greeted by Claretian Fr. Ray Smith, CMF, pastor. Volunteers were organized by the parish staff and Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri (CCSOMO). In return, the men showed their gratitude that the shelter opened five days ahead of the initial target date of Feb. 7.

For days, the nation's meteorologists had warned about the incoming winter storm. By Tue., Feb. 1, it was evident the storm would likely shut down schools and many businesses. At CCSOMO, efforts were well

underway to implement severe weather plans, along with community partners. These plans ensure essential CCSOMO operations continue to support vulnerable populations, especially services for the homeless, which includes CCSOMO's Rancho Temporary Emergency Shelter for Homeless Families and Medical Respite for Women; and its Noncongregant Shelter for homeless persons quarantining due to, or recovering from COVID. Despite these preparations and many more, Springfield city leaders estimated that when the storm arrived, between 175 to 200 people would still be sleeping on the street. Worse, a quick survey of the available beds at established winter shelters for the homeless revealed a significant shortfall, one that would leave many homeless out in the cold.

It was known at CCSOMO that the new winter shelter at Sacred Heart Parish was slated to open on Feb. 7—after the storm. Catholic Charities and others wanted to help accelerate the plan.

"But what if Sacred Heart had what it needed to open," a CCSOMO representative asked the Sacred Heart Parish office.



**VOLUNTEERS READY SPACE**—Volunteers Anissa Barber, Olga Guterrez, Marianne Jones, and Pat Johnson, joined Fr. Ray Smith, CMF, for the opening night of the Claret Winter Shelter for the Homeless at Sacred Heart Parish in Springfield, Feb. 2, 2022. Severe winter storms accelerated the opening date from its original Feb. 7 and a community response ensured the parish hall was ready, staffed, and supplied. (Photo by John Farmer de la Torre)

"Could the shelter open early?" A series of phone calls ensued to discover the practicality of readying the parish hall and coordinating efforts. Off-campus at a nearby retreat, Fr. Smith stepped away long enough to approve the effort.

"How can we not do this?" he asked. The community rallied to respond.

The volunteer outreach coordinator at Claret Winter Shelter is Marianne Jones of Springfield. She was excited to open early but informed Catholic Charities that the key to opening early was finding enough volunteers to staff the shelter around the clock.

The volunteers would

also need to be trained within 24 hours; would need to be willing to work overnight shifts, and drive on snow and ice. Fortunately, none of those challenges proved insurmountable.

"It's a miracle," Fr. Smith said of the accelerated opening.

## MANY MIRACLES OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS

On the first and worst night, 21 men were able to sleep comfortably in the re-purposed parish hall. At daylight, with heavy snow and

ice blanketing the area, the men who are typically accustomed to leaving an overnight shelter at daybreak were permitted to stay on by Fr. Smith.

"We did not plan on staying open throughout the day, but this is an exceptional situation," said Fr. Smith. "We cannot take men in at night and then put them out into a storm. I wanted them here."

Evidently, the accommodations were adequate as only one man walked out into ongoing heavy snowfall. He returned later the same day with more homeless men who had not been found the previous night

WINTER SHELTER // Continued pg. 3



The next issue of **The Mirror** will be **March 4, 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*

# The fruits of my retreat, Part II

From Jan. 4-11, 2022, the Bishops of Episcopal Region IX, that is the Bishops of Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, and Missouri gathered at Prince of Peace Abbey, in California, for our annual retreat. Our retreat director was The Most Rev. Peter Sartain, Bishop Emeritus of Seattle. In the last edition of The Mirror, I offered Part 1 concerning what I learned on retreat. Here is part 2.

Referencing Pope Francis, Abp. Sartain challenged the bishops to notice “the poor at the door.” We should know who are the untouchables throughout southern Missouri. Technology, for all of its good opportunities, can also isolate us. It is very easy for us to live in our own little world and forget the issues with which people struggle. There are many people out there carrying great burdens who are searching for somebody who will simply listen to them. Making time for others draws us out of ourselves and invites us into a greater love.

DEALING WITH OTHERS

It is often the case that bishops deal with committees and programs. How we treat our staff is important. People notice such things. We are called to see Christ in the poor and we are called to see Christ in our staff. We are called to reach out to those who are “contrary and unattractive.” We are called to go to those who are sitting alone, to reach out to the priest who is “troublesome.” Since we have been ontologically changed due to our ordination, to encounter

me should be an encounter with Christ. We are called to see more, to notice more, to learn names, to return phone calls, and send little notes to people. We are called to bring joy to those who cross our path without expecting anything in return. We must “re-personalize” our environment. Manifesting joy as I wear my Roman collar is the greatest tool for evangelization.

CAN I TRUST?

Do I believe that God can make me completely happy? Do I trust that God will take care of me? If not, I can tend to hold back just in case, trying to protect myself. God calls me beyond all the things that I want to hold on to for security. He wants me to hold on to Him, but in order to do that, I have to let go of the things I’m holding on to right now. It’s an invitation to move beyond my selfishness, to give myself away and be detached.

Archbishop Sartain told a beautiful story of being recognized for his work with those with special needs. In recognition of his work, the committee wanted to give him a gift. A woman, that had participated in the Special Olympics said she wanted to give the Archbishop her gold medal, and she did. The Archbishop held that up as a beautiful example of detachment and generosity.

Of course, we all know that the “things” that we own can “own”

us, whether it be material items, ideologies, or behaviors. Our Lord emptied himself of everything as a symbol of true freedom. How often in the Gospels children are highlighted as they came to Him as opposed to the rich man who went away sad. Again, am I selfish, afraid to let go of things? Whatever it is that I am holding back, I am called to give it to Jesus.

PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

In my interactions with parishioners or staff, do I contribute to peace? “Peace be with you,” is the greeting our Lord gave to The Apostles when he appeared to them in the upper room on that first Easter evening. How do I respond to those who do not agree with me? Do I have a knee-jerk reaction and become defensive? Am I strong enough to be a man of peace

and turn the other cheek? Do I stop gossip, am I passive-aggressive, or fall into sarcasm? Do I offer forgiveness or do I hold a grudge? Is there anyone that

I am at odds with right now that I can engage in a spirit of reconciliation, or have I dismissed the possibility and given up on them? Am I big enough, gentle enough, to offer personal, deliberate encounters of reconciliation? Forgiveness brings us to the foot of the Cross. It is from the Cross that Jesus begged the Father to forgive those who crucified Him. I am called to forgive, to forgive deeply, in imitation of Christ.

BE CLASSY

Be a class act. I shouldn’t take myself too seriously. At the same time, take others very seriously. Remember that each day can be the most important day for someone else. It may be their wedding, a special anniversary, or memorial, and while it may be routine for me, it is not routine for them. It can be the most important day of their life. People place their lives in our hands for a moment, in the confessional, at a baptism, or a chance conversation. Hopefully, they walk away with renewed hope, feeling that they were respected. A class act is one who builds up and

“Whatever it is that I am holding back, I am called to give it to Jesus.”

### A GRATEFUL CHURCH

*celebrates and recognizes the following ordination anniversaries in March:*

**PRIESTS:**  
Rev. Bala Swamy, March 12, 25 yrs.  
The Most Rev. John J. Leibrecht, March 17 (priesthood), 66 yrs.  
Rev. Rick Jones, March 24, 32 yrs.  
Rev. Alberic Maisog, OCSO, March 25, 22 yrs.  
Rev. Daniel Hirtz, March 31, 49 yrs.

**DEACON:**  
Joseph Kurtenbach, March 21, 24 yrs.



February 24 - March 6, 2022

PUBLIC CALENDAR

THU., FEB 24

8:30 a.m. Sacrament of Confirmation, St. William Parish, Gainesville

FRI., FEB 25

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

SAT., FEB 26

8 a.m. Men's Conference, Springfield Catholic High School, Springfield;  
3:30 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Springfield

SUN., FEB 27

9 a.m. Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Nixa;  
2 p.m. Mass & Renovation Blessing, St. Ann Parish, Carthage

MON, FEB. 28

9 a.m. Bishop's Board Vocations Discussion meeting, ZOOM

WED., MARCH 2

9 a.m. Ash Wednesday Mass, Springfield Catholic High School, Springfield;  
12:15 p.m. Ash Wednesday Mass, O'Reilly Catholic Student Center, Springfield

THU., MARCH 3

6:30 p.m. DDF meeting, Deanery 1, St. Peter the Apostle Parish, Joplin

FRI., MARCH 4

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

SAT, MARCH 5

2:30 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Agnes Cathedral, Springfield;  
7:30 p.m. Emerald Evening for Springfield Catholic Schools, Springfield

SUN., MARCH 6

9:30 a.m. Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Agnes Parish, Sarcoxie;  
3 p.m. Rite of Election, St. Agnes Cathedral, Springfield;  
7 p.m. Rite of Election, St. Agnes Cathedral, Springfield

does not tear down. A class act is one who is sensitive to others and who seeks to serve.

As I reviewed my notes from my retreat, I realize I have a lot to work on. Like everyone else, I am a work in progress. I try to follow the advice that I give the others and “Trust in the slow work of God.” In the words of Mother Teresa, “Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin.”

Please pray for your Bishop and remember that he prays for you. ©TM



# Kutz retires from The Kitchen, Inc.

Springfield, MO

Kippie Kutz has given almost three decades of service to The Kitchen, Inc. She joined The Kitchen in 1993, working at the Missouri Hotel on Commercial Street. While at the hotel, Kutz was blessed to work with The Kitchen’s founder, Sr. Lorraine Biebel, OSF, for a number of years.



Kippie Kutz

“We are so grateful for the many years of service Kippie has given to The Kitchen, Inc.,” said Meleah Spencer, The Kitchen CEO. “While she will be greatly missed, her retirement is well-deserved after so many years of dedicated, quality service.”

Since 2008, Kutz has served as the Director of Major Gifts. Whether she was talking with clients, sharing the mission with the community, or raising money for the Capital Campaign—she has been an integral part of The Kitchen’s success. In 2021, Kutz was named one of *Springfield Business Journal’s* Most Influential Women.

The Kitchen staff held a “drive-thru” party to wish Kutz well on Fri., Feb. 11.

The mission of The Kitchen, Inc., is to bring stability and purpose to people that are homeless. Dedicated staff, collaboration with community organizations, and community support allows it to end homelessness for families, individuals, youth, seniors, and Veterans. To learn more, visit [www.thekitcheninc.org](http://www.thekitcheninc.org). ©TM



## PRIEST ASSIGNMENTS

Father John Braun was recently granted a leave of absence due to reasons of health. With Fr. Braun on health leave, **Fr. Tomasz Wilk, OSPPE**, is assigned Parish Administrator of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Fredericktown effective Feb. 1, 2022. Father Tomasz is the nephew of retired Fr. Mitch Wilk and comes to the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau with the permission of his religious superior of the Order of St. Paul and the First Hermit from Doylestown, PA.



FR. WILK

## ECUMENICAL OFFICER, DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AFFAIRS announced

Bishop Edward M. Rice recently appointed **Fr. Patrick Nwokoye, PhD**, as diocesan Director of Health Affairs and as the diocesan Ecumenical Officer. He will remain pastor of Holy Trinity Parish, Springfield, and St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Ozark.



FR. NWOKOYE

## CHAPLAIN to SERVE MERCY, SPRINGFIELD

Faculties to minister in the diocese have been granted by Bp. Edward M. Rice to **Fr. John-Mark Ogu**, the new Chaplain hired by Mercy hospital, Springfield, to serve health care patients and the Mercy community.



FR. OGU



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

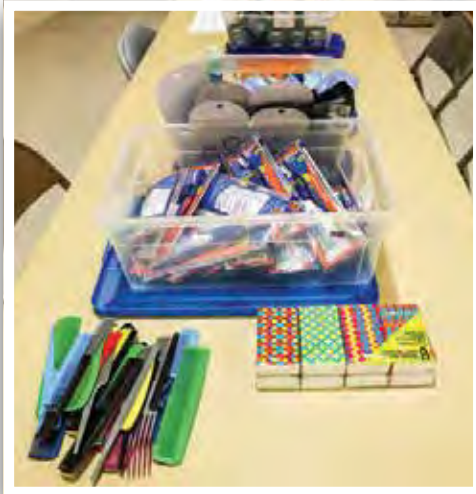
Bishop John Leibrecht recently celebrated his 37th anniversary of his episcopal consecration, which was on Dec. 12, 1984. Before his retirement as the fifth Bishop of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, he wrote a standing column in *The Mirror* entitled, “Walking Together.” At the end of each 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.

**October 25, 1985** I lived at the Old Cathedral in St. Louis for 16 years. When the Cubs were playing the Cardinals at Busch Stadium, many Cub fans would come to the Old Cathedral for Mass before the game (were they praying for the Cubs?). After we welcomed them, we always enjoyed telling the story about how Chicago used to be a mission of the Old Cathedral and how those priests were sent out from there on horseback to serve the people of the village of Chicago. I spent this week in the beautiful city of Chicago. I am a member of the Bishops’ Committee visiting seminaries. Niles College in Chicago, associated with Loyola University, is the college seminary for the Archdiocese of Chicago. It was good to meet the seminarians and their faculty. Really impressive! Please continue to pray for seminarians and those who are preparing them for the priesthood, whether they are our own seminarians or those called to work in other places of the Lord’s vineyard.

**December 6, 1985** Next week, I celebrate the completion of my first year as bishop with you. I still live off the strength of my ordination day, December 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The weather outside that day was an unseasonably warm 62 degrees; inside the church for the Mass of Ordination, it was even warmer, not because of the weather but because of the spirit of the people and God’s own Spirit. Though I tried not to

show it, I came here with some ambivalence and doubt. I thought I had found my niche, after many happy years in Catholic education, with the wonderful people at Sacred Heart parish in Florissant, MO. I was familiar with southern Missouri and loved what I knew of it. But being the pastor at Sacred Heart was everything to me. Now, as I finish my first year with you, I can say with total truthfulness that this past year has been the happiest year of my life! I feel God’s presence and strength in my life. I have met and worked with, first-hand, our dedicated priests, sisters, and parishioners throughout the diocese. I thank you all for your kind acceptance of me as your Bishop. I thank you all for the example of Faith, our Catholic Faith, which you showed me. I look forward to ‘walking together’ with you in the years ahead as God forms us and sends us out together to the good people of southern Missouri. God has blessed me abundantly because he has still allowed me to be a pastor. But in a much larger parish!

**December 13, 1985** The most memorable directions I received in my travels around the diocese came from one of our pastors. When I asked him how to get to the Church, he said: “Just come into town on the highway.” I asked, “Then what?” He said, “Come into the town square.” I asked, “Do I take a right or left turn?” He said: “Oh, Bishop, it doesn’t make any difference!”



### WINTER SHELTER // Continued from pg. 1

despite hours of searching. Father Smith was pleased.

“My hope is the guests who come to us will know they haven’t been forgotten,” Fr. Smith said, “and that the community has come together to remind them that they are cared for, and they are loved by God and us.”

◀ **SUPPLIES**—Donated personal hygiene items were distributed to the homeless men who stayed in the Claret Winter Shelter for the Homeless during the severe winter storms Feb. 2-4, in Springfield. (Photo by John Farmer de la Torre)

That love formed as a result of a shared desire of the community to open a new shelter earlier than planned.

“God provides,” Fr. Smith said.

Much of the provisioning for the shelter occurred prior to the storm with CCSOMO, Mercy, and Cox Hospital provided cots, sheets, and supplies. Saint Joseph Catholic Academy provided snacks, for example, as did others. CCSOMO staff even made a special trip over icy roads to deliver additional cots, blankets, and food. No one at the shelter would go without food and warmth. All of these actions, and more, attributed to the

successful opening.

“I pray our guests will be comfortable but also a little flexible,” Fr. Smith said. “This is our first time doing this.”

“It’s fascinating to think when we start a new venture, we never say that it’s the ‘first annual’ this or that,” Fr. Smith said. “It’s not until the second year, we will call it the ‘second annual,’ and then we will look back at that first moment and see how special it was. Today, we stand on that first moment and we look forward to many more.” ©TM



## CONGRATULATIONS

## Rev. Bala Swamy

Rev. Bala Swamy will celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his priesthood ordination on March 12. He is pastor of St. Denis Parish, Benton, and St. Lawrence Parish at New Hamburg.

*Happy  
Anniversary,  
Rev. Swamy!*



## PRINCIPAL SOUGHT FOR ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Principal opening for the 2022-2023 school year at St. Joseph Catholic Academy in Springfield, MO. The Academy operates on a four-day school week (Tue-Fri) with small class sizes and enrollment approx. 80 students. The candidate must be a faithful and practicing Catholic with 3-5 years of Catholic teaching experience. Master's degree in Educational Administration preferred (or working toward completion) and Missouri certification. Please complete the job application located on the St. Joseph Catholic Church Website at [www.stjosephspmo.org](http://www.stjosephspmo.org). The deadline to submit is March 4.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Aurora**—The Aurora Council of Catholic Women will have its annual **Rummage/Bake Sale** on Sat., March 12, 7 a.m.-12-noon, inside the Holy Trinity Catholic Church gymnasium located at Hwy 60 & Carnation Drive.

**Belleville, IL**—The National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows will offer a four-part video study series entitled, **"Resurrection and the Afterlife in the New Testament."** Facilitated by Fr. Mark Dean, OMI, sessions will be held at the Shrine Visitor Center on the following Tuesday mornings: Feb. 22, March 1, and March 8. Cost: \$20 for the series or \$5 per session; pre-registration is required. For more information and to register, go to <https://snows.org/ministries/spiritual-programs/>, or call (618) 394-6281.

**Billings**—St. Joseph Catholic Church will pray the Stations of the Cross every Friday evening during Lent 7 p.m. All are welcome.

**Cape Girardeau**—The Deanery 6 Council of Catholic Women will have its **March Meeting & Retreat** on Sat., March 5, in St. Anthony Mission Church in Glennon, MO. Mass begins at 9 a.m. with Fr. Antony Thekkanth, VC, celebrant; followed by registration and breakfast. Fr. Allan Saunders will speak at 10 a.m.; a business meeting will follow at 11 a.m. All ladies from Deanery 6 Parish Council of Catholic Women are welcome to attend. For more information, please contact Ruth Ann Hester, (573) 270-4844.

**Jackson**—The Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary will host a **Bunco Bash** on Sun., March 6, 1-4 p.m., in the Knights of Columbus #6405 Hall. Cost: \$10/player, snacks will be provided. Registration starts at 12:30 p.m., pre-registration is not required. Proceeds to benefit the scholarship

program, Birthright, Special Olympics, Options for Women, and other supported ministries. For more information, please Email Donna at [jacksoncaux@gmail.com](mailto:jacksoncaux@gmail.com) or call (573) 243-5464.

**New Hamburg**—St. Lawrence Parish will have a **Brown Bag Fundraiser** meal on Sun., March 6. Chicken and dumplings-16 oz., slaw, green beans, roll, and cookie. Pre-order is required, order by Email at [stlawrenceh@outlook.com](mailto:stlawrenceh@outlook.com), or comment on the Facebook post, Brown Bag Fundraiser, <https://www.facebook.com/pages/St.%20Lawrence%20Catholic%20Church/448814668980532/> no later than Sun., Feb. 20. Pay for your order at pick-up in the parish center between 10:30 a.m.-12-noon, on Sun., March 6.

**Oran**—The 2022 Guardian Angel School **Dinner Auction** will be held on Sat., Feb. 26, at the Knights Hall. Tickets: \$40, and include dinner and auction. A hybrid option is also available, purchase a carryout meal for \$20 and/or access to the Online auction for \$10. Visit the auction Website to purchase tickets and for additional information, <https://charityauction.bid/guardianangelauction2022>. All proceeds will directly support the school, including the replacement of two HVAC units.

**Scott City**—St. Joseph Home and School will have a carry-out only **Sausage Breakfast** on Sun., Feb. 27, 7:30-11:30 a.m., from the school located at 606 Sycamore St. Cost: \$9 includes pancakes, sausage links, scrambled eggs, biscuits & gravy, and fruit. Pre-orders are also being for bulk or link sausage for pick up on Feb. 26 & 27: \$4 lb. To order, call the school at (573) 264-2600.

**Scott City**—St. Joseph Home & School will host **Music Trivia** on Sat., March 12, in the school gymnasium. Cost is \$15/player, with a maximum of eight players per table. Doors open at 6 p.m. and play starts at 7 p.m.; outside food and drink permitted. Round sponsorships are available for \$100 each. RSVP or purchase a sponsorship via call or text to Ashley at (573) 450-9516, or Emily at (573) 275-3312.

**Sikeston**—St. Francis Xavier Annual **School Dinner/Auction-Denim and Diamonds** will be held Sat., March 5, in the Parish Center gymnasium, tickets are \$35. This event will feature a T-shirt quilt from the student body which contributed their favorite t-shirts that were hand sewn into the quilt, it will be sold during the auction. T-Shirt order forms are also available, denim blue St. Francis Xavier shirts for all ages, to order, call the school office (573) 471-0841).

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

**Washington, MO**—Holy Trinity Parish, Springfield, has **Divine Mercy Yard Signs** for sale to help spread awareness of Jesus' divine mercy and love. Signs are made and sold by the Divine Mercy Workers of St. Francis Borgia Parish in Washington, MO, and are available in a variety of sizes. The order form is available on the parish Website; [sfparish.org](http://sfparish.org), under Parish Quick Links. For more information or to place an order; contact Kenn Obermark, [kennncarol7@yahoo.com](mailto:kennncarol7@yahoo.com) or call (636) 239-7456, (636) 358-3053, or contact Bill Gegg, [bill.egg@att.net](mailto:bill.egg@att.net) or call (636) 667-7867.



## LENTEN FRIDAY FISH FRIES

**Billings**—The **St. Joseph Men's Club Lenten Fish Fries** will be held on Fri., March 4, Fri., March 18, and Fri., April 1, 5 p.m. in the parish hall located at 320 NW Washington Ave. Fried fish, grilled cheese, French fries, coleslaw, vegetables, brown beans, cornbread, dessert, and a drink. Cost: \$10 for adults, \$5 for children under age 11. Dine-in and carry-out available. Entertainment will be provided. Proceeds to benefit St. Joseph Men's Club charities.

**Jackson**—The Knights of Columbus #6405 will have a **Lenten Fish Fry** each Friday of Lent, March 4-April 8, 4:30-7:30 p.m., in the Lower KC Hall. Fried fish, fried chicken, fries, hushpuppies, baked beans, slaw, and mac&cheese. Cost is \$13 per person. Dine-in or carry-out. For additional information, call Dave, (573) 243-5464.

**Joplin**—The Knights of Columbus will have a **Fish Dinner** on Fri., March 4, 5-7 p.m., at St. Mary Parish. Baked tilapia, grilled cheese, vegetable stew, cheesy potatoes, green beans, coleslaw, dessert, and drink. Cost: \$8 adults, \$6 children, \$25 family. Children under age 5 eat free.

**Kimberling City**—Knights of Columbus and Parish Council of Catholic Women will have a **Friday Night Fish Fry**, Fri., March 4, 4-6:30 p.m. at Our Lady of the Cove Catholic Church located at 20 Kimberling Boulevard. Fried catfish, French fries, coleslaw, rolls, dessert, tea and coffee. Cost: \$12 for adults, \$6 for children under age 12. Carry-out is available.

**Nixa**—The **Knights of Columbus Drive-Thru Fish Fry** will be held every Friday during Lent beginning Fri., March 4-April 8, 4:30-7 p.m., at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church located at 844 S. Gregg Rd. Fried fish, French fries, hush puppies, coleslaw, and dessert. Cost: \$12 Adults, \$6 for children under age 6; \$40 for family of 4.

**Scott City**—Knights of Columbus **Lenten Fish Fries** will be held each Friday of Lent, March 4-April 8, 4:30-7 p.m. Menu includes fish, chicken, shrimp, homemade slaw, baked beans, potato wedges, mac & cheese, and hush puppies. Prices: \$13, \$7 for children, ages 10 yrs. and under, dine-in or carry-out available.





# Archery tournament held in Jackson

Jackson, MO

Immaculate Conception Catholic School (ICS), Jackson, hosted its 6th Annual Archery Invitational tournament on Sat., Feb. 12, with 163 students participating from nine schools in the region, including teams from five Catholic schools (Immaculate Conception, Jackson; St. Ambrose, Chaffee; St. Augustine, Kelso; Holy Child, Arnold; and Notre Dame Regional High School, Cape Girardeau). Students from 4th grade through 12th grade competed as individuals and as teams. Students scored points during six rounds of target shooting from 10 meters and 15 meters. Top scorers qualified for the state tournament in Branson in March.

“Archery is a lifetime sport and teaches focus, teamwork, confidence,

and boosts self esteem,” said Jake Hindman, archery coach at Immaculate Conception. “All students can excel at archery.”

Fourteen ICS students from 4th through 8th grade participated in the tournament, and several scored among the top three for their grade. All participating ICS students have now qualified for the state tournament.

ICS began it’s archery program in 2014 and began hosting the invitational tournament in 2017. The tournament is part of the Missouri National Archery in the Schools (MoNASP) program, which is sponsored by the Missouri Department of Conservation, and helps build stronger, more confident, and accomplished kids through archery. Since its beginning in 2007, MoNASP has grown to over 200,000 participating students throughout the state. ©TM

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2022

Diocesan Youth CONFERENCE

Fr. Agustino Torres, CFR

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

Katie Prejean McGrady

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

Sister Josephine Garrett

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

Josh Blakesley

Mary Kate Westrich

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Chosen

Broken

Forgiven

Decision

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

PRINCIPAL SOUGHT FOR SEDALIA

PRE-K -12 SCHOOL

Sacred Heart Catholic School, Sedalia, MO, Pre-Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade seeks a highly effective principal for the 2022-2023 academic year to assist in driving change and to continue to build excellence in academic culture. The selected candidate will be charged with increasing and accelerating student achievement, evaluating and implementing an effective curriculum, and assisting in leading students, staff, and the community toward success. The Principal is part of a three-person leadership team, with the School President, Principal, and Assistant Principal collaborating in a comprehensive educational agenda. Candidates must be active, practicing Catholics. Applications for this position will be accepted through March 4, 2022. For more information, please contact Dr. Mark Register @ [mregister@gogremlins.com](mailto:mregister@gogremlins.com).

PRINCIPAL SOUGHT FOR CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

St. Mary Grade School in Cape Girardeau is looking for a Principal for the 2022-2023 School Year. Applicant should be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church and with experience in Catholic Elementary Education, preferably with a Masters in School Administration. For more information or an application, please contact Fr. Allan Saunders at (573) 335-0649 or [FrSaunders@stmarycathedral.net](mailto:FrSaunders@stmarycathedral.net).

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# PROJECT RACHEL

## Abortion Healing Ministry

*Project Rachel* is the Catholic Church's bilingual ministry (Spanish & English) of love, support, and healing for those who have been involved in abortion. To implement that ministry, our Diocese has created an integrated network of services, including pastoral counseling, support groups, retreats, opportunities for sacramental forgiveness, and referrals to licensed mental health professionals.

**For more information,**  
Contact Milagros Calvetti, Project Rachel Minister or  
Kim Brayman, Program Coordinator, Office of Family Life,  
Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau  
[mcalvetti@dioscg.org](mailto:mcalvetti@dioscg.org) | [kbrayman@dioscg.org](mailto:kbrayman@dioscg.org) | 417.866.0841

## Cursillo Ultreya held in St. John Henry Newman Chapel

◀ **JANUARY ULTREYA**—Cape Girardeau area Cursillistas gathered for an Ultreya on Jan. 15 in the St. John Henry Newman Chapel on the campus of Southeast Missouri State University. Those who have completed the spiritual renewal program Cursillo are known as Cursillistas. Cursillistas gather with some frequency to pray, hear a teaching, and discuss Scripture. These gatherings are called Ultreyas (or "fourth day") to suggest the ongoing nature of renewal in Christ. The community emphasis of the movement conveys a strong sense of Church: people gathered in Christ's name as members of the universal Body of Christ. More information on the diocesan Cursillo program, including upcoming retreats, is on the Cursillo page of the diocesan Website at <https://dioscg.org/cursillo-3/>. (Photo by Dan Williams/The Mirror)

## We are the Light of the World

63rd (DCCW) Diocese of Springfield - Cape Girardeau  
2022 Annual Spring Assembly—April 22 - 23, 2022  
DRURY PLAZA HOTEL Cape Girardeau Conference Center



### SCHEDULE

**Friday, April 22**  
8 - 9:30 am Registration and browse time  
Grab bags, vendors, and purse silent auction.  
9:30 - 10 am Divine Mercy: Becca Kern  
10 - 11 am Speaker: Donna Cori Gibson  
11 - 11:30 am Break and Browse  
11:30 am - 12:30 pm Lunch  
12:45 - 1:20 pm Welcome and introductions, opening prayer  
1:20 - 2:20 pm Keynote Speaker: Donna Cori Gibson  
2:20 - 3:00 pm Leadership Commission Speaker:  
Rev. William W. Hennecke, Jr.  
3 - 3:30 pm Break and Browse  
3:30 - 4:15 pm Bishop Edward M. Rice  
4:30 pm Drive to St. Mary Cathedral -  
("Direction at the bottom")  
5 pm Mass with Bishop Rice and attending priests  
6:30 pm Bishop's blessing before banquet  
Cash bar available, purse auction closes.  
7:15 pm Presentation of  
Our Lady Of Good Council Award  
7:30 pm Banquet Entertainment:  
"To Be Announced"  
8:30 pm Closing prayer by Bishop Edward M. Rice

**Saturday, April 23**  
7:15 am Rosary and Meditation: Becca Kern  
7:30 - 8 am Registration and Browse,  
Grab bags, Vendors.  
8 am Morning opening prayer: Becca Kern  
8:15 - 9 am Spirituality Commission Speaker:  
Rev. Joseph Kelly  
9 - 9:45 am Service Commission Speaker:  
Sister Sharon Miller  
9:45 am - 10:15 am Break - Last chance to buy tickets and  
visit Vendors.  
10:15 - 11 am Province Director: Rita Lueckenotte  
11 - 11:30 am Drawings  
11:30 am Closing prayer and adjournment.

\*Direction to The Cathedral of St. Mary of the Annunciation -  
615 William Street from the Drury Plaza Hotel Cape Girardeau  
Conference Center - "Exit Drury Center onto William Street  
Stay on William Street going east to the Cathedral.

### REGISTRATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Complete Assembly **\$50** if mailed by **March 20**  
(Includes luncheon, Friday all day, banquet & Saturday)  
\_\_\_\_ Complete Assembly **\$60** if mailed **AFTER March 20**  
(Includes luncheon, Friday all day, banquet & Saturday)  
\_\_\_\_ I am **ONLY** attending Banquet Friday evening **\$35**  
\_\_\_\_ I am a First Time Attendee to the Spring Assembly

**Please make checks payable to "DCCW"**  
Nancy Slezak,  
3660 S. Cox Ave #1107,  
Springfield, MO 65807

Deadline for making Hotel Reservations is: **March 20, 2022**

**Please call:**  
**DRURY PLAZA HOTEL**  
Cape Girardeau Conference Center  
3351 Percy Drive, Cape Girardeau, MO - 573-334-7151  
\$104 room rate, choice of Single King Bed Deluxe or  
double Queen Deluxe or, two room suite, 2 queen beds;  
reserved on a first serve basis with the hotel.  
**Mention DCCW for this rate.**

### Keynote Speaker:

Donna Cori Gibson

### Spirituality Commission Speaker:

Fr. Joseph Kelly

### Service Commission Speaker:

Sr. Sharon Miller

### Leadership Commission Speaker:

Rev. William W. Hennecke, Jr.





# Vatican: Number of Catholics worldwide rose by 16 million in 2020

◀ ST. PETER'S BASILICA seen through a bubble on Dec. 3, 2019. (Daniel Ibáñez/CNA)

Vatican City

The number of Catholics worldwide increased by an estimated 16 million in 2020 to 1.36 billion, according to statistics released on Friday by the Vatican.

The rise was in line with global population growth in the year that the coronavirus pandemic swept the planet, reported Vatican News, the online news portal of the Holy See. Catholics continued to account for 17.7% of the total world population.

The figures for 2020 — the most recent year where numbers are available — come from the 2022 edition of the *Annuario Pontificio* (Pontifical Yearbook) and the 2020 *Annuarium Statisticum Ecclesiae* (Statistical Yearbook of the Church), compiled by the Vatican's Central Office of Church Statistics.

As in previous years, the Church grew most rapidly in Asia (1.8%) and Africa (2.1%) and most modestly in Europe (0.3%).

Almost half (48%) of the world's Catholics live in the Americas, with 28% located in South America. The numbers of bishops worldwide saw a minute decline, from 5,364 in 2019 to 5,363 in 2020.

At the end of 2020, there were a total of 410,219

priests, a decrease of 4,117 compared to 2019. Although there was a fall in the number of priests in North America and Europe, there was a "significant increase" in Africa and Asia, reported Vatican News.

In 2020, around 40% of the world's priests lived in Europe, 29% in the Americas, 17% in Asia, 12% in Africa, and 1% in Oceania.

The number of Catholics per priest worldwide rose from 3,245 in 2019 to 3,314 in 2020. In Europe, there was an average of 1,746 Catholics per priest, 2,086 in the Americas, and 5,089 in Africa.

There was an increase in permanent deacons, from 48,238 in 2019 to 48,635 in 2020. The number in Europe dipped slightly from 15,267 to 15,170.

The number of male religious who are not priests grew worldwide from 50,295 in 2019 to 50,569 in 2020, with an increase seen in Africa (1.1%), Asia (2.8%) and Europe (4%) but a decrease in the Americas (-4%) and Oceania (-6%).

The number of women religious fell globally from 630,099 in 2019 to 619,546 in 2020, a drop of -1.7%. But there was a rise in Africa (3.2%) and Asia (0.2%), alongside a decrease in Europe (-4.1%), the Americas (-2.8%) and Oceania (-5.7%).

There were 111,855 seminarians in 2020, compared to 114,058 in 2019. There were notable decreases in Europe (-4.3%), the Americas (-4.2%), and Asia (-3.5%) but a rise of 2.8% (from 32,721 to 33,628) in Africa.

©CNS

Tune in to local Catholic Radio around the Diocese

K232FF	94.3 FM	Cape Girardeau
KHJM	89.1 FM	Dexter & the Bootheel
KFSS	94.5 FM	Joplin
KQOH	91.9 FM	Springfield

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



## 'Father, Son, and Holy Toast' brings smiles to third grade

Third graders in St. Mary Catholic School, Joplin, were surprised with some 'special' toast and strawberry jam for Valentine's Day. They sat and watched a video of Our Lady of Lourdes while they enjoyed their "Mary" toast.

The impression is made via a special press that the fun and resourceful Mrs. Margie Black utilizes to celebrate various feast days that celebrate the Blessed Mother. (Submitted photos)



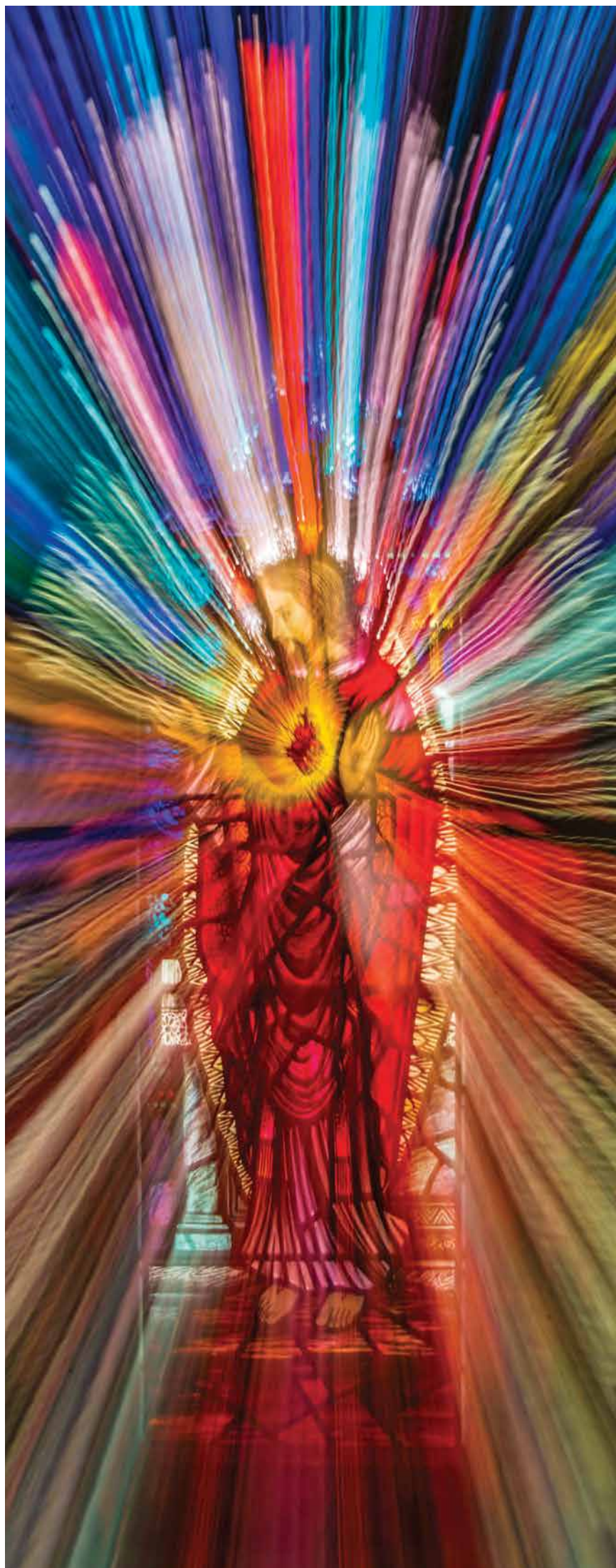
Is He Calling You?

**Matthew 4:19**

Any young man interested in learning about the priesthood is invited to join us for a dinner with Bishop Rice at St. Michael's Restaurant 301 South Ave, Springfield, MO Wednesday March 23rd, 2022 6:30PM

RSVP BY EMAIL: [FRKIRCHNER@SCSPK12.ORG](mailto:FRKIRCHNER@SCSPK12.ORG)





**HEARTS SEALED FOR CHRIST**—A sacred heart of Jesus stained-glass window is pictured at Mount Melleray Abbey in Waterford, Ireland. May this be our prayer, not just this Lent, but each morning: that our hearts are sealed for God. (CNS photo/Cillian Kelly)

# LENT 3.0:

## Third Lent in pandemic offers spiritual reset, healing

by Carol Zimmerman

Washington

**L**ent, the spiritual season of prayer and sacrifice, has an extra pull to it this year because once again—and now for the third time—it will be under the cloud of the coronavirus pandemic.

And even though the third Lent in a pandemic can feel like a lot like a Jesus' third fall on the road to Calvary, people who spoke with Catholic News Service focused more on the season's path to Easter and how this year's Lent also coincides with an optimism around COVID-19 cases dropping in the US.

"It's a perfect storm: lower (coronavirus) numbers just as Lent approaches," said Mary DeTurris Poust, former communications director for the Diocese of Albany, NY.

Poust, who teaches yoga, leads retreats, and writes a blog called "Not Strictly Spiritual," said that during recent virtual retreats she has led, it's obvious how much people want to reconnect in person.

### LENTEN 'RESET'

Maybe this Lent, which starts on Ash Wednesday, March 2, is the time to do just that, she said about being with the parish community: gathering for Mass, prayer services, Stations of the Cross, and also for the returning soup suppers and fish fries.

After the tremendous losses of the past two years, she said, this Lent could be a good time for a reset.

"Lent is the perfect opportunity to recalculate the internal GPS" of where we're going, Poust said, speaking about individuals but also more broadly about what parishes can do as they look to welcome people back.

So many Catholics like the ritual of Lent and all of its "bells and smells," she said, which makes this season a great opportunity "to pull them back in the best way."

Jen Sawyer, editor-in-chief of "Busted Halo," a Paulist Website and satellite radio program, said in times of uncertainty, people "rely on muscle memory" of traditional faith practices they are used to. But this year, she thinks Lent's usual traditions might have a different feel.

"It seems like this is the Lent we're most prepared for; we've all sacrificed so much" she said. The desert experience of Lent has already been lived out and with so many



people exhausted from the past two years, she said this Lent offers new opportunities to find peace, community, and faith.

Paulist Fr. Larry Rice, campus chaplain for Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY, agreed, saying the Church is more than ready for Lent 2022 and he hopes it will help people "respond to all the trauma we have been through."

"We are living with long-term, low-grade trauma," he said, adding that for many, the pain is just under the surface and he sees Lent as the antidote. "As Christian people, we believe our destination is not Good Friday. We go through that to get to Easter."

He also said this year has the added hope that "by the time we get to Easter, the pandemic we're experiencing will look different." And with wisdom acquired in the past two years, he also added: "There are no guarantees; there could be new (coronavirus) variants."

The past two Lents did not have that same thread of hope.

Lent 2020 started off without a hitch with just a small number of COVID-19 cases in the country but by the second week of Lent, in early March, some dioceses urged parishes to curtail handshaking at the sign of peace and Communion from the chalice. By the third week of Lent, many dioceses lifted Sunday Mass obligations and stopped public Masses and Lenten services such as Stations of the Cross, prayer services, and fish fries.

Last year during Lent, more churches were open—although many were limiting congregation sizes and requiring parishioners to sign up for Masses. Fish fries were back, as carry-out events, and in many dioceses, ashes were sprinkled over heads on Ash Wednesday.



This year, parishes are open—with differing mask regulations and social distancing in place—and the beloved fish fries are back with both in-person or carry-out options.

“These past two years for all of us have not been easy, but God has been with us,” said Mercy Sr. Carolyn McWatters, a liturgist and chair of the Prayer and Ritual Committee for the Sisters of Mercy.

Sister McWatters, who lives at the Sacred Heart Convent in Belmont, NC, and is involved in ministry there with the order’s retired sisters, emphasized

the need to reflect on the pandemic experience this Lent. She said it’s important to recognize how we lived beyond what we could control, the inner resources we relied on and where we saw goodness and grace at work.

“The cross is never a dead end. It points to new life. Where are the signs of life for me, my

community, the country, the world?” she asked.

Spiritual growth is often about relinquishing control, she said, which was certainly an aspect to pandemic life but the coronavirus also involved the hardship of isolation which was

especially experienced by the retired sisters.

The convent, part of a national center for the Mercy sisters, had been a frequent spot for meetings and gatherings and many came for Sunday Masses and dinners, which was all put on hold for the past two years.

“Everybody is looking for the end,” she said.

The view of these retired Mercy sisters echoes what many are feeling, but Sr. McWatters also cautions against people focusing on being victims right now and seeing the pandemic purely as “woe is me.”

Similarly, she said, Lent is not gloom and doom but should be a “joyful embrace of what will help me to grow

more deeply.”

Sawyer also stressed that faith is meant to be joyful and said that Busted Halo with its “Fast Pray Give Lent Calendar” and InstaLent photo challenge aims to get that across and will continue that this Lent particularly by urging people to try something new—a new book or prayer—and to check in with others after so much pandemic isolation.

“We don’t often think of Lent as a vibrant time of community connection,” she said, adding that Catholics are “used to the desert” experience often associated with the season. But this Lent, that might change. ©CNS

**The cross is never a dead end. It points to new life.**

STATIONS REMIND *faithful* OF DEPTH OF CHRIST’S LOVE



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**—The 14 Stations of the Cross are seen in this composite photo. (CNS composite; photos by Katie Peterson, Tennessee Register)

Nashville, TN

**F**rom partaking in the sacrament of penance and reconciliation to fasting to choosing what to give up, Lent is full of traditions that Catholics around the world take part in as they prepare to celebrate Christ’s passion, death, and resurrection. But there’s another sacred tradition that dates back to the early days of the Crusades; one that allows them to “walk” the Via Dolorosa with Christ: the Stations of the Cross. The Stations of the Cross are a mini-pilgrimage, taking believers through the steps taken by Jesus on Good Friday, from his condemnation to his burial.

The stations are a “way of prayerfully uniting oneself to the sacrifice of the Lord and his love for us,” said Fr. Eric Fowlkes, pastor of the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Nashville. “It’s also an invitation for us to place ourselves within that journey.”

The Stations of the Cross date back to the Middle Ages during the religious wars between Christians and Muslims, known as the Crusades.

“The Crusades awakened an interest in Europe in the places associated with Christ in the Holy Land. For the first time, Europeans were traveling there regularly and wanted to see the holy places where the biblical events took place,” said Fr. Bede Price, pastor of Church of the Assumption in Nashville. ©CNS





NOTRE DAME REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

**Cape Girardeau, MO**—The Missouri House of Representatives & Representative Barry Hovis recognized the NDHS Education Fund Foundation’s dedication to our students’ future. Board members received a certificate of recognition in honor of Catholic Schools Week. Pictured: NDHS Education Fund Foundation board members Brad Elfrink, Chairman JP Thompson, Robert Essner, Ali Ferrell, Principal Tim Garner, and Development Director Alex Jackson.



SPRINGFIELD CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

**Springfield, MO**—On February 1st a Pastries with Parents event was held. It was a wonderful morning of celebrating families as part of Catholic Schools Week celebrations!



MCAULEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

**Joplin, MO**—When in-person classes were cancelled due to weather during the week, the PE, Strength and Conditioning assignment for remote learning was to shovel a driveway of a neighbor who could use the help. A great assignment to give back to the community, especially during Catholic Schools Week.



ST. AGNES CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

**Springfield, MO**—To help celebrate NCS Week, St. Agnes Cathedral students enjoyed a new addition to their playground which kept the kids singing the “Wheels on the Bus” song!



ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON

**Springfield, MO**—Each morning during Catholic Schools Week, students at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton prayed a decade of the rosary. They prayed for our schools and for God to continue to bless us and all Catholic schools.



ST. DENIS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

**Benton, MO**—St. Denis Catholic School celebrated with a “dress as a Saint” day!



ST. AMBROSE SCHOOL

**Chaffee, MO**—St. Ambrose School kicked off the week with a new LARGE yard sign to bring awareness for Catholic Schools!





### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL

**Springfield, MO**—Students dressed in 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s and the 90s to help celebrate the decades of great teachers for Catholic Schools week.



### ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC ACADEMY

**Springfield, MO**—Students visited several Parishes in the area to speak about the importance and values learned in a Catholic school!



### ST. MARY CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

**Cape Girardeau, MO**—St. Mary celebrated their community during NCSW by recognizing their Distinguished Graduates, Dee Dee Siebert and Jody Grim for their 76 years combined experience supporting the school.



### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ELEMENTARY

**Cape Girardeau, MO**—Baskets of Kindness were made and sent by students for NCSW with the 1st grader's creating a gift basket for the parish office to thank them for their work, and the 6th graders sending baskets to 3 area hospitals to thank them for keeping the community healthy.



### ST. MARY SCHOOL

**Joplin, MO**—St. Mary's students honored the religious and teaching vocations they experience each day with an "I Spy Our Vocations" day. Students experienced the best of both worlds as they celebrated Mass with Bishop Rice, Deacon Huff, and our Joplin areas priests. Congratulations to Kindergarten teacher Annette Taylor who was recognized as Educator of the Year and our Principal for the Day, Zachary Cronenwett.



### ST. AUGUSTINE SCHOOL

**Kelso, MO**—5th - 8th grade students went to Anytime Fitness for a fun trip that included basketball and "rock" climbing.



### ST. TERESA SCHOOL

**Glennville, MO**—St. Teresa Catholic School celebrated NCSW with a mad scientist day, alumni recognition and the 1st and 2nd grade catapult competition.



### ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL

**Joplin, MO**—As part of Catholic Schools Week, students made cards for a community breakfast and first responders in Joplin.



### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL

**Jackson, MO**—On TV Show Character Day, students were super creative and came up with some awesome costumes!



**Catholic Schools Week 2022**  
January 30–February 5

[www.NCEA.org/csw](http://www.NCEA.org/csw)

#CSW22





**GUARDIAN ANGEL SCHOOL**

**Oran, MO**—HAPPY CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK! At the Saturday evening vigil Mass, Guardian Angel kicked off Catholic Schools Week with the help of several of their school students.



**ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

**Scott City, MO**—Grandparents, parents, and friends came together for a fun Bingo event.



**ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

**Sikeston, MO**—Students had fun playing outdoor games with Father Colby during the week.



**ST. ANN CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

**Carthage, MO**—Principal Mikelle Cortez was interviewed by KOAM Morning News and by Good Morning Four States for National Catholic School Week.



**ST. HENRY SCHOOL**

**Charleston, MO**—Catholic Schools Week Team Games!



**SACRED HEART CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

**Poplar Bluff, MO**—Sacred Heart had a full week planned, starting with Mass celebration Sunday, Monday "Best Dressed," Tuesday "PJs and Popcorn," Wednesday "SHS Hawks Spirit," Thursday "Career Day," and Friday "Soup-er Sports Day."





# Find moments of silence this Lent, CONNECT THREE PILLARS OF SEASON

By Anna Capizzi Galvez Washington

**H**ow can Catholics and Christians approach Lent this year in a fresh way?

Two authors provided their insights on how to make Lent meaningful in 2022 —especially since this is the third Lent the Church will observe during the COVID-19 pandemic

Think of Lent as a season of rest, said Paul Jarzembowski, author of the 2022 book *Hope from the Ashes: Insights and Resources for Welcoming Lenten Visitors*.

Many people come back and connect to the Church during Lent because “there’s something that’s weighing heavy on their hearts,” Jarzembowski said.

“Lent is a time where the Church invites people to lay a lot of those issues at the feet of the Lord and to go through Lent alongside Jesus who is also, we see in Lent, is walking that journey too,” added Jarzembowski, associate director for the laity in the Secretariat of Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth at the USCCB.

Tsh Oxenreider, writer, Podcaster, and author of the 2022 devotional *Bitter & Sweet: A Journey Into Easter*, said that this third Lent of the pandemic is unique in that many are saying they are ready to reembrace Lent again.

“It was almost like the first Lent snuck up on us” at the beginning of the pandemic and “we were just in survival mode,” Oxenreider said. “Then the second Lent came around and it was like, what we just had Lent. We’ve been in Lent this whole time; it feels like it.”

But now in 2022 many are realizing the value of the rhythms of the liturgical calendar and are acknowledging the good Lent provides in our lives, Oxenreider said.

One way to refresh your Lenten practice this year is to connect how you observe the three traditional pillars of Lent: fasting, almsgiving, and prayer.

“See if there are creative ways you can dovetail what you sense God calling you fast from with your prayer and your giving,” she said. Together with your fasting, “Is there some sort of giving you can do toward local food situations? ... Focus some of your prayer on food insecurity around the world.”

“Not only does that check those boxes with giving and prayer, but it actually provides more meaning to the fast,” Oxenreider said.

To approach Lent with a fresh perspective, try to find moments of silence, Jarzembowski suggested.

“Lent affords us some time to really be quiet. If that’s quiet in one’s personal prayer space; if that’s quiet getting in the car and going over to a church or a sacred space; if that’s Online. Wherever someone can find that quiet and you know that you have the time to do,” he said.

Jarzembowski compared Lent to baseball’s spring training in that both are practice seasons.

“During spring training, you practice on the fundamentals. You try things out you’ve never tried before so that when it’s time for the regular season, what we would call after Easter, you’ve had this time to practice. During Lent, (practice) moments to just shut it

down” to gift yourself with moments of silence, pause, and reflection, he added.

But while it’s important to find moments of quiet, it’s also important to connect with others.

“Lent is often about that inner journey; it is often about our personal commitment but we sometimes go to too far in personal and privatize Lent,” Jarzembowski said.

More people are observing Lent than we realize, he said. “Maybe someone you didn’t expect, maybe someone who doesn’t go to church often, who might be having peanut butter and jelly sandwiches alongside you. Maybe they’re giving up chocolate just like you.”

## TOGETHER, WE ARE BODY OF CHRIST

This year, “ask the Lord for the gift of boldness to be a little more free to talk with our friends and our family with about what we’re doing and ask what they’re doing,” Jarzembowski said.

“There’s something to be said about making it a season that helps us remember we’re a Church, we’re not just individual Christians and walking around earth and just coincidentally at the same time,” Oxenreider said. “We are a body, and this is something that we do together for whatever reason. God set it us so that we needed each other and so it makes sense that we would need each other for Lent.”

For Oxenreider, art and music are two avenues to fostering a shared Lenten experience.

In her book, *Bitter & Sweet*, Oxenreider includes titles of songs to listen to daily as well as pieces of art to

contemplate weekly. Art and music “can be a source of talking among your family and your friends about your Lenten experience and it doesn’t all have to just stay in your head,” she said.

Parishes are key in creating community during Lent, and parishes should consider devoting careful attention to planning thoughtful Lenten programs.

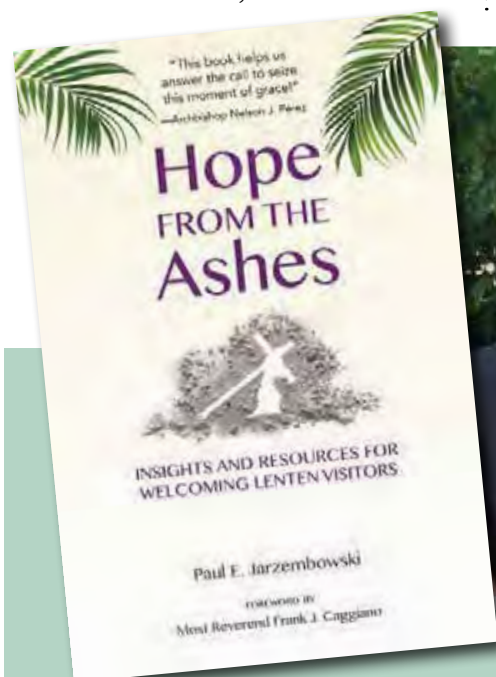
“Any Lenten program should have a first impression where someone should feel it’s accessible. For instance, a stress relief night could be something we could use,” Jarzembowski suggested.

“It’s language that accessible. You can feature prayers, songs. There could be opportunities for devotions, for rosary,” he added. “Helping people understand that this is how we in our faith tradition relieve stress.”

“The other ideal Lenten program is one that speaks to people’s needs. We are overstressed. We are anxiety-ridden. Do our Lenten programs provide a response to that? (Are) there opportunities for spiritual direction or mentorship? Is there a place for people to know they can go for even clinical support?” Jarzembowski said.

Ultimately, Jarzembowski encourages people to be patient with themselves during Lent. “Do something. You don’t have to do everything.”

While many can begin Lent with great enthusiasm, they can lose steam by the third week, Oxenreider said. She suggests navigating the season slowly and steadily. “To make it through Lent takes a lot of grace on ourselves, grace that God gives us.” ©CNS







## Polar bears donate to Bowl-a-Thon drive

**DO POLAR BEARS EVEN BOWL?**—Maybe not, but they sure support local charities! St. Joseph Catholic Academy in Springfield recently had a Paper & Penny War to solicit funds for the annual "Knights of Columbus Striking Out Bowl-a-Thon" event to support those in need. The competition was fierce. Even the polar bears got in on the fun! (Submitted photos)

To Honor and Glorify Jesus Christ and Defend Innocent Life



## 2022 MIDWEST MARCH FOR LIFE



### Speakers:



Abby Johnson  
CEO & Founder  
And Then There Were None

Bishop Shawn McKnight  
Diocese of Jefferson City



Lisa Rowe  
Chief Executive Officer  
Support After Abortion

Catherine Glenn Foster  
President & CEO  
Americans United for Life



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### April 20, 2022 SCHEDULE:

Missouri State Capitol  
South Lawn  
204 W Capitol Ave  
Jefferson City, MO

7:45 am to 3:30 pm Grounds Open  
Over 30 Life Affirming Exhibits

8:00 am Rosary and Prayer Walk

9:15 am Pre-Rally with Speakers

10:00 am March Begins

11:00 am Rally with Speakers

12:00 pm Knights of Columbus Council #4454  
Fundraiser Lunch—Grilled Hot Dogs, etc.

#### Capitol North Lawn

1:00 pm Students For Life Apologetics & Rally  
Lucy Gonzalez & Hope Miller

#### MO Supreme Court Sidewalk

2:00 pm Silent No More Awareness Testimonies  
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# Totus Tuus

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### What is Totus Tuus?

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

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

[dioscg.org/totustuus/](http://dioscg.org/totustuus/)

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

Lynn Melendez, Director  
417-866-0841

[lmelendez@dioscg.org](mailto:lmelendez@dioscg.org)



For the Diocese of  
Springfield-Cape Girardeau





## REFLECTION ON THE EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## Do we notice the wooden beam in our own eye?

*Sirach 27:4-7;  
Psalm 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16;  
1 Corinthians 15:54-58;  
Luke 6:39-45*

In our Gospel reading for the 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Jesus is preaching to a large crowd who has come not only from across Judea, but from Gentile regions as well. His message to the people, and to us, is a familiar one: Do not be so quick to judge your brother for his faults, for the splinter in his eye, when you may have even greater faults, is a wooden beam in your own eye.

Jesus is not saying that we should never judge. We were given an intellect and reason so that we can make judgments. If we see a child running after a ball that is rolling toward the street, we must judge that as a dangerous situation. We cannot be indifferent about it. And, we must act quickly on that judgment to protect the child from being injured. However, we are not judging the child. We are judging the action of the child based on the harm that could result.

Jesus says in today's Scripture, "Remove the wooden beam from your eye first, then you will see clearly to remove the splinter from your brother's eye." In other words, we are not forbidden from recognizing and judging the actions of others, from admonishing the sinner, but



## SCRIPTURE WISDOM

Deacon  
Jim Walter

we are forbidden from judging them as a person. Jesus is not ruling out our correcting another person out of love because of the danger in which they may be putting themselves. But rather, he is condemning having a critical spirit where we ignore our own faults, the wooden beam in our own eye.

"Who am I to judge?" is a common phrase. But in its proper context, this phrase means "Who am I to judge the state of another person's soul, how they appear to God?" I cannot know the spiritual condition of anyone or judge them. That is something only God can do. However, we also cannot use the phrase, "Who am I to judge?" as an excuse to avoid making moral judgments as to whether or not an action is in accordance with God's divine law for, in so doing, we fail to recognize the harm that it does to the person committing the act, to their family, and to society as a whole.

We stop a child from running into the street because we love and care for them. We judge the act of abortion as evil because it is the killing of an innocent child in the womb and it also causes terrible psychological and

physical injury to the mother. Abortion harms not only those contributing

to the act by their direct or indirect support, but it harms all of us. At its core, it is an extreme evil by which the devil seeks to destroy life created by God.

In the same manner, we must judge murder, pornography, adultery, hatred, and all acts which violate the Ten Commandments, as sinful. This is not only because they are morally wrong, but also because they destroy lives and families, and do great violence to the Kingdom of God.

We cannot judge the soul of another person. In fact, we are forbidden to judge them. We do not know the mental, psychological, or spiritual condition of a person when they did this or that. We can never know their personal culpability for any sin. That is left up to God alone.

Our response to others must always be one of love. In fact, we are commanded to respond in love. However, this does not mean that we overlook the act that was committed. Rather, we respond to them in a way that seeks to heal the mental and spiritual damage that they suffer because of sin. That can be hard to do, which is why we need the help of the



Holy Spirit to know what to say and when.

We do not have to compromise truth to be

compassionate and caring. Loving someone does not mean that we accept everything they do, because that is not love. Real love is willing the good of another person. Accepting or ignoring behavior that is spiritually, emotionally, or physically harmful is not love.

But once again, we must take a good look at ourselves, at the wooden beam in our own eye. We are often quick to judge the faults of others, but much slower to see our own failings. However, knowing that we have a wooden beam in our own eye is not an excuse for inaction on our part. Rather, it should drive us to get our own spiritual house in order without delay, to take a good look at ourselves and our relationship with God, and to shake off the burdens of sin that are preventing us from helping others as we should. Thankfully, the Church gives us time to do just that. She gives us a special time to focus on removing the wooden beam from our own eye: It is called Lent. ©TM

Deacon Walter is assigned to St. Ann Parish, in Carthage.

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All proceeds will benefit the new LifeHouse Crisis  
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FOR MORE INFO or to purchase tickets, visit [ccsomo.org](http://ccsomo.org) or Email Mandy at [mlong@ccsomo.org](mailto:mlong@ccsomo.org).



THE 3RD ANNUAL

# CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE

In cooperation with the diocesan Office of Evangelization and Catechesis.

Saturday  
Feb. 26  
2022

Featuring  
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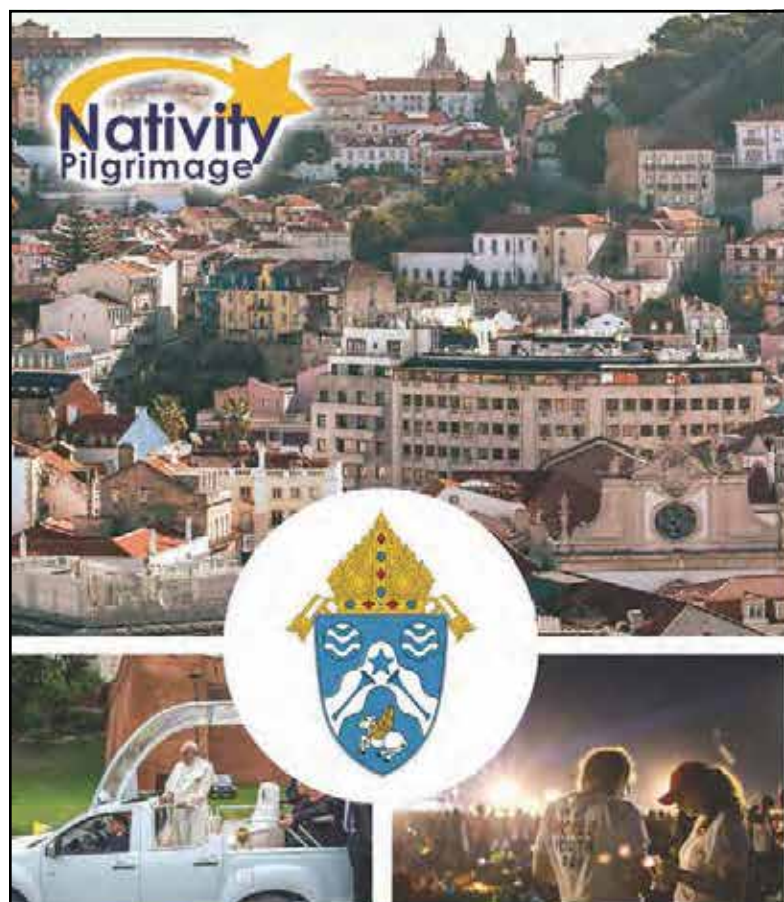
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For Adults**Training is currently available Online.****Preregistration is necessary:** If you are a new registrant please go to [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org) and click on "first time registrant" on the left, and follow the prompts to register 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](http://www.dioscg.org/wp-content/uploads/How-to-Register-for-a-VIRTUS-withOnline-Option.pdf)**Training sessions are for adults only.** The link to updated schedules may be found at [www.dioscg.org](http://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/](http://www.dioscg.org/child-youth-protection/)**For more information, please contact the Office of Child and Youth Protection, [childandyouthprotection@dioscg.org](mailto:childandyouthprotection@dioscg.org); or Bill Holtmeyer, [billholtmeyer@dioscg.org](mailto:billholtmeyer@dioscg.org); or Rosie Francka [rfrancka@dioscg.org](mailto:rfrancka@dioscg.org), (417) 866-0841.**

## World Youth Day

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

10 day pilgrimage to Lisbon and Fatima led by  
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**CONGRATULATIONS**

# Fr. John Harth

Fr. John Harth will celebrate the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his priesthood ordination on Feb. 27. Father John Harth is a retired priest of the diocese. He lives in Cape Girardeau.

*Happy Anniversary, Father Harth!*



**35<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

## REFLECTION ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

## Abandon yourself to Jesus this Lent

*Deuteronomy 26:4-10;*  
*Psalms 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15;*  
*Romans 10:8-13;*  
*Luke 4: 1-13*

**W**elcome to Lent!  
A year ago in my reflection for Ash Wednesday, I said the very same thing! It is probably not the greeting that we normally hear for this somber season. While there are many sacrifices that we encounter during this Lenten time, there is also the post-pandemic reality. Let me get back to a crowded Friday Fish Fry! Let me walk in a group and pray the Stations of the Cross. Let me get smudged with those burnt ashes on Ash Wednesday. And yes, grab me a palm branch on Palm Sunday!

Over the past few years, we have had to abandon many things!

For the past year, your priests and deacons in the Diocese have been writing reflection articles for a this series called "Scripture Wisdom." I want to publicly thank each of them for submitting an article for *The Mirror* this past year! It was a Lenten task that demanded a little more sacrifice. However, I believe that the power of Resurrection joy was seen in each article. It helped, in my opinion, to see the great resource we have in our Diocese through our priests and deacons.

As I helped coordinate those articles for *The Mirror*, I have learned many things over the past year. One is that the Word of God is very powerful! It is able to create new avenues of enlightenment. This is the Resurrection joy, and people love to read words from our "local" clergy.



**SCRIPTURE WISDOM**  
*Father Rick Jones*

Second, I have also learned that our priests and deacons are very busy people. Their task of ministry is more than a Sunday gig. They are busy throughout the whole week and sometimes trying to find time to write a reflection can prove difficult. I knew this a year ago, and it was good to experience it on a first-hand basis as I coordinated the reflections this past year.

I have decided that for this Season of Lent, I am going to give up coordinating these reflections. In a spirit of abandonment, I have decided to let the Spirit of God take over. I have encouraged each of our priests and deacons to Email Leslie Eidson, Editor, at *The Mirror*, and volunteer to write a reflection on a specific Sunday. Maybe they will continue to be a reflection on a specific set of Sunday readings. Or, maybe the Sunday Scripture readings will be just a start for another topic. For example, my emphasis on abandonment. With the power of the Holy Spirit, I believe we can keep this column going. Maybe you can help your priest or deacon in choosing a Sunday with a topic you would like him to reflect upon more than just in his homily. We have a great resource in our Diocese with our clergy! Please affirm that you have enjoyed this series by our local clergy, and let's keep it going!

## NEW SAINT IN THE CHURCH

On May 15, we will have a new Saint in the Church. Brother Charles de Foucauld will be St. Charles. Brother Charles has a great conversion story. I encourage you to find out more about this holy man. On my part, I love his prayer of abandonment. If you are not familiar with it, here it is:

*Father, I abandon myself into your hands; do with me what You will. Whatever You may do, I thank You. I am ready for all, I accept all. Let only Your will be done in me and in all your creatures. I wish no more than this, O Lord. Into Your hands, I commend my soul; I offer it to You with all the love of my heart, for I love You, Lord, and so need to give myself, to surrender myself into Your hands without reserve, and with boundless confidence, for You are my Father.*

As I was pondering my task of coordinating these reflections, with the help of Brother Charles, I basically said to myself, "Why do I have to coordinate these reflection articles? Why not give it to God and see what happens?" And so, that is what I am doing. I am trusting that God will use the wisdom found in our clergy of Southern Missouri to continue with this evangelization.

The Spirit of Lent challenges each one of us to abandon ourselves to God's will. Is that not what Jesus did in the

Gospel for this First Sunday of Lent. Jesus went to the desert and faced the Demon. Jesus abandoned himself to the Heavenly Father's plan. He won!

We will see this same occurrence with Jesus many times during this Season of Lent.

Abandonment is not easy. However, it is possible! As the Archangel Gabriel reminds us daily, with God's grace, all things are possible! Father, I abandon myself into your hands. Have a great Lent! ©TM

*Father Jones is Pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish, in Cape Girardeau.*



**ICON**—On May 15, 2022, the Church will gain a new saint: brother Charles de Foucauld.

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## Cross Catholic Outreach's Water Projects Provide Safe Options in Poor Communities

In recent years, water scarcity has been identified as one of the most critical problems poor families face in developing countries, and the Catholic missionaries serving in those nations have become more and more involved in the effort to find solutions.

While approaches to providing safe water have varied by location and situation, the concerted effort to save lives and restore hope has been a major

rivers contaminated with human and animal waste, bacteria, and parasites. They use those terrible sources because they must have water to survive, but every time they drink or offer a cup to their children, they risk illness... even death."

According to Cavnar, infants and young children are at greatest risk of dying because their vomiting and bouts of diarrhea can lead to rapid dehydration, triggering serious medical issues.



success story for the Church. It should also be a source of pride for those who donated generously to fund the work.

"This has been an incredible mission to provide safe water. While some water is typically available in every area, the problem is contamination," explained Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach, one of the leading Catholic charities involved in solving the water crisis. "For example, we're working on a major project in Nicaragua now [see story on opposite page] where people are getting sick because they have no other option but to collect water from shallow wells or

Fortunately, local clergy have become alert to these signs of trouble and have been quick to seek solutions.

"I remember one case where a visiting priest saw a child's coffin carried by a funeral procession. He spoke with local families and discovered it was one of many infant deaths they had experienced that year. When he discovered contaminated water was the cause, he contacted us for help, and with the support of our donors, we were able to address the problem and get clean, safe water flowing in the village again," Cavnar said. "In that case, the solution



*Donor-funded water projects are transforming communities and restoring hope, and Cross Catholic Outreach hopes to expand these efforts even more this year.*

was to cap a nearby spring and pipe the water into the area. Everyone praised God for the lives that were saved."

The water project Cross Catholic Outreach is organizing in Nicaragua will be engineered differently, but Cavnar believes it will have the same dramatic impact.

"With the support of Catholic donors, we will use a professional rig to drill three 300-foot wells. It's the best way to ensure we hit an adequate supply of sweet water," Cavnar said. "Then, an electric pump will be installed. It will draw the water into a large holding tank with an added filtration system. The final stage of the project will involve the installation of PVC pipes to carry the water to nearby villages and a local school. The plan is to have water taps inside and outside the homes. With this plan, the families will have 24-hour access to safe water, and will get as much safe water as they need. There will also be water for gardens and crops."

Water projects like this have become extremely popular with Cross Catholic

Outreach's donors, according to Cavnar.

"I think there are three things that appeal to them. They understand the importance of water and rightly view their contribution as a lifesaving gift. Second, they value the selfless efforts of our Catholic missionaries overseas and want to support their efforts. Last but not least, they know they have been blessed to have safe water at their own fingertips, and to thank God, they want to help others in need."

*Readers interested in supporting Cross Catholic Outreach water programs and other outreaches to the poor can contribute through the ministry brochure inserted in this issue or send tax-deductible gifts to: Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC01951, PO Box 97168, Washington DC 20090-7168. The ministry has a special need for partners willing to make gifts on a monthly basis. Use the inserted brochure to become a Mission Partner or write "Monthly Mission Partner" on mailed checks to be contacted about setting up those arrangements.*

## Cross Catholic Outreach Endorsed by More Than 100 Bishops, Archbishops

Cross Catholic Outreach's range of relief work to help the poor overseas continues to be recognized by a growing number of Catholic leaders in the U.S. and abroad.

"We've received more than 100 endorsements from bishops and archbishops," explained James Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach. "They're moved by the fact that we've launched outreaches in almost 40 countries and have undertaken a variety of projects — everything from feeding

the hungry and housing the homeless to supplying safe water and supporting educational opportunities for the poorest of the poor. The bishops have also been impressed by Cross Catholic Outreach's direct and meaningful responses to emergency situations, most recently by providing food, medicines and other resources to partners in Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala impacted by natural disasters."

Bishop Ronald W. Gainer of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, supports this

mission. He writes, "What a joy it is to be part of the Lord's redemptive work and to manifest his mercy on earth by caring for our neighbors in need."

In addition to praising CCO's accomplishments, many of the bishops and archbishops are encouraged that pontifical canonical status was conferred on the charity in September 2015, granting it approval as an official Catholic organization. This allows CCO to participate in the mission of the Church and to give a concrete witness to Gospel charity,

in collaboration with the Holy Father.

"Your work with the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development is a strong endorsement of your partnership with the work of the Universal Church," Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone of San Francisco said. "By providing hope to the faithful overseas by feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, delivering medical relief to the sick and shelter to the homeless, and through self-help projects, you are embodying the papal encyclical *Deus Caritas Est*.



PAID ADVERTISEMENT

# American Catholics Are Blessing the Poor in Developing Countries by Addressing Their Urgent Need for Safe Water

Before embarking on his long walk to school, 9-year-old Jahzeel Vega has a critical chore to undertake. He must take an old bucket to his family's hand-dug well and carefully lower it on a rope, hoping to collect enough water there for his family's daily needs. During the rainy season, he should be able to draw out three buckets full — enough for drinking and bathing that day — but during dry spells, he may not be that lucky. If the well is empty, another water source will need to be found, possibly much farther away.

As Jahzeel's mother, Francisca, watches the boy, she probably feels a sense of dread. That's because she knows something the boy does not. While the water he is drawing up is critical to the family, it is also unsafe. Unseen bacteria and parasites taint virtually all the water sources in this area, but the families living in Chinandega, Nicaragua, must drink what they can collect — *because they have no other choice.*

in from the coast may also be a part of the problem. To learn how it might help, Cross Catholic Outreach's staff spoke to local families and local ministry leaders. They concluded the unsafe water is having a dire impact on youngest children, including Jahzeel Vega's 3-year-old sister, Emelyn.

"Emelyn has often been sick from drinking that water. She gets sick with vomiting, diarrhea and parasites," Francisca Vega told them. She added that her neighbors in the village of La Danta Aserradores share her hardships and desperately want to find a solution to the water problem.

"We as parents have dreams for our children: to see that they have a better condition than ours," she said. "We want them to have better health, to enjoy a decent and dignified life."

Francisca's husband, Jairo, also suffers from a serious health problem — kidney failure — but his condition is caused by having too little water to drink. He and



"Many of these Nicaraguan villages only have access to contaminated water. It makes them sick, but they drink it anyway because there is no alternative yet," explained Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach, a respected Catholic ministry known for its programs to help the poor in developing countries. "You can imagine how that makes a mother like Francisca feel. Water is essential to her family's survival — but each time they drink, they risk getting sick."

In this case, Cavnar has learned, the shallow well may be particularly dangerous because it is located near filthy latrines. These pit latrines leak pollutants into the water table. Animal waste, pesticides and even saltwater seeping

other field laborers can easily fall prey to dehydration while toiling under the scorching Nicaraguan sun.

"To alleviate his kidney problems, Jairo would need to drink more of the contaminated water, and that's obviously not a viable solution," Cavnar said. "No, the solution to all of these terrible hardships must involve outside intervention. The Church needs to get involved, and safe water needs to be made available to the poor. We and our U.S. donors are prepared to support that effort. If we all come together to solve this problem, Francisca's village can get the water system it needs to supply families with safe, abundant water. We need to ensure that happens."

To achieve a solution like this, Cross Catholic Outreach typically works with Catholic leaders already serving in the area. It is a cost-effective approach that allows more of a donor's gift to be used on the project itself, according to Cavnar.

"In this kind of partnership, the local mission's staff becomes our ground support team," he explained. "They organize local families to join in the work too, so we can usually keep the expenses on the project very low. Our intent is to use this approach to build a new water system for Francisca's village [see the related feature story on the opposite

page]. If we can get the help of Catholic donors in the U.S. to fund this effort, it will finally change the lives of the people in this Nicaraguan community. Jahzeel Vega will be able to draw water from a convenient tap, his mother won't need to fear for her family's health, and his father will be able to recover from his illness because they will have an abundant source of water."

According to Cavnar, safe water is underground and ready to be tapped.

"This is our opportunity to bless the poor with a gift that will transform lives and have a lasting impact," he said.

## How to Help

To fund Cross Catholic Outreach's effort to help the poor worldwide, use the postage-paid brochure inserted in this newspaper or mail your gift to Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC01951, PO Box 97168, Washington DC 20090-7168. The brochure also includes instructions on becoming a Mission Partner and making a regular monthly donation to this cause.

If you identify an aid project, 100% of the donation will be restricted to be used for that specific project. However, if more is raised for the project than needed, funds will be redirected to other urgent needs in the ministry.







# #ListeningChurch

Our Holy Father Pope Francis has invited the Catholic Church to embark on a journey together. Through listening and discernment rooted in the Holy Spirit, the entire people of God will be called to contribute to a process by which the Church deepens in understanding of Her mission and looks toward the future.

## YOU ARE INVITED!

Pope Francis and Bishop Edward Rice invite YOU to join the conversation in your community!

In May of 2021, Pope Francis introduced the Synod on Synodality which is a journey of dialogue and discernment, in which **ALL THE PEOPLE OF GOD** are called to pray and reflect upon the Holy Spirit's will for the Church. This synod is not just a convening of Bishops reflecting on a particular topic and advising the Pope. Through our listening and sharing, together we will seek to understand the Holy Spirit's will.

Our dialogue will focus on how your parish is currently journeying with people in their walk of faith and how the Holy Spirit may be challenging us to grow. Please come and share your experiences, insights, and concerns!

LISTENING  
DISCERNMENT  
JOURNEY  
MISSION  
FUTURE  
SHARING  
CREATIVITY  
COMMUNION  
AUTHENTICITY



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

### PARISH SYNOD CONSULTATION MEETING DATES & LOCATIONS

- Sat., MARCH 5  
5:30 pm Our Lady of Sorrows Mission – Williamsville
- Sun., MARCH 6  
12:00 pm St. Catherine of Siena Mission – Piedmont  
4:00 pm St. Henry Parish – Charleston
- Wed., MARCH 9  
6:30 pm St. Catherine of Siena Mission – Piedmont
- Sun., MARCH 13  
9:00 am Sacred Heart Parish – Dexter
- Wed., MARCH 16  
6:00 pm St. George Mission – Van Buren  
6:30 pm St. Mary of the Annunciation Cathedral – Cape Girardeau
- Sun., MARCH 20  
9:30 am St. George Mission – Van Buren  
1:00 pm St. Mary of the Annunciation Cathedral – Cape Girardeau
- Thu., MARCH 24  
6:00 pm St. Joseph Parish – Advance
- Sat., MARCH 26  
5:00 pm St. Joseph Parish – Springfield
- Sun., MARCH 27  
9:00 am St. Joseph Parish – Springfield  
11:30 am St. Joseph Parish – Springfield
- Mon., MARCH 28  
11:00 am Sacred Heart Parish – Dexter
- Sat., APRIL 23  
5:30 pm Sacred Heart Parish – Conway
- Tue., APRIL 26  
6:30 pm Sacred Heart Parish – Dexter
- Sat., MAY 14  
11:00 am St. Canera Parish – Neosho
- Sun., MAY 15  
6:00 pm St. Canera Parish – Neosho