ANNUNCIATION OF THE VIRGIN MOSAIC — In the Sanctuary of Caravaggio, Italy. Bathed in the heavenly light of Gabriel’s presence, Mary makes her Magnificat, a promise to make ever larger for us “the true light, which ... was coming into the world” (Jn 1:9). (Shutterstock)

ADVENT: Allowing ourselves to be bathed in the light of heaven

by Lindsey Weishar

I love the hymns that accompany us through the Advent season. I sometimes hear them referred to as “haunting.”

Some are played in minor keys, which fills them with a special mystery (and majesty), a particular kind of longing. I think “haunting” is such an appropriate word as the earliest usage of the word “haunt” meant “place frequently visited” in the noun form and “to practice habitually … take part in.”

In them, there’s a sense of returning home, to the origins of our faith, to ourselves.

One song that particularly speaks to the origins of our story as Christians is adapted from an old Basque hymn, “The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came.”

I remember first hearing this song as a child during an Advent concert in our church, and it was indeed haunting: a place I wanted to inhabit, a place I still sometimes return to in memory.

Like a gilded thread, “The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came,” poetry, is interwoven with longing for Christ’s coming.

The hymn focuses on the Annunciation, the moment Gabriel greets Mary and invites her to become the mother of God. In the first verse, he is presented in mysterious, yet vivid terms:

“The angel Gabriel from heaven came, / His wings as drifted snow, / his eyes as flame; /’All hail,’ said he, /’Thou lovely maiden Mary, / Most highly favored lady,’ Gloria!”

LARGER THAN LIFE

Hearing his wings described as “drifted snow” makes me think of a creature larger than life, incredibly glorious, but also one that is not “tame” in the most Narnian sense of the word.

The juxtaposition of cold and heat, and the intensity of light that emanates from both snow and flame highlight the difference between Gabriel and the “lowly maiden Mary,” who is, by the mystery of God, the favored one.

“Most highly favored lady” is repeated as the last line in all four verses of this song, which takes us through Gabriel’s message, Mary’s fiat and then into our own time. Mary’s yes to God’s vision for carrying and bearing the One who has come to redeem all mankind is worth pondering over:

“Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head, /’To me be as it pleaseth God,’ she said, /’My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name.’ / Most highly favored lady, Gloria!”

Mary’s fiat offers us a spiritual light by which we can see the glory of preparing him room. At this moment, she agrees to carry “the light (that) shines in the darkness,” the One of whom we can say “and the darkness has not overcome it” (Jn 1:5).

Bathed in the heavenly light of Gabriel’s presence, Mary makes her Magnificat, a promise to make ever larger for us “the true light, which ... was coming into the world” (Jn 1:9).

From this haunting hymn comes the greatest truth—God makes a home in Mary, and she in turn intimately takes part in his life in her.

As we enter this Advent season, we are called to rediscover our truest home—in Christ, the one who wishes to make his home in each of our hearts. In a world where hope is often a precious light to which we must accustom our eyes, the truth contained in the final verse of this hymn burns as brightly as an ancient star:

“Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born, / In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn, / And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say /’Most highly favored lady,’ Gloria!”

Perhaps we cannot quite grasp the immense illumination the Annunciation contained—the almost blinding brilliance of Gabriel and the deeply enkindled heart of the Virgin, but this hymn bears witness to the fact that we are all called, like Mary to “laud and magnify His holy name.”

We honor the “most highly favored lady” who desires to lead us into the brilliant light of Christmas by carrying Christ our light into the world.

Weishar is a poet and freelance writer.
As always, it is a privilege for me to receive your prayer request for deceased family and friends during the month of November. Since the plumbing and electricity is currently being updated at the residence, I am residing at Holy Trinity Parish, Springfield, and receiving the hospitality of Pr. Patrick Nwokoye. If you go into the Perpetual Adoration Chapel, you will see the basket that contains over 2,300 cards returned to me from the faithful throughout the diocese with the names of their deceased family and friends. Join me in remembering them in our prayers, “Eternal rest grant unto them, oh Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace, Amen.” May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace, amen.

Our Holy Father has challenged every Catholic parish throughout the world to be “Islands of Mercy,” for any woman who finds herself in an unplanned pregnancy. What a beautiful thought, that along with the good work of LifeHouse Crisis Maternity Home, Casa Guadalupe, Whole Health Network, and Birthright—to name a few—that there are also 66 parishes and 17 missions to assist women in need. I ask everyone who reads this column to think of your own parish and what they would have to offer a woman who rings the doorbell of the parish office seeking assistance. If nothing comes to mind, then please start something!

**NATIONAL NIGHT OF PRAYER FOR LIFE**

As the month of November marches on, we will usher in Dec. 8-9 with the annual “National Night of Prayer for Life.” Since I will still be at Holy Trinity Church, and with the permission of the pastor, we will have a Holy Hour in the main body of the church from 11:30 PM to 12:30 AM. The evening will include the recitation of the Rosary, the chaplet of Divine Mercy and petitions. Please plan to join us for this annual event, either in person or Online as it will be Livestreamed to the diocesan Facebook page. At the same time, I encourage all pastors to do something similar in their own parishes.

As some of you may have heard, with the changing demographics and population shifts, the Archdiocese of St. Louis is entering into a period of discussion and discernment regarding the future of parishes. The effort, “All Things New,” has been in the news lately and many people have asked my thoughts. My thoughts are simple – we need to pray for them, our brothers and sisters in the faith. I will soon draft a letter to Abp. Mitchell Rozanski and ask the clergy, religious, and the faithful of the Diocese of Springfield Cape Girardeau to join me in keeping the Archdiocese of St. Louis in prayer as they continue to discern the future. At the same time, some of you may have heard that the Diocese of Steubenville, OH, has requested to merge with the Diocese of Columbus. Evidently there are a number of factors that include declining population, low post-COVID Mass attendance, and economic struggles in the Ohio Valley. All the more, I am convinced that the Diocese of Springfield – Cape Girardeau is on the right track! With the renewal of our Parish Pastoral Council Norms, continuing to challenge every parish to grow in holiness, form intentional disciples, and being sent to witness the faith to others, we have the opportunity to grow our parishes and be a vital, life-giving diocese. From East to West in southern Missouri, I see the faith being lived not merely professed. Do we have challenges? Absolutely! We have poverty, we have demographic shifts occurring, and in some areas, our own post-COVID-19 Mass attendance has not bounced back the way we had hoped. But, I do believe that focusing on our three priorities of holiness, discipleship, and witness will help us to flourish. The work belongs to God. And as I’ve mentioned numerous times in this column, I have told our Lord that I will be the Bishop, but that He is the Chief Shepherd of this diocese. I’ve told Our Lady that she is the Mother of the Diocese. Invoking the zeal of our patron saint, St. Rose Philippine Duchesne and the Eucharistic love of our patron Pope Pius X and rolling up our sleeves to do the work that has been given to us, we have every reason to be hopeful! As we move forward in our three-year Eucharistic Revival, let us not be daunted by the challenges we face. Let us be zealous, hopeful, and trust the Lord in His wisdom and grace.

---

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

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

**January 15, 1988** At a recent parish visit, a man wanted me to know how much he and the parishioners appreciated their pastor. It was not only what Father accomplished, he said, but the attitude he had toward people. “Even when Father isn’t smiling,” the man said, “he is smiling.”

**January 22, 1988** Evidently, the fire drills practiced by the children in school paid off. One day when a small fire did develop, everyone left the building in an orderly manner. However, one little first-grader was a bit confused. “I knew this was going to happen,” he said. “We have been practicing to have a fire all year long.”

**January 29, 1988** During my visit last week to Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis, seminarians told me about the different priests with whom they spent the first day of the workshop. By plan, some spent their day with a young priest, others with a middle-aged priest, and others were with older priests. “I was with one of the old priests,” a seminarian emphasized, as he told me Father’s name. I got more than I bargained for when I realized that the old priest he named happens to be my classmate!
This is the fifth year the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau has participated in Giving Tuesday through #iGiveCatholic. Giving Tuesday is after the consumer-centered “Black Friday” and “Cyber Monday.” In 2018, just over $12,000 was raised for projects and programs in parishes, schools, and organizations throughout the diocese. Last year 23 parishes, schools and organizations raised over $40,000 on Giving Tuesday. The funds were used for a wide range of programs and projects, from the Grandparents Association at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Sikeston, to the lunch program at Springfield Catholic Schools. This year 19 parishes, schools, and organizations are participating. The Diocese provides this platform free of charge to parishes, schools, and organizations in part, through a generous grant from the Catholic Extension in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. “Through the generosity of donors, we are able to give parishes, schools, and organizations the opportunity to fundraise for specific projects of want or need. This can range from a new statue that a parish wants or an upgrade to a piece of playground equipment in one of our schools. It is a great opportunity to fundraise for a project that maybe wasn’t included in the current budget.”

The 2022 #iGiveCatholic on #GivingTuesday is Nov. 29. On this day, please give to your favorite Catholic parish, school, or ministry to help them reach their goals. To give early, the Advance Giving phase begins Nov. 14 and goes through Nov. 28.

At right is a list of participating parishes, schools, and ministries within the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau.

For more information and details about their projects, please visit the fundraising page for each participant found on the iGiveCatholic Website at https://springfieldcg.igivecatholic.org/. @TM

### Parish/School/Ministry | City | Cause
--- | --- | ---
St. Denis Parish | Benton | • General fundraiser
Sacred Heart Parish | Bolivar | • Replace fencing around the rectory and acreage
St. William Parish | Buffalo | • General fundraiser
St. Vincent de Paul School | Cape Girardeau | • Support ongoing safety measures for the school
St. Benedict Parish | Doniphan | • Fund meals and accessories for the Free Community Christmas Dinner hosted by the parish for the public
Our Lady of the Ozarks Parish | Forsyth | • Memorial prayer garden. Columbarium project
St. Anthony Parish | Glenannon | • Replace ceiling
Immaculate Conception Parish | Jackson | • Continue support of their mission and preparation of students to proclaim Christ, His message, values, and attitudes.
Immaculate Conception Catholic School | Jackson | • Provide for anticipated increased heating expenses
Holy Trinity Parish | Marshfield | • Educational materials for PSR and Adult religious education classes
St. Joseph the Worker Parish | Ozark | • Purchase new Nativity set. Help with youth trip for World Youth Day
St. Joseph Parish | Scott City | • General fundraiser
St. Francis Xavier Parish | Sikeston | • Replace worn, old organ and music equipment
Catholic Campus Ministry, MSU | Springfield | • Upgrade sound system
Springfield Catholic Schools | Springfield | • Replace flooring in parish
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish | Springfield | • Create an operating budget to help cover costs for free and reduced lunches
St. Mary Parish | West Plains | • Repair/replace leaky roof
During the national three-year Eucharistic Revival, The Very Rev. Shoby Chettiyath, V.G., the diocesan Vicar General, will write a series of articles exploring the various Eucharistic Miracles of the World. A companion for readers in this series is, “The Eucharistic Miracles of the World,” an international exhibition designed and created by Blessed Carlo Acutis, the Servant of God. All rights reserved; used with permission. More information may be found at http://www.miracolieucaristici.org/en/liste/list.html.

Holy Eucharist is the Catholic sacrament in which Christ is really and truly present under the appearances of bread and wine. Although it does not look like the Body and Blood of Jesus, His Real Presence is hidden within the consecrated Host. This is a great miracle and a great mystery.

Two thousand years ago, Jesus paid the ultimate price for our salvation. In his mercy, He continues to show us the miracle in Seefeld. He shows us this so that we too may believe that Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Seefeld is located in the Austrian state of Tyrol, 11 miles northwest of Innsbruck. In 1384, our Lord chose this area, at the time a small farming village, to manifest Himself in visible form during Holy Eucharist as living Blood.

On Holy Thursday 1384, Oswald Milser, Lord of Schlossberg, approached the altar during Mass to receive Eucharist. Instead of taking the small Host reserved for the communicant, he asked to receive the large Host, as does the celebrating priest. Obliging, the priest gave Oswald the large Host. But at the moment he was about to receive Communion, the pavement began to tremble and broke apart and Oswald, still kneeling, sunk into the floor. At the same time, Blood began to flow from the Host in Oswald’s mouth. The priest immediately took back the Host from the man’s mouth and live blood began dripping from the Host. (http://www.miracolieucaristici.org/en/Liste/scheda.html?nat=austria&wh=seefeld&ct=Seefeld_%201384)

There were many witnesses who saw the miracle, and very soon the news spread throughout the whole nation. The Emperor Maximilian I himself was very devoted to it. Today, one can visit the Church of St. Oswald where the precious relic of the Host, stained with blood, is exposed, and many paintings depicting the miracle may be viewed inside the church.

But we do not have to go all the way to Seefeld, Austria, to experience this miracle: we only need to visit our parish. Jesus comes to us, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity every time we take the Eucharist. In the celebration of the Eucharist, bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit and the instrumentality of the priest. The whole Christ is truly present—body, blood, soul, and divinity—under the appearances of bread and wine, the glorified Christ who rose from the dead. Let us become “Eucharist oriented people.”

To learn more about this and other Eucharistic Miracles, visit http://www.miracolieucaristici.org/en/Liste/scheda.html?nat=austria&wh=seefeld&ct=Seefeld,%201384.

The Very Rev. Shoby Chettiyath, V.G., serves as Vicar General, Moderator of the Curia, and Vicar for Religious in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. He is Parochial Administrator of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, in Nixa, MO.
In the hope of keeping everyone healthy and safe from the effects of the COVID virus in 2020, some of the practices and traditions that are not necessary for the valid celebration of the Mass were discontinued, in particular the exchange of the “Sign of Peace” prior to receiving Holy Communion. At one point during the pandemic, it was highly discouraged and in many ways “forbidden” to shake hands or make any type of physical contact with another person. It is our hope that those days are now behind us.

Beginning the First Sunday of Advent (Nov. 27, 2022), Bishop Rice is permitting parishioners to reinstate the exchange of the Sign of Peace among congregants in the celebration of Holy Mass. Even though many of the devastating effects of the COVID pandemic are no longer present, we are still encouraged and it is recommended to sanitize our hands when entering the church before Mass. While the number of people being affected by COVID is decreasing, the number of people being affected by the flu and its various forms is rising! So, please make use of hand sanitizer located at the entrances of our parish churches! If you are not feeling well or experiencing any symptoms of illness, please feel free to refrain from physical contact during the Sign of Peace.

As we reinstate the practice of exchanging the Sign of Peace, let us remember the true nature and purpose of this gesture. It is meant to truly be an opportunity to share the “peace of Christ” with those gathered around us at Mass. It is an action which should come from our hearts. This particular moment in the Mass is NOT meant to be a time to exchange “information,” other greetings, or to “catch up” on the latest news! The gesture is rooted in Jesus’ call to reconciliation and forgiveness found in Matthew 5:23-24, whereby the Lord says, “If you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift.” Jesus is teaching us that in order to be at peace with Him, we must first be at peace with each other. Further, before we can worthily receive Christ in Holy Communion, we must be at peace with our neighbor. This is one reason the Church places this action the Sign of Peace) prior to the reception of Holy Communion.

So, as we engage in this liturgical action, let us remember its true purpose and meaning. A traditional practice in exchanging the Sign of Peace is through a handshake. Some people may still be hesitant in shaking hands with others, so we need to respect each person’s preferences. There are other ways/gestures that the Sign of Peace may be offered to others without making physical contact. For example, a simple nod or bow of the head toward the other person accompanied by the proper form or greeting of peace.

May these days of Advent prepare us to truly welcome and share the “Prince of Peace,” the One who came to us many years ago on Christmas Day and the One who continues to come to us in every Mass!

May these days of Advent prepare us to truly welcome and share the “Prince of Peace,” the One who came to us many years ago on Christmas Day and the One who continues to come to us in every Mass!

In addition to serving as diocesan Director of Worship and Liturgy, Fr. David Dohogne is also Pastor of St. Henry Parish, in Charleston, MO.
The Church of Glory and Love

As Jesus continues his prayer in John 17, he is still talking about glory. “I glorified you on earth by accomplishing the work that you gave me to do” (Jn 17:4). St. Augustine thought Jesus was speaking prophetically here of his upcoming crucifixion. St. Thomas Aquinas also thought these words referred to his Passion, because, in a sense, it has “already begun.” But St. Thomas also understood it to refer plainly to Jesus’s earthly teaching, that is, all that’s found in the Gospels up to this point — his preaching, his miracles. The glory Jesus is praying for now is of a piece with his entire life. In living and dying, the glory is the same.

“Now glorify me, Father, with you, with the glory that I had with you before the world began” (Jn 17:5). St. Augustine read this right, and St. Thomas Aquinas agreed: here, Christ, in his human nature, asks the Father to glorify his human nature with the same glory Christ, in his divine nature, already always possesses, from “before the world began.” Earlier Jesus has told them, “I came from the Father and have come into the world. Now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father” (Jn 16:28). The Gospel writer and other early Christians understood Christ was with the Father before the world existed — pre-temporally, “begotten, not made” we say in the Nicene Creed, eternal with the Father. That’s because the Father and the Son are — again, as we say in the Creed — “consubstantial.”

Jesus intimated this earlier in the Gospel when he said things like, “My Father is at work until now, so I am at work.” When Jesus said this, the Gospel says the people wanted “all the more to kill him, because he not only broke the sabbath, but he also called God his own father, making himself equal to God” (Jn 5:17-18). The reason Jesus’s sabbath miracles were so scandalous, you see, was because only God worked on the sabbath. Saying he worked just as his Father worked, his first listeners knew what he meant. He would speak even plainer later in the Gospel saying, “The Father and I are one” (Jn 10:30). Since the beginning, Christians understood that what you said about the Holy One of Israel you also had to say about Jesus. They did not have the philosophical language the Church would later employ, but they knew Jesus shared glory with the Father from the beginning. Earlier in the Gospel Philip asked Jesus, “Master, show us the Father.” Jesus answered him, “Whoever has seen me has seen the Father” (Jn 14:8-9). Some have suggested Christians invented the idea of the divinity of Jesus only about the fourth century. This, by even a superficial reading of the New Testament, is patent nonsense. Early Christians believed Jesus was God. They certainly did not have the vocabulary of the fourth century, but they believed it nonetheless.

But, back to John 17 itself, what Jesus is asking his Father to do is to exalt him in his human nature. In this hour of darkness and betrayal, Jesus keeps talking about glory, the glory of his preaching, life and death.

It is his asking his Father, to use Paul’s later language, to greatly exalt him, giving him the name “above every name,” the “name of Jesus,” at which every knee should bend, confessing that “Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father” (Phil 2:9-11). Again, at the very least, it is a remarkable thing to pray for so close to scourging and death, so close to events that will seem anything but exaltation — except for believers. They will see. They will believe, finding eternal life (Jn 8:28; 3:14-15).

“I revealed your name to those whom you gave me out of the world. They belonged to you, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word” (Jn 17:6). Jesus is talking here of the disciples — the Twelve, the seventy, the others. He was faithful in the delivery of the word as were they in keeping it.

“Now they know that everything you gave me is from you, because you gave me I have given to them, and they accepted them and truly understood that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me” (Jn 17:7-8). Jesus is talking about his disciples; they accepted, understood and believed. But notice what is beginning to emerge, a movement, a mission that begins in God: “everything… the words,” the Father gives to the Son, the Son in turn gives to the disciples. What is given, of course, is Jesus himself. We should notice the movement, the trajectory, which will be made more explicit later: the Father sent the Son and the Son called and sent the disciples, making them “apostles,” which means “sent.” The disciples understand that their mission is to go and talk about Jesus, to give the word as Jesus gives it to them. The mission is to preach Jesus — whose glory is with the Father from before the beginning of the world — who is one with the Father and who offers eternal life.

And Jesus continues: “I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for the ones you have given me, because they are yours, and everything of mine is yours and everything of yours is mine, and I have been glorified in them” (Jn 17:9-10). This is interesting. Jesus does not pray for the world, only his disciples. “Is Jesus being exclusionary, bitter toward those who did not accept him?” I don’t think so at all. Rather, this tells us something profound about how Jesus saves us, and that’s through a very divine but also a very human way of loving.

Think about it this way, I’ve got a friend named Mark. I love Mark as a brother in Christ. But it is just true that I love my wife more than I love Mark. No one would think it strange that I love my wife more than I love Mark. What would be strange is if I loved them equally. And that is because in creation there is something very good about the ethically jealous loves we experience. I should love my wife more than anyone else with a love forsaking all others. And you too should forsake all others, loving your wife or husband as you love no one else. But why? Because when you love someone uniquely and individually, you then know how to love other people properly. Your first love orders all your other loves. I love my kids more than your kids, for instance, and that is good. God gave me a unique, intense love for my children which I do not have for your children, and that is so my children can learn what it means to be loved well — all so that they can know how to love well in turn, and so on and so on. Unique, ethically jealous love is the way love spreads in this world. It is simply the natural way love grows. Personal loves always go before more general loves. That is just the way love works.

So let us listen to Jesus’s words again: “I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for the ones you have given me” (Jn 17:9). Jesus loves with that same sort of unique, jealous, intimate, personal love. He knows that when he loves his disciples that way and when his disciples love other disciples that way, then that love will spread because we have all experienced it, because we have been loved and love in just that personal, intimate way. Christianity, you see, is not some political platform, some credenda, a set of abstract philosophical propositions. Rather, Christianity is simply love grown. So, Jesus here is indeed not praying for the entire world. But there is a good reason for that, because he loves with not just fully divine love, but fully human love, too. Because he loves the disciples, he prays for them with love that will — through the Church, in time — include the whole world.

Next Edition: What We Believe: Part 6

The Church that is One and Holy

Father Joshua J. Whitfield is pastor of St. Rita Catholic Community in Dallas and author of The Crisis of Bad Preaching (Ave Maria Press, 2013). His recent book is a study of St. John, from simplycatholic.com. All rights reserved, no other use of this material is authorized.

By Fr. Joshua J. Whitfield
Students Hold Sock Drive

Students from St. Peter Middle School and McAuley Catholic High School collected 875 pairs of socks and donated $200 in cash and gift cards to St. Joseph’s Indian School in Chamberlain, South Dakota, through a sock drive on Oct. 19.

The sock drive was in honor of the late Dr. A.L. “Britt” Karns, parishioner at St. Peter the Apostle, Joplin, who passed away Dec. 8, 2017. Dr. Karns built a partnership with St. Joseph’s Indian School based on his family history in the area. Every year, he would collect supplies the children needed and deliver them in person to St. Joseph’s Indian School. (Submitted photo)

‘Saints’ in Guardian Angel School

Guardian Angel Catholic School in Oran has an annual tradition of putting on a Saints program by the 8th grade students a few days before All Saints’ Day, which is Nov. 1. Eighth graders, instructed by Jodi McVay, presented the information on the lives of three Saints on Wed., Oct. 26 in Guardian Angel Church.

The students each picked a different Saint and then researched the life of the Saint, wrote a report with important information about the Saint, put together clothes that represented how that Saint dressed, and added props that also reflected his life. The eighth graders and their chosen Saints were: Jonah Dirnberger as St. Francis of Assisi; Porter Gadberry as St. Lawrence; and Weston Woods as St. Andrew the Apostle. (Submitted photo)

Pillars of Mercy Influence Students

New this year at St. Mary Catholic School, Joplin, is the Student of the Month based on the Pillars of Mercy from the teachings of Mother St. Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy. Catholic education has been made possible in Joplin, Mo, for more than 125 years because of the Sisters of Mercy. Each month, a different Mercy Value is explored by students. September’s Mercy Value was Mercy itself. Students were chosen as Student of the Month by their teacher. One student from each grade was chosen for consistently showing compassion and forgiveness toward others, which are two components of mercy:

Mercy Sr. Joan Schwager, RSM, who has been a part of the Joplin Area Catholic Schools for many years, made the presentation and then gave each student a blessing. Students received a certificate and a special treat. (Submitted photo)

(Courtesy photo)
EVERY veteran DESERVES restored pride

EVERY mother DESERVES a new beginning

EVERY family DESERVES a home

LASTING CHANGE STARTS WITH YOU

Donate Now

Catholic Charities does not receive funding through the Diocesan Development Fund (DDF). We can only help others with YOUR support. Please give as generously as you are able.
Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

- Disaster Preparedness & Long-Term Recovery
- Homelessness Prevention
- Financial & HUD-certified Housing Counseling
- Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP)
- LifeHouse Crisis Maternity Home & Aftercare Program
- Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies
- Rancho Temporary Emergency Housing & Women's Medical Respite
- Dedicated Dads
- Purpose Home Repair
- Community Re-Entry Housing Assistance
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Application and Enrollment
- Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)
- Workforce Development (Construction On-the-Job Training & Apprenticeship)
- Consumer Credit Counseling Service of the Ozarks (A Wholly-Owned 501(c)3 Subsidiary)
- Home Repair & Rebuilding
- Services for the Developmentally Disabled

PEOPLE SERVED

- 3119 Families received housing and utility assistance through the Housing and Homeless Prevention Services and Transitional Housing programs.
- 964 Clients served through the Support Coordination for the Developmentally Disabled program.
- 434 Families provided credit counseling and debt management plans through Consumer Credit Counseling of the Ozarks, a wholly owned subsidiary of CCSOMO.
- 349 Individuals served through Maternal and Family Programs such as Healthy Moms Healthy Babies and LifeHouse Crisis Maternity Home.
- 265 Veteran Families served through Supportive Services for Veteran Families and Homeless Veterans Reintegration Programs.
- 220 Clients served through Disaster Response and low-income Home Repair Programs.

A WORD FROM THE BISHOP

The weekend before Thanksgiving, we have an opportunity to come together as a Catholic community to put our faith into action through the annual Second Collection for Catholic Charities, November 19-20. As Bishop, I am proud of the work Catholic Charities provides in the name of all Catholics across southern Missouri. As we look to this Thanksgiving and the time we will spend in our homes filled with good food, family and friends, let us recall our many gifts and blessings, then sacrificially and prayerfully make your gift to Catholic Charities.
Executive Director

Dear Friends,

As my December retirement date from Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri draws near, I am constantly amazed how over the past 11 years our agency has grown from a staff of two to over 110 mission-hearted employees. It is through the dedication of our staff and supporters like you we have been able to expand our programs and offices to fill gaps, serving thousands of vulnerable individuals and families each year throughout the thirty-nine southernmost counties in Missouri.

Our team walks alongside their clients, assisting them on a path to self-sufficiency and long-term success. We follow the three theological virtues, as stated in 1 Corinthians 13: “So faith, hope, love remain, but the greatest of these is love (charity).” In our work we show God’s love by listening, providing encouragement, and serving all regardless of faith.

At Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri, we strive to restore a veteran’s pride, give a mother a new beginning, and help a family have a place to call home. Our work provides opportunities for lasting change that starts with you.

Many of the areas we serve are the most impoverished in the state and funding is needed to continue our efforts to assist our neighbors in need. Together we can continue to provide faith, hope, and love through this important work. I ask you to join with us in Reaching Out, Providing Hope and Changing Lives by prayerfully considering a generous gift to Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri.

At Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri, we strive to restore a veteran’s pride, give a mother a new beginning, and help a family have a place to call home. Our work provides opportunities for lasting change that starts with you.

Peace and blessings,

Maura Taylor, Executive Director

Use your smartphone's camera to scan this QR code which will open to a web page where you can donate to support Second Collection.

---

Veteran Receives Grace and Care From CCSOMO

Joseph, a U.S. Army veteran, recently went through a difficult separation from his spouse that left him homeless and facing the prospect of limited time with his sons due to his situation. His love for his boys motivated him to get back on his feet as quickly as possible.

His family was able to secure enough funds for a rare affordable apartment, but he lacked the required utility deposit. He would need this home and electricity to ensure he would be permitted to spend time with his children.

Joseph called various area nonprofits for help and finally was connected with Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri (CCSOMO). CCSOMO staff determined Joseph’s veteran status and needs qualified him for it’s Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program (SSVF). They scheduled him for the first available appointment with a SSVF manager.

He arrived at the appointment at the set time, with only six hours remaining to pay his utility deposit, or lose the apartment. His SSVF case manager worked quickly to promise the utility company an on-time payment of the needed deposit.

While his SSVF case manager worked to address time-sensitive needs, he was connected with an employment specialist in CCSOMO’s Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP). The HVRP program is designed to help veterans with training and gaining meaningful employment. Together, they reviewed Joseph’s work history and career goals. They also determined Joseph’s basic needs for becoming immediately employed.

The HVRP program helps veterans gain employment by meeting such basic needs as clothing, shoes, and transportation. Joseph’s employment specialist provided Joseph these items, which led to him being hired for full-time work.

Through some additional available funding, the CCSOMO team in Joplin pulled together and was able to help Joseph in several additional ways. CCSOMO SSVF case manager Chris Ailes said, “Joseph arrived mid-morning and by 4:00 p.m. that afternoon, we had him set up,” she said. “I will remember that day forever.”

In addition to helping Joseph with his deposits, the team was able to help him have everything he needed to provide a safe and comfortable environment for his children. Joseph and his boys have beds to sleep in, kitchen supplies, and food.

Joseph has continued to work with Chris to ensure he is able to provide for his family long-term. Together they were able to secure additional housing assistance through Veterans Affairs, which has allowed Joseph to work part-time as he continues to develop his career with help from his HVRP employment specialist.

For CCSOMO staff, helping Joseph’s family was another opportunity to practice compassion. “The teamwork from the Joplin team that day showed this single dad and his young sons grace and acceptance he was not expecting or even looking for,” Chris said. The day was as extraordinary as it was ordinary. It was one more example of how CCSOMO’s teams work together every day to bring help and hope to our neighbors in need.

“My boys and me sat on the floor the first night without furniture. They asked me, ‘Is this home?’ I said, ‘Yeah, this is it’. It felt really good to tell them that.”

— Joseph
New Futures Amid Affordable Housing Crisis

**TINY NEW DUPLEX PROVIDES AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri (CCSOMO) recently collaborated with area partners in Joplin to build a new tiny duplex that is serving as a model for future affordable housing developments. CCSOMO’s Purpose Home Repair and construction team built the duplex. CCSOMO provides property management services.

Each 450 to 500-square-foot unit is furnished with basic kitchen items and appliances, including a washer and dryer. CCSOMO’s Purpose Home Repair Administrator Becky Wuerdeman said having these items, “is a big thing in low-income housing. Doing laundry is very expensive.”

Units are constructed from energy-efficient insulated concrete forms, which reduce the average monthly utility bill to around $80. They also include a safe room for use during a tornado or severe storm. Both units are currently rented. Deanna, who has had a challenging year, was the first tenant in the duplex. Her home recently burned down, and she lost most of her possessions. Deanna is fighting cancer, and maintaining a clean environment is critical to rebuilding her immune system, which is compromised by her cancer treatment. CCSOMO’s tiny-duplex unit provides Deanna with an affordable option while she recovers and gets back on her feet. Her next-door neighbor, Pamela, is also benefiting from renting the adjacent unit.

Pamela had been homeless and mentally abusing her. Pamela said, “I had to get out of the situation I was in.” She was introduced to CCSOMO by a community partner that knew CCSOMO’s tiny duplex was nearing completion. Becky helped Pamela with renting the unit. Becky said, “There’s not a lot of affordable housing that she could rent.” She also provided some additional donated items that helped make Pamela’s house into a home.

It is for people like Deanna and Pamela, who need an affordable home, that CCSOMO’s tiny duplex was created.

**RECOVERY THROUGH OPPORTUNITY AND HARD WORK**

Like many other young adults, Josh made choices that created barriers to his future efforts to find employment. These choices led Josh to have a criminal history. One of these mistakes came after he moved to Florida to see and be near the ocean. He admits that one morning after a night out, he climbed up the mast of a yacht to get a better view of the sunrise and broke the radar system. The ship’s owner pressed charges, which resulted in a felony conviction.

Josh moved back to Missouri to live with his parents, hoping for a job opportunity. Yet, with the felony conviction and a lack of job skills, finding a good job was difficult.

Fortunately, a friend introduced Josh to Purpose Home Repair’s Construction Training program at CCSOMO. This program is designed to help people like Josh gain employment in the construction trades. The free six-month program consists of four industry-recognized certifications; on-the-job training, case management, and employment soft-skills training for the students as they re-enter the job market.

Josh has excelled in the program and is quickly approaching the end of his pre-apprenticeship. “I came here knowing just a little bit about construction. Now I’m up for certification as a forklift operator, which is important for me because most employers want that credential before they’ll hire,” he said. Under the supervision of Purpose Home Repair’s Director of Construction, and paired with a Construction Specialist, Josh is learning and earning his way back to self-sufficiency, meaningful employment, and a brighter future.
Bishop Edward M. Rice and the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Deacon Rob Huff, recently hosted the annual two Fall Faculty Meetings under the banner of “Our Faith, Our Future.” These gatherings, held Oct. 19 in Cape Girardeau and Oct. 20 in Springfield, serve as an occasion of fellowship and faith to recognize the service of all Catholic school educators, celebrate the great gift of Catholic education, and to present the 2022 Distinguished Teacher Award to two teachers.

Deacon Rob Huff, who also serves the Diocese as Chancellor, welcomed and thanked everyone for their service to Catholic education. The meetings were held in Notre Dame Regional High School, on Oct. 19, and in St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School on Oct. 20. The Most Reverend Edward M. Rice, Bishop of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, celebrated Mass with all in attendance and spoke to the group about “The Identity of the Catholic Church.” The featured guest speaker, Patty Schneier, who uses song, Scripture, and humor to candidly discuss the joys of living a faith-filled life, presented a morning session entitled, “Jesus in the Eucharist: The Source and Summit of EVERYTHING.” Her afternoon presentation was, “Theology of the Body in Bite-Size Pieces.” Schneier is from St. Louis and the author of Love Letters from Mom on What Matters Most.

**DINING TEACHERS 2022**

In addition to recognizing the various service landmarks of the Diocese’s dedicated teachers, the highlight of these meetings is the presentation of two Distinguished Teacher Awards. This annual award is given to teachers nominated by their peers for leadership, professional contributions, engagement within the school, and overall philosophy of Catholic education. (The Mirror)

**Distinguished Teacher Awards**

Denise Darst was presented the 2022 Distinguished Teacher Award by Superintendent Rob Huff. Darst is a 3rd-8th grade math teacher in St. Eustachius Catholic School, in Portageville. This annual award is given to teachers nominated by their peers for leadership, professional contributions, engagement within the school, and overall philosophy of Catholic education. (The Mirror)

**Denise Darst**

In addition to teaching math, Darst, volunteers to run concession stands, tutors, leads the daily rosary during Lent, completes an annual “Saints” learning project with students; sponsors math competition team, and has been a past cheerleading sponsor. Within her parish, she is the current president of Ladies’ Sorality, in which she has been an active member for over 30 years; the St. Eustachius PSR Youth Group Leader, and she annually attends the Steubenville Mid-America Youth Conference in Springfield and the National Youth Conference in Indiana with the youth group. She has been a Camp Counselor for Camp Re-NEW-All over 20 years and her students feel loved and valued. In the end, what’s important to her is they leave St. Eustachius School knowing God loves them and in return, they have the desire and the faith to walk a Christian path.”

In nominating Darst, Rone said, “It is hard to put on paper all the many things Denise has done over the years. She literally does anything and everything. She has a true servant’s heart. Denise has not slowed down for 36 years. She is loved by her students, peers, and parish community. [She] is beyond deserving of this reward.”

**Leah Speakes**

As an educator, Speakes, has completed her certification in Religious Education and serves as an Eucharistic Minister for her school and church.

**SERVICE AWARDS IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**

The following educators were recognized for their years of dedicated service to diocesan Catholic Schools during the Oct. 19-20 Fall Faculty Meetings:

**35 YEARS**

Cindy Seyer, Guardian Angel, Oran

**30 YEARS**

Amy Galemore, St. Henry, Charleston

Ellen Seyer, Notre Dame HS, Cape Girardeau

Annette Taylor, St. Mary, Joplin

**25 YEARS**

Jennifer Barnes, St. Francis Xavier, Silkston

Angel Pruett, Immaculate Conception, Springfield

**20 YEARS**

Jeanne Barbatti, St. Vincent de Paul, Cape Girardeau

Lori Blechle, St. Augustine, Kelso

Jennifer Nanneman, Immaculate Conception, Springfield

Renee Peters, Notre Dame HS, Cape Girardeau

Matt Rowland, Notre Dame HS, Cape Girardeau

**15 YEARS**

Layne Burner, St. Mary Cathedral, Cape Girardeau

Allison Fowler, Immaculate Conception, New Madrid

Alicia Gassel, Immaculate Conception, Springfield

Julie Glosemeyer, St. Vincent de Paul, Cape Girardeau

Howard Lewis, St. Vincent de Paul, Cape Girardeau

Sheila Menz, St. Ambrose, Chaffee

Rena Sweeney, Springfield Catholic HS, Springfield

**10 YEARS**

Kirk Boeller, Notre Dame HS, Cape Girardeau

*Paige Duda, St. Agnes Cathedral, Springfield

*Katrina Kluesner, Guardian Angel, Oran

Debbie Randell, Springfield Catholic HS, Springfield

Tiffany Staffey, St. Eustachius, Portageville

Orylm Struble, Immaculate Conception, Springfield

Blake Zapletal, St. Ann, Carthage

*Designates a Principal
She organized and sponsored a summer trip to Washington DC for students at SEAS to provide an opportunity for her students to learn history beyond what a textbook provides. Her love of history led her to begin Camp Intervention at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School. Camp Intervention is a nationally-recognized STEM program that teaches learning through creativity and experimentation. She is certified by NASA to handle and share Moon rocks at STEM night in SEAS. Speakes is currently the Assistant Robotics Coach. For the past 11 years, Speakes has been the head coach of Science Olympiad, Middle School Coordinator, and a sponsor of the Student Council. She has served as a mentor for new teachers. She helped develop an after-school Study Hall program for students. And, she fosters volunteerism with her students through coordinating 30 hours of service in the community and church.

“It is in the verse from Galatians 5:13...serve one another through love...that I think of Leah’s philosophy of Catholic education,” said JoAnne Bailes, Principal of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School. “Leah sees Catholic education as an avenue to instill a love for learning and a love for one another. She leads with compassion, expecting the best from her students because of her love for them. Leah is focused on teaching students a love for learning, especially science, but her primary focus is building servants of the Lord. Her goal as a Catholic teacher is to model serving the Lord so that her students leave St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School, they will go out into the world making it a better place for others.”

“As an educator, Leah creates an atmosphere of positivity and respect within her classroom, parish, and church,” Bailes said. “I nominated Leah Speakes because of her dedication to our Springfield Catholic School system. Her faith-life and love for learning are infectious. When you walk into her classroom, it is undeniable that she is passionate about science and her Catholic faith. As you look in one corner, you will see a cross made of recycled steel rods. In another corner, you will see a skeleton wearing a top hat. She lives her life with a desire to build her students up and to prepare them for the next steps in life. Year-after-year, I hear students and parents express their love for Mrs. Speakes and how she changed their lives. In my 20-plus years in education, I have not met a more accomplished and beloved teacher.”

“FALL FACULTY MEETINGS-Patty Schneier presented two talks during the 2022 Fall Faculty Meeting in Notre Dame Regional High School, Cape Girardeau, on Oct. 19. The morning session was titled, “Jesus in the Eucharist: The Source and Summit of EVERYTHING.” The afternoon session was entitled, “Theology of the Body in Bite-Sized Pieces.” A similar faculty in-service was held Oct. 20 in Springfield. (The Mirror)
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Light in the Night

Is 2:1-5; S 122: 1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9; Rom 13:11-14; Mt 24:37-44

We begin our Advent season once again on Nov. 27, the short liturgical time of preparation for the Incarnation of Christ at Christmas. Biblically and liturgically, we associate Christmas with the theme of light and darkness: Jesus “came into the world as light, so that everyone who believes me might not remain in darkness” (Jn 12:46). John the Baptist’s father Zechariah prophesies Jesus’s birth as “the dawn from on high [that] shall break upon us” (Lk 1:78). It’s not just a theological concept, either! It’s no coincidence that December is the month of bright, twinkling strings of lights everywhere in the cold night, and that we have just moved our clocks back so the night arrives earlier.

We celebrate Jesus’ birth in the time of year when the days are shortest and the nights longest, since Jesus Christ is “the true light coming into the world” (Jn 1:9). So, in this time of preparation for the cold, dark winter, and the luminous, brilliant arrival of the Christ Child at Christmas, Isaiah invites us in our first reading, “Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!” Paul joins in the call: “The day is at hand. Let us throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.”

The invitation to embrace light and flee the darkness makes me think of Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, when we are drawn into a brightly lit church full of singing and candles. What a beautiful and joyful refuge on a winter’s night. It is this feeling of Jesus’s summons, gently but compellingly drawing us into the sacred place of light and music, that puts Isaiah’s prophecy into perspective.

The liturgy is the revelation of God’s light into our daily lives. The power and joy of the Gospel shines on the mundane events of life when I center my life around receiving the Lord’s grace and discerning His presence in the liturgy. When Isaiah foresaw and declared that “all nations will stream toward” the Lord’s mountain to worship God in truth, he was prophesying the Christian worship of God in the New Covenant around the world: Namely, the Holy Mass! It’s no wonder that the normative direction of the Mass is ad orientem, meaning “toward the East” or toward the sunrise, in which the priest and people turn to seek the Lord together as one! We so desire to soak up the Lord’s mercy like the healing rays of the sun.

But Jesus warns us that in order to really benefit from the light he shines on us in the Eucharist, we have to “stay awake!” It’s so easy all year round, and especially during our secular “Christmastime,” to get too caught up in parties, decorations, shopping, and everything else, and forget that God illuminates us when we turn to him together in the liturgy. Advent is a privileged time to set our sights on what truly warms our hearts and souls, especially as families worship together in the Lord’s work of redemption at Mass. Make sure that actively participating at Mass is your sine qua non, the one indispensable thing as we seek the Lord’s light in the darkness.

Fr. Brian Straus

The Mirror

November 11, 2022
Submit to the King & be welcomed into Paradise

2 Sm 5:1-3; Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5; Col 1:12-20; Lk 23:35-43

The Church’s liturgical year comes to a close each year with the crowning Solemnity of Christ the King. For 2022, that date is Nov. 20. This feast day was instituted in 1925 by Pope Pius XI as a response to rampant secularism and atheism. The Holy Father recognized that the culture was attempting to throw Jesus out of public life and that this would cause further division in the world. Sound familiar? Ultimately, this Feast reminds us that Christ reigns as King forever.

While we know all too well that there have been and continue to be many countries that threaten the Catholic Church and her faithful, most importantly, we must remain on guard so that we do not reject Christ as King of our own lives. We know God is our creator, but do we realize that he is the King of our lives? The Church calls all of us to accept him, Jesus Christ, as the King of our life! Pope Pius XI states, “He must reign in our minds, which should assent with perfect submission and firm belief to revealed truths and to the doctrines of Christ. He must reign in our wills, which should obey the laws and precepts of God. He must reign in our hearts, which should/spurn natural desires and love [of] God above all things, and cleave to him alone. He must reign in our bodies and in our members, which should serve as instruments for the interior sanctification of our souls, or to use the words of the Apostle Paul, ‘as instruments of justice unto God.’” (“Quas primas” [1925 Encyclical], 33)

This beautiful teaching to acknowledge Christ as King of our lives challenges all of us to ask these questions. Does Christ reign in our minds, wills, hearts, and bodies? Do we see Jesus as a political figure in our life that makes things difficult for us or do we see him as a loving creator who wants us to be happy? The reality is that Jesus came to witness the truth, that God is love, but we must be open to accepting this truth with eyes of faith.

The criminal in the Gospel for today’s feast is an excellent model for us. Even when condemned, the criminal recognized that Christ was exhibiting love and mercy. He cried out, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

Jesus, being all goodness and love replied, “Today you will be with me in Paradise.” The thief “entrusts himself to [Jesus] as to a king, indeed as to the King. The good thief believes what was written on the tablet over Jesus’ head: ‘The King of the Jews.’ He believed and entrusted himself. For this reason he was already, immediately, in the ‘today’ of God, in Paradise, because Paradise is this: being with Jesus, being with God.” (Benedict XIV [2010 homily])

Jesus wants all of us to be with him, too, in Paradise. But, this requires cooperation on our part. In order to be with God, our loving creator, should we not submit our entire lives to him? This process of growing in the holiness of life is a lifelong endeavor. It isn’t over until we’re dead! So, until then, may we ever persevere in allowing Christ to reign in our lives, as King!

SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

The Mirror

November 11, 2022

The Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau is committed to the mission and ministry of protecting our children and young people.

Safe Environment Policies & Procedures, including the diocesan Code of Contact, may be found at

WWW.DIOSCG.ORG

Father Peirano serves as diocesan Associate Vocation Promoter; Parochial Vicar of Immaculate Conception Parish, Springfield, and as Chaplain in Springfield Catholic High School.

© 2022 TM

The Office of Child and Youth Protection

ALLEGATION OF ABUSE/NEGLECT REPORTING PROCESS

ALLEGATION OF ABUSE/NEGLECT RECEIVED

ADULT

MINOR

IMMEDIATELY call MO Adult Abuse and Neglect Hotline at 800-392-0210

IMMEDIATELY call MO Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline at 800-392-2738

ININVOLVES CLERGY, EMPLOYEE OR VOLUNTEER

CALL 911

NOTIFY DIOCESAN OFFICE OF CHILD AND YOUTH PROTECTION

Submit a report through the TIPS online system

NOTIFY YOUR SUPERVISOR

SCRIPTURE/CHILD & YOUTH PROTECTION

Submit to the King & be welcomed into Paradise
Recognized for what we do best.

Forbes 2022
America’s Best Insurance Companies

POWERED BY STATISTA

* Knights of Columbus ranked #6 in the permanent life insurance category on Forbes 2022 America’s Best Insurance Companies list. Forbes partnered with Statista to independently survey more than 16,000 customers who owned at least one insurance policy across 7 insurance product categories.

Darrell Hinkebein, LUTCF, FIC, MDRT
Cell: 417-827-4949
darrell.hinkebein@kofc.org
Nixa, Bolivar, Verona-Aurora,
Marshfield, Mt. Vernon,
Monett, Springfield - Holy Trinity
and I.C., Holy Family
Campus Ministry

Scott Hinkebein, FIC
MDRT, Court of the Table
Cell: 417-827-0303
scott.hinkebein@kofc.org
Kimberling City, Forsythe,
Shell Knob, Pulaski/Johnson,
Pierce City, Branson, Ozark,
Houston, Willow Springs, Ava,
West Plains, Billings,
Springfield-St. Agnes Cathedral,
Montrose, Butler

Vance Todt, FIC
Cell: 573-475-0969
vance.todt@kofc.org
Oran, Dexter, Glennonville,
Advance, Poplar Bluff
and Scott City

Loy Shrum, FIC
Cell: 573-382-0952
loy.shrum@kofc.org
Leopold, Jackson
and Fredericktown

Seth Hampel
Field Agent
Cell: 417-839-7892
seth.hampel@kofc.org
St. Mary’s (Coplin), St. Peters
(Coplin), Webb City, Carthage,
Immaculate Conception
(Springfield), Holy Trinity
(Marshall)

Luke Henry, FSCP, FICF
Assistant General Agent
Mahon Agency
Cell: 913-568-6518
luke.henry@kofc.org

Joe Pehar
Assistant General Agent
Spinelli Agency
Cell: 314-220-9146
joe.pehar@kofc.org

This Could Be You!
Contact us for Career Opportunities

Life Insurance • Disability Income Insurance • Long-Term Care Insurance • Retirement Annuities
© Knights of Columbus, 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510

MAHON AGENCY
John A. Mahon, FICF, LUTCF, FSCP
Office: 855-356-4849
john.mahon@kofc.org
1275 S.W. Topeka Blvd. Topeka, KS 66612

SPINELLI AGENCY
George Spinelli, FICF, LUTCF, CLU
Office: 636-390-2525
george.spinelli@kofc.org
102 Lurhaven Circle
Camdenton, MO 65020
Servicing Central and South East Missouri