



MEET THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2022 MCC CITIZEN RECOGNITION AWARD

BRUCE & KATHERINE RITCHIE—Members of Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Branson, Bruce and Katherine Ritchie (center) are the diocesan recipients of the 2022 Missouri Catholic Conference (MCC) Citizen Recognition Award. They are pictured with Deacon Dan Vaughn, who nominated them, Bishop Edward M. Rice, and Fr. J. Friedel, pastor. Each year the MCC recognizes a Catholic citizen, couple, or group from each of the four Missouri (arch)dioceses who give of themselves to better the lives of others, promoting Catholic values in their communities and parishes. *(The Mirror)*

Jefferson City

The Missouri Catholic Conference (MCC) is excited to announce the 2022 winners of its Citizen Recognition Awards! The mission of the MCC is to promote the common good in the State of Missouri and the global community. Each year, the MCC recognizes a Catholic citizen, couple, or group from each of the four (arch)dioceses that strives toward the same goal: giving of themselves to better the lives of others. These award recipients exemplify good citizenship and promote Catholic values in the public policy arena, in their local communities, and parishes. The winners from each (arch)diocese are as follows. Congratulations to all!

Springfield-Cape Girardeau. **Bruce and Katherine Ritchie**

Bruce and Katherine Ritchie run the Free Medical Clinic of the Ozarks in Hollister, MO. Katherine and Bruce moved to the Branson area in 2010 to retire, work part-time, and volunteer. Bruce, by degree, is a speech pathologist and Katherine is a nurse. Bruce got involved with the Vietnam Veterans Association, Katherine volunteered as a nurse at Jesus Was Homeless (now Elevate Branson) and the Branson area tourism center. In 2012, Katherine began volunteering at the Free Medical Clinic of the Ozarks. Bruce began volunteering in 2014. It is a clinic for low-income (and no-income) patients. Staffed by volunteers, the clinic is open four days a week, three hours per day, having two to four doctors. Katherine and Bruce are the two primary people that keep the doors open, both spending more hours per week there than the advertised hours of operation. Katherine is the nurse, office manager, and in charge of the day-to-day operations. Bruce is the medical supply

coordinator and was recently appointed Chief Operations Director.

“We are blessed to have this clinic to serve the low-income people of Stone and Taney counties,” said Deacon Dan Vaughn, who nominated the Ritchies for the award. “Its success is due to the dedication of the Ritchies.”

St. Louis. **Maureen Zink**

Maureen Zink is the Executive Director of Birthright Counseling St. Louis. As a licensed counselor, Zink has demonstrated a profound commitment to protecting life from conception until natural death. She is a shining example of a Catholic in action. She has done a lot of excellent work in her local community because of her goal to provide programming and services to women facing an untimely or crisis pregnancy. Zink works with many local organizations to build resources for the clients to help them through their pregnancy and after the baby is born. She was instrumental in starting the Melissa’s Smile program, which provides counseling and supportive resources for parents whose baby has been prenatally diagnosed with a genetic abnormality or whose baby has been born with a disability or serious medical condition. She is always striving to find new ways to provide resources to mothers, fathers, and all those involved with Birthright.

Kansas City-St. Joseph.

Fr. Emmanuel Lopez Garduño

Father Lopez Garduño is a hard-working priest that goes beyond his call as clergy to serve the communities of several parishes. His strong work ethic is full of conviction. When it comes to evangelizing the communities he serves, he is tenacious. He devotes his time equally to each parish to provide the best opportunities for members to participate and engage

in church life. Loving his “work,” he is a mover and shaker of the faith. He gives and gives of his time and talents to be able to reach anyone in need. He is a true missionary of the Lord, ready to serve him and be present in whatever capacity he is called. Father Lopez Garduño builds communities by engaging people and making sure that no one gets left behind in the faith.

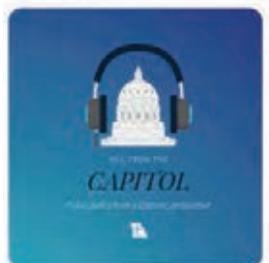
Jefferson City. **Dean Dutoi**

Dean Dutoi was president of the St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVdP) at St. Peter Parish in Jefferson City from 2012-2022, serving individuals and families in the Jefferson City area. In 2021, SVdP’s volunteers logged nearly 200 hours of service and disbursed \$47,000 to people in need for things like utilities. Dutoi implemented several changes to make this level of service possible. He also led the local SVdP response to the May 2019 tornado in Jefferson City and surrounding area. He coordinated the assistance received from a SVdP response team based in St. Louis, which required many hours.

At Bishop John Gaydos’ request, Dutoi led the effort to create the North Central District Council, a diocesan-wide group of all the SVdPs in the diocese. This group serves as an administrative liaison between the local chapters and the National SVdP. Dean was elected as the first president in 2015.

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2022 Virtual MCC
 Annual Assembly



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COME, AND YOU WILL SEE

Bp. Edward M. Rice

We're each called to chastity, no matter our vocation

In my last column, I mentioned two Catholic programs: one for those experiencing same-sex attraction, "Courage," and another program for the parents, siblings, and friends of those who are experiencing same-sex attraction, "Encourage." In this edition of *The Mirror*, I would like to give details for each program.

Courage International began in 1980 in New York City as a response to those persons that experience same-sex attractions and desire to follow and live the teachings of the Catholic faith regarding human sexuality. In my last column, I quoted from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, "All Christians in any state or walk of life are called to the fullness of Christian life and to the perfection of charity. All of our call to holiness" (paragraph [P] 2013). And, as inspiring as that is, it is also challenging. That is why the *Catechism* also reminds us two paragraphs later, (P 2015), "The way of perfection passes by way of the Cross. There is no holiness without renunciation and spiritual battle." So, Courage International is an invitation to holiness for Catholics who experience same-sex attractions. While many would say that same-sex attraction in the Catholic faith are incompatible, Courage International reminds us that one can have same-sex attractions and also love one's Catholic faith.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* clearly states in paragraph 2359, "Homosexual persons are called to chastity." From that statement some people assume then that those with same-sex attraction must live a life of loneliness in order to follow the teachings of the church. Absolutely not! People are called to the fullness of life and love, and all of us are called to chastity according to our state life. For married people, this means an exclusive,

faithful relationship, which is open to the possibility of having children. For single people, this means abstaining from sexual intimacy and fostering authentic friendships. And for those experiencing same-sex attraction, Courage International offers spiritual support and fellowship for men and women 18+ who experience same-sex attractions and are striving to live chaste lives.

FIVE GOALS OF COURAGE

The five goals of Courage were created by the members themselves, when Courage was founded. The goals are read at the start of every meeting and each member is called to practice them in daily life. The goals are as follows:

- 1) To live chaste lives in accordance with the Roman Catholic Church's teaching on homosexuality (chastity);
- 2) To dedicate their entire lives to Christ through service to others, spiritual reading, prayer, meditation, individual spiritual direction, frequent attendance at Mass, and frequent reception of the sacraments of reconciliation and holy Eucharist (prayer and dedication);
- 3) To foster a spirit of fellowship in which they may share with one another their thoughts and experiences, and so ensure that no one will have to face the problems of homosexuality alone (fellowship);
- 4) To be mindful of the truth that chaste friendships are not only possible, but necessary to the chaste Christian life, and to encourage one another in forming and sustaining these friendships (support);
- 5) To live lives that may serve as good examples to others (good example/role model).

As you can see from the five points, one of the main goals of Courage is to provide a solid, loving community of friends that support and encourage one another as they share their experiences

'COURAGE'
provides me with
a sturdy family
of brothers and
sisters in Christ
who will my good,
love me well,
and call me to
holiness.

—Participant

and grow together in holiness. The reception of the sacraments is of utmost importance, and are vital ways to obtain the grace and strength to follow and faithfully serve Jesus.

TESTIMONIES

Former Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship Card. Robert Sarah said of Courage, "These men and women testify to the power of grace, the nobility and resilience of the human heart." Pope St. John Paul II said, "Courage is doing the work of God!" But I found the most touching thought from a member of Courage, a 23-year-old who said, "As a young Catholic who experiences

same-sex attraction, 'Courage' provides me with a sturdy family of brothers and sisters in Christ who will my good, love me well, and call me on to holiness!"

Remember, all of us have struggles and difficulties in life. I end with the statement from the *Catechism* (P 2015), "The way of perfection passes by way of the Cross. There is no holiness without renunciation and spiritual battle." ©TM



PROJECT ANDREW DINNER

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Venite et Videbitis



JOIN BISHOP RICE and
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PRAYER & DINNER!

SUN., NOV. 6, 2022 | 4:30 PM

St. John Vianney | Mountain View
808 State Highway Y

RSVP by Oct. 30 to fr.stoverink@gmail.com

MON., NOV. 7, 2022 | 6:00 PM

Adoration will be held at 4:00 PM

St. John Henry Newman Center | Cape Girardeau
512 N. Pacific St.

RSVP to Fr. Alex Sutachan at fathalex@svparish.com



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#iGIVECATHOLIC

November 29, 2022

Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau

#GIINGTUESDAY



EUCCHARISTIC MIRACLES
of the WORLD

The Very Rev. Shoby Chettiyath, V.G.



THE EUCCHARISTIC MIRACLE
in 1310 at Fiecht, Austria

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.miracolieucaaristici.org/en/liste/list.html>.

Transubstantiation from the latin *trans-substantiatio*, is the term that indicates the conversion of the Host into the substance of the body of Christ and of wine into the substance of the blood of Christ. This transformation takes place in the Eucharistic celebration, when the priest invokes the Father to send the Holy Spirit in order to transform the bread and the wine into the body and blood of Christ. This is one of the best examples of such transformation.

In 1310, in the Austrian village of St. Georgenberg-Fiecht, during the consecration, the wine turned into blood and began to boil and overflow the chalice. In 1480, the chronicler of that day wrote that after 170 years, "The Sacred Blood was still fresh, as though coming out of a wound." Today, the blood is contained in the reliquary of the Monastery of St. Georgenberg.

Near the side altar of the Church Abbey, is a documentary that tells the tale:

"In the year of grace of 1310, while a priest celebrating Mass was seized by doubts about the real presence of Jesus in the consecrated Host and immediately after the consecration wine turned into red blood began to boil in the cup until it overflows. The wonder was not lost to other monks who were in the choir and the number of pilgrims who approach the altar to see what had happened.

"The celebrant, frightened, he could not drink all the Holy

Blood, so the abbot deposited the rest in a container next to the cloth with which he wiped the chalice in the tabernacle altar."

At the end of a rigorous investigation, the miracle was declared authentic and recommended the adoration of the Blessed Blood. The miracle is still perfectly preserved and is contained in a shrine located in the Monastery of St. Georgenberg. ©TM

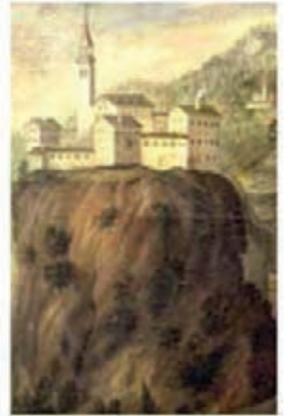
The Very Rev. Shoby Chettiyath, V.G., serves as Vicar General, Moderator of the Curia, and Vicar for Religious in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. He is Parochial Administrator of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, in Nixa, MO.



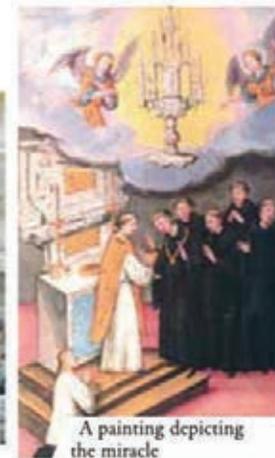
Interior of the church



Silver and gold monstrance from 1719 in which the precious blood of the miracle is preserved



The ancient monastery of St. Georgenberg developed in two complexes, one on the mountain and the other in the valley



A painting depicting the miracle



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.

November 20, 1987 While asking second-graders their names, one little boy told me, "John Paul." Then with a mischievous grin on his face, he said: "I'm John Paul III."

November 27, 1987 One of the more humorous moments at the Bishops' meeting came during a very complicated parliamentary situation when, while discussing an amendment to an amendment, a bishop asked for a point of order. "It seems to me," he said, "that the amendment to the amendment was already taken care of in a previous discussion and, therefore, our floor discussion now may be totally redundant." Archbishop John May, President of the Conference, said with a big smile: "Bishop, we certainly may be a bit redundant, [however], I assure you, we are in order."

December 4, 1987 After several years of waiting, my brother, Jim, and his wife, Sandy, adopted a baby a few weeks ago. Thanksgiving Day was my first opportunity to see this newest addition to the family. What a happy occasion! Sandy and Jim named the baby Justin. They didn't take the suggestion from some of us that Justin's middle name should be "Time."

SILVER ROSE PROGRAM stops in Cape Girardeau



OUR LADY & RESPECT FOR LIFE—Knights of Columbus Council #111 members with Bp. Edward Rice participated in the Silver Rose Program on Oct. 4. Since 1960, the Silver Rose Program demonstrates the unity between the Knights of Columbus in Canada, the United States, and Mexico, through a series of prayer services promoting the dignity of all human life and honoring Our Lady. The program in Cape Girardeau's St. Mary Cathedral included exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, praying the rosary, and other prayers. (*The Mirror*)

Sikeston Catholic Grandparents Association — IS ONE OF ONLY THREE WITHIN MISSOURI —

by Paula Wright

Sikeston, MO

The Catholic Grandparents Association is a global organization whose mission is “To help grandparents pass on the faith and keep prayer in the heart of family life.” Within the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, a Catholic Grandparents Association chapter is found in the parish of St. Francis Xavier, Sikeston. One of only three (3) parishes in the state of Missouri, Sikeston’s Catholic Grandparents Association was started in St. Francis Xavier by a parish member, Karen Horton, chair of the Sikeston association.

“I lost my mother, followed by my daughter in 2020. I began the Franciscan free education programs and became certified in the catechist training program. Because I wasn’t a teacher, I was really praying, asking God what I could do with the new knowledge,” Horton explained how the group was formed. “One evening, I was getting ready to turn off the TV, but came across a show featuring the woman who started the Catholic Grandparents Association. She was speaking about the program, its purpose and benefits. I thought to myself, this is it! This is what God wants me to do. I read more about the program and planned to attend a meeting. The contact I reached at the national association was surprised I had just watched the show because it had been recorded and aired three years before. For me, this just reaffirmed I was being called to start this program within my parish. Our organization began the third Friday of August 2021.”

Pope Francis has established throughout the Church the celebration of the World Day for Grandparents

and Elderly on the fourth Sunday of July, near the liturgical memorial of Saints Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus. The announcement of this celebration coincided with the celebration of the Year of *Amoris Laetitia* Family, which began on the Solemnity of Saint Joseph the husband of Mary, on March 19, 2021, and concluded at the World Meeting of Families in Rome in June of 2022.

Because the celebration is so new, many do not know about it. The Catholic Grandparents Association in St. Francis Xavier Parish wanted to make the celebration, held July 24 this year, extra special for everyone. For the Mass, the association provided a Greeter to welcome and invite grandparents and the elderly to sit in the front rows reserved seating. Father Colby Elbert, pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish, recognized the Worldwide Grandparents and Elderly Day, and asked parishioners to sign the Remembrance Book to sign and remember grandparents and the



GRANDPARENTS ASSOCIATION—Many events have surrounded the inauguration and celebration of the Catholic Grandparents Association in St. Francis of Xavier Parish, Sikeston, during its first year, including rosaries, special blessings, and liturgies. Grandparents stayed after Mass on the Worldwide celebration of Grandparents and the Elderly on July 24, 2022, with Fr. Colby Elbert, pastor. The local group in Sikeston is one of only three Grandparents Associations in Missouri. (Submitted photo)

elderly, and closed with a prayer and blessing of all the grandparents and elderly present at Mass. As parishioners left the church, Horton handed out small bags of “Forget Me Not” seeds, the official flower for the Worldwide Grandparents and the Elderly Day.

The hope was the seeds would be planted to grow the flowers, fostering a good memory of the experience, especially for grandchildren and grandparents together.

“Worldwide Grandparents and the Elderly Day at Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church was a wonderful event,” said Sarah Lee Hunter, member. “All in all, our first-year celebration was a fabulous success. Many grandparents gave positive comments of how much they enjoyed the event.”

Horton shared, “My hope is that the organization grows across the diocese. There are lots of grandparents out there that want to spread the faith and prayer life, especially within their families. They want to see their grandchildren in heaven. The association has been a blessing to my parish. I am thankful to God.”

Other activities the association at St. Francis Xavier holds throughout the year include:

- **Bambinelli Sunday** on the Third Sunday of Advent. On this Sunday, Dec. 11 this year, children are encouraged to bring the baby Jesus from their Nativity sets for a blessing.
- The Association “**Holy Heroes**” contest. Children submit a story about someone they know that had helped them in their faith and lived as a good example of a Christian. The winner is announced, and as part of the recognition for the writer and



REMEMBERING THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE US—A Remembrance Book was signed by parishioners in St. Francis Xavier Parish, Sikeston, that wanted to remember a grandparent or elderly influence in life. Forty-five (45) grandchildren were represented by the grandparents in this picture, including the grandparent who took the picture: Linda Scott; Kathy Mitchell; Fr. Colby Elbert, pastor; Karen Horton; Sharon Chouinard, and Sarah Hunter. (Photo by Toni Grojean)



A PRIMARY GOAL OF THE GRANDPARENTS ASSOCIATION IS TO SHARE THE RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS THAT ARE PRACTICED IN DAILY LIVES IN THE HOME.

A few examples: Morning prayers; prayer at mealtime;

prayer at bedtime; reading the Bible; having a crucifix visible in the home; having a Holy Water Font visible in the home; and or talking about Guardian Angels watching over us each day.

These signs and symbols are ways to encourage the Faith and religious traditions in one’s grandchildren.

their hero, a red cape that reads “Holy Hero” is placed around the shoulders of their hero.

- **Public Rosary** in October, the Month of the Rosary and Respect Life Month.
- **Sharing religious traditions** that are practiced in their homes for example: morning prayers; prayer at meal time; prayer at bedtime; reading the Bible; having a crucifix visible in the home; having a Holy Water Font visible in the home; and talking about Guardian Angels watching over us each day.

“These signs and symbols encourage our faith and religious traditions when shared with our grandchildren,” said Hunter.

“Whatever God is wanting from the association within our parish, I believe he is guiding us and we are going in the right way,” Hunter said. “The joy and happiness felt in the church celebrating Grandparents and the Elderly was felt by everyone.”

If you would like to bring a chapter to your parish, you may find more information on The Catholic Grandparents Association Website at www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org/, or contact Karen Horton, St. Francis Xavier Parish, Sikeston, (573) 471-2447. ©TM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cape Girardeau—The Cathedral of St. Mary of the Annunciation PCCW will hold its annual **Craft & Bake Sale**, Sat., Nov. 12, 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m., and Sun., Nov. 13, 7 a.m.-12 p.m., in the St. Mary Catholic School gym. Homemade craft items, candy, and baked goods, including cinnamon rolls. Enter a drawing for a \$100 cash prize, a one night stay in a Drury hotel, or a PCCW Potpourri basket.

Dexter—Sacred Heart Parish will host its annual **Turkey and Ham Dinner**, Sun., Nov. 6, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., in the parish hall. Served buffet style, menu includes turkey and dressing, ham, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, corn, slaw, rolls, coffee, tea, lemonade, and dessert. Adults-\$10; children, ages 6-10 yrs.-\$5; under age 6, free, carry-out is available.

Jackson—The Jackson Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary will host a **Bunco Bash**, Sun., Nov. 6, in the Upper KC Hall, located at 3305 N. High St. Registration begins at 12:30 p.m., and play starts at 1 p.m. Entry fee is \$10/ player. Pre-registration is not required. Prizes and snacks will be provided; drinks available for purchase. Proceeds will be used to fund scholarship program, and various other organizations we support, such as Options for Women, Birthright, and Special Olympics. For more information, contact Donna at (573) 243-5464, or Email: jacksonkcaux@gmail.com.

Marshfield—The Knights of Columbus Trinity Council #10844 will have a **Fish Fry Fundraiser**, Fri., Oct. 28, 5-7 p.m., at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, located at 515 E. Washington St. Enjoy fried or baked catfish, french fries, hush puppies, green beans, cole slaw, and homemade desserts. Adults- \$10; children, ages 5-12 yrs.-\$6; under age 5, free. Proceeds to benefit TLC Student Funds, Marshfield R-1 School District.

New Hamburg—St. Lawrence **Fall Dinner & Country Store** will be held Sun., Nov. 6, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., in the St. Lawrence Parish Center. Served buffet style, menu includes turkey & dressing, cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes, buttered potatoes, slaw, green beans, homemade desserts, and drink. Adults-\$12; children, ages 6-12 yrs-\$5; under age 5, free; carry-out is available.

Springfield—St. Joseph Catholic Academy will have its **11th Annual BBQ & Beverage Event** on Sat., Oct. 22, 5-7 p.m., in the St. Joseph Parish Hall, located at 1121 N. Campbell Ave. Advance tickets are \$40 or purchase at the door for \$45. Must be 21+ years to attend. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (417) 866-0667.

Springfield—St. Agnes Cathedral Parish will host a **Holiday Market**, Sat., Nov. 5, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., and Sun., Nov. 6, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., in the school gymnasium, located in The Catholic Center. There will be a variety of vendors with candles, cards, religious items, Norwex,

Tupperware, paintings, many handmade items, and baked goods. John Carpenter will be there with his books.

Springfield—St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish Council of Catholic Women will have its **14th Annual Fall Bazaar**, Sat., Nov. 5, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., and Sun., 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Many vendors available with handmade embroidery, knitted and crocheted items, Christmas décor, Jordan Essentials skincare, Party Lite, Tupperware, painted wood, glass items, handmade jewelry, religious items, and pecans and walnuts will be sold by the Lion's Club, and much more. Visit the dining room for lunch; chili, soup, frito pie, hot dogs, and many more items. Proceeds support LifeHouse, seminarians, and other ministries within the parish.

Springfield—Immaculate Conception PCCW will have its **Holiday Sale**, Sat., Nov. 12, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., and Sun., Nov. 13, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Start your Christmas shopping at our huge white elephant & bake sale. A lunch of sandwiches, soups, & desserts will also be available.

Springfield—Holy Trinity PCCW will have its **Fall Bazaar**, Sat., Nov.12, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sun., Nov. 13, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Vendors will offer a variety of items; including original artwork and crafts, children and baby hats, blankets, and clothing. Christmas gifts and décor, jewelry, skin care, candles. Home baked goods, candy, and hand-crafted items will be available. White Elephant Sale and gardening booth with lots of houseplants. Lunch will be available on Saturday from the KofC: smoked meat sandwich, coleslaw, chips, beverage and dessert. Breakfast will be available on Sunday from the KofC: pancakes, scrambled eggs, biscuits & gravy, bacon, fruit, coffee & juice.

Springfield—The next Strengthening & Healing Conference, **A Fresh Fire**, will be held Fri., Nov. 11, 4-9 p.m., and Sat., Nov. 12, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., in St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, located at 2200 W. Republic Rd. Featured presenter is Fr. Patrick Gonyeau, Encounter Ministry. This day-and-a-half conference is designed to stir a fresh fire of divine love in your life in the Holy Spirit! For more information, please call Shelly at (417) 838-2730, or Jan Dills at (417) 763-1579. Additional details may be found at www.strengtheningandhealing.org. To register, go to https://dioscg.formstack.com/forms/healing_conf1.

Webb City—Sacred Heart Catholic Church, located at 909 N. Madison St., will have its **73rd Annual Turkey Dinner**, Sat., Nov. 5, 12-7 p.m. and Sun., Nov. 6, 12-5 p.m. Adults-\$10; Children-\$5. For more details visit www.sacredheartwebbcity.org.

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



DIocese OF SPRINGFIELD-CAPE GIRARDEAU
Office of Vocations

MIRIAM DINNER



Sunday, October 30 Thursday, November 3

5:00pm

O'Reilly Catholic Student Center
Springfield

4:00pm

St. John Henry Newman Center,
Cape Girardeau

All single women, ages 16-40 are invited to join Bishop Rice and religious sisters in our diocese for an evening of prayer, fellowship, and dinner. There will be time for discussion about Religious life and discerning the will of God.

For more information and to RSVP, email kkearbey@dioscg.org

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



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"Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau" @DioSCG DioSCG





By
Fr. Joshua
J. Whitfield

WHAT WE BELIEVE, PART 3:

What is the Church?

What we believe begins with Jesus and Scripture, what about the Church?

Certainly, belief in the Church belongs fundamentally to Catholicism. We say each Sunday in the Creed, "I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church." There is no such thing as Catholicism without the Church. But why? How does belief in Jesus and Scripture fit with belief in the Church?

First, though, what does the word "Church" mean? In Latin the word is *ecclesia*, *ekklēsia* in Greek, *kirche* in German, *iglesia* in Spanish. These words mean, roughly, "assembly" or "called meeting." In secular Greek *ekklēsia* named the *demos* or the *polis*, the people or the city. For Christians, what made their *ekklēsia* distinct was that it was an assembly in *Christ*. These words likely correspond to the Hebrew word *qāhāl*, meaning "called assembly" — of either soldiers, or prophets, or elders and so on. "Qoheleth," the name given as the author of Ecclesiastes, may come from this Hebrew word, and it means something like "preacher" or "caller."

All of this gives us, at the very start, a basic image of the Church to help us conceptualize its nature. It is a body of people called into being, called together to form a community. The Church is described many different ways, employing many different images. Nonetheless, here at the start we get an idea of what the Church is from the very word itself: the Church is a *called body*.

But this raises further questions already. Called by what? Called by whom? For Christians, the answer is God in Jesus Christ. The Church is that assembly called together by him. When Jesus called the first disciples by the Sea of Galilee (Mk 1:17), when he called Levi (Mk 2:14), when he summoned the Twelve (Mk 3:13; 6:7), when crowds gathered around him and heard him



ONE HOLY CATHOLIC AND APOSTOLIC—Bishop Edward M. Rice celebrated a Saturday evening Mass on Sept. 17 in St. Michael Mission Church in Cabool, MO. In Part 3 of the 'What We Believe,' series, we explore the Church as a "called body," people called into being and called together to form a community. (The Mirror)

say that his family is "whoever does the will of God" (Mk 3:35), that's what he was doing — calling believers together into an *ekklēsia*. And this, to put it simply, is how our belief in Jesus and Scripture leads to our belief in the Church. We believe the Church is called into existence by him and in him, by the Christ we discover in Scripture.

To see this connection between Jesus and the Church most clearly, it is helpful to read John 17. Speaking personally, for me as a Christian, this passage changed everything. Without wrestling with it, I would never have become Catholic. It remains a text that helps me see and think through almost everything. Now, that's saying a lot, I know. But from this passage, I think it is possible to see the whole of Christian history, theology, and all Christian experience. Reading John 17 closely is like discovering the genome of the Church. It reveals, in a sense, the Church's DNA. And that's because when Jesus prayed that his disciples be *one*, as the Father and the Son are one, he revealed the form this called body, his body, should keep. Just as when he prayed that his disciples be consecrated and sent, he revealed the Church's

holiness and apostolicity.

UNITY AT THE HEART OF CHRIST'S MISSION

So, what we read in John 17 is fundamental and of lasting importance for understanding the Church today. As Pope St. John Paul II argued, "This unity, which the Lord has bestowed on his Church and in which he wishes to embrace all people, is not something added on, but stands at the very heart of Christ's mission" (*Ut Unum Sint*, No. 9). Jesus's prayer that his disciples be one belongs to the essence of the Church and to the essence of our understanding of it. What Jesus prayed for in John 17 — that the disciples be *one, holy* and *apostolic* — matters for the whole of Christian history. We see it in the Church in Acts 4:32 — which was "of one heart and mind," an image St. Augustine loved so much — when St. Irenaeus argued against Gnostic rivals, that his readers avoid such heresies and "join themselves to the Church," in St. Cyprian's blunt teaching that "God is one, and Christ is one, and His Church is one; one is the faith, and one the people cemented together in harmony," which "cannot be divided." "Be my soul with the

saints!" St. John Henry Newman cried out before converting to Catholicism, realizing this fundamental truth.

But why John 17? Because it's what Jesus prayed for that final night before his death. It's what he prayed as he was being betrayed by Judas and as the other disciples scattered in fear. A prayer to his Father just before the end, before his crucifixion: it belongs to his final expression, the testament of his final desire just before his death. By next sundown, he would be dead. John 17 offers us some of his final words. It is a special moment, an important passage of Scripture to say the least. As I said, it is important for understanding everything else we believe. Which is where we'll turn next, to this special prayer of Jesus to his Father.

NEXT EDITION: WHAT WE BELIEVE: PART 4

The Church Born at Night for Eternal Life

Father Joshua J. Whitfield is pastor of St. Rita Catholic Community in Dallas and author of *The Crisis of Bad Preaching* (Ave Maria Press, \$17.95) and other books.

"What We Believe, Part 3: What is the Church?" by Fr. Whitfield is from *simplycatholic.com*, copyright © Our Sunday Visitor; all rights reserved, no other use of this material is authorized.

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Booths for Arts & Crafts, Sewing, Christmas Shop, Baked goods including the Walz family bread, Country Store, This & That Gift booth, Homemade Candy gift boxes, Jewelry, Religious Goods, and White Elephant. The Guadalupe Group will be selling tamales. Raffle Extravaganza where you choose your prize will be at 3 pm. Homemade cinnamon rolls for breakfast and a lunch of broccoli soup, sandwiches, and chili will be served. Proceeds support altar & parish needs, parish school, and charities.

For more information contact Gail Fox 573-413-4434 or Cassie Willey at 573-429-1824

Saint Francis Medical Center celebrates Feast of St. Francis & Mass of Installation

by Elena Tanner

Cape Girardeau

Saint Francis Healthcare System celebrated the Feast of St. Francis, patron, on Wed., Oct. 5, along with the Mass of Installation for Justin Davison, its new President and Chief Executive Officer. The Most Reverend Edward M. Rice, Bishop of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, was joined by are priests to celebrate the liturgy in the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Annunciation.

In addition to the installation of the new President and Chief Executive Officer, five Little Sisters of St. Francis renewed their vows. The Sisters joined the Healthcare System in August 2022.

Following Mass, a reception was held in Saint Francis Medical Center and included the unveiling and blessing of two new paintings to the Medical Center and the presentation of the Sister Jane (Kiefer) Mission Award. A Franciscan Sister of Wheaton, IL, Sr. Kiefer devotedly served Saint Francis Medical Center for more than four decades. The Oran, MO, native died March 8, 2022.

Paintings blessed

Bishop Rice blessed "The Resurrection," painted by Carl Heinrich Bloch in 1875, the year of the Healthcare System's founding, which depicts Jesus Christ rising from the dead and symbolizes the revival and recommitment of Saint Francis to its Mission. The Resurrection is imbued in the Healthcare System's Catholic Franciscan identity and tradition, now made manifest through the arrival of five Little Sisters of St. Francis, walking in the footsteps of fellow Franciscan Sisters, Daughters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. They journeyed the path before those today and those yet to serve in the Saint Francis Ministry.

In addition to "The Resurrection," Saint Francis celebrated a new portrait of Sister Jane Ann Kiefer, OSF, which was commissioned after her passing earlier this year. Jason Oberle, MD, DABA, anesthesiologist at Cape Anesthesia Group, shared kind words in remembrance of Sr. Kiefer, a close friend to him and his wife. The portrait now hangs in the Medical Center for all to see.

In 1976, after joining the Franciscan Sisters in Wheaton, IL, and working in



THE RESURRECTION—Franciscan Sr. Kevin Karimi, LSOSF, PhD, MSW, Director of Mission Integration; Justin Davison, President and Chief Executive Officer; The Most Reverend Edward M. Rice, Bishop of Springfield-Cape Girardeau; and Gerry Salter, MBA, PT, Vice President Specialty Practices, stood in front of "The Resurrection," painted by Carl Heinrich Bloch in 1875, the year Saint Francis Healthcare System was founded. (*The Mirror*)



MISSION AWARD—Justin Davison, installed on Oct. 5 as President and Chief Executive Officer of Saint Francis Healthcare System, is pictured with Lisa King, CNA, recipient of the 2022 Sister Jane (Kiefer) Mission Award. They stood in front of the commissioned portrait of Sr. Jane Ann Kiefer, OSF. The painting of the beloved Franciscan Sister was commissioned earlier this year after her death in March. (*The Mirror*)

Catholic healthcare elsewhere, Sr. Kiefer returned to home in southeast Missouri to start a medical social work program at Saint Francis Medical Center. At the time, social work programs did not exist in the area and served as an extraordinary way to advocate for patients. She transferred to Pastoral Care in 1985 and served as a chaplain for 13 years. During this time, she became

recognizes a colleague-nominated member of the Saint Francis Family for living the Mission of Saint Francis. The Sister Jane Mission Award is presented each October after the Feast of Saint Francis Mass to a deserving colleague who embodies the Mission and Values. The 2022 Sister Jane Mission Award recipient is Lisa King, CNA, certified nurse assistant at the Medical Center.

When you drive up to the main entrance of Saint Francis Medical Center, you see the statue of St. Francis lifting high the Cross of Christ for all to see," said Bp. Edward M. Rice in the homily Oct. 5. "Saint Francis of Assisi is our model. His experience of encountering the leper first disgusted him: he was repulsed by the sick. But eventually, he saw Christ in the sick. Saint Francis Medical Center is called to do the same today - to see Christ in the sick. In seeing Christ in the sick, St. Francis, fulfilled the command to rebuild the Church."

"As part of the mission of the Diocese, Saint Francis Medical Center helps build up the Church today. The installation of Justin Davidson as President and CEO is a new chapter at Saint Francis Medical Center as it continues the healing ministry of Christ," Bp. Rice said. "The administrators, doctors, nurses, and staff are called to be the hands of Christ. They are called to bring to each patient the love of Christ. As they walk the halls of this hospital, they are called to bring the presence of Christ to all they meet. And Justin, as President and CEO, it is your responsibility to continue to move the mission of Catholic healthcare forward for the good people here in southeast Missouri: Please do it all in the name of Jesus Christ."

— excerpt from the Installation Mass homily given by Bishop Edward M. Rice

the sole religious sister remaining at Saint Francis.

After retiring in 1998, Sister Kiefer continued her service at the Medical Center as a volunteer. She could be seen at the hospital nearly every day until her return to the Wheaton Franciscan Sisters Motherhouse in November 2019.

Sister Jane Mission Award

In honor of her legacy, the Healthcare System

"Lisa is the epitome of joy, compassion, and caring! She is one of the hardest workers I have ever met and does it all with a smile on her face and a song in her heart," stated King's colleague nomination. "Patients, doctors, nurses, and everyone in between love Lisa because she is always willing to go above and beyond for her patients and colleagues. I cannot think of a better-deserving staff member in our Healthcare System than Lisa King. She lights up every room she enters!" ©TM

Inspired by faith in Jesus Christ, Saint Francis Healthcare System is guided by its Mission to provide a ministry of healing, wellness, quality, and love. Founded by Franciscan Sisters in 1875, the priority remains the same: serve all who enter with dignity, compassion, and joy. Serving nearly 713,000 people across Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Arkansas, the focus is on patients' outcomes, experience and value.

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October 2022



Forming Consciences for
Faithful Citizenship
faithfulcitizenship.org

Messenger

A quarterly publication by the Missouri Catholic Conference

Faithful Citizenship: Forming Consciences

“We need to participate for the common good. Sometimes we hear: a good Catholic is not interested in politics. This is not true: good Catholics immerse themselves in politics by offering the best of themselves so that the leader can govern.”

– Pope Francis, Morning Meditation in the Chapel of the Domus Sanctae Marthae, Monday, September 16, 2013.

The Catholic Church calls for all individuals to participate in political life to promote the common good. To support this calling, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) offers *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, a teaching document on the political responsibility of Catholics. This resource offers guidance for Catholics in the exercise of their rights and duties as participants in our democracy.

In this issue of the *Messenger*, we will provide resources to assist the faithful with living their responsibility to properly form their consciences; to engage in civil and respectful public dialogue; and to shape political choices in the coming election, and all elections.

As Catholic citizens, we should remember three things:

(From *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*)

1. Respect for the dignity of each person is the core of Catholic social and moral teaching. This is our most basic principle.
2. We focus on the common good, not our own personal interests. We ask, how can we make the world a better place? Not, how can I improve my own personal situation?
3. We have a responsibility—a true obligation—to form our consciences and participate in the civic life of this nation.

How to Apply Faithful Citizenship:

Be true to the teachings of the Church. Read Scripture, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, teachings from the Holy See, and the statements of our bishops. Read *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* at faithfulcitizenship.org. We need to be sure that our reasoning and judgments are well-grounded in our faith.

Stay well-informed about issues through judicious and reasoned

engagement with the immense world of information in the twenty-first century. Just as all issues are not equal, all sources are not equal. For example, an individual’s blog—while potentially very insightful—may not have the same fidelity to factual truth as our media sources that hold themselves to professional standards of journalistic ethics, imperfect though they are.

Remain in contact with our representatives in local, state, and federal government. Our responsibility to form our consciences leads to an obligation to be *active citizens*. We communicate regularly with our leaders—not only during election seasons.

Engage in reasoned, compassionate, and loving dialogue with others—Catholics and non-Catholics alike—about the issues and choices that we are facing as a nation. Remember that we are called first to witness the Gospel, and through that witness, to share our social teaching, to highlight the moral dimensions of issues, and to participate in debate on public policy.

The dual calling of faith and citizenship lies at the heart of what it means to be a Catholic in the United States. We stand on the shoulders of many Catholics who have gone before us, who have helped the United States of America become a better country because of their faith in a loving God.

continued from previous page...

(Second Vatican Council, Gaudium et Spes, no. 43)

13. *In the Catholic Tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation. "People in every nation enhance the social dimension of their lives by acting as committed and responsible citizens" (Evangelii Gaudium, no. 220). The obligation to participate in political life is rooted in our baptismal commitment to follow Jesus Christ and to bear Christian witness in all we do. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us, "It is necessary that all participate, each according to his position and role, in promoting the common good. This obligation is inherent in the dignity of the human person. . . . As far as possible citizens should take an active part in public life" (nos. 1913-1915).*

14. *Unfortunately, politics in our country often can be a contest of powerful interests, partisan attacks, sound bites, and media hype. The Church calls for a different kind of political engagement: one shaped by the moral convictions of well-formed consciences and focused on the dignity of every human being, the pursuit of the common good, and the protection of the weak and the vulnerable. As Pope Francis reminds us, "Politics, though often denigrated, remains a lofty vocation and one of the highest forms of charity, inasmuch as it seeks the common good. . . . I beg the Lord to grant us more politicians who are genuinely disturbed by the state of society, the people, the lives of the poor!" (Evangelii Gaudium, no. 205). The Catholic call to faithful citizenship affirms the importance of political participation and insists that public service is a worthy vocation. As citizens, we should be guided more by our moral convictions than by our attachment to a political party or interest group. When necessary, our participation should help transform the party to which we belong; we should not let the party transform us in such a way that we neglect or deny fundamental moral truths or approve intrinsically evil acts. We are called to bring together our principles and our political choices, our values and our votes, to help build a civilization of truth and love.*

15. *Clergy and lay people have complementary roles in public life. We bishops have the primary responsibility to hand on the Church's moral and social teaching. Together with priests and deacons, assisted by religious and lay leaders of the Church, we are to teach fundamental moral principles that help Catholics form their consciences correctly, to provide guidance on the moral dimensions of public decisions, and to encourage the faithful to carry out their responsibilities in political life. In fulfilling these responsibilities, the Church's leaders avoid endorsing or opposing candidates. As Pope Benedict XVI stated in Deus Caritas Est,*

The Church wishes to help form consciences in political life and to stimulate greater insight into the authentic requirements of justice as well as greater readiness to act accordingly, even when this might involve conflict with situations of personal interest...

The Church cannot and must not take upon herself the political battle to bring about the most just society possible. She cannot and must not replace the State. Yet at the same time she cannot and must not remain on the sidelines in the fight for justice (no. 28).

16. *As the Holy Father also taught in Deus Caritas Est, "The direct duty to work for a just ordering of society is proper to the lay faithful" (no. 29). This duty is more critical than ever in today's political environment, where Catholics may feel politically disenfranchised, sensing that no party and too few candidates fully share the Church's comprehensive commitment to the life and dignity of every human being from conception to natural death. Yet this is not a time for retreat or discouragement; rather, it is a time for renewed engagement. Forming their consciences in accord with Catholic teaching, Catholic lay women and men can become actively involved: running for office; working within political parties; communicating their concerns and positions to elected officials; and joining diocesan social mission or advocacy networks, state Catholic conference initiatives, community organizations, and other efforts to apply authentic moral teaching in the public square. Even those who cannot vote have the right to have their voices heard on issues that affect their lives and the common good.*

To access the entire document, visit the USCCB website: www.usccb.org/resources/forming-consciences-for-faithful-citizenship.pdf

Important Dates To Remember:

Oct.
25

In-person absentee voting begins, under a new elections law. The no-excuse absentee voting period requires a valid photo ID at the polls.

Oct.
26

The last day to request an absentee ballot online or by mail by 5 p.m.

Nov.
8

Election Day: Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Absentee ballots must be returned or postmarked by Election Day. A valid photo ID is required.



Bishops Issue Statement on Amendment 3 (Recreational Marijuana)

We, the Catholic Bishops of Missouri, issue this statement to express our concerns with Amendment 3, which would legalize the recreational use of marijuana in the state. We believe that marijuana legalization will negatively impact Missouri families, health outcomes, communities, and workers.

While some are focused on the increased state revenues that will be generated by a taxable marijuana industry, we are concerned with the social costs of increased marijuana usage. Although usage will be restricted to age 21 and older, legalization sends the message that marijuana is safe and socially acceptable. Many states that have legalized marijuana have the highest teen usage rates. We know that regular marijuana use has been connected to respiratory problems; mental health issues (including increased anxiety and suicidal thoughts); and learning, memory, and attention loss.

We are also concerned with how legalization could impact the state's workforce. In addition to impacting worker productivity

and safety, increased marijuana use could hinder individuals' ability to find or keep meaningful employment, especially in jobs that require drug testing.

Pope Francis has said that reducing drug addiction "will not be achieved by the liberalization of drug use." Instead, we must address those underlying social and economic issues that can lead to substance abuse. For these reasons, we urge Catholics and all persons of good will to oppose Amendment 3.

CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF MISSOURI



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Most Reverend W. Shawn McKnight
Executive Chairman
Bishop of Jefferson City



+ Edward M. Rice

Most Reverend Edward M. Rice
Bishop of Springfield-Cape Girardeau

Approved September 30, 2022

Questions to Ask Candidates

The following are suggested questions to ask candidates to determine their position on issues of importance to voters. These questions address legislation that the Missouri Catholic Conference supports as part of the MCC's public policy priorities:

- **Protecting Human Life:** Do you support/oppose enhancing support for new mothers and children? Do you support/oppose maintaining bans on abortion?
- **Death Penalty Repeal:** Do you support/oppose a trial judge being required to give a life sentence if the jury cannot unanimously decide on the death penalty in a capital murder case?
- **Criminal Justice Reform:** Do you support/oppose parole for non-violent offenders over 65 years of age who have served at least 30 years for their crime and have a good prison record?
- **Immigration:** Do you support/oppose comprehensive reforms that offer a path to citizenship for the undocumented who live in the U.S. and do not have a criminal record, expand family reunification, secure our borders, and establish humane border enforcement?
- **Education:** Do you support/oppose legislation that would expand educational choices for families?

MCC Annual Assembly Goes Virtual (Again!) New Podcast Series Available



MCC FROM THE *CAPITOL*



Scan here to listen

The 2022 Annual Assembly will once again be held in a virtual format, featuring opening remarks from Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski. Keep an ear out for the newest series from MCC from the Capitol; we invite you to tune in to this year's episodes to hear even more engaging conversations about important topics. Visit our website at mocatholic.org or scan the QR code to listen to new (or old) podcast episodes!

Annual Assembly | Podcast Episodes:

Faithful Citizenship: Bishop Shawn McKnight (Diocese of Jefferson City) discusses how Catholics can form their consciences in order to answer the Church's call to faithful citizenship.

Consistent Life Ethic: Aimee Murphy, a Catholic, describes why she created Rehumanize International, a nonpartisan, secular organization dedicated to bringing an end to all aggressive violence against humans.

Immigration and The Church: Marie Kenyon, attorney and director of the Peace and Justice Commission for the Archdiocese of St. Louis, details her experience at the border and explains how Catholics are called to support immigrants and the law.

History of Catholic Education: Mike Hoey, former director of the Missouri Catholic Conference, explains the history of the Blaine Amendment in Missouri and how its anti-Catholic language kick-started the MCC's role in defending Catholic education at the capitol.

Biodiesel's Impact on Climate Change: Donnell Rehagen, CEO of Clean Fuels Alliance America, headquartered in Jefferson City, discusses the impact biodiesel fuel has on the environment, public health, and the state of Missouri.

Thanks to Knights of Columbus

The Missouri Catholic Conference wishes to thank the Missouri Knights of Columbus for their financial support of the MCC *Messenger*.

Many thanks, MO K of C!



MERCY DAYS celebrates roots of JOPLIN SCHOOL SYSTEM

By Fr. Andrew Williams

Joplin, MO

From Sept. 19 to 23, the Joplin Area Catholic Schools, or JACS, celebrated “Mercy Days.” The three diocesan Catholic schools in Joplin—St. Mary Catholic Elementary School, St. Peter Middle School, and McAuley Catholic Highschool—took the week to recall in a special way their historical and spiritual connection to the Sisters of Mercy. The students took part in different activities, including visiting Mercy Hospital in Joplin and making ‘get-well’ cards for the patients. The schools also had a dodgeball tournament, a faculty cook-off, an alumni party, a Golf Scramble, and sold school ‘swag’ to raise money.

As the pinnacle moment of the week, the students, faculty, staff, local pastors, Deacon Rob Huff, diocesan Superintendent of Catholic Schools, and Bishop Edward Rice celebrated ‘Mercy Mass’ with several Sisters of Mercy: Sr. Joan Schwager, RSM; Sr. Cabrini Koelsch, RSM, and Sr. Annrené Brau, RSM, and Mercy Associates Harriet White, Phyllis Wilson, and Connie Walters. At the Mass, the Sisters and Associates were honored for their service and personally renewed their promises to “walk with and care for those who are poor, sick, and uneducated,” to “remain rooted in faith,” and to “carry the Good News of your mercy, today, tomorrow, and always,” following the spirit and wisdom of Mother St. Catherine McAuley.

When the Sisters of Mercy first came to Joplin in July of 1885, it took time for that rugged mining town to get used to 13 religious sisters, especially when many residents hadn’t ever seen one before. However, the Sisters earned the respect of the people through their persistent charity and faithfulness. During October of that year, they started a school, the “Institute of Our Lady of Mercy,” with 64 “children of Joplin’s miners.”

In great part, the Catholic education system in Joplin owes its existence to the work of the Sisters of Mercy, even today. In praise to God for the work of the Sisters of Mercy, please join the Sisters and schools in spirit by praying the ‘*Suscipe*’ prayer of Mother Catherine McAuley:

*My God, I am yours for time and eternity.
Teach me to cast myself entirely
into the arms of your loving Providence
with a lively, unlimited confidence in your compassionate, tender pity.
Grant, O most merciful Redeemer,
That whatever you ordain or permit may be acceptable to me.
Take from my heart all painful anxiety;
let nothing sadden me but sin,
nothing delight me but the hope of coming to the possession of You
my God and my all, in your everlasting kingdom.
Amen. ©TM*



SISTERS OF MERCY—On Sept. 22, Bp. Edward M. Rice celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving celebrating over 125 years of the Sisters of Mercy in Catholic education in Joplin Area Catholic Schools. During the liturgy, three Sisters of Mercy renewed their vows. They were (front) Sr. Joan Schwager, RSM, Sr. Annrené Brau, RSM, and Sr. Cabrini Koelsch, RSM. Also pictured were Fr. Brian Straus, Bp. Edward M. Rice, Fr. Joseph Weidenbenner, and Deacon Rob Huff. (Photo by Margie Black/The Mirror)



LOVING SERVICE—After the Mass of Thanksgiving on Thu., Sept. 22, with Bp. Edward Rice commemorating Mercy Days in St. Mary Church, Joplin, McAuley Catholic High School students (and Bp. Rice!) went to the elementary classrooms and worked together on service projects. They made “get well” cards and colored stickers that would go on the food trays of patients in Mercy Hospital Joplin.

(Photo by Margie Black/The Mirror)



FACULTY COOKOFF—Margie Black won the Mercy Days JACS Faculty Cookoff: She presented an “Autumn in Mexico”-type fare, including mini caramel apples and chicken enchilada dip. The results won her \$1,000 for her classroom(s). Black teaches Spanish and PE in St. Mary Catholic Elementary School, Joplin.

(The Mirror)

In September, members of Knights Of Columbus Council #979 (Joplin) supported Joplin Area Catholic Schools during Mercy-Warrior Activities Week. Mercy-Warrior Activities Week was an inaugural event raising money for a variety of the system’s clubs and activities including sports teams during the annual Mercy Days celebration. During the Dodgeball Tournament, Knights helped grill for the tournament and supported a dodgeball team, which included Fr. Brian Straus, Parochial Administrator of St. Peter the Apostle and Chaplain of McAuley Catholic High School, and Catholic Campus Ministry at Missouri Southern State University. Although the Knights team didn’t come in first place, the event was a success. Proceeds from the week supported JACS, the Booster Club, home and school, as well as other organizations. ©TM



DODGEBALL KNIGHTS—One of the teams that competed in the Dodgeball Tournament during Mercy-Warrior Activities Week included Knights Kevin Nolte, Mike Gordon, Kyle Hill and Sean Comer as well as Fr. Brian Straus and McAuley Catholic alum Shaun Steele. The team won best uniform, thanks to JACS supporter local Club 609. (Submitted photo)

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

‘Zacchaeus Moments’ allow God’s plan for us to emerge

Wis 11:22-12:2;
Ps 145: 1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13, 14;
2 Thes 1:11-2:2;
2 Thes 1:11-2:2

It might seem that our Gospel for this 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time is about the tax collector, Zacchaeus. But it’s not. Zacchaeus is not the main character. Jesus is. And it is only when we understand this truth, will an important focus of our own life comes into view.

Now Zacchaeus, of course, has a role to play in the story. But it is not a particularly noble or pivotal one. Zacchaeus does not seem to be a holy or religious person. He certainly is not a popular person. His role as tax collector sets him at odds with his fellow Jews. There is nothing in the story that indicates Zacchaeus had the intention to follow Jesus. It simply says he was seeking to see who Jesus was. Zacchaeus seems to be more attracted to Jesus’ fame than to his teaching. The Gospel also tells us that Jesus planned simply to walk through the city. Therefore, Zacchaeus’ plan was only to climb



SCRIPTURE WISDOM

Fr. Vincent E. Bertrand, MA, MDiv, JCL

up in a tree, so that he could see the famous rabbi as he and his entourage passed by. For Zacchaeus, seeing Jesus was more a diversion than a spiritual journey, more a curiosity than a commitment.

This is what makes Jesus the main character: Jesus stops, looks up, and calls Zacchaeus by name. He then informs the bewildered tax collector that it is no longer his intention to simply pass through Jericho, but that he is going to stay at Zacchaeus’ house that day. In that moment everything changes. The distant observer is invited into a personal relationship. The curious onlooker becomes the host of the Lord. What was going to be just a break from a busy day of tax collecting becomes the beginning of a new life. Without any expectation, and without any effort on Zacchaeus’ part, he becomes a new man—all because Jesus calls him by name.

A central aspect of our relationship to Christ comes from these Zacchaeus moments. And, the older we are, the more of them we can see. We sign up for a course at school and we are not even sure we want to take it. But something connects us with the teacher and in time, we realize that history or medicine or oceanography is going to be our career. An old friend calls us unexpectedly to go out for a coffee or dinner. We are not sure we want to do it, but we go. We meet some people, take a phone number, and then realize we have found our future spouse. People in our neighborhood organize a small group to do service for the holidays in a hunger center. We do not think much about it, and we go along. But as we see the line of homeless people coming one-by-one and taking a plate of hot food from our hands, we realize that from now on a part of our time, a part of our skill, a part of ourselves will be dedicated to issues of poverty in our city. These are “Zacchaeus Moments,” when we thought we were only going

to observe, to go along for the ride, to give just an hour or so of our time. But, then we discover that Jesus has some very different in mind.

In these Zacchaeus moments we are surprised and we are also blessed because in these times, Jesus takes us deeper, and we receive a clearer

For Zacchaeus, seeing Jesus was more a curiosity than a commitment.

view of our future and a deeper knowledge about ourselves. In these moments, it becomes clear

that God has a plan for our life and that that plan emerges in surprising ways.

So, there is nothing wrong with planning your life. There is nothing inappropriate with deciding from da- to-day, “I’m going to do a little bit of this and a little bit of that.” But today’s Gospel reminds us that Jesus has a plan for our life as well. At any moment he can look up and say to us, “Come down. I intend to stay with you today.” ©TM

A canon lawyer, Fr. Bertrand serves in the diocesan Tribunal as Adjutant Judicial Vicar and Judge.



Protecting God’s Children® For Adults

The VIRTUS Protecting God’s Children Safe Environment training for adults is available online.

Preregistration is necessary: If you are a new registrant please go to www.virtus.org and click on “first time registrant” on the left, and follow the prompts to register for Online training. Instructions for the registration process can also be found on the Child and Youth Protection Page of the diocesan Website.

www.dioscg.org/wp-content/uploads/How-to-Register-for-a-VIRTUS-withOnline-Option.pdf

Both in-person and online training sessions are for adults only.

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

For more information, please contact the Office of Child and Youth Protection, childandyouthprotection@dioscg.org; or Bill Holtmeyer, billholtmeyer@dioscg.org; or Shelly Ferry, sferry@dioscg.org, (417) 866-0841.



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ACTIVITY WEEK DANCE COURT—2022 Activity Week Court included First Place Seniors: Paige Compardo and Tryston Duby; Second Place Sophomores: Claire Henneman and Sam Criddle; Third Place Freshman: Mary Tyler Cox and Jackson Jones and Fourth Place Juniors: Elizabeth Brooks and Luke Richey. The 2022 Activity Week raised \$282,357.86 toward the operating budget of the Cape Girardeau Catholic high school. (Submitted photo)

NDRHS students raise over \$282,000 during Activity Week

Cape Girardeau

Notre Dame Regional High School's annual Activity Week began item sales and auctions on Fri., Sept. 23, and ended on Sat., Oct. 1. The purpose of Activity Week is to involve students, staff, parents, and the community in raising funds to reduce the operating budget of the school.

Among some of the "activities in which all Notre Dame students participated included candy sales, Imo's Pizza, trash bags, and each class hosted Online auctions. Each class also

held public dinners serving an average of 1,200 people each night. In addition to the all-school sales items and public dinners, classes sold a variety of class-specific

An all-school record of \$680.38 per capita was set during the 2022 Activity Week!

items. All of these items and events came together to generate an Activity Week profit of: \$282,357.86!

The senior class provided the largest profit per capita raising a total of \$101,935.86 by bringing in \$918.34 per student. As the winners,

senior class candidates Paige Compardo & Tryston Duby were crowned King and Queen at the Activity Week Dance on Saturday night. ©TM



KENTUCKY DERBY DAY—The senior class at Notre Dame Regional High School, Cape Girardeau, dressed up for Kentucky Derby Day for the Monday Activity Week assembly. (Submitted photo)



CAR—Freshman Sonnie Childress won a Chevy Equinox provided by the local Coad Family of Dealerships. (Submitted photo)

ATTENTION: ADULT CATHOLIC MEN

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Men Meeting Jesus

Thursday, Nov. 3 | 6:30-9:00 pm

Saint Catherine's, Piedmont, MO

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To help plan for food, please RSVP to SEMOCatholicManNight@gmail.com 'SEMO Catholic Man Night' on Facebook or text to 573-275-5214



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November 11-13

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October 23, 2022 – Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

World Mission Sunday

Oct. 23, 2022

WORLD MISSION MONTH | On this World Mission Sunday, let us embrace the gift of sharing our faith with others

Reflections on the readings for the Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (October 23, 2022): SIR 35:12-14,16-18; PS 34:2-3,17-18,19,23; 2TM 4:6-8,16-18; LK 18:9-1

On this World Mission Sunday, we join as a Church to pray for missionaries and those they serve. We pray for their protection, guidance and inspiration. We pray that the gift of faith in Christ our Savior will enliven the souls of more and more people.

In the second reading, St. Paul says that he is likely reaching the end of his life, called to martyrdom for his faith in Jesus. "I am already being poured out like a libation, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have competed well, I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me, which the Lord, the just judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but to all who have longed for His appearance" (2 Timothy 4:6-8). Paul, among the greatest of the Church's early missionaries, wanted Timothy and all who spread the message of salvation to remain steadfast in their task.

While many would suffer for their Christian belief in the days and centuries to come, communicating the news of redemption through the Son of God is absolutely necessary. Mission activity is an elemental part of the Church since we are all called to share the love and forgiveness of Christ with every person possible. Saints Paul and Timothy and the other Apostles and disciples knew this, just as we do, two thousand years later. And



each of us needs to be willing to do all we can to bring the word of Jesus Crucified and Risen to others. We do this not only through prayer, but also through our example, witness, and support for Missions.

For almost a century, the Catholic Church has taken up a collection on World Mission Sunday to assist the work of the missions and missionaries in countries around the globe. While the Church shares the joyful message of God's mercy, it also assists our neighbors who struggle with material needs. Priests, religious Sisters and Brothers, and laypeople continue to

reach out to men, women, and children who do not know Christ or do not yet entrust themselves to His mercy. We must live our faith by sharing our faith. Today – and every day – we need to commit ourselves to follow in the footsteps of our Lord by welcoming others to His gracious and glorious embrace.

On this World Mission Sunday, let us witness to our faith through our prayers and financial help to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Our generosity on this Sunday, combined with what is offered in churches and chapels around the globe, join us to the efforts of missionaries who proclaim the Gospel and serve the poor.

Thank you!

For resources for the celebration of World Mission Sunday: www.usccb.org/events/2022/world-mission-sunday



**PRAY AND GIVE
GENEROUSLY**

Questions? Contact Diocesan Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, Fr. Glenn Effink at effink@gmail.com



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a Pontifical Mission Society