



Birthright Cape Girardeau celebrates 50th Anniversary



BIRTHRIGHT CAPE GIRARDEAU—Birthright Cape Girardeau will mark its 50th anniversary on Aug. 6 of this year. Staff, volunteers, beneficiaries, friends of Birthright gathered in January to celebrate the overturning of Roe v Wade and the impact Birthright continues to have in southeast Missouri and beyond. (Photo by Dan Williams/Birthright)

by Paula Wright Cape Girardeau

Birthright of Cape Girardeau officially opened its doors on Aug. 6, 1973, and will mark its Golden Anniversary this year. The celebration for this milestone took place on Jan. 22, to counter what would have been the 50th anniversary of the landmark Roe v Wade. The event held in the Knights of Columbus Hall, Jackson, MO, instead became an additional celebration of the overturning of this ruling.

Birthright is a tax-exempt, charitable organization that supports women facing the challenges of an unplanned pregnancy. For 50 years, they have provided information, referrals, free resources, and

a personal connection for pregnant women who find themselves without hope and alone.

Keynote speaker Fr. Stephen Imbarrato, a retired priest and active anti-abortion advocate from Santa Fe, NM, spoke to attendees about the work to still be done following the overturning of Roe v Wade. He encouraged donations to local front-line pro-life workers and groups that have the most impact in communities and saving babies, like Birthright.

Birthright offers love, support, and friendship; all confidentially. “In fifty years, we continue to love our girls and serve them, that has remained the same,” said Kim Sellers, Director of Birthright Cape Girardeau. “Providing love without judgment is the essence of Birthright.” What has changed in the past 50 years to impact Birthright? The technology and resources available to Birthright to reach more women in need. For example, the use of geo-fencing for outreach within the service area. A recent purchase of a property Birthright had been renting in Marble Hill will enable Birthright to add an additional day of service to their schedule, as well as extending its service area.

“We are so grateful for the support we receive through donations,” Sellers said. “We utilized money received through the 2019 diocesan Lenten Youth Mission of



▲ **NURSING SCHOLARSHIP**—Deb Beussink (left) and Birthright Cape Girardeau Director Kim Sellers (right), kissed a surprised Barb McKeon, for whom a Nursing Scholarship has been named. The Barb McKeon Nursing Scholarship was inaugurated to honor the former assistant director of Birthright Cape Girardeau and will provide \$500 each semester to Birthright mothers entering nursing school. (Photo by Dan Williams/Birthright)



▲ **DONATIONS**—Attendees at the Jan. 22 celebration of Birthright in Jackson, MO, brought donations to support women facing the challenges of an unplanned pregnancy. Birthright will mark its Golden Anniversary this year on Aug. 6. (Photo by Dan Williams/Birthright)

Mercy program that was earmarked for this purchase. These collections do matter. We have put the funds raised to great use.”

Scholarship announced

During the 50th celebration event, Sellers revealed a new college scholarship fund, the “Barbara McKeon Nursing Scholarship.”

“This scholarship was named in honor of our former assistant director of Birthright Cape and will provide scholarships in the amount of \$500 each semester to Birthright mothers entering nursing school,” announced Sellers.

In addition to donations and volunteer support, “Our mommas need prayers,” Sellers said. “Our volunteers need prayers.”

For more information, to donate, or volunteer, visit the Birthright Cape Girardeau site at <https://birthright.org/capegirardeau> or call (573) 335-0750. ©TM



The next issue of **The Mirror** will be **March 17, 2023**. Sign up to receive the diocesan newspaper via Email in digital format: Contact Debbie Thompson at (417) 866-0841, or Email: dthompson@dioscg.org.





COME, AND
YOU WILL SEE

Bp. Edward M. Rice

May Bl. Stanley Rother inspire local vocations

On Fri., Feb. 17, I was privileged to be part of the Mass for the Dedication of the Church and Altar at the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine in Oklahoma City, OK. Blessed Stanley was born in Okarche, OK, about 45 minutes northwest of Oklahoma City. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 25, 1963, and murdered at the age of 46 in the rectory of his parish in Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala, on July 28, 1981. He is the first recognized martyr from the United States and the first priest born in the US to be beatified (Sept. 23, 2017).

Raised on a farm, Bl. Stanley was well suited to the people of his rural parishes in Guatemala, where he helped to build an irrigation system, created a farmer's Co-op, taught new farming techniques, and even helped to build a hospital and a radio station. Long before Pope Francis coined the phrase, Bl. Stanley had the "smell of the sheep."

During the long Civil war in Guatemala, he sought justice for his people, as many of his parishioners were kidnapped and killed. Eventually the violence came to him, as his name appeared on a death list. He did return

to Oklahoma but did not stay long. He believed that he should be with his people, and he is known for his famous

words, "The shepherd does not run at the first sign of danger."

He returned to his mission church in Guatemala just before Holy Week of 1981, and within a couple of months, on the early morning of July 28th, 1981, three gunmen entered the rectory, fought with Blessed Stanley, and murdered him. His body was returned to Oklahoma and is now interred in the Chapel at the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine, while his heart remained in Guatemala and is encased in a small shrine inside Saint James the Apostle Catholic Church, where he served.

"Blessed Stanley Rother is such an attractive role model, a faithful witness and powerful intercessor in our midst," said Abp. Paul S. Coakley, the Archbishop of Oklahoma City, at the blessing and dedication of the shrine. "I pray his witness will inspire many young men to be open to God's call to the priesthood and prompt all people of faith to realize their baptismal promise and call to holiness."

Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine

Church is the largest Catholic Church in Oklahoma, seating 2,000. The Chapel, where his body is entombed, seats 162.

The parish complex also has a Pilgrim Center\Museum and a designated area, "Tepeyac Hill," 50-feet high, which highlights a 12-foot statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe and a 6-foot statue of St. Juan Diego, recalling the occasion when Mary appeared to Juan Diego, an Aztec convert to Christianity.

As evidenced by the title "Blessed," a verified miracle is still required for Bl. Stanley to become a saint. And, in the 400 year history in his Guatemalan parishes, there were no vocations to the priesthood. However, since his death, the seminaries are full. As our own diocese strives to reach our goal of "25 by 25," let us ask the intercession of Bl. Stanley Rother.

I was privileged to offer my morning Holy Hour in the Blessed Stanley Chapel, where his body is interred. I kissed the altar where his body is enshrined and I lit a candle for the intentions of the people of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. May Bl. Stanley bless our diocese with an abundance of holy vocations to the priesthood and religious life to serve the

people of southern Missouri. And so we pray: Blessed Stanley Rother, pray for us! ©TM



I pray his witness will prompt all people of faith to realize their baptismal promise and call to holiness.



PRAYERS FOR DIOCESE—Bishop Edward Rice lit a candle for the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau in The Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine in Oklahoma City Feb. 17. (*The Mirror*)

"In union with the Holy Father, let each of us do all we can to rid the Church of clergy sexual abuse. May St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church, and Terror of Demons, protect us!"

—BISHOP EDWARD M. RICE



March
PRAYER INTENTION



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.

September 2, 1988 I asked a Mass-server how the summer was going. "I'm bored," he responded. "Are you looking forward to school starting?" I continued. "I'm not that bored," he said empathetically.

September 9, 1988 At a meeting last week of women religious in St. Paul, MN, I listened to a glowing introduction of a Sister who was to give one of the main addresses at the Convention. Her unusual background of experience and many academic degrees were outlined one after the other by the person introducing her. Before beginning her address, and with the highly laudatory introduction still in her ears, Sister told us that her mother taught her to be humble. "When I was 10 years old" Sister said, "I won a drama competition, and my picture was on the front page of the daily paper. Proud as I could be,

I ran to momma to show her the picture. She congratulated me, hugged, and kissed me. Then she told me, 'Remember now, tomorrow lots of people will probably use the front page of this paper to wrap up their garbage.'"

September 16, 1988 Recently, while traveling from one place to another, I turned on the car radio to see what the baseball Cardinals team was doing. It so happened that announcer Jack Buck had a birthday that day. His partner, Mike Shannon, was kidding him. "These birthdays of yours are really adding up, aren't they?" he asked. Buck responded: "They sure are, Mike! But I know this: Not having another birthday is unlucky!"



VEN Y VERÁS

Obispo Edward M. Rice

Que el Beato Stanley Rother inspire vocaciones locales

El viernes 17 de febrero tuve el privilegio de ser parte de la Misa por la Dedicación de la Iglesia y el Altar en el Santuario Beato Stanley Rother en Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. El beato Stanley nació en Okarche, Oklahoma, a unos 45 minutos al noroeste de Oklahoma City. Fue ordenado sacerdote el 25 de mayo de 1963 y asesinado a los 46 años en la rectoría de su parroquia en Santiago Atitlán, Guatemala, el 28 de julio de 1981. Es el primer mártir reconocido de Estados Unidos y el primer sacerdote nacido en este país en ser beatificado (23 de septiembre de 2017).

Criado en una granja, el beato Stanley era muy adecuado para la gente de sus parroquias rurales en Guatemala, donde ayudó a construir un sistema de riego, creó una cooperativa de agricultores, enseñó nuevas técnicas agrícolas e incluso ayudó a construir un hospital y una estación de radio. Mucho antes de que el Papa Francisco acuñara la frase, el beato Stanley tenía el “olor de las ovejas”.

Durante la larga Guerra Civil en Guatemala, buscó justicia para su pueblo, ya que muchos de sus feligreses fueron secuestrados y asesinados. Finalmente, la violencia llegó a él, ya

que su nombre apareció en una lista de muertes. Regresó a Oklahoma pero no se quedó mucho tiempo. Creía que debía estar con su pueblo, y es conocido por sus famosas palabras: “El pastor no corre ante la primera señal de peligro”.

Regresó a su iglesia de misión en Guatemala justo antes de la Semana Santa de 1981, y al cabo de un par de meses, en la madrugada del 28 de julio de 1981, tres pistoleros entraron en la rectoría, se pelearon con el beato Stanley y lo asesinaron. Su cuerpo fue devuelto a Oklahoma y ahora está enterrado en la Capilla del Santuario Beato Stanley Rother, mientras que su corazón permaneció en Guatemala y está encerrado en un pequeño santuario

dentro de la iglesia de la Parroquia Santiago Apóstol, donde sirvió. “El beato Stanley Rother es un modelo a seguir tan atractivo, un testigo fiel e intercesor poderoso en nuestro medio”, dijo Mons. Paul S. Coakley, Arzobispo de Oklahoma City, en la bendición y dedicación del santuario. “Ruego que

su testimonio inspire a muchos jóvenes a estar abiertos al llamado de Dios al sacerdocio e impulse a todas las personas de fe a realizar su promesa bautismal y su llamado a la santidad”.

La iglesia del Santuario del Beato Stanley Rother es la iglesia católica más grande de Oklahoma, con capacidad para 2,000 fieles. La capilla, donde está enterrado su cuerpo, puede acomodar 162 personas sentadas. El complejo parroquial también cuenta con un Centro de Peregrinos/Museo y un área designada como “Cerro Tepeyac”, de 50 pies de altura, donde destaca una estatua de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe de 12 pies y una estatua de San Juan Diego de 6 pies, recordando la ocasión en que María se le apareció a Juan Diego, un azteca convertido al cristianismo.

Como lo demuestra el título “beato”, todavía se requiere un milagro

verificado para que el beato Stanley puede convertirse en santo. Y, en los 400 años de historia en sus parroquias guatemaltecas, no hubo vocaciones al sacerdocio. Sin embargo, desde su muerte, los seminarios están llenos. A medida que nuestra propia diócesis se esfuerza por alcanzar nuestra meta de “25 para el 25”, pidamos la intercesión del beato Stanley Rother.

Tuve el privilegio de ofrecer mi Hora Santa matutina en la Capilla del Beato Stanley, donde está enterrado su cuerpo. Besé el altar donde su cuerpo está encerrado y encendí una vela para las intenciones de la gente de la Diócesis de Springfield-Cape Girardeau. Que el beato Stanley bendiga a nuestra diócesis con una abundancia de vocaciones santas al sacerdocio y a la vida religiosa para servir a la gente del sur de Missouri. Y así oramos: ¡Beato Stanley Rother, ruega por nosotros! @TM

“Ruego que su testimonio impulse a todas las personas de fe a realizar su promesa bautismal y su llamado a la santidad.”



Masses For VOCATIONS With Bishop Edward M. Rice

- Tuesday, March 7, 5:15pm | St. Mary Cathedral, Cape Girardeau
- Wednesday, March 15, 6:30pm | Sacred Heart, Dexter
- Tuesday, March 28, 6:00pm | St. Peter the Apostle, Joplin
- Tuesday, April 11, 5:30pm | St. Agnes Cathedral, Springfield
- Wednesday, April 19, 5:30pm | St. John Vianney, Mountain View



All Masses will be followed by a Rosary
Bishop Rice invites *all* to join him!



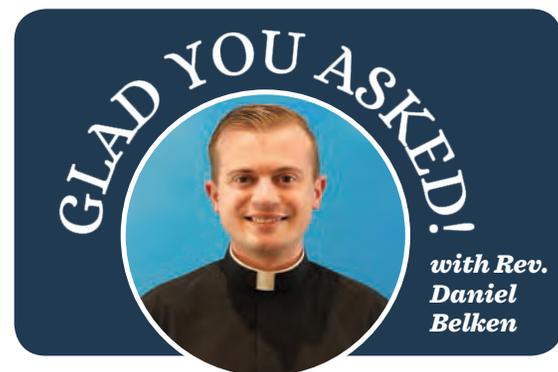
BULLDOGS AT BUSCH

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS VS. LOS ANGELES ANGELS
MAY 4 • 12:15 PM

Notre Dame vs. Jersey Community HS
Following the St. Louis Cardinal Game

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What will marriage look like in heaven?

QUESTION: *Since we are taught that marriage ends when a spouse passes away, what might this relationship look like in Heaven?*

1660, it states: “The marriage covenant, by which a man and a woman form with each other an intimate communion of life and love, has been founded and endowed with its own special laws by the Creator. By its very nature it is ordered to the good of the couple, as well as to the generation and education of children.” (CCC 1660). What this means is that there are two primary ends to marriage: the good of the couple and the raising and education of children, in that order. To further break down the first end, the ultimate good of the couple, this is most properly accomplished in leading one’s spouse in a life of holiness so as to attain the good of the kingdom of Heaven. Thus, marriage is spoken of as something present to this life, but something that ultimately passes away, because it leads us elsewhere. In the end, the sacrament of matrimony is here to help two people (and perhaps many, many more) to attain eternal life.

We should stop and think on this point: When we enter Heaven, we enter into a place where we are united to God in a perfect love, since everything that has impeded that love will be stripped away. This love of God will unite us not just with God, but also with the communion of saints, who are united to God in the same way. This means that we will also share a powerful and purified unity, not just with God, but also with the entire communion of saints as well. This communion of saints, please God, will also include one’s friends and family members—and even the spouse that we shared an intimate connection with as well.

Really, the key to what this relationship will look like in Heaven is to understand what Jesus did not say. He did not say that there will be no connection at all, or that the relationship that was formed on earth will be completely gone. He spoke specifically about the union of marriage, yes, but He didn’t say that we would then exist in indifference toward one another. He simply said that we will be “like the angels.” At the point when we reach heaven, marriage has accomplished what it set out to do, so there isn’t necessarily a need for it in the same capacity as was on earth. What remains?

This is where we can take some help from St. John Chrysostom. In a letter that he wrote to a friend that had lost her husband after only five years of marriage, he said this: “Wherefore desisting from mourning and lamentation do thou hold on to the same way of life as his, yea even let it be more exact, that having speedily attained an equal standard of virtue with him, you may inhabit the same abode and be united to him again through the everlasting ages, not in this union of marriage but another far better.” What this means is that though marriage itself might seem to have fallen away, there would be a replacement of it with an even more powerful and perfect unity—not just between spouses, but in all of our relationships. This new and deeper unity that we attain comes specifically from having attained a more perfect and intimate unity with God himself in Heaven.

As we laid out earlier, even the passage from the Gospel of Matthew does not preclude the endurance of the same friendship that was present in marriage on earth to also be present in heaven. It would simply be an even stronger relationship and unity, something purified to match, “like the angels,” experience. Where marriage may fall away, there is something much more powerful that grows and takes its place, especially since the aspiration to get one another to heaven has been

realized and achieved.

So, what does a married relationship look like in Heaven? It will be an even-more intimate connection, not just with one’s spouse, but with our Lord and with all of those that we have come to know and love who have come into the communion of saints. Thus, a married relationship takes on a new form of unity, one being perfectly united to God. This means that we, through our more perfect union with God, will be united with all the saints, certainly to include those amongst our loved ones and, yes, even one’s spouse.

This unity may not be the same as experienced in earthly marriage, but it will be something even better,

which will exceed our greatest desires and expectations. This should further motivate and drive all of us, as St. John Chrysostom said, to continue to aspire to virtue and in deepening our relationship with God in our pursuit of heaven, so that we can be unified to Him, and can also be united to those who have led us into that unity as well!

©TM

Father Belken is the Parochial Vicar (Associate Pastor) of St. Mary Cathedral, Cape Girardeau, and the Lead Chaplain at Notre Dame Regional High School, Cape Girardeau. He also serves the diocese as Associate Director of Worship & Liturgy and as an Associate Vocations Promotor.

ANSWER:

One of the sad realities that we have to grapple with in this life is death. We do not know exactly when our moment will come, but we do know that it is drawing closer. Further, we so often lose those we love to death, and while so many of these losses are painful, few of those losses are more so than losing a beloved spouse, especially one with whom we celebrated decades of marriage. The pain in those moments of acute loss can be almost indescribable.

We know that faith offers us comfort and consolation during these moments. The Church encourages us to look forward with the hope of being able to be united to them again in Heaven. However, in this looking forward, we might wonder: what will this relationship look like in Heaven though? Will it be different than it was here on earth? To properly answer this question, it is important to emphasize two points regarding marriage itself, and then to conclude with what we can deduce in faith. I especially want to mention a thought on this very issue by St. John Chrysostom.

We have likely heard the passage when Jesus speaks about marriage in relation to the kingdom of Heaven. This teaching, as laid out in the Gospel of Matthew, was an encounter between Jesus and the Sadducees (those who denied the possibility of resurrection). Jesus, in short, says that individuals will “neither marry nor are given in marriage but are like the angels in Heaven” (Matthew 22:30). This seems to indicate on its own that marriage will not last past this life. This very thought is actually continued even in the marriage rite itself, when the celebrant asks the bride and groom if they will take their spouse “until death do you part?” Thus, even today, this same teaching is ensconced in the liturgy.

However, why is this so? If we turn to the Catechism, it outlines why the marriage covenant is held so esteemed and so sacred in our faith. Paragraph



Diocese seeks CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER



The Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau seeks qualified applicants to fill the position as **Chief Financial Officer (CFO)**. The CFO serves by Canonical appointment according to Canon 494, which states a Chief Finance Officer is to be expert in financial matters and distinguished for honesty and integrity. The position is responsible for the overall financial management of the Diocese under the authority of the Bishop, ensuring that all financial systems and controls reflect best practices, as well as implementing financial controls. The position also manages all human resources activities and manages hiring processes for The Catholic Center. The CFO accomplishes fiscal management and oversight in collaboration with the Bishop and the Diocesan Finance Council. The CFO supervises and directs the diocesan Finance Office staff.

Applicant must be a practicing Roman Catholic. A master’s degree in accounting, finance, economics, or business administration is preferred. In lieu of a master’s degree, five years experience in a supervisory position providing leadership, direction, and training to staff is required. Previous employment for a nonprofit organization is helpful.

This is a full-time, exempt position. The diocesan office (The Catholic Center) is located in Springfield, MO. Compensation includes competitive salary and excellent benefits.

To request an application packet, including a detailed job description, please contact Jan Smith at The Catholic Center, jansmith@dioscg.org, or call (417) 866-0841.



Worldwide Marriage Encounter presents weekend experiences for married couples to rekindle romance, enhance meaningful communication, and deepen and renew commitment. The next three **IN-PERSON** weekend experiences are listed below. Sign-up now! For more information or to apply, go to www.me.org, or call Lynn Melendez or Kim Brayman at (417)866-0841

3/17/2023 – 3/19/2023 – Congregation of the Mother of the Redeemer Retreat Center, Carthage, MO
 3/31/2023 – 4/2/2023 – Fairfield Inn (Westport Plaza), St. Louis, MO
 5/5/2023 – 5/7/2023 – Drury Plaza Hotel, Cape Girardeau, MO
 8/4/2023 – 8/6/2023 – Courtyard Marriott, St. Peters, MO

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Aurora—The Council of Catholic Women (CCW) of Holy Trinity Parish will hold its **Annual Rummage/Bake Sale** inside the gymnasium on Sat., Mar. 11, 7 a.m.-12-noon. Come and shop for the many treasures and buy a variety of delicious baked goods.

Buffalo—St. William Parish Council of Catholic Women will have its **annual yard, plant, and bake sale** on Thu., May 4 and Fri., May 5, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. in the St. William Church hall, located at 404 N. Locust St.

Cape Girardeau—St. Mary Cathedral will host an area-wide **Holy Hour for Vocations**, Mon., Mar. 13, 7-8 p.m. This will be a quiet time of prayer for those discerning vocations and for an increase in vocations. All are invited to attend.

Cape Girardeau—In conjunction with the American Academy of Dermatology's SPOT® me screening program, Saint Francis Healthcare System will offer **free skin cancer screenings** on Sat., April 1, 8 a.m.-noon at Cape Radiation Oncology, located at Entrance 6 of Saint Francis Medical Center. An appointment is required; to schedule, please call (573) 331-5784.

Carthage—**SAVE THE DATE:** Please make plans to attend the **Annual Bishop's Prayer-Mass of Thanksgiving for Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri** at 8 a.m., **Sat., April 1**, in St. Ann Church, Carthage. The Mass will be Live-streamed to Facebook @CCSOMO and to the diocesan Facebook page @DIOCESEOFSPRINGFIELDCAPEGIRARDEAU. Join us as we acknowledge our gratitude for the many gifts shared and sacrifices made in walking hand-in-hand with the most vulnerable among us.

Jackson—The Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary will host a **BUNCO BASH**, Sun., Mar. 19, at the Jackson KofC Hall, located at 3305 N. High St. No pre-registration is required, registration begins at 12:30 p.m. and play starts at 1 p.m. Cost is \$10/player. Snacks will be provided, drinks available for purchase. Proceeds to benefit scholarship program, as well as other supported organizations; including Options for Women, Birthright, and Special Olympics.

Leopold—St. John Parish Council of Catholic Women will have a **Rummage Sale**, Thu., May 4, 7 a.m.-6 p.m., Fri., May 5, 7 a.m.-6 p.m., and Sat., May 6, 7 a.m.-Noon, in the Leopold KC Hall. Items priced to sell! If you have questions, please contact Geri at (573) 208-6445.

New Hamburg, Deanery 6—The Council of Catholic Women will have a **March Retreat and business meeting**, Sat., March 18, in St. Lawrence Church. Mass will be at 8 a.m., followed by registration, and breakfast at 9 a.m. Nicole Allcock, a member of St. Mary Cathedral and a Lay Oblate with the Benedictines of Mary, Queen of Apostles, will be the featured speaker. A business meeting will follow the presentation and will end with a rosary at the church grotto. For more information, please contact Ruth Ann Hester at (573) 270-4844.

Salem—The Altar and Rosary Society will hold its **annual dinner and basket fundraiser** on Sat., April 29, at Sacred Heart Parish. For additional information, please contact the parish at (573) 729-4291.

Scott City—St. Joseph Catholic Church will have a **Palm Sunday Spring Dinner**, Sun., April 2, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m., in the St. Joseph Parish Center. Fried chicken, chicken and dumplings, chicken and dressing, green beans, slaw, dessert and drink. Cost: adults-\$14; children, ages 6-12 yrs.-\$7; and ages 5 and under: free. The Country Store and Bakery Shop of the Council of Catholic Women will be selling crafts, religious articles, breads and sweets. Dine in or carry-out available.

FISH FRIES ARE BACK!

BILLINGS—ST. JOSEPH MEN'S CLUB **FISH FRY FRIDAY**: MAR. 10, MAR. 24, 5-7 PM. DINE-IN & TAKE-OUT.

CAPE GIRARDEAU—ST. VINCENT DE PAUL'S MEN'S ASSOCIATION WILL HOST **FISH FRIES** IN THE SV CAPE SCHOOL GYM, 5-7 P.M., EVERY FRIDAY DURING LENT. FISH FRY PASSES FOR SALE AFTER MASS: ADULTS: \$65/6 MEALS, STUDENTS: \$35/6 MEALS. THAT'S 1 FREE MEAL WITH YOUR PASS!

GAINESVILLE—ST. WILLIAM WILL HAVE **LENTEN FISH FRIDAYS** ON MAR. 10 & MAR. 24, 4-6 P.M.

GLENNONVILLE—ST. JEROME COUNCIL #1572 WILL HAVE A **LENTEN FISH FRY** EVERY FRIDAY DURING LENT, AT 4:30-7 P.M., AT THE KC HALL! CARRY-OUT IS AVAILABLE.

JACKSON—THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #6405 WILL HAVE A **FISH & CHICKEN DINNER** EVERY FRIDAY DURING LENT, 4:30-7:30 P.M., IN THE LOWER KC HALL. DINE-IN OR CARRY-OUT.

JOPLIN—THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #979 WILL HAVE A **LENTEN FISH FRY** EVERY FRIDAY DURING LENT AT ST. PETER THE APOSTLE CHURCH, 5-7 P.M. DINE-IN OR CARRY-OUT.

KIMBERLING CITY—OUR LADY OF THE COVE WILL HOST **FISH FRY FRIDAY** ON MAR. 31, 4-6:30 P.M. DINE-IN OR CARRY-OUT.

LEBANON—THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #6871 WILL HAVE A **FISH FRY**, 5-7 P.M., ON FRI., MAR. 17, AND FRI., MAR. 31, IN THE ST. FRANCIS DE SALES CATHOLIC CHURCH FAMILY CENTER AT 345 GRAND AVE.

MT. VERNON—ST. SUSANNE WILL HOST A **DRIVE-THRU FISH FRY**, 5-6:30 P.M., ALL THE FRIDAYS OF LENT, THROUGH FRI., MAR. 24, AT 700 WEST SLOAN STREET.

NIXA—THE ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS WILL HOST A **TRADITIONAL FISH FRY** EVERY FRIDAY OF LENT, 4:30-7 P.M. FOR MORE INFO, CALL (417) 551-1135.

OZARK—ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS WILL HOST A **FISH FRY-DAY** EVERY FRIDAY OF LENT, 5-7 P.M. KIDS AGES 5 & UNDER GET A FREE, SPAGHETTI-ONLY PLATE!

SIKESTON—THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH WILL HAVE A **LENTEN FISH FRY**, 11 A.M.-1 P.M. AND 4-7 P.M. ON FRI., MAR. 31, IN THE KC HALL, LOCATED ON EAST TANNER ST. TICKETS MAY BE PURCHASED AT THE PARISH OFFICE OR FROM ANY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEMBER.

SPRINGFIELD—KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #1182 WILL HOST A **FISH FRY** AT CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRIES, O'REILLY CATHOLIC STUDENT CENTER, ON FRI., MAR. 31, 5-7 P.M.

SPRINGFIELD—ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON WILL HAVE **LENTEN FISH FRY FRIDAYS** EVERY FRIDAY OF LENT, 3:30-7 P.M., TO SUPPORT VARIOUS PARISH GROUPS. DONATIONS ACCEPTED.

SPRINGFIELD—IMMACULATE CONCEPTION WILL HAVE A **FISH FRY ALL FRIDAYS OF LENT**. EACH WEEK BENEFITS A DIFFERENT PARISH CAUSE: MAR. 10- PCCW; MAR. 17- KOFC #13681; MAR. 24- IC YOUTH; MAR. 31- SVDP.

SPRINGFIELD—SACRED HEART WILL HOST A **SOUP SUPPER & STATIONS OF THE CROSS** AT 6 P.M., EVERY FRIDAY OF LENT. STATIONS OF THE CROSS (BILINGUAL) BEGIN AT 7 P.M.

SPRINGFIELD—ST. JOSEPH WILL HOST A **SOUP SUPPER & STATIONS OF THE CROSS** AT 5:30 P.M., AND CONTINUING EVERY FRIDAY OF LENT. CONFESSIONS WILL BE OFFERED DURING THE STATIONS.



Don't see your parish's Lenten offerings listed?
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Find updated gatherings at DioSCG.org/fishfries



Springfield—**SAVE THE DATE:** St. Bernadette's Guild will hold a **Day of Inspiration**, Sat., April 01 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, located at 2200 W. Republic Rd.

Springfield—Springfield Area Perpetual Adoration, hosted at Holy Trinity Chapel, has an **urgent need of Adorers:** Wed., 2 a.m. & 3 a.m., and Sat., 1 a.m. Substitutes are needed for all hours. Please consider joining the substitute list and experience the peace of adoration. For more information or to sign up, please contact Marilyn Gibson at (417) 224-4043.

Springfield—Open to all women of the diocese, Immaculate Conception PCCW will host a **Lenten Retreat**, Sat., March 25, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., with Sr. Pauline Nugent, CCVI, as speaker. A continental breakfast will be served at 9 a.m.; presentation will follow at 9:45 a.m. Mass will be held at 11 a.m. Lunch will be served, after lunch, Sr. Pauline will lead a discussion, and the day will end with a rosary. To register, please call the church at (417) 887-0600.

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





By
Fr. Joshua
J. Whitfield

WHAT WE BELIEVE, PART 13:

The One Early Church

If the Church is one because it's rooted in the oneness of the Trinity — as John 17 suggests — then the Church must still be one, even today.

This is not to deny the reality of Christian division. Rather, it is to make a claim about the essence of the Church. I'm talking about theological reality, which, undoubtedly, ought to convict believers mired in, accustomed to and even protective of their divisions. Jesus prayed to his Father that his believers would be one "just as we are" (Jn 17:11), the origin of the notion that the Church is the oneness of the disciples rooted in the oneness of the Trinity — in love, joy and glory.

Now if this is true, we should be able to detect this one Church beyond the New Testament. We should be able to trace the oneness that is the Church throughout history. Which is why we now turn to writings beyond Scripture, to those of the Church Fathers.

However, before turning to these patristic (patristic as in "of the Fathers") sources, it's first helpful to think a little about how best to explore Christianity — or the obverse, how not to explore it. One of the worst things to do when studying Christianity, for instance, is to read the Bible as if two millennia of Christian history didn't happen. That ruins one's understanding of Christianity instantly. It's critical to grasp that the Christian faith is mediated not just scripturally, not just by means of individual enlightenment, but by a variety of means and in different ways — by history, art, culture, and so on. To explore the Christian and Catholic faith and the Church well at all, one must consider as broadly as possible all these various phenomena — the Tradition and traditions of the Church, movements and controversies, eras of trial and renewal. Only then can a person truly discover the Church; only then can one follow the biblical reality of the Church

through history. "To be deep in history is to cease to be a Protestant," St. John Henry Newman wrote (An Essay on the Development of Christian Doctrine I.5). This is what he was talking about



Mosaic and fresco depicting Saint Augustine, one of the Church Fathers, in Esztergom Basilica, Hungary. Fresco was created by Ludwig Moralt in 1840s. (Mikhail Markovskiy/Shutterstock.com)

— the need to widen the scope of one's exploration of Christianity in order to discover Christianity genuinely. But, of course, as the quote from Newman suggests, be careful because it'll make you a Catholic! The grace and knowledge of Jesus is something both spiritually immediate and mediated. That is, the Catholic faith is faith given to believers in the Holy Spirit, by the Scripture, but culturally too. Which is why things like tradition and history matter, because they, too, deliver the Faith.

So, back to our exploration. The one early Church — where is it? To find it, it's best to assemble a small patristic anthology, a "florilegium" to use the old term. That is, where did the Fathers describe the Church as described in the New Testament, as oneness? One of the earliest places to look is in St.

Clement of Rome's First Letter to the Corinthians. St. Clement is usually listed fourth in the list of the bishops of Rome — a list beginning, of course, with St. Peter. Dying at the close of the first

century, the letter bearing his name is all about the oneness of the Church. The letter begins lamenting "the odious and unholy breach of unity" (1 Clement 1). Writing to the Corinthians, as did Paul before him, he begs them to "get back to the state of tranquility which was set before us in the beginning." In the same breath he invites readers to think of the peace of God, practicing forbearance so that their community may be one, without "any friction" (1 Clement 19). The letter calls the Corinthian community, beset by divisions and bad leadership, to struggle for oneness as set forth in the New Testament. Important for Jesus and for Paul, it remained important for St. Clement, too.

A century on we meet St. Irenaeus of Lyons. He was an early champion of Catholic belief — correct belief,

orthodoxy — in an age of multiple rival accounts of Christianity, when what constituted genuine Christian teaching and belief was for many unclear. St. Irenaeus, in his day, helped Christians navigate those troubled waters, and one of the ways he did so was by reminding Christians what the Church was in its essence. He described the Church not merely in historical or organizational terms, but spiritually and organically. "Where the Church is, there is the Spirit of God," he wrote. And "where the Spirit of God is, there is the Church." Not just history or institution, St. Irenaeus sees the Church as something essentially spiritual. Like Paul, he uses bodily imagery. "Those," he said, "who do not partake of Him, are neither nourished into life from the mother's breasts, nor do they enjoy that most clear fountain which issues from the body of Christ" (Against Heresies 3.24.1). St. Irenaeus uses earthly, organic and sensual imagery to describe not only the Church's nature but also what it means to belong to the Church. Believers belong to the Church, not as registered members of a club, but as children of one mother. We're born to the Church. This image of Church as mother is ancient. Even Jesus used it at the end of Matthew's Gospel when he said that he desired to gather Jerusalem like a mother hen (Mt 23:37). The point of such imagery is to emphasize that the Church is not like other institutions — merely manmade or functional. Instead, it's an organic communion. Thus, how we relate to the Church is different — organically, sacramentally, not contractually. When we think about the Church, we must think primarily in these organic terms — body, bride, mother — otherwise we won't understand the Church at all. And if belonging to the Church is, in a sense, organic, then belonging is necessary. If to be a Christian, one must be born, then we must be born of

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some mother — mother Church, the body of Christ, to use these biblical images. It makes sense, too, that there is one mother of Christians. The logic of such imagery is that the bond of believers is like family, a bond that is not just biological but spiritual — yet always tangible and visible. This is how fathers like St. Cyprian of Carthage, an early bishop and martyr from the third century, can say the rather hard things he did. “He who has turned his back on the Church shall not come to the rewards of Christ: he is an alien, a worldling, an enemy,” he wrote. “You cannot have God for your Father if you have not the Church for your mother” (On the Unity of the Catholic Church 1.6).

Today, many find this offensive because it cuts at our modern sense of individualism, and that’s understandable. Yet a few things should be said in St. Cyprian’s defense. First, he was a martyr writing during brutal years of persecution when belonging to the Church was quite dangerous. That by itself— I’ve always thought — calls for respect. Christianity wasn’t a pastime for him as it is for many of us. Second, St. Cyprian was writing in a time, because of persecution, when many Christians forsook the Faith because they feared death. To avoid persecution, all Christians had to do was offer a little incense in honor of the Capitoline gods and be on their way, silencing for just a moment their professed absolute obedience to Christ. Christians flaked left and right, and the question of what to do with these “lapsed” believers tore the Church in two, literally. Persecution gave way to schism. And St. Cyprian — thinking people’s souls in jeopardy because of it simply did not share our carefree view of Christian division — had to put things in the starkest of terms: “You cannot have God for your Father if you have not the Church for your mother.” Yes, harsh, but if what we’ve said about the Church is true, what else could St. Cyprian have said? St. Cyprian is not speaking in institutional or bureaucratic terms or in modern terms of choice or affiliation but, like St. Irenaeus, organically. He’s not talking about institutional loyalty but about birth and life. People are mystically born into the Church; they don’t just join it, he believed. Thus, belonging to the Church is a life-and-death business, St. Cyprian assumed. One cannot renounce it and hope to survive, just as a child would not survive without the nurturing care of his or her mother. This may not be how a lot of people think about Christianity or the Church today, but it is the ancient way of thinking about it and nearer the biblical way, too. And, with some nuance, it’s also the Catholic way, even today.

In this small florilegium we move now, a few centuries on, to St. Augustine, the great fifth century bishop from northern Africa. Writing in his City of God, St. Augustine echoes the Letter to the Hebrews: the “immortal and blessed

beings” in heaven — the angels — love us. They are compassionate toward us, for “their aim is for our immortality and blessedness.” And that’s because the angels “with us make one City of God.” They too belong to the Church. “Part of this City, the part which consists of us, is on pilgrimage; part of it, the part which consists of angels, helps us on our way” (City of God 10.17). Remember the Sanctus at Mass. Remember the Church cosmic. Again, we’re not talking about some mere human institution, some sociological happenstance, but the City of God — a body, a bride, a mother, one communion born in the Trinity.

But, of course, this oneness, this communion, will not be perfected in this life. This is not to say the reunion of Christians is impossible; rather, it’s to remember that the communion of the one Church will be perfected only in heaven. It’s to remember that ultimately this one Church we seek is God’s work and not ours. St. Augustine often thought of Christian communities in terms of Acts 4:32, that the Church was a people of one heart and one soul. He thought of monks and nuns that way, the priests who lived with him, and married couples, too. “Out of many souls there will arise a city of people with a single soul and a single heart turned to God,” he wrote. But, of course, the “perfection of our unity will come about after this pilgrimage” when, finally, “no longer will anyone be in conflict with anyone about anything” (The Excellence of Marriage 18.21). It’s a beautiful thought, really — the Church, an organic communion of peace, perfected ultimately in heaven. This is the Church, the body of Christ, the bride, mother. There are so many other images we’ve not even hinted at, yet the truth each image evokes is the same. The Church is no mere human institution, but a communion, the oneness of the Father and the Son in the Spirit. This is Catholic belief, what we believe.

NEXT EDITION:
WHAT WE BELIEVE: PART 14

A Conciliar Church

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.

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Diocese seeks DIOCESAN ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR of YOUTH and YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

The Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau seeks qualified applicants to fill a position working in collaboration with the Diocesan Director of Youth Formation to develop and implement diocesan policies and programs related to Youth and Young Adult Ministry that will promote the three priorities of the diocesan Mutually Shared Vision: ‘Growing in Holiness, Forming Intentional Disciples, and Being Sent to Witness.’

Applicants must be a practicing Roman Catholic. Employment or volunteer experience in youth or campus ministry at a parish, university, Catholic school, or diocese is required. Degree in Pastoral Ministry, Theology, Catechesis, Catholic Education or other related degree is preferred but other training and experience will be considered.

This is a full-time, exempt position. Evening and weekend hours, as well as extensive travel driving across the diocese will be required. Compensation includes competitive salary, excellent health benefits and retirement plan based on diocesan guidelines.

To request an application packet, including a detailed job description, please contact Jan Smith at The Catholic Center, jansmith@dioscrg.org, or call (417) 866-0841.

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www.dioscrg.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.dioscrg.org/child-youth-protection/

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

Pope Francis: 10 titles for 10 years

By Elizabeth Scalia, OSV News

Before he was known for anything else, Pope Francis was known as “the first non-European Pope in nearly 1,300 years.”

Over the last 10 years, he has led the Church with energy and optimism, traveling four times a year, on average. Usually he starts and ends those trips by praying before the fifth-century Byzantine icon *Salus Populi Romani* (“Our Lady, health of the Roman people”), because, “With the Virgin, I go with certainty.” Rarely seen with a rosary, Francis’ devotion to the Blessed Virgin is nevertheless deep and transparent for Mary, he has written, is “always listening to us!”

So, we quickly gleaned that the 266th Pope would be a Pope of the Patroness of All Humanity. As we’ve grown to know him, we have also learned to call Pope Francis:

The Pope of Pragmatic Humility:

When a stunned looking Card. Jorge Mario Bergoglio was announced in St. Peter’s Square, his self-effacing remark (that the conclave seemed to have “gone to the end of the world” to find a new bishop of Rome), led immediately a request for prayers—first for his predecessor, Pope Benedict XVI, and then for, well, everybody: “Let us pray for each other (and) for the entire world because there is great brotherhood in the world.” Eschewing the papal apartments to reside in a guesthouse for visiting clergy, Pope Francis (in his first act of papal continuum) packed his own bags, carrying them to his new digs.

The Pope of the Poor:

In his 2016 apostolic letter, “*Misericordia et Misera*,” Pope Francis established the first World Day of the Poor, later kicking it off in the Paul VI Hall, sharing a beautifully catered luncheon with the destitute of Rome. The meal became a tradition that—pausing for two years due to the global pandemic—was joyfully reestablished in 2022. Even earlier, however, the pontiff had arranged for showers to be provided for the homeless near the Bernini colonnades embracing St. Peter’s Square. Reminding critics that Jesus said the poor would always be among us (Jn 12:8), the Pope wrote, “There is no alibi to justify not engaging with the poor when Jesus has identified himself with each of them.”

The Pope of Pastoral Tenderness:

Tenderness comes up frequently in Pope Francis’ remarks, and they are of a piece with his concerns for the poor. Tenderness suggests intimacy, which is what Francis models when taking a meal with the downtrodden and engaging with them. He has developed an informal “Theology of Tenderness,” demonstrating how small things most take for granted—a shower, clean clothes, and sometimes simply being seen and greeted instead of ignored—affirm human dignity. “Tenderness is something greater than the logic of the world,” Francis told a 2022 audience. “It is an unexpected way of doing justice.”

The Pope of Protecting the Environment:

Tenderness even slips into his thoughts on ecology. Upon receiving the fisherman’s ring, Pope Francis preached, “... let us be protectors of creation, (of) God’s plan inscribed in nature, protectors of one another, and of the environment,” adding, “Protecting demands goodness, it calls for a certain tenderness.” In his groundbreaking encyclical, “*Laudato Si*,” he extolled St. Joseph who, “shows great tenderness, which is not a mark of the weak but of those who are genuinely strong. ... That is why he was proclaimed custodian of the universal Church,” who can, “inspire us to work with generosity and tenderness in protecting this world...” (242)

The Pope of Pandemic Prayer and Consolation:

In a fearsome and grave global moment, as the whole world went into lockdown—isolated and prevented from being with loved ones dying all alone—Pope Francis brought us into supplication before God, making “An Extraordinary Prayer in the Time of Pandemic,” on the evening of March 27, 2020. Starkly alone in St. Peter’s Square, accompanied only by a 15th-century crucifix, the pope gave voice to what all humanity was feeling: “Thick darkness has gathered ... taken over our lives, filling everything with a deafening silence and a distressing void ... we find ourselves afraid and lost.” With a monstration, he blessed the world with the Holy Eucharist, and then—repairing to the interior of St. Peter’s Basilica—invited us, via satellite, into an hour’s contemplation before the merciful Christ, there present.



265TH SUCCESSOR TO ST. PETER—On March 13, 2013, Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, 76, archbishop of Buenos Aires was elected in the conclave to become the first pope from the Americas. As the 265th successor to Saint Peter, he was the first pope to take the name of Francis, a name chosen in honor of Saint Francis of Assisi because he wanted “a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 49).

The Pope of Plain (and Plane) Talk:

During 40 trips abroad, Francis—who has expressed a dislike of excessive formalities—has often gone “off script” amid in-flight press conferences. His remarks, especially when taken out of context, became sensations. While returning from the 2013 World Youth Day gathering, the Pope was asked about homosexual men in the clergy. He answered, “If someone is gay and he searches for the Lord, and has goodwill, who am I to judge?” Unsurprisingly, parties for and against cherry-picked the comment and controversy ensued. In “The Name of God is Mercy”—his book-length interview with Andrea Tornielli published in 2016—Francis addressed the brouhaha head-on, saying he had paraphrased “the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, where it says that these people should be treated with delicacy and not be marginalized.” He reminded us that accompaniment has precedent in the Gospels, and thus we should, “... Show goodwill, show them the way, and accompany them along it.”

The Pope Proponent of the Marginalized:

The Pope’s concern for people on the margins is sincere and deep. Early in his pontificate—while he was still surprisingly nimble for an older man missing a portion of a lung—he habitually waded into the crowds to greet people, kiss babies, and give his security

detail agita. On one memorable occasion, encountering a man whose face was covered in tumors thanks to a genetic disorder, Pope Francis, like his saintly namesake, gently kissed and embraced him—a man who a beauty-obsessed world found hard to look at and easy to relegate to the sidelines. “We will not find the Lord unless we truly accept the marginalized,” Francis preached at a 2015 Mass for new cardinals. “Truly, dear brothers, the Gospel of the marginalized is where our credibility is at stake, is discovered, and is revealed.”

We might alliteratively understand Pope Francis in other ways, and his encyclicals would support us:

- The Pope of the People: “**Fratelli Tutti**” (“On Fraternity and Social Friendship”)
- The Pope of Prayerful Joy: “**Evangelii Gaudium**” (“The Joy of the Gospel”)
- The Pope of Perpetual Hope: “**Lumen Fidei**” (“The Light of Faith”)

He is slowing now. At the funeral of Pope Benedict XVI, it was obvious that the Pope was suffering as he stood in farewell, before the casket was borne into St. Peter’s for interment.



Coat of Arms

Pope Francis’ motto on his coat of arms, “*miserando atque eligendo*” is taken from a homily by Saint Bede, an English eighth-century Christian writer and doctor of the Church of the Gospel account of the call of Saint Matthew. It roughly translates to “having mercy, he called him.”

Sometimes using a wheelchair, he recently made a plea for those enduring chronic pain.

As this formerly vigorous bishop of Rome winds down, we remember these moments of greatness and know the Pope by his fruits, all while acknowledging what work is yet undone—that scandal and crises within the Church remain insufficiently addressed—that people are still in pain. We can do that prayerfully and compassionately, remembering the intentions of a pope

who—now perhaps in his twilight—is daily wrestling with substantial and challenging issues within the culture, the Church, and his beloved Society of Jesus.

Doing so would demonstrate that we've learned something about tenderness, and spiritual generosity, over these past 10 years.

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Elizabeth Scalia is culture editor for OSV News.

Follow her on Twitter @the anchoress.

'ENDS OF THE EARTH' POPE BRINGS NEW STYLE TO ROME

By Carol Glatz, CNS Vatican City (CNS)

Right from the start, upon his election, Pope Francis presented a whole new style of being pontiff.

The way he spoke to the vast crowd after his election March 13, 2013, was familial and down-to-earth, beginning with, "Brothers and sisters, good evening," and ending with "We'll see each other soon!" and "Have a good night and sleep well!"

He repeatedly referred to himself as "bishop of Rome," which eventually ended up being his sole title in the "Annuario Pontificio," the Vatican yearbook, and would be another sign of his vision for renewal by promoting a more collegial and decentralized Church.

And his invitation to the crowd on the day he was elected—"Let's begin this journey" with "fraternity, love, trust," and prayer, and "may it be fruitful for evangelization"—was a clear sign of a new style he saw for the entire Church, that of synodality, with all brothers and sisters in the faith walking, praying, and evangelizing together.

Many of his most unexpected choices on how he would live as Pope were offered as a kind of, "Do as I do, not just as I say," especially to his brother bishops around the world. He chose to live in a Vatican guesthouse instead of the Apostolic Palace, he has used an annual penance celebration at the Vatican to publicly go to confession, he responds to many people who write to him with a letter, note or phone call, he meets regularly with victims of abuse, and he has gone in person to pay a bill, to pick up a new pair of glasses and to visit the elderly and the sick.

The election of Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio of Buenos Aires, Argentina, marked the first time a Jesuit was made Pope. He ushered in a number of styles characteristic of his order: the Ignatian practice of discernment for making decisions in the presence of God; seeking God's presence in all things; and a penchant for boiling his talks down to three bullet points.

He was the first Pope to come from the Americas, born of immigrant Italian parents; this second-generation experience lent lived authenticity to his insistence migrants be respected, integrated, and appreciated for their hard work and the rich diversity they bring to a host nation.

SIMPLICITY & HUMILITY

Most indicative of his unique style was choosing the name "Francis" to honor St. Francis of Assisi, known for his poverty, commitment to peace, and love of creation. It was a signal of the style to come: simplicity, humility, working with the poor, desiring a Church that is poor and for the poor, and further

deepening his predecessor's love of creation integrated with a respect for all life.

Under his watch, the papal charities office has increased its outreach, particularly to the homeless who live near the Vatican, and in other parts of the world, such as Ukraine, where he has sent his papal almoner to deliver aid directly and convey his prayers.

He also set aside the usual practice of washing the feet of 12 priests during a public celebration of the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper. Instead, he has celebrated smaller Masses—closed to the public—in prisons, refugee centers, and rehabilitation centers, washing the feet of Catholics and non-Catholics, men and women, in order to show Christ's love for everyone, especially the most marginalized.

His idea of "outreach" has included reaching outside the Vatican bubble. He called in "outsiders" as the majority of the members of his International Council of Cardinals and of the Vatican safeguarding commission. He gets a new personal secretary every few years and gives dozens of interviews to big and small media outlets.

His desire to "speak from the heart" means many off-the-cuff comments, homespun anecdotes, sharp rebukes or critiques, and an occasional statement that requires clarification or an apology.

A native-Spanish speaker who grew up with Italian-speaking relatives in Argentina, the Pope merges a number of styles and, as a former high school teacher, often draws on literary themes and rhetorical devices.

His memorable metaphors and allegories have a religious message: priests need to be "shepherds living with the 'smell of sheep'"; confession is not "sitting down in a torture chamber"; and Catholics must resist "a throwaway culture" that readily disposes of people's lives and dignity.

Pope Francis also has offered a new approach to evangelization that he had mapped out in his brief address during the pre-conclave meetings of the cardinals. Cardinal Bergoglio's words struck a chord with his listeners and formed the basis of his blueprint as Pope.

The outline of his talk said that when the Church is self-referential with a kind of theological narcissism, it gets sick and is unable to carry out its mission to go out and evangelize; in effect, such a church keeps Jesus within and does not let him out.

Jesus is knocking so that "we will let him come out," the then-Card. Bergoglio had said, and the next Pope needs to help the Church go out to the "peripheries" and become "the fruitful mother who gains life from the sweet and comforting joy of evangelizing." ©OSV News

Pope Francis

Jorge Mario Bergoglio

Is the first pope...

- From the Americas
- From Jesuit order
- To take name Francis

Is known to...

- Take the bus and subway
- Cook his meals
- Have strong devotion to Mary
- Visit the poor
- Be very spiritual
- Have low-key style
- Love soccer and tangos

Speaks

- Spanish, Italian, English, French and German



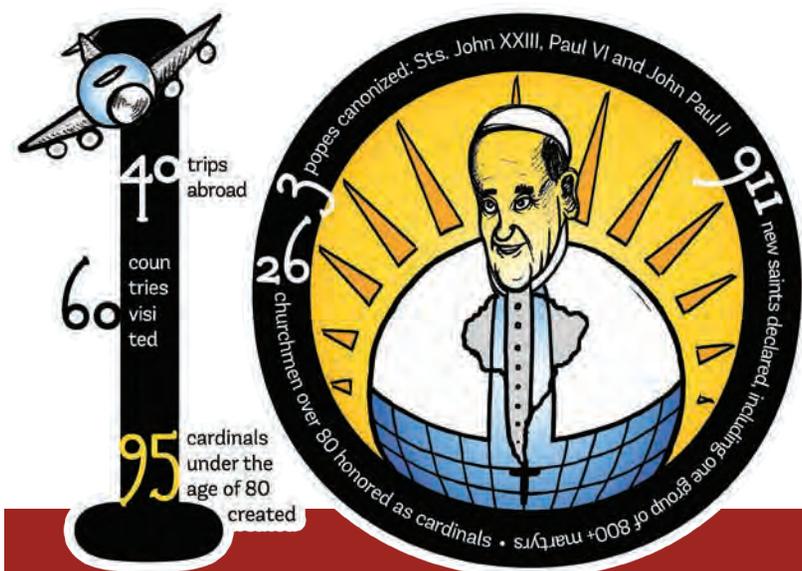
"Now let's begin this journey, bishop and people... a journey of brotherhood, love and trust among us."



Then Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio poses with young soccer players from the San Lorenzo soccer club, of which he is known to be a fan.

Apostolic Exhortations

Title	Date
"Querida Amazonia": Post-Synodal Exhortation to the People of God and to all Persons of Good Will	February 2, 2020
"Christus Vivit": Post-Synodal Exhortation to Young People and to the entire People of God	March 25, 2019
Gaudete et Exsultate: Apostolic Exhortation on the call to holiness in today's world	March 19, 2018
Amoris Laetitia: Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation on love in the family	March 19, 2016
Evangelii Gaudium: Apostolic Exhortation on the Proclamation of the Gospel in Today's World	November 24, 2013



POPE FRANCIS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Pope Francis was elected March 13, 2013. In the past 10 years, he has made 40 trips abroad, visiting 60 countries; in eight consistories he created 95 cardinals under the age of 80 and eligible to vote in a conclave and paid tribute to 26 churchmen over the age of 80; and he has presided over the canonizations of 911 new saints, including a group of more than 800 martyrs, but also Sts. John Paul II, John XXIII and Paul VI. (CNS graphic/Frida Larios)

With the celebration of World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life, Feb. 2, 2023, *The Mirror* launched a limited series highlighting the consecrated women religious in the diocese who marked a milestone anniversary of their vows in 2022. In this issue, we feature Sr. Nelly Rivera, MC.

Sr. Nelly Rivera, MC | *Poor Clare Missionary Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament*

25th Jubilarian Anniversary



What is one of the first things that comes to mind as you reflect on your years of service to the Church and as a consecrated religious?

One of the first things that comes to mind as I reflect on my years of service to God and his Church as consecrated religious is the fidelity and unconditional love of God throughout these years of service in my vocation. I have answered His call to the invitation of giving my life for service in love and joy. He is ever-faithful and so invites me to give myself completely in the simplicity of everyday life.

How did you know you were called to be a religious sister?

In my last year in high school, I realized that all the fun activities that I was involved in didn't really satisfy me and so, I began to be more active in my home parish in St. Peter and St. Paul in Alta Loma, California. Then, I joined a youth group called Life Teen. In this youth group, they organized various activities which helped me to know more about my Catholic faith and inspired me to spend more time in prayer and serving others. Therefore, it was in Denver, Colorado, at a World Youth Day where the Holy Father St. John Paul II, gathered us in a beautiful Mass, that I felt called to be a missionary. I remember how his words echoed in my heart, "Don't be afraid to give your life to Jesus." Those words

changed my life completely.

What was your journey to find and choose your religious order?

When I wanted to pursue this vocation, I began to search for communities centered in the sacramental life with joyful, simplicity of heart to serve others, a strong community life, and special love for the Blessed Sacrament. I found the Poor Clare Missionary Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament.

What is its charism?

Our congregation is missionary, Eucharistic, Marian, Priestly, and Joyful service. This congregation was founded by the Blessed Mother Maria Ines Teresa Arias.

Who were the most influential persons as you became a sister?

My Mother Yolanda Rivera, as well as my grandmother, Josephina Ruiz, and my home parish priest Fr. Peter Covas, who both passed on several years ago. They have been the pillars of sharing their faith with conviction and with great love for the Church in joyful service.

Where did you find support?

My blood Sisters Suley Rivera, Sugeil Rios, and friends. I had a very supportive group that really helped me to take the step and pursue my vocation, and with their prayers, with great motivation.

How has your faith evolved over the years?

I thank the Lord for always being there

for me. I can honestly say that I have been through tough times, which has helped me to rely on HIM only. My faith in Him grew stronger, and as the years go by I can say, "Forever I will sing the goodness of my Lord"—Psalm 89.

What do you consider the most rewarding part of your life as a consecrated religious?

The most rewarding is the tremendous love and peace that I have by giving myself to his Church and God's people. I received more that I can give because I serve a living God.

What is your greatest enjoyment for your jubilee year in late 2022?

I didn't realize how fast these precious years have gone. God, my spouse, has given me more than I could even imagine. The amazing memories and the many lives I have touched. The love and trust that God's people have shown.

What should we (the Church) be doing (better?) to encourage women to serve as Religious?

We should continue to work for more authenticity of our simple and joyful life. Our life is not a profession, it is a vocation which involves our whole person and we need to be real and not to be afraid to show our struggles, as any Christian person has. We all need God and his Church to walk in this journey of faith and service.

What is the biggest change that you've seen in your lifetime or

would like to see in the Church with regard to your vocation and the ministry(ies) in which you have served her people?

I have seen many challenges, as have other centuries in the past, but God intended me to live in this time and place, so I can continue to be a witness of his great love for me and his Church. He needs me, as I am to continue to build His kingdom and as a member of this militant Church. I will continue to answer His call to live out my vows, and live my life joyfully as a Poor Clare Missionary of the Blessed Sacrament in Southeast Missouri.

Of course, we would like to see/hear what you've been doing recently—and what work do you do for our diocese?

Recently, I am teaching pre-K and volunteered to teach religion in Kindergarten at Sacred Heart Catholic School, in Poplar Bluff. I am involved in various ministries at Sacred Heart Parish here in Poplar Bluff. ©TM

Totus Tuus

Summer Missionary Opportunity

May 30 - July 28, 2023

Accepting Applications now from dynamic Catholics, ages 18-25!

For more info or to apply, scan the QR code, visit www.dioscg.org/totustuus/ or contact the Office of Youth Ministry: Lynn Melendez, Director 417-866-0841 / lmelendez@dioscg.org



We are looking for young adults who are actively living their Catholic faith. At least one year of college or work experience, is preferred but we are willing to consider mature graduating high school seniors. No major or area of study is required. This is a great summer job experience for anyone who wants to work in ministry, education or with children in any setting!



EUCCHARISTIC MIRACLES of the WORLD

The Very Rev. Shoby Chettiyath, V.G.



EUCCHARISTIC MIRACLE of Chirattakonam Archdiocese of Trivandrum, India, May 5, 2001

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

It is important to remember that Jesus is present in the Eucharist, every time transubstantiation is performed. Even though He does not show Himself, He died for us and said if we eat His body and drink His blood He will be with us forever. On April 28th, 2001, there was Eucharistic adoration at St. Mary Parish in Chirattakonam, India, when suddenly three red stains materialized on the Host. The pastor Rev. Fr. Johnson Karnoor, didn't know what to do and placed the Host back into the tabernacle.

A few days later, he retrieved the Host to examine it again, and the red stains had arranged themselves to look like the face of Jesus. He quickly found a photographer and had pictures taken of the Host.

Father Johnson Karnoor, pastor of the church where the Eucharistic miracle took place, recounts in his deposition: "On April 28, 2001, in the parish church of St. Mary of Chirattakonam, we began the Novena to St. Jude Thaddeus, as we did every year. At 8:49 a.m., I exposed the Most Holy Sacrament in the monstrance for public adoration. After a few moments, I saw what appeared to be three dots in the Holy Eucharist. I then stopped praying and began to look at the monstrance, also inviting the faithful to admire the three dots. I then asked the faithful to remain in prayer and reposed the monstrance in the tabernacle. On April 30th, I celebrated the Holy Mass and on the following

day, I left for Trivandrum. On Saturday morning, the 5th of May 2001, I opened the church for the usual liturgical celebrations. I vested for Mass and went to open the tabernacle to see what had happened to the Eucharist in the monstrance. I immediately noted in the Host, a figure, to the likeness of a human face. I was deeply moved and asked the faithful to kneel and begin praying. I thought I alone could see the face so I asked the altar server what he noticed in the monstrance. He answered: 'I see the figure of a man.' I noticed that the rest of the faithful were looking intently at the monstrance. We began Adoration, and as the minutes went by, the image became more and more clear. I did not have the courage to say anything and I began to cry. During Adoration, we have the practice of reading a passage from Holy Scriptures. The reading of the day was the one from Chapter 20 in the Gospel of John, which narrates the story of when Jesus appeared to St. Thomas and asked him to look at the wounds. I was only able to say a few words in my homily, and, having to leave for the nearby parish of Kokkodu to celebrate



Monstrance containing the Particle in which the image appeared

Mass, I immediately summoned a photographer to take pictures of the Holy Eucharist with the human face on it. After

two hours, all the photos were developed; with the passing of time, the face in every photo became more and more clear." (http://www.therealpresence.org/eucharst/mir/english_pdf/Chirattakonam.pdf)

This occurrence reminds us that Eucharistic Miracles continue to happen in our own day. Again, these are extraordinary instances where Christ's Real Presence in the Eucharist is made visible and sensible to us. We must never forget that there is a miracle every time the Mass is celebrated. The Eucharist is truly the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ – the extraordinary,

"Eucharistic Miracles," are meant to remind us of this awesome reality. We can receive Jesus Christ himself in the Eucharist every day if we wish! We can also visit Jesus by spending time in Eucharistic Adoration. The miracle of the Eucharist is at the heart of the Catholic faith: it is the greatest of our Treasures. ©TM

Read more at <http://www.miracolieucaistici.org/en/liste/scheda.html?nat=italia&wh=ferrara&ct=Ferrara,%2011171>

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. For more information, go to <http://www.miracolieucaistici.org/en/liste/list.html>.

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2023 MIDWEST MARCH FOR LIFE

We are called to protect life.

The Details

Date: April 26, 2023 **Time:** 8am - 3pm
Location: Jefferson City, MO
Cost: The March itself is free. If you wish to ride on a diocesan-chartered bus, it is \$80. Please contact Kim Brayman at 417-866-0841 for more info and/or visit this link to register:

Midwest March for Life

Let us march in Jefferson City on Wednesday, April 26, 2023.

midwestmarchforlife.com

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NOTRE DAME REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL is seeking candidates for the position of **Administrative Assistant**. Applicants should have the ability to demonstrate computer proficiency, positive interpersonal skills, detail oriented, ability to multitask and meet deadlines.

Notre Dame is a Roman Catholic school in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, so preference would be given to practicing Catholics. Interested candidates should send their resume, cover letter and list of references to paulunterreiner@notredamecape.org. Application deadline is March 24, 2023. Find a complete job listing online at: www.notredamehighschool.org/jobopenings.

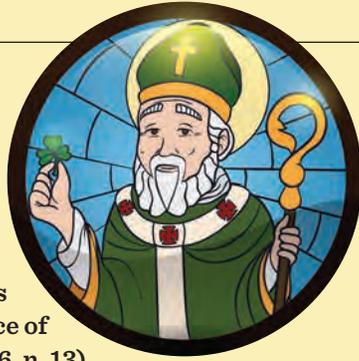
For more information contact: Paul Unterreiner, Notre Dame Regional High School, paulunterreiner@notredamecape.org

www.notredamehighschool.org/jobopenings

Bishop Edward Rice issues St. Patrick's Day dispensation

Springfield

Given the penitential nature of the Season of Lent, the Bishops of the United States have preserved in our dioceses the tradition of abstinence from meat on each of the Fridays of Lent, "confident that no Catholic Christian will lightly hold himself excused from this penitential practice" (National Conference of Catholic Bishops, Statement, Nov. 18, 1966, n. 13).



The law of abstinence binds those Catholics who have completed the 14th year of their age (can. 1252).

In 2023, the Memorial of Saint Patrick falls on **Fri., March 17, 2023, during the Third of Lent.** It is well-known that Saint Patrick's Day is a day of celebration for many American Catholics.

Bishop Edward M. Rice therefore decrees that on **Fri., March 17, 2023, all Catholics of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, no matter where they may be, are, by his authority, dispensed from the obligation (can. 87 §1).**

It is not required that anyone make use of this dispensation. However, those who do wish to make use of it are requested to pray the Fourth Sorrowful Mystery of the Rosary for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. ©TM



LENTEN LOCK-IN 2023

for members of any Youth Adventure Program
(Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, American Heritage Girls, Trail Life USA, and similar adventure groups)

Saturday March 25 - Sunday March 26

4:30pm - 9:00pm on Saturday only for K-1st grade
5:00pm Saturday - 7:30am Sunday for 2nd-5th grade

All youth 6th grade to 12th grade in a YAP program may serve on team.

*Cost is \$15 for first child (K-12), \$10 for each sibling. ALL adults FREE. \$50 max cost per family.

**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish
2200 West Republic Road, Springfield**

**All youth must be chaperoned by their unit leader or parent. Adults must be in compliance with diocesan Safe Environment policies (have attended a Virtus class, have a completed background check on file, sign a current diocesan Code of Conduct).*



Register using the QR code at the left or at <https://dioscg.formstack.com/forms/lenenlockin>

For questions, contact Nick Meinhardt (417) 224-2421.



The Lenten Lock-in is brought to you by the Diocesan Committee for Youth Adventure Programs | www.dioscg.org

LENTEN FASTING & ABSTINENCE

Fasting

Ash Wednesday
Good Friday

Ages 18-59

Abstinence

Every Friday during Lent

Ages 14+

How do we fast?

When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal.

Am I excused from fasting and abstinence?

Those that are excused from fast and abstinence outside the age limits include the physically or mentally ill including individuals suffering from chronic illnesses such as diabetes. Also excluded are pregnant or nursing women.

For more information on fasting and abstinence, visit usccb.org.



Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau

Office of Vocations | Promotions

JOIN US FOR ENCOUNTER WITH GOD'S CALL

A DIOCESAN SEMINARY VISIT

March 24 - 26, 2023

Conception Seminary College
Conception, Missouri

For men in junior year of high school thru 30 years of age.
Time for prayer, Sacraments, campus tours, and fraternity.
Contact your parish priest or Fr. Peirano at frpeirano@ic-parish.org



Diocese of Springfield - Cape Girardeau | Office of Vocations | Fr. Scott Sunnenberg | #17.866.0841



PROJECT RACHEL

Abortion Healing Ministry

What is it?

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

Why are we doing it?

It's normal to grieve a pregnancy loss, but the loss of a child by abortion can create a hole so deep in one's heart that it may seem the emptiness can never be filled. With the forgiveness, hope, and healing provided through Project Rachel Ministries, many women and men have returned to a loving relationship with God.

How do people get help?

Women and men who have been involved in abortion are invited to contact the diocesan Project Rachel Ministry to receive free, compassionate and confidential help. Call (417) 242-9300 or Email projectrachel@dioscg.org to learn more. A list of ministry resources is available at hopeafterabortion.com.

For more information,

Contact **Kim Brayman**, Program Coordinator
Office of Family Life
Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau
601 S. Jefferson Ave., Springfield, MO 65806-3143
kbrayman@dioscg.org
417.866.0841 (office) | 417.866.1140 (fax)

Hurting? Confidentially call 417.242.9300 or email ProjectRachel@dioscg.org.

ATTENTION: CATHOLIC MEN

You are invited to the Southeast Missouri...



CATHOLIC MAN NIGHT

Men Meeting Jesus

Wednesday, March 29 | 6:30-9:00 pm

Saint Denis, Benton, MO

An evening of Adoration, Confession, & a Manly Meal with discussion to follow.

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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ALL 7TH - 12TH GRADE YOUTH ARE INVITED!

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Jesus Satisfies

2023

CAMP Re-NEW-ALL

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

- Medical Support Staff
- Certified Lifeguards
- Additional Camp staff: Counselor/ Assistant Counselor, Religious Formation, Music, Kitchen, Liturgy, Crafts, Waterfront, Sports and Nature

Seeking both adults 18 years or older and high school students in 10th-12th grade to volunteer this summer for ALL of our listed sessions! Meals and housing are provided free of charge for our adult volunteers. If the adult volunteer is a parent of a child(ren) attending camp, one child may attend camp free of charge.

CAMP ST. VINCENT	SESSIONS	CAMP CARLO	SESSIONS
FREDERICKTOWN	1F JUNE 12-16	CONWAY	1C JULY 10-14
	2F JUNE 26-30		2C JULY 17-21
	3F JULY 10-14		3C JULY 24-28

APPLY TO VOLUNTEER! [QR Code]

REGISTER A CAMPER! [QR Code]

To apply or learn more, visit www.DioSCG.org/youth-ministry



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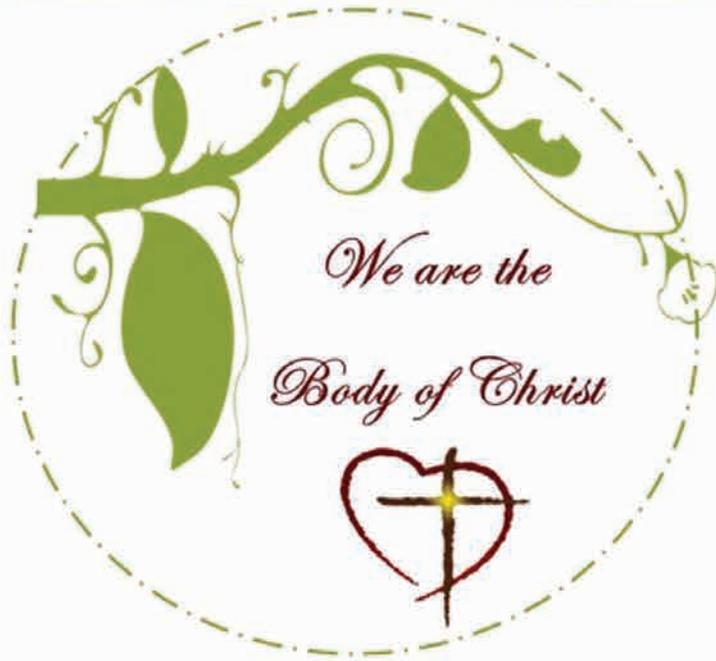
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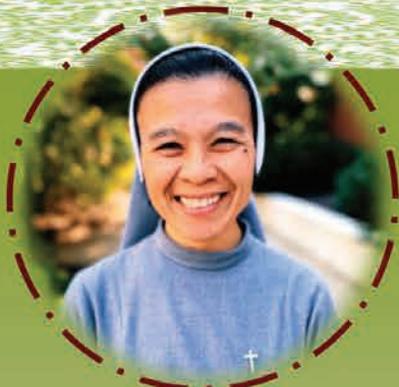


64th
**Catholic Women's
 Spring Assembly**

Sponsored by the DCCW
 at Doubletree Inn by Hilton
 2431 N. Glenstone St., Springfield, MO

Join women around the Diocese of Springfield - Cape Girardeau for two days of inspiration, faith, fellowship, and fun. Registration Fee is \$55 before March 21st and \$65 after March 21st, including a Banquet and Entertainment on Friday evening. Door Prizes, Raffle Tickets, Grab Bags, and Purse Silent Auction. The Service Project we are sponsoring is Whole Kids Outreach, Ellington, MO.

Friday & Saturday, April 21-22, 2023



Sr. Janine Tran

Spirituality

Commission



Andrea Sachse

Service

Commission



Maria Ruiz

Scaperlanda

Leadership Commission



Mary Rowley

NCBW

Speaker



Whole Kids Outreach



Catholic Charities
 of Southern Missouri
Reaching Out. Nourishing Hope. Changing Lives.

*Options
 for Women*



Fr. J. Friedel

Keynote

Speaker



SCAN to Register
 on our Webpage



LIFE
 meant to
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Registration form on our Webpage at: <https://dioscg.org/organizations/the-dccw/>
 Facebook Event Updates at: <https://www.facebook.com/DCCWSCGMO>

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For more information or for details on individual subscriptions, Email dthompson@dioscg.org



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