LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL—The Very Rev. Allan Saunders, Bishop Edward M. Rice, and Fr. Laurent Okitakashi posed for a photo during the 2023 Mardi Gras Ball for Life held Feb. 18. Funds from the gala support LifeHouse Cape Girardeau, a crisis maternity home for homeless pregnant women and their child, a ministry of Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri. Under construction, the facility is projected to welcome its first residents in February 2024. (The Mirror)

The good times rolled for the second annual Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri 2023 “Mardi Gras Ball for Life,” held Feb. 18, in the Drury Plaza Hotel Conference Center, Cape Girardeau.

It was the party of the year, complete with a fabulous dinner, games, the crowning of a Mardi Gras King, and a festive live auction, featuring local legend Mitch Miller, who, along with Emcee Mike Renick, entertained the crowd while raising money for the future LifeHouse Crisis Maternity Home Cape Girardeau. The evening was capped off with dancing to the live music of “Spectrum,” a St. Louis premier variety dance band.

The night was a celebration as the community anticipates the February 2024 opening of LifeHouse, a residential program for homeless, pregnant women aged 18 and older. LifeHouse is not just a shelter but a comprehensive program, the goal of which is making a better life for the mother and child.

Mardi Gras Ball for Life is an annual gala with all funds raised supporting LifeHouse.

“It was a truly amazing event to support LifeHouse Cape Girardeau,” said Ken Palermo, Executive Director of Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri. “After years of planning, reaching for new relationships across communities, and building on the successes of LifeHouse Springfield, our vision is not only felt, but seen in the ongoing construction. We would not be at this point without the support demonstrated here and since the project’s conception.”

This year’s sponsors were gratefully acknowledged, including RHIC Contracting, Saint Francis Healthcare System, CPU Inc, Drury Development Corporation, Drury Southwest, Beussink, Hey & Roe CPAs, Knights of Columbus Council #1111, Don Carlos of Cape Girardeau, Jackson, Chaffee, FGR Mechanical, Red Letter Communications, Steven and Debra Frye, and Kevin and Susan Stanfield.

15-UNIT LIFEHOUSE CRISIS MATERNITY HOME

LifeHouse Cape Girardeau will be located at Spanish and Park Streets on a nearly two-acre plot of land that has already been donated by a generous benefactor for this specific purpose. Spanning 17,000 square feet, LifeHouse Cape Girardeau will include 15 units, each housing one resident (mother) and her child(ren), indoor and outdoor community spaces, administrative office space for LifeHouse and Catholic Charities’ housing and community pregnancy support programs, and a building for material donations. Situated downtown, LifeHouse Cape Girardeau will breathe fresh life into its immediate surroundings.

OPERATING EXPENSES FOR FIRST TWO YEARS

While the space in which Catholic Charities may provide this critical service is a necessary first step, this campaign seeks also to provide immediate financial stability by raising the first two years’ operating expenses for LifeHouse Cape Girardeau, thereby sustaining it as it welcomes its first residents. These expenses are estimated to amount to $2 million based on LifeHouse Springfield’s operating expenses.

For more information, to get involved, or to make a donation, please visit www.ccsomo.org.
The Rosary is our source of consolation

“Never has a Lent been more important. Every newspaper and every newscast tells us of terrible happenings throughout the world. We must be prepared for whatever is coming by taking up every means provided by Mother Church. We must get ourselves ready, no matter what the future, to live in peace and holiness, without fear and without concern for our own lives.”

These are the words of Jean Fox, of Madonna House, from a letter written on March 10, 2003. Maybe you thought these words were written today and they certainly do apply. The news is filled with war, turmoil, and natural disasters. There are many things that can rob us of our peace if we allow it. In these days of challenge and difficulty, let us turn to Our Lady, Queen of Peace. We turn to the rosary, the source of our consolation. Our own diocesan patron, Pope St. Pius X said “The rosary is the most beautiful and the most rich in prayers; It is the prayer that touches most the heart of the Mother of God … and if you wish peace to reign in your homes, recite the family rosary.” I echo once again the words of Fr. Peyton, the “Rosary Priest,” “The family that prays together, stays together.”

Could not the family rosary be a beautiful Lenten activity? How touched I am when I see spouses and children in adoration at Saint Francis Hospital, Cape Girardeau, and Holy Trinity Parish chapel, Springfield. How beautiful it would be to receive an invitation to join a family in their family rosary (I may regret this!!!) Or how about a group of families coming together? With the month of May right around the corner, I will once again try to schedule a few “Meet Me At The Grotto” events to pray the rosary at some of our beautiful outdoor shrines spread throughout the diocese.

In this time of prayer, fasting, and charity, each one of us is invited to a renewal, a conversion, a turning away from the things that hinder us from turning more fully toward Christ. When we respond to the 40 days of Lent, we participate more deeply in the glory of the Risen Lord at Easter. As your Lenten journey continues, please know of my prayerful support!

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

Remember also to pray for and promote vocations to the priesthood and to the religious life. I have scheduled a series of Masses followed by the rosary throughout the diocese for that very intention. Join me if possible! The remaining Masses for Vocations will be Tuesday, March 28, 6 p.m., St. Peter the Apostle, Joplin; Tuesday, April 11, 5:30 p.m., Saint Agnes Cathedral, Springfield; and Wednesday, April 19, 5:30 p.m., St. John Vianney, Mountain View. If you aren’t able to attend, you can always pray the rosary for that intention. I ask that you look for those young men and women who you feel have the qualities to make a good priest or consecrated religious and invite them to discernment. Encourage them, and please send me their name and address so that I may send them a note of support. At every confirmation I always encourage the candidates to consider if the Lord may be calling them. I am always so pleased when I hear of those people who are open to the possibility. I ask the candidates to entrust their future to Our Lady, asking her to guide their future vocation.

We need to support our youth with prayers and encouragement, which gets me back to the family rosary. I have referred many times to the home as the “Domestic Church.” Should not the home also be considered the first seminary or convent? Long before a young man or woman steps into the seminary or convent, hopefully they would have learned the virtue of prayer from the parents within the family.

We are grateful for the vocations that the Good Lord sends to us. As we hear in Scripture, “The harvest is plenty, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest provocations.” We do so with confidence, trusting that the Lord will give us what we need.
Inductees named for PAVA Hall of Fame

Cape Girardeau, MO

Notre Dame Regional High School is proud to announce the newest inductees into its Performing & Visual Arts (PAVA) Hall of Fame! Ellen Seyer and Jacob Seyer ('10) will be inducted into the 2023 Hall of Fame class. This talented Notre Dame teacher and alumnus will be honored at the PAVA Hall of Fame luncheon on April 1, 2023, at Notre Dame Regional High School.

Ellen Seyer has been a faculty member at Notre Dame for 30 years. She is the head of the Performing and Visual Arts Department and director of concert choir, treble choir, mixed chorus, and men’s choir. In addition to her fine arts classes, she teaches Interpersonal Communications and Oral Communications courses, and is the Tri-M Honor Society moderator and vocal director for the spring musicals. Ellen Seyer has a B.A. in Education from Fontbonne College and an M.A. in Education from Southeast Missouri State University. She has been recognized by the Encore Federated Music Club, named Outstanding Director by the Missouri Choral Directors, and received the National Society of High School Scholars Recognition.

Jacob Seyer, a 2010 graduate of Notre Dame, is currently a guitarist, instructor, and international award-winning composer based in the Pacific Northwest. He has both a bachelors and master degree in music, with composition, album production, and touring experience in the U.S., Canada, and South America. He has received numerous accolades including the Vancouver Central School of Music Teacher of the Year award, and most recently was awarded second prize in the 2021 Time of the Guitar International Composition competition for his piece “Relictus” (“En Aethere”).

His music has been described as “sophisticated,” “groundbreaking,” and “full of variety.”

Congratulations to the 2023 Performing & Visual Arts Hall of Fame inductees! @TM
The National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church holds Lenten Pilgrimage of Healing

The National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church is nestled within the Ozark hills of Missouri on 60 acres in Laurie, MO. It is adjacent to St. Patrick Parish at 176 Marian Dr, Laurie, MO 65037.

Colloquially known as the “Mothers’ Shrine,” the Shrine is dedicated to Mary, Mother of the Church and to all mothers. The Shrine features an awe-inspiring 14-foot stainless steel sculpture of Mary, with her arms outstretched to welcome all to her embrace. The platform that holds the sculpture of Mary turns 360 degrees every four minutes to face all pilgrims as they enjoy the grounds.

Registration is not required for this event, and all are welcome and invited to come for healing and prayer. More information can be found at mothersshrine.com, or by calling (573) 374-MARY (6279). @TM

All are welcome at the
Lenten Pilgrimage of Healing
with
Fr. Norbert Rappold, Diocese of Little Rock

“HEAL ME LORD, 
THAT I MAY BE HEALED: 
SAVE ME, THAT I MAY BE SAVED, 
FOR YOU ARE MY PRAISE.”

MARCH 30, 2023
The National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church
176 Mariani Dr., Laurie, MO 65037
5PM | RECONCILIATION    5:30PM | HEALING MASS
(English and Spanish)
ADORATION & HEALING PRAYER TO FOLLOW

ST. JOHN CHAPEL IN MERCY SPRINGFIELD GETTING A FACE LIFT

Scaffolding is up in St. John Chapel, in Mercy Springfield, where frescos are getting a refresh and other repairs and restorations are being made. Bishop Edward Rice took a recent tour of the progress. He is pictured with David Huskisson, Mercy Manager of Pastoral Services; Fr. John Mark Ogu, Mercy Hospital priest/chaplain; Bill Hennessy VP-Mission; Keith Schaefer Director-Mission Integration. A special thanks to Mercy Springfield Auxiliary and the other donors that are making the work possible. (The Mirror)
BUFFALO—St. William Parish Council of Catholic Women (PCCW) will have the 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—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.

LEOPOLD—St. John Parish Council of Catholic Women will have a Rummage Sale, Thu., May 4, 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 any questions, please contact Geri at (573) 208-6445.

SALEM—The Altar and Rosary Society will hold its annual dinner and basket fundraiser on Sat., April 29 at Sacred Heart Parish. For more 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 Council of Catholic Women will sell crafts, religious articles, breads, and sweets in the Country Store and Bakery Shop. Dine in or carry-out available.

SPRINGFIELD—St. Bernardette’s Guild will hold a Ladies Day of Inspiration, “Deepening our Faith Through the Spirituality of Environment,” Sat., April 1, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., in St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, located at 2200 W. Republic Rd. Mass will begin at 8:30 a.m., followed by breakfast (prepared by Men’s Club); program begins at 10:30 a.m. To register, please call Kay, (417) 861-0708, or Debbie, (417) 839-1092.

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 to 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., Sr. Pauline’s 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 or for more information, 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.
BEGINNING WITH JESUS, AS IS ONLY RIGHT, AND THEN LOOKING AT THE NEW TESTAMENT AND AT A FEW REPRESENTATIVE TEXTS FROM EARLY CHRISTIANITY, WE’VE DISCERNED, JUST A LITTLE, THE ESSENCE OF THE CHURCH. WE NOW SHIFT FOCUS TO EXPLORE THE CHURCH TODAY.

But first, a brief review. The Church, remember, is ecclesia, the called body of believers. Its essence belongs to the communion of the Trinity, opened to believers in Jesus Christ, to those who by faith believe him to be the incarnate Son of God. When believers live in Jesus, he lives in them, which is how believers in Christ find themselves in communion with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. That’s how the Church is holy.

But this communion with God is also at the same time communion with other believers — with the adelphoi — all those with faith sharing in Christ together. It’s a communion grown by means of faith sharing in Christ together. A community of believers — with the body and the bride of Christ, a single communion rooted in God. As the great theologian Henri de Lubac put it, “The Church of God is unique: there is only a single Body of Christ, a single Spouse of Christ, a single fold, a single flock under a single Shepherd” (The Motherhood of the Church, 171). This is the truth I’ve slowly tried to describe, a truth about the essence of the Church that endures even today, and that we’ll need to remember as we continue our exploration of Catholicism. Now, however, our task is simply to find it in the present, in the Church of today.

When the Church isn’t beautiful, this is really important to remember. But it’s also important because it challenges our sometimes overly individualistic accounts of Christian belief. It helps us remember that the Lord’s Prayer is prayed always to “our Father” and not “my Father.” It helps us retain a more biblical understanding of Christian belief and belonging, remembering that the Church is, to use Paul’s imagery, the body of Christ; or to use John’s imagery — echoing the Song of Songs — that it’s the bride of Christ. Now there are, as we’ll see, many more images given to this mysterious communion, yet the underlying truth is the same: the Church is ecclesia, the body and the bride of Christ, a single communion rooted in God. As the great theologian Henri de Lubac put it, “The Church of God is unique: there is only a single Body of Christ, a single Spouse of Christ, a single fold, a single flock under a single Shepherd” (The Motherhood of the Church, 171). This is the truth I’ve slowly tried to describe, a truth about the essence of the Church that endures even today, and that we’ll need to remember as we continue our exploration of Catholicism. Now, however, our task is simply to find it in the present, in the Church of today.

So, fast forward. To understand the Catholic Church today, one must understand the Second Vatican Council — what it was and in a certain sense still is. It was announced by Pope St. John XXIII on Jan. 25, 1959 after Mass at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls in Rome. The Council opened three years later in 1962 and ended in 1965. However, in 1959, when only 10 weeks into his pontificate John XXIII called the council, it shocked the Church and the world, too. Now John XXIII was himself a surprise. Quite old when elected, many thought he’d simply keep the papal seat warm until a younger pope came along. Little did anyone expect he was going to shake things up like he did. A joyful man — humble, hilarious and holy — he said himself how the idea of calling an ecumenical council was sudden and unexpected. And not only did news of the council shock many, it changed the world. It was a meeting of massive importance for all Christians, not just Roman Catholics, and whether you know it or not, you’ve been influenced by Vatican II.

An ecumenical council is simply a great meeting of bishops and others in the Church, and it belongs to a long tradition of councils. The Church has held councils since the beginning, since the so-called Council of Jerusalem in Acts 15. Then, the question was about what to do with all the Gentiles coming into the Church. Should they be circumcised? These were serious controversies, leading to quite heated debates. And really, ever since, the Church has been arguing, coming together informally and formally in what the tradition came...
to call councils — some large, some small — to argue important points of theology or discipline and sometimes a whole lot more. And we’ve gained much from this tradition. The Creed we say every Sunday, for instance, is a product of two councils — the Council of Nicaea in 325 and the Council of Constantinople in 381. The Catholic Church calls some councils ecumenical councils, which means those that relate to the entire Church. Different traditions count ecumenical councils differently — some count only seven, some only three. The Roman Catholic Church counts 21 ecumenical councils.

Now, generally speaking, until Vatican II, ecumenical councils were called in response to some controversy, either of theology or discipline. The Council of Nicaea, for example, was called in response to the controversy caused by a rather eloquent priest from Alexandria in Egypt named Arius who was going around preaching that Jesus was a “creature,” that he was “made” and “created,” not God quite like the Father is God. And so, the Church gathered at Nicaea to refute Arius. And, if you know anything of the history of the Arian controversy, to listen to the Nicene Creed is to hear the Church basically scold Arius. For example, that the Creed says “begotten, not made” is really quite a specific dig at Arius. We no longer listen to the Nicene Creed — but it was not an idea that had gained much traction. Catholics by and large were getting on just fine, most thought. Whatever tensions existed were being managed well enough by the ordinary means of debate, censure, and old-fashioned Church politics. And so, when John XXIII called the Council in 1959, most wondered what for. It’s a spiritual question, in fact, that’s still being asked today. But more on that next week.

**The Characteristics of Vatican II**

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 14: A Conciliar 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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**St. Joseph Parish introduces new Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program**

N hopes of attracting young families to the parish, St. Joseph Parish, Springfield, has introduced a new Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) program. With support from Fr. Karl Barmann, OSB, pastor of St. Joseph, the new CGS Phase I program was introduced for preschoolers on Jan. 8 by Christa Bauer, a trained CGS leader with prior experience facilitating CGS programs. Before starting the CGS program, St. Joseph Parish did not have PSR (parish school of religion program) for pre-school age children. The parish is hopeful that not only will preschoolers have an opportunity to learn about the Church, but also the program will help attract young families to the parish who will then stay for Mass after the classes.

With a focus on prayer, liturgical content, and spiritual development, the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) is a Montessori-style, hands-on approach to religious education. CGS classes meet in the “atrium,” a specially-designed classroom space created exclusively for kids. Designed on the basis that children learn best by doing, the atrium provides resources that encourage thought and a deeper relationship with God. Materials like a model altar and a prayer table are present.

“The program is very hands-on, engaging, and very interactive in a way that is peaceful and prayerful,” said Bauer. “The style of the program helps these young, very active, often inattentive children learn by giving them materials they need to be better engaged for learning. The atrium is designed to help preschoolers focus as well as engage.”

Each atrium session is led by a trained CGS catechist. These formation leaders go through training and once completed, they are recognized leaders through the US Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.

After receiving instruction, sessions for the3rkay students work with the accompanying resources. The atrium is a tranquil learning environment where the students obtain a thorough understanding of the doctrines of Jesus, the Bible, the liturgy, and the beliefs of the Catholic Church.

“During atrium, the children are learning the importance of Mass. The atrium includes an altar model and the other key elements associated with Mass,” Bauer said. “They can engage with these; they begin learning the names of items and the vocabulary. Once they learn at this level, they now begin paying attention during Mass because they are familiar with what is happening. We work on learning Scripture, liturgy, and prayers, and interact with the small models to help support the learning.”

Sessions are held at 9 a.m.-10:20 every Sunday in the hopes of making it easier for families to participate in the Mass, either at 9 a.m. or 10:30 a.m.

“The preschoolers want to sit closer, they want to see what is going on, because they want to learn more,” Bauer said. “During class time, we ask them questions for the student to think about during Mass. The program is structured to give students time to reflect on the questions and gives them time to work and let the Holy Spirit work in them, the program gives quiet time for students to think and work through the questions posed to them.”

“Overall, the focus of the program is for children to learn to be active in Church for life,” stated Bauer.

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**A Grateful Church celebrates and recognizes the following ordination anniversaries in APRIL:**

**PRIESTS:**
Rev. Pompeyo Tan, Jr., April 1, 38 yrs.
Rev. Samson Dorival, SMM, April 6, 26 yrs.
Rev. Thomas Dharelli, HGN, April 11, 7 yrs.
Rev. David Hulshof, April 18, 41 yrs.
Rev. Mark Boyer, April 24, 47 yrs.
Rev. Francis Theetla, April 25, 26 yrs.
Rev. Rayappa Chinnabathini, April 26, 13 yrs.

**DEACONS:**
Deacon Gary Steffes, April 20, 10 yrs.
Deacon William ‘Bill’ Keller, April 24, 19 yrs.
Deacon Mark Wand, April 24, 19 yrs.
Sr. Janine Tran, CMR | Congregation of Mary, Queen

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? The beautiful complementarity of the religious consecrated life, the laity, and the ordained.

How did you know you were called to be a religious sister? I found joy in the simplicity of this life. I didn’t feel the need to keep on looking: I had found home.

What was your journey to find and choose your religious order? It was almost an accident that I found our community, the Congregation of Mary, Queen. I was choosing between the Dominicans and our community. I called our community first and fell in love with its spirituality of evangelical spiritual childhood. I didn’t feel the need to keep on looking: I had found home.

What is its charism? Our charism: To transform into Jesus Christ, the Beloved Child of God and of Mary, in communal consecrated life and dedicated to apostolic works.

Where did you find support as you discerned a religious vocation? My parents are the most influential people in my vocation’s journey. They have supported me every step of the way, even though it meant the sacrifice of their eldest daughter. They also were living examples of trust and fidelity. God has also sent many beautiful people into my life as friends and co-workers in the vineyard.

How has your faith evolved over the years? I think it’s growing!

What do you consider the most rewarding part of your life as a consecrated religious? To have people come up to me randomly at a gas station, Walmart, a bowling alley and say, “Are you a real sister?!” And then having a conversation about whatever they want to talk about.

What is your greatest enjoyment for this jubilee year? Traveling down memory lane and thanking God for all the blessings, small and large, he has placed into my life.

What should the Church do better to encourage women to serve as Religious? Please continually pray for those who are already sisters and to actively encourage young women to consider this life. Personal invitation is powerful.

What is the biggest change that you’ve seen or would like to see in the Church with regard to your vocation? I love it that Pope Francis has reorganized the Curia and invited women into leadership positions.

What have you been doing recently; what work do you do for our diocese? I currently serve as the diocesan Director of Faith Formation and Respect Life. It is an honor to work to help build up the Church in Southern Missouri in close collaboration with Bishop Rice and the amazing staff here at The Catholic Center!}

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.

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

Pre-registration 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.


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.

Masses For Vocations

With Bishop Edward M. Rice

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!

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. Janine Tran, CMR.

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. Janine Tran, CMR.
Jesus assures us that we could indeed move mountains with only a mustard seed of faith. As it is written in Matthew 17:20, “…for truly I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; nothing will be impossible to you.” He proved it on Jan 3, 1906, to the faithful who believed and cried out in full faith for God’s mercy. In the middle of it all was spared.

On Jan. 31, 1906, on the small island of Tumaco at 10 o’clock in the morning, the earth shook violently for almost 10 minutes. All the inhabitants of the village ran to the church and begged the pastor, Fr. Gerardo Larrondo, to lead a procession with the Blessed Sacrament. The people, overjoyed, cried out “Miracle, miracle!” In truth, a force beyond that of nature prevailed. The tidal wave hesitated, paused, and receded. Fr. Larrondo and Fr. Julian alongside him saw what was transpiring, and the people, overjoyed, cried out, “Let us go, my people. Let us go toward the beach, and may God have pity on us.”

Comforted by the presence of the Eucharistic Christ, they began their march, weeping and crying out to God. Scarcely had Fr. Larrondo reached the beach with the monstrance in hand, when he advanced courageously to the water’s edge and as the wave came rushing in, he calmly raised the Sacred Host and traced the sign of the Cross. It was a moment of tremendous solemnity. The wave hesitated, paused, and receded. Fr. Larrondo and Fr. Julian poured out. The miracle of Tumaco became known across the world. We can say that by faith, the people of Tumaco saved their village from the destruction of a tidal wave caused by one of the largest earthquakes ever recorded in history by invoking the 1906 Eucharistic Miracle of Tumaco, Colombia.

The Lord said, “I will not leave you desolate, … I am with you always, until the close of the age,” and “All things are possible to he who believes.” Let us turn to Him, inexhaustible source of life and the only One who can quench our deepest thirst. He desires to pour Himself into our hearts.

Prayers of fervent thanks poured out. The miracle of Tumaco was spared by a miracle thanks to the faith of the people and the blessing with the Blessed Sacrament by Fr. Gerardo Larrondo.
Joplin Area Catholic Schools welcomes Dr. Emily Yoakam as its new Director of Schools, effective July 1, 2023.

“I am honored to serve the Joplin Area Catholic Schools as its new Director of Schools,” said Yoakam. “I’m excited for the opportunity to support our principals as we work together with our families, parishes, the diocese, and our greater Joplin community to further the mission entrusted to us by the Sisters of Mercy—building the legacy of Catholic education, one Warrior at a time.”

A role that began in 2019, Yoakam currently serves as principal of St. Peter Middle School and McAuley Catholic High School.

With her experience in the building-level she has an awareness of needs within our system as well as ideas to continue to promote Catholic education in southwest Missouri,” said Fr. Joe Weidenbenner, pastor at St. Mary Catholic Church.

As principal, Yoakam navigated learning for students during the COVID-19 pandemic, has recruited and retained high-level educators, and elevated the academic standards for both schools. "Her experience in education, including being educated in Catholic schools, her faith, and her enthusiasm for the future are strong attributes to her hiring," said Fr. Brian J. Straus, Parish Administrator for Joplin’s St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church.

Yoakam earned her Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Baker University in 2019. In addition, she holds a Master of Science in Reading and Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and from Pittsburg State University.

Joplin Area Catholic Schools welcomes Dr. Emily Yoakam as its new Director of Schools, effective July 1, 2023.

Dr. Gilbreth announced his retirement from Joplin Area Catholic Schools. "I am excited about the opportunity to meet Dr. Gilbreth at the school. Wed., April 12, at 7 p.m., which also serves as an open house for St. Peter Middle School and McAuley Catholic High School is scheduled for tomorrow. For more information or to inquire about enrollment, visit www.JACSS.org. ©TM
We are the Body of Christ

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

2023 MIDWEST MARCH FOR LIFE
midwestmarchforlife.com

Wednesday, April 26, 2023
Missouri State Capitol

The Details

Free Voice for Life tshirt for those who ride the bus!
Deadline to register for the bus: Friday, March 24

We are called to protect life.

For questions or comments, please contact Kim Brayman in the Respect Life Office at 417-668-9841 or kbrayman@dioscg.org

DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD-CAPE GIRARDEAU
www.dioscg.org

Dioecesan of Springfield-Cape Girardeau
Office of Vocations | Promotions

JOIN US FOR
ENounter WITH GOD’S CALL
A DIOCESAN SEMINARY VISIT
March 24 - 26, 2023
Conception Seminary College
Conception, Missouri

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

CAMP RE-NE-W-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
1F JUNE 12-16
2F JUNE 26-30
3F JULY 10-14

CAMP CARLO
1C JULY 10-14
2C JULY 17-21
3C JULY 24-28

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

DIocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau @dioscg

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Bishop’s Prayer
Mass of Thanksgiving

SATURDAY
April 1, 2023
8:00 a.m.
St. Ann Church
Carthage, MO

Join us for Mass with Bishop Rice and acknowledge our gratitude for the many gifts shared and sacrifices made in walking hand-in-hand with the most vulnerable among us.

United in prayer and Thanksgiving, God continues to bless CCSOMO in its efforts in service to the Gospel in Reaching Out, Providing Hope, and Changing Lives.

www.ccsomo.org
(417) 720-4213

This event will also be Live-streamed to Facebook: @CCSOMO and @DIOCESEOFSPRINGFIELDCAPEGIRARDEAU

ATTENTION: CATHOLIC MEN
You are invited to the Southeast Missouri...

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

Wednesday, March 29 | 6:30-9:00 pm
Saint Denis, Benton, MO

To help plan for food, please RSVP to SEMOCatholicManNight@gmail.com

‘SEMO Catholic Man Night’ on Facebook or text to 573-275-5214

INCOMING COLLEGE FRESHMEN KICKBACK

11AM MASS
12:30PM BBQ & YARD GAMES
CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY | 847’S HOLLAND AVE., SPRINGFIELD

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