



Fully entering — into the Triduum

By Bishop Donald J. Hying, OSV News

During the Sacred Triduum—the days of Holy Thursday through Easter Sunday—the strangest thing will occur. Millions of Christians throughout the world will gather to honor the humiliation, torture, and crucifixion of Jesus Christ. In a global culture that usually celebrates power, strength, and beauty, this public veneration of something so horrible is always a little shocking. Could it be that what people find so absolutely compelling about the Passion narrative is the vulnerability of God?

In the Christ event, God leaves the safety and glory of heaven, in a certain sense, and embraces the limitations of our human condition, coming to know in the flesh, both the glory and tragedy of our nature without ever having sinned. In the last week of his life, Jesus completely hands himself over to us. In the foot-washing and the Eucharist, in the scourging and the crucifixion, the Son of God loves us completely without restrictions, conditions, or limits. Whether we accept, reject, or ignore this Divine Love, Jesus never changes his fundamental stance toward us.

In Roman and Greek mythology, the gods are always conspiring to manipulate humanity to serve their often-selfish ends and egotistical schemes. In Christ, we encounter the surprising subversion of this oppressive game. God serves us! In absolute humility, availability, vulnerability and mercy, God has come to love, pardon and save us.

The weakness of the cross, the simplicity of the Eucharist, the tenderness of the foot washing, the love that seeks to embrace a traitor, a thief and a coward is so beyond the grasp of power politics, the swirl of social hubris and the world of earthly grasping that it takes our breath away. No wonder that kings would stand speechless in the presence of the Suffering Servant, as Isaiah proclaims.

If God could become that poor, humble, and vulnerable to love me, how can I ever stand on my own self-importance? This week, we celebrate the strangest things: weakness becomes strength, love conquers fear, miserable despair transforms into resurrected hope, and perpetual death gives way to eternal life, and it's all

because a naked criminal was thrown down on a cross 2,000 years ago, and he embraced it as if it were his marriage bed.

We should let the Lord love us during Holy Week. The palm we held on Palm Sunday should be a symbol of our praise, reverence, and love for the humble Master who has saved and set us free. The Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday evening is an opportunity to taste the surprising grace of the Eucharist and surrender to the consolation of the foot washing. Listening to the Passion and venerating the cross on Good Friday gives us the opportunity to embrace the cross in our own lives, no matter what form it may take. Know that the mystery of



Brothers and sisters:

Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens,
Jesus, the Son of God,
let us hold fast to our confession.
For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin.

So let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help.

In the days when Christ was in the flesh,
he offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save him from death,
and he was heard because of his reverence.
Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered;
and when he was made perfect,
he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

—Good Friday of the Lord's Passion,
Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9, April 7, 2023.

suffering in our lives is the sacred ladder by which we will ascend to the beauty of the Kingdom of heaven.

Holy Saturday is a sacred time of rest and silence, as the Lord sleeps in the tomb and all of creation awaits a salvation it does not yet understand. A beautiful ancient text from the early Church pictures Jesus roaming the abode of the dead on this day, unchaining Adam and Eve and all of the other souls who had been waiting for redemption since the foundation of the world. Ask the Lord to set you free from the fear, sin and self-seeking that keeps you bound.

Gathering around the Easter fire at the Vigil, we call to mind how we began the Lenten journey marked with the ashes of sin, failure and defeat, but now you have become filled with fire—the mighty force of the risen Christ and the courageous strength of the Holy Spirit. As we proclaim the resurrection of Christ as the beautiful truth and transformative meaning of human history, know that the Lord walks with you, loves you and is leading you to the fullness of joy and peace.

The shocking, strange, and powerful events of Holy Week should lead us to tears and laughter, gratitude and praise, humble awareness of our weakness, and joyful acclamation of God's victory. The Triduum is a time for God to break open our hearts, so that the gracious torrent of Divine Mercy that flows from the side of the crucified Christ will wash us clean, forgive our sins, and fashion us ever more deeply in the new creation of the Lord's saving death and resurrection ©OSV News

Bishop Donald J. Hying is Bishop of the Diocese of Madison, WI. Illustration by Shutterstock.



The next issue of **The Mirror** will be **April 14, 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.





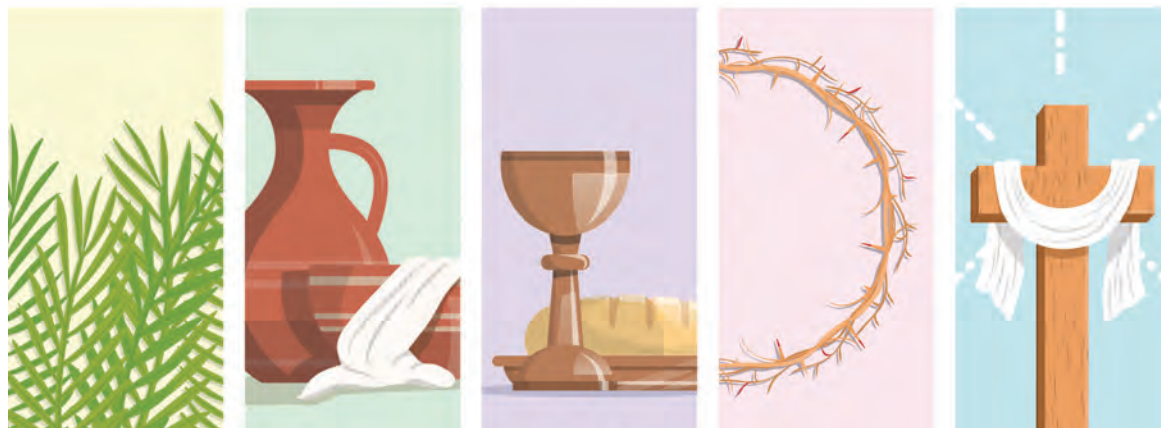
**COME, AND
YOU WILL SEE**

Bp. Edward M. Rice

May your heart know the risen Christ!

Next week we mark the beautiful days of Holy Week. As I say every year, just because we refer to this week as “holy,” doesn’t necessarily mean that it will be unless we approach them with some intentionality. The beautiful ceremonies of Holy Week can come and go, and the week can be no different from any other week of the year. How sad that would be! So, let’s dig in and make it indeed a holy Holy Week!

It always touches my heart to receive the palms on Palm Sunday, and hear “hosanna in the highest” juxtaposed to the cry “Crucify Him.” To hear the mandate to love one another, accompanied by the washing of the feet, the institution of the Eucharist and the priesthood truly makes Holy Thursday “holy.” And what can we say of Good Friday? To watch people come up one-by-one, to embrace, to kiss, to touch, or offer an act of reverence to the cross of Christ is one of the most profound moments in which a person can participate. As I watch people coming up to the Cross, I see those who are dealing with illness, loss; I see parents with newborn children, all different circumstances, as they file up one-by-one to have their moment to give reverence to the cross of Christ. We recognize that Christ died for each one of us and that makes that Friday so “Good.” The somber, quiet mood of Holy Saturday gives us time to reflect on our own death, and just how fragile life



is, and how we should treat each other with care. And as the sun begins to set, we prepare for the Easter Vigil, where we proclaim the resurrection of Christ and our share in that resurrection.

I say it again, just because we call it Holy Week doesn’t mean it will be holy. We each have to do our part. First, we have to show up, participate, and let go of all the things that distract us and focus on the beautiful events that will unfold for us during these sacred days of Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the celebration of Easter. It is my privilege to pray for all of you daily, and in a special way, I will remember you during the celebrations of Holy Week and the Easter Season. May each heart know the joy of the risen Christ during the 50 days of Easter!

EUCHARISTIC ANTIPHON

“O Sacrament most holy, O Sacrament divine! All praise and all Thanksgiving be every moment Thine.” If you have been at a Mass with

me recently you may have noticed that I have been singing this little verse as a meditation after the reception of Holy Communion, if time allows. While the song was included in an Italian prayer book in the 19th century, it became popular in Ireland and other places with various melodies and verses. I am going to make this particular verse the official antiphon for our Eucharistic Revival throughout the diocese, and it is my hope that every Catholic will know this song by heart. It is my typical practice to intone this verse a low note and then repeat it twice more, going up a third each time so that by the third time, it is a crescendo reverberating throughout the church. The other two verses have a simple, beautiful summary of eucharistic theology. The second verse, “Now come, all you who labor and sorrow and in pain, come, eat this bread from heaven; thy peace and strength regain.” And the third verse is classic, “Lord Jesus, we adore Thee, our victim and our priest, whose precious Blood

and Body become our Sacred Feast.”

I ask all of our choirs and musicians to teach this to our parishioners. How beautiful if all of our First Communion classes could sing these three verses as a meditation after the reception of their First Holy Communion. The beauty of this song is in its simple, straightforward theology. The organ is not needed, no piano, no accompaniment—just the


voices of God’s people who believe in the true presence of Christ in the Eucharist, singing that beautiful refrain in an act of worship. Let us remember the words of Pope St. John Paul II, “May our adoration never cease.”

To everyone: a blessed Holy Week!

©TM

M O N K

Cistercian



A small, self-supporting community in the Ozark foothills of Missouri. Available for retreats and periods of discernment.

Assumption Abbey
RR 5 Box 1056, Ava, MO
65608 (417) 683-5110
www.assumptionabbey.org
assumptionabbey@gmail.com

C O N T E M P L A T I V E



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.*

October 21, 1988 Several years ago, I met with the Sisters who live and work in our diocese. One of the Sisters told me about a conversation she had with two, small non-Catholic girls. Sister was trying to explain what it means to be a nun—a woman religious. The one girl eventually said to the other, “I think she’s married to God!”

November 4, 1988 During my recent visit at St. Henry Parish, in Charleston, a father was talking proudly to me about his three-year-old daughter. At dinner time the day before, he told her to go wash her hands before coming to the table. “No,” she clearly

said. “What did you say?” the father asked slowly and with some firmness in his voice. “You know,” the little girl said, “I think it’s a good idea!”

November 18, 1988 Preparing her second graders for First Penance, Sister took the children over to church to make them more familiar with the reconciliation room. She said to one of the boys, “Go over ahead of us and hold open the church door until we are all inside.” The boy performed his duty gladly and finally closing the church door, asked Sister, “Does this mean I’m going to be a priest?”



COLUMBIA
CONSTRUCTION & CASEWORK
Cape Girardeau, MO
573-335-6443 www.columbiaconst.com

Ozark MAILING Service, LLC

COMPLETE LINE OF MAILING SERVICES

LASER PRINTING	INSERTING
BARCODING	NCOA PROCESSING
INKJET ADDRESSING	METERING

(417) 866-6100

2804 N. Oak Grove Ave.
Springfield, MO 65803



VEN Y VERÁS

Obispo Edward M. Rice

¡Que tu corazón conozca a Cristo resucitado!

La semana que viene celebraremos los hermosos días de la Semana Santa. Como digo todos los años, solo porque nos referimos a esta semana como “santa”, no significa necesariamente que lo será a menos que nos acerquemos a ellos con cierta intencionalidad. Las bellas ceremonias de la Semana Santa pueden ir y venir, y la semana puede no ser diferente de cualquier otra semana del año. ¡Qué triste sería! Así que, ¡hagamos que sea realmente una santa Semana Santa!

Siempre me conmueve recibir las palmas el Domingo de Ramos, y oír el “hosanna en las alturas” yuxtapuesto al grito “Crucifícalo”. Escuchar el mandato de amarnos los unos a los otros, acompañados por el lavado de los pies, la institución de la Eucaristía y el sacerdocio hacen verdaderamente “santo” el Jueves Santo. ¿Y qué podemos decir del Viernes Santo? Ver a las personas acercarse una a una, abrazar, besar, tocar u ofrecer un acto de reverencia a la cruz de Cristo es uno de los momentos más profundos en

los que una persona puede participar. Mientras veo a la gente subir a la Cruz, veo a aquellos que están lidiando con la enfermedad, la pérdida; veo a padres con hijos recién nacidos, de todas las circunstancias, mientras se presentan uno a uno para tener su momento de reverenciar la cruz de Cristo. Reconocemos que Cristo murió por cada uno de nosotros y eso hace que ese viernes sea tan “santo”. El ambiente sombrío y tranquilo del Sábado Santo nos da tiempo para reflexionar sobre nuestra propia muerte, sobre lo frágil que es la vida y sobre cómo debemos tratarnos con cuidado. Y cuando el sol comienza a ponerse, nos preparamos para la Vigilia Pascual, en la que proclamamos la resurrección de Cristo y nuestra participación en esa resurrección.

Lo digo otra vez, solo porque la llamamos Semana Santa no significa que será santa. Estamos llamados a hacer nuestra parte. En primer lugar, tenemos que venir, participar y dejar de lado todas las cosas que nos distraen y centrarnos en los

hermosos acontecimientos que se desarrollarán para nosotros durante estos días sagrados del Domingo de Ramos, el Jueves Santo, el Viernes Santo y la celebración de la Pascua. Es mi privilegio orar por todos ustedes diariamente, y de una manera especial, los recordaré durante las celebraciones de la Semana Santa y el tiempo de Pascua. ¡Que cada corazón conozca la alegría de Cristo resucitado durante los 50 días de Pascua!

ANTÍFONA EUCARÍSTICA

“Oh Sacramento santísimo, oh Sacramento divino! Toda la alabanza y toda la acción de gracias sean tuyas en todo momento”. Si has estado en una Misa conmigo recientemente, habrás notado que he estado cantando este pequeño verso como meditación después de la recepción de la Sagrada Comunión, si el tiempo lo permite. Aunque la canción se incluyó en un libro de oraciones italiano en el siglo XIX, se hizo popular en Irlanda y otros lugares con diversas melodías y versos.

Voy a hacer de este verso en particular la antífona oficial de nuestro Avivamiento Eucarístico en toda la diócesis, y tengo la esperanza de que cada católico se sepa esta canción de memoria. Mi práctica habitual consiste en entonar este verso con una nota grave y repetirlo dos veces más, subiendo un tercio cada vez, de modo que la tercera vez sea un crescendo que reverbera por toda la iglesia. Los otros dos versículos contienen un sencillo y bello resumen de la teología eucarística. El segundo verso: “Ahora venid, todos los que estáis trabajando en la tristeza y en el dolor, venid a comer este Pan del Cielo; recuperad vuestra paz y vuestra fuerza”. Y el tercer verso es clásico, “Señor Jesús, te adoramos, nuestra víctima y nuestro sacerdote, cuya Sangre y Cuerpo preciosos se convierten en nuestra Sagrada Fiesta”.

Les pido a todos nuestros coros y músicos que enseñen esto a nuestros feligreses. Qué hermoso sería si todas nuestras clases de Primera Comunión pudieran cantar estos tres versos como



HOLY WEEK/ EASTER SCHEDULE

For BISHOP EDWARD M. RICE

MONDAY, APRIL 3
7:00 p.m. **Chrism Mass** - St. Agnes Cathedral

TUESDAY, APRIL 4
7:00 p.m. **Chrism Mass** - St. Mary Cathedral

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 6
7:00 p.m. *Mass of the Lord's Supper* - St. Mary Cathedral

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 7
1:00 p.m. *The Lord's Passion* - St. Mary Cathedral

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 8
7:30 p.m. **Easter Vigil** - St. Mary Cathedral

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 9
8:30 a.m. *Mass of the Lord's Resurrection* - St. Mary Cathedral

For BISHOP EMERITUS JOHN LEIBRECHT

SATURDAY, APRIL 1
4:00 p.m. St. Joseph the Worker, Ozark

SUNDAY, APRIL 2
9:00 a.m. St. Joseph the Worker, Ozark

MONDAY, APRIL 3
7:00 p.m. **Chrism Mass** - St. Agnes Cathedral

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 9
9:00 a.m. *Mass of the Lord's Resurrection* - Immaculate Conception, Springfield

meditación después de la recepción de su Primera Comunión. La belleza de esta canción está en su teología simple y directa. No se necesita el órgano, ni el piano, ni el acompañamiento, solo las voces del pueblo de Dios que cree en la verdadera presencia de Cristo en la Eucaristía, cantando ese hermoso estribillo en un acto de adoración.

Recordemos las palabras del Papa San Juan Pablo II: “Que nuestra adoración no cese nunca”.

A todos: ¡Una bendita Semana Santa!

©TM



Masses For VOCATIONS With Bishop Edward M. Rice

Tues., April 11, 5:30pm | St. Agnes Cathedral, Springfield
Wed., April 19, 5:30pm | St. John Vianney, Mountain View



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



CCSOMO receives American Rescue Plan Act funding



Cape Girardeau

Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri (CCSOMO) is pleased to announce its selection as a recipient of a \$2,500,000 competitive award through the Community Revitalization Grant Program from the Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED). Funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), and part of Governor Mike Parson's 2023 budget plan, the awards are intended to address local community needs.

The award will support CCSOMO's LifeHouse Crisis Maternity Home, currently under construction in Cape Girardeau. This transitional housing program will serve homeless pregnant women over the age of 18 and their young children.

CCSOMO's decade of success with its Springfield LifeHouse location provides the model that supports the birth of healthy babies and leads mothers toward self-sufficiency and independence.

"This funding fulfills an investment in the Cape Girardeau region and demonstrates the power of partnerships as we work to provide services for those vulnerable and in need," states Ken Palermo, CCSOMO Executive Director.

Through the generosity of countless community members, and the support of the Mabee Foundation, the Children's Trust Fund, the Federal Home Loan Bank, and this award, LifeHouse Cape is on track to welcome its first residents in early 2024. ©TM



LIFEHOUSE—Bishop Emeritus John J. Leibrecht greeted a LifeHouse Springfield resident and her baby. A service of Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri, LifeHouse Cape Girardeau is the recipient of a \$2,500,000 competitive award through the Community Revitalization Grant Program from the Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED). Currently under construction, LifeHouse Cape Girardeau will support the birth of healthy babies and their mothers toward self-sufficiency and independence. Completion date is February 2024. (Photo by Dean Curtis/The Mirror)



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AROUND THE DIOCESE

JACKSON

Youth & Family Director sought in Jackson Immaculate Conception Parish, in Jackson, is currently accepting applications for a Youth and Family Director. Applicants must be a practicing Catholic. Interested applicants should contact Fr. Randy Tochtrop at (573) 243-3182 or Email pastor@icjacksonmo.com.

KELSO

St. Augustine Catholic School seeks a Jr. High English teacher for the 2023-2024 school year and for two part-time teachers' assistants or the infant room for the 2023-2024 school year. For an application or questions, please Email Katie Hendricks at khendricks@stakelso.eduk12.net or call (573) 264-4644. Applications may be found at stakelso.org.

MONETT

St. Lawrence Catholic School is seeking a third/fourth grade teacher for the 2023-2024 school year. Interested individuals should be appropriately certified. Catholic candidates preferred. Our school is small and family oriented, and vested in providing our students a quality education that is grounded in the teachings of our faith. Interested persons may contact Tracey Welch at (417) 235-3721 or Email twelch@stlawrencecatholicsschool.com.

SPRINGFIELD

St. Joseph Catholic Academy is accepting applications for a full-time secretary. St. Joseph is a small, diverse school with a family-type atmosphere where all are expected to work hard to provide the very best for our students and families. Applicants must exhibit the following characteristics: Christ-like behaviors, have a positive attitude, work collaboratively with the principal, have excellent verbal and written communication skills. Applicants should be proficient in the following skills: Microsoft Office programs, Google Suite, graphic design (fliers and bulletins), and basic office skills. Catholics preferred. Bilingual skills are preferred but not necessary. Interested applicants can send their resume and cover letter to Angela Stevens at astevens@stjosephcatholicacademy.org, or for more information, call (417) 866-0667.

St. Joseph Catholic Academy is seeking a preschool teacher for the 2023-2024 school year. Interested individuals should be appropriately certified. Catholic candidates preferred. Our school is small and family oriented, and vested in providing our students a quality education that is grounded in the teachings of our faith. Interested persons may contact Angela Stevens at astevens@stjosephcatholicacademy.org, or call (417) 425-1627.



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.



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 for either position, including a detailed job description, please contact Jan Smith at The Catholic Center, jansmith@dioscg.org, or call (417) 866-0841.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Buffalo—St. William Parish Council of Catholic Women will have its annual **Yard, Plant & 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.

Everton—Beginning Experience will hold its **2023 Recovery Weekend Retreat** for Divorced, Separated, Widowed, at 6:30 p.m. on Fri., April 28, through 4 p.m., on Sun., April 30, at the Maranatha Retreat Center. Join us for this quiet, reflective & spiritual weekend, designed to be a time of closure on the past and renewed hope for the future. For more information, call Diane, (417) 859-0175, or (870) 688-8829 (cell); Barb, (417) 827-3641; or Donna, (417) 529-1059. Cost is \$110 for double occupancy, \$165 for single occupancy (when available), and includes lodging & meals. Please pre-register by Fri., April 21.

Forsyth—Our Lady of the Ozarks Catholic Church will hold its **Spring Rummage & Bake Sale**, Thu., Apr. 27, 7 a.m.-4 p.m., Fri., Apr. 28, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., and Sat., Apr. 29, 8 a.m.-noon-\$5 Bag Sale. Quality furniture, household items, collectibles, jewelry, clothing, books, home décor, baked goods, and more. Proceeds benefit the parish as well as local organizations and charities. This sale is worth the drive!

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! For more information or questions, please contact Geri at (573) 208-6445.

Marshfield—The Parish Council of Catholic Women will hold its annual **Rummage Sale**, Thu., May 4, 7 a.m.-5 p.m.; Fri., May 5, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sat., May 6, 8-11 a.m.-\$1 Bag Sale. Donations of clean & working household items, jewelry, clothing, toys, outdoor items, holiday décor, antiques and furniture are being accepted on Mon., May 1 and Tue., May 2, at the parish hall, sorry no TVs, computers, exercise equipment, paint, or chemicals can be accepted. Proceeds will benefit supported charities including Vitae Foundation, Catholic Relief Services, Parish Youth Group, Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri, Camp Re-NEW-ALL, Missouri Right to Life, Webster County Victims Assistance Program, and St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Monett—The Parish Council of Catholic Women will host its annual **Spring Salad Luncheon**, Wed., April 26, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Parish Hall. Cost is \$10 per person, and this includes your dessert and drink. Vendor space is available. If interested, contact Linda at (417) 235-4702.

Piedmont—Please join parishioners at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in celebrating its **150th Anniversary** on Sun., April 30, at 5 p.m. Mass. For more information, please contact Fr. Dan Hirtz at (573) 247-0277.

Salem—The Altar and Rosary Society will hold its annual **Dinner & Basket fundraiser**, Sat., April 29 at Sacred Heart Parish. Tickets are \$25. For more information, please contact Melanie at (573) 247-5644.

Sikeston—St. Francis of Xavier Parish is **recruiting volunteers** to help pack meals for the **Feed My Starving Children Mobilepack** at the Sikeston Armory, Fri., May 12 and Sat., May 13. If you are interested in helping, call Pam Hunter at (573) 703-7165.

FISH FRIES ARE BACK!

CAPE GIRARDEAU—St. Vincent de Paul Parish Men's Association will host **Fish Fries**, 5-7 p.m., every Friday of Lent in the St. Vincent de Paul School Gym.

GLENNONVILLE—St. Jerome Knights of Columbus Council #1572 will have a **Lenten Fish Fry**, 4:30-7 p.m., every Friday during Lent at the KC Hall, located at 12936 CR 116, Campbell. Dine-in or carry-out.

JACKSON—The Knights of Columbus #6405 will have a **Fish & Chicken Dinner**, 4:30-7:30 p.m., every Friday of Lent, in the lower KC Hall. Dine-in or carry-out.

JOPLIN—The Knights of Columbus Council #979 will have a **Lenten Fish Fry**, 5-7 p.m., every Friday during Lent at St. Peter the Apostle Church. Dine-in or carry-out (drive-thru lane).

KIMBERLING CITY—Our Lady of the Cove will have a **Fish Fry Friday**, 4-6:30 p.m., on Mar. 31. Dine-in or carry-out. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council and Parish Council of Catholic Women.

LEBANON—The Knights of Columbus Council #6871 will have a **Fish Fry**, 5-7 p.m., on Fri., Mar. 31, in the St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church Family Center at 345 Grand Ave.

NIXA—The St. Francis of Assisi Knights of Columbus will host a **Traditional Fish Fry**, 4:30-7 p.m., every Friday of Lent. For more info, call (417) 551-1135. First Responders eat FREE! Arrive in uniform OR be able to provide ID (Member only. Families of First Responders pay regular price). Priests and Deacons also eat FREE!

OZARK—St. Joseph the Worker Knights of Columbus will host a **Fish Fry-Day**, 5-7 p.m.,

every Friday of Lent. Kids ages 5 & under get a FREE spaghetti-only plate!

POPLAR BLUFF—The Knights of Columbus Council #1706 will have a **Fish Fry**, 4:30-7:30, (or until we run out) every Friday during Lent at the Knights Hall, located at 2280 Grand Ave.

SIKESTON—The Knights of Columbus, St. Francis Xavier Parish will have their annual **Lenten Fish Fry**, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and 4-7 p.m., on Fri., Mar. 31 at 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 #11182 will host a **Fish Fry** at Catholic Campus Ministries, O'Reilly Catholic Student Center, 5-7 p.m., Fri., Mar. 31.

SPRINGFIELD—St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish will have **Lenten Fish Fry Fridays**, 3:30-7 p.m., every Friday of Lent. Please plan to join to support various parish groups.

SPRINGFIELD—Immaculate Conception Parish will have a **Fish Fry**, every Friday of Lent. Each week benefits a different parish organization/cause: Mar. 31- SVDP.

SPRINGFIELD—Sacred Heart Parish will host a **Soup Supper & Stations of the Cross**, 6 p.m., every Friday of Lent. Stations of the Cross begin at 7 p.m. (bilingual).

SPRINGFIELD—St. Joseph Parish will host a **Soup Supper & Stations of the Cross**, 5:30 p.m., every Friday of Lent. Confessions are offered during the Stations and will close with Benediction.



Don't see your parish's Lenten offerings listed?
Send us the details or ask the event organizers to contact us!
Find updated gatherings at DioSCG.org/fishfries



Springfield—Springfield Area Perpetual Adoration, hosted in Holy Trinity Parish Chapel, has an **urgent need of Adorers**: Wed., 2 a.m. & 3 a.m.; Sat., 1 a.m.; and Sun., 1 a.m., 2 a.m., and 11 p.m. Substitutes are needed for all hours. Please consider joining our substitute list to experience the peace of adoration. For more information or to sign up, please contact Marilyn Gibson at (417) 224-4043.

Springfield—Sacred Heart will hold a **Trivia Night**, Sat., April 22, in the parish hall. Trivia

play begins at 6:30 p.m. Entry fee is \$10/person, maximum of 8 each table. Food service will begin at 5:30. Come enjoy the best Reuben sandwich for \$10; hamburger, cheeseburger, or a quarter-pound hot dog for \$7. To register, call the parish office at (417) 869-3646. Help us make this event a huge success by signing up your team or teams! Proceeds will help fund PSR program and lector workbooks.

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





Pope St. John XXIII during Vatican II.

(Lothar Wolleh, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons)



By
Fr. Joshua
J. Whitfield

WHAT WE BELIEVE, PART 15:

The Characteristics of Vatican II

Why did Pope St. John XXIII call the Second Vatican Council? And what was the Council about? Taking stock of the state of theology and the life of the Church in the 20th century, one could suggest several reasons. At the end of the day, though, it should be remembered and taken seriously that John XXIII claimed the Holy Spirit's inspiration for calling the Council. It is quite reasonable to suggest — and also helpful to remember — this: that Vatican II was the work of the Spirit.

Before exploring the answer to this question any further, though, we should admit that Vatican II, even today, evokes a wide range of emotions. Some, for instance, think Vatican II the worst thing to happen to the Church. With it came innovations and departures from the ancient faith so horrific, it's claimed, that many have broken away or fallen away from the Church because of it. However, on the other end, others think Vatican II changed all the mean and nasty things about Catholicism, freeing modern Catholics to be good secular liberals unbothered by a primitive creed. Here, people talk about things like the "spirit of Vatican II" but without being able to tell you where in the documents of Vatican II it says exactly what they're

saying, because it turns out they've not really read the documents.

These, obviously, are two extreme reactions to Vatican II, found more and more on the margins of Catholic experience these days, yet still very much present in the Church. The truth of the matter, though, is that to understand Vatican II, one must accept it as an ecumenical council of the Catholic Church and that the teaching of Vatican II is expressed faithfully in the Council's documents themselves. That is, the "spirit of Vatican II" is found in the documents themselves, read and interpreted within the communion of the Church. Thus, to understand Vatican II genuinely, as well as modern Catholicism, one must become familiar with the Council's documents — reading them well. And you don't have to be a theologian to do that; you just have to know how to read.

But still, what was the Council about? Speaking personally, as a former Anglican, I've always thought it to be significant that the Council was called on Jan. 25 — the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. You see, this feast concludes the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, a week in which Christians worldwide pray for the reunification of Christian believers. It was begun as the "Christian

Unity Octave" by Father Paul Wattson and the Society of the Atonement just after he and other members of the society converted to Catholicism from the Episcopal Church. This "Christian Unity Octave" by the 1920s and 1930s would be celebrated all over the Catholic world; by midcentury, Protestant bodies too would join in this endeavor of prayer. And so, that John XXIII called Vatican II at this time hints at what he hoped would be a major focus of the Council — healing the unity of Christians. Remember John 17.

But, of course, there was much more to it than that. Exploring the "why" of Vatican II, one place to begin is to read John XXIII's opening address to the Council from October 1962. "Our duty is not only to guard this precious treasure," he said, "but to dedicate ourselves with an earnest will and without fear to that work which our era demands of us." His hope was that the Church would offer a fresh presentation of the Catholic faith in "perfect conformity to the authentic doctrine." Making use of modern "methods of research" and embracing "the literary forms of modern thought," the pope wanted the Church to speak clearly to the modern world, which he made clear necessitated a rethinking. For the "substance of the

ancient doctrine of the deposit of faith is one thing, and the way in which it is presented is another." Now what John XXIII was saying is that it's not the Faith that's changing, but the presentation of the Faith. He said the Church must think about the delivery of the Faith, finding ways to articulate the Faith in a reasonable, sophisticated manner that is neither fideism nor fundamentalism. John XXIII had a great deal of trust in the reasonableness of faith. The Church wasn't meant to retreat from the world; quite the contrary. The Council's task was to take the deposit of faith and deliver it to the world in an authentic way, without intellectual cowardice or bravado but, he said, in a "predominantly pastoral" way. That is, Vatican II wasn't primarily about articulating theology or doctrine — as, say, in the Council of Nicaea when the fathers articulated the divinity of Christ (*homoousios*) — but about the pastoral articulation of the Faith.

One feature, different from other ecumenical councils, indicating this new pastoral approach is that Vatican II communicated in an entirely new idiom. It promulgated no disciplinary canons, for example, although it did inaugurate the revision of the Code of Canon Law that would come to

Gorman-Scharpf Funeral Home, Inc.

Brentwood Chapel • University Chapel Crematory • Columbarium

Licensed funeral directors of distinction:

W. Bruce Howell

Heather K. Howell
Robert J. Lohmeyer
Angela N. Collins
Harley R. Williams
Andy D. Vowell
Barbara A. Hinds



Clint W. Mease
Don R. Lohmeyer
Nichole E. Bauer
Russell C. Allen
Avery A. Weeks
Dulci M. Lane

Locally owned and operated for over 50 years

1947 E. Seminole, Springfield MO 65804

(417) 886-9994 • fax (417) 886-9996, gormanscharpf@att.net

HERMAN
Lohmeyer
FUNERAL HOME

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AT AFFORDABLE PRICES

500 E. Walnut St. Springfield, MO 65806 • (417) 862-4433 • www.hhlohmeier.com

Locally owned and operated since 1923

Paul & Lynn Wunderlich
Kent Franklin - Rebecca Weyrauch
Tom Smith - Avery Weeks
Joel Champ - Russ Koeneman
Buddy Pilmore - Vernon Henson
Charline Harris Bengsch
Chuck Wooten - David Brown

fruition in 1983. Vatican II pronounced no anathemas as did the Council of Trent. The tone of the documents of Vatican II are completely different. They are persuasive and evocative — conversational. That is, the texts are dialogical. *Gaudium et spes* — the Council's Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World — for example, reads like an invitation to the world to talk about truth, goodness and peace. It's a profoundly hopeful and open document, not defensive or condemning.

John O'Malley's indispensable book on the Council, "What Happened at Vatican II," notes the common characteristics of Vatican II summed up in three concepts — *aggiornamento*, the development of doctrine and *ressourcement*. The first idea, and the one associated most readily with Vatican II is *aggiornamento*, which can mean "updating" or "refreshing." It means something like what John XXIII meant when he said he wanted to "open the windows of the Church and let some fresh air in." It's what he talked about in his opening address — not changing the Faith at all but refreshing it, updating it.

The other characteristic of Vatican II — the development of doctrine — is an idea associated with the work of St. John Henry Newman, who is in a sense one of the intellectual fathers of Vatican II. He wasn't present at the Council. He had been dead for 70 years by the time it began. One of the most famous modern converts to Catholicism — from the Church of England — he was a great theologian and man of letters. His book, "An Essay on the Development of Christian Doctrine," which he wrote while still in the process of converting to Catholicism, made a simple but profound observation about the Christian faith. And that is — although there is the deposit of faith, revealed truth from Scripture and the Holy Spirit — the articulation of the faith develops over time. Now this idea for many was and remains controversial. Fundamentalists, of course, hate it. Many Eastern Orthodox theologians don't much care for it either. But Newman's point was basically this: Christian doctrine is sharpened, better articulated, and is expressed more clearly as it needs to be over time. Take, for example, the dogma of the Trinity. We believe that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. However, that dogma wasn't fully articulated until 381. Why? Because, as Newman pointed out, there wasn't any reason to articulate it fully until a fight broke out about it. The Church articulated definitively the full divinity of Christ only when Arius started causing trouble by questioning it. And after Nicaea, people were questioning the divinity of the Holy Spirit — they were called pneumatomachians, meaning "Spirit-fighters" — forcing the Church to articulate more clearly her belief in the Holy Spirit. And so, as history progresses, doctrine is better articulated. That's what Newman

meant by "development," and it was an idea fundamental to Vatican II.

The last concept intrinsic to council, *ressourcement*, came about from around the turn of the 20th century, among theologians mainly in France who started doing theology in a new way. This new way — associated with Jesuits like Henri de Lubac and Gaston Fessard and Dominicans such as Marie-Dominique Chenu and Yves Congar — came to be called *nouvelle théologie*. But it was a way of doing theology that really wasn't new at all; it was just different for its time. Sarah Shortall's book, "Soldiers of God in a Secular World," tells the story of this important theological movement. Neo-Scholasticism dominated theology in the 19th and early 20th centuries, and that was theology done propositionally, so to speak. That is, one defined terms and logically placed one's propositions in logical order. The theologians of this *nouvelle théologie*, however, were committed to *ressourcement*, which simply means "return to the sources." To understand the deposit of the faith and to articulate it theologically, these theologians went back to Scripture and to the early Fathers of the Church. Essentially, their method was this: If you want to know something about the Eucharist — for instance, transubstantiation — how should you study it? Well, you begin with the sources, with the Eucharist as it's treated in Scripture. Then you explore what the early theologians believed and taught; then study the eucharistic controversies of the 10th century, and so on. By that method, exploring the sources of the Christian faith, a person can better understand what the Church means when it uses the word "transubstantiation." And that's better than simply taking a word and defining it in unhistorical abstraction — like "transubstantiation is X." You see the difference? *Ressourcement* is a return to the sources that better helps us understand how ideas took shape within history. And it was a new way of doing theology in the first half of the 20th century, and one which shaped not just Vatican II but the whole of modern Catholicism.

NEXT EDITION: WHAT WE BELIEVE: PART 16

The Biggest Meeting in the World

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 15: The Characteristics of Vatican II" by Fr. Whitfield is from *simplycatholic.com*, copyright © Our Sunday Visitor; all rights reserved, no other use of this material is authorized.



HIS EXCELLENCY

Most Reverend Edward M. Rice, D.D.

By the Grace of God and the Authority of the Apostolic See
BISHOP OF SPRINGFIELD-CAPE GIRARDEAU

DECREE

The Reinstatement of the Distribution of the Precious Blood to the Faithful

My Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
During the COVID crisis, as an act of caution, the reception of the Precious Blood was suspended in the Diocese of Springfield - Cape Girardeau. Some two years later COVID has become part of our new normal and we have discovered that we can continue to live our lives. As such, after consultation with the Presbyteral Council on March 20, 2023, all parishes will once again offer Holy Communion under both species.

The Precious Blood of Christ is to be administered to the faithful at Sunday Masses (and the Vigil Mass) and weekday Masses, if weekday Mass has been the practice in the past. The reception of the Precious Blood on Sundays and the Vigil Mass will commence on ***Divine Mercy Sunday, April 16, 2023***. I ask all pastors to please train Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion appropriately and to implement the Precious Blood on that date. Those who desire to receive Holy Communion on the tongue do not have to wait till the end of the line. Of course, those who are still concerned about the transmission of germs can choose not to receive the Blood of Christ. Hand sanitizing is still recommended.

The theology of the Catholic Church is clear—Christ is fully present in each species whether we receive one or both. Additionally, "So that the fullness of the sign may be made more clearly evident to the faithful in the course of the eucharistic banquet, lay members of Christ's faithful, too, are admitted to communion under both kinds, and the cases set forth in the liturgical books..." (*Redemptionis Sacramentum*, 100).

The Eucharist must always be administered to the faithful with dignity, reverence, and grace. Please prepare Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and make announcements from the pulpit to prepare the people for receiving Holy Communion under both species. "May our adoration never cease."

Given at the Curia of the Diocese of Springfield Cape-Girardeau, on this twenty-third day of March, in the year of our Lord, two thousand twenty-three. ©TM



2023 CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE OF SOUTHWEST MISSOURI—Over 400 men attended the 4th Annual Catholic Men's Conference of Southwest Missouri in Springfield Catholic High School on Sat., Feb. 25. Bishop Edward Rice began the day by offering Mass, Adoration, and an impassioned message about the under appreciated value of the Eucharist, highlighting the present National Eucharistic Revival.

(Photos by Matthew Henderson/The Mirror)

CONFERENCE UNITES MEN TO CHRIST & EACH OTHER

By Matthew Henderson

Springfield

More than 400 men gathered on Sat., Feb. 25, for the 4th annual Catholic Men's Conference in the gymnasium of Springfield Catholic High School. The grassroots effort is designed to build holiness and community at a personal and parish level.

THE EUCHARIST: AN EXCITING ENCOUNTER WITH CHRIST

In light of the National Eucharistic Revival, Bishop Edward M. Rice began the day by offering Mass, Adoration, and an impassioned message about the underappreciated value of the Eucharist.

"How could anybody say they are bored when they go to Mass?" he said. "Because it's not about the music. It's not about the homily. It's not about any of that stuff. At the altar is the passion, the death, and the resurrection of Christ. How could anyone, if they truly understood the Mass, walk away and say 'that was boring?'"

Deacon Kevin Carroll of Immaculate Conception Parish, Springfield, also spoke of Eucharist miracles that help bolster devotion to the real presence of Christ.

"Gentlemen, this is the source and summit of our faith. It should define who we are," Deacon Carroll said. "Christ willed to bring himself in union with every one of us so he could be a part of every joy and every trial in our lives. Knowing that should give us strength and encouragement."

The Mass unites us with Christ and one another, Bishop Rice explained. Due to the eternal nature of the Mass, he said, we are united to Catholics of every generation as well as the entire population of Heaven.

"The same Mass that was offered in the catacombs, that's the same Mass that is celebrated here today," he said. "The priest is never alone when he celebrates the Mass. It is only due to our limited ability to comprehend that we don't see the angels cry out, 'Holy, holy, holy!'"

PRAYER & HOLINESS KEY TO EVANGELISM

Keynote speaker Matthew Leonard challenged every man to work toward sainthood—which can sound daunting. But he noted Christ's encouragement: "For human beings, this is impossible, but for God, all things are possible."

"Saints are game changers," Leonard said, mentioning the decline in society's moral culture, "and the game is in need of change."

By living a life of extreme holiness, Leonard

explained, we will fulfill our evangelistic goals both at home and throughout the diocese.

He encouraged men to grow in holiness by building a personal relationship with God through a commitment to consistent prayer.

"Prayer is like a ladder you climb to get closer to God," Leonard said.

Leonard—who is a convert to Catholicism and the son of an Evangelical pastor—taught about three traditional types of prayer: vocal, meditative, and contemplative.

"Holiness is the bonfire that draws people in from the cold, dark night of sin," he said. "Want your kids to come back to the faith? Get holy! ... When you do, you become a magnet. They want what you've got, and they will come to you. That's how conversion happens."

FOCUS ON SMALL GROUPS

This year's men's conference also delivered a special focus on grassroots community building.

"Life is a team sport," Leonard said, referencing social isolation which often hurts men. "We need each other. Too many of us think we can do this alone and we can't. We [can] [need] help."

Leonard joined conference organizers in encouraging attendees to meet regularly with other Catholic men to provide each other with encouragement, shared knowledge, and accountability.

Men had the chance to practice open, honest dialogue with pre-written discussion questions during a lunchtime break-out session. After lunch, some men even volunteered to hold one of these "small



KEYNOTE—Matthew Leonard was the keynote speaker for the 2023 Catholic Men's Conference held Feb. 25 at Springfield Catholic High School. He encouraged participants to be saints, game changers in society. (Photos by Matthew Henderson/The Mirror)



WHO IS MATTHEW LEONARD?

A Catholic author, speaker, filmmaker, and Founder of the Science of Sainthood (scienceofsainthood.com), an Online platform where he helps Catholics radically transform their spiritual lives and grow toward sainthood.

He has a Podcast titled, "The Art of Catholic" (<https://matthewsleonard.com/podcast/>) and it's quite possible you'll hear him on one of the many radio and television interviews done regularly on outlets such as EWTN, Relevant Radio, CBS, the Covenant Network, and SiriusXM, to name a few.

group” faith-sharing meetings in front of the entire audience to demonstrate the concept. During the unscripted session, five men from various demographics and backgrounds spoke candidly about their hopes and struggles as Catholic men.

The goal of this year’s conference is that all attendees begin meeting weekly with a small group of like-minded men to form sincere, trusted, and faithful friendships. Meetings can follow a structured “small group” program such as those provided by authors like Leonard. Men could also develop their own activities such as Scripture study, group prayer, or simply discussing daily life through the lens of faith.

“I know everybody here is struggling with some kind of issue,” Leonard said, “and what you don’t realize is the guy next to you is probably dealing with something very similar.”

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2024

The Catholic Men’s Conference of Southwest Missouri is organized by a group of lay volunteers, with the help of diocesan staff, and is completely funded by donations.

Attendance at the annual event grew at a faster rate this year, due largely to the recruitment of volunteers at the parish level called “champions.”

“We provide them with marketing materials, fliers,



SMALL GROUPS—Men from the parishes of St. Agnes, Immaculate Conception, and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton “demonstrated” how to have a small group faith discussion during the 2023 Catholic Men’s Conference held Feb. 25 at Springfield Catholic High School. The group discussed how men need to have honest, vulnerable discussions. Too many men claim to be “fine” or “good” all the time. They also talked about their struggles as Catholic husbands and their efforts to be more holy. (Photos by Matthew Henderson/The Mirror)

pulpit talk scripts, and other opportunities to tell parishioners about the men’s conference,” explained MC Craig Henley. “And they did a fantastic job, because last year we had about 360 men registered and this year we had near 450.”

Feedback collected from this year’s attendees was very positive, with men expressing how they felt energized and renewed. “Overall, this was the best conference so far!” one man said, and another added, “I

think it’s getting better each time.”

Leonard, who speaks at many events throughout the year, also offered his feedback. “You guys ran one of the smoothest conferences I’ve seen. Keep doing what you’re doing.”

The next conference will be Sat., Feb. 24, 2024. To learn more and to make a financial gift, visit www.CatholicConference.men. ©TM

Human composting, alkaline hydrolysis not acceptable for burial, say U.S. bishops

By Gina Christian, OSV News

Two new alternatives to burial and cremation fail to comply with the Catholic Church’s teaching on respect for the bodies of the dead, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Doctrine said.

In a March 23 statement, the committee said it had evaluated human composting and alkaline hydrolysis, and concluded that both “fail to satisfy the Church’s requirements for proper respect for the bodies of the dead.”

The methods, which rapidly accelerate decomposition, have gained support in recent years as “eco-friendly” forms of treating human remains.

In human composting, the body of the departed is placed in a metal bin with plant material to enable microbes and bacteria, along with heat and oxygen, to break down bones and tissues. The resulting mixture is then offered for lawn or garden use.

Alkaline hydrolysis dissolves the body in some 100 gallons of water and alkali under high temperature and pressure. Within hours, the body

is dissolved, except for some bone material which is then dried and pulverized.

Unlike flame-based cremation, which uses intense heat to reduce human remains to ashes, human composting and alkaline hydrolysis do not “show adequate respect for the human body, nor express hope in the resurrection,” said the bishops in the seven-page document that accompanied their statement.

Burial is “the most fitting way to express faith and hope in the resurrection of the body,” wrote the bishops, quoting the 2016 instruction “*Ad resurgendum cum Christo*: regarding the burial of the deceased and the conservation of the ashes in the case of cremation” by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. The congregation is now the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith.

According to the 2016 instruction, flame-based cremation is permissible, so long as the ashes are gathered and laid to rest in a sacred place, rather than being stored at home, distributed among loved ones, encased in jewelry, or scattered broadly.

In contrast, both human composting and alkaline hydrolysis

leave nothing that could be properly interred, said the US bishops.

Following alkaline hydrolysis, “there are about 100 gallons of liquid into which the greater part of the body has been dissolved, and this liquid has been treated as wastewater,” they wrote. “At the end of the human composting process (there is) ... nothing distinguishably left of the body to be laid to rest in a sacred place.”

Currently, six US states—California, Colorado, New York, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington—permit human composting. The Maryland Senate is currently considering similar legislation.

Katrina Spade, founder and CEO of Seattle-based Recompose, the self-described “first human composting company in the world,” said in a 2021 video interview that “you’re not human anymore at the end of this process.”

Alkaline hydrolysis is legal in several states as well, with the



COMPOST—A file photo shows a person holding compost in a garden. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ doctrine committee issued a March 23, 2023, statement declaring two new methods for disposing of bodily remains, alkaline hydrolysis and human composting, “fail to satisfy the Church’s requirements for proper respect for the bodies of the dead.” (OSV News photo/courtesy University of Dayton)

Cremation Association of North America having expanded its definition of cremation in 2010 to include the method, which also is known as “water” or “chemical cremation.” ©OSV News



EUCCHARISTIC MIRACLES of the WORLD

The Very Rev.
Shoby Chettyyath, V.G.



EUCCHARISTIC MIRACLE of Fiecht Austria, 1310

During the national three-year Eucharistic Revival, The Very Rev. Shoby Chettyyath, V.G., the diocesan Vicar General, will write a series of articles exploring the various Eucharistic Miracles of the World. A companion for readers in this series is, "The Eucharistic Miracles of the World," an international exhibition designed and created by Blessed Carlo Acutis, the Servant of God. All rights reserved; used with permission. More information may be found at <http://www.miracolieucaaristici.org/en/liste/list.html>.

Over the centuries at several times, the Real Presence has been doubted by priests. So don't be hard on yourself if that has happened in your own life to any degree: know that our Holy God will give you ways to strengthen your faith and not leave you an orphan of the Truth. First, have faith and trust in Jesus, as the Saints have done, and he will give you the grace to see his hand in the Miracles that are happening every day. The Catholic Church teaches a dogma called "transubstantiation," which the *Catechism* explains: "By the consecration of the bread and wine there takes place a change of the whole substance of the bread into the substance of the body of Christ our Lord and of the whole substance of the wine into the substance of his blood" (CCC 1376).

This means that while the appearances of bread and wine remain, through the power of God the substance is changed completely to the body and blood of Christ. It is a teaching based on Scripture and tradition and since Apostolic times, it has remained unchanged in its essence.

Near the side altar of the monastery

church, there is a documentary tablet that says: "In the year of grace 1310, under Abbot Rupert, a priest was celebrating Holy Mass in this church dedicated to the holy martyr George and the holy apostle, James. After consecrating the wine, he was seized with a doubt as to whether the Blood of Christ was really present under the species of wine. Suddenly, the wine changed into red blood that began to boil in the chalice and it overflowed. The abbot and his monks, who happened to be in the choir, plus the numerous pilgrims who were present at the celebration, approached the altar and realized what had happened. The priest, terrified, was unable to drink all the Holy Blood, and so the abbot placed the remainder in a vessel in the tabernacle of the main altar, near the cloth with which the chalice was wiped. As soon as news of this miraculous event began to spread, more and more pilgrims began to arrive to adore the Sacred Blood. So great was the number of the devotees of the Holy Blood, that in 1472, Bishop Georg von Brixen sent the abbot of Wilten, Joahannes Lösch, and the pastors, Sigmund Thaur and Kaspar of Absam, to better study the phenomenon. As a result of this investigation, the adoration of the Blessed Blood was encouraged and the miracle was declared authentic.

"Among the devotees were important Church personalities, like John, Bishop of Trieste; George, Bishop of Brixen; Rupert, Archbishop of Cologne and Duke of Bavaria; and Frederick, Bishop of Chiemsee." A second documentary tablet recounts how the relic of the Holy Blood helped preserve the Catholic faith during the

Protestant schism:

"When in 1593, the teachings of Luther were spreading everywhere in Tyrol, the monks of St. Georgenberg were asked to preach the faith everywhere. Abbot Michael Geisser was preaching with great success before a large crowd in the parish church of Schwaz and did not hesitate to recall the holy miracle of the Blood as proof of the existence of the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. He was disputing in such a convincing way that the adversaries were obliged to leave the scene. This total victory against the false teaching was regarded by the believers as a special grace the Lord was granting His faithful, the adorers of the Precious Blood." (http://www.therealpresence.org/eucharst/mir/english_pdf/Fiecht.pdf)

Jesus revealed the reason when he instituted the Eucharist: "This is my body ... This is my blood."

Paul makes the same point: "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?" (1

Corinthians 10:16).

Consequently, "Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord" (11:27), and "anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body, eats and drinks judgment upon himself" (11:29).

As these passages make clear, the Eucharist is Jesus himself. He is both the source of the Christian life and the summit toward which we each journey.

Jesus comes to us physically because of his great love for us. Anyone who loves, wants to be physically close to the one who is loved,

but it is sometimes impossible. It is not impossible for God. Divine power changes bread and wine into the real body and blood of Christ, and he dwells physically on earth in every tabernacle, and comes physically into us in Holy Communion. ©TM

The Very Rev. Shoby Chettyyath, 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 info, go to <http://www.miracolieucaaristici.org/en/liste/list.html>.



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



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



A painting depicting the miracle



NDRHS Dodson a 2023 Missouri Scholars 100

Cape Girardeau, MO



Notre Dame Regional High School senior William Dodson has been selected for the 2023 Missouri Scholars 100. The Missouri Scholars 100 is a statewide program that honors 100 of Missouri's top academic students in the graduating class of 2023. Students will be recognized at a luncheon at the Holiday Inn Executive Center in Columbia, MO, on Sun., April 30, 2023.

The Missouri Scholars 100 is a

program sponsored by the Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals. Schools across Missouri nominated candidates for this statewide recognition. The selection is based primarily on a formula using the student's grade point average and ACT or SAT score. Each student nominated had to first meet the criteria of an "Academic Decathlon," which included 10 "events" designed to ensure the student's academic strength. The student must have a minimum GPA of 3.750, a minimum

ACT score of 29, or a minimum SAT score of 1,280, be ranked in the top 10 percent of the class and take high-level courses in mathematics, science, English, and foreign language. The student must also have excellent attendance, be an exemplary school citizen, and be involved in the school activity program.

The 2023 program is the 29th Annual Missouri Scholars 100 recognition. For additional information on the program, contact MoASSP at (573) 445-5071. ©TM

National Eucharistic Revival aims to form disciples on mission with new Easter series

Washington (OSV News)

The National Eucharistic Revival announced it will release what it called the “first-of-its-kind” mystagogy series of weekly catechetical reflections throughout the Easter season to “invite all Catholics deeper into the mysteries of Christ by reflecting on the truth, goodness and beauty of the Mass,” a news release on the series said.

“Mystagogy” is an intentional deepening of a disciple of Jesus Christ’s understanding of the faith following the reception of the sacraments. The term also refers to the period between Easter and Pentecost, following a new Catholic’s reception into the church at the Easter Vigil, where he or she reflects more deeply on the sacraments and this new life of following Christ.

The new series, titled “Beautiful Light: A Paschal Mystagogy,” is being offered through the Heart of the Revival Newsletter, a weekly publication of the National Eucharistic Revival, which was established in June 2022 to provide resources to reaffirm and deepen the Eucharistic faith of Catholics across the country.

It begins April 13, the Thursday before Divine Mercy Sunday, and runs through May 25, which is the Thursday before Pentecost.

Seven prominent Catholics are writing articles for the series: Archbishop Charles C. Thompson of Indianapolis; Sr. Maria Miguel Wright of the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist; biblical scholar and author Jeff Cavins; Abp. J. Peter Sartain of Seattle; Canadian priest and author Fr. Harrison Ayre; Kately Javier,

coordinator for Adult Formation and Hispanic catechesis for the Washington Archdiocese; and Abp. Timothy P. Broglio of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, who is president of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

The newsletter (accessed at eucharisticrevival.org/heart-of-the-revival-newsletter) offers various resources, videos, stories, and reflections from voices in every corner of the church. It also is a channel to communicate events, special announcements, and highlights from grassroots developments throughout the United States in support of the National Eucharistic Revival.

“Whether you are just joining the church at Easter Vigil this year or have been Catholic your entire life, this series is for you,” said Sr. Alicia Torres, a Franciscan of the Eucharist of Chicago, who is a National Eucharistic Revival executive team member.

“Each and every one of us is not a static being—we grow and develop. So, too, does our faith,” she said in a March 20 statement announcing the new series.

“At every age and stage of life, Jesus invites us to discover the joy of friendship with him. For Catholics, this happens in a most special way during Mass— ‘the source and summit of the Christian life,’” Sr. Torres said. “Many of us haven’t had the chance to really explore the beauty and mystery God invites us into at Mass. That is the goal of ‘Beautiful Light’: to give every Catholic a chance to go deeper this Easter season.”

Mystery of Christ

Often associated with the Order (formerly Rite) of Christian Initiation for Adults, or OCIA, “mystagogy” comes from the Greek word meaning “to lead through the mysteries.”

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* describes mystagogy as a “liturgical catechesis that aims to initiate people into the mystery of Christ” (CCC 1075).

In a Feb. 14, 2019, address Pope Francis said, “Mystagogy: this is a suitable way to enter the mystery of the liturgy, in the living encounter with the crucified and risen Lord. Mystagogy means discovering the new life we have received in the people of God through the Sacraments, and continually rediscovering the beauty of renewing it.”

“The National Eucharistic Revival involves an intentional effort to both



MAKE THE TRIP—The 10th National Eucharistic Congress, the first on US soil in 83 years, will take place in Indianapolis, IN, on **July 17-21, 2024**.

Individuals, families, and parish groups may register to attend. Registration pricing to attend the congress varies by the number of passes purchased. Note: Hotel, food, and transportation are an additional cost. The Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau will reserve buses to help with transportation to Indianapolis and information on bus transportation will be sent out to parishes as soon as those buses are contracted. For more information and to reserve your spot, go to <https://www.eucharisticcongress.org/>. (The Mirror)

mystagogy series provides a special opportunity to link our Catholic faith in the Eucharist with the daily lived experience of Christian witness and service to others.”

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis is the host of the upcoming 2024 National Eucharistic Congress, the culmination of the three-year National Eucharistic Revival. ©OSV News



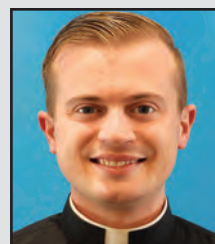
To access “Beautiful Light: A Paschal Mystagogy,” subscribe to the Heart of the Revival Newsletter, <https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/heart-of-the-revival-newsletter>.

Bishop announces three pastoral appointments

In a letter dated March 2, 2023, Bp. Edward M. Rice appointed **The Very Rev. Allan Saunders** as Parish Administrator of St. Denis Parish, in Benton, and St. Lawrence Parish, in New Hamburg, in addition to his current assignment as Pastor of St. Mary of the Annunciation Cathedral in Cape Girardeau and Old St. Vincent Chapel of Ease, Cape Girardeau. This appointment was **effective March 13, 2023**. **Fr. Daniel Belken** has been appointed as Sacramental Priest of St. Denis Parish, Benton, and St. Lawrence Parish, New Hamburg, effective **March 13, 2023**. Fr. Belken will reside at the rectory of St. Denis Parish.



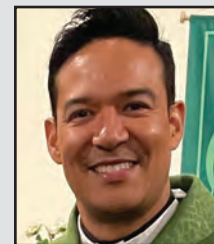
THE VERY REV. SAUNDERS



FR. BELKEN

PAROCHIAL VICAR ASSIGNED TO NEOSHO-NOEL

In a letter dated Jan. 5, 2023, Bishop Edward M. Rice appointed **Fr. Audrey Troya** Parochial Vicar (Associate Pastor) of St. Canera Parish, Neosho, and Nativity of Our Lord Mission Church in Noel, effective **Jan. 13, 2023**, assisting Pastor Fr. Charles (“Chaz”) Dunn.



FR. TROYA

PAROCHIAL VICAR ASSIGNED TO LEOPOLD

In a letter dated Dec. 20, 2022, Bp. Edward M. Rice appointed **Fr. Mathukutty Chacko Naduchirayil, VC**, as Parochial Vicar (Associate Pastor) of St. John Parish, Leopold, assisting the pastor, Fr. Antoney Thekkanath, VC. Fr. Naduchirayil’s appointment was effective **Jan. 11, 2023**. ©TM



FR. NADUCHIRAYIL

WHAT ARE THE Three Holy Oils?

By D.D. Emmons

The Church makes use of three holy oils: the oil of the sick, the oil of the catechumens and the holy chrism oil. The first two are blessed, and the bishop consecrates the third, ordinarily during the annual Chrism Mass. Each has a distinctive purpose in the Church.

OIL OF THE SICK

The oil of the sick, which is pure olive oil, is used for the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. While ideally celebrated with the community during the Mass for the anointing of the sick, this sacrament can be administered any time and in any place. The priest lays hands on the sick or elderly person, says special prayers and anoints the person by placing oil in the form of a cross on the forehead and hands.

Through this sacrament, God gives the sick person grace and strength to bear the illness or infirmity. In addition, many Catholics have witnessed the power of this anointing to bring spiritual, emotional and even physical healing.

OIL OF THE CATECHUMENS

Both adults and infants prior to baptism are anointed with the oil of the catechumens, which is also pure olive oil. For adults, this pre-baptismal anointing often takes place during a special initiation ceremony when the person begins to prepare for the Sacrament of Baptism. At the beginning of the process known as the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA), each person preparing for

initiation is anointed with the oil of the catechumens.

This rite most often takes place during Mass, prior to holy Communion. The priest or deacon anoints the catechumens. Then he prays that God will instill them with wisdom for discernment and with the strength necessary to avoid evil during their inquiry into the Catholic faith and their preparation for a life with Christ.

In a similar way, an infant is anointed just before receiving the waters of baptism. This anointing is to help the child ward off evil, avoid temptation and possess the faith necessary to carry the cross of Christ throughout life.

HOLY CHRISM OIL

The third oil, holy chrism oil, is olive oil mixed with balsam. The oil symbolizes strength, and the fragrant balsam represents the "aroma of Christ" (2 Cor 2:15). Anointing with chrism oil signifies the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is used to consecrate someone or something to God's service.

Each year we witness the use of the holy chrism when young people are confirmed, and at the Easter Vigil when adults are confirmed after baptism. The bishop traces the Sign of the Cross with chrism oil on the forehead of the one being confirmed and says, "[Name], be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Chrism oil is also part of the baptismal rite. Following an infant's baptism with water and before he receives the white garment, the cross with chrism oil is traced on the crown of the child's head, marking him as a Christian. Anointing on the head is also

Chrism Mass



Monday, April 3 at 7:00 pm
St. Agnes Cathedral
Springfield

Tuesday, April 4 at 7:00 pm
St. Mary Cathedral
Cape Girardeau

Join Bishop Edward M. Rice and priests from the diocese for the annual Chrism Mass and blessing of the sacred oils.



administered at the baptism of an adult if the person does not immediately receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Holy chrism oil is used as well during the ordination of a priest (the Sacrament of Holy Orders) and the consecration of a bishop. It is the anointing used in the consecration of a church and the blessing of an altar and the vessels used at Mass.

THE CHRISM MASS

Each year the local bishop blesses enough new oils for every parish during the Chrism Mass. The holy oils are then transported to individual parishes, where they are available for use during that year. Though the bishop cannot be physically present at every baptism or confirmation in his diocese, he can be symbolically present through the holy oils he blesses.

After the Liturgy of the Word, the blessing of the oils takes place. In a formal procession, olive oil is brought forward in special urns; the oil of the sick is presented first, next the oil of the catechumens, and finally oil for the holy chrism. The bishop prays over and blesses each oil individually.

The ritual for creating and consecrating the holy chrism is different from the others. To make it, the bishop mixes oil from the balsam plant with the olive oil, breathes on the mixed oil to signify the presence of the Holy Spirit, and then says a prayer to consecrate it.

Once blessed in this way, the chrism and the other oils are no longer ordinary ointments. Instead, they are a holy, precious gift from God to the Church, signifying cleansing and strengthening, healing and comfort, and the life-giving grace of the Holy Spirit. ©Simply Catholic



FEATURING
Donna Cori,
Guest Speaker

Once a professional singer/songwriter for years in NY's secular market, now a Lay Carmelite, Donna only creates music for God. Heard on EWTN and Catholic media, Donna shares her passion that prayer is the most important thing we can do this side of eternity.

A Catholic Women's Weekend of Prayer

Keeping a Mary Spirit Throughout a Martha Day

Saturday May 6, 2023
and Sunday May 7, 2023

St. Mary's Catholic Church
3035 S. Central City Rd., Joplin, MO 64804

REGISTER EARLY!
\$30 Early Bird by 4/9
\$40 through 4/21



For questions or registration form, contact Patty Wheeler at wheelerretired@gmail.com or Mary Karstetter at karstetter.mary15@gmail.com

Pope confirms ‘Vos estis lux mundi’ procedures against abuse

Pope Francis promulgates an updated version of the Church’s norms to prevent and counter sexual abuse against minors and vulnerable adults, harmonizing various legislative reforms introduced since 2019 and extending the norms to cover lay leaders of international associations of the faithful recognized by the Holy See.

Vatican News

Following nearly four years of experimentation and extensive consultation with bishops and the Dicastries of the Roman Curia, Pope Francis has definitively promulgated procedures to prevent and counter sexual abuse within the Catholic Church.

The updated version of the motu proprio *Vos estis lux mundi* was published on Saturday, and enters into force on 30 April. It replaces the previous version published in May 2019, and confirms the Church’s desire to continue to combat crimes of sexual abuse.

Leaders of lay associations

The most significant change introduced in the new version of the normative text concerns the provisions in “Title II” which lay out the responsibilities of bishops, religious superiors, and clerics in charge of a particular Church or Prelature.

The updated text specifies that “the lay faithful who are or have been moderators of international associations of the faithful recognized or created by the Apostolic See [are responsible] for acts committed” while they were in office.

Various other modifications were

introduced to harmonize the procedural text against abuse with other normative reforms introduced between 2019 and the present. These include the revision of the motu proprio *Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela* (norms amended in 2021), changes made to Book VI of the Code of Canon Law (2021 reform), and the new Constitution on the Roman Curia *Praedicate Evangelium* (promulgated in 2022).

Vulnerable adults and abuse reporting

One notable modification regards the inclusion of “vulnerable” adults in the normative text.

The previous version referred to “sexual acts with a minor or a vulnerable person”. However, the updated text speaks of “a crime against the Sixth Commandment of the Decalogue committed with a minor, or with a person who habitually has an imperfect use of reason, or with a vulnerable adult.”

Another change concerns the protection of the person who submits a report of alleged abuse.

Whereas the earlier text stated that no constraint of silence may be imposed on the person who reports alleged abuse, this protection has now been extended to “the person who claims to have been offended and those who were



Getty illustration by Nattawun

witnesses.”

Additionally, the text strengthens calls to safeguard “the legitimate protection of the good name and privacy of all persons involved,” as well as the presumption of innocence for those who are under investigation during the period in which determinations of responsibility are underway.

The updated version of *Vos estis lux mundi* also specifies that dioceses and eparchies must operate an “organisation or office” (the earlier version spoke in general about a “stable system”) which

is easily accessible to the public in order to receive reports of cases of abuse.

It also clarifies that the task of proceeding with the investigation lies under the responsibility of the bishop or Ordinary of the place where the reported events allegedly took place.

Abuse of authority

The procedures introduced in 2019 set out precise guidelines on how to deal with reports of abuse and ensure that bishops and religious superiors—who now including lay people with responsibility for international associations—are held accountable and are obliged through a universally-established legal precept to report abuse of which they have become aware.

The document includes, and continues to include, not only abuse and violence against children and vulnerable adults, but also covers sexual violence and harassment resulting from the abuse of authority.

Therefore, the obligation to report also includes cases of violence against religious women by clerics, as well as cases of harassment of adult seminarians or novices. ©Vatican News

2023 DIOCESAN DEVELOPMENT FUND

One Bread. One Body. One Church.

DDF SUNDAY
MAY 7, 2023

SAVE THE DATE

2023 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL for Funding Church Ministries

WWW.DIOSCG.ORG



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD-CAPE GIRARDEAU
@DIOSCG

Mercy Named One of Fortune Magazine's Most Innovative Companies for 2023

By Mardi Taylor

Springfield

Mercy's heritage of innovating to improve patient care has been recognized by *Fortune* magazine, which named Mercy to its list of America's Most Innovative Companies 2023.

"Innovation is part of our DNA. The Sisters of Mercy were always looking to offer better patient care and make access to health care easier, and we continue to blaze that trail," said Steve Mackin, Mercy's president and chief executive officer. "Mercy was the first in the world to open a virtual care center in 2015, after being among the first in the US to stand up an integrated electronic health record that made it easier for patients and providers to track health information across facilities and state lines. In the past year, we have added TUG robots to assist staff with some tasks to lighten caregivers' workloads and allow them more time at the bedside with patients and worked with Mayo Clinic to identify life-threatening diseases earlier.

"As technology changes, we will use the very latest tools for our patients and co-workers," Mackin continued. "This may mean connecting a doctor with a patient who is a thousand miles away or giving nurses the flexibility to sign up for an extra shift with a click of a button. We are honored to be recognized for our ongoing commitment to innovation."

Fortune magazine and Statista Inc., a world-leading statistics portal and industry ranking provider, selected America's Most Innovative Companies

2023 based on product innovation, process innovation, and innovation culture, with experts in various fields and more than 25,000 members of the workforce participating nationwide. For the evaluation of the innovation culture and the internal view of process innovation, Statista deployed Online surveys where employees could score their own company on a scale system.

In 2022 alone, Mercy has embraced high-tech changes that have put it at the forefront of modern health care. Here are some of the newest innovations at Mercy:

- **Mayo Clinic collaboration**—uses data science to pinpoint diseases earlier and transform health care to a more proactive, preventative and wellness care focused model.
- **Mercy Works on Demand**—a first-of-its-kind platform that allows nurses to pick up extra shifts when available.
- **Mercy Hospital @ Home**—an innovative approach gives select patients the option to receive care from the comfort of home with in-person and virtual support.
- **MCED testing**—a new blood test pinpoints more than 50 different types of cancer earlier than ever before.
- **TUG robots**—robots assist staff with linen, meal and other deliveries for patients.
- **PCORI collaboration**—initiative speeds patient access to improved care.

"Our intentional investments in technology architecture and integration,

along with data standards, governance, and science, have positioned Mercy to rapidly deploy artificial intelligence, machine learning, natural language processing and automation to bring technology and data directly to the bedside," said Joe Kelly, executive vice president, transformation and business development officer. "We are already seeing its impact today, and it will quickly become a force multiplier for how we deliver care, positively affecting all those we are privileged to serve. I am deeply excited about what's happening now and what is still to come."

The *Fortune* award comes on the heels of Mercy receiving NRC Health's Excellence in Patient Experience Award in 2022 as a top large health system in the country. In addition, Mercy was recognized as one of the nation's "Most Wired" for the 19th time by the College of Healthcare Information Management Executives, and named one of the best

hospitals and surgery centers for billing ethics by The Leapfrog Group and Money magazine. ©TM

Mercy is a highly integrated, multi-state health care system including more than 40 acute care, managed and specialty (heart, children's, orthopedic and rehab) hospitals, convenient and urgent care locations, imaging centers and pharmacies. Mercy has 900 physician practices and outpatient facilities, 4,000 Mercy Clinic physicians and advanced practitioners, and more than 40,000 co-workers serving patients and families across Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma. Mercy also has clinics, outpatient services and outreach ministries in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas.



Pictured is a TUG robot, which Mercy Springfield hopes to have by late Spring of this year. The idea is to free up staff from routine deliveries so that they may better focus on patient care. Mercy has been recognized by *Fortune* magazine as one of America's Most Innovative Companies 2023 (Photo courtesy of Mercy)



DRURY HOTELS

The Extras Aren't Extra!

Free Hot Breakfast • Free 5:30 Kickback®
Free Wifi • 100% Satisfaction Guaranteed

Over 140 Hotels in 21 States!

DruryHotels.com | 1-800-DRURYINN

Divine Mercy Sunday: April 16, 2023



Divine Mercy painting by Eugeniusz Kazimirowski, 1934, Public Domain

Divine Mercy Sunday is the First Sunday after Easter and parishes within the diocese will be holding Divine Mercy Holy Hour and the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

The following parishes will be celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday on Sunday, April 16:

OLD ST. VINCENT CHAPEL OF EAST, CAPE GIRARDEAU

Corner of William & Main Streets

2:00 PM - Confessions & Adoration

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM - Divine Mercy Holy Hour

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH, JACKSON

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM - Divine Mercy Holy Hour

with Adoration, including the Chaplet and Confessions, closing with Benediction.

Jesus appeared to St. Faustina in a vision, with his right hand raised in a blessing and his left touching his garment above his heart. Red and white rays emanate from his heart, symbolizing the blood and water that was poured out for our

salvation and our sanctification. The Lord requested that "Jesus, I trust in You" be inscribed under his image. Jesus asked that his image be painted and venerated throughout the world: "I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish" (Diary, no. 48) and "By means of this image I will grant many graces to souls" (Diary, no. 742). On May 5, 2000, five days after the canonization of St. Faustina, the Vatican decreed that the Second Sunday of Easter would henceforth be known as Divine Mercy Sunday.

The Chaplet was also given to St. Faustina with this promise: "Encourage souls to say the chaplet which I have given you" (Diary, no. 1541). "Whoever will recite it will receive great mercy at the hour of death. ... Even if there were a sinner most hardened, if he were to recite this chaplet only once, he would receive grace from My infinite mercy. I desire that the whole world know My infinite mercy" (Diary, no. 687).

For more information about Divine Mercy Sunday and the Divine Mercy Chaplet, visit the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops site at:

<https://www.usccb.org/prolife/divine-mercy/sunday#notes>

<https://www.usccb.org/prayers/chaplet-divine-mercy>

If your parish is having a service, please feel free to share that with us. ©TM

CONGRATULATIONS to these Missouri State Beta Convention awards in ST. TERESA SCHOOL

Glennonville, MO

Junior Beta Club students from St. Teresa Catholic School recently returned from the Missouri Junior Beta Club State Convention, held March 1 & 2, in Branson. Junior Beta Club is for youth in grades 4-8, promoting the ideals of academic achievement, character, service, and leadership.

“Our tiny school walked away with 37 state titles,” said Kimberly Lynn, Principal, “including our Beta Sponsor Gwen Olinger receiving the highest honor: The John W. Harris Educator of Excellence Award!”

Only 55 teachers received that honor nationally!

The National Junior Beta Club is an honor organization that recognizes outstanding academic achievement, promotes strong moral character and social responsibility, encourages service to others, fosters leadership skills, and provides settings for you to develop strong interpersonal skills. The Beta Club motto is, “Let Us Lead By Serving Others.”

OUTLINE OF AWARDS

Campaign Skit: 2nd Place, 4th and 5th Grade

Elementary Book Battle: 5th Place, Brody Moore, Aiden DesPres, and Cooper Olinger

Elementary Robotics Showcase: 3rd Place, Ella Hogan, Chase Simpson, and Jonas Heiser

4th Grade Science: 2nd Place, Broody Moore

5th Grade Science: 4th Place, Jace Thompson

Elementary Sculpture: 5th Place, Aiden DesPres

Elementary Spelling Bee: 3rd Place, Aiden DesPres

Elementary Fiber Arts: 5th Place, Rylee Anderson

Elementary Quilling: 5th Place, Ella Hogan

Elementary Jewelry: 5th Place, Ella Hogan

Elementary Mixed Media: 2nd Place, Ava Collins

Elementary Recycled Art: 4th Place, Axel Lynn

Elementary Painting: 4th Place, Axel Lynn

Elementary On-site Drawing: 5th Place, Axel Lynn

Elementary Speech: 2nd Place, Aiden DesPres

Elementary Musicology: 2nd Place, Ava Collins, Josie Middleton, Eve Clark, Kelsey Kerperien

Elementary Performing Arts Duo: Champion, Aiden DesPres and Eve Clark

Elementary Apparel: 4th Place, Ella Hogan

Elementary 2-Dimensional Design: 3rd Place, Josie Middleton and Kelsey Kerperien

Elementary Trading Pin: 4th Place, Josie Middleton

Elementary Songfest, Champion, Jace Thompson, Josie Middleton, Eve Clark, Kelsey Kerperien, Ava Collins, Aaron Judd, and Rylee Anderson

6th Grade Math: 5th Place, Susannah Wheeler

6th Grade Spanish: 4th Place, Anna Peters

6th Grade Science: 3rd Place, Breanna Craft

7th Grade Science: 4th Place, Kendell Bader

8th Grade Language Arts: 5th Place, Karley Kerperien

Junior Speech: 5th Place, Kendell Bader

Junior Book Battle: 5th Place, Karley Kerperien, Rita Joy Wheeler, and Katen Swims

Junior Pottery: 2nd Place, Gabby Middleton

Junior Marketing & Communication: 5th Place, Karley Kerperien, James Olinger, Rita Joy Wheeler

Junior Spelling Bee: 5th Place, Collin Thompson

Junior Portfolio: 4th Place, Anna Peters and Gabby Middleton

Junior Performing Arts Duo: 3rd Place, Katen Swims and Rita Joy Wheeler

Junior Technology: 5th Place, Gabby Middleton and Keagan Aarlie

Junior Service Learning: 2nd Place, Rhett Carr, Drew Weidenbenner, and Annabelle Olinger

Junior Songfest: 2nd Place, Karley Kerperien, Susannah Wheeler, Annabelle Olinger, and Rita Joy Wheeler. ©TM



AWARD RECIPIENTS—A group photo was taken March 1 & 2 of the Junior Beta Club award recipients from St. Teresa Catholic School, Glennonville. Students garnered 37 state titles, including Beta Sponsor Gwen Olinger (front right) who was one of 55 nationwide to receive the highest honor: The John W. Harris Educator of Excellence Award. Congratulations to these youth and sponsors! (Submitted photo)




Protecting God's Children®
For Adults

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

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

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

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

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

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



To Protect and Heal

THE DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD-CAPE GIRARDEAU and its Affiliates promote a zero-tolerance policy regarding sexual misconduct and are committed to creating and maintaining a safe environment for all of God's people, one that is free from any form of sexual misconduct, which is antithetical to the teachings of the Catholic Church.



HOW WE PROTECT AND HEAL

Foster and maintain an atmosphere of trust and safety in its ministry to all minors and adults. We have a responsibility to provide a safe environment and actively protect minors and adults from all forms of abuse and are expected to uphold and maintain the highest standard of professional, ministerial, and moral behavior. Committed to this effort, the diocese pledges to work toward healing and reconciliation for those who have been injured and harmed physically, sexually, emotionally, and spiritually through the sexual misconduct by clergy and any other diocesan personnel.

CREATING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Zero tolerance of any behavior of a sexual nature that occurs between diocesan personnel and a minor or an adult. This includes: sexual abuse, enticement, exploitation, and any other such behavior, or the appearance of any such behavior, whether in-person, verbal, written, or through the use of technology or other media, that is defined by and contrary to the moral teachings, doctrines, and Canon Law of the Catholic Church; and/or unlawful as described by local, state, and federal laws.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Diocesan personnel who regularly engage in activities involving minors or vulnerable adults are required to attend and complete the designated safe environment training. Clergy, employees, catechetical leaders, and other volunteers may be required to read monthly training bulletins, and/or complete other relevant training when assigned and/or requested by their supervisor or by the diocese. Diocesan personnel are required to annually review The Code of Conduct for Clergy, Employees and Adult Volunteers as part of their ongoing training.

BACKGROUND SCREENING

All diocesan personnel over the age of 18 must complete, sign, and submit Background Disclosure and Authorization. The diocese will conduct a national and local criminal background screening of all diocesan personnel. Random and periodic rescreening will be conducted on all diocesan personnel. Thorough reference checks should also be conducted for potential diocesan personnel.

TO REPORT ABUSE, MISCONDUCT, OR CONCERN:

- ▶ **Any known or suspected ABUSE OR NEGLECT OF A MINOR must first be immediately reported to the Missouri Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline at 800-392-3738.**
- ▶ **Any known or suspected ABUSE OR NEGLECT OF AN ADULT must first be immediately reported to the Missouri Adult Abuse and Neglect Hotline at 800-392-0210.**
- ▶ **In situations of immediate danger, call 911.**

All diocesan personnel, including clergy, seminarians, consecrated religious, diocesan, parish and school employees and adult volunteers, must first immediately report any known or suspected abuse or sexual misconduct to the appropriate civil authorities in accordance with state and federal laws, the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People," and the diocesan Safe Environment Policy and Procedures.

Diocesan personnel are required to also report violations of The Code of Conduct for Clergy, Employees and Adult Volunteers of the Diocese, Parishes and Schools to the Director of the Office of Child and Youth Protection at childandyouthprotection@dioscg.org or (417) 866-0841, or through the TIPS Online reporting system, which is available on the diocesan Website www.dioscg.org.

Violations involving the Bishop should be reported to the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting System at 800-276-1562 or <https://reportbishopabuse.org/>.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

DIOCESE of SPRINGFIELD-CAPE GIRARDEAU

Office of Child and Youth Protection

