



## Bike4Vocations: Pedaling to Find the missing priests and nuns



**Pedaling through Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau**

Bike4Vocations will be in St. Mary Cathedral, Cape Girardeau, with Bp. Edward Rice, The Very Rev. Allan Saunders, and parishioners, on May 7-8. For more information, check out the photo cutline below.

**BIKE4VOCATIONS**—What began in April in St. Augustine, FL, until July will take the Greenwells through 13 states and 22 dioceses, to bring awareness to the need for vocations in the Church. Fern will bike about 4,000 miles—50-90 day—stopping at parishes, holy sites, convents, and monasteries along the way, including the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. Fern and Geoffrey will be joining Bishop Edward Rice and The Very Rev. Allan Saunders, pastor, in St. Mary Cathedral, Cape Girardeau, on **Sun., May 7**, for Adoration 11:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., closing with Benediction; Bishop Rice will hold his “Meet me at the Grotto” Rosary at 6:30 p.m., Sunday evening. On **Mon., May 8**, there will be 8 a.m. Mass with students of St. Mary Cathedral Catholic School. The Greenwells will spend about 20 minutes in church with the school kids after Mass. You can stay tuned to their blog at <https://bike4vocations.org/vocations/> or contact the Greenwells by Emailing [info@bike4vocations.org](mailto:info@bike4vocations.org). (Photo courtesy the Diocese of Tucson/The Greenwells)

By Carissa Krautscheid

**H**ave you ever wanted to bike across the United States? There are a surprising number of people who accomplish this feat, but most people do it for their own enjoyment or sense of accomplishment. But not Fern and Geoffrey Greenwell.

Over the 33 years of their marriage, Fern has wanted to bike across the United States. She and Geoffrey decided that 2023 was the year to do it.

“However, we felt that it was a bit self indulgent to just undertake the activity without some consecration or deeper objective,” Fern said. “Given the vocation crisis in the Church, we felt called to consecrate the bike trip across the US to raise awareness of the crisis. And it has really been an act of faith since then, a journey within a journey.”

The Bike4Vocations trek began in April in St. Augustine, FL.

“We will symbolically begin at the National Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche,” Fern said. “The site is where an old Spanish Mission was built and the site of the first Mass offered in North America in 1565.”

From April to July, Fern will bike about 4,000 miles from Florida, up through the Midwest, across Montana, and ending on the Oregon Coast. Meanwhile, Geoffrey will drive ahead in their RV to set up camp for the night, then bike back to join Fern for the remainder of the day’s trek. They expect the exposure to the elements will be more challenging than the

sheer distance.

“But this exposure may also be the most fruitful part of the journey,” said Geoffrey, “to be out there expending energy to constantly call our attention and prayers to the vocation crisis.”

Passing through 13 states and 22 dioceses, Fern will bike 50 to 90 miles each day, stopping at parishes, holy sites, convents, and monasteries along the way. The Greenwells have received the blessing and endorsement of dioceses along the route. Parishes and religious communities are organizing holy hours “where we will pray quietly for vocations and try to make people aware in a spiritual sense of the problem we face as a community of faithful regarding the real crisis we face in our Catholic Church. We are just pedaling and praying: a spiritual supplication through a physical offering.”

### A Stop Planned in The Diocese

Bike4Vocations will pedal through the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. Fern and Geoffrey will be joining Bishop Edward Rice and The Very Rev. Allan Saunders, pastor, in St. Mary Cathedral, Cape Girardeau, on Sun., May 7, for Adoration 11:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., closing with Benediction; Bishop Rice will hold his “Meet me at the Grotto” Rosary at 6:30 p.m., Sunday evening. On Mon., May 8, there will be 8 a.m. Mass with students of St. Mary Cathedral Catholic School. The Greenwells will spend about 20 minutes in church with the school kids after Mass.

“This bike ride across America will also focus on history and follow a trail of

explorers, missionaries, and converts,” the Greenwells said. “It is a discovery of the Catholic faith in America and how communities of faith contributed to the moral fiber of a nation. It is a pedaling pilgrimage looking for missing priests and nuns in our nation.”

By offering up their love for cycling to the Lord, the Greenwells are trusting that the Holy Spirit will work through their passions and pursuits to bring about the good of God’s people.

“We are remaining open and being holy opportunists,” said Geoffrey. “We are seeing how relationships develop and how ‘cause and effect’ will open doors. We have faith that there will be enough receptivity by others to create a widening space of awareness of this crisis. But it really is a lesson in cooperation with God.”

Working in public health and poverty statistics, Fern and Geoffrey have lived all over the world including in Texas, Washington DC, Romania, Rwanda, Switzerland, Moldova, and France. Fern’s parents retired to Tucson in the 1980s, so they were often visiting Arizona. Fern went through RCIA at San Xavier del Bac Mission in 1988 and the Greenwells were married at the Mission in 1990. The Greenwells moved to Arizona in 2017, and now live west of Tucson in Three Points, and are active in St. Mary of the Desert Mission Church there. They are also active at Santa Cruz Parish where Fern is a Third Order Discalced Carmelite.

As a statistician, Geoffrey understands what numbers to look for in statistics.





**COME, AND YOU WILL SEE**  
Bp. Edward M. Rice

# Our people are generous disciples

**A** blessed Easter Season to all of you! Now that Lent is over, have you gone back to your normal routine? With all the things that you might have given up, such as television or media or sweets, have you now binged on all of those things to make up for those 40 days? How about having an extraordinary Easter Season? Why not continue one of your Lenten practices throughout the 50 days of the Easter season? Are you able to go to an extra Mass during the week? Can you keep the TV off and pray the rosary as a family? Is there some way that you can mark these 50 days of Easter as a special time to grow in your faith?

As much as we try to make Lent special through prayer, fasting and charity, can we not come up with some Easter activities as well?

During Lent I read the passion narratives in Matthew, Mark and Luke. How about reading the resurrection narratives in the Gospels? How about Reading from the Acts of the Apostles and the beginnings of the early Church? During the seven weeks leading up to Pentecost (May 28), how about focusing on one of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit each week? We are Easter people! Let's not go back to the same old ways. Let's build on what we did during Lent, and carry it through the 50 days of Easter.

## SECOND COLLECTIONS

In a letter dated March 10, 2023, from the Office of National Collections in Washington, DC, I received a thank you for the many donations from our diocese for the national collections taken in the year 2022. First and foremost, \$78,302.79 was collected for the 2022 Retirement Fund for Religious. In a note from Sr. Stephanie Still, Executive Director for the Retirement Fund for Religious, was written, "We are very grateful to you and your parishioners for your generous support of our mission." This annual collection helps to support

nearly 30,000 elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests each year.

In addition to that amount, in 2022 you contributed \$53,392.48 to the Good Friday collection to support the Holy Land. Add to that \$44,725.42 for Central and Eastern Europe; \$16,578.19 for the Catholic Communications Campaign; \$44,054.12 for the Catholic Home Missions appeal; \$41,767.50 for the Church in Latin America; \$57,340.79 for Catholic Relief Services; and \$43,785.64 for the Charities of the Holy Father. If my math is correct, that comes to a total of \$326,554.55 donated last year to these various Catholic causes. That does not include your support to the local Diocesan Development Fund (DDF); the second collection each November for Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri; to your local Saint Vincent de Paul Society, or your personal donations to your local parish and other charitable organizations. Your generosity is overwhelming, and as the bishop of the diocese, I thank you.

Of course, when people are not happy with me or some other facet of parish or diocesan life, many immediately withdraw their financial support. I recently received a DDF card which said "no more contributions until you get a priest that cares about our church and our parish..." Another wrote, "we will not contribute this year because of a conflict with the parish council." Let me be very clear, money does not influence me. I'm a realist, I know we need money to sustain our mission and ministries, but that's about as far as it goes. Ultimately, people donate to the diocese or to their parish because they believe in our mission. We are "One Church, East to West, loving Jesus, serving Jesus, sharing Jesus." Throughout our diocese, all our parishes are trying to move from "maintenance to mission," focusing on holiness, intentional discipleship, and witnessing to the faith.

Yes, some of our priests speak with accents beyond our southern Missouri drawl. Yes, some of our priests may have a different skin color than perhaps do you. Yes, some of our priests might have a big learning curve when it comes to working in a parish in the Church of the United States. But let me say this: without those priests that have accents or different skin color, we would not be able to keep our parishes open. And, as I wrote to one parishioner, "instead of giving me the list of all the things you don't like about your priest, could you tell me what you're trying to do to help him?"

At the end of the day, we are all in this together. And if we focus only on our differences, we will find them. Rather, let's focus on our shared common humanity, our faith, our love of God and Neighbor, and you'll also discover a great many similarities! You either believe in the mission of the Church, and you support that mission, or you don't, and this mission is way more than personal or political agendas.

**O Sacrament Most Holy  
O Sacrament Divine, all praise and all  
Thanksgiving be every moment Thine.** ©TM



May 3-17, 2023

## PUBLIC CALENDAR

- WED., MAY 3**  
7 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Francis de Sales Parish, Lebanon
- THU., MAY 4**  
11:15 a.m. Staff Mass & Lunch to celebrate Administrative Professionals Day
- FRI., MAY 5**  
6 p.m. Jefferson City—Dedication of St. Joseph Cathedral; Pregnancy Care Center Annual Banquet, Springfield
- SUN., MAY 7**  
10:30 a.m. Mass at Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Branson  
6:30 p.m. 'Meet Me at the Grotto' Rosary, St. Mary Cathedral, Cape Girardeau
- MON., MAY 8**  
Bike4Vocations Mass & school visit, St. Mary Cathedral, Cape Girardeau
- TUE., MAY 9**  
'Meet Me at the Grotto' Rosary, Immaculate Conception Parish, Springfield
- WED., MAY 10**  
7 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation, Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Branson
- THU., MAY 11**  
7 p.m. All Staff Mass & Meeting, The Catholic Center, Springfield; Youth Adventure, Scouting and VFL awards
- FRI., MAY 12**  
7 p.m. Commencement & Mass, Springfield Catholic High School
- SAT., MAY 13**  
4 p.m. Mass, followed by 'Meet Me at the Grotto' Rosary— St Mary Parish, Pierce City
- SUN., MAY 14**  
2 p.m. Commencement & Mass, McAuley Catholic High School, Joplin
- MON., MAY 15**  
5:30 p.m. Mass, followed by 'Meet Me at the Grotto' Rosary, St. Agnes Cathedral, Springfield
- TUE., MAY 16**  
5:30 p.m. 'Meet Me at the Grotto' Rosary— St. John the Baptist, Licking
- WED., MAY 17**  
7 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Lawrence Parish, Monett

## Meet Me at the Grotto

Come pray the rosary with Bishop Edward Rice!

<b>Sun., May 7</b>	Cape Girardeau St. Mary Cathedral	6:30 pm
<b>Tue., May 9</b>	Springfield Immaculate Conception	6:30 pm
<b>Sat., May 13</b>	Pierce City St. Mary	5:00 pm
<b>Mon., May 15</b>	Springfield St. Agnes Cathedral	6:00 pm
<b>Tue., May 16</b>	Licking St. John the Baptist	5:30 pm
<b>Sun., May 21</b>	New Hamburg St. Lawrence	6:00 pm
<b>Mon., May 22</b>	Mountain View St. John Vianney	5:30 pm
<b>Sun., May 28</b>	Marshfield Holy Trinity	5:00 pm



**VEN Y VERÁS**

Obispo Edward M. Rice

# Nuestra gente son discípulos generosos

**¡U**n bendecido Tiempo Pascual para todos ustedes! Ahora que la Cuaresma ha terminado, ¿has vuelto a tu rutina normal? Con todas las cosas a las que podrías haber renunciado, como la televisión o los medios de comunicación o los dulces, ¿ahora te has tragado de todas esas cosas para compensar esos 40 días? ¿Qué te parece pasar una Pascua extraordinaria? ¿Por qué no continuar una de tus prácticas cuaresmales a lo largo de los 50 días del tiempo pascual? ¿Puedes ir a una Misa más durante la semana? ¿Puedes mantener la televisión apagada y rezar el rosario en familia? ¿Hay alguna forma de marcar estos 50 días de Pascua como un tiempo especial para crecer en tu fe?

Por mucho que tratemos de hacer especial la Cuaresma a través de la oración, el ayuno y la caridad, ¿no podemos imaginar algunas actividades de Pascua también?

Durante la Cuaresma leí los relatos de la pasión en Mateo, Marcos y Lucas. ¿Qué te parece leer los relatos de la resurrección en los Evangelios? ¿Qué te parece leer los Hechos de los Apóstoles y los comienzos de la Iglesia primitiva? Durante las siete semanas previas a Pentecostés (28 de mayo), ¿qué te parece centrarte cada semana en uno de los siete dones del Espíritu Santo? ¡Somos un pueblo de la Pascua! No volvamos a las mismas viejas maneras. Construyamos sobre lo que hicimos durante la Cuaresma, y llevémoslo a través de los 50 días de Pascua.

## SEGUNDAS COLECTAS

En una carta fechada el 10 de marzo

de 2023, de la Oficina de Colectas Nacionales de Washington, DC, recibí un agradecimiento por las numerosas donaciones de nuestra diócesis para las colectas nacionales del año 2022. En primer lugar, se recaudaron \$78,302.79 para el Fondo de Jubilación 2022 para Religiosos. En una nota de la Hna. Stephanie Still, directora ejecutiva del Fondo de Jubilación para Religiosos, estaba escrito: “Estamos muy agradecidos a usted y a tus feligreses por su generoso apoyo a nuestra misión”. Esta colecta anual ayuda a mantener cada año a cerca de 30,000 ancianos entre hermanas, hermanos y sacerdotes de órdenes religiosas.

Además de esa cantidad, en 2022 ustedes aportaron \$53,392.48 a la colecta del Viernes Santo para apoyar a Tierra Santa. Añadan a eso \$44,725.42 para Europa Central y Oriental; \$16,578.19 para la Campaña de Comunicaciones Católicas; \$44,054.12 para la campaña Misiones Católicas Domésticas; \$41,767.50 para la Iglesia en América Latina; \$57,340.79 para Catholic Relief Services (Servicios de Socorro Católicos); y \$43,785.64 para las obras de caridad del Santo Padre. Si mis cálculos son correctos, eso llega a un total de \$326,554.55 donados el año pasado a estas diversas causas católicas. Eso no incluye su apoyo al Fondo de Desarrollo Diocesano (DDF) local; la segunda colecta de cada mes de noviembre para Caridades Católicas del Sur de Missouri; a su Sociedad local de San Vicente de Paúl, o sus donaciones personales a su parroquia local y otras organizaciones caritativas. La generosidad de ustedes es abrumadora

y, como obispo de la diócesis, les doy las gracias.

Por supuesto, cuando la gente no está contenta conmigo o con alguna otra faceta de la vida parroquial o diocesana, muchos retiran inmediatamente su apoyo económico. Recientemente recibí una tarjeta del DDF que decía “no más contribuciones hasta que consigas un sacerdote que se preocupe por nuestra iglesia y nuestra parroquia...”. Otro escribió: “No contribuiremos este año debido a un conflicto con el consejo parroquial”. Permítanme ser muy claro, el dinero no me influye. Soy realista, sé que necesitamos dinero para mantener nuestra misión y nuestros ministerios, pero hasta ahí llegamos. En última instancia, la gente hace donativos a la diócesis o a su parroquia porque cree en nuestra misión. Somos “Una Iglesia, de Este a Oeste, amando, sirviendo y compartiendo a Jesús”. En toda nuestra diócesis, todas nuestras parroquias están intentando pasar del “mantenimiento a la misión”, centrándose en la santidad, el discipulado intencional y el testimonio de la fe.

Sí, algunos de nuestros sacerdotes hablan con acentos que van más allá de nuestro acento sureño de Missouri. Sí, algunos de nuestros sacerdotes pueden tener un color de piel diferente al de ustedes. Sí, algunos de nuestros sacerdotes pueden tener una gran curva de aprendizaje cuando se trata de trabajar en una parroquia de la Iglesia de Estados Unidos. Pero permítanme decir esto: sin esos sacerdotes que tienen acentos o un color de piel diferente, no podríamos mantener


abiertas nuestras parroquias. Y, como le escribí a un feligrés, “En lugar de darme la lista de todas las cosas que no te gustan de tu sacerdote, ¿podrías decirme qué estás tratando de hacer para ayudarlo?”.

Al final del día, todos estamos juntos en esto. Y si nos centramos solo en nuestras diferencias, las encontraremos. Más bien, centrémonos en nuestra humanidad común compartida, nuestra fe, nuestro amor por Dios y el prójimo, ¡y también descubrirás muchas similitudes! O crees en la misión de la Iglesia y apoyas esa misión, o no lo haces, y esta misión es mucho más que agendas personales o políticas.

**Oh Sacramento Santísimo, Oh Sacramento Divino, toda la alabanza y toda la acción de gracias sean en cada momento tuyos.** ©TM

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## 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.*

**December 23, 1988** During my visit to Immaculate Conception Parish in New Madrid last week, I spoke to the children about Our Lady of Guadalupe. I asked if anyone knew where Mexico was. One of the boys responded: "South of Texas." So I asked, "And where is Texas?" A second grader said confidently, "It's in Dallas!"

**January 6, 1988** I recently celebrated my fourth anniversary as bishop here in Springfield-Cape Girardeau. Children sent me personally drawn cards of congratulations. I enjoyed seeing the various creative shapes and forms not only of the bishop's staff

and mitre, but of the bishop, too. The cards were a delight; the messages were often original—for instance, "Happy Anniversary even though you're not married;" another, "Congratulations for being an important man in Missouri. My dad is a boss, too;" one other, "You are a good bishop, but your little red hat is weird."

**January 13, 1989** Whether taking a look at personal finances or the budget of our country, keep in mind the definition of "deficit:" What you have when you don't have as much as if you had nothing!

# National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church, offers Mass, events honoring mothers

Laurie, MO

**M**others and their loved ones are invited to enjoy the beauty of The National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church on Mother's Day, May 14. Mother's Day is a special event for the Mothers' Shrine—which honors the Blessed Mother, Mary, and all who love with a mother's love—whether as a mom within a family or as a spiritual mother.



A special Mass will be celebrated on May 14, at 3 p.m., at the outdoor altar, by Fr. John Schmitz, rector of the Mothers' Shrine. Following the Mass, the names of more than 60 new honorees for the Mothers' Wall of Life will be unveiled.

The Mothers' Wall of Life is a unique aspect of the Mothers' Shrine. The names of 5,000 women submitted from 44 states and four continents are engraved on a black granite wall on the grounds of the Mothers'

Shrine. Names are added twice a year; submissions are accepted year-round at [mothersshrine.com](http://mothersshrine.com). The next engraving of names will be this fall.

The National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church is nestled within the Ozark hills of Missouri on 60 acres in Laurie, MO. It is adjacent to St. Patrick Catholic Church, at 176 Marian Dr., in Laurie. Colloquially known as the "Mothers' Shrine," the Shrine is dedicated

to Mary, Mother of the Church, and features an awe-inspiring 14-foot stainless steel sculpture of Mary, with her arms outstretched to welcome all to her embrace. The platform holding the sculpture of Mary turns 360 degrees every four minutes to face all pilgrims as they enjoy the grounds. The sculpture is positioned among beautiful fountains which flow May through September.

For more information, please visit [mothersshrine.com](http://mothersshrine.com). ©TM

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## Saint Francis Xavier Parish honors its Class of 2023



(The Mirror)

**C**ongratulations to all of the high school graduating seniors of Saint Francis Xavier Parish on their hard work and achievements! On Sun., April 23, 2023, the upcoming graduates of St. Francis Xavier Parish participated in the Sunday 10:30 am liturgy by being part of the entrance processional and exit recessional; sitting together as a group, and as the gift bearers in preparation for the Holy Eucharist. After Mass, pictures were taken outside the church with Fr. Colby Elbert, pastor, prior to heading to the parish center for a brunch with their families. ©TM

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ZIP RZEPPA, EMCEE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Buffalo**—St. William Parish Council of Catholic Women will have its annual **Yard, Plant and Bake Sale** on Thu., May 4 and Fri., May 5, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. in the St. William church hall, located at 404 N. Locust St.

**Glennon**—St. Anthony Parish will hold its **Annual Spring Dinner**, Sun., May 7, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Kettle beef, dumplings, dressing, and all the trimmings, including drinks and dessert. Cost: Adults-\$14; children (ages 6-12)-\$8; age 5 and under-free.

**Kimberling City**—Our Lady of the Cove Catholic Church, located at 20 Kimberling Blvd., will have its **Spring Garage Sale**, Fri., May 12, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. and Sat., May 13, 8 a.m.-12-noon. Clothing, furniture, appliances, and much more, something for everyone! For more information, call the church office at (417) 739-4700.

**Leopold**—St. John Parish Council of Catholic Women will hold its **Annual 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. Clothing, toys, furniture, and much more. Items priced to sell! For more information, please contact Geri at (573) 208-6445.

**Marshfield**—The Parish Council of Catholic Women will hold its annual **Rummage Sale**, in Holy Trinity Catholic Church, located at 515 E. Washington St., on 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 charities including Vitae Foundation, Catholic Relief Services, Parish Youth Group, Catholic Charities, Camp Re-NEW-ALL, Missouri Right to Life, Webster County Victims Assistance Program, and St. Vincent de Paul Society.

**Sikeston**—St. Francis of Xavier 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.

**Springfield**—Springfield Area Perpetual Adoration, hosted at Holy Trinity 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.

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

### ▶ **Bike4vocations** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Their fervor for vocations took off after reviewing some staggering data about the reality of vocations in the United States:

- Since 1970, the number of vocations has decreased by 54%.
  - 34% of priests are considered inactive (retired or infirmed).
  - This leaves about 1,300 souls to which each active priest ministers.
  - Since 1970, consecrated women have dropped 78%.
- “There are about 16,000,000 Catholic men between the age of 18-40 in the US,” Geoffrey said. “Out of these, we propose that 0.5% or about 80,000 men have vocations to the priesthood. We are looking for the missing 80,000 priests. We estimate at least 210,000 missing vocations among women.

“Male/female ratios in census data across the world indicate that there are on average 0.5% more men than women in the 20-35 age group,” said Geoffrey. “This is a providential ratio that, if properly tended, represents a reserve of excess men that should be especially sensitive to the Holy Spirit calling and available for service in the Catholic Church.”

### **Pray For Vocations**

Fern and Geoffrey urge each of us to pray for vocations. They suggest this simple addition after your meal prayer: *“From this bounty, call our sons and daughters*

*to be gifts of grace offered to nourish the spiritual needs of Our Church, through Christ our Lord.”* The Greenwells believe this simple prayer would bring about more vocations. “God is that generous,” they said.

Though they’d been dreaming of this trek for decades, God’s timing is perfect. “The Church has been undergoing a period of reflection called Synodality. The metaphor is that we are journeying together as a Church,” Geoffrey said. “In this sense, this bike trip represents a personal opportunity to understand our Church in this spirit of synodality. Between Florida and Oregon is a continent of wonderful Catholic history and experience. Hopefully we may discover something about what a consecrated life means to different people.”

Fern and Geoffrey are taking a leap of faith, trusting the Lord to work through this 4,000-mile trek to cultivate and inspire men and women to serve the Lord with their whole hearts.

You are invited to follow Fern and Geoffrey on Twitter @canonlaw233.

“We selected that handle in reference to Canon Law 233 which states: *“The duty of fostering vocations rests with the entire Christian community so that the*

### ATTENTION: CATHOLIC MEN

You are invited to the Southeast Missouri...



## CATHOLIC MAN NIGHT

*Men Meeting Jesus*

Tuesday, May 9 | 6:30-9:00 pm

Guardian Angel Parish, Oran, MO

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

To help plan for food, please RSVP to [SEMOcatholicManNight@gmail.com](mailto:SEMOcatholicManNight@gmail.com) ‘SEMO Catholic Man Night’ on Facebook or text to 573-275-5214

*needs of the sacred ministry in the universal Church are provided for sufficiently. This duty especially binds Christian families, educators, and, in a special way, priests, particularly pastors.”*

You can stay tuned to their blog at <https://bike4vocations.org/vocations/> or contact Fern and Geoffrey by emailing [info@bike4vocations.org](mailto:info@bike4vocations.org). ©NO

*This article first appeared in the Diocese of Tucson’s New Outlook. It is reprinted with kind permission.*





## EUCCHARISTIC MIRACLES of the WORLD

The Very Rev.  
Shoby Chettyyath, V.G.



# EUCCHARISTIC MIRACLE OF Saint-André De La Réunion, Island Of La Réunion, 1902

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>.

It was Pope St. John Paul II who first used the phrase, "Eucharistic Face of Christ," which was previously unknown in the Church. He emphasized the importance of contemplation of the Face of Christ by stating: "And it is the Church's task to reflect the light of Christ in every historical period, to make His face shine also before the generations of the new millennium. Our witness, however, would be hopelessly inadequate if we ourselves had not first contemplated His face."

By dedicating the millennium to the Face of Christ, Pope St. John Paul II drew back the veil for us, so that like disciples on the road to Emmaus, who recognized Jesus in the "breaking of the bread," (Lk 24:30-32) we too, may seek, find, and adore His Face present and hidden in the Eucharist where we may gaze on Him freely in faith.

On Jan. 26, 1902, at the parish church of Saint-André, a city on the island of La Réunion (French colony), Abbot Henry Lacombe, pastor of the church, was witness to the miracle that he would recount to thousands of people during the Eucharistic Congress of Angouleme (1904), as well as to the group of priests gathered for a spiritual retreat in the town of Perigee. The face of Jesus appeared in the Host, which was

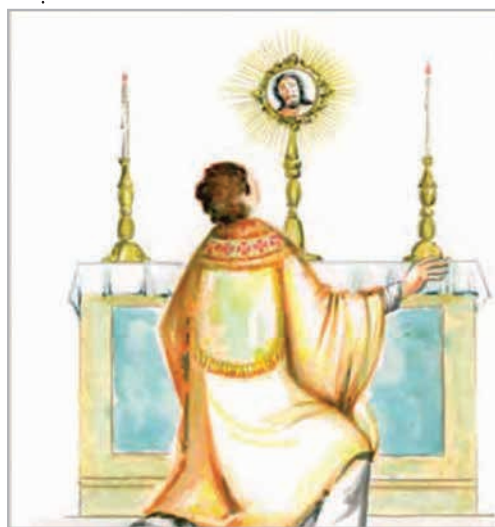
for many hours witnessed by thousands of people

Let's look at Abbot Lacombe's report: "It was January 26, 1902. We were celebrating perpetual adoration (the Forty hours). The Most Holy Sacrament was exposed in the tabernacle. I began to celebrate the Mass. After the elevation, at the moment of the Our Father, my eyes were lifted toward the Host, and I saw a bright halo around the rays of the monstrance. I continued to recite the prayers of the Mass, with great agitation in my soul but which I tried to overcome. We came to the moment for Communion and again I looked toward the monstrance. This time I saw a human face, with lowered eyes and a crown of thorns on the forehead. What moved me the most was the dolorous expression painted on the face. The eyelashes were long and thick. I tried not to let on to the presence of the turmoil agitating inside of me. After Mass, I went to the sacristy and summoned the older children from the choir to go to the altar and closely observe the monstrance.

The children raced back and told me: "Father, we see the head of a man in the Host. It is the good Lord revealing Himself! I understood then that the vision was authentic."

A young man of 16, Adam de Villiers, who had studied in a college in France, also arrived. I said to him as well: "Go in the church and see if you notice something strange in the tabernacle." The young student went to the sacristy and returned immediately, saying: "Father, it is the good Lord who appears in the Host, I see His divine face." Since then, all my doubts

disappeared. Slowly, the entire town went to the church to see the miracle. Journalists and people from the capital of Saint Denis also arrived. The face on the Host suddenly became animated and the crown of thorns disappeared.



I used every possible precaution, and fearing the effects from the rays of light, I had all the candles extinguished and the shutters closed. The phenomenon became even more clear. There was a young artist among the visitors who faithfully reproduced the face in the Host. Later, the vision changed again and a crucifix appeared which covered the entire Host from top to bottom. After the Eucharistic blessing and recital of the Tantum Ergo, the vision disappeared. ([http://www.miracolieucaaristici.org/en/liste/scheda.html?nat=isole\\_della\\_reunion&wh=saint-andre\\_de\\_la\\_reunion&ct=Saint-Andr%C3%A9%20de%20la%20R%C3%A9union,%201902](http://www.miracolieucaaristici.org/en/liste/scheda.html?nat=isole_della_reunion&wh=saint-andre_de_la_reunion&ct=Saint-Andr%C3%A9%20de%20la%20R%C3%A9union,%201902))

Many Catholics are unaware of the fact that this millennium was dedicated to the Face of Christ by Pope St. John Paul II. He lifted high before the Church the banner of the Holy Face of Jesus at

the dawn of the millennium. The Face of Christ was to be the standard for the faithful to follow in the spiritual battle that exists in the world between light and darkness.

Today, the Catholic Church




RÉUNION, ISLAND

continues to uphold Christ's words in the face of growing disbelief; sadly, even among its own members. But God, in his infinite wisdom and power, has seen fit to aid the Church in her efforts to uphold the truth of Jesus' divine presence in the Eucharist by occasionally performing signs and wonders through the Blessed Sacrament.

May the Lord bless and keep all of us; may He make His Face shine upon us and be merciful to us; may He turn His countenance toward us and grant us His PEACE!. ©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>.




**35<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY**


**CONGRATS!**

**Fr. Jose Thundathil  
Antoney, CMI**

Father Antoney will celebrate the 35th anniversary of his priesthood ordination on May 12. He serves at Sacred Heart Parish, Salem; Christ the King Mission Church, Bunker; and St. Jude Chapel of Ease, Montauk.

*Happy Anniversary,  
Father Antoney!*






**30<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY**

**CONGRATS!**

**Father David Coon**

Father Coon will celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his priesthood ordination on May 30. He serves at Sacred Heart Parish, Dexter; The Office of Worship & Liturgy as Priest Minister; Spiritual Deliverance & Exorcism ministry as a Priest Minister; Confraternity of Priest Adorers of the Eucharistic Face of Jesus.

*Happy Anniversary,  
Father Coon!*



# 'POWER UP TO LEAD:' BETA WEEK HELD AT GUARDIAN ANGEL SCHOOL

Oran, MO

**G**uardian Angel School celebrated Beta Week from April 17-21 with lots of activities and fun times. The week's theme was "Power Up to Lead". It was even more special since it was kindergarten week, too. The National Beta Club promotes the development of student leaders by striving for excellence in academics, service, character, and leadership!

### Monday's theme: 'Power Up to Serve'

Monday brought a dress down day and an extra recess for pre-k - 8th grade. Beta paid \$1 per student that dressed down and donated the money to our 4th quarter mission, LifeHouse of Cape Girardeau, of Catholic

Charities. Before school was dismissed, the 5th-8th grade (Beta Club) did a spring clean-up on the playground.

### 'Power Up to Read' was Tuesday's theme

The Beta members read to the younger students and practiced math with them. It was also a wild and crazy hat day after Mass time.

### Wednesday's theme: 'Power Up to Achieve'

Everyone could dress as a twin and/or have crazy hair. They also played bingo for some terrific prizes.



**CRAZY HAIR**—Several kindergarten students celebrated Wednesday of Beta Week in Guardian Angel Catholic School with crazy hair. Pictured in the Oran school were: (front) Mae Roper and Teagan King; (back) Lucas Luttrull, Sawyer Dirnberger, Jameson Levan, Case Taylor, Michael Weathers, and Layton Strobel. (Submitted photo)



**FAVORITE CHARACTER**—Guardian Angel Catholic School's Pre-K had lots of superheroes and princesses in the room on Friday of Beta Week in Oran, MO. Pictured were Tate Webb (Spider Man), Kallon Graviett (Power Ranger), Peyton Dirnberger (a princess), Caroline Eskew (Rapunzel), Clara Vetter (Spider Woman), Bryson Bahr (Spider Man), Tate Mitchem (Spider Man), Ivy Priggel (Owlette, from PJ Masks), Bryson Bowman (the masked man), Paxton Urhahn (Spider Man), Sadie Seyer (Batgirl), Tuck McClard (Batman), Caroline Kyle (Aurora, from Sleeping Beauty), and Carter Curry (Miss Ecosystem). (Submitted photo)

### 'Power Up to Motivate' was Thursday's theme

The students were encouraged to wear red, black, or white uniform polo shirts (school colors) to show their school pride. It was a no homework day and they had an extra recess. Those are pretty good motivation techniques.

### Friday's theme: 'Power Up to Work Hard'

The students and staff were encouraged to dress as a favorite superhero or a favorite character from a movie or book. The school was full of princesses, superheroes, and book characters. In the afternoon, they all enjoyed relay races. ©TM



**SUPER-HEROES**—The 5th grade girls enjoyed dressing up as their favorite superhero or book/movie character. Pictured were Guardian Angel School's Veronica Seyer (Strawberry Superhero), Harper Gadberry (Girl Black Panther), Kyla Rains (Dorothy of Wizard of Oz), and Ashtyn Pobst (Brace Girl). (Submitted photo)

DURING THIS EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL, FR. DAVID COON OFFERS THE FOLLOWING BRIEF REFLECTION FOR CLERGY AND PARISHES:

***"With humble spirit and contrite heart may we be accepted by You, O Lord, and may our sacrifice in Your sight this day be pleasing to You, Lord God"***

***—The Roman Missal***

As priests, we offer this prayer quietly at the conclusion of the Preparation of the Gifts. Because the Mass moves forward immediately without sufficient time to reflect on the spirit and depth of its words, I invite us to take it to personal prayer this month, from time to time.

Father Coon is Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Dexter. He serves the Diocese as Priest Minister for Spiritual Deliverance & Exorcism and the Confraternity of Priest Adorers of the Eucharistic Face of Jesus.

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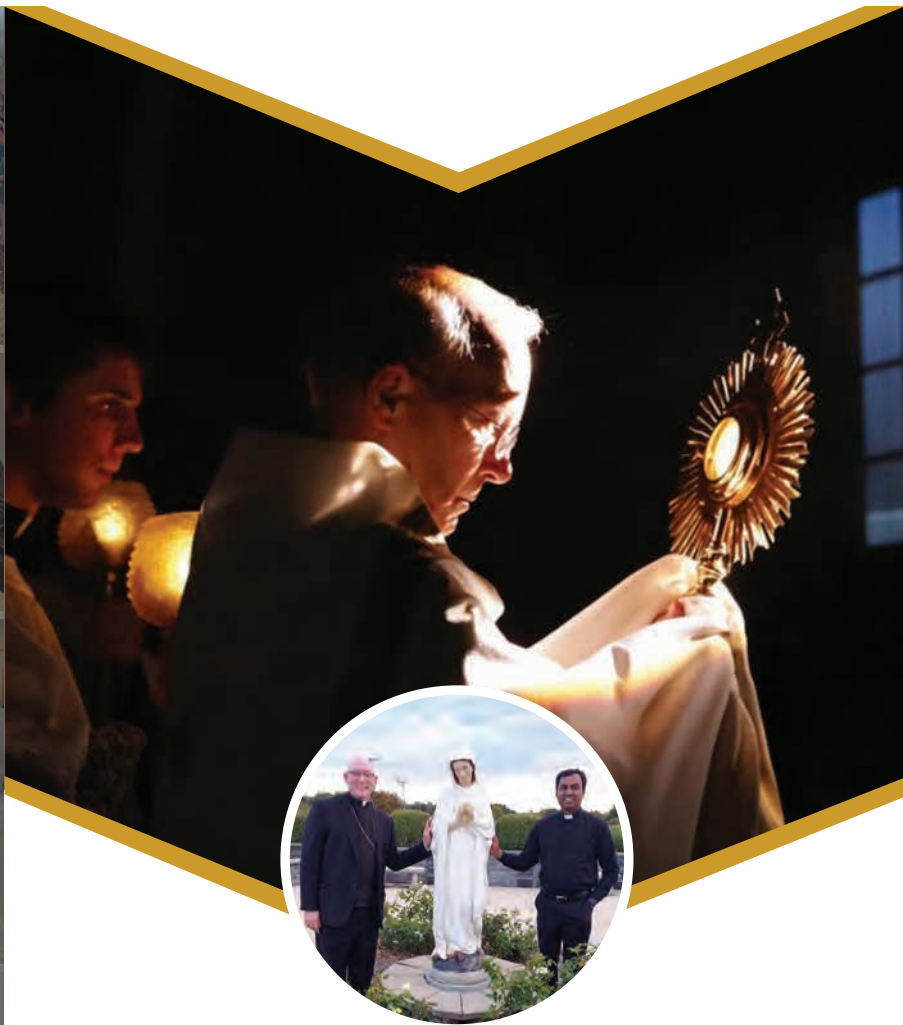
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- Adult Formation
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- Ministry with Hispanics
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- Permanent Deacon Formation
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- Ecumenism
- Health Affairs
- Respect Life

## 2023 DIOCESAN DEVELOPMENT FUND

# One Bread. One Body. One Church.

*"...By the Eucharistic celebration we already unite ourselves with the heavenly liturgy and anticipate eternal life, when God will be All in all" (CCC 1326).*

### 'One Bread. One Body. One Church.'

With these words of our 2023 theme, we express the unity of our diocese, rooted in the Eucharist and the Sacramental Life of the Church. During this time of Eucharistic Revival, I, like every other bishop, am privileged to gather with each one of you at the altar in our parishes and missions for the celebration of Holy Mass.

Each one of us is part of the Body of Christ. Each one of us has something to contribute. To quote from Pope Benedict XVI, "Each of us is necessary!" If someone is missing from Sunday Holy Mass, the Body of Christ is weaker. When we participate in Holy Mass, we are that much stronger.

As we begin our annual campaign, the Diocesan Development Fund, I invite you to participate with a financial donation. Some may think their contribution is too small and it won't make a difference. Some may simply rely upon others to donate and not bother. But, "Each of us is necessary!" Just as when we come to Mass, we are stronger: when we make a donation to DDF, regardless of the amount, we are made stronger and more impactful in the ways we evangelize and bring souls to Christ and his Church.

The culture of today has pretty much rejected Christianity and the Church oftentimes finds herself alone, even attacked, as she tries to proclaim the Gospel. Our task today is to fortify our efforts and strengthen our resolve as disciples: **together**. I thank you for your faith and dedication to your parish and community. Our priests are hard workers and while some of our parishes and missions are small, the size does not reflect the hearts and witness of our people. We do a lot despite being less than five percent of the general population!

The purpose of the Eucharistic Revival is to renew the Church by rekindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist. In 2023, we will look for better ways to reach out to those who don't know Christ, as well as those who are no longer with us at the Mass. Each one of us is necessary in this important work, just as each donation to DDF is necessary, too, no matter its amount.

**One Bread, One Body, One Church**, reflects who and what we are. I thank you for your vibrant witness to the faith and for your financial support so that we, our One Church, East to West, may carry on our mission of salvation and mercy.

**God bless you.**

*The Most Rev. Edward M. Rice  
Bishop of Springfield-Cape Girardeau*



**Please consider donating 1 percent of your income and becoming a member in the "Crosier Society."**



*Bishop Edward Rice*

### Online donations

For Online donations to DDF, simply go to **www.dioscg.org** and follow the prompts. Transactions are totally secure.

The DDF video is available for viewing on the diocesan Website before you consider your commitment at **www.dioscg.org**.



By  
Fr. Joshua  
J. Whitfield

## WHAT WE BELIEVE, PART 17:

# The Church: In Christ, Sign and Instrument

In exploring today the Catholic Church in its essence, the teaching of the Second Vatican Council occupies a central place. What did it say about the Church? To answer this question, we turn to the council's longest-debated document (having undergone three major revisions over three years), but arguably also its most beautiful and rich — the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, more commonly called *Lumen Gentium*.

The first thing the *Lumen Gentium* says, quite profoundly in its opening lines, is that the “Church is in Christ like a sacrament or as a sign and instrument” (LG 1). The Church, of course, is a visible reality, made so by its hierarchy and liturgy and so on. But is that all one can say about it? Is what's physically visible about the Church all there is? Right off the bat, the Church says, “No.” Rather, the Church is, biblically speaking, a mystery. The title of the constitution's first chapter is called *De Ecclesiae Mystero*, which is to say, as we see, that the Church is “like a sacrament or as a sign and instrument.” But what does that mean?

Without getting deep into the etymology of either the Greek word *mysterion* or the Latin word *sacramentum*, we can simply say that a sacrament is a sign that has some hidden reality about it. That is, a sacrament isn't just a sign, but always more. For me, thinking of it this way helps: a sacrament is a sign that participates in what it signifies. For example, a stop sign is just a normal sign that tells you to stop, but it doesn't participate in some sort of metaphysical thing called stopness. Because it's just a sign. Or, consider a picture of some sort — of the Mona Lisa

or of your best friend. Such pictures are signs that remind us of people or events, but they do not metaphysically participate in the objects they represent. A sacrament, however, is different. It's a



**Pope Paul VI** makes his way past bishops during a session of the Second Vatican Council in 1964. Vatican II, in its Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (“Lumen Gentium”) promulgated by Pope Paul VI on Nov. 21, 1964, presents succinctly the Church's teaching on the role of the laity in the church and in the world. (CNS file photo)

sign that participates in what it signifies. Consider the Eucharist. The consecrated bread and wine is a sign of the body and blood of Jesus, but it's a sign also participating in what it signifies. It is the body and blood of Jesus, we believe.

So, the Church is a sacrament; that is, it's a sign that participates in what it signifies. But a sign of what? It's a sign both of a “very closely knit union with God and of the unity of the whole human race,” as the opening sentences of *Lumen Gentium* make clear. As the Dominican theologian, Edward Schillebeekx (whose

theology in the 20th century did much to broaden our understanding of the sacramental), succinctly put it, “The earthly Church is the visible realization of this saving reality in history” (Christ

The Church is simply the sign of this twofold union.

But the Church is also an instrument of this twofold union; that is, the Church not only images divine and human unity, it is also its beginning; the Church inaugurates this union, participates in its creation. Which reveals the Church's purpose and mission: to “unfold more fully” to both the Church and the world “its own inner nature and universal mission,” which is this very twofold union of God and humanity (LG 1). The Church is the “universal sacrament of salvation,” *Lumen Gentium* teaches; that is, it's the enduring and definitive sign and instrument of salvation for all time and all peoples (LG 48). No mere human institution, the Church enjoys some of the transcending characteristics of the divine. It is and always will be present and relevant; and hell will never overcome it (Mt 16:18).

This, undoubtedly, is a high claim to make for the Church — that

it not only signifies but also shares in and brings about the redeeming communion of God and humanity. But the council makes it because of what we believe about the Church at its core. “Since it is in Christ,” the text says — in Christ. This, of course, is an idea fundamental to the New Testament, to Paul particularly. Believers in Christ, with faith and baptized, are *en Christo* or *en Kyrio* — that is, not only are they allied to Christ, they are grafted onto him, into his life, death and risen life. We're speaking here at the level of being, of mystical union. Paul spoke in this manner in many places, as in Colossians where he said, “it is Christ in you” and that “Christ is your life” (Col 1:27; 3:4);



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and most famously to the Galatians, saying, "I have been crucified with Christ; yet I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me" (Gal 2:19-20). This is how the Church can say that it's no mere human institution or social construct, because as a communion of believers in Christ, they are truly in Christ. And so, what belongs to Christ himself belongs mystically to the Church. Again, we should recall all that time spent at the beginning, exploring John 17. Referencing Jesus's glory, which he received from his Father and which he shared with the disciples (see Jn 17:22), is just another way to describe life in Christ. And it's the theological reality underneath our strong claims about the Church — that it's not just another organization but the vanguard of heaven.

Which is why, in the very next breath, *Lumen Gentium* locates its claim about the Church within the broader biblical story of God's creation and redemption. The Church is part of the eternal Father's "hidden plan" to raise his people up "to a participation of the divine life" (LG 1). Again, remember Jesus's prayer — "I wish that where I am they also may be, that they may be with me, that they may see my glory that you gave me, because you loved me before the foundation of the world" (Jn 17:24). By rehearsing the history of God's saving work, *Lumen Gentium* puts forward a very simple thesis: that the Father never left us to ourselves, but "ceaselessly offered helps to salvation" (LG 2). And, of course, it is Christ who, as "image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every

creature" is the perfection of God's saving help, given in the "fullness of time" (Col 1:15; Gal 4:4). This is what the Church is in Christ — the sign of this salvation, but more. Not just a sign, the Church is a sacrament — a mystical thing able truly to draw the faithful into the very reality it proclaims. That is, the Church not only preaches Christ, in that the Church believers also die and rise in Christ; they feed on Christ in the Church; they are saved in Christ in the Church.

Why does this matter? Because it suggests that if the Church is to be understood at all, it must be seen for what it fully is. Not just a political thing, a sociological thing, or an institutional thing, the Church is the continuation of God's work of redemption and is mystically part of the realities it proclaims. That is, it's a sign and instrument — a sacramental living thing bigger than all of us.

**NEXT EDITION:**

WHAT WE BELIEVE: PART 18

**The Church in the Spirit**

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 17: The Church: In Christ, Sign and Instrument" by Fr. Whitfield is from *simplycatholic.com*, copyright © Our Sunday Visitor; all rights reserved, no other use of this material is authorized.

**A GRATEFUL CHURCH**

celebrates and recognizes the following **ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES** in May:

**PRIESTS:**

- Rev. Paul Pudhota, May 06, **31 yrs.**
- Rev. Matthew Rehrauer, May 08, **31 yrs.**
- The Very Rev. Shoby Chettiyath, V.G., May 09, **17 yrs.**
- Rev. Jose Thundathil, CMI, May 12, **35 yrs.**
- Rev. Dominic Ibok, May 14, **16 yrs.**
- Rev. Suganthan 'Sugu' Selvin, HGN, May 15, **10 yrs.**
- Rev. Jarek Skrzypek, May 20, **19 yrs.**
- Rev. Patrick Wissman, May 22, **59 yrs.**
- Rev. Michael McDevitt, May 22, **52 yrs.**
- Rev. Lewis Hejna, May 24, **42 yrs.**
- The Very Rev. Daniel Robles, May 24, **22 yrs.**
- Rev. Simon Enudu, May 25, **10 yrs.**
- Rev. Joseph Stoverink, May 26, **6 yrs.**
- Msgr. Thomas Reidy, May 27, **56 yrs.**
- Rev. Jesse Hielt, May 27, **1 yr.**
- Rev. Nicholas Newton, May 27, **1 yr.**
- Rev. Charles Peirano, May 27, **1 yr.**
- Rev. David Baunach, May 28, **7 yrs.**
- Rev. Alexander Sutachan, May 28, **2 yrs.**
- Rev. Thomasz Wilk, OSPPE, May 28, **18 yrs.**
- Rev. John Hansen, SMP, Superior, May 30, **42 yrs.**
- Rev. David Dohogne, May 30, **31 yrs.**
- Rev. David Coon, May 30, **30 yrs.**

**DEACONS:**

- Deacon Kevin Carroll, May 10, **15 yrs.**
- Deacon Michael Evers, May 20, **6 yrs.**
- Deacon Daniel Vaughn, May 24, **9 yrs.**
- Deacon James Farrar, May 26, **5 yrs.**
- Deacon Mark Kiblinger, May 26, **5 yrs.**
- Deacon Alvin Stoverink, May 26, **5 yrs.**
- Deacon James Long, May 28, **18 yrs.**



**15<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

**CONGRATS!**

**Deacon Kevin Carroll**

Deacon Carroll will celebrate the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination to the permanent diaconate on May 10. He serves at at Immaculate Conception, Springfield.

*Happy Anniversary, Deacon Carroll!*

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# We're Hiring

Director of Development



Springfield Catholic Schools System is accepting applications for  
**Director of Development**

Springfield Catholic Schools System is made up of 3 elementary schools and 1 high school. Our mission is to prepare students, with God's help to spread the Kingdom of God and to contribute to the world as responsible Christian citizens by providing a caring family environment where the Catholic faith is taught and modeled in an atmosphere of academic excellence.

**General Description:** The Director of Development is responsible for the implementation of an ongoing comprehensive development program that will enhance the image of the Springfield Catholic School System, communicate the mission, objectives, and accomplishments of the school system, and obtain the financial and human support of the community.

**Requirements include:**

- Bachelor's degree
- VIRTUS certification (provided by Springfield Catholic Schools)
- Practicing Catholic



For more information, go to [SpringfieldCatholic.org!](http://SpringfieldCatholic.org)

## Kids' Connection! What Can We Learn This Month?

This month we celebrate the

World Day of

# Prayer for Vocations

APRIL 30



### What is it?

The World Day of Prayer for Vocations is the day that we join together to pray especially for **PRIESTS, DEACONS** and **RELIGIOUS SISTERS** and **BROTHERS** and their ministries and work for God.

### Pray it!

God our Father, we thank you for men and women who serve You as priests, deacons and religious men and women. Send your Holy Spirit to help us respond to your call. May we all support their work and ministries. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### Thank Them!

This is the perfect time to **WRITE A LETTER** to the priest or deacon at your church, or to a religious sister or brother! Thank them for giving their life to God and helping His people. You can also **THANK THEM IN PERSON** when you see them.

### Word Find

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 R E L I G I O U S A R C T F Z  
 Y E C Y V L B X S R D A J T T  
 V L T H O R Y N B C A E M D S  
 G Y B S O R O M L E I D X S R  
 E P W T I I D S V S N G O E X  
 N L H D T S B E Y N E U Y A K  
 O E N A Y R R O R O D A N E P  
 R R C X L C M N N C R C Q U V  
 Z O C L V J X K G P M O N K N  
 V L D E M M G M Z D C O A I Y  
 J G E A K H Y K K H E I X X W  
 P H N E Q V L D Z I P W F R Q



# 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

CONGRATULATIONS



**Fr. Suganthan 'Sugu' Selvin, HGN & Fr. Simon Enudu**

Fr. Selvin will celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his priesthood ordination on May 15. Fr. Selvin serves at St. Joseph Parish, Billings; and St. Susanne Parish, Mount Vernon.



*Happy Anniversary, Fr. Selvin!*

Fr. Enudu will celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his priesthood ordination on May 25. Fr. Enudu serves at St. William Parish, Buffalo; and Sacred Heart Parish, Conway.



*Happy Anniversary, Fr. Enudu!*

JOIN BISHOP RICE FOR

## Memorial Day Mass

Monday, May 29, 9:00 a.m. / Resurrection Cemetery

Memorial Day is a special day set aside to remember our dearly departed brothers and sisters, especially those who have died serving our country in the cause of freedom. Please join Bishop Rice for a Mass of Remembrance on **Mon., May 29, at 9 a.m. at Resurrection Cemetery**, located at **4528 W. Division St., Springfield**. Seating will be available under a large tent. Bishop Rice will bless the new columbarium and cross after Mass.



Refreshments will be provided by the Knights of Columbus.

# Alum named principal at St. Mary Catholic School

Joplin

Joplin Area Catholic Schools (JACS) welcomes Mary Landreth as the new principal of St. Mary Catholic Elementary and Preschool for the 2023-2024 school year, effective July 1, 2023.

"Mrs. Landreth's devout Catholic faith and her student-centered approach to education will be instrumental in maintaining the excellence of St. Mary's Elementary and Preschool," said Dr. Emily Yoakam, current principal of St. Peter Middle School and McAuley Catholic, and new Director of Schools for JACS. "We are confident that her leadership will positively impact the students, staff, and families of the St. Mary's community. We are excited to welcome her back to the Joplin Area Catholic Schools family."

Landreth is a legacy member of the Joplin Area Catholic Schools System, having attended St. Mary Elementary, St. Peter Middle School, and graduating from McAuley Catholic High School.



"Mary's educational foundation began at St. Mary's, and it is great to welcome her back home to where her faith roots were first cultivated," said The Very Rev. Joe Weidenbenner, pastor of St. Mary Catholic Church. "We are delighted to have Mary bring her knowledge and leadership to our elementary school families and staff."

Landreth received both her Bachelor of Science in Elementary and Special Education, as well as a Master of Science in Administration from Joplin's Missouri Southern State University. She began her teaching career in Webb City and received the Missouri Association of Colleges for Teacher Education Outstanding Beginning Teacher award in 2017, her first year as a teacher. Currently, she is a member of the Webb City School District where she serves as a special education teacher, head volleyball and assistant basketball coach at Webb City Junior High.

"I am excited for this new journey serving the students, faculty, staff, and families of St. Mary's

Elementary School," said Landreth. "As a graduate of the Joplin Area Catholic Schools, I have been blessed with this opportunity to serve a community that I hold so dear."

From 2016-2021 she served as camp director for the Diocese of Springfield Cape-Girardeau's Camp Re-NEW-All. She is a member of St. Peter the Apostle Parish.

### About Joplin Area Catholic Schools

Founded in 1885 by the Sisters of Mercy of St. Catherine McAuley, the Joplin Area Catholic Schools serves the greater Joplin community to educate Catholic and non-Catholic children from Early Learners (two-year-olds) through grade 12 at St. Mary Preschool and Elementary School, St. Peter Middle School, and McAuley Catholic High School. Joplin Area Catholic Schools provide an outstanding academic and Christ-centered educational foundation that forms its present students of today into remarkable servant-leaders of tomorrow. For more information or to inquire about enrollment, visit [www.JACSS.org](http://www.JACSS.org). ©TM



## FRIENDS GALA raises record-breaking funds for Saint Francis Foundation

Cape Girardeau

The seventh annual "Friends Gala" event was held Sat., March 4, at Drury Plaza Conference Center, and raised a record-breaking \$323,000-plus for Saint Francis Foundation.

"The money and resources we raise during the Friends Gala will provide hope and healing to thousands of cardiac and cancer patients undergoing treatment at Saint Francis over the coming year, helping them to regain optimal health after a major life event," said Stacy Huff, Executive Director of Saint Francis Foundation. "The needs in our community are tremendous, so the outpouring of support is deeply appreciated."

Contributions raised each year benefit the CancerCare and CardiacCare funds offered through Saint Francis Foundation. The CardiacCare fund provides assistance with cardiac rehabilitation and other necessary services and equipment for patients unable to afford them. The CancerCare fund helps cancer patients in need with nutritional supplements, medicine, transportation and lodging.



**SAINT FRANCIS FOUNDATION BENEFIT**—The seventh annual "Friends Gala" held March 7 raised a record-breaking amount for the Saint Francis Foundation of the Saint Francis Healthcare System in Cape Girardeau. Contributions each year benefit the CancerCare and CardiacCare funds offered through Saint Francis Foundation. The CardiacCare fund provides assistance with cardiac rehabilitation and other necessary services and equipment for patients unable to afford them. The CancerCare fund helps cancer patients in need with nutritional supplements, medicine, transportation, and lodging. (Submitted photos)

"Generous sponsors and volunteers make The Friends Gala possible, and we are truly humbled by their commitment and support," said Nicole Nguyen, Gala Chair. Additionally, Lindsay Bingaman, serves as The Friends President and shared Gala Co-Chair responsibilities with Christy Farrow.

For more information about The Friends of Saint Francis or to reserve a table for The 2024 Friends Gala, please call Nathan Gautier, (573) 331-3187 or visit [foundation.sfmc.net](http://foundation.sfmc.net). ©TM

**5<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**  
**CONGRATS!**

### Deacon Mark Kiblinger

Deacon Kiblinger will celebrate the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination to the permanent diaconate on May 26. He serves at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Cape Girardeau.



*Happy Anniversary, Deacon Kiblinger!*

### Deacon Alvin Stoverink

Deacon Stoverink will celebrate the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination to the permanent diaconate on May 26. He serves at Immaculate Conception Parish, Jackson.



*Happy Anniversary, Deacon Stoverink!*

### Deacon James Farrar

Deacon Farrar will celebrate the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination to the permanent diaconate on May 29. He serves at Sacred Heart Parish, Bolivar.



*Happy Anniversary, Deacon Farrar!*

# Begun by Franciscan Sr. Lorraine Biebel, The Kitchen celebrates 40th anniversary

Springfield

The Kitchen, Inc., celebrated its 40th Birthday on March 27, 2023, with an open house and anniversary ribbon-cutting at The O'Reilly Family Campus.



Located at 730 N Glenstone Ave, the O'Reilly Family Campus houses The Kitchen's Emergency Shelter and the Sam F. and June S. Hamra Family Support Services building.

On March 27, 1983, Sr. Lorraine Biebel, OSF, took \$50 and began serving meals to the homeless. That first meal was held in the St. Agnes Cathedral Catholic School cafeteria, and had 39 diners. In less than two months, Sr. Biebel and other volunteers were feeding over 200 people.

Sister Lorraine's legacy continues today as The Kitchen provides housing assistance and case management to over 600 people a year. The Kitchen provides basic needs and community services to an additional 700 youth through Rare Breed Youth Services. The Kitchen provides homeless services to families, individuals, youth, seniors, and Veterans through five programs: emergency shelter, community housing, Home at Last, Rare Breed Youth Services, and Affordable Housing Developments.

## About The Kitchen, Inc.

The Kitchen brings stability and purpose to people who are homeless. Dedicated staff, collaboration with community organizations, and community support allow us to end homelessness for families, individuals, youth, seniors, and Veterans. To learn more, visit [www.thekitcheninc.org](http://www.thekitcheninc.org). ©TM



**LEGACY TO HOMELESS BEGUN BY CATHOLIC NUN CONTINUES**—The Kitchen, Inc., CEO Meleah Spencer introduced Bishop Edward M. Rice during the 40th Anniversary open house and ribbon-cutting held March 27, 2023, in Springfield. The Kitchen began in 1983 in the cafeteria of St. Agnes Cathedral Catholic School, downtown Springfield, where Sr. Lorraine Biebel, OSF, began serving hot meals to the homeless. (Photo by Zayne and Grace Creative/The Kitchen)

## Totus Tuus

Summer Youth Program  
Inviting ALL Youth 1st-12th Grade

**REGISTER**

**HERE**

### What is Totus Tuus?

Totus Tuus ("Totally Yours") is a week long summer Catholic youth program dedicated to sharing the Gospel and promoting the Catholic Faith through evangelization, catechesis, Christian witness and Eucharistic worship. Totus Tuus is concerned not only with teaching the faith, but also igniting the hearts of young people! For more information visit [dioscg.org/youth-ministry/](http://dioscg.org/youth-ministry/)

### Dates & Locations

**June 11 – June 16, 2023:**  
Fredericktown & Portageville

**June 18 – June 23, 2023:**  
Carthage & New Hamburg

**June 25 – June 30, 2023:**  
Ozark & West Plains

**July 9 – July 14, 2023:**  
Aurora & Salem

**July 16 – July 21, 2023:**  
Neosho & Leopold

**July 23 – July 28, 2023:**  
Mountain Grove & Dexter

Celebrating

# 150 YEARS

Sun., May 7, from 1-3 p.m.

A Community Open House will be celebrated in St. Henry Catholic Church, Charleston, in commemoration of its 150th anniversary and completion of the interior renovation. Parishioners and people throughout the community are invited to see the work that has been done

St. Henry Catholic Church, 306 Court St, Charleston, MO 63834 | Refreshments will be served.



Register NOW for...

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

June 11-15, 2023 | 6-8:30 pm

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish (SEAS)  
Springfield, MO

Registration forms available on the SEAS website:

[www.seaschurch.org/vacation-bible-school](http://www.seaschurch.org/vacation-bible-school)

in the Gathering Area, OR call the Parish PSR  
Office: 417-887-6472, ext. 610



## Sacramental Marriage Preparation SEMINAR

SAT., MAY 13, 2023, 9 A.M.-4:30 P.M.

The Pallotti Center, located at The Catholic Center,  
601 S. Jefferson Ave., Springfield, MO 60806  
Lunch provided.

Couples civilly married, or where either one has been married before, seeking the Sacrament of Marriage within the Church, are invited to the upcoming day-long marriage seminar. Please remember that we only schedule these sessions after receiving the marriage prep form from the Priest and the \$25 program fee payable to the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. We encourage pastors and those walking with these couples to affirm that we long to assist them and welcome them as they undertake the steps necessary for a sacramental marriage. Completing

this seminar, completing the FOCCUS Inventory, and completing an approved Natural Family Planning class, will satisfy the Diocesan Marriage Preparation Guidelines.



For more information, please contact Kim Brayman at (417) 866-0841, [kbrayman@dioscg.org](mailto:kbrayman@dioscg.org).

# Director of Advancement named for Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri

Springfield, MO

Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri (CCSOMO), a leading provider of social services across 39 counties, is pleased to name Suzanne Cronkhite as Director of Advancement effective April 17, 2023.

“We are extremely excited to have Suzanne join the Executive Team and lead our advancement and communications operations,” said Ken Palermo, Executive Director. “As the agency moves into its next chapter of serving the vulnerable and those in need, Suzanne’s nearly two decades of development experience will serve well in meeting the goals of our mission.”

In this position, Cronkhite will be

responsible for the development and implementation of annual and capital campaigns focused on strategies for ongoing and future program needs.

“Advancing the agency will be driven not only through our relationships with supporters and constituents, but through timely and impactful sharing of our many stories of Reaching Out, Providing Hope, and Changing Lives,” Palermo said.

Cronkhite most recently served as Director of Development for Springfield Catholic Schools and has worked in development for Catholic Charities of Kansas City-St. Joseph, and the Girl Scouts of Northeast Kansas and Northwest Missouri. ©TM



CRONKHITE



# COME & SEE

A VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT RETREAT  
with the DAUGHTERS OF ST. PAUL

FOR WOMEN AGES 18-30

Daily Mass and Eucharistic Adoration, silent retreat day, conferences by the Sisters, experience of the Pauline apostolate, community time and recreation, and more!

MAY 26-28  
ST. LOUIS, MO

REGISTER:  
[CONNECT.PAULINE.ORG/VOCATION-EVENTS](http://CONNECT.PAULINE.ORG/VOCATION-EVENTS)





“God gave me Walker to bring light to others...I want to be helpful because other people helped me.” — Gretchen, Walker’s mother

Walker,  
Glennon Kid



Glennon Sunday

# Where faith and healing unite

For nearly 70 years, the annual Glennon Sunday appeal offers people of faith from all over the country the opportunity to support precious patients like Walker. Cardinal Glennon kids need you, please give today.



Give at [glennonsunday.org/donate](https://glennonsunday.org/donate)

Please trim and return to:

SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Foundation, 3800 Park Ave., St. Louis, MO 63110

phone:

314-577-5605

- Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ made payable to SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Foundation.
- Please charge my credit card \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Visa  MasterCard  Discover  AmEx
  - One-time  Monthly \*Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_
  - \*Card # \_\_\_\_\_
- \*If paying by credit card, the card number and expiration date are required.
- I would like to increase the impact of my gift with a matching gift from  my employer.  my spouse's employer. I/We will submit a matching gift request to: Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_
- I have included SSM Health Cardinal Glennon in my estate plans.
- I would like to learn more about how to include SSM Health Cardinal Glennon in my estate plans.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone  cell  home \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Parish/Church \_\_\_\_\_

Let us know if you or your family have been impacted by the exceptional care provided by SSM Health Cardinal Glennon.

I received care.  My family member received care.

*Gifts are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law.*