



# THE FIGHT FOR LIFE IN AMERICA IS FAR FROM OVER



**WITNESS TO LIFE**—The annual Midwest March for Life raises awareness about the sanctity of life from conception to natural death and attracts thousands of participants each year. The event held April 26, 2023, featured speeches, a march, visits with legislators, among other activities. Local apostolate, Voice for Life, provided some travel scholarships for those who wanted to attend. *(Photo by Grace Tamburro/The Mirror)*

By Grace Tamburro Jefferson City, MO

The annual Midwest March for Life brings together pro-life advocates from across the region to raise awareness about the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death. The march, which is organized by a coalition of pro-life organizations, takes place at the Missouri State Capitol building in Jefferson City, MO, and attracts thousands of participants each year. The event, held on April 26, 2023, featured a rally with speeches from prominent pro-life leaders, followed by a march through the city streets, a fundraiser lunch, and a youth event.

Open to all ages, the march participants are encouraged to bring signs and banners with pro-life messages. The Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau brought groups from Springfield, Notre Dame Regional High School in Cape Girardeau, Guardian Angel Catholic School in Oran, and Madonna House in Salem. Bishop Shawn McKnight of the Diocese of Jefferson City and Bp. Edward M. Rice of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape

Girardeau were both in attendance, showing their support for the Missouri pro-life movement.

“I am so impressed with the March. I have participated in many when I was in Dallas and I look forward to bringing many people with me next year,” said Sr. Janine Tran, CMR, diocesan Director of Faith Formation and Respect Life. “I think we need to engage in conversations about life, from womb to tomb, as natural as talking about the weather and the latest shopping trends.”

This year’s featured speakers were Shawn Carney, CEO and President of 40 Days for Life; Lauren Muzyka, CEO and President of Sidewalk Advocates for Life; and sister, soldier, surgeon Sr. Deirdre Byrne, POSC, Superior of the Little Workers of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

The Midwest March for Life is an important reminder of the ongoing debate over abortion in the United States. However, with the current ban on abortion in the state of Missouri, this event provides a platform for activists to further educate attendees on a variety

of nuanced pro-life issues under the pro-life umbrella, such as the death penalty, immigration, the foster care and adoption systems, and more. The march is also an excellent opportunity for pro-life organizations and supporters to network and collaborate on

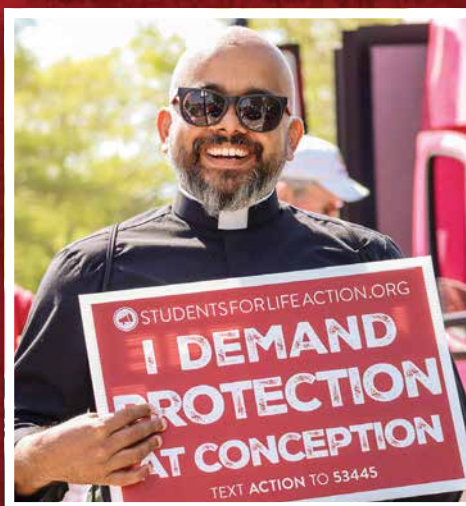


**GREETING LEGISLATORS**—During the Midwest March for Life held April 26 at the Missouri Capitol in Jefferson City, State Representative Barry Hovis, met with students from Notre Dame Regional High School, Cape Girardeau, Lillian Michael, Lindsey Ringstaff, Kate Probst, and State Representative John Voss; (back row) along with Notre Dame teachers Robert Michael and Gail Timpe. Timpe is also the moderator for the Students for Life club. *(Submitted photo)*



**MO MARCH FOR LIFE**—Youth from Guardian Angel Catholic School's Junior Beta Club, Oran, attended the Midwest March for Life in Jefferson City on April 26.

*(Submitted photo)*



**STUDENTS FOR LIFE**—Father Bibin Mathew, CMF, attended the Midwest March for Life in Jefferson City on April 26. He serves as Director and Chaplain of Catholic Campus Ministries on the campus of Missouri State University, Springfield, at the O'Reilly Catholic Student Center. *(Photo by Grace Tamburro/The Mirror)*

*(Photo by Grace Tamburro/The Mirror)*

their efforts to promote the pro-life cause.

The fight for the right to life in our country is far from over. That is why it is important to show continued support at the local level for the pro-life movement at events such as the Midwest March for Life. The diocese encourages all individuals across the diocese to participate in the 2024 Midwest March for Life, especially youth! If you are interested in attending the 2024 Midwest March for Life, Wed., May 1, 2024, please contact Sr. Janine Tran, CMR, in the diocesan Office of Respect Life, by Emailing her at [jtran@dioscg.org](mailto:jtran@dioscg.org). ©TM





COME, AND  
YOU WILL SEE

Bp. Edward M. Rice

# The Rosary & Eucharist: our 'weapons' against fear & bigotry

The April 14, 2022, edition of *The Atlantic* referred to the rosary as a symbol of extremism, comparing it to the AR-15 rifle. To quote directly from the article, "Just as the AR-15 rifle has become a sacred object for Christian nationalists in general, the rosary has acquired a militaristic meaning for radical Catholics." The author goes on to say, "Rosary beads have been woven into conspiratorial politics and absolutist gun culture. These armed radical traditionalists have taken up a spiritual notion that the rosary can be a weapon in the fight against evil and have turned it into something dangerously lethal."

The author of this article unknowingly stated a truth: the rosary can be a **weapon** in the fight against evil, but it is not "dangerously lethal," except in the spiritual realm. Padre Pio said, "Love the Madonna and pray the rosary, for her rosary is the **weapon** against the evils of the world today." He went on to say, "The rosary is the **weapon** for these times." Pope Pius IX said, "Give me an army saying the rosary and I will conquer the world." Saint Jose Maria Escriva said, "The holy rosary is a **powerful weapon**. Use it with confidence, and you'll be amazed at the results."

The fact that this man would write an article criticizing the rosary as a weapon similar to an assault rifle shows total ignorance of the topic. To his point, we certainly do not want the rosary to be associated with violence. The rosary is just the opposite: it is a **weapon** for peace.

As an example of encouraging people to rise up and become **Church Militants**, the author of the article goes on to slam pious phrases like "Deus Vult" ("God wills it"). What would the author say about Our Lady's response to the Angel Gabriel, "Let it be done unto me?" Does that imply some sort of insurrection as well?

We are the Church Militant, fighting the good fight of faith. That's not a new image: it comes from St. Paul who said in 1 Timothy 6: 12, "**Fight** the good **fight** of faith." The Church on earth is referred to as the Church Militant; as the Church in heaven is referred to as the Church Triumphant; and the Church Suffering references purgatory. These are older terms, but still valid. Our Lord Himself used military references, especially about going to battle.

I've shared many times and all of you who are my age and older remember being confirmed as a "**soldier for Christ**," in **His army**. The motto

of Cardinal Ritter, who served as Archbishop of St. Louis from 1946 to 1967, was "**Miles Christi Sum** ("**I am a soldier of Christ**"). This imagery is nothing new, it is not radical, nor is it extreme. It is used in a spiritual sense of fighting the battle of faith while immersed in the world.

The author even takes a swipe at the Swiss Guard, when in 2016, it accepted a donation of what is called "combat rosaries," having the head of the Swiss Guard say that the rosary is "the most powerful **weapon** that exists on the market." I guess the author does not know that in the past, the United States government commissioned and issued—upon request—rosaries to soldiers serving in the first World War and WWII. Finally, the article criticized the Swiss Guard for wearing uniforms. That is like criticizing our own military for wearing fatigues. It's what they wear!

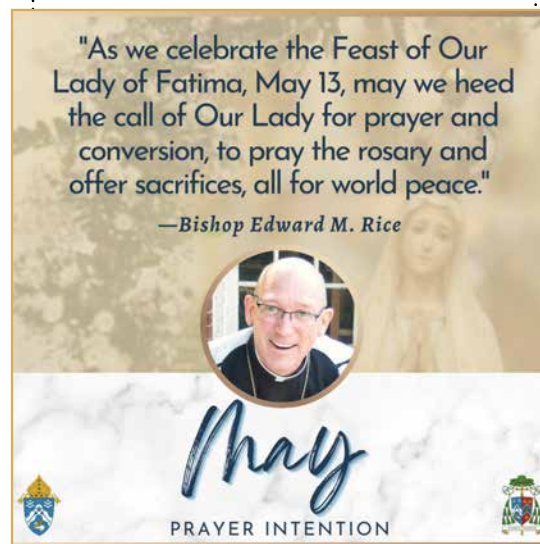
Of course, one of the main reasons the rosary is criticized is because of the Catholic Church's opposition to abortion. The rosary is often prayed in front of abortion clinics, and as citizens of this country, we are free to do so. That is why abortionists will often carry signs that read, "Keep your rosaries off our ovaries." The **battle** continues!

Am I being too sensitive? Should I lighten up a bit?

## ANTI-CATHOLIC BIAS

A Jan. 23, 2023, article in *The New York Post* cited nearly 300 attacks on US Catholic churches since May of 2020: 118 of which occurred since May of 2022, when the Supreme Court Dobbs decision was leaked to the public. These attacks rarely get any coverage in the media. Churches have been vandalized, statues destroyed, front doors of churches spray-painted with vulgarities, tabernacles destroyed, and the Blessed Sacrament desecrated. The FBI and various branches of the judicial system have been slow to investigate these acts. Along with attacking churches, some 60 pregnancy resource centers have been firebombed. Why would people destroy a pregnancy resource center? Is it because these women have chosen life? Or do people really not know what a pregnancy resource center is? If the pro-choice side is truly "pro-choice," then shouldn't they support the woman who **chooses** to have her child? But they don't. Their "pro-choice" position is a lie and one of manipulation. They are pro-abortion, make no mistake. To add insult to injury, the Justice Department has recommended no jail time for an abortion activist that recently painted

obscenities and destroyed property at Saint Louise Catholic Church, Bellevue, WA. The local police said it was an anti-Catholic hate crime, but the Department of Justice put forward a plea agreement—three years probation and no jail time!



It seems as if even the FBI is against us. A recently-leaked FBI memo has targeted Catholics with surveillance which would violate First Amendment rights. Their concern for "radical traditionalist Catholics," puts Catholics in the company with violent nationalists and supremacists. It seems that if you are pro-life, you now belong to a group that holds a violent extremist position. Even worse, if you carry a rosary! And of course, the ultimate extremist, radicalistic view is to respect life and traditional marriage. Are we extremists for protecting the sanctity of human life or is the abortion movement violent for killing the unborn child? It seems that the FBI is backtracking on its position for now, but what was their motive? They wanted to investigate those who seemed to be dangerous because of how they pray and their fidelity to certain traditional views on sex and marriage? The House Judiciary Chair, Jim Jordan, issued subpoenas to the FBI on April 10, demanding information about the agency's targeting of Catholic churches. We'll see where it goes. So far, it has gone nowhere!

Now for the craziest of all issues—Are you ready for this? On May 3—as I write this, just last week—the Saint Francis Health System, a Catholic hospital in Oklahoma, was told by the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), that they must extinguish the tabernacle candle in their hospital chapels or lose accreditation. Saint Francis Health System has five hospitals in eastern Oklahoma, treating almost 400,000 patients per year and

has provided over \$650 million in free medical care over the last five years. The candle, encased in a thick glass globe, within another glass globe, covered by a bronze top, symbolizes the sacramental presence of Christ in the Chapel tabernacle. It has been burning in that Chapel for 15 years. At their main hospital campus, Yale, the largest hospital in the state of Oklahoma, a candle has been burning for 63 years, reminding all who come to the Chapel that Christ is present in the tabernacle, and upon extension, in the hospital. On Fri., May 5, the First Friday of the month, dedicated to the Sacred Heart, HHS backed down and the hospital is now free to keep the sanctuary candle lit! Yes, this is the same HHS that the Little Sisters of the Poor had to sue over the contraceptive mandate. They are certainly not faith-friendly, and I dare say that the HHS is outright hostile to the Catholic Church.

More and more, faithful Catholics will be closed to various positions in government, politics, universities, civil leadership, and health care. Am I beginning to sound paranoid or extreme? Remember the Connecticut school administrator that said he would not hire Catholics or conservatives? This, along with the recent memo-leak from the FBI, coupled with attacks on churches and pregnancy care centers, and even attacks on the rosary itself, when put all together, makes for a perfect storm of outright **prejudice against Catholics**. Anti-Catholic bigotry is alive and well in our country. It doesn't get the same press coverage as other current social issues, but it is there: Let's not forget it.

I remember celebrating a Mass at the Shrine of Our Lady of Knock, Ireland. The presiding priest was as old as St. Patrick himself. He looked as if he had one foot in the grave. But when he came up to preach the homily, he was emboldened by the Holy Spirit. He reminded the people of the days of British occupation. He told of how, in his own little village, the British took over the church as a stable for their horses. He posed the question, "What has always seen us through persecutions?" His answer was precious: devotion to Our Lady and the Eucharist. So, let me be clear that this is the best time to be Catholic! Let there be no doubt that we are in a battle. **Let there be no doubt that we have the necessary weapons to fight the battle: We have nothing to fear because we have the rosary and the Eucharist. Let us not be afraid!** ©TM



VEN Y  
VERÁS

Obispo Edward M. Rice

## El Rosario y la Eucaristía: nuestras “armas” contra el miedo y la intolerancia

La edición del 14 de abril de 2022 de *The Atlantic* se refirió al rosario como símbolo del extremismo, comparándolo con el fusil AR-15. Citando directamente el artículo: “Al igual que el fusil AR-15 se ha convertido en un objeto sagrado para los nacionalistas cristianos en general, el rosario ha adquirido un significado militarista para los católicos radicales”. El autor continúa diciendo: “Las cuentas del rosario se han entretreído con la política conspirativa y la cultura absolutista de las armas. Estos tradicionalistas radicales armados han retomado la noción espiritual de que el rosario puede ser un arma en la lucha contra el mal y la han convertido en algo peligrosamente letal”.

El autor de este artículo afirmó, sin saberlo, una verdad: el rosario puede ser un arma en la lucha contra el mal, pero no es “peligrosamente letal”, salvo en el ámbito espiritual. El Padre Pío decía: “Ama a la Virgen y reza el rosario, pues su rosario es el arma contra los males del mundo actual”. Continuaba diciendo: “El rosario es el arma para estos tiempos”. Citando al Papa Pío IX: “Dame un ejército que reza el Rosario y conquistaré el mundo”. San José María Escrivá dijo: “El santo rosario es un arma poderosa. Úsalo con confianza y te sorprenderán los resultados”.

El hecho de que este hombre escriba un artículo criticando el rosario como un arma similar a un fusil de asalto demuestra una ignorancia total del tema. En su opinión, no queremos que el rosario se asocie con la violencia. El rosario es todo lo contrario: es un arma para la paz.

Como ejemplo para animar a la gente a levantarse y convertirse en **Militantes de la Iglesia**, el autor del artículo pasa a criticar frases piadosas como “*Deus Vult*” (“*Dios lo quiere*”). ¿Qué diría el autor sobre la respuesta de la Virgen al ángel Gabriel: “Hágase en mí”? ¿Implica eso también algún tipo de insurrección?

Somos la Iglesia Militante, combatiendo el buen combate de la fe. No es una imagen nueva: procede de San Pablo, que dijo en 1 Timoteo 6, 12, “**Pelea** el noble **combate** de la fe”. A la Iglesia en la tierra se la denomina Iglesia Militante; como a la Iglesia del cielo se la denomina Iglesia Triunfante; y la Iglesia Purgante hace referencia al purgatorio. Son términos antiguos, pero siguen siendo válidos. Nuestro Señor mismo utilizaba referencias militares, sobre todo al ir a la batalla.

He compartido muchas veces y todos los que tengan mi edad o más recordarán haber sido confirmados

“soldado para Cristo,” en su ejército. El lema del Cardenal Ritter, que fue Arzobispo de Saint Louis de 1946 a 1967, era “*Miles Christi Sum*” (“**Soy un soldado de Cristo**”). Esta imaginaria no es nada nuevo, no es radical ni extrema. Se utiliza en un sentido espiritual de librar la batalla de la fe mientras se está inmerso en el mundo.

El autor incluso se ensaña con la Guardia Suiza, cuando en 2016 aceptó una donación de lo que se denomina “rosarios de combate”, haciendo decir al jefe de la Guardia Suiza que el rosario es “el arma más potente que existe en el mercado”. Supongo que el autor no sabe que, en el pasado, el gobierno de Estados Unidos encargó y expidió, previa solicitud, rosarios a los soldados que sirvieron en la Primera Guerra Mundial y en la Segunda Guerra Mundial. Por último, el artículo criticaba a la Guardia Suiza por llevar uniforme. Es como criticar a nuestros propios militares por llevar uniforme de faena. ¡Es lo que llevan!

Por supuesto, una de las principales razones por las que se critica el rosario es la oposición de la Iglesia Católica al aborto. A menudo se reza el rosario delante de las clínicas abortistas, y como ciudadanos de este país, somos libres de hacerlo. Por eso los abortistas suelen llevar carteles que dicen: “Mantengan sus rosarios lejos de nuestros ovarios”. ¡La batalla continúa!

¿Estoy siendo demasiado sensible? ¿Debería relajarme un poco?

### PREJUICIOS ANTICATÓLICOS

Un artículo publicado el 23 de enero de 2023 en *The New York Post* citaba cerca de 300 atentados contra iglesias católicas estadounidenses desde mayo de 2020: 118 de los cuales se produjeron desde mayo de 2022, cuando se filtró al público la decisión Dobbs del Tribunal Supremo. Estos ataques rara vez reciben cobertura en los medios de comunicación. Se han vandalizado iglesias, se han destruido estatuas, se han pintado con spray vulgaridades en las puertas de las iglesias, se han destruido sagrarios y se ha profanado el Santísimo Sacramento. El FBI y diversas ramas del sistema judicial han tardado en investigar estos actos. Además de atacar iglesias, se han lanzado bombas incendiarias contra unos 60 centros de recursos para embarazadas. ¿Por qué la gente destruiría un centro de recursos para embarazadas? ¿Es porque estas mujeres han elegido la vida? ¿O es que la gente realmente no sabe lo que es un centro de recursos para embarazadas? Si el bando proabortista es verdaderamente “proabortista”, ¿no deberían apoyar a la

mujer que **elige** tener a su hijo? Pero no lo hacen. Su posición “proabortista” es una mentira y una manipulación. Están a favor del aborto, no te equivoques. Para colmo de males, el Departamento de Justicia ha recomendado que no se impongan penas de cárcel a un activista abortista que recientemente pintó obscenidades y destruyó bienes en la Iglesia Católica de Santa Luisa, en Bellevue (Washington). La policía local dijo que se trataba de un delito de odio anticatólico, pero el Departamento de Justicia propuso un acuerdo: tres años de libertad condicional y ninguna pena de cárcel!

Parece como si incluso el FBI estuviera contra nosotros. Un memorándum del FBI recientemente filtrado ha señalado a los católicos como objetivo de una vigilancia que violaría los derechos de la Primera Enmienda. Su preocupación por los “católicos tradicionalistas radicales” pone a los católicos en compañía de nacionalistas violentos y supremacistas. Parece que si eres pro-vida, ahora perteneces a un grupo que mantiene una postura extremista violenta. Peor aún, ¡si llevas un rosario! Y, por supuesto, el punto de vista extremista y radicalista por excelencia es el respeto a la vida y al matrimonio tradicional. ¿Somos extremistas por proteger la santidad de la vida humana o el movimiento abortista es violento por matar al niño no nacido? Parece que el FBI se retracta de su postura por ahora, pero ¿cuál era su motivo? ¿Querían investigar a quienes parecían peligrosos por su forma de rezar y su fidelidad a ciertas opiniones tradicionales sobre el sexo y el matrimonio? El presidente del Comité Judicial de la Cámara de Representantes, Jim Jordan, envió citaciones al FBI el 10 de abril, exigiendo información sobre la persecución de iglesias católicas por parte de la agencia. Veremos a dónde nos lleva. Hasta ahora, ¡no ha llegado a ninguna parte!

Y ahora, lo más loco de todo: ¿estás preparado para esto? El 3 de mayo —cuando escribo esto, justo la semana pasada— el Sistema de Salud Saint Francis, un hospital católico de Oklahoma, recibió la orden del Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos (HHS) de EEUU de que debía apagar la vela del sagrario en las capillas de su hospital o perdería la acreditación. El Sistema Sanitario Saint Francis tiene cinco hospitales en el este de Oklahoma, trata a casi 400.000 pacientes al año y ha proporcionado más de 650 millones de dólares en atención médica gratuita en los últimos cinco años. La vela, encerrada en un grueso globo de cristal, dentro de

otro globo de cristal, cubierto por una tapa de bronce, simboliza la presencia sacramental de Cristo en el sagrario de la Capilla. Lleva 15 años ardiendo en esa Capilla. En su principal campus hospitalario, Yale, el mayor hospital del estado de Oklahoma, arde desde hace 63 años una vela que recuerda a todos los que acuden a la Capilla que Cristo está presente en el Sagrario y, por extensión, en el hospital. El viernes 5 de mayo, primer viernes del mes, dedicado al Sagrado Corazón, el HHS dio marcha atrás y el hospital ya puede mantener encendida la vela del santuario. Sí, es el mismo HHS al que las Hermanitas de los Pobres tuvieron que demandar por el mandato anticonceptivo. Desde luego, no son favorables a la fe, y me atrevería a decir que el HHS es abiertamente hostil a la Iglesia Católica.

Cada vez más, a los católicos fieles se les cerrarán las puertas de diversos puestos en el gobierno, la política, las universidades, la dirección civil y la sanidad. ¿Empiezo a parecer paranoico o extremista? ¿Recuerdas al administrador escolar de Connecticut que dijo que no contrataría a católicos ni a conservadores? Esto, junto con la reciente filtración de un memorándum del FBI, unido a los ataques a iglesias y centros de atención a embarazadas, e incluso los ataques al propio rosario, cuando se juntan todos, forman una tormenta perfecta de prejuicios descarados contra los católicos. El fanatismo anticatólico sigue vivo en nuestro país. No recibe la misma cobertura de prensa que otros temas sociales de actualidad, pero está ahí: No lo olvidemos.

Recuerdo haber concelebrado una Misa en el Santuario de Nuestra Señora de Knock, Irlanda. El sacerdote que presidía era tan viejo como el propio San Patricio. Parecía como si tuviera un pie en la tumba. Pero cuando subió a predicar la homilía, se sintió envalentonado por el Espíritu Santo. Recordó a la gente los días de la ocupación británica. Contó cómo, en su pequeño pueblo, los británicos tomaron la iglesia como establo para sus caballos. Planteó la pregunta: “¿Qué nos ha visto siempre a través de las persecuciones?”. Su respuesta fue preciosa: la devoción a Nuestra Señora y a la Eucaristía. Así pues, que quede claro que ¡este es el mejor momento para ser católico! Que no quepa duda de que estamos en una batalla. **Que no quepa duda de que disponemos de las armas necesarias para librar la batalla: No tenemos nada que temer porque tenemos el rosario y la Eucaristía. ¡No tengamos miedo!** ©TM

# Ursuline sisters celebrate significant anniversaries

Maple Mount, KY

Three Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph who ministered in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, and a fourth who is a southern Missouri native, are among 14 Ursuline Sisters celebrating anniversaries of religious profession in 2023.

## 80<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

**Sister Naomi Aull**, a native of Knottsville, KY, is celebrating 80 years. Formerly Sr. Mary Benigna, she taught in St. Teresa Catholic School, Glennonville, MO, from 1953-54. She also taught in Kentucky, Nebraska, and New Mexico, and from 1977-2002, she provided outreach for parishes in Louisville, KY. After she retired to Mount Saint Joseph, she became a volunteer caregiver for the Ursulines in Saint Joseph Villa.



SR. AULL

Today, Sr. Aull is retired and active in the Powerhouse of Prayer.

## 70<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

**Sister Mary Gerald Payne**, a native of Knottsville, KY, is celebrating 70 years. She taught in St. Teresa Catholic School, Glennonville (1988-89). She also served in Kentucky and New Mexico. Sister Payne is retired at the Motherhouse and is active in the Powerhouse of Prayer.



SR. PAYNE

## 60<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

**Sister Patricia Rhoten**, a native of Palmyra, NE, is celebrating 60 years. She was principal of Sacred Heart School, Poplar Bluff, MO, 1996-99, and taught in Seven Holy Founders School



SR. RHOTEN

in Affton, 1972-74. She also taught in Kentucky, Nebraska, and Louisiana. Sister Rhoten is retired and active in the Powerhouse of Prayer.

Glennonville native **Sister Mary Celine Weidenbenner** is celebrating 60 years. She was baptized in St. Teresa Catholic Church. She has been a teacher or principal in Kentucky for 53 years. Since 2007, Sr. Weidenbenner has been a teacher in Mary Carrico Memorial School in Knottsville, KY.



SR. WEIDENBENNER

Jubilant congratulations may be sent to Mount Saint Joseph, 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356. ©TM

*Founded in 1874 at Maple Mount in Daviess County, KY, the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph currently minister throughout Kentucky and in Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, and Chile, South America. Visit us Online at [ursulinesmsj.org](http://ursulinesmsj.org).*

Please join Bishop Rice and area clergy in celebrating the Mass of

## ORDINATION to the SACRED ORDER OF THE DIACONATE





**Saturday, JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup> 10:30 AM**

**Kevin Henderson      Tony Peters**

**St. Mary Cathedral, Cape Girardeau**

*Livestream available on the Diocesan Facebook page!*

## 2023 Healthcare Scholarship Applications accepted until June 30

Cape Girardeau

**A**pplications for the 2023 Saint Francis Healthcare Scholarship Program—funded by Saint Francis Foundation and Auxiliary—are now available. The program awards more than 20 scholarships of up to \$2,000 annually to students pursuing a healthcare-related career.

The Steven C. Bjelich Executive Scholarship is available for students pursuing a master's degree in Healthcare Administration and is awarded to one recipient every other year. Additionally, the scholarship pays the recipient's institution \$5,000 per year for two years, equaling a \$10,000 total reward.

Applicants must have completed one year as a student in an accredited healthcare program and be currently enrolled. Students must have a minimum 3.0-grade point average on a 4.0 scale. As defined in the application, they must also reside within Saint Francis Healthcare System's service area. Applicants must submit a fully-completed Online application and all required documentation to the Foundation by **5 p.m., Fri., June 30, 2023**. Students may receive one scholarship per year for a maximum of two years. Since its inception in 1980, the scholarship program has provided nearly \$800,000 in education scholarships to college students to encourage professional healthcare careers.

All applicants are considered regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, religion, ancestry, age, handicap or veteran status. Applications are available at [foundation.sfmcc.net/scholarship-program/](http://foundation.sfmcc.net/scholarship-program/). For more information, please call the Foundation at (573) 331-5177. ©TM



Join Bishop Edward M. Rice for the upcoming

## ORDINATION to the SACRED ORDER OF PRIESTHOOD




**Friday, JUNE 23 | 5:30 PM**

**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Springfield**

*Livestream available on the Diocesan Facebook page!*

**Mr. Rev. Nick Zummo III**

**“I have chosen you, and ordained you.”**

*—John 15:16*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Bolivar**—Sacred Heart Parish welcomes Dr. Mark Zia, Professor of Sacred Theology at Benedictine College, Atchison, KS; for a presentation on the **Shroud of Turin and The Body of Christ**. Dr. Zia will share his study and presentation of the Shroud of Turin on Fri., May 29, 6:30 p.m.; following the 6 p.m. Mass, the presentation will be offered again on Sat., May 20, 9:30 a.m.

**Jackson**—St. Ann Sodality of Immaculate Conception Parish will hold its **Annual Rummage Sale**, Fri., June 09, 7 a.m.-6 p.m., and Sat., June 10, 7 a.m.-3 p.m., in the Parish Center (school cafeteria).

**Jackson**—The Knights of Columbus #6405 will have a Fish & Chicken dinner, Fri., May 19, 4:30-7 p.m., in the Lower KC Hall. Fried fish, fried chicken, fries, hush puppies, baked beans, slaw, and homemade mac & cheese. Cost: \$13 per person; Dine in or carry-out.

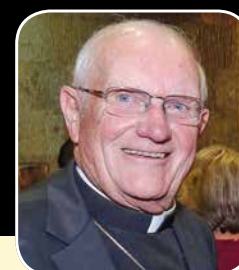
**Sikeston**—The Women of St. Francis Xavier will have the **Annual Baby Bottles for Life fundraiser**, May 14-28. Please take home a baby bottle and prayerfully consider a donation in support of our local pregnancy resource centers. Proceeds received will help support the work and outreach of Birthright in Cape Girardeau,

Aspire in Sikeston, and Biking for Babies. Please return your bottle no later than Sun., May 28; a collection basket is available at the back of church or may be dropped off at the Parish Center office. Thank you for your support!

**Sikeston**—St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church will host a **Red Cross Blood Drive**, Tue., May 30, 1:30-5:30 p.m., in the Parish Center gym. To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter St.FrancisXavierChurch.

**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. During the Memorial Day holiday weekend, **adoration will be suspended beginning at 8 a.m., Thu., May 25 and will resume 1 p.m., Tue., May 30.** Join 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.



## 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.

**January 27, 1989** Did you hear about the first-grader talking about the recent fire in his school? "I knew it was going to happen," he said. "We've been practicing for it all year."

**February 3, 1989** Recently, I visited the first grade in St. Agnes Cathedral School, in Springfield. I asked what they liked best at St. Agnes. "Reading," said one. "Drawing," said another. "Writing," volunteered a third. A round-faced stocky, little boy happily proclaimed, "Eating!"

**February 10, 1989** During my recent parish visit to St. Joseph Parish, in Advance, and St. Anthony Mission Church, in Glennon, a parishioner came up to me and said, "May I ask you two questions?" I quickly responded, "Of course!" "First, she said, "would it be possible for you to come to our house for dinner? And, secondly, do you have life insurance?"

**February 17, 1989** A week ago, I was in Dallas at a meeting of bishops on medical ethics. At dinner one evening, an older archbishop told one of the bishops, who was about to become an archbishop, "You won't find much difference between being a bishop and an archbishop except that your enemies become your arch-enemies."

## JOIN BISHOP RICE FOR Memorial Day Mass

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

Memorial Day is a time to remember our dearly departed brothers and sisters, especially those who have died serving our country in the cause of freedom. 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.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR, FROM OUR READERS

### What is a woman—A Love letter

The answer to the question "What is a Woman" is Mary. She is all that all women should strive to be. She never said yes to Satan or no to God. She never, to our knowledge, raised her voice in anger or dressed in a manner to shock or to draw attention to herself. She always pointed to her Son.

The first time a woman is spoken of in the bible, is when God said, "It is not good for man to be alone. I will make him a helpmate. " Mary is Jesus's mother and, in our times, our helpmate and mother. A woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of 12 stars. She is beautiful. She does battle with the dragon. She has

won that battle by saying "yes" in Luke 1: "Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord. Be it done to me according to your word." Jesus said, "Who is my mother and who is my brother and sisters—Those who do the will of my father." She always did and that is why she was chosen.

A woman is someone who does the will of God the Father. She follows the vocation he gives her. One who says yes to children, to suffering, to getting up in the middle of the night to flee in order to protect her child. One called to chastity, if not called to marriage. Gods' way of increasing the chances that children will know their fathers. The sisterhood as well. A great vocation of doing

God's will, and not of just being lonely or selfish. A woman is one having a great purpose even if you are no Madam Curie. We are not all called to do great things. But all things with great love. The answer to "What is a woman?" is to love as Mary did. To say yes to all of God.

Thank you, God, for making women. Thank you for making the woman, Mary. ©TM

**Patti Forman**  
St. Ann Parish, Carthage, MO

Letters to the Editor are published at the discretion of the editor. They may be mailed via USPS to Editor, The Mirror, 601 S. Jefferson Ave., Springfield, MO 65806, or filed electronically to: leidson@dioscg.org.



## Cape Girardeau pastor named 2023 NCEA Distinguished Graduate



**2023 NCEA DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE**—Bishop Edward M. Rice is pictured with Fr. Rick Jones as he received his 2023 NCEA Distinguished Graduate Award in St. Mary Cathedral, Cape Girardeau, from Alan Bruns, principal of St. Mary Cathedral Catholic School, Cape Girardeau. (Photo by Lisa Simmons/The Mirror)

### Cape Girardeau

The St. Mary Cathedral School Board is pleased to announce **Fr. Rick L. Jones** is the recipient of the 2023 NCEA Distinguished Graduate Award.

Father Jones is the son of Richard and Margaret (Langston) Jones and the youngest of three children. His siblings are Cheri Fuemmeler and Terry Jones.

Father Jones is a 1977 graduate of St. Mary Cathedral School, Cape Girardeau, and a 1981 graduate of Notre Dame Regional High School, Cape Girardeau. With the help of the School Sisters of Notre Dame and his parish priests, he discerned during his senior year in high school that he should attend seminary college. Father Jones graduated from Conception College in 1985, continued his preparation at Kenrick Theological Seminary, in St. Louis, and earned a Master of Divinity Degree in 1989. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau on March 24, 1990, in the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Annunciation, Cape Girardeau.

Father Jones continued his education and obtained a Master of Arts Degree in Theology with a concentration in Homiletics (preaching) in 1997 from the Aquinas Institute of Theology, in St. Louis. He also attended the University of New Mexico, in Albuquerque, and obtained a Master of Arts Degree in Counseling

Education in 2005. His counseling degree allowed Fr. Jones to be a Licensed Professional Counselor in the state of Missouri. Since his ordination in 1990, Fr. Jones has served in various diocesan functions, with several years of leadership in both the Priests' Senate and the Envisioning Leadership Team. He was instrumental in helping create the Mutually Shared Vision Statement for the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. He has served as Associate Pastor and Pastor in many parishes in the Springfield - Cape Girardeau diocese. Currently, Father Jones is Pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, in Cape Girardeau.

Father Jones has been active in many ecumenical, nonprofit, and civic organizations during his priesthood. He was in the Army Reserves and served as a Chaplain's Assistant for the Second Armed Cavalry Unit in Nuremberg, Germany, achieving the rank of First Lieutenant. Father Jones also supported military families and veterans as a hospital chaplain at Raymond G. Murphy Veteran Affairs Medical Center in New Mexico. Father Jones also served as Knights of Columbus State Chaplain from July 2016 to June 2018. He is a fourth-degree Knight, and a promoter of the cause of sainthood for Fr. Michael McGivney, the founder of the Knights of Columbus. ©TM

## BIKE4VOCATIONS stops in Cape Girardeau, meets with youth



**BIKE4VOCATIONS**—As planned, Geoffrey and Fern Greenwell arrived safely at St. Mary Cathedral, Cape Girardeau, on May 7, during their BIKE4VOCATIONS journey. Pictured were Geoffrey Greenwell, The Very Rev. Allan Saunders, Pastor; The Most Rev. Edward M. Rice, Fern Greenwell, and the Greenwells' nephew, Gregory. The Greenwells are undertaking a 4,000-mile trek across the US to bring awareness to the need for religious vocations in the Church. They began in April from St. Augustine, FL, and will pass through 13 states and 20 (arch)dioceses, stopping at parishes, holy sites, convents, and monasteries along the way, ending their journey on the Oregon coast on July 15, 2023. (The Mirror)

# Meet Me at the Grotto

Come pray the rosary with Bishop Edward Rice!



<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



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By  
Fr. Joshua  
J. Whitfield

## WHAT WE BELIEVE, PART 18: *The Church in the Spirit*

The Church is a sacrament because it is in Christ. But also because it is in the Spirit. As we saw earlier, *Lumen Gentium* wastes no time describing the theological nature of the Church, that it is in Christ like a sacrament, a sign and instrument. However, there's more to be said.

To be in Christ, as we've seen, is to belong to God's saving work, to belong to the history of salvation, so to speak. And it's by that history — as told in Scripture and rehearsed in *Lumen Gentium* — that we are able to describe further the theological reality of our own experience as believers, the reality of the Holy Spirit dwelling within us.

*Lumen Gentium* puts it this way: "When the work which the Father gave the Son to do on earth was accomplished, the Holy Spirit was sent on the day of Pentecost in order that He might continually sanctify the Church, and thus, all those who believe would have access through Christ in one Spirit to the Father. He is the Spirit of Life, a fountain of water springing up to life eternal. To men, dead in sin, the Father gives life through Him, until, in Christ, He brings to life their mortal bodies" (LG 4). This, of course, is simply a rehearsal of Scripture, echoing the story of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-3), Jesus's teaching in the John's Gospel (Jn 4:14; 7:37-38), and Pauline teaching (Eph 2:18; Rom 8:10-11).

What's remarkable, however, is *Lumen Gentium's* claim that this rehearsed biblical story remains ongoing in us, in the Church. The Spirit given at Pentecost still dwells within in us, "continually" sanctifying the Church. That is, the Holy Spirit knows no ascension. And thus, as *Lumen Gentium* continues, "The Spirit dwells in the

Church and in the hearts of the faithful, as in a temple." And what the Spirit does is guide the Church (as Jesus said in Jn 16:13) in "the way of all truth,"



Stained Glass depicting the Holy Spirit in the Cathedral of Saint Bavo in Ghent, Belgium. (Adobe Stock)

continually restoring the Church in the "freshness of youth," drawing the Church ever nearer its Spouse, the risen Bridegroom Jesus Christ (LG 4). The Spirit keeps the Church oriented toward its final heavenly goal, the heavenly Jerusalem; the Spirit keeps the Church aflame with desire for its final union, expressed in the final prayer of the New Testament — "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!" (Rev 22:20).

But notice how the Spirit accomplishes this renewing, orienting work in the Church — "in communion and in works of ministry." *Lumen Gentium* teaches that the Spirit "equips and directs" the Church with "hierarchical and charismatic gifts," which he adorns with his "fruits" (LG 4). That is, we believe that the Spirit enlivens the Church both in its visible structures and ministries as well as

in the hearts of all believers being sanctified. We believe the Holy Spirit is given assuredly and always to the Church's hierarchical structure, to its

clergy — bishops, priests and deacons. We believe, therefore, that our polity, our clerical structure, is divinely given. This will be explored further when considering the sacrament of Holy Orders and the papacy; suffice it to say at this point, though, that this is a fundamental claim — that the Church's hierarchical structure of bishops, priests and deacons, a structure that belongs essentially to the mission of God and to the organic nature of the Church, cannot be replaced. This claim is distinctly Catholic, shared though by the Orthodox Churches and even some Protestant traditions. This is why in Catholicism you'll never see things like "executive pastors" or any other different forms of ecclesiastical organization, no matter how more efficient those different structures may be. It's also why arguments surrounding leadership and hierarchy in Catholicism get so theological so quickly. Because we believe that even the visible structures of the Church belong to its nature as sacrament, enlivened by the Holy Spirit "continually."

But, of course, one mustn't think the Holy Spirit dwells among and enlivens only the hierarchy of the Church. Even though that may sometimes seem to be the case, it never is; about that, the Church's teaching has always been clear. Charismatic gifts belong to whomever the Spirit wills, to all the holy. The presence of the Spirit in the Church — present not just in the hierarchy but in all the saints — guarantees God's

sovereignty over the Church. The Holy Spirit dwells in all God's people, not just clergy. In the faithful nun or monk. In the faithful parent. In the old lady, warrior at prayer, praying her rosary before Mass, who scares you a little. And it's that spiritual fact — the fact of Pentecost — that makes for the joy and suffering, the tension, conflict and creativity of the Church. It's what makes the Church so beautiful and sometimes so strange, giving the Church "the freshness of youth." It's also why one shouldn't put too much store in polls or surveys suggesting the demise of the Church; such headlines make the rounds from time to time as if on schedule. Important though they may be, of course, they are no cause for despair. And that's because the Holy Spirit remains — always has and always will — sustaining the Church "uninterruptedly" (LG 4).

And finally, it helps to recall for what purpose we believers live in the Church in Christ in the Spirit — so that we may be formed individually and together into Christ, "redeemed" and "re-molded into a new creation," *Lumen Gentium* teaches, echoing St. Paul (LG 7; 2 Cor 5:17). That's what the Holy Spirit, continually dwelling in the Church, does: he builds up the body of Christ, in the unity of faith and in knowledge of the Son, into the full stature of Christ (Eph 4:12-13). This is nothing other than the mission for glory for which Jesus prayed in John 17; it's just now we see more clearly how this mission for glory is also the Church and its mission — calling in Christ by the Spirit all believers, sisters and brothers "together from all nations, mystically the components of His own Body" (LG 7). This thing we call the Catholic Church of Jesus Christ.

**NEXT EDITION:**  
WHAT WE BELIEVE: PART 19

***The Catholic Church,  
People of God***

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 18: The Church in Spirit" by Fr. Whitfield is from *simplycatholic.com*, copyright © Our Sunday Visitor; all rights reserved, no other use of this material is authorized.



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## Want to pray the Rosary with your family? Try starting with a decade a day

By Father James Goodwin

Many have heard the saying by the Servant of God Venerable Fr. Patrick Peyton, CSC, that “the family that prays together stays together.” The family rosary has been a staple of Catholic home devotions for centuries, and for good reason. It teaches us, especially children, the basic prayers of our faith. It covers the essential moments in the life of Christ, encapsulating the Gospel story. It helps us to spend time with God in meditative prayer. In short, the rosary is a wonderful way to ask for God’s help and Mary’s intercession.

However, many can find it difficult to pray the rosary. Attention spans seem to be shorter, perhaps due to the multitude of screens that surround us. Commercials every few minutes, video games, Online social media platforms, and smartphones all contribute to problems with concentration. For many, silence can seem unnerving when we are constantly being stimulated. Add to that the noise of younger children, and praying a family rosary especially can be challenging. So how can you, and your family, pray the rosary together?

### Bite-sized pieces

One way to be successful is to not try to start with a full, five-decade rosary. Instead, perhaps try

to pray one rosary over the course of the week. You can pray at a family altar where images of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary are enthroned. Keep rosaries there for the children. Begin on Sunday with the opening prayers of the Rosary: the Sign of the Cross, the apostles creed, the Our Father, the three Hail Marys and Glory Be. Then from Monday through Friday, pray one decade a day. On Saturday, pray the concluding prayers: the Hail Holy Queen, final prayer, prayers for the pope’s intention, and the Sign of the Cross. Thus, over the course of the week, the family can pray one full Rosary while spending just a few minutes each day. Over time you can increase the number of decades prayed until you are praying the entire rosary on a daily basis.

This can easily be enhanced. Each family member can be asked for what intention they are offering the decade. You can add Scripture readings or introduce a relevant line from Scripture for each Hail Mary. You can use pictures, coloring books, spiritual meditations, or music. In addition, you can add other prayers

for morning or night, or other devotions such as a litany or novena. Such devotions are a treasure chest of ancient Christian prayers just waiting to be rediscovered. At a time when many are attracted by “mindfulness,” we seem to ignore the long history of Catholic meditative prayer. There is an added bonus that

praying part of the Rosary gains a partial indulgence and a plenary indulgence is granted to those who pray the whole Rosary in a family group. These can be offered for the deceased members of the family.

This manageable method is a great way to learn how to pray the Rosary and to make it a regular part of your family’s spiritual life. It will teach your children how Catholics pray, and it will bring your family together, making Christ the center of your home. It will help your family to truly become a “domestic church,” where your hearts are united, with Mary, to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. ©OSV

Father James Goodwin writes from North Dakota.

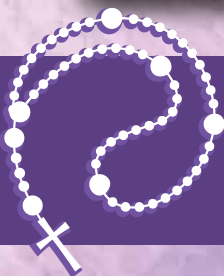
This article first appeared at *Simply Catholic*, [www.simplycatholic.org](http://www.simplycatholic.org), an Online ministry of Our Sunday Visitor. It is reprinted with kind permission.



**‘MEET ME IN THE GROTTO’**—Bishop Edward Rice launched his annual “Meet Me at the Grotto,” prayer events at St. Mary Cathedral, Cape Girardeau, on May 7. Throughout the month of May, Bishop Rice invites you to bring a lawn chair and join him in a nearby grotto to pray the rosary, dedicated to honoring Mary as the Mother of God and Mother of the Church. Meet him at one of these upcoming dates and give thanks for her protection and intercession. (*The Mirror*)

Bishop Rice invites you to join him in a nearby grotto to pray the rosary, dedicated to honoring Mary as the Mother of God and Mother of the Church.

► Find the “Meet Me in the Grotto” schedule on page 6





## A Family Rosary Guide:

# PRAYING THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES



By Dr. Joseph White

The rosary is one of the most popular prayers of all time. In the rosary, we meditate together with Mary on the mysteries of the life of Jesus and the beginnings of the Church. The joyful mysteries include five joyful events in the life of Jesus and Mary: the Annunciation, the Visitation, the Birth of Jesus, the Presentation in the Temple, and the Finding of Jesus in the Temple. Praying the joyful mysteries as a family, especially during the Marian month of May, can help us discover the real joy of living the Gospel in our everyday lives.

### FAMILY MEDITATIONS FOR THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES

#### First mystery—The Annunciation (Lk 1:26-38)

God had a special job for Mary to do, and she said, “yes.” Rosary reflection: What is God asking our family to do right now, and how can we say “yes” to him?

#### Second mystery—The Visitation (Lk 1:39-45)

Mary went to visit her cousin, Elizabeth, and was encouraged by her. Rosary reflection: Who are we encouraged by in our extended family? How can we reconnect with them, or connect with them more often?

#### Third mystery—The Birth of Jesus (Lk 2:1-14)

Mary and Joseph welcomed Jesus into their home and family. Rosary reflection: How do we welcome Jesus into our home and our family life?

#### Fourth mystery—The Presentation in the Temple (Lk 2:22-38)

Mary and Joseph presented to God that which they loved the most—their new baby child. Rosary reflection: How do we trust God to bless all that is precious to us? Do we hold anything back from him, or do we offer everything to him, knowing that he is the source of all good things?

#### Fifth mystery—The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple (Lk 2:41-52)

Mary and Joseph didn’t expect Jesus to be back at the temple in Jerusalem, but Jesus said he had to do his Father’s work. Rosary reflection: What different or unexpected things does our family sometimes do because we are followers of Christ?

### HOW TO PRAY THE ROSARY

1. Begin with the sign of the cross
2. Pray the Apostles’ Creed while holding the crucifix.
3. Pray an Our Father on the first bead above the crucifix.

4. Pray three Hail Marys on the next three beads.
5. On the next bead, pray the Glory Be, announce the first mystery, and then pray an Our Father.
6. Pray 10 Hail Marys for the next 10 beads (called a decade).
7. Pray the Glory Be (optional: then pray the Fatima Decade Prayer).
8. For each following decade, announce the mystery, next say the Our Father, then pray 10 Hail Marys.
9. After the five decades are completed, pray the Hail, Holy Queen and the Closing Prayer.

#### Sign of the Cross

*In the Name of the Father,  
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

#### The Apostles’ Creed

*I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,*

(At the words that follow, up to and including “the Virgin Mary,” all bow)

*who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand  
of God the Father almighty;  
from there he will come to judge  
the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of Saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting. Amen.*

#### The Our Father (The Lord’s Prayer)

*Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil. Amen.*

#### The Hail Mary

*Hail Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with thee;*

*blessed art thou amongst women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners  
now and at the hour of our death.  
Amen.*

#### Glory Be

*Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit.  
As it was in the beginning  
is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.*

#### Fatima Decade Prayer

*O my Jesus, forgive us our sins;  
save us from the fires of hell;  
lead all souls into heaven,  
especially those most in need of thy mercy.*

#### Hail, Holy Queen

*Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy,  
our life, our sweetness, and our hope.  
To thee do we cry,  
poor banished children of Eve;  
to thee do we send up our sighs,  
mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.  
Turn then, most gracious advocate,  
thine eyes of mercy toward us,  
and after this our exile,  
show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary!*

#### V. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God

**R. That we may be made worthy  
of the promises of Christ.**

#### Closing Prayer

*O God, whose only begotten Son,  
by his life, death and Resurrection,  
has purchased for us the reward of eternal salvation.  
Grant, we beseech thee, that while meditating upon  
these mysteries  
of the most holy rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary,  
we may imitate what they contain and obtain what  
they promise  
through the same Christ our Lord.  
Amen. ©OSV*

*Dr. Joseph White is a clinical psychologist and associate publisher for catechetical resources at Our Sunday Visitor (OSV). A frequent guest on Catholic radio, White is the author of 12 books and numerous articles on catechesis, ministry, and other topics, including Listening for God in Everyday Life.*



## EUCCHARISTIC MIRACLES of the WORLD

The Very Rev.  
Shoby Chettyath, V.G.



# EUCCHARISTIC MIRACLE OF LEGNICA, Poland, 2013

During the national three-year Eucharistic Revival, The Very Rev. Shoby Chettyath, 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.miracolieucaristici.org/en/liste/list.html>.

In many of our parishes, during the month of May, our young people celebrate their First Holy Communion. It is such a joy to watch our young children receive the Eucharist for the first time. As we reflect on their joy and gratitude at sharing in the Eucharist with all of us, I encourage each parishioner to remember how the Eucharist truly is a great gift. Remember, we cannot give that which we do not have. The Eucharist is the place we go to allow God to fill us with his life and grace. This empowers us to bring God's life and grace into our world, sharing that grace with one another. Jesus came so that we might have life and have it abundantly.

When we truly consider that the host we receive is the true Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ, it changes everything about how we go about the Mass and how we handle Eucharist. We genuflect not as a simple practice, but to the Lord. We handle the chalice and ciboria with the great care reserved not for "dishes," but for

sacred vessels holding the Body and Blood of the Lord. Even when accidents happen, like dropping a host, we try to address them carefully and intentionally as if we were handling the greatest treasure.

On Dec. 25, 2013, in St. Hyacinth Church in Legnica, during distribution of Communion at Holy Mass, a Host accidentally fell on the ground. It was immediately placed in a container with water and closed in the tabernacle. St. Hyacinth Church's priest, Fr. Andrzej Ziombra, said that on January 4, along with other priests, he went to see if the consecrated Host had dissolved in the water after nearly two weeks: "Immediately we noticed that the Host had not dissolved, and that a red spot covering a fifth of its surface appeared. We decided to inform the Bishop, who established a special theological scientific commission to analyze the event. We noticed that over time the stain on the Host changed color from deep red to red brown.

The sample was taken directly by the scientists on January 26, 2014. For the



On December 25, 2013, the priest who distributed Communion accidentally dropped a Host from a ciborium. The priest picked it up and put it in a container with water and placed it in the tabernacle.

priests the miracle was evident. The commission checked if it was some fungus, mold, or another external agent. The Wrocław Forensic Medicine Institute immediately excluded the presence of bacteria or fungi as a cause for the Host turning red.

A second histopathological analysis pointed out that some fragments seemed to belong to myocardial tissue. An additional opinion was sought using the same samples at the Institute of Forensic Medicine in Szczecin without specifying where the samples came from. The Institute used a different analysis method. After the analysis, The Pomeranian Medical University's Department of Histopathology in Szczecin announced, "Tissue fragments containing fragmented parts of cross-striated muscle," was found in the histopathological image. This is similar to "human heart muscle with alterations that often appear during the agony. We have not tested the blood found on

the Host, we only know that human DNA was found."

The results of the analysis were presented to the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which recognized the supernatural nature of the event. It is striking that the examination results were similar to those of the Lanciano Eucharistic Miracle of 700 AD and other Miracles that occurred recently, such as Sokolka, in 2008; in Poland, Tixtla, in 2006; in Mexico, and Buenos Aires, in Argentina in 1996. On April 17, 2016, following the instructions received by the Holy See, Bishop Zbigniew Kiernikowski, the new Bishop of Legnica, announced during Mass that the parish priest Fr. Andrzej Ziombra should "prepare a suitable place for the exhibition of the precious relic, so that the faithful can express their adoration properly." ([http://www.miracolieucaristici.org/en/liste/scheda\\_b.html?nat=polonia&wh=legnica&act=Legnica.%202013](http://www.miracolieucaristici.org/en/liste/scheda_b.html?nat=polonia&wh=legnica&act=Legnica.%202013))

The fact that this Eucharistic miracle happened on Christmas is a bold reminder that Jesus came to us incarnate as a little baby to save us from sin. This miracle confirms that the Sacrament of the Mass brings to the altar the suffering, death and resurrection of Christ which is present in every Host. The Eucharist is the surest way to our salvation. Today, St. Hyacinth is a destination for pilgrims from all over the world, and the miraculous host has even been the source of conversions to the faith. As we reflect on these miracles, may the Lord in the Eucharist strengthen our faith too, and help us to approach the altar with respect and devotion. ©TM

The Very Rev. Shoby Chettyath, 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.miracolieucaristici.org/en/liste/list.html>.

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Doctor and cardiologist Professor Barbara Engel, who was one of the scientists involved in the scientific analysis, said during the press conference: "The material was analyzed using UV rays with an orange filter and the results were univocal. We have identified myocardial fibres, typical of myocardial tissue with alterations that often appear during the agony."

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## SFMC FOUNDATION RECOGNIZES DR. MICHAEL & MRS. MARY TRUEBLOOD

Cape Girardeau

**S**aint Francis Foundation recently recognized Dr. Michael and Mrs. Mary Trueblood with a Healing Hands Lifetime Giving Award in recognition of their long-term support and leadership of giving. The award was presented at Grace Notes, an annual donor appreciation dinner hosted by the Foundation.

“Their generosity has helped provide comfort and healing to numerous patients and colleagues over the years,” said Stacy Huff, Executive Director of the Foundation. “We extend our deepest gratitude to Dr. Trueblood and his wife, Mary.”

The Healing Hands Lifetime Giving was created to recognize physicians and advanced practice providers at Saint Francis Healthcare System whose cumulative giving has reached the \$50k, \$100k, or \$250k level. Inspired by faith in Jesus Christ, Saint Francis Healthcare System is guided by its Mission to provide a ministry of healing, wellness, quality, and love. Founded by Franciscan Sisters in 1875, the priority remains the same: serve all who enter with dignity, compassion, and joy. Serving nearly 713,000 people across Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee and Arkansas, focus is on patients’ outcomes, experience, and value. ©TM



**HEALING HANDS LIFETIME GIVING AWARD**—Justin Davison, Saint Francis Healthcare System President and Chief Executive Officer, was pictured with Healing Hands Lifetime Giving Award recipients, Mary Trueblood and Dr. Michael Trueblood, along with Stacy Huff, Saint Francis Foundation Executive Director. (Submitted photo)

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- Bring something you know your Priest will love to drink.
- Bring bowls or plates for your dish.
- Bring plastic utensils.
- Bring napkins.
- Bring your favorite type of game.
- Bring your lawn chairs. If the weather is nice we will be outside.
- Invite your friends and family!

For more information or questions answered, please Email:  
semocatholicmannight@gmail.com

**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 [dioscgo.org/youth-ministry/](http://dioscgo.org/youth-ministry/)

**Dates & Locations**

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**June 25 – June 30, 2023:**  
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**July 9 – July 14, 2023:**  
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**July 16 – July 21, 2023:**  
Neosho & Leopold

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

# In the Footsteps of Mary

By Fr. Ed Dougherty, MM

Many have heard the saying by his year, Mother's Day falls on Sun., May 14, just one day after the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima. Together, these two days make up a special weekend in this month already dedicated to our Blessed Mother. It is fitting that our celebrations of motherhood and Mary coincide because she is the guardian of mothers in this world. Mary is the model for motherhood in both joy and sorrow, and she shows the way of mercy at all times.

The story of Mary standing at the foot of the cross resonates with mothers in their deepest moments of suffering. When Jesus said to Mary, "Woman, behold, your son!" He was entrusting her to the care of John. He followed that by saying to John, "Behold, your mother!" So, He was entrusting John to her care as well, and by extension, He was entrusting us all to Mary's care.

The numerous and well-documented Marian apparitions that have occurred over the years confirm Mary's role as mother to us all and her profound connection to God. Credible Marian apparitions have occurred in many cultures at important moments in history, and the apparitions at Fatima remain among the most astounding.

Mary's final apparition at Fatima made international news, and it was reported that somewhere between 30,000 and 100,000 people made pilgrimages to the Cova da Iria, a field where Lucia dos Santos and her cousins, Francisco and Jacinta Marto, pastured their families' sheep. There, the pilgrims witnessed Mary's promised sign as the sun broke through dark rain clouds and defied the laws of physics, dancing in the sky and, at one point, appearing to fall to earth before finally returning to its normal position, leaving the ground the people were standing on and their previously wet clothes completely dry.

In her appearances to Lucia, Francesco, and Jacinta, Mary asked for prayers, reparations,

and devotion to her Immaculate Heart, and she made statements about war and peace that proved prophetic throughout the 20th century. At every turn, her intervention at Fatima was marked by a profound care for humanity and the hope that we would follow Christ and discover the Mercy of God.

Mary's role as the mother of Jesus is the lens through which to understand why she is such a powerful intercessor for us. Consider the story of the Wedding at Cana, when Jesus turned water into wine at His mother's request. Midway through the gathering, she said to Him, "They have no wine," and Jesus answered, "O woman, what have you to do with me? My hour has not yet come." At this point, Mary turned to the servants and said, "Do whatever He tells you."

What amazing confidence Mary had that Jesus would do as she asked even after He expressed displeasure at the request. This is the type of confidence we should have in asking for Mary's intercession because she will always bring our needs to the foot of the cross where all good things have been made possible in Christ.

In His actions at the Wedding at Cana, Jesus demonstrates the tremendous loyalty and respect we all owe to our mothers, who walk in the footsteps of Mary in the countless selfless acts they perform on our behalf. We should turn to the intercession of Mary to ask Christ to bless us with the same devotion to our mothers that He showed to His, so we can honor them this Mother's Day and throughout our lives. ©TM

*Father Dougherty is a member of The Christophers' Board of Directors. For a free copy of the Christopher News Note Creating A Loving Family And Home, write: The Christophers, 5 Hanover Square, New York, NY 10004; or Email: mail@christophers.org.*






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

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**MONTH OF OUR LADY**—A May Crowning was held in Sacred Heart Parish, Bolivar, May 7, with The Very Rev. Scott Sunnenberg, pastor, for the statue of Our Lady both inside the church and outside the church. (Submitted photo)





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