

# Parish celebrates Benedictine legacy, looks to future

By Paula Wright

Springfield, MO

**F**ounded in 1892, St. Joseph Parish, in Springfield, was placed in the care of the Benedictine Priests of Conception Abbey, Conception, MO. From 1892 to the dedication of the current church building on Thanksgiving Day, 1906, the Benedictine priests have served the parish: through new additions, new doors, refurbishing projects, and the recent blessing and dedication of three adjacent buildings donated to St. Joseph Parish. However, this summer, the 130-plus year Benedictine chapter closes and a new one begins.

On Sun., June 11, Bishop Edward M. Rice, and the Right Rev. Abbot Benedict Neenan, OSB, concelebrated Mass in St. Joseph Church, Springfield, in appreciation for the 130-year history of Benedictine Priests of Conception Abbey serving St. Joseph Parish. Fr. Karl Barmann, OSB, the 49th Benedictine Priest to serve as pastor, has been reassigned as a retired pastor to serve St. Gregory Parish in Maryville, MO. Sadly, with the aging and shortage of priests, Conception Abbey will be unable to continue to assign men to St. Joseph Parish.

## APPRECIATION MASS

The appreciation Mass celebrated the long-standing, continuous service of the Conception Abbey priests to the community. In his homily, Bishop Rice encouraged those attending in the pews of St. Joseph, to not to worry for the future of the parish is bright, and that they will continue to “Bring God to all people and all people to God,” as the parish vision states.

After the appreciation Mass, a procession for the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) took place followed by a farewell luncheon for Fr. Barmann. After his opening prayer for the luncheon, Abbot Benedict thanked the parish for all that the Benedictine Priests of Conception Abbey have received over the many years by way of love, encouragement, and support. He stated that this is a great loss for them, the parish has also been a part of their history for 130 years. He shared a highlight of that reciprocal love as he mentioned that Fr. Karl

always signed his correspondence to him as “Karl of the Ozarks.”

“It has been an honor and joy for our monks to serve you” Abbot Benedict said. He expressed his desire to someday

love you.”

“Fr. Karl has kept us ‘level and true.’ He is humble, obedient, he is a servant to others. The man never, ever missed an opportunity to go into the community to

meet the downtrodden,” said Jeff Ryan, parishioner, and representative of the Oblates of Benedictine. “He has brought the concept of daily prayer to all of us, through the Oblate program he introduced daily prayer, bible reading, and the Lectio Divina to help us better understand what God wants us to do.”

Parishioners expressed how Fr. Barmann had helped to show them how to live a life of service, how he had been a source of inspiration, and that he would be missed.

Fr. Barmann spoke briefly to thank everyone there, the honored guests, musicians, and to those whose work made the luncheon possible. He shared his thoughts on how good the future looks for the parish and the school. “The Christian never says

goodbye, instead, ‘I’ll see you later,’ rather in this life or the next,” Fr. Barmann said. “And the next life better be up there and not down there!”

He concluded in prayer, thanking God and asking for his continued blessings.

## FAREWELL LUNCHEON

Attending guests of honor at the farewell luncheon included The Most Rev. Edward M. Rice, Bishop Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau; The Most Rev. John J. Leibrecht, Bishop Emeritus Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau; Right Rev. Benedict Neenan, OSB, Abbot of Conception Abbey; Fr. Xavier Nacke, OSB, Director of Oblates of St. Benedict; Fr. Karl W. Barmann, OSB; Deacon Matt Fletcher and Mrs. Marcella Fletcher; Mr. Joe Gallagher, VP of Pastoral Council, and Mrs. Tina Gallagher.

Also assisting in the Appreciation Mass and Procession with Bishop Rice and Abbot Benedict were: Bishop Emeritus John Leibrecht, Fr. Karl Barmann, Fr. Xavier Nacke, Fr. David Miller, Deacon Matt Fletcher, and Deacon Jim Farrar.

Effective July 1, Fr. Pompeyo Tan, Jr., will join St. Joseph Parish as its Parochial Administrator. Prior to this appointment to St. Joseph Parish, Father Pompeyo was previously the Parochial Vicar of Holy Trinity Parish, Springfield, and will continue to serve as the Chaplain to the Filipino Community. ©RM



**BENEDICTINE TRADITION AT ST. JOSEPH PARISH**—Deacon James Farrar joined several servers and guests of honor at the liturgy honoring the 130-plus years of Benedictine service to St. Joseph Parish, Springfield. Concelebrating the June 11 Mass of Thanksgiving and Farewell for out-going pastor Fr. Karl Barmann, OSB, included Right Rev. Benedict Neenan, OSB, Abbot of Conception Abbey in northwest Missouri; The Most Rev. Edward M. Rice, and The Most Rev. John J. Leibrecht, Bishop Emeritus of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. Father Barmann is the 49th Benedictine priest to serve as pastor of St. Joseph Parish. He is being reassigned by his congregation to serve as Pastor of St. Gregory Parish, Maryville, MO. With an aging community and fewer vocations to the priesthood, Conception Abbey is unable to continue to assign men to the parish. (The Mirror)

have pastors return to the diocese from Conception Seminary, a sentiment echoed by Bishop Rice.

“It has been with great joy, fulfillment, and love that our 49 monks have served for over 130 years,” Abbott Benedict said. “It is wonderful to be a priest. Encourage your sons and grandsons to be a priest.”

A native of Maryville, MO, and ordained January 21, 1965, Fr. Barmann came to St. Joseph Parish in 2018. Prior to this, he had served as a pastor of numerous other parishes and as an Air Force Chaplain, with the rank of Captain. Mr. Joe Gallagher, VP of Pastoral Council, spoke at the farewell luncheon with great fondness, mentioning that Fr. Karl was a “full bird Colonel.”

“Fr. Karl is a great delegator, I was told I was going to speak today, and here I am,” Gallagher said. “A good delegator helps, he acts as a mentor. Fr. Karl was that. He looked for the best in each person, with a Christ-like attitude—as only Fr. Karl can.”

“It is with great regret we see him leave, but with the greatest of wishes, hopes, and prayers we say ‘Goodbye,’” Gallagher said. “You have meant so much to us. Thank you.”

Others from the parish offered reflections and wished Fr. Barmann a fond farewell.

“Fr. Karl was such a blessing for us and will be missed,” said Pat Henderson, from the St. Joseph PCCW. “Bless you Father, we



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COME, AND  
YOU WILL SEE

Bp. Edward M. Rice

# The Sacred Heart is a gentle, humble heart

Some 200 miles north of Springfield is the small town of Gower, MO, a population of about 1500. Outside the town, is a Benedictine convent, the Benedictines of Mary, Queen of Apostles, who live a quiet life of prayer and work, following the Benedictine tradition. They are not an old convent, only recently built in 1995, founded by Mother Mary Wilhelmina. Mother Wilhelmina died in 2019 and was buried in the convent cemetery. And when the sisters made plans to transfer her body to be placed in the convent Chapel, they were surprised that her body, along with the habit, and her rosary and even the flowers buried with her, had not deteriorated. It's up to the Bishop of that diocese to help discover what all that means, but you can read more about it on page 12. One thing for sure, Mother Wilhelmina loved her habit and fought for it. She even left her previous order because they had moved away from wearing the habit.

Now, some 2,000 miles to the West of Springfield, in Los Angeles, CA, on June 16, a group of queer and transvestite nuns (that is how they describe themselves on their Website) that use Catholic religious imagery such as the religious habit, the rosary, and the crucifix, were recognized for their charity work by the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Throughout southern Missouri we have many religious sisters that have dedicated their lives to education, hospital ministry, serving the poor, and

social advocacy for the least among us. I would like the Los Angeles Dodgers to honor the Religious sisters that serve in southern Missouri.

Did you know that in 1985, at the height of the AIDS epidemic, Mother Teresa opened an AIDS Hospice in Greenwich Village on Christmas Eve? At that time, not much was known about HIV or AIDS—it was highly stigmatized and feared—and many were dying alone. Mother Teresa advocated for mercy and support for those patients. She said, “We want that nobody dies unloved and uncared for. We

are hoping that they will be able to live and die in peace by getting tender love and care.” She asked then-Mayor Koch to release three state inmates with AIDS into her care, and Gov. Cuomo ultimately agreed. She called the 14-bed Hospice dedicated to AIDS patients, “Gift of Love,” to highlight the fact that it was opened on Christmas Eve, when the Church celebrates receiving the greatest gift of love: the gift of Christ in the form of human flesh. She would go on to open another AIDS Hospice in Washington, DC, and another in San Francisco. Her sisters cared for AIDS patients when no one else would. Today, there are 41 convents of the Missionaries of Charity in the United States serving the poorest of the poor. I would like the Los Angeles Dodgers to honor the Missionaries of Charity.

I'm old enough to remember Tommy Lasorda, the famous manager of the LA Dodgers. For a few years I met him on a pretty regular basis because I

had a high school job working at the Old Cathedral—the Catholic Church near the Arch in downtown Saint Louis, just a few blocks from the Saint Louis Busch Stadium. Whenever the Los Angeles Dodgers came to town to play the Saint Louis Cardinals, you would find Tommy Lasorda in the Old Cathedral, either at the Saturday evening Mass or the early Sunday morning Mass. I can't say that he knew me but I certainly knew him. He was a practicing Catholic that even when traveling, he went to Mass. What would he think of this so-called “honor” from the Los Angeles Dodgers to a group that mocks Catholic imagery? Are the Los Angeles Dodgers going to honor those that mock the Jewish faith, or the Hindu faith, or the Muslim faith? Or will they limit their mockery just to the Catholic faith? And if that be so, is that not the height of cowardice and blatant religious bigotry?

Finally, this so-called “honor” that occurred on June 16th, happened to fall on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The entire month of June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Heart of Jesus is crowned with thorns to symbolize His suffering for us. His heart is pierced to symbolize the total giving of Himself on the cross. The Heart of Jesus is burning with Divine Love that He has for each one of us.

How did I mark this beautiful celebration of the Sacred Heart? I offered Holy Mass, I prayed and fasted, I offered my rosary with the single intention: that those who participated in this mockery will come to know that Christ loves them, that He died for them, and He is saying to each one of them

“Come to me, for I am gentle and humble of heart.”

*Heart of Jesus, salvation of those who trust in Thee, have mercy on us.*

*Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us.*

*Saint Joseph, Protector of the Universal Church, pray for us.* ©TM



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Thank you!



## 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.

**April 28, 1989** Recently visiting the primary grades in St. Mary School, Joplin, I asked the children when they prayed. “Before going to bed,” one said. “Before I eat,” said another. “When somebody is sick,” offered a third. The next one said, “On Thursdays!”

**May 5, 1989** In St. Mary Parish, Joplin, I was introduced after Mass to a parishioner who is 101 years old. We had a good time talking together, and, when it was time for him to leave, I asked who was coming by to take him home. “Nobody,” he smiled

quickly. “I’ll drive myself home!”

**May 19, 1989** A thirteen-year-old spoke appreciatively of a diary given her as a birthday gift by her grandmother. Although, “It’s awfully late to start a diary,” she said. “Everything has already happened.”

**May 26, 1989** I got a kick out of a “For Sale” sign on the windshield of an old beat-up car: “Price -- \$3200. Rebate-- \$3000.”

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*Obispo Edward M. Rice*

# El Sagrado Corazón es un corazón manso

**A** unas 200 millas (320 km) al norte de Springfield se encuentra la pequeña ciudad de Gower, Missouri, de unos 1,500 habitantes. Fuera de la ciudad, hay un convento benedictino, las Benedictinas de María, Reina de los Apóstoles, que llevan una vida tranquila de oración y trabajo, siguiendo la tradición benedictina. No son un convento antiguo, sino recién construido en 1995, fundado por la Madre María Guillermina. La Madre Guillermina murió en 2019 y fue enterrada en el cementerio del convento. Y cuando las hermanas hicieron planes para trasladar su cuerpo y colocarlo en la capilla del convento, se sorprendieron de que su cuerpo, junto con el hábito, y su rosario e incluso las flores enterradas con ella, no se hubieran deteriorado. Depende del Obispo de esa diócesis ayudar a descubrir lo que eso significa. Una cosa es segura, la Madre Guillermina amaba su hábito y luchó por él. Incluso abandonó su orden anterior porque habían dejado de llevar el hábito.

Ahora, a unas 2,000 millas al oeste de Springfield, en Los Ángeles, California, el 16 de junio, un grupo de monjas queer y travestis (así es como se describen en su sitio web) que utilizan imágenes religiosas católicas como el hábito religioso, el rosario, el rosario y el crucifijo, será reconocido por su trabajo de caridad por los Dodgers de Los Ángeles.

En todo el sur de Missouri tenemos muchas religiosas que han dedicado sus vidas a la educación, al ministerio hospitalario, al servicio de los pobres y a la defensa social de los más pequeños entre nosotros. Me gustaría que los Dodgers de Los Ángeles honraran a

las religiosas que sirven en el sur de Missouri.

¿Sabías que en 1985, la Madre Teresa abrió un hospicio de SIDA en Greenwich Village en Nochebuena, en el apogeo de la epidemia de SIDA? En aquella época, no se sabía mucho sobre el VIH o el SIDA: estaba muy estigmatizado y eran muy temido, y muchos morían solos. La Madre Teresa abogó por la misericordia y el apoyo a los enfermos de SIDA. Dijo: "Queremos que nadie muera sin amor ni cuidados. Esperamos que puedan vivir y morir en paz al recibir tierno amor y cuidado". Pidió al entonces alcalde Koch que liberara a 3 reclusos estatales con SIDA a su cuidado, y el gobernador Cuomo finalmente estuvo de acuerdo. Llamó "Regalo de Amor" al Hospicio de 14 camas dedicado a los enfermos de SIDA, para destacar el hecho de que se inauguró en Nochebuena, cuando celebramos haber recibido el mayor regalo de amor: el don de Cristo en forma de carne humana. Ella iba a abrir otro hospicio de SIDA en Washington DC y otro en San Francisco. Sus hermanas atendieron a enfermos de SIDA cuando nadie más lo hacía. En la actualidad, hay 41 conventos de las Misioneras de la Caridad en Estados Unidos al servicio de los más pobres entre los pobres. Me gustaría que los Dodgers de Los Ángeles honraran a las Misioneras de la Caridad.

Tengo edad suficiente para recordar a Tommy Lasorda, el famoso entrenador de los Dodgers de Los Ángeles. Durante algunos años lo conocí con bastante regularidad porque tenía un trabajo de escuela secundaria trabajando en la Catedral Vieja, la Iglesia Católica cerca del Arco en el centro de Saint Louis, a

solo unas cuerdas del Estadio Busch de Saint Louis. Siempre que los Dodgers de Los Ángeles venían a la ciudad para jugar contra los Cardenales de Saint Louis, te encontrabas a Tommy Lasorda en la Catedral Vieja, ya fuera en la misa del sábado por la noche o en la del domingo por la mañana temprano. No puedo decir que me conociera, pero yo sí que le conocía a él. Era un católico practicante que, incluso cuando viajaba, iba a misa. ¿Qué pensaría de este supuesto honor de los Dodgers de Los Ángeles a un grupo que se burla de las imágenes católicas? ¿Los Dodgers de Los Ángeles van a honrar a aquellos que se burlan de la fe judía, o la fe hindú, o la fe musulmana? ¿O limitarán sus burlas sólo a la religión católica? Y si es así, ¿no es eso el colmo de la cobardía y del fanatismo religioso descarado?

Por último, este supuesto "honor" que tendrá lugar el 16 de junio, cae casualmente en la Solemnidad del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús. Todo el mes de junio está dedicado al Sagrado Corazón de Jesús. El Corazón de Jesús está coronado de espinas para simbolizar su sufrimiento por nosotros. Su corazón está traspasado para simbolizar la entrega total de sí mismo en la cruz. El Corazón de Jesús está

ardiendo con el Amor Divino que Él tiene para cada uno de nosotros.

¿Cómo marcaré esta hermosa celebración del Sagrado Corazón? Ofreceré la Santa Misa, rezaré y ayunaré, ofreceré mi rosario con la única intención: Que los que participan en esta burla llegarán a saber que Cristo los ama, que murió por ellos, y les está diciendo a cada uno de ellos: "Vengan a mí, porque soy manso y humilde de corazón".

*Corazón de Jesús, salvación de los que confían en ti, ten piedad de nosotros.*

*Inmaculado Corazón de María, ruega por nosotros.*

*San José, patrono de la Iglesia Universal, ruega por nosotros. ©TM*

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## MEMORIAL DAY MASS CELEBRATION



**MASS & BLESSING**—Bishop Edward Rice celebrated a Memorial Day Mass at Resurrection Cemetery, Springfield, MO. Pictured were Fr. Tom Kiefer, Msgr. Tom Reidy, Fr. Jesse Hiatt, Bishop Emeritus John J. Leibrecht, Bishop Edward M. Rice, Deacon Bill Keller, Fr. Karl Barmann, OSB, Fr. Timothy Tran, CRM, and Fr. Fergus Monaghan. After Mass, Bp. Rice blessed the new cross and columbarium in the cemetery. The Knights of Columbus provided refreshments. (Photo by Dean Curtis/  
*The Mirror*)

## A GRATEFUL CHURCH

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**ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES in July:**

### **PRIESTS:**

**Rev. Chori Seraiah, July 08, 11 yrs.**

**Rev. Ray Smith, CMF, July 16, 7 yrs.**

**Rev. Laurent Okitakatshi, July 16, 6 yrs.**

**Rev. Rahab Isidor, July 28, 17 yrs.**

### **DEACON:**

**Deacon Horacio Quiles, July 11, 14 yrs.**



## EUCCHARISTIC MIRACLES of the WORLD

The Very Rev.  
Shoby Chettiyath, V.G.



# EUCCHARISTIC MIRACLE OF Sokółka Poland, Oct. 12, 2008

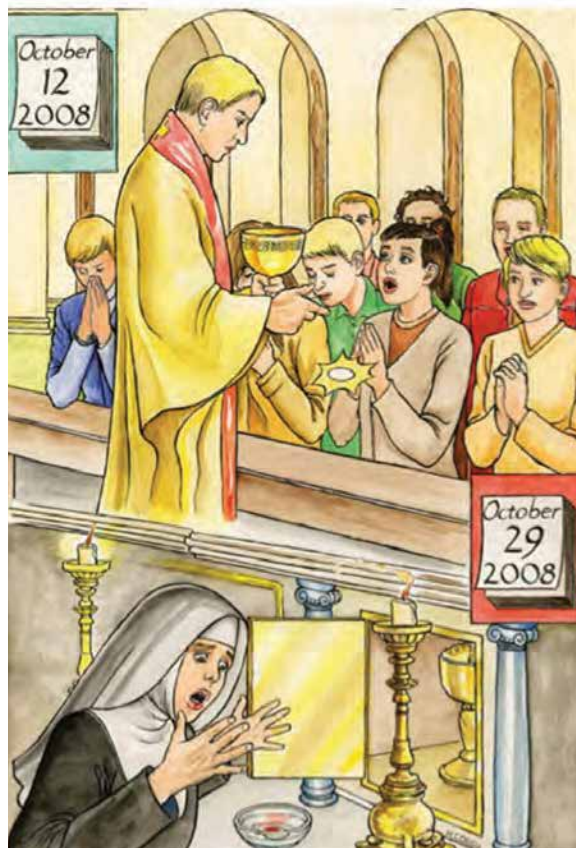
During the national three-year Eucharistic Revival, The Very Rev. Shoby Chettiyath, V.G., the diocesan Vicar General, will write a series of articles exploring the various Eucharistic Miracles of the World. A companion for readers in this series is, "The Eucharistic Miracles of the World," an international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

A document from the Second Vatican Council, "The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy," reveals, "At the Last Supper, on the night he was betrayed, our Savior instituted the Eucharistic sacrifice of his Body and Blood. This he did in order to perpetuate the sacrifice of the cross throughout the ages until he should come again, and so to entrust to his beloved Spouse, the Church, a memorial of his death and resurrection: a sacrament of love, a sign of unity, a bond of charity, a Paschal banquet 'in which Christ is consumed, the mind is filled with grace, and a pledge of future glory is given to us'" ("Sacrosanctum concilium" ["The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy"], 47). Every day, on the altars of Catholic churches around the world, the greatest miracle takes place: the transformation of ordinary substances of bread and wine into the true Body and Blood of Christ.

Nonetheless, when we receive Communion, we can only touch its true nature with our faith, because our senses only perceive bread and wine, physically unaltered by the consecration. Saint Cyril of Jerusalem wrote: "Do not see in the bread and wine merely natural elements, because the Lord has expressly said that they are his body and his blood: faith assures you of this, though your senses suggest otherwise." This article will discuss a recent Eucharist miracle of a bleeding Host that took place in SOKÓŁKA, POLAND, on OCT. 12, 2008, and approved for veneration in Poland.

On Oct. 12, 2008, in the church dedicated to St. Anthony of Sokółka, the Holy Mass of 8:30 a.m. was celebrated by a young vicar, Filip Zdrodowski. During Communion, the Host unknowingly falls from the hands of one of the priests. A woman kneeling, ready to receive the

Eucharist, calls him to notice it. The priest remains paralyzed from fright and believing it was dirty, places it in the vasculum, a small silver vessel which contains the water utilized by priests to wash their fingers after distributing Communion. At the end of the Holy Mass, the sacristan, Sr. Julia Dubowska, takes the vasculum with the Host and for



increased safety, pours it into another vessel, which she then locks in a safe, where the chalices are kept.

A week later, on Oct. 19, Mission Sunday, the pastor asked her about the condition of the host. Sister Julia went to the safe. When she opened the door, she noticed a delicate aroma of unleavened bread. When she opened the container, she saw, in the middle of the host—which was still largely intact—a curved, bright red stain, like a blood stain: a living particle of a body. The water was untainted by the color. The sister immediately informed the priest, who brought in the other priests at the parish and the visiting missionary, Fr. Ryszard Gorowski. They were all amazed and left speechless by what they saw.

The pastor of Sokółka then contacted the Metropolitan Curia of Białystok. Archbishop Edward Ozorowski, together with the Chancellor of the Curia, priests, and professors, examined the Host. Astounded, Abp. Ozorowski decided to wait for the development of events and to see what

would happen next. On Oct. 29, the vessel containing the Host was brought into the parish chapel and locked in the tabernacle. The next day, on order of the Archbishop, Fr. Gniedziejko delicately removes with a small spoon

the partially-dissolved Host with the blood-colored substance on its interior and places it on a pure white corporal, which had a red cross embroidered on its center. The corporal is kept in the case used for keeping and carrying the Hosts, to be then locked again in the tabernacle. Over time, the Host "fused" with the corporal and the red "clot" dried. Only then were two scientists of global fame and specialists in pathological anatomy at the Medical University, of Białystok, consulted. The Metropolitan Curia of Białystok has released this declaration concerning the Eucharistic Miracle that occurred at Sokółka:

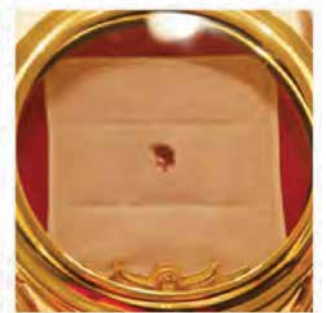
1. On Oct. 12, 2008, a consecrated Host fell out of the hands of a priest while he was distributing Holy Communion. He picked it up and placed it in a vessel filled with water, in the tabernacle. After Mass, the vessel containing the host was placed in a safe present in the sacristy.
2. On Oct. 19, 2008, after opening the safe, one could clearly see a red stain on the Host that had fallen, which with the naked eye, immediately gave the impression of being a bloodstain.
3. On Oct. 29, 2008, the vessel containing the Host was transferred to the tabernacle of the chapel of the rectory. The next day, the Host was removed from the water contained in the vessel and placed on a corporal inside the tabernacle.
4. On Jan. 7, 2009, the sample of the Host was taken and examined independently by two professionals in histopathology at the University of Medicine of Białystok. They



Interior Chapel where the precious Relic is kept



Church dedicated to Saint Anthony in Sokółka



The fragment of the partially dissolved Host with the blood colored substance emanated from its interior is the relic that was placed on the white corporal with an embroidered red cross.

issued a common declaration, which states: "The sample sent for evaluation looks like myocardial tissue. In our opinion, of all the tissues of living organisms, this is the one that resembles it the most."

5. The Commission has noted that the analyzed Host is the same one that has been moved from the sacristy to the tabernacle in the chapel of the rectory. Intervention by a third party has not been found.
6. The case of Sokółka does not contradict the faith of the Church, but rather confirms it." ([http://www.therealpresence.org/eucharst/mir/english\\_pdf/Sokolka1.pdf](http://www.therealpresence.org/eucharst/mir/english_pdf/Sokolka1.pdf))

The Church professes that, after the words of consecration, by the power of the Holy Spirit, the bread is transformed into the Body of Christ, and the wine into His Blood. Additionally, this is an invitation for all ministers of the Eucharist to distribute the Body of the Lord with faith and care, and for the faithful to receive Him with adoration."

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The Very Rev. Shoby Chettiyath, V.G., serves as Vicar General, Moderator of the Curia, and Vicar for Religious in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. He is Parochial Administrator of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, in Nixa, MO. For more info, go to <http://www.miracolieuaristici.org/en/liste/list.html>.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Belleville, IL**—The National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows will offer a three-part summer series entitled, **“Journey to Nicaea: The Evolution of Christianity from Gospel to Creed,”** on the following Saturdays: July 1, Aug. 5, and Sept. 2, in the Shrine Visitors Center. Presenter is Mark Etling, PhD, an adjunct professor at the School for Professional Studies at St. Louis University. Cost: \$10 per session or \$30 for the series. Information and registration at <https://snows.org/> or call the Shrine at (618) 394-6281.

**Diocesan-wide—SAVE THE DATE!** **Diocesan Evangelization and Discipleship Summit**, a day of prayer, formation, and inspiration, featuring Bishop Edward Rice, Jason Simon (President of Evangelical Catholic), and more, will be held Sat., Oct. 28, in Cape Girardeau, and Sat., Nov. 4, in Springfield.

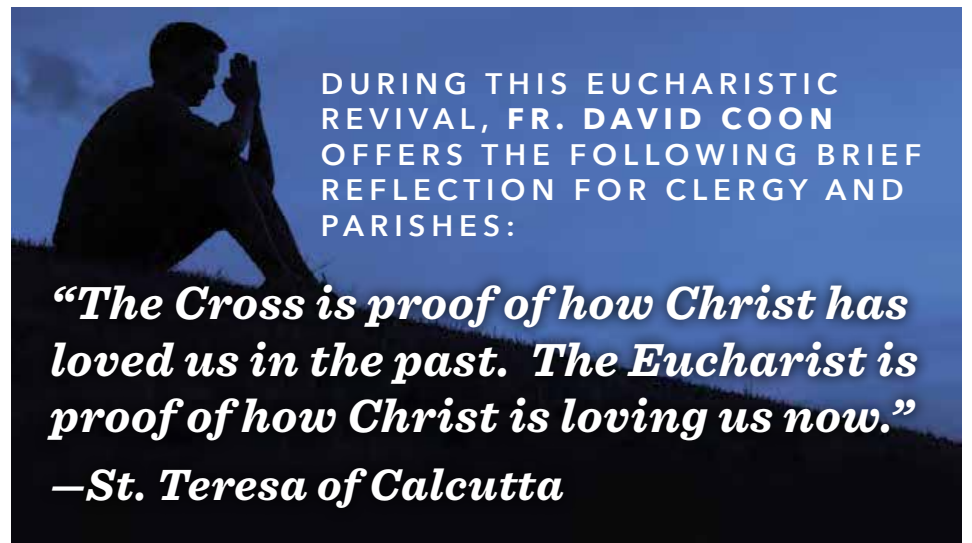
**Cape Girardeau**—The Catholic Social Ministries Food Pantry will have a **Yard Sale**, Thu., July 27, 7 a.m.-5 p.m.; Fri., July 28, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., and Sat., July 29, 7 a.m.-noon, in St. Mary Cathedral Catholic School gym. Fill a bag with clothes for \$1 and on Saturday, other items will be half-off. Items may be dropped off Mon., July 24-Wed., July 26 at the school gym. All proceeds to benefit the Catholic Food Pantry.

**Monett**—St. Lawrence Parish will host **Dr. Scott Hahn**, Sat., July 22, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Monett Performing Arts Center, located at 1650 E Cleveland Ave. Study Scripture from the heart of the Church with one of today’s most respected scholars. For additional information or to purchase tickets, go to <https://stpaulcenter.com/monett2023/>.

**Springfield**—Springfield Area Perpetual Adoration, hosted in 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. Drop in to experience the peace of adoration and consider joining our substitute list. For more information or to sign up, please contact Marilyn Gibson at (417) 224-4043.

**Wildwood—Mid-life Singles:** Are you looking for a renewed sense of purpose & belonging? Register today for a life changing **REFLECT weekend retreat** at La Salle Retreat Center (35 min from downtown St. Louis), on July 21-23. Early bird cost is \$240 (\$250 after Fri., July 7), including meals and a single room. For more information, visit <https://ReflectRetreat.com>, Email [reflect.stlouis@gmail.com](mailto:reflect.stlouis@gmail.com), or call (314) 283-0044.

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



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**“The Cross is proof of how Christ has loved us in the past. The Eucharist is proof of how Christ is loving us now.”**  
—**St. Teresa of Calcutta**

*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.*



**Diocese seeks Director of Development and Properties**

The **Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau** seeks qualified applicants to fill the position of **Director of Development and Properties**. Applicant must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church. Qualified individuals need a demonstrated understanding of the theology of stewardship and experience in the administration of major capital campaigns as this position includes responsibility for the annual diocesan fundraising appeal. Additionally, the ideal applicant would have experience in a field related to property management or construction as well as experience with the legal duties related to property acquisition. Administrative and management experience is required. A college degree is preferred and the ability to work collaboratively is critical. This is a full-time, exempt position. Some evening and weekend hours, as well as periodic travel, driving across the diocese will be required to accomplish the work. Compensation includes competitive salary, excellent health benefits and retirement plan based on diocesan guidelines.

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

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By  
Fr. Joshua  
J. Whitfield

## WHAT WE BELIEVE, PART 21:

# Sacramental Communion, Sacramental Pilgrimage

The Church in its essence — from John 17 to Vatican II — is the holy, catholic and apostolic oneness for which Jesus prayed on Holy Thursday. In Christ, it is the sacrament, the sign and instrument, of our saving union with God and with each other. In the Spirit, it is the bride and Body of Christ. This is what I've been trying to describe in the first part of this series — and what I had to discover for myself — what we believe as members of the one Catholic Church of Jesus Christ.

Many important questions remain, however, questions that will spur us on throughout the rest of this series. The very first questions, though, seem to be these: How does one encounter this Church; how does one live it? The answer *Lumen Gentium* gives here is simple: by the sacraments and the life of virtue. "It is through the sacraments and the exercise of the virtues that the sacred nature and organic structure of the priestly community is brought into operation" (No. 11). Now, of course, this implies an awful lot — belonging to the sacramental Church in obedience, for one — but, really, in substance, it's that simple. Once one comes to believe it, all one needs to do is live it as best as one can — the teaching, the sacraments.

Living the life of the sacraments, we are "fortified," *Lumen Gentium* teaches, whatever our state in life happens to be. Whether clergy or layperson, each believer in his or her unique way is called by Christ "to that perfect holiness whereby the Father Himself is perfect" (No. 11; cf. Mt 5:48). All people are called to the "catholic unity of the people of God." Poor and rich, all races and nations, all kinds of people — all belong to the Church. All are "called by the grace of God to salvation" (No. 13). A life that begins and endures by means of the word of God and the sacraments is the foundation of Catholic life. And that's because Catholicism is really nothing

other than the way of divine love.

To understand this, think of it this way. While many images may apply to the Church, think now of it primarily as the Body of Christ, or even simply as

and Tradition the Body of Christ speaks to us. Ours is a communion that communicates; a Church that in Christ offers a word.

But, of course, that's not all; the

both speaks and kisses us, so to speak, saving us by loving us.

And finally, before moving on, it's worth remembering what I've been calling the mission for glory — that is, the Church's divine origin, its purpose and heavenly destiny. The Church's source and the origin of its mission is the Trinity itself. The Father sends the Son, and in the Holy Spirit, the Son sends the apostles; and this growing apostolic fellowship, following the teachings of Jesus — his charity, humility, self-sacrifice — is on earth "the initial budding" of the kingdom of God as it "slowly grows" in its desire to be "united in glory with its King" (*Lumen Gentium*, No. 5). Such is the foundation and yearning of the Church, its essence, trajectory and pilgrimage, spiritual and sacramental, across the ages. But this Church will only achieve its end, its perfection, in heaven when all will be restored and "reestablished in Christ" (No. 48). Which is why until then what matters is its faithfulness and sanctification — each saint and all saints together. And which also is why we next turn to consider God's sharp, burning and purifying word and then his sacraments. Because that's how we do it. It's how we become saints in this one Church together.



(Adobe Stock)

Christ. And then think about how you encounter other persons, other bodies. How do you do it? Most of the time, it's by means of speech, or at least some gesture or other form of communication. That's how one normally encounters a person. Why then wouldn't our encounter with the person of Jesus Christ be kind of like that? As we move on from talking about the Church to talking about Scripture and Tradition, this really is the first and simplest way to think about it — that through Scripture

Body of Christ does more than simply speak to us. The Body of Christ touches us too. In the sacraments, Jesus touches us. Think of it this way. Encountering one's spouse, one often hears "I love you." But your wife or husband doesn't just say those words. She or he also steps close, offering a touch of the hand, a hug and a kiss. Very simply, such is how we encounter the Body of Christ in word and sacrament. That's why Catholicism is the way of divine love, because not only is it an encounter, it's also an embrace. I not only hear Jesus, I feel him, feed on him, experience him — that's Scriptural and sacramental life. It's not just intellectual, it's sensual too. This necessitates the move to talk now about Scripture and Tradition and the sacraments. Because the Body of Christ

### NEXT EDITION: WHAT WE BELIEVE, PART 22

#### What Scripture is For

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 21: Sacramental Communion, Sacramental Pilgrimage" 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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# Jared Koehler Selected to Supreme Knights of Columbus College Councils Advisory Board

By Paula Wright Cape Girardeau, MO

Cape Girardeau's Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO) student, and College Knights of Columbus member, **Jared Koehler**, has been selected to the Supreme Knights of Columbus College Councils Advisory Board and will serve as the Vice Chairman. According to their Website, the College Councils Advisory Board members are selected "to represent the needs and interests of college Knights to the staff of the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus, to advise staff on new strategic initiatives, and to assist in the planning and organization of the annual College Councils Conference." Members are "exemplary Knights of Columbus with demonstrated leadership, both in their college council and their campus community." Members of the advisory council serve for a one-year term.

"It is a tremendous honor for Jared to be selected to serve on the Supreme Knights of Columbus College Advisory Board," said Doug Kissinger, State Deputy of the Knights of Columbus in Missouri. "Jared has done a great job growing the SEMO Council, both spiritually and in membership. The 1,000-Rosary program was quite an accomplishment. His selection to the Advisory Board is a well-deserved honor."

Koehler, who has served the past two years as the Grand Knight for the St. Thomas Aquinas Council #15294 on the SEMO campus, recently attended his first in-person meeting for the council in New Haven, CT, headquarters office for the Knights of Columbus.

"The main role of the College Council is to encourage Knight of Columbus chapters on college campuses to attend the National Knights of Columbus College Conference which is held annually on the last weekend of September," Koehler said. "Our role is to act as an ambassador and follow up with colleges within our territory to encourage participation at the annual conference."

When asked how he became involved in the College Councils Advisory Board, he shared, "The College Advisory Board is promoted during the annual conference, anyone interested is encouraged to apply. I wanted to help at the national level. So, I applied, went through the rigorous process, and was selected." There are a total of nine (9) young men on the College Councils Advisory Board.

"I think that it is very important for young men to be involved. Young men are the future of the Knights," Koehler said. "A lot of young men are reluctant to join, their perception is that K of C is for older men. I like to challenge that thinking because young men are needed

for change and growth; I challenge them to make it (KofC) what you want it to be. Become active and break the stereotypes. The Knights of Columbus do a lot of work people don't know about, there is, of course, financial support for many good charities and causes, but also, they help in ways of faith. The Knights help men focus on prayer life, on authentic masculinity, morals, ethics, values, and leadership. The organization has had a huge impact on my life. Through them, I have met people from all over the world. I have experienced growth as a man—a lot has happened in my life. I have met some of my best friends through the Knights, friends that share the same goal as me: to become a holier man for the Church. And doing this through the work and organization that is the Knights of Columbus."

The SEMO Council has been very active this past year engaging young men in growing their faith and community support.

"With Jared's leadership, council membership has seen considerable growth in numbers, and more importantly, we are seeing men of our community truly stepping up spiritually," said Deacon Tom Schumer, Director of the Catholic Campus Ministry, SEMO. "The result is a growing number of young men who rightly understand their vital role as spiritual leaders!"

The council completed a "1,000 Rosaries" challenge three months ahead of schedule this year. They also held a crucifix Stations of the Cross



KOEHLER

procession on Good Friday that 60-70 people attended. The council also held canned food drives, prayer groups, and supported tornado victims in their area. "All credit goes to the Holy Spirit," Koehler said. "It has been exciting to see the growth and enthusiasm. We are a very active council."

Jared Koehler will be a senior this coming fall and is majoring in Business. "Because of my new responsibilities, I will not be Grand Knight next year, but I will remain very active in the Knights council in SEMO," Koehler said. He recently accepted an internship for this summer and will be moving to Connecticut for a few months to work in the Supreme Knights of Columbus office.

This year's annual College Councils Conference will be held in New Haven, Connecticut, on September 29-October 1, 2023. Each college council is invited to send at least two student delegates to the conference to represent their college council. ©TM

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

## PARISH CELEBRATES FEAST DAY



**FEASTING ON SACRED HEART TREATS**—Sacred Heart Parish, Bolivar, celebrated its feast day on Fri., June 16, with Mass and a parish meal. For the special occasion, talented parishioner Tristen Cross made strawberries that were decorated as mini "Sacred Heart" treats, that were both tasty and festive. (Photos by Becky Briggs/The

Mirror)

# May 'Meet Me at the Grotto' prayer events held across the Diocese

**B**ishop Edward M. Rice invited parishioners in May to join him in the local Marian grotto to praying the rosary together, thanking Our Lady for the intercession to her son Jesus for the blessings upon the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau and the faithful of southern Missouri. ©TM



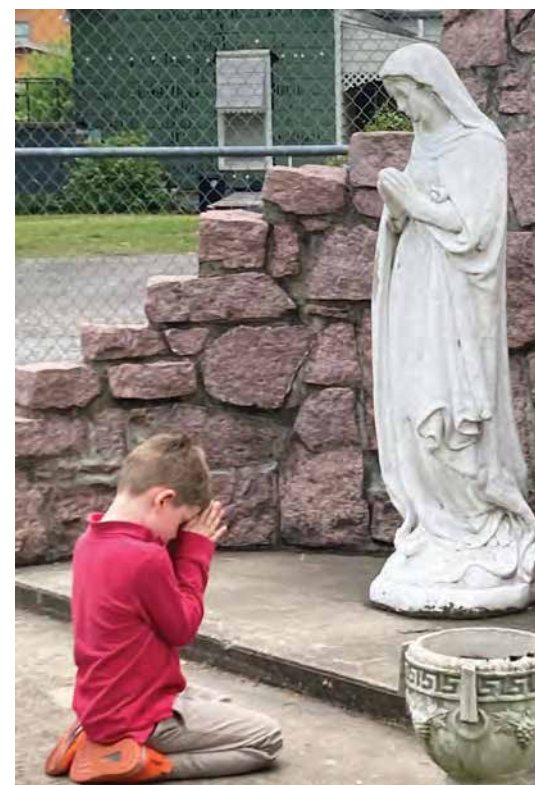
**ST. MARY CATHEDRAL**—The May 'Meet Me at the Grotto' prayer events with Bishop Rice kicked off on May 7 at St. Mary Cathedral, Cape Girardeau. *(The Mirror)*



**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**—Bishop Edward Rice enjoyed the lovely turnout on May 16 for the 'Meet Me at the Grotto,' held at St. John the Baptist Mission Church, Licking. *(The Mirror)*



**ST. JOHN VIANNEY**—Monday, May 22, was the date for prayers with Bishop Rice for Mountain View's 'Meet Me at the Grotto,' held at St. John Vianney Parish. *(The Mirror)*



**RECESS PRAYERS**—Elliot Simmons of St. Mary Cathedral Catholic School decided to spend his time at recess in prayer before the statue of parish patron, Mary, Mother of God, in Cape Girardeau. The month of May is dedicated to Our Lady. *(The Mirror)*



**HOLY TRINITY**—Bishop Edward Rice joined parishioners at Holy Trinity Parish, Marshfield, on May 28, bringing to a close the May 'Meet Me at the Grotto' events. *(The Mirror)*





**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**—The weather called for parishioners to join Bishop Rice inside Immaculate Conception Parish, Springfield, for the May 9 'Meet Me at the Grotto. *(The Mirror)*



**PIERCE CITY**—A beautiful evening and large crowd gathered with Bishop Rice at the Marian grotto of St. Mary Parish, Pierce City, on May 13. *(The Mirror)*



**ST. AGNES CATHEDRAL**—'Meet Me at the Grotto' with Bishop Rice was held May 15 in St. Agnes Cathedral, Springfield. *(The Mirror)*



**ST. LAWRENCE**—So many parishioners prayed the rosary with Bishop Rice at St. Lawrence Parish, New Hamburg, on May 21, two group photos had to be taken to get everyone in the picture. *(The Mirror)*

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*Men Meeting Jesus*

Wednesday, **July 26** | 6:30-9:00 pm  
Sacred Heart, Poplar Bluff, MO

An evening of Adoration, Confession,  
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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

**June 22:**  
Respect  
for Sacred  
Spaces

**June 23:**  
Seal of  
Confession

**June 24:**  
Nicaragua

**June 25:**  
Religious  
Student  
Groups

**June 26:**  
Religious  
Freedom in  
Nigeria

**June 26:**  
Faith at  
Work

**June 27:**  
Service to  
Immigrants  
and  
Refugees

**June 28:**  
Catholic  
Healthcare



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Religious freedom allows the Church, and all religious communities, to live out their faith in public and to serve the good of all. Beginning June 22, the feast of Sts. Thomas More and John Fisher, the USCCB invites Catholics to pray, reflect, and act to promote religious freedom. Learn more at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org).

## Leopold Native, Sr. Leah Marie Holzum, DC | *Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul (DC)*

# 60<sup>th</sup> Jubilarian Anniversary

**Order:** Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul (DC)

**Jubilee Year:** 60th Entrance

**Birth name:** Violet Agnes

**Birthplace:** Leopold, MO

**Entrance:** September 5, 1963

**About Me:** I grew up in a small community in Missouri, the seventh of eight children. After high school, I went to St. Louis where I graduated from DePaul Hospital School of Nursing in 1962, shortly after entering the Daughters of Charity. I have been blessed to serve in the health and wellness ministry throughout my 60 years as a Daughter of Charity, actively advocating for patients' rights to have quality, accessible health

care. I have served in the capacity of a Community Health Nurse ministering to and with a diversified, multi-ethnic staff and client base. Currently, I serve as an Assistant at The Sarah Community, where I am blessed to serve my Sisters and attend daily Mass with my housemate and co-Jubilarian, Sr. Bernice Coreil, DC. I am so grateful for the years I've spent as a Daughter and feel remarkably blessed by the closeness I continue to have with my siblings and their families, as well as my Sisters in Community. I am, above all, grateful to God for allowing me to be His servant to carry out our charism in service to those in need.

**I AM, ABOVE ALL,  
GRATEFUL TO GOD  
FOR ALLOWING ME  
TO BE HIS SERVANT  
TO CARRY OUT OUR  
CHARISM IN SERVICE  
TO THOSE IN NEED.**

*- Sr. Leah Marie Holzum, DC*

### Education:

**1962**—DePaul School of Nursing, St. Louis

**1967**—Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Marillac College

**1987**—Certification in Clinical Pastoral Education, Chicago

### Service in the Archdiocese of St. Louis:

**1990-1994**

Catholic Community Services, Outreach Nurse, and St. Louis Regional Hospital, Pastoral Care Volunteer, St. Louis

**1994**

Hosea House-Guardian Angel Settlement, Volunteer, St. Louis

**1994-2016**

Family Care Health Center, Community Health Nurse and Adjunct Instructor St. Louis University School of Nursing, St. Louis

**2016 to present**

Assistant at the Sarah Community, Bridgeton, MO

### Service outside of Archdiocese:

**1965-1966**

Hotel Dieu Hospital, Staff Nurse, Head Nurse, New Orleans

**1968-1970**

Providence Hospital, Staff Nurse, Head Nurse, Mobile, AL



**1970-1983**

Lafayette Charity Hospital, Staff Nurse, Head Nurse, Instructor, Supervisor Emergency Room & Walk-In clinic, Lafayette, LA

**1983-1986**

Sacred Heart Parish, Parish Minister, Eagle Butte, SD

**1987-1988**

St. Philip of Jesus Clinic, Director, San Antonio, TX ©TM

## FR. HIRTZ MARKS GOLDEN JUBILEE AMID FRIENDS, FAMILY

Piedmont, MO

**F**ather Daniel Hirtz celebrated the **50th anniversary** of his ordination to the Sacred Priesthood on Sun., June 4, in the company of many fellow priests, Bishop Edward Rice, family, friends, and parishioners. Those gathered hailed from across the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau Diocese, Oregon, Colorado, St. Louis, Illinois, and Mississippi. The celebratory liturgy was followed by a wonderful dinner.

Fr. Hirtz began his studies in 1961-1965 at the then-minor seminary in the Diocese, Sacred Heart House of Studies, in Springfield, MO, and attended St. John Home Missions Seminary in Little Rock, AR, from 1965-1967. He then went to St. Meinrad College, in Indiana, and St. Meinrad Seminary. He was ordained a transitional deacon in Sacred Heart Parish, in Poplar Bluff, MO, on Feb. 26, 1972. Father Hirtz was ordained to the priesthood in St. Teresa Catholic



**50 YEARS A PRIEST**—Bishop Rice and area priests gathered June 4, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Fr. Dan Hirtz with a Mass and dinner in St. Catherine of Sienna Parish, in Piedmont, MO. Pictured were (front) Msgr. Thomas Reidy, Fr. Mark Binder, Fr. Hirtz, Fr. Daniel Robles, Fr. John Braun, Fr. Samson Dorival, SMM, and Fr. Jose Antony, Thundathil, CMI; (back) Fr. Denis Lemieux, Fr. Maurice Chukwukere, Bishop Rice, and Fr. Tom Kiefer.

(Photo by Rhonda Payton/The Mirror)

Church, in Glennonville, MO, on March 31, 1973. His first assignment was serving as an Associate Pastor at Immaculate Conception Parish, in Springfield, MO. He's also served as an Associate Pastor at St. Mary Cathedral, in Cape Girardeau, MO; became the Pastor of St. Catherine of Sienna, in Piedmont; served as

the Pastor at Sacred Heart Parish, in Caruthersville, MO; served as the Pastor at St. Mary Parish, in Pierce City, MO; became the Pastor of Sacred Heart Church, in Salem, MO; and returned to St. Catherine of Sienna Parish, in Piedmont, in 2015, where he continues to serve, along with service to St. George Mission Church,

Van Buren, and Our Lady of Sorrows Mission Church, in Williamsville.

Since ordination, Fr. Hirtz has celebrated over 27,000 Masses. He shared that his grandmother had prayed that he would become a priest and at the age of seven, while attending Mass with his family, he looked up at his father and said, "I want to be up there on the altar when I grow up." Fr. Hirtz said that when recalling his 50 years of priesthood, he realizes that the number-one most important thing that he is called to is to allow Jesus to use him so that He can be physically present to all.

Bishop Edward Rice concluded Mass with some words about Fr. Hirtz, and mentioned his dedication to the pro-life movement along with many wonderful things that he has contributed to the communities in which he's served over his 50 years of faithful service to the Church. Bishop Rice concluded his remarks with a blessing he conferred upon Fr. Hirtz.

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By George Weigel

# The Catholic Difference: THE SUMMER READING LIST, 2023 EDITION

**F**ew of the following qualify as “beach reading;” they all qualify as good reading.

In graduate school, I was informed that there was no such thing as “biblical theology,” only textual analysis. Bishop Robert Barron demonstrates what nonsense that was, and is, in *The Great Story of Israel: Election, Freedom, Holiness*, a book that nourishes both mind and soul.

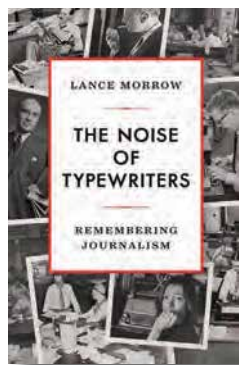
In *The Virtues*, John Garvey, former president of the Catholic University of America, shares the wisdom by which he reminded CUA students that genuine “higher education” means “deeper formation” as well as “more information:” the perfect gift to anyone entering college or university this fall.

The culture wars continue.

Three recent volumes help prepare 21st-century defenders of the faith for the work ahead — *Religious Freedom after the Sexual Revolution*, by leading pro-life legal scholar Helen M. Alvaré; *The Coming Christian Persecution: Why Things Are Getting Worse and How to Prepare for What Is to Come*, by Thomas D. Williams; and *Tearing Us Apart: How Abortion Harms Everything and Solves Nothing*, by my estimable colleagues, Ryan Anderson and Alexandra DeSanctis.

Don’t let a formidable title — *La Duchesse: The Life of Marie de Vignerot, Cardinal Richelieu’s Forgotten Heiress Who Shaped the Fate of France* — deter you from this impressive second book by Bronwen McShea, a brilliant young historian who knows how to tell a story.

Lance Morrow, for decades one of the country’s most felicitous essayists, looks back affectionately on his early days as an ink-stained wretch — and draws some appropriately sharp contrasts to today’s

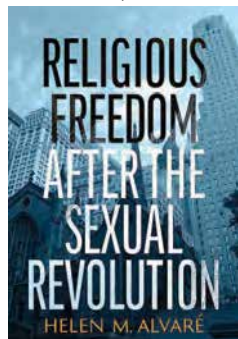


knights of the keyboard — in a splendid memoir, *The Noise of Typewriters: Remembering Journalism*.

A few months before his centenary, Henry Kissinger sketched

lessons for the 21st century from six of the history-makers of the 20th in *Leadership: Six Studies in World Strategy*, a book in which penetrating insight is leavened with tart wit

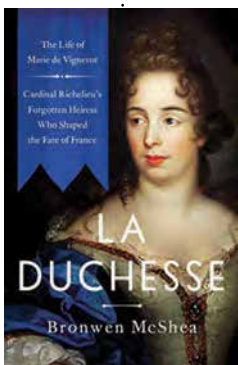
(“The capacity for gratitude not being among de Gaulle’s most highly developed traits....”). The chapter on Konrad Adenauer “strategy of humility” is especially pertinent to today’s overheated politics.



Longtime *Newsweek* correspondent Andrew Nagorski continues the explorations into a dark period of history that he began with such page-turners as *Hitlerland: American Eyewitnesses to the Nazi Rise to Power* and *The Nazi Hunters* with *Saving Freud: The*

*Rescuers Who Brought Him to Freedom*: another example of popular historical writing at its best.

And while we’re on the subject of the most extensively discussed of all human conflicts, Ryszard Tyndorf of the Catholic University of Lublin has produced a massive, free-to-download monograph that



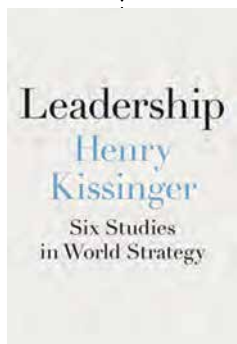
should make a considerable difference

to both Holocaust Studies and current controversies within Poland, with *Wartime Rescue of Jews by the Polish Catholic Clergy: The Testimony of Survivors and Rescuers*.

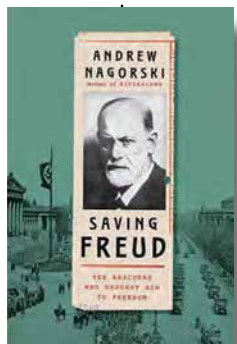
*The Roman Mass: from Early Christian Origins to Tridentine Reform*, by Uwe Michael Lang of the London Oratory, will be primarily of interest to scholars. But it should

be required reading for Internet combatants in the ongoing liturgy wars, who would thereby learn a thing or two about the evolution of the Roman Rite through what the author rightly calls “centuries of intense religious, social, and cultural transformations.”

Eduard Habsburg’s *The Habsburg Way: Seven Rules for Turbulent Times* is a love letter to his (extensive) family from one of its prominent contemporary members, and a winsome exploration of some of the lesser-known dramas of European history.

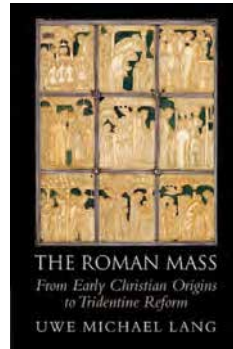


Gary and Grace Jansen won a well-deserved Christopher Award for their charming children’s book, *Remember Us with Smiles* — a beautifully illustrated

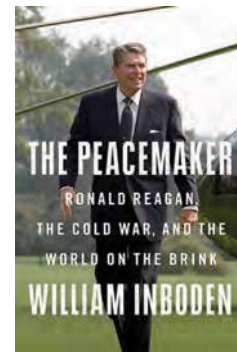


celebration of family life that deserves a wide audience among your children and grandchildren.

While never descending into hagiography, William Inboden’s *The*

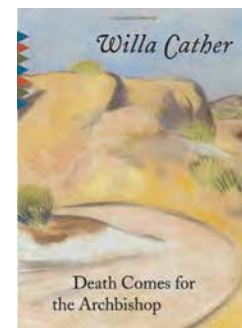


*Peacemaker: Ronald Reagan, The Cold War, and the World on the Brink* sheds new light on the greatest American foreign

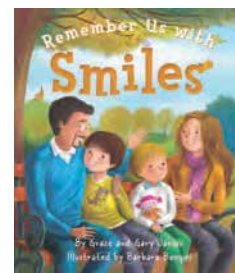


policy success of the post-World War II period. Inboden’s analysis should be of particular interest to U.S. Catholic historians willing to challenge (and correct) the regnant celebratory narrative about the U.S. bishops’ involvement with nuclear weapons issues in the 1980s.

Given current confusions in American education, the category of “Classics Worth Re-Reading” is becoming the category of “Classics Worth Reading.” For those who’ve lost touch with their literary inheritance — or, worse, have been cheated out of it — let me suggest Willa Cather’s *Death Comes for the Archbishop* as the beginning a fresh encounter with great American literature. I recently re-read it on site, so to speak, in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and was struck again by Cather’s limpid prose, sacramental sensibility and empathy with her characters. ©TM



*George Weigel is a Distinguished Senior Fellow and William E. Simon Chair in Catholic Studies at the Ethics and Public Policy Center. George Weigel’s column ‘The Catholic Difference’ is syndicated by the Denver Catholic, the official publication of the Archdiocese of Denver.*



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# A MIRACLE IN MISSOURI?

## Body of Benedictine Sisters' foundress thought to be incorrupt

By Kelsey Wicks

Gower, MO

**H**undreds of pilgrims have descended on a Benedictine monastery for religious sisters in rural Missouri in recent days after news began to spread on social media last week that the recently exhumed remains of the contemplative order's African American foundress appear to be incorrupt, four years after her death and burial in a simple wooden coffin.

Sister Wilhelmina Lancaster, OSB, founded the Benedictine Sisters of Mary, Queen of the Apostles — best known for their chart-topping Gregorian chant and classic Catholic hymn albums — in 1995 at the age of 70, leaving the Oblate Sisters of Providence, her community of over 50 years, to do so.

Known for her devotion to the Traditional Latin Mass and her faithfulness to Benedictine contemplation and the Liturgy of the Hours, she died at age 95 on May 29, 2019, on the vigil of the solemnity of the Ascension.

Roughly four years later, on the solemnity of the Ascension in the Latin rite, the abbess and sisters decided to move her body to a final resting place inside their monastery chapel, a long-standing custom for founders and foundresses.

Expecting to find bones, the Benedictine Sisters instead unearthed a coffin with an apparently intact body, even though the body was not embalmed and the wooden coffin had a crack down the middle that let in moisture and dirt for an unknown length of time during those four years.

"We think she is the first African American woman to be found incorrupt," the current abbess of the community, Mother Cecilia, OSB, told EWTN's ACI Group on Saturday. As the head of the monastery, it was her role to examine what was in the coffin first.

The body was covered in a layer of mold that had grown due to the high levels of condensation within the cracked coffin. Despite the dampness, little of her body and nothing of her habit disintegrated during the four years.

The shock was instant for the community who had gathered to exhume her.

"I thought I saw a completely full, intact foot and I said, 'I didn't just see that,'" the abbess said. "So I looked again more carefully."

After she looked again, she screamed

aloud, "I see her foot!" and the community, she said, "just cheered."

"I mean there was just this sense that the Lord was doing this," she said. "Right now we need hope. We need it. Our Lord knows that. And she was such a testament to hope. And faith. And trust."

The Catholic Church has a long-standing tradition of so-called "incorruptible saints," more than a hundred of whom have been beatified or canonized. The saints are called incorruptible because years after their death parts of or even the entirety of their bodies are immune to the natural process of decay. Even with modern embalming techniques, bodies are subject to natural processes of decomposition.

According to Catholic tradition, incorruptible saints give witness to the truth of the resurrection of the body and the life that is to come. The lack of decay is also seen as a sign of holiness: a life of grace lived so closely to Christ that sin with its corruption does not proceed in typical fashion but is miraculously held at bay.

### 'A BEAUTIFUL SIGN'

Rumors of a flood cracking open the grave and the sisters' examining the coffin by flashlight in the middle of the night are highly exaggerated, the abbess told the ACI Group.

"I had to have the flashlight because you can't really see in a dark crack even with the sunshine. I thought I saw a foot, but I just paused because, you know, it's not every day you look into a coffin," she recounted. "So there's kind of a sense of a little bit of hesitation — what am I going to see?"

Mindful of the crack and the dirt in the coffin, the sisters carefully removed the body. The skeletal remains should have weighed about 20 pounds. Instead, the sisters were lifting what they estimated to be a body weighing "between 80-90 pounds," the abbess said.

The sisters have since produced a fact sheet to answer questions about the exhumation.

"Not only was her body in a remarkable preserved condition, her crown and bouquet of flowers were dried in place; the profession candle



Tanya Schultz and her daughter pray at the body of Sister Wilhelmina Lancaster on May 20, 2023. (Photo courtesy of Joe and Tanya Schultz)

with the ribbon, her crucifix, and rosary were all intact," the sisters reported.

"Even more remarkable was the complete preservation of her holy habit, made from natural fibers, for which she fought so vigorously throughout her religious life. The synthetic veil was perfectly intact, while the lining of the coffin, made of similar material, was completely deteriorated and gone."

Abbess Cecilia stressed that the preservation of the habit is a large part of what she sees as miraculous, because the habit is "a beautiful sign that this life is not all there is."

"People see us and it's like 'Oh, she's a sister, oh she's wearing that because she's giving her life, she believes in God. Maybe I should think about God,'" she said, noting that the habit is "a sign of the things to come, of the supernatural and of our last end: heaven, hell, purgatory."

"This is not possible," she said of the incorruptible sister's body. "God is real. He protected that body and that habit to enkindle our faith, to rekindle it, to bring people back to the faith."

### WHAT COMES NEXT?

"You can't Google 'what do you do with an incorrupt body?'" Abbess Cecilia said, "so we started with the basics, just cleaning her with hot water because clinging to her face was basically a mask of thick mold."

This process as well as exposure

to the air caused the body to lose some but not all of its volume, and as a result a darkening of the skin also took place.

For the time being, the sisters have crafted a wax mask for Sister Wilhelmina's face. One of her eyes — both were found to still exist, along with eyelashes and eyebrows — was sunken in by the weight of the dirt within the casket. The sisters also coated her hands with wax.

The body will be laid out in the sisters' chapel until May 29, when the sisters plan a rosary procession. After the procession, Sister Wilhelmina's body will be encased in glass near the altar of St. Joseph in the chapel in order to "welcome her growing number of devotees," according to the sisters' fact sheet.

### CATHOLIC PILGRIMS ALREADY ARRIVING

Since text messages and social media posts began to circulate last

week with pictures of the incorrupt body, hundreds of pilgrims have already journeyed to visit the incorrupt sister, sometimes from hours away in Kentucky, Illinois, or closer nearby in Missouri, to pray in front of the body and to get to know better this woman whom many feel had a deep holiness.

"It was beautiful," said Mary Lou Enna, 86, a pilgrim who came with her son and his wife from nearby Kansas City, a roughly 45-minute drive away. "At first, it was just a little unreal. But then as I just gazed at her, tears started coming and I just knew it was for real and very, very meaningful."

"I know this happens a lot in Europe through the Church," she said, "but it was just something I wanted to be at."

Royce Hood hosts a Catholic radio show in Illinois. He and his wife, Elise, packed their six children in the car from Peoria to come and see what was happening. "I feel like people are like, 'Wow, we need this right now,'" he said.

"There's so much chaos and darkness in the world. I think God is giving us little graces to remind us of what is to come and what's waiting for us."

"We love our faith," Elise Hood added. "It just seemed unreal to come and see and be with and touch a sister who is incorruptible. What a blessing to have this opportunity and for our kids to see and witness this, too."

Ava Hood, 9, said she was amazed.



**SISTER WILHELMINA LANCASTER'S FORMER GRAVE** at the monastery for the Benedictine Sisters of Mary, Queen of the Apostles, in Gower, Missouri. (Kelsey Wicks/CNA)

Her brother Augustine agreed.

"They knelt for a long time and just prayed," said their mother, who

added: "It's still giving me chills. Everything we practice in our daily faith life we can come here and just feel it and see it."

The sight was no less amazing to Rick Enna, another pilgrim from Kansas City.

"It was miraculous to see her body in perfect condition after her body was in a grave for close to four years," remarked Enna, 61.

"In a world right now that's really struggling with so many false gods, we are seeing glimpses of evidence that God is there," he said. "Those of us who are faithful don't need evidence, but when we see evidence, then we know it."

He added: "You don't see this very often."

Joe and Tanya Schultz and their children drove eight and a half hours from Louisville, Kentucky, in a

caravan with relatives from Springfield, Missouri, to pray before Sister Wilhelmina's body.

"It's a great miracle," said Tanya Schultz, who was touching rosaries and scapulars and the hand of her toddler to the body.

"It's believable and unbelievable at the same time," added Joe Schultz upon viewing the body.

"Her being a traditional nun in this time when it is persecuted, we wanted to be present for that and ask for her intercession in the Church since she probably has some great intercessory powers for us, our family, our vocation."

Through the eyes of her Catholic faith, the abbess sees in the preservation of Sister Wilhelmina's body that same message. "Heaven is real. The resurrection is real. Especially during these times in the Church and in the world," she said.

"Have hope," she implored. "God is still there. He still hears our prayers. He still listens. He still loves us."

While the Church has not ruled Sister Wilhelmina's case to be miraculous and the case has not yet been ruled an incorruptible — nor has a cause for the foundress' canonization been sanctioned — both the sisters of her community and the visitors drawn to the monastery agree that something out of the ordinary course of nature is happening in Gower, Missouri.

"Have faith," Abbess Cecilia concluded. "Life does not end when we take our last breath: It begins."

"And this is the kind of miracle that reminds us of that." ©OSVNews

*Kelsey Wicks is the Executive Director of the ACI Group. She is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame. She is based in Colorado.*

## LOCAL CHURCH'S REAL ESTATE DONATION enhances ministries for St. Joseph Parish



See more photos at [dioscg.org](http://dioscg.org)!



**In February of this year**, the remaining members of the center-city congregation of St. John's United Church of Christ donated their church, house, and a meeting hall, to neighboring St. Joseph Catholic Church, Springfield. Bishop Edward M. Rice blessed and dedicated the facilities, with friends and parishioners, on May 28, one building of which is already in use for the parish's vibrant food pantry program. The former congregation had become unable to sustain the properties and the church constitution prevented them from selling the assets. (Photos by Dean Curtis/The Mirror)

By Paula Wright

Springfield, MO

**I**n February 2023, the remaining members of the congregation of St. John's United Church of Christ, in Springfield, asked Fr. Karl Barmann, pastor of neighboring St. Joseph Parish, if the parish would be interested in a donation of their buildings and land. The waning number of congregation members had become unable to sustain the properties and the church constitution prevented them from selling the assets.

Attorney Brent Hendrix, Director of Buildings and Grounds for St. Joseph Parish, reached out to Springfield's Office of Recorder and worked with others to conduct a thorough check of the title, property, and other concerns. The process took approximately two months before it was determined that the donation was going to in fact be possible.

"It was unbelievable," Hendrix said, "an outright gift to the parish [of this magnitude]."

The new buildings are adjacent to the existing St. Joseph Parish properties making them a natural

extension for St. Joseph. In total, three structures were donated: the church, a meeting hall, and a house. The donation also increased parking for the parish by approximately one-third.

St. Joseph has already moved its existing food pantry program to the larger hall-type building. The pantry serves some 180 people a week, necessitating a recently-developed scheduled approach to meeting the needs of the community. Food resources have been declining, but demand continues to rise. The food pantry was housed in the basement of the parish rectory. Space was limited for volunteers, storage options scarce.

"It is working better; it is much easier to unload and stock deliveries. People that come to the pantry can now come inside to wait, out of the weather," Hendrix said. "Also, within the basement of the building, recovery groups have been meeting and we are continuing to make the building available to them."

The donated church will be remodeled to accommodate receptions and other possible rental

needs requiring a venue. The parish is working on various renovations and improvements to the buildings to better accommodate usage. They have redistributed the existing church pews, donating to various diocesan parishes in need, including using some in their own church loft. They are also adding a small kitchen to the building.

Plans have not been finalized regarding the overall use of the house that was part of the donation. The carpeting has been removed, revealing a beautiful wood floor that will be refinished. In addition, the house will need updates to its electrical, plumbing, heating, and cooling. A new roof will be needed in the next two to three years.

"This donation came out of the blue," Hendrix said. "It is a real Godsend to us."

Following the 10:30 Mass, on Sun., May 28, The Most Rev. Edward M. Rice, Bishop of the Springfield-Cape Girardeau, blessed and dedicated the new facilities. A potluck parish picnic followed, with hotdogs provided by the men's group and desserts by the PCCW. ©TM

# MISSOURI-BASED NETWORK CONNECTS ABORTION SURVIVORS WORLDWIDE

By Marc and Julie Anderson, OSV News

Kansas City, MO

**M**elissa Ohden said she never planned to start an organization.

Ohden, who joined the Catholic Church in 2014, belongs to St. Andrew the Apostle Parish in Gladstone, MO. She leads the Abortion Survivors Network (ASN), the world's only organization dedicated to providing "a safe place for (abortion) survivors to finally share their story, be themselves, be vulnerable, to finally heal."

Ohden is also the featured headliner for the VITAE Foundation Pro-Life Dinner Aug. 25 in Springfield, MO. At press time, she was preparing remarks for her upcoming address to the United Nations.

Ohden first became involved with pro-life ministry in 2007, sharing her own story of having survived a saline infusion abortion in 1977 at 31 weeks.

As she shared her story at various events, other abortion survivors began asking her for help.

For years, Ohden connected survivors with other survivors, guided them to counselors, helped them write their testimonies, and invited them to policy groups. Mostly though, she just helped survivors, including Kim Marvin of Kirkland, WA, heal from the emotional and spiritual wounds they suffer as a result of the abortion.

Born in 1961, Marvin's mother sought the services of an OB-GYN in Seattle whose clientele consisted mostly of patients seeking illegal abortions (abortion was illegal in any state until 1967) and underwent a saline injection abortion when Marvin was around two months gestation.

About 10 years ago, Marvin tracked down Abby Johnson, a former abortion industry worker whose story is told in the 2019 movie "Unplanned," after a pro-life event and begged her for the name of someone with whom she could talk. Johnson gave Marvin Ohden's contact information.

Marvin's first phone call to Ohden lasted nearly two hours. Ohden encouraged Marvin to write her story.

Meanwhile, Ohden was serving other abortion survivors and praying for all of them, including Marvin. In 2019, Ohden said she realized God had been calling her to a ministry for abortion survivors all along and officially started ASN with one specific purpose.

"My long-term vision would be for ASN to be so well-known and understood—not just in the pro-life movement, but in our culture—that survivors and families know that they're not alone and that they have a place to go to for healing and hope."



**UNBORN MEMORIAL STONE**—A memorial stone dedicated to the unborn children of the world is seen in St. Patrick Parish Cemetery, in Smithtown, NY. (CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz)

"Folks like me," she continued, "and people like my biological mother deserve to know that they're not alone, and they deserve to have their lives transformed. ...So, that's what I'm in the business of doing now—serving these abortion survivors with community support and healing support."

ASN organizes and facilitates confidential healing groups using a curriculum she wrote specifically for abortion survivors. In 2020, nine years after the first phone call, Marvin called Ohden and asked to be connected with other survivors.

Now, Marvin serves as the international coordinator for ASN, regularly meeting Online with abortion survivors from countries as far away as Germany, Australia, and Sri Lanka.

Marvin described meeting other survivors as "a gift from heaven," a gift she would not have experienced had it not been for Ohden's willingness to share her story.

"It's really hard to get this message out because people don't want to hear it," Marvin said. "We have to educate that we exist. That, to me, is the biggest hurdle because I'd say 80 to 90 percent of the population does not know that you can survive an abortion."

... With that statistic, that's an uphill (battle), but it's an opportunity as well."

To learn more about the Abortion Survivors Network, visit the organization's Website: <https://abortionsurvivors.org>.

©OSVNews

Marc and Julie Anderson write for The Leaven, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Kansas City, KS.

## St. Lawrence Parish Picnic

in New Hamburg, MO

Friday, July 14, 2023 5:00 - 11:30 pm  
Saturday, July 15, 2023 3:00 - 11:30 pm

**FRIDAY SCHEDULE:**

**Little Mr. & Mrs. New Hamburg Contest, 7:30 pm**  
Open to St. Lawrence Parish members or grandchildren of a St. Lawrence parishoner only. Children ages 3-5 years old. Registration at 6:30 pm on the picnic grounds.

**Corn Hole Tournament, 6:30 pm**  
Bring your own partner, \$20/person.

**SATURDAY SCHEDULE:**

**Horseshoe Tournament, 1:00 pm**

**Smorgasbord Dinner, 3:00-6:00 pm**  
At the St. Lawrence Parish Center, featuring fried chicken, dumplings, potatoes, green beans, slaw, dessert & drink.

**Corn Hole Tournament, 6:30 pm**  
On the basketball court, blind draw, \$10/person.

**Turtle Races (Bring your own Turtle), 6:00 pm**

**Kid's Tractor Pull, 7:00 pm**

**Antique Tractor Display**

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Friday, August 25, 2023  
Keynote: Melissa Ohden

Registration & Social 6:00 PM  
**Dinner & Program 7:00 - 9:00 PM**

\$75 per person (\$40 Tax Deductible)  
White River Conference Center | 600 W. Sunshine St. | Springfield, MO

**Melissa Ohden** is a survivor of a failed saline infusion abortion attempt. She has always believed that God had a specific purpose set out for her. Melissa is the Founder and Director of The Abortion Survivors Network, the only healing and advocacy organization for abortion survivors worldwide and The Education and Policy Center, which impacts policy issues relating to abortion and abortion survivors. Melissa and her team have connected with over 400 survivors. She is a frequent contributor to pro-life and conservative news outlets and a regular guest on radio and television programs around the world. She has testified before Congressional committees numerous times, lobbied for the pro-life case, and even met with the President in the Oval Office. Ohden is truly a voice for the voiceless.

Ways to Register!

- Call 573.634.4316
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All proceeds benefit Vitae Foundation, a national non-profit organization that facilitates research about life issues to create messaging strategies to share with others so that together, we can build a future where abortion is unthinkable.



# To Protect and Heal

THE DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD-CAPE GIRARDEAU

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



## HOW WE PROTECT AND HEAL

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

## CREATING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

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

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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

## BACKGROUND SCREENING

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

## TO REPORT ABUSE, MISCONDUCT, OR CONCERN:

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

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

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

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

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DIOCESE of SPRINGFIELD-CAPE GIRARDEAU

Office of Child and Youth Protection



These courses are FREE for ALL persons in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau thanks to the generosity of the Missouri Knights of Columbus Religious Information Bureau  
**THE FRANCISCAN UNIVERSITY CATECHETICAL INSTITUTE**

# Online Formation Resources



The Franciscan University Online Catechetical Institute makes the riches of the Catholic faith more available and accessible to everyone.

The Online library of video-based catechetical workshops supplement existing diocesan formation and continuing education programs, with tracks for catechists, catechetical leaders, parents, youth ministers, RCIA leaders, and more.

## How to set up your account

The Catechetical Institute has developed 18 distinct ministry tracks to meet a variety of catechetical needs. These tracks, however, are merely options. A diocese is free to select any workshops from any track to add to any aspect of its existing certification programs, continuing education requirements, or adult formation outreach. Dioceses are also free to create their own tracks from the workshops offered within various pre-designed tracks.

To set up your individual account:

1. Go to [www.franciscanathome.com/scg](http://www.franciscanathome.com/scg)
2. Scroll down to "Register Online"
3. Click on "My parish or school is already registered, and I would like to set up my individual free account under that institution"
4. Click on "create a new account" in blue lettering
5. Fill in all of the required information.
  - You will need to upload a head-shot photo of

yourself in this information area. If you do not have a picture of yourself, you may upload any photo or image for now and you can come back to update your account with a different photo later.

- Click on "Create a new account" at the bottom of the screen when all information is complete.
- 6. A confirmation Email will be sent to you.
- 7. Available in English and Spanish.

**\*\*\*Members of mission churches will have access through their affiliated main parish. (i.e. members of St. Leo, Ava, will sign up through Immaculate Heart Parish, Mansfield).**



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