150th Picnic—Late morning of July 23, a catered meal was part of the festivities surrounding the 150th anniversary of St. Henry Parish, Charleston. After a Mass celebrated by Bp. Edward M. Rice and the blessing of the new “Rosary Walk,” to commemorate the historic moment, games, activities, and other delicious treats were available for everyone to enjoy. (Photo by Myra Gunn/The Mirror)

Fun facts of 1873

- Levi Strauss applied for a patent for what we now call blue jeans.
- Jesse James had the first successful train robbery.
- General George Custer was Lieutenant of the 7th Calvary.
- In September, began the long economic Depression.
- P.T. Barnum debuted his circus act, the Greatest Show on Earth.
- Coors Brewing Company began to brew its iconic beer in Golden, Co.

These are just some of the fun facts that go along with the year 1873.

150th Anniversary Celebration

The current church building was constructed in 1905 and since 2020, has undertaken a major restoration. Projects included new altars, including the main altar, back altar and side altars; new baptismal font; painted the entire interior; framed the Stations of the Cross; refinished all pews and kneelers; cleaned and refurbished stained glass windows and installed clear outside coverings; new carpeting.

Made the ultimate sacrifice?

“It is impossible to calculate how many times parents have walked through the doors of this church to pray for their children away at war,” Bp. Rice said. “It is impossible to calculate how many times parents have walked through the doors of this church to pray for their children who may have gone astray. How many anxious prayers have been offered in this church on behalf of loved ones? How many prayers of gratitude have been offered in answer to prayers for employment or safety at the birth of a child?”

“If the walls of this church could talk, what stories could they tell, spanning over the past 150 years?” said Bp. Rice.

Following the Mass, Bishop Rice blessed an area on the parish grounds which will be used to construct a “Rosary Walk.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3...
Holy Mass is a sign of unity & charity

As many of you know, “Traditionis Custodes” (“Guardians of the Tradition”) is an apostolic letter issued by Pope Francis to all bishops of the world motu proprio (“on one’s own initiative”). Promulgated on July 16, 2021, the letter concerned the use of pre-Second Vatican Council rites. In this document, the Pope outlined the motives that prompted his decision to limit the Extraordinary Form of the Mass, sometimes referred to as the Tridentine Mass or the Latin Mass, the Mass prior to 1962. He noted that while Pope St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI granted permission of the Extraordinary Form in their Apostolic Letters, the intended goal—to foster the Tridentine Mass or the Latin Mass, sometimes referred to as the “lex orandi” (“how we pray”) of the Roman Rite. Further, the Bishop must make sure the groups that attend Mass in its Extraordinary Form, according to the Missal prior to the reform of 1970, do not deny the validity and the legitimacy of the liturgical reform dictated by the Second Vatican Council.

What does this mean for the Traditional Latin Mass offered in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau? In accordance with Article 3 of “Traditionis Custodes,” if there exists a group that celebrates according to the Missal antecedent to the reform of 1970, the bishop must designate a location for the celebration of Holy Mass according to the 1962 Missal. So, on Nov. 30, 2022, I wrote a letter to His Eminence Card. Arthur Roche, Prefect for the Dicastery for Divine Worship, and the Discipline of the Sacraments, requesting a dispensation from that provision. In a letter from the Vatican dated Dec. 19, 2022, I was given a two-year span to find the proper location for the Latin Mass. Recently, after visiting with one of the Latin Mass community members, along with Fr. Allen Kirchner, who will offer the Mass for them in Springfield, I decided upon the location of the Chapel in the O’Reilly Catholic Student Center (CCM), in Springfield. So, beginning Aug. 27, at 8:30 a.m., the celebration of the Traditional Latin Mass will transfer from St. Joseph the Worker Parish, in Ozark, to CCM on the campus of Missouri State University.

Those attending the Traditional Latin Mass should register in the parish closest to them, as CCM is not a parish, it is merely the sacred space in which the Mass in its Extraordinary Form will be celebrated. Regardless of any personal preference, I must be obedient to the Holy Father. And that same principle applies to priests. Paragraph 22.3 of “Sacrosanctum Concilium” (“The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy”), reminds us, “Therefore, no other person, even if he be a priest, may add, remove, or change, anything in the liturgy on this own authority.” Paragraph 22.1 of that same document states, “Regulation of the Sacred Liturgy depends solely on the authority of the Church, that is, on the Apostolic See, and, as laws may determine, on the Bishop.” The Decree on the Pastoral Office of the Bishops, “Christus Dominus,” states, “Bishops enjoy the fullness of the Sacrament of Orders, and both presbyters (priests) and deacons are dependent upon them in the exercise of their authority.”

On March 23, 2023, I issued a decree to all clergy in the Diocese that the Precious Blood should once again be offered to the People of God in our parishes and missions, if that had been the practice in the past, beginning on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 16, 2023. I asked that all extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion be properly trained. I expect that the decrees have been implemented.

I request at this time that all priests celebrate the liturgy facing the people. As I write this column, I had no priest request permission to celebrate Holy Mass in any other way. And with the documents cited in this column, I have highlighted my rightful authority.

Echoing the Church’s tradition for 2,000 years, Pope Francis upholds the celebration of Holy Mass as a sign of unity and charity. I pray that this explanation, along with my requests, will be received in the same spirit of unity and charity.

Let us continue to pray for one another, united at the altar.

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.

September 29, 1989 At the dinner following the dedication Mass at St. Ann Parish, Carthage, I visited parishioners at their tables. While I was talking with the parents of one young family, their little boy happily announced to me: “I’m going to be a priest!” After telling him how happy I was to hear that, I asked his younger sister if she knew what she wanted to be. “Yes,” she said, “a bishop!”

October 6, 1989 A priest recently gave me a few test papers of children in religion class. A question on the quiz asked, “What makes up the hierarchy?” “The Pope, Cardinals, Archbishops, Bishops, Priests, and Deacons,” was the answer. Written on the second paper was this: “Pride, Gluttony, Covetousness, Envy, Sloth, and Anger.” (I hope there was some misunderstanding about the question.)

October 13, 1989 “Life is pretty simple,” the old man explained. “All you need is a comfortable bed and comfortable shoes, because you spend your whole life in one or the other.”
La Santa Misa es un signo de unidad y caridad

Como muchos de ustedes saben, “Traditionis Custodes” (“Custodios de la tradición”) es una carta apostólica motu proprio (“por propia iniciativa”) emitida por el Papa Francisco a todos los obispos del mundo. 

Promulgada el 16 de julio de 2021, la carta se refería al uso de ritos anteriores al Concilio Vaticano II. En este documento, el Papa expuso los motivos que impulsaron su decisión de limitar la Forma Extraordinaria de la Misa, a veces denominada “Misa Tridentina” o “Misa en latín”, la Misa anterior a 1962. Señaló que, aunque el Papa San Juan Pablo II y el Papa Benedicto XVI concedieron el permiso de la Forma Extraordinaria en sus Cartas Apostólicas, el objetivo pretendido —favorecer la sanación de los que están en cisma— no se ha producido.

“Desgraciadamente, la intención pastoral de mis predecesores, que pretendían ‘hacer todos los esfuerzos para que a todos aquellos que tienen verdaderamente el deseo de la unidad se les haga posible permanecer en esta unidad o reencontrarla de nuevo’, ha sido a menudo gravemente ignorada”, dijo el Papa Francisco. Y, en su favor, el Papa Francisco también afirma: “Me duelen por igual los abusos de los derechos consagrados en la Divina Liturgia… deploro que ‘en muchos lugares no se celebraba de una manera dependente que en el ejercicio de su potestad los Obispos gozan de la plenitud de sus facultades’. “Pues, los Obispos gozan de los derechos consagrados en la Divina Liturgia… deploro que ‘en muchos lugares no se celebraba de una manera dependiente que en el ejercicio de su potestad los Obispos gozan de la plenitud de sus facultades’.

En toma de la tradición, estamos llamados a ‘facilitar la comunión eclesiástica a aquellos católicos que se sienten vinculados a unas formas litúrgicas anteriores y no a otras’. Continúa estableciendo que los libros litúrgicos promulgados por el Papa San Pablo VI y el Papa Juan Pablo II es la “única expresión de la lex orandi” (“cómo oramos”) del Rito Romano. Además, el Obispo debe asegurarse de que los grupos que asisten a Misa en su Forma Extraordinaria, según el Misa anterior a la reforma de 1970, no nieguen la validez y la legitimidad de la reforma litúrgica dictada por el Concilio Vaticano II.

¿Qué significa esto para la Misa Tradicional en latín ofrecida en la Diócesis de Springfield-Cape Girardeau? De acuerdo con el artículo 3 de la “Traditionis Custodes”, si existe un grupo que celebre según el Misal anterior a la reforma de 1970, el obispo debe designar un lugar para la celebración de la Santa Misa según el Misal de 1962. Así pues, el 30 de noviembre de 2022, escribí una carta a Su Eminencia el Card. Arthur Roche, Prefecto del Dicasterio para el Culto Divino y la Disciplina de los Sacramentos, solicitando una dispensa de dicha disposición. En una carta del Vaticano fechada el 19 de diciembre de 2022, me dio un plazo de dos años para encontrar la ubicación adecuada para la Misa en latín. Recientemente, tras visitar a uno de los miembros de la comunidad de la Misa en latín, junto con el P. Allen Kirchner, que ofrecerá la Misa por ellos en Springfield, decidió la ubicación de la Capilla en el Centro Estudiantil Católico O'Reilly (CCM), en Springfield. Así, a partir del 27 de agosto, a las 8:30 a.m., la celebración de la Misa Tradicional en latín se trasladará de la Parroquia de San José Oberro, en Ozark, en CCM, en el campus de la Universidad Estatal de Missouri. Los asistentes a la Misa Tradicional en latín deben inscribirse en la parroquia más cercana a ellos, ya que el CCM no es una parroquia, es simplemente el espacio sagrado en el que se celebrará la misa en su forma extraordinaria.

Independientemente de cualquier preferencia personal, debe ser obediente al Santo Padre. Y ese mismo principio se aplica a los sacerdotes. El párrafo 22.3 de “Sacerdos sanctum Concilium” (“La Constitución sobre la Sagrada Liturgia”), nos recuerda: “Por lo mismo, nadie, aunque sea sacerdote, añade, qué o cambia cosa alguna por iniciativa propia en la Liturgia”. El párrafo 22.1 de ese mismo documento declara: “La reglamentación de la sagrada Liturgia es de competencia exclusiva de la autoridad eclesiástica; ésta reside en la Sede Apostólica y, en la medida que determine la ley, en el Obispo”. El Decreto sobre el Oficio Pastoral de los Obispos, “Christus Dominus”, dice: “Pues, los Obispos gozan de la plenitud del Sacramento del Orden y de ellos dependen en el ejercicio de su potestad los presbíteros”. El 23 de marzo de 2023, emiti un decreto a todo el clero de la Diócesis para que la Preciosa Sangre volviera a ofrecerse al Pueblo de Dios en nuevas parroquias y misiones, si esa había sido la práctica en el pasado, a partir del Domingo de la Divina Misericordia, el 16 de abril de 2023. Pido que todos los ministros extraordinarios de la Sagrada Comunión recibieran una formación adecuada. Espero que se hayan aplicado los decretos.

Pido en este momento que todos los sacerdotes celebren la liturgia de cara al pueblo. Mientras escribo esta columna, ningún sacerdote me ha pedido permiso para celebrar la Santa Misa de otra manera. Y con los documentos citados en esta columna, he resaltado mi legítima autoridad.

Haciéndose eco de la tradición de la Iglesia desde hace 2.000 años, el Papa Francisco defiende la celebración de la Santa Misa como signo de unidad y caridad. Ruego que esta explicación, junto con mis peticiones, sean recibidas con el mismo espíritu de unidad y caridad.

Sigamos rezando unos por otros, unidos en el altar.

ST. HENRY 150TH ANNIVERSARY // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...

Walk” to commemorate the historic moment.

“Call to mind the example of your patron, St. Henry,” said Bp. Rice. “He stands in a long line of nobility, such as St. Margaret of Scotland; St. Louis, King of France; St. Stephen of Hungary, and others who had everything, all the civil power at their fingertips, and they used it for the glory of God.”

Later in the morning, a catered meal was served to those who attended the gathering. Throughout the afternoon, games, activities, and other delicious treats were available for everyone to enjoy.

“It’s nice to celebrate anniversaries; it’s fun to look back and recall the names of those who laid the foundation for what we enjoy today,” Bp. Rice said. “But you can only look back for so long. Eventually, you have to look to the future to forge the next chapter of history, and the history of the next 25 to 50 years will be written by the people who are here now as you move forward in faith. St. Henry, pray for us.”

VEN Y VERÁS
Obispo Edward M. Rice

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ST. HENRY 150TH ANNIVERSARY // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...

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MEMORIES—Officially founded in 1873, St. Henry Parish, has its origin in an earlier German community which was established a few miles north of Charleston, MO, in the late 1830’s. A great deal of memorabilia was on-hand July 23 during the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the parish and its rich history. (Photo by Myra Gunn/The Mirror)
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.miracolieucaristici.org/en/liste/list.html.

In the Eucharist, the Church both receives the gift of Jesus Christ and gives grateful thanks to God for such a blessing. This thanksgiving is the only proper response, for through this gift of himself in the celebration of the Eucharist under the appearances of bread and wine, Christ gives us the gift of eternal life. In John we read: “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink” (Jn 6:53-57).

The Eucharist signifies divine grace, which is imparted presently by this Sacrament to feed and preserve the souls of the faithful. The Eucharist is our daily bread; it invigorates the soul, inspires it with abundant virtue, wards off demons, and beckons angels. The blood pouring forth cleanses the world and our souls, while it opens heaven to our hearts.

This Eucharistic miracle in Belgium goes back to 1347. During Communion in St. Peter Church, in Middleburg, the consecrated Host changed into bleeding flesh. To this day, a portion of the Host, is kept in Louvain by the Augustinian Fathers. The monk, Jean de Gheest, confessor of the archbishop who approved its cult, asked for it as a gift. Instead, the other portion is in St. Peter Church, in Middleburg.

There exists much documentation on the Eucharistic miracle. In a monograph written in 1905 by historian, Jos. Wils, professor of the Catholic University of Louvain, entitled Le Sacrement du Miracle de Louvain, are cited almost all the contemporary documents and testimonies. In Middleburg, lived a noble woman known by everybody for her great faith and devotion. The woman was also very attentive to the spiritual formation of her family and household staff. Like every year in her house, during the Lent of 1374, she began to do penance in preparation for the coming of Easter. A few days before a new manservant by the name of Jan was hired, one who had not gone to confession for many years. In spite of the dissolute life he was living, the woman invited all the household staff to go to Mass. Jan did not dare oppose this invitation so as not to disappoint her.

He attended the whole Eucharistic celebration, and when it came time for him to receive Communion, the man approached the altar with much superbiaclity. As soon as he received the Host on his tongue, it changed into bleeding flesh. At once, Jan took the particle from his mouth, and blood dripped on the cloth covering the altar rail. The priest realized at once what was happening, and with great emotion, he carefully placed the miraculous particle in a vessel inside the tabernacle. Jan repented and confessed his sin before everybody. From that day on, he led an exemplary life and nourished a great devotion to the Most Blessed Sacrament, to the end of his life. All the church and civil authorities of the city were informed of the miraculous event and, after diligent investigation, the archbishop authorized its cult.

The Holy Eucharist is a foretelling of our future destination in paradise where we will rest in eternal glory and joy in that heavenly country that God promised to those who persevere in upholding His law. Just as the Jews were liberated from the slavery of Egypt, sustained by the manna, and ushered into the Promised Land, it is by the Eucharistic sacrifice that we are liberated from sin, given our daily bread, and promised heaven if we remain faithful to the law written on our hearts. The Holy Eucharist strengthens us for the endeavor and ushers in the needed graces to persevere. Embrace the real presence of Christ and the life offered through the source and summit of our Catholic Faith, the Holy Eucharist. ©TM


TRAVELING EXHIBIT: Replica of the SHROUD of TURIN

Now through Sept. 8, 2023
Immaculate Conception Parish
Jackson, MO
Mon. - Fri., 8:30 am - 4:00 pm & after weekend Masses

Next Stop after Sept. 8:
St. Mary Cathedral | Cape Girardeau, MO
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Belleville, IL—The National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows will present the annual conference entitled, “When Mental Illness Hits Home,” on Fri., Aug. 25, in the Shrine Visitors Center. Information and Online registration is available at https://snows.org/ministries/spiritual-programs/, or call the Shrine at (618) 394-6261.

Forysth—Our Lady of the Ozarks Catholic Church, located at 951 Swan Valley Dr., will hold a special Christmas Collectibles Sale, Fri., Sept. 15, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., and Sat., Sept. 16, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Included in the sale are over 250 Dept. 56 Christmas pieces, buildings, and accessories, all priced at half their value. Everything Christmas is the theme of this fun rummage sale!

Jackson—The Jackson Knights of Columbus # 6405 will have its Fish & Chicken Dinner, Fri., Sept. 15, and Fri., Oct. 20, 4:30-7 p.m., in the Lower KC Hall. Fried fish, chicken, fries, hushpuppies, baked beans, slaw, and homemade mac & cheese. Cost is $13, dine-in or carry-out is available.

Leopold—The PCCW will have its annual Hotze Mission Breakfast, and a bake sale, Sun., Oct. 1, 7:30-10 a.m., at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Sausage, fried potatoes, biscuits, gravy, scrabbled eggs, and pancakes, for your goodwill donation. All proceeds go to the Hotze Missions. For questions, call Geri at (573) 208-6445.

Lebanon—St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church, located at 345 Grand Ave, will have its annual Rummage Sale, Fri., Sept. 15, 7 a.m.-1 p.m., and Sat., Sept. 16, 7 a.m.-Noon. Housewares, collectables, toys, books, records, jewelry, Christmas décor, and much more.

Neosho—St. Canera Catholic Church, located at 504 S. Washington St., will hold a Fall Bazaar, Sun., Sept. 24, 12-5 p.m. Many different ethnic foods will be available, games for adults and children, items for sale, as well as opportunities to win a pie or cake. For more information, contact Kathy Bartley (417) 456-2550; July Holden, (417) 592-923; or Ana Sollenberger (417) 592-7191.

Scott City—St. Joseph Catholic Church will host the Annual Fall Dinner, Sun., Sept. 10, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m., in the St. Joseph School gym. Menu for this buffet-style meal includes kettle beef, chicken & dumplings, chicken & dressing, mashed potatoes, green beans, slaw, dessert, coffee & tea. Cost: adults, $15; children, ages 6-12, $7; under 5: free. Carry-out is available. The CCW will be selling crafts, religious articles, breads, and sweets.

Springfield—All are welcome to participate in the Contemplative Outreach of Missouri Intra-Chapter Hybrid Living Flame Program. The 2023-24 Living Flame Program is a seven-session spiritual study and enrichment for Contemplative Outreach chapters, groups, or anyone interested in deepening their Centering Prayer practice. Each session will include two periods of Centering Prayer and two conferences. Program presenters will join via Zoom. Sessions will meet at Christ Episcopal Church, located at 601 E Walnut St. Registration fee for the seven sessions is $75 for in-person and $50 for those who participate at home, scholarships are available. Program links and materials will be provided. To register, or for more information, contact Barb DePue, democatx2@gmail.com or Mary Ellison, maryellison@sbcglobal.net.

Springfield—Holy Trinity CCW is seeking vendors for the annual Fall Bazaar which will be held Sat., Nov. 11 and Sun., Nov. 12. Vendors interested in participating should contact Tina Kile, Bazaar Chair, by Wed., Aug 30. For more information or a vendor application, please contact Tina at (417) 827-3165 or tkiles5401@gmail.com.

Springfield—Springfield Area Perpetual Adoration, hosted at Holy Trinity Chapel, has an urgent need of Adorers on Wednesdays, 2 a.m., 3 a.m., & 7 p.m. Substitutes are needed for all hours. For more information or to sign up, please contact Marilyn Gibson at (417) 224-4043. If you are unable to attend, consider making a donation to keep our candles burning bright.

Parishes and organizations are invited to submit notices of future events to beprinted on a space-available basis. There is no fee.
As the new school year begins in many of our communities, the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau is pleased to welcome six new principals and one new assistant principal to its Catholic schools for the 2023-2024 academic session.

Stephen Gilbreth, EdD, joins McAuley Catholic High School and St. Peter Middle School, Joplin, as the new principal following his retirement, after 26 years, from public education. During those years, Dr. Gilbreth worked within the Joplin School District as a middle school English and Technology teacher, was the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, and was the principal for various Joplin public schools. He received his Bachelor of Science in English Education from Missouri Southern State University (MSSU), Joplin; a Master of Science in Educational Administration from Missouri at Columbia. He has completed post-graduate hours at MSSU, Joplin, and Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, KS. A Doctor of Educational Administration from Saint Louis University, Saint Louis, MO. He is an adjunct professor for Pittsburg State University and has taught for several universities as an adjunct professor.

Dr. Gilbreth has been married to his wife, Cathy, for 35 years. After enjoying life with many Irish Setters and a Golden Retriever over the years, they currently have two cats that showed up after they lost their last Irish Setter.

“We have learned to adjust to cats,” he said.

Dr. Gilbreth has been a musician for many years and plays several instruments. He has been the lead singer-songwriter, and rhythm guitar player, for a two-man group called “Dr. G and the Tall Man,” for the past seven years. The group plays throughout the Joplin regional area and their album can be found on Spotify and various streaming platforms.

“A Catholic education offers numerous benefits for students and families alike,” Dr. Gilbreth said. “First and foremost, it provides a holistic approach to learning, emphasizing both academic excellence and moral development. Students are encouraged to develop strong values, compassion, and a sense of social responsibility, nurturing their character alongside their intellectual growth. The close-knit community within Catholic schools fosters a supportive environment, where students receive personalized attention and guidance from dedicated educators. Families appreciate the emphasis on faith-based values, which help instill a strong ethical foundation in their children. Catholic schools offer a rigorous academic curriculum, preparing students for higher education and future career success. Overall, a Catholic education promotes a well-rounded, values-driven upbringing, fostering personal and spiritual growth in students while strengthening the bonds within families.”

“In my role as principal at McAuley Catholic High School and St. Peter Middle School, I hope to be a servant leader who offers guidance for academic excellence and the development of the Catholic identity,” said Dr. Gilbreth. “I will strive to bring about the kind of environment that teachers, staff, students, parents, and the Joplin Area Catholic Schools at large want to be part of. I am looking forward to getting to know the students, teachers, and parents at both schools and interacting with them daily.”

St. Francis Xavier Catholic School, Siloeston, will welcome two new administrators this school year. Jessica (Worth) Hopkins, a former teacher for six years at St. Francis Xavier, is the new principal. Hopkins has a BS in Early Childhood and Elementary Education from Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau, and a master’s degree in Elementary Administration from William Woods University, Fulton, MO. Hopkins was married this summer in St. Denis Parish, Benton, to her husband, Gatlin. She enjoys spending as much time as possible with her family, especially time together at their hunting cabin, the river, and Kentucky Lake.

“Catholic education offers an opportunity for students and families to expand their academic knowledge, create new passions and a sense of community with others, and build closer relationships with God,” Hopkins said. “In my new role, I hope to bring positivity, a fresh start, and a fun, inviting experience for students to foster a love of learning, all while keeping God at the center of everything. As the new principal, I look forward to fostering my students’ relationships with God, helping build them into little Saints, as well as growing myself as an individual, for the betterment of others I serve.”

Joining St. Francis Xavier Catholic School as the new assistant principal is another familiar face for students, Jennifer Barnes. She has spent the past 26 years teaching at St. Francis Xavier Catholic School, and this school year marks 30 total years in education. Married to her husband, Michael, for 31 years, they have two children—a daughter, Jaden (25), married to Gordon Powers, and a son, Jamie (23). This spring a granddaughter joined the family and they joyfully welcomed Mia, the daughter of Jaden and Gordon. As children, both Jaden and Jamie attended Catholic schools. Barnes enjoys art, reading, and gardening. She and her husband have a large garden that they sell produce from throughout the summer.

“It will be focusing on growth and learning. I plan on implementing a new reading program for the children starting this fall,” Huthsing said. “I want to bring a balance between the school and the parish. I look forward to learning new things, meeting lots of new people, and making sure our school is a happy environment for the children to enter each day.”

Mark Keaton is the new principal of St. Lawrence Catholic School, Monett. He brings 12 years of teaching experience, four of them in Catholic education. He is an alumnus of Neosho High School, Neosho, MO, and earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Missouri at Columbia.

He has completed post-graduate hours at both MSSU, Joplin, and Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, KS. He and his wife, Susan, have three children plus 14 grandchildren.

“I have thoroughly enjoyed teaching in a Catholic school. I love being able to develop and nurture a child’s faith and love for God,” Keaton said. “I also love to see the joy in a child’s face when they have learned something new. I hope to continue the wonderful job that Tracey Welch has done at St. Lawrence. I was sad to see her retire. This is a great school. I love the school, the parish, the parents, and the kids. It is a great place to work and teach.”

Mark Keaton
Returning alumna, Mary Landreth will be the new principal of St. Mary Catholic School, Joplin. She received her degree in Elementary and Special Education and her master’s degree in Administration from MSSU, Joplin. She has taught in the Webb City Public School District as a junior high Special Education math teacher for seven years, and coached junior high volleyball and basketball for the past six years. Landreth also brings prior experience serving as a diocesan director of Camp Re-NEW-All, youth group, and confirmation preparation leader. She married Brian Landreth in July 2022, the “best day ever” for her, and together they enjoy camping, hiking, and fishing. She also enjoys running, but admits, “It’s about as fast as a turtle stampeding through peanut butter, but I do enjoy it.” She has participated in 13 half-marathons and hopes to run another one this fall.

“How amazing is it, that in Catholic education, we can view our students as images of Christ and approach their education as such?” Landreth said. “To be given the opportunity to teach Christ, represented in our students, math, reading, science, etc., what a powerful experience for both students and teachers! Catholic education truly educates the whole child—body, mind, and soul. As a product of Catholic education, I was given opportunities to learn academic concepts from teachers that approached their job as a vocation and ministry with passion, patience, and love. How impactful that was as a student! I am confident that experience continues to ring true for all students and families in Catholic education. As a product of St. Mary’s and the Joplin Area Catholic Schools system, I hope to continue the valuable traditions and also bring new perspectives. Most of all, I hope to keep Christ as the center of our school as we continue to build the legacy of Catholic education in Joplin, one Warrior at a time. We are able to teach and live the Catholic faith while also maintaining high academic standards. In my role as principal, I want to be supportive of the students, staff, and parents. Together we can all use our gifts to help our children live a Christ-centered life. I am looking forward to building strong relationships with the students, staff, and community of Sacred Heart Catholic School and Parish. I feel blessed to have been given this leadership opportunity and feel it will be an excellent way to help me grow in my faith.”

Everyone have a wonderful 2023-24 academic year! ©TM

Mark Mittelstadt will be joining Sacred Heart Catholic School, Poplar Bluff, as the new principal. Mittelstadt recently retired from the Twin Rivers R-10 School District after 28 years of teaching various subjects in third through eighth grades. He earned a Bachelor’s degree in Education from Missouri State University, Springfield; a Master’s degree in Education from Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar; and a Specialist degree in Education Administration from William Woods University, Fulton, MO. Mittelstadt grew up in a large Catholic family in Kansas City, MO. He met his wife, Diana, while attending Missouri State. They have been married for 29 years and have four children: Andrew (25), Amy (23), Aaron (22), and Anne (17). He enjoys grilling Sunday meals, spending time with his family, and watching the Kansas City Chiefs.

“I believe Catholic education provides an opportunity to work cooperatively with parents to educate the whole child,” Mittelstadt said. “At the Catholic school, we are able to teach and live the Catholic faith while also maintaining high academic standards. In my role as principal, I want to be supportive of the students, staff, and parents. Together we can all use our gifts to help our children live a Christ-centered life. I am looking forward to building strong relationships with the students, staff, and community of Sacred Heart Catholic School and Parish. I feel blessed to have been given this leadership opportunity and feel it will be an excellent way to help me grow in my faith.”

Everyone have a wonderful 2023-24 academic year! ©TM

Pope Pius X, born Giuseppe Melchiorre Sarto, was the first Pope elected in the 20th century. He came to the papal office in 1903 and died 11 years later in 1914, just as World War I was beginning. He is a co-patron of the Diocese of Springfield Cape Girardeau along with St. Rose Philippine Duchesne (Nov. 18).

Pope Pius X was born in 1835 at Riese, near Venice, and was one of eight children. His family was poor. He felt a calling to be a priest at a young age and was ordained in 1858. After 26 years, he was named bishop of Mantua, Italy, and in 1893, he became patriarch of Venice.

As Pope, he issued decrees making the age of First Holy Communion earlier (at the age of 7) and advocated frequent and even daily reception of the Eucharist. He promoted the reading of the Bible among laypeople, reformed the liturgy, promoted clear and simple homilies, and brought back Gregorian chant. He revised the Breviary, reorganized the curia, and initiated the codification of canon law.

He died in 1914 of natural causes reportedly aggravated by worries over the beginning of World War I. Pope Pius X was canonized by Pope Pius XII in 1954. He is often referred to as the Pope of the Blessed Sacrament. ©CNA

You are invited to St. Mary’s Church Annual Chicken BBQ on the weekend of September 9 & 10 Hours: Saturday 11 am—7 pm Sunday 11 am—5 pm Grilled BBQ Chicken Dinner $13 includes a Half Chicken, Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Potato Salad, Bread, Dessert and Beverage Tickets Sold at the Door! CARRY-OUT Available! 1551 Bill Virdon Boulevard West Plains, MO 65775 417-256-2556

Make plans now to join Fr. Maurice (Chukwukere) and the parishioners of St. Mary Parish, West Plains, for the annual Chicken BBQ Sept. 9 & 10.
WHAT WE BELIEVE, PART 25:

Scripture’s Apostolic Nature

As we turn now to tradition, it’s helpful, as with so much else we’ve explored thus far, to remember what we learned about the Church as communion.

Remember that the Roman Catholic Church can be viewed in several different ways: as an ancient civilizational institution, older than empires and nations; as a broad social or spiritual movement with a history long enough to be both grotesque and glorious; or bureaucratically, politically, and so on. And, in these historical, sociological and organizational terms, the Catholic Church is indeed, in some ways, all these things.

However, the Church’s ultimate reality is communion. It’s a Trinitarian communion: a communion with God the Father in Christ the Son by the power of the Holy Spirit. This is a communion we experience together as we live our faith in Jesus as brothers and sisters in peace. Such is the ritual significance of the exchange of peace at Mass, for in its earliest instance. It signals our genuine and mystical relationship with each other and with the living Jesus, not a false one we fabricate. To encounter Jesus Christ within the broad communion of the Church.

And as we’ve just explored, we encounter Jesus Christ scripturally through the word of God proclaimed and heard in the Church. The Scripture offers us an encounter with the genuine Christ, not a false one we fabricate. To put it simply: We encounter Christ within the communion of the Church.

To put it simply, when you come to faith in Jesus because other people who knew Jesus and believed in Jesus told others about him. At the beginning, it wasn’t so much scriptural transmission but oral transmission. In this early oral transmission, people encountered the living Jesus, not so much through reading, but more through evangelical conversation.

But, as generations proceeded, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the message did take written form, finally in what the Church recognizes today as sacred Scripture, offering what the Second Vatican Council simply says is “the honest truth about Jesus” (Dei Verbum, “Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation,” No.19).

Undoubtedly, it took centuries for the Church to articulate what we call the “canon of Scripture,” the authoritative collection of texts we call the Bible, the Word of God. Nonetheless, the Church has always believed that when you encounter the written word of God — either in its proclaimed form as you hear it in Church on Sunday or when reading it privately — something more than hearing or reading is going on. That is, when you encounter the Word of God, there is something sacramental about the experience; that is, we believe that when we encounter the Scripture, Christ is really, albeit mysterically, speaking to us (cf. Verbum Domini, “Word of God,” No. 56). To use a loose analogy: if a husband long separated from his wife were to read a letter she wrote to him, his experience reading her letter would be something more than mere reading. That is, reading her words, he would also experience her love; there would be some extra-verbal communication of affection, something more than a mere display of information. That’s kind of what it’s like reading the Scripture.

We come into contact not just with a spouse’s love or a friend’s affection but with the mystery of Christ. To encounter the Scripture is to encounter something alive and real, something bigger than us, something risen, never a dead academic text. When we encounter the Word of God, we’re changed.

So, the experience of encountering Christ within the communion of the Church is an experience that is oral and scriptural but always mysterious. That is, it’s always an encounter that transcends the mere physical experience of hearing or reading words. And that’s because hearing or reading the words of the Scripture brings us into contact with the living Christ; it is not simply an intake of information about Jesus but a genuine meeting with Jesus. But it’s at this point that we should note something equally important about this encounter, and that is that this mysterious scriptural or oral experience of encounter with Christ in communion is also always a human experience, always embodied, always something we experience within a web of relationships, within communion, within the Church.

To put it simply, when you come into contact with the written word of God, it’s because someone gave you that written word of God. You can’t read it

Continued next page...
Breaking Pornography, Restoring Hope Part I: What is Pornography?

The Church teaches the joys, hopes, griefs, and anxieties of all people are her’s as well. This fantastic reality is comforting because it means no one is alone. The Church’s solidarity with every individual is rooted in Jesus Christ, making it more meaningful because God, the Creator of the universe, is personally and permanently invested in each person’s life through His Church. Developing this intimate relationship with God is meaningful because God, the Creator, making it more solidary with every individual is it means no one is alone. The Church’s fantastic reality is comforting because it

Pornography is erotic material intended to cause immoral sexual effects. Many definitions of pornography can be found, but it is now time to extend our understanding of pornography beyond one sentence. Using the imagery of a building, I want to highlight four pillars holding up the “pornography building” — art, business, drugs, and the Internet.

Artwork should mirror God, the Artist of the universe. Genesis 1 reveals the goodness, truth, and beauty of His artistic work. Art is therefore inseparable from the good, the true, and the beautiful; unfortunately pornography is a perversion of art lacking in all three. Pornography undervalues the true dignity of the human person by objectifying each individual, and it impedes the reciprocal beauty and goodness within human relationships. Immoral intention and the way the human person is portrayed lie at the root of the problem. Objectification, not nakedness, is the problem. God created the human person, and “saw it was good.”

Pornography is one of the largest, most profitable industries in today’s world. Numerous entities estimate pornography’s global annual revenue at almost $100 billion. That revenue far surpasses the NBA, NFL, MLB, and NHL’s combined annual revenues. Every business has products and consumers. Pornography’s product is the human person. This business commodifies and exploits the body solely for sexual pleasure and monetary gain. Pornography’s consumer ranges from eight-year-old boys and girls to middle-aged men and women. The target audience is all persons, of any faith, culture, or ethnicity.

Pornography may not be an over-the-counter medication or illicit street drug, but it achieves the same end. It causes the body to release certain natural chemicals that produce a “high.” This high enhances focus and triggers feelings of arousal and euphoria. Like every other drug, repetitive consumption causes desensitization and addiction. Desensitization means the body adjusts to the drug, and will need stronger, better drugs to reach a similar high. Addiction means the person has a compulsive need for consumption, and in this case, sexual satisfaction. Pornography is addictive, causing harmful physical, psychological, and social effects.

Most pornography today is consumed Online, and Online porn Websites are “shopping centers,” offering “customers” an astonishing number of “options.” Mark Kastelman, a counselor and mental health practitioner specializing in addiction recovery and behavior change, developed an excellent template — “The Four A’s Template” — explaining Internet pornography: the four “A’s” are: accessible, affordable, anonymous, and aggressive. Internet pornography is accessible anywhere to anyone with a cell phone. A large amount of pornography is free. Internet pornography is anonymous because it is accessible anywhere. Finally, Internet pornography has aggressive content and effects.

Part II of this series will carefully examine Internet pornography’s aggressive nature. Until then, remember God and His Church are always with you, sharing in all your anxieties and all your joys. 

NEXT IN THE SERIES:

Breaking Pornography, Restoring Hope Part II: A Grave Gateway

1. Pornography is aggressive in two ways: content and effects
2. Content: Range and violence
3. Effects: Neurological, emotional, physical, and cultural
4. Prostitution
5. Sex-trafficking
6. Segue to destruction upon relationships

WHAT WE BELIEVE // Continued from previous page...

Apostolic Tradition

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 25: Scripture’s Apostolic Nature” by Fr. Whitfield is from simplycatholic.com, copyright © Our Sunday Visitor; all rights reserved, no other use of this material is authorized.
CONTINUING EDUCATION—Deacon Dan Vaughn, Deacon Tom Schumer, and Deacon Rob Huff recently attended the National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education Conference. The conference was hosted by Holy Trinity Parish, in Fairview Heights, IL, from July 16-19. The theme was “Christ: The Gift of Himself in the Eucharist,” focusing on serving one’s vocation with a Eucharistic focus in daily life. Deacon Vaughn serves in Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Branson, and Our Lady of the Ozarks Parish, Forsyth; Deacon Schumer serves in St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Cape Girardeau, and as Director of Catholic Campus Ministry, St. John Henry Newman Center, Cape Girardeau; and Deacon Rob Huff serves in St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Cape Girardeau, and as diocesan Chancellor and Superintendent of Catholic Schools. (The Mirror)

Beginning Experience of Springfield is offering an eight-week support program, “Coping With Life Alone,” designed to help individuals work through the trauma of losing a spouse through death or divorce in a Christian atmosphere.

The program will begin Thu., Sept. 14, 2023, at 6:30 p.m., at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, 2200 W. Republic Rd., Springfield, MO.

The programs of Beginning Experience offer strength and growth through a community of friendship, support, and prayer. The program’s trained facilitators have themselves experienced divorce or the death of a spouse. The cost of the program is $30, but financial assistance is available for those in need.

To pre-register, call Diane at (417) 859-0175 or cell (870) 688-8829; Barb at (417) 827-3841, or Donna at (417) 529-1085
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 diocese Safe Environment Policy and Procedures.

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

Violations involving the Bishop should be reported to the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting System at 866-276-1858 or https://reportbishopabuse.org/

ROMAN CATHOLIC

DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD-CAPE GIRARDEAU

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