



WYD pilgrims showed the world FAITH CAN LEAD TO PEACE



Attending the World Youth Day vigil and Mass brought moments of great challenges as well as blessings! Our group walked 3-5 miles to and from the site of the vigil in temperatures that hovered in the upper-90s to 100 degrees. Heat and physical exhaustion could have overtaken the pilgrims of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, but they kept their spirits up and entered into the time of prayer with 1.5 million fellow Catholics! – Lynn Melendez

Vatican City (CNS)

In a world suffering from “diseases of the soul,” like pride, hatred, and violence, the young people who traveled to Portugal for World Youth Day showed that another way of living and interacting is possible, Pope Francis said. World Youth Day was not a vacation, but “an encounter with the living Christ in the Church. The young people went to encounter Christ,” the pope said Aug. 9 at his weekly general audience.

Restarting the Wednesday

appointments after a month-long summer break, Pope Francis used his general audience talk to share some reflections on his trip Aug. 2-6 to Fátima and Lisbon for World Youth Day, an event that saw 1.5 million people gather for a prayer vigil and for Mass.

In addition to the large events with young people from around the world, the pope said he had an opportunity for smaller, more intimate meetings, including with a group of young people from Ukraine, “who shared stories that were painful” about their lives and the losses they have

endured since Russia launched a full-scale war on their country.

“While in Ukraine and other places in the world there is fighting, and while in certain hidden halls war is planned—this is awful, isn’t it, wars are planned,” he said, “World Youth Day showed everyone that another world is possible: a world of brothers and sisters, where the flags of all peoples fly together, next to each other, without hatred, without fear, without closing up, without weapons!”

Here are 10 takeaway quotes:

10 TAKEAWAY QUOTES FROM POPE FRANCIS AT WYD

Pope Francis was in Portugal for six days for World Youth Day (WYD) Lisbon 2023. Several speeches, homilies, greetings, and blessings were given to the “sea of young people” who came to WYD Lisbon 2023. From these moments are offered 10 takeaway quotes:

1 “Have the courage, then, to replace your doubts with dreams. Replace your doubts with dreams: do not remain hostage to your fears, but set about working to realize your goals!”

2 “In the Church there is room for everyone. “Father, but I am a wretch, is there room for me? There is room for everyone! All together now, everyone, repeat with me in your own language: Everyone, everyone, everyone.”

3 “Dear friends, if God calls you by name, it means that for God none of us is a number, but a face and a heart.”

4 “This is the starting point of World Youth Day, but above all it is the starting point of our lives. Young men and women, we are loved the way we are, without makeup.”

5 “That is the only time, the only time that we are allowed to look down upon others, when we are offering to help them up.”

6 “Mary’s joy is twofold: she had just received the angel’s message that she would welcome the Redeemer of the world, and she was also given the news that her cousin was pregnant. This is interesting: instead of thinking about herself, she thinks of the other. Why? Because joy is missionary, joy is not just for one person, it is for sharing something with others.”

7 “Nothing is free in life, everything has to be paid

for. Only one thing is free: the love of Jesus! So, with this free gift that we have – the love of Jesus – and with the desire to carry on the journey, let us walk in hope, let us be mindful of our roots, and move forward, without fear.”

8 “Yet, I would like to tell you that we do not radiate light by putting ourselves in the spotlight, for that type of light is blinding. We radiate light—we shine—by welcoming Jesus into our hearts and learning to love as he does.”

9 “Those who love do not stand idly by, but serve others. Those who love hasten to serve, hasten to dedicate themselves to the service of others.”

10 “I want to tell you: carry on, keep riding the waves of love, of charity. Be ‘surfers’ of love!”

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Learn more about WYD ‘23 on Page 12!





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

The Rite of Installation of a Pastor may be 'new' to many

The weekend of Aug. 12-13 had me driving from Springfield to El Dorado Springs and then to Joplin for the installation of new pastors: Fr. Tuan Van Nguyen, CRM, from the Congregation of the Mother of the Redeemer, in Carthage, is now the pastor of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish, El Dorado Springs, and St. Peter, Apostle Mission Church, in Stockton. In addition, Fr. Brian Straus is now the pastor of St. Peter the Apostle Parish, in Joplin.

In the "old days," the Rite of Installation of a Pastor was a simple, private event. The Dean of the Deanery would simply come to the rectory and the new pastor would make his profession of faith and sign the documents at the dining room table. Because of that, the public ceremony done these days during Holy Mass is new to many people.

The new pastor is introduced to the staff, Parish Pastoral Council, and the Finance Council, and makes a simple pledge to them: "My friends, I pledge to seek your counsel, guidance, and advice in the spiritual and temporal care of my pastorate." And what is his first official act as pastor? He leads the people in the Profession of Faith, the Nicene Creed. Following the Creed, the new pastor makes an Oath of Fidelity in front of the bishop. I always find it to be a very touching moment as I hear the words: "With firm faith, I believe as well everything contained in God's word, written or handed down in tradition and professed by the Church—whether in solemn judgment or in the ordinary and

Universal Magisterium—as divinely revealed and calling for faith. I also firmly accept and hold each and everything that is proposed by that same Church definitively with regard to teaching concerning faith or morals. Moreover, I adhere with religious submission of will and intellect to the teachings which either the Roman Pontiff with the College of Bishops enunciate when they exercise the authentic Magisterium, even if they proclaim those teachings in an act that is not definitive."

With these words, the bishop of the diocese is assured that the bonds of unity are strengthened between



PASTOR INSTALLED IN JOPLIN—Bishop Edward M. Rice (right) installed Fr. Brian Straus as pastor of St. Peter the Apostle Parish, Joplin, on Sun., Aug. 13. Also pictured are the parents of Fr. Straus: Rick and Veronica. (Marjorie Comer/The Mirror)

the parish to the diocese and to the Universal Church. The pastor never acts alone. Everything he does in the parish is to be in union with the bishop, who is in union with the Bishop of Rome. In essence, that is what we say every



PASTOR INSTALLED—On Sat., Aug. 12, Bp. Edward M. Rice installed Fr. Tuan Van Nguyen, CRM, as pastor of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish, El Dorado Springs, and St. Peter, Apostle Mission Church, in Stockton. Also pictured are members of the parish's Finance Council and Parish Pastoral Council. (The Mirror)

time we refer to our mutually-shared vision, "One Church, East to West." That is not just a pipe dream or a cute, convenient slogan. The Oath of Fidelity reinforces that bond and could be seen as a further clarification of what was already promised by the priest on the day of his ordination to the diaconate and priesthood. Have you been to an ordination of a deacon or priest? In both ceremonies, the man being ordained kneels before the ordaining bishop, places his joined hands between those of the bishop and is asked, "Do you promise respect and obedience to me and my successors? The man responds, "I do." And with that freely-given consent, the union between the priest, his bishop, and the Universal Church is established.

In my experience as a bishop and priest, the obedience that is given is key to building up the local church. Throughout the Ordination Rite, the deacon or priest is reminded of the importance of collaborating with the bishop in the work of the diocese,

assuring the unity of faith. And so, even though a new pastor has already promised obedience to his bishop twice—at his ordination as a deacon and priest—at his installation, the pastor once again reaffirms that all that he does in the parish will be in union with and in collaboration with the mind and heart of the bishop and ultimately the Supreme Pontiff.

What can destroy it all? One simple act of disobedience. That is how fragile the unity of the Church is. It does not take much for one's ego, pride, or arrogance to destroy the unity that a bishop should have with the pope or with his priests. That sentiment is expressed so powerfully in Eucharistic Prayer 1: "Be pleased to grant her (the Church) peace, to guard, unite, and govern her throughout the whole world, together with your servant, Francis, our Pope, and Edward, our Bishop, and all those who, holding to the truth, hand on the Catholic and Apostolic faith." Without unity, the devil drives a wedge and we become divided and conquered. "O sacrament most holy, O sacrament divine, all praise and all Thanksgiving be every moment Thine." ©TM



ANOTHER WALK THROUGH: 'WALKING TOGETHER' by Bishop Emeritus John J. Leibrecht

Before his retirement in 2008 as the Fifth Bishop of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Bishop John Leibrecht wrote a standing column in *The Mirror* entitled, "Walking Together." At the end of each article, Bp. Leibrecht would normally share a funny story referencing his travels to the schools, or time with friends, family, or other bishops. *The Mirror* has decided to share a few of these in an ongoing series entitled, "Another walk through: 'Walking Together.'" We hope you enjoy them.

October 20, 1989 A religious sister, whose ministry includes calling on people at their homes, told me about an occasion when she was going from door-to-door to inquire if there were any Catholics there. After knocking on the door of one home, she noticed the curtain being pulled back from the window next to the door. A small boy looked out, saw sister, and shouted to someone else in the house, "God's mother is here!"

October 27, 1989 During one of the wedding anniversary receptions, a couple married more than 60 years told me a joke about a couple that had just come home after celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary. The husband said to his wife, "It's been a

great day, but I'm really tired." The wife, who had a hearing problem, asks, "What did you say?" When the husband repeated, "I'm tired," the wife responded, "I'm tired of you too!"

November 3, 1989 Two weeks ago after Mass in St. Philip Benizi Mission Church, in Viburnum, MO, the entire congregation gathered outside the Church to bless a new shrine in honor of Mary. Many children were part of the crowd, which formed a circle around the outdoor shrine. After a brief comment on devotion to Mary and the prayer of blessing, I sprinkled holy water on the people. A little girl came out of the silent crowd, stood in front of me, and asked loudly as I sprinkled, "What are you doing?"



VEN Y VERÁS

Obispo Edward M. Rice

El rito de instalación de un párroco puede ser “nuevo” para muchos

El fin de semana del 12 al 13 de agosto me hizo conducir desde Springfield a El Dorado Springs y luego a Joplin para la instalación de nuevos párrocos: El P. Tuan Van Nguyen, CRM, de la Congregación de la Madre del Redentor, en Cartago, es ahora el párroco de la Parroquia Santa Isabel de Hungría, en El Dorado Springs, y de la Iglesia de la Misión San Pedro Apóstol, en Stockton. Además, el P. Brian Straus es ahora el párroco de la Parroquia San Pedro Apóstol, en Joplin.

En los “viejos tiempos”, el Rito de Instalación de un párroco era un evento simple y privado. El decano del decanato simplemente acudía a la rectoría y el nuevo párroco hacía su profesión de fe y firmaba los documentos en la mesa del comedor. Por eso, la ceremonia pública que se hace estos días durante la Santa Misa es nueva para mucha gente.

El nuevo párroco se presenta al personal, al Consejo Pastoral Parroquial y al Consejo de Finanzas, y les hace una sencilla promesa: “Amigos míos, me comprometo a buscar vuestro consejo, guía y asesoramiento en el cuidado espiritual y temporal de mi pastorado”. ¿Y cuál es su primer acto oficial como párroco? Dirige al pueblo en la Profesión de Fe, el Credo Niceno. Tras el Credo, el nuevo párroco hace un Juramento de Fidelidad ante el obispo.

Siempre me parece un momento muy conmovedor cuando oigo las palabras: “Creo, también, con fe firme todo aquello que se contiene en la Palabra de Dios escrita o transmitida por la Tradición, y que la Iglesia propone para ser creído como divinamente

revelado, mediante un juicio solemne o mediante el Magisterio ordinario y universal. Acepto y retengo firmemente, asimismo, todas y cada una de las verdades sobre la doctrina de la fe y costumbres propuestas por la Iglesia de modo definitivo. Me adhiero, además, con religioso obsequio de voluntad y entendimiento, a las doctrinas enunciadas por el Romano Pontífice o por el Colegio de los Obispos cuando ejercen el Magisterio auténtico, aunque no tengan la intención de proclamarlas con un acto definitivo”.

Con estas palabras, el obispo de la diócesis se asegura de que se refuercen los lazos de unidad entre la parroquia



TOMA DE POSESIÓN DE PÁRROCO EN JOPLIN—El domingo 13 de agosto, el obispo, Mons. Edward M. Rice (derecha) celebró la toma de posesión del P. Brian Straus como párroco de la Parroquia San Pedro Apóstol, Joplin. También en la foto están los padres del P. Straus: Rick y Verónica. (Marjorie Comer/The Mirror)

con la diócesis y con la Iglesia Universal. El párroco nunca actúa solo. Todo lo que hace en la parroquia es para estar en unión con el obispo, que está en unión



TOMA DE POSESIÓN DEL PÁRROCO—El sábado 12 de agosto, el obispo, Mons. Edward M. Rice instaló al P. Tuan Van Nguyen, CRM, como párroco de Santa Isabel de Hungría, en El Dorado Springs, y la Iglesia de la Misión San Pedro Apóstol, en Stockton. También aparecen en la foto los miembros del Consejo de Finanzas y del Consejo Pastoral Parroquial. (The Mirror)

con el Obispo de Roma. En esencia, eso es lo que decimos cada vez que nos referimos a nuestra visión mutuamente compartida: “Una Iglesia, de Este a Oeste”. No se trata de una quimera ni de un eslogan bonito y cómodo.

El Juramento de Fidelidad refuerza ese vínculo y podría ser visto como una aclaración adicional de lo que ya había prometido el sacerdote el día de su ordenación al diaconado y al sacerdocio.

¿Has asistido a la ordenación de un diácono o sacerdote? En ambas ceremonias, el hombre que va a ser ordenado se arrodilla ante el obispo ordenante, coloca sus manos unidas entre las del obispo y se le pregunta: “¿Prometes respeto y obediencia a mí y a mis sucesores?”. El hombre responde: “Sí, prometo”. Y con ese consentimiento libremente dado, se establece la unión entre el sacerdote, su obispo y la Iglesia Universal.

En mi experiencia como obispo y sacerdote, la obediencia que se da es clave para construir la iglesia local. A lo largo del Rito de Ordenación, se recuerda al diácono o sacerdote la importancia de colaborar con el obispo en el trabajo de la diócesis, asegurando la unidad de la fe. Y así, aunque un nuevo párroco ya haya prometido obediencia a su obispo dos veces —en su ordenación como diácono y sacerdote—, en su instalación, el párroco reafirma una vez más que todo lo que haga en la parroquia será en unión y en colaboración con la mente y el corazón del obispo y, en

última instancia, del Sumo Pontífice. ¿Qué puede destruirlo todo? Un simple acto de desobediencia. Así de frágil es la unidad de la Iglesia. No hace falta mucho para que el ego, el orgullo o la arrogancia de uno destruyan la unidad que un obispo debería tener con el Papa o con sus sacerdotes. Ese sentimiento se expresa con tanta fuerza en la Plegaria Eucarística I: “Por tu Iglesia santa y católica, para que le concedas la paz, la protejas, la congregues en la unidad y la gobiernes en el mundo entero, con tu servidor el Papa Francisco, con nuestro Obispo Edward, y todos los demás Obispos que, fieles a la verdad, promueven la fe católica y apostólica”. Sin unidad, el diablo abre una brecha y quedamos divididos y vencidos. “Oh Sacramento Santísimo, Oh Sacramento Divino, toda la alabanza y toda la acción de gracias sean en cada momento tuyos.”

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

“Don’t judge the reality by what you see and touch and taste. Judge by your unwavering faith. When the Master Himself has explicitly said of the bread, ‘This is My Body,’ will anyone still dare to doubt? When Jesus is Himself our warranty saying, ‘This is My Blood,’ who will waver and say it is not His Blood?”

—ST. CYRIL OF JERUSALEM TO SOME NEWLY BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS

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.

“May we draw close to the cross of Christ in the difficulties of daily life: Exultation of the Holy Cross, September 14.”

—BISHOP EDWARD M. RICE

September
PRAYER INTENTION



By
Drew
Garvey

BREAKING PORNOGRAPHY, RESTORING HOPE PART II: *A Grave Gateway*

Last time I was with you, I argued “four pillars” hold up the “pornography building:” art, business, drugs, and the Internet. The goal was to better understand pornography so that we may begin breaking free from its grip. Continuing toward that goal, and beginning where I left you, it is important to understand that Internet pornography has aggressive content and effects. The aggressive nature of pornography is worrisome, but never cause for despair. God is always present, and His grace is always working.

Detailing the true depths of pornography’s depravity here would be inappropriate; but pornography’s content is aggressive in two ways: range and violence. Pornographic content ranges from touchless teasing to violent rape. Sadly, pornography with verbal abuse, sexual assault, pedophilia, and incest are easy to find Online. Even more unfortunate, violence in pornography seemingly has no limit and is extremely popular, such as content depicting

people happily giving and receiving painful and humiliating acts for their own sexual pleasure, and for the sexual pleasure of those watching. Every person, on both sides of the screen, deserves better. They deserve respect, dignity, and love.

The effects of pornography are neurologically, emotionally, physically, and culturally aggressive. Neurologically, pornography causes the brain to compete with real sex. Emotionally, pornography impedes real relationships due to unrealistic and abusive fantasies. Physically, beyond the violence already noted, pornography can cause “porn-induced erectile dysfunction” (PIED). And culturally, today’s most popular music, movies, and TV shows glorify prostitution and sexual promiscuity.

Existing long before today’s pornography industry, porn has only fueled prostitution and sex-trafficking. The *Catechism* calls prostitution a social scourge that injures human dignity. While prostitution, the act, is “always gravely sinful,” prostitutes, as people, should not be judged. They need prayers. The hardships prostitutes face are difficult to imagine, but when surveys ask questions regarding the violent acts they face, their hardships can quickly be ascertained. Their culpability decreases based on varying factors, such as social pressure or blackmail.

Former and current prostitutes consistently report being shown pornography by their buyer, and then being forced to re-enact that sexual fantasy. No matter the level of violence or humiliation, pornography performers always respond pleasurably or neutrally. Prostitutes are forced to do the same, even under the most

awful circumstances. One Canadian prostitute stated, “What is rape for others, is normal for us.” Prostitution is inseparably linked to pornography, as is sex-trafficking.

The US Justice Department defines sex-trafficking as “the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purposes of a commercial sex act,” in which the commercial sex act is “induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person

and sex-trafficking form a web of lies, destruction, and sin. Pope Francis recently wrote in his encyclical, “*Fratelli Tutti*” (“All Brothers”), that millions of people “live in conditions akin to slavery,” and that “trafficking in persons” is a serious global problem today. His words echo Pope St. John Paul II from 40 years ago in “*Familiaris Consortio*” (“*The Role of the Christian Family in the Modern World*”). We understand pornography’s destruction of marriages and personal relationships, the topic of the next installment in this series. ©TM

Drew Garvey is from Immaculate Conception Parish, in Jackson, MO. He earned his master’s in theology (MTS) from Franciscan University of Steubenville. He and his wife, Olivia, and their daughter, Etta, currently reside in Buffalo, NY. He may be reached via Email to dgarvey93@yahoo.com.



PORNOGRAPHY’S DEPRAVITY—Internet pornography has aggressive content and effects. The aggressive nature of pornography is worrisome, but never cause for utter despair. God is always present, and His grace is always working. (Getty images)

induced to perform such acts has not attained 18 years of age.” This technical definition is provided to show most pornography is prostitution and sex-trafficking. Distinguishing between consensual (non-trafficked) and nonconsensual (trafficked) pornography is impossible. People watching pornography are likely being entertained through the rape of a sex-trafficking victim.

Pornography, prostitution,

▶ NEXT IN THE SERIES:

BREAKING PORNOGRAPHY, RESTORING HOPE PART III: *Destroying Relationships*

1. Series Recap
2. God’s design of marriage: *Two properties and two ends*
 - Unity and indissolubility
 - Procreation and education of offspring, and mutual sanctification
3. Inarguable dichotomy between marriage and pornography
4. Effect on teen relationships
5. Leads to addiction

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Billings—St. Joseph Catholic Church, located at 320 NW Washington Ave, will hold a **Fall Homecoming Festival**, Sat., Sept. 23, 5-8 p.m., following the 4 p.m. Mass. Kids activities, food, enter the Chili Cook-off, Best Apple Pie contest, and a Washer Toss tournament! Cost for dinner is \$5, entry fees for cook-off, pie contest, and tournament: \$5. Proceeds will benefit Billings School Paw Pack Program and St. Joseph Church stained glass refurbishment.

Forsyth—Our Lady of the Ozarks Catholic Church, located at 951 Swan Valley Dr., will hold a special **Christmas Collectables Sale**, Fri., Sept. 15, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., and Sat., Sept. 16, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Sale includes 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.

Leopold—The PCCW will have its annual **Hotze Mission Breakfast and Bake Sale**, Sun., Oct. 1, 7:30-10 a.m., at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Sausage, fried potatoes, biscuits, gravy, scrambled 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) 592-4593; 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 age 5: free. Carry-out is available. The CCW will be selling crafts, religious articles, breads, and sweets.

Sikeston—The Knights of Columbus annual **Chicken Fry** will be held Sat., Sept. 16, 4-7 p.m. Fried chicken, baked beans, slaw, potato salad, and dessert. Cost is

\$12 per person; meal available to pick up through the drive thru line only. Tickets are available from any K of C member, Women of St. Francis Xavier, or pay when you drive thru.

Sikeston—The Catholic Grandparents Association of St. Francis Xavier Parish will host the **Third World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly** during each of the weekend Masses held Sept. 9 & 10. The theme this year is "His Mercy is from Age to Age." Prior to the celebration, a book will be placed in the front of church for grandparents to sign and register the number of grandchildren. All grandparents and the elderly are encouraged to celebrate the life and love they bring to our parish and community. For more information, please call Karen Horton at the church office, (573) 471-2447.

Editor's Note: Pope Francis established the celebration of the World Day for Grandparents and Elderly on the fourth Sunday of July, near the liturgical memorial of Saints Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus (July 26). The US Bishops approved the transfer of the celebration of World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly in the US to the first weekend after Labor Day in September to coincide with National Grandparents (and Elderly) Day. A Plenary Indulgence is given for those who go to Reconciliation, Communion, and pray for the Pope's intentions PLUS do the following: (1) For the elderly, attend one of the Masses that celebrate the day; (2) For those elderly unable to attend Mass in person for health reasons, indulgence is extended to those who take part in it through television, radio, or Internet; or (3) Indulgence is granted to all those who, on the occasion of the day, perform a "work of mercy," by visiting an elderly person.

Springfield—Holy Trinity Parish, located at 2818 E Bennett St. will host a **Catholic Women's Conference**, "Encountering Christ at the Well," Sat., Oct. 14. Doors open at 8 a.m.; conference begins promptly at 9 a.m., and concludes with Mass at 3:30 p.m. Conference fee: \$25, including lunch, T-shirt, and bag. Early registration is recommended; register at: <https://form.jotform.com/222586941597976>.

Springfield—The Society of St. Vincent de Paul will have its **Friends of the Poor Walk**, Sat., Oct. 14, at St. Agnes Cathedral, located at 533 S Jefferson Ave. Registration and refreshments will be available at 8:30 a.m., walk begins at 9 a.m. Choose a one-mile or three-mile walk. For more information and to register visit <https://fopwalk.org>. All proceeds benefit Springfield area societies of St. Vincent de Paul, addressing challenges faced by the nation's people in need and to raise funds for use in direct service to people in poverty.

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



NOTRE DAME REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CAPE GIRARDEAU, is seeking candidates for the position of **Director of Advancement**. The Director of Advancement is

responsible for Notre Dame Regional High School fundraising efforts and community engagement. The successful candidate will oversee major gift cultivation and will lead capital campaign efforts. This position serves as the executive director to the NDHS Education Fund Foundation, and is overseen by the NDHS Education Fund Foundation board of directors. **This position closes on Sept. 18, 2023.** For more information, visit www.notredamehighschool.org/jobopenings.

Applicants should submit a cover letter of interest, a current resume, and a list of references with telephone numbers. **Materials should be sent via Email to Principal Tim Garner, M.Ed., at timgarner@notredamecape.org.**

www.notredamehighschool.org/jobopenings

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Summer Faith, Fun, Fellowship around the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau

CAMP CARLO in Conway, MO



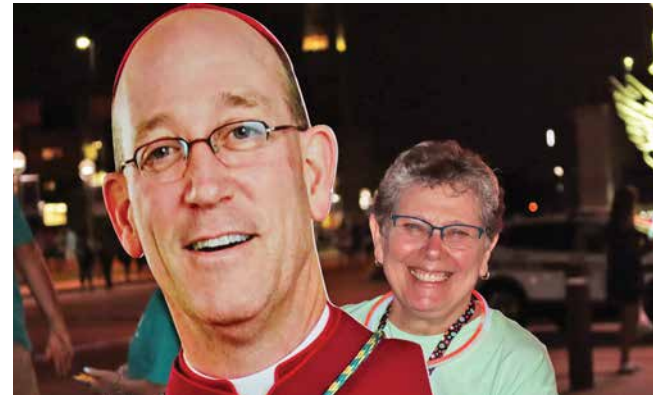
CAMP ST. VINCENT in Fredericktown, MO





STEUBENVILLE 2023

The summer's **Steubenville StL Mid-America Youth Conferences** were held on the campus of Missouri State University, in Springfield, MO, on July 7-9 and July 14-16. Over 600 diocesan pilgrims gathered with several hundreds of additional youth and adults in the Great Southern Bank Arena under the theme of "Refuge," taken from Matthew 11:28. Annie Hickman was the host; Sr. Josephine Garrett, CSFN, speaker; Kyle Huelsing, worship leader; Fr. Mike Schmitz, team priest; D.J. Bernal, speaker; and Sarah Swafford, speaker, kept the crowd energized, affirmed, and engaged. The diocesan Youth Endowment Fund issued 262 participants with grant assistance for this conference: Thank you Capital Campaign donors! ©TM



Iris Bounds (with a giant Bishop Rice cutout!) from St. Agnes Cathedral, Springfield. *(The Mirror)*



Bishop Edward M. Rice posed with a couple of Steubenville pilgrims from St. John the Baptist Mission Church, Licking, MO. *(The Mirror)*



A group of young men from Immaculate Conception Parish, Springfield, enjoyed representing the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau at the Steubenville Mid-America Youth Conference in July. *(Photo by Grace Tamburro/The Mirror)*



Three from St. Leo the Great Mission Church, Ava, greeted Bishop Edward Rice in the Great Southern Bank Arena on the campus of Missouri State University for Steubenville. *(The Mirror)*



A group of youth from St. Francis Xavier Parish, Sikeston, and pastor Fr. Colby Elbert, posed for a photo on the campus of Missouri State University during Steubenville 2023. *(Photo by Grace Tamburro/The Mirror)*



A group from Cape Girardeau were happy to run into Bishop Rice during a break at the Steubenville Mid-America Youth Conference in July. *(The Mirror)*



Branson-area youth and Deacon Dan Vaughn shared their enthusiasm with Bishop Rice during the Steubenville Mid-America Youth Conference. *(The Mirror)*



Fr. Timothy Tran, CRM, pastor of St. Joseph the Worker Parish, accompanied parishioners to the Steubenville Mid-America Youth Conference on the campus of Missouri State University, Springfield. *(Photo by Grace Tamburro/The Mirror)*



VOCATIONS BOOTH—Manning the vocations booth for the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau at the Steubenville StL Mid-America Youth Conferences was Fr. Charles Peirano, Fr. Nick Zummo, Fr. Jesse Heitt, and Fr. David Baunach. (Photo by Grace Tamburro/The Mirror)



EUCCHARISTIC LORD—One of the most moving moments of silence and reverence during the Steubenville StL Mid-America Youth Conference was the Eucharistic Procession undertaken by Fr. Mike Schmitz who carried our Lord, present in the Blessed Sacrament, in the monstrance through the entire arena of participants. (Photo by Grace Tamburro/The Mirror)



Bishop Edward M. Rice greeted participants from St. John Parish, in Leopold, at July's Steubenville Mid-America Youth Conference. (The Mirror)



Representing a shout out to renowned Podcaster Fr. Mike Schmitz was a group from Holy Trinity Parish, Springfield, at the July Steubenville youth conference. (Photo by Grace Tamburro/The Mirror)



Bishop Edward M. Rice caught up with two Steubenville attendees from St. Mark Parish, in Houston, at Steubenville Mid-America Youth Conference. (The Mirror)



Representatives from St. Agnes Cathedral Parish enjoyed the Steubenville StL Mid-America Youth Conference on the campus of Missouri State University. (Photo by Grace Tamburro/The Mirror)



Recognizing a diocesan staffer, Fr. Tomasz Wilk, OSPPE, of St. Augustine Parish, Kelso, gave a peace sign during a liturgical procession at the Steubenville Mid-America Youth Conference in July. (Photo by Grace Tamburro/The Mirror)



Cape Girardeau-area youth and chaperone with Bishop Rice at Steubenville. (The Mirror)

TOTUS TUUS

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER CHURCH in Ozark, MO



Fr. Nick Zummo took youth in Totus Tuus on a tour around St. Joseph the Worker Church, Ozark. (The Mirror)



ST. MARY PARISH in West Plains, MO



WEST PLAINS
-Kiddos had a fun and hot day when Ethan Keller let himself be decorated as a human sundae during Totus Tuus held at St. Mary Parish, West Plains. Water gun fights rounded out the festivities of June 30. (The Mirror)

WHAT IS TOTUS TUUS?
Totus Tous ("Totally Yours") is a week long Catholic youth program dedicated to sharing the Gospel and promoting the Catholic Faith through evangelization, catechesis Christian witness and Eucharistic worship. Totus Tous is concerned not only with teaching the faith, but also igniting the hearts of young people! **For more information visit diosca.org/youth--ministry/.**

HOLY TRINITY PARISH in Aurora, MO



SACRED HEART PARISH in Dexter, MO



OUR LADY OF THE COVE PARISH in Kimberling City, MO



Our Lady of the Cove Parish, Kimberling City, MO held the most fun Scientific Vacation Bible School event on July 5-7, 2023. The theme of Son Spark Labs was enjoyed by over 60 children, grandchildren and friends, who came from near and far to learn about God and creation. The event was held on the parish campus and was open to children ages 3-11 with youth helpers ages 12-18. (The Mirror)



Coordinator of Religious Education Mary Lippert and Fr. William W. Hennecke, Jr., pastor, during the opening gathering with the children. (The Mirror)



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SUMMER CARE PROGRAM in Cape Girardeau, MO



GRANT ASSISTANCE OFFERED THROUGH THE YOUTH ENDOWMENT FUND IN THE 2022-2023 FISCAL YEAR



TOTUS TUUS IN NOEL—Summer's Totus Tuus was held in Nativity of Our Lord Mission Church, in Noel, MO. *(The Mirror)*

YOUTH ENDOWMENT FUND

Thanks to the generosity of donors during the diocesan Capital Endowment Campaign, the Diocesan Youth Endowment Fund was formed to provide assistance for youth activities and programs. In the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the endowment fund supplied a little over \$200,800 in financial assistance to schools, parishes, and individuals within the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. Some of the highlights this year were:

- Over 400 youth and chaperones received grants to help with the Diocesan Youth Conference (DYC) and Steubenville Mid-America Youth Conference registration costs.
- Thirty teens and their leaders received financial assistance for attending the Generation Life Conference.
- Around 80 college students were able to attend the SEEK conference in St. Louis
- Thirty individuals received grant assistance to attend World Youth Day in Portugal this summer.
- Additionally, several parishes and schools received financial assistance for conducting local youth retreats.
- Supplies such as a laptop computer to show Catechetical series and keep PSR records, Ministry leader books, Bibles, supplies for new PSR classrooms were all able to be purchased by parishes and schools with grants from the Youth Endowment Fund.

As your parish/school plan for faith formation and ministry opportunities with youth in this coming school year, please consider how the Youth Endowment Grant may assist you. ©TM



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Universal Communion of God and Man

is what we experienced at World Youth Day.

The coming together of humanity and divinity as one. The

young, old, sinful, holy, and beloved people from all over the world, every language and nationality gathered in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit: The same Trinitarian God who says, whenever you gather in my name, I Am there among you, with you. How powerful it is when two or three gathers in the name of Jesus? How much more powerful when 1.5 million-plus people gather with the Vicar of Christ, the Pope, together in Christ and even celebrate His supreme gift and offering of grace in the Holy Eucharist together? Together as one, with each other and with our God, we lived, truly lived in ultimate freedom, self-sacrificing love, in union—United as persons with The Divine Person in a communion of true love.

And yet it was not a battle. There was struggle and strife. [WYD] took a real commitment, real determination and real attitudes of rising up and rising above whatever seemed to be trying to bring us down. It took real faith and belief that we would make it, that in seeking higher things, we will find higher things, a higher plane of reality. It took hope to find that which is not of this world in this world. And did we not find it? Did we not find Him?

JESUS, PRESENT

Yes, pilgrims found Jesus again and again — and again and again, Jesus found us: In the struggle, in the strife, in the pain, in the joy, in the aches, in each other, in strangers, in faces—millions of beautiful faces—in each other's eyes, in our own eyes we beheld Him who is the King of our hearts. Christ's love prevailed and proved the victor. We beheld God in all things, even canned fish, tiny pieces of gravel,



Universal Communion: a message from Fr. Colby Elbert, Chaplain for WYD 2023



the truth of who you are and the mystery of who God is calling you to be. You are called to witness faith, hope, and love. You are not

and the Blessed Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood in the appearance of bread and wine offered humbly to every hungry heart and soul.

Now that the WYD pilgrimage has ended, how do we return to a world that still does not know Him? One that has not seen him as we have seen him? Where the battles of love still rage or seem to overcome us? A world whereby through faith,

only a single witness. You are a witness of millions and millions strong, with all the power of heaven and earth. So, be not afraid. Be not afraid to pray. Be not afraid to make time for God, to give him your time and offer him your heart in worship. Be not afraid if this makes you different and causes you to sacrifice. God blessed those who turn to him. Be

not afraid to fail and to fall. God will pick you back up again and again. Be not afraid to be little or poor or humble, this is the way of the saints. Be not afraid to stand in the truth of God's love, even when you seem to be the only one standing. Christ is your representative and strength. It is Christ who stands in you. Be not afraid to turn to God. God is boldly calling us to both repent and to forgive. Learn to love turning back to Him who never turns his back on you. He loves it so much when you turn back to Him. Learn to love forgiving as Christ himself is forgiving.



▲ Opening Mass for World Youth Day 2023, Lisbon, Portugal, Aug. 1, 2023.
(Photo by Lynn Melendez/The Mirror)

we believe He still dwells humble and hidden in tabernacles and churches, in hearts and faces, in the downcast and forgotten, in the lost and lonely, in wars and destruction? God is still just as present in everyday life as he has been at World Youth Day. Contemplate this in your heart. Quietly meditate on God being in all things, even the littlest of joys and deepest of sorrows. Even there, He is still present and waiting, ready and quiet, attentively willing and acting in the divine dance of creation, shining with glory and radiating with a love that forever burns. Yes, as Pope Francis said, His heart burns with love for all of creation and especially for you and for everyone. With more love than we can receive,

Jesus's heart pours out never ending love for all. Love for all. Do not be deceived, the Catholic Church is the home for this love, the protector of this truth. The place everyone needs and where everyone finds their rightful place.

BODY OF CHRIST

Do you not see that we are the Church? You are a necessary and forever member of the Body of Christ. Always be aware of

◀ LILY HUFF AND PETER DITTMER

from Notre Dame Regional High School, Cape Girardeau. (The Mirror)



When you show mercy, your heart beats in unison with Jesus. Be not afraid to allow the hidden God to be seen in you at all times, especially in your love. Be not afraid to love God and love your neighbor with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength. Be not afraid of your life, or this world, or your future, or what you do not know or what you might even dread, because we know Him. You know Him. And finally, after all this, as we took leave of one another at World Youth Day, let us rejoice, because we take one another in our hearts. Take with you joy because Who we know is Christ Jesus, the Lord. In Christ, we have and offer the freedom that only comes from God. In the Eucharist, we taste the bond of human brotherhood and we are held together. Be not afraid because "going back [home]" is only moving forward toward our goal where Universal Communion lasts forever and ever.

Brothers and sisters, sons and daughters of Christ, let us go on together with one another and with Christ, until we find ourselves in eternal communion. Let us make haste to fulfill all that God wills. Let us go together, always together, in God's holy name. Let us go in peace. The peace that Mary knew and still prays for to consecrate every moment of human life to divine life. The same peace pilgrims witnessed at Fatima and every time we pray: The peace of a heart entirely grateful to God for all he has marvelously done. Beloved, keep heart and take courage: the pilgrimage of WYD 2023 Lisboa may have ended, but the pilgrimage of life continues to heaven. ©TM

Father Elbert is Pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish, Sikeston, and served as Chaplain to diocesan pilgrims to World Youth Day 2023.



▲ **The first day of our pilgrimage was spent on San Miguel island in the Azores Islands of Portugal.** We traveled with a Diocesan group from Fall River, MA, and a diocesan group from Providence, RI. Taking a tour of this beautiful island was the perfect way to start a pilgrimage and ending our day with Mass in a local church was a great kick off to the week ahead.
 –Lynn Melendez



The 2023 World Youth Day (WYD) was held in Lisbon, Portugal, beginning on Tue., Aug. 1, and concluded on Sun., Aug. 6.

World Youth Day is an international gathering of young people, ages 16 to 35, with the Pope. An estimated 1.5 million pilgrims attended Mass with Pope Francis during the 37th WYD on Sun., Aug. 6.

World Youth Day takes place every two to three years in different cities all over the globe. It has a strong Catholic identity and includes a celebration of Mass with the Pope, but it's open to all. Seoul, South Korea will host World Youth Day 2027.

WORLD YOUTH DAY PARTICIPANTS

OUR LADY OF THE LAKE, BRANSON

Tony Melendez, *Pilgrimage Leader*
 Lynn Melendez, *Pilgrimage Leader*
 Jose Melendez
 Anna Melendez
 Sophia Melendez
 Sebastian Melendez

NOTRE DAME REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Fr. Colby Elbert, *Pilgrimage chaplain*
 Mary Beth Green
 Gail Timpe
 Lily Huff
 Madison Walker
 Thomas Dittmer
 Peter Dittmer
 Julia Cisneros
 Olivia Cisneros

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER, OZARK

Vanessa Coleman
 Lucas Coleman
 Kaitie Coleman
 Carole Dragosljvich
 Martha Reinkemeyer Norton
 Gabryel Nord
 Grace Mika
 Cathy Bonham
 Gabriella Bonham
 Mairini Montalvo
 Kaylian Gomez

Traveled with St. Joseph the Worker group but came from SACRED HEART IN CRYSTAL CITY, MO

Brooklyn Buckner
 Kate Eisenbeis

ST. PETER THE APOSTLE, JOPLIN

Lauren Beranek
 Joseph Beranek

YOUNG ADULT GROUP

Rosemary Driscoll, *St. Agnes, Springfield*
 John David Moreton, *St. Henry, Charleston*
 Morgan Mitchell, *St. Elizabeth of Hungary, El Dorado Springs*
 Becky Kitchen, *St. Vincent de Paul, Cape Girardeau*

TWENTY-SEVEN OF THE PARTICIPANTS APPLIED FOR AND RECEIVED GRANT ASSISTANCE FROM THE DIOCESAN YOUTH ENDOWMENT FUND. THANK YOU TO ALL DONORS TO THE RECENT CAPITAL ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN!

“ **Young people of “World Youth Day,” the Church asks you to go, in the power of the Holy Spirit, to those who are near and those who are far away.** Share with them the freedom you have found in Christ. People thirst for genuine inner freedom. They yearn for the Life which Christ came to give in abundance ... May you, the Catholic young people of the world, not fail him. In your hands, carry the Cross of Christ. On your lips, the words of Life. In your hearts, the saving grace of the Lord. ”
 –POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II, 1993 WYD IN DENVER, CO



◀ **We had quite the day in Fatima!** ▶

On Saturday evening, we joined thousands of people for the candlelit Rosary and Procession around the Square. On Sunday morning, we visited the Basilica of our Lady of the Rosary, and the tombs of Saint Jacinta, Saint Francisco, and Lucia, We also did the outdoor walk around the stations of the cross and visited the homes of the 3 visionaries. It was a beautiful day of prayer together! –Lynn Melendez





▲ **POPE FRANCIS WYD MASS**—Pope Francis prayed in front of a statue of Our Lady of Fátima before beginning his celebration of the closing Mass for World Youth Day at Tejo Park in Lisbon, Portugal, Aug. 6, 2023. (CNS photo/Vatican Media)



▲ **CATHOLIC MUSICIANS AND KEYNOTE**—Tony Melendez (left) of Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Branson, was one of three Catholic musicians that led music during the gathering Aug. 2 for over 26,000 US pilgrims who are attending World Youth Day. Acclaimed author, speaker, and theologian Bishop Robert Barron (right) of Winona-Rochester, MN, was the keynote speaker. (Photo by Lynn Melendez/The Mirror)



▲ **FEELING THE SPIRIT**—Rosemary Driscoll, St. Agnes Cathedral Parish, smiles for the camera. (The Mirror)

WYD TESTIMONIES

WYD TESTAMENT: Rosemary Driscoll, St. Agnes Cathedral Parish, Springfield

“There were just so, so many moments that were absolutely incredible. One in particular was really awesome: During the first few days of World Youth Day, we would go to particular sites and hold catechetical sessions and we would share and talk about different elements of our faith. And then we would break into small groups and have discussions. Those moments were so incredible because, typically, I would sit down with a group of strangers. We tried to mix it up and be with people in a group that we did not come with. I would be sitting there with five or six people from five or six countries and we would talk about elements of God’s grace, and community, and just being able to experience life as Catholics from around the world. I think that was such an eye-opening experience for me because some of these people experienced their Catholic faith in the exact same way that I did; others just brought completely different, and brand-new perspectives that I had never thought of before. They had a very unique way of looking at things because they come from a different culture, a different country, or a different age group than I did. That was just really beautiful to see. I loved getting to connect with youth from around the world. And it just really blessed me in a lot of ways.”

WYD TESTAMENT: Sophia Melendez, Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Branson

“My favorite part of World Youth Day was getting to see the compassion that strangers had for others, whether we were sweating, in a moment of Adoration, or we were singing on the streets, I was able to see others just totally come together. And I definitely felt a grasp on the universal aspect of the Catholic Church so much better. There is just something about being with 1.5 million people to really put your faith in perspective. I felt God with my family over the trip. Getting to experience that with my parents was amazing, and getting to experience that with my twin brother just made it all sweeter. Getting to see so many youth of the Church come together, meeting strangers—I never thought I would have that experience, and feeling that connection with them at the end of the two weeks was amazing.”

WYD TESTAMENT: Joseph Beranek, St. Peter the Apostle Parish, Joplin

When we went to World Youth Day, it was amazing to see all of the flags from all around the world, and to hear the chants rising in so many different foreign languages. I thought it was just truly amazing, how the Catholic Church is everywhere, and although we might have different experiences, we are united in love of Christ. It’s that love that makes us truly the universal Catholic Church.

WYD TESTAMENT: Becky Kitchen, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Cape Girardeau

I had no idea what I was joining when I signed up. When I signed up for World Youth Day I had two things in mind. First thing was that I wanted to experience what I teach my confirmation students that we are a universal church. The second was to help with my discernment process and hopefully lead me in the right direction for what God has called me. God had great plans for what he was wanting to show me and others around me. When walking crowds of 500,000 - 1 million people, I never felt more a part of something. I never felt more welcomed or alive. To do it with people I barely knew. To praise the Lord with strangers that in the end I realized are my brothers and sisters in Christ. I saw the Lord everywhere I turned. In the sunrise and sunset. To the birds that sang while at Mass. To the child lifted high in a wheelchair. I saw Him in the people sitting next to me as they prayed for their intentions and the intentions of the world. World Youth Day did something so great and the world has no idea.

The world would tell you that there is no peace on earth. That this big of a crowd would never work and something would happen. What the world is failing to see is that our God is greater. He is good all the time and all the time He is GOOD! Yes, this trip helped me go back home and teach my PSR students and yes this trip helped me along my vocation journey, but this trip did so much more: This trip brought a sense of peace and stillness that my heart has never felt in my 27 years of life. After years of being shut down, the gates were opened wide, and we all had one big family reunion around the altar and shared in the beauty of the Eucharist as one family. I will never forget how this trip forever changed me and how I see the world around me. ©TM





By
Fr. Joshua
J. Whitfield

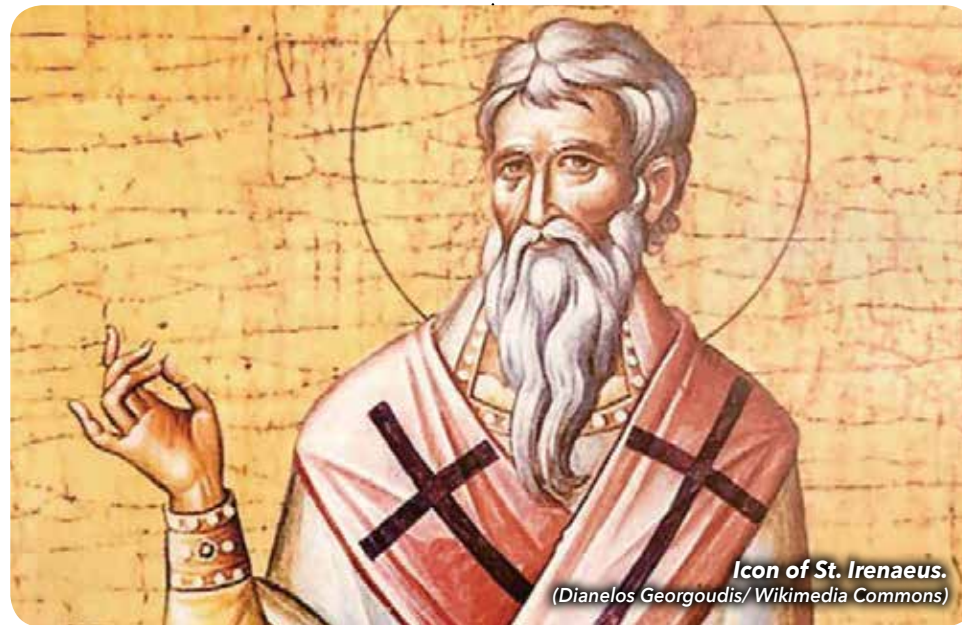
WHAT WE BELIEVE, PART 26: *Apostolic Tradition*

How do Scripture and Tradition work in the Church? What does their relationship look like? To answer this, it's perhaps best to begin with one of the great heroes of the Faith, St. Irenaeus of Lyons, who was a bishop in France at the turn of the third century.

Irenaeus was writing when — if you were to consider the vast religious landscape of his tumultuous time — it would have been difficult, if not impossible, to discern one single form or expression of the Christian faith. Rather, it was a time (not unlike our own) when there were several competing versions of Christianity vying for believers' allegiance. These different "schools," as St. Irenaeus derisively called them, each had different attitudes toward the Gospel, different ideas about Jesus and different approaches to the Scripture. Some "schools" thought Jesus was a shapeshifter, for instance; some thought he wasn't fully human; others thought he wasn't fully God. Some believed all knowledge of God came entirely from personal inspiration while others had different theories of spiritual enlightenment. All sorts of slight nuances distinguished these very similar but still quite different versions of Christianity. It really was a free market of Christianities, so to speak, in these early centuries. And, it was in this environment that Irenaeus asked a very simple question: How does one tell the authentic Christian faith from the inauthentic, the true faith from the false?

His answer was simple: because the apostles said so. As St. Irenaeus put it: "We have learned from no others the plan of our salvation than from those through whom the Gospel has come down to us, which they did at one time proclaim in public, and at a later period, by the will of God, handed down to us in the Scriptures, to be the ground and pillar of our faith." In pointing to what we today recognize as Scripture, Irenaeus wasn't just holding

up the texts, but those who wrote them. Matthew wrote his Gospel; Peter and Paul preached in Rome; Mark, Irenaeus said, wrote down what Peter preached; Luke was influenced by Paul's preaching; after that, John wrote his Gospel at Ephesus. "These have declared to us that there is one God," he wrote (Against



Icon of St. Irenaeus.
(Dianelos Georgoudis / Wikimedia Commons)

Heresies, No. 3.1.1-2). Irenaeus' simple argument was that in a competitive religious atmosphere — this free market of Christianities — authentic belief, right belief ("orthodoxy") takes its stand on these Gospels and these particular texts written by these particular people whose lineage we can trace, whom we know. That is, to guarantee correct belief, the Scripture had to be with and within the Church. It had to be accepted as apostolic Scripture.

Taking this stand is important, Irenaeus argued, because otherwise, one risks following whims and myths and personal and collective distortions. Or, one risks pridefully listening to oneself other than the truth. Those who go it alone, apart from the Church, Irenaeus said, teach what "neither the prophets preached, nor the Lord taught, nor the apostles handed down." Instead, "they boast rather loudly of knowing more" about the Faith than others, referring to

"unwritten works; and as people would say, they attempt to braid ropes of sand. They try to adapt to their own sayings in a manner worthy of credence, either the Lord's parables or the prophets' sayings, or the apostles' words, so that their fabrication might not appear to be without witness." They twist the

Scripture, Irenaeus said, disregarding "the order and the connection of the Scriptures." They "disjoin the members of the truth," they "transfer passages and rearrange them; and, making one thing out of another, they deceive many by the badly composed fantasy of the Lord's words that they adapt" (Against Heresies, No. 1.8.1). Distorting Scripture, taking stuff out of context, bending words: that's the problem, Irenaeus said, that follows from abandoning apostolic tradition. That's what comes from reading the Scripture without tradition outside the Church. It may look a lot like the true faith, but it's subtly ruined. St. Clement of Alexandria described it once, this subtlety of subversion, saying how some people can "twist the Scriptures by their tone of voice to serve their own pleasures" (*Stromateis*, No. 3.39.2). That's the sort of danger one falls victim to, Irenaeus says — cutting and pasting, twisting

fragments of true faith into false faith.

But that's not how a person engages the Scripture if they're seeking the genuine Christian faith. Rather, one seeks the single voice of the Church, the one faith "though disseminated throughout the world." The Church, Irenaeus said, "carefully guards this preaching and this faith, which she has received, as if she dwelt in one house. She likewise believes these things as if she had but one soul and one and the same heart; she preaches, teaches and hands them down harmoniously, as if she possessed one mouth." Preachers of the true faith will not make things up and will not be innovative, Irenaeus says. Orthodox preachers will not claim new personally discovered insights. "Neither will any of those who preside in the churches, though exceedingly eloquent, say anything else (for no one is above the Master); nor will a poor speaker subtract from the tradition. For, since the faith is one and the same, neither he who can discourse at length about it adds to it, nor he who can say only a little subtracts from it" (Against Heresies, No. 1.10.2).

That's the mark of the true faith: that it's connected to the Church and that it's traditional, not esoteric or charismatically progressive. In the whirl of competing Christianities, Irenaeus hunkers down within apostolic tradition and upon this apostolic Scripture found only in the Church. For Irenaeus, there is a stark difference between an orthodox approach to the Christian faith and those not orthodox. For instance, when confronting false preachers with the Scripture, Irenaeus says, "they turn round and accuse these same Scriptures as not being correct, nor of authority, and that they are ambiguous, and that the truth cannot be derived from them by those who are ignorant of tradition."

However, when confronted with the Tradition — that is, the teaching of the apostles and their successors —

Continued next page...

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WHAT WE BELIEVE // Continued from page 15...

“they object to the tradition, saying that they themselves are wiser not merely than the presbyters, but even than the apostles, because they have discovered the unadulterated truth.” This, for Irenaeus, is simply the mark of heretical belief — constantly shifting reasons “that these men do now consent neither to Scripture nor to tradition” (Against Heresies, No. 3.2.1-2). When, neither Scripture nor apostolic tradition is accepted in matters of belief, the Faith is lost through the incoherent whims of innumerable charlatan preachers who twist texts or claim new truths. Detached from the Church, ignorant of tradition, the Scripture is dangerous and bound to be misused, Irenaeus seems to say.

In St. Irenaeus’ writings, we have a picture of an early era of the Church in which in a rather crowded marketplace of competing Christianities — some more fantastic and some more plausible — it’s clear that to embrace authentic Christianity, one must belong to the Church. One must accept the apostolic writings and the traditional view that certain sacred texts are properly

interpreted by and preserved by the succession of bishops and presbyters in the Church. The truth of the Scripture is always mediated by the Church, guaranteed over time by the succession of the apostles, the Tradition and the communion of believers enduring through the centuries. “The Church alone understands Scripture,” wrote Henri de Lubac (“History and Spirit,” Page 347). That’s a bold claim. But, put simply, it just means that in one’s search for the authentic Christian faith, one can’t abstract theological truth from the community founded by Christ on the apostles. The Scripture and the Church always go together, which is why we insist that the Church is necessary for a right reading of Scripture.

It goes back to the understanding we began with, which is that when we encounter the word of God, something more than academic is going on. Rather, something spiritual is going on — a mystical experience, an ecclesial experience. God remains involved in the event of encountering the word of God; therefore, so does the Church. As Jesus said in John’s Gospel: “I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now. But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth” (Jn 16:12-13). Jesus himself promised that the Spirit would be present among his disciples and that the job of the Spirit is to lead the disciples into “all truth.” So, in our post-Resurrection dealing with the Gospel, its oral and scriptural transmission and interpretation are still involved with God, sharing in the same Spirit in which the texts were written

(cf. *Dei Verbum*, No. 12).

This is why an authentic encounter with the Scripture is always ecclesial and is always connected to the Church enlivened by the Holy Spirit. Not just as Irenaeus said, but Peter too. “Know this first of all,” Peter wrote, “that there is no prophecy of scripture that is a matter of personal interpretation, for no prophecy ever came through human will, but rather human beings moved by the Holy Spirit spoke under the influence of God” (2 Pt 1:20-21). That is, the transmission of the Gospel, the reading and proclamation of the word of God, and the interpretation of the word of God, is not just a man-made event. When the truth is preached, God is involved. God is the originator of the transmission of the Gospel and its interpretation. It’s not just a matter of

human ingenuity. God remains involved. Truth is the first cause, so to speak, of the Scripture and its interpretation. But it’s never detached from the Church — never from the Tradition. This is what Catholics believe: that the Scripture and the Church always belong together.

NEXT EDITION: WHAT WE BELIEVE, PART 27

Tradition and Dogma

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 26: Apostolic Tradition” by Fr. Whitfield is from *simplycatholic.com*, copyright © Our Sunday Visitor; all rights reserved, no other use of this material is authorized.

OBITUARY | Sister Marie Montgomery, OSU



Maple Mount, KY

Sister Marie Montgomery, 100, an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph of Maple Mount, KY, died Fri., Aug. 18, 2023, at Mount Saint Joseph in her 79th year of religious life. May she rest in peace.

A native of Saint Lawrence, KY, Sr. Montgomery taught in St. Teresa Catholic School in Glennonville (1996-97) and Seven Holy Founders School in Afton (1946-48). She also taught in many other schools in Kentucky and New Mexico and was an educator for 63 years.

Survivors include the members of her religious community and nieces and nephews.

The funeral Mass was Aug. 21 at Mount Saint Joseph, with burial in the convent cemetery.

Glenn Funeral Home and Crematory, Owensboro, is in charge of arrangements.

Donations in memory of Sr. Montgomery may be made to the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356. ©TM

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

Struggling with Life

since being Widowed, Divorced or Separated?



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) 827-3641, or Donna at (417) 529-1085



Security Coordinator hired for Springfield Catholic Schools

Springfield, MO

Springfield Catholic Schools is pleased to announce **Casey Wilkerson** as its Security Coordinator effective Aug. 1, 2023, for the 2023-24 school year.

Wilkerson attended the University of Central Missouri and Southwest Missouri State University. He graduated from POST approved Police Academy in 1994 and served the Sedalia Police Department until joining the Springfield Police Department in 2000. During his tenure, he worked patrol, community-oriented policing, and served as a D.A.R.E. instructor, a member of the West Central Missouri Major Case Squad, and a member of the Crisis Negotiation Team. Education is a lifelong journey, and Wilkerson is currently working on finalizing a degree in Criminal Justice Administration through Drury University.

“It has been a blessing to serve my community in a law enforcement capacity for the last 29 plus years. I’ve been given the wonderful gift of becoming a member of the Springfield Catholic School System family as the Coordinator of Security,” Wilkerson said.



WILKERSON

In 2016, Wilkerson was selected to be the supervisor of Missouri State University substation located on the Missouri State campus, in Springfield. His responsibilities included managing the MSU substation budget, coordinating special events, dignitary protection, and instructing Active Shooter/Stop the Bleed training. In 2019, he transferred to the Criminal Investigations Division as the Supervisor over property crimes.

Wilkerson rounded out his career serving with the Special Victim’s Unit from 2020-2023, supervising and directing investigations.

“Having the opportunity to continue giving back to the community was a strong factor in my decision to retire from the Springfield Police Department,” Wilkerson said. “I look forward to working with faculty, staff, parents, and students to develop and improve safety and security within the system.”

Wilkerson is married to wife, Alicia, and their son, Cam, attends first grade at Immaculate Conception School. His hobbies include: coaching youth sports, triathlons, hunting, fishing, and any activity involving the outdoors. ©TM

St. Teresa School alumna heads to Amherst

Campbell, MO

Marie Rosa Wheeler, the daughter of Kevin and Sarah Wheeler of Campbell, MO, and a graduate of St. Teresa Catholic School in Glennonville, will be attending Amherst College in Amherst, MA in the fall. Ranked 2nd in the U.S. News and World Report of National Liberal Arts Colleges, Amherst also houses the largest holdings of Emily Dickinson’s writings



MARIE ROSA WHEELER

as well as maintaining her home as a museum. Robert Frost taught at the college over a 40 year span.

At St. Teresa Parish, Wheeler was active in the youth group and attended Camp Re-NEW-All, Totus Tuus, and Steubenville Mid America Youth Conferences. She was an altar server, organist, and song leader in St. Ann Parish, in Malden. On occasion, she was invited to speak at Catholic meetings about what her Catholic faith meant to her.

Valedictorian at Campbell High School, Wheeler was a National Merit Finalist and attended Missouri Scholars Academy. Throughout high school, she consistently placed at the state level in Beta Speech Competitions and FBLA Word Processing. She also was active in volleyball, basketball, and quiz bowl, while serving as the FCCLA Vice President, FBLA Treasurer, Beta Club Treasurer, and a member of Student Council and FCA.

Wheeler presently works as an assistant vet tech at Malden Veterinary Clinic.

At Amherst College, she plans to study Biology and engage in veterinary studies, while also discerning a call to religious life.

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NEW BETA CLUB OFFICERS ELECTED AT GUARDIAN ANGEL SCHOOL



NEW OFFICERS—The officers for Guardian Angel Jr. Beta for the 2023-24 school year are: Peace Keeper-Rylie Priggel; Chaplain-Dylan Levan; Treasurer-Adisyn Seabaugh; Secretary-Elaina Hahn; Vice President-Harper Gadberry; and President-Kasyn Seabaugh. (Submitted photo)

Oran, MO

The start of a new school year brought new officers to the Jr. Beta Club at Guardian Angel Catholic School in Oran, MO. Jr. Beta had its first meeting of the new school year on Thu., Aug. 24. New officers were elected: President-Kasyn Seabaugh; Vice President-Harper Gadberry; Secretary-Elaina Hahn; Treasurer-Adisyn Seabaugh; Chaplain-Dylan Levan; and Peace Keeper-Rylie Priggel.

The Jr. Beta Club consists of students in grades 5-8 and recognizes academic achievement, nurtures character building, promotes leadership skills and encourages students to do service for others.

The Jr. Beta sponsors several events throughout the school year. For fundraising, they sponsor the Haunted Library at the Halloween Carnival, sell candy grams for Christmas and Valentine’s Day, sell Beta snacks, and run the March Madness bracket challenge. The money raised is used to buy an item for the Guardian Angel dinner auction and help support Guardian Angel school mission projects. For fun, they sponsor the Easter egg hunt for the younger students as well as have Beta week during National Beta Week. During this week-long event, they have fun events like twin day, crazy hair day, etc. and take a Beta field trip. ©TM



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With Fr. Tony Stephens, CPM of The FATHERS of MERCY



Daily Confessions:
5:30-6:30pm: Sunday, Monday, Tuesday 9/24-9/26
5:00-6:00 pm: Wednesday 9/27
AND following each evening talk

Evening Talks
Each night from 7:00 to 8:00pm
with Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Sunday, 9/24 "The Love of the Father"
Monday, 9/25 "The Younger Son: Accepting Responsibility"
Tuesday, 9/26 "The Elder Son: Burning Bridges"
Wednesday, 9/27 "Why Confession?" (This talk will be 6:30-7:30 pm)
Thursday, 9/28 "Our Lady the Mother of Mercy"

Closing Mission Mass
on Thursday evening, 9/28, at 7:00pm

Morning Masses Monday—Thursday at 9:00 a.m.
followed by coffee and a short talk with Fr. Tony in the hall
Everyone welcome!



BISHOP RICE ANNOUNCES STAFF CHANGES AT THE CATHOLIC CENTER

Springfield

Janet L. Smith retires as Chief Financial Officer

After 42 years of dedicated service to the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, **Janet L. Smith** is set to retire. While remaining "on call," and available as necessary, her last official day in The Catholic Center as Chief Financial Officer was Aug. 31, 2023. A feature story on Jan will appear in a future issue of *The Mirror*.



Hired in June 2020 as diocesan Director of Development and Properties, **Doug Kissinger** is transferring to responsibilities as diocesan Director of the Office of Finance. He and his wife, Patty, have seven children and are long-time members of St. Joseph the Worker Parish, in Ozark. Kissinger is also State Deputy of the Missouri Knights of Columbus. His educational background is in accounting and law.



Effective Sept. 5, **Taryn Vogan-Bohrer** will join The Catholic Center staff as diocesan Director of Properties and Development. She and her husband, Ron, and their young family, are members of St. Agnes Cathedral Parish, Springfield. Vogan-Bohrer is an architect most recently employed with BRP Architects in Springfield.



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From the Diocese of Honolulu:
MAUI WILDFIRES



(Getty Images)

Bishop Larry Silva, Bishop of Honolulu is requesting prayers and financial support for “those affected by the devastating wildfires that have ravaged the island of Maui.” In 2008 the Hawaii Catholic Community Foundation (HCCF) was established as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. A dedicated webpage has been created so donations can go directly to HCCF to support relief efforts of those affected by the Maui wildfires. You can make a tax-deductible contribution by visiting the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/MauiCatholic>

Every donation, no matter the amount, will play a crucial role in helping to rebuild lives and restore hope. Bishop Silva ends his request: “May God bless you all abundantly, and may our efforts bring comfort and hope to those in need. Maria Lanakila (Our Lady of Victory), pray for us! @TM

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Holy Trinity Parish, Springfield



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39th Annual St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church

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The Mirror

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