



ANNUAL MERCY DAY

celebrates legacy of Sisters of Mercy in Joplin



▲ **SYSTEM-WIDE MASS**—Joplin Area Catholic Schools celebrated Mercy Day and its Sisters of Mercy as well as alumni with a systemwide Mass on Fri., Sept. 22, as part of the Mercy-Warrior Activities Week, held Sept. 22-Oct. 1. Pictured were (front) Fr. Andrew Williams, Mercy Associate and alumna Phyllis Wilson ('56); Mercy Associate Connie Walters; Sr. Joan Margret Schwager, RSM; Sr. Cabrini Koelsch, RSM, and alumnus Fr. Colby Elbert ('02); (back) Fr. Joe Weidenbenner, Bishop Rice, alumnus Deacon Rob Brothers ('72); and Fr. Brian Straus. Joplin Area Catholic Schools includes St. Mary Catholic Elementary; St. Peter the Apostle Middle School, and McAuley Catholic High School. *(The Mirror)*

Joplin, MO

Students and faculties in Joplin Area Catholic Schools celebrated Mercy Day and its Sisters

of Mercy as well as alumni with a systemwide Mass on Fri., Sept. 22, as part of the Mercy-Warrior Activities Week, held Sept. 22-Oct. 1.

In 1873, Joplin, Missouri was known as one of the richest lead and zinc mining communities in the world. In July of 1885, 13 Sisters of Mercy traveled by train to Joplin from Louisville, KY, responding to an urgent plea sent to the Kansas diocese from Fr. William McCormick: "Sisters needed to establish a convent and conduct a parish school." The sisters later saw a need for a hospital to serve the rough and tumble mining town when a mining accident in 1896 sent the injured by train some 60 miles to the nearest hospital. The Sisters of Mercy have been serving Joplin for 138 years and counting!

Joplin Area Catholic Schools includes St. Mary Catholic Elementary; St. Peter the Apostle Middle School, and McAuley Catholic High School.

Bishop Edward M. Rice presided over the Sept. 22 liturgy with students in K-12 in St. Peter the Apostle Church, Joplin. The

Mass was concelebrated by Fr. Colby Elbert ('02), Fr. Brian Straus, Fr. Joe Weidenbenner, and Fr. Andrew Williams.

Deacon Rob Brothers ('72) served the altar. Mercy Associates present included Phyllis Wilson ('56) and Connie Walters. Special guests of honor at the Mass were Sr. Joan Margret Schwager, RSM, and Sr. Cabrini Koelsch, RSM.

Following Mass, a pep rally was held with 3-12th graders and many alumni, including Fr. Colby Elbert, who spoke during the pep rally. Alumni from the 1970s sang the school song, which many students had never heard before. The alumni were welcomed back in the evening for an alum mixer/dinner.

Other activities held during the Mercy-Warrior Activities Week: Friday was the alumni events, Saturday was a golf tournament; Sunday was the Warrior Dash obstacle course; Monday was the Living Library; Tuesday was the annual Staff Cook Off; Wednesday was Son Shuffle; Thursday was the Daughter Dance; Friday was trivia night (adults only); Saturday was a spaghetti dinner and bingo; and Sunday was a dodgeball tournament. ©TM



▲ **SPAGHETTI & BINGO**—A Joplin youth showed off his win at the Spaghetti Dinner & Bingo night, which was part of the Mercy-Warrior Activities Week held Sept. 22-Oct. 1 for Joplin Area Catholic Schools.

(Courtesy JACS)

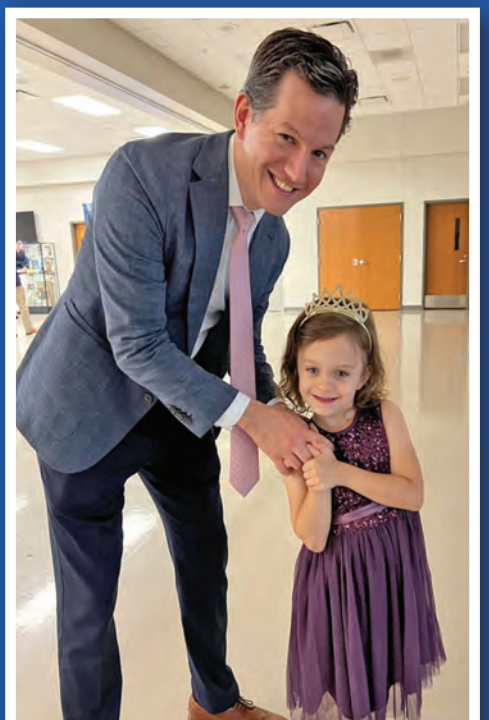


▲ **STAFF/FACULTY COOK-OFF**—St. Mary Catholic School staffer Margie Black took part in the Staff/Faculty Cook-Off, which was part of the Mercy-Warrior Activities Week held Sept. 22-Oct. 1 for Joplin Area Catholic Schools. *(Courtesy JACS)*



▲ **SPIRITUAL BOUQUETS**—Sisters of Mercy Sr. Joan Margaret Schwager, RSM, and Sr. Cabrini Koelsch, RSM, received spiritual bouquets from students of St. Mary Catholic School, Joplin, and were guests of honor during the Sept. 22 Joplin Area Catholic Schools Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated Sept. 22 as part of the Mercy-Warrior Activities Week. Bishop Edward M. Rice celebrated the liturgy, which was concelebrated with Fr. Colby Elbert ('02), Fr. Brian Straus, Fr. Joe Weidenbenner, and Fr. Andrew Williams.

(Photo by Margie Black/The Mirror)



▲ **DAUGHTER DANCE**—A Daughter Dance was part of the Mercy-Warrior Activities Week held Sept. 22-Oct. 1 for Joplin Area Catholic Schools. *(Courtesy JACS)*





**COME, AND
YOU WILL SEE**

Bp. Edward M. Rice

Transcendent experiences connect us to spiritual realities

Did you see the article in the August 25th edition of *Our Sunday Visitor* entitled, "How to live like Saints in a Secular Age?" I kept the article near me because I wanted to reference it as we prepare to enter the Month of November with our two beautiful feasts, November 1, the Solemnity of All Saints (a holy day of obligation in the Church), and November 2, The Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed (All Souls day).

On Nov. 2, we remember all the holy men and women who do not have a particular feast day. On that day, we remember all the holy men and women who were never canonized but lived lives of holiness, often hidden, normal, maybe even mundane and routine, but nonetheless: they lived their lives in holiness because they lived their lives with faith.

We probably know who these unnamed saints are: Maybe our parents come to mind, or a faith-filled teacher, or a neighbor or friend that inspired us to live the faith. They may never have been (or will be) officially canonized, but they were holy nonetheless. The article reminds us that we live in a "secular" world that is often not spiritual or religious. It's the reality that we face. But because of that reality, do we not have even more opportunities to shine the light of faith?

The author of the article, Bob Plunder, highlights the need for transcendent experiences. Without these transcendent experiences that

NOV. 1: Solemnity of All Saints
NOV. 2: The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed



connect us to spiritual realities, there is no need to believe in God. Transcendent experiences is what the Church has to offer to people. The desire for God can be enhanced through modern technology, but often the opposite is true. What is found on Netflix or TikTok or Facebook, and the technology that goes along with it, can actually pull us away from the transcendent. A generation ago, most Catholics would have been carrying a rosary in their pocket or purse. Maybe now, we carry a phone and along with it, Emails and Web-browsing has replaced the rosary, and as a consequence, so many of us are sucked into a dark hole.

As a possible solution, the author suggests that we must "recover a sense of what the incarnation can mean." He goes on to say, "The incarnation names our belief that God, in the second person

of the Trinity, [the One] that has taken on our flesh in Jesus Christ in order to save us. He lived and moved among us, fully God and fully man. ... He knew the heat of the noonday sun and the chill of a cold night. He was raised by a mother and father. He spoke amid conflicts; He preached; He listened. He knew joy and mourning. ... We have to recover a sense of what the Incarnation can mean because of the manifold, often hidden, ways that our secular age has shaped our sense of what might be possible with God."

It is particularly in the midst of the secular world that we are called to live like saints. What does that look like? It is the wife that sits by her husband's bedside as he suffers the ravages of cancer. It is the parents that pour out love on their child that suffered a terrible car accident, cheering him on for every small victory in rehabilitation. It is the adult child that faithfully visits a parent that doesn't even recognize them due to dementia or Alzheimer's, and yet faithfully visits them week-after-week, advocating for their care. It is the countless number of parents that get up day-after-day and go to work, oftentimes to a thankless job that lacks real significance or value to them, but a job nonetheless that allows them to care for their loved ones, to keep a roof over their heads, and to keep them fed and clothed and educated. In the midst of all

the busyness of life, in these situations and so many more, people recognize their need for God. They make room and time for God, coming to Mass, receiving Holy Communion, living a sacramental life without any fanfare. Oftentimes, the priest knows who you are. You're the one that comes in at the last minute to Mass dragging the kids with you looking haggard and tired, but you're there and the Church is better for it! The Feast of All Saints is for you! ©TM

Editor's note:

Read the full article at *Our Sunday Visitor*:
<https://www.oursundayvisitor.com/how-to-live-like-saints-in-a-secular-age/>

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Another Walk Through: 'Walking Together'

*by Bishop Emeritus
John J. Leibrecht*

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

February 2, 1990 In visiting schools, I am sometimes given letters written by the students. Recently, one student wrote, "Bishop, I think women should be priests." Then, in an effort to be even-handed, he added, "I also think it's OK for men to be nuns."

February 9, 1990 I asked one of the servers at St. Mary Parish, Seneca, if he enjoyed serving. "I sure do," he said quickly. "What do you like about it?" I continued. "It makes Mass go faster," he replied.

February 16, 1990 When I visited first-graders last week, I learned they were studying the parable of the Good Samaritan. Each of the students volunteered to tell me a part of the story. "There was this guy who got beat up and had his clothes torn," the first one started. "And there were these two guys who walked right by him and didn't help," the second student continued. "And this other guy came by and helped the man who was hurt," related a third. I was duly impressed. A fourth youngster told me very movingly that the story teaches us to help one another. I thought to myself, "It's wonderful—how well these children are learning." The story was over, but a little boy kept his hand raised. I asked what he wanted to say. "You know that guy who beat up the other guy? Well, if I met him, I'd kick him in the face."

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VEN Y VERÁS

Obispo Edward M. Rice

Las experiencias trascendentes nos conectan con las realidades espirituales

¿Has visto el artículo de la edición del 25 de agosto de *Our Sunday Visitor* titulado “Cómo vivir como santos en una época secular”? Guardé el artículo cerca de mí porque quería consultarlo cuando nos preparamos para entrar en el mes de noviembre con nuestras dos hermosas fiestas, el 1 de noviembre, Solemnidad de Todos los Santos (día de precepto en la Iglesia), y el 2 de noviembre, Conmemoración de todos los Fieles Difuntos.

El 2 de noviembre recordamos a todos los hombres y mujeres santos que no tienen una fiesta particular. En ese día, recordamos a todos los hombres y mujeres santos que nunca fueron canonizados, pero que vivieron vidas de santidad, a menudo ocultas, normales, tal vez incluso mundanas y rutinarias, pero no obstante: vivieron sus vidas en santidad porque vivieron sus vidas con fe.

Probablemente sepamos quiénes son estos santos anónimos: tal vez nos vengan a la mente nuestros padres, o un profesor lleno de fe, o un vecino o amigo que nos inspiró a vivir la fe. Puede que nunca hayan sido (ni serán) canonizados oficialmente, pero no por ello dejaron de ser santos. El artículo nos recuerda que vivimos en un mundo “secular” que a menudo no es espiritual ni religioso. Es la realidad a la que nos enfrentamos. Pero, debido a esa realidad, ¿no tenemos aún más oportunidades de hacer brillar la luz de la fe?

El autor del artículo, Bob Plunder, destaca la necesidad de experiencias trascendentes. Sin estas experiencias

trascendentes que nos conectan con las realidades espirituales, no hay necesidad de creer en Dios. Las experiencias trascendentes es lo que la

NOV. 1: Solemnidad de Todos los Santos

NOV. 2: Conmemoración de todos los Fieles Difuntos



Iglesia tiene que ofrecer a la gente. El deseo de Dios puede aumentar gracias a la tecnología moderna, pero a menudo ocurre lo contrario. Lo que se encuentra en Netflix o TikTok o Facebook y la tecnología que lo acompaña, en realidad puede alejarnos de lo trascendente. Hace una generación, la mayoría de los católicos llevaban un rosario en el bolsillo o en el bolso. Puede que ahora llevemos un teléfono y que, junto con él, el correo electrónico y la navegación por Internet hayan sustituido al rosario y, como consecuencia, muchos de nosotros seamos absorbidos por un agujero oscuro.

Como posible solución, el autor sugiere que debemos “recuperar el sentido de lo que puede significar la encarnación”. Continúa diciendo: “la encarnación denomina nuestra creencia en que Dios, en la segunda persona de la Trinidad, [Aquel] que ha asumido nuestra carne en Jesucristo para salvarnos. Vivió y se movió entre nosotros, plenamente Dios y

plenamente hombre... Conoció el calor del sol del mediodía y el frío de una noche fría. Fue criado por una madre y un padre. Habló en medio de conflictos; predicó; Escuchó. Conoció la alegría y el luto. ... Tenemos que recuperar el sentido de lo que puede significar la Encarnación debido a las múltiples formas, a menudo ocultas, en que nuestra era secular ha modelado nuestro sentido de lo que podría ser posible con Dios”.

Es sobre todo en medio del mundo secular donde estamos llamados a vivir como santos. ¿Qué aspecto tiene? Es la esposa que se sienta junto a la cama de su marido mientras éste sufre los estragos del cáncer. Son los padres que derraman amor sobre su hijo que sufrió un terrible accidente de coche, animándole por cada pequeña victoria en la rehabilitación. Es el hijo adulto que visita fielmente a un padre que ni siquiera le reconoce debido a la demencia o al Alzheimer, y que sin embargo le visita fielmente semana tras semana, abogando por su cuidado. Es el incontable número de padres que se levantan día tras día y van a trabajar, a menudo en un trabajo ingrato que carece de significado o valor real para ellos, pero un trabajo que les permite cuidar de sus seres queridos, mantener un techo sobre sus cabezas y mantenerlos alimentados, vestidos y educados. En medio de todo el ajetreo de la vida, en estas situaciones y en tantas otras, la gente reconoce su necesidad de Dios. Hacen sitio y tiempo para Dios, acudiendo a Misa, recibiendo la Sagrada Comunión, viviendo una vida

sacramental sin fanfarrias. A menudo, el sacerdote sabe quién eres. Tú eres el que llega a última hora a Misa arrastrando a los niños contigo con aspecto demacrado y cansado, ipero estás ahí y la Iglesia es mejor por ello! ¡La fiesta de Todos los Santos es para ti!

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Nota del editor:

Lea el artículo completo en *Our Sunday Visitor*: <https://www.oursundayvisitor.com/how-to-live-like-saints-in-a-secular-age/>

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QUESTION: What do priests do “for fun”?

by design: priests are set apart for specific work, which could be simplified to some degree in shepherding others to heaven and providing the sacraments and for the needs of the Church that make that possible. This is an extraordinary responsibility, and it carries a tremendous dignity with it. As such, priests are indeed set apart, and they have to reflect that reality with the way they live.

However, that said, priests do also retain their humanity, even with their supernatural calling, and as a result: we have many different “normal” things that we need to and like to do. We need to go to the doctor, just as anyone else might. We need to run errands. We need to go shopping for food and other supplies. We have basic human needs just like anyone we serve. And yes, as a result, yes, we also do have things that we do “for fun” as well.

What a particular priest does for fun varies from priest to priest, since priests are taken from among men. Each priest in our diocese is unique, and that uniqueness often lends itself to appreciating God’s magnificent design in different ways, and often how he uses one particular man’s gifts in ways that He may not use others. In speaking of my

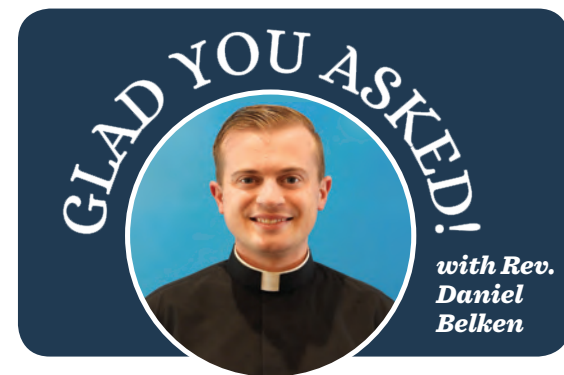
own hobbies, I love to play and practice the organ; visit with friends and family; read, and even learn about how to use and develop new technology. Of course, that is unique to who I am. Other priests may enjoy going to a Cardinals baseball game, playing golf, traveling, watching their favorite TV shows, listening to good music, writing, amongst many, many other “fun” activities that one can find.

The important reality that is here is that priests are, in fact, humans, and we do a lot of the same things that anyone else would do or find “fun.” However, we do have an extraordinary calling as well, and we serve as an important reminder of the fact that we should be constantly drawing closer to the kingdom of Heaven. Even as we enjoy many different things in this life we are still mindful that we have to forgo and sacrifice for the sake of the Kingdom as well. We have many things that we enjoy, but we are still called to serve as a reminder of the place which will be our greatest fulfillment and happiness as we behold our Lord face-to-face.

Thus, priests, like many of the parishioners we serve, do have a lot of things they can do for “fun.” However, even as we enjoy these things, we still serve as a reminder that we are striving

to enter a place where we will be fulfilled and overjoyed in our Lord’s presence, forever. ©TM

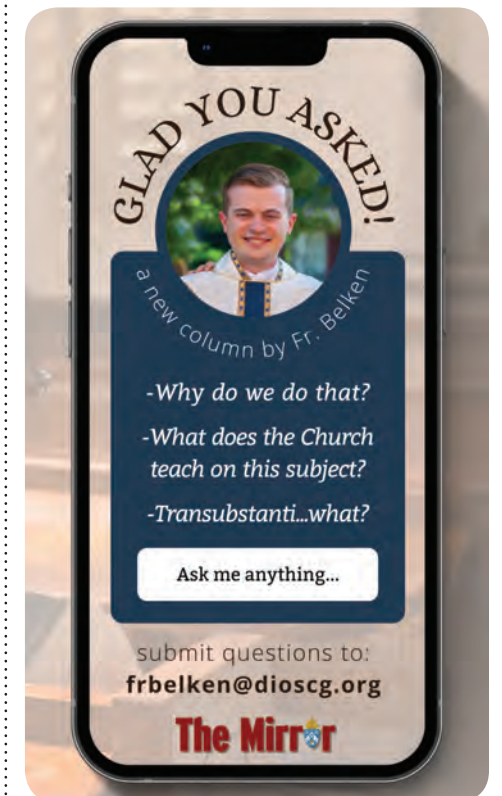
Fr. Belken is Parochial Administrator of St. Denis Parish, Benton, and St. Lawrence Parish, New Hamburg, and serves as diocesan Associate Director of the Office of Worship and Liturgy.



ANSWER:

Not too long ago, I was shopping in Sam’s Club, simply picking up groceries. Unbeknownst to me, one of my parishioners, a young toddler, excitedly told his mom, “Look, it’s Fr. Belken!” The mom relayed the story to me a short time later, because her child was so shocked that I must shop, just like anyone else. Indeed, that is quite true: I (and most priests in the diocese) do go shopping and will pick up groceries and run errands, just like anyone else.

There is a great juxtaposition that is placed within the priesthood: men that are taken from amongst family, friends, and so many other people and are put in a place and a vocation that seems so far removed from what might be considered “normal” or conventional. Priests do not just drop from the sky, ordained and ready to go! Rather, we come from families and from backgrounds much like anyone else does. Much of this is



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www.dioscg.org/wp-content/uploads/How-to-Register-for-a-VIRTUS-withOnline-Option.pdf

Both in-person and online training sessions are for adults only.

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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.

NOTRE DAME TO HOST TWO OPEN HOUSE EVENTS

Cape Girardeau, MO

Notre Dame Regional High School, Cape Girardeau, is hosting two Open House events this fall. Open Houses are designed for parents and their children who are in sixth through eighth grade to learn more about Notre Dame Regional High School! The Open House is the best opportunity for parents and students to take a first-hand look at a one-of-a-kind high school.

Open House guests will learn about the school’s mission and philosophy and see how it lives out that mission by spreading the gospel, one student at a time. The event will begin with a program in King Hall followed by

student-led tours of the school, where families will have the opportunity to meet and talk with current students, parents, faculty, and administrators.

The November Open House will be held on **Thu., Nov. 9**, and the **December Open House** will be held on **Wed., Dec. 6**. For both Open Houses, doors will open at 6 p.m. and the event will begin at 6:30 p.m. Advanced registration is required at www.notredamehighschool.org/openhouse. ©TM

For more information contact: Meg Garner, *Assistant Director of Advancement for Enrollment Management* (573) 335-6772 ext. 310 meggarn@notredamecape.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jackson—The Jackson Knights of Columbus #6405 will have a **Sausage & Pancake breakfast**, Sun., Nov. 5, 7-11 a.m. Homemade sausage, pancakes, eggs, hash browns, and biscuits & gravy. Orders are also being taken for the Knight's famous, homemade sausage; available in link or 1 lb. bulk packaging. To place an order, or for more information, contact the KC Hall at (573) 243-5464 or kcchalljacksonmo@att.net.

Springfield—Come and just be present before our Lord during the Springfield Area Perpetual Adoration, hosted at Holy Trinity Chapel. There is an **urgent need of Adorers** on Wednesdays, 2 a.m., 3 a.m., & 6 a.m. and Saturday, 3 p.m. Substitutes are needed for all hours. For more information or to sign up, please contact Marilyn Gibson at (417) 224-4043. Please consider spending time with our Lord in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

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

ENCOUNTER

WITH GOD'S CALL

WEEKEND AT CONCEPTION SEMINARY COLLEGE **NOV. 10-12**

Young men ages 16-25 are invited to accompany diocesan clergy to visit Conception Seminary College in NW Missouri for a first-hand look at what the seminary is about. The weekend is free of charge and transportation is being arranged. There will be time for Mass, prayer, and sports activities. Participants will hear from seminarians who have made the choice to discern God's will in their lives at seminary. "I personally ask you to help me in this work!" said Bishop Edward M. Rice. "Encourage your son, your nephew, your cousin to attend." **If you know someone interested, please contact Kim at (417) 233-4022 or Email kkearby@dioscg.org.**



Since I sometimes have trouble explaining what seminary is like to people, I usually just invite them to visit. Encounter With God's Call reminds me of the words of Jesus in the first chapter of St. John's gospel. After John the Baptist directs the two disciples to Jesus, they ask him, "Where are you staying?" And Jesus simply replies, "Come and see."

— Eric Wachira
Diocese of Kansas City - St. Joseph



When I arrived at Conception Seminary College for my first Encounter with God's Call retreat in the fall of 2022, I instantly felt a sense of peace being here. The best part was the warm welcome I received from all of the seminarians, monks, and staff. I was able to have a truly prayerful discernment experience and could see myself being a seminarian.

— Kaleb Chacon
Diocese of San Angelo



The Encounter With God's Call weekend was the much-needed opportunity I was seeking to answer Jesus' invitation to "Come and see." I knew I needed to take a step forward in discerning the priesthood, and this was the best step I could have taken. The weekend provided me a greater opportunity to hear the Lord's voice, and it gave me much greater peace and confidence to know where God was calling me.

— James Sappington
Diocese of Kansas City - St. Joseph



Learn more at
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Cape Girardeau

St. Mary Cathedral Annual Craft & Bake Sale—Sat., Nov. 11, 7 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sun., Nov. 12, 7 a.m.-12 p.m., in the school gymnasium, 210 S. Sprigg St. Homemade craft items, candy, baked goods, including cinnamon rolls.

St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Bazaar—Sat. Nov. 11, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., in St. Vincent DePaul Center (Old Notre Dame High School), 1912 Ritter Dr. Free admission. Freshly baked cinnamon rolls, lunch will be served.

Dexter

Sacred Heart Annual Turkey Dinner—Sun., Nov. 5, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., 102 E. Castor St. Turkey, ham, stuffing, all the fixings, dessert, and drink included. Cost: \$12.50-adults; \$6-children; under age 6, no cost. Dine in or carry-out available.

Leopold

St. John PCCW Country Christmas Home Tour—Sun., Dec. 17, 1-4 p.m. Tour five beautifully decorated homes, stop by St. John Catholic Church to listen to organ music, followed by soup and cookies served next door in the cafeteria. Contact Geri Geringer at (573) 208-6445 with questions or to purchase tickets. Proceeds from this event are shared with St. John Youth Group.

Monett

St. Lawrence Annual Fall Feast—Sun., Nov. 5, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., 405 7th St. Turkey, ham, all the trimmings, roll, drink, and dessert. Cost: \$10-adults; \$8- senior (65+), \$6-children, ages 5-11 years, under age 4, no cost.

New Hamburg

St. Lawrence Parish Fall Dinner & Country Store—Sun., Nov. 5, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., in the parish center, 1001 State Highway A. Turkey, dressing, cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes, slaw, buttered potatoes, green beans, drink & homemade desserts, served buffet style. Cost: \$15-adults; \$6-children, ages 6-12 years, under age 5, no cost. Carry-out available.

Poplar Bluff

Sacred Heart PCCW 101st St. Anne's Bazaar—Sat., Nov. 4, 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m., in the parish center, 815 Vine St. Baked goods, including the Walz family bread, Country Store, This & That Gift Booth, homemade candy gift boxes, religious goods, White Elephant, booths for sewing, craft workshop, and more. The Guadalupe Group will be selling tamales, homemade cinnamon rolls for breakfast, chicken salad sandwiches, sliders, and chili available for lunch.

Springfield

St. Agnes Holiday Market—Sat., Nov. 4, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sun., Nov. 5, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., in the school gymnasium, located in The Catholic Center, 601 S. Jefferson Ave. Featuring Ruth Apollonia, author of the Annabelle of Anchony series, and John Carpenter, author of Be Not Afraid and He is Alive: Science Finds Jesus. Family photos, Mexican sweets, handmade crafts, baked goods, jewelry, and many other items.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Fall Bazaar—Sat., Nov. 4, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sun., Nov. 5, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., 2200 W. Republic Rd. Crafts, Christmas decorations & ornaments, religious items, jewelry, quilts, baked goods and much more. Chili, frito pie, vegetable soup, hot dogs, and cinnamon rolls for sale in the food cafe.

Immaculate Conception Holiday Sale—Sat., Nov. 11, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sun., Nov. 12, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., 3555 S. Fremont Ave. **Huge White Elephant & Bake Sale**, located in Community Rooms A&B. The Bistro will serve breakfast items, sandwiches, soups, & desserts.

St. Joseph Christmas Bazaar & Bake Sale—Sat., Nov. 11, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., 1115 N. Campbell Ave. Crafts, baked items and candies. Chili and fixin's will be available for purchase.

Sacred Heart Craft, Vendor & Cookie Sale—Fri., Dec. 1, 5-9 p.m. and Sat., Dec. 2, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 1609 N. Summit Ave. Held in conjunction with the Midtown Victorian Homes Tour, in which Sacred Heart is a stop. Many vendors, handmade jewelry, crafts and our famous cookies sold-by-the-pound. Food available for purchase both days.



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Springfield's Catholic cold weather shelter now in its 3rd year

Needs volunteers

By Paula Wright Springfield

For the third year, St. Anthony Claret Shelter, Springfield, will offer homeless men in the Springfield area a warm and inviting place to stay when the weather turns cold and snowy. The shelter, located in the parish hall of Sacred Heart Church, Springfield, is open twice a week from **November 1 through March 31** and provides beds for 25 men. New for this year, and recently blessed and celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony by Bishop Edward M. Rice, is a laundry facility and a handicap-accessible shower for the homeless men to use. Thanks to donations, the St. Anthony Claret Shelter is one of the few shelters in Springfield that offers these services for the homeless. The shower is open every Tuesday, from 1-4 pm.

"We really offer a multi-service shelter here," said Fr. Ray Smith, CMF, pastor of Sacred Heart Church. "Every Monday, Panera donates bread that we distribute to those in need. People who know about the offer come in and they'll get bread. We will, of course, share it with anyone who comes through and has needs."

Many restaurants and companies in the north Springfield area donate food for the kitchen.

"Someone donated a large freezer for our use, and an entire third of a cow for us, we never run out of food. Praise Jesus!" said Fr. Smith.

"We're now offering Narcotics Anonymous (NA) here twice a week,

and you'll have folks in need through that group as well. We have some outside groups that use this facility in addition to NA," Fr. Smith said.

The men who will stay overnight in the shelter are transported by City Utilities, which provides transportation from Grace United Methodist Church to different shelters around town. The men are pre-cleared at Grace Methodist for overnight shelter and will arrive by bus. Because the St. Anthony Claret Shelter serves a hot dinner meal, they are the first stop. During large snowstorms, the shelter will remain open and shelter persons for 24 hours until the bus is running again.

"So often these folks don't get regular meals, don't get hot meals. One of the things we want to do as Catholic witnesses is the element of treating individuals with dignity. So, we make the effort to give them a hot dinner and a hot breakfast whenever possible," said Fr. Smith. "And we work with all

six of our Springfield parishes for our volunteer base. The hot meals are served with real plates, cups, or utensils. It's a simple act to show dignity to each person who finds shelter here."

In addition to the hot meal, snacks are always on-hand because they may not have eaten for a couple of days,



RIBBON CUTTING—Bishop Edward M. Rice recently blessed the new handicap-accessible shower and laundry facilities at St. Anthony Claret Shelter in Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Springfield. Now in its third year, the overnight shelter for homeless men is open twice a week from November 1 through March 31 and provides beds for 25. Thanks to donations and volunteers, the St. Anthony Claret Shelter is one of the few shelters in Springfield that offers these services for the homeless. The shower is open every Tuesday, from 1-4 pm. (The Mirror)

and some of them, even if they just ate, are still hungry. The shelter works in collaboration with Saint Joseph Catholic Academy, Springfield, which often provides snacks.

"We have one of the best kitchens here in Sacred Heart. Brother Manolo [Br. Manuel 'Manolo' Benavides, CMF], with our community, made the mosaic for our 40th anniversary that is featured in our serving area in the shelter," said Fr. Smith.

Sheets and blankets used in the overnight shelter have been provided through donations from Mercy and Cox hospitals. The Community Partnership of the Ozarks donated a cart full of large jugs of shampoo for the shower dispensers. Walmart has donated blankets. A large wooden storage cabinet was built by Sacred Heart Parish staff member Glenn Eckl to hold supplies. Although not a full clothing ministry distributor, the shelter also

has a hanging clothes rack with clothing donations to offer to the men in need who use the shelter.

"And so as it is, when starting one ministry, you get two more. These blessings come," said Fr. Smith. "St. Agnes Cathedral (Springfield) is good about keeping us up on underwear, it's amazing. We have towels for days. Once you ask, you really do receive as Jesus promised. You won't get one house: You'll get

10 houses. And that's how donations happen sometimes. We are so grateful for the support from the diocese, both financially and for the volunteers."

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!

Both men and women are welcome to volunteer for the shelter. There is always at least one man staffed for the overnight shift and to help with shower oversight. An overnight staff typically consists of 10 volunteers, but it is expected to increase to 12 this year



Although not a full clothing ministry distributor, the cold weather shelter also has a hanging clothes rack with clothing donations to offer to the men in need who use the shelter. Sheets and blankets used in the overnight shelter have been provided through donations from Mercy and Cox hospitals. The Community Partnership of the Ozarks donated a cart full of large jugs of shampoo for the shower dispensers. Walmart has donated blankets. And persons seeking shelter can get a hot meal and do a load of laundry. (The Mirror)



For the third year, St. Anthony Claret Shelter, Springfield, will offer homeless men in the Springfield area a warm and inviting place to stay when the weather turns cold and snowy. The shelter, located in the parish hall of Sacred Heart Church, Springfield, is open twice a week from November 1 through March 31 and provides beds for 25 men.

because of the new shower and laundry facilities and the additional needs from these services. Volunteers could help with dinner preparation and serving/clean up. Individuals and groups should contact the church for specific times.

“Our real need is the middle of the night shifts. That is the big challenge,” Fr. Smith said. “Our team would like to add a third day for shelter, but it really depends on the volunteer base we have. We started with nothing more than our parishioners and we made it through two months with just that. Then we opened it up to the other parishes, with the sense that I’d like this to be not just the Sacred Heart shelter. This is the Catholic Shelter at Sacred Heart.”

The shelter is having what Fr. Smith calls unexpected, beautiful, consequences. One being that this ministry is bringing together parishioners from all area parishes.

“We have so few activities that do that. Most folks stay active in their parish and don’t get to meet people from other parishes,” said Fr. Smith. “But in this activity, after one evening, you have people from Saint Agnes (Cathedral), IC (Immaculate Conception), Holy Trinity, and SEAS (St. Elizabeth Ann Seton) come together as volunteers. They’ve never met each other, and they get these chances to form new connections. That’s what our Catholic church should do.”

Fr. Smith shared that one of the things he found beautiful about the shelter ministry is the backstories.

“Sacred Heart Parish is approximately 50/50, maybe 60/40, Hispanic. And we’ll



have nights or periods where many of the servers will be from the Hispanic community. Imagine, you are an immigrant and come to your new country and you’re caring for the homeless in your new parish home. And I just think that speaks volumes of their faith, that’s one of those little backstories that people don’t see. But in most church ministries, yeah, all those little backstories are always happening.” He also shared that some of the men who use the shelter will re-engage with their Catholic faith, and some will receive the sacraments.

“We had a man come to the shelter who had grown up as a child in this parish. Because of the connection through this ministry, I was able to offer him last rites at the hospital before he passed from an illness,” Fr. Smith said.

Although Sacred Heart is a small parish, Fr. Smith hopes that the work done there will inspire others to step up into this ministry.

“Last year, in preparation for a major snowstorm expected for the Springfield area, we helped coordinate with shelters around town and had other churches step up to help and do what they could do to help offer shelter here at Sacred Heart. If just a few more churches would help us add just 10 beds this year, that would make a huge difference. As the Claretians do, we try to follow the vision of St. Anthony Mary Claret in our ministry and serve those in most need.”

Anyone interested in volunteering or donating to the shelter may call Sacred Heart Parish, Springfield, at (417) 256-2556. ©TM

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

COLD WEATHER SHELTER

Open November 1st - March 31st for 3 days a week at Sacred Heart Parish, Springfield, MO

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED:

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AREAS OF NEED IN THE MISSION may include: working at our outreach centers; religious education; summer Bible School; helping with youth groups during the summer; Hispanic ministry; helping gather and distribute Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets, taking Communion to the sick and shut-ins; and literacy programs. (Glenmary Home Missions)

Celebrate

DIOCESAN CO-PATRON WITH MASS | SAT., NOV. 18

St. Mary Cathedral, Cape Girardeau, will celebrate the **Feast of St. Rose Philippine Duchesne**, co-patron of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, on **Sat., Nov 18** with a Mass at 8:30 a.m. followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 4:15pm. Confessions will be offered from 3:15 - 4:15pm.

SAINT ROSE PHILIPPINE DUCHESNE, sister of the Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, foundress of the congregation’s first house in America (1818); Co-Patron of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. (Public Domain)

NOV. 1 A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION: SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS



8TH GRADE SAINTS PROGRAM AT GUARDIAN ANGEL SCHOOL—Pictured are the Saints Christopher, Philomena, and Elizabeth of Hungary as portrayed by the 8th graders of Guardian Angel School, Oran, MO, during the annual Saints program. This year’s program was held on Thu., Oct. 26, in Guardian Angel Church following the 8 a.m. Mass with Fr. Joseph Kelly and the praying of the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

The 8th graders spent the past few weeks selecting a favorite Saint, studying the life of the Saint, writing an informational paper about the Saint’s life, putting together an outfit that best portrayed that Saint, and then giving a presentation about their Saint.

These and all the Saints in Heaven will be celebrated on Solemnity of All Saints, November 1, a holy day of obligation. Be sure to find a Mass to attend! (Photo by Debbie Gaines)

Catholic educators gather for Fall Faculty In-Service Meetings

Joplin, MO

Bishop Edward M. Rice and Deacon Rob Huff, diocesan Superintendent of Catholic Schools and Chancellor, hosted the annual Fall Faculty In-Service Meetings held Oct. 13 in Joplin and Oct. 16 in Cape Girardeau.

The theme for the gatherings, “Breaking Bread, Breaking Out,” included opportunities to recognize those educators that are celebrating significant service anniversaries as well as presenting the two annual Distinguished Teacher Awards for our 23 Catholic elementary schools and three Catholic high schools.

“Thank you for your service to Catholic education. It is impossible to describe how important you are,” said Deacon Huff. “In addition to being teachers, you are also ministers. In today’s culture, you have even become missionaries!”

Noting how easy it is to become isolated in our far-flung diocese, Deacon Huff emphasized the hope that these meetings would provide opportunities to connect with peers in other schools across southern Missouri.

“A frequent request over the last several years has been to utilize breakout sessions at the fall faculty meetings in order to share best practices and experiences with one another,” Deacon Huff said.

Two peer-facilitated break out sessions were held at each of the events. Participants were split out by grade levels and various subject matters based on disciplines taught by the teachers. Topics included How is your classroom Catholic? How do you integrate Catholic traditions, teachings, standards into curriculum? Favorite saints and why. What do you do to strengthen your faith, both individually and as a faculty? The educators also had an opportunity to share valuable resources, such as

educational Websites, best practices for struggling learners/readers; proven tactics to continue to challenge gifted students; gathering and keeping the attention of pupils; concrete ways of assessment, behavioral/discipline strategies, among other issues.

DISTINGUISHED TEACHERS

Each year, diocesan Catholic school educators are nominated by their cohorts with various criteria in mind, most notably: leadership, “extras”

taken on in the school, faith, contributions to the school and broader parish/local community; philosophy of Catholic education, among others.

Nominated by his principal, Paige Duda, **Cam Branson** teaches 6th grade and math for grades 6-8 in St. Agnes Cathedral School, Springfield, and is a recipient of the 2023 Distinguished Teacher Award. He has served in multiple

leadership roles for the Springfield Catholic Schools System (SCS), including the Salary & Benefits Committee for eight years; and as a member of the system’s Crisis Team.

“Mr. Branson developed our Middle School Choice Program to offer students electives that bring technology and math to life with courses like wood carving, 3D printing, and strategy games,” Duda said in her nominating statements. “[He] brought Lego Robotics to SCS, sending teams to the state competition nearly every year.”

He is also the “unofficial” (volunteer) Science Olympiad coach, the Math Olympiad/Math Counts coach, and he serves as an assistant coach for the Springfield Catholic football team.

“Honestly, Mr. Branson puts all of himself into St. Agnes!” Duda said, noting that he’s Fr. Lewis Hejna’s go-to for help with AV/tech issues for the parish and he’s the MC for multiple fundraising events for St. Agnes and for the larger SCS system.

“Constantly volunteering to help



DISTINGUISHED TEACHER—Bishop Edward M. Rice awarded Cam Branson of St. Agnes Cathedral Catholic School, Springfield, with the 2023 Distinguished Teacher Award Oct. 13 during the Fall Faculty In-Service Meeting held in St. Mary Catholic School, in Joplin. *(The Mirror)*

DIOCESAN EDUCATORS IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS celebrating significant service awards in 2023 include:

10 YEARS

Amy Byrne	Sacred Heart	<i>Poplar Bluff</i>
Christopher Camey	Springfield Catholic High School	<i>Springfield</i>
Nichole Clippard	St. Vincent de Paul	<i>Cape Girardeau</i>
Chelsea Farrow	St. Mary Cathedral	<i>Cape Girardeau</i>
Lynette Fowler	Immaculate Conception	<i>New Madrid</i>
Holly Greene	St. Francis Xavier	<i>Sikeston</i>
Amy Higgins	St. Vincent de Paul	<i>Cape Girardeau</i>
Laura Justiss	Immaculate Conception	<i>Springfield</i>
Debbie Markey	St. Agnes Cathedral	<i>Springfield</i>
Josie Menz	Notre Dame Regional High School	<i>Cape Girardeau</i>
Tahyani Perdomo	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	<i>Springfield</i>
Ozzie Riley	Springfield Catholic High School	<i>Springfield</i>
Ryan Schweain	Notre Dame Regional High School	<i>Cape Girardeau</i>

15 YEARS

Rachael Bremer	St. Mary Cathedral	<i>Cape Girardeau</i>
Jodi McVay	Guardian Angel	<i>Oran</i>
Sherrie Troxel	St. Vincent de Paul	<i>Cape Girardeau</i>

20 YEARS

Meg Garner	Notre Dame Regional High School	<i>Cape Girardeau</i>
Krystal Henderson	St. Agnes Cathedral	<i>Springfield</i>
Stacey Hope	Immaculate Conception	<i>Jackson</i>
Vicky Jones	Immaculate Conception	<i>Springfield</i>
Robert Michael	Notre Dame Regional High School	<i>Cape Girardeau</i>
Melissa Vowels	St. Henry	<i>Charleston</i>

25 YEARS

Ruth Atchley	McAuley Catholic High School	<i>Joplin</i>
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30 YEARS

Kim Bade	Immaculate Conception	<i>Springfield</i>
Marieflor Samala	Springfield Catholic High School	<i>Springfield</i>
Debi Staton	St. Mary	<i>Joplin</i>

35 YEARS

Margie Black	St. Mary	<i>Joplin</i>
Kay Glastetter	St. Vincent de Paul	<i>Cape Girardeau</i>
Sondra Hulshof	Guardian Angel	<i>Oran</i>

40 YEARS

Mary Santana	St. Mary Cathedral	<i>Cape Girardeau</i>
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45 YEARS

Lynn Vogel	St. Agnes Cathedral	<i>Springfield</i>
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50 YEARS

Rita Lipin	St. Agnes Cathedral	<i>Springfield</i>
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in all school and parish events with his technology and music background, he does not have time left over!” said Duda.

“[Cam] is a servant leader and does not hesitate to adjust his plans to best meet the needs of each student,” Duda

said. “Christ’s joy is so evident in all of his interactions. ... He goes above and beyond to serve others in the building. If someone is having a bad day, Mr. Branson jumps on his 3D printer to make an incredibly thoughtful trinket to

Coats for Kids 2023

BY MO KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Dates and locations for the distributions are:

- Nov. 4, Holy Trinity Catholic Church, US Hwy 60 & Carnation Dr., Aurora
- Nov. 4, Our Lady of the Cove Catholic Church, 20 Kimberling Blvd., Kimberling City
- Nov. 11, St. Susanne Catholic Church, 720 W. Sloan, Mt. Vernon
- Nov. 18, 2 T's Auction, 309 Center St., Sarcoux
- Nov. 25, KC Hall, 318 S. Spanish Street, Cape Girardeau
- Dec. 2, McAuley Catholic High School, 930 S. Pearl, Joplin
- Dec. 2, St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church, 345 Grand Ave., Lebanon
- Dec. 9, Wichita Technical Institute, 1715 N. Rangeline Road, Joplin



SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFO!

*Child must be present to try the coat on for size



By
Drew
Garvey

BREAKING PORNOGRAPHY, RESTORING HOPE PART VI: *Authentic Freedom*

Part V of this series began arguing for the Catholic Church’s willingness and ability to fight against pornography. A full analysis of how and why the Church can help is impossible to cover for this series; nonetheless, focusing on a few key points—such as freedom, love, and hope—is a good start. Freedom is perhaps one of the most misdefined and misunderstood words today.

According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, “Freedom” is “the power, rooted in reason and will, to act or not to act, to do this or that, and so to perform deliberate actions on one’s own responsibility.” Freedom separates humans from animals. Animals cannot reason, and they do not have free-will or responsibility. Humans possess all three, yet pornography pushes a person toward animalistic behavior. Pornography can subdue rational thought and free-will, because thoughts of truth, goodness, beauty, and responsibility are diminished or ignored.

The analogy of the “pornography building” supported by four pillars (art, business, drugs, and the Internet) presented earlier in the series was hopefully helpful. Perhaps the same could be true now. The “building” of freedom is supported by five pillars: truth, balance, discipline, rules, and responsibility. Other pillars could be chosen as well, but these were chosen for a reason. A false dichotomy exists today between these pillars and freedom, but

consider the following example.

A young child must know certain truths about the game of baseball. It involves catching, throwing, running, teamwork, and more. Without knowing these truths, the child is in fact not free to play baseball. Once the child knows these truths, he or she must balance practice, eating, and sleeping, or he/she may find himself / herself unable (not free) to play the game. The child must have the discipline to practice, or he or she will not have the skill (freedom) to play. The child must follow certain rules of the game, or the child will not be playing baseball at all. Finally, the youth has a responsibility as a member of the team to practice, follow the rules, and understand the game. Without truth, balance, discipline, rules, and responsibility, the child is not actually free to play baseball. Now translate this example to pornography.

Knowledge of certain truths about God and human dignity leads a person to virtue and freedom. Without knowing these truths, pornography’s ability



to enslave someone to immoral passions and pleasures is empowered. A person must demonstrate temperance (balance) by regulating how frequently they indulge their passions and physical pleasures,

even through moral means. A person must have the fortitude to maintain discipline, always seeking a pure mind and heart. Without temperance and discipline, one will succumb to vices and addictions, thus forfeiting their freedom. Following God’s will and laws (rules) opens every person to a freedom for excellence, virtue, and love, over an “absolute freedom.” Finally, every person has a responsibility to follow God: “for we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive good or evil, according to what he has done in the body” (2 Corinthians 5:10). Following God is not for his benefit, but for ours.

Today’s popular culture fights for, even worships, absolute freedom. No impediments and unlimited choices define absolute freedom. Its realization

is impossible, and its pursuit destroys freedom. People become enslaved to their vices and obstruct the freedom of others when no impediments are presented; and choices are not a guarantor of freedom; rather, they enhance or diminish freedom, depending on their moral character. ©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.

Diocesan freedom from pornography Webpage:

<https://dioscg.org/about/family-ministries/anti-pornography-resources/>.

Archdiocese of St. Louis freedom from pornography Webpage:

<https://www.archstl.org/marriage-family-life/resources/for-families/anti-pornography>.

▶ NEXT UP, SERIES CONCLUSION:

BREAKING PORNOGRAPHY, RESTORING HOPE PART VII: *Never Lose Faith, Hope, and Love*

1. Series Recap
2. Faith
3. Hope
4. Love
5. Be Not Afraid

DISTINGUISHED TEACHERS // CONTINUED...



DISTINGUISHED TEACHER—Bishop Edward M. Rice awarded Rita Jackson of Immaculate Conception Catholic School, New Madrid, with the 2023 Distinguished Teacher Award Oct. 16 during the Fall Faculty In-Service Meeting held in Notre Dame Regional High School, Cape Girardeau.

(The Mirror)

bring a smile to their face. He mows the lawns of other faculty members if their health doesn’t allow them to. He is an incredibly positive and influential role model for our middle school students, helping them navigate their social conflicts in kind, healthy, productive ways—molding young disciples!”

Principal Allison Fowler nominated **Rita Jackson** for her 2023 Distinguished Teacher Award. Jackson teaches kindergarten and first grade in Immaculate Conception Catholic School, New Madrid.

“Ms. Rita is always eager to help out, stepping up when help is needed, when others are out for the day, or if an emergency comes up,” Fowler said in her nominating statements. “She always attends any and every event that the school puts on and you can find her at Saturday Mass every weekend. She encourages her students to attend Mass.” She has a strong devotion to Mary and always has a rosary in her pocket, “My beads,” she calls them.

Jackson tutors youth who are in need of extra help. “She does not charge ‘her kids,’” Fowler said. “She truly wants the best for each child she encounters.”

“Ms. Rita attended a Catholic school herself, along with her siblings. She also sent both of her kids to IC in New Madrid,” Fowler said. “Ms. Rita always says that a Catholic education is what’s best for every child. They are able to learn academically, all while learning about the faith, and becoming children of God.”

“Ms. Rita is a kind soul. No matter what she might be going through, good or bad, you would never know: She presents everything as good,” said Fowler. “Ms. Rita accepts each and every child with open arms. She is extremely patient; she always takes the time to listen

to every child. She puts her students first, there is never any question about that. Our school is extremely fortunate to have had Ms. Rita for as long as we have, 13 years and counting.”

“I am reminded of St. Paul’s words to the Corinthians,” Deacon Huff said in closing each meeting, “‘As a body is one, though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ.’ Thank you for all you do, and may God bless your work.”

©TM

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KFSS	94.5	FM	Joplin
KQOH	91.9	FM	Springfield

Tune-in: Learn, Live, Grow, Be Inspired



By
Fr. Joshua
J. Whitfield

WHAT WE BELIEVE, PART 30:

The Vision of Christ

Clearly, from the Catholic point of view, Scripture and Tradition should fit together, work together for the sake of presenting, without error, the “mystery of Christ,” so that all people might hear the “summons to salvation” (*Dei Verbum*, No. 1). The purpose of the Scripture is to show us Jesus, to teach, to sanctify, to change us.

The Church we’ve been talking about is the Catholic Church, the Scripture is the canonical Scripture, the Tradition is apostolic tradition centered on Peter. These are real things, not just ideas. And that’s because all of it points to the real Christ — who isn’t just a concept either. Rather, he’s a Christ we can see, whom we can touch and even taste.

Which brings us — to conclude our discussion of the Scripture and Tradition — to the final purpose of it all. And that is, simply, the vision of Christ. That’s what encountering the Scripture through Tradition within the communion of the Church does for the believer: it offers the vision of Christ. Such is what we mean when we talk about the “mystery of Christ” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, No. 80). That’s the event of revelation. And again, that’s a real encounter, a real vision. And that’s because it’s a sacramental vision, Eucharistic and holy.

Firstly, what we mean here is that the vision of Christ is granted in the Eucharist. We see this in Luke’s Gospel, in the story of the risen but hidden Jesus who walks and talks with two disciples on the road to Emmaus. Starting with “Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the scriptures,” Luke writes. Which causes the men to desire this mysterious figure. “Stay with us,” they beg him. It’s a prayer that gathers the three around a table. And there, Luke says, “they recognized him” in the breaking of the bread (Lk 24:25-32). Jesus opened Scripture to them, so they would see him in the Eucharist. This is what Scripture does: it helps us recognize Christ in

the Eucharist. We see in this story the basic twofold shape of the Mass — the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. In the Liturgy of the Word, we hear the Scripture proclaimed and preached. In the Liturgy of the Eucharist, we encounter Jesus just as these two men did in the breaking of



the bread. Our eyes are opened, and we recognize him.

For the present purpose, we should notice that this twofold pattern of Word and Eucharist is found throughout Christian history. In the writings of St. Justin Martyr, for instance, we find a description of the Eucharist as celebrated in Rome in the second century, and, in it, we see the same pattern found in Luke is the same found in the Mass today. “And on the day called Sunday all who live in cities or in the country gather together to one place, and the memoirs of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read, as long as time permits; then, when the reader has ceased, the president verbally instructs, and exhorts to the imitation of these good things. Then we all rise together and pray, and, as we before said, when our prayer is ended, bread and wine and water are brought, and the president in like manner offers prayers and thanksgivings, according to his ability, and the people assent, saying Amen” (“First Apology,” No. 62). That’s the same pattern as found in Luke 24. That’s the Catholic Mass today.

The Scripture helps us see Christ in the Eucharist. That ultimately is what the Scripture is for. It’s to help us find Christ and to receive him — in the Eucharist.

But the vision of Christ given us through the Scripture is not just Eucharistic. It’s not just about seeing Jesus. It’s also about seeing like Jesus.

It’s about seeing the world through the eyes of Christ. If you think about it, that’s what the Revelation to John is. Swept up in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day, John heard a voice, “Write on a scroll what you see” (Rv 1:11). The Scripture not only helps us see Jesus, it also gives us a way of seeing, a way of looking at the world and at history much the same way John saw the world in the vision given him at Patmos.

But it’s not a way of seeing in some sort of silly magical sense. Rather, I mean what David Bentley Hart, a Orthodox theologian, means. He said, “the Christian should see two realities at once, one world (as it were) within another: one world as we all know it, in all its beauty and terror, grandeur and dreariness, delight and anguish; and the other world in its first and ultimate truth, not simply ‘nature’ but ‘creation,’ an endless sea of glory, radiant with the beauty of God in every part, innocent of all violence. To see in this way is to rejoice and mourn at once, to regard the world as a mirror of infinite beauty, but as glimpsed through the veil of death; it is to see creation in chains, but beautiful

as in the beginning of days” (“The Doors of the Sea,” No. 61). That’s what it means to have the vision of Christ, to see all things as Jesus does. Being people of faith, seeing Jesus, formed in the idioms of Scripture and in the rhetoric of the word of God, it transforms the way we view things. It helps us see things differently, at a different angle — from a spiritual and ultimate perspective.

The Scripture is its own idiom, training believers to see the world a certain way. And that’s because the Scripture itself describes reality in a certain way. Scripture gives us a new way of seeing — the vision of Christ, seeing like Jesus. This actually is the teaching of the Second Vatican Council, that the purpose of the revelation of God in Christ is “to make known to us the hidden purpose of His will by which through Christ, the Word made flesh, man might in the Holy Spirit have access to the Father and come to share in the divine nature” (*Dei Verbum*, No. 2). That is, the purpose of the Bible is not to explain the universe scientifically, to be for us some sort of cosmic manual. Rather, the purpose of the Bible is to show us God’s heart, his salvation; and from that, to see everything else differently.

What I mean by this different way of seeing — given through the Scripture — we see most clearly in the lives of the early Christian martyrs. In them, we see powerfully what Christians look like when they see the world with the eyes of Jesus. As when martyrs like the priest Pionius — as so many others did — rejected pagan gods for the “God who is almighty ... who made the heavens and the earth and all the things that are in them ... the God we know through Christ his Word” (“The Martyrdom of Pionius,” No. 8). These people saw things differently. “Why do you rush towards death?” Pionius was asked. “I am not rushing towards death, but towards life,” he answered. Because in Christ he saw things in a radically different way — the way Christ does. Such is the moral and

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spiritual result of being a scriptural person. It gives us the eyes of martyrs.

But, of course, there's even something more. When you become a scriptural person, Christ becomes visible in you. That is, people see Jesus in you. Again, we can see in the martyrs what I mean. We see this in St. Blandina, a second-century Christian slave who, in her dying moments, looked like Christ to her brothers and sisters. As the account of her martyrdom reads: "Blandina was hung on a post and exposed as bait for the wild animals that were let loose on her. She seemed to hang there in the form of a cross, and by fervent prayer she aroused intense enthusiasm in those who were undergoing their ordeal, for in their torment with their physical eyes they saw in the person of their sister him who was crucified for them, that he might convince all who believe in him that all who suffer for Christ's glory will have eternal fellowship in the living God" ("The Martyrs of Lyons," No. 1.41). Blandina believed in Jesus and loved him and knew him because she responded to the Gospel that was delivered to her. And in that love, she followed Jesus, obeyed him and lived like him. She saw the world as Christ did. And for her, that meant she had to

go to the amphitheater and die. But in her faithfulness and adherence to God's word, not so much intellectually but in love, she died brutally. But those who saw her saw Jesus. They saw Christ in the "person of their sister." Which is the final result — this side of heaven — of being a person shaped by the Scripture. For Christ to become visible in you. If you want to be a scriptural person, that's the goal. To be that sort of person who sees Jesus, sees as Jesus; and then by grace, to be the sort of person in whom others see Jesus. Which, of course, is to become a saint.

And that's how we Catholics view the Scripture.

NEXT EDITION:
WHAT WE BELIEVE, PART 31

Be Baptized Every One of You

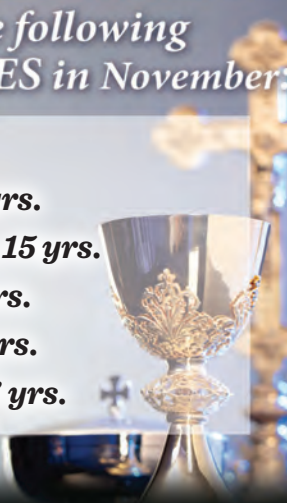
Father Joshua J. Whitfield is pastor of St. Rita Catholic Community in Dallas and author of *The Crisis of Bad Preaching* (Ave Maria Press, \$17.95), and other books.

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A GRATEFUL CHURCH
celebrates and recognizes the following
ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES in November:

PRIESTS:

- Rev. Patrick Teter, Nov. 21, **31 yrs.**
- Rev. Audrey Troya Toloza, Nov. 23, **15 yrs.**
- Rev. John Braun, Nov. 27, **36 yrs.**
- Rev. David Miller, Nov. 27, **42 yrs.**
- Rev. Randy Tochtrop, Nov. 29, **27 yrs.**



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Men Meeting Jesus

Monday, **November 6** | **6:30-9:00 pm**
St. Vincent de Paul, Cape Girardeau, MO

An evening of Adoration, Adoration, and Discussion with Special Guest **Fr. Larry Richards!**

Questions? Email to SEMOCatholicManNight@gmail.com
No meal at this event. So please plan accordingly.

ST. MARY CATHEDRAL SCHOOL OF CAPE GIRARDEAU INVITES THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED OR ARE CURRENTLY SERVING IN OUR ARMED FORCES TO THE

2ND ANNUAL VETERANS DAY
Breakfast and Assembly

To honor you and your sacrifice for our country

THURSDAY
09 NOVEMBER 2023

BREAKFAST WILL BE SERVED FROM 7:15-8:05 IN THE SCHOOL GYMNASIUM (210 SOUTH SPRIGG STREET, CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO 63703) ASSEMBLY WILL BEGIN AT 8:20

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Email: rebecca.jo.peters@gmail.com



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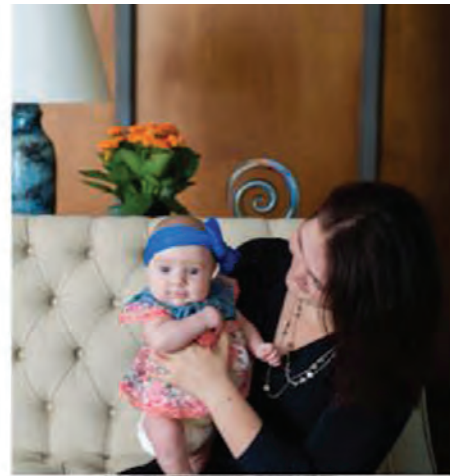
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NOV. 18-19, 2023



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Bishop Rice

Each year, the weekend before Thanksgiving, we have the opportunity to come together as a Catholic community to put our faith into action through the annual **Bishop's Collection for Catholic Charities**, November 18-19. This date also coincides with the Seventh World Day of the Poor, established by Pope Francis. The theme this year: **"Do not turn your face away from anyone who is poor" (Tob 4:7)**. As the Diocese's charitable arm, Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri makes certain that our gaze is ever-steady on the poor and most vulnerable among us. Offering more than just a one-time hand out, Catholic Charities works one-on-one with individuals and families to provide the help and hope they need to achieve long-term success. Each year, thousands of people are assisted through the many programs and services of Catholic Charities, due in large part to the goodness and generosity of donors such as yourself.

For more information about this extremely important local collection for Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri, visit www.ccsomo.org.

