



## Celebrating St. Teresa of Kolkata

This issue of The Catholic Post includes several pages devoted to the mission and legacy of St. Teresa of Kolkata, the “Saint of the Gutters” who was canonized Sunday at St. Peter’s Square in Vatican City. Along with the story of the canonization Mass on page 3 is an update on the Missionaries of Charity’s 25 years of service in Peoria and plans for a commemorative Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral next Saturday, Sept. 10. Also in this issue:

- Catholic school students around diocese learn about her, page 4
- A new book about her is reviewed on our Book Page, page 8, and
- More of our readers’ Mother Teresa memories, experiences, page 21

# The Catholic POST

## Cathedral project is completed

‘Good work and well done!’

The completion of an extensive, three-year restoration of St. Mary’s Cathedral in Peoria was celebrated as part of Founder’s Weekend ceremonies Aug. 24-28.

Stories and color photographs from the major events, which also marked 100 years since the death of Bishop John Lancaster Spalding — the first Bishop of Peoria — are found in a four-page pull-out section in the center of this issue of The Catholic Post.

“Good work and well done,” said Bishop Daniel R. Jenky, CSC, in thanking all involved in the exterior and interior restoration process, accomplished without the need for a capital campaign thanks to the generosity of individual donors and the “careful planning” of diocesan leaders.

The newly restored sanctuary of St. Mary’s Cathedral is seen in this photo from the Founder’s Day Mass on Aug. 25 taken by Jennifer Willems of The Catholic Post.



**Newspaper of the  
Diocese of Peoria**  
Sunday, Sept. 11, 2016  
Vol. 82, No. 19

*In this issue*



Joy as St. Edward School reopens in Chillicothe: **P2**



Local couple’s marriage is blessed by Pope Francis: **P10**



Galesburg, Champaign and Bloomington to host statue: **P17**

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## The Catholic POST

### Mission Statement

The Catholic Post spreads the saving message of Jesus Christ as it faithfully informs, forms, and unites members of the Diocese of Peoria.

(USPS 557-000)

Publisher Most Rev. Daniel R. Jenky, CSC

Editor-in-Chief .....Thomas Dermody    Advertising Manager .....Sonia Nelson  
Assistant Editor .....Jennifer Willems    Production .....Theresa Lindley

Board of Directors: John Gibson, chairman, Msgr. James Kruse, Deacon Greg Serangeli, Deacon Bob Sondag, Dr. Sharon Weiss, Jack Rooney



Member of the Catholic Press Association



POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:  
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Office located at 419 NE Madison Ave., Peoria, IL 61603  
Phone: (309) 671-1550, or (800) 340-5630  
Fax: (309) 671-1579

Email: cathpost@cdop.org. Web address: thecatholicpost.com. Changes of address should include name of new parish.

Price: \$29. Published biweekly by the Catholic Diocese of Peoria. Periodicals postage paid at Peoria, IL

*The Catholic Post and all communications efforts of the Diocese of Peoria look to the example of the Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, a native son of the diocese who pioneered the use of modern media to spread the Gospel message.*



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Students and teachers enter the temporary home of St. Edward School, Chillicothe Bible Church, for the first day of classes on Sept. 6. The Catholic Post/Tom Dermody

## 'We made it!' St. Edward School joyfully opens at temporary site

CHILLICOTHE — "We made it! We're here!"

That five-word greeting from Mike Domico, principal, to the students and teachers of St. Edward School in Chillicothe assembled for the first time Tuesday in their temporary classrooms at Chillicothe Bible Church, expressed the joy of a parish and community that rallied to save the school from a threatened closure this summer because of major repair costs.

At an opening assembly, Domico expressed deep gratitude to all who made

the re-opening possible. He asked for a moment of silent, prayerful thanksgiving for those — many of them St. Edward alumni — who have contributed more than \$530,000 to repair the school building from damage caused by a leaking roof. He also led applause for Pastor Joe Horn, who offered Chillicothe Bible Church for school use until the repairs are made, and for the teachers who transformed the classrooms into "rooms that you recognize and where you feel you belong."

## Book Signing

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Ron Thorne (left) and Steve Wagner



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*This page is sponsored in loving memory of Willie Doerr, Sr. — Love, Judy and sons*

# St. Teresa of Kolkata — always ‘Mother’

## 120,000 present as ‘Saint of the Gutters’ canonized

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — With a large tapestry bearing the portrait of the woman known as the “Saint of the Gutters” suspended above him, Pope Francis proclaimed the sainthood of Mother Teresa of Kolkata, hailing her courage and love for the poor.

Despite the formality of the occasion though, “her sanctity is so close to us, so tender and fruitful, that spontaneously we will continue to call her ‘Mother Teresa,’” Pope Francis said to applause at the canonization Mass Sept. 4.

“Mother Teresa, in all aspects of her life, was a generous dispenser of divine mercy, making herself available for everyone through her welcome and defense of human life, those unborn and those abandoned and discarded,” the pope said in his homily during the Mass in St. Peter’s Square.



**Pope Francis kisses a prayer card presented by a Missionaries of Charity nun at the conclusion of the canonization Mass of St. Teresa of Kolkata in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican Sept. 4.** CNS/Paul Haring

An estimated 120,000 people packed the square, many holding umbrellas or waving fans to keep cool under the sweltering heat of the Roman sun. However, upon hearing Pope Francis “declare and

define Blessed Teresa of Kolkata to be a saint,” the crowds could not contain their joy, breaking out in cheers and thunderous applause before he finished speaking.

Born in 1910 to an ethnic Albanian



**Pope Francis celebrates the canonization Mass of St. Teresa of Kolkata in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican.** CNS/L’Osservatore Romano

family in Skopje, in what is now part of Macedonia, Mother Teresa went to India in 1929 as a Sister of Loreto and became

PLEASE TURN TO **CANONIZATION** 5

## Missionaries of Charity have brought Jesus to Peoria for 25 years

BY JENNIFER WILLEMS  
OF THE CATHOLIC POST

At this Saturday’s diocesan celebration to give thanks for the life of Mother Teresa and observe the 25th anniversary of her community’s arrival in central Illinois, some of the choicest seats in St. Mary’s Cathedral will be reserved for the poor. The new saint wouldn’t have it any other way, according to the Missionaries of Charity.

“She always wanted the poor people to have the best place when we had a celebration,” Sister M. Angeles, MC, told The Catholic Post in the days before Mother Teresa was canonized.

Sister Angeles is one of four Missionaries of Charity who share the house on Hancock Street, near St. Mary’s Cathedral, that has been the community’s home since coming to Peoria in 1991. Also ministering in the cathedral neighborhood in their familiar white and blue saris are Sister M. Rosetta, MC, the local superior; Sister M. Lucenta, MC; and Sister M. Teresa Jose, MC.

They do not have a television or radio, so Bishop Daniel R. Jenky, CSC, invited them to view the canonization Mass at his residence on Sept. 4.

While the worldwide community serves in a variety of ways — from caring for



**Sister M. Rosetta, MC, (foreground) and Sister M. Angeles, MC, MC, smile as students in the Missionaries of Charity summer camp begin a procession at the Bishop Franz Center in Peoria.**

Provided photo

people with AIDS and unwed mothers to operating soup kitchens and homeless shelters — the main apostolate in Peoria is visiting people in their homes, nursing homes and hospitals and tending to their needs. That includes material help when they’re able, but the Sisters said much of the poverty they address is spiritual poverty.

“Our main concern when we visit the families is to bring Jesus to them,” Sister Angeles said. “We pray with them and we encourage them to go back to church if they have been away from the church. We read the Scriptures with them. We

encourage them to register their children for the catechism (classes).”

Last year they worked with 200 children and their summer camp in July drew about 130 children. Religious formation classes begin again on Sept. 17.

Sister Rosetta added that they also encourage people to receive the sacraments. “For some of them it has been many years.”

### TAKING JESUS TO POOR

The Sisters said this is what Jesus asked

## Cathedral Mass on Sept. 10 to honor saint, community

Thousands of people from around the world filled St. Peter’s Square in Rome last Sunday to hear Pope Francis “declare and define” Mother Teresa’s sainthood, but that kind of good news isn’t something that can be confined to one day. The celebration continues this Saturday, Sept. 10, with a Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Peoria.

Bishop Daniel R. Jenky, CSC, will be the main celebrant for the 4 p.m. liturgy, which will include the presentation of a first-class relic of St. Teresa of Kolkata — a lock of her hair. The church that once hosted the future saint and remained open for as long as people wanted to greet her will do so again so that everyone will have an opportunity to venerate her relic, according to Msgr. Stanley Deptula, rector of the cathedral and director of the Office of Divine Worship.

After Mass, the reliquary will find a permanent home in a new shrine erected

PLEASE TURN TO **MISSIONARIES** 4

PLEASE TURN TO **CATHEDRAL** 4



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## Learning about St. Teresa of Kolkata

The canonization of St. Teresa of Kolkata and her mission and legacy of mercy were discussion topics at Catholic schools around the Diocese of Peoria in recent days. In both Geneseo and Kewanee, part of that education was provided by storyteller Alisande Rapps, who dressed as a Missionary of Charity and told of her life and call to service. At left, Rapps speaks during a Sept. 2 prayer service at St. Malachy School in Geneseo, where she is a parishioner and school parent. The service included an audio recording of St. Teresa and a free will donation was received to benefit St. Malachy's sister parish, Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Mission in Maynardville, Tennessee. At right, she speaks to Visitation Catholic School students in Kewanee at the end of a school Mass last week. Provided photos/Kristin Wilson and Kara Yepsen



## CATHEDRAL: Mass to honor saint, community

FROM 3

in the Lady Chapel during the cathedral's restoration.

"The bishop wanted to include Mother Teresa with all of those other saintly women that are honored in our Lady Chapel — St. Therese, patroness of our vocations; St. Anne, the mother of Our Lord's Blessed Mother; the holy women of Scripture," Msgr. Deptula told The Catholic Post.

In addition to the reliquary, the shrine includes a photo taken during Mother Teresa's visit to the cathedral in 1995 and a kneeler for private prayer.

### LEGACY CONTINUES

Bishop Jenky has asked Father Jeremy Freehill of Rock Island to be the homilist for the diocesan celebration, which also marks the 25th anniversary of the arrival of Mother Teresa's community, the Missionaries of Charity, in Peoria.

A chaplain at Alleman High School who also offers sacramental care at Augustana College, Father Freehill's seminary experience included work with the members of Mother Teresa's

community. He credits her as having a strong influence on his spirituality.

As he carries the relic of Mother Teresa to the front of the cathedral for veneration, Msgr. Deptula will be accompanied by many of the children who have benefited from the summer camp offered by the Missionaries of Char-

*The cathedral liturgy will include the presentation of a first-class relic of St. Teresa of Kolkata — a lock of her hair.*

ity. They will place candles around her photo and relic, which will be placed in front of the Blessed Mother during the liturgy.

"Our diocese has had a relationship with her going back many, many years — before she was ever on the world stage, before she received the Nobel Prize," Msgr. Deptula said.

"The spirit of Mother Teresa can really be felt in our diocese and seen in our diocesan commitment to Catholic Charities and programs like Sophia's Kitchen right here in Peoria," he said. "So many people carry on that legacy of Mother Teresa by encountering Christ in the distressing disguise of the poor."

The diocesan celebration "should be a worthy celebration of a great woman," Msgr. Deptula said.

## MISSIONARIES

FROM 3

Mother Teresa to do — bring the poor to him and take him to the poor. What makes it possible for them to do this is Mass, spiritual reading and four hours of prayer every day.

Each diocese that sponsors the Missionaries of Charity is asked to provide a house with a chapel where the Blessed Sacrament can be reserved and exposed. In fact, the community's primary celebration of Mother Teresa's canonization was a full day of eucharistic adoration on Aug. 18.

"Mother used to say that Jesus in the Bread of Life and Jesus in the broken bodies of the poor — we have to make that connection all the time," Sister Angeles explained.

"She also used to say we receive Jesus in holy Communion the way Mary received Jesus at the Annunciation," she continued. "She ran in haste to give Jesus and we do the same. At holy Mass we receive Jesus and then we go in haste to give Jesus to the poor."

For many years, the Missionaries of Charity had a soup kitchen in the former St. Mary's Cathedral Hall, but that closed last year when the building was declared unsafe and demolished. Now they give dry goods away once a month from the Bishop



The new shrine for St. Teresa of Kolkata at St. Mary's Cathedral in Peoria is located in the Lady Chapel. It includes a photo from when Mother Teresa visited the cathedral in 1995 and a reliquary with a lock of her hair and is designed to allow one or two people to spend time in quiet prayer. The Catholic Post/Jennifer Willems

Franz Center. This is offered with prayer, as well as health screenings by Faith Community Nurse Peggy Jacques.

Sister Angeles said the more she studies Mother Teresa, the more she sees how her foundress' heart burned with the desire to help people understand

how beautiful and precious they were in God's eyes and how much God loved them.

"That's what moved her to do even the smallest and humblest acts of love for each person," she said. "I think that's what the world needs to know, that God loves them. That's why Mother spent her life doing that."

Everyone is called to share that love, but not everyone is called to do it the same way, the Missionaries of Charity said.

"She used to say, 'What you do I cannot do and what I do you cannot do, but all of us together can do something beautiful for God,'" Sister Angeles recalled. "We do it in our own way, whatever vocation of life we have."

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## CANONIZATION

FROM 3

an Indian citizen in 1947. She founded the Missionaries of Charity in 1950.

In his homily, Pope Francis said God's will is explained in the words of the prophets: "I want mercy, not sacrifice."

"God is pleased by every act of mercy because in the brother or sister that we assist, we recognize the face of God which no one can see," he said. "Each time we bend down to the needs of our brothers and sisters, we give Jesus something to eat and drink; we clothe, we help and we visit the Son of God."

Like Mother Teresa, he said, Christians are called not simply to perform acts of charity, but to live charity as a vocation and "to grow each day in love."

"Wherever someone is reaching out, asking for a helping hand in order to get up, this is where our presence — and the presence of the church which sustains and offers hope — must be," the pope said.

Mother Teresa, he said, lived out this vocation to charity through her commitment to defending the unborn and bowing

**Pope Francis talks with pizza makers during a pizza lunch for the poor after the canonization of St. Teresa of Kolkata at the Vatican Sept. 4. Three thousand pizzas were served by Missionaries of Charity nuns and brothers to about 1,500 poor people who had come to the canonization Mass from shelters.**



CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano

down "before those who were spent, left to die on the side of the road."

She also "made her voice heard before the powers of this world so that they might recognize their guilt for the crime of poverty they created,"

Pope Francis said. "For Mother Teresa, mercy was the 'salt' which gave flavor to her work, it was the 'light' which shone in the darkness of the many who no longer had tears to shed for their poverty and suffering."

For all Christians, especially volunteers engaged in works of mercy, the life of the saintly nun remains an example and witness to God's closeness to the poorest

of the poor, he said.

"Today, I pass on this emblematic figure of holiness!" Pope Francis said. "May this tireless worker of mercy help us to increasingly understand that our only criterion for action is gratuitous love, free from every ideology and all obligations, offered freely to everyone without distinction of language, culture, race or religion."

### MIRACLE A SIGN OF MERCY

Meanwhile, the inexplicable recovery from a severe brain infection — attributed to the intercession of St. Teresa of Kolkata — is a sign that God's mercy is for everyone, said the Brazilian man who was healed.

"Merciful God looks over all of us, without distinction. Today it was me, perhaps tomorrow it will be someone else. I don't feel special. Merciful God watches over everyone," Marcilio Haddad Andrino told reporters at a Vatican news conference Sept. 2.

Andrino's reported cure was the miracle that cleared the way for Mother Teresa's canonization.

## In Kolkata, prayers, joy, testimonies and service

KOLKATA, India (CNS) — At Shishu Bhavan, children, the destitute, Missionaries of Charity nuns and novices sat silently, glued to the TV screen for the live telecast of the Vatican canonization ceremony of Mother Teresa.

While many prayed at the new saint's tomb, the nuns and the children of Shishu Bhavan (Children's Home), preferred to stay indoors and celebrate the historic moment all by themselves, as Pope Francis declared Mother Teresa to be St. Teresa.

"It is a day of feast for us. Brothers and sisters of the Missionaries of Charity are watching this in all the establishments of the MOC, but many of the sisters are visiting the headquarters for the special thanksgiving Mass after the ceremony in the eve-

ning," said Missionaries of Charity Sister Benoy, who had come from the home in suburban Dum Dum to help the sisters with the large number of visitors.

Earlier, outside the gates of Shishu Bhavan, the poor, the sick and the old had gathered like they do each Sunday, hoping for a meal. Like any other Sunday, the nuns and cooks filled their plates.

Mohammad Ahsan, 62, had come to visit the nuns and pray at the tomb. He had carried his photographs with Mother Teresa that he had taken in 1994.

"My association with her is more than two decades old. These pictures are my prized possessions. My life is much peaceful now, and I owe it to the saint of Kolkata," he said gleefully.

*"Mother Teresa, in all aspects of her life, was a generous dispenser of divine mercy, making herself available for everyone through her welcome and defense of human life, those unborn and those abandoned and discarded."*

Pope Francis

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## In brief

### Pope meets Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Continuing his dialogue with leaders in the world of social media and technology, Pope Francis met with Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg.

Zuckerberg and his wife, Priscilla Chan, met the pope Aug. 29 in the Domus Sanctae Marthae, where the pope lives.

"It is an honor to be with you today," Zuckerberg told the pope, adding that he hoped to help spread the pope's "message of mercy and tenderness."

He also presented Pope Francis with a model replica of Aquila, a solar-powered aircraft that will beam internet connectivity to areas with limited or no connection.

Greg Burke, Vatican spokesman, said the pope and Zuckerberg spoke about "how communications technology can be used to alleviate poverty, encourage a culture of encounter and help deliver a message of hope, especially to the most disadvantaged people."

Pope Francis presented Zuck-

erberg and his wife with a copy of "The Name of God is Mercy," a book-length interview he did with Italian journalist, Andrea Tornielli. In the book, he told them, "are my thoughts on tenderness and mercy."

In a message posted on his personal Facebook page, Zuckerberg expressed his admiration for the pope and "how he's found new ways to communicate with people of every faith around the world."

"It was a meeting we'll never forget. You can feel his warmth and kindness, and how deeply he cares about helping people," Zuckerberg wrote.

Throughout his papacy, the pope has highlighted the importance of social networks as a means to "facilitate relationships" while warning of their ability to "lead to further polarization and division" if used incorrectly.

Earlier this year, the pope met with several notable tech-giants in the world of mobile communications, including Google's Eric Schmidt and Apple CEO Tim Cook.

# Pope hopes to visit Italy earthquake survivors soon

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis said he wants to visit survivors and those affected by a deadly earthquake in central Italy as soon as possible.

He wants to go to the ravaged area to "bring you personally the solace of faith, the embrace of a father and brother, and the support of Christian hope," he said after praying the Angelus with visitors gathered in St. Peter's Square Aug. 28.

The pope expressed his closeness and concern for the people "hard hit by the earthquake" in the central Italian regions of Lazio, Marche and Umbria.

Before leading a prayer for the deceased and survivors, the pope praised the rapid response of the Italian government and volunteers, saying their efforts showed "how important solidarity is in order to overcome such painful trials."

## 290 DEAD, THOUSANDS HOMELESS

The 6.2 quake rumbled across the region Aug. 24, collapsing roofs, leveling buildings and homes while people slept, and leaving 290 people dead. It also left 388 people injured, with more than 250 of them requiring hospitalization. Rescuers pulled some 238 survivors from the wreckage.

When Pope Francis arrived in St. Peter's Square for his general audience just six hours after the main quake, he set aside his prepared audience talk and instead spoke of his "heartfelt sorrow and my closeness" to everyone in the earthquake zone, especially those who lost loved ones and "those who are still shaken by fear and terror."

He joined the 11,000 audience pilgrims and tourists in reciting the sorrowful mysteries of the rosary in St. Peter's Square.

Bishop Giovanni D'Ercole of Ascoli Piceno led a state funeral for victims Aug. 27 inside a gymnasium. More than 2,000 people attended, including Italian President Sergio Mattarella and Prime Minister Matteo Renzi. Set before the altar were dozens of caskets covered with flowers and photos of lost loved



**Bishop Giovanni D'Ercole of Ascoli Piceno, Italy, embraces a woman following an Aug. 27 mass funeral for earthquake victims at a gym in Ascoli Piceno, Italy. Pope Francis said he would visit survivors of the Aug. 24 quake "as soon as possible." The 6.2 earthquake left hundreds dead and thousands homeless.**

CNS/Reuters

ones as well as two small white caskets representing all the children killed in the catastrophe.

"It's fair for people to say, 'But Lord, where are you?'" he said in his homily. However, if people look deeper they will find that "the earthquake can take away everything, everything but one thing — the courage of faith."

"Seismologists try everything to predict an earthquake, but only faith teaches us how to overcome it," he said.

"Don't be afraid," he said. Don't hesitate to cry out in need, "but make sure you do not lose courage because only together will we be able to rebuild our homes and churches," he said.

He co-celebrated the funeral Mass with the bishop of Rieti and archbishop of L'Aquila. Bishop D'Ercole had served as auxiliary bishop of L'Aquila in the months after a devastating earthquake there in 2009 left more than 300 people dead and tens of thousands homeless.

The bishop also celebrated a Mass for survivors at an encampment in Arquata del Tronto Aug. 28. Firefighters built a cross made out of two rescue ladders and decorated it with the helmets of first responders. They wove through the rungs a

bright red firehose, which took on the shape of limp arms and legs draped around the cross and the image of blood trailing downward.

## ALL CHURCHES UNUSABLE

Archbishop Renato Boccardo of Spoleto-Norcia celebrated a Mass Aug. 26 in one of the many large tents erected in towns and villages to provide provisional shelter for the 2,100 people rendered homeless by the quake and its strong aftershocks.

He visited areas in his archdiocese which were affected by the quake, whose epicenter was close

to Norcia — the birthplace of St. Benedict. Civil authorities have condemned all the churches in the area as unusable, he said.

"There is no longer any place of worship in the birthplace of St. Benedict where people can gather to pray,"

he told SIR, the news agency of the Italian bishops' conference, Aug. 27. A local Caritas was to provide two temporary structures to be used for pastoral centers.

Catholic Relief Services, the overseas relief agency of the U.S. Catholic bishops, is coordinating with Caritas Italy to meet the immediate needs of families and deliver food and basic necessities. The organization is accepting donations online at crs.org.

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## In brief

### Bishop Steib of Memphis retires; successor named

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Francis has accepted the resignation of Bishop J. Terry Steib of Memphis, Tennessee, and has appointed as his successor Auxiliary Bishop Martin D. Holley of Washington.

Bishop Steib has headed the Memphis Diocese since 1993. He is 76. Canon law requires all bishops to turn in their resignation at age 75. Bishop Holley, 61, has been a Washington auxiliary since 2004.



Bishop Steib

The changes were announced Aug. 23 in Washington by Msgr. Walter Erbi, charge d'affaires of the Vatican nunciature.



Auxiliary Bishop Holley

Bishop Holley will be installed as the fifth bishop of Memphis Oct. 19 at the Cook Convention Center.

Bishops Steib and Holley are two of the nation's 15 black Catholic bishops.

With Bishop Steib's retirement, eight of them remain active, according to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church.

Bishop Steib is a former chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Missions and its Committee on Black Catholics and has been a member of a number of other committees, including the Administrative Committee.

The Diocese of Memphis comprises 10,682 square miles in the state of Tennessee. It has a total population of 1.57 million; just over 65,000, or about 4 percent, are Catholic.

### Little Sisters of the Poor to end ministry in St. Louis

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — The Little Sisters of the Poor are withdrawing from their ministry of caring for the elderly poor in the Archdiocese of St. Louis after 147 years of service.

The sisters cited a decrease in sufficient vocations to effectively staff the residence in north St. Louis in the spirit of the community's foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan.

"We are eternally grateful for the support and love we received during our many years in St. Louis," said Mother Gonzague Castro, local superior. "We love the city nearly as much as we love the people we work with and care for."

The sisters are seeking new sponsorship to manage the property, which is home to 88 residents and has 125 employees.

There are 2,200 Little Sisters of the Poor who serve the elderly poor in 181 homes in over 30 countries around the world, including South America, Europe, Africa, Oceania and Asia.

# Murdered nuns recalled for their generosity, service in Mississippi

JACKSON, Miss. (CNS) — The deaths of Sister Margaret Held and Sister Paula Merrill demand justice, but not revenge, Franciscan Father Greg Plata said during a memorial Mass for the women religious in the Cathedral of St. Peter the Apostle.

"I truly believe with all my heart that Margaret and Paula would tell us that we need to keep loving," said the priest during the Aug. 29 Mass.

Father Plata is sacramental administrator of St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Lexington, Mississippi, the parish in which the sisters were active.

Sister Margaret, a member of the School Sisters of St. Francis in Milwaukee, and Sister Paula, a member of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth in Kentucky, were recalled by family and friends in prayer services and Masses in the days after they were found dead Aug. 25 in the Durant, Mississippi, home they shared. Both were 68.

Rodney Earl Sanders, 46, of Kosciusko, Mississippi, has been charged with two counts of capital murder, larceny and burglary in connection with the incident.

### OPPOSE DEATH PENALTY

The day before the Mass, representatives of the sisters' religious communities and families issued a statement opposing the death penalty for the suspect charged in their deaths.

"Many people will be dismayed, even angered at the joint statement the School Sisters of St. Francis and the Sisters of Charity made stating that they are opposed to the death penalty that could be imposed on the person who committed this terrible crime," Father Plata said at the Mass. "But think of the powerful statement that makes. At the heart of Christianity is forgiveness. 'Father forgive them for they know not what they do.'"

"Forgiveness isn't something we do on our own. It is something we choose to do with God's grace," the Franciscan said.

During a brief vigil at the sisters' home Aug. 27, representatives of the religious orders called for a period of reflection and remembrance.

### FINAL LOAF OF BREAD SHARED

Sister Susan Gatz, president of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, and Sister Rosemarie Rombalski, of the School Sisters of St. Francis, went into the women's home prior to the ceremony for prayer, closure and reflection. In the kitchen, they discovered a loaf of bread in a bread maker. The simple act — typical of the sisters who were known for being gener-



Sister Susan Gatz, president of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth in Kentucky, reads during the Aug. 28 prayer vigil for Sister Paula Merrill, left, and Sister Margaret Held at St. Thomas Catholic Church in Lexington, Miss. CNS



ous with their good food — turned into a life-giving symbol for the communities.

"Marge and Paula really had that sense of offering bread to each other. The bread of life, the bread of energy, the bread of hope," Sister Rosemarie said.

The Sisters broke the loaf in half to share with their respective communities in Milwaukee and Nazareth, Kentucky.

About 300 people gathered at St. Thomas Church the evening of Aug. 27

for another vigil. In addition to the more than 100 people packed inside the tiny sanctuary, another 200 watched a video feed from a tent on the lawn.

Bishop Joseph R. Kopacz of Jackson presided over the service, but Father Plata offered a homily. He remembered the sisters as great cooks, gardeners, generous souls and hopeful women of the Gospel.

"As Christians, we only have one choice, to move on in hope," he said.

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# Mother Teresa: a pencil in the hand of a writing God

One of my favorite songs of the band Popple, the self-described “Catholic acoustic humor folk beard rock duo,” is called “Pencil in the Hand,” and it is based on the quote of Mother Teresa. (View a music video on YouTube.)

That’s why I was dismayed to read that it was a “significantly paraphrased” quote of hers. Could this be true?



## Books and More

Nancy Piccione

I am the first one to be skeptical of quotes attributed to famous people. (A Peoria diocesan priest, Father Geoff Horton, has a clever blog to debunk such “fauxtations.”) A clever t-shirt puts it well. It features an image of Abraham Lincoln and the words

“Don’t believe everything you read on the Internet — Abraham Lincoln.”

But this Mother Teresa one seemed true, and it also had a song to go with it. A little more digging (thank you, Internet) discovered that she did say the essential lines of the quote. In a 1989 Time interview, Mother Teresa said:

“I’m like a little pencil in His hand. That’s all. He does the thinking. He does the writing. The pencil has nothing to do with it. The pencil has only to be allowed to be used.”

It’s so interesting that Mother Teresa, who was canonized on Sept. 4, used a writing imagery to describe God’s work in our lives. One of her earlier books is a day-book published in 1986 and titled,

“Jesus, The Word to be Spoken: Prayers and Meditations for Every Day of the Year.”

Yet what’s most compelling about Mother Teresa is not the words that she spoke, but the way she lived her life in service to the poorest of the poor.

So why read a book about her life? Two reasons: one, to understand the context in which she lived her vocation and her love of Jesus, as well as the Gospel message, and two, to be inspired to live that out in some way in our own lives. Mother Teresa in many ways symbolizes the works of mercy, and so it’s particularly appropriate that she is being canonized toward the end of this Jubilee Year of Mercy.

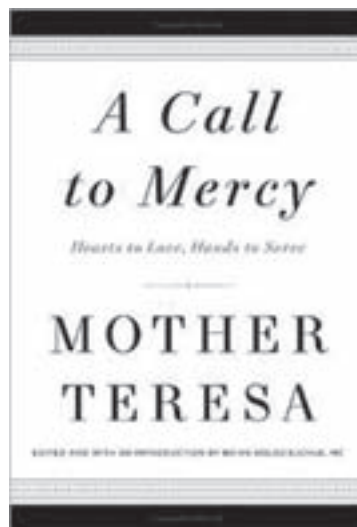
## HER “LIVED THEOLOGY”

An important new book stresses this mercy perspective in her life.

“A Call to Mercy: Hearts to Love, Hands to Serve” is edited and with an introduction by Father Brian Kolodiejchuk, MC.

As Father Kolodiejchuk, the postulator for the cause of her canonization, writes in the introduction: “In Mother Teresa’s life, as in the lives of many saints, we are offered a lived theology.”

This “lived theology” is evident in “A Call to Mercy,” as each of the 14 chapters is titled with a work of mercy, both corporal and spiritual. For each work of mercy, the chapter offers five elements: a short introduction of how Mother Teresa lived the work; a section of “her words,” including excerpts from speeches, letters, and interviews; “her example: the testimonies” with numerous quotes from those who were involved in her work, from fellow Missionaries of Charity and others; a reflection



for personal use; and a prayer, which are chosen from prayers that Mother Teresa had a devotion to or herself wrote.

“A Call to Mercy” is a treasure for any reader who would like to understand Mother Teresa and her work better, as well as contemplate her life and the ways in which an “average person” can live those out. It’s also an excellent way to continue a focus on mercy as the Jubilee Year of Mercy enters its final months.

## OTHER WORKS

I have enjoyed and read many other books by Mother Teresa and about her, and I could fill a year of columns with excellent sources.

But to celebrate her canonization this month, I recommend three other works that capture her life, her personality, and her spirituality in total.

First is the award-winning 1986 “Mother Teresa,” the finest documentary or video of any kind about Mother’s life or work. It was produced by sisters Ann and Jeannette Petrie, and has never been equaled for impact or beauty.

Second is the coffee-table book, “Works of Love are Works of

Peace,” by photographer Michael Collopy. The 1996 book has been recently republished in an affordable softcover, and contains dozens of luminous photos of Mother Teresa, her homes around the world, and the people she and her community serve.

Third is the small volume by British writer Malcolm Muggeridge, “Something Beautiful for

God.” It is a beautifully written and captivating portrait of Mother Teresa’s life, as well as Malcolm Muggeridge’s own faith journey as a recent Christian. When he wrote the book in 1971, he was not yet Catholic, but a recent Christian, having lived most of his life as an agnostic. The shortness of the book and simple vignettes of her life make it a classic.

## Pro-life essay contest opens

GALESBURG — High school students in Knox County are invited to enter the second annual essay contest sponsored by Knox County Right to Life. This year’s topic is “What can I do to build a generation that values human life?”

The contest is open to high school students who attend school or are homeschooled in Knox County, as well as students who have attended Joshua Camp. Es-

says may not exceed 500 words.

Awards will be given for first place, \$200; second place, \$100; and third place, \$50. In addition, the winners will receive plaques. The awards will be presented at the Festival of Life on Oct. 23, and the top essay will be read by the author.

Submissions may be sent to Knox County Right to Life, P.O. Box 1462, Galesburg, IL 61402-1462 or brodybunch8@comcast.net.

## Meet a Writer:

Marie Taraska, “More than Heaven Allows”

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** This month, the book page features a local Catholic writer, her new book, and her love of writing and reading.

**How you know me:** Most people know me as the Spanish teacher who taught at Peoria Notre Dame. I also set up Spanish programs at St Mark School, St. Thomas School, St. Patrick School in Washington and St. Mary School in Metamora. I have also tutored the sisters from Mexico in English at the Spalding Center for many years.

**Why I love writing:** I have always loved writing. I write in a diary every day. I’ve also published two children’s books: “Villie the Germ” and “The Crust Fairy.” I’ve written many other children’s stories, had them professionally illustrated, and gave them to my grandchildren, who always have a lot to say about them. Since I was a teacher for nearly 30 years, my children’s books always teach a lesson. “The Toe Ring” and “The No-No Boy”

were about some of my grandchildren.

**My current book:** “More than Heaven Allows” was my first memoir/novel, and it’s the story of my and my husband’s life. My journey begins with having met my husband in college and continues with our lives in medical school and through his residency with little money. It talks about the birth of our five children. It encompasses our struggles when a horrible explosion endangers the lives of two of our children, leaving scars both physically and emotionally. The story continues with my journey of forgiveness, love, and faith in Our Lord and the family’s ultimate triumph over adversity.

**What I’m writing now:** I am working on another book about my husband’s life having grown up during the Depression and his endeavor to become a pathologist.

**What I’m reading now:** At present I am reading “Treasure in Clay” the wonderful autobiography of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen’s life. I find it fascinating.

“More than Heaven Allows” is available at Lagron-Miller in Peoria and through various outlets online.

Stop into Lagron-Miller  
to find this month’s  
featured book and more.

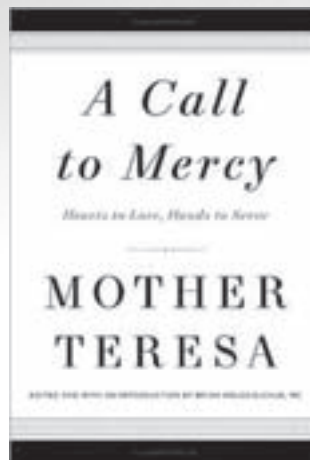


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## Join 17-mile 'Walk to Mercy' from Dallas City to Nauvoo on Sept. 24

DALLAS CITY — Catholics in Hancock County are going the extra mile — 17 of them, in fact — to enter the Holy Door at Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Nauvoo. The "Walk to Mercy" will begin at Sacred Heart Church, Fifth and Cedar, at 7 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 24.

Citing pilgrimage as one of the key concepts of the Extraordi-

nary Jubilee of Mercy, organizers said everyone is welcome to join them in "walking closer with God and discovering moments of grace and spiritual

renewal" along the way. They suggest that pilgrims prepare spiritually by having a personal purpose for their pilgrimage.

Father Tom Otto, parochial vicar at Immaculate Conception in Monmouth and St. Patrick in Raritan, will journey with the walkers, offering meditations and the sacrament of reconciliation.

Those who can only walk a short distance may join the group at the ball park on the corner of

Winchester and Young in Nauvoo. That is about one mile from Sts. Peter and Paul at 190 N. Wells St. Call (872) 210-0925 for the pilgrims' estimated time of arrival.

All walkers are responsible for their own food and drink. Children younger than 18 will need to be accompanied by an adult.

Transportation from Sts. Peter and Paul in Nauvoo back to Sacred Heart in Dallas City will be available.

In his 14th Festival Letter, "Divine Mercy," Bishop Daniel R. Jenky, CSC, wrote that

a plenary indulgence could be gained by those who walk through the Holy Doors at pilgrimage sites designated around the diocese "under the usual conditions." That includes praying for the pope's intentions, sacramental confession and reception of the Eucharist within about 20 days before or after entering the Holy Door.

Organizers asked those who are not able to walk to participate through prayer.

*Those who can only walk a short distance may join the group about one mile from Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Nauvoo.*

## Fr. Gaitley will speak on mercy at cathedral Sept. 21

"Living the Year of Mercy — to the Full!" is the theme for a presentation that will be given by Father Michael Gaitley, MIC, on Wednesday, Sept. 21, at St.



Father Gaitley

Mary's Cathedral, 607 N.E. Madison Ave., in Peoria. The well-known author will speak at 7 p.m. and then stay to greet people and sign copies of his books.

Admission is free and no registration is required. Spanish translation will be available during the talk.

Father Gaitley is a member of the Congregation of Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception and based at Eden Hill

in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, the site of the National Shrine of Divine Mercy. He serves as his community's director of evangelization and development.

His books include "The Second Greatest Story Ever Told: Now Is the Time of Mercy," "33 Days to Merciful Love," "Consoling the Heart of Jesus," "The One Thing Is Three," and "33 Days to Morning Glory," which prepares readers to consecrate themselves to Mary. This book was made available to the parishes and schools of the Diocese of Peoria in 2012, thanks to the generosity of a donor.

For more information on Father Gaitley's presentation, contact Julie Enzenberger at [jenzenberger@cdop.org](mailto:jenzenberger@cdop.org) or (309) 671-1550.

# Mercy missionary shares the good news about sin

All can be forgiven, lead us to Jesus, says Archabbot Lambert

BY TOM DERMODY  
OF THE CATHOLIC POST

The only sin that can't be forgiven is our own refusal to have the sin forgiven, a missionary of mercy said in the Diocese of Peoria on Aug. 20.

"There is no sin beyond the salvific power of Jesus Christ," said Archabbot Lambert Reilly, OSB, who guided St. Meinrad Archabbey in southern Indiana from 1995 to 2004 and is one of 125 priests in the United States chosen by Pope Francis to be a missionary of mercy during the Holy Year of Mercy.

Archabbot Lambert, 83, a popular retreat master well known in the Diocese of Peoria — where he formerly served as a consultant to the Office of Education — was back in the diocese the weekend of Aug. 20-21 for several presentations on God's mercy.

"The Lord will never not forgive, and this is what we all have to learn," he told a gathering of the diocese's permanent deacons on Aug. 20 at the Spalding Pastoral Center in Peoria. Later in the weekend he would speak at both St. Jude Parish in Peoria and St. Edward Parish in Chillicothe.

### "THE UNIVERSAL DISEASE"

To the deacons, Archabbot Lambert said it is important to acknowledge our own sinfulness. He called sin "the universal disease," noting that even Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity — to whom he has been a frequent retreat master — take part in the sacrament of reconciliation every eight days.

Archabbot Lambert quoted newly canonized St. Teresa of Kolkata, whose confession he has heard, as saying "We go into the confessional as sinners with sin, and we come out of the confessional as sinners without sin — for a very short time."

"We have to know we are sinners like everyone else, and until



Archabbot Lambert Reilly, OSB, left, greets Deacon Nicholas Simon of St. Anthony Parish in Atkinson and Sacred Heart, Annawan, following his presentation on God's mercy to the Diocese of Peoria's permanent deacons on Aug. 20 at the Spalding Pastoral Center in Peoria. Looking on is Deacon Rod Gray of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Galesburg. The Catholic Post/Tom Dermody

we know that we will never know what mercy is," said Archabbot Lambert.

Why? Because sin can be "a passport into Christ's presence" if awareness of our own sinfulness leads us to acknowledge our need for a savior.

"What we want to do is be disgusted with ourselves, which will lead us more and more to the merciful judgment of our Lord," he told the deacons, who that

morning had supported deacon candidates as they were instituted into the ministry of acolyte by Bishop Daniel R. Jenky, CSC, during a Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral. The greatest saints in the church, he said — citing St. Paul and St. Augustine among many examples — "look at themselves not only as sinners, but as the worst sinners."

Only once we experience God's mercy, which is "ready to forgive anything any number of times," can we extend that mercy to others. And that's what Pope Francis says the Year of Mercy is all about, said Archabbot Lambert.

"We're not going to be able to deal with people as we should unless we deal with people as the

Lord does in this Year of Mercy," he said.

### "WE ALL HAVE DETOURS"

Archabbot Lambert used personal stories, humor, and a conversational tone to make his points.

*"The Lord will never not forgive, and this is what we all have to learn."*

Archabbot Lambert Reilly, OSB

Sharing how his life was shaped by the death of his father at an early age, he cautioned against judging others because we don't know their back stories.

"We're on a journey," he told the deacons. "We all have detours. We go this way and that way."

Still, God loves each of us "as if there is no one else to love" and Jesus saves his harshest words not for great sinners but for "the hypocrites, those who think they're better than everyone else."

Noting he prayed for convicted serial killer John Wayne Gacy daily for decades after learning of his grisly actions in the Chicago area in the late 1970s, Archabbot Lambert asked that Catholics pray for those who suffer because of their sins.

"We want to free the sinners from their burdens," he said. "And the only way we can do that is by recognizing who we are."



*May it be your will, through the prayerful intercession of Fulton Sheen, to cure and heal Father Jim DeBisschop. In Christ we pray.*

# Special matchmaker brings Peoria “sposi novelli” to Rome for blessing

BY JENNIFER WILLEMS  
OF THE CATHOLIC POST

St. John Paul II must be smiling.

Molly Meyer feels certain the saintly pope played matchmaker for her and her new husband, John, who were married by Father Luke Spannagel at St. John's Catholic Chapel in Champaign on Aug. 6. He also made it possible for them to start their life together with a “sposi novelli” blessing from the current pontiff, Pope Francis, by initiating the tradition.

The Peoria couple said going to Rome allowed them to spend their honeymoon returning to the origin of their love, as they had been advised to do by theologian and friend Adrian Walker.

“Both of us had searched for quite awhile for our vocation and it meant a lot to us to finalize it in the sacraments where the church was founded,” said John, a social studies teacher at St. Philomena School in Peoria.

“It’s a beautiful expression of the gift that marriage is,” Molly said.

The “sposi novelli” (newlywed) blessing is extended to couples who have been sacramentally married in a Catholic church within two months of the papal audience they wish to attend. Requests are coordinated through the U.S. Bishops’ Office for United States Visitors to the Vatican and tickets are only given if the couples can present a certificate of marriage signed by the priest who married them.

Each couple is greeted by the pope, who offers them a blessing and a special rosary. They may wear their wedding attire, as the Meyers did.



John and Molly Meyer of Peoria, who were married Aug. 6 at St. John's Catholic Chapel in Champaign, received a special blessing for “sposi novelli” or newlyweds from Pope Francis in Rome four days later. Molly learned about the tradition during a pilgrimage to Rome in 2002 and thought it was a “beautiful celebration of marriage” she could share with her new husband. L'Osservatore Romano photo

“The wedding gown had better airline seats than John and I had on the way there and back,” said Molly, who is employed by Ruah Woods Press and writes Theology of the Body curriculum for middle school students. “You carry it on and they put it in first class for us.”

## PROFOUND EXPERIENCE

The couple elected to attend the Aug. 10

audience, which was scheduled to start at 10 a.m. To clear security, however, they had to arrive by 6:30 a.m.

“There were huge crowds of people. They were waving and yelling,” Molly recalled. “Every time a bride appeared it happened all over again. It was a lot of fun.”

Because of the hot August weather in Rome, the audience was held inside the

Paul VI Hall at the Vatican. There were about 80 “sposi novelli” couples there.

When Pope Francis approached them, John introduced himself and Molly in Spanish and kissed the pope's ring. While there wasn't a conversation, the experience was profound for both of them.

“I think the best part for me was the amount of time he took with every couple,” John said. “He was close to us. He allowed us to not only speak with him but embrace him.”

“It's so moving to be in front of the Vicar of Christ,” Molly said. “He spent so much time with so many people before he even got to the newlyweds. I've said to other people I would be exhausted just coming into the auditorium if I were him.”

After the audience they went through the Holy Door for the Year of Mercy at St. Peter's Basilica and prayed at the tomb of St. John Paul II. Molly had prayed that he would send her a good, holy spouse and so did several friends of hers, so it was an opportunity to thank him.

He had his work cut out for him, though.

## HEART OF THE CHURCH

John was raised on a working cattle ranch in Montana, earning a degree in agriculture education from Montana State. He taught in California for three years and found professional fulfillment, but wasn't fulfilled personally.

Challenged to give his life to Christ, he worked as a missionary with the Fellowship of Catholic University Students for two years at South Dakota State. He explored the priesthood and religious life, but eventually returned to teaching.

Molly was raised on a grain farm in Bellflower and attended the University of Illinois, earning a bachelor's degree in agriculture education in 2002. She taught theology at The High School of Saint Thomas More in Champaign for three years and then went back to school to earn a degree in theology from the John Paul II Institute in Washington, D.C.

She would return to central Illinois to teach at Peoria Notre Dame and The High School of Saint Thomas More.

Their paths finally crossed at a classical Catholic school conference last summer and they were engaged on Easter Sunday this year.

They said they would recommend the “sposi novelli” blessing to other couples, noting that even though they had never met anyone there, it still felt like they all knew each other.

“It's something we'll always remember,” John said. “We placed ourselves in the heart of the church, where we were surrounded by other couples, other pilgrims, so we could meet Christ.”

# Willkommen!



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Brought to you by the Peoria Park District & the German American Central Society







About 90 priests of the Diocese of Peoria concelebrate the Founder's Day Mass on Aug. 25 in the newly restored St. Mary's Cathedral in Peoria. The Catholic Post/Tom Dermody

# "This is God's house"

*Images and stories from Founder's Weekend at the newly restored St. Mary's Cathedral*



Bobby Morris, a fifth-grader at St. Vincent de Paul School in Peoria who was among about 70 candle-bearing altar servers taking part in the liturgy, takes a moment to admire the sanctuary ceiling. The Catholic Post/Jennifer Willems

## Grateful diocese celebrates founding bishop, cathedral restoration

BY TOM DERMODY  
OF THE CATHOLIC POST

The founding bishop of the Diocese of Peoria and a restoration of the cathedral he built were celebrated in five days of events that linked the past, present, and future of the Catholic Church in central Illinois.

"There is an awful lot of happiness in this cathedral this afternoon," said Bishop Daniel R. Jenky, CSC, in welcoming an assembly that filled St. Mary's Cathedral for a Founder's Day Mass on

Thursday afternoon, Aug. 25.

The Mass was celebrated on the 100th anniversary of the death of Bishop John Lancaster Spalding, who guided the diocese through its first three decades and oversaw the construction of the cathedral in the late 1880s. The nearly two-hour liturgy capped centenary observances that included a Requiem Mass the preceding evening and the praying of the rosary that morning at the Bishop's Mausoleum at St. Mary's Cemetery in West Peoria. (See related story, page 14.)

But as he gave thanks for the "life and witness of our founding bishop," Bishop Jenky also led prayers and expressions of gratitude for the just completed renewal of the cathedral.

"Good work and well done!" the bishop told all involved in the three-year process, including representatives of Daprato Rigali Studios — the Chicago-based company given the commission to restore the cathedral. The work began in 2014 with a series of repairs to the roof, gutters, and exterior stone. It then transitioned to

the interior, with plaster work and new tile flooring and a redesign that dramatically changed the look with new colors, artwork and religious features.

"It is the Lord who built this house and we give thanks to God," said Bishop Jenky, proclaiming forcefully anew that "This is God's house!"

### SPRINKLING RITE, PROCESSIONS

The opening procession of the nearly





At left, Father Michael Pica carries the Blessed Sacrament in a eucharistic procession through the newly restored St. Mary's Cathedral in Peoria during the Founder's Day Mass on Aug. 25. Above, dozens of altar servers from Catholic schools around the Diocese of Peoria take part in the eucharistic procession.

Catholic Post photos by Jennifer Willems and Tom Dermody



## FOUNDER'S: Celebrations link centenary of first bishop's death, cathedral restoration

FROM 11

two-hour liturgy included about 90 priests, 70 candle-bearing altar servers from Catholic schools around the Diocese of Peoria, as well as deacons, seminarians, other liturgical ministers and a Knights of Columbus Honor Guard.

The Founder's Day Mass also included:

- an extended sprinkling rite recognizing the completion of the cathedral restoration. After Bishop Jenky blessed the cathedral sanctuary with holy water, Father Alex Millar and Father James Pankiewicz walked through its aisles blessing the assembly.

- a homily recalling the life and legacy of Bishop Spalding delivered by Canon J. J. Flattery, a senior priest of the diocese living in Danville. Canon Flattery echoed a title historians have given Bishop Spalding as the "American Educator," and traced his many accomplishments both locally and nationally. (See related story, page 13.)

- a eucharistic procession throughout the cathedral following Communion, ending with the repose of the Blessed Sacrament in the new tabernacle. The diocese's newest priest, Father Michael Pica, carried the Eucharist beneath a canopy held by four priests and followed by the dozens of candle-bearing altar servers.

- Music led by a 30-member Founder's Day Festival Choir assembled and directed by Greg Etzel, director of Sacred Music. Included were several Marian selections in honor of the cathedral's patron, St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, including "Immaculate Mary" and the "Ave Maria."

Bishop Jenky, who is recovering from cataract surgery, presided from the cathedral's renovated cathedra, or bishop's chair. The chair is composed of several original elements of a cathedra dating to the 1930s era and used by Bishop Joseph H. Schlarman. A tall, canopied panel behind the cathedra features Bishop Jenky's crest.

Msgr. Stanley Deptula, cathedral rector and director of the diocesan Office of Divine Worship, was principal celebrant of the Mass.

### "REDISCOVER ST. MARY'S"

Those attending the Founder's Day Mass received a 28-page booklet inviting visitors to "Rediscover St. Mary's" and offering a self-guided tour. The booklet explained elements of the cathedral old and new.

Among the new features are:

- A "Procession of Angels" depicted in 24 murals above the sanctuary
- Statues of Sts. Peter and Paul, in the cathedral sanctuary since 1913, have been restored to full color
- The ceiling above the main nave and side aisles has been painted as a starry sky complete with shooting stars and all the planets of the solar system. At intervals are three symbolic representations of the priesthood with historical significance to the diocese — a Book of the Gospels that belonged to Venerable Fulton J. Sheen, a chalice the belonged to Bishop Schlarman, and a miter modeled after the one belonging to Bishop Jenky.
- At the top of the cathedral's columns are medallions featuring the names and symbols of Old Testament prophets. Meanwhile, 14 medallions with symbols of the Catholic faith have been painted in the high dome above the main altar — seven representing Jesus and seven representing Mary.
- a change in the color scheme from cream-white painted during a 1980s renovation to variations of gold, including stenciling on the sanctuary walls, harkening back to the Bishop Schlarman era.
- New murals above the side altars, depicting the death of St. Joseph above the St. Joseph Altar and Juan Diego before the bishop of Mexico City above the Our Lady of Guadalupe Altar.

A keepsake Mass booklet included a list of donors to the restoration project, including 14 individuals or groups that gave funds toward specific works.

In closing remarks, Bishop Jenky said donors to the restoration project sacrificed "like the generations that went before us" to make the cathedral a place to invite everyone to a deeper encounter with God. He noted the restoration was done without the need for a diocese-wide fundraising effort, thanks to the "careful financial planning" of diocesan leaders including Patricia Gibson, chancellor.

Bishop Jenky thanked all involved in the restoration as well as in planning the five-day "Founder's Weekend" observances, which included tours of both St. Mary's and the diocesan museums. The museums are now featuring an exhibit on Bishop Spalding.

Msgr. Deptula then led a round of applause for Bishop Jenky, noting the bishop's love for the Diocese of Peoria and the cathedral.

Bishop Jenky invited the assembly to ask God "to renew our lives as this building was renewed."

*Bishop Jenky invited the assembly to ask God "to renew our lives as this building was renewed."*

After noting Bishop Jenky's love for the Diocese of Peoria and St. Mary's Cathedral, Msgr. Stanley Deptula leads applause for the bishop at the close of the Founder's Day Mass in the newly restored cathedral. Msgr. Deptula is cathedral rector and director of the Office of Divine Worship. Bishop Jenky is shown at right at the cathedral's renovated cathedra, or bishop's chair, which is composed of several original elements of Bishop Joseph A. Schlarman's cathedra of 1938. The Catholic Post/Jennifer Willems



# Homilist cites founding bishop's Catholic education, religious freedom influences

BY TOM DERMODY  
OF THE CATHOLIC POST

One hundred years after his death, Bishop John Lancaster Spalding was again inspiring Catholics gathered at St. Mary's Cathedral in Peoria.

A re-telling of the life and accomplishments of the Diocese of Peoria's first bishop provided the bulk of the homily at the Founder's Day Mass celebrated at the cathedral on Aug. 25, a century after Bishop Spalding died at the age of 76.

"Education was always at the center of all of his endeavors," said Canon J. J. Flattery, a senior priest of the diocese living in Danville who has a passion for history. "For him, Catholic schools were essential."

Bishop Spalding, who guided the diocese from 1877 to 1908, is credited with establishing the Catholic school system in the diocese. There were 61 parochial schools in the diocese 25 years into his episcopacy. He also played major roles in the drafting of the first Baltimore Catechism and the founding of Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

"Our own John Tracy Ellis perhaps best took the measure of John Lancaster Spalding in his short biography when he gave him the title, 'American Educator,'" said Canon Flattery.

## RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Bishop Spalding's roots in America ran deep, with Canon Flattery calling the Spaldings one of "two great English Catholic families that contributed so much to God and country in America." The other family was the Carrolls of Maryland, whose lineage includes a signer of the Declaration of Independence and the first person to be consecrated bishop in the United States.

The Spalding family eventually settled in Kentucky, where Bishop Spalding was born and raised as the eldest of nine children. His uncle was Bishop Martin John Spalding.

Canon Flattery said both the Carrolls and the Spaldings continued a legacy of religious freedom carried by their ancestors in 1634 aboard ships called the Ark and the Dove to the new English colony of Maryland.

"Today as we remember the life of this outstanding American Educator and celebrate the restoration of this great cathedral, let us thankfully remember the legacy of the Ark and the Dove --- our religious freedom now embedded in our Constitution," said Canon Flattery.



Bishop John Lancaster Spalding's image is captured in an 1878 photograph, one year into his 31-year episcopate, and in a painting dated 1907, a year before he resigned as Bishop of Peoria.



The cathedral vestibule now has the diocesan coat-of-arms embedded in its floor and images of an angel and the Blessed Mother on either side of the Holy Door of Mercy.



Father James Pankiewicz, parochial vicar at St. Mary's Cathedral parish, blesses priest-concelebrants and the assembly during a sprinkling rite.



Canon J. J. Flattery of Danville recalls the life and accomplishments of the Diocese of Peoria's first bishop, John Lancaster Spalding, during his homily at the Founder's Day Mass. The Catholic Post/Jennifer Willemis

## A DIFFICULT PERIOD

Canon Flattery asked the assembly to consider the task ahead of Bishop Spalding when he arrived in Peoria in 1877.

"Imagine the young bishop, just shy of his 37th birthday, sitting down at his desk with a map of his diocese covering some 17,000 square miles. . . . He had a horse, a buggy, and a nearby train. The roads were often mired in mud. There was no electricity in his house or church. No telephone on his desk. Quite a different world."

The U.S. in the late 19th century also had "deep and pervasive" anti-Catholicism, with political parties formed to outlaw and destroy the Catholic Church in America.

"Such were the circumstances facing the new bishop and his flock," said Canon Flattery. "But Bishop Spalding had a vision for the diocese and beyond that would guide him across the years," he added, "a vision for a better America not only for the Catholics of his diocese but for all Americans," one highlighted by Catholic education and the rights of women and workers.

"He felt the church was most responsible when it was actively involved in social concerns," said Canon Flattery.

At the close of his homily, Canon Flattery saluted all past bishops of the Diocese of Peoria by name and offered Bishop Daniel R. Jenky, CSC — who supervised the restoration of the cathedral Bishop Spalding had dedicated in 1889 — the wish for a long life, "ad multos annos."

Bishop Jenky thanked Canon Flattery for his moving words.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The full text of the homily is found at [thecatholicpost.com](http://thecatholicpost.com).



More photos from the Founder's Weekend activities may be viewed in an album found at The Catholic Post's site on Facebook.

*"Bishop Spalding had a vision for the diocese and beyond that would guide him across the years . . . a vision for a better America not only for the Catholics of his diocese but for all Americans."*

Canon J.J. Flattery



# Prayers, memories at Requiem Mass, rosary

BY JENNIFER WILLEMS  
OF THE CATHOLIC POST



Father Alex Millar elevates the chalice during a Requiem Mass celebrated in the extraordinary form at St. Mary's Cathedral on Aug. 24, the eve of the 100th anniversary of the death of Bishop John Lancaster Spalding, the founding bishop of Peoria. The Catholic Post/Jennifer Willems

With ancient texts and chants, the people gathered in the newly restored St. Mary's Cathedral in Peoria remembered the diocese's first spiritual father, Bishop John Lancaster Spalding, at a Requiem Mass on Aug. 24. It was the first of several opportunities to pray and give thanks during Founder's Weekend.

While the cathedral was stripped of all adornment, a platform draped in black and surrounded by six tall candles stood in the center aisle. A bishop's miter and pectoral cross had been placed on the stand in honor of Bishop Spalding.

Father Alex Millar, parochial vicar of St. Mary's Cathedral and the other Heart of Peoria churches, was the celebrant for the liturgy in the extraordinary form. The traditional Latin Mass is often called the "Tridentine Mass."

As would have happened 100 years ago, Communion was distributed at the altar rails.

Assisting Father Millar were Father Jacob Valle, parochial vicar for the LaSalle Catholic Community, as archpriest; Fa-



At the Requiem Mass on Aug. 24, a bishop's miter and pectoral cross were placed on a platform draped in black and surrounded by six tall candles in honor of Bishop John Lancaster Spalding, the Diocese of Peoria's founding bishop who died 100 years ago. The Catholic Post/Jennifer Willems

ther Kyle Lucas, parochial vicar at Blessed Sacrament in Morton, as deacon; and Father Michael Pica, parochial vicar at St. Patrick Church of Merna in Bloomington, and St. Mary in Downs, as subdeacon. All wore black vestments of the era.

Bishop Daniel R. Jenky, CSC, the seventh successor to Bishop Spalding, attended *in choro* — seated at the cathedra and vested in his formal purple cassock and white surplice.

During his homily, Msgr. Paul Showalter, vicar general of the Diocese of Peoria, remembered Bishop Spalding's commitment to education for all, which resulted in the building of schools throughout central Illinois. In addition, he had championed religious freedom.

His fatherly love for his priests was well known, and Msgr. Showalter noted that one of them had written that they always went away from meetings with Bishop Spalding with a lighter heart.

These were glad words for John Slevin, whose grandmother was the sister of the founding bishop. The family moved to Peoria to be closer to him and settled in St. Mark Parish.

Slevin met his wife, Mary, at St. Mark School and they were married 59 years ago. They are now members of St. Ann Parish in Peoria.

The Slevins also were present in St. Mary's Cemetery in West Peoria on Aug. 25, to join Bishop Jenky in praying the rosary at the mausoleum where five former bishops are buried. Over the years, Bishop Spalding has been joined by Bishops Edmund M. Dunne, Joseph H. Schlarman, John B. Franz, and Edward W. O'Rourke.

Pontifical Deacon Roger Hunter of St. Jude Parish in Peoria led the group in praying the Sorrowful Mysteries of the rosary for the repose of the soul of Bishop Spalding.



Deacon Roger Hunter leads Bishop Jenky and a group assembled at the Bishop's Mausoleum at St. Mary's Cemetery in West Peoria on Aug. 25 in praying the rosary for the repose of the soul of Bishop John Lancaster Spalding, who died 100 years ago. Among those present were John and Mary Slevin (upper right photo), members of St. Ann Parish in Peoria. John's grandmother was the sister of Bishop Spalding, who is one of five former bishops of the Diocese of Peoria interred in the mausoleum. The Catholic Post/Jennifer Willems





*This page is sponsored by an anonymous donor in support of those confronting prostate cancer*



## Bread-baking demonstration part of fundraiser in Lacon Sept. 18

LACON — Father Dominic Garramone, OSB, a monk of St. Bede Abbey, will offer a bread-baking demonstration to benefit the F.A.I.T.H. Outreach program at Immaculate Conception Church on Sunday, Sept. 18, in the parish hall, 415 N. High St. It will begin at 2 p.m.

In addition to making several harvest breads, Father Dominic will give observations on the Bible and liturgy during his entertaining presentation. The author of several cookbooks and former host of “Breaking Bread with Father Dominic” on PBS, he also will give away items during drawings.

Refreshments will be served.

Tickets are \$20 per person and payable in advance. Reservations are required since seating is limited.



**Father Dominic**

All proceeds will go to F.A.I.T.H. Outreach or Father Art's Intention to Help. The program honors Father Art Meyer, a retired priest in residence at Immaculate Conception who died in

2015. It had been his intention to bring people together to assist area families in need.

To make reservations for Father Dominic's presentation, call the parish office at (309) 246-5145.

## Celebrate 150 years of parish life in Pontiac

St. Mary Parish in Pontiac celebrated its sesquicentennial with a week of activities Aug. 21-27, capped by a Mass followed by a block party on Saturday, Aug. 27. Among the observances was a Mass in St. Mary's Cemetery (above photo) on Aug. 24, celebrated by Father David Sabel, pastor, at which parishioners honored those who went before them. Below, Msgr. Paul Showalter, vicar general of the Diocese of Peoria and principal celebrant of the Sesquicentennial Celebratory Mass, presides at the blessing of a large stone on the grounds of St. Mary School in memory of Blaze Masching, a student who died in an accident last spring just before he was scheduled to graduate from eighth grade. Assisting Msgr. Showalter are Father Sabel and Father Adam Cesarek, parochial vicar. Provided photos/Mick Peterson



## Cathedral calendar

The Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, located at 607 N.E. Madison Ave. in Peoria, is the mother church of the Diocese of Peoria. Weekend Masses are at 4 p.m. on Saturdays (in Latin), and at 10:30 a.m. (in English) and 12:15 p.m. (in Spanish) on Sundays.

The 10:30 a.m. Mass is frequently a pontifical liturgy celebrated by Bishop Daniel R. Jenky, CSC.

**Saturday, Sept. 10:** Mass to celebrate the canonization of St. Teresa of Kolkata and the 25th anniversary of her community, the Missionaries of Charity, in the Diocese of Peoria, 4 p.m.

**Sunday, Sept. 25:** Anniversary Mass for couples celebrating 25 and 50 years of marriage, 3:30 p.m.

**Friday, Sept. 30:** Diocesan Respect Life Mass, 10:30 a.m.





## DEADLINES

Deadlines for Around the Diocese are Friday, Sept. 16, for the issue of Sept. 25; Friday, Sept. 30, for the issue of Oct. 9; and Friday, Oct. 14, for the issue of Oct. 23.

Items may be sent by email to [cathpost@cdop.org](mailto:cathpost@cdop.org) or mailed to The Catholic Post, P.O. Box 1722, Peoria, IL 61656.

Anniversary announcements are also welcome for those couples celebrating 50, 60 or more years of marriage (in five-year increments). To receive a form, contact Jennifer Willems at [jwillems@cdop.org](mailto:jwillems@cdop.org) or (800) 340-5630.

## ANDALUSIA

**PRO-LIFE MASS:** St. Patrick Church, 9619 140th Street West, Taylor Ridge, will host the monthly Quad Cities inter-parish pro-life Mass on Saturday, Sept. 24, at 5 p.m.

## CHERRY

**CHICKEN DINNER:** The Altar and Rosary Society of Holy Trinity Church is planning a chicken dinner for Tuesday, Sept. 27, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Coal Company Restaurant, 205 N. Main St. The cost is \$8 for a quarter chicken, french fries and dessert, dine in or carry out. Tickets are available at Cherry State Bank or call Carol Lauer at (815) 303-4940, Nancy Lowry at (815) 228-7436, or Holy Trinity at (815) 894-2006.

## DALZELL

**CHICKEN DINNER:** A chicken dinner will be served Sunday, Sept. 18, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the parish hall of St. Thomas More Church, 302 Chestnut St. The menu includes baked or fried chicken, salad, spaghetti, bread and butter, dessert and a drink.

The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 6 to 10 (drumstick, spaghetti, dessert and drink). Children 5 and younger eat for free (spaghetti, bread, dessert and drink). Carry-outs will be available.

## CHAMPAIGN

**CDA MEETING:** The Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Champaign County, will have the first meeting of the season on Tuesday, Sept. 13, at noon in the parish center of Holy Cross Church, 405 W. Clark St. Bring a sack lunch. Dessert will be provided. For more information, call Debby Wagner, regent, at (217) 356-9961, or Judy Schuster at (217) 344-9284.

## CLINTON

**APPLE AND PORK FESTIVAL:** St. John the Baptist Parish Hall, 502 N. Monroe St., will host crafters with a wide variety of food and handmade items for the 48th annual Apple and Pork Festival on Saturday, Sept. 24, and Sunday, Sept. 25, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mamma D's Smokehouse BBQ and Mountain Dew apple turnovers will be featured in the kitchen and those who attend are welcome to eat in the parish hall.

## DANVILLE

**BASKET BINGO:** The Presence United Samaritans Medical Center Foundation is holding its 19th annual Basket Bingo and More event to benefit its outreach program, Illiana Alzheimer's Alliance, on Thursday, Sept. 22, in the Knights of Columbus Hall, 310 Bryan Ave. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and bingo begins at 6:30 p.m. The cost of \$35 per person includes 12 bingo cards, Additional game cards may be



## Fashion show will highlight 110 years of history

The Altar and Rosary Society of Sacred Heart Parish in Moline is celebrating its 110th anniversary this year and they will share their good news by hosting an historical fashion show during the parish's September Fest this Sunday, Sept. 11. The festivities will be held from noon to 3 p.m., with the fashion show scheduled for 1 p.m. in Culemans Hall, 1307 17th Ave. Not only will the show highlight the fashions of each decade, but the narration will include activities and personalities from the first president to the current president. Offering a preview here are Carol Simatovich and Donald Lewis. *Provided photo*

purchased for \$2. Raffle tickets will be available. Participants must be 18. Tables of eight may be reserved for \$250. Call (217) 442-6583.

## GENESE

**WOMEN AT THE WELL:** "Mercy for the Sick — Handle with Loving Care" will be presented by nurse practitioner Regina Bollaert on Thursday, Sept. 29, at St. Malachy Church, 595 E. Ogden Ave. Doors open at 6 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. The suggested donation is \$7 per person. Reservations are required by Sept. 25. Call Roseann Warren at (309) 944-4778 or send email to [rcwarren@mchsi.com](mailto:rcwarren@mchsi.com).

## GERMANTOWN HILLS

**CWL ROSARY:** Members of the

Catholic Women's League will gather on Monday, Sept. 19, at 9:30 a.m. to pray the rosary at St. Mary of Lourdes Church, 424 Lourdes Church Road, Metamora. Everyone is welcome.

## MACOMB

**RUMMAGE SALE:** The St. Paul Women's Guild is hosting a rummage sale on Friday, Sept. 23, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday, Sept. 24, 9 a.m. to noon, in the gym of St. Paul School, 322 W. Washington. On Friday there will be a bake sale, sandwiches and drinks. On Saturday, those who attend will be able to "fill a bargain" bag.

## MILAN

**BEE HIVE BAZAAR:** St. Ambrose Parish, 312 W. First St., will have a Bee Hive Bazaar on Saturday,

Sept. 17, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the parish center. Aunt Bea's Café will serve a lunch special for \$6 starting at 11 a.m. Raffles are planned with a suggested donation of \$1 per ticket. You need not be present to win. Handmade quilts also will be sold by the Blue Cross Mission Ladies. For more information, call Jane Hartman at (309) 738-7438.

## MOLINE

**SECULAR DISCALCED CARMELITES:** The Secular Discalced Carmelite Community of St. Joseph and the Prophet Elijah will meet on Sunday, Sept. 11, at 1 p.m. at St. Mary Church, 412 10th St. All are invited to join members in the study of prayer in the tradition of St. Teresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross on the second Sunday of every month. For more information, call Annette at (563) 359-7052 or Donna at (563) 271-9273.

**WOMEN AT THE WELL:** "Seeing Through Other Eyes: Love Creating a Global Community" will be present by Sister Johanna Rickl, CHM, on Thursday, Sept. 15, at Christ the King, 3205 60th St. Sister Johanna will speak about her mission experience in El Salvador. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets are available at the parish office. Call (309) 762-4634, ext. 200.

## MONMOUTH

**TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE:** The Monmouth Knights of Columbus will hold its annual Tootsie Roll Drive to benefit persons with intellectual disabilities the weekend of Sept. 16 and 17. All proceeds will go to Warren Achievement Center and

PLEASE TURN TO AROUND THE DIOCESE 17

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## AROUND THE DIOCESE

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area Special Olympics. Those who would like to help with the drive may call Dave Driscoll, chairman, at (309) 734-7836.

### NAUVOO

**YARD SALE:** Sts. Peter and Paul School will hold its annual yard sale on Saturday, Sept. 17, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the school gym, 1115 Young St. Items include clothing of all sizes, shoes, toys, baby items, books, bedding, furniture, appliances, crafts and more. The teachers will hold a bake sale. To donate usable items for the sale, bring them to the school from Monday, Sept. 12, through Thursday, Sept. 15, during school hours. Anything not sold will be donated to those in need.

### OTTAWA

**CDA NEWS:** The Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Santa Maria No. 236, will have its opening dinner and meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 13, at Hank's Farm Restaurant, 2973 IL-71. A social hour will begin at 5:30 p.m. Members will order from the menu. Call an officer if you plan to attend or need a ride.

### PEORIA

**BENEFIT FISH FRY:** Central Illinois Right to Life (CIRTL) will benefit from a fish fry hosted by the Spalding Council of the Knights of Columbus on Friday, Sept. 30, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 7403 N. Radnor Road. Catfish, chicken, cod, shrimp and side dishes will be served from 5 to 7 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person or \$5 for a child's meal. CIRTL will conduct a bake sale.

### PEORIA HEIGHTS

**SECULAR DISCALCED CARMELITES:** The Community of Mary, Mother of the Blessed Sacrament of the Secular Discalced Carmelites will meet on Saturday, Sept. 10, at 11:30 a.m. at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 904 E. Lake Ave. Mass in the chapel will be followed by a meeting on the mezzanine level of the church. Please bring a sack lunch. Visitors are welcome.

**VOCATIONS HOLY HOUR:** St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 904 E. Lake Ave., will host a Holy Hour for Vocations on Wednesday, Sept. 14, at 6:30 p.m. It is sponsored

by the Office of Priestly Vocations of the Diocese of Peoria.

### PERU

**ALTAR AND ROSARY SOCIETY:** The first meeting of the St. Joseph Altar and Rosary Society will be a potluck on Wednesday, Sept. 21, at 6 p.m. It will be held in St. Joseph's Halle, 2003 Fifth St. All women from the parish are invited.

### PETERSTOWN

**TEENS ENCOUNTER CHRIST:** A TEC weekend for young women, ages 16 to 23, will be held Oct. 1-3 at the Peterstown TEC Center. TEC is a youth retreat sponsored by the Diocese of Peoria that includes talks, an opportunity for the sacrament of reconciliation, Mass, fun and fellowship. Teens of all faith traditions are welcome. For more information, visit peterstowntec.com or contact Deacon Vince Slomian at (815) 539-7280, Robin Santman at (815) 780-8402 or laydirector@peterstowntec.com, or Maria Biagioni at (815) 252-2708 or public\_relations@peterstowntec.com.

### ROCK ISLAND

**OKTOBERFEST:** St. Mary Church, 2208 Fourth Ave., will hold its Oktoberfest, rain or shine, on Sunday, Sept. 25, from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Brats, hot dogs, Maid-Rites, and German and American potato salad will be available, and there will be music, bingo, games, a bake sale and silent auction.

### WESTVILLE

**YEAR OF MERCY EVENT:** "Embrace Mercy" is the theme for a talk that will be presented by Kim Padan of Danville on Thursday, Sept. 15, at St. Mary Church, 231 N. State St. It will focus on how to "forgive offenses willingly" and "bear wrongs patiently." A rosary at 6 p.m. will be followed by a light meal and the talk in the gym.

### WOODHULL

**CHICKEN DINNER:** St. John Parish, 390 E. Highway Ave., will host its annual chicken dinner on Sunday, Sept. 25, from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, coleslaw, a drink and dessert will be served family style. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and younger. Baked items will be available for purchase. Drive-thru carry-outs will begin at 11 a.m.

# Galesburg, Champaign, Bloomington are stops on Fatima statue tour

The International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Fatima, on a two-year "Centennial U.S. Tour for Peace" to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Mary in the Portugal village, will be hosted in Galesburg, Champaign and Bloomington from Sept. 16-19.

The statue was sculpted in 1947 by Jose Thedim on instructions from Sister Lucia, who 30 years earlier was the oldest of three shepherd children to witness repeated apparitions of the Blessed Virgin. The statue was blessed by the bishop of Fatima and commissioned to carry the blessings and message of Fatima throughout the world and encourage devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. It was blessed by Pope Pius XII in 1952.

In Galesburg, the statue will be at Corpus Christi Church, 273 S. Prairie St., from 6 to 10 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 16, and from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Sept. 17, with time for prayers, rosary and other devotions, and quiet time.

In Champaign, the statue will be present at St. John's Catho-



**Patrick Sabat, the principal custodian of the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Fatima, has been traveling with the statue since 2003.**

lic Chapel at the University of Illinois for various activities beginning with adoration and confessions from 4 to 5 p.m. on Saturday. The 5 p.m. Mass will feature a procession with the statue. Father Chase Hilgenbrinck will be homilist. Following Mass will be enrollment in the Brown Scapular of Our Lady. The statue will remain at St.

John's Catholic Chapel on Sunday morning, with adoration and confessions from 9 to 10 a.m., followed by recitation of the rosary. Mass is at 10:30 a.m., followed by a talk by Patrick Sabat, the principal custodian of the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue.

On Sunday evening the statue arrives at Holy Trinity Church in Bloomington, where eucharistic adoration is planned from 7 p.m. until after the 8 a.m. Mass on Monday. The statue will then be transported to Corpus Christi Catholic School, 1909 E. Lincoln St., where it will remain until noon.

The statue will visit more than 100 dioceses in 50 states from March 2016 until December 2017. Charles Carr, who is coordinating the tour in the Diocese of Peoria, is making available handouts of Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen's "Mary, the Woman I Love" at the Galesburg, Champaign and Bloomington stops.

More information on the tour is available at [fatimatourforpeace.com](http://fatimatourforpeace.com).

## Anniversaries



**RIOS 50TH** — Fernando and Wilma Rios of East Moline celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary by renewing their vows during Mass on June 4 at Christ the King Church in Moline, followed by a family dinner. Mr. Rios married the former Wilma Arredondo on June 4, 1966, at St. Mary Church in Iowa City, Iowa. Their family includes two sons, Fernando Emilio (Thalia) of Maryland and Gonzalo Adolfo of California, and one daughter, Wilma (Lucia) "Lucy" of Illinois. Mr. Rios is retired from John Deere and Oscar Mayer and Mrs. Rios is retired from Metrobank in East Moline. They also were part owners of Heartland Ice Cream and Popcorn in Moline for three years.



**GERMAN 50TH** — Kenneth and Mary German of Galesburg will celebrate their golden wedding anniversary with a family dinner. Mr. German married the former Mary Ellen Gilles on Sept. 10, 1966, at St. Mary of the Woods Church in Princeville. They are now members of Corpus Christi Parish in Galesburg. They are the parents of Jeff German of Galesburg and Kelly (Byron) Paulsen of Peoria Heights. Mr. German worked for the Galesburg Police Department for 32 years, retiring as a lieutenant. He also gave 18 years to police training with the State of Illinois. Mrs. German is retired from OSF St. Mary Medical Center, where she worked as a registered nurse for 45 years.



## Sister Ann Kevin O'Connor, SP

Former principal in Galesburg

ST. MARY-OF-THE-WOODS, Ind. — A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Sept. 2 in the Church of the Immaculate Conception for Sister Ann Kevin O'Connor, SP.



Sister Ann Kevin

Burial was in the cemetery of the Sisters of Providence.

Sister Ann Kevin died on Aug. 24, 2016, in Mother Theodore Hall at St. Mary-of-the-Woods. She was 91.

The daughter of Vincent L. and Nellie (Barton) O'Connor, Theresa Ann O'Connor was born on July 24, 1925, in Summit. She entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Providence on July 22, 1943, and made her first profession on Jan. 23, 1946, taking the name Ann Kevin. She professed her final vows five years later.

Sister Ann Kevin ministered in education for 34 years in schools in Indiana, Illinois, California, Missouri and Texas. For six of these years she served as principal, including at St. Joseph in Galesburg from 1966 to 1970.

She also assisted her community in general administration and mission advancement. In 2007, she gave herself totally to the ministry of prayer.

Sister Ann Kevin was preceded in death by her parents; two brothers, Edward O'Connor and Donal O'Connor; and three sisters, Sister Margaret Ellen O'Connor, SP, Elizabeth Bastien and Mary G. Kilbridge. She is survived by one brother, Maurice O'Connor of Overland Park, Kansas.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Sisters of Providence, 1 Sisters of Providence, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, IN 47876.

## Pray for our faithful departed

The following death notices were taken from area daily newspapers dated Aug. 19 to Sept. 1, 2016. The notices list name, age, parish, and date of death.

This list may not be complete for many reasons. Only persons whose funeral Masses took place in a Catholic church within the Diocese of Peoria are normally listed.

Prayers for those on this list, their families, and all the faithful departed are encouraged.

**ALEDO:** Charles J. Loveless, 68, St. Catherine, Aug. 19

**BLOOMINGTON:** Martha Franz, 88, Epiphany (Normal), Aug. 30;

**Madeline "Maggie" Mitchell**, 88, St. Patrick, Aug. 28; **Marifrances Thompson**, 96, St. Mary, Aug. 23 in Naperville; **Veronica T. Flener**, 86, Epiphany (Normal), Aug. 20, former nurse and longtime volunteer at OSF St. Joseph Medical Center who knitted nearly 3,000 baby caps for newborns; **Mildred L. Hoeniges**, 77, St. Patrick, Aug. 20; **Benjamin Bucio Perez**, 79, St. Mary, Aug. 17

**BARTONVILLE:** Michael A. Cobratti, 65, St. Ann (Peoria), Aug. 18

**CARTHAGE:** Joan Ufkes, 83, Immaculate Conception, Aug. 27

**CHAMPAIGN:** Thomas J. Hanratty, 89, Holy Cross, Aug. 24; **Paul Michael Somers**, 88, Holy Cross, Aug. 19

**CHILLICOTHE:** Francis A. Merdian, 92, St. Edward, Aug. 20

**CLINTON:** James Lewis "Slim" Mollet, 72, St. Patrick (Wapella), Aug. 28

**COLONA:** Louis William Burghgrave, 96, St. Patrick, Aug. 17

**CORNELL:** Irvin R. Bohm, 78, St. Mary (Pontiac), Aug. 20

**CREVE COEUR:** Iretta F. Walker, 94, Sacre Coeur, Aug. 23

**DANVILLE:** William Gale Bays, 70, Holy Family, Aug. 25

**EAST MOLINE:** Louis Turilli, 101, Christ the King (Moline), Aug. 26;

**Robert A. Andrew**, 67, Our Lady of Guadalupe (Silvis), Aug. 21

**EAST PEORIA:** Bernard Joseph Geier, 89, St. Monica, Aug. 17 in Omaha, Nebraska

**ELKHART:** Betty J. Hickey, 93, St. Patrick, Aug. 25 in Mt. Pulaski

**GALESBURG:** Thelma Joan Hoosen Bloome, 82, Corpus Christi, Aug. 21

**FAIRBURY:** Charles William Whately, 86, St. Andrew, Aug. 29

**FAIRMOUNT:** Mary Puzey, 91, St. Mary (Westville), Aug. 20

**GENESE:** Catherine Mary Sue Kittrell Stone, 70, St. Malachy, Aug. 16

**GRANVILLE:** Maureen Egan, 66, Sacred Heart, Aug. 27; **Martin C. Spitz**, 80, Holy Cross (Mendota), Aug. 21

**IVESDALE:** William E. Auth, 77, St. Joseph, Aug. 18

**MILAN:** Alice S. Layer, 96, St. Ambrose, Aug. 27

**MOLINE:** Martha J. Lamb, 73, Christ the King, Aug. 30; **Robert Lewis Depoorter**, 83, Christ the King, Aug. 29; **Rita Pauline Ontiveros**, 66, Sacred Heart, Aug. 28;

**Linnea J. "Whoopie" VanAcker**, 87, St. Mary, Aug. 27

**MT. PULASKI:** Cecil Ray Hummel, 89, St. Thomas Aquinas, Aug. 20

**NORMAL:** John Edmund Doherty, 93, Epiphany, Aug. 28;

**Beverly P. Geer**, 74, St. Mary (Bloomington), Aug. 25; **Eugene Joseph Schmillen**, 92, Epiphany, Aug. 18

**ODELL:** Ruth C. Rinn, 93, St. Paul, Aug. 25

**OGLESBY:** Edward J. Kopacz, 92, Holy Family, Aug. 25

**OTTAWA:** Anna Marie Miller, 95, St. Joseph (Marseilles), Aug. 28;

**Norma Lencioni**, 94, St. Patrick, Aug. 27 in Batavia; **Ruth R. "Buela" Gama**, 97, St. Columba, Aug. 23;

**Louis P. Kuk**, 96, St. Columba, Aug. 23; **John F. Jessen**, 83, St. Columba, Aug. 19

**PEKIN:** Toni Peter Giosta, 59, St. Joseph, Aug. 17

**PEORIA:** Patricia Ann Capranica-Guill, 88, St. Thomas the Apostle (Peoria Heights), Aug. 30; **Ann Ruble**, 91, St. Philomena, Aug. 29; **Betty F. Nelson**, 88, St. Vincent de Paul, Aug. 23; **Barbara Elaine Lawless**, 74, Holy Family, Aug. 21; **Nancy Kaye Noonon Schaub**, 78, St. Mary (Kickapoo), Aug. 21; **Rosemary Crismore**, 91, St. Thomas the Apostle (Peoria Heights), Aug. 19; **Rose M. Koller**, 89, Holy Family, Aug. 18; **Stephen C. Gill**, 79, St. Thomas the Apostle (Peoria Heights), Aug. 16; **Mary A. "Mayme" Waugh**, 83, St. Vincent de Paul, Aug. 3 in Lakeland, Florida

**PERU:** Christine Euler, 80, Nativity of Our Lord (Spring Valley), Aug. 29

**PHILO:** Pat Christian, 85, St.

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## Bishop Thomas G. Doran

Guided Diocese of Rockford from 1994 to 2012

ROCKFORD (CNS) — A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Sept. 9 at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Rockford for retired Bishop Thomas G. Doran of Rockford, 80, who died Sept. 1 at his residence at Presence Cor Mariae here.

He had served as bishop from 1994 until his retirement from active ministry in 2012.

Evening prayer will be at 4 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 8, at the cathedral with visitation continuing until 8 p.m. Visitation resumes from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on Friday at the cathedral prior to the funeral Mass.

Burial will be at Calvary Cemetery, Winnebago.

Born Feb. 20, 1936 in Rockford, he was ordained for the diocese in 1961. After a series of pastoral assignments, he served as secretary to the bishop from 1965 to 1968, was chancellor from 1969 through 1984 and served as episcopal vicar for education from 1982 to 1986. He also was cathedral rector from 1984 to 1986.

Bishop Doran had been auditor of the tribunal of the Roman Rota, the church's central appellate court, from 1986 to his appointment to Rockford in 1994. In the early 1990s he was also a consultant to the Vatican Congregation for Clergy and a member of a special commission of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, dealing with cases of priests and deacons seeking dispensations from clerical celibacy.

His first pastoral letter, issued in 1998, cast its eye to the year 2000, when Bishop Doran told Catholic faithful of the diocese to "prepare for the great jubilee



Bishop Thomas G. Doran

by a renewal of our eucharistic spirit."

### UTILIZED THE MEDIA

In 1999, Bishop Doran began a string of one-minute appearance on Rockford's NBC affiliate that aired just prior to the "Today" show. "Top o' the Morning With Bishop Doran" provided a brief commentary on the Gospel reading for the day. He also presented an eight-part series on the Catechism of the Catholic Church for the station. In 1998, he launched a weekly 25-minute program, "The Catholic Forum with Bishop Thomas G. Doran," on a Rockford radio station. In addition, he appeared on a 13-part Eternal Word Television Network series on his book, "At the Crossroads: A Vision of Hope."

The funeral Mass will be carried live online at rockforddiocese.org.

## Phyllis Schlafly

Catholic woman supported conservative causes

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Phyllis Schlafly, 92, died Sept. 5 at her home in Ladue, Missouri, outside St. Louis, according to the Eagle Forum, an organization she founded in 1975. No cause of death was given, but she had been ill for some time.

A Catholic who with her husband, John, were the parents of six children, Schlafly immersed herself for most of her adult life in a host of conservative causes, including stopping ratifica-



tion of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Schlafly also was involved with the abortion issue, having founded and

chaired the National Republican Coalition for Life.

In addition to her children, Schlafly is survived by 16 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

## Aborted children to be remembered in Rock Island . . .

ROCK ISLAND — Pro-life advocates in the Quad Cities will gather for Mass on Saturday, Sept. 10, at Calvary Cemetery Mausoleum, 1615 31st Ave., to pray for the more than 50 million children who have lost their lives due to abortion since 1973. It will begin at 9 a.m.

The Mass will be followed by prayers at the memorial site in Calvary Cemetery.

The observance is part of the National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children. Those who attend may park along 31st Avenue and are invited to bring a chair.

For more information about the national event, visit [abortionmemorials.com](http://abortionmemorials.com).

## . . . and West Peoria Saturday morning

WEST PEORIA — Central Illinois Right to Life will sponsor a prayer service as part of the National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children on Saturday, Sept. 10, at St. Mary's Cemetery, 421 N. Sterling. It will begin at 10 a.m.

The service will take place at the memorial site for the unborn that was erected by the Knights of Columbus, Spalding Council No. 427, and is designed to honor the memory of the more than 50 million unborn children who have died as a result of abortion.

## DEATH NOTICES

FROM 18

Thomas, Aug. 23

**PONTIAC: Kenneth R. Fitzsimmons**, 82, St. Mary, Aug. 27

**ROCK ISLAND: Maxine Coppens**, 90, St Pius X, Aug. 20 in Racine, Wisconsin

**SPARLAND: Lois E. Ratcliff**, 82, Immaculate Conception (Lacon), Aug. 19

**STREATOR: David Vargas Lopez**, 83, St. Michael the Archangel, Aug. 20; **Patrick Joseph Ralph**, 63, St. Michael the Archangel, June 2

**TOWANDA: Mardell McLeese**, 87, Epiphany (Normal), Aug. 26

**WYOMING: Alice G. Malamphy**, 99, St. Dominic, Aug. 19

## Grace is theme of charismatic renewal's two-day fall retreat

HENRY — "Let the Grace of God Fall Upon You" is the theme for the annual fall retreat of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the Diocese of Peoria, which is planned for Sept. 30-Oct. 1 at Nazareth House. The



Father Co

retreat master will be Father Anthony Co.

The pastor of St. Mary and Sacred Heart parishes in Rock Island, Father Co was ordained in 2005.

In addition to his parish work, he has been involved in campus ministry at Monmouth College and the University of Illinois, served as chaplain at Alleman High School in Rock Island, and offered sacramental care at Augustana College, also in Rock Island.

Committed to the New Evangelization, Father Co has ties to

The Evangelical Catholic, which seeks to inspire and train people to be disciples and bring others to Christ, and Communion and Liberation, which forms its members in Christianity "in order to make them coworkers in the Church's mission in all areas of society."

The retreat will begin with registration from 6 to 7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 30, and end after the healing service on Saturday, Oct. 1. The cost is \$125, which includes a room for Friday evening and meals on Saturday.

Those who wish to stay Saturday night may do so for another \$10.

Registration forms can be found at [nazarethretreathouse.org](http://nazarethretreathouse.org), or contact Nazareth House at [registration@nazarethretreathouse.org](mailto:registration@nazarethretreathouse.org) or (309) 364-3084. Please indicate if you would like a room for Saturday night.

## 'What the Catholic Voter Should Know' topic in Davenport Sept. 17

DAVENPORT, Iowa — "What the Catholic Voter Should Know" is the theme of a "town hall" gathering sponsored on Saturday, Sept. 17, by the St. Thomas Aquinas Guild of the Quad Cities, the local branch of the Catholic Medical Association.

The moderated discussion will take place beginning at 10 a.m. at Denning Hall of St. Paul the Apostle Church, 916 E. Rusholme St. While focused on specific topics, it will remain an open forum.

Doors open at 9:30 a.m. with a light breakfast served. Organizers describe the

objective of the meeting as "to inform and educate ourselves as Catholic voters, with a clearer understanding of the political process in accordance with the Magisterium." Among the guiding documents will be "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship," a teaching document by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

There is no charge to attend the meeting and guild membership is not required. For more information on the guild and the Catholic Medical Association, visit [stthomasaquinas-guildqc.com](http://stthomasaquinas-guildqc.com).

## Emergency Center now open at OSF Center for Health — Streator

STREATOR — The new OSF Center for Health — Streator Emergency Center has opened at 111 Spring St., offering the community and region a place to turn 24 hours a day, seven days a week for health crises including life-threatening

emergencies.

"OSF HealthCare delivered on its promise to open an emergency center in Streator," said Dr. David Gorenz, regional CEO of OSF HealthCare, which is arranging an outpatient campus for the community.



## Editorial

# Mercy and 9/11

As our nation pauses Sunday to mark the 15th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, we call to mind that dark day in our history occurred shortly after Bishop John J. Myers, the seventh Bishop of Peoria and an Earlville native, was named Archbishop of Newark. The New Jersey archdiocese is located just across the Hudson River from Manhattan.

One of Archbishop Myers' first actions in his new archdiocese after his Oct. 9 installation was to issue a pastoral letter, "Reflections on Faith and Terrorism." Subtitled "If God is for Us, Who can be Against Us?" it is found easily online and makes for a fitting reflection this weekend.

Here, however, we point out the four paragraphs in which Archbishop Myers addressed the questions: "How can I possibly forgive those responsible for these attacks?" and "Can God really demand of me that I love my enemy?"

"In the face of such evil, it can often seem impossible to forgive and to love those who hate us," he wrote. "If we were simply talking of feelings, it would be quite difficult. But God does not demand that we *feel* loving or forgiving to our enemies, only that we freely choose to love and to forgive. Our choices are always in our control."

We must want and work for what is truly best for our enemies, Archbishop Myers continued, even as we can rightfully want those who do evil brought to justice.

He then posed a challenge that applies to all of us, especially in this Year of Mercy.

"Being forced to face the great demands that Gospel love places upon us, this tragedy can be for us an opportunity to re-evaluate our relationships with others," wrote Archbishop Myers. "Too often we allow people to remain estranged and separated from us sometimes for relatively small reasons. Events like these remind us that life here and now is short and our time together precious. Now is the time for us to be reconciled to God and to each other."

It was true then, and is true now. — *Thomas J. Dermody*

# A new work of mercy: protecting creation

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Calling for concrete actions that benefit human life and the environment, Pope Francis proposed adding the care and protection of creation to the traditional list of corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

As a spiritual work of mercy, the pope said, care for creation requires "a grateful contemplation of God's world," while as a corporal work, it calls for "simple daily gestures which break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness."

The pope reflected on the need for an integral ecology in Christian life in his message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, Sept. 1.

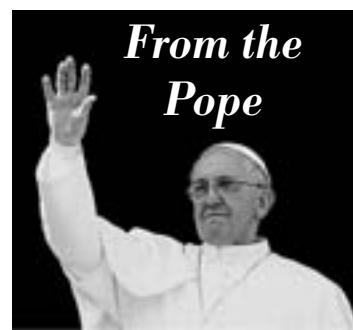
The message, titled "Show Mercy to our Common Home," reflects on the day of prayer as an occasion for Christians to "reaffirm their personal vocation to be stewards of creation" and to thank God "for the wonderful handiwork which he has entrusted to our care."

The pope, who in the spring of 2015 issued the encyclical "Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home," said concern for the planet's future unites religious leaders and organizations and draws attention to "the moral and spiritual crisis" that is at the heart of environmental problems.

"Christians or not, as people of faith and goodwill, we should be united in showing mercy to the earth as our common home and cherishing the world in which we live as a place for sharing and communion," the pope said.

The Year of Mercy, he added, offers Christians an opportunity to experience not only an interior conversion but also an "ecological conversion," one that recognizes "our responsibility to ourselves, our neighbors, creation and the Creator."

Pope Francis said that adding care for creation to the corporal and spiritual works of mercy acknowledges human life and everything that surrounds it as "an object of mercy."



## Christians can't ignore suffering

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Turning your head away from the suffering of others is a grave sin, and simply saying some prayers or going to Mass does not make a good Christian of someone who ignores those in need, Pope Francis said.

The plight of those who suffer in the world today is a modern-day Calvary that "spurs us on to offer ever new signs of mercy," the pope said Sept. 3 at a special audience for people engaged in

the works of mercy, as well as for pilgrims in Rome for the canonization of Blessed Teresa of Kolkata.

"I will never tire of saying that the mercy of God is not some beautiful idea but rather a concrete action," Pope Francis said. "There is no mercy without concreteness. Mercy is not doing something good while passing by; it means involving yourself there where there is evil, where there is sickness, where there is hunger, where there is human exploitation."

The pope and thousands of pilgrims sat on the edge of their chairs listening to the testimony of Missionaries of Charity Sister Mary Sally, the sole member of Mother Teresa's order who survived a brutal attack at a nursing home Yemen in March.

Four Missionaries of Charity and 12 other people were killed by uniformed gunmen, who entered the home the sisters operated for the elderly and disabled in Aden. A Salesian priest who worked with the sisters was kidnapped and his whereabouts are still unknown.

With shortages of food, water and medicine and the increasing violence going on around them in Yemen, Sister Mary Sally said her heart was "filled with greater love and enthusiasm."

"We beg God to continue using our nothingness to make the church present in the world today through the mission entrusted to us by our Mother Teresa, even amid dangerous surroundings," she said.

# Object to funding part-human, part-animal embryo research

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops objected to a National Institutes of Health proposal to authorize federally funded research on part-human, part-animal embryos in comments submitted to the agency Sept. 2.

The bishops made ethical and legal arguments in opposing the plan, saying that such research results in "beings who do not fully belong to either the human race or the host animal species."

Current NIH guidelines for human stem cell research specifically prohibit introducing human pluripotent cells — those capable of giving rise to several different cell types — into nonhuman primate blastocysts, which are cells at an early stage of development. NIH has proposed funding scientists researching such embryos, known as chimeras.

The bishops' statement said that while the plan calls for review of some research proposals by a NIH steering committee, "the bottom line is that the federal government will begin expending taxpayer dollars on the

creation and manipulation of new beings whose very existence blurs the line between humanity and animals such as mice and rats."

By funding such research, the bishops argued, the NIH would be ignoring laws that prohibit it. They said such research "is also grossly unethical."

## LIMITS TO WHAT CAN MORALLY BE DONE

On the moral and ethical side of the issue, the statement said the bishops are concerned about the destruction of human embryos that serve as a source of "raw material" for research. They said the NIH proposal for producing human/animal hybrids raises "new and troubling questions of its own."

Acknowledging that the respectful use of animals in research can benefit humanity, the bishops stressed, however, that the unique dignity of the human person puts limits to what can morally be done in the field.

"Herein lies the key moral problem involved in this proposal, beyond the already grave problem of exploiting human embryos as cell factories for research. For if one cannot tell to what extent, if any, the resulting organism may have human status or characteristics, it will be impossible to determine what one's moral obli-

gations may be regarding that organism," the bishops said.

"We submit that producing new organisms, regarding whom our fundamental moral and legal obligations are inevitably confused and even contradictory, is itself immoral," the statement said. NIH should give far more serious consideration to this and other moral problems before seeking to

fund human/animal chimera research."

Legally, the bishops added, federal funding for such research would violate the Dickey-Wicker Amendment, which prohibits the use of taxpayer dollars to create or destroy human embryos for experiments.

The statement concludes that the proposal is "seriously flawed" and urged NIH to withdraw it.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The full text of the USCCB statement can be found online at <http://bit.ly/2caA9mS>.





# Dreaming of the Caribbean: bold adventures, surprise homecomings

The phone call came when I was boiling sweet corn — suppertime on a hum-drum Sunday whose excitement peaked with a trip to the grocery store. It had been months since I'd spoken with my college friend Wendy, but she skipped right over the small talk: She's moving to St. Croix.

When I heard St. Croix, I thought Wisconsin and the river I've fished with my brother. But Wendy had been thinking much bigger, she clarified: the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The life she had planned for herself — a comfortable one in a quiet Iowa suburb lined with sidewalks, strollers and swing sets — no longer fit. Motherhood, she had come to discern, is not her vocation. This was a startling realization, one she had arrived at with frequent prayer and utter honesty.

A series of events that seemed divinely orchestrated led to her this juncture, beginning Memorial Day Weekend when she was laid up with a broken arm. Restlessness made her

heart throb and her fingers tingle, sending them to the keyboard and a Google search for job openings in — of all places — St. Croix, some 2,500 miles from her current residence.

I Googled it too to brush up on my geography. The map showed a tiny island surrounded by blue. Puerto Rico. Images of scuba diving, horseback riding and white

beaches. An hour's flight from Caracas, Venezuela.

It was time to take a leap of faith, Wendy told me. Time for an adventure.

## A JOLT OF INSPIRATION

Sunday night rolled around — dishwasher loading, Netflix, Etsy — and I couldn't stop thinking of St. Croix. I felt a jolt of inspiration, and somewhere folded in Wendy's news, should I acknowledge it, a challenge.

Couldn't we all use the push to finally do the thing we've always wanted to do? Couldn't we all use the audacity — that place in the heart where blood pumps in equal measures of courage and impatience — to go ahead and do it?

My early 20s brought me across the globe with friends, with family and for journalism — from Kilkenny, Ireland, to Ketchikan, Alaska. Praying in the Garden of Gethsemane. Strolling through Venice on a wet, ethereal night. Embracing the pope in St. Peter's Basilica.

But part of young adulthood is letting the slow tilt of maturity carry your feet to the ground, like a teeter-totter nearing the grass. It's figuring out where to put roots. Holding onto your adventurer's heart while making room for responsibility.

## "I LIVE TO DO HIS WILL"

I've been thinking about new beginnings, which you

can almost smell in September, with all the back-to-school possibilities — sharp-tipped crayons, blank notebooks and mighty resolutions.

New beginnings can come in surprising forms — and sometimes they lead you back home, allowing you to recognize the beauty that was always in your midst.

The late Eleanor Boyer, a New Jersey Catholic who never married, was given a new shot in 1997, when, at 72, she won the lottery. Immediately she knew how to spend her \$11.8 million winnings: She gave it away — half to her parish, half to her hometown.

"No new car, no vacation," Eleanor told The New York Times. "My life is no different. I've given it up to God. I live in his presence and do his will, and I did that from the start."

My commitments mean I won't be adding a stamp to the passport this year, so I'm contemplating adventure in the broadest sense — from the life of the mind to the spiritual life, exploring new corners of my God-given talents and embracing glimpses of grace.

I'm pushing myself to find compelling ways to tell other people's stories, all while writing my own story. One day I will appreciate how God brought each chapter together, marked by a generosity that knows no bounds.

**CHRISTINA CAPECCHI** is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn., and the editor of SisterStory.org.



## Twenty Something

Christina Capecchi

# 'Post' readers share more Mother Teresa memories, experiences

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** In advance of the Sept. 4 canonization of St. Teresa of Kolkata, we asked readers to share their memories of her or how her words and actions have inspired them. We published many responses in our last issue, and continue them here.

## GIFTS BRING LETTERS, FRIENDSHIP TO STREATOR RESIDENT

In 1985 I was at the library, looking for a good mystery to read. I came across a book on Mother Teresa, who always fascinated me.

My mother passed away in 1982 and I had her diamond rings which I bought for her in my youth. It was a difficult thing to do, but I sent my Mom's rings to Mother Teresa. I think she appreciated it — so much so that she sent me a letter on Sept. 24, 1985.

Since that time, every time I'd send a donation to the Missionaries of Charity I'd get a letter back from Mother Teresa. We'd write back and forth up until 1997, the year she passed away. That year, she sent condolences because my Dad passed away. She also wrote a letter and asked me to pray for her. She knew her health was failing.

I feel very humbled that Mother Teresa was and is my friend. I am very unworthy to have such an honor. I still send donations for the Missionaries of Charity. Their address is: 335 East 145th St., Bronx, N.Y. 10451.

I've given most of my letters that I treasured from Mother Teresa away. Mother Teresa always said she wanted people to remember Jesus our Savior and not her.

Thank you, Mother Teresa, for being my friend and a friend to all of us. — *Paul Ahearn, Streator*

## FAVORITE SAYINGS

Two callers shared favorite sayings of Mother Teresa.

For Adelia May, a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Galesburg, a quote on a daily calendar has stuck with her: "I hope, I wish, with God's help, to be holy." "I say it every day before my rosary," she told The Catholic Post.

Mary Joy Feeney of Rock Island, meanwhile, knows the wisdom of Mother Teresa's saying that loneliness and being forgotten are the greatest poverties. A widow and now 86, Feeney says that as we age we "have to learn to be alone and accept." She keeps the saying taped inside her cupboard door.

## ORDAINED A MISSIONARY OF CHARITY FATHER

Peoria native Darren Dentino, a Bergan High School graduate and one of 10 children of Mike and Margaret Dentino, is now a priest of the Missionaries of Charity serving in Guadalajara, Mexico. A 1998 Catholic Post feature on then Brother Dentino (shown with Mother Teresa in an undated photo) told how the musician learned of the community during a "Come and See" two-week experience in 1992. He spent

12 years in formation serving the poor in Mexico and Kolkata, India, and studied for the priesthood in Rome, where he was ordained 12 years ago.

"It's not so much the work we do," he told The Catholic Post in 1998, when his studies were augmented by visits

to AIDS patients and assisting with a youth group at a neighboring parish. "It's that we're happy to do it."

Father Dentino traveled to Rome to witness the canonization with other priests of his community.

## ADVICE FROM A FUTURE SAINT

When Msgr. John Prendergast was studying in Rome to be a priest of the Diocese of Peoria during the mid-1970s, he was part of the North American College's apostolate to the Missionaries of Charity. His service included working with the brothers in Calcutta during the summer of 1973.

In an interview last year with The Catholic Post when he was granted senior status after a 39-year priestly career, Msgr. Prendergast — pictured with Mother Teresa in 1976 — told how the Missionaries of Charity tried to recruit him to be spiritual director for their house of formation after his ordination. Msgr. Prendergast told Mother Teresa that Bishop Edward W. O'Rourke would not allow him to stay and suggested she write him a letter.

The future saint's advice? "No, Father, you should always do what the bishop wants you to do, because that's what God wants you to do."





# God's mercy invites us to look, go deeper

**Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time/  
Sept. 11**

Exodus 32:7-11,13-14; Psalm 51:3-4,12-13,17,19;  
1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-32

**W**e cannot observe Sept. 11 without remembering the terrible tragedy of 2001, some 15 years ago. Living through such an experience on so many levels — families who have lost someone in the tragedy, a city marred by the experience, a nation terribly bruised by the situation — has marked us forever.



*Living the  
Word*

**Sister Rachel  
Bergschneider,  
OSB**

Every experience in life, whether good or bad, has the potential to teach us. Are there lessons we have learned? The words of Pope Francis give us direction and hope as we integrate the lessons of this tragic event. He has dedicated this year to mercy. It is amazing how attention to the living out of mercy demonstrated first of all by Pope Francis himself gives depth and greater understanding to the meaning of a virtue we have known since the early years of our life.

When I reflect on all three readings of the Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, mercy is a key theme.

In the first reading, the Lord's anger prompts a cry to destroy the people of Israel. "Let me alone, then, that my wrath may blaze up against them to consume them," says the Lord. Moses implores God to relent, reminding Him of the great promises God has made to the people. "Why, O Lord, should your wrath blaze up against your own people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with such great power and with so strong a hand? . . . Remember your saying, 'I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky; and all this land that I promised, I will give your descendants as their perpetual heritage.'" Despite their

unfaithfulness, God relents and remains faithful to the people of Israel.

In the second reading, St. Paul acknowledges his unworthiness in becoming the minister of Christ's message to the world. Paul was "once a blasphemer and a persecutor and arrogant" by his own admission. But he is quite aware that he has "been mercifully treated" by the Lord "so that in me, as the foremost, Christ Jesus might display all his patience as an example for those who would come to believe in him for everlasting life." (1 Timothy 1:13)

## A THIRD OPTION

The Gospel is a resounding example of God's mercy. It begins with two stories of God's incredible mercy and compassion: the joy of finding the lost sheep and the rejoicing of the woman who found her lost coin. The most poignant example in the Gospel is the story of the wayward son.

The father not only welcomed his son back home after a life of dissipation; he looked for him and waited for him, so that, when the son did return home, the father threw out all recrimination to celebrate the son's homecoming.

What do these readings teach us about mercy? Mercy has a dimension beyond either/or. It is a sort of third way, an inner wisdom that sees something larger at stake. Mercy is motivated by reconciling differences and realizing that the truth of God's compassion is greater and deeper than what appears on the surface. It is an expression of God's unconditional love.

As we begin to draw to a conclusion this Year of Mercy, our prayer is a continual plea for the inner wisdom of God that breaks open our heart to see the way God sees and act the way God acts. It is a gift that will change our life.

**SISTER RACHEL** Bergschneider, OSB, is a member of the Sisters of St. Benedict of St. Mary Monastery in Rock Island. She serves as pastoral associate at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Peoria Heights.

## Daily Readings

### Monday, Sept. 12: Weekday

1 Corinthians 11:17-26  
Psalm 40:7-8a,8b-9,10,17  
Luke 7:1-10

### Tuesday, Sept. 13: St. John Chrysostom

1 Corinthians 12:12-14,27-31a  
Psalm 100:1b-2,3,4,5  
Luke 7:11-17

### Wednesday, Sept. 14: Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Numbers 21:4b-9  
Psalm 78:1bc-2,34-35,36-37,38  
Philippians 2:6-11  
John 3:3-17

### Thursday, Sept. 15: Our Lady of Sorrows

1 Corinthians 15:1-11  
Psalm 118:1b-2,16ab-17,28  
John 19:25-27 or  
Luke 2:33-35

### Friday, Sept. 16: Sts. Cornelius and Cyprian

1 Corinthians 15:12-20  
Psalm 17:1bcd,6-7,8b and 15  
Luke 8:1-3

### Saturday, Sept. 17: Weekday

1 Corinthians 15:35-37,42-49  
Psalm 56:10c-12,13-14  
Luke 8:4-15

### Sunday, Sept. 18: Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Amos 8:4-7  
Psalm 113:1-2,4-6,7-8  
1 Timothy 2:1-8  
Luke 16:1-13

### Monday, Sept. 19: Weekday

Proverbs 3:27-34  
Psalm 15:2-3a,3bc-4ab,5  
Luke 8:16-18

### Tuesday, Sept. 20: Sts. Andrew Kim

### Tae-gŏn and Paul Chŏng Ha-sang and Companions

Proverbs 21:1-6,10-13  
Psalm 119:1,27,30,34,35,44  
Luke 8:19-21

### Wednesday, Sept. 21: St. Matthew

Ephesians 4:1-7,11-13  
Psalm 19:2-3,4-5  
Matthew 9:9-13

### Thursday, Sept. 22: Weekday

Ecclesiastes 1:2-11  
Psalm 90:3-4,5-6,12-13,14 and 17bc  
Luke 9:7-9

### Friday, Sept. 23: St. Pius of Pietrelcina

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11  
Psalm 144:1b and 2abc,3-4  
Luke 9:18-22

### Saturday, Sept. 24: Weekday

Ecclesiastes 11:9 — 12:8  
Psalm 90:3-4,5-6,12-13,14 and 17  
Luke 9:43b-45

# A season to invite; 5 ways to evangelize

**O**ver the last few weeks, I have seen countless "First Day of School" pictures posted on Facebook. I love seeing the smiles of young ones headed off to learn new things. With the new school year upon us, let's embrace new opportunities to evangelize.

**1. Here, as always, I encourage you (and myself) to invite someone to join you for Sunday Mass.** Many families get a bit more settled in after Labor Day. Help them nestle worship time into their schedules. Statistics tell us we are losing this battle; I say let's not give up! Mass is where we receive the Eucharist, and it is too beautiful, too important not to be shared. Let's fill the pews!

**2. Be sure to greet people personally each time you go to Mass.** While you may not serve formally as a greeter

or usher, we can all extend a "Good Morning!" and handshake or hug. If you notice an unfamiliar face, try to catch up with her after Mass and introduce yourself. Be careful not to assume this person is new; perhaps she attends a different Mass most weekends. You can just say something like, "Hi, I don't think we've met before. My name is Kim, and I enjoy meeting new people!" Research tells us that if people feel welcomed they are more likely to return.



*Called to  
Witness*

**Kim Padan**

**3. Talk with your pastor and parish council about placing Order of Mass brochures in the pews.** Many people have been away from the church for years, but they may be inspired to

return because of something they heard from Pope Francis, or about the canonization of Mother, now St. Teresa of Kolkata. We should never assume people will just remember how the Mass goes, especially since some liturgical texts have changed.

**4. Don't forget home life!** Study habits are important for growing in knowledge, whether you are studying mathematics, chemistry, or Catholicism. Be sure to have a Bible and Catechism of the Catholic Church readily available. Include 15 minutes of Catholic "homework" each day with your kids, or on your own as adults. Remember that the family is the Domestic Church! (If you don't have these books, check with your nearest Catholic bookstore or parish library.)

**5. One way to evangelize is to share how God has moved in your own life.** If it's difficult to remember these great stories, consider keeping a "Gratitude and Attitude Journal." This idea, from the National Council of Catholic Women, is perfect for individuals or families. Simply get a notebook (decorate it, if you like) and write entries each day. Suggestions include: "Today I am grateful to God for . . ." and "I pray for God's help and guidance in . . ." and "I find joy in . . ." Tracking these daily thoughts keep our minds and hearts on the Lord, which equips us to share with others.

The richness of our faith means there is always something more — more to learn, more to share, more to experience as disciples of Jesus Christ!

**THE NATIONAL** Diocesan Council of Catholic Women has compiled a collection of program ideas for evangelization within our parishes. Peoria DCCW will be sharing some of these ideas, as well as others inspired by the national program, We Are Called to Witness, periodically here in The Catholic Post. If your parish women's group is affiliated with PDCCW, you can have access to the entire program. Contact Kim Padan, evangelization chair, Catholic speaker, and member of St. Paul Parish in Danville — at kim@gabrielsmom.com.



# ‘Bridges Out of Poverty’ focus of workshop at Sophia’s Kitchen

The causes of poverty and the resources needed to escape it will be explored in “Bridges Out of Poverty,” which is planned for Saturday, Sept. 17, at Sophia’s Kitchen in Peoria. Cosponsored with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, the workshop will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

It will focus on Dr. Ruby Payne’s research, which was published in “Bridges Out of Poverty: Strategies for Professionals and Communities,” and is designed to help people understand the issues and make positive changes in the community.

The cost for the day is \$5, which in-

cludes lunch. Copies of Payne’s book will be available for \$20. Cash or checks made payable to “Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Peoria Council” will be accepted at the door, although registration is required by Sept. 9.

To register, call (309) 655-1578 or sign up online by visiting [sacredheartpeoria.com](http://sacredheartpeoria.com), clicking on the link for Sophia’s Kitchen, and then clicking on the link in the Bridges Out of Poverty Workshop item.

Sophia’s Kitchen is located in the parish hall of St. Joseph Church, 103 Richard Pryor Place.

# Bloomington K of C council honored

BLOOMINGTON — Father John D. Ring Council 574 of the Knights of Columbus has received the organization’s Food for Families Award for 2016. The award was presented to Grand Knight Tony Kiley and Deputy Grand Knight Dan Carmany by Mike Tomlianovich, financial secretary of the council, at the Aug. 18 meeting.

Council 574, which serves the Bloom-

ington parishes of Holy Trinity, Historic St. Patrick and St. Mary, has collected more than 1,000 pounds of items. These were donated to the food pantry sponsored by the St. Vincent de Paul conference hosted by Holy Trinity Parish.

Carmany was credited with being instrumental in achieving the requirements for the award.

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