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McHenry's St. Mary Celebrates 125 Years

BY PAT SZPEKOWSKI
Observer Correspondent

MCHENRY—"You are linked to Mary," said Bishop David Malloy to parishioners during an evening Mass on the Feast of the Assumption, Aug. 15, at St. Mary Parish, here.

The day held special significance as the parish commemorated its founding on Aug. 15, 1894, and celebrated 125 years of service to God and the community. The parish began with 125 families of German descent.

Over 150 parishioners attended the Mass celebrated by Bishop Malloy with pastor Father David Austin and other McHenry pastors — Father Godwin

In his homily, Bishop Malloy recalled how on this feast day of Mary 125 years ago the first Mass was said in the church.

"Look back at those years and see how the graces of the Church and faith have spread in this area," he said.

"With God's gift of Himself, He has kept people of this parish and their faith on fire."

He praised the founders and remarked on the beauty of the German-made stained glass windows in the church.

"There were countless donors, big and small, who sacrificed for this church," Bishop Malloy said.

Following Mass, everyone gathered outside the church as the light of day faded to watch Bishop Malloy bless a 125th anniversary commemorative plaque.

Many long time parishioners, such as Bernice Diedrich, 91, and Stella Vogt, 93, are still active and attended the anniversary Mass. They reminisced about the past and the present.

"My grandfather Stephen Freund helped build this church," said Deidrich, who was baptized at St. Mary 91 years ago and was married to her late husband, Bob, there in 1947.

"My five children were baptized here, too," she added, "and my daughter Pat Wagner taught at our parish school for 40 years."

Vogt and her late husband, Bob, joined St. Mary's in 1944 and raised their three children here.

"This is such a nice parish," she said, "with wonderful people."

A reception followed outside under a tent in the church's backyard. Parish members shared anniversary cake and mingled with Bishop Malloy and Father Austin.

This is such a nice parish with wonderful people.'

— Stella Vogt, 93, life-long St. Mary parishioner

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Extra

Look for additional photos for digital subscribers in The Observer Online.



Bernice Diedrich (right), a life-long member of St. Mary Parish, meets with Bishop David Malloy following the 125th anniversary Mass.



(Observer photos/Dan Szpekowski)

St. Mary parishioners, Mary Pollock and her daughter Sandy Pollock, place roses by the statue of Mary at the Mass for the 125th anniversary of the parish held on the Feast of the Assumption, Aug. 15.

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DAC to close Sept. 2
The Diocesan Administration Center in Rockford will be closed Sept. 2 for Labor Day.

Next paper Sept. 6
The next issue of The Observer will be on Sept. 6.

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Silver and Gold
Mass honors married couples.

St. Stanislaus Kostka Celebrates Polish Heritage Aug. 18

Sadie Zabinski and Krystyna Brazgon (right) from the St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish religious education program sell raffle tickets at Polish Fest in Rockford.



To Acknowledge God is Our First Task



BY BISHOP
DAVID J.
MALLOY

"I am the Lord thy God. Thou shalt not have strange gods before me." (see Ex 20:2-3).

From our study of the catechism in our earliest years, we recognize that this is the first of the Ten Commandments.

It is at the top of the list of the commandments that Moses brought down to the Israelites from Mount Sinai for a very good reason. The human race, wounded by original sin, then and now, lost its original and deep connection with the God who created us. As a result, the ability to recognize the one true God and to see in Him the fulfillment of all that we have been made for is weakened.

That scene described in the Book of Exodus happened over 3,000 years ago. But the fundamental reality expressed by the First Commandment presents a very real challenge to modern society.

To say "I am the Lord your God" is, first, to tell us that God does indeed exist. Our society is increasingly based in the assumption that there is no God. Instead, we rely on human ingenuity, on science, and on an

expansion of the state to try and create a better world.

However, the denial of the author of all reality, of the one who made us, will not fail to have its consequences.

From God flows truth and moral clarity. He is the source of faith, hope and love. We need only read human history to see how a failure to be led by God leads to violence and death, the imposition of the strong over the weak and a general hopelessness in thinking this life is all there is.

The First Commandment also tells us that there is only one True God. It is therefore not true that all gods are really the same. Or that some are saved by Jesus, others by their own gods.

There are of course other false gods in today's world. Perhaps the most obvious competing "god" is money and the acquisition of worldly goods. This is a temptation in every age because it allows us to trust the true God less to take care our daily needs. If one has wealth, there is a sense that suffering can be held at bay. We then don't need God as much to give us our daily bread.

To follow the true God in our materialistic age we need to ask ourselves, am I detached from wealth and its pursuit? Am I

sharing with the poor, donating to the Church and to charity? Is my heart truly focused on God more than things of this world?

Another "god" prominent in our age is power. Think of the increasing harshness and destructiveness of our modern politics fueled as it is, not by a search for the common good but by the quest for power.

What about the "god" of pleasure? We live in a time where we are constantly urged to choose between God and the sexual revolution. The decline in family life, the large number of people who suffer from loneliness, the loss of faith by so many, especially our young people, is the result of unnatural honoring of this "god" out of its rightful place in our lives and our world.

To acknowledge the one true God is our first task in this world. It is the message and the guidance given to us through our Catholic faith. Following that one true God and witnessing to Jesus Christ will require sacrifice and prayer. But it leads to human fulfillment and happiness, in this world and in the life to come.

To love the one true God is not simply a command. It is the roadmap to our home that awaits us.

The denial of the author of all reality, of the one who made us, will not fail to have its consequences.

Apostles' Miracles Show Christ's Divinity



BY POPE
FRANCIS

From the General Audience, Paul VI Audience Hall, Aug. 7

In the Acts of the Apostles, preaching the Gospel does not rely simply on words, but also on the concrete actions that bear witness to the truth of the Good News. It is a case of "wonders and signs" (Acts 2:43) performed by the Apostles confirming their word and demonstrating that they act in the name of Christ. Thus the Apostles interceded and Christ "worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that attended it" (Mk 16:20).

Many signs, many miracles that the Apostles performed were indeed a manifestation of the divinity of Jesus.

Today we find ourselves before the first account of healing, before a miracle which is the first account of healing in the Book of the Acts of the Apostles. It has a clear missionary aim which seeks to kindle faith.

Peter and John go to pray at the Temple, the centre of Israel's experience of faith, to which the early Christians were firmly attached. The first Christians used to pray in the Temple in Jerusalem.

Luke records the time: it is the ninth hour, that is 3 p.m., when the sacrifice is offered as a sign of the people's communion with

their God; and the time at which Jesus died, offering himself "once for all" (Heb 9:12; 10:10).

At the Temple door which is referred to as "beautiful" — the beautiful door — they see a beggar, a man paralyzed from birth.

Why was that man at the door? Because the law of Moses (see Lv 21:18) forbade the offering of sacrifices by people with physical disabilities, which were believed to be the consequence of some sin.

Let us remember that, faced with a man who was blind from birth, the people had asked Jesus, "Who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" (Jn 9:2). According to that mindset, there was always a sin at the root of a deformity. And later, they were even denied access to the temple.

The lame man, the paradigm of society's many excluded and rejected, is there begging for alms, as he does every day. He cannot enter but he is at the door, when something unexpected happens. Peter and John arrive and an exchange of glances is sparked.

The lame man looks at the two to beg for alms. The Apostles instead fix their gaze on him, inviting him to look at them in a different way, to receive a different gift.

The lame man looks at them, and Peter says to him: "I have no silver and gold, but I give you what I have; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk" (see Acts 3:6).

The Apostles have established a relationship because this is the way that God loves to manifest Himself, in relationships, always in dialogue, always in the apparitions, always with the heart's inspiration. They are God's relationships with us through a true interpersonal encounter which can happen through love.

In addition to being the religious center, the temple was also a place for economic and financial exchange. The prophets and Jesus himself had often lashed out against this abasement (see Lk 19:45-46).

How often I think of this when I see parishes that think money is more important than the sacraments! Please! (Let us have) a poor Church. Let us ask the Lord for this.

In meeting the Apostles, that beggar does not find money but he finds the name that saves man — Jesus Christ, the Nazarene. ...

Let us not forget: a hand always outstretched to help the other to stand up ... is the hand of Jesus who, through our hand, helps others to stand.



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Sept. 11 Blue Mass in Shannon Changes Venue

After years at fire station, Mass moves to St. Wendelin

SHANNON—The annual Knights of Columbus Blue Mass in honor of the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, will switch things up a bit this year.

Since the first Sept. 11 Blue Mass at St. Wendelin Parish in 2002, participants have gathered at the church and walked in procession to the Shannon Fire Station a couple of blocks away for the Mass. This year the event will flow in the opposite direction.

On Sept. 11, participants — including area fire fighters, police and emergency medical technicians as well as the general public — will gather at 6:30 p.m. at the Shannon Fire Station on S. Hickory St. one block off Hwy. 72, then process

over to and down Main Street (Hwy. 72) to St. Wendelin Church for the Mass.

The Mass welcomes all denominations. It will be celebrated by Father Michael Bolger, pastor, and possibly additional priests from the area. The Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus will serve as honor guard.

“The Blue Mass is a service honoring the men and women, current and retired, who devote their lives to serving our communities under both routine and dangerous situations,” say organizers. This is the only Blue Mass in the diocese celebrated every year on Sept. 11.

St. Wendelin Church is located at 18 Linn Street in Shannon, south of Freeport on Hwy. 26 then west on Hwy. 72. Light refreshments will follow the Mass. All are welcome.

Info: Bill Spoerlein, 815-541-9420

100th Anniversary To Remember Past, Welcome Future

ROCKFORD—St. Patrick Parish will celebrate 100 years on the west side of Rockford on Aug. 31 with a 4 p.m. Mass followed by a reception.

Bishop David Malloy will serve as main celebrant, joined by priests who have served at the parish and Father Jhakson Garcia, current parochial administrator.

The first parish Mass was offered on Aug. 31, 1919, in Rockford’s St. Thomas High School, which served as the temporary

church.

Ground was broken in 1920, and the first, also-temporary, church was a building moved from Camp Grant. The church was named for St. Patrick by an Irish donor.

Work on the current church building began on June 8, 1950, and it was dedicated in 1952 by Bishop John J. Boylan.

A parish school was begun in 1929 and thousands of students were taught there over 66 years

Continued on page 5



Bishop David Malloy, assisted by Deacon Thomas McKenna, proceeds through a simple ceremony where seminarians Joshua Moore and Connor Orabutt publicly express their intention to study for the priesthood. They were joined by family, friends, a few seminarians and Father Kyle Manno, vocations director.

Two Seminarians Take Important Step

BY AMANDA HUDSON
News Editor

ROCKFORD—Seminarians Joshua Moore and Connor Orabutt, both of whom soon will begin their first year of theological studies at St. Mary-of-the-Lake Seminary in Mundelein, took an important step in their vocations discernment on Aug. 15.

That first step of candidacy, Bishop David Malloy said, is a matter of “declaring oneself to be willing to go forward, (with) everything else kind of flowing from there.”

Such declarations are a quiet step, he said, “but they are very, very significant for Connor and Josh and everyone else who undertakes them.

“At each step, it’s a reminder that you are drawing closer to that point where you receive and take on, as a lifelong responsibility, the calling that you and the Church have discerned to have (come) from Christ himself.”

Referring to what was in the ceremony’s reading from St. Paul, Bishop Malloy said, “Do not expect this to be an easy



(Observer photos/Amanda Hudson)

With Bishop David Malloy (center) are Joshua Moore (right) and Connor Orabutt. Both seminarians begin theological studies this year.

life with rose petals. There will be lots of moments of joy; there will be lots of moments of affirmation ... (but) you’re being called to something which, particularly today, is challenging. It’s counter cultural.”

He noted that many people will be asking “Why?” when told about their path.

“We know why we do that,” the bishop said. “It is because we are called to do it. Because Christ has, for some reason outside of the merits of any of

us, reached out and said, ‘You, come, and follow me.’ And it’s as real today as it was 2,000 years ago ...

“If He has called you, He will make you happy; He will make you joyful; He will make you strong. He will walk you through the kinds of challenges that (St.) Paul talked about.

“And it is all worth it. Not only is it worth it to you, it’s worth it, and it’s necessary, to all of the rest of us. It’s worth it to the Church.”

Bishop Malloy’s Public Schedule

WONDER LAKE — Aug. 24, 4 p.m., Mass for the 70th Anniversary of Parish Founding, Christ the King Church

ROCKFORD — Aug. 25, 7:30 a.m., Sunday Mass, Cathedral of St. Peter

AURORA — Aug. 25, 4:30 p.m., Aurora Deanery Council of Catholic Women’s Women of Inspiration Dinner, Pipers Banquets

ROCKFORD — Aug. 28, 8 a.m., Ribbon Cutting and New School Blessing at All Saints Catholic Academy

ROCKFORD — Aug. 31, 4 p.m., Mass and Parish Visit for

100th Anniversary at St. Patrick Church

ROCKFORD — Sept. 1, 7:30 a.m., Sunday Mass, Cathedral of St. Peter

ROCKFORD — Sept. 4, 5:30 p.m., Confirmation, St. Patrick Church

HAMPSHIRE — Sept. 7, 5 p.m., Mass for 90th Anniversary of School Opening, St. Charles Borromeo Church

ROCKFORD — Sept. 8, 7:30 a.m., Sunday Mass, Cathedral of St. Peter

STERLING — Sept. 8, 11:30 a.m., Mass and Parish Visit at St. Mary Church

ROCKFORD — Sept. 10, 11:15 a.m., Presbytery Day, St. Rita Church

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Bishop David Malloy honors hundreds of couples whose marriages total more than 14,700 years at the annual Silver and Gold Mass Aug. 18 at St. Mary Parish in Huntley.

Silver and Gold

Married Couples Honored at Annual Mass Aug. 18 in Huntley

BY
MARGARITA
MENDOZA
El Observador
Editor

TOO Digital
<http://observer.rockforddiocese.org>

Extra

Look for names of all the couples honored at the Silver and Gold Mass in a section for digital subscribers in *The Observer Online*.

HUNTLEY— This year 303 couples participated in the traditional Silver and Gold celebration, Aug. 18 at St. Mary Parish, here.

Some brought family members and friends to share the day. All received a blessing from Bishop David Malloy.

“Marriage is a gift and as any gift comes from the hand but also from the heart of the giver. In this case, it is a gift that you have received from God,” said Bishop Malloy in his homily.

On his visits around the Rockford Diocese, couples have told the bishop the Silver and Gold Mass is motivational.

“I’ve been approached by

participants during the year,” the bishop said. Some have told him how proud they are because they took part in a Silver and Gold Mass.

Others have said, “We were there and have never forgotten,” according to Bishop Malloy.

Still others mentioned looking forward “to seeing you on Sunday, (Aug.) 18,” or “we can’t wait” or “it means so much to us.” I hear it time and again,” said Bishop Malloy.

The Silver and Gold celebration “was a beautiful day full of light and joy. There was a smile on everyone’s face,” said Jennifer Collins, director of the diocesan Life and Family Evangelization Office, which coordinates the event.

“Marriage and family are not



(Observer photos/Margarita Mendoza)

Bishop David Malloy poses with Earl and Lois Lungstrom at the Aug. 18 Silver and Gold Mass and reception at St. Mary Parish in Huntley. The Lungstroms were married 71 years ago at St. Edward Parish in Rockford. They are now parishioners of St. James, Belvidere. They met while roller skating in Rockford.

just a generic concept,” said the bishop, they are as unique as their anecdotes, like one from Cesar A. and Gladys H. Vega, parishioners of St. Mary in Huntley.

“We have two kids and three grandchildren,” said Gladys.

“When we were leaving on our honeymoon, it was the same day the men landed on the moon. We stayed watching TV until (they were) on the moon and because of that we missed the flight.”

They married on July 19, 1969, and had July 20 tickets for their honeymoon.

Michael and Bernadine McGinnis, parishioners of St. Mary of the Assumption in Maple Park, took their 70th anniversary with humor.

Those are “65 of the happiest years of our life,” said Michael.

His wife explained he says that because, “The first five years he was a slow learner.”



Margot and Walter Sormane pose with Bishop David Malloy. They were married in France 61 years ago and are parishioners of St. Mary in Huntley. Margot said the secret of a happy marriage is “giving all the time and saying yes.”



(Observer photo/Margarita Mendoza)

Wedded Wisdom

Couples, such as Carol and Emile Bataille, had a chance to offer “Wedded Wisdom” by writing advice to other couples at the Silver and Gold Mass, Aug. 18.

Among the tips are:

“Don’t argue! Be the best friends, share everything.”

— Edward L. and Patricia E. Hoff, 60 years, St. Rita Parish in Rockford

“Always show and give respect to each other. Don’t stay mad. Keep your marriage commitment. Try to be unselfish and please each other. Always try to be forgiving.”

— David and Theresa Burdelak, 50 years, Holy Cross Parish in Batavia

“Live the Sacramental life.”
— James and Carrie Shannon, 25 years, St. Peter Parish in Spring Grove

Look for more “Wedded Wisdom” in the Sept. 13 *Forever Family* section of *The Observer*.

St. Stanislaus Kostka Celebrates Polish Heritage Aug. 18



Two-year-old Abraham Kelly smiles before finishing his hot dog while sitting on his grandmother Jan Stephens' lap.



Polish dancers perform at the 38th Polish Fest, Aug. 18, on the grounds of St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish in Rockford.



Fred Foster (left) and Nolan Hancock grill hot dogs and Polish sausage at Polish Fest



Polish baked goods are sold at Polish Fest, along with the other traditional favorite dishes such as Polish pancakes, cooked this year (photo at right) by Grazyna Kosinski (foreground) and Andrezej Mekalsky.



(Observer photos/Lynne Conner)



Elizabeth Schindler helps out at the apparel tent during Polish Fest.



Mitchell Lotko and his mother, Joanne, look over silent auction items at Polish Fest. They are parishioners of St. Rita in Rockford.

100th Anniversary To Remember ...

From page 3 before it closed in 1995.

The early Irish heritage has been reflected in the longtime, annual Corned Beef and Cabbage St. Patrick's Day dinner hosted by the parish for more than eight decades now. St. Patrick Parish has evolved into a mixed-heritage parish, offering two weekend Masses in English and two in Spanish reflecting that diversity.

"St. Patrick's is an amazing church, that's why I've stayed here so long. It's just a great church to be in," says almost-25-year parish staffer Brenda

Weigelt.

"We just want to celebrate all the past," she says of the Aug. 31 celebration, noting the parish sent invitations to however many former parishioners they could find, asking area parishes to help them get the word out.

Photos of all the graduating classes from the school, from 1931 to 1995, will be displayed, she says, along with slide shows of as many photographs as could be found.

"We want to let people walk down Memory Lane," she says. "It will be just a time to

come together and socialize, remember the past and enjoy the present.

"And also a time to look to the future of the faith and of the church."

St. Patrick Parish will be hosting other events in the months ahead to make the 100th anniversary a year-long celebration.

The bilingual anniversary Mass will "Celebrate the Past; Live the Present; and Be the Future" as it welcomes past and present parishioners on Aug. 31.



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News in Brief

Police in Wyoming recommend sex abuse charges against retired bishop

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Last August, a police department in Wyoming put out a public call looking for information regarding alleged sex abuse relating to Catholic clergy. Though they didn't name anyone in particular, it was no secret they were looking into allegations surrounding retired Bishop Joseph H. Hart. Now authorities in Cheyenne are recommending sex abuse charges be brought against an unnamed clergy member, believed to be the retired 87-year-old bishop, as well as against a second unnamed "person seeking membership" in the Catholic clergy for accusations of abuse that may have occurred in the 1970s and 1980s, said an Aug. 14 news release by the Cheyenne Police Department. "The investigation stems from a case initiated in 2002 that was reopened in 2018 when new information was produced and provided to the Cheyenne Police Department by an independent investigation conducted by the Wyoming Diocese of the Catholic Church," the release said.

Planned Parenthood to withdraw from Title X without 'judicial relief'

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS)—Attorneys for the Planned Parenthood Federation of American told the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in an Aug. 14 letter that the organization would have to withdraw from the federal Title X program by the close of business



(CNS photo/Lawrence Bryant, Reuters)

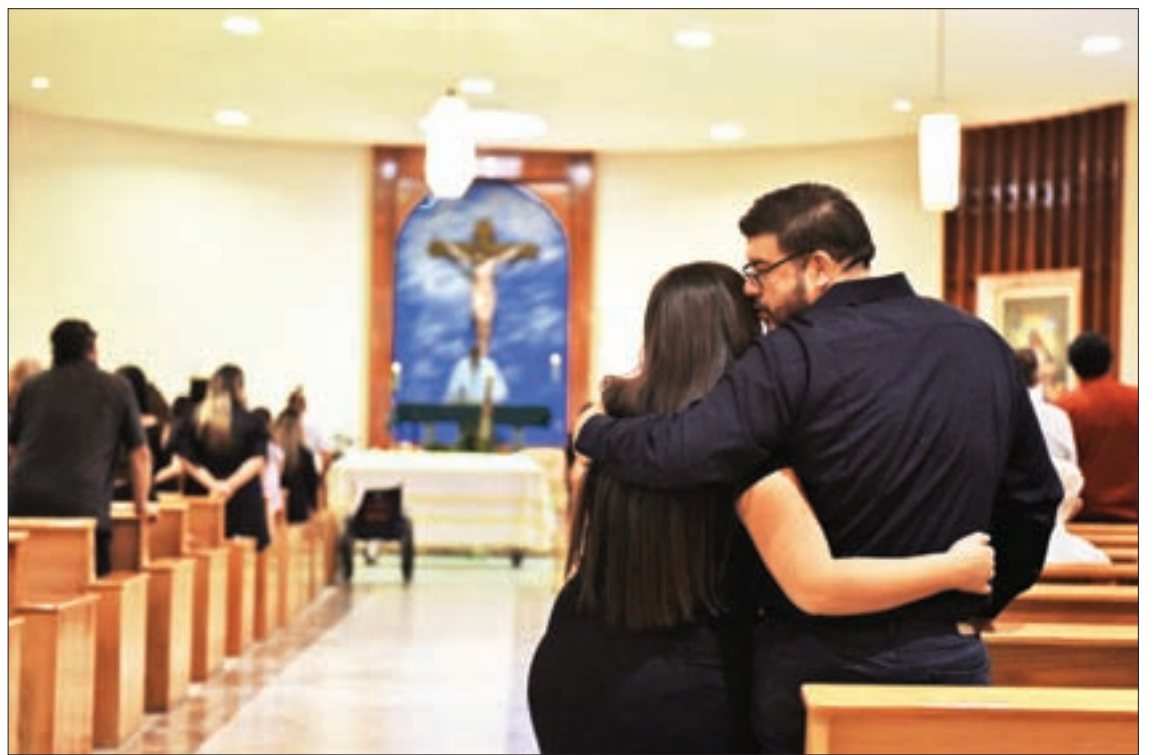
Planned Parenthood employees stand outside the facility during protests in St. Louis May 31.

Aug. 19 "absent emergency judicial relief." The appeals court is hearing a legal challenge to the Trump administration's "Protect Life Rule" to bar Title X funds from being used for promoting or providing abortion as family planning. On July 11, the court in a 7-4 decision said that even as court cases challenging it proceed, the rule

can take effect. An emergency stay had been sought by some abortion rights advocates. Catherine Glenn Foster, president and CEO of Americans United for Life, said in an Aug. 15 statement Planned Parenthood knows this decision "will feed its reality distortion field that, despite being one of the most generously tax-funded nonprofits in America, it is somehow being attacked simply because the Department of Health and Human Services wishes to respect congressional intent. And Congress was clear: Title X was never meant to fund abortions. The law is clear."

Fearing threat, Pittsburgh church cancels summertime parish festival

WASHINGTON (CNS)—A church in the Diocese of Pittsburgh announced Aug. 13 it was canceling a popular summer event, its parish festival, after receiving what it called "a disturbing message." In a news release, the diocese only said that an office in its pastoral center received a handwritten letter that said "cancel August 14-17 Festival Security Problem is Huge," and that "only one parish, Our Lady of Grace in Scott, was scheduled to hold a festival on those dates. ... Although there was no direct threat, the letter raised grave concern due to the appalling chain of mass violence that our nation has experienced," the diocese said. "Father David Bonnar, the priest-administrator, was immediately notified, and he immediately notified law enforcement. The sender has not been identified, so Father Bonnar announced today, with deep regret, that the festival has been canceled." In an Aug. 13 story, the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review daily newspaper said the priest was worried about safety and didn't want to risk loss of life, even if it meant the parish would lose money.



(CNS photo/Callaghan O'Hare, Reuters)

Recalling Texas Shooting Victim at Funeral Mass

Friends and family attend the funeral Mass of Juan Velazquez at Our Lady of the Light Church in El Paso, Texas, Aug. 9, six days after he was killed in a shooting at a Walmart store in El Paso, Texas.

Opinion on Abortion's Legality Mostly Unchanged

WASHINGTON (CNS)—While a survey of more than 54,000 Americans showed little change in their attitudes between 2014 and 2018 on the legality of abortion, researchers detected movement in many demographic groups, Catholics included.

Natalie Jackson, director of research for the Public Religion Research Institute, said the changes in attitude reflect the nation's political divisions.

According to the survey, which was released Aug. 13, 54% of Americans believe abortion should be legal in all or most cases, while 40% be-

lieve it should be illegal in most or all cases. "These numbers are essentially unchanged since 2014," the survey said.

Catholics "mirror the rest of the country pretty closely, particularly white Catholics," Jackson said. Fifty-three percent of white Catholics believe most or all abortions should be legal compared to 40% who say most or all should be illegal, she said, "so they're right in line" with the majority of Americans.

However, "when you look at Hispanic Catholics, you're looking at a different picture," she told CNS.

A majority of Hispanics, 52%,

believe abortion should be illegal in most or all instances, while 41% hold the opposite view.

Sixteen percent of Hispanic Catholics said they've become less supportive of abortion over time, while 11% said they'd become more supportive. Among white Catholics, 8% said they're now more supportive, but 9% report growing less supportive.

Among other nonwhite Catholics, 13% say they've grown more supportive of abortion, as opposed to 9% who say they're now less supportive.

Find the full PRRI survey on abortion attitudes at <https://bit.ly/31tLOUa>.

African Bishop: Church Must Work To End Violence Against Albinos

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS)—The Church in Africa must work to end violence against people with albinism through its schools and other education efforts, said Bishop Sitembele Sipuka of Mthatha, South Africa, first vice president of the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar.

The symposium, known as SECAM, condemns "all forms of violence against albinos," from murders to mutilations to harmful attitudes, the bishop said in an Aug. 14 telephone interview. "It's the mindset that needs to be changed," he added, noting that superstitions are entrenched.

About 150 people with albinism have been killed for their body parts since 2014 in countries that include Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique and Congo. With 76 murders,



(CNS photo/Carlo Allegri, Reuters)

Emmanuel Rutema and Baraka Lusambo, Tanzanian youths with albinism who had limbs chopped off in witchcraft rituals, talk during an art class in the Staten Island borough of New York City Jan. 28.

Tanzania reported the highest number of killings, Amnesty International said in an Aug. 14 statement from Johannesburg.

"These waves of violent attacks are fueled by the false and dangerous myth that body

parts of persons with albinism can make someone rich," it said.

The body of a person with albinism can bring many thousands of dollars on the black market.

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Vatican Official: Church Must be Prudent about Medjugorje

KNOCK, Ireland (CNS)—Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina, is a place of prayer, conversion and pilgrimage for millions of people, but the Church must be prudent and not rush to any judgment on the alleged Marian apparitions there, said Archbishop Rino Fisichella, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization.

Speaking to Catholic News Service at Knock Shrine in County Mayo Aug. 15 Archbishop Fisichella spoke of attending the first officially approved Church festival at Medjugorje in early August.

“I confess the experience was very beautiful, seeing about 70,000 young people praying and living together and listening to catechesis,” he told CNS, describing it as a mini-World Youth Day.

As always, when confronted with an apparition, the Church



(CNS photo/Sarah Mac Donald)

Archbishop Rino Fisichella

“is always prudent,” Archbishop Fisichella said.

In May 2018, Pope Francis named Polish Archbishop Henryk Hosier as apostolic visitor to the shrine, after a papal commission recommended that Medjugorje, which attracts up to 3 million visitors annually, be designated a pontifical shrine with Vatican oversight. A ban on pilgrimages organized by

dioceses and parishes was then lifted by papal decree.

Some of the six visionaries say Mary still appears to them daily and gives them messages. However, in 2017, when asked about this, Pope Francis appeared to doubt the ongoing nature of these apparitions.

Differentiating between the Vatican’s pastoral care of Medjugorje and the doctrinal study of the apparitions, Archbishop Fisichella said that, following the papal commission’s conclusions, “we are now in another step (phase) in order to understand what happened in Medjugorje.”

“We need to understand all of this together: why there is such a huge number of pilgrims, of prayers and to understand also how the possible apparitions in Medjugorje (relate) to the life of the Church. ...

“To rush this delicate matter is a mistake.”

Illinois Bishop Reflects Against Violence



(CNS photo/Bob Roller)

Bishop Edward K. Braxton of Belleville, pictured at the fall general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, recently wrote a pastoral letter that advised Catholics not to expect God to intervene to stop gun violence. “Here on earth, God’s work must truly be our own,” he said and asked Catholic leaders — clergy, religious and lay — to establish opportunities to pray for an end to gun violence and to search for solutions to gun violence.

Attorneys: Allegation against S.C. Bishop ‘Provably False’

CHARLESTON, S.C. (CNS)—Attorneys for Bishop Robert E. Guglielmono of Charleston released a statement Aug. 14 saying that the allegations of sexual abuse of a minor levied against him are “provably false.”

In the lawsuit, Powers v. Diocese of Rockville Centre, filed the same day in State Court in Nassau County, New York, the plaintiff alleged that Bishop Guglielmono sexually abused him in 1978 or 1979.

“These allegations are false,

provably false,” wrote attorneys Bruce Barket and Aida Leisenring. “As the plaintiff admitted to a family member, he made this up in order to get money from the Church (‘it’s worth a try,’ the plaintiff said).”

The statement continued: “Although he was under no obligation to do so, (the bishop) submitted himself to a polygraph examination, which he passed.”

“We will see the plaintiff in court and the bishop will be cleared,” they stated.

D.C. Priest Found Guilty

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CNS)—A Capuchin Franciscan priest was found guilty Aug. 15 of four counts of child sexual abuse from when he served as a parochial vicar at the Shrine of the Sacred Heart, here.

Father Urbano Vazquez, who served at the shrine from 2014 until his November 2018 arrest, was found guilty in D.C. Superior Court on three felony counts of second-degree child sexual assault with aggravating circumstances, and on one misdemeanor count of sexual abuse of a child.

The verdicts came after an eight-day trial and two days of jury deliberation. Father Vazquez, 46, will be sentenced in November and faces a maximum sentence of up to 45 years in prison.

Last March, Father Vazquez turned down a plea deal, and opted for a jury trial. He has maintained his innocence since the accusations first surfaced.

All the victims were members of the shrine parish, which serves a predominately Spanish-speaking community.

News in Brief

Yearlong ‘window’ in New York statute of limitations on abuse suits opens

ALBANY, N.Y. (CNS)—New York state’s yearlong “window” in the statute of limitations opened Aug. 14, allowing suits to be filed by victims alleging abuse by priests, Church workers and employees of public schools, hospitals and other institutions no matter how long ago the alleged abuse occurred. Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed the Child Victims Act into law Feb. 14, opening this window in the state’s statute of limitations and making it easier for abuse victim-survivors to sue over the next year. The state’s Catholic bishops supported the final measure because it was drafted to include both private and public institutions. Earlier versions only targeted the Catholic Church.

As Calif. novena ends, Christians urged to be society’s ‘moral conscience’

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS)—Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of San Francisco called for Christians to be the “moral conscience” of society during a Mass marking the end of a novena against an upcoming abortion bill. From Aug. 3 to Aug. 11, California dioceses and archdioceses prayed a novena for the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe to defeat a measure approved by the state Senate, S.B. 24, which would require state college and university health centers to stock medication abortion pills. The state Assembly was expected to take up the bill soon after the Legislature’s Aug. 12 return from its recess. In his homily for the 9 a.m. Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral, the archbishop spoke about the culture of death’s expression in society and how Christians can respond to it. He began by citing a recent *New York Times* editorial that called for embracing the basic values that have historically glued American society together.



(CNS photo/Debra Greenblatt, Archdiocese of San Francisco Office of Human Life & Dignity)

Worshippers pray the rosary at San Francisco’s Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption before Mass Aug. 11.

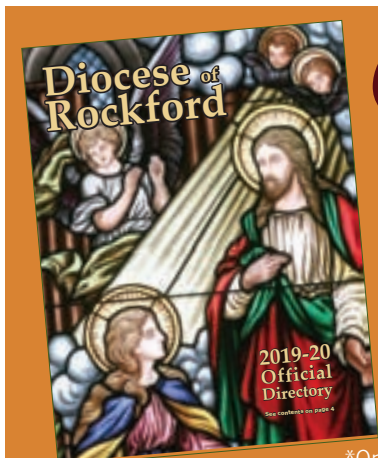
Catholic peace advocates commemorate Hiroshima, Nagasaki anniversaries

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- About 40 peace advocates representing about a dozen religious communities held a special Hiroshima and Nagasaki Commemoration Prayer Service of Repentance midday Aug. 9 outside the White House in Washington. It was the 74th anniversary of the United States dropping an atomic bomb on Nagasaki, Japan, killing about 74,000 people. Three days earlier, the group held a similar observance at the Pentagon to mark the Aug. 6, 1945, bombing by the U.S. of Hiroshima, killing more than 100,000 people. It was the first atomic bomb used in warfare. Japan surrendered Aug. 15. Organizers of the commemoration said the public witness called on the U.S. government to repent for the bombings of Japan and urged the abolition of all nuclear weapons worldwide. Anniversary actions and events were held Aug. 6-9 in Hiroshima and Nagasaki as well as at nuclear weapons facilities throughout the U.S. In Washington, the peace group heard from Michiko Kodama, who, at age 7, experienced the Hiroshima atomic bombing. At 82, she is now the assistant secretary-general of the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations.



(CNS photo/courtesy Art Laffin)

Michiko Kodama (far right) is seen in Washington with other peace activists Aug. 9.



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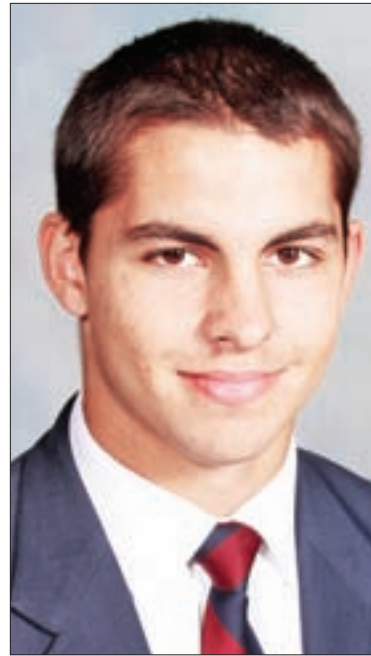


(Photo provided)



Aurora's Holy Angels Holds Family Fest

Holy Angels Parish in Aurora held its third annual Family Fest recently. Parishioners were treated to live music, a caricature artist (above), bingo (left), cake walk, snow cones, dinner (below) and more.



(Photo provided)

Paul Bageanis

OLSH Grad Signs to Division 2 Football

ROCKFORD—Paul Bageanis received a tweet Aug. 6 from Trey Brock, a new free agent wide receiver for the Kansas City Chiefs.

Bageanis, a graduate of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Academy in Rockford, left Aug. 10 to begin playing football for Hillsdale College, Brock's alma mater.

"Exciting doesn't begin to describe it," Bageanis says. "He told me to put God at the center of my life, and when practice is over to keep working, even if people give me funny looks."

"I'm proud of Paul," says John Guth, former football coach of the OLSH Guardians.

"I've known him since he was in kindergarten, an ambitious hard worker. Paul in life is Paul on the field: he plays hard, and he plays clean."

"Hillsdale will be good," Bageanis says. "It's an old-fashioned place; where it's OK to work hard and do your best, and it has a strong Catholic community." Three of his former OLSH classmates are there.

In his four years of high school football, Bageanis earned several all-conference and all-state awards as running back and linebacker, and was twice recognized as an all-state academic player. In 2017-18, he made history playing for the academy, the smallest IHSA school in the state to form a football team.

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Academy in Rockford celebrates its 20th anniversary this year as a non-diocesan, private, classical liberal arts college-preparatory school with a Catholic philosophy.

Going on Now

BATAVIA

40 Days for Life sign-up: Holy Cross Parish, 2300 Main St., is participating in several 40 Days for Life events beginning Sept. 24, including a kick-off Mass at 7 p.m. Sept. 23 and prayers at the Aurora Planned Parenthood facility. Sign up after Masses Sept. 7 and 8. Info: 630-879-4750

Send Details

Friends of the Poor Walks: St. Vincent de Paul Society will host its annual Friends of the Poor Walk in September. Please send your parish's date, time, place and sign-up information to us by Aug. 28.

'Tootsie Roll' drives: The Intellectual Disabilities, or "Tootsie Roll" fund drive weekend will be Sept. 20 and 21. Please send your Knights of Columbus council's dates, times and places by Sept. 4.

See submission information below.

Submit News

Parish, school and Catholic organization publicists may send news and photos about their upcoming and recent activities. Submissions will be forwarded to *El Observador* and to the diocesan calendar.

Deadline: 10 days before publication.

Online: Use the form at <http://observer.rockforddiocese.org/contact-us>. Click on Submit Events and News.

By Mail: Send to The Observer, P.O. Box 7044, Rockford, IL 61125.

Elsewhere

Aug 31

JOLIET DIOCESE

Mass for Life: 9-11 a.m.; Our Lady of Mercy, 701 S. Eola Road, Aurora. Celebrant: Bishop R. Daniel Conlon of the Joliet Diocese. Rosary procession after Mass to Planned Parenthood, about 1.4 miles; shuttle service available. Speaker: Nancy Kreuzer, abortion survivor. Info: Katherine Woltering, 312-810-0603; <https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/aurora/>

Sept 1

HUBERTUS, WIS.

Filipino Celebration Day: 10:30 a.m.; Holy Hill, 1525 Carmel Road. 12:30 p.m. Mass celebrant: Father Leo Patalinghug. Also 10:30 a.m. food prep by Father Patalinghug; 3 p.m. conference; 3:30 p.m. book signing. Free. Info: 262-628-1838; <https://www.holyhill.com/>

Save the Date

Sept 9

MCHENRY

Adult Bible study: 7-8:30 p.m. (first of seven Monday sessions); St. Patrick Parish Center-Library, 3500 Washington St. Using "Fulfilled" by Ascension Press to explore biblical roots of the Catholic Faith in the Old and New Testaments. Cost: \$27 (for materials). Info: Carleen Murphy, 815-385-0025, cmurphy@stpatrikmchenry.org; www.stpatrikmchenry.org

Let's Celebrate!



Come join us for Saint Patrick Church
100th Anniversary Mass



Saturday, August 31, 2019 at 4:00 pm

The Most Rev. David J. Malloy
Former Parish Priests

2505 School Street — Rockford, IL 61101

Did we miss something?

We know that human and technical errors have led to omissions of events and photos in *The Observer's* Around the Diocese section.

If you are a parish, school or Catholic organization publicist, you can help us with that.

We invite you to submit items online or by mail every week. But sometimes things get overlooked or lost.

If you send us information about an upcoming event and you haven't seen information at least 10 days (or two issues) before the event, call us at 815-399-4300.

We can try to get your event in the next issue of the paper.

And thanks for your help.
The Observer staff

Say 'Thank you, Father.'
Watch for this logo on *The Observer* Catholic Newspaper Facebook page and join us in praying for our priests.



Save the Date

Sept 11

CRYSTAL LAKE

Divorce healing: 6:30- 8 p.m. (Wednesdays through Dec. 11); St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, 1023 McHenry Ave. Surviving Divorce program developed by Rose Sweet, featuring Catholic experts and laypeople. Cost: \$15. Info: Margaret Oskorep, 847-224-6989, mjoskorep@att.net

HUNTLEY

Bible study: 7-8:30 p.m.; St. Mary, 10307 Dundee Road. Speaker: Deacon James Conrey. Topic: "Baffled by the Bible." Repeated 9 a.m. Sept. 14. Free. Info: Shirley Allen, 224-654-8596, sallan@stmaryhuntley.org; www.stmaryhuntley.org

ROCKFORD

Mental illness presentation:

6:30-7:30 p.m.; Cathedral of St. Peter Fellowship Hall, 1243 N. Church St. Presenters: NAMI of Northern Illinois. Topic: "Mental Illness 101 — Children and Depression or Suicide." Free; open to the public. Info: Barb Lundin, 815-877-9417, bjlundin34@comcast.net

SHANNON

9/11 Blue Mass: after 6:30 p.m. procession; St. Wendelin, 18 Linn St. Annual procession from Shannon fire station on South Hickory St. (off Illinois Rte. 72). For first responders, law enforcement and emergency personnel and their supporters. Info: Bill Spoerlein, 815-541-9420

What's Up

Wed Aug 28

Deadline for Sept. 6 What's Up (for events Sept. 9-15)

Fri Aug 30

APPLE RIVER

Fish boil: 4:30-7 p.m.; Apple River Event Center, 446 East Hickory St. Proceeds for St. Joseph Parish. Fish prepared by Gratiot (Wis.) Fire Department. Dine-in or carry-out. Cost: \$10 through Aug. 29; \$11 at the door; \$5 children under 12. Info: 815/745-2312

Sat Aug 31

HUNTLEY

Gifts of the Spirit: 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; St. Mary, 10307 Dundee Road. Seminar presenters: Father Max Striedl, pastor; Father Sean Grismer and team members from nearby parishes. Eucharist adoration and prayer. Free; light breakfast and lunch included. Info: Howie Gielow, 847-927-9264, howieg@foxvalley.net

ROCKFORD

100th anniversary Mass: 4 p.m.; St. Patrick, 2505 School St. Celebrants: Bishop David Malloy and former parish priests. Info: Brenda Weigelt, 815-965-9539, https://stppatrickrockford.org/

patrickrockford@sbcglobal.net

Mon Sept 2

Labor Day Diocesan Administration Center closed

MAYTOWN

Labor Day Mass: 10 a.m.; St. Michael Cemetery off Sublette Road. Celebrated by St. Patrick Parish, Maytown. Info: 815-849-5412

Tue Sept 3

BATAVIA

RCIA: 7-8:30 p.m. (introductory session); Holy Cross, 2300 Main St. Weekly meetings through Easter for people 16 and older who would like to join the Catholic Church or receive sacraments of baptism, confession, Communion and confirmation. Info: 630-879-4750, https://www.holycross-batavia.org/

Wed Sept 4

Deadline for Sept. 13 What's Up (for events Sept. 16-22)

AURORA

Parents' mixer: 7-8 p.m., Aurora Central Catholic High School cafetorium, 1255 N. Edgelawn Dr. Speaker: Dr. Beth Plachetka,

LCSW and ACC graduate. Topic: "You Have a High School Student ... Now What?" Adult beverages provided. Free, registration required. Info: 630-907-0095

Thu Sept 5

MCHENRY

Bereavement program: 6-8 p.m. (first of six Monday sessions); St. Patrick Parish Center-Library, 3500 Washington St. Seasons of Hope: Bereavement Support Group for those who have lost a loved one (no matter how long ago). Scripture, prayer, faith sharing and hospitality. Free. Info: Carleen Murphy, 815-385-0025, cmurphy@stpatrikmchenry.org, www.stpatrikmchenry.org

Fri Sept 6

GENEVA

WW Marriage Encounter: 8 p.m. Sept. 6-4:30 p.m. Sept. 8; location available to registrants. Weekend for couples to enrich and renew their marriages. Cost: \$90 application fee and donation. Info: alifetimeoflove.org, 888-574-5653

STERLING

San Juan de los Lagos: times vary (through Sept. 8); St. Mary,

509 Avenue B. Spanish Masses, confessions, rosaries and viewing of the traveling statue in the church. Info: Lupe Larson, 815-625-0640, larsonlupe@yahoo.com

Sat Sept 7

ROCKFORD

That Man is You: 6-8 a.m.; St. Rita Wahl Hall, 6254 Valley Knoll Drive. Sponsored by Men's Ministry. Free; walk-ins welcome. Info: Dale Dickinson, 815-979-0466, dfd.stritarockford@hotmail.com

Sun Sept 8

AURORA

Video night: 6-7:30 p.m.; Holy Angels Connor Hall, 120 S. Lancaster Ave. Documentary: "Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen—Servant of All" with Deacon Timothy White. RSVP by Sept. 4 at parish center. Free. Info: Mary Vaughan, 630-897-1194, http://www.holy-angels.org

Find more events at <http://www.rockforddiocese.org/calendar.php> or on *The Observer Catholic Newspaper Facebook page* and *between papers on our blog* at <http://observer.rockforddiocese.org/whats-up-plus>

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(Photos provided)

McHenry Deanery Respect Life Goes to the County Fair

The McHenry Deanery Respect Life booth at the McHenry County Fair, which took place the first week of August, is a regular attraction for families and those looking forward to starting a family. Among volunteers at the booth this year were (below left) Joe and Gloria Watson of St. Mary Parish in Woodstock and (below right) Karen and Steve Verr of St. Joseph Parish in Richmond.



Nun from Aurora Named Prioress

LUFKIN, Texas—Sister Mary Margaret of the Cross, OP, formerly known as Jane Gyoval, is the new prioress in her religious community, the Cloistered Dominican Nuns of the Order of Preachers at the Monastery of the Infant Jesus. It was established in the East Texas pinelands in 1945.

Sister Mary Margaret was a parishioner at Holy Angels Parish in Aurora and graduated from Rosary High School in 1967.

She made her first profession in 1975 at the Monastery of the

Infant Jesus. She served her community as bursar for 20 years, liturgist and organist for 30 years, and was in charge of maintenance for 30 years.

She served as her community's sub-prioress for nine years and now begins service as prioress.

The community has 22 sisters from throughout the United States as well as from Cuba, Mexico, Tanzania and Vietnam, according to their website.

"I loved growing up in Aurora," Sister Mary Margaret says as she reflects on her vocation.

"I had the Springfield Dominicans for all my schooling and entered that community right after high school. I stayed with them five years until I heard about the Monastery (of the Infant Jesus).

"Although I loved the children, I never had a desire to teach. So I let my vows expire and I entered the Monastery," Sister Mary Margaret says.

"I came here to praise God, to intercede for His people, and to serve," she adds. "The roles I have been assigned have giv-



(Photo provided)

Sister Mary Margaret of the Cross, OP

en me many opportunities to do these things — and for that, I am grateful.

"I ask prayers for myself, for our community and for vocations," she says.

The Dominican sisters' website describes their charism as "(striving) to embody the timeless ideals which our founder, St. Dominic, gave to his first nuns established at Prouilhe, France in 1206."

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Save the Date

Sept 12 ST. CHARLES
Fox Valley Women's Bible study: 9:15-11 a.m. (Thursdays through Nov. 21); St. Patrick, 6N491 Crane Road. For women from Fox Valley parishes. Topic: The Letter to the Romans. Age appropriate childcare provided. Cost: \$30. Info: Deb Davison, 630-845-0970

Sept 13 ST. CHARLES
Golf outing: 1 a.m. registration, noon shotgun start, Prairie Landing Golf Club, 2325 Longest Dr., West Chicago. Proceeds for Lazarus House. 18 holes of golf, lunch, dinner buffet, awards; raffles. Cost: \$175 per golfer. Info: <https://lazarushouse.net/lazarushouseopen/>

Sept 13-15 BATAVIA
Women's retreat: 7 p.m. Sept. 13-2 p.m. Sept. 15; Nazareth Spirituality Center, 717 N. Batavia Ave. Sponsor: Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary. Cost: \$100 (\$20 deposit with registration), includes lodging and meals. Info: : Linda Isleib, 630-879-1296, www.sscm-usa.org

Sept 14-15 BATAVIA
Tootsie Roll drive: various times and locations. Sponsors: Knights of Columbus Council 2191. 90% of funds raised help those with intellectual disabilities in the community; 10% help those in Illinois. Info: <http://kc2191.org/>

Sept 15 MCHENRY
Women of Inspiration dinner: 4 p.m.; Church of Holy Apostles Father Sherry Hall, 6211 W. Bull Valley Road. Honoring women of the McHenry Deanery. Register by Sept. 3. Cost: \$25 adults; \$12.50 children 12 and younger. Info: McHenry Deanery parishes or Barbara A. Russell, 815-385-0024.

Sept 18 ROCKFORD
LaPromesse: 10 a.m.; Cliffbreakers, 700 W. Riverside Blvd. Sponsor: Catholic Women's League. Proceeds for charity. Speaker: Honorable Judge Rosemary Collins. Raffles, silent auction, luncheon. RSVP by Sept. 9. Cost: \$40. Info: 815-877-2979 or Facebook Catholic Women's League — Rockford, IL

Sept 21 ROCKFORD
Golf outing: 1:30 p.m. shotgun start; Ingersoll Golf Course, 101 Daisyfield Road. Proceeds for All Saints Catholic Academy scholarships. Scramble format, nine holes with cart, prizes for lowest score, straightest drive, longest putt and closest to pin. 5 p.m. dinner at St. James Parish Hall, 428 N. Second St., with silent auction and 50/50 raffle. Reservations required. Cost: \$30 per person for golf; \$25 per person for dinner. Info: Ed Geeser, 815-540-9224

Sept 25 BELVIDERE
34th Knights' banquet: 6:30 p.m. social, 7:30 p.m. banquet; United Auto Workers Hall, 1100 W. Chrysler Dr. Honoring Knights of Columbus Father Phillip Kaim, Troy Gower and Thomas Griffin. Sponsor: Rockford Diocese Knights of the Roundtable. RSVP by Sept. 18. Cost: \$40 per person. Info: Bill Laudando, 630-201-9487, billjr@ameritech.net

The Junior Observer

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Q&A

How did Jesus describe the gate to God's kingdom?

What would people be doing outside the master's door?

Read more about it in Luke 12 and 13

A Good News Story

Jesus Tells of the Gate to Heaven

Catholic News Service

Jesus traveled many places, and everywhere He went, He taught great crowds of people about God.

Jesus often used parables to teach important lessons. For example, through the parable of the rich fool, He taught that it was not right to become obsessed with storing up wealth on earth. And He used the parable of the barren fig tree to show the people that they would perish if they did not repent of their sins.

In addition to teaching, Jesus also healed people who were sick or possessed by unclean spirits. No matter what the problem was, Jesus could cure it.

Jesus did all these things as He and the Apostles passed through towns and villages on their way to Jerusalem.

During His travels, Jesus also was asked many questions. One time, a person wanted to know if only a few people would be saved.



Bible Trivia:

In Luke 13, what parables did Jesus use to describe God's kingdom? (Hint: verses 18-21)

Answer: the parables of the mustard seed and the yeast

“Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough,” Jesus answered.

He went on to describe how the master of the house would arise and lock his door. After that, no one would be allowed

to enter.

“Then will you stand outside knocking and saying, ‘Lord, open the door for us.’ He will say to you in reply, ‘I do not know where you are from,’” Jesus said. “And you will say, ‘We ate and drank in your company and you taught in our streets.’ Then he will say to you, ‘I do not know where you are from. Depart from me, all you evildoers!’”

Afterward, Jesus said, the people outside the door would see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God. The people would wail and grind their teeth, realizing that they were not going to be allowed into the kingdom.

“And people will come from the east and the west and from the north and the south and will recline at table in the kingdom of God,” Jesus said. “For behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.”

St. Teresa of Calcutta is Honored on Sept. 7

Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu was born in 1910 in Albania. She took the name Teresa after joining the Sisters of Loreto in 1928.



(CNS file photo/Paul Harin) A woman touches a relic of St. Teresa of Calcutta after a Mass at the Basilica of Santa Anastasia al Palatino in Rome.

St. Teresa was sent to Calcutta (also called Kolkata), India, where she taught children for 20 years. In 1946, she heard a call from God to care for the poorest of the poor. She left her order and began to rescue sick and poor people from the slums of Calcutta. She soon was joined by many volunteers, some of whom she formed into her religious order, the Missionaries of Charity.

St. Teresa drew many people to God through her goodness and



(CNS photo/Luciano Mellace, Reuters) St. Teresa of Calcutta (left) always tried to help poor people. She gives a widow in India documents for a new house.

her ability to use media around the world to help spread the message of her work.

She died in 1997 and was canonized in 2016. We remember her on Sept. 7.

Jesus Talks More About Heaven

There are several places in the Bible where Jesus described the kingdom of heaven.

One example is in Matthew 22:1-14, where Jesus compared the kingdom of heaven to a king giving a wedding feast for his son.

The king twice sent his servants to summon the invited guests, but they would not come, Jesus said.

Some of the guests killed the servants, so the king's army destroyed the murderers and their city.

“The feast is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy to come,” the king said.

He told his servants to go out into the streets and invite anyone they could find. The servants filled the hall with both good and bad people.

When the king entered the feast, he saw a man who was not dressed in a wedding garment. When the king asked why, the man was silent.

“Bind his hands and feet, and cast him into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth,” the king commanded. Not having a wedding garment was a symbol that the man had not repented.

“Many are invited, but few are chosen,” Jesus said about the kingdom of heaven.

Puzzle

Unscramble the letters in each word and arrange them to form a quotation from the children's story.

l a l m r o f o y u v i l e r o e s d e m t r e d a p

Answers: all, from, you, evildoers, me, depart. Depart from me, all you evildoers



(CNS photo/courtesy of Warner Bros.)

Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint and Emma Watson star in a scene from the movie "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1." Popular novels and films, including the "Harry Potter" series, feature fate that enables people to save the world.

Faith Alive

A Christian Understanding of Divine Providence

As we continue to consider divine providence, a third distorted approach describes God's interactions in terms of fate.

Fate suggests we have a predetermined outcome, with few or no choices. Some of our favorite contemporary stories feature strong aspects of fate. A person might be fated to be king or to take up a difficult task that will save the world.

The ancient Greek tragedy "Oedipus Rex" describes Oedipus' fate: He will kill his father and marry his mother, despite trying desperately not to do those things. Popular novels and films, including "Harry Potter" and "Game of Thrones," feature fate that enables people to save the world.

The stories we tell about fate shape our sense of the degree of choice that we have. These stories indicate that it is we humans who save the world, especially if we follow our fated path.

Christian thinking assents to none of these paths. In contrast, Christians insist that God is not a mere being among others. God cannot be fully described by any object — including human imagination.

All time and space, the smallest atom, the largest living being, everything known and unknown, is God's. We don't fully know who God is, but Christians do not dismiss God simply because we cannot see or understand all of what God might be.

Though God is mysterious, God reveals Himself to us. Many people have testified to God's real and direct presence in their lives. Some have written down these encounters, through the power of the Holy Spirit, in Scripture.

Scripture names God's whole history with us: God creates, redeems and draws us toward Christ's Second Coming, when God will be "all in all" (1 Cor 15:28). Scripture reveals that God cares deeply for us (Ps 139:13-14).

How can God do this for every single being? If God was a mere object in the universe, we would quickly dismiss God's presence. Precisely because God is not a mere object, that means God is for me, you and for the smallest atom, too.

God exists entirely as God, while we exist entirely as ourselves, too. So our free will and God's will co-exist. We are part of God's real, everlasting love. Yet love is not coercive, but frees us to be ourselves and make decisions even as God constantly seeks us.

God's presence in our history exists even despite human suffering and the presence of evil. (Read the Book of Job or stories of Christian martyrs.) Christians believe that God stands

Continued on page 14

'Thou Shall Not Steal'

The traditional wording of the Seventh Commandment is typically rather simple: "You shall not steal." Like the other commandments, in addition to the prohibition against "stealing" or "theft," this one has far-reaching implications for our moral lives. Some of these implications are rather intuitive, others may not be as readily apparent. Therefore, the next several columns will look at some of these implications.

To begin with the most obvious focus of this commandment, "theft" or "stealing" involves taking something that either belongs to someone else, or that one does not have a right to. This presupposes the fact that people have a legitimate right to own things.

The Catholic Church believes that people have a right to private property — in whatever form (land, material goods, etc.), so long as it is acquired appropriately (see the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2401-2403 for more on the Church's understanding of the right to personal property).

Therefore, to take something that rightly belongs to someone else, or to deprive someone of what they have a right to, are both injustices. Doing so may or may not be motivated by greed, envy or malice. Regardless, it is always a failure in justice, respect and charity.

As with any wrongdoing, repenting and seeking forgiveness are necessary. But with theft, something else is likely necessary too. If one has taken something unjustly from another person, then the Church recognizes that justice demands restitution (*CCC* 2412).

The motivation for this teaching is ultimately from Scripture. For example, in Luke's Gospel there's the story of the tax collector Zaccheus who is praised by Jesus for pledging to restore what he's stolen fourfold (Luke 19:1-10).

As a general rule, restitution should be commensurate with the wrongdoing. If I have deprived someone of \$100, I should offer that much in restitution. Despite what seems to be a simple mathematical approach to restitution, it can prove to be a very difficult thing for many

Ethically Speaking



by Father
Kenneth
Wasilewski
Diocesan Ethicist

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reasons. Besides, sometimes a simple mathematical approach isn't possible or even the best way to go about it.

One challenge to offering restitution comes with the possibility of exposing the wrong of the one who has stolen. The fear of being

discovered may prevent someone from offering restitution. Nevertheless, justice demands that it is offered in some fashion.

The Church teaches that restitution should be made for theft, but she does not demand that one always publicly expose one's own wrongdoing. There may be situations where people are able to restore what they've stolen without bringing undesirable attention to themselves in the process.

Restitution might also prove difficult or complicated for other reasons, for example, if the theft occurred many years prior, or the stolen item no longer exists, or the victim was unknown, or no longer reachable, etc. What is someone to do in situations like these?

If the victim cannot have stolen property restored in a more direct fashion, then restitution might take the form of offering a similar amount to a charity with the intent of benefitting others to the degree that the person who stole had previously wronged someone.

But what if a person, by the time they have come to repentance and seek to make restitution, no longer have the financial or material means to do so? In such a case one might seek to offer restitution in the form of time spent volunteering or even in prayer.

Other scenarios can also be confusing, for instance, if something rather insignificant was taken. In such cases just the acknowledgement of the wrong and an offer to make up for it may be sufficient.

At the heart of restitution is ultimately the desire for justice — an effort to return balance to a situation where an individual recognizes the wrongdoing caused a lack of balance. In this way, restitution becomes an acknowledgement that the other person is worthy of respect, which itself is a prerequisite for Christian charity.

Scripture Reflection for Aug. 25, 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

A Spiritual Marathon

BY JEM SULLIVAN
Catholic News Service

When a neighbor announced she planned to run a marathon, her motivation impressed us all. Even more remarkable was the transformation of her daily life as she prepared to achieve her goal.

In the months leading to the marathon, she kept to a rigorous running schedule, made changes to her diet, ensured she got plenty of rest, and fought through the physical aches and pains that come with an intense training routine.

Without the discipline required of marathon runners, she could not have accomplished her goal. On race day, she beamed with a sense of accomplishment while noting that every step of the rigorous discipline she had followed for many months was worth the satisfaction of completing the race.

If we desire to grow in the spiritual life, then spiritual discipline is a necessary part of the journey of faith. Jesus points to this truth

when he speaks of striving to enter through the narrow gate.

However, in hearing Jesus' words, we might conclude that the Christian life is an unrealistic and restrictive burden that few live up to. Jesus' words point to a much deeper reality.

Jesus is inviting us to the discipline of discipleship that strengthens us to complete the race that opens the door to eternal life with God. We were created for this eternal union and our spiritual discipline is the path to get there.

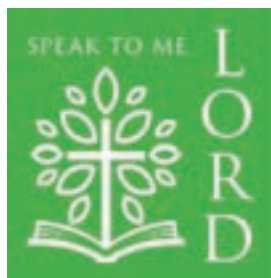
Spiritual discipline is never easy. Yet it is the only path that leads to inner peace and dependence on God in all circumstances of life. And so the author of the Letter to Hebrews reminds us of a truth we know well: "At the time, all discipline seems a cause not for joy but for pain, yet later it brings the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who are trained by it."

So what are some spiritual paths the Church offers to those who strive to enter through the narrow gate? The discipline of making time for God in the midst of a busy day is a first step.

Then turning to Scripture in silent, prayerful reflection guides us on the path of letting God speak divine wisdom into the events, joys and challenges of life.

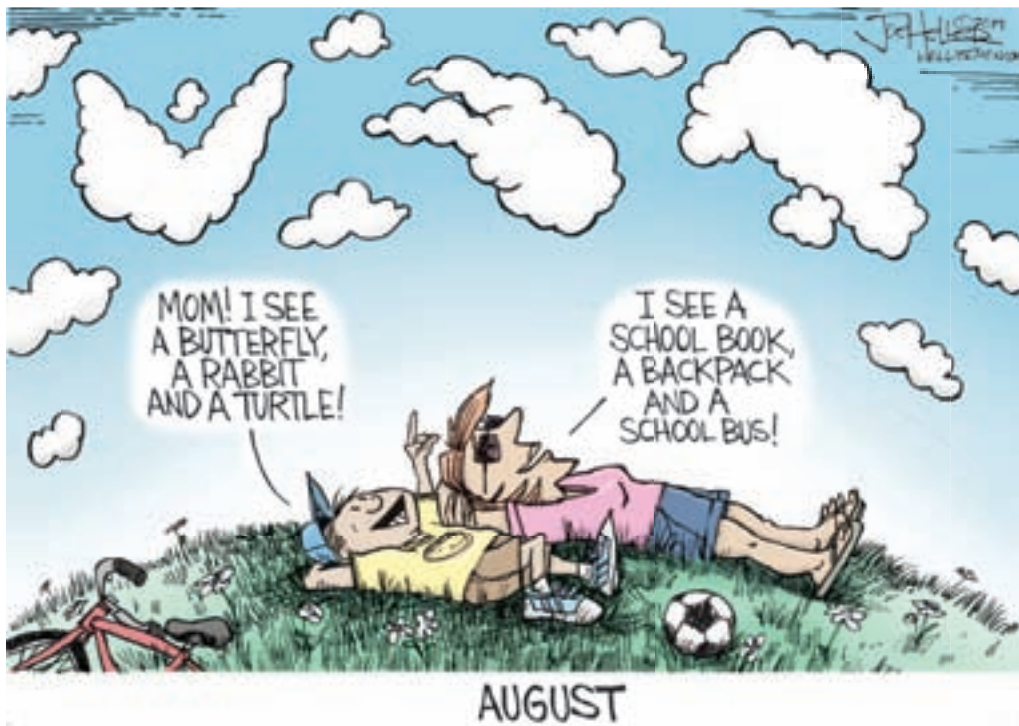
Pray for, and expect in faith, the abiding

Continued on page 14



Different View

CNS/Joe Heller



Pray, But Work from Facts

The story is told of a gentleman who was running late for an important meeting. After circling the block of the building where the meeting was to be convened in 10 minutes, he finally turned to prayer saying, “Oh God, please let me find a parking space and I will give up drinking, go to church and give to charity.”

No sooner did he say his “amen” to that career-saving prayer, than a space opened up and he quickly backed into it. With heartfelt emotion he quickly ran from his car saying, “Never mind. I found one.”

Politicians seek a solution to the current immigration crisis and decide to campaign for comprehensive immigration reform that offers nothing that can be enacted but can still brag, “Never mind. I found one.”

Rather than work for conscience-formed “compassionate” immigration reform we bog down defining “comprehensive” and thereby negate any chance of agreement.

Cruel stalemate follows rather than acknowledging that someone else may be right. Our own axes grind out an agenda that keeps us from seeing, as John Adams observed, how inconvenient facts can be.

Are we willing to listen? Will we accept answers we don’t like? Do we pray that the immigration crisis will end without challenging our beliefs? For immigrants (as distinguished from refugees and asylees and visa holders) can we be persuaded that they are not “free-riders” unworthy of compassionate human respect?

Some of the issues:

1 Refugees flood the jobs market.

Whatever the economic trends, refugees do not flood the job market. Rather, they come fully vetted with valued skills and needed technical abilities. As

Charitably Speaking



by Patrick Winn
Director, Rockford Diocese
Catholic Charities

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Catholic Charities refines and expands our employment placement programs we build on our work placing refugees in productive employment. Our success rate is always above 90% placement,

usually above 93%, within 120 days of arrival.

2 Immigrants are not employable.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, labor force participation during the recent record setting economic expansion:

- a. White high school graduates: 50% for foreign born; 53% for native born.
- b. Black high school graduates: 70.4% for foreign born; 58% for native born.
- c. Hispanic high school graduates: 72.2% for foreign born; 67.6% for native born.
- d. White bachelor’s degree: 69.5% for foreign born; 72.7% for native born.
- e. Black bachelor’s degree: 82.1% for foreign born; 76.7% for native born.
- f. Hispanic bachelor’s degree: 74.4% for foreign born; 87.7% for native born.

3 Immigrants are more likely to use public benefits than native-born Americans.

Immigrants are no more likely than native-born Americans to use public benefits and most can’t access them for the first five years of residency. During that period, they are likely to become employed.

So if we’re truly seeking a solution to the multi-faceted immigration crisis let’s make sure that we operate only from facts. Prayers will then only seem to go unanswered.

The answer may be “not yet” when an approach not based on American principles is championed or “no” when a proposal does not honor human dignity and respect for new arrivals.

‘Some of God’s greatest gifts are unanswered prayers.’

— Garth Brooks

Catholic Talk of Immigrants, Refugees

To speak of immigration and refugees in the United States of America at this historical juncture is risky business. One never knows where one’s conversation partner stands on this question. One does not know whether one will be welcomed into that conversation again.

While many Catholics seem reluctant to speak about immigration to avoid conflict, ironically we hear about the topic everywhere on social networks and in the mass media.

Journeying Together



by Hosffman
Ospino
Professor of theology
and religious education,
Boston College

Catholic News Service

Yet, there is no irony without consequences. Many voices that are loud and prejudiced are feasting in the silence of voices that are more moderate and better informed about our Catholic tradition regarding immigrants and refugees.

Silence has consequences.

Remaining silent before the excesses of people who demonize immigrants and twist their experiences for political or social gain has consequences. Remaining silent by failing to affirm the human dignity of every immigrant and refugee has consequences.

This is not the first time in the history of our nation that conversations about immigration and refugees create animosity. Some episodes in the past have ended in exclusion and violence against immigrant groups. Have we learned something from our own history?

If not, it is imperative that every catechetical program for Catholic children and adults today puts serious time into studying the consequences of biased rhetoric against immigrants. European Catholics who arrived in the U.S. about a century ago experienced such biases.

Let us not ignore the brutal mistreatment of immigrants from Africa brought to our shores under the most dehumanizing conditions. Decades of discrimination against immigrants from Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean should give us pause.

We must take time to learn about the consequences of remaining silent before the mistreatment and exploitation of immigrants in other societies. There are important lessons to learn from the tragic end of refugees who were denied asylum by nations that could have welcomed them.

Ignorance feeds silence. Even when someone speaks, doing so with prejudice would silence the truth. Ignorance and silence together make us complicit in sin.

I have been paying close attention to recent debates in the U.S. about immigration and refugees. Doing this is sometimes painful. More painful is to learn that quite a good number of the voices that are loud and prejudiced about immigrants and refugees are Catholic.

The pain becomes more acute when Catholics, especially many holding positions of leadership in Church and society, choose to remain silent before the excesses of the loud and prejudiced voices — Catholic and non-Catholic — or fall short from being prophetic.

Did we all read the same Bible? Did we all study the same *Catechism of the Catholic Church*? Did we ever pay any attention to the social teachings of the Church about immigration and refugees? Did we ever hear that rejecting the other is equivalent to rejecting Jesus?

I am personally invested in this conversation. I am an immigrant and have immigrant relatives. I serve in a parish community constituted by thousands of immigrants. I know that many of the women and men who are renewing thousands of Catholic parishes in the U.S. are immigrants.

Not all Catholics have to be immigrants or refugees to become invested in this conversation, of course. Neither does one need to be in a parish with large numbers of immigrants to affirm the dignity of immigrant women and men.

As the conversation about immigrants and refugees continues, Catholics in the U.S. have a fourfold responsibility: Prophetically decry prejudiced rhetoric, remember our own history, educate ourselves about who immigrants are and why they arrive in our country, and affirm the human dignity of every immigrant and refugee.

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— THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

SCRIPTURE SEARCH.

Gospel for August 25, 2019
Luke 13:22-30

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C: a cautionary note about those who will be saved. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

JESUS	TEACHING	JERUSALEM
A FEW	BE SAVED	STRIVE
TRY TO ENTER	NARROW	IN REPLY
WE ATE	YOU TAUGHT	OUR STREETS
EVILDOERS	ABRAHAM	ISAAC
JACOB	KINGDOM	PEOPLE
EAST	LAST	FIRST

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Deaths

AURORA—Holy Angels: Tracey Wilson, 48, Aug. 11;
DEKALB—St. Mary: Patricia Collin, 76, Aug. 11;
ELBURN—St. Gall: Mary Le-Van, 75, July 31;
FREEPOR—St. Thomas Aquinas: Charlotte McGinnis, 88, Aug 9;
ROCK FALLS—St. Andrew: Veronica Tschosik, 73, Aug. 6; Frances Bohms Scudder, 98, Aug. 8;
ROCKFORD—Holy Family: Margaret Lansing, 77, July 17; Martin Jaros, 87, July 25; Richard Sherman, 83, July 26;
SUBLETTE—Our Lady of Perpetual Help: Thomas Fassler, 65, Aug. 4;
TAMPICO—St. Mary: Myrna D. (Hallman) Schauff, 84, Aug. 11.

Parish offices may forward death and wedding information using forms at <http://observer.rockforddiocese.org>. Scroll to Contact Us and click on the death or wedding form. You may also request death and wedding postcards by calling 815/399-4300, ext. 383. We encourage you to send the information as soon as you receive it. Thank you.

Life Moment

Pray: That students returning to school in these days may draw wisdom and knowledge from the Holy Spirit, and fulfill their duties diligently and safely.

Courtesy of www.priestsforlife.org

Stewardship Moment

Called to stewardship: “Everyone must give ... not sadly, not grudgingly, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Cor 9:7). St. Paul saw giving as a happy act and not a burden; an opportunity, not a loss; a thanksgiving to God. Put a smile on your heart by generosity

to church and charities. Keep that smile there year ‘round.

Courtesy of Parish Publications “Stewardship” newsletter

Mass Meditation

Sunday, Aug. 25 (21st Ordinary): Sunday’s reading from Isaiah describes the Israelites bringing their offering to the Lord “in clean vessels.” The gift of myself – my patient endurance and fidelity to the will of God – is as important as the monetary gift I offer.

Courtesy of Sharon Hueckel

A Christian Understanding of Divine Providence

From page 12
directly with us and for us, even in the midst of pain and suffering. The lack of happiness does not mean a lack of God. So as we navigate a world that proposes three distorting approaches to God’s presence, we Christians are asked to think quite differently.

We are asked to name God’s real and direct presence in our own lives, even as we proclaim that God is mysterious. Our God loves us utterly and deeply, and without end.

Jana M. Bennett, Catholic News Service. She is professor of moral theology at the University of Dayton in Ohio, and co-author, along with David Cloutier, of “Naming our Sins: How Recognizing the Seven Deadly Vices Can Renew the Sacrament of Reconciliation.”

A Spiritual Marathon

From page 12
presence of the Holy Spirit, who shapes our thoughts, words and actions to God’s will. And participate in the Church’s sacramental life by which Jesus continues his saving and healing presence in our lives.

The Gospel begins by telling us that Jesus is making his way to Jerusalem when he answers the poignant question: “Lord, will only a few people be saved?”

Jesus is on a journey that will lead eventually to his passion, death and resurrection, by which we are saved. For the grace to persevere on our spiritual journeys through the narrow gate we pray, “speak to me, Lord.”

Reflection questions: How do you strive to enter the narrow gate of the Christian life?



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At the Movies



(CNS photo/Entertainment Studios Motion Pictures)

47 Meters Down: Uncaged

A-III PG-13 (Entertainment Studios) Jumpy follow-up to the 2017 original in which a quartet of American teen girls living in Mexico (Corinne Foxx, Sistine Stallone, Sophie Nelisse, and Brianna Tju) goes scuba diving in the submerged, shark-infested ruins of a Mayan city where they become trapped and are forced to fight for their lives. It ramps up the gore but also explores themes of altruism, cooperation and family unity. Not for the faint of heart.

PARENTS: THIS FILM CONTAINS graphic, bloody shark attacks, gruesome images, obscene gestures, crass words.



(CNS photo/Sony)

The Angry Birds Movie 2

A-II PG (Sony) The filmmakers behind this animated follow-up to the 2016 original create not one but two romantic subplots, teach a heartwarming moral lesson about cooperation even when you don't like someone else, throw in a slew of '90s references to entertain the grown-ups, and mix an air of unhinged, deeply classical silliness with the seemingly inevitable (in children's fare) potty jokes. The youngest audience members won't understand all the jokes. But di-

rector Thurop Van Orman and screenwriter Peter Ackerman, eager to please, have created a comedy virtually the whole household can enjoy.

PARENTS: THIS FILM CONTAINS intense action sequences, scatological humor.



(Observer photo/ https://bleeckerstreetmedia.com)

Brian Banks

A-III PG-13 (Bleecker Street) Fact-based drama, directed by Tom Shadyac from a script by Doug Atchison, about the football star of the title (Aldis Hodge) and the seemingly insurmountable hurdles he faced after being imprisoned on a false charge of rape. The densely plotted courtroom procedural is not as clearly told as it should have been, yet it is effective at showing the power of unwavering hope.

PARENTS: THIS FILM CONTAINS mature themes, including sexual assault, a few sexual references, profanity and rough language.



(CNS photo/Universal)

Good Boys

O R (Universal) Three youthful actors (Jacob Tremblay, Brady Noon and Keith L. Williams) are shamefully exploited as the script of this supposed comedy has them interacting with sex toys, online pornography and drugs. The fact that no one protected them from taking on such wildly age-inappropriate material is bewildering.

PARENTS: THIS FILM CONTAINS strong sexual content involving children, a narcotics theme, profanity, rough and crude language.



(CNS photo/Warner Bros.)

The Kitchen

O R (Warner Bros.) Morally muddled tale, set in New York City's Hell's Kitchen neighborhood, circa 1978, of three mob wives (Melissa McCarthy, Tiffany Haddish and Elisabeth Moss) who, after their husbands are imprisoned, successfully supplant the gang leader (Myk Watford). Though well-acted, writer-director Andrea Berloff's gritty drama presents criminal mayhem as the vehicle by which its main characters emancipate themselves from male oppression. It also romanticizes adultery.

PARENTS: THIS FILM CONTAINS misguided values, gory violence, including murderous vengeance, semi-graphic adulterous sexual activity, blasphemous dialogue, rough and crude language.

— Catholic News Service
For the latest reviews, <http://observer.rockforddiocese.org>, scroll to the bottom and click on Movie Reviews.

Novelist Looks At Writings, Influence of Trappist Monk

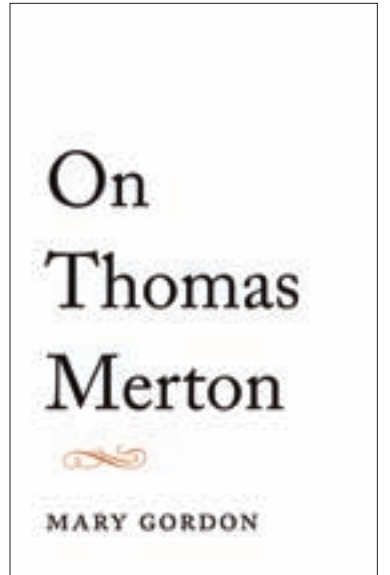
Perhaps best known for her novels and short stories, Barnard College English professor and New York state writer — a title bestowed in 2008 by retiring Gov. Eliot Spitzer — Mary Gordon here turns her attention to Trappist monk, author, poet and social critic Father Thomas Merton.

To observe the 100th birthday in 2015 of one of the most popular and influential Catholic literary figures of the 20th century, the Columbia Rare Book and Manuscript Library asked Gordon to give a lecture to launch an exhibition of Mertonian papers. This book is the final result of that lecture.

“On Thomas Merton” joins the seemingly endless stream of books and articles on the Trappist monk who died in December 1968.

Gordon divides her look at Father Merton into four sections. The first is titled “Writer to Writer: But What Kind?” and looks at the conundrum of a cloistered monk who, Gordon writes, “entered an order devoted to silence, and yet his vocation was based on words.”

Now and then, Gordon seems to enjoy dropping a word that most of her readers will find perplexing, such as “pateresque,” “Europhilia” and “demotic.” Readers may find themselves responding with an



(CNS photo)

“On Thomas Merton” by Mary Gordon. Shambhala Publications (Boulder, Colorado, 2019). 160 pp., \$22.95.

exclamation not infrequently used by characters in superhero comic books: “Wha?!”

The second topic Gordon addresses is “The Seven Storey Mountain.” This, of course, is the title of Father Merton’s most popular and best-known book, the best-selling autobiography published in 1947 when he was still a young monk. Gordon’s method, here and in all four of her chapters, was to select sentences and passages from Father Merton’s writing that captured her attention, share them with the reader, then comment either briefly or at some length.

— Reviewed by Mitch Finley for Catholic News Service

Read the complete review as well as others at <http://observer.rockforddiocese.org/book-club-blog>.

On TV

Broadcast times may vary; check local listings.

“Magical Land of Oz” — Aug. 28, 9-10 p.m. (PBS): An exploration of the curious wildlife unique to Australia (TV-PG — parental guidance suggested).

“Celebration of the Divine Liturgy” — Aug. 30, 2:30-5 p.m. (EWTN): Metropolitan Archbishop Borys Gudziak of the Ukrainian Catholic

Archeparchy of Philadelphia celebrates the Divine Liturgy at the fourth annual Call to Prayer Marian Pilgrimage in Centralia, Pennsylvania. Part of the series “Cathedrals Across America” (TV-G).

“Big Family: The Story of Bluegrass Music” — Aug. 30, 8-10 p.m. (PBS): A look at the history, people and worldwide reach of bluegrass music (TV-G). — CNS

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Prayer Intentions and Scripture Readings
September 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 22nd Ordinary Time Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29; Ps 68:4-7, 10-11; Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a; Lk 14:1, 7-14 † Bishop Thomas G. Doran, 2016 Pope Francis Father Robert McClellan	2 Labor Day 1 Thes 4:13-18; Ps 96:1, 3-5, 11-13; Lk 4:16-30 † Father Michael A. Welter, 1946 Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI	3 Gregory the Great, pope, doctor of the Church 1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Lk 4:31-37 † Father James A. Molloy, 1983 Bishop David J. Malloy	4 Col 1:1-8; Ps 52:10-11; Lk 4:38-44 † Father Clement P. Petit, 1997 U.S. Priests	5 Col 1:9-14; Ps 98:2-6; Lk 5:1-11 † Father J. J. Clifford, 1947 Retired priests	6 Col 1:15-20; Ps 100:1-5; Lk 5:33-39 Father Perfecto Vasquez	7 Blessed Virgin Mary Col 1:21-23; Ps 54:3-4, 6, 8; Lk 6:1-5 † Father Edward C. Fanning, 1974 U.S. Bishops
8 23rd Ordinary Time Wis 9:13-18b; Ps 90:3-6, 12-17; Phlm 9-10, 12-17; Lk 14:25-33 Father Caloy Saligumba, SOLT	9 Peter Claver, priest Col 1:24-23; Ps 62:6-7, 9; Lk 6:6-11 Priests of the McHenry Deanery	10 Col 2:6-15; Ps 145:1b-2, 8-11; Lk 6:12-19 Priests of the Rockford Deanery	11 Col 3:1-11; Ps 145:2-3, 10-13b; Lk 6:20-26 Msgr. Robert Sweeney	12 Most Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary Col 3:12-17; Ps 150:1b-6; Lk 6:27-38 Sisters of Loretto	13 John Chrysostom, bishop, doctor of the Church 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14; Ps 16:1b-2a, 5, 7-8, 11; Lk 6:39-42 † Father James W. Friedrich, 1940; † Father James Toumey, 1957 Diocesan seminarians	14 Exaltation of the Holy Cross Nm 21:4b-9; Ps 78:1b-2, 34-38; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17 † Father John Kilkenny, 1917; † Father Edward J. Connolly, 1984 Priests of the Sterling Deanery
15 24th Ordinary Time Ex 32:7-11, 13-14; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19; 1 Tm 1:12-17; Lk 15:1-32 † Father Cletus A. Anger, 1991 Father Matthew McMorrow	16 Cornelius, pope, and Cyprian, bishop, martyrs 1 Tm 2:1-8; Ps 28:2, 7-9; Lk 7:1-10 † Father Michael J. Foley, 1929 Priests of the Aurora Deanery	17 Robert Bellarmine, bishop, doctor of the Church 1 Tm 3:1-13; Ps 101:1b-3b, 5-6; Lk 7:11-17 Priests of the DeKalb Deanery	18 1 Tm 3:14-16; Ps 111:1-6; Lk 7:31-35 † Msgr. William G. McMillan, 1973; † Father Willis L. Bradley, 1988 Priests of the Elgin Deanery	19 Januarius, bishop, martyr 1 Tm 4:12-16; Ps 111:7-10; Lk 7:36-50 Father Timothy Barr	20 Andrew Kim Tae-gon, priest, Paul Chong Ha-sang and companions, martyrs 1 Tm 6:2c-12; Ps 49:6-10, 17-20; Lk 8:1-3 † Father Michael Tuomey, 1951 Priests of the Freeport Deanery	21 Matthew, Apostle, evangelist Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Ps 19:2-5; Mt 9:9-13 Sept. 22: † Father Daniel B. Geoghegan, 1989; † Father Edwin F. Millen, 2006 Father Burt Absalon
22 25th Ordinary Time Am 8:4-7; Ps 113:1-2, 4-8; 1 Tm 2:1-8; Lk 16:1-13 † Archbishop Edward F. Hoban, 1966; † Father Paul E. Kunkel, 1967; † Father John E. Reuland 1979 Father James Parker	23 111th Anniversary of the Rockford Diocese 1908-2019 Pius of Pietrelcina, priest Ezr 1:1-6; Ps 126:1b-6; Lk 8:16-18 † Father Frank J. Keenan, 1944 Father Daniel Peters	24 Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20; Ps 122:1-5; Lk 8:19-21 † Father Laurence C. Prendergast, 1950 Sept. 23: † Msgr. John F. Regan, 1969 Father Antoni Kretowicz	25 Ezr 9:5-9; (Ps) Tb 13:2-4, 7-8; Lk 9:1-6 † Msgr. James A. Solon, 1940 Father Paul Lipinski Father James McKittrick Father Oscar Cortes	26 Cosmas and Damian, martyrs Hg 1:1-8; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b; Lk 9:7-9 Father John Stringini	27 Vincent de Paul, priest Hg 2:1-9; Ps 43:1-4; Lk 9:18-22 For those in discernment	28 Blessed Virgin Mary Wenceslaus, martyr Lawrence Ruiz and companions, martyrs Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a; (Ps) Jer 31:10-13; Lk 9:43b-45 † Father Paul W. Sims, 1918 Religious sisters
29 26th Ordinary Time Am 6:1a, 4-7; Ps 146:7-10; 1 Tm 6:11-16; Lk 16:19-31 Father Michael Bolger	30 Jerome, priest, doctor of the Church Zec 8:1-8; Ps 102:16-23, 29; Lk 9:46-50 Father Jerome Leake	Fly the Flag Sept. 2 — Labor Day Sept. 11 — Patriot Day (half-staff) Sept. 17 — Constitution and Citizenship Day Sept. 18 — Air Force Birthday Sept. 25 — Gold Star Mother's Day	Key to listings Daily Scripture Readings † Pray for the priests who have served the Rockford Diocese and who died this month on the days listed. Please pray for these men and women who have a religious vocation	Join the Holy Father in praying for his special intention this month: The Protection of the Oceans: That politicians, scientists and economists work together to protect the world's seas and oceans. — http://popesprayerusa.net/	 STAY WITH US	Celebrate the people who pass on the faith. Catechetical Sunday is Sept. 15.
Support the prayer calendar and send your message for a full month -- or a full year. Call Kevin McCarthy at 815-399-4300 ext. 385 for details.	Save the Date! Diocese of Rockford 2019 Youth Summit Oct. 27	CNS Saints		Vincent Strambi 1745-1824 — feast day Sept. 25 Vincent joined the Passionists as priest in 1768. Over three decades he served as a leader of the congregation, ultimately as provincial. In 1801, he became bishop of Macerata in central Italy. Vincent reformed the diocese by caring for his priests. He built a seminary, staffed it with gifted teachers, and taught there himself. Vincent also fostered a renewal of worship in his churches. In 1808, he refused to swear allegiance to Napoleon and was forced into exile. But when Napoleon abdicated in 1814, Vincent returned to Macerata. In the final decade of his life he personally turned an Austrian army away from the province and cared for people suffering from famine and a typhoid epidemic, all while continuing his reforms.		

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The Feast of the Assumption Mass at St. Mary Parish in McHenry was a celebration of the parish's 125th anniversary. Bishop David Malloy (at altar) celebrated the Mass with McHenry pastors, Father Godwin Asuquo (left), of St. Patrick Parish, Father David Austin (second from right) of St. Mary Parish; and Father Paul White (right) of Church of Holy Apostles. Assisting them was Deacon Craig Robinson (second from left) of the Church of Holy Apostles. The evening Mass was followed by an outdoor reception on the parish grounds.

(Observer photos/Dan Szpekowski)

McHenry's St. Mary Celebrates 125 Years



Bishop David Malloy accepts the offertory gifts during Mass from parish members, shown front to back, Rich Bronars, Fran Wiser, and Don Wiser.



Bishop David Malloy blesses a new plaque to commemorate the 125th anniversary of St. Mary Parish at the front of the church.



Over 150 parishioners attended the evening Mass at St. Mary Parish in McHenry on the Feast of the Assumption, Aug. 15. It is the actual date in 1894 when the parish was founded 125 years ago.



Fran Wiser (left) serves a piece of the St. Mary parish 125th anniversary cake to Bishop David Malloy in the tent set up for the outside gathering after Mass.



Artifacts from St. Mary Parish spanning 125 years will be on display at the parish for the next year. Photos of all former pastors, including Father Fredrick Kirsch, founding pastor, are part of the display.



(Observer photos/Margarita Mendoza)

Jennifer Collins, director of the Life and Family Evangelization Office, wields a cellphone for one of many couples who wanted a picture with Bishop David Malloy at this year's Silver and Gold wedding celebration Aug. 18 at St. Mary Parish in Huntley. Carrie and James Shannon (right) celebrated their silver — 25th — anniversary with five of their eight children. They are parishioners at St. Peter in Spring Grove.



Volunteers decorate tables for the anniversary celebration.

Silver and Gold 2019 Honorees

Couples are listed in alphabetical order (not by years married) by town and parish (if known)
Source: Rockford Diocese Life and Family Evangelization Office

Algonquin

St. Margaret Mary: Jerome A. and Patricia A. Borchert, 62; Patrick and Illine Hoehn, 25; Steven and Tammy Ludwig, 25; John and Kim Miguel, 55; Anthony and Rosemary Morici, 65; Osvaldo and Ana Fe Viera, 25; Richard and Sandra Zordani, Sr., 50;

Aurora

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Armando and Anita Quintanilla, 50;

Holy Angels: Pedro and Florecita Buhay, Jr., 60; Gerald and Linda Decker, 25; Joseph and Mary Didier, 55; James and Margaret Hall, 25; Melvin and Linda Oros, 60; Thomas and Joanne Vickroy, 68; Lee and Sheila Wilming, 50;

Our Lady of Good Counsel: Edmund and Patricia Carroll, 50; Richard L. and Velma L. Mettel, 67; Charles S. and Beverly K. Moore, 55;

St. Joseph: Edward F. and Barbara J. Lang, 55;

St. Rita of Cascia: Russell and Mary George, 50; Rodolfo and Mireya Serna, 25;

St. Therese of Jesus: Gilberto and Maria de los Angeles Escareno, 25; Modesto and Lorena Favela, 25; Julián and Valentina Mejía, 25;

Batavia

Holy Cross: David and Teresa Burdelak, 50; Ronald and Susan Lingle, 50; Don and Fran Nallenweg, 59; James and Cecilia Nass,

60; Christopher and Gail Russell, 25; *Longest-married couple honored* — Carmen A. and Mary B. Siciliano, 75; Steven M. and Cheryl M. Szymanski, 25; Joseph and Geraldine Tryzna, 55; Bob and Diane Watts, 65;

Belvidere

St. James: Earl and Lois Lungstrom, 71; Joseph and Diane Pellicore, 50; Rodney and Karen Snyder, 50;

Byron

St. Mary: John and Carol Dotzel, 60;

Carpentersville

St. Monica: Osvaldo and Romana Loyola, 25; Francisco Noé and Maria Fe Ortega Ortega Martínez Ruíz, 50; Juan and Maribel Ortiz, 50; Harold and Ethel Schmit, 65;

Cary

SS Peter and Paul: Emile and Carol Bataille, 25; Ignatius and Jessie Guzzo, 67; Christopher and Kaye Heinhold, 25; Greg and Kassy Pinter, 25; Dennis and Noreen Ryan, 50; Raymond and Patricia Szydzik, 50; Jerry and Maria Ward, 50;

Crystal Lake

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton: Raymond R. and Joan C. Alther, 50; William L. and Mary K. Anderson, 50; William and Rosemary Becker, 60; Daniel J. and Carole C. Hess, 55; Donald V. and Norma M. Purn, 50; Richard and Antonette Reiff, 68; Ariel and Pazcuelo Robancho, 25; Robert and Patricia Schafer, 50; Wolfgang and Colette Seifert, 55; Keith and

Stacy Sloan, 25; Fredrick W. and Lynne M. Wickham, 55;

St. Thomas the Apostle: Bill and Christine Batalden, 55; James and Kristin Blake, 25; John and Jackie Di Cecco, 25; Frank and Colleen Kirkaldy, 50; Jaime and María Raquel López, 50; Ruben and Kimberly Perez, 25; Richard and Mary Thennes, 50; Ronald and Christine Trojan, 50; James M. and Jean C. Van Bosch, 60; Thomas and Karine Vosberg, 25; Gerald and Marilyn Zopp, 50;

DeKalb

Myron and Lesia Kuropas, 55;

Christ The Teacher University Parish: Raymond and Patricia Dembinski, 55; John and Martha B. Dlabal, 66; Tim and Sue Higham, 50; Jim and Therese Laskowski, 25; Terrence J. and Regina T. Smith, 55; Douglas and Holly Teckenbrock, 25;

St. Mary: Robert and Linda Daniel, 50; Barry and Diana Fohrman, 50; Sam J. and Sharon C. Librizzi, 50; Nicholas L. and Rosemary M. Moore, 60;

Dixon

St. Anne: Richard and Elizabeth Kanzler, 55;

St. Patrick: Anthony and Roberta Fassler, 25; Kenneth L. and Judith A. Mendel, 55; Rick and Julie Miller, 25;

Durand/Irish Grove

St. Mary/St. Patrick: Eugene and Veronica Hnilicka, 60; Klaus W. and Monika Knappik, 55; Randal Lucas and Debra Reppen-Lucas, 25; Gregory P. and Sharon M. Wegler, 25;

Elburn

St. Gall: Philip and Elsie DelMastro, 65; Norbert A. and Cecelia M. Lund, 50; Roy and Sandie Toms, 50;

Elgin

St. Joseph: Juan and María Teresa Cornejo, 50; Jose and Patty Munoz, 25; José Guadalupe and Beatriz Orduño, 25;

St. Laurence: William and Eva Alvarado, 50; Keith and Camille Stras, 25; James "Sam" and Marilyn Watson, 50;

St. Mary: James J. and Marie C. Cierny, 25; William and Norma Gabriel, 25; Bernardo and Carolina Velázquez Plata Morales Gonzáles, 25; John and Deanna North, 60; Warren F. and Christine M. Tejes, 50;

St. Thomas More: Donald and Louise Baczek, 50; Timothy and Susan Dowd, 25; Charles and Joan Felski, 60; Anthony and Barbara Gorzak, 55; Steven T. and Lynn M. Harper, 50; Stanley and Mary Jurczyk, 50; Lawrence and Cynthia Pelkowski, 50; Cyril "Gene" and Janice Reed, 50; Bob and Helen Regan, 60; Ralph and Ruthann Seisser, 55; Steven and Martha Skog, 25; Ronald J. and Gemma D. Winters, 60;

Freeport

St. Mary: Timothy and Mida Smith, 50;

St. Thomas Aquinas: Wayne and Karen Greene, 50; Howard and Jean Stadel, 60;

Geneva

St. Peter: James and Janine Augustyn, 25; Matt and Patricia Bales, 50; Paul and Mary Carol MacDonald, 25; Frank and Kathy

Woodin, 50;

Genoa

St. Catherine of Genoa: Donald and Clara Coffey, 60; Dennis and Tina Drendel, 25; Michael A. and Patricia A. Riedy, 55; Donald and Teri Wille, Jr., 40;

Gilberts

St. Mary: Rich and Judy Pawlicki, 55; Theodore G. and Marilyn M. Pearson, 50;

Hampshire

St. Charles Borromeo: Thomas and Darlene Bischoffer, 55; Richard and Arlene Brouillette, 55; Emmet and Suzanne Croke, 25; George E. and Marcella E. Drendel, 71; Gordon and Linda Gray, 50; Thomas and Madeline Liebert, 50; Philip and Mary Lou Manning, 65; James and Patricia Nowak, 55; Christopher and Janice Olson, 25; Deacon Jerome E. and Linda L. Ryndak, 50; John and Kathleen Spahn, 50;

Harvard

St. Joseph: G. Thomas and Gretchen Burroughs, 65; Robert and Mary Bywalec, 55; Percy "Bill" and Patricia Gibson, 60; Alfonso and María Esther Palafox, 25; Erwin and Mary Ann Schmid, 51; Eugene P. and Mary Jane Weidner, 65;

Huntley

St. Mary: David and Nancy Babicz, 25; Thomas C. and Diane L. Benbennick, 69; Carter C. and Joan L. Berg, 62; Sebastián and Juanita Blanco, 62; John and Margaret Bondi, 51; John and Rhonda Bondi, 25; Robert and Olivia Capparelli, 62; Alvaro and



This year's annual diocesan Silver and Gold Mass honoring married couples celebrated more than 14,700 combined years of marriage.

and Olivia Capparelli, 62; Alvaro and Candida Caraballo, 60; Walter and Nancy Carlson, 50; John P. and Patricia Casperson, 50; Ronald and Florence Ciskoski, 60; Vincent J. and Jane Costa, 68; Patrick and Jean Cunningham, 50; Ken and Gerry Cyzen, 60; Pasquale S. and Irma G. Danna, 69; Steve and Barbara Dolewski, 60; John and Carolyn Dwyer, 50; William and Marcia Elke, 55; Daniel and Robin Esta, 25; William and Janet Fahey, 60; Kenneth and Janice Fron, 50; Damon and Cristy Frugoli, 25; Joseph and Christa Gehard, 50; Bill T. and Mia R. Geheren, 25; Ronald and Beverly Glovetski, 60; Antonio and Nancy Gomez, 60; Ralph and Patricia Goraj, 55; Scott and Janet Gorgius, 50; George and Patricia Gow, 60; Glenn H. and Mary Ann Groebli, 60; Dean and Geri Guidi, 50; Ronald J. and Barbara A. Helfers, 50; Charles M. and Marie A. Jacobs, 55; Thomas and Mary Johnson, 50; Michael and Jacqueline Jummati, Sr., 60; Joseph and Eugenia Kalitowski, 60; Michael and Karen Karom, 50; Edward W. and Dolores A. Kniola, 71; Wayne and Connie Krueger, 50; Dennis and Dolores Kuta, 60; Dan and Pat Leahy, 50; Lucian and Christine Masur, 71; Robert and Helene Meixner, 55; Jim and Marilyn Meyers, 50; Glenn and Judy Mitchell, 50; Pierino and Theresa Muglia, 50; John and Phyllis Neven, 68; Dave and Shirley A. Osman, 69; Fred and Mary Anne Palumbo, 61; Elden and Jo Ann Pfaff, 64; James R. and Mary Kathleen Rice, 50; Ismael and Frances Robledo, 65; Richard and Kathleen Sack, 50; Roman F. and Jean M. Sierzega, 60; Walter and Margot Sormane, 61; Dewey E. and Carol L. Stowell, 63; Thomas C. and Christine M. Sudeikis, 50; Gerald J. and Donna J. Tarpey, 50; John R.

and Barbara A. Tokarz, 62; Leroy and Patricia Totman, 50; Vincent and Susan Varco, 50; Cesar A. and Gladys H. Vega, 50; Ronald E. and Rita A. Wiedenfeld, 62; Raymond F. and Ann J. Wolski, 60; Richard and Joan Zampa, 60; Francis and Margaret Zilinsky, 50; Florian and JoAnn Zydorowicz, 50;

Johnsburg

St. John the Baptist: Dwight and Carol L. Dixon, 50;

Loves Park

St. Bridget: Jerry and Karen Brunner, 25; Craig and Bonnie, Cox, 50; Santiago and Mary Montelongo, 55;

Maple Park

St. Mary of the Assumption: James A. and Mildred F. Diehl, 63; Michael and Bernadine McGinnis, 70;

Marengo

Sacred Heart: Larry and Barb Dochterman, 50; Robert C. and Jeanette A. Marks, 60; Ray and Shirley M. Waldoch, 70;

McHenry

St. Patrick: Raymond and Kimberly Niehaus, 25; Jim and Mary Ann Wegener, 66;

Church of Holy Apostles: Wayne and Doretta Balsman, 55; Louis F. and Noreen J. Floden, 50; Steven and Aniela Robinson, 25;

North Aurora

Blessed Sacrament: W. Leo and Arlene V. Dauer, 55;

Oregon

St. Mary: Joseph and Dona Popp, 60;

Rock Falls

St. Andrew: James and Karen Nelson, 60;

Rockford

Charles and Nancy Stacy, 50;

Cathedral of St. Peter: Edward and Mary Allen, 50; John and Julie Perino, 25;

Holy Family: James G. and Monica Dale, 25; Reynaldo and Lorna Ignacio, 50; Bernie and Sharon Krowczyk, 55; John B. and Susan M. Martocci, 55; Steven and Patricia Morig, 50; Charles and Frances Wheeler, 50;

St. Bernadette: Marc and Mary Pat Kinnemann, 50; Philip J. and Janet R. Meyers, 55;

St. Edward: Alfredo and Maria Guadalupe Perez Alejo, 25; José E. and Maria Guadalupe Mandujano Medina, 25;

St. James: Thomas and Janet Sabrowski, 65;

St. Patrick: John and Mary Gilberti, 25; Phillip F. and Carolyn J. Summer, 60;

St. Rita: Michael D. and Eunice C. Adams, 50; Thomas D. and Norma C. Cancelose, 64; Gerald and Jeanette Faught, 50; Edward L. and Patricia E. Hoff, 60;

Sandwich

St. Paul the Apostle: James V. and Nancy L. Martin, 50; Eugene A. and Mary Ellen Potter, 50;

Savanna

St. John the Baptist: Russ and

Cathy Gies, 55; Edward and Conchi McDermott, 50; William and Diane Robinson, 50;

Scales Mound

Holy Trinity: Dennis L. and Jean F. Story, 50;

Somonauk

St. John the Baptist: Robert and Kathryn Hart, 50; Arnold and Jacqueline Rucinski, 60;

Spring Grove

St. Peter: Bruce and Marguerite Baranov, 50; George and Georgene Keim, 57; James and Carrie Shannon, 25;

St. Charles

Alfred and Linda, Honrath, 25;

St. Patrick: James and Patricia Ankrom, 25; Ulysses and Angelina Beaudion, 50; Anthony and Anna Marie Chiarugi, 65; Ted and Suzanne Kubala, 25; William R. and Ann Marie Larsen, 55; Frank and Bernice Monteleone, 66; Jim and Karen Rhoads, 25; Alan and Carol Santini, 50;

Stockton

Holy Cross: Gael and Nora Brewbaker, 50;

Sugar Grove

St. Katharine Drexel: William and Cheryl Fredricksen, 50; John and Mary Walt, 50;

Sycamore

St. Mary: Clifford and Susan Benson, 25; Daniel F. and Catherine A. Corcoran, 60; John and Catherine Cwiklinski, 65; Donald R. and Barbara Nowak, 60; Ronald

and Beverly Rosecky, 25; Hans E. and Gaby J. van Blyenburgh, 55;

West Dundee

St. Catherine of Siena: Richard and Katherine Corbett, 50; Paul and Nancy Dunn, 50; Deacon Steven and Mary Alice Fox, 50; Rick and Jeannine Hoffman, 50; Charles A. and Patricia Janicki, 55; Tom and Terri Lang, 50; Mario and Wenonah Magleo, 50; Joseph and Deborah Sakowski, 25; Earl and Nancy Saunders, 61;

Wonder Lake

Christ the King: Jim and Jackie Bronson, 50; Juan and Gloria Enriquez, 56; Paul and Gerri Konczak, 25;

Woodstock

St. Mary: Ludwig N. and Arlene M. Asfeld, 60; John and Mary Ann Bisaha, 50; Robert and Kathleen Hahn, 50; A. John and Margaret L. Havlis, 60; Michael and Sandra Neese, 50; Thomas and Josephine Smith, 60; Gerald and JoAnn Smith, 25; Jaime and Marilú Villafuerte, 25;

Wheaton

St. Michael: Ton and Kathleen Gorzak, 25 (celebrating with parents from St. Thomas More in Elgin);

Late registrants

Algonquin: Gerald and Caroline Frost, 50;

Batavia: Jerome and Nellie Yanek, 55;

Lake in the Woods: Grzegorz and Anna Dobek, 25;

Rockford: Ron and Francys Johnson, 50.