

THE OBSERVER

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FRIDAY MAY 6, 2022

Annual Mass Welcomes Many Jubilarian Priests

BY AMANDA HUDSON
News Editor

ROCKFORD—St. Rita Church, here, again was the setting for the annual Jubilarian Mass honoring priests of, and/or serving in, the Diocese of Rockford who celebrate significant (10, 25, 40, 50, 60 years) anniversaries of ordination to the priesthood this year.

The April 26 Mass welcomed dozens of priests for the Mass and following luncheon. Six jubilarian priests joined Bishop David Malloy around the altar along with Msgr. Stephen Knox, Vicar for Clergy, and St. Rita pastor, Father Brian Grady.

“This Mass for jubilarians unites us in the sharing of the call to live faithfully

the priesthood that the Master Himself entrusted to us,” Bishop Malloy said in his homily, adding that, “Our Mass ... honors not only those priests, but also their years of fidelity ... sometimes a service that is quiet and unobtrusive seemingly more recognized and followed by God than the more human applause.”



Priests enjoyed catching up and swapping stories at the luncheon afterward.

He called it good to celebrate “the accumulation of fidelity ... taking delight in the good, in the recognition and the service, the sacrifice of others,” and also delighting in the “thanksgiving to God for the calling” of all of the priests.

“None of us has merited this call, and yet here we are to celebrate the years that are filled with God’s gifts and with God’s grace,” the



(Observer photos/ Amanda Hudson)

St. Rita pastor Father Brian Grady (left) and jubilarians Father Andrew Hernandez and Father Edilberto Jarapa raise their hands in prayer. “You continue to give to the rest of us an image and encouragement to be faithful, to live those promises that we’ve made,” Bishop Malloy said in thanks for the jubilarians’ example of service.

bishop said, reflecting on the day’s first reading from the Acts of the Apostles and its description of the early Christians, with the apostles there, he said, giving witness to the resurrection and living that message in their lives.

“For us too, our witness is not just in our homilies or in the confessional guidance that we give,” he said, “It is

also the witness of our joy, the witness of our simplicity, the witness that we just live and say to people, “it’s true, and it’s the greatest news that we can possibly have.”

He spoke of the variety of work done by priests in parishes, schools and nationally, and of how older priests can inspire younger, and vice versa. “All of us,” he said, are “united by the daily Mass, by the breviary, (and) by the promises we just renewed” on Holy Thursday.

“Our warmest congratulations, our thank you to God,” Bishop Malloy concluded, addressing the jubilarians in particular. “You continue to give to the rest of us an image and encouragement to be faithful, to live those promises that we’ve made. Every one of us has received so many gifts; we have received so many graces; we have received the call to be faithful.

“Thank you for showing us all of those gifts, all of those graces, and how to live it.”

Editor’s note: Diocesan priests celebrating jubilees will be featured in the June 17 issue of The Observer.



Priests and those celebrating jubilees join Bishop David Malloy in praying over the offerings, from left: Father Andrew Hernandez, Father Brian Grady, Father Edilberto Jarapa, Father Christopher Kuhn, Msgr. Stephen Knox, Bishop David Malloy, Father Michael Fuller, Father Joseph Naill and Father David Beauvais.

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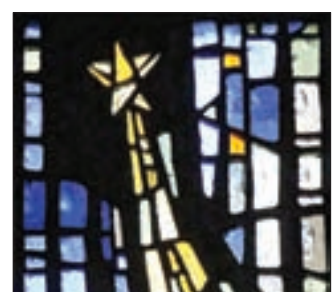


(Photo provided)

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(Observer screenshot/ Dominican Sisters of Springfield)

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Motherhood: A Design of God Written into Human Nature



BY BISHOP
DAVID J.
MALLOY

For nine months, a woman is entrusted with the sacrifice and with the great beauty of carrying within her the gift of a new human life. That life is created by God to live eternally.

This Sunday, May 8, is Mother's Day. Just on a human level this day is important to many. And rightly so.

On Mother's Day, many will make a special effort to thank that one singular person who has played such a significant role in the life of each of us. Visits will be made. Calls will be placed. Flowers will be sent. Dinners will be arranged. All of this to be in contact with the one who gave us birth, or who, perhaps through adoption, had an irreplaceable contribution to our growing up, and in coming to understand ourselves and the world.

Of course this is all very good. Gratitude is a part of the right order of any human society, including the family. So a day like Mother's Day, where gratitude is organized and expressed widely, awakens the best in human relationships and even creates a regular annual moment for renewing ties, or seeking forgiveness should that be necessary.

Still, we miss a fundamental part of the importance and indispensability of motherhood if we do not grasp the link of this great gift to God and to His plan of creation. And this we perceive through our faith.

The Book of Genesis gives us the basis of human relations, and that basis is founded in the role of the woman, Eve. We are told that God made all of creation including the man, Adam. But in spite of being surrounded by the beauty of the Garden and all of the animals, the man is lonely and unfulfilled until God creates Eve.

The complementarity of Adam and Eve, of man and woman, is described by the author of Genesis, "That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body." (Gen 2:24). Even from the beginning,

the plan of God is for an exclusive and mutually supportive relationship between a man and a woman as the basis of society. That is marriage.

Out of this relationship begins the beauty of motherhood. For nine months, a woman is entrusted with the sacrifice and with the great beauty of carrying within her the gift of a new human life. That life is created by God to live eternally. But its first period of growth and development is in complete dependence upon his or her mother.

Experience has shown us that there is a special bond between child and mother. It is at times astonishing to witness the attachment mothers have for their children. Their willingness to sacrifice for their children, especially when they are young, the manner in which mothers speak of the pain of separation from their children even for a short time, and the way in which a mother imparts values and faith to her children, all of these are signs of the design of God written into human nature.

In so many families, the mother is the engine of faith for others. She is often the one who has taught us our first prayers and whose example leads us to recognize the importance of attending Mass and practice devotions.

Scripture uses a mother's love to describe the love of God for us. The Book of the Prophet Isaiah famously says, "Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget you."

Mothers, we cannot say it often enough. Thank you. Thank you for what you have done for us. Thank you for fulfilling God's loving plan, especially by sharing with us the gift of human life.

A very Happy Mother's Day!

Jesus Alone Can Speak to Us of Peace



BY POPE
FRANCIS

The wounds on the body of the risen Jesus are the sign of the battle He fought and won for us, won with the weapons of love, so that we might have peace and remain in peace.

From Urbi et Orbi, central loggia of the Vatican Basilica, April 17

Jesus, the Crucified One, is risen! He stands in the midst of those who mourned Him, locked behind closed doors and full of fear and anguish. He comes to them and says: "Peace be with you!" (Jn 20:19). He shows the wounds in His hands and feet, and the wound in His side.

He is no ghost; it is truly Jesus, the same Jesus who died on the cross and was laid in the tomb. Before the incredulous eyes of the disciples, He repeats: "Peace be with you!" (v. 21).

Our eyes, too, are incredulous on this Easter of war. We have seen all too much blood, all too much violence. Our hearts, too, have been filled with fear and anguish, as so many of our brothers and sisters have had to lock themselves away in order to be safe from bombing.

We struggle to believe that Jesus is truly risen, that He has truly triumphed over death. Could it be an illusion? A figment of our imagination?

No, it is not an illusion! ... We hear echoing the Easter proclamation so dear to the Christian East: "Christ is risen! He is truly risen!" Today, more than ever, we need Him ...

We emerged from two years of pandemic, which took a heavy toll. It was time to come out of the tunnel together, hand in hand, pooling our strengths and resources ... Instead, we are showing that we do not yet have within us the spirit of Jesus but the spirit of Cain, who saw Abel not as a brother, but as a rival, and thought about how to eliminate him.

We need the crucified and risen Lord so that we can believe in the victory of love, and hope for reconciliation. Today, more than ever, we need Him to stand in our midst and repeat to us: "Peace

be with you!"

Only He can do it. ... He alone has the right to speak to us of peace. Jesus alone, for He bears wounds ... our wounds. His wounds are indeed ours, for two reasons.

They are ours because we inflicted them upon Him by our sins, by our hardness of heart, by our fratricidal hatred. They are also ours because He bore them for our sake; He did not cancel them from His glorified body; He chose to keep them forever.

They are the indelible seal of His love for us, a perennial act of intercession, so that the heavenly Father, in seeing them, will have mercy upon us and upon the whole world. The wounds on the body of the risen Jesus are the sign of the battle He fought and won for us, won with the weapons of love, so that we might have peace and remain in peace.

As we contemplate those glorious wounds, our incredulous eyes open wide; our hardened hearts break open and we welcome the Easter message: "Peace be with you!"

Brothers and sisters, let us allow the peace of Christ to enter our lives, our homes, our countries! ...

Dear brothers and sisters, every war brings in its wake consequences that affect the entire human family: from grief and mourning to the drama of refugees, and to the economic and food crisis, the signs of which we are already seeing.

Faced with the continuing signs of war, as well as the many painful setbacks to life, Jesus Christ, the victor over sin, fear and death, exhorts us not to surrender to evil and violence.

... May we be won over by the peace of Christ! Peace is possible; peace is a duty; peace is everyone's primary responsibility!



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Special Issue to Celebrate Bishop Malloy's 10 Years in Diocese

The May 13 issue of *The Observer* will be entirely dedicated to the 10-year anniversary of Bishop David Malloy's episcopate in the Diocese of Rockford.

The congratulatory issue will feature a look back at the milestones and memories of Bishop Malloy's ministry from the day of his announcement in 2012 as the ninth Bishop of the 11-county Rockford Diocese to today. Print copies of the special issue will be available to all paid subscribers.

Beginning on May 9, Bishop Malloy will celebrate his first decade here praying the Mass with several groups including his brother priests, the Knights of Columbus and the permanent deacons of the diocese and the staff of the Diocesan

Administration Center.

Public Masses will include a May 14 Mass via livestream from the Cathedral of St. Peter, Rockford, beginning at 4:15 p.m. and a May 15 Mass for the Hispanic community of the Rockford Diocese beginning at 4 p.m. via livestream from St. Joseph Church, Aurora. The public Masses can be seen on the Diocese of Rockford YouTube Channel and the Diocese of Rockford Facebook page.

Regular news and events along with coverage of all the anniversary events will resume in the May 20 edition of *The Observer*.

Bishop Malloy's Public Schedule

CARPENTERSVILLE — May 7, 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., Confirmation ceremonies, St. Monica Church

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

MCHENRY — May 11, 5:30 p.m., Confirmation for St. Patrick-McHenry and Christ the King-Wonder Lake, at St. Patrick Church

CRYSTAL LAKE — May 12, 5:30 p.m., Confirmation, St. Thomas the Apostle Hispanic Community, St. Thomas the Apostle Church

ROCKFORD — May 13, 11 a.m., St. Anthony College of Nursing Baccalaureate Service, Holy Family Church

BATAVIA — May 14, 10 a.m., Confirmation, Holy Cross Church

ROCKFORD — May 14, 4:15 p.m., Bishop Malloy 10th Anniversary Mass, Cathedral of St. Peter

ROCKFORD — May 15, 7:30 a.m., Sunday Mass, Cathedral of St. Peter

ST. CHARLES — May 15, 1 p.m., Confirmation, St. John Neumann Church

AURORA — May 15, 4 p.m., Bishop Malloy 10th Anniversary Mass with Hispanic Community, St. Joseph Church

LOVES PARK — May 17, 5:30 p.m., Confirmation, St. Bridget Church

New Superintendent Named for Aurora Central Catholic High School

BY PENNY WIEGERT
Editor

AURORA—Just after Easter break, the diocesan Office of Catholic Education announced the selection of the new Superintendent of Aurora Central Catholic High School.

In an April 26 letter to parents Superintendent of Catholic Schools Vito DeFrisco announced that Paul Mayer, currently working as assistant principal of Aurora Central, was selected to succeed Father William Etheredge.

In his announcement DeFrisco wrote that “On behalf of Bishop David Malloy and the Rockford Diocese, I want to thank Father Etheredge for his dedicated service to the diocese and Aurora Central. Father Etheredge has served as the Superintendent at Aurora

Central for 22 years and has enriched the lives of many students and families. As we say goodbye to Father Etheredge, we welcome Paul in his new role as the Superintendent of Aurora Central Catholic High School.”

Mayer began his career in education, teaching business classes at West Aurora High School. After four years at West Aurora High School, he transitioned to teaching business at Kaneland High School, where he spent seven years.

While teaching at Kaneland High School, Mayer completed his master's in educational administration degree from Northern Illinois University.

After two years of serving as a dean and assistant principal in the Kaneland School District, Mayer was named the assistant principal at ACCHS,

a role he has held for the past eight years.

Mayer holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from DePaul University and a master's degree in secondary education from Roosevelt University.

DeFrisco said Mayer's accomplishments at ACCHS include training staff in various safety measures, overseeing professional development for teachers, guiding the school through many pandemic challenges, and serving as an assistant track coach.

Mayer and his wife, Kate, have four children and are active members of St. Katharine Drexel Parish in Sugar Grove, where he has volunteered as a catechist. He has also served as a soccer and track coach at Annunciation School in Aurora. In his free time, Mayer enjoys traveling and watching



(Photo provided)

Paul Mayer

his kids run track and cross country and play soccer.

In addition to being responsible for Auroral Central Catholic High School, Mayer will also assist the elementary school principals in the Aurora Deanery.

Franciscan Friars To Conclude Service at St. Anthony Parish

BY PENNY WIEGERT
Editor

ROCKFORD—Another page was turned in a long history at St. Anthony of Padua Parish on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 24.

Pastor of St. Anthony Parish, Father James Ciaramitaro of the Conventual Franciscans of St. Bonaventure Province (OFM, Conv.) announced after all Masses that his religious order would be concluding its service to the parish on July 1, and a diocesan priest would be assigned.

The announcement from Father Ciaramitaro, along with a letter from Bishop David Malloy, was also sent by mail to all parishioners of St. Anthony Parish.

“Our Franciscan leadership made this decision based on a lack of personnel. Not only are there fewer vocations today than



(Observer file photo)

St. Anthony Parish

in the past, but recently, two or our young newly ordained friars suddenly left us to be become priests of the Diocese of Phoenix. This unexpected turn of events has left us (the religious order) short-handed — so much so that we are also put in a position of having to leave Holy

Family Parish in Peoria,” Father Ciaramitaro's letter said.

Father Ciaramitaro said he did what he could to prevent this decision. “I've no doubt that our parish and Holy Family in Peoria were selected for our departure because these have recently become one-priest parishes and our Franciscan form of life is better lived in a community of three or more friars,” he said.

Bishop Malloy wrote in his letter to St. Anthony parishioners that when the decision was announced to the Rockford Diocese from Very Rev. Michael Zielke, OFM, Conv., Minister Provincial of the St. Bonaventure Province, he “felt a sense of regret.”

Bishop Malloy went on to write, “But that was followed by a prayer of gratitude to God. There comes moment in life, in work, in family where we must step back and be grateful

for a job well done, even as we feel the sorrow of a moment of separation or change. I ask you to join me in offering thanks for just such a moment.”

Bishop Malloy announced in his letter he would be assigning a diocesan priest to St. Anthony Parish “with the coming spring appointments.” Many priest appointments and change of parish assignments are made as new priests are ordained each year for the diocese.

Ordination in the Rockford Diocese this year takes place on June 4. Those appointments will be announced in parishes and in upcoming issues of *The Observer*.

“The goal,” Bishop Malloy wrote, “is that the pastoral service and excellence so well established by the Franciscans of St. Bonaventure Province will continue for you.”

“The main consolation in this

sadness is that St. Anthony Parish will live on with all her rich and wonderful traditions,” Father Ciaramitaro said.

He asked parishioners to continue to support the parish and the new pastor. “When he gets to know you, he will love you as much as we friars have for almost 90 years,” he continued.

Father Ciaramitaro has been pastor of St. Anthony Parish since 2010. He is assisted in parish ministry by Brother James Dufresne, OFM., Conv. The religious order has staffed the parish for the past 89 years, coming to care for the parish in 1933 at the request of Bishop Edward Hoban. The parish was founded in 1909. The two friars will return to the Provincial house in Chicago in July.

To read the full letters by Father Ciaramitaro and Bishop Malloy go to <https://www.stanthonyrockford.org/>



(Photo provided/ Margaret Borowski)

St. Stanislaus Kostka Presents Jesus' Passion

ROCKFORD—Members of the Korab theatre group at St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish presented the Passion of the Lord on Good Friday, April 15. The parish group is known for presenting plays in Polish. Pastor Mieczyslaw Wit portrayed the role of Jesus.

Springfield Dominicans to Open Convent Chapel for Tours May 9

SPRINGFIELD—For the first time in two years, the Dominican Sisters of Springfield's Sacred Heart Convent Chapel will open to the public for self-guided tours, an exhibit, and a presentation by eminent architectural historian Anthony Rubano.

The Dominican Sisters will host the exhibit "Reading Light: Sacred Art & Architecture" in collaboration with the Liturgical Arts Festival of Springfield, 6-8 p.m., May 9. The convent chapel is at 1237 W. Monroe St.

Doors open at 6 p.m. for self-guided tours of the chapel. Local architectural historian Anthony Rubano will discuss the architectural history of the mid-century modern chapel at 7 p.m. in Aquinas Center beneath the chapel.

Aquinas Center will also hold an exhibit demonstrating

the use of light and glass in various religious traditions.

"It will be a pleasure to welcome guests to the chapel again," said Sister Beth Murphy, OP, the Dominican Sisters' communication director.

"Anyone who has enjoyed one of Anthony Rubano's downtown tours knows they will be entertained and informed by his presentation," she said.

Dedicated in 1968, the chapel is among the largest U.S. works of Gabriel Loire, a prolific French glass artist who began his career replacing windows in European churches after World War II.

The chapel contains 4,000 sq. ft. of *dalle de verre*, or faceted, glass windows designed by Loire at his studio near Chartres. It also features two large Venetian glass mosaics and other sacred furnishings



(Observer screenshot/ Dominican Sisters of Springfield)

One of the chapel's tall stained glass windows glows, showing the work of artist Gabriel Loire.

designed by the Chicago-based Daprato Rigali Studios, which has also restored much liturgical art in the parishes of the Diocese of Rockford.

Guests can download free tour materials when they register in advance at <https://springfieldop.org/LAFS>

Statement from the Diocese of Rockford

Vatican Tribunal Imposes Penalty on Father Joseph Nicolosi

DIOCESE—Father Joseph P. Nicolosi, a priest of the Diocese of Rockford ordained in 1997, has had a penalty imposed upon him by a judicial sentence of the Tribunal of the Roman Rota, which serves as an appellate ecclesiastical court in Rome.

Bishop Thomas G. Doran restricted the ministry of Father Nicolosi in September 2011. In April 2017, following a penal process in the Diocese of Rock-

ford conducted in accordance with canon law, Father Nicolosi was found guilty of the delict of living in concubinage with an adult woman (canon 1395 §1), as well as guilty of two other related delicts.

Father Nicolosi appealed the judicial sentence to the Tribunal of the Roman Rota. The Roman Rota has sent notice that it has upheld the conviction of the delict of concubinage established by can-

on law but overturned the convictions on the other two delicts. As part of this decision, the Rota imposed upon Father Nicolosi the penalty of a six-month prohibition from the exercise of the power of orders except for the celebration of Mass without other people present. In determining this penalty, consideration was given to the fact that Father Nicolosi's ministry has been restricted since 2011, and it was noted that the six-month

penalty imposed by this sentence should therefore not be viewed as a light penalty. With this sentence from the Roman Rota, this penal process against Father Nicolosi regarding the above-mentioned case is now completed.

At this time, Father Nicolosi is forbidden from exercising the power of orders (e.g., celebrating Mass or the sacraments, etc.) except for celebrating Mass without anyone else present.

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What's Up

BATAVIA

Holy Cross parish mission set for May 14-17

Holy Cross Parish will hold a parish mission May 14-17, in the church building, 2300 Main St. The parish mission's theme will be "Spiritual Warfare and the Spiritual Life," led by Father Ryan Browning, S.T.L., pastor at St. Thomas More Parish in Elgin. Father Browning will preach at the Masses on May 14 and 15 and lead talks on May 15-17 at 6:30 p.m.

DIXON

Dixon Knights to hold Memorial Day drawing

The Knights of Columbus Council #690 will hold a lunch and draw-down event on Memorial Day, May 30, at 2 p.m. at the Knights' hall, 506 W. 3rd St. The drawing will begin at 3 p.m., following a hot dog lunch, and will offer over \$7,000 in prizes. Tickets for the drawing are \$50 and also cover lunch and drinks. 250 tickets will be sold. To buy tickets, contact Gary Gornik at 815-994-1368 or call the hall at 815-288-1821.

HUNTLEY

'Flores de Mayo' set for May 22

St. Mary Parish's Filipino American Ministry (SMFAM) will hold a "Flores de Mayo" celebration May 22 on the parish grounds at 10307 Dundee Rd. The celebration will include Mass in the parish hall at 5 p.m., a procession on the parish grounds at 6:15 p.m., and a flower offering to Mary at 7 p.m. followed by dinner.

Continued on page 5

Parishes to Offer Mental Health Classes In May

ALGONQUIN, ST. CHARLES—St. Margaret Mary Parish in Algonquin and St. John Neumann Parish in St. Charles will offer classes on mental health challenges during the month of May, which has been observed as Mental Health Awareness Month in the United States since 1949.

St. Margaret Mary Parish will host a certification class in first aid for adult mental health on May 21, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., in the lower level of the Ministry Center, 113 S. Hubbard St.

The course will be provided by the St. Dymphna Mental Health Ministry and will teach how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders.

Those who complete the class will receive official certificates, and certification will be effective for 3 years. The class will cost \$49/person. Snacks will be provided but participants should bring a lunch. Register at 847-658-7625.

St. John Neumann Parish will offer "The Sanctuary Course for Catholics"

over eight Sunday meetings from May 8-June 26, noon -2 p.m., in Room 122 in the parish center at 2900 E. Main St.

Each meeting will provide information to help those suspecting a mental health challenge in themselves or a loved one. The course book costs \$25. Checks can be made out to St. John Neumann, or pay in person at the parish office. Register at <https://www.sjnst-charles.org/the-sanctuary-course/>

Editor's note: Find more information in the April 15 issue of The Observer.



(Observer photo/ Amanda Hudson)

Mary Fuller leads a session of "The Sanctuary Course for Catholics" at the Cathedral of St. Peter on April 5.

What's Up

HUNTLEY

From page 4

Women's book study group to begin May 28

St. Mary Parish will begin a book study May 28, 9-11 a.m., in the Kreutzer Room in the lower level of the church building, 10307 Dundee Rd. The group will study the book "Love Like a Saint" by Elizabeth M. Kelly.

To register, contact Mary Lou Manion at mmanion@stmaryhuntley.org or 847-669-3137, ext. 117.

LOVES PARK

St. Bridget parish mission set for May 9-11

St. Bridget Parish will hold a parish mission May 9-11, 6:30-

8 p.m., in the church building at 600 Clifford Ave. The parish mission's theme will be "Our Restless Journey," led by Father Tom McCarthy, O.S.A., of Augustinian Preaching Ministries. A livestream of the parish mission will be available for those unable to attend.

For more information, email Msgr. Stephen Knox, S.T.L., at sknox@rockforddiocese.org

RICHMOND

St. Joseph Parish to hold spring plant and pie sale May 7

The Altar and Rosary Society at St. Joseph Parish will hold its annual spring plant and pie

sale on May 7, 8:30-11 a.m., on the steps of the church building at 10519 Main St.

ROCKFORD

Women's Emmaus retreat set for May 27-29

St. Edward Parish will hold an Emmaus retreat for women May 27-29 in the church building, 3004 11th St. Register after Spanish Masses held on Saturdays at 6:30 p.m. and Sundays at 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. Space is limited.

Info: Claudia Soberanes, 815-312-6607

CWL bus trip, show set for June 18

Catholic Women's League

will hold a summer bus trip to Madison on June 18, starting at 8:15 a.m. The trip will include the Broadway show "Ain't Too Proud" and shopping at the Dane County Farmers Market. The trip will cost \$100 for members and \$105 for non-members. Checks can be made out to Patrice Vecchio at 6235 Muirfield Lane, Rockford, IL, 61114.

Info: Patrice Vecchio, 815-654-8911

St. James Parish to hold card party May 11

The Altar and Rosary Society at St. James Parish will hold its annual card party after a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19. The party will be May 11, 7 p.m., at the Beauvais

Parish Center, 428 N. 2nd St. Door prizes and silent auction items will be included in the game night. Proceeds support the parish and All Saints Catholic Academy.

SOUTH BELOIT

Building dedication, breakfast set for May 22

St. Peter Parish will gain a new pastoral center May 22. After the 7:30 a.m. Mass, Father Romeo Pavino will dedicate the former St. Peter School building at 320 Elmwood Ave. in honor of Msgr. Thomas Brady. A coffee and donut breakfast will be provided. An open house will follow the dedication until 3 p.m.



Which hand's holding the tobacco? Your kids can't tell, either.

Tobacco doesn't always look like a pack of cigarettes. Now nicotine comes in so many new shapes and styles, it can be hard to spot. Especially when it's wrapped in the bright colors and shiny materials you usually find in the candy aisle. So make sure your kids know: new products and fun packaging don't make tobacco safe or less addictive.

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News in Brief

South Sudan bishop hopes for conversion after men sentenced for shooting

NAIROBI, Kenya (CNS)—Bishop Christian Carlassare of Rumbek, South Sudan, expressed hope for conversion and healing as a court sentenced a Catholic priest and three



(CNS photo/Comboni Missionaries)

Italian-born Bishop Christian Carlassare of Rumbek, South Sudan speaks from a hospital in Kenya in a video message posted on Twitter April 28, 2021.

others for his shooting. Italian-born Bishop Carlassare, 44, was shot in his legs at his residence in Rumbek April 26, 2021, slightly over a month after the Vatican appointed him to lead the diocese. The attack forced the rescheduling of the Comboni priest's consecration as the

central South Sudan. Rumbek had been without a bishop since 2011, following the death of Bishop Cesare Mazzolari, also a Comboni missionary. A High Court judge in Juba ruled that Father John Mathiang Machol, Moris Sebit Ater, Laat Makur Agok and Samuel Makir were guilty of participating in the attack.

Catholic University selling Dorothy dress to help school's drama department

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Dorothy's refrain, "There's no place like home," in "The Wizard of Oz" also could be echoed by her blue and white gingham dress from the 1939 movie. The dress, which turned up last summer at The Catholic University of America, is about to get a new home as the university plans to sell it and use the proceeds to help establish the school's new film acting program. The costume, worn by Judy Garland, was given to the theater department head as a gift in 1973, but no one knew its whereabouts from the late 1980s until it was discovered during a campus theater renovation last year. Now somewhat faded and yellowed, the dress is estimated to be worth \$800,000 to \$1.2 million. It will be auctioned May 24 in Los Angeles at the "Bonhams Classic Hollywood: Film and Television" sale run by the international auction house. According to Bonhams, the costume is one of four blue and white pinafore dresses made for the movie and one of only two existing dresses with the original white blouse. It has been matched to a specific scene when Dorothy faced the wicked witch in her castle.



(CNS photo/Miriam Donohoe, Trócaire)

Drought Casualties

Livestock carcasses lie in the new Qurdubay internally displaced people's camp in the drought-stricken region of Dolow, Somalia, April 13.

Vicki Thorn Dies; Founder of Project Rachel

MILWAUKEE (CNS)—Milwaukee Archbishop Jerome E. Listecki said the life and work of Project Rachel founder Vicki Thorn, who died unexpectedly April 20, stand "as a living testimony to an unwavering and unconditional defense of life at all stages, and to the mercy of God's love."

Thorn was 72.

The *Catholic Herald*, Milwaukee's archdiocesan newspaper, reported that she died of a massive heart attack. Funeral arrangements were pending.

As the founder of the post-abortion healing ministry Project Rachel, she single-



(CNS photo/courtesy William Thorn)

Vicki Thorn was a guest speaker several times in the Rockford Diocese.

handedly created a post-abortion healing ministry at a time when none existed.

She maintained an office at the Milwaukee archdiocesan pastoral center for 37 years.

During that time, her ministry expanded across the U.S. and around the world.

Now overseen by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Project Rachel is a diocesan-based network of specially trained priest confessors, mental health professionals, spiritual directors and others who provide ongoing, one-on-one confidential post-abortion care.

In an April 20 statement, Archbishop Listecki said he and the pastoral center staff offered "our deepest condolences" to Thorn's husband of 50 years, William, and the couple's six children.

Polish Convent Finds New Joy — And Noise of Ukrainian Orphans

KONSTANCIN-JEZIORNA, Poland (CNS)—David, 11, wouldn't mind staying in Poland a while longer, maybe traveling around to see more of the country.

But the three other boys and, especially, the four girls in his family disagree strongly. The eight children, who range in age from 10 to 15, are orphans who were living in a group home in Zhytomyr, Ukraine, sponsored by Caritas-Spes, the charitable arm of the Latin-rite Catholic dioceses in Ukraine.

While there are two sets of siblings among the eight, they insisted they all are brothers and sisters, and their caregivers vouch for the fact that they tease each other relentlessly and defend each other fervently.

Two days after Russia invaded Ukraine, Sisters Antonina Sinicka and Irena Wlasowa, members of the Congregation of Sisters of the Angels who staff



(CNS photo/Adrian Kowalewski)

Ukrainian children play in the yard of the motherhouse of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Angels in Konstancin-Jeziorna, Poland, April 20.

the Zhytomyr home, decided it was time to go.

"It was a difficult decision to leave everything behind," Sister Sinicka said April 20 during an interview at the Sisters of the Angels motherhouse in Konstancin-Jeziorna. "But the children were not eating, or they vomited if they did; they weren't sleeping; and if they saw an airplane, they ran into the house to hide."

"We had to leave," she said.

The superior general of the

order had told them just before the war began that they would be welcome at the motherhouse, a stately building on a large piece of property with a forest of spruce trees and a patio lined with plum trees in full bloom in late April.

Forty sisters, mostly elderly and in need of assistance, are the permanent occupants of the motherhouse, but now they have been joined by the eight children and two sisters from Zhytomyr and another six mothers with their children from Ukraine.

The motherhouse is just one of more than 1,000 women's convents in Poland hosting Ukrainian refugees. In many cases, orders like the Sisters of the Angels who had members running institutions in Ukraine for children — orphanages, boarding schools for the blind or for children with disabilities — simply had them bring the children to Poland.

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THE OBSERVER

German Laity Call for Changes to Faith and Structures

COLOGNE, Germany (CNS)—Archdiocesan Catholics who responded to a survey preparing for the 2023 worldwide Synod of Bishops on synodality called for some big changes in the Church.

The German Catholic news agency KNA reported that a statement on the archdiocese's website noted a majority of respondents called for the faithful to be given greater self-determination and demanded major curbs on the power of the Church leadership and priests, including that Church members should have a democratic say in matters such as the election of bishops.

The Archdiocese of Cologne has just under 1.9 million Catholics, KNA reported. More than 1,700 people — about .09% of archdiocesan Catholics — took part in the nonrepresentative online survey, "Tell the pope — what should the future of the Church look like?" They submitted more than 5,400 contributions and 1,200 comments.

The survey results were summarized by an agency in ac-



(CNS photo/Theodor Barth, KNA)

A woman prays in a pew at the cathedral in Cologne, Germany, March 16, 2020.

cordance with social science standards. The findings showed that respondents favored a "separation of powers as in democracies" instead of "priest-centeredness."

Same-sex couples should be entitled to be blessed and married in the Church, and divorced Catholics should be allowed to marry in the Church again, the survey showed. Respondents also demanded an admission of guilt by the Church for the "discrimination and personal injury of nonheterosexual people."

A person's gender and sexual

orientation should not affect their ability to serve in Church ministries, respondents said. Also, "women as well as trans people should be able to hold all ordained offices in their calling." In the future, respondents said, priestly celibacy should be voluntary rather than obligatory.

In fewer cases, participants said the Church should not succumb to the spirit of the times, should adhere to the ordination only of male priests and to mandatory celibacy, and should clearly identify abortion, adultery and homosexuality as sins.



(CNS photo/courtesy Deacon Randy Belice, University St. Mary of the Lake Mundelein)

Seminary Celebrates Centennial

Seminarians from the University of Saint Mary of the Lake Mundelein Seminary and priests applaud during the centennial celebration at the Sheraton Grand Chicago hotel in Chicago April 21. The Diocese of Rockford currently has five seminarians attending Saint Mary of the Lake Mundelein Seminary.

Volunteers Help Protect Palestinian Farmers and Herders

ZANUTA, West Bank (CNS)—A retired Catholic schoolteacher looked back over her shoulder toward the ridge where, moments earlier, three Israeli settlers had stood. They were no longer there, and the two Palestinian shepherds she and four others were accompanying moved their goat herd farther down along the still-green field in the valley outside this tiny South Hebron Hills village.

"I would like to think that us being here had something to do with the settlers not coming down," said Sue, from North Wales, who was among the first internationals to return, post-pandemic, as an ecumenical accompanier with the World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel.

More than likely their presence did restrain the settlers from fac-



(CNS photo/Debbie Hill)

A Palestinian shepherd talks to Israeli members of Ta'ayush while herding his livestock, April 2.

ing off with the Palestinians, said an activist leader from the grassroots Israeli Ta'ayush volunteer organization, which accompanies Palestinian farmers in the South Hebron Hills and the Jordan Valley.

Yasmin Eran-Vardi, 21, and Itai Feitelson, 26, two Israeli activists, accompanied the shepherds throughout the pandemic. One day, when no international accompaniers were present, settlers attacked the two Israelis.

Amin Milhem, 35, one of the two shepherds, said the settler outpost above his fields had been built in the past year in the absence of almost any human rights activists. The settlers also took over a water well Palestinians used to water their herds, he said, and now the shepherds cannot reach the water.

The World Council of Churches created the accompaniers program in 2002 following an appeal from local church leaders to create an international presence in the country. Accompaniers aim to offer a protective presence to vulnerable communities, monitoring and reporting human rights abuses. They work in conjunction with Palestinian and Israeli partners, including accompanying farmers and schoolchildren who face their daily activities sometimes under duress.

News in Brief

Founded by Father Peyton, Family Theater Productions marks 75th anniversary

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Family Theater Productions is marking its 75th anniversary with just one event, a dinner at a Hollywood hotel April 27, because the folks there are just too busy to do more. Family Theater wants to start production on, among other things, an animated series based on a popular children's book series and a holiday-themed film, said Holy Cross Father David Guffey, national director of Family Theater Productions. The anniversary, to be celebrated at the iconic Roosevelt Hotel on Hollywood Boulevard, is a tribute to the "humble beginnings rooted in prayer" of Holy Cross Father Patrick Peyton, the Catholic production company's founder, and his "faith and trust in God," Father Guffey said.

Florida's 15-week abortion ban is now law; abortion waiting period upheld

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (CNS)—Gov. Ron DeSantis April 14 signed into law a measure that limits most abortions in Florida to the first 15 weeks of pregnancy. The state's Catholic bishops praised DeSantis for his "commitment to defend unborn children and their mothers" and for his leadership in encouraging the Legislature to take up the bill and pass it and for his own support of the measure. About a week earlier, the bishops welcomed a judge's ruling upholding a 2015 state law that gives women 24 hours to reflect on information provided by physicians before proceeding with abortions. Regarding the 15-week abortion ban, the "historic law," as the bishops termed it, takes effect July 1 and includes provisions to improve infant health and to analyze and reduce fetal and infant mortality. It replaces a previous law that allowed abortions until 24 weeks of pregnancy. In a statement released April 14 by the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops, the prelates also commended the state's legislative leaders, especially Sen. Kelli Stargel and Rep. Erin Grall, both Republicans, who sponsored the bill, known as H.B. 5. "(They) courageously accomplished the difficult task of advancing the bill through the committee process and floor debate in the Florida House and Senate," the bishops said. "While there is still work to be done, today's bill signing marks significant progress toward full legal recognition of unborn children," they said.

Watch Sunday

Catholic Mass

Presented by the Diocese of Rockford

Catholic TV in the Rockford Diocese starts with a faith-filled program at 6 a.m., followed by Mass at 6:30 a.m. on WREX channel 13 in Rockford and on cable.

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TOP O' THE MORNING WITH BISHOP MALLOY

Weekday Reflection
(about 6:58 a.m.)

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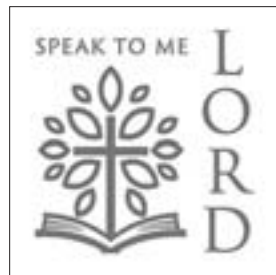
Scripture Reflection for
May 8, 4th Sunday of Easter

Do Not Omit

BY KEVIN PERROTTA
Catholic News Service

The theologians who created the cycles of biblical readings used in the liturgy decided that it would be best for us not to spend too much time in Antioch of Pisidia. This was a wise choice. If you turned to the person next to you at Mass and asked them where Antioch in Pisidia was located, what would they say?

“Hmm. Antioch in Pisidia. ... Now, if you’d asked me about Antioch on the Orontes or Antioch on the Mygdonius, I could tell you in a minute. But Antioch in Pisidia — I’m blanking on that.” Yeah, right. No one has ever



heard of Antioch in Pisidia.

Those who selected today’s excerpt from Acts of the Apostles decided that one day in Antioch of Pisidia would be enough. To offer just one reading of reasonable length on Paul and Barnabas’ time there, they dropped two-thirds of Luke’s account.

If you listen closely, you may notice that something is missing. We’re told that Paul and Barnabas go to the synagogue and sit down. Next thing we know, many Jews and Gentiles are following them. How did that happen? Did people get inspired just by sitting next to the missionaries?

No. St. Paul delivered a homily in the synagogue. He reminded his fellow Jews and Gentile visitors how God had shown the people of Israel His power to save. He announced that God has now brought His plan of salvation to fulfillment in Jesus of Nazareth. This lengthy homily, omitted from today’s reading, is why so many people wanted to follow Paul and Barnabas.

If Paul had not spoken to the people in the synagogue about Jesus that morning, maybe they would have invited him to coffee after the service, but there wouldn’t have been anything for St. Luke to write about. Nothing would have happened.

You can see where I’m going with this.

God has entrusted His word to us too. We have a responsibility to speak about Him to other people. It might be a word about how we have experienced God’s love, an encouragement to seek Him, an assurance that He is present in a dark situation, an explanation of the Gospel. Sometimes, if we speak, God’s word will have an effect. Often if we do not speak, nothing will happen.

By the way, Antioch in Pisidia was in present-day central Turkey.



(CNS photo/Tyler Orsburn)

A woman sits in Mary’s Garden near the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. On Mother’s Day, we can turn to Mary for inspiration and solace.

Faith Alive

Motherly Companions

By SUSAN HINES-BRIGGER | Catholic News Service

Every year on Mother’s Day, I make my way into my garden, dig my hands into the soil and begin to plant the flowers that I have so carefully chosen in anticipation of this day.

It’s a practice that I began with my own mom years ago on Mother’s Day. Since she passed, and now that I live in my parents’ old home, I have continued the tradition as a way to remain close to her.

For me, working in the garden is a spiritual practice. Being in such close connection with the earth seems to bring me closer to the one who created it all.

Within my garden, though, there are two particular areas that always seem to speak to me as a mother.

The first place is the area around the statue of Mary that is nestled in the corner of the yard. It always seems significant on Mother’s Day, since I have so often turned to her for inspiration and solace throughout my own parenting journey of more than 20 years. During those years, I have often thought about Mary outside of the Bible stories that we have all heard.

I think about how she would have felt or reacted in certain situations. I wonder if she and Jesus ever butted heads the way that most moms and kids do at times. Or how did she handle it when Jesus stepped away from her to begin His own journey?

When my two oldest kids moved out of state, I prayed to her for insight and comfort. Surely, she knew what it was like to watch your kid walk away from you and out onto his or her own.

Then, I make my way to another corner of the yard to where my St. Francis bird feeder is located. St. Francis’ outstretched hand holds a dish from which the birds can gain nourishment. Around the base, I place flowers that I hope will attract other living creatures,

such as bees and butterflies.

As I do so, I find myself thinking not so much about St. Francis, but rather about his mother, Pica. We don’t know a lot about her, but the fact that she was Francis’ mom is all I need to know.

Given her son’s story — stealing cloth from his father, stripping off his clothes in the town square — surely, she heard the townspeople talking about her son and questioning his actions. It was a situation that at one point or another all of us moms can relate to when our kids do something that makes us question what we did wrong in raising them.

Having the perspective of knowing the full story of Francis, we can now look at those events as part of his bigger story. But, at the time, his mother just saw her son behaving in a way completely foreign to his upbringing. I wonder if she felt like somehow his actions were a reflection on her motherhood.

And, for some reason, knowing that brings me comfort. My faith is bolstered knowing that I am not alone in my struggles and questioning how well I’m raising my kids.

Our faith holds the saints up as inspirations of holiness. And while it is true that they serve as examples of devout faith, sometimes it is hard for me to find a connection.

But one place I can always relate to them is through their mothers. When I hear the stories of saints, I put myself in the shoes of the women who bore them and raised them. I ask myself, “What was their story? What did they think?”

Those are the women who bolster my faith. And though many of them may not be well known, I know that there is a bond that connects them to me — mother to mother.

Jesus and a Peloton Bike

“You are brave. Thank you for showing up!”

I am brave, I thought. I did show up!

“You are here for a reason. What’s that reason?!”

I am here for a reason ... oh gosh, what is my reason?

I found myself muttering these phrases as the instructor on the screen effortlessly pedaled her Peloton bike. I was panting, sweat dripping down my forehead, my legs screaming in pain.

But I was brave. And I had shown up. For a reason. So, I wasn’t going to quit.

In 20 short minutes, Jess King, a popular Peloton instructor, had convinced me that climbing onto a stationary bike and riding with all my might made me a brave woman unafraid to push myself to the limit.

She’d encouraged me to come up with three reasons why we would pedal our way to nowhere that day.

The three reasons came to mind quickly: my kids, my health, my future.

I bought an exercise bike because I want to get in shape, mainly so I can run around the backyard with my kids. And I was taking the class because I needed

to exercise.

My third reason: my future. Honestly, I just needed a third reason. In reality, I don’t really know what it means to be riding an exercise bike for my future.

But I couldn’t get her motivating words out of my mind, even hours after the class was done.

I had reasons for doing this — for pedaling as hard as I could to raise my heart rate and burn some calories and earn a spot on the leaderboard.

We have reasons for everything, don’t we?

There’s a reason I drink coffee: It wakes me up. There’s a reason I call my mom after I drop off my kids at school: It’s the easiest time of the day for us to talk. There’s a reason I answer emails on Wednesday: It’s the one day I can concentrate on menial tasks.

Window Seat Wisdom



by Katie Prejean
McGrady

Catholic News Service

We’re driven by reasons — some obvious, some perhaps deeply personal, but each relevant.

And there’s a reason why we hopefully long to grow in our understanding of the faith, and ownership of a life lived for Christ. We’re motivated because of Him.

The same way I show up to a biking class because I want to be healthier, I show up to Mass every Sunday because I know it will make me holy.

I don’t speculate, wish or imagine it will make me holy. I know it will make me holy.

Just like I know riding a stationary bike every day will build muscle in my body. There’s proof doing that will work. There’s lives of the saints that show me that if I pray, if I live a sacramental life, if I serve others, then I will become holy and know Jesus more.

And why would I do that? What’s my reason? Well, for my kids. I want them to do it too. And, for my health. Because I’m a better person overall when I know and love Jesus. And, for my future. And this time, I really do mean for my future because it’s a future with Him in heaven that I am pursuing.

Different View

CNS/Joe Heller



We Celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus and Look Forward to Our Own

In this Easter season, we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and look forward to our own. What a glorious thing to celebrate! Through the pascal mystery, Jesus has conquered sin and death and opened the gates of heaven to us. “For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life.” (1 Cor 15:22).

The resurrection is also definitive proof of Jesus’ divinity and testimony to the authenticity of His teaching. St. Paul spends a great deal of time on the resurrection with the community in Corinth. They believed Christ had risen from the dead, but struggled to believe that they personally would be resurrected.

Journey of Faith



by John Jelinek
Director of Religious Education and Formation

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The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* articulates this persistent error by saying, “It is very commonly accepted that the life of the human person continues in a spiritual fashion after death. But how can we believe that this body, so clearly mortal, could rise

to everlasting life?” (CCC 996). To this error, St. Paul is clear: to deny our own resurrection is to deny Christ’s, and empty the Gospel of meaning. (1 Cor 15:13-14,16-17).

We can have certitude in our resurrection, despite its astounding nature, because of Jesus’ testimony, “I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.” (Jn 11:25-26).

Jesus came to save the whole person, and a person is a body and soul. The body is not just a vessel that the soul rides around in or something the soul eventually transcends. In the creation account, “God formed the man out of the dust of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life.” (Gen 2:7). We are a unique creation that God willed to be both material (body) and spiritual (soul). “The unity of soul and body is so profound that one has to consider the soul to be the “form” of the body ... spirit and matter, in man, are not two natures united, but rather their union forms a single nature.” (CCC 365).

This unity is temporarily disrupted by death. Death, the separation of body and soul, is an affront to God’s design for humanity and, without the resurrection, the human person would be incomplete. Through baptism, we are united to Christ in His death and promised a participation in the resurrection (Col 2:12). Death is the consequence of sin; and so, when Christ conquers sin, “Death is swallowed up in victory.” And we can sing, “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” (1 Cor 15:54-55).

Our resurrection will be “at the last day” (Jn 6:39-40) when Christ comes again (1 Thess 4:16). The resurrection and eternal life are so good and beyond comprehension, it “has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love Him ...” (1 Cor 2:9). However, we see glimpses from the resurrected Jesus. He has real “flesh and bones ...” (Lk 24:39-43) which still bear the marks of His passion. He eats food with the Apostles and invites Thomas to touch His wounds. His body is also glorified, able to appear in locked rooms and disguises His appearance, as on the road to Emmaus. Like Jesus, we will be “raised incorruptible.” (1 Cor 15:42). We will not suffer sickness, pain, decay, or death. These are the consequences of sin and will no longer have power over us.

Of the greatest goods to come from our resurrection will be the manifestation of God’s glory. God took us wretched sinners, who “were dead in transgressions” (Col 15:12) and lavishly poured out His love on us. In Christ, He makes us His children and invites us to enter the eternal love of the Trinity. Such mercy is worthy of an eternity of joyful praise.

Walking with Parents in Need

We cannot all have the “perfect” life, however that is defined. We choose wrong, we sin, or we get the bad breaks. That perfect life is not attainable, including during times of seeming joy, like pregnancy.

Consider this Eastern-European woman who has immigrated to the States. She dates a young American man. They have fun and make plans. Within six months, they are married.

The woman becomes pregnant, and the husband reacts with fear and resentment. He strikes out abusively. She stays for a week, and then understandably leaves. She misses her home country.

She wonders why she left, but mostly she thinks: “The abortion clinic is right down the block. Maybe I could fix this?”

As you read this story, let go of judgment. Look instead with the eyes of compassion, the eyes of Christ. Christ would speak plainly to us about our sinfulness, as He did to the woman at the well (Jn 4). He would forgive the sins of the penitent heart. He would heal and provide for our needs.

How are we like Christ when we encounter expectant parents or new parents who are in crisis? We cannot allow judgment of them to stop us from caring for them. Judgment is for another time and another Person. We have lives to help!

To be clear: Pregnancy is not a crisis. Nor is it a disease. Pregnancy is the gift of life from our Creator. As such, abortion is not health care. It is the killing of the life that the mother carries in her womb.

The Church’s stand against abortion is not one that opposes women, nor is it one that negates women’s health care. Our stand against abortion is rooted in the dignity of males and females as worthy and loved by God.

Many of you are, or know, faith-filled Catholics who actively fight in the pro-life movement. You keep vigil at the Planned

Witness for Life



by Therese Stahl
Director of the Life and Family Evangelization Office

tstahl@rockforddiocese.org

Parenthood clinic that this young mother may soon be visiting. You put up white crosses on parish lawns to call attention to the more than 63 million babies who have been killed since abortion was legalized in

the United States.

Not every ministry is for everyone, though. Not everyone is comfortable or skilled with standing up in these ways. If you believe in the Church’s teachings on life, but the Respect Life ministry is not for you, take heart. If you are knee-deep in Respect Life and want to do more, take heart. The Church needs you!

When a woman grapples with deciding between the life of her baby and abortion, she is likely in crisis.

This crisis could include being jobless, homeless, spouseless, or hungry, suffering from mental illness or in domestic abuse, or any number of maladies. Her partner may be right there alongside her and needing assistance as well.

This is your ministry: caring and loving the expectant mom and dad in crisis. Bringing them the love of Christ by perhaps donating maternity clothes to maternity homes or by serving as a volunteer receptionist at a pregnancy care center.

Our Catholic faith needs both the “pro-life warrior” as well as the “walking with parents in need” accompanier. The Church stands against abortion and is also there for pregnant women and parents in crisis. You are needed to bring the love of Christ to these wounded families.

Beginning in May, the Diocese of Rockford is asking all parishes to choose to and continue to intentionally “walk with moms in need.” For more information on this national initiative, visit: www.rockforddiocese.org/life/parish/walking-with-moms/.

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SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for May 8, 2022

Acts 13: 14, 43-52 / John 10:27-30

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Fourth Sunday of Easter, Cycle C: teaching disciples and crowds. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

GRACE TO HEAR WORD GENTILES ETERNAL MY SHEEP PERISH	WHOLE CITY CROWDS REJECT IT A LIGHT REGION VOICE FATHER	GATHERED JEALOUSY UNWORTHY EARTH DUST KNOW GREATER
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KNOW OR REJECT

G A T H E R E D E C U K
D R E J E C T I T R N E
P E E H S Y M K J O W T
H T R A E F Y Z W W O E
J F L I T S L H N D R R
E A Y V B E O C O S T N
A T A O J L R V I L H A
L H U I E I D A G W Y L
O E M C C T D P E G D I
U R I E A N A U R H R G
S T J M P E R I S H O H
Y E C A R G O I U T W T

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Deaths

AURORA—Holy Angels: Renee Guajardo, 61, April 10; William J. Foote, 89, April 17; Rose Marie Wood, 87, April 19;

St. Therese of Jesus: Manuel Garcia Perez, 86, March 27;

DEKALB—St. Mary: Kathryn Skarlat, 100, April 15;

DIXON—St. Patrick: Sally Ann Caudillo, 65, April 11;

DURAND—St. Mary/St. Patrick: James Shippy, 92, April 23;

FREEMONT—St. Thomas Aquinas: Donald J. Edwards, 89, April 13; Jory E. Rudy, 51, April 18;

HUNTLEY—St. Mary: Michelle Conley, 54, March 31; Theresa Jacobs, 91, April 6; Margaret Amedeo, 91, April 10; Robert Cascio, 91, April 13; Jean Sierzega, 86, April 14; Vera Carroso, 87, April 17; Tiernan McDonnell, 34, April 18; Joseph Andruzzi, 81, April 21; Travis Keute, 43, April 23;

NORTH AURORA—Blessed Sacrament: Richard Henry Haen, 91, April 16;

ROCKFORD—St. Anthony of Padua: Eric G. Larson, 30, April 8;

St. James: Paula Figiel, 85, April 16;

STERLING—St. Mary: Carol Chapman, 84, April 12; Lorenzo Cervantes, 98, April 18;

SUBLETTE—Our Lady of

Perpetual Help: Charles G. Kuebel, 98, April 16.

Stewardship Moment

Project Christianity outside ourselves: Perhaps the biggest need for us as Christians is to project our Christianity outside ourselves, and a sense of stewardship would make us realize that where our dollar goes, we go. It can be our agent to do the work that our Christian conscience makes us want to do, but cannot.

Courtesy of Parish Publications "Stewardship" newsletter

Mass Meditation

May 8 (4th Sunday of Easter): Paul and Barnabas encountered both violent rejection and joyful acceptance of the message that they preached. We too may meet with mixed reactions when we use our gifts in the service of God. But the Gospel assures us that the reward for those who follow faithfully is eternal life.

Courtesy of Sharon Hueckel

Life Moment

Pray: That Jesus, the Good Shepherd from whose hand none can be snatched away, may protect all children in danger of being aborted.

Courtesy of www.priestsforlife.org

Parish offices may forward death and wedding information using forms at <http://observer.rockforddiocese.org>. Scroll to Contact Us, then 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.

Coming Soon

Look for these celebrations coming soon to *The Observer*.

■ **May 13:** Celebrating the 10th anniversary of Bishop David Malloy's ordination as bishop of the Diocese of Rockford.

■ **June 10:** Celebrating this year's ordinations and high school graduations across the diocese.

■ **June 17:** Celebrating the jubilarian priests and religious men and women of the diocese.

MEDIA / ARTS

At the Movies

All the Old Knives

L R (Amazon) Eight years after a terrorist hijacking that ended tragically, a CIA agent is sent to find out if a former colleague blew the rescue operation. The central pair's physical interaction is needlessly explicit. **PARENTS: THIS FILM CONTAINS** stylized violence, slight gore, strong sexual content, graphic nonmarital activity, upper female and rear nudity, references to suicide, profanity, oaths, rough terms and crude expressions.

The Bad Guys

A-II PG (Universal) Animated caper comedy. A gang of animals in Los Angeles try to steal a valuable statue but are caught in the act. They are set to be handed over to the city's chief of police, but a professor proposes an experiment intended to transform them into do-gooders. Delivers good values. **PARENTS: THIS FILM CONTAINS** action sequences, occasional scatological humor.

Continued on page 11

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Author Shares Catholic View on Common Mental Health Challenges

BY NANCY L. ROBERTS
Catholic News Service

Depression, anxiety, trauma and grief are common mental health challenges. In the sea of advice given to deal with them, “St. Dymphna’s Playbook” offers a Catholic perspective.

Tommy Tighe, a licensed marriage and family therapist, combines his extensive clinical experience with insights from Scripture and the saints to give readers practical tools to cope.

Based on Tighe’s podcast of the same name, each chapter of the book gives an accessible explanation of a specific mental health concern. These include loneliness, irritability, hopelessness and relationships.

Tighe then describes symptoms and engages Catholic spiritual practice to offer suggestions to address each condition. Each chapter highlights a Catholic saint or holy person who faced the same issue, followed by a closing prayer.

“Am I anxious or just

worried?” Thus begins the chapter on anxiety.

Here Tighe explains that “similar to every other mental health condition, we need to seek help if the symptoms we are experiencing make it hard for us to carry out our day-to-day activities or responsibilities, cause problems in our relationships or at work, or make other areas of our life difficult to engage in.”

Take heed, he advises, “if you experience anxiety even when there’s no specific threat or if your anxiety is out of proportion to the threat taking place.”

Frequent scriptural mention of anxiety suggests that Christ and the early Church understood how much it affects us. And, Tighe adds, “how deeply Christ wants to give us peace amid our struggles.”

He offers St. Padre Pio as an example of one who battled anxiety yet found relief through his repeated mantra, “Pray, hope and don’t worry.”

Many will likely recognize

themselves in the chapter on irritability.

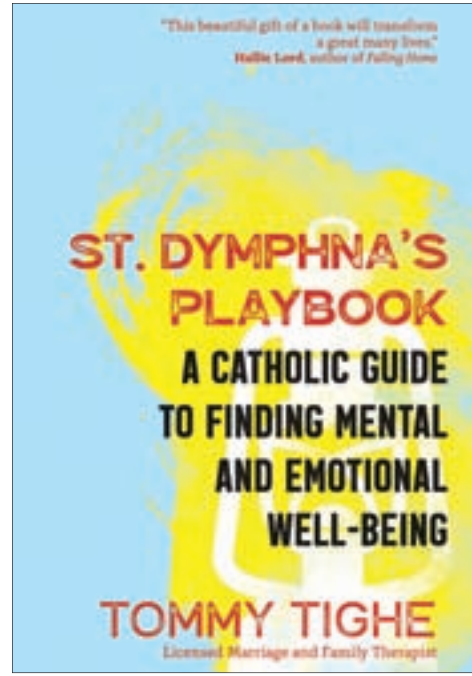
But “persistent irritability is a common sign of depression,” Tighe advises, and the sufferer may benefit from therapy and medication. There is also comfort to be found in what Ecclesiastes 7:8-10 says about irritability (which Tighe quotes):

“Better is the end of a thing than its beginning; better is a patient spirit than a lofty one. Do not let anger upset your spirit, for anger lodges in the bosom of a fool. Do not say: How is it that former times were better than these? For it is not out of wisdom that you ask about this.”

He also mentions several saints who lived with irritability, such as St. Jerome, “who was known to carry around a stone that he would hit himself with every time he lost his temper.”

Another is St. Vincent de Paul, who was described as “by nature of a bilious temperament and very subject to anger.”

Tighe also recounts what James Forest, a *Catholic Work-*



(CNS photo/courtesy Ave Maria Press)



<http://observer.rockforddiocese.org/book-club-blog>

“St. Dymphna’s Playbook: A Catholic Guide to Finding Mental and Emotional Well-Being” by Tommy Tighe. Ave Maria Press (Notre Dame, Indiana, 2021). 205 pp., \$17.95.

er editor, said about Dorothy Day: “She’s not all sugar. See, she’s tough, she’s stubborn, she doesn’t listen well all the time, she holds grudges, and like the other Catholic radicals, she has a problem about sometimes being too judgmental.”

Still, Forest also thought of her as “a genius and a saint.”

Fittingly, this chapter’s closing prayer is St. Teresa of Ávila’s “Let nothing perturb you. ... All things pass. God does not change. Patience achieves everything.”

Titled after St. Dymphna,

the patron saint of those with mental health issues, the book achieves its author’s hope that it can “remind us that we are not alone,” that we are part of “a Catholic community where we all suffer together, unafraid to walk forward with our sisters and brothers through their valley of tears.”

“St. Dymphna’s Playbook” also includes an appendix of mental health resources. The book will command the attention of anyone seeking a Catholic spiritual perspective on these mental health challenges.

At the Movies

From page 10

Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore

(Warner Bros.)
A-III PG-13 Third installment in the “Fantastic Beasts” fantasy franchise about the battle between a good wizard and the evil sorcerer with whom he was once in love.

A team assembles to aid the good wizard’s cause. The film is bogged down by an attempt to mainstream gay relationships. **PARENTS: THIS FILM CONTAINS** stylized violence, gruesome sights, occult themes, homosexuality, a crass insult.

The Northman

(Focus)
O R Viking epic based on the same legend that inspired “Hamlet.” Traumatized by his uncle’s murder of his father and forcible marriage to his mother, a young prince flees, vowing to exact vengeance. He disguises himself as a slave to strike at his uncle and falls for a fellow bondservant. **PARENTS: THIS FILM CONTAINS** skewed values, gruesome gory violence, strong sexual content, premarital activity and nudity, references to incest, crude terms, crass expressions.

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

Director of Middle School Youth Ministry

St. Mary Catholic Church in Huntley is seeking a Director of Middle School Youth Ministry for our large and vibrant parish. We are looking for an individual who possesses the following qualities:

- a firm grasp of the teachings of the Catholic faith (formal training in theology and/or prior experience in ministry would be a benefit).
- fidelity to the Magisterium
- a passion to spread the Gospel and help form disciples of Jesus Christ within the Catholic Church.
- a creative missionary approach.
- a love for young people and families
- a willingness to collaborate with others.

Primary responsibilities would include coordinating the “Edge” Middle School faith formation program (grades 6-8) and developing additional opportunities for youth to grow in their faith and find community at St. Mary.

This is a full-time position with salary and benefits.

Inquiries and resumes can be sent to Fr. DiTomo at frditomo@stmaryhuntley.org

On TV

Broadcast times may vary; check local listings.

“When Claude Got Shot” — **May 9, 9-10:30 p.m. (PBS):** Documentary following a shooting victim whose path to recovery also led to forgiveness (TV-14 — parents strongly cautioned).

“Waterman – Duke: Ambassador of Aloha” — **May 10, 8-9:30 p.m. (PBS):** Actor Jason Momoa tells the story of Olympic medalist and surfer Duke Kahanamoku, who died in 1968

(TV-PG — parental guidance suggested).

“National Mass for Life From Ottawa” — **May 12, 9:30-10:30 a.m. (EWTN):** Eucharistic liturgy celebrated by Archbishop Marcel Dampousse of Ottawa-Cornwall (TV-G — general audience).

“National March for Life, Ottawa, Canada” — **May 12, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. (EWTN):** Complete coverage of Canada’s most significant annual pro-life event (TV-G).

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SEASONED OBSERVER

Spiritual Exercise

Priest Teaches On Body, Mind, Soul Connection

BY JOHN SHAUGHNESSY
Catholic News Service



Father Guy Roberts instructs Atlas Jackson, a student at St. Barnabas School in Indianapolis, in taekwondo.

“I want their taekwondo practice to be more than just kicking and punching. It’s about how they conduct themselves in life,” he says. “So, we talk about things like, ‘You shall not kill’ and ‘Honor your father and your mother.’ ... I ask them, ‘How do we live these things out?’ It’s interesting the answers I get.”

This is his first year as pastor at St. Barnabas Parish. Previously, he taught taekwondo to schoolchildren during his 15 years as pastor of St. Joan of Arc Parish in Indianapolis.

There he saw how the lessons helped increase the respect, self-discipline and even the grades of many children in the program.

“I’ve seen it help them achieve some things that maybe they wouldn’t have had the confidence to achieve if they hadn’t challenged

themselves through taekwondo,” he says.

It also changed the priest’s life when he was seven. From watching a television show called “Kung Fu,” his parents thought it would be a good exercise for their son.

He saw something spiritual in martial arts and continued developing his spirituality even after drifting away from martial arts after a car accident. He has been a priest in the archdiocese since 2005.

People need to work to take care of the body that God has given them, as well as strive to develop the mind and “having that proper spirit,” Father Roberts said.

“There’s something about this kind of cultivation through martial arts that helps us have an appreciation for that which is larger than ourselves,” he said. “In our case as Catholics, we understand that to be God.

“Much of the martial arts world is either Buddhist or Taoist, coming from Asia, but we have that whole Christian connection with Jesus Christ. Who is in better shape than Jesus Christ? He knew how to take care of his body, his mental health, his spiritual health.”



(CNS photo/John Shaughnessy, *The Criterion*)

Father Guy Roberts instructs St. Barnabas School students in Indianapolis in taekwondo.

Watching Father Guy Roberts lead children in a martial arts class with a distinctly Catholic emphasis, it’s hard to

decide what to focus on first.

There’s the sight of the 54-year-old priest, a black belt in taekwondo, spinning and unleashing a whirlwind kick of controlled power that leaves the suddenly wide-eyed students in awe.

Then there’s the smile of 11-year-old Elroy Jackson, one of the 35 grade school students who train with Father Roberts, as he shares that he has broken wooden boards in half.

The impact of the after-school sessions is powerful for the participating students at St. Barnabas School in Indianapolis. It has also deepened their connection with Father Roberts, their pastor.

“One of the reasons I like doing this is because it helps the children to see me as a priest outside of just liturgical celebration,” Father Roberts told *The Criterion*, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. “There’s much more of a familiarity with me.”

Fifth-grader Elroy offers a more succinct view of the bond between Father Roberts and his young taekwondo students. Asked what he thinks of the priest, Elroy flashed another smile and said, “He’s awesome!”

Father Roberts hopes the martial arts lessons also will help the children grow personally and deepen their faith and their relationship with God. The priest’s approach to his classes includes taekwondo’s precepts — integrity, self-control, indomitable spirit, perseverance and courtesy. There’s also the foundation of the Catholic faith, tying in the Ten Commandments to the lessons.

DESTINATION



(Photo/ St. Mary of the Angels, by Eric Allix Rogers)

St. Mary of the Angels Chicago, Ill.

Destination: Modeled after St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome, St. Mary of the Angels is hailed as the one of the finest examples of Roman Renaissance architecture in the United States. If you’ve wanted to visit St. Peter’s Basilica, but travel costs and COVID-19 concerns continue to be obstacles, you could consider making a much shorter trip and enjoying the city’s parks, museums and more on the way.

Mass is held at the church daily at 7 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. in the St. Josemaría Chapel. Weekend Masses are Saturdays at 8 a.m. (in the chapel) and 5 p.m. and on Sundays at 8 and 10 a.m., noon (Spanish), and 7:15 p.m. Confession is also available in English and Spanish 20 minutes before all Masses.

One opportunity to visit and tour the church this summer is through a one-day pilgrimage to Chicago on June 17, hosted by St. Rita Parish in Rockford. More information is available in the April 22 edition of *The Observer*. Email marciegirolamo4@gmail.com with questions.

Why to go: St. Mary of the Angels Parish was founded in 1899 by the Congregation of the Resurrection to serve Polish immigrants fleeing political unrest. The church building was planned to be a model of Polish heritage.

Construction began after World War I, when Chicago parishes focused on being part of one united Church, rather than “national parishes.” The church was then built to resemble St. Peter’s Basilica, the center of the Church, and was beautifully decorated in blue, rose and gold.

When the Kennedy Expressway was built in 1960, many parishioners left, and the church was set for demolition in 1988. In 1991, priests of the Prelature of Opus Dei took responsibility for the parish and began restorations. The parish continues to grow.

Accessibility: The entrance to the church has stairs, but a chair lift is available on the side of the entrance. The inside of the church is wheelchair-accessible. A parking lot is just south of the church on N. Hermitage Ave.

(Grand) Kid friendly: All ages are welcome! St. Mary of the Angels Parish describes itself as a “family of families” and is closely connected to its school and students.

Info: Address — St. Mary of the Angels Church, 1850 N. Hermitage Ave., Chicago, IL 60622 ■ Phone — 773-278-2644 ■ Website — <https://www.sma-church.org/>

— Megan Peterson compiled this story with information from <https://www.architecture.org/learn/resources/buildings-of-chicago/building/st-mary-of-the-angels/>. Send Destination ideas to seasonedobserver@rockforddiocese.org



(Photo/ Eric Allix Rogers)

26 roof angels, each 12 feet tall, are placed to imitate the 140 statues of the saints on the colonnade and exterior of St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome.