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FRIDAY JUNE 2, 2023

Masses Remember Sacrifices

BY AMANDA HUDSON
News Editor

'This day reminds us that our freedom ... has not come easily and it has not come cheaply.'
— Bishop David Malloy

WINNEBAGO—On a sunny Memorial Day, May 29, Several Masses were held in Catholic cemeteries of the Diocese of Rockford including at Calvary Cemetery just outside Rockford.

Bishop David Malloy celebrated that Mass, assisted by Deacon Peter Addotta of St. Anthony of Padua Parish, calling the Mass “an exercise of gratitude” and “a sacred duty.”

“We pray for those who have died for us, for the best of the values of this world, (and) for our freedom,” Bishop Malloy said. “On these Memorial days, we always gather for the completion of the virtue of gratitude ... we carry out our gratitude here especially to all of those who have given their lives in the armed services for our country.”

The bishop reflected on being able to gather for the Mass, “not depending upon the permission or the good graces of our authorities. That is a privilege which is not everywhere.”

“This celebration should stop and make us think of the freedoms and especially what as spiritual people we can contribute to the values in our country that are made available to us and in our history because of those sacrifices ... This day reminds us that our freedom that we so willingly take for granted sometimes has not come easily and it has not come cheaply. Since the Revolutionary War, men and women have offered their lives for freedom.”

He noted that Pope Francis recently said that to defend a homeland is an act of love.

“It is right and just that we have a true, and a good and honest love for our fellow citizens, love for our families,” Bishop Malloy said.

“We as Catholics gather at this Mass to return that love we have received by those who sacrificed ... it is the deeper love for the souls of those who died for us,” he said.

He noted also the extension of the suffering of such sacrifices to those who suffer a lifetime of injuries and the spouses and children “who suffered all



(Observer photos/Amanda Hudson)



ABOVE: Bishop David Malloy and his escort of Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus process out of the tent after the Memorial Day Mass May 29.

LEFT: Calvary Cemetery staff hand out flags outside the cemetery’s mausoleum. A bench commemorates the hard-won freedoms enjoyed today in America.

RIGHT TOP: Bishop Malloy blesses a youngster while her sisters wait for her.

RIGHT BOTTOM: Flags decorate a number of graves in the cemetery, and Bishop Loras T. Lane’s grave also was feted with patriotic figures and colors.



of the damages.”

The recent Easter season, Bishop Malloy added, “has reminded us that

God is life; God is healing; God is love.

“We here are remembering exactly what Memorial Day is: it is to remem-

ber those who have sacrificed (and) to use our freedom in gratitude, to pray for their souls.”

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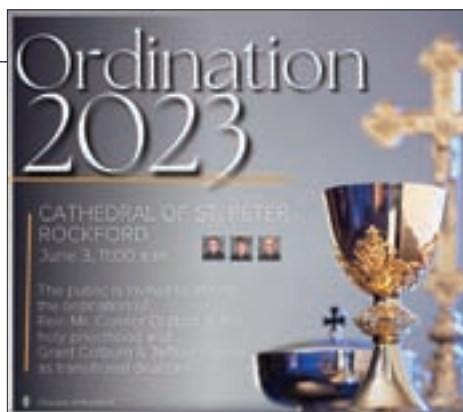
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Watch the June 3 Ordination Online

The ordination livestream links are <https://www.facebook.com/DioceseofRockford> and <https://www.youtube.com/user/RockfordDiocese>.

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Ordination Reminds Us of Jesus' Call to 'Come, Follow Me'



BY BISHOP
DAVID J.
MALLOY

With the ordination of a new priest, we are reminded how the life of the Church, founded and established by Jesus Himself, continues in our own time.

This coming Saturday, June 3, the Diocese of Rockford will rejoice in the ordination to Holy Orders of one priest and two transitional deacons. During that ceremony, to take place at the Cathedral of St. Peter Parish in Rockford, Deacon Connor Orabutt will be ordained to the priesthood. He will begin his ministry as parochial vicar at Holy Cross Parish in Batavia. Grant Colborn and Jeffrey Filipski will be ordained to the diaconate as they continue their formation for ordination to the priesthood next year.

Our joy on ordination day is to be once again motivated to deepen our faith by the example of young men who are offering their faith and their lives for the salvation of the world.

The ordination of the two young men to the transitional diaconate joins them to the permanent diaconate that is so familiar throughout the Diocese of Rockford. In both cases, the special calling of the diaconate was first discerned by the Church in the earliest days. That is, a deep spiritual response to God's calling of "reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom" (Acts 6: 3), which is specifically linked to service in the life of the Church.

With the ordination of a new priest, we are reminded how the life of the Church, founded and established by Jesus Himself, continues in our own time. The Gospels record that as Jesus walked along the Sea of Galilee, He chose those whom He wanted. He said simply "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Subsequently, after three years of living, speaking and praying with His apostles, Jesus entrusted the Church and His very self to them on Holy Thursday. He made the apostles priests at the Last Supper and entrusted to them, His power to change bread into His body and wine into His blood. So too were they entrusted with Jesus's own power to forgive sins.

As the apostles died and new local churches were founded, the Church, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, recognized that the priesthood was a

part of Jesus's promise to be with the us always, "until the end of the age". (Mt, 28:20) And so, the apostles chose and ordained successors to be joined to Christ, as they were.

The calling of Jesus, "Come, follow me" is understood to continue in our day. We rejoice in the generosity and faith of the men who, after the discernment of the Church, come forward as priests. We are grateful as well for their fidelity to the celibate commitment long treasured by the Church and graced by God, as well as for their promise of obedience in imitation of Jesus fulfilling the will of His Father.

It is no secret that the numbers of candidates for the priesthood are down in our current time. Some of that is related to demographics. With less children being welcomed into families, there are less potential candidates for the priesthood. The material temptations and moral confusion of our society also seek to make the priesthood less attractive since its nature contradicts our current secular ideology. And the confusion and the scandals that have been sadly so present in the Church do not serve as an earthly encouragement.

The celebration of ordination, then, becomes a reminder for all of us, but especially for the lay faithful. We must do our part. Jesus has told us, "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest." (Mt, 9:38) We need to encourage and support our priests. We should ask our Heavenly Father with prayers and fasting, for more and worthy new priests.

Above all, we should thank God for His love for us and for His priests. Christ loves His Church and accompanies it always. And that includes His priests.

Please join me in praying for, and thanking God for, those to be ordained this weekend. And in our joy let us ask the Master of the Harvest to send yet more men to work in the harvest for the good of souls and of the whole world.

The Holy Spirit Gives Life to the Church



BY POPE
FRANCIS

The temptation to proceed 'alone' is always lurking, especially when the path becomes arduous and we feel the burden of the commitment.

From the General Audience, Paul VI Audience Hall, Vatican City, Feb. 22, Part 2.

Continued from the May 26 issue of *The Observer*

In the last catechesis we saw how the first "council" in the history of the Church, ... was convened in Jerusalem over a matter linked to evangelization, namely the proclamation of the Good News to non-Jews — it was believed that the Gospel was only to be proclaimed to Jews. In the 20th century, the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council presented the Church as the pilgrim People of God through time, and missionary by her very nature (cf. *Decree Ad Gentes*, 2). What does this mean? There is a kind of bridge between the first and last council, under the banner of evangelization, a bridge whose architect is the Holy Spirit. Today we listen to Vatican Council II to discover that evangelizing is always an ecclesial service, never solitary, never isolated, never individualistic ... and without proselytism, because that is not evangelization.

Indeed, the evangelizer always transmits what he or she has received. St. Paul was the first to write this: the gospel that he announced ... is the same one that the Apostle had in turn received (cf. 1 Cor 15:1-3). Faith is received and transmitted. This ecclesial dynamism of the transmission of the message is binding and guarantees the authenticity of Christian proclamation. The same Paul writes to the Galatians: "Even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we preached to you, let him be accursed" (1:8). ...

The ecclesial dimension of evangelization constitutes, however, a criterion for confirmation of apostolic zeal ... because the temptation to proceed "alone" is always lurking, especially when the path

becomes arduous and we feel the burden of the commitment. Equally dangerous is the temptation to follow easier pseudo-ecclesial paths, to adopt the worldly logic of numbers and polls, to rely on the strength of our ideas, programmes, structures, "relationships that count." This will not do; ... the fundamental thing is the strength that the Spirit gives you to proclaim the truth of Jesus Christ, to proclaim the Gospel. The other things are secondary.

Now ... let us place ourselves more directly in the school of the Second Vatican Council, rereading some passages of the *Decree Ad Gentes* (AG). ... These texts of Vatican Council II fully retain their value even in our complex and pluralistic context.

First of all, this document invites us to consider the love of God the Father as a wellspring, which "on account of His surpassing and merciful kindness and graciously calling us moreover to share with Him His life and His cry has generously poured out, and does not cease to pour out still, His divine goodness. Thus He who created all things may at last be 'all in all' (1 Cor 15:28), bringing about at one and the same time His own glory and our happiness" (no. 2). This passage is fundamental, because it says that the love of the Father is destined for every human being. God's love is not only for a small group, no ... for everyone. Keep that word firmly in mind and in the heart: everyone, everyone, no one excluded. This is what the Lord says, and this love for every human being is a love that reaches every man and woman through the mission of Jesus, mediator of salvation and our redeemer (cf. AG, 3), and through the mission of the Holy Spirit (cf. AG, 4), who — the Holy Spirit — works in everyone, both in the baptized and the non-baptized. The Holy Spirit is at work!



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Member of:



Rev. Mr. Connor Orabutt to be Ordained To Diocesan Priesthood on June 3

BY AMANDA HUDSON
News Editor

ROCKFORD—Connor Orabutt grew up in Carpentersville and Algonquin, always a parishioner at St. Margaret Mary Parish.

He attributes “a great deal of human and spiritual growth” in his high school years to the St. Margaret Mary youth ministry program.

“It is then that my relationship with Jesus really began to grow ...,” he says.

He is a Marian Central Catholic High School, Woodstock, graduate.

Connor also is a triplet, born just before his brother and sister, Ryan and Emily, to their parents, Rick and Peggy.

“As one could imagine, the three of us did everything together,” he says. “Though our paths have now gone in different directions, my siblings and I are doing one last thing at the same time. This summer, we are all entering our vocations! Both Ryan and Emily are celebrating their marriages this summer. Please pray for them and their (future spouses), and most especially my parents!

“I can’t be more grateful for my parents and my siblings. They have taught me so much. Most importantly, all of them have been icons for me of God’s unconditional love and fidelity to me.

“Yes, all of them have supported me from day one of my discernment which is an incredible gift I know every man does not have. But that support has been there and never questioned since day one of my life.”

Called to the priesthood

Connor’s call to the priesthood began one summer night after his freshman year in high school. He was imagining his future life with a dream job and wife and kids, and then, he says, “an odd thought (came) to mind: ‘Connor, you could be a priest.’ ... Immediately, only by a special grace of the Holy Spirit, was I able to recognize that this thought originated not with me, but with God. ...

“I was aware that if God was calling me to do something with my life it was going to make me the happiest. Within a matter of moments from receiving this revelation I had logically concluded that I was going to be a priest. How could I not?

“Then, of course, came doubts and fears — thoughts of being not good enough, not holy enough, still sins, what about the family I desire; I’ll be alone as a priest. And so on.”

The next day he “did what my 15-year-old self thought was best,” he says. He asked his friends what they thought.

“Now that you mention it, we can totally see you being a priest!” was their response.

When he asked his parents, they responded with, “Connor, we will support you in whatever you think is God’s will for your life.”

“Not sure how but it only took those two ‘failed’ attempts to conclude that this was only going to be resolved through prayer,” Connor says.

So almost every Wednesday he went to adoration and prayed a rosary for his vocation, adding a prayer to the Blessed

Mother: “Mary, I know this is the Lord’s will for my life, but I am not in a place to accept it. So, please bring me there.”

A couple of months went by, and finally he could notice something slowly changing.

In his sophomore year, Connor, his brother and a friend “regularly found ourselves taking advantage of the free candy” in Father Thomas Doyle’s Marian Central office.

“Father would also ask us about our classes, how the weekend was, and we asked him questions surrounding the faith,” he says. “By no means right away, but eventually I realized that I hadn’t left (his) office without having have laughed and been lifted in spirit.”

Called to joy

“The possibility became quite real for me,” he says, “that priests can live a joyful life. Father Doyle was an example for me of a priest who was happy to be a priest and joyful in the assignment he was given. Why couldn’t it be the same for me?”

The idea was reinforced as he got to know two seminarians assigned to St. Margaret Mary Parish.

“We got to know them, hear a little about their stories, and they’d share what they were learning in seminary. These young men weren’t even priests and to me they seemed to be already living their best lives. My thought to myself became, ‘if they are satisfied, not even as priests yet, then why not for me?’”

With such ongoing experiences that year, Connor’s fears were “vanishing, the struggles with sin were disappearing (and) desires were taking their

place! There was excitement around celebrating Mass, anticipation hearing confessions, a longing to be a mediator between God and His people.

“Mary’s intercession was having more effect than just in external affairs. She was also bringing about change in my heart. By the end of my sophomore year of high school I knew I was going to apply for seminary come senior year.”

Senior year came, and all the doubts and fears returned.

Then, he says, “assisting with a high school retreat I found myself once again in adoration. I had a prayer booklet I hadn’t opened in a while, and I opened it up. In the pages was a card that read ‘You would make a great priest.’

“All of a sudden this wave of peace rushed over me. I looked at Jesus and all I could say is ‘You’re right. You’re right.’ All the desires of wanting to be a priest calmly returned, and I



(Observer file photo)

Rev. Mr. Connor Orabutt

was comfortably placed back on track to enter seminary the next fall.

“I entered seminary at St. John Vianney in St. Paul, Minnesota, the following year and haven’t looked back! ... My last four years of studies were at Mundelein seminary in Mundelein.

“Thank you to all those who have been praying for me throughout the years, especially to those I have never met,” he says. “All of you are an icon of God’s generous love. I know so many graces have come to me through your prayers and have assisted me in my time of formation. May we continue to place one another in Jesus’ Most Sacred Heart!”

Two Becoming Transitional Deacons

ROCKFORD—Two seminarians will be ordained as transitional deacons June 3 by Bishop David Malloy.

They are Grant Colborn and Jeffrey Filipksi.

Transitional deacons are seminary students in the process of becoming ordained priests.

They serve



(Observer file photo)

Grant Colborn



(Observer file photo)

Jeffrey Filipksi

as deacons for one year and are then ordained by the bishop as priests.

Deacons are ordained as a sacramental sign of Christ, who came “to serve and not to be served.” Whenever a person is ordained, he is to serve the diocesan Church.

Source: USCCB

Bishop Malloy’s Public Schedule		
ROCKFORD — June 3, 11 a.m., Ordination of Rev. Mr. Connor Orabutt to the Priesthood and Grant Colborn and Jeffrey Filipksi to the Transitional Diaconate, Cathedral of St. Peter	ROCKFORD — June 4, 7:30 a.m., Sunday Mass, Cathedral of St. Peter	Vallejo as pastor, St. Monica Church
CARPENTERSVILLE — June 7, 6:30 p.m., Mass and Installation of Father William		ROCKFORD — June 10, 9 a.m., Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting, Diocesan Administration Center

Retreat Schedule 2023

- 7 Day Preached Retreats for Women Religious and Women
July 5 – 12, 2023
THEME: “Time For Peace in the Quiet”
Presenters: Mrs Jennifer Christ and Fr Ted Lawson, CSs.R.

5 Day Preached Retreats for Women Religious and Women
July 31 – August 5, 2023
THEME: “Time For Peace in the Quiet”
Presenters: Mrs Jennifer Christ and Fr Ted Lawson, C.Ss.R.

Private Together for Women
August 14 – 19, 2023
A private retreat, while at the same time share community with other women at Eucharist and Evening Prayer.
Reconciliation is also offered.

Comments from our guests...

The atmosphere here is sacred in a way that brings me closer to God. Every year I am amazed to hear exactly what I most needed to hear to deepen my faith, my relationship with God.

I can’t wait to come back to the community of quiet.

Very down to earth – solid faith material – good reinforcements.

First retreat I attended - Probably shouldn’t have waited so long. It was spiritually refreshing, inspiring and helpful.

Contact the Retreat Center to register or for more information.

Redemptorist Retreat Center
Oconomowoc, WI
262-567-6900
www.redemptoristretreat.org

Official Appointments Include Nine Pastors

Father Godwin Asuquo To Move to Aurora

AURORA — Father Godwin Asuquo becomes pastor of St. Joseph Parish on June 15.

Born in Nigeria, Father Asuquo attended high school and college seminaries at Seat of Wisdom Major Seminary in his home country. He then studied at Mount St. Mary Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md.

He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Thomas G. Doran on May 17, 2003.



(Observer file photos)

Father Godwin Asuquo

He has served as parochial vicar at Holy Angels Parish (2003-2005), and at Christ the Teacher Parish in DeKalb (2005-2010). He then served as administrator for St. Mary Parish in Maple Park

(2005-2011).

Most recently, he has served at St. Patrick Parish in McHenry, first as its administrator (2011-2012) then as its pastor to the present.



(Observer file photo)

Nigerian volunteer doctors, nurses, and students who assist ImaBridge-Africa — a ministry begun by Father Godwin Asuquo — with medical missions pose in 2016 with ImaBridge volunteers and Father Asuquo (front left) and Dr. Marcel Ofomata (front right).

Father Thomas Doyle Heading to Sterling

STERLING—Father Thomas Doyle will become pastor at Sacred Heart Parish on June 15.

Born in Rockford, he attended Boylan Central Catholic High School there, and Rockford College, and Mount St. Mary Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md.

He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Thomas G. Doran on May 24, 2008 at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Rockford.

His first assignment was as parochial vicar at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in West Dundee and St. Mary Parish in Gilberts, also teaching at St. Edward Central Catholic High School in Elgin (2008-2009). He then became assistant principal and director of the Religious Studies Department at Marian Central Catholic High School in Woodstock (2009-2017), serving also at parishes. He provided clergy assistance at St. Catherine of Siena Parish, West Dundee (2009-2010), then was the administrator of St. Patrick Parish in Hartland (2011-2017). He also became



(Observer file photos)

Father Thomas Doyle

spiritual director at Marian Central in 2012.

Father Doyle then became administrator of St. Anne Parish, Dixon, and became its pastor in May of 2018. He served as pastor at St. Peter Parish in South Beloit and Church of the Holy Spirit in Roscoe for a few months in 2020, then became administrator at St. John the Baptist Parish in Savanna and SS. John and Catherine Parish in Mount Carroll before becoming pastor there in 2022 to the present.



Eighth-grade graduates in 2014 from St. Mary School in Sterling pose with (back) Rebecca Schmitt, principal, Father Bruce Ludeke, Father James Keenan, and Karen Payan, eighth-grade religion teacher.

Father Timothy Barr to be Pastor Near the Mississippi River

FULTON/ALBANY—Father Timothy Barr becomes pastor at Immaculate Conception Parish in Fulton and St. Patrick Parish in Albany on June 15.

Father Barr graduated from Mundelein High School, then worked for a time at his father's contracting company. Later, he built a home in Wonder Lake and joined Christ the Teacher Parish there. He was accepted as a seminarian in early 2000, and attended Holy Apostles Seminary in Cromwell, Conn.

He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Thomas G. Doran on May 20, 2006.

He served as parochial vicar at Holy Cross Parish, Batavia, also teaching at Aurora Central Catholic High School (2006-2009), then at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Crystal Lake (2009-2010).

In October 2010, Father Barr began service at St. Joseph and St. Mary parishes in Freeport, first as its administrator (2010-2012) and as pastor there since July 2012.



(Observer file photos)

Father Timothy Barr

Father Christopher Kuhn is Going From Far East to West in Diocese

SAVANNA/MT. CARROLL—Father Christopher Kuhn becomes pastor at St. John the Baptist Parish in Savanna and SS. John and Catherine Parish in Mount Carroll on June 15.

Born in St. Charles, he attended St. Charles High School, Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio, and St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein.

He was ordained to the priesthood on May 17, 1997, by Bishop Thomas G. Doran at the Cathedral of St. Peter.

He served as parochial vicar at St. Mary Parish, Woodstock, teaching part time at Marian



(Observer file photos)

Father Christopher Kuhn

Central Catholic High School there (1997-2000). He then became spiritual director at

Boylan Central Catholic High School and parochial vicar at the Cathedral of St. Peter (June-November 2000).

He then served at St. Mary Parish in Elizabeth and at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Hanover, first as administrator (Elizabeth: 2000-2001; Hanover: 2000-2003), then as pastor at those parishes until 2007.

He became pastor of Holy Trinity Parish in Scales Mound (2004-2012) and at St. Mary and St. Michael parishes in Galena (2007-2012).

On June 29, 2012, he became pastor at St. Mary Parish in Elgin where he has served to the present.

Father Bruce Ludeke Will Soon Become the Pastor at Elgin Parish

ELGIN—Father Bruce Ludeke becomes pastor of St. Mary Parish in Elgin on June 15.

Born in Rockford, Father Ludeke attended Boylan Central Catholic High School, Rockford College, Illinois State University in Normal, and Northern Illinois University in DeKalb. He completed seminary studies at Mount St. Mary Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md. in 2006.

He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Thomas G. Doran on May 20, 2006, at the Cathedral of St. Peter.

Father Ludeke served as parochial vicar at St. Peter Par-



(Observer file photos)

Father Bruce Ludeke

ish in Geneva, also teaching at Aurora Central Catholic

High School (2006-2009). He then was parochial vicar at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Crystal Lake, also teaching at Marian Central Catholic High School in Woodstock and serving as a chaplain at McHenry County Jail in Woodstock (2009-2011).

He then served as administrator at Sacred Heart Parish and assistant principal at Newman Central Catholic High School (2011-2014). He became pastor at Sacred Heart Parish on April 14, 2014, and has served there and at Newman Central to the present.

Father Matthew McMorrow to Freeport

FREEPORT—Father Matthew McMorrow becomes pastor of St. Joseph and St. Mary parishes in Freeport, and will also begin service as spiritual director/assistant principal at Aquin Catholic Schools there on June 15.

Born in DeKalb, he studied at DeKalb High School and Northern Illinois University, then at St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein.

He was ordained to the priesthood on May 21, 2005, by Bishop Thomas G. Doran.

Father McMorrow served as parochial vicar at St. John Neu-

mann Parish in St. Charles and taught at St. Edward Central Catholic High School in Elgin (2005-2007). He then served as assistant principal and director of religious education at Boylan Central Catholic High School (2007-2012), and as Diocesan Scout Chaplain.

At Christ the Teacher Parish in DeKalb, he served as parochial vicar for a few months (2012), then as administrator (2012-2014) and Diocesan Director of Campus Ministry (2012-2019), then as pastor (2014-2019). He was Dean/Vicar Forane of the DeKalb Dean-



(Observer file photos)

Father Matthew McMorrow

ery (2017-2019).

He has served as pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Aurora from June 17, 2019, to the present.



(Observer file photo)

The first-ever NIU Newman Center campus missionaries pose with Father Matthew McMorrow after noon Mass, Oct. 3, 2013.

Father Keith Romke Will Head to Cary

CARY—Father Keith Romke will become pastor of SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Cary on June 15.

An Elgin native, Father Romke attended St. Thomas More Church. He attended Larkin High School in Elgin, St. Gregory the Great Seminary in Seward, Neb., and Pontifical North American College in Rome.

He was ordained to the priesthood on May 21, 2011, by Bishop Thomas G. Doran.

He served as parochial vicar at Holy Cross Parish in Batavia and taught at Aurora Central Catholic High School (2011-2013). He became Director of Vocations for the diocese (2013-2018) and parochial vicar at St. Bridget Parish in Loves Park (2013-2017).

He then served at St. Patrick Parish in Dixon, first as admin-



(Observer file photos)

Father Keith Romke

istrator (2017-2018) then as pastor (2018-2021). He began service as pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Crystal Lake on June 16, 2021, where he has served to the present.

Father Jeremy Trowbridge Soon Will Become Pastor in Genoa

GENOA—Father Jeremy Trowbridge becomes pastor of St. Catherine of Genoa Parish in Genoa on June 15.

Born in Wisconsin, Father Trowbridge's family moved to Boone County where he attended Capron Grade School and his parish was St. Joseph in Harvard.

He attended high school in Poplar Grove, ITT Technical Institute in Greenfield, Wis., then St. Gregory the Great Seminary in Seward, Neb. He studied theology at Pontifical North American College and the University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum) in Rome, and earned a Licentiate in Sacred Theology (STL) degree from the Institute of John Paul II for Marriage and Family Studies.

He was ordained to the



(Observer file photos)

Father Jeremy Trowbridge

priesthood by Bishop Thomas G. Doran on May 22, 2010.

He assisted for two months at St. Bridget Parish in Loves Park, then continued his stud-

ies. He then was parochial vicar at the Cathedral of St. Peter and taught at Boylan Central Catholic High School (2011-2013). He also has served as a chaplain for KCs, as associate master of ceremonies for the diocese (2012-2019), and has served on the Presbyteral Council (2015-present). Additionally, he was acting director of the Office of Family Life for several months in 2013, then became spiritual director for the diocesan Office of Life and Family Evangelization (2013 to the present).

He served as parochial vicar at Christ the Teacher Parish in DeKalb (2013-2018). At SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Cary, he was administrator (2018-2019), then pastor (2019 to the present).



(Observer file photo)

Father Jeremy Trowbridge reads a Scripture passage during the indoor grotto blessing at Cary's SS. Peter and Paul Parish youth activities room called The Cavern, Aug. 15, 2022.

Father Slawomir Zimodro Adds Tampico

MORRISON/TAMPICO—Father Slawomir Zimodro, pastor of St. Mary Parish in Morrison, will also be pastor at St. Mary Parish in Tampico on June 15.

He was born in Gdansk, Poland. He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Thomas G. Doran at the Cathedral of St. Peter on May 24, 2008.

Father Zimodro served as parochial vicar at St. Margaret Mary Parish in Algonquin (2008-2010). He was parochial vicar at St. Patrick Parish in St. Charles (2010-2013), and at St. Rita of Cascia Parish in Aurora (2013-2014), then at St. Peter Parish in Geneva (2014-2016). From July 2008-July 2013, he also served as a part-time chaplain at McHenry County Jail in Woodstock.

In 2016, he became admin-



(Observer file photos)

Slawomir Zimodro

istrator of St. Mary Parish in Morrison, and became pastor there in June 2017 and also began service as administrator at Immaculate Conception Parish in Fulton and St. Patrick Parish in Albany. He has served those three parishes to the present.

Why do priests move?

New priest assignments always signify change for the faithful in parishes as well as for individual priests. Sometimes, such changes can be difficult, especially where there is considerable affection for a priest.

However, the principles governing priest assignments allow for the stability, health,

and well-being of not just some, but for all parishes, especially for those who require specific priestly talents or leadership.

Terms of office for priests of the Diocese of Rockford, in general, follow the procedures guided by the universal law of the Church, the norms of the United States Confer-

ence of Catholic Bishops, and diocesan law prescribed in the diocesan *Priests' Personnel Policies*. The term for a pastoral assignment is six years, renewable at the discretion of the bishop. There are times when a pastor is asked by the bishop to serve a shorter or longer time based on the needs of other parishes, schools, of-

fices, and ministries within the diocese. For parochial vicars (also known as associate pastors), the term of office is, in general, three years.

When fulfilling his duties as diocesan bishop, the bishop must anticipate and plan for the future needs of the diocese for which he is responsible and must take

into account the needs of all parishes whether they be pastoral, cultural, administrative, etc., along with the gifts of his priests when making good assignments. These decisions are always carried out in great discernment by the Office of the Bishop with the Vicar for Clergy, guided by God and in accord with Church law.

Food Bank Celebrates 40 Years

BY AMANDA HUDSON
News Editor

ROCKFORD AND BEYOND—Joan Kelley, a member of the Northern Illinois Food Bank Planned Giving Advisory Council and Campaign UNITE co-chair, was sold on the ministry on her first visit to the food bank where she noticed an eight-year-old boy the moment he saw a display of peanut butter.

His eyes lit up, she explained at a Founder's Day gathering on May 18 in honor of the Northern Illinois Food Bank's 40th anniversary. The boy grabbed his mother and told her, "Mom, they have peanut butter! If I had a whole box of peanut butter, I wouldn't get hungry this summer!"

The vision of Northern Illinois Food Bank is "for everyone in Northern Illinois to have the food they need to thrive," said

Chris White, Chief Operating Officer. He spoke about Sister Rosemarie Burian, SSJ-TOSF, a Wheaton Franciscan sister who started the food bank (first called Bethlehem Center) in DuPage County. White had met her and said she shared with him some of the early challenges of that work begun in Carol Stream, including convincing residents that a food bank was needed. Her cat was the center's first pest control, he recalled from those conversations, noting wryly that for a food bank, pest control is serious business.

The May 18 Founder's Day celebration was held on what would have been Sister Rosemarie's 87th birthday; she died at age 83 on Sept. 22, 2019. Sister Rosemary's efforts later merged with the newly-begun Hunger Connection in Rockford and grew to become one of the top 15 largest food banks

in the United States with four distribution centers — Rockford, Geneva, Lake Forest and Joliet. It provides, says a hand-out, 250,000 meals a day in 13 counties.

The speakers at the anniversary event included a partner of the food bank, Linda James, director of Christian Union Food Pantry in Rockford.

The work of the pantry is a joy, said James. Her pantry is 30 years old and, with help from Northern Illinois Food Bank and two other programs, Christian Union and its "12 faithful volunteers" serves 150-200 families each week, she said.

"We are blessed to be able to do what we do," she said, concluding with a statement from Jesus to St. Peter that inspires their pantry: "Feed my sheep."

Christian Union is one of around 900 partners — pantries, churches, soup kitchens, shelters and youth and senior feeding programs — that are served by Northern Illinois Food Bank, including partner parishes in the counties that comprise the Diocese of Rockford.

The Rockford distribution center includes the Winnebago Community Market where neighbors/patrons can shop twice a week. Last year, NIFB provided 8.8 million meals in Winnebago County. The need, said speakers, has risen dramatically from pre-pandemic numbers.

White made sure to mention a current \$40,000 gift match in honor of the food bank's 40th anniversary, and noted that new volunteers are always welcome to help evaluate, repack and



(Observer photos/ Amanda Hudson)

A Northern Illinois Food Bank volunteer checks that his load of food will go gently down upon a scale to be weighed and recorded.

distribute food.

Food distribution at the Winnebago Community Market takes place on Thursdays and

Fridays from 1-7 p.m. People were beginning to line up even before the 10 a.m. anniversary gathering began.

Don White, pictured, and Jerry Althof are 2023 volunteers of the year of the Winnebago Community Market at the NIFB distribution center. White decided to volunteer first at mobile pantries and pop-up distributions and then at the Rockford NIFB itself. In less than two years, he says with pride, he's logged in 1,200 hours of volunteer service. Althof volunteers four days a week, supporting DoorDash and the behind-the-scenes work for the Winnebago Community Market. He and White are among close to 1,000 volunteers of Northern Illinois Food Bank, which serves people in 13 counties across northern Illinois.



Neighbors can shop twice a week at the Winnebago Community Market, which opens on Thursdays and Fridays.

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THE
OBSERVER

What's Up

■ AURORA

Golf outing June 10

The Knights of Columbus Council #14795 at St. Joseph Parish will hold a golf outing June 10 at Phillips Park Golf Course, 1001 Hill Ave. Shotgun start is at 1:30 p.m. and a buffet dinner will be served afterward at O'Malley's Pub & Eatery, 701 Hill Ave. Cost: \$100/golfer; no dinner-only option. Hole sponsorship is \$150. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/yarm8y48>

■ HAMPSHIRE

Book club starting June 7

St. Charles Borromeo Parish will host a summer book club starting June 7, 9 a.m., after the 8:30 a.m. Mass. Meetings will be in the parish hall (in the basement of the church) in the same time slot for 9 weeks; readers are invited to Mass beforehand. The group will study "Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist" by Brant Pitre and Scott Hahn, available on

Amazon as a paperback and free audiobook. Participants should read the introduction before the first meeting.

Info: Jan Olson, 847-683-1536

■ ST. CHARLES

Summer talk series June 13-July 25

St. Patrick Parish will hold a summer talk series featuring four speakers on June 13 and 27 and July 11 and 25, all at 6-8 p.m. The talks, which include drinks and food trucks, will be at Riverlands Brewing Company, 1860 Dean St. Unit A. All ages are welcome to learn about living a devout life. The parish will cover each participant's first beverage.

Mental health presentation June 29

St. John Neumann Parish and Catholic Charities will host a mental health presentation on "The Art of Accompaniment" on June 29, 6:30-8 p.m., in the Hoffman

Center at 2900 E. Main St. Includes prayer, education and testimony on responding to mental health challenges. Snacks provided. No cost; register with Brent Smith at bsmith@sjnstcharles.org.

■ SUBLETTE

"Bee Happy Hour" for St. Ambrose University community June 8

All community members of St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa, are invited to gather June 8, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at the restaurant La Fiesta, 107 W. Main St. Graduates, former students, current students and friends of the school can take part in snacks and an open bar. Hosted by Linda Grady, Penn Farringer, Madison Althaus and Don Dinges.

Info: Linda Grady, 815-883-1100; Penny Farringer, 815-677-5938



SCAN ME

OSF Seeds Community Garden

ROCKFORD—OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony Medical Center is opening the Healing and Wellness Community Garden to help area people in need.

The garden is a collaboration of the OSF STRIVE Trauma Recovery Center and the Family Peace Center.

Family Peace Center.

“The garden will be an opportunity for Mission Partners and community members to work together to grow food that will then be donated to local food banks and those in need,” said Therasa Yehling, manager

of the OSF STRIVE Trauma Recovery Center.

“We are excited to provide our community with this opportunity. We have had great community support already, but we are always looking for volunteers and donations to keep our garden successful and to continue to benefit our community,” she said.

A kick-off planting event with volunteers was scheduled June 1, from 9 a.m. to noon, and June 2, from 1 to 3 p.m.

The garden is located at the OSF Annex building at 5701 Strathmoor Dr. in Rockford.

In addition to human helpers, the garden also needs chicken wire, potting soil, zip ties, garden soil, peat moss, compost, marigolds and nasturtium (seeds or plants), flowers, large flowerpots, and gardening tools (new or used).

To participate, contact Kristina Kuksukat Kristina.M.Kuksuk@osfhealthcare.org.

To donate to garden needs, contact Ryan Duvall at Ryan.R.Duvall@osfhealthcare.org.



(Photo provided)

A work crew assembles garden boxes ahead of the June 1 and 2 kick-off planting event at OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony Medical Center, which is opening the Healing and Wellness Community Garden.



(Photo provided/Michelle Boppert)

Crystal Lake Eighth-Graders Receive Leadership Award

CRYSTAL LAKE—Bryce Schroeder (left) and Michael Marry, eighth-grade students from St. Thomas the Apostle School, were honored with the Illinois Principal Association Leadership Award at a breakfast reception at the Crystal Lake Holiday Inn on April 26. The two were selected by principal Gina Houston and eighth-grade teacher Maureen Bingham for their positive leadership, outstanding character and behavior, high academic achievement, and involvement in extracurricular activities. Marry and Schroeder were the only students representing Catholic schools among their peers from 44 elementary, middle, and high schools in the Kishwaukee Valley.



(Photo/Diana Adame-Leanos)

Rockford Knights Present Fish Fry Donation

ROCKFORD—Knights of Columbus Bob Berthiaume (left) and Jack Grygiel of Council 470 (Bishop Muldoon) presented a check for \$2,500 to Father Johnson Lopez, pastor of St. Edward Parish. The donation funds were raised at the parish’s annual Lenten fish fry.

What’s Up

■ AURORA

Kermes June 11

St. Peter Parish will hold a kermes festival to benefit the church on June 11, 11 a.m.-8 p.m., at 925 Sard Ave. Food, and drinks for children and adults, and treats. Activities include a soccer tournament for kids and live music. All ages welcome.

■ FREEPORT

Northern Illinois Mobile food pantry June 9

St. Joseph Parish’s Society of St. Vincent de Paul will sponsor the Northern Illinois Mobile Food Pantry in the church’s east parking lot on June 9, 10-

11:30 a.m., at 229 W. Washington Place. Volunteers needed; call Mary Koppi at (815) 232-4687 to help.

■ ROCKFORD

Meal and raffle June 11

St. Anthony of Padua Parish will hold a pasta and chicken meal June 11, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m., at the church at 1010 Ferguson St. Meal tickets are \$12/person; children under 10 years are free. Tickets are available pre-event only at the parish office. Raffle prizes are \$2,000, \$500 (three prizes) and \$100 (five prizes); raffle tickets are \$1/each or six for \$5. Tickets for the 50/50 raffle are \$1 each.

Celebrating the Centennial

Aquin to Test for New Scholarship on June 6

FREEPORT—The Aquin Catholic Schools community will celebrate the school’s 100th anniversary next year — and the school’s administration is looking forward to starting a brand-new scholarship tradition.

An email sent to Aquin families and friends read, “Aquin Catholic Schools has a proud tradition of providing exceptional education and fostering spiritual growth a century old. In celebration of this significant milestone, we have established the Centennial Scholarship.”

The Centennial Scholarship will offer a full year’s tuition discount to incoming high school student recipients. The selection process is based on testing, which is offered free of charge. The test will be given on June 6, 9 a.m., at the school’s main campus at 1419 S. Galena Ave.

Registration for the June 6 test date is at <https://forms.gle/p8GcqzPRkNnWYuT7>



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SEASONED

OBSERVER

Peaking at the Preakness

Maryland Catholic family looks back at 1983 win, teen jockey

BY GERRY JACKSON
OSV News

One of the most soggy and damp days in the history of the Preakness Stakes turned into one of the brightest and most glorious for a Harford County Catholic family and a 19-year-old Maryland jockey.

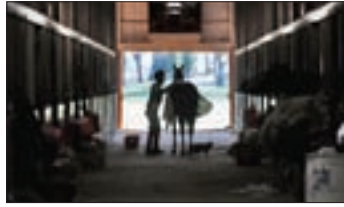
The Preakness is the second jewel of horse racing's Triple Crown Series, sandwiched between the Kentucky Derby and the Belmont Stakes in Elmont, New York. It takes place on the third Saturday of May at Pimlico Race Course in Northwest Baltimore.

Forty years ago, long-shot Deputed Testamony helped put the Boniface family and their Darlington farm on the thoroughbred racing and breeding map.

Trained by J. William "Bill" Boniface and owned by the Boniface family and Francis P. Sears, Deputed Testamony skipped the Kentucky Derby and then upset Derby-winning Sunny's Halo at Pimlico Race Course May 21, 1983.

"It was a big deal," said Boniface, 80, a parishioner of Maryland's St. Ignatius Parish in Hickory and a former altar server at St. Margaret Parish in Bel Air. "It gave our farm and breeding operation national recognition and somewhat international recognition.

"When you think about it, it's kind of astronomical odds," said Boniface, who attended Towson Catholic High School before leaving to



(OSV News photo/Kevin J. Parks, Catholic Review)
Kevin Boniface saddles a horse for a morning exercise ride.

join the horse business full time at age 15. "To be the one to win the Preakness out of about 30,000 foals nationally is incredible."

Deputed Testamony finished his four-year racing career with 11 victories and three second-place finishes in 20 starts. He earned \$674,329 in purses and set a track record for the 1 and 1/16 mile distance at Pimlico that still stands. He lived until 2012, reaching age 32 at Bonita Farm.

The 1983 Preakness victory was a fortuitous one in the career of a teenage jockey as well.

Donald Miller Jr., a high school student from Jessup, rode Deputed Testamony to the victory.

Miller, now 60 and a real estate executive, started riding for his father, Donald Sr., a trainer, at age 17.

"It wasn't until years later that it dawned on me how big an impact that victory had," said Miller, who

served on Cantonsville's St. Mark parish council for several years. "That name recognition helped me get mounts in other states."

Miller said his local knowledge played an important role in the victory since he knew after a hard rain that the inside path was the best spot at Pimlico. He went on to compile 2,856 career victories and earned more than \$37 million in purse winnings. He retired from riding in 1996.

Bill Boniface said the Catholic faith "shaped our character and imparted a sense of value that we use in our business."

His father, he added, taught him at an early age about faith and horse racing, including, "Never pray for a horse to win."



(OSV News photo/courtesy Skip Ball Collection, Maryland Horse Library)

Deputed Testamony, partly owned by the Boniface family of Harford County, Maryland, is seen in the winner's circle at Pimlico Race Course in Northwest Baltimore after winning the 1983 Preakness Stakes.

DESTINATION



(Observer photos/Sharon Boehlefeld)

Our Lady of Victory Parish in Centerville, Mass., is in a park-like setting with ample parking for visitors.

Our Lady of Victory Parish and St. Francis Xavier Parish Cape Cod, Massachusetts



On the grounds near Our Lady of Victory Parish is a memorial to babies who died before birth.

Destination: With summer vacation time underway, some may choose to wend their way to "Old Cape Cod." Some may not realize there are many small towns along the hook-shaped land. But if you happen to visit this part of the Diocese of Fall River on a weekend, here are two of several options for Mass.

Mass times: Our Lady of Victory — Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.; Saturday, 4:30 p.m.; Sunday, 7, 9 and 11 a.m., 5:30 p.m.; St. Francis Xavier — Monday-Saturday, 8:30 a.m.; Saturday 4 p.m.; Sunday 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., Portuguese; 9 and 11 a.m., English; 1 p.m., Spanish.

Why to go: Both parishes offer a flavor of life on Cape Cod and serve both year-round parishioners and seasonal visitors.

Our Lady of Victory was founded in 1957 and held its first Masses in the newly completed church basement.

St. Francis Xavier was founded as St. Patrick Parish in 1874 and became St. Francis Xavier in 1903. It has served a variety of immigrant groups over the years.

The church in Hyannis was close to the home of Rose and Joseph Kennedy Sr., and has been the summer parish of their family members since then.

Accessibility: Each parish has ample parking and handicapped access.

(Grand) Kid friendly: Like any parish, visitors of all ages are welcome.

Info: Address — Our Lady of Victory Parish, 230 S. Main St., Centerville, MA 02632 ■ Phone — 773-925-6600 (ext. 6626) ■ Website — <https://olvparish.org/>; St. Francis Xavier Parish, 347 South St., Hyannis, MA 02601 ■ Phone — 508-775-0818 ■ Website — <https://www.sfxhyannis.org/>

—By Sharon Boehlefeld, staff contributor. Send Destination ideas to seasonedobserver@rockforddiocese.org



St. Francis Xavier Parish in Hyannis, Mass., abuts the street, but has plenty of room inside the cross-shaped church.



An inconspicuous sign near a fence post in front of St. Francis Xavier, explains its connection to the Kennedy family.

Different View

CNS/Joe Heller



We are Invited into the Family of God

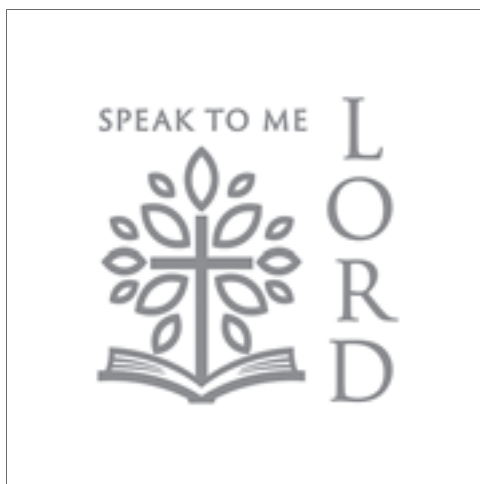
BY JEM SULLIVAN
OSV News

Our computers and phones are meant to connect us to the community. However, through the daily traffic of communication in emails, texts and social media posts, the digital culture in which we are immersed can also isolate us. Time spent in front of a screen is time away from family, friends, neighbors, and all those places where human communities flourish around us. Think for a minute of the all-too-familiar scene of a family or group of friends gathered around a table while looking at their phones throughout the meal.

Humans are social creatures who come into this world in a community. First, the community of our immediate family and then the ever expanding communities of home, school, and work as we grow into adulthood. And even though electronic devices have changed the way we interact socially we cannot escape a basic fact of our human existence. We are created as social beings, meant to flourish together.

This Sunday the Church invites us to reflect on the divine community that exists in the very heart and life of God, who we worship and praise as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. “Trinity Sunday” is not a distant theological abstraction but a graced opportunity to reflect on the mystery of God as a family of divine Persons who invite us into their community of love, grace and peace.

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit directs our gaze to a simple truth about who God is and who we are in relationship to God and one another. We



believe in God — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — in whose life and love we share through baptism. At our baptism, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, we became members of the family of God. At the beginning of every Mass, we are welcomed with this Trinitarian greeting of St. Paul, “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy

Spirit be with all of you.”

The goal of the Christian life is to grow each day in loving communion with the triune God. To believe that God is a trinity of divine Persons is to receive God’s merciful invitation to daily friendship with the Father, through the Son, in the power of the Holy Spirit. In the Gospel we hear that, “God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life.”

Jesus is the visible face of the Father, whose eternal love lives in us in the gift of the Holy Spirit. And the Trinity is as relevant as the next breath you take, for our life originates in the creating and all-powerful hand of God the Father; is redeemed by Jesus, His Son; and sustained by the power of the Holy Spirit.

On this Trinity Sunday, we recall and draw strength from the grace of our baptism, “in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Baptism calls us to nothing less than a share in the life of the Blessed Trinity.

Do we accept that divine invitation to community? As we pray in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit we grow in confidence to say, “speak to me, Lord.”

Reflection question: *What does belief in the Holy Trinity mean to you?*

The Fathers in Our Lives

In mid-June, we celebrate Father’s Day. More than 100 countries honor fathers and fatherhood on varying dates. I have been blessed with an abundance, including my biological and family fathers, my godfather, fathers-in-law, spiritual priest fathers, and of course God the Father — He being the perfect father.

Witness for Life



by **Therese Stahl**
Director of the Life and
Family Evangelization
Office

tstahl@rockforddiocese.org

This holiday is not on the Church’s liturgical calendar, but the Church does teach that fathers are essential in family life and in helping to build a culture of life.

All men are called to the vocation of fatherhood spiritually, Pope Francis has told us. All men can help God’s plan come to fruition by their example. They can help others form and deepen their relationships with God through strong Christian witness.

Our priests are spiritual fathers who nurture our faith. They proclaim God’s Word, minister the sacraments, and spiritually shepherd us. Through our parish priests, we learn we have an identity as children of God the Father through baptism. The order of parish life set by our priests allows us to grow in faith and encourages us to become disciples of Christ freely and intentionally.

Some men are called to live the vocation of fatherhood as biological, adoptive, or as foster dads. A man’s role as a family’s father is to love his wife and children in a unique and irreplaceable manner. In this love, fathers are meant to reveal God’s fatherhood. Fathers are called to attend to the development of each family member and promote the family’s unity and stability. They are called to protect and defend mother and children. They model an adult Christian life to their children.

One example of this fatherly protection comes in a relative of mine, who saw his grandchild growing up in harmful circumstances and intervened. My relative and his wife eventually adopted the child. Equally courageous is the unexpected, unmarried father who counsels his partner to choose life and secures emotional, financial, and other necessary support for his new family.

Taking on the mantle of “father,” just as that of “mother,” can be hard. Fathers must not abandon their families by withdrawing their presence or their support — be it emotional, financial, moral, etc. Fear and selfishness may encroach on a father’s heart, leading some to not fully accept the responsibilities and joys of fatherhood. As Catholics, it is important to counter the societal message that fathers are unimportant and that masculinity is a negative trait. We must all encourage fathers to act fatherly and affirm these actions when we observe them.

As we move into June, I think of dear friends who have lost their fathers, and I reflect on my own father who died at an age younger than I currently am. My father’s happy place was on a boat in Lake Michigan, trolling for salmon! Yes, these dads had faults, as we all do. Yet these men died too soon for those who loved them.

The grief of a father’s absence, no matter the reason, may make the third Sunday in June hard for some. The day may be hard too for those men who yearn to be biological fathers or whose own children have died.

The Church holds up St. Joseph as an example of encouragement to fathers. St. Joseph embraced fatherhood after Mother Mary’s unexpected pregnancy and welcomed and cared for Jesus. Joseph bent his will to God’s holy will. May all fathers gain courage from St. Joseph’s example. And may we as faith communities walk with moms and dads in need to allow them to embrace life.

Let us vow to keep all fathers, spiritual or otherwise, in prayer this month. Let us be thankful for these men as they endeavor to act selflessly, as they love and guide those who they name their children.

To send letters to us please use one of the following:

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SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for June 4, 2023

Exodus 34: 4b-6, 8-9 / John 3: 16-18

Following is a word search based on the First Reading and Gospel for the feast of the Most Holy Trinity, Cycle A. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

EXODUS	EARLY	MORNING
MOUNT SINAI	TABLETS	HIS NAME
LORD	MERCIFUL	SLOW
TO ANGER	MOSES	BOWED
FAVOR	PEOPLE	PARDON
WORLD	ONLY SON	BELIEVES
PERISH	ETERNAL	BE SAVED

CAME DOWN

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

DURAND—St. Mary/St. Patrick: Carolyn Sparaco, 82, April 16;
HUNTLEY—St. Mary: Robert LoSasso, 77, May 5; Barbara O'Toole, 79, May 18; Robert Andrlik, 80, May 20; Mia Geheren,

54, May 21;

ROCKFORD—St. Stanislaus Kostka: Leo Roganowicz, 58, April 10; Jennie Ciembronowicz, 95, May 13; Dr. Novella Schafer, 91, May 22;

STERLING—Sacred Heart: Slim Thuente, 89, May 23;

Weddings

MCHENRY—Church of Holy Apostles: Avery Brown and Andrew Calhoun, May 6;

Stewardship Moment

Stewards of God's creation: The human person is in a relationship with God's creation and this creation is affected by the decisions of people. Creation and the human person are not isolated entities, but are intimately connected in a loving union. We are called to

be responsible stewards of these special gifts.

Courtesy of Parish Publications "Stewardship" newsletter

Mass Meditation

June 4 (Trinity): Sunday's psalm reminds us that we have been crowned with glory and honor and given rule over the works of God's hands. But we must be good stewards, for the Lord will surely hold us accountable for the use of those gifts!

Courtesy of Sharon Hueckel

Life Moment

Pray: That as the life of the Trinity fills God's people, they may, as the People of Life, bring about a new respect and protection of every human being's right to life.

Courtesy of www.priestsforlife.org

For information and a weekly newsletter on the National Eucharistic Revival, visit <https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/>
 Visit <https://pregnancyhelpfinder.com/> for information on crisis pregnancy care centers, abortion pill reversal and post-abortion recovery care.



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If you or someone you know has been the victim of sexual abuse by an employee or member of the clergy of the Rockford Diocese, report the matter to law enforcement in the county in which the conduct occurred and then please call the hot-line number: 815-293-7540.



St. Gall Students Receive the Sacraments

ELBURN—During the month of May, students in faith formation classes at St. Gall Parish received the sacraments; second-grade students made their first Communion on May 6, and 16 eighth-grade students were confirmed by Bishop David Malloy on May 1.



(Photo provided/Lisa Long)

Business Spotlight

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Heading to the beach?

“The Beast of Bethulia Park”: A Catholic Tale for Summer

BY ELIZABETH SCALIA
OSV News

A few years ago, while musing on the Catholic imagination and the deep need for Catholic literary fiction that goes beyond pious themes with predictable outcomes, I encouraged creative Catholics to expose the faith to an increasingly jaded world by branching out into comics, or cartoons, song lyrics, games and puzzles.

I made an especial appeal to writers, noting that every Catholic novel needn't be the equal of Walker Percy's or Graham Greene's work — that indeed, regard for such literary luminaries may be intimidating some Catholic writers who believe they have a story worth telling, but fear comparisons to those greats. “It needn't be world class, you know, to move

a soul, somewhere,” I had written, concluding, “As Chesterton himself wrote, ‘Anything worth doing is worth doing badly.’ Let's do our badly best.”

By my lights, any resurgence in marketable Catholic creativity should certainly be permitted to embrace more populist fare, including the sort of summer beach reads meant to be consumed lightly — enjoyably picked up and put down as leisure permits.

To that end Catholic journalist Simon P. Caldwell's debut novel “The Beast of Bethulia Park” more than fits the bill for a holiday or beachtime read, featuring a young protagonist priest, a mysterious string of hospital deaths, a journalist juggling a very modern sort of relationship, and a couple of nefarious characters who may or may not be connected with

a historical bit of 17th-century anti-papist terrorism.

The link to the past that bookends this modern-day tale is quite intriguing, but Catholic mystery devotees will likely get caught up in the all-too-timely moral quagmire of euthanasia upon which this story gallops along. We're not talking about assisted-suicide, which is a fraught-enough issue, but characters who take real joy in deciding what a human life ought to be, and who gets to live it.

When young Father Clavin Baines of Liverpool becomes a new hospital chaplain, he is asked by a family to look into the unexpected death of a loved one. From there he gets sucked into a situation that seems like it may well be beyond him and his fairly new priesthood — one that not only exposes him to physical danger but brings

substantial risk to his mental and spiritual health and to his vocation. Temptation beckons (but remains only that) in the form of a beautiful young nurse trying to step out of her own entanglement with darkness.

There is, in fact, quite a lot of darkness in “The Beast of Bethulia Park,” and at times it feels a little like the author has attempted to do too much, particularly when an older priest — a Jesuit, no less — bounces into the story to consider the problem of spiritual oppression, advises Baines to read Adolphe Tanquerey, Jérôme Ribet and other heavy-duty theological mystics and then more or less bounces out, leaving the reader a bit breathless.

But there is also a bit of fun and light, here — what story about a Liverpoolian priest could be complete without refer-



(OSV News photo/courtesy Gracewing Publishing)

“The Beast of Bethulia Park” by S.P. Caldwell. Gracewing Publishing (Leominster, Herefordshire, UK, 2022). 432 pp., \$27.50.

ences to the Beatles, Blackpool and a day at the horse races, after all? And if the denouement feels a little over-the-top in a few places, well, in summer reads such things are permitted.

The need for Catholic fiction that manages to entertain in a populist vein while managing to still love the Church makes “The Beast of Bethulia Park” a welcome diversion for Catholics looking for a paperback and a hammock in the shade.

At the Movies



(OSV News photo/Disney)

The Little Mermaid

The Little Mermaid

A-I (Disney)
PG Charming live-action remake of the 1989 animated musical centers, as before, on the sea creature of the title. When her insatiable curiosity about life on dry land leads her to fall for a human prince, the romance causes a conflict with her overprotective father and makes her vulnerable to the scheming of her estranged aunt, an embittered octopus. It will take the aid of the lass' two closest compan-

ions, a harried crab and a scatterbrained gannet, to bring about a happy ending. The sprightly re-imagining, while too scary for tots, will delight all others. Adults will note that dad and daughter learn complementary lessons from the adventure and ultimately demonstrate their enduring love for each other.

PARENTS: THIS FILM CONTAINS potentially frightening scenes of characters in peril and of thoroughly stylized violence.

—OSV News.

On TV

Broadcast times may vary; check local listings.

“The Scriptural Vision of Man and Woman” — June 4, 9-10 p.m. (EWTN): This edition of the series “Franciscan University Presents,” features a panel discussion seeking biblical guidance amid the debate over gender identity (TV-G –

general audience).

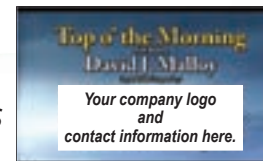
“Singin' in the Rain” (1952) — June 6, 7-9 p.m. (TCM): Engaging musical spoof of early Hollywood as a silent movie star (Gene Kelly) makes the transition into talking pictures with some help from a loyal pal (Donald O'Connor) and a talented young singer

(Debbie Reynolds) who dubs the voice of the star's shrill leading lady (Jean Hagen). The period nostalgia is served up as lighthearted fun with the Kelly-Reynolds romance sweetly in the background, with minor sexual innuendo. OSV News — A-II, adults and adolescents; MPA, not rated.

Limited Sponsorships Now Available for Top o' the Morning with Bishop David J. Malloy



The program with your message will also be available and archived on The Observer, the Diocese of Rockford's websites and myParish App.



Reach viewers throughout the Rockford region with this unique opportunity. Sponsorships are available for this one minute vignette as Bishop Malloy shares a reflection on the day's Gospel aired Monday-Friday before the TODAY Show on NBC affiliate WREX-TV.

OSV News classifications	MPAA ratings
(OSV News)	(Motion Picture Association of America)
A-I — general patronage	G — general audiences, all ages admitted
A-II — adults and adolescents	PG — parental guidance suggested, some material may not be suitable for children
A-III — adults	PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13
L — limited adult audiences, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling	R — restricted, under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian
O — morally offensive	NC-17 — no one 17 and under admitted (age limit may vary)
—Reviews by OSV News.	



For further information contact The Observer at 815-399-4300 or email: observer@rockforddiocese.org

News in Brief

Pope advances sainthood cause of Italian priest shot for saving Jews

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Francis formally recognized the martyrdom of an Italian priest shot by Nazi soldiers after they discovered he was helping his parishioners hide about 100 Jews. The martyrdom of Father Giuseppe Beotti, who was arrested and shot July 20, 1944, in Sidolo in northern Italy, was one of nine decrees in sainthood causes Pope Francis signed May 20. The help Father Beotti “offered to many Jewish people persecuted by the Nazi-Fascists played a decisive role” in his death, according to the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints. “To give them refuge, the priest had mobilized all the parishioners” and helped them hide and feed about 100 Jews, the dicastery said. “The Germans searched his house, but found nothing,” but they continued to hold him while they gathered information about his activities. The recognition of his martyrdom clears the way for his beatification.



(CNS photo/Courtesy of the Diocese of Piacenza-Bobbio)

Father Giuseppe Beotti

LA Dodgers cancel plans to honor group criticized as anti-Catholic

LOS ANGELES (OSV News)—After criticism from Catholic groups and local fans, the Los Angeles Dodgers removed a



(OSV News Photo/Gary A. Vasquez-USA Today Sports via Reuters)

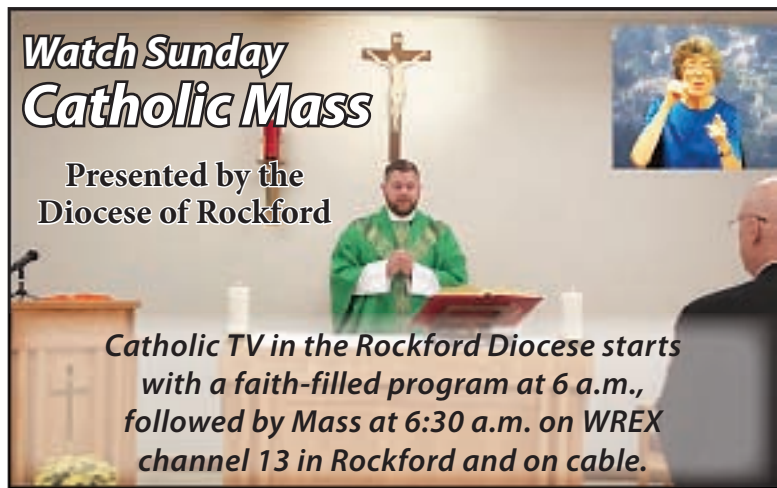
Dodger Stadium, May 16.

self-described “leading-edge order of queer and trans nuns” from its list of honorees at its annual Pride Night celebration in June. The California-based “Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence,” founded in 1979, were set to receive the Dodg-

ers’ Community Hero Award for their work organizing community service events, including drag displays and LGBTQ-themed comedy shows. Their motto, displayed on their website and in marketing materials, is “Go forth and sin some more!” The group was scheduled to receive the award at the team’s 10th annual “LGBTQ+ Pride Night” celebration during a June 16 home game.

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.

Don't Miss Bishop Malloy's TV Messages

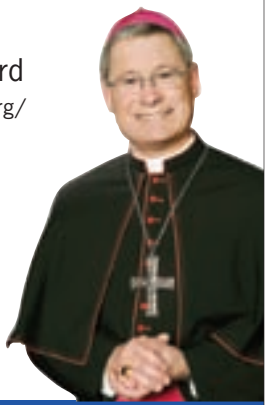
TOP O' THE MORNING WITH BISHOP MALLOY

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

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(CNS photo/Paul Haring)

Vacation Done With Respect for Others, the Environment

Tourists disembark from a boat on the Mediterranean island of Capri, Italy, in this file photo from June 26, 2010. In its message for World Tourism Day, the Vatican asks that tourism be “designed in a manner that respects people and the environment.”

Pope Francis Adds Fátima Visit to World Youth Day Trip

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Francis will visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Fátima during his trip to Portugal for World Youth Day 2023, the Vatican said.

In a statement May 22, Matteo Bruni, director of the Holy See Press Office, confirmed that the pope will travel to Lisbon Aug. 2-6 and will visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Fátima Aug. 5.

The Marian shrine at Fátima is connected to Pope Francis’ public prayer appeals for an end the war in Ukraine. In March 2022, just over one month after Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the pope consecrated both countries to Mary’s immaculate heart, praying before a statue of Our Lady of Fátima in St. Peter’s Basilica.

Before her death, Sister Lúcia dos Santos, one of the three Portuguese children who claimed to see apparitions of Our Lady



(CNS photo/courtesy Fundação JMJ Lisboa 2023)

The logo for World Youth Day 2023 depicts a cross, rosary and a profile of Mary in the colors of the Portuguese flag.

of Fátima in 1917, had said Mary requested that Russia be consecrated to her immaculate heart by a reigning pope to bring peace to the world. Previous popes had consecrated Russia to Mary’s immaculate heart in various forms but had never mentioned the country by name as Pope Francis did in 2022.

In other WYD news, the Vatican has pulled from circulation a World Youth Day stamp of

Pope Francis with young people in an image that resembles propaganda from Portugal’s former dictatorship, Radio Renascença, the radio station of the Patriarchate of Lisbon and the Portuguese bishops’ conference, reported May 18.

The stamp, which was advertised May 11 by the Vatican philatelic office, depicts Pope Francis leading a group of young people toward the World Youth Day 2023 logo and mimics the statue of “Padrão dos Descobrimentos” (Monument of the Discoveries) in Lisbon, a statue built during Portugal’s conservative dictatorship.

Radio Renascença reported that the stamp “raised controversies in some sectors of the Portuguese church” due to its resemblance to nationalistic propaganda produced by Portugal’s dictatorship in the mid-20th century. It had been scheduled to enter circulation May 16.

Man Who Forcibly Entered Vatican Sent to Psychiatric Ward

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The man who drove past two security checkpoints to enter a Vatican courtyard May 18 was taken to the psychiatric ward of a hospital for “obligatory” treatment after he was questioned by Vatican judicial authorities, the Vatican said in a statement May 19.

An approximately 40-year-old man forced his way past Swiss Guards and Vatican gendarmes at the Sant’Anna entrance to Vatican City State in a vehicle shortly after 8 p.m. May 18.



(CNS photo/Lola Gomez)

People walk in front of the Sant’Anna entrance to Vatican City State guarded by Swiss Guards and Vatican gendarmes May 19.

A Vatican police officer shot at the speeding car’s front tires,

hitting its fender, yet the man was able to reach the San Damaso Courtyard of the Apostolic Palace where he exited the vehicle and was arrested.

He did not get near Domus Sanctae Marthae guesthouse where Pope Francis lives.

Spanish-language newspapers La Nación and ABC reported that after his arrest the man claimed to have forced his way into the Vatican because he’d had visions of the devil and wanted to tell Pope Francis about them.