Catholic Times honors religious jubilarians throughout the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois. Religious sisters and brothers, and ordained priests from religious orders within the diocese are celebrating their 25, 50, 60, 70 (and further) jubilees this year. Pray for them as you read about their ministries on pages 18-29.
My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
Bathrooms now legislated? Who knew?
Department of Justice to warn the state
The Obama administration used the
in North Carolina and Mississippi
bisexual and transgender individuals on
recently passed in Mississippi allows peo-
enacting rules that grant such privileges
the state legislature passed a law in
to use whatever bathroom they wanted,
ordinance adopted in Charlotte that
sex. The issue has emerged prominently
the anatomical gender of their biological
their self-identified gender rather than
that they feel corresponds emotionally to
for people to be able to use the bathroom
this turned on its head in our culture, this
Mass for Nurses Week, 12 noon
Corporate Board Meeting, 3:30 p.m.
Confirmation, 6 p.m.
Sacred Heart Parish, Franklin; and
Virgin Mary Parish, Alexander;
New Berlin; Visitation of the Blessed
Meeting, 1:30 p.m.
Diocesan Finance Council, 2:30 p.m.
Policy Center, 11:30 a.m.
Position at the Ethics and Public
Cardinal George Visiting Fellow"
Luncheon announcing the "Francis
Center, Diocesan Finance Council
Meeting, 10:30 a.m.
Center, Diocesan Pastoral Council
10:30 a.m.
Thursday, 10 days before date of publi-
Correspondence: Address all
submissions available from editor.
Guidelines for freelance
welcomes. Guidelines for freelance
publications; $15.00 a year in advance (through parish);
$15.00 a year in advance (gift subscription or those paid through
office); $15.00 in advance, Canada, and all foreign countries.
Remittance should be made by check, draft or Express Money
Please notify us of changes of address,
and allow 3-4 weeks. Please send mailing label with old address.
Even though this is a digital image, the text appears to be about the legal status of public restrooms and locker rooms for transgender individuals. The text mentions how recent changes in policy have granted transgender individuals the right to use the restroom that matches their gender identity, rather than their biological sex. It also discusses a federal complaint filed by a transgender student at a Wheaton school, who felt that the new law violated her rights. The text concludes with a call to allow people to use the restroom that feels right to them, emphasizing the importance of self-identification in this context.
Pope recognizes miracles in two sainthood causes

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis has signed decrees that clear the way for the canonizations of a Christian Brother martyred during the French Revolution and an Italian priest who founded a religious order of men dedicated to the vocational and spiritual education of the poor and hearing impaired.

Meeting May 9 with Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for Saints’ Causes, the pope signed decrees recognizing miracles attributed to the intercession of Blessed Guillaume-Nicolas-Louis Leclercq, who was martyred during the infamous September Massacres in Paris in 1792, and Blessed Ludovico Pavoni, the Italian priest who founded the Sons of Mary Immaculate, now commonly known as the Povianists.

With the recognition of the miracles, the canonization ceremonies for the two men can be scheduled.

Pope Francis also signed a decree recognizing that Father Rafael Almansa Riano of Bogota, Colombia, heroically lived the Christian virtues. The priest was born in 1840 and died in 1927. The decree is one of the early steps on the path to beatification and eventual canonization.

Pope offers prayers for those affected by Fort McMurray wildfires

EDMONTON, Alberta (CNS) — Pope Francis has added his name to the list of people offering prayers for Canadians affected by the massive wildfires that have led to the evacuation of Fort McMurray.

In a letter to Bishop Paul Terrio of St. Paul, the pope said he “was saddened to learn of the destruction and distress caused by the extensive fires around Fort McMurray.” The pope said he was praying “for all the displaced, especially the children, who have lost their homes and livelihoods” and asked God to bless civil authorities and those coordinating the evacuation and providing shelter for the nearly 90,000 people left homeless.

Father Berrigan hailed as visionary who was ruled by faith at funeral Mass

NEW YORK (CNS) — Jesuit Father Daniel Berrigan, whose protests against government policies earned him multiple jail and prison sentences, was remembered as a “fierce, mischievous visionary,” a “Beatnik Jesuit priest,” a priest who “taught the sacrament of resistance,” a “Beatnik Jesuit friend,” a priest who “taught the sacrament of resistance,” a father who lived the resurrection and challenged religious leaders to know “bomb-throwing is not a crime — that they can be killed by the police.”

He also asked for strength and perseverance for those who are battling the fire.

The pope’s message came via Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Vatican’s secretary of state, through Archbishop Luigi Bonazzi, the apostolic nuncio to Canada. The church across Alberta has offered assistance to the evacuees from Fort McMurray, Anzac, Gregoire Lakes Estate and the Fort McMurray First Nation. Alberta officials said fire conditions remain extreme in the province due to low humidity, high temperatures and wind, and that residents of Fort McMurray should not expect to return home “for an extended period of time.”

Theologians’ brief might lead to compromise ruling

By CAROL ZIMMERMANN
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Supreme Court cases, with their multiple friend-of-the-court briefs, leave extensive paper trails, occasionally some stand out. In Zubik v. Burwell, the challenge to the Affordable Care Act’s contraception requirement, more than 30 briefs were filed by religious, political and health groups weighing in for and against the mandate that most religious and other employers must cover contraceptives, sterilization and abortifacients through employer-provided health insurance even if they are morally opposed to such coverage.

One of these briefs, submitted by a group of 50 Catholic theologians and ethicists, may have been instrumental in prompting the court to issue its March 29 order for new written arguments by both sides.

Legal analyst Lyle Denniston, who writes for scotusblog.com, a blog on the Supreme Court, said if the justices succeed in finding a way to make the ACA’s contraception requirement “work in a way that more or less satisfies everyone,” the group of theologians “should take at least some of the credit.”

He said the court very rarely asks for more information after oral arguments and the request was so unusual “it may not have any parallels in the court’s history.”

The 45-page brief from the theologians is steeped in Catholic moral theology and hinges on the notion that religious employers object to the mandate and the Obama administration’s “workaround” — that allows them to acknowledge their opposition to the requirement and arrange for a third party to provide the contraception coverage — primarily because it makes them complicit in sin.

This objection, spelled out in the theologians’ brief, is not something that can be compromised, thus pointing to another way to make the ACA’s requirement work, which the court seems to be reaching for in its order.

The court proposed that religious employers would not be asked to fill out a form or send a letter stating their objection to contraception coverage but would simply do nothing and the insurance companies, taking the cue from the employer’s stance, would provide the necessary contraception coverage.

Religious groups reacted favorably to this idea, stating in a new brief that this would use the least restrictive means for the government to protect women’s access to contraceptives while ensuring that religious employers are not complicit in what they regard as sinful.

Complicity in sin is not often the topic du jour in court hearings, but it came up during the March 23 oral arguments of Zubik. Paul Clement of the Washington-based Bancroft firm, who was one of two lawyers representing the plaintiffs, argued that religious freedom was at stake in the federal government’s accommodation because even though the contraceptive coverage would be supplied by a third party, the religious employers would still be complicit in providing something that goes against their beliefs.

U.S. Solicitor General Donald Beaton Verrilli Jr., in defending the federal government, argued that the government’s accommodation was the least restrictive approach, and he also did not think the plaintiffs, by using third parties, were complicit in what they disagreed with, even though they have repeatedly stated this.

For all the arguments that the religious groups should simply fill out the paperwork to remove themselves from something they disagree with on moral grounds, the theologians’ brief pointed out that it’s not that simple.

The brief notes that “compliance with the mandate” by filling out a form or submitting notice to the Health and Human Services department would involve “either formal cooperation in wrongdoing, or impermissible material cooperation in serious wrongdoing.”

They gave the historic example cited by Catholic moral theologians about a servant ordered by his master to hold a ladder against a house so the master
May 15 has been an important day for all of my 57 years of life. My parents were married on this day in 1954. I will offer Mass for their souls. When Easter comes early, like this year, the day also can be the day the church celebrates Pentecost.

Happy birthday church! For 49 days we heard the wonderful stories of the risen Christ appearing to many. Many rejoiced, even the Disciples, and yet where did they spend most of their time? In the locked room. They could not overcome their fears after watching, from a distance for most, Christ crucified on the cross at Calvary.

The Father and Son united after the Ascension and sent forth the power of the Holy Spirit down upon these servants and upon the whole church. The power of the seven-fold gifts of the Holy Spirit finally gave the remaining Apostles the courage to “unlock” the door to their fears. With grace and confidence, possessing the gifts of knowledge, wisdom, understanding, piety, awe, counsel and courage, they boldly went forth to evangelize the “Good News.” They would bear fruit by producing many of the fruits of the Holy Spirit, as they shared charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control and chastity.

Now the church, the Catholic Church, founded by Jesus Christ, would begin to be formed calling forth the baptized to live in the power of the Spirit, in union with all the baptized; each sharing their gifts, which united themselves with the Lord’s Cross, the source of all spiritual fecundity. They can give expression to their generosity by adopting abandoned children or performing demanding services for others” (Nos. 2378-79).

There are several reasons why IVF is unethical. The first reason is that in the attempt to create new human life, IVF results in the disproportionate risk of loss of innocent human life. Innocent human lives are lost through IVF because “excess” human embryos created in the process are either discarded or placed in cryo-preservation (deep freeze). Since human embryos are human lives, and human beings have an inherent right to life which is denied by cryo-preservation or by being discarded, IVF is unethical. Pope Francis has been remarkably strong in his condemnation of our modern “throwaway” culture. Up to 90 percent of the human embryos that are created never make it. They never had a chance. Again, the Catechism, based on the instruction on respect for human life in its origin (Donum Vitae, Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, 1987), states: “It is immoral to produce human embryos intended for exploitation as disposable biological material. Certain attempts to influence chromosomal or genetic inheritance are not therapeutic but are aimed at producing human beings selected according to sex or other predetermined qualities. Such manipulations are contrary to the personal dignity of the human being and his integrity and identity which are unique and irrepeable” (No. 2275).

The second reason IVF is unethical may be difficult for people to understand if they do not have an appreciation for natural law, but here it is anyway. Because IVF invades the sacred space of interpersonal human sexual relations and relies too much on technology, it winds up separating the spouses from each other and often separating the real parents from their offspring. Here it will be helpful to reprint what the Catechism teaches us in this regard:

“Techniques that entail the disassociation of husband and wife, by the intrusion of a person other than the couple (donation of sperm or ovum, surrogate uterus), are gravely immoral. These techniques (heterologous artificial insemination and fertilization) infringe the child’s right to be born of a father and mother know him and bound to each other by marriage. They betray the spouses’ right to become a father and mother only through each other.”

Techniques involving only the married couple (homologous artificial insemination and fertilization) are perhaps less reprehensible, yet remain morally unacceptable. They dissociate the sexual act from the procreative act. The act which brings the child into existence is no longer an act by which two persons give themselves to one another, but one that entrusts the life and identity of the embryo into the power of doctors and biologists and establishes the domination of technology over the origin and destiny of the human person. Such a relationship of domination is in itself contrary to the dignity and equality that must be common to parents and children. “Under the moral aspect procreation is deprived of its proper perfection when it is not willed as the fruit of the conjugal act, that is to say, of the specific act of the spouses’ union ... . Only respect for the link between the meanings of the conjugal act and respect for the unity of the human being make possible procreation in conformity with the dignity of the person” (Nos. 2376-77).

Finally, reproductive medical assistance or techniques allowed include any which respect the life of the embryo and the exclusive sexual union of the married mother and father. LTOF (lower tubal ovum transfer) and GIFT (gamete intra fallopian transfer) are methods that the church does not condemn.

In vitro — the march of science and the word of God

I know there are good reasons for the church to teach against IVF (in vitro fertilization), but what are they? Also, what forms are allowed, and what is the difference?

The church hopes and prays that God will bless married couples with children, but knows very well from experience and stories in the Bible that not every married couple receives the gift of children. So, to begin to answer your question, it needs to be stated that “children are a gift from God” — they are not a right. While every married couple has a right to try to have children, it is important to respect God’s law and the law of nature for procreation. In this regard the Catechism of the Catholic Church states “A child is not something owed to one, but is a gift. The ‘supreme state’ (No. 2270) teaches us in this regard: ‘A child is not something owed to one, but is a gift. The ‘supreme state’ (No. 2270) teaches us in this regard: ‘A child is not something owed to one, but is a gift. The ‘supreme state’ (No. 2270) teaches us in this regard: ‘A child is not something owed to one, but is a gift. The ‘supreme state’ (No. 2270) teaches us in this regard: ‘A child is not something owed to one, but is a gift. The ‘supreme state’ (No. 2270) teaches us in this regard: ‘A child is not something owed to one, but is a gift. The ‘supreme state’ (No. 2270) teaches us in this regard: ‘A child is not something owed to one, but is a gift. The ‘supreme state’ (No. 2270) teaches us in this regard: ‘A child is not something owed to one, but is a gift. The ‘supreme state’ (No. 2270) teaches us in this regard: ‘A child is not something owed to one, but is a gift. The ‘supreme state’ (No. 2270) teaches us in this regard: ‘A child is not something owed to one, but is a gift. The ‘supreme state’ (No. 2270) teaches us in this regard: ‘A child is...
Reflection on the rightful place of being a mom

When students and professionals, men or women, have sought my advice on careers, one key point I mention is to not give up family for work. As we celebrated Mother’s Day this month, let me share my experience.

Our sons are now grown. Ryan is a young clinical professor of medicine specializing in geriatrics, and Justin seeks his way to make God real and lives holy in a secular culture through the path of graduate theological studies. These choices emanate from a strong faith, the desire to touch, heal and minister and discipline that hones natural gifts into skills.

I pray daily for their holiness and health. I know this sounds lofty and unreal, but these have guided my petitions since 1996.

That was when, facing different career options, I enrolled in a three-week executive program — ostensibly to develop leadership skills, but primarily for time away to deliberate. Still undecided at the end of the program, I was close to panic. But a question, completely unrelated to the task at hand, lodged itself in my head.

The question: What would I want for our two boys? The answer: that they know their gifts as blessings from God, work hard to cultivate these gifts and never use their gifts to put people down but to lift people up.

Carolyn Woo is president and chief executive officer of Catholic Relief Services.

In this month of mothers, ask Mary to intercede for women

On May 8th we celebrated Mother’s Day, and as Catholics we dedicate the whole month to our heavenly mother, Mary. And so, May is a natural time to reflect on the irreplaceable role of mothers and all women in our lives. In the weeks following our appearance at the Supreme Court, several women who write about Catholic spirituality mentioned prophetic words of Pope Paul VI to women in reference to our case — words uttered over 50 years ago, but which are, perhaps, more relevant today than ever.

“At this moment when the human race is undergoing so deep a transformation, women impregnated with the spirit of the Gospel can do so much to aid mankind in not falling.” Paul VI said at the conclusion of the Second Vatican Council. He continued with this urgent plea: “Women of the entire universe, whether Christian or non-believing, you to whom life is entrusted at this grave moment in history, it is for you to save the peace of the world.”

The fact that several women who have no obvious connection to each other, and who are too young to have assimilated Paul VI’s words when they were uttered Dec. 8, 1965, mentioned these words to me, is worth pondering. As I do so, the faces of countless women and girls pass before my mind’s eye, and myriad prayers arise in my heart.

I think of the elderly women in our homes around the world — women who have borne children and labored at tasks both great and small — and who now spend their days praying for others’ needs even as their own strength wanes. I think of our female staff members, who spend themselves so generously in the care of the aged and then return home to serve their families, churches and communities.

I think of my nieces and other young women who are grappling with so many competing choices and pressures as they strive to define the priorities and values that will guide their adult lives.

I pray for women around the world who have been displaced by war, economic hardships and situations of religious persecution, who struggle mightily to provide their children with the most basic human needs and comforts. I also pray for the brave women who advocate for educational and workplace equality, for victims of trafficking, sexual exploitation and the plague of illegal drugs.

As I ponder Paul VI’s call for women to save the peace of the world, I also think of the religious sisters and Catholic laywomen — full of enthusiasm and impregnated with the spirit of the Gospel — who joined us in prayer and walked with us as we prepared for our day in Court, and who gave a stunning public witness to the beauty of the Gospel of Life at the rally outside the Supreme Court.

Finally, I pray for the women who protested against us on March 23, that they may come to understand that openness to life — most often expressed through physical motherhood, but also manifest in spiritual, affective and cultural maternity — does not deprive women of their dignity, their potential, or their possibilities, but enables them to flourish through the sincere gift of self to God and to others.

In this month dedicated to Our Lady, the greatest expression of the “feminine genius,” let us turn to Mary and ask her to intercede for all women. May we cherish our vocation as guardians of life and nurturers of peace. May we step out as unapologetic prophets of a more human culture where each person is seen as the child of God they were created to be and those who are weakest receive the greatest share of our love.

Courage, Encourage and Same-Sex Attraction

Courage is the only national, ecclesiastically approved Catholic Ministry to men and women living with same-sex attraction. Our approach is primarily spiritual support for those who wish to live chastely in accordance with the teachings of the Church. Courage is not an orientation change group or therapy. To speak with the priest chaplain who works with Courage, please e-mail: courage@dio.org.

Your confidentiality is respected. More information about the Courage apostolate can be found at: www.couragec.net

Catholic Times Mission Statement

Catholic Times publishes the newspaper of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois to inform, educate, teach, serve and inspire the Catholic people of God.

The newspaper helps readers understand the church and the world, fulfill their role as Christians, and create dialogue in the community of believers.
Experiencing the Spirit, understanding the mystery of faith

May 15, Pentecost Sunday
Acts 2:1-11
Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34
1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Romans 8:8-17
John 20:19-23 or John 14:15-16, 23b-26

My husband and I have enjoyed hosting a small faith-sharing group in our home for the past few years. Two in this parish-based group are Haitian immigrants. Yves is fluent in English, but his wife Suzanne came to the U.S. more recently and still struggles with the language.

So I was a little surprised that they wanted to participate in the group as it focuses on reading Scripture and involves a lot of discussion. On the other hand, I recognized that taking part in a faith-sharing group simply follows from their commitment to their parish community.

Personally, I love hearing Yves read Scripture because his heavy accent evokes an unusual tone in the text. I also have to listen extra closely. His shared experiences of faith, having grown out of a different culture, greatly enrich the conversation for the rest of us.

At first, I was concerned that Suzanne would feel left out of the discussion that she could barely understand. But as I watched her, I realized that she was fully engaged with us — not in words, but in Christ’s Spirit among our group.

Everyone sensed this, and it came to an almost thundering manifestation — imagine the “noise like a strong driving wind” described in today’s reading from Acts — one evening when we invited Suzanne to offer the closing prayer. The emotion, the confidence of God’s presence and power came pouring out over all of us as she spoke stirringly in her native Creole language.

I heard a few people murmur in reverence as we all, somehow, understood every word.

The passage in Acts describes a moment when Jesus’ disciples experienced a sudden noise as they became filled with his Spirit. They sensed what was happening — it was palpable — as they heard and understood the mighty acts of God spoken in foreign tongues.

In our home, there were no accompanying tongues of fire visible. But it became clear to us, just as it did to those gathered in Jerusalem on that Pentecost when Christ’s church was born, that his Spirit is not limited by language, culture or any human convention.

The diversity of Christ’s Spirit enriches us while the unity of Christ’s Spirit strengthens us as we become one with him and each other.

QUESTIONS: How have you experienced the diverse gifts of the Holy Spirit in your church community? When has the Spirit “spoken” to you in a manner beyond words?

May 22, The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity
Proverbs 8:22-31
Psalm 8:4-9
Romans 5:1-5
John 16:12-15

One of my favorite memories from my years as a youth minister was teaching the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults adapted for youth. There was always such an interesting group of teens who either needed to catch up on their sacraments of initiation or, once in a while, there was a teen who wanted to become Catholic totally on her own initiative.

A story that sticks in my memory comes from three sisters from a blended family. They were each around 13 years old. They had never been to church before and they knew nothing about God, the Bible, the Catholic Church or what we believed.

They had heard of God, but they understood God as being only what we would call God the Father. When I was teaching them the sign of the cross, they wanted to know who the Son and the Holy Spirit were. I said the Son is Jesus and together with the Father and the Holy Spirit this is God.

The looks on their faces were priceless. They argued that God was God, so Jesus cannot be God, too. They had no idea what to do with the Holy Spirit. We went round and round, with me using every analogy I could think of to try to get these teens to understand how three separate persons could share one divinity and together be the triune God.

It took the better part of our next four classes for them to just begin to grasp the concept that most Christians learn from an early age. I had the same feelings that Jesus expressed in this Sunday’s Gospel, “I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now.”

Whether one is a teenager who knows nothing about God or holds a doctorate in theology, there is always more to know about God, and especially the mystery of the Holy Trinity. But as I tried to explain to those three sisters, it is not important that we totally understand every mystery. Faith is the bridge that begins where our knowledge ends and connects us to the heights of the truth.

QUESTIONS: How would you explain the Trinity to someone who has never heard of it? What is a mystery of the Catholic faith that you would love to know more about?

Word to Life, reflecting on each week’s Scripture readings, is provided by Catholic News Service in cooperation with the North Texas Catholic of Fort Worth, Texas.

WHISPERS IN LIFE


God loves/cares for/supports/reaches out to every human — we can say.

God is not one to sit by watching the human race just wander all over the place. God’s hand is there to help each of us. Tonight and every night of my life, I can go to bed saying that no matter what sort of person I have been today, God still loves me.

Father John Ostdiek, OFM, lives at St. Clare’s Villa in Alton.

DAILY READINGS

Sunday, Pentecost, May 15
Reading: Acts 2:1-11
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34
Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Romans 8:8-17
Gospel: John 20:19-23 or John 14:15-16, 23b-26

Monday, May 16
Reading: James 3:13-18
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 198:10, 15
Gospel: Mark 9:14-29

Tuesday, May 17
Reading: James 4:1-10
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 55:7-11a, 23
Gospel: Mark 9:30-37

Wednesday, May 18
Reading: James 4:13-17
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 49:2-3, 6-11
Gospel: Mark 9:38-40

Thursday, May 19
Reading: James 5:1-6
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 49:14-20
Gospel: Mark 9:41-50

Friday, May 20
Reading: James 5:9-12
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 103:1-4, 8-9, 11-12
Gospel: Mark 10:1-12

Saturday, May 21
Reading: James 5:13-20
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 141:1-3, 8
Gospel: Mark 10:13-16

Sunday, The Most Holy Trinity, May 22
Reading: Proverbs 8:22-31
Confirmation is a beginning, not an end, to life in church

KAREN OSBORNE

If I had a nickel for every single time I’ve heard someone talk about the sacrament of confirmation as if it were the end of something...I’d be in the money. And now that Easter is over and parishes everywhere are hosting confirmation Masses, everyone seems to have an opinion.

“After confirmation,” I heard one teen say at a church luncheon, “I’m not going to go to church any longer. Mom can’t make me.”

“I’m so glad I’m done taking the kids to religious ed,” said a parent.

Why do we talk about confirmation as if it’s something that’s completed rather than as an experience that has just begun?

Granted, it’s partially adults’ fault because in some places confirmation equals graduation. Confirmation prep can sometimes feel like school. Most parishes have classes with a teacher, reading and homework. There are service project internships. There’s even an interview process with a priest or a member of the parish staff to make sure you’re ready to receive the sacrament.

And, at the very end, you file into the church, wearing your Sunday best, waiting to receive the sacrament. You’re saying yes to everything else that comes next: to the future, to your dreams, to building a community and a life.

Your life doesn’t stop at graduation. It continues, and you use what you learned in school to help you with your future job, your family life and your dreams.

Confirmation is saying yes to faith, to the future and being part of the church. It’s a statement not that you’re released from going to Mass every week, but that you’re willing, ready and able to engage further in your faith — to dive into service, to learn all of the things they don’t teach you in religious education and to explore God’s call at a truly adult level, to take ownership of your faith, just like you take ownership of your life at graduation.

This kind of graduation is all about looking out for people, for your friends and for the marginalized, for those who know exactly where they’re going as well as those who need a little help discovering that for themselves.

Confirmation is not leaving, it’s arriving. It’s a statement that you want God to walk with you wherever you may go. It’s an acknowledgement that you’re not done yet. It’s a hope for the future. It’s not just an achievement, it’s a promise. The promise is that young people aren’t leaving God behind when they start looking for new and beautiful horizons, it’s that they’re bringing him along.

So, this spring, when you face the ceremonies that will take you from one stage in life to the next, remember that you’re not done. Remember that the best is yet to come. Don’t say no to that.

Karen Osborne is a syndicated columnist for Catholic News Service.
COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE — Twenty HSHS St. Anthony’s Memorial Hospital colleagues representing leadership and various levels at the Effingham hospital attended Illinois Performance Excellence’s “Saluting Excellence” event in Oak Brook on March 23 to accept the 2015 Bronze Award for “Commitment to Excellence.” Seated, left to right: Marilyn Boone, Women and Children’s Manager; Tammy Probst, Director of the Wound Healing Center; Kelly Sager, Chief Nursing Officer; Theresa Rutherford, President and CEO; Tara Wright, Clinical Nursing Facilitator; Dr. Ryan Jennings, Chief Medical Officer; Mary Finley, Director of Quality Improvement; and Whitney Meyer, Occupational Therapist. Standing, left to right: Danielle White, Nursing Supervisor; Laura Koester, Guest Services Transporter; Rob Runde, Director of Pharmacy; Lisa Hoelscher, Marketing Specialist; Bobbi Kinkelaar, Clinical Nursing Director; Mike Janis, Executive Director, Outpatient and Ancillary Services; Liz Kremer, Dietetic Technician; Dot Behrs, Chairperson of St. Anthony’s Board of Directors; Elaine Probst, Administrative Assistant; Teri Phillips, Director of Health Information; Danee Ebeling, Medical/Surgical Nurse; and Casey Rose, Procedures Nurse. “It is an honor to be recognized for the promises they make daily to provide patients exceptional care, quality, safety, and experience,” said Rutherford. Recipients of the award go to those organizations which have demonstrated earnest efforts to adopt and apply continuous improvement principles, following the Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence, a customer-focused federal change agent that enhances the competitiveness, quality and productivity of organizations for the benefit of all citizens. It also provides global leadership in promoting performance excellence and in the learning and sharing of successful performance practices, principles, and strategies.

**Technical Support Specialist**

The Catholic Diocese of Springfield Illinois is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Technical Support Specialist in the Information Technology Department. This position shares responsibility for the Technology Help Desk and works as a first point of contact for the Diocese with questions about technology. This position also shares responsibility for the installation and maintenance of new and existing workstations; assisting/training of staff; training of new and existing employees in the use of basic network services and selected software; performs server backups according to a regular schedule. Minimum qualifications include an Associate’s Degree or 60 college credit hours in an IT related field or commensurate work experience in a relevant technical field. Salary range for this position is $32,000-$35,000. Please email a cover letter and resume with your application to HR@dio.org. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. Employment is contingent upon successful completion of background check.

**Office for Human Resources at**

HR@dio.org or mail to: Catholic Pastoral Center
1615 W. Washington St., Springfield, IL 62702-4757

E.O.E.

**Learning Behavior Specialist**

SHG is seeking a highly qualified Learning Behavior Specialist for the role of Learning Lab Coordinator/Director of Academic Support Services. A minimum of a bachelor’s degree in special education is a required with preference given to individuals with experience in case management and program development.

Please send resume along with 3 references to Kara Rapacz, SHG Assistant Principal, at rapacz@shg.org by May 14.
Diocese honors educators, catechists for years of service

At the end of each school year, educators and catechists in parish schools and religious education programs in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois are honored for special service anniversaries. Honorees for 2015-2016 receive a certificate. The catechist certificates are signed by Bishop Thomas John Paprocki and Christine Malmevik, Interim Director of the Office for Catechesis. Educator certificates are signed by Bishop Paprocki and Jean Johnson, Superintendent for Catholic Schools. One-hundred-forty-two certificates were issued.

“We appreciate and congratulate these dedicated catechists and teachers for their ministry of discipleship formation,” said Johnson and Malmevik, in a joint statement. “We pray for God’s blessing on them always.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EDUCATORS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALTON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Mary School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karen Crites, 25 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Judy Kulp, 15 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ss. Peter &amp; Paul School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harry Cavanaugh, 5 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Katie Lyons, 5 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>CARROLLTON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. John the Evangelist School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Margaret Meyer, 40 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catherine Smith, 35 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>DECATUR</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Patrick School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Billie Shay, 20 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDWARDSVILLE</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Mary School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anna Shannon, 20 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deborah Caukl, 15 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>EFFINGHAM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Anthony of Padua Grade School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marie Burton, 35 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sue Bushur, 35 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gina Gardewine, 25 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roberta Meyer, 10 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kara Koester, 10 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heidi Wohlman, 5 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crystal Tipton, 5 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dan Mette, 5 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sacred Heart School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barb Keller, 30 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lisa Rhodes, 15 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marsha Bloemker, 10 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shauna Albert, 10 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maria Zumbahlen, 10 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>GRANITE CITY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holy Family School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sophie Provanski, 40 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Marti, 40 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gloria Falbe, 25 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Elizabeth School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Grinstead, 10 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kathryn Howell, 5 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kathryn Dimitroff, 5 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIGHLAND</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Paul Catholic School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shandra McPherson, 15 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>JACKSONVILLE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Our Saviour School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Celeste Morrow, 25 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stacey Worrell, 20 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Becky Phillips, 20 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Becky Russotto, 15 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Don Jolly, 10 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amy Evans, 5 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stacey Chumley, 5 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Routt Catholic High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scott Maruna, 20 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mark Rood, 5 years</td>
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<td>MARYVILLE</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. John Neumann Catholic School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charles Stowes, 15 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEWTON</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Thomas the Apostle School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Jo Kreke, 10 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>PANA</td>
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<td>Sacred Heart School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iody Vogt, 15 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sheila Siegert, 15 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teresa Chamberlain, 10 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>QUINCY</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Dominic School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sue Kelly, 40 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joann Ellerman, 25 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Francis Solanus School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roseann Stuckman, 25 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susie Eaton, 10 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linda Dawson, 10 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Peter School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chris Reichert, 25 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sara Reeder, 15 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amanda Martin, 10 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cris Weckbach, 10 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jill Venvertloh, 5 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPRINGFIELD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blessed Sacrament School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ruth Ficke, 25 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kathy Hartu, 20 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kelsey Taylor, 5 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tina Morehead, 5 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cathedral Grade School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Janet Hoch, 30 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amanda Miller, 5 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ashley Loyd, 5 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kayla Kreiling, 5 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christ the King School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donna Schroeder, 25 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Connie Maxwell, 25 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Little Flower School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gloria Katzmack, 35 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kim Luparell, 30 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laura Boland, 25 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debbie Jones, 15 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jackie Davis, 15 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sacred Heart-Griffin High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mike McDonald, 25 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sister Margaret Grueter, OP, 20 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Katie Seck, 15 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sue Metzroth, 10 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rihab Habibi, 10 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Will Cargoe, 10 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tom Weir, 5 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Valeria Cueto, 5 years</td>
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<td>Maureen Cavanagh, 5 years</td>
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<td>St. Agnes School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andrea Runipnik, 10 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karen Perrero, 10 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jessica Steinkruge, 5 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beth LaFata, 5 years</td>
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<td>Ashley Kuzenski, 5 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Aloysius School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carol Harris, 26 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special certificate – missed 25th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rich Harkins, 5 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>CATECHISTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRIGHTON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Alphonsus Parish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lyn Miller, 15 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Haley Green, 5 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ramona Berry, 5 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHARLESTON</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Charles Borromeo Parish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Hussey, 10 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leanne Kasey, 5 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Terry Coulton, 5 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>COLLINSVILLE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ss. Peter and Paul Parish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dorothy Anson, 30 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>DECATUR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holy Family Parish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teresa Stell, 20 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rita Hogan, 5 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDWARDSVILLE</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Mary Parish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pat Corkery, 10 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bethany Riechmann, 5 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Julie Hyten, 5 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sisters M. Isidora Flanagan, 5 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>GODFREY</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Ambrose Parish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angela Imhoff, 25 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marcia Dressman, 25 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nancy Godar, 15 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carol French, 15 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eliza Rudolph, 10 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michelle Pulaski, 10 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cindy Curry, 5 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>GRANITE CITY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Family Parish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patricia Alspur, 35 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheryl Moe, 15 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nancy Diak, 10 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tresa Ortiz, 5 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>JERSEYVILLE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Francis Xavier Parish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terrie Kallal, 5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARYVILLE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother of Perpetual Help</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Cox, 5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEW BERLIN</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Mary Parish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kara Pecoraro, 5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUINCY</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Francis Solanus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debbie Cramsey, 20 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linda Voorhis, 5 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>ROBINSON</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Elizabeth/Our Lady of Lourdes Parishes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roselene Quick, 5 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Valarie Herrmann, 5 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Courtney Ferris, 5 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>ROCHESTER</td>
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<tr>
<td>Church of St. Jude Parish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tess Riedle, 10 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peggy Cochran, 10 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peggy Lindstrom, 5 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>SHERMAN</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. John Vianney Parish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Barrett, 25 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Weber, 5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trish Blentinger, 5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dan Blentinger, 5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEUTOPOLES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Francis of Assisi Parish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marge Wiessing, 40 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louise Shedd, 25 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stephanie Niemerg, 20 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anita Deters, 20 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tina Swan, 15 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Connie Ritz, 15 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dolores Kroeger, 15 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cindy Hardiek, 15 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeff Hardiek, 15 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carrie Copples, 15 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joe Zerrusen, 10 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Betty Wente, 10 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linda Hemmen, 10 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Denise Weidman, 5 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cindy Vahling, 5 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ted Rhodes, 5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIRDEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sacred Heart Parish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matt Allen, 15 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMBINED PROGRAMS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Jerome Parish, Troy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Elizabeth Parish, Marine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. James Parish, St. Jacob</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marian Crosby, 25 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Megan Caperton, 5 years</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Distinguished nurse and educator named chancellor

Charlene S. Aaron begins June 1 as the new chancellor of St. John’s College of Nursing in Springfield. She succeeds Brenda Jeffers who is retiring.

“Dr. Aaron will be an asset because of her distinguished experience with nursing education,” said E.J. Kuiper, president and CEO of HSHS Central Illinois Division. “She is passionate about educating students to be great nurses and increasing diversity of nursing students and faculty members.”

Aaron most recently served as an assistant professor at Illinois State University’s Mennonite College of Nursing where she worked since 2005. Prior to that, Aaron served as the director of nursing for various nursing homes and retirement communities in Livingston County. She began her career in nursing as a post-surgical nurse in the late 1970s at a hospital in Pontiac.

Aaron received her doctorate from the University of Iowa. Her research focused on the self-management of diabetes in African American female caregivers of persons with dementia. She has been honored for her distinguished career at ISU’s nursing college. In 2015 she received the Illinois Nurse Leader Fellowship from the Illinois Organization of Nurse Leaders and the Kathleen A. Hogan Endowed Faculty Development Award.

St. John’s College of Nursing has provided nursing education for 125 years in Springfield and each year graduates approximately 55 nursing students.

OBITUARY

Sister Mary Ventura, OP

Springfield Dominican Sister Mary Ventura, OP, died on April 26 at Sacred Heart Convent. She was born in Bradley, in 1928, one of four children born to Philip and Josephine Ciaccio Ventura. She made her profession of vows in 1947 at Sacred Heart Convent, Springfield.

Sister Mary gave her life educating children and adults. As a primary school teacher, she served in Chicago, Mt. Sterling, Odell, and Springfield. In Aurora and Morrisonville, she was a principal and junior high teacher. She also taught in East Alton and Rantoul, spent 14 summers in Mendota administering a federally-funded program for migrant children, and served part-time on the staff at Alfred Fortin Villa, Bourbonnais. After teaching Vietnamese refugees in Peoria from 1985 to 1986, Sister Mary moved to St. Bernadette Parish in Evergreen Park, where she served for 30 years. She taught fourth grade, and in 1996 started Essential Learning Solutions, a computerized learning program for children and adults with learning difficulties.

Sister Mary was preceded in death by her parents; her stepmother, Caterina Ventura; her sisters, Josephine Argento and Frances Argento; and two infant brothers.

She is survived by her nieces, Nina Engleman, and JoAnn and Phil Marie Argento; a nephew, Al Argento; and many great-nieces and great-nephews.

A funeral Mass was held on April 28 at Sacred Heart Convent with Father Peter Witschousky, OP and Father Benedykt Pazdan, concelebrants. Burial was at Calvary Cemetery.

Donations may be made to the Dominican Sisters Retirement Fund, 1237 W. Monroe St., Springfield, IL 62704.

The Dominican Sisters and family of Sister M. Ventura were served by Kirlin-Egan & Butler Funeral Home, Springfield.

CHIARA CENTER

Program Director

The Hospital Sisters of St. Francis are seeking qualified candidates for the Chiara Center Program Director. The Program Director will fulfill the organization’s Mission Statement:

The Chiara Center is a faith community dedicated to the discovery and healing presence of God within one’s self, everyday life, relationships, and all of creation. All programs, services, and hospitality are grounded in the spirit and heritage of Francis and Clare of Assisi.

The Program Director will plan, develop, promote and implement activities, both hosted and sponsored. Founded in 2007 and grounded in Franciscan spirituality and the Hospital Sisters’ healing mission, Chiara Center has earned a local and regional reputation for providing the ideal environment and outstanding service for those seeking Christ’s healing presence in a place for retreat and/or conference.

Situated at the Hospital Sisters’ Franciscan Life Center, Springfield, Illinois, amid 300 acres of walking paths and outdoor sacred spaces, Chiara Center offers a peaceful and inspirational setting for individuals, couples, and groups.

Chiara Center is composed of two wings:

- A spacious conference area, including Bonaventure Hall, which can accommodate up to 150 or which may be divided into smaller spaces amply furnished with audiovisual equipment. Several smaller conference rooms and rooms for spiritual direction are located nearby.

- A retreat house with 30 guest rooms large enough for double occupancy. The guest rooms are complemented by a large dining area and various lounges. The design of the interior space allows for multiple, independent meetings or a single activity.

For more information, visit chiaracenter.org and hospitalsisters.org.

Applicants should have a minimum of a Bachelor’s degree (Master’s preferred) in Human Services, education, theology, organizational behavior, or related field. Course work in Franciscan studies is desirable. Demonstrated success with program development is essential. Applications must be received by June 15, 2016.

For more information contact:
Joyce Sprague, Director of Human Resources, Hospital Sisters of St. Francis
P.O. Box 19431, Springfield, IL 62794-9431
(217) 522-3387, Ext. 684, jsprague@hsosf-usa.org

Organist/Soloist

St. Maurice Parish, Morrisonville, has a position available for an organist/soloist for Sunday’s 10 a.m. Mass.

Position consist of playing, singing and leading of music. Experience preferred, as well as, being familiar with the Rites of the Roman Catholic Church.

If interested, please contact Father Jerry Bunse, at (217) 227-3349, or email gbunse@dio.org.

129 Parishes in 28 counties! Find their news in Catholic Times
Celebrating May across the diocese

Springfield

MAY CROWNING — Parishioners Drew Jones and his son Luke participated in the rosary procession and ceremonial crowning of Mary at Sacred Heart Church in Springfield. Father Scott Thelander, parochial vicar of St. Katharine Drexel Parish led the long-standing tradition to honor our heavenly mother throughout the month of May.

PENTECOST

Continued from page 4

A new and powerful Pentecost is on our horizon, and the flames of the fire which we received at confirmation are going to be stirred to action in powerful ways soon. I’m “pumped,” as are our bishop, clergy and consecrated men and women. I assure you, many of our laity in our parishes are already on fire and ready to “bring this vision home.” It is going to be awesome!

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and enkindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your spirit, and they shall be recreated, and you shall renew the face of the earth. This is a great prayer, but more so a great promise of what is on the horizon in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.

Happy birthday to our entire diocese. Happy birthday to you!

Jacksonville

EAGLE PROJECT COMPLETED — Routt Catholic High School staff and students used May 5, the National Day of Prayer, to recognize Jayden Ware’s completed Eagle Scout project: erecting a statue of St. Thomas Aquinas, patron saint of Catholic education, and landscaping in front of the school. “Jayden took responsibility for his project, and I had the opportunity to witness his communications,” said Mark Rood, RCHS theology director. After approval from the Scoutmaster of Troop 107 and the school’s Board of Education, the Routt senior and 19 volunteers worked a total of 68 hours on the project. Father Thomas Meyer, pastor of Our Saviour Parish, blessed the statue. “The Routt community is grateful for his project,” said Nick Roscetti principal of Routt. Ware is the son of Brad and Charlyn Ware and the late Mia Ware. “The project as a whole, went very well,” stated Ware. “Although the timing of the project was not ideal (beginning in the winter months), I feel like I made a good, lasting impression on the Routt community.” Shown left to right are Aaron Kuhn, Jayden Ware, Father Thomas Meyer, Nick Roscetti, Brad Ware and Mark Rood.

Musicfest

Headliners include:
My Friend Mike
Carrie & the Catapults
Dirty Mugs
Plus other great music!

Friday, May 27
Saturday, May 28
• Musicfest
• Carnival
• Rides
• 5K Run
• Food and Fun

St. Boniface Catholic Church
110 N. Buchanan St. ~ Edwardsville, IL 62025
(618) 656-6450 ~ all info @ www.bonifest.com

Friday
Food, Games, Rides & Beer Garden 4-11 p.m.
Edwardsville Catholic Schools Band —
Patriotic Kick-Off 4 p.m.
My Friend Mike 4:30-7 p.m.
Ryan Ideus and the Feudin’ Hillbillies 8-11 p.m.

Saturday
All Stands and Rides open 11 a.m.
Run for Bonifest 8:30 a.m.
5K Run/ 2 Mile Walk
Book Sale 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Family Day 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Ride Wristbands 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Late 4 Work
Carrie & the Catapults 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Dirty Mugs 8-11 p.m.
Big Bona Giveaway
$10,000 Drawing
Mass 4:15 p.m.

‘Like’ Bonifest on Facebook
‘Follow’ Bonifest on Twitter
Scan and learn more about Bonifest!

Drawing to be held on Saturday night of Bonifest May 28 at 9 p.m. Need not attend to win, but winner will receive an EXTRA $500 if present at time of drawing - www.Bonifest.com

Early Bird Drawing - Voucher for One Half Year of St. Boniface School Tuition or $500 Cash!
April 24 - St. Boniface Church after 10:15 a.m. Mass

5% of proceeds as of May 23 will benefit Father McGivney High School

Maximum of 3,000 tickets available.

Mail to: St. Boniface Catholic Church
110 N. Buchanan St.
Edwardsville, IL 62025
Dear Representative,

We the Catholic Bishops of Illinois write to express our gratitude for your service as an elected official. During his address to a joint session of the United States Congress, Pope Francis made clear the noble vocation of public service. We join him in expressing appreciation for all that you do.

On this occasion, we once again want to express our position on House Bill 4013. This legislation proposes to make radical changes in Illinois state policies, which we oppose. It would:

- remove the prohibition on state employee's health plans from paying for elective abortions;
- remove the prohibition in Illinois' Public Aid Code on using public monies for elective abortions;
- remove the requirement that any claims on public money for reimbursement on specifically sanctioned abortions include a written statement with the opinion of the physician as to the procedure's necessity;
- remove a further prohibition in Illinois Public Aid Code against permitting financial aid for the purpose of obtaining an elective abortion; and
- amend the Problem Pregnancy Health Services and Care Act to remove a prohibition on grants to organize who will use the money to refer, counsel for or perform abortions.

It has been our long-standing view, of which many share, that the government should not use public money to support or promote elective abortion. Since 1976, the federal government has embraced this principle through the Hyde amendment to annual appropriation bills, and in numerous similar provisions governing a wide range of domestic and foreign programs. This approach has the strong support of the American people.

A study published by the Guttmacher Institute found the abortion rate among women enrolled in Medicaid more than doubles if they live in a state that funds abortion through Medicaid. No lawmaker can support this legislation and still claim to support "reducing the instances of abortion."

The provisions for House Bill 4013 make all taxpayers participants in the expansion of the abortion industry. You may not believe, as we do, that abortion involves the destruction of innocent human life. However, by rejecting the utilization of public funds for abortion, you would stand with the overwhelming majority of Illinoisans who at least recognize the tragedy of abortion and wish not to contribute their tax dollars to its occurrence.

Thank you for your consideration of the matter. Again, many thanks for your service.

Sincerely yours,

Most Reverend Blase J. Cupich
Archbishop of Chicago

Most Reverend Edward K. Braxton
Bishop of Belleville

Most Reverend Daniel R. Jenky
Bishop of Peoria

Most Reverend Thomas J. Paprocki
Bishop of Springfield in Illinois

Most Reverend R. Daniel Conlon
Bishop of Joliet

Most Reverend David J. Malloy
Bishop of Rockford

No public funds for abortion requires vigilance

Bishops urge lawmakers to oppose taxpayer-funded abortions, yet again

Bishop Thomas John Paprocki joined the other Illinois Catholic bishops last month in sending a letter to Illinois House members to reject House Bill 4013 and its call for public funding of abortions. House Bill 4013 passed the House Human Services Committee on a partisan 8-6 vote in March 2015, but was sent back to the Rules Committee after a short availability for a vote on the House floor.

The legislation briefly resurfaced again this session, but at last check on the Illinois General Assembly website (www.ilga.gov) the measure was again assigned to the Rules Committee last month. Read the bishops’ April 12 letter below.

Principal Position

St. John the Baptist Catholic School is seeking qualified applicants for the 2016-2017 school year.

Must be a practicing Catholic with a Master’s Degree in School Administration, 4 years elementary teaching experience, and Illinois Certification.

Send a cover letter, resume, and references to:
Rev. Stanley Konieczny
St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
10 South Lincoln, Smithton, Illinois 62285

OVERCOME PORNOGRAPHY and other unhealthy sexual behaviors with this scientific, Catholic program.

www.ReclaimSexualHealth.com

To report allegations of sexual abuse of a minor by clergy — even if it is in the past — individuals are encouraged to call the Diocesan Child Abuse Reporting and Investigation number (217) 321-1155. Individuals may also contact Illinois Department of Children and Family Services Child Abuse Hotline at 1.800.25.ABUSE, or contact your local police authority.
right to privacy and parents’ constitutional right to instill moral standards and values in their children.

The transgender activists would have you believe that their politically correct ideology is based on science; however, the American College of Pediatricians has pointed out that transgenderism is classified as a mental illness and therefore has warned legislators and educators that conditioning children to accept transgenderism as normal is child abuse. They advised, “When an otherwise healthy biological boy believes he is a girl, or an otherwise healthy biological girl believes she is a boy, an objective psychological problem exists that lies in the mind, not the body, and it should be treated as such.”

Dr. Paul McHugh, psychiatrist-in-chief at Johns Hopkins Hospital, was so concerned about the psychological origins of gender-identity disorder that he halted the practice of sex-reassignment surgery at his institution. He concluded that the research demonstrated that Johns Hopkins should no longer participate in what he called “unusual and radical treatment” for “mental disorders.”

The Catholic Church has some clear teachings on transgender issues. Catholics are called to treat everyone with compassion. Yet the church maintains that people may not change what Pope Benedict XVI called “their very essence.” In a speech at the Vatican on Dec. 23, 2008, Benedict directly addressed transgender issues by cautioning Catholics about “destroying the very essence of the human creature through manipulating their God-given gender to suit their sexual choices.”

Similarly, in his encyclical *Laudato Si*, issued last year on the environment, Pope Francis warned that gender ideology “denies the difference and reciprocity in nature of a man and a woman and envisages a society without sexual differences … It is one thing to be understanding of human weakness and the complexities of life, and another to accept ideologies that attempt to sunder what are inseparable aspects of reality. Let us not fall into the sin of trying to replace the Creator. We are creatures, and not omnipotent. Creation is prior to us and must be received as a gift. At the same time, we are called to protect our humanity, and this means, in the first place, accepting it and respecting it as it was created” (no. 56).

Here in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois, we ask that people respect these teachings of the Catholic Church in their use of facilities in our churches and schools. People who are confused about their gender identity — especially children and adolescents — should be treated with compassion and provided counseling rather than being further confused by activists promoting their political ideology. May God give us this grace. Amen.
This week’s focus on
HSHS St. Francis Hospital
Litchfield

We created more
than the area’s best health care options.

We’re creating lasting, healthy relationships with our community.

At HSHS St. Francis Hospital, we believe our neighbors deserve the best health care options. That’s why we developed a new state-of-the-art surgery center, a patient-friendly Emergency Department, advanced orthopedic services, and proven maternity care, all designed to help you and your family enjoy the healthiest possible outcomes. We’re dedicated to bringing the best health care options close to home. Because a healthy community is a strong community.

A Community of Caring

OSF Saint Clare’s Hospital
Alton

HSHS St. Francis Hospital
Litchfield

HSHS St. John’s Hospital
Springfield

OSF Saint Anthony’s Health Center
Alton

HSHS St. Anthony’s Memorial Hospital
Effingham

HSHS St. Mary’s Hospital
Decatur
Class of ’16: answering the call of God through prayer, service

WASHINGTON (USCCB) — The 2016 class ordained to the priesthood were about 17 when they first considered a vocation to the priesthood. Seven in 10 (70 percent) say they were encouraged by a parish priest, a friend (48 percent), parishioners (46 percent) and mothers (42 percent). On average, they lived in the diocese for which they will be ordained for 15 years before entering seminary. Religious ordinands knew the members of their religious institute an average of five years before entering.

The total number of potential ordinands for the class of 2016 is 548, down slightly from 595 in 2015 and up from 477 in 2014. Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Raleigh, North Carolina, chair of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, found that the data gave reason for hope but also provide areas for further growth.

“Each path to the priesthood begins with a call from Christ,” Bishop Burbidge said. “This is a powerful reminder of how we are all able to be instruments in helping others to discern God’s will.”

“The fact that our two men have taken very different paths to get to this point highlights that the Lord continues to call a variety of men to consider the possibility of priestly service in our diocese,” said Father Brian Alford, director of the Office for Vocations for the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois. “There is no one mold that men have to fit into in order to be ‘qualified’ to serve the church in this ministry. The Lord chooses those whom he wants and then equips them with the graces necessary to fulfill the sacred duty of leading people to him.”

Deacons Paul Bonk of St. Mary and St. Mark Parish, Madison and Braden Maher of St. Anthony Parish in Effingham will be ordained by Bishop Thomas John Paprocki on May 28 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield.

The Georgetown University-based Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) collects the data annually for the U.S. bishops. Among the survey’s major findings:

• The average age for the Class of 2016 is 35. Eight in 10 respondents are between 25 and 39, slightly older than in 2015.
• Three in 10 (30 percent) were born outside the United States, with the largest numbers coming from Colombia, Mexico, the Philippines, Poland and Vietnam. On average, respondents born in another country have lived in the U.S. for 13 years.
• Most have been Catholic since infancy, although eight percent became Catholic later in life. Eighty-two percent report that both of their parents are Catholic and more than a third (35 percent) have a relative who is a priest or a religious.
• More than half completed college (59 percent) before entering the seminary. One in six (18 percent) entered the seminary with a graduate degree.
• Nearly half of responding ordinands (45 percent) attended a Catholic elementary school, which is a rate slightly higher than that of all Catholic adults in the U.S. In addition, ordinands are somewhat more likely than other U.S. Catholic adults to have attended a Catholic high school and they are much more likely to have attended a Catholic college (41 percent, compared to 7 percent among U.S. Catholic adults).
• Five in 10 ordinands (52 percent) report some type of full-time work experience prior to entering the seminary, most often in education. Five percent of responding ordinands report prior service in the U.S. Armed Forces.
• Seven in 10 (70 percent) indicate they served as an altar server and about half (53 percent) reporting service as a lector.
• About seven in 10 report regularly praying the rosary (73 percent) and participating in eucharistic adoration (73 percent) before entering the seminary and finally, about half indicated that they were discouraged from considering the priesthood.

The full report can be found online at www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/ordination-class/index.cfm.
**BETHALTO — K. of C. #4688 All-You-Can-Eat Chicken Dinner, Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish gym, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Adults $10, children (6-10) $5, adult carry-outs available. Public welcome.**

**DECATUR — Post Partum Emotional Support Group, HSHS St. Mary’s Hospital Chapel, 11:30 a.m.-noon.**

**BISHOP CREEK — Prayer Vigil for Life,**

**ALTON — Military Mass, Ss. Peter and Paul Pastoral Center, 6:30 p.m.**

**SPRINGFIELD — YAM, Young Adult Mass,**

**SPRINGFIELD — Fatima Pilgrimage, Blessed Sacrament Parish,**

**DECATUR — Mass, HSHS St. Mary’s Hospital Chapel, 11:30 a.m.-noon.**

**SPRINGFIELD — Fatima Pilgrimage, Blessed Sacrament Parish, 2 p.m. Speaker, Father James Isaacson. All of the diocese is invited and urged to attend.**

**SPRINGFIELD — Catholic Mass, Memorial Medical Center, noon (217) 788-3585.**

**SPRINGFIELD — Grief Support Group for those who have lost a loved one, HSHS St. John’s Hospital, 4:30-6 p.m. For information (217) 544-6464, ext. 55675.**

**SPRINGFIELD — Survivors of Suicide Group for those who have lost a loved one, HSHS St. John’s Hospital, 4:30-6 p.m. For information (217) 544-6464, ext. 55675.**

**Wednesday, May 18 BETHALTO — K. of C. #4688, Red Cross Blood Drive, Senior Citizens Center, 100 E. Central St., 4-8 p.m. Public welcome.**

**SPRINGFIELD — Catholic Mass, Memorial Medical Center, noon (217) 788-3585.**

**SPRINGFIELD — Mass, HSHS St. Mary’s Hospital Chapel, 11:30 a.m.-noon.**

**SPRINGFIELD — Breath of Life Support Group, HSHS St. Mary’s Hospital, conference room 561, noon. For people with breathing problems. For information (217) 464-2603.**

**EFFINGHAM — Eat at Mom’s Breastfeeding Class, HSHS St. Anthony’s Memorial Hospital auditorium, 6:30 p.m. Pre-registration required (217) 347-1529.**

**SPRINGFIELD — Catholic Mass, Memorial Medical Center, noon (217) 788-3585.**

**SPRINGFIELD — Catholic Mass, Memorial Medical Center, noon (217) 788-3585.**

**SPRINGFIELD — Eucharistic Adoration, Little Flower Church, 730 a.m.-4 p.m. Contact Rachel (217) 529-1606.**

**Friday, May 20 JACKSONVILLE — 12-Hour Adoration, Our Saviour Church, Holy Cross Chapel, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Chapel of Divine Mercy, 3 p.m.**

**MADISON — Fish Fry and Tacos, Polish Hall (St. Stanislaus Lodge) lower level, 826 Greenwood St., 5-8 p.m. Eat-in or carry-out.**

**EFFINGHAM — New Brother/New Sister Class, HSHS St. Anthony’s Memorial Hospital auditorium, 10 a.m., children ages (3-8), Pre-registration required (217) 347-1529.**

**SPRINGFIELD — Latin Mass, Blessed Sacrament Church, 9 a.m.**

**Saturday, May 21**

**SPRINGFIELD — YAM, Young Adult Mass, St. Viator Chapel, SHG West campus, Pastoral Center, 6:30 p.m.**

**Monday, May 23**

**SPRINGFIELD — Latin Mass, Blessed Sacrament Church, 8 a.m.**

**SPRINGFIELD — Blessing of the Boats, Springfield Elks Lodge lakeside, Assembly of Boats, noon, Blessing Ceremony, 1 p.m. Celebrant Father Charlie Hart, OFM. In the event of rain it will be held Monday, May 30, 1 p.m.**

**Sunday, May 29**

**GILLESPIE — 27th Annual K. of C. Car Show, Civic Center, registration 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m., registration fee $12 rain or shine, professional judging, 12:30-3 p.m.**

**SPRINGFIELD — YAM, Young Adult Mass, St. Viator Chapel, SHG West campus, Pastoral Center, 6:30 p.m.**

**Friday, June 10**

**GRANITE CITY — Parish Picnic, St. Elizabeth Parish grounds, continues on Saturday, June 11 and Sunday, June 12. Entertainment scheduled each day, car show, washer tournament, carnival rides, music and plenty of food. For information (618) 877-3300, ext. 4.**

**Saturday, June 18**

**SPRINGFIELD — 5th Annual “Our Lady of Distinction Award and Luncheon” Event, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Mass 10:30 a.m. Recognition luncheon following at the Sangamon Prairie Reception Center, Chatham. Registration forms at each parish rectory office, due by June 5. Luncheon reservations due by June 12. Contact Joyce Knodle (217) 825-5150 or ejknodle65@royell.org or Carolyn Munie, (618) 667-9102 or cmunie@hughes.net. Ongoing**

**SPRINGFIELD — Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration, HSHS St. Mary’s Hospital chapel, (217) 877-6716.**

**EFFINGHAM — Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration, HSHS St. Anthony’s Memorial Hospital chapel, (217) 342-4764.**
**NEW YORK (CNS) —** The following are capsule reviews of movies recently reviewed by the Catholic News Service.

**Keanu**
(Warner Bros.)

Satirical action-comedy starring Keegan-Michael Key and Jordan Peele as nerdy African-Americans who must pose as murderous thugs — and mingle with drug-slinging Los Angeles gangsters — to recover the purloined kitten of the title.

As honed on their Comedy Central television series, Key and Peele's brand of socially aware humor frequently considers the influence of pop culture on racial identity and translates well to the big screen. The catch is that they are bound to mimic what they spoof. And so their movie traffic in precisely the material it sends up — particularly with respect to stereotypical cursing. Director Peter Atencio keeps the focus on his two stars whose approach is generally light-hearted and good-natured. Yet a disrespectful tone toward God and religion, together with the gritty milieu of their underworld parody, mars their potentially valuable commentary.

Scenes of sometimes gory violence, much drug use, some irreverence, upper female and rear nudity, occasional profanity, pervasive rough language. The Catholic News Service classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

**Mother’s Day**
(Open Road)

Set in Atlanta, this sprawling ensemble comedy takes on, among other themes, divorce (Jennifer Aniston and Timothy Olyphant), marital secrets (Kate Hudson and Asif Mandvi), parental preju-
dice (Margo Martindale and Robert Pine) and life after loss (Jason Sudeikis).

Considerable focus and aplomb would be required to keep an audience engaged with such complex proceedings. Instead Garry Marshall’s uneven direction, added to a discursive script, results in a leaky bucket of bromides.

The film's aesthetic flaws are matched by a faulty moral outlook that, while present- ing an ultimately positive view of marriage, gives both cohabitation (Jack Whitehall and Britt Robertson) and a lesbian relationship (Sarah Chalke and Cameron Esposito) an unthinking pass. Tacit acceptance of immoral lifestyles, some distasteful humor, at least one rough term, occasional crude language.

The Catholic News Service classification is L — limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

**Ratchet & Clank**
(Gramercy)

Busy 3-D visuals fail to mask the flat tone and by-the-numbers storytelling of this animated sci-fi adventure from co-directors Kevin Munroe and Jericca Croad.

After failing in his effort to join a team of glamorous intergalactic peacekeepers (their leader voiced by Jim Ward), a catlike mechanic (voice of James Arnold Taylor) teams with a robot (voice of David Kaye) to take on a planet-destroying villain (voice of Paul Giamatti) that the more seasoned warriors have so far been unable to defeat. As scripted by Munroe, in collaboration with T.J. Fixman and Gerry Swallow, this video-game adaptation sends respectful messages about plucky underdogs doing the right thing. But the vehicle used to convey this theme bears more resemblance to a tired jalopy than a gleaming spaceship.

Some cartoon violence, including explo-
sions, occasional peril. The Catholic News Service classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

**The Huntsman: Winter’s War**
(Universal)

Positioned to bookend the action of 2012's *Snow White and the Huntsman*, this lavishly-staged adventure — at once a prequel and a sequel to the original — is well intentioned but dull and derivative.

Director Cedric Nicolas-Troyan and screenwriters Evan Spiliotopoulos and Craig Mazin have doubled up on everything from the first outing, matching their two time frames with a duo of wicked queens (Charlize Theron, Emily Blunt), a pair of rival kingdoms and a brace of brave huntsmen (Chris Hemsworth, Jessica Chastain). A quartet of dwarves (Nick Frost, Rob Brydon, Sheridan Smith and Alexandra Roach) is thrown in for good measure.

With barely a nod to the Brothers Grimm, the filmmakers cobble together a silly plot involving a quest to locate a missing magic mirror and prevent it from falling into the wrong hands. Cartoonish action violence, implied premarital sexual activity, an out-of-wedlock pregnancy, a few crass terms. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.
Celebrating milestone years of service to the faith

**2016 religious jubilarians**

By DIANE SCHLINDWEIN
Associate Editor

Catholic Times is pleased to recognize the following religious sisters, brothers and priests who have lived in or served in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois and are celebrating a significant jubilee in 2016.

These women and men surely deserve our thanks, respect and admiration for courageously answering the call to serve God’s people. Read on to see if you recognize someone who made a difference in your life.

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**Sister Mary Anthony Mathews, ASC**

Celebrating over eight decades as a member of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, United States Region is Sister Mary Anthony Mathews, ASC, a native of Coulterville. She professed vows in 1943 at Ruma Center in Ruma. Sister Mary Anthony earned several degrees and certifications, all from Saint Louis University: a bachelor’s in philosophy in 1948; a master’s in education in 1960 and a certificate in the corporate ministry program in 1984.

In the Springfield diocese she was a teacher at Catholic Children’s Home in Alton. Her principal areas of ministry were teacher, principal, education coordinator, corporate ministry chaplain and adult educator. Her ministry took her to other countries as well. She was a tutor in La Labor, Guatemala. She was also a teacher and a missionary in China, where she was for a time held in a concentration camp during WWII.

Now living mission later in life, Sister Mary Anthony resides at Red Bud and will be celebrating with ASC community members in September.

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**Sister Teresita Kern, ASC**

A native of Red Bud, Sister Teresita Kern, ASC is celebrating 75 years since she professed vows in 1941 as an Adorer of the Blood of Christ, United States Region at the Ruma Center in Ruma.

Sister Teresita has certificates in food service supervision and in applied food service sanitation. Her mission was serving as a cook, kitchen supervisor, food service manager, baker, homemaker and laundry worker.

Living mission later in life, Sister Teresita resides at Red Bud and will be celebrating with ASC community members in September.

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**Sister Ann Connolly, ASC**

Sister Ann Connolly, ASC, grew up in Assumption and calls Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary her home parish. She professed vows with the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, United States Region, in 1946. Sister Ann has a bachelor’s degree in occupational therapy from College of St. Catherine in St. Paul, Minn., a master’s in theology from Saint Louis University; as well as a certificate of nursing from St. John’s School of Nursing Education in Springfield.

Her service included nursing and working as a coordinator of health; case manager for Catholic Urban Programs in the Springfield diocese; and nursing and occupational therapy at St. Vincent (now Taylorville) Memorial Hospital in Taylorville.

Sister Ann is now living mission in later life and will celebrate with her ASC community members in September.

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**Sister Emma Goeckner, ASC**

Sister Emma Goeckner, ASC, professed vows with the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, U.S. Region, on July 1, 1946 at the Ruma Center in Ruma. She was one of six Goeckner sisters to join the Adorers. She was born in Effingham and calls St. Aloysius in Bishop Creek (now a part of St. Isidore the Farmer Parish in Dieterich) her home parish.

Sister Emma has a certificate in food service from Fontbonne University in St. Louis and received training in food service sanitation in Belleville. She has lived out her ministry as a cook and quilter and still remains in those ministries part-time in Red Bud.

She will celebrate with her ASC community members on Sept. 15.

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**Sister Laura Goeckner, ASC**

On July 1, 1946 at the Ruma Center, Sister Laura Goeckner, ASC, professed vows with the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, U.S. Region. She is another of the six Goeckner sisters who joined the Adorers. She was born in Effingham and St. Aloysius in Bishop Creek (now a part of St. Isidore the Farmer Parish in Dieterich) is her home parish.

Sister Laura received food service education at Fontbonne University in St. Louis and dietary manager’s training in St. Louis, Belleville and Taylorville. Her primary areas of ministry were in food and dietary service, parish ministry, activities coordination and home care-giving.

In the Springfield diocese she was dietary supervisor at Catholic Children’s Home in Alton and as a home care worker at St. Vincent (now Taylorville) Memorial Hospital in Taylorville.

Sister Laura is living mission in later life in Red Bud and does quilting. She will celebrate with the ASC community members on Sept. 15.

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**Sister Laura Mertens, ASC**

On July 1, 1951 St. Louis native Sister Stephanie Mertens, ASC, professed vows with the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, U.S. Region.

She has a bachelor’s degree in theology from Saint Louis University and a master’s in religion and religious education from Catholic University in Washington, D.C.

Sister Stephanie has served as an elementary teacher, religious education coordinator, social concerns director and as a coordinator for an Office of Justice and Peace. In the Springfield diocese she served as a teacher at St. Matthew School in Alton. Now living mission in later life, she lives in Red Bud and will celebrate with the ASC community in September.

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**Sister Pat (Mary Cleta) Schlarman, ASC**

Sister Pat Schlarman, ASC, professed vows with the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, U.S. Region, on July 1, 1956 in Ruma.

She has her bachelor’s in theology from Saint Louis University, a master’s in elementary school administration and supervision from Southwest Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, Mo., a certificate in pastoral administration from St. Mary University in San Antonio, Texas and a catechist certification from the Diocese of Memphis, Tennessee.

Sister Pat was a teacher at St. Mary School in Taylorville. She has served as...
Sister Anitawa
(Ann Therese) Fearday, ASC
50 Years

A native of Teutopolis, Sister Anitawa Fearday, ASC, calls St. Francis of Assisi her home parish. She professed vows with the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, U.S. Region, on July 1, 1966 at the Ruma Center in Ruma.

Sister Anitawa has her bachelor’s in theology from Saint Louis University, a certificate in adult education from Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis, and a master’s in adult education from Regis University in Denver.

She has served in pastoral, social justice, and vocation work; and has been a pastoral coordinator of catechesis and Eucharist. Presently she is general coordinator of Salud Integral-Sangre de Cristo in La Paz, Bolivia.

Sister Anitawa will celebrate her jubilee in July.

Sister Rosemary Micka, CDP
75 Years

Sister Rosemary Micka, formerly Sister Mary Bernard, entered the community from her home parish of St. Anthony of Padua in St. Louis. Sister Rosemary says that she had a desire to enter religious life from the time she was in fifth grade. Her father and mother’s strong Christian influence is most likely the reason that of her eight brothers and sisters, two became priests and three became sisters. She says, “We attended daily Mass as children.”

Sister Rosemary’s ministry was in education. She taught at St. Mark’s School in Venice (1961 to 1966; 1966 to 1971) and was both a teacher and principal at Divine Providence School in Westchester (1972 to 2000). Currently, Sister Rosemary resides at St. Clare’s Villa in Alton, where she serves in prayer ministry. Describing herself as prayerful, joyful and service-oriented, she enjoys rosary making. Over the years, Sister Rosemary has found that what’s most important to her is realizing that God is taking care of her every second of her life. She says, “To know that everything in my life, even the most painful, is ordered in his Providence for my good, is very consoling. I try each day to get rid of my ‘self’ will and to draw closer to him and his will in my life.”

Sister Agnes Marie Geringer, CDP
60 Years

Sister Agnes Marie Geringer entered religious life in 1956 from St. Mark Parish in Venice. She always loved God and wanted to work as the person who most influenced her decision to enter religious life, as she admired her and wanted to be like her. The better part of Sister Agnes Marie’s ministry was in food service, where she served at the Mt. Providence motherhouse in St. Louis for 30 years (1959 to 1989). In fact, Sister Agnes Marie used to prepare the 200 loaves of bread needed for St. Elizabeth Medical Center’s Bread Day. She also ministered in child care at St. Mary’s Special School (1989 to 1998) and was the local director at St. Elizabeth’s and St. Clare’s Villa motherhouse (1998 to 2012). Currently, Sister Agnes Marie resides at St. Clare’s Villa where she serves in prayer and general service ministry. Describing herself as happy, faithful, caring, kind and prayerful, helping the needy and depending on Providence is how she sees herself living out her charism.

Sister Mary Michael McCulla, CDP
60 Years

Sister Mary Michael McCulla entered religious life in 1956 from St. Patrick Parish in Fallon, Nev. She inquired about religious life with the Sisters of Divine Providence, and remembers being contacted by Sister Mary Philip Hampson. It was this personal touch that influenced her decision to join the community. Sister Mary Michael served for 24 years at St. Elizabeth Medical Center in Granite City, the hospital owned and operated by the Sisters of Divine Providence from the 1920s until 2001. She acquired a master’s degree in gerontology nursing, and spent five years at Washington University Hospital in St. Louis in Alzheimer’s research work, and another five years at Saint Louis University in gerontologic rehab. Currently, Sister Mary Michael is in ministry in Korea. She believes she lives the mission of the community by manifesting Jesus, the healer, in her ministry.

Sister Emily Meehan, CDP
60 Years

Sister Emily Meehan, formerly Sister Mary Timothy, entered religious life in 1956 from St. Mark Parish in Venice. She always loved God and wanted to work as the person who most influenced her decision to enter religious life, as she admired her and wanted to be like her. The

Continued on page 20: JUBILARIANS
JUBILARIANS
Continued from page 19

SISTERS of DIVINE PROVIDENCE

Father John Van Wiel, CSV
50 Years

Father John Van Wiel is celebrating 50 years as a Viatorian. He was ordained June 4, 1966 in Olympia Field.

Father Van Wiel has his bachelor's and master's degree in chemistry; a master's in educational administration; a certificate in religious education; and he graduated from Viatorian Seminary at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

His principal areas of ministry have been in secondary education, religious formation and assisting in parishes. He spent a total of about 25 years at St. Viator High School in Arlington Heights (from 1966 to 1967, and then from 1987 to 2013) where he was first a teacher and then was teacher/department chair there from 1993 to 2013. When he was younger he held the titles of teacher, dean of discipline, department chair, coach and principal at Bishop McNamara High School in Kankakee from 1967 to 1972. He was also the principal at Alleman High School in Rock Island from 1972 to 1984. In the Springfield diocese, he was teacher, counselor, dean of discipline and administrative assistant at Griffin High School from 1985 to 1987. He was novice master at the Viatorian Province Center in Arlington Heights from 1992 to 1996 and then from 2015 to 2016.

Father Van Wiel has recently retired and lives in Arlington Heights where he will celebrate with the Viatorian Community at its annual assembly in June.

Sister M. Bernard Simmons, FSGM
50 Years

St. Louis native Sister M. Bernard Simmons, FSGM, is marking 50 years of profession of vows as a Sister of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George, which took place at St. Francis Convent in Alton.

She has a bachelor's degree in social work from Marillac College in St. Louis; a master's in catechetics from Notre Dame Institute in Arlington, Va.; a master's in early childhood education from Eastern Michigan University; and a certificate in educational administration/elementary principal from the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, Neb.

From 1977 to 1983, Sister M. Bernard served at St. Patrick School in Alton, where she was a teacher and DRE. From 1983 to 2010 she served as a teacher/principal in grade schools in Michigan, Oklahoma, Nebraska and Kansas. Since 2011 she has been local superior at Mother of Good Counsel Home and is in pastoral care in St. Louis.

Sister M. Bernard, along with her congregation, will celebrate when Bishop Thomas John Paprocki celebrates Mass for them on Aug. 2 at St. Francis Chapel in Alton. The public is invited to a reception from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the Perpetual Help Center of OSF Saint Anthony's Health Center.

From 1957 to 1972, Sister M. Henrietta served in the laundry area of Saint Anthony’s Hospital (now Saint Anthony’s Health Center) in Alton. She then spent eight years (from 1972 to 1980) in Cruzeiro do Sul, Brazil. She was one of two founding sisters for the order’s Brazilian Missions. She returned to St. Francis Convent in Alton, where she has served as an adoration sister since 1980.

Sister M. Henrietta and her congregation will be celebrating when Bishop Thomas John Paprocki celebrates Mass for them on Aug. 2 at St. Francis Chapel in Alton. The public is invited to a reception from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the Perpetual Help Center of OSF Saint Anthony's Health Center.

Sister M. Margaret Gibson, FSGM
25 Years

Sister M. Margaret Gibson, FSGM, the daughter of Joan Gibbons and the late Roger Gibbons, was born in Orange County, Calif. She is celebrating 25 years of religious life, as she entered the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George on Sept. 8, 1991 at St. Francis Convent in Alton.

She has her bachelor's degree in elementary education from Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio. She has spent her religious life serving as an elementary school teacher. In the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois, she was a teacher at St. Mary School in Alton from 1986 to 2000. Her other teaching assignments were in Champaign, Oklahoma and Missouri. She presently is sister in charge of St. George Convent and teacher at St. Catherine Elementary School in Tulsa, Okla.

Sister M. Margaret plans a private celebration in the congregation this fall.

Sister Marietta Gibson, FSGM
25 Years

The daughter of late John and June Gibson, Sister Marietta Gibson, FSGM, is celebrating her jubilee of 25 years of religious life. She entered the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George on Sept. 8, 1991 in Alton at St. Francis Convent.

Born in Chicago, she worked in the infirmary and in housekeeping at St. Francis Convent in Alton from 1994 to 1997. From 1997 to 2007 she served as a nurse’s aide at Mother of Good Counsel Home in St. Louis. Since 2007 she has been back at St. Francis Convent, serving in the infirmary and also in housekeeping. Her present assignment is refectorian at the convent.

Sister Marietta is planning a private celebration in the congregation this fall.

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JUBILARIANS
Continued from page 20

SISTERS of ST. FRANCIS of the MARTYR ST. GEORGE

Sister M. Seraphica Montez, FSGM
25 Years

Sister M. Seraphica Montez, FSGM, was born in Lubbock, Texas and is the daughter of Isaul and Eva Montez. She entered the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George on Sept. 8, 1991 in Alton at St. Francis Convent.

Since 2014 she has been a teacher at Mar-Clare’s Friary in Alton. Since 2013 she lives at St. Francis Convent in Alton.

This fall, Sister Marie-Therese plans to take part in a private celebration in the congregation.

ORDER of FRIARS MINOR

Father Louis Antl, OFM
75 Years

Joliet native Father Louis Antl, OFM, is celebrating 75 years since the reception of his habit as a member of the Franciscan Friars of the Sacred Heart Province. He was ordained a priest on June 24, 1948.

Over the years Father Louis was a lector of theology, pastor, chaplain, instructor, director of a Newman Center, and confessor at the Lateran Supply Ministry. In the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois he ministered at St. Joseph in Teutopolis in 1952, served at Quincy College from 1952 to 1953, and was a lector of theology in Teutopolis from 1953 to 1961. When Father Louis retired he moved to Our Lady of Angels at Villa West and lived there from 2007 to 2011. For the last several years he has resided at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home in Joliet.

Father Louis

Father Vincent Elsen, OFM
75 Years

Michigan native Father Vincent Elsen, OFM, is also celebrating 75 years since he received his habit as a member of the Franciscan Friars of the Sacred Heart Province in Teutopolis on Aug. 14, 1941. Later, he was ordained a priest on Dec. 19, 1947.

He spent 1948 to 1949 in sacred eloquence in Quincy and returned to Quincy from 1950 to 1954. Father Vincent lists as his principal areas of ministry: assistant, mission band, instructor, director of a Newman Center, retreat house director, pastor, senior parochial vicar and chaplain. He served in the state of Texas for nearly 20 years. Today Father Vincent is retired but serves in supply ministry. He lives at St. Clare’s Friary in Alton.

Father Vincent

Father Joseph Hemmer, OFM
70 Years

It has been 70 years since Father Joseph Hemmer, OFM, received his habit as a member of the Franciscan Friars of the Sacred Heart Province. He received the habit on July 4, 1946 in Teutopolis and was later ordained on June 24, 1954.

A Nebraska native he did his sacred eloquence in Quincy from 1954 to 1955. He returned to Quincy as a campus minister, where he served from 1987 to 1988. He also has been an assistant, instructor, principal, and pastor.

He currently is pastor at two Alaskan parishes: St. Teresa in Kaltag and St. Peter-in-Chains in Ruby.

Father Joseph

Sister Marie-Therese Swiezynski, FSGM
25 Years

Sister Marie-Therese Swiezynski, FSGM, hails from Milwaukee and is the daughter of Suzanne Swiezynski and the late Thomas Swiezynski. On Sept. 8, 1991, she entered the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George at St. Francis Convent in Alton.

She has her bachelor’s degree in mathematical science and secondary education certification in mathematics, minor in theology from Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio; and her master’s in religious studies from St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia.

Sister M. Seraphica Montez, FSGM, was born in Lubbock, Texas and is the daughter of Isaul and Eva Montez. She entered the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George on Sept. 8, 1991 in Alton at St. Francis Convent.

Since 2014 she has been a teacher at Mar-Clare’s Friary in Alton. Since 2013 she lives at St. Francis Convent in Alton.

This fall, Sister Marie-Therese plans to take part in a private celebration in the congregation.

ORDER of FRIARS MINOR

Father Louis Antl, OFM
75 Years

Joliet native Father Louis Antl, OFM, is celebrating 75 years since the reception of his habit as a member of the Franciscan Friars of the Sacred Heart Province. He was ordained a priest on June 24, 1948.

Over the years Father Louis was a lector of theology, pastor, chaplain, instructor, director of a Newman Center, and confessor at the Lateran Supply Ministry. In the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois he ministered at St. Joseph in Teutopolis in 1952, served at Quincy College from 1952 to 1953, and was a lector of theology in Teutopolis from 1953 to 1961. When Father Louis retired he moved to Our Lady of Angels at Villa West and lived there from 2007 to 2011. For the last several years he has resided at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home in Joliet.

Father Louis

Father Vincent Elsen, OFM
75 Years

Michigan native Father Vincent Elsen, OFM, is also celebrating 75 years since he received his habit as a member of the Franciscan Friars of the Sacred Heart Province in Teutopolis on Aug. 14, 1941. Later, he was ordained a priest on Dec. 19, 1947.

He spent 1948 to 1949 in sacred eloquence in Quincy and returned to Quincy from 1950 to 1954. Father Vincent lists as his principal areas of ministry: assistant, mission band, instructor, director of a Newman Center, retreat house director, pastor, senior parochial vicar and chaplain. He served in the state of Texas for nearly 20 years. Today Father Vincent is retired but serves in supply ministry. He lives at St. Clare’s Friary in Alton.

Father Vincent

Father Joseph Hemmer, OFM
70 Years

It has been 70 years since Father Joseph Hemmer, OFM, received his habit as a member of the Franciscan Friars of the Sacred Heart Province. He received the habit on July 4, 1946 in Teutopolis and was later ordained on June 24, 1954.

A Nebraska native he did his sacred eloquence in Quincy from 1954 to 1955. He returned to Quincy as a campus minister, where he served from 1987 to 1988. He also has been an assistant, instructor, principal, and pastor.

He currently is pastor at two Alaskan parishes: St. Teresa in Kaltag and St. Peter-in-Chains in Ruby.

Father Joseph

Father Michael Crosby, OFM
60 Years

New York native Father Michael Crosby, OFM, is also celebrating 60 years since he received the habit as a member of the Franciscan Friars of the Sacred Heart Province on June 21, 1956. He was later ordained.

He has served as a pastor, parochial vicar, confessor, director of the Office of Friar Formation, assistant for secular Franciscans, director of II Ritiro Franciscan Retreat Center and in supply ministry.

He ministered in Quincy in several capacities from 1967 to 1978. He was assistant dean of discipline and student religious from 1969 to 1971, and was academic dean from 1971 to 1978.

Father Michael is now retired and lives at St. Clare’s Friary in Alton.

Father Michael

Father Lambert Leykam, OFM
60 Years

Mt. Vernon native Father Lambert Leykam, OFM, is celebrating 60 years ordained as a Franciscan Friar of the Sacred Heart Province. He was ordained on June 29, 1956 at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Teutopolis.

Over the years, Father Lambert has served as an assistant, chaplain, associate pastor and pastor. In the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois he was in pastoral formation in Quincy from 1957 to

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1958 and served as a pastor of St. Francis in Teutopolis and at St. Rose from 1991 to 1998. Father Lambert is now retired but serves in supply ministry. He lives at St. Maximilian Kolbe Friary in Crowley, Texas.

**Father Eugene Michel, OFM**

**60 Years**

It has been 60 years since Father Eugene Michel, OFM, received his habit as a member of the Franciscan Friars of the Sacred Heart Province. He received it on June 21, 1956 in Teutopolis. He later was ordained a priest.

Father Eugene served in Quincy from 1977 to 1978. He has also served in other areas as a chaplain at the American Embassy, associate pastor, parochial vicar and pastor. He is now retired and lives as San Damiano Friary in Cicero.

**Father Andre Schludecker, OFM**

**60 Years**

Father Andre Schludecker, OFM, a native of Indianapolis, received his habit as a member of the Franciscan Friars of the Sacred Heart Province on June 21, 1956. He was then ordained a priest on Jan. 19, 1964.

Over the years Father Andre has been an assistant, associate pastor, pastor and confessor. He has spent the last dozen years ministering in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois. He was chaplain to the senior friars at Villa West in Sherman from 2004 to 2008. He has also been serving for many years as the chaplain to the Franciscan Sisters. He currently lives at Our Lady of Angels Friary at Greccio in Springfield.

**Father Frank Coens, OFM**

**50 Years**

Father Frank Coens, OFM, is a native of Quincy. He received his habit as a member of the Franciscan Friars of the Sacred Heart Province on June 21, 1966. He was later ordained a priest.

Father Frank has been an associate pastor, pastor, director of the Franciscan Vocation Office, and secretary of the Sacred Heart Province. He is currently pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Farmerville, La. He resides at Little Flower Friary in Monroe, La.

**Father Kurt Hartrich, OFM**

**50 Years**

Father Kurt Hartrich, OFM, is celebrating 50 years of the priesthood this year. A native of Indianapolis, he was ordained a priest of the Franciscan Friars of the Sacred Heart Province on Jan. 9, 1966. His ordination took place at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Teutopolis.

Father Kurt has been a master of formation, parish pastor, director of the Office of Friar Formation, and provincial minister of the Sacred Heart Parish. The parishioners of St. Francis Solanus Parish in Quincy remember him as their pastor from 2001 to 2009. He is currently serving as pastor of St. Peter Church in Chicago — sometimes known as St. Peter’s in the Loop — where he resides in the St. Peter Friary on West Madison Street.

**Brother Gordon Hayes, OFM**

**50 Years**

Brother Gordon Hayes, OFM, received his habit as a member of the Franciscan Friars of the Sacred Heart Province on June 21, 1966 in Teutopolis. Over the years he served in household ministry, as a cook and in hospital ministry. A native of Pine Bluff, Ark., he served in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois for just two years. He was a cook in Quincy from 1968 to 1970. He is now retired and resides in Monroe, La.

**Brother Raymond Shuhert, OFM**

**50 Years**

A native of Kansas City, Mo., Brother Raymond Shuhert, OFM, is celebrating 50 years as a brother with the Franciscan Friars of the Sacred Heart Province. He received his habit on June 21, 1966 in Teutopolis. Brother Raymond was a tailor for the Friars in Quincy from 1967 to 1970. He was also a student there from 1971 to 1974 and served again in Quincy from 1974 to 1975. He has also done office work for the Friars. Brother Raymond is currently serving as a tailor at St. Peter Friary on West Madison Street in Chicago.

**Father Ducanh Pham, OFM**

**25 Years**

Father Ducanh Pham, OFM, is celebrating 25 years since he received the habit as a member of the Franciscan Friars of the Sacred Heart Province in Franklin, Ind. He was ordained a priest on May 5, 2012.

A native of Saigon, Vietnam Father Ducanh has worked in Outreach ministries, as a teacher, in vocation ministry and as director of the candidacy program at St. John the Baptist in Joliet. Since 2011 he has been provincial counselor. Over the years, his work has taken him among other places to Indianapolis, Chicago, and New York.

Beginning in 2012, he was named parochial vicar of St. Francis Solanus Church in Quincy, where he now continues to serve.

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Sister Mary Clare Fichtner, OP
60 Years

Sister Mary Clare Fichtner, OP, professed vows as a Dominican Sister of Springfield on Jan. 4, 1956 at Sacred Heart Convent, Springfield.

She has an undergraduate degree from DePaul University, a master's of education in administration and supervision from the University of Illinois, as well as a master's of theology in Black Catholic studies from St. Xavier University of New Orleans.

Although she has served in a variety of dioceses, including the Chicago archdiocese and the Rockford and Peoria dioceses, Sister Mary Clare has a long history with the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois. She was an elementary teacher at St. Mary School, Paris, from 1956 to 1962; elementary teacher at Our Lady of Lourdes, Decatur, from 1968 to 1970 and was later a principal there from 1976 to 1982; she was a principal and teacher at St. John the Evangelist School in Carrollton from 1970 to 1976; and teacher then principal of St. Patrick School in Springfield from 1988 to 1995. From 1995 to 1999 she filled a ministry of presence on the east side of Springfield. From 1999 to 2011 she also filled a ministry of presence and then was parish life coordinator at St. Mary Parish, Madison and St. Mark Parish, Venice.

Presently Sister Mary Clare is pastoral associate at Sacred Heart Church in Columbia, Mo., where she has served since 2012.

“The wholesome grace and practical attitudes toward problem-solving of the Springfield Dominican Sisters I knew at my school in Richmond, Mich., attracted me,” says Sister Mary Clare. “The spirit of continuing to pioneer in ministry and willingness of so many sisters to live an itinerant form of poverty has captivated me all my life.”

Sister M. Ruthanne Huss, OP
60 Years

Sister M. Ruthanne Huss, OP, a Dominican Sister of Springfield, professed vows on Jan. 4, 1956 at Sacred Heart Convent in Springfield.

A native of Aurora, she earned her undergraduate degree in history from St. Ambrose College and her master's degree in elementary education from St. Charles Borromeo College; earned her elementary education certification; and completed coursework at Catholic University of Puerto Rico, Ponce, in language and history studies.

In the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois she was a teacher at St. Francis Cabrini, Springfield from 1956 to 1958; St. Thomas School, Newton from 1958 to 1960; and St. John Neumann, Maryville from 1983 to 1988. From 1968 to 1983, Sister Charmaine was a teacher at San Borja School in Lima, Peru. Also, she was a teacher, librarian and tutor in the Chicago archdiocese and taught in Duluth, Minn. Since 1993 she has been serving in the Joliet diocese as a story time reader and Spanish teacher for students in grades PreK-2 at St. Joseph School in Bradley.

“The most challenging and fulfilling experience was beginning a school in Lima, Peru,” Sister Charmaine says. “I enjoyed getting to know and love people in another land and a new language.”

Sister Charmaine Kribs, OP
60 Years


Sister Charmaine Kribs graduated from St. Norbert College; earned her elementary education certification; and completed coursework at Catholic University of Puerto Rico, Ponce, in language and history studies.

In the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois she was a teacher at St. Francis Cabrini, Springfield from 1956 to 1958; St. Thomas School, Newton from 1958 to 1960; and St. John Neumann, Maryville from 1983 to 1988. From 1968 to 1983, Sister Charmaine was a teacher at San Borja School in Lima, Peru. Also, she was a teacher, librarian and tutor in the Chicago archdiocese and taught in Duluth, Minn. Since 1993 she has been serving in the Joliet diocese as a story time reader and Spanish teacher for students in grades PreK-2 at St. Joseph School in Bradley.

“The most challenging and fulfilling experience was beginning a school in Lima, Peru,” Sister Charmaine says. “I enjoyed getting to know and love people in another land and a new language.”

Sister Thecia Kuhnline, OP
60 Years

Carrollton native Sister Thecia Kuhnline, OP, calls St. John the Evangelist her home parish. She professed vows with the Dominican Sisters of Springfield on Jan. 4, 1956 at Sacred Heart Convent.

She has her undergraduate degree in biology from St. Norbert College; master's in elementary education from the University of Illinois; master's in religious studies from St. Charles Seminary; and is a certified chaplain with the National Association of Catholic Chaplains.

Sister Thecia spent many years serving in the Springfield diocesan. She was a teacher at the Carlinville Religious Education Center from 1956 to 1958; classroom and music teacher at St. Mary School, Litchfield, 1962 to 1968; teacher and principal at St. Mary School, Assumption, 1971 to 1973; teacher at St. Francis Cabrini, 1973 to 1974; teacher and parish coordinator at Hillisboro Religious Education Center two times in the 1980s; and then teacher and parish coordinator at the Arcola Religious Education Center from 1989 to 1991. She also ministered in both the Joliet diocese and the Rockford diocese.

She was pastoral care chaplain at St. Mary's Hospital in Rogers, Ark., from 1996 to 2001. At that time she moved to become pastoral care chaplain at St. Dominic Hospital in Jackson, Miss., which is her current assignment.

“My older sister, Sister M. Josita, was a Springfield Dominican, and I was drawn to consider religious life when I visited her during the novitiate,” Sister Thecia says. “I was encouraged in this idea by Sister M. Norberta Slevin who was the principal at St. John the Evangelist High School.”

Sister M. Celestine Rondelli, OP
60 Years

Sister M. Celestine Rondelli, OP, a native of Springfield who calls St. Patrick her home parish, professed vows as a Dominican Sister of Springfield on Aug. 5, 1956 at Sacred Heart Convent.

She earned her undergraduate degree in elementary education from St. Ambrose College; and a certificate in clinical pastoral education.

In Springfield, she was a teacher at St. Agnes School, Springfield from 1969 to 1974 and then again from 1989 to 1993; and at Little Flower School from 1974 to 1989. She was also a teacher in the Chicago archdiocese, the Peoria diocese, and St. John the Evangelist High School.

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DOMINICAN SISTERS of SPRINGFIELD

Sister M. Celestine

was influenced by the Dominican Sisters. I loved them dearly, watched them closely, and saw in them a deep love of God, and also a love for life and people,” she says. “I listened to them tell Gospel stories and the lives of the saints, and saw how their lives mirrored what they taught. They were authentic. I wanted to be just like them.”

Sister Patricia Seelbach, OP

60 Years

Farmersville native Sister Patricia Seelbach, OP, grew up in St. Isidore Parish, which is now St. Mary Parish. She professed vows as a Dominican Sister of Springfield on Jan. 4, 1956 at Sacred Heart Convent.

Sister Patricia earned her undergraduate degree in elementary education from St. Norbert College; and her master’s in religious studies from Aquinas Institute of Religious Studies. She served as an elementary educator in the Springfield, Rockford, and Joliet dioceses, and in the archdiocese of Chicago, and taught in the religious education centers in the Springfield diocese. In 1986 she began her support service ministry to the community, delighting sisters and convent guests with her delicious baked goods and sharing her sewing skills generously with anyone who asked. She retired from this ministry in 2011 and has since that time been in a ministry of prayer.

Sister Patricia’s family joined her for a private celebration at Sacred Heart Convent in April.

Sister M. Dorothea Sondgeroth, OP

60 Years

Sister M. Dorothea Sondgeroth, OP, professed vows with the Dominican Sisters of Springfield on Aug. 5, 1956. She is a native of Peterstown and grew up in Sts. Peter and Paul Parish.

She has her undergraduate degree in home economics from Marycrest College; her master’s in dietetics and human nutrition from St. Norbert College; and her doctorate in counseling psychology from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Church Personnel – Within the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois Church personnel includes all priests and deacons, all religious members of institutes of consecrated life and societies of apostolic life, lay persons employed full-time or part-time in the parishes, schools, agencies and other institutions in the Diocese and all religious and lay persons 18 years of age and older serving in any volunteer capacity in the parishes, schools, agencies and other institutions of the diocese of Springfield in Illinois to include volunteers in ministries of the liturgy (i.e., Eucharistic/Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Lectors, Ushers, Greeters/Hospitality, Choir members, musicians and equipment technicians), volunteering in the parishes schools, agencies, and other institutions of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.

Please call the contact number of the training site to register your attendance. The training sessions are typically 2½ to 3 hours. Compliance with the training requirement requires a participant be present for the entire session. There is no fee for attending the training session. Because of the sensitive nature of the training topic children under the age of 18 should not be in attendance.
master's in healthcare administration, both from Saint Louis University; a registered dietitian; and has an honorary doctorate from Millsaps College.

In the Springfield diocese, Sister M. Dorothea was an elementary school teacher at Cathedral School from 1956 to 1960 and later served on the leadership team for the Dominican Sisters from 1983 to 1993. She also taught in the Chicago archdiocese. Out of state, she was the director of dietetics at St. Dominic Health Services in Jackson, Miss., from 1963 to 1969; CEO and Chair of the Board at St. Dominic’s, 1995 to 2011; and since 2012 she has remained in Jackson as the associate executive director of St. Dominic Health Services Foundation.

“I felt I had a vocation to the religious life, but I fought it and did not want to ‘give in,’” she says. “I liked to dance, party and date! One of the young men I was dating indicated he was also fighting a vocation to the priesthood. I ended the relationship because I felt I was standing in the way of his vocation, and then I came to peace with my own call. The young man I was dating entered the seminary after he graduated from the University of Illinois and we both lived happily ever after in service to God and the church.”

Sister Judith Curran, OP

Chicago native Sister Judith Curran, OP, grew up at St. John Bosco Parish and professed vows as Dominican Sister of Springfield on June 19, 1966 at Sacred Heart Convent.

She has her undergraduate degree in education from St. Ambrose College and a master's in administration from St. Thomas College.

Sister Judith served in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois as an elementary school teacher at Sacred Heart School, Pana from 1969 to 1971 and at St. Patrick School, Springfield from 1995 to 1996. She was also a teacher and principal in the Rockford diocese and in the Chicago archdiocese. Since 1996 she has been adult education director of the Dominican Literacy Center in Melrose Park.

This summer she will celebrate privately with family and friends.

About her work, Sister Judith says, “I have considered it the greatest privilege to be a part of the journey of immigrant women as they courageously and enthusiastically learn the English language and gratefully become a vital part of a new culture.”

Sister Marie Andre Dougherty, OP

Sister Marie Andre Dougherty, OP, grew up in Jerseyville in Holy Ghost Parish. She professed vows as a Dominican Sister of Springfield on June 19, 1966 at Sacred Heart Convent.

She has her undergraduate degree in education from St. Ambrose College and a master’s in educational administration from the University of Illinois.

In the Diocese of Springfield of Illinois Sister Marie Andre spent about 20 years in education. She ministered at the Arcola Religious Education Center from 1966 to 1972; Beardsden Religious Education Center from 1972 to 1977; was a teacher at St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Parish from 1977 to 1980 and principal from 1986 to 1990; and then principal at St. John School, Carrollton, from 1990 to 1992. She was also an educator/principal in the Joliet and Peoria dioceses and in the Chicago archdiocese.

From 1996 until 2010 Sister Marie Andre worked in support services at Sacred Heart Convent, where she now lives a ministry of prayer.

Sister Mary Megan Farrelly, OP

Sister Mary Megan Farrelly, OP, grew up in Chicago. She professed vows as a Dominican Sister of Springfield on June 19, 1966 at Sacred Heart Convent.

Sister Mary Megan has her undergraduate degree in mathematics from St. Ambrose College, and two master’s: in education, administration and supervision from the University of Illinois and in adult education developmental education from National Louis University.

She was a teacher at St. Mary School in New Berlin from 1967 to 1973 and principal of Cathedral School in Springfield from 1982 to 1987. She was also a teacher and/or principal in the Peoria and Rockford dioceses and in the Chicago archdiocese.

In 2004 Sister Mary Megan began teaching at the college level at Waubonsee College in Aurora. She moved to the Joliet diocese in 2007 where she was field supervisor for teacher practicum at Benedictine University until 2015. Since 2007 she has also been assistant principal and curriculum director for IC Catholic Prep in Elmhurst.

“All of my years of educational ministry — teaching and administering — have been meaningful to me,” she says. “The places that stand out are Garfield Alternative High School in Chicago and my years at Rosary High School in Aurora at a time of great expansion of the building.”

Sister Linda Hayes, OP

Sister Linda Hayes, OP (formerly known as Sister Jane de Chantal) grew up in Richmond, Mich. She professed vows as a Dominican Sister of Springfield on June 19, 1966 at Sacred Heart Convent.

She has her undergraduate degree in education from St. Ambrose College and her master’s degree in administration from Notre Dame.

During her early years as a Dominican, she was a teacher and/or principal in the Springfield and Peoria dioceses and in the Chicago archdiocese. She was an elementary teacher at St. Mary School in New Berlin from 1971 to 1975 and taught at the junior high level at St. Isidore School in Farmersville from 1977 to 1980.

In 1982, Sister Linda became general treasurer at Sacred Heart Convent and served in that capacity until 1999. From 1999 to 2009 she was director of social responsibility at the convent, and from 2009 until 2014 she served in community services. She is currently ministering in the Mission Advancement Office at Sacred Heart Convent.

Sister Mary M. Janssens, OP

Sister Mary M. Janssens, OP, is a native of Rock Island and grew up in St. Pius X Church. On June 19, 1966, she professed vows as a Dominican Sister of Springfield at Sacred Heart Convent.

Sister Paul Mary has her undergraduate degree in education from Marycrest College; a master’s of educational administration from the University of Illinois; and a master’s in religious studies from Mundelein University.

In the Springfield diocese she served at Little Flower School in Springfield as a junior high teacher from 1982 to 1993 and then as principal from 2000 to 2003. She was director of religious education at St. Mary Parish in East Moline from 1970 to 1974 and was for many years a teacher, assistant principal or principal at various schools in the Chicago archdiocese, the Rockford diocese and in the Duluth diocese.

Sister Paul Mary is currently associate director of the Dominican Sisters of Springfield. She celebrated with her local community at Sacred Heart Convent in April.

“My life took a distinct turn in the summer of 1962 when I met Sister Pauletta Overbeck while we were both studying educational administration at the University of Illinois,” she says. “She radiated a love of God and of her consecrated lifestyle. During our second summer together she invited me to consider religious life. Here I am, 50 years later!”

Sister M. Loyola Miller, OP

Sister M. Loyola Miller, OP, professed vows as a Dominican Sister of Springfield on June 19, 1966 at Sacred Heart Convent. She calls Verona her hometown and grew up at Sacred Heart Church in Kinsman.

Sister M. Loyola has her undergraduate degree in chemistry from St. Ambrose College and her master’s in dogmatic theology from St. Charles Seminary.

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In the Springfield diocese she was an elementary teacher at St. Patrick School, Springfield from 1967 to 1970 and served at Routt Catholic High School in Jacksonville two times: as a teacher from 1985 to 1992 and then again as a part-time teacher from 2006 to 2009, when she also served in youth ministry at Our Saviour Parish. She also taught in the Chicago archdiocese and in the Rockford diocese and spent one year at Sacred Heart School in San Diego. Additionally, she was treasurer of Rosary High School in Aurora for five years.

In 2006 Sister Kathleen Ryan, OP, professor with the Dominican Sisters of Springfield on June 19, 1966 at Sacred Heart Convent in Springfield. She is a native of Chicago and grew up at St. Bartholomew Parish. She has her undergraduate degree in elementary education from St. Ambrose College and her master’s degree in educational administration and supervision from St. Thomas University.

In the Springfield diocese, Sister Kathleen was an elementary teacher at St. Frances Cabrini School from 1967 to 1970 and at St. Isidore School in Farmersville for the 1976-1977 school year. She also was a teacher and principal in the Rockford diocese and in the Chicago archdiocese. Since 1993, she has been ministering with the Dominican Literacy Center in Aurora. She lives in St. Mary Convent in Aurora.

“I enjoyed all of my years teaching and in school administration,” she says. “I have to say that the present work that I am doing — women’s literacy and citizenship — with the immigrant community in the Aurora area is my most fulfilling and satisfying ministry.”

Sister Kathleen O'Connor, OP
50 Years

Sister Kathleen O'Connor, OP (formerly known as Sister Gilmary) grew up in Crystal Lake and was a member of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish. She currently resides in Elkhart.

On June 19, 1966 she professed vows as a Dominican Sister of Springfield at Sacred Heart Convent and has mostly ministered in education.

She has her undergraduate degree in education from St. Ambrose College, her master’s in administration from the University of Illinois and her master’s in Christian spirituality from Creighton University.

In the Springfield diocese Sister Kathleen taught at Our Lady of Lourdes in Decatur during the 1972-1973 school year; was principal at St. John Neumann School in Maryville for the 1992-1993 school year; and was principal at St. Agnes School from 1994 to 1997. She also taught in the Peoria diocese and the Chicago archdiocese, was an assistant principal in the Chicago archdiocese and a principal in the Rockford diocese, the Chicago archdiocese and in Brawley, Calif.

She was on the general council of the Dominican Sisters of Springfield from 1997 to 2005, and then became president of Sacred Heart-Griffin High School in Springfield, which is her current assignment.

Sister Kathleen Ryan, OP
50 Years

Sister Kathleen Ryan, OP, professed vows with the Dominican Sisters of Springfield on June 19, 1966 at Sacred Heart Convent in Springfield. She is a native of Chicago and grew up at St. Bartholomew Parish.

Note: Most of the Springfield Dominicans who are celebrating a jubilee will celebrate privately with their entire Dominican community on Aug 8.

Sister Denise Glazik, OP
25 Years

Sister Denise Glazik, OP, grew up in Rantoul and was a member of St. Malachy Parish. She professed vows as a Dominican Sister of Springfield on June 29, 1991 at Sacred Heart Convent in Springfield.

She has a bachelor of psychology from Governor’s State University and a master’s of theology from St. Norbert College. Sister Denise served in the Springfield diocese as pastoral associate of Sacred Heart Parish in Springfield from 1995 to 1997. She was pastoral minister at St. Lawrence Parish in Navarino, Wis., from 1997 to 2000. She has been serving in the Joliet diocese since 2000, where she is pastoral associate at St. Joseph Parish in Bradley.

“While I was discerning religious life one of the Dominican Sisters said to me, ‘If you’d be a good wife and mother, you’d also be a good Sister. Come and see if this is where you can best love as God is calling you to love,’” Sister Denise says. “Through the years, so many people have noted how happy I am. This life ‘fits’ me and I enjoy bringing comfort to those I serve.”

HOSPITAL SISTERS of ST. FRANCIS

Sister Marciana Lynch, OSF
75 Years

Chicag native Sister Marciana Lynch, OSF, professed vows with the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis on Oct. 4, 1941 at St. Francis Convent in Springfield.

Sister Marciana earned her RN degree from St. John’s School of Nursing in Springfield and both her bache- lor’s and master’s degrees in nursing from Indiana University.

Her principal areas of ministry were as an X-ray and lab technician/supervisor in hospital settings. She served at St. Francis Hospital in Litchfield, and in Springfield at St. John’s Hospital, St. John’s Sanitarium and at St. Francis Convent.

Sister Therese currently serves in a ministry of prayer at St. Francis Convent.

Sister Sarah Hugh Holtmann, OSF
70 Years

Born in Muelheim, Germany, Sister Hugh Holtmann, OSF, traveled to America where she professed vows with the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis on Oct. 4, 1946 at St. Francis Convent in Springfield.

She earned her RN degree from St. John’s School of Nursing, Springfield; her bachelor’s in psychology/sociology from Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville; and her MBA in hospital administration from Xavier University.

Her principal areas of ministry were as a nurse and hospital administrator. She served at St. Anthony’s Hospital in Effingham; St. Joseph’s Hospital in Highland; St. Francis Hospital in Litchfield; and at St. John’s Hospital in Springfield.

Sister Hugh is now serving in a ministry of prayer at St. Francis Convent in Springfield.

Sister Mariana Kosior, OSF
70 Years

Sister Mariana Kosior, OSF, grew up not far from Illinois in Whiting, Ind. She professed vows with the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis on June 13, 1946 at St. Francis Convent, Springfield.

She earned her bachelor’s degree in dietetics from Fontbonne College and her master’s degree in administrative services from the University of Notre Dame.

Sister Marianna’s principal areas of ministry were as a dietician and Continued on page 27: JUBILARIANS
HOSPITAL SISTERS of ST. FRANCIS

Sister Marianna

Continued from page 26

administrator in a hospital setting; in administration and as a librarian at the convent; and as executive vice president/president of the corporate office. She served at St. Mary’s Hospital in Decatur, St. Anthony’s Hospital in Effingham, St. John’s Hospital in Springfield, Hospital Sisters Health System in Springfield and at St. Francis Convent.

Sister Marianna resides at St. Francis Convent and lives a ministry of prayer.

Sister Francis Kuo, OSF

70 Years

Sister Francis Kuo, OSF, was another woman who traveled far from home to join the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis. She was born in Beijing, China and professed vows on Sept. 17, 1946 at St. Francis Convent in Springfield.

Sister Francis’ principal area of ministry was working as a histology technician at St. John’s Hospital in Springfield. She now lives a ministry of prayer and volunteer services at St. Francis Convent.

Sister JoAn Schullian, OSF

60 Years

Quincy native Sister JoAn Schullian, OSF, calls St. Francis Solanus in Quincy her home parish. She professed vows as a Hospital Sister of St. Francis on June 13, 1956.

She has her associate’s degree from Springfield College in Illinois, her bachelor’s in medical technology from DePaul University; and an MBA in hospital administration from Xavier University.

Sister JoAn’s past ministries have included serving at St. John’s Hospital as a medical technologist, in hospital administration and in pastoral care; and in vocations at the convent. She is currently parochial associate of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Decatur.

Sister Mary Immaculate Creedon, OSF

60 Years

Sister Mary Immaculate Creedon, OSF, is a native of Chicago who professed vows as a Hospital Sister of St. Francis on Oct. 4, 1956 at St. Francis Convent.

She has her RN degree from St. John’s School of Nursing in Springfield and her BSN from Saint Louis University.

Sister Mary Immaculate has been a nurse missionary, has worked as nurse director/supervisor and in surgery in hospital settings, and in convent leadership. She has served at St. Mary’s Hospital in Decatur; St. Anthony’s Hospital in Effingham; St. Joseph’s Hospital in Highland, and at St. Francis Hospital in Litchfield. She was on mission in Japan and in Jeremie, Haiti.

She is currently community life leader at St. Francis Convent.

Sister Owen Marie McArdle, OSF

60 Years

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Sister Owen Marie McArdle, OSF, professed vows as a Hospital Sister of St. Francis on June 13, 1956. She has her BSN from Saint Louis University.

Sister Owen Marie served as a nurse in a variety of settings, including hospital, nursing home and home health care; ministered as chaplain and in pastoral care in a hospital setting; and was a parish volunteer.

She has served at St. Mary’s Hospital in Decatur; St. Joseph’s Hospital in Highland, St. Francis Hospital in Litchfield, St. John’s Hospital in Springfield, at St. James Parish in Riverton and at St. Francis Convent.

Sister Owen Marie is currently living a ministry of prayer at St. Francis Convent.

Sister Kathleen Barnes, OSU

75 Years

Sister Kathleen Barnes, OSU, professed vows with the Ursulines of the Roman Order, Central Province on July 16, 1941 at the Ursuline Novitiate in Crystal City, Mo.

She was raised in Little Rock, Ark. She earned a bachelor’s degree in math and philosophy from Saint Louis University and a master’s in math from the University of Notre Dame.

Sister Kathleen taught elementary and high school students throughout the Central Province for more than 40 years with assignments in Missouri and Texas. She was the principal of several schools, including Ursuline Academy of Dallas. From 1974 to 1978 she was treasurer of Springfield College. She also was director of Hispanic ministries and a pastoral minister in Galveston. She has held several leadership positions with the Ursulines.

She has been living a ministry of prayer since 2008, first in Alton and currently in New Orleans at Our Lady of Wisdom Healthcare Center.

She will celebrate with her community, family and friends in July.

Sister Marie McCloskey, OSU

75 Years

Sister Marie McCloskey, OSU, of the Ursulines of the Roman Order, Central Province, professed vows on Jan 16, 1941.

Continued on page 28: JUBILARIANS
Sister Helen Louise Schmitz, OSU
75 Years
Missouri native Sister Helen Louise Schmitz, OSU, professed vows as an Ursuline of the Roman Order, Central Province at the Ursuline Novitiate in Crystal City, Mo., on July 16, 1941.

She earned her bachelor’s in music from the Gregorian Institute of America at Webster College in Webster Groves, Mo., and her master’s in music education from the American Conservatory at Fontbonne College in St. Louis.

Many people from the Springfield diocese are familiar with Sister Helen Louise. In Springfield, she taught at St. Aloysius from 1954 to 1958, at Blessed Sacrament from 1959 to 1960, and at St. Joseph from 1973 to 1993. She taught at St. Patrick School in Decatur from 1963 to 1967 and was also principal there. She was mission moderator for St. Joseph School in Springfield from 1995 to 2004. She held local leadership positions in Springfield from the 1970s through the 1990s. She also served in Oak Park, Minnesota, Missouri and New Orleans.

Sister Helen Louise is currently in a ministry of prayer at Loretto Home in Springfield, where she will celebrate her jubilee with community, family and friends in July.

Sister Mary Patrice Clifford, OSU
60 Years
On Jan. 16, 1956 Sister Mary Patrice Clifford, OSU, professed vows as an Ursuline of the Roman Order, Central Province at the Ursuline Novitiate in Crystal City, Mo. A native of Oak Park, she earned her bachelor’s degree in French from the College of New Rochelle in New Rochelle, N.Y., and her master’s in French from Laval University in Quebec, Canada.

Sister Patrice taught at Ursuline Academy in Springfield and at Springfield College from 1959 to 1970. Also in the Springfield diocese, from 1981 to 1984 she was assistant principal at St. Teresa High School in Decatur and served as the local counselor for the Ursuline community. She also held similar ministries in Dallas and New Orleans. In 1984 she moved to Cameroon in Central Africa to teach high school and has remained there as a missionary.

Sister Mary Carla Dolce, OSU
60 Years
Sister Mary Carla Dolce, OSU, professed vows as an Ursuline of the Roman Order, Central Province at the Ursuline Novitiate in Crystal City, Mo., on July 16, 1956.

A native of New Orleans, she has her bachelor’s degree in history from the College of New Rochelle in New Rochelle, N.Y., and her master’s in history from Saint Louis University in St. Louis.

In the Springfield diocese, Sister Carla taught at St. Thomas School in Decatur from 1959 to 1962, at St. Aloysius in Springfield from 1962 to 1964 and then again from 1965 to 1966 and at St. Joseph School in Springfield from 1964 to 1965. She was also president of Marquette High School in Alton from 1990 to 1992. Additionally, she was either principal or president of several other schools and academies in New Orleans, Dallas and St. Louis. She worked with the poor in New Orleans and in Tunica, Miss. She also held many leadership positions with local Ursuline communities and served as a consultant to the Diocese of Laredo and the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Before retiring in 2015, she served as director of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Prompt Succor in New Orleans.

Now living in New Orleans, she will celebrate her jubilee with community, family and friends in July.

Sister Anne Therese Mayol, OSU
60 Years
On Jan. 16, 1956, Sister Anne Therese Mayol, OSU, professed vows as an Ursuline of the Roman Union, Central Province in Crystal City, Mo., at the Ursuline Novitiate.

She earned her bachelor’s in biology from the College of New Rochelle in New Rochelle, N.Y. She then earned a master’s in secondary education guidance and counseling from Saint Louis University in St. Louis.

Sister Anne Therese has spent many years serving the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois. She taught at St. Bernard School in Alton from 1958 to 1963, and at Sts. Peter and Paul in Springfield from 1963 to 1964. She then taught at Marquette High School in Alton from 1964 to 1970 and then again from 1975 to 1977. She taught at St. Teresa High School in Decatur from 1983 to 1984 and was business manager for Ursuline Academy of Springfield from 1993 to 2000. She was principal of Ursuline Academy of San Antonio two times. She has held many local leadership positions in Ursuline communities and was leader of the Springfield community from 1977 to 1983. She was assistant provincial leader of the Ursulines of the Central Province from 1984 to 1990. She also spent many years providing community service in Springfield, which is her hometown.

Sister Anne Therese is treasurer of the Springfield Ursuline community and resides at Loretto Home. She celebrated her jubilee with community, family and friends in January.

Sister Jane Wiessing, OSU
60 Years
Sister Jane Wiessing, OSU, calls Springfield her hometown. She professed vows with the Ursulines of the Roman Union, Central Province, on Jan. 16, 1956 at the Ursuline Novitiate at Crystal City, Mo. She is a native of Alton and calls Sts. Peter and Paul her home parish.

She earned her bachelor’s degree in music (voice), at Webster College in St. Louis. She went on to earn her master’s in liturgical music with a concentration in pipe organs at DePaul University in Chicago.

Sister Jane Wiessing has served as choir director and organist at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Alton and at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Collinsville. She also taught music at Sts. Peter and Paul and Marquette High School in Alton and at Ursuline Academy in New Orleans and Ursuline Academy of St. Louis. She was director of music at 10 parishes in Minnesota. She has also been active in the pro-life movement.

Sister Jane Wiessing is retired and lives at St. Clare Villa in Alton, where she celebrated her diamond jubilee on Jan. 16 with a Mass there for all residents and at a Mass and lunch at St. Clare Villa with the Ursulines in Alton. She also celebrated with parishioners and Ursulines at an evening Mass at Sts. Peter and Paul, where she directed the music and played a Bach selection.

Continued on page 29; JUBILARIANS
Rochelle, N.Y. She has her master’s in counseling from Ball State University in Muncie, Ind.

Sister Jane taught at Ursuline Academy in Springfield from 1969 to 1971. She also taught at two other Ursuline Academies: in New Orleans and St. Louis. She served in pastoral ministry at St. Mary's Health Center in St. Louis for many years. She served in the Ursuline Province in Mexico from 1988 to 1992 and then coordinated Hispanic Ministry at the Elgin deanery in Rockford. In the 1990s she provided pastoral care in several Illinois hospitals. She has also provided pastoral care and been a caregiver to groups and individuals in St. Louis. Sister Jane has held local leadership positions in the Ursuline community in Missouri. She presently lives in St. Louis and ministers in climate change and care of Earth ministry at St. Cronan Parish.

She celebrated her jubilee with community, family and friends in April.

Sister Theresa Davey, OSU

50 Years

Sister Theresa Davey, OSU, professed vows with the Ursulines of the Roman Union, Central Province at the Ursuline Novitiate in Crystal City, Mo., on Jan. 20, 1966. She calls Alton her hometown.

She earned her bachelor’s in history from the College of New Rochelle in New Rochelle, N.Y. She went on to earn her master’s in library science from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb.

In Springfield, Sister Theresa taught at St. Aloysius from 1969 to 1971 and at St. Joseph from 1971 to 1975. She also taught in Oak Park, Chicago and in Louisiana. She was a principal in Oak Park and director of the media center at O’Connell High School in Galveston from 1991 to 1993. She has held many leadership positions in local Ursuline communities and was a councilor on the Central Providence leadership team from 1993 to 1999.

Sister Theresa is coordinator of Christian service and coordinator of RCIA at St. Vincent Parish in Cape Girardeau, Mo. She celebrated with her community, family and friends in April.

Sister Julia Barry, PHJC

70 Years

Sister Julia Barry, PHJC, is celebrating 70 years since she took first vows with the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ. She took those vows on June 25, 1946.

Sister Julia was born in East St. Louis. She is a graduate of Ancilla Domini High School in Donaldson, Ind., and her ministries have included child care, senior care, administrative assistance, homemaking and serving as an educational aide. In the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois she served at St. Boniface Parish and St. Mary School, both in Edwardsville. She has also served in the Belleville diocese, in Chicago and in the Ft. Wayne/South Bend areas in Indiana.

Sister Julia lives at Convent Ancilla Domini in Donaldson, Ind., and still volunteers daily in the Development Office. She is having a local celebration in May and will celebrate with her community on June 12 in Donaldson.

Sister Mary Jane Ranek, PHJC

50 Years

Sister Mary Jane Ranek, PHJC, was born in Highland in 1945. She took first vows with the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ on Aug. 6, 1966.

She has her bachelor’s in music education from Alverno College in Milwaukee; her master’s of music education from DePaul University in Chicago and a second master’s in music liturgy from St. Joseph College in Renssalaer, Ind.

She currently resides in Ancilla Domini in Springfield, Ill. Sister Mary Jane served in schools, parishes and orphanages in Illinois and Indiana before moving to Mexico. She lives in Casa de la Esperanza, in Queretaro, Mexico where she is director of Centro Catalina.

She will celebrate with her community on June 12 in Donaldson, Ind.

Sister Linda Volk, PHJC

50 Years

On Aug. 6, 1966 Sister Linda Volk, PHJC, took her first vows with the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ. Born in Olney, she has her bachelor’s degree in elementary education from Alverno College in Milwaukee and her master’s in elementary education from the University of Dayton in Dayton, Ohio.

In the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois, Sister Linda taught at St. Boniface School in Edwardsville. She also taught in Chicago, Cincinnati, and in a number of schools in Indiana. Additionally, she served at the PHJC Ministry Center in Ft. Wayne/South Bend.

Sister Linda is currently coordinator of sister residents and material management at Convent Ancilla Domini in Donaldson, Ind. She is having an individual celebration in May and will take part in a community celebration on June 12 in Donaldson.
FOR SALE: St. Katharine Drexel shrine, Blessed Sacrament motherhouse in Pennsylvania

By LOU BALDWIN
Catholic News Service

PHILADELPHIA — The Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, the congregation founded by St. Katharine Drexel, announced that it will sell its historic motherhouse in Bensalem, Pa. The 44-acre property also contains the National Shrine of St. Katharine Drexel and her tomb.

At a future date, St. Katharine’s tomb will be moved to the Cathedral Basilica of Ss. Peter and Paul in Philadelphia.

At the same time, the congregation has placed for sale a 2,200-acre property in Virginia that was the location of two schools founded by St. Katharine and her sister, Louise Drexel Morrell.

Blessed Sacrament Sister Donna Breslin, the president of the congregation, said in a statement that a portion of the proceeds from the sales will support the care of retired sisters.

As her order prepares to celebrate its 125th anniversary in July, she said the sisters are also “serving some of the most vulnerable people in the United States, Haiti and Jamaica.”

Proceeds from the sale of the properties will be used “to challenge, in new ways, all forms of racism as well as the deeply rooted injustices in the world,” Sister Donna said.

The decision, according to the statement, will make it possible for the congregation to carry forward the vision and spirit of St. Katharine Drexel, who left her prominent Philadelphia family to establish a religious order in 1891 with the primary purpose to minister to Native Americans and African Americans.

In a separate statement, Philadelphia Archbishop Charles J. Chaput voiced his support and prayers for the sisters.

“I’m also happy to share that I have guaranteed archdiocesan support for the sisters as their plan unfolds over the next few years,” he said. “They’ve committed to keeping the national shrine open to visitors through at least 2017. When the time is right to do so, the remains of St. Katharine Drexel will be transferred to the care of the archdiocese and entombed in an appropriate location in the Cathedral Basilica of Ss. Peter and Paul.

“It is both an honor and a blessing to accept this responsibility. We’ll also work corroboratively with the sisters to make sure their archival records are cared for appropriately within our archdiocese.”

The Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament at their peak numbered about 600, but have dwindled to about 104 today, with more than half retired and living at the motherhouse.

Most of the deceased members are buried on the Bensalem property as are the parents, sisters and brothers-in-law of St. Katharine and priests prominent in the congregation’s history. The statements did not address what will become of the cemeteries.

The area of the cathedral suggested for St. Katharine’s tomb is near the altar dedicated to her at the rear of the basilica. The altar was donated by St. Katharine and her sisters Elizabeth and Louise in memory of their parents, Francis and Emma Drexel.

St. Katharine Drexel was born Nov. 26, 1858 into Philadelphia’s wealthiest family. She left everything to found her congregation in 1891 and devoted her considerable fortune to the Native and African American missions.

She died March 3, 1955 and was canonized Oct. 1, 2000. The Cathedral Basilica of Ss. Peter and Paul where she will now be entombed was the site of her funeral Mass.

The Bensalem property that contains 10 buildings was also the site of the former Holy Providence School, a small residential school.

The Virginia property was the site of St. Francis de Sales School, a residential school for African-American girls founded by St. Katharine, and St. Emma’s Academy, a residential school for African-American boys founded by Louise and Edward Morrell. Before the schools closed in the early 1970s, they educated nearly 15,000 students.


Since the justices are unable to find a compromise and they reach a split decision, the contraceptive mandate for religious groups will be interpreted differently in different areas of the country.
Jobs, development, ecology are connected

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

ROME — Paying workers a just wage has been “one of the most consistent and central themes of Catholic social teaching” for more than a century, said Cardinal Peter Turkson, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.

“Wages cannot be left solely to the whim of the market, but must be influenced by justice and equity — a wage that allows people to live a truly human life and fulfill family obligations,” the cardinal said earlier this month during the opening of a conference on sustainable development and the future of work.

The four-day conference, co-sponsored by Cardinal Turkson’s office, Caritas Internationalis and the International Labor Organization, brought together an international group of representatives of labor unions, Catholic peace and justice groups, social institutes, as well as Orthodox and Muslim leaders to engage in a dialogue about how labor practices, employment among young adults, but also because the dignity of work is often overlooked in the modern economy.

Opening the conference, Cardinal Turkson insisted “the need to protect employment” was one of the central themes of Pope Francis’ 2015 encyclical, Laudato Si’ on care for the environment and the promotion of a “human ecology.”

The document affirms that “decent and sustainable work is fundamental to how we care for our common home,” the cardinal said. Work is worthy of the human person “when it is decent and sustainable for workers, employers, governments, communities and the environment.”

Cardinal Turkson insisted that human progress cannot be measured simply with indicators of economic growth and the accumulation of material goods. True, sustainable development, he said, relies on economic growth, social inclusion and environmental sustainability.

“Decent jobs are the link holding the three together,” he said.

Jose M. Ramirez of the International Labor Organization told the conference May 3 that a similar point is enshrined “inclusive growth and decent work for all” is an essential step toward the reduction of poverty around the world, he said. “Development happens through jobs,” he said, but those jobs must provide a living wage and respect the dignity of the human person and respect the environment.

The term “decent work,” Ramirez said, refers to jobs that “are productive and deliver a fair income, security in the workplace and social protection for families, better prospects for personal development and social integration, freedom for people to express their concerns, to organize and participate in the decisions that affect their lives and equality of opportunity and treatment for all women and men.”

Long-term, sustainable development and job growth, he said, will require recognition of the workers’ right to collective bargaining, “the elimination of forced or compulsory labor, the abolition of child labor and the elimination of discrimination” in the workplace.

According to the ILO, he said, 168 million children are working, with 85 million of them performing “hazardous work.” Some 21 million men and women around the world are victims of forced labor. And, worldwide more than 200 million men and women are unemployed.

For more information call: (217) 698-8500

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Grand Prize Drawing to be held Sunday, June 5, at 4 p.m.
during Heritage Days Summerfest on the Little Flower grounds. If Little Flower Parish does not sell 2,500 tickets by June 5, the parish reserves the right to withdraw initial prizes and split 50/50 with the winners. Cash prizes reduced pro-rata.

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8:30-11 p.m. - Off The Wall Band
Saturday: June 4 - Gates open 4 p.m.
5-10 p.m. - Kid’s Area
5:30-8 p.m. - Imagine That Band
8:30-11 p.m. - The Loops Band
Sunday: June 5 - Gates open 11 a.m.
11 a.m.-4 p.m. - Kid’s Area
11:30 a.m. - Bags Tournament
11:15 a.m.-4:30 p.m. - The Juke House Band
Noon. - Chicken Wing Cook-Off begins

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