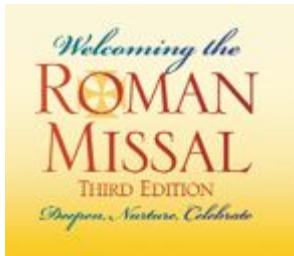


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A priest: 'configured to Christ Himself, a

*sign of Christ*

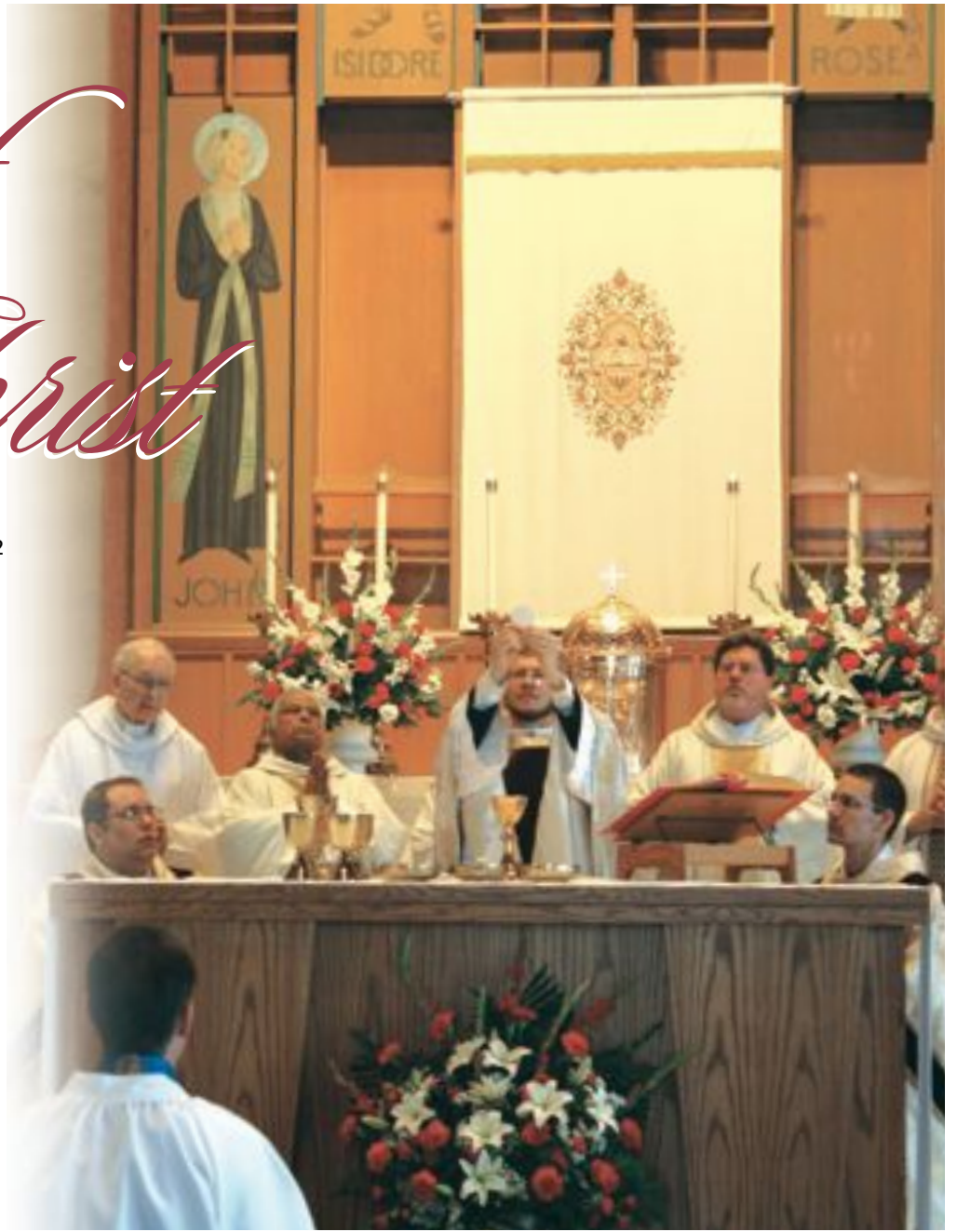
to the people'

— Father Michael Comer, homily, May 22

**F**ather Nicholas Rottman celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Joseph Church, Cold Spring, May 22, his home parish. Bishop Roger Foys presided. Father Rottman was joined by priests of the diocese, deacons, seminary classmates, family and friends and hundreds of parishioners. Bishop Foys ordained Father Rottman to the priesthood the day before in ceremonies at the Cathedral.

In his remarks, Bishop Foys said, "As his spiritual father, teacher, brother and friend, I ask God to bestow on (Father Rottman) all the blessings of the priesthood. ... I am confident he will be a fine priest."

*Please see pages 10–11 in this issue for more photos of the May 21 ordination.*



Fitzgerald photo



Nienaber photo

**This Memorial Day**, May 30, we remember all our service-men and women. The cemeteries in the Diocese of Covington honor our deceased veterans by marking each grave with a United States flag. Before daily Mass at St. Agnes Church, Ft. Wright, for example, worshipers say a prayer for active service men and women and have submitted that prayer to the *Messenger* for publication.

### Prayer for Service Men and Women

We ask you, Lord Jesus, savior of the world and king of peace, watch over our sons and daughters in the service of our country. Protect them from the physical and mortal dangers of military life. Keep them close to you and help them live the commandments.

Lord Jesus, give them courage to serve their country with honor and dignity. Be with them when they are in danger; strengthen them when they face hardships; and above all, Lord, grant that when their service is finished, they may return to their loved ones, sound in mind and body.

We pray that you give these men and women the courage and strength to do the duty that is required of them. May they always remember our love, our prayers and our appreciation for the sacrifices they are making. We are thankful that they are willing to risk their lives, to protect our lives. We ask that you be with each of them today, wherever they may be.

Amen.



## An Independent View On The Purchase Of Insurance

By Frank Gross, President  
Gross Insurance Agency, LLC

**Going On Vacation?** Weather damage and burglary are potential threats. Some common-sense planning before you leave will ensure that your home and personal belongings will be safe while you're gone. Here are a few tips:

- 1) Notify the police department that you will be away. Periodic checks by a patrolman could avert trouble.
- 2) Since most thieves strike when no one is home, give the impression that you are — arrange for the lawn to be mowed, garbage cans placed at the street, a neighbor's car in the driveway, lights turned on by timers.
- 3) Have mail and newspapers picked up. Don't discontinue delivery unless it's an extended vacation, and you can't impose upon trusted neighbors. (The fewer people who know you are away, the better.)
- 4) Give a key to a neighbor and ask for periodic checks inside. Leave a phone number where you can be reached.
- 5) Turn the heat down or off in the cooler months, but be careful. Freezing water pipes are a hazard, and water damage is costly and difficult to repair. You should use antifreeze solutions in your water system; the cost is minimal.
- 6) Is your home insurance plan effective when you're on an extended vacation? Check with an insurance professional.



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## '60 years of faithful dedication to the Church'

Jubilee celebration  
is June 12 at St.  
Charles Care Center

Laura Keener  
Assistant Editor

Father John Werner was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Covington on May 26, 1951. In an in-person interview at St. Charles Care Center, Ft. Wright, Father Werner said that he credits his family for his vocation.

"I had a good, holy family, praying night and day, so to speak," said Father Werner.

Father Werner grew up in Doylestown, Ohio, with his four older sisters and younger brother. Two of his sisters were called to religious life and professed vows with the Dominican sisters. His brother attended the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus right out of the eighth grade. "I thought about it and I followed them," said Father Werner.

Father Werner entered the Pontifical College Josephinum after high school in 1941. The rigorous academic program at the seminary proved to be quite a challenge.

"I struggled. I struggled," said Father Werner. "But they were very patient with me and they helped me."

After 10 years of seminary studies, the Most Rev. Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, apostolic delegate to the United States at the time, ordained him.

Father Werner said that at the time his home Diocese of Cleveland had "vocations up to their eyebrows," and he also felt he would like to go to a mission diocese. The seminary rector suggested the Diocese of Covington. "He told me that the Diocese of Covington has a very successful Divine Providence sisters who look after our needs and asked if I would like to go there. I said OK," Father Werner said.

After a short stint at the former Immaculate Conception Church, Newport (1951-52) he served in the mission territory of the Diocese of Covington at St. Mark Church and its missions, in Richmond (1952-55); St. Elizabeth and missions, in Ravenna (13 years); St. Mark, Richmond (almost five years); St. Luke, Nicholasville (more than 10 years); and St. John, Carrollton (nine years).

"My ministry was rather simple," Father Werner said. "I was not a great educator and not a real good speaker but one of the things I did, of course I was in small parishes, was I was not only the pastor but also semi-janitor or full-time janitor."

Father Werner said that his experience in serving God's people as a priest has been a blessing. "People are won-

derful. They are a blessing from God. They make parish life very meaningful, very spiritual and very powerful," he said.

During his 60 years as a priest Father Werner said he has seen the leadership role of the pastor evolve. "In the parish it used to be the pastor said, this is the way it's going to be and that's the way it was. Over the years, and now, it's more of a team effort with

the parishioners — working together, seeing what ideas the parishioners have, and putting them into practice with your own ideas."

His best advice to priests and those considering the priesthood is to develop a strong spiritual life. "Priesthood, especially in this day, you need to use spiritual means to keep your priesthood as it should be. Attend the sacrament of penance frequently, pray hard and take part in the liturgy and," he said, "keep away from the sinfulness of this world, which is not easily done."

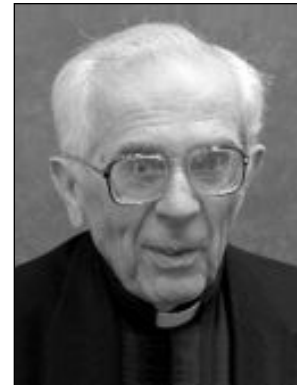
After his retirement from active ministry in 1992, Father Werner lived at Blessed Sacrament Church, Ft. Mitchell, for 12 years, and worked as hospital chaplain at St. Elizabeth Medical Center, Edgewood, for 11 years and four months. "I really liked that work. I really liked that work," said Father Werner.

About Father Werner, Bishop Roger Foys said, "From my first days as Bishop of Covington Father Werner welcomed me with open arms and an open heart, making me feel at home. He responded to any request I made with filial devotion and respect and I have never found him to be anything but generous and cooperative. His history of assignments demonstrates a priest who was willing to serve in whatever capacity he was asked, whether as parish priest, high school instructor or hospital chaplain. In his retirement and illness he continues to be an example to all priests of how to be accepting of God's will for us."

"I consider myself fortunate indeed to know Father Werner and to count him among the priests of our Diocese. I wish him every blessing as he celebrates 60 years of faithful and dedicated ministry to the Church."

A public reception celebrating Father Werner's 60th jubilee will be held Sunday, June 12, 2-4 p.m. at St. Charles Care Center, Ft. Wright. "Absolutely no gifts," said Father Werner, "just prayers and memories, please." Everyone is invited.

Other jubilarians celebrating 60 years of ministry this year are Father Louis Jasper (profiled in the May 13 Messenger) and Msgr. Allen Meier, to be profiled in an upcoming Messenger.



Father John Werner



# Preparing for the Roman Missal third edition

*This article is one in a weekly series offering insight to the theology of the Mass and the new translation of the Roman Missal. The articles prepare us for the use of the new Roman Missal at Mass beginning Nov. 27, 2011, the first Sunday of Advent. The articles are provided by the diocesan Office of Worship and Liturgy and written by Father Daniel Schomaker, S.T.L., assistant director. (Note: Words in bold indicate the new translation.)*

**Preface Dialogue**

*Priest:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And with your spirit.**

*Priest:* Lift up your hearts.

*People:* We lift them up to the Lord.

*Priest:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People:* **It is right and just.**

**Preface Dialogue**

In every human being there is a hunger – both corporal and spiritual. The hunger within our stomachs causes us to long for food – it is easily recognizable. The hunger within our souls causes us to long for God – not so easily recognizable. In His great wisdom and love God has given us the Sacraments to bring together the realms of the corporal and spiritual. In particular, He has given us the Eucharist so as to satisfy both our physical and spiritual hunger.

The word “eucharist” comes to us from the Greek word *eukharistia* which means thanksgiving or gratitude. When we celebrate the Eucharist on Sunday or throughout the week, it is a time when the holy people of God come together in prayer to give thanks to God for giving us food that will last forever.

The high point of our banquet celebration at Holy Mass comes as the priest, united to his people, prays the great prayer of thanksgiving – the Eucharistic Prayer. In the Sacred Liturgy, the Eucharistic Prayer begins with the Preface Dialogue. Through the priest’s greeting of “The Lord be with you” and the

people’s response, “And with your spirit” the community gathered in prayer is reminded that Christ is present in their midst – for the “spirit” that the people are referring to in their response is not the spirit of the man who stands before them at the altar, but the spirit of God who has made him an *alter Christus* (another Christ) in his ordination. It is also a reminder that in this great prayer of thanksgiving to the Father in Heaven, it is really the Son who offers His sacred body and blood (not the priest himself) for the redemption and salvation of our souls and that of the whole world. In this initial dialogue the priest and the people are united and drawn into the sacrifice of Christ on the cross and too the eternal dialogue of love that exists between the Father and the Son.

Continuing the dialogue, the priest asks the people to, “Lift up your hearts” to which they respond, “We lift them up to the Lord.” Here again we see that the priest and the people are drawn into the dialogue that exists between the Most Holy Trinity, in that we express our longing for God by using His own words found in the Book of Lamentations, “Let us reach out our hearts towards God in heaven!” (Lam 3:41) In this portion of the Preface Dialogue we come to recognize our spiritual hunger – St. Augustine reminds us in the first few lines of his *Confessions* that our hearts are restless until they rest in God. We desire peace and freedom from the anxieties of the world and so we give our hearts to God, we focus on the Lord with a mind of gratitude and thanksgiving for the many blessings he has bestowed upon us in this life. We seek to live in such a way that our hearts will conform to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.



Finally, the priest says, “Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.” And in the English translation of the 3rd Edition of the Roman Missal, the people respond: “It is right and just.” The priest’s use of the word “thanks” is a reminder that we are entering into the Eucharist. The people’s response is the echo of an ancient Greek civic phrase, which is meant to express a communal assent. It is a great yes of the corporate body which is the Church. It is a reminder that we do not come to the Lord just as individuals, but as members of the one Body of Christ, the Church united to Her Head – Jesus Christ.

This simple and ancient dialogue is one that unites us with each other and with Christians around the world. It bridges borders and spans the ages. It is a heavenly language that unites us to the heavenly host – to the angels and the saints – as we give thanks to God for his many gifts.



**Bishop's Schedule**

- May 27**  
Individual meeting, 8:30 a.m.
- Graduation, Villa Madonna Academy, 10:30 a.m.
- Catholic Church Extension Society meeting, 2 p.m.
- Graduation, Notre Dame Academy, 7 p.m.
- May 28**  
Graduation, St. Patrick High School, 1 p.m.
- May 29**  
Mass, Cathedral Basilica, Covington, 10 a.m.
- Graduation, Bishop Brossart High School, 2 p.m.
- June 2**  
Episcopal Council meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- June 5**  
Mass and Reception of Candidacy, Cathedral Basilica, Covington, 10 a.m.
- Cross the Bridge for Life, Newport, 2 p.m.

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## Make plans to ‘Cross the Bridge for Life’ June 5

Join Bishop Roger Foys and seminarians of the Diocese of Covington for the sixth annual “Cross the Bridge for Life” event taking place June 5 beginning at 2 p.m. at the World Peace Bell in Newport.

Students, church groups, families, friends and walkers of all types and ages are welcome, including those in strollers and wheelchairs. The opening program for the event begins at 1:45 p.m. at the World Peace Bell. Bishop Foys will give a blessing to all participants before the walk.

Cross the Bridge for Life is a joint effort sponsored by at least 20 pro-life organizations on both sides of the Ohio River, including the Diocese of Covington’s Pro-Life Office. Its goal is to raise public awareness of the value of all human life and the protection of human life in all forms. Due to the generosity of the sponsors the event is free to participants and includes food, water and event t-shirts (there is a suggested donation of \$5 for each t-shirt).

The walk is approximately two miles in total length with a complimentary picnic lunch following the walk provided by J.T.M. Food Group of Cincinnati. Musical entertainment after the walk will be provided by the Lee Roessler Band.

For more information on the event or for directions to the event go to [www.crossthebridgeforlife.com/directions.html](http://www.crossthebridgeforlife.com/directions.html) or call the Diocese of Covington Pro-Life Office at (859) 392-1545.

**Official Assignments**

*Effective May 23, 2011*

**Rev. Daniel L. Schomaker**

To: College of Consultors for five-year term; Presbyteral Council for three-year term

*Effective July 1, 2011*

**Msgr. William B Neuhaus, V.F.**

To: Pastoral Administrator, Covington Latin School  
Continues other duties

**Rev. Thomas P. Robbins**

To: Pastoral Administrator, Holy Cross District High School  
Continues other duties

**Seminarian Summer Assignments**

- Eric Andriot, St. Henry Parish, Elsmere
- William Appel, St. Patrick Parish, Taylor Mill
- Michael Black, St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Ft. Thomas
- Eric Boelscher, Diocesan Curia
- Josiah Booth, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Burlington
- Ernie Darby, Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish, Erlanger
- Allan Frederick, St. Cecilia Parish, Independence
- Michael Hennigen, All Saints Parish, Walton
- Ross Kelsch, St. Timothy Parish, Union
- David Ludwig, St. Benedict Parish, Covington
- Deacon John Michniuk, Divine Mercy Parish, Bellevue and St. Bernard Parish, Dayton
- Michael Norton, St. Pius X Parish, Edgewood
- Thomas Picchioni, St. Thomas Parish, Ft. Thomas
- Jonathan Pidgeon, Holy Spirit Parish, Newport
- José Rito, St. John the Evangelist Parish, Carrollton
- James Schaeper, Sts. Boniface & James Parish, Ludlow
- Louis Senn, St. Philip Parish, Melbourne
- Ryan Stenger, Sts. Peter & Paul Parish, California
- Jacob Straub, St. Patrick Parish, Maysville
- Andrew Young, St. Joseph Parish, Cold Spring

*By order of the Most Rev. Roger J. Foys, D.D.  
Bishop of the Diocese of Covington*

*Margaret M. Schack*  
Margaret M. Schack, Chancellor

# The death of Osama bin Laden

The death of Osama bin Laden did not end the war against jihadism, a war bin Laden had declared against the United States in a 1996 fatwa that mandated the killing of Americans wherever they could be targeted. But it did take one key leader of jihadist Islam off the global strategic chessboard.

The death of Osama bin Laden did not end the civil war within Islam over the proper interpretation of Islamic law and the right relationship of Muslims to those who are "other." But it did continue the de-mythologization of bin Laden and his alleged invincibility, a myth that was no minor factor in his faction's power within that intra-Islamic struggle, which long ago spilled out of the House of Islam to shake the rest of the world.

The death of Osama bin Laden did not cure the social and political pathologies of the Arab Islamic world. But it did remove one obstacle to those pathologies being addressed by the democrats within 2011's "Arab Spring."

The death of Osama bin Laden did not resolve the intellectual dilemma of Islam in its confrontation with modern science and modern methods of reading ancient texts. But it may have hastened, if only slightly, the day when Islam confronts the intellectual fossilization that has made its lands cultural backwaters for centuries.

The death of Osama bin Laden will not bring the European Union out of its post-modern cultural funk (for bin Laden's wickedness was rarely grasped in Old Europe), and I doubt that it will have a decisive effect on 2012 presidential politics in the U.S. But it did create a moment in which to reconsider and recalibrate the full menu of methods the West uses to confront the ongoing jihadist threat, and that reconsideration might lead to wiser security policy. Perhaps that moment will be seized by public authorities who care more for good governance than for good polling numbers. Perhaps.

What the death of bin Laden did demonstrate unmistakably is just how poorly many religious leaders and religious intellectuals think about the new kind of war in which we have been engaged for more than a decade and a half (although most of us only recognized that after 9/11). Which is to say, the death of Osama bin Laden demonstrated yet again how badly the just war tradition has been received by the men and women who are supposed to be its intellectual custodians.

Thus from some religious quarters came laments, not over the ongoing damage that bin Laden's evil network causes, but over the fact that he was killed and the method used to kill him. It seemed as if, at various divinity schools, bin Laden was a gangster

writ large who ought to have been dealt with by law enforcement agencies and methods and, after apprehension, read his Miranda rights and given a trial by a jury of his peers.

This is nonsense, and dangerous nonsense at that. As I told one reporter, attempts to portray what happened to bin Laden in Pakistan as the equivalent of the Chicago police department breaking into a Milwaukee crack house and gunning down a crack-cocaine dealer are preposterous; they completely misconstrue the nature of the conflict between bin Laden and the United States since the mid-1990s. To say it yet again: in dealing with the bin Ladens of this world, we are engaging in war, not police work; and the relevant moral standards are those derived from the just war tradition, not from the U.S. Criminal Code as interpreted by the Warren Court.

As usual, Rutgers University's James Turner Johnson got it exactly right: bin Laden's death was "an execution of justice, plain and simple, carried out under the authority of the one who can properly use bellum (war) in the service of good." And why is it important to grasp this? Because if soft-minded and ill-informed religious leaders and intellectuals succeed in gutting the just war tradition and loosening our public culture's grasp on it, the only alternative will be a raw pragmatism that justifies any end and any means.

*George Weigel is Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.*

## THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE



George Weigel

## Acts of the Apostles 2011

The Easter season is upon us. The readings tell us about Jesus appearing at various times to the Apostles and disciples. Initially they are shocked and surprised but in very short order become peaceful and encouraged by his presence.

The readings from Acts inform us that large numbers of people were brought into the Church based on the enthusiasm and work of the Holy Spirit in these early "followers of the way." I have often considered these scenes using "Lectio Divina," a type of meditative prayer, and have been amazed at how God used and encouraged regular people from the community to illustrate his continued presence in this world.

Perhaps we need to step back and consider how we might write "the Acts of the Apostles" if we were to describe the Diocese of Covington during this Easter time 2011.

I believe we would write about the many celebrations that have happened in the last month since Easter. We could write about the hundreds of children who have received Eucharist for the first time in their parishes and how the community, family and friends gathered to affirm their own belief in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. I think we could write about how moved many of the adults were when the experience was reported by the children who reminded us adults of the awe and mys-

tery of the Eucharist.

I believe we could write about the hundreds of young adults who have received confirmation in this last month and how they have described "being different now" and "feeling closer to God" and how good it felt to be of service to their family, community and parish as they performed works of service before receiving confirmation.

I believe we could write about the various couples in my faith community who have received special anniversary blessings at the end of Mass as they celebrate 40, 50 and 60 years of faithful, committed marriage with each other. We could write about how younger couples were inspired by these living examples of why that sacrament is still most important in this era of cohabitation and immediate gratification prevalent in the culture of 2011.

We could write about the many graduation ceremonies that have taken and are taking place in the diocese. We could write about the sacrifice parents make today to send children to Catholic grade schools, high schools and colleges in order to provide them the basics for succeeding in the rest of their life. We could write about students' reflections of how this teacher or coach has inspired them in a truly Christ-like manner.

We could write about how many people gather in our churches each Sunday not only to be fed by the

Word and Eucharist but also fed emotionally by the warm greeting they receive from the members of that community. We could write about how the community meets the emotional needs of each individual by their presence and something as simple as a smile and greeting.

We could write about how one part of the diocese has gone door to door in their community conducting a census that truly was an act of faith and an act of mercy in touching peoples' lives. We could write how that part of the community reported their success to the rest of us and encouraged us to do the same in our part of the diocese.

We could write about how we as a community have gathered to inform ourselves and our legislators about upcoming legislation to insure that the dignity of all is upheld in the legislative activities of our state. We could write that many of us will gather next month for "Cross the Bridge for Life" as an example of making a public statement by our presence on the importance of life from conception to natural death.

It is wonderful at this time in the liturgical year to wonder how generations from now people might look at our behaviors and statements and see that same Spirit and desire to be a "follower of the way" in the first Christian community are alive and well in the Diocese of Covington.

*Deacon Steve Durkee is assigned to Mother of God Church, Covington.*

## BELIEVE, TEACH, PRACTICE



Deacon Steve Durkee

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## Good friends must 'stay in touch'

**The readings for the sixth Sunday of Easter — Cycle "A" are: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; 1 Peter 3:15-18; and John 14:15-21.**

Good relationships often catch us by surprise. I can recall several vacations that were more rewarding for the people I got to know than for the sights I went to see. It is rather amazing how, in such a short time, we can become very close to other people. On departure day my new friends and I would vow to "stay in touch." But we seldom did.

In today's Gospel, Jesus makes a similar promise. He has spent some considerable time with his disciples. The time of departure is quickly coming. (Ascension is only a few days away.) So he promises to "stay in touch." "I will not leave you orphaned; I will come back to you."

The means by which he will continue to be with his disciples (us) is the Holy Spirit. The Father "will send you another Paraclete ... to be with you always: the Spirit of truth whom the world cannot accept ..." Jesus speaks of "another" Paraclete, because he himself is the original Paraclete, a term that in the Greek refers to a legal advocate, a helper, one who takes up the cause of another. The Lord took upon himself our cause and our sinfulness and he now promises not to abandon us.

But there is a catch. The promised Paraclete will be sent "if you love me and obey the commands I give you." The Spirit can flourish only in a life that is filled with love and obedience.

Jesus' own love of the Father is one that is ultimately expressed in obedience to the Father's will. I never forget that the Lord prayed repeatedly that he not have to drink of the cup of suffering which was the Father's will. It's comforting to know that Jesus too did not always find obedience to the Father all that easy to accept. That's always helpful to remember when I might find it hard to accept God's will, Church teaching or my superiors' wishes.

Jesus expressed his love through obedience. That is what he asks of us as well. "He who obeys the commandments he has from me is the man who loves me; and he who loves me will be loved by my Father." (Today's Gospel) Love and obedience go hand in hand.

The scenes that today's first two readings paint for us are ones that give us a glimpse of that early Christian community that had received the promised Paraclete. In the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Philip, a deacon in the Church, gained many converts. True to the discipline of the early Church, it was Peter and John, leaders from the Jerusalem Christian community, who were called upon to pray and impose hands on these neophytes that they might receive the Holy Spirit.

The second reading, taken from the First Letter of Peter, is one that is filled with encouragement. Those Christians to whom he wrote were finding it quite difficult to remain faithful in obedience to the Lord. They were undergoing persecution. Yet, because the Lord had not left them "orphaned," they were able to persevere. Peter tells us that they were filled with hope, a strength imparted by the Lord's continuing presence in his Spirit, the Paraclete.

We confidently approach the celebration of the Lord's physical departure in the feast of the Ascension because we too have the hope and confidence that he will continue to "stay in touch" through his Holy Spirit.

*Father Daniel Vogelpohl is pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church, Ft. Mitchell.*

## The Mystery of the Cross — The revelation of Divine Love

The Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church (2004) roots the Church's moral tradition on social justice in a panoramic vision of salvation history. The first chapter — "God's Plan of Love for Humanity" — traces the movement of the divine initiative of love which was inaugurated in creation, enacted historically in and through the biblical covenant, and decisively fulfilled in the Incarnation.

The Compendium declares that "[t]he Face of God, progressively revealed in the history of salvation, shines in its fullness in the Face of Jesus Christ crucified and risen from the dead." (CSDC n. 31) Thus, the mystery of redemptive incarnation is a revelation of Trinitarian love, for "God is an infinite communion of love."

A striking passage recounts the core of salvation history: "God's gratuitous love for humanity is revealed, before anything else, as love springing from the Father, from whom everything draws its source; as the free communication that the Son makes of this love, giving himself anew to the Father and giving himself to mankind; as the ever new fruitfulness of divine love that the Holy Spirit pours forth into the hearts of men (cf. Rom 5:5)."

The summary concludes: "By his words and deeds, and fully and definitively by his death and resurrection, Jesus reveals to humanity that God is Father, and we are all called by grace to become his children in the Spirit (cf. Rom 8:15; Gal 4:6), and therefore brothers and sisters among ourselves." (CSDC n. 31)

The substance of this synthesis of the theme of incarnate love is drawn from the teaching of the Second Vatican Council and confirmed in the consistent teaching of the late Holy Father, Blessed John Paul II.

"Redeemer of Humanity" ("Redemptor Hominis," 1978), Blessed John Paul II's inaugural encyclical, articulated the all-encompassing vision which had dominated his pastoral teaching over the decades of his Petrine ministry: "The Redeemer of man, Jesus Christ, is the center of the universe and history." (RH n. 1)

Inspired by a profound spiritual consciousness as the Great Jubilee in 2000 was approaching, the late Holy Father called for a reawakening of the cornerstone article of Christian faith — the Incarnation. In particular, the Christology of the Gospel according to John grounds a New Testament foundation of the doctrine of the redemptive Incarnation. Two Johannine passages are seminal insights: "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (Jn. 1:14) and "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life (Jn. 3:16)." (RH n. 1)

"Redeemer of Humanity" developed an extensive analysis of the multifaceted dimensions of the mystery of the Incarnation and Redemption. The mystery of Redemption is marked by both a divine and a human dimension. (RH nn. 9-10)

First, the redemptive death and resurrection of Jesus Christ — the paschal mystery — inaugurates the new creation, a restoration of the visible world to "its original link with the divine source of wisdom and love." (RH n. 8) The encyclical explains: "The God of creation is revealed as the God of redemption, as the God who is 'faithful to himself,' and faithful to his love for man and the world which he revealed on the day of creation." (RH n. 9)

"Redeemer of Humanity" cited the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World of the Second Vatican Council ("Gaudium et Spes," 1965) in support of the vision of redemption as "a new creation." In referring to the typology of the first Adam in Genesis and Christ, the second Adam, the Pastoral Constitution asserted that the mystery of the incarnate Word illumines the mystery of

humanity itself. Christ, the "final Adam, by the revelation of the mystery of the Father and His love, fully reveals man to man himself and makes his supreme calling clear." (GS n. 22)

Secondly, since the Incarnation reveals the mystery of the human person, the encyclical likewise highlights the human dimension of the Incarnation. Thus, insofar as men and women "cannot live without love," Christ becomes the touch point of the communion of the divine and the human. The paschal mystery, accomplished by leading "through the cross and death to resurrection," has restored human dignity with the "original blessing" of creation and returned meaning to life in the world. (RH n. 10)

The human dimension of the mystery of the Incarnation is ultimately rooted in the revelation of the mystery of God's love for humankind which reaches the apex in Jesus' self-emptying divine love on Calvary. The cross stands as "a fresh manifestation of the eternal fatherhood of God, who in Him [Jesus Christ] draws near again to humanity, to each human being, giving him the thrice holy 'Spirit of truth' (Jn. 16:13)." (RH n. 9)

The cross and the death of Christ have incarnated God's love for humanity which was first manifested at the beginning of creation, an affirmation that the God of redemption is the God of creation.

Two years later, the theme of the divine dimension of the Redemptive Incarnation was taken up again in the late pope's second encyclical letter "Rich in Mercy" ("Dives in Misericordia," 1980).

As an extensive biblical and theological meditation on the theme of divine love or mercy, the encyclical opens with a proclamation that Jesus Christ is the definitive revelation of God as Love: "It is 'God, who is rich in mercy' (Eph. 2:4) whom Jesus Christ revealed to us as Father: it is his very Son who, in himself, has manifested him and made him known to us (cf. Jn. 1:18; Heb. 1: 1-2)." (DM n.1)

"Rich in Mercy" then crafts a catena of biblical insights which radiates a biblical vision of the Mystery of the Incarnation.

Christ's "making known" the Father (Jn. 1:18) enfleashes God's covenant relationship of love for all men and women. Accordingly, God's "philanthropy" (Tit. 3:4) makes visible the invisible inner life of God but has become definitively visible "in Christ and through Christ, through his actions and his words, and finally on the death on the Cross and his Resurrection."

Jesus incarnates and personifies God's mercy — "He himself, in a certain sense, is mercy." In the encounter of that mercy in Christ, God "becomes 'visible' in a particular way as the Father 'who is rich in mercy.'" (DM n. 2)

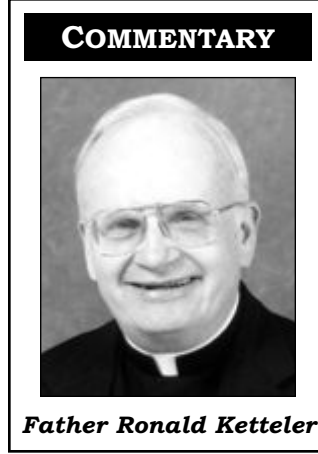
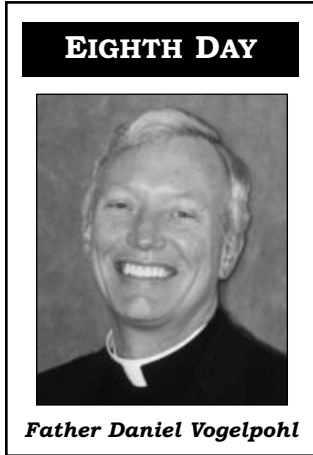
Moreover, "Rich in Mercy" sets forth a theological commentary on the principal theme, namely, that "the presence of God who is Father, love, and mercy" is revealed in and through the very life and actions of Jesus of Nazareth.

The life, death and resurrection of Jesus discloses that "love is present in the world in which we live, an effective love" that embraces and responds to the human condition. In addition, a privileged locus for the revelation of that love will be encountered "in contact with suffering, injustice and poverty, in contact with the whole historical 'human condition,' which in various ways manifests man's limitation and frailty, both physical and moral ..."

The historical human condition, therefore, becomes "precisely the mode and sphere in which love manifests itself that in biblical language is called 'mercy.'" (DM n. 3)

Christ, the Incarnate Word, reveals God "who is

*(Continued on next page)*



# Active participation adds rhythm to liturgical symphony

**Father Daniel Schomaker**

Imagine if you would the concert hall of a symphony orchestra. Its architectural plan has been laid out in such a way so as to create a visually stimulating experience that provides the highest quality of sound and which allows for the overpowering experience of emotion resonating from the music performed there. It has been ordered to allow the music to reach beyond just a compilation of sounds.

In addition to the acoustical dynamics, the design situates all who participate in a performance in their proper place. Function and purpose have been taken into account – the conductor and the musicians are on an elevated stage in the front of the hall and become the focus of the patrons, seated elsewhere, for their entertainment. Even on the stage, the conductor occupies the pride of place (center stage). His physical location indicates his position as the one who guides and directs the orchestra. And the orchestra that surrounds him is also broken into separate sections – strings, woodwinds, percussion, etc. – indicating that their functions, while similar, are different.

Each instrument occupies the position that is proper to it; intermixing would disrupt the activity of the whole and would hinder the entire orchestra from obtaining the goal of producing beautiful music. If the

conductor were to occupy the place of a bass player, the symphony would suffer; if a member of the audience occupied the place of the conductor, the symphony would suffer; if a piccolo player took over playing the part of the first violinist, the symphony would suffer. A disruption in the roles and functions of all who participate in the symphony creates chaos and confusion and eventually just noise. In the extreme, we could picture the audience, pulling out their own instruments and attempting to play along with the orchestra.

Each participant in the symphony has a function and a role and a purpose, which if they do not carry it out, causes the whole to suffer. Imagine if the piccolo were to just disappear from John Philip Sousa's *Stars and Stripes Forever* – one would have a vastly incomplete song. And if there was no audience, who would listen to and appreciate the beauty of the music being performed?

Just as in the performance of a symphony, the members of the Mystical Body of Christ must fulfill the role that is proper to them in order that the beauty of the liturgy does not become chaos and simply noise.

In the Church all are called to fulfill their roles

and enter into the full, active and conscious participation called for by the Second Vatican Council. However, when the Church speaks of "active participation" She never refers to activity. Participation in the liturgy is not about doing "stuff." The mind of the Church from Her infancy has always focused on the importance of the interior life of the faithful when gathered with the community at prayer – fostering the intimate and personal relationship with the Lord Jesus.

Pope Pius XII wrote in the encyclical *Mediator Dei* "...the chief element of divine worship must be interior. For we must always live in Christ and give ourselves to Him completely, so that in Him, with Him and through Him the

heavenly Father may be duly glorified." (MD 24) If those places of silence in ourselves, our hearts and minds and souls, are not turned to God, how can our mouths, hands and feet offer praise?

In other words, there must be a balance between the external participation in the liturgy and the internal participation in the liturgy. It is never appropriate for one to sit and just observe the liturgy, or to quietly pray one's devotions throughout; nor is it appropriate to be involved in constant action and not allow for silence.

Like the members of the orchestra we are called at times in the liturgy to play our instruments (through acclamations, responses, gestures and songs) and at other times to wait, contemplating our parts of the movement in silence (listening to and reflecting on the prayers and the Word of God), but at all times to participate in the symphony. We are called to allow the music of Heaven to pour over us and envelop all that we are – from the top of our heads to the tips of our toes. In truly balancing our external and internal involvement in the liturgy, we will live out the proper call of active participation.

*Father Schomaker is assistant director of the diocesan Office of Worship and Liturgy.*



## Diocesan Catholic Children's Home Festival

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**June 11, 4 - 11 p.m.**  
**June 12, 4 - 9 p.m.**

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## Divine Love

*(Continued from previous page)*

Father, who is 'love,' as St. John will express it in his first letter (1 Jn. 4:16); Christ reveals God as 'rich in mercy,' as we read in St. Paul (Eph. 2:4)." (DM n. 3)

The revelation of love has entered human history and "has taken a form and a name: that of Jesus Christ." (RH n. 9)

"The Mystery of the Incarnation" ("Incarnationis Mysterium," 1998) was the papal Bull of Indiction which enacted the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000 on Christmas Eve 1999.

The Jubilee document declared: "Contemplating the mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God, the Church prepares to cross the threshold of the Third Millennium." (IM n.1)

Blessed John Paul II explained: "Jesus of Nazareth, who reveals the Father, has fulfilled the desire hidden in every human heart to know God." The Holy Father continues the reflection: "Jesus reveals the face of God the Father 'compassionate and merciful' (Jas. 5:11), and with the sending of the Holy Spirit he makes known the mystery of love which is the Trinity." (IM n.3)

In a similar fashion, the Catechism of the Catholic Church notes that the humanity of Jesus "appeared as 'sacrament,' that is, the sign and instrument, of his divinity and of the salvation he brings: what was visible in his earthly life leads to the invisible mystery of his divine sonship and redemptive mission." (CCC n. 515)

*Father Ronald Kettler is director of ecumenism and continuing education of priests, episcopal liaison to the Messenger and professor of theology at Thomas More College.*

# DPAA rebates planned for church repairs inside and out

**Tim Fitzgerald**  
Editor

The Catholic Church has existed for 2000 years and will continue forever. But the church buildings, only man-made, suffer the ravages of time and tide.

Both St. John Church in Carrollton and St. Thomas Church, Ft. Thomas, are addressing their buildings' wear by depending on rebates made possible through the Diocesan Parish Annual Appeal. Their generous parishioners are funding repairs and upkeep that will benefit current and future worshippers.

St. John's 100-year-old roof leaked, so pastor Father Kavungal Davy, C.M.I. (Carmelite of Mary Immaculate), after consulting with the parish council and the maintenance committee, used the rebates from two years, 2009 and 2010, to make the \$84,000 repairs.

The next step, to be funded by this year's rebate, is to repair the plaster molding around two church windows damaged by the leaky roof. In addition, water from another source has weakened the lower two feet of the vestibule's plaster walls. The plaster repairs will cost about \$6000, Father Davy said. Five stained glass windows will be also removed and re-soldered. (No estimate yet for the window maintenance.)

As Father Davy explained, the church's brick facing has for many years absorbed rainwater. The wet bricks contract and expand, forcing apart the seams. Over the years the gathered water has seeped down, eventually, drip by drip, deteriorating the plaster. The first step is to seal the bricks against further water absorption, then repair the inner walls with modern water-resistant cement and other materials.

When asked about his parishioners' support, for the new roof and now more repairs, Father Davy said, "I could write a book!"

"I did not dream we could make the

goal for the new roof, which ended up being \$84,000. I did not think the parishioners would be able to make that goal. But they really surprised me."

Father Davy said that reserves from the 2009 and 2010 rebates will be added to the 2011 rebates. He expects the new projects to begin this summer.

St. Thomas' 2011 rebate will be set aside and used with future rebates to address two church building needs, said Msgr. Roger Cooney, pastor.

The church doors, installed when the church was constructed in 1938-39, must be replaced. The doors have greeted generations of the faithful at St. Thomas, but they — the doors — are wearing out. Again, weather and water damage are the culprits, especially to the doors facing west, which bear the brunt of the effects of sun, wind, rain and snow.

Msgr. Cooney conferred with the parish council, the finance committee and the facilities committee and came to a mutual decision. Their goal for every project or purchase, he said, is to be "responsible stewards."

The new doors, Msgr. Cooney said, will be "exact replacements."

Another long-range goal, also funded by this year's and future rebates, is to clean the granite and limestone front of the church.

The church building belongs to all the parishioners, all the stakeholders in a parish, Msgr. Cooney said. "The church building is the prime symbol of our 'household of faith.' So when you work on the church building, the effort includes the entire parish."

"Our gratitude flows from the Eucharist, thanksgiving to God for all we are and have at St. Thomas."

For more information about the 2011 DPAA, its rebate program or any other aspect, contact Michael Murray, director of the diocesan Stewardship and Mission Services, (859) 392-1540 or e-mail [mmurray@covingtondiocese.org](mailto:mmurray@covingtondiocese.org).



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# Pope praises pro-life movement in Italy for aid to women, couples

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI greeted members of Italy's pro-life movement and encouraged them to continue their concrete efforts on behalf of women and couples who are dealing with difficult situations of pregnancy. The pope made the comments at his noon blessing May 22 to several thousand participants in a brief pro-life march that led to the Vatican. The event marked the 33rd anniversary of legal abortion in Italy. "Dear friends, I congratulate you in particular for your commitment to helping women who face difficult pregnancies, as well as engaged couples and spouses who desire responsible procreation. In this way you are working concretely for the culture of life," he said. "I pray to the Lord that, thanks to your contribution, the 'yes to life' may be a cause of unity in Italy and in every country of the world," he said. The day before, the pope underlined the Christian duty to respect life in a talk to students and faculty of the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Milan.

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# Our Future is Now



Diocese of Covington  
Youth & Young Adult Ministry

## Diocesan Youth Commission Members

Deacon Gerald R. Franzen  
Bridget Kaiser  
Tina Klare  
Father Robert A. Rottgers  
Colleen Swaim  
Father Jeffrey Von Lehmen

## Mark your calendar

Live Out Loud: June 6-8; contact Tina Klare at [tklare@stjosephcsky.org](mailto:tklare@stjosephcsky.org).

Life Teen: Every Thursday 6-9 at St. Philip Church, Melbourne; contact Father Robert Rottgers at (859) 442-0290.

National Catholic Youth Conference: Nov. 17-20 in Indianapolis, Indiana; contact Jamie Schroeder at (859) 392-1527

## Volunteer contact information

Notre Dame Urban Education Center, (859) 261-4487

The Rose Garden Mission, (859) 491-7673

# Hey teens! Have faith this summer

**Maria Kues**

*Member of Newport Central Catholic Class of 2012*

It's finally here. You can smell the fresh breeze, you can feel the soft grass between your toes, and you can see the relief on the faces of young people. Summer has arrived. This means an end to mountains of homework and stress from impending due dates. Summer is a time to forget all of your worries and maybe be a little bit lazy. This season of relaxation is not meant to encourage young people to completely forget all obligations. The most important of these obligations is that of developing your faith. A break from school does not mean we are given a free pass to ignore our Catholic faith. Of course, excuses will be many. For example, since school is out, faith-building and service opportunities are not easy to come by. In our community, opportunities are always within reach – you just need the desire to find them.

There are a plethora of service opportunities available during the summer for everyone and anyone. Start off by reading a good book. It's a good idea to keep your brain juices flowing. But instead of just any book, try a spiritual book that will also keep your heart burning for Christ. Need a suggestion to get you started? There is a newly published author in the Diocese of Covington, Colleen Swaim. She is a teacher at Newport Central Catholic High School; her new book "Ablaze: Stories of Daring Teen Saints" is certain to inspire a life with Christ at its center.

Next, join a youth group. It will give you the chance to meet people your own age who are just as invested in their faith. Father Robert Rottgers, pastor for St. Philip Church, Melbourne, has organized a new LifeTeen. LifeTeen is a youth group open to all high school students from the Diocese of Covington. The new group meets at St. Philip Church in Melbourne every Thursday from 6-8 p.m., with free time to socialize until 9 p.m.

Another opportunity is Live Out Loud, a local mission trip June 6-8. During this two-and-a-half-day event, those who participate will walk, eat and live in solidarity with the local homeless. This eye-opening experience is sure to stir a spirit of gratitude and a desire to serve those who need your help.

Most importantly, do not forget to get to Mass every Sunday and to make use of the sacrament of penance as often as you can. Even if you go on vacation, plan ahead to find Catholic church near your destination.

If you are looking for a project during the summer that requires a true donation of your time, treasure and talent, the Diocese of Covington has a surplus of opportunities. Stay close to home and volunteer at your parish's summer festival or Bible school. The Rose Garden Mission in Covington is an amazing organization that definitely needs help. I, personally, know just how big an impact the Rose Garden makes on the community. It is a non-profit mission that supplies weekly groceries, clothes and baby care products for free to those in need. The Rose Garden is always looking for willing volunteers.

If you have a knack for teaching, try volunteering at the Notre Dame Urban Education Center, Covington. The program organizes volunteers to help needy children with tutoring and art and PE classes. These are just a few of the many agencies in need of volunteers. You can Google "volunteer opportunities in Northern Kentucky" and

find many more. What could be more spiritually rewarding than giving yourself in service? When you have nothing to do but stare at a T.V. screen for hours on end, enrich your summer with something truly worthwhile and volunteer.

As we say farewell to the seniors of our high schools, many of us will be taking on new exciting roles of leadership and importance. Some of us may be nervous, but if you need some confidence say a prayer for wisdom to be a good example at your school.

And to the seniors, as you take this new step towards your futures, keep God as your number one priority and your number one guide. Remember to check around your college campus for local Catholic churches and Newman Centers to keep your faith lively. Have a safe and blessed summer!



*Teens help out at the Rose Garden Mission, Covington, one of several local organizations seeking youth volunteers.*

## Graduation Prayer

Father,

I have knowledge, so will You show me now  
How to use it wisely and find a way somehow  
To make the world I live in a little better place,  
And make life with its problems a little bit easier to face.

Grant me faith and courage and put purpose in my days,  
And show me how to serve Thee in effective ways.  
So my education, my knowledge and my skill  
May find their true fulfillment as I learn to do Thy will.

And may I ever be aware in everything I do,  
That knowledge comes from learning, and wisdom  
comes from You.

Amen.

For more information on Youth & Young Adult Ministry call the Office of Catechesis and Formation at (859) 392-1533.

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# ACUE event celebrates past, present, future achievement

**Laura Keener**  
*Assistant Editor*

May 23 was an evening of celebration for the Alliance for Catholic Urban Education (ACUE). Bishop Roger Foys, together with Michael Clines, superintendent for Catholic schools, recognized scholarship winners and outstanding volunteers of the six ACUE elementary schools at the ACUE Spring Event held at Holy Trinity Junior High, Newport. Also that evening Covington Latin School, one of the three high schools also a part of ACUE (Newport Central Catholic and Holy Cross District High School are the other two) recognized two alumni.

Scholarship recipients who will continue their education at an ACUE Catholic high school are: Haley Mastin, Holy Cross Elementary, Latonia; Aireanna Curtis, Holy Family School, Covington; Addison Lawler, Holy Trinity Jr. High School, Newport; Katie Taylor, Prince of Peace School, Covington; Austin Cornett, St. Anthony School, Taylor Mill; and Tyler Owens, St. Augustine School, Covington.

This year's Outstanding Volunteers are: Heidi Graf, Holy Cross Elementary; Dee Martin, Holy Family School; Louis Simon, Prince of Peace School; Michelle Groeschel, St. Anthony School; and Joan VonHandorf, St. Augustine School.

Nick Cleves, alumnus of St. John Elementary School, Covington, (class of '39) and Covington Latin School ('43) received the Outstanding Graduate Award.

Graduating senior Andrew Bleha from Covington Latin School was this year's Alumni Scholarship recipient.




Keener photos

**Nick Cleves (second from left), alumnus of St. John Elementary School, Covington, and Covington Latin School received the Outstanding Graduate Award. He is joined by Michael Clines, superintendent of schools, wife Gertrude Cleves, son Msgr. William Cleves and Bishop Roger Foys.**

**(Inset) Covington Latin School headmaster Andrew Barczak congratulates Andrew Bleha, this year's Alumni Scholarship recipient.**

  
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 FATHER NICHOLAS ROTTMAN**  
 Ordained to the Priesthood May 21, 2011  
*Ad Multos Annos!*

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*Father Rottman "is giving his life and his will completely over to the Lord for service to His Church. ... May he always rely on the grace of the Lord to be at his side."*

—BISHOP FOYS, ORDINATION MASS HOMILY

Fitzgerald and Keener photos



**Anointing hands**

The Bishop anoints the hands of the newly ordained symbolizing the priest's distinctive participation in Christ's priesthood.



**First blessing**

As part of the Concluding Rite, the newly ordained priest gives his first blessing to the Bishop.



**Joyful mother**

Debbie Rottman, Father Rottman's mother, embraces her son, the newest priest serving the Diocese of Covington. Father Rottman said he is grateful to his parents, Bob and Debbie, and his grandfather Bob Rottman, Sr., for their dedication to his Catholic education and supporting him in his vocation.

**Laying on of hands**

Through the laying on of hands by the Bishop and the Prayer of Ordination, the gift of the Holy Spirit is conferred on the candidate.



**Promise of the elect**

The candidate, in the presence of the Bishop and all the faithful, expresses his resolve to carry out his office in accord with the mind of Christ and of the Church, under the Bishop's direction.



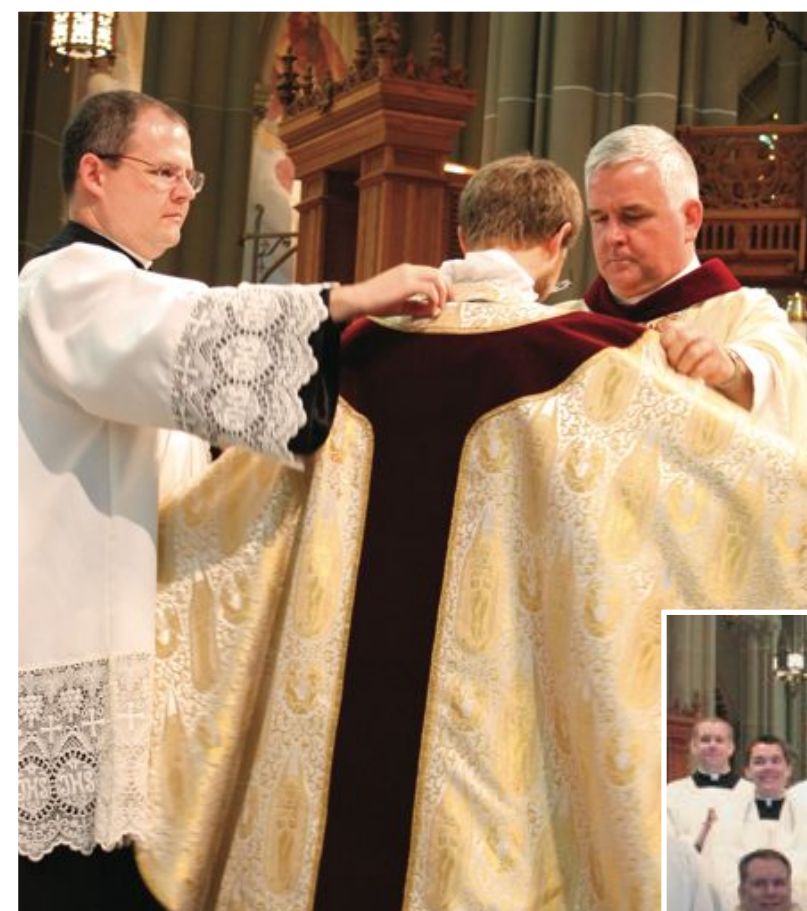
**Lying prostrate**

As the priest-candidate lies prostrate, the choir and congregation sing the litany of supplication, pleading for God's grace.

**Father Nicholas Rottman**

*Ordination*

MAY 21, 2011

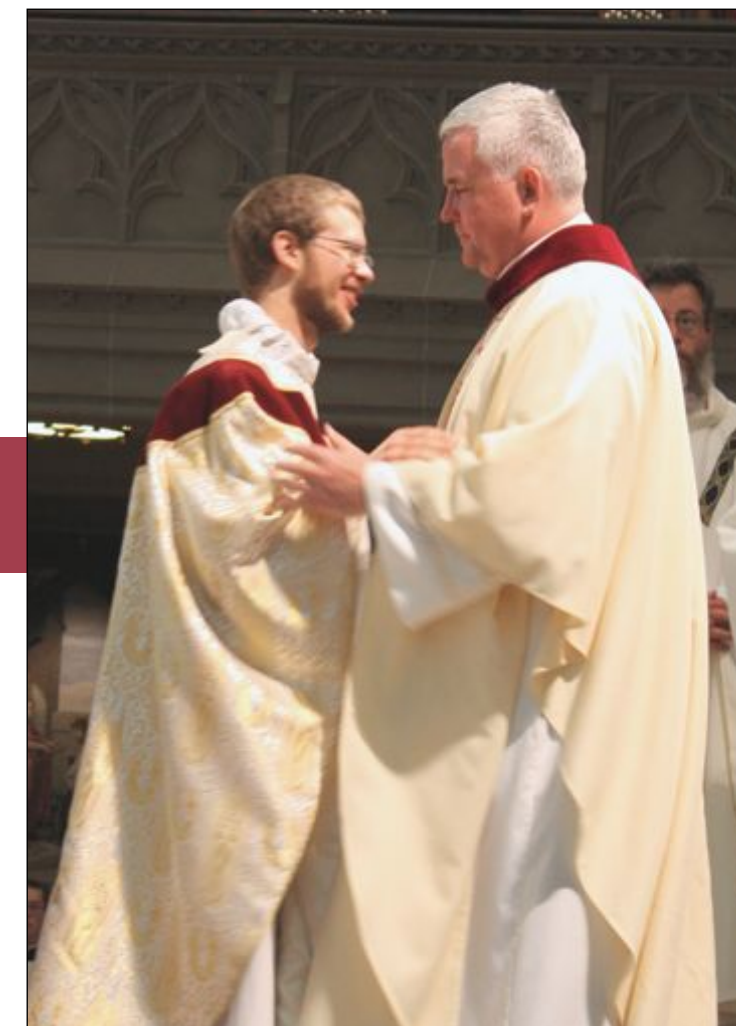


**Vesting the new priest**

Father Rottman is vested for the first time as a priest by Father Ryan Maher, pastor, St. Benedict Church, Covington, and Father Gerald Reinersman, pastor, St. Joseph Church, Cold Spring.

**Colleagues celebrate**

Bishops Foys, with the newly ordained priest, joins with seminarians for the diocese after the ordination ceremony.



**Greeting of peace and welcome**

This ancient greeting is given by the Bishop and all the priests present to the newly ordained priest.



*"Relying on the help of the Lord God and our Savior Jesus Christ, we choose this man, our brother, for the Order of the Priesthood."*

—BISHOP FOYS, FROM THE RITE OF ORDINATION

## PEOPLE AND EVENTS



**TV Mass.** The cathedral's 5:30 p.m. Mass May 29 will be shown live on ICN 6 on analog channel 99; digital channel 422.

Notre Dame Urban Education Center (NDUEC) is **seeking volunteers** who wish to help provide educational support services to young children in Covington. Tutors, artists, as well as PE monitors are greatly needed. NDUEC will be open for sum-

### Honoring Mary

**Sarah Appelman, eighth grader at St. Augustine School in Augusta, was given the honor of crowning Mary at the parish's annual May Crowning held on May 4.**

mer school June 13–July 14, Monday–Thursday, 9 a.m.–noon. If you have a couple hours a week to assist a child, call Mary Gray at 261-4487 or e-mail her at nduecvolunteer@sndky.org.

**Birth Parent Support Group**, an on-going and confidential support group open to anyone who has made an adoption plan for their child. The group meets the 3rd Monday of each Month, starting May 16, 6–7:30 pm at Catholic Charities, Covington. Call Monica Kuhlman at (859) 581-8974 ext. 125.

Rose Garden **"Nights of Prayer and Praise"** Wednesdays, 7 p.m. at the Rose Garden Mission, Covington.

**Life In The Spirit Seminar:** Are you looking for a closer relationship with Jesus Christ? Come and experience the power and the presence of the Holy Spirit. A LISS is being held on Tuesdays at 7:15 p.m., April 26–June 7, at St. Joseph Heights, Park Hills. Call 991-3860 or visit [www.cccovingtonky.org](http://www.cccovingtonky.org). Presented by the Mustard Seed Community, Catholic Charismatic Renewal, Diocese of Covington.

The **Catholic Alumni Club International** invites young adults to a fun weekend in St. Louis, Missouri, June 2–5. E-mail [valksr@yahoo.com](mailto:valksr@yahoo.com) or visit [www.csacstlouis.org](http://www.csacstlouis.org).

The St. Benedict Homeschool Association is coordinating its 2nd annual **Kentucky Catholic Homeschooling Conference** June 3-4. This year's theme is "Building the Domestic Church." For information and registration visit [www.kycatholichomeschooling.org](http://www.kycatholichomeschooling.org) or call (270) 307-6777.

Father DeJaco Knights of Columbus **fish fry** June 3, 4–8 p.m., 11186 Licking Pk. and Craft Rd., Alexandria. Call 635-9863 or visit [www.kofcdejaco.org](http://www.kofcdejaco.org).

The Mustard Seed Community, Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the Diocese of Covington, **First Friday Mass**, June 3, at Mother of God Church, Covington. Mass begins at 7:15 p.m. with praise and worship music by the Sacred Heart Praise Band. Prayer for healing will follow Mass. Call 341-5339 or visit [www.cccovingtonky.org](http://www.cccovingtonky.org).

The sixth annual Bishop Brossart High School **Lindsey Sendelbach memorial softball tournament** will be held June 4 at Kenton Lakes Sports Complex. To register call 240-2246 after 5 p.m. A dance follows at Duck Creek Country Club, Silver Grove.

Celebrate life June 5 at the sixth annual **Cross the Bridge for Life** beginning at 2 p.m. at the World

### Festivals

Holy Trinity/Divine Mercy, Bellevue: June 3 & 4

St. Anthony Church, Taylor Mill: June 3, 6 p.m., June 4, 5 p.m.

St. Joseph Church, Camp Springs: June 10, 6 p.m.; June 11, 4:30 p.m.

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Peace Bell, Newport. The family event includes face painting, balloons and food. Free t-shirts are available at the event. Visit [www.crossthebridgeforlife.com](http://www.crossthebridgeforlife.com) for information. Sponsored by the diocesan Pro-Life Office and other local life-affirming organizations.

As a fundraiser the Serra Club for Vocations, Northern Kentucky, is selling tickets for the June 8 **Florence Freedom baseball game**. If 100 tickets are sold Father Gregory Bach, diocesan vocations recruiter, will throw out the first pitch. Tickets are \$10; for a voucher call 392-1543 or e-mail [mmurray@covingtondiocese.org](mailto:mmurray@covingtondiocese.org).

The Italian Chefs at Father Kehoe Council #1764 will be serving an all-you-can-eat **spaghetti and meatball dinner** June 11, 4:30-7:30 p.m. Cost is \$6 adults; \$4 children. Call 261-2704.

You are invited to join members from the Cathedral parish on a **bus trip to Metamora, Indiana**, June 11. The bus leaves the Cathedral parking lot at 9 a.m. and returns at 4 p.m. Cost \$25. Call 431-2060.

"The Message in the Gospel Stories of Jesus' Early Life," **adult vacation Bible school** program led by Msgr. William Cleves, meets June 13-16, 6:30-8 p.m. in the parish center of St. Timothy Church, Union. Reservations required; download forms at [www.saint-timothy.org](http://www.saint-timothy.org). Freewill donations.

Bishop Brossart High School's **Father's Day 5K Run** will be held June 19, 8:15 a.m. at Bishop Brossart High School. Pre-registration, \$20; race day registration, \$25. E-mail [tiefle@yahoo.com](mailto:tiefle@yahoo.com) or visit [www.sprunning.com](http://www.sprunning.com).

All Saints Church, Walton, **Vacation Bible School**, June 20-24, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. for children ages 4 years to current sixth-grade age. No charge. To register call 485-4541 or 485-1505.

The Covington Cathedral Bishops' Choir members invite you to join them on a **trip to Baton Rouge, Louisiana**, June 23-30, on the occasion of Bishop Robert Muench's anniversary. The bus trip includes many highlights. Cost \$959. Brochures available online at [www.satcen.com/jpw/BatonRouge2011.pdf](http://www.satcen.com/jpw/BatonRouge2011.pdf). Call 282-2000, ext. 104.

The Ladies' Ancient Order of Hibernians of Northern Kentucky is sponsoring a 14-day **scenic tour through Ireland** July 13-26, 2011. The land-only package is \$2,069 per person. This trip is a fundraiser to allow continued giving to charities assisting the needy in the area. Call 341-7778 or 384-2944.

Newport Central Catholic High School invites all boys entering the sixth, seventh and eighth grade in the fall of 2011 to play on its **junior high football** team. If interested, please visit the school website,

[www.ncchs.com](http://www.ncchs.com), and navigate to the football page to download an application form.

**St. Catherine of Siena Church Seniors** invites all persons age 55+ to a catered lunch and card games the second Sunday of each month, 12:30 p.m. For details call (513) 614-1082.

**Summer camps**

**Camp All Star** for children going into grades 3-5. Campers will have fun while learning skills for making new friends, controlling anger, dealing with bullying and feeling better about themselves. The camp will be offered on July 18-22 from 8:30-noon at Catholic Charities, Latonia. Cost \$75. Call Shelia Dumford at 581-8974 or [www.covingtoncharities.org](http://www.covingtoncharities.org) for an application.

**Teen Talk**, a two-day summer program designed to empower young ladies to survive the middle school (seventh and eighth) drama. Camp will be held July 26-27, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Catholic Charities, Latonia. Cost is \$40. Call Shelia Dumford at 581-8974 or [www.covingtoncharities.org](http://www.covingtoncharities.org) for information and an application.

Thomas More College will offer a **Liberal Arts summer camp** July 18-22, 8:30 a.m.-noon, for sixth through ninth graders. It offers a creative curriculum delivered by the college's professors and involves group-based activities including: science experiments, storytelling and role playing, problem solving, musical interpretation, writing and film reviewing. Cost \$150. For information on this and other sports camps at TMC visit [thomasmore.edu/summercamps](http://thomasmore.edu/summercamps).

**Bishop Brossart High School:** visit [www.bishopbrossart.org](http://www.bishopbrossart.org).

**Covington Catholic High School** is offering three sports camps for grade school athletes this summer. Program specifics and registrations are online at [www.covcath.org/camps](http://www.covcath.org/camps).

**Holy Cross District High School:** Basketball camp for girls entering grades 3-8 from June 13-16, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the school gym, Latonia. Cost is \$40. Space is limited. To reserve your spot e-mail [HolyCrossGirlsHoops@gmail.com](mailto:HolyCrossGirlsHoops@gmail.com). Youth Cheer Camp for girls entering grades 1-8, June 20-22, 6-8:30 p.m. in the gym. \$35 per camper. Registration form online at [hchscov.com](http://hchscov.com) or call 431-1560 for more information.

**Newport Central Catholic High School** has posted on its website, [www.ncchs.com](http://www.ncchs.com), information and registration forms for their summer basketball and drama camps. Space is limited.

**Notre Dame Academy:** visit [www.ndapandas.org](http://www.ndapandas.org), click on Athletics

**St. Henry District High School** will host a girls' volleyball camp June 13-16. To register visit [www.shdhs.org](http://www.shdhs.org), click on athletics/girls volleyball.

**Villa Madonna Academy** — visit [www.villamadonna.net](http://www.villamadonna.net); click on Athletics, then click Summer Camps.



*Leadership Challenge winners*

Students from St. Henry District High School participated in the Anthony Munoz Annual Service Leadership Challenge in October. The project submitted and put into action by the students was chosen from among 105 participating schools from Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky as this year's best. The students attended an event on Fountain Square to receive their grand prize of \$2,000.00 from Mr. Munoz.

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## UPCOMING RETREATS AT THE JESUIT SPIRITUAL CENTER

### • SUMMER CONTEMPLATIVE RETREAT

Father Hans Koenen, SJ, from the Netherlands, will again lead this summer's contemplative retreat June 10-16. Father Koenen's retreats are in the tradition of Willigis Jager's mindfulness practice, common to Christian and Eastern meditation. It is a practice which leads one to St. Ignatius' examen of consciousness and finding God in all things. The retreat is for experienced practitioners as well as beginners, and will this year focus on the Sermon on the Mount.

### • PERSONALLY DIRECTED RETREATS

The Jesuit Spiritual Center is offering Personally Directed Retreats June 17-24, July 8-15 and July 29-Aug. 5. These individualized and silent retreats offer participants a quiet time spent in the tradition of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. Each day includes Mass and a 45-minute meeting with a carefully selected spiritual director. During the rest of the day, retreatants can spend time in contemplative and solitary activities, including prayer, journaling, reading, walking on the grounds, art and music. Although the retreats last for seven days, accommodation can be made for shorter stays.

### • INTIMACY WITH GOD

The Jesuit Spiritual Center is hosting two prayer retreats directed by Dr. Alex Aronis, both entitled Developing Intimacy with God. Dr. Aronis is pastor emeritus of Union Church of Manila, Philippines, and of Kenwood Baptist Church. He also served as a Navy chaplain. Dates for the retreats are Aug. 8-10 and Aug. 19-20.



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For more information on any of these retreats, or to register, call (513) 248-3500, ext. 10. Or visit our website at [www.jesuitspiritualcenter.com](http://www.jesuitspiritualcenter.com).



St. Mary Church is seen destroyed May 23 following a tornado in Joplin, Mo. At least 116 people died and thousands of structures wiped out in the twister that hit Sunday night in southwestern Missouri.

CNS photo/  
Catherine Koch via  
The Mirror

## Hospital takes direct hit from Joplin tornado

### Catholic News Service

JOPLIN, Mo. — A Catholic hospital in Joplin took a direct hit from a severe tornado that struck the city May 22. Within a day of the twister, 89 people were confirmed dead, with the number almost certain to rise as rescue teams searched amid the rubble for survivors.

St. John's Regional Medical Center was in the path of the tornado, variously described as being from a half-mile to a mile-and-a-half wide. A spokeswoman for the hospital told *The New York Times* May 23 that its 183 patients had been moved to other facilities. It was uncertain whether any perished during the storm. Telephone service to the hospital was cut off after the twister.

"Please keep the people of Joplin in our prayers, especially those whose lives were taken as well as those who lost loved ones," said a May 23 statement from Bishop James V. Johnston Jr. of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. "We pray especially for the people of St. Mary's Catholic Church and school who suffered a total loss as well as St. John's Mercy Hospital which sustained major damage."

In 1971, a major tornado struck Joplin, resulting in one death and 50 injuries. Joplin, in southwest Missouri near the borders of Kansas and Oklahoma, sits in "Tornado Alley," so called for the frequency and ferocity of the region's twisters.

The church, school and rectory buildings of St. Mary Church were all destroyed by the tornado, but the parish pastor, Father Justin Monaghan, was reported unhurt. "The pastor rode it out in the bathtub. He's fine," said Leslie Anne Eidson, editor of *The Mirror*, newspaper of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. "He's staying with a local parishioner right now."

At Joplin's other Catholic church, St. Peter the Apostle, parish administrator Elizabeth Runkle, told Catholic News Service May 23, "St. Peter's is fine. We're OK. We didn't have any damage. Everybody's fine." St. Peter

has an outreach center that they're trying to use to speed aid to victims, according to Eidson.

McAuley Catholic High School, which serves the city's two parishes, escaped damage, Eidson said. It was being used as an overflow triage center.

In a message posted on his Facebook page the evening of the storm, Father John Friedel, St. Peter's pastor, said: "Just got back from closing down the Catholic high school, which was opened as an overflow triage center. Our area of town was untouched, though the neighboring parish (20 blocks away) has probably lost their entire physical plant. ... I know you've all seen the footage of St. John's, our Catholic hospital, which is probably also a total loss!"

"Please keep our community in your prayers. ... There has been and will be much suffering. Such destruction and violence. ... Thanks, everyone, for your calls, texts and messages of support. Going to sleep now, so we can be at it again in the morning."

Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri was in Joplin and seeking donations to aid tornado victims, she added. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul also was coordinating its own relief efforts in the Joplin area, according to Eidson, who said the Convoy of Hope, which has a large operation in southwestern Missouri, had already established a base in Joplin.

Early estimates put 10 percent to 20 percent of the 50,000-population city's buildings as being damaged. Utility poles were uprooted by the tornado, making telephone communication difficult at best. Electricity and natural gas service was out in several sections of the city, with downed lines and dislodged pipes hampering search efforts. News accounts and Internet-posted photos and video were rife with flattened structures and twisted slabs of metal that had once been cars.

"The tornado has split Joplin in two," reported Eidson. Travel in and out of the city was difficult in the wake of the tornado, she added.

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# Archbishop Dolan, Rep. Ryan exchange letters on House's budget

**Dennis Sadowski**  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON— The president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the chief author of the recently passed House budget for 2012 have exchanged letters discussing the moral implications of the federal budget debate.

Archbishop Timothy P. Dolan of New York, USCCB president, said in a May 18 letter to Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., a Catholic who chairs the House Budget committee, that he was pleased to know that consideration was given to the foundational principles of Catholic social teaching in drafting the budget plan.

The archbishop's correspondence came in response to an April 29 letter from Ryan, who explained that the needs of the poor, the sick and the elderly were not being ignored and that it was a moral imperative to address the growing federal deficit in the budget as passed in the House. The Senate has yet to take up the budget.

Ryan's office released the letters May 19.

The House budget has been criticized by some Catholics who have said that it deviates from the basic tenets of Catholic social teaching. Specifically, they have raised concerns about how the plan would change Medicaid funding in the future, particularly harming children and women, how it would reshape Medicare and would likely reduce access to health care for the elderly, and how its plan to reduce the tax rate for high-income individuals would fuel the federal deficit.

Archbishop Dolan reminded Ryan that any budget must keep the needs of the poor as a priority.

He reiterated the guidelines he offered in a Jan. 14

letter to all members of Congress as well as those offered by Bishop Stephen E. Blaire of Stockton, Calif., chairman of the bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, and Bishop Howard J. Hubbard of Albany, N.Y., chairman of the Committee on International Justice and Peace, in an April 13 letter to the House as it debated the budget bill.

"In any transition that seeks to bring new proposals to current problems in order to build a better future, care must be taken that those currently in need not be left to suffer," Archbishop Dolan wrote. "I appreciate your assurance that your budget would be attentive to such considerations and would protect those at risk in the processes and programs of such a transition.

"While appreciating these assurances, our duty as pastors will motivate our close attention to the manner in which they become a reality," he said.

Archbishop Dolan took no stance on the House budget, however.

In his letter, Ryan explained to the USCCB president that he wanted to "provide facts about our budget to help advance an informed debate in light of social teachings about the well-being of the family, subsidiarity, the preferential option for the poor and the dignity of the human person."

The budget "honors responsibility to family and self work, self-restraint, community and self-government both individually and collectively," he wrote.

Ryan said the budget would reduce the country's debt by \$4.4 trillion and prevent Medicare from becoming insolvent. He also said it proposes that tax rates be "flattened and broadened" while closing loop-

holes that benefit upper income earners.

In doing so, he said, the budget "is intended to restore the confidence of job creators in order to encourage expansion, growth and hiring today."

Archbishop Dolan said he, Bishop Blaire and Bishop Hubbard welcomed further discussion on the budget.

## Pope asks space explorers about science, peace, earth

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI reached out to outer space to ask astronauts how their unique perspective from the frontier of the universe makes them think about difficult questions back on earth. In a video hookup May 21 between the Vatican and the International Space Station (ISS) in orbit around the earth, Pope Benedict asked the astronauts how science can help in the pursuit of peace and the need to protect a fragile planet. The group included space station crew and members of the final mission of the U.S. shuttle Endeavour. The pope praised the space travelers for their courage and commitment, and reminded them that after their extraordinary experience, they "must eventually come back down to earth like all the rest of us." His first question dealt with violence and war, and was addressed to the Endeavour mission commander, U.S. astronaut Mark Kelly, whose wife, Arizona Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, was still recovering after being critically injured in a shooting in January. Acknowledging the attack and wishing her a full recovery, the pope said, "When you are contemplating earth from up there, do you ever wonder about the way nations and people live together down here, about how science can contribute to the cause of peace?"

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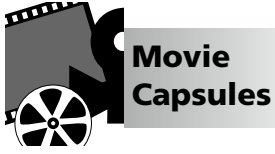
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**"Bridesmaids"** (Universal) Ill-tempered comedy in which a failed bakery owner (Kristen Wiig) finds the downward spiral of her fortunes accelerating after her lifelong best friend (Maya Rudolph) becomes engaged and asks her to serve as maid of honor. What follows — amid her frantic rivalry with another of the attendants — is a series of disastrous misadventures for the titular ensemble as a whole (which also includes



Melissa McCarthy, Ellie Kemper and Wendi McLendon-Covey) as well as a potentially winning but prematurely physical romance pairing the heroine with

a local policeman. As written by Wiig and Annie Mumolo, director Paul Feig's stumble toward the altar starts with a graphic, commitment-free bedroom scene and proceeds to lift the veil, to supposedly humorous effect, on other uninviting matters such as the symptoms of food poisoning. Explicit nonmarital sexual activity, much sexual and scatological humor, a same-gender kiss, at least a half-dozen uses of profanity and pervasive rough and crude language. Catholic News Service classification: O; Motion Picture Association of America rating: R.

**"Cave of Forgotten Dreams"** (IFC) Spellbinding 3-D documentary on the 32,000-year-old paintings in the Chauvet cave of southern France. Director Werner Herzog includes frank discussions of paintings and sculptures of nude women, making this better appreciated by mature adolescents, just as with any other visit to an art museum. Herzog uses the 3-D technolo-

gy to expertly capture the paintings in the depth they were meant to convey when they were created in the Paleolithic Era. CNS: A-II; MPAA: G.

**"Jumping the Broom"** (TriStar) Faith-tinged family comedy about the lead-up to a Martha's Vineyard wedding between a postal worker's (Loretta Devine) son (Laz Alonso) and the daughter (Paula Patton) of a wealthy couple. Director Salim Akil and screenwriters Elizabeth Hunter and Arlene Gibbs embrace all the familiar conventions of upscale vs. downscale. But they make poor use of a clergyman (played by real-life Bishop T.D. Jakes) who offers useful advice early on but is absent when the families have to deal with serious issues. Mature themes; fleeting, mild sexual banter; and a couple of references to masturbation. CNS: A-III; MPAA: PG-13.

**"Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides"** (Disney) In the adequate fourth movie inspired by the amusement park ride, Captain Jack Sparrow (Johnny Depp) leads various seafarers — his nemesis Captain Barbossa (Geoffrey Rush), an old flame (Penelope Cruz) and the evil pirate Blackbeard (Ian McShane) — to the Fountain of Youth. Applying a Broadway musical sensibility, director Rob Marshall ("Chicago") cannot dispel the feeling that the franchise has grown long in the tooth. Although admirably straightforward, the picture lacks visual grandeur and the jolly, swashbuckling energy that has made the series so popular. Recurring action-adventure violence and peril, including nongraphic knife play and swordplay; some lightly suggestive humor and innuendo; several scary sequences; one rude expression; and frequent alcohol consumption. CNS: A-II; MPAA: PG-13.

**"Priest"** (Screen Gems) This malign futuristic horror exercise, set after an apocalyptic war in which a distorted version of the Catholic Church helped humanity to defeat a race of vampires, sees the consecrated warrior of the title (Paul Bettany) defying his dictatorial religious superiors (led by Christopher Plummer) — who now hold Big Brother-style sway over society — to go in quest of his niece abducted during a fresh outbreak of bloodsucker violence. Allying himself with the girl's boyfriend, he also gains the help of a disenchanted priestess as together they battle to thwart the ambitions of a new, seemingly invincible chieftain of the undead (Karl Urban). Director Scott Stewart's adaptation of Min-Woo Hyung's series of graphic novels depicts sacramental practice in a borderline blasphemous way, appropriates cherished Christian symbols to its own, often violent ends, and presents the Church as a corrupt, evil force against which its hero is honor-bound to rebel. Pervasive anti-

Catholicism, sometimes approaching sacrilege; much morbid, occasionally bloody violence; at least one use of profanity and of the F-word; and a few crude and crass terms. CNS: O; MPAA: PG-13.



CNS photo/Disney

Johnny Depp, center, stars in a scene from the movie "Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides."

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**Step 2: Register at www.virtus.org.** To register, visit www.virtus.org and click on "registration" and follow the prompts.

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- St. Joseph Academy, Walton (Hall)  
Saturday, Sept. 10, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Bulletins will begin** only after you have completed your live training and been processed. You will receive e-mail notices that say system@pub.virtus.org unless your computer program blocks them. Access your bulletins (12 per year), using these directions:

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- Click on TRAINING at top toolbar
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- Click on TRAINING REPORT
- Click on (CLICK FOR DETAILS)
- Choose a bulletin to read
- Hit SUBMIT after finishing EACH article.

■ May Bulletin: posted May 1; due May 31

**To Update Your Account:**

Do you need to change contact information or where you volunteer?

- www.virtus.org
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For full reviews of each of these films — go to [www.covingtondiocese.org](http://www.covingtondiocese.org), visit the Messenger page, and click on [www.catholicnews.com](http://www.catholicnews.com) or call 1-800-311-4CCC.

Catholic News Service (CNS) classifications are:

- A-I — general patronage;
- A-II — adults and adolescents;
- A-III — adults;
- L — limited adult audience (films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling);
- O — morally offensive.

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# Pennsylvania House approves regulations for abortion clinics

**Elena Perri**

*Catholic News Service*

PHILADELPHIA — The Pennsylvania House of Representatives passed legislation May 12 that would require abortion clinics to adhere to the same standards as other outpatient health facilities in the state.

The measure, H.B. 574, mandates more stringent fire and safety regulations, personnel and equipment requirements, and adherence to quality assurance procedures as is currently required of the state's ambulatory surgical facilities, such as laser eye surgery centers or colonoscopy clinics.

The bill passed by a vote of 148 to 43 and will be sent to the state Senate.

It began as a response to a grand jury report that detailed deplorable conditions at the Women's Medical Society, a clinic that Dr. Kermit Gosnell ran in West Philadelphia.

The report cited illegal late-term abortions that Gosnell performed there, which led to the death of one woman and at least seven newborn babies. The deaths, according to the report, resulted from "the reckless and illegal manner in which Gosnell operated his clinic."

"The investigation of Dr. Gosnell's government-approved clinic revealed filthy, unsafe conditions and evidence that unlicensed workers illegally treated

patients," said Amy Hill, communications director for the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference, the public policy arm of the state's bishops.

"Basic standards of cleanliness and infection control were not met. The office had no access for a stretcher in the case of an emergency. Exit doors were padlocked shut or blocked, resulting in a delay in the ability to respond in previous emergencies," she said.

According to Hill, other free-standing ambulatory surgical facilities must comply with regulations designed to protect their patients.

"They are subject to unannounced annual inspections and sanctions or fines for not meeting the most basic health standards," she said. "Clinics are required to have a registered nurse on site, follow infection control and equipment sterilization procedures, and must accommodate emergency equipment. Therefore, if a crisis occurs, the ambulance crew can get a stretcher into the clinic and quickly get the patient to a hospital."

Hill added that the failure to require basic health standards and the practice of the Pennsylvania Department of Health to refrain from inspections "allowed for the existence of this horrific abortion clinic. House Bill 574 will prevent this from happening again."

"The need for reform is evident," said Rep. Matt Baker, the Republican who wrote the bill. "We cannot

allow the type of treatment endured by women at a West Philadelphia clinic to continue there or anywhere else."

"Simply put, under House Bill 574 the state's abortion industry would not be exempt from common-sense safety standards that apply to other ambulatory surgery centers," he said in a statement. "Abortion centers are performing serious surgical procedures and should be regulated in state law to prevent the horrors that transpired in the Philadelphia abortion clinic."

Hill said critics of the bill claim abortion clinics will be forced to close if they must comply with regulations they call "cumbersome."

"To comply, some (clinics) may have to make changes," she said. "They claim a similar law in Texas put 18 of 20 abortion providers 'out of business, never to return.'"

Hill said the statement is misleading, noting that an Internet search for abortion facilities in Texas revealed there are "at least 25 facilities performing the procedure all across the state. In fact, the number of abortions in Texas has increased in recent years, not decreased."

She said it is not clear whether abortion clinics in Pennsylvania would close as a result of the legislation.

Instead, she said, "Pennsylvanians will agree that it is reasonable to expect clinics where surgical abortions are performed to be held to the same standard as a clinic performing any other surgical procedure."

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## National/World

### Review board members say work proceeds unimpeded

WASHINGTON — Members of seven diocesan review boards that consider clergy sex abuse cases said their work never has been impeded by diocesan officials or Church hierarchy as they developed recommendations on whether an accusation was credible or not. The review board members also said they worked collaboratively with officials within their dioceses to ensure that priests who posed a danger to children were removed from ministry as quickly as possible. Review board members talked about their work in response to inquiries from Catholic News Service following an account by the chair of the Philadelphia review board criticizing archdiocesan officials. Ana Maria Catanzaro, who chairs Philadelphia's board, charged in *Commonweal* magazine May 12 that Church officials failed "miserably at being open and transparent" in their dealings with board members. In response, the archdiocese explained that its understanding of the best way to investigate and act on abuse allegations, especially those not pursued by civil authorities, has continuously changed over the years. The archdiocese has pledged to "improve that process from beginning to end." Catanzaro's revelations cast a shadow on the work of review boards across the country and likely will open the review board structure to deeper examination by victims' advocates and the U.S. bishops.

### Catholics minister to veterans with chaplains of many faiths

NEW YORK — Catholics who minister to our nation's military veterans help aging soldiers heal from past wars and support men and women trying to resume civilian life after multiple tours of duty in distant outposts. They work alongside chaplains of many faiths, in multidisciplinary teams that treat the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual wounds of people whose relationship with God may have been severely challenged by the sights of war. Through it all, they strive to bring Christ into the world through their words, deeds and actions, "as imperfect as they are," according to *Voluntas Dei* Father Andrew Sioleti. He is the chief of the chaplain service and supervisor of chaplain training for the Department of Veterans Affairs New York Harbor Healthcare System. Father Sioleti is responsible for 15 full- and part-time chaplains who serve patients at two veterans' hospitals in Manhattan and Brooklyn, a long-term care facility in Queens and three clinics in Staten Island, Brooklyn and Manhattan. They also visit homebound veterans. In 2010, the chaplains provided individual spiritual counseling to more than 6,100 people and reached 7,700 others through spirituality and worship groups. Among the more than 50,000 patients served each year by the New York Harbor Healthcare System, Father Sioleti said the largest group is Vietnam-era veterans. There also are veterans of the Korean conflict and the Second World War. He said the fastest-growing and most diverse group is returning from service in Iraq and Afghanistan. They are seeking help with substance abuse and mental health issues, Father Sioleti said in an interview with Catholic News Service. "There are younger folks, in their 20s and early 30s, who served two and three tours and there are folks in their 40s, who joined the Reserves and ended up on active duty. We see parents bringing in their adult children as patients and we have veterans coming in for treatment with little children in tow. The staff is getting used to accommodating 5-year-olds," he said.

### Caritas assembly opens looking at relationship with Vatican

ROME — Whether they are tiny, all-volunteer organizations or agencies with hundreds of professional employees working around the globe, Catholic charities are called to be expressions of God's love and the Catholic Church's concern for the poor, said the cardinal-president of Caritas Internationalis. Honduran Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga of Tegucigalpa, president of the confederation of 165 national Catholic charities, opened the weeklong Caritas general assembly May 22 in Rome. While a central focus of the meeting was to be new statutes that would strengthen Vatican oversight of Caritas Internationalis, the gathering also marked the 60th anniversary of the confederation, which was celebrated with a daylong trip May 21 on a vintage steam train that boarded at the Vatican train station. The festive atmosphere of the train trip was a contrast to the businesslike atmosphere of the general assembly, especially as it prepared to elect new officers, including a

new secretary-general after the Vatican Secretariat of State decided not to give the current secretary-general, Lesley-Anne Knight, its blessing to run for a second four-year term. "We all would have loved to continue our journey with the current secretary-general," Cardinal Rodriguez said in his opening address. "The way she was not allowed to stand as a candidate ... has caused grievance in our confederation," especially among the women working for Caritas, he said. The cardinal said a dialogue with the Vatican Secretariat of State about the new Caritas statutes formally began in February; because the dialogue is ongoing, he asked delegates to authorize the Caritas executive board to conclude the discussions with the Vatican and adopt provisional rules that would be in force until the next general assembly in 2015.

### Cardinal George reinstates vocal priest as pastor of parish

CHICAGO — Father Michael Pflieger, who was placed on administrative leave from his position as pastor of an African-American parish on Chicago's South Side has been reinstated by Cardinal Francis E. George and agreed to develop a transition plan for the future of the parish. The outspoken priest, longtime pastor of St. Sabina Church, was placed on leave April 27 three weeks after he said in an interview on national radio that he would leave the Catholic Church if he were to be reassigned. In simultaneous statements May 20, both clergymen said the Church had been hurt by the conflict and that it was time to heal the rift that had developed. Father Pflieger apologized for his remarks, saying if they "seemed to be a threat to leave the priesthood, I am sorry. That was not my intention. I am committed to the priesthood and the Catholic Church." He also agreed to develop the transition plan and present it to Cardinal George and the diocesan Priests' Placement Board by Dec. 1. Cardinal George's statement indicated that he asked the priest, who is white and well known for his social activism and outspokenness on racism, to "take time to pray about his personal faith and his commitment to the Catholic priesthood."

### Cities along swollen river prepare for worst, hope for best

BATON ROUGE, La. — Preparing for the worst and hoping for the best is the approach being taken by those making decisions about the flooding Mississippi River and the effects of opening spillways to divert floodwater onto farmland to spare towns and cities in its path. When the Army Corps of Engineers opened the first floodgate in the Morganza spillway north of Baton Rouge May 14, evacuation orders were given to those living in the area that would be flooded by the Mississippi's record high waters. Annual notices are sent to people with homes in the flood plain reminding them that their property could be flooded if the spillway is opened. So, the sentiment from most people is they know the situation and the measures that must be taken to protect the major metropolitan areas of Baton Rouge and New Orleans and many other smaller cities in between. More flood gates were being opened to ease the water pressure on the levees lining both sides of the Mississippi River past New Orleans. Because the water was being diverted, flood crests that had been predicted to be at historic levels will be lower. In the Baton Rouge Diocese, Catholic Charities' office of disaster and direct financial assistance of the Diocese of Baton Rouge is included in a daily conference call with state and local officials discussing what actions need to be taken to protect people and property. The diocesan agency's disaster management team "was activated May 5 and has been in daily contact with the Office of Emergency Preparedness and the Emergency Operations Center," said C.J. Roy, who is coordinating Catholic Charities' work with government officials. "We are identifying the areas that are affected and how we can mitigate what is going on," Roy told *The Catholic Commentator*, Baton Rouge's diocesan newspaper. The Catholic agency is on standby and ready to assist whenever the time comes, Roy added.

### Doctrinal congregation: Small Vatican office has broad reach

VATICAN CITY — As two recent documents illustrate, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith keeps an eye on almost everything coming out of the Vatican. Although it has fewer than 50 employees, including ushers and receptionists, whatever any Vatican office does or says having to do with faith and morals is a matter that falls under the congregation's gaze. As the heir of the Holy Office of the

Inquisition — and housed in a building still known as the Palace of the Holy Office — the congregation often is portrayed as an agency almost exclusively dedicated to seeking out errant theologians and condemning their writings. The congregation does review books that bishops' conferences bring to its attention, especially if the book presents itself as explaining Catholic morals or doctrine and is widely used in schools of theology or seminaries. But since Pope Benedict XVI was elected in 2005 and U.S. Cardinal William J. Levada was appointed to succeed him as the congregation's prefect, the office has issued only one formal public criticism of written works: a notification about two books by a liberation theologian, Jesuit Father Jon Sobrino. More and more, the congregation's pronouncements involve the application of Catholic moral teaching to questions concerning the very beginning and very end of human life. Biotechnology, the use of human embryos, politics and abortion, euthanasia and the care of the dying all have been topics of recent documents.

### Dialogue group praises schools where Catholics, Muslims study

VATICAN CITY — Schools where Christians and Muslims study together, as they do at many Catholic schools in the Middle East, should be supported and cherished by both communities because they promote dialogue and lead to real friendships, said dialogue participants. Delegations representing the Vatican and the Royal Institute of Interfaith Studies in Jordan met in Rome May 18-19 to discuss "human and religious values shared by Christians and Muslims for a common education." A statement released May 20 by the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue said participants affirmed that "Christians and Muslims share basic human values like the sacred character of human life, human dignity and the fundamental inalienable rights deriving from it." They said even some strictly religious values are shared by Christians and Muslims, although other tenets of faith are not. Religious education programs must make those differences clear, but without "antagonism or conflict," they said. "Helping the youth to be well rooted in their own religious identity," participants said, leads to a secure self-identity that is not threatened by others.

### New app to link people, send prayers to Holy Land

ROME — A new iPad application developed by two priests will send users news, videos and photos from the Holy Land and let people send prayers via "virtual candles." The new app, called "Terra Sancta," was to be launched in English, Spanish, French and Italian at the Apple Store in mid-May, according to a May 18 press release by the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land. Hebrew and Arabic were to be made available at a later date. App users receive news from the custodia.org website as well as videos and high definition photographs produced by the Franciscan Media Center. The application lets users have "information on what is happening in the holy places, news and videos on the life of the custody, and photos of celebrations, events and people," the press release said. The content can be shared on Facebook and Twitter, it said. Users can also "light a candle for the Holy Land" by sending prayers and messages to the custody, it said.

### Allies pressed Pope Pius to be silent on Nazi deportations

MANCHESTER, England — U.S. and British diplomats discussed exerting pressure on Pope Pius XII to be silent about the Nazi deportations of Hungarian Jews, according to newly discovered documentation. The British feared that the wartime pope might make a "radio appeal on behalf of the Jews in Hungary" and that in the course of his broadcast would "also criticize what the Russians are doing in occupied territory." Sir Francis D'Arcy Osborne, the British ambassador to the Vatican, told an American diplomat that "something should be done to prevail upon the pope not to do this as it will have very serious political repercussions." Osborne's comments were made to Franklin C. Gowen, an assistant to Myron Taylor, the U.S. special representative to the Vatican. Gowen recorded the conversation in a letter to Taylor, saying he had promised Osborne that he would bring his concerns to the "immediate attention" of the U.S. ambassador. "It was understood that, pending your reaction, he would not take any steps vis-a-vis the Holy See," Gowen told Taylor.

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