



## Bicentennial observance begins



The Diocese of Richmond's bicentennial observance began Saturday, Jan. 18, with Mass at Sacred Heart, Norfolk. Left: Bishop Barry C. Knestout delivers the homily at the celebration. (Photo/Michael Mickle) Right: Members of the Fil-Am Choir from St. Gregory the Great, Virginia Beach, sing the offertory hymn. (Photo/Vy Barto)



Left: Members of parishes throughout the Eastern Vicariate pray during the celebration that commemorated the arrival of the Right Reverend Patrick Kelly, first bishop of Richmond, in Virginia. Right: More than 600 people, including 42 priests and 20 deacons, filled the church. (Photos/Michael Mickle) Story, more photos on Pages 8 and 9.

### Inside This Edition

For chef, a  
life of faith,  
family, food  
Page 4

Why Catholic  
judges are under  
the microscope  
Page 6

Pay attention  
to divine  
promptings  
Page 11



# Stewardship integral to models of Catholic education



**CHRIST OUR HOPE**  
MOST REV. BARRY C. KNESTOUT

One of the most treasured gifts I have received during my life are the years of education that took place in Catholic schools. Of all my years of formal education, 10 years were in Catholic schools and 10 were in state run, or public schools.

I greatly appreciate the role Catholic school education had in helping me discern my vocation and in preparing me for service to the Church. It built upon the foundation of faith that my parents handed on to me through their devotion and example.

I attended Catholic grade school in the midst of the baby boom. We were taught by the Sisters of St. Joseph who received minimal salaries. Tuition was low — a welcome accommodation for our family of nine children. My school had two classes of 40 students each in every grade. That was not uncommon for Catholic school classrooms at that time; other Catholic schools would have as many as 60 students taught by one religious who worked without an aide.

Our education centered upon the “four R’s” — reading, ‘riting, ‘rithmetic and religion. The last of these permeated every subject we were taught. We attended a no-frills school. There was no science lab, no gym and no lunchroom — we ate at our desks. Our playground was the church parking lot on which we played tag or dodgeball.

What I experienced was the story for generations of Catholics who attended Catholic schools. Today, the narrative is different. Due to a number of factors that converged, i.e., fewer religious sisters and brothers teaching necessitating the hiring of full-time lay teachers, couples having fewer children, changing demographics, specialized services requiring smaller class sizes, increased competition from public schools with newer infrastructure and a wider range of educational services, the economic model for Catholic schools throughout the country changed.

While the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore in 1884 required every parish to have a school,

that expectation could no longer be realized.

During the last 50 years, that economic reality has led to the development of innovative initiatives and models for maintaining the financial viability for Catholic schools. Among them are building endowments for scholarships, establishing regional schools and seeking participation from the civic realm in the form of tax credits and voucher programs.

Large-scale fundraising is a necessity for our schools. Some schools, like Benedictine and St. Gertrude in Richmond, are cooperating in new models of education to add economies of scale yet retain their distinct history and educational model.

We have seen the introduction of work-study programs like the one at Cristo Rey Richmond High School, where five students from economically challenged families share a job with a local business. This employment income covers a significant portion of the cost of the education for them.

Whether your parish has a school or not, Catholic school education is everyone’s responsibility. Our diocesan parishes share in that common responsibility because of the significant way our schools can prepare people for a life of faith. That is why a portion of the assessment is dedicated to support scholarships and Catholic schools.

Even those who are not living in proximity to a Catholic school can support it through their prayers, financial contributions and advocacy. For instance, there is an urgent need to keep Virginia’s Education Improvement Scholarships Tax Credits (EISTC) in place. These tax credits allow more children from middle income families to access scholarship money so that their families do not have to bear the full tuition costs.

The value of Catholic education to our Church must also be seen in light of the stewardship that we, as diocese and parishes, must practice. The blunt reality is that without endowments and other sources of financial support beyond tuition, if they cannot sustain themselves through tuition, fundraising efforts, adequate enrollment and other local support, schools will close.

While Catholic school education was integral in my faith formation, the parish religious education program during my high school years was a key aspect of my vocation to the priesthood. I have great affection for the laity who volunteered countless hours to handing on the faith, especially through our diocesan ECHO (Encountering Christ in Others) high school retreat program.

Our parish religious education programs are a different but just as important model for handing on the faith to our children and young adults who are educated in public schools. That model involves a direct link to parish life and the sacraments, relying heavily upon parents and volunteer catechists to hand on the faith by word and example.

Stewardship is a foundation block in every model of Catholic education — school or religious education program. With the former, stewardship requires a large financial commitment if the schools are going to survive and, more importantly, thrive. With the latter, volunteers and parishioner involvement in parish catechetical programs are imperative.

Our Catholic mission remains: We must hand on the faith to our children with the model that is effective and financially sustainable. Please continue to pray for all who are involved in that transmission of our faith.

## BISHOP’S SCHEDULE

### Wednesday, Jan. 29

Invocation to House of Delegates  
State Capitol, 11:30 a.m.

### Saturday, Feb. 1

Mass: Blessing of Candles  
Cathedral of the Sacred Heart,  
Richmond, 5:15 p.m.

### Sunday, Feb. 2

Mass: Crozet Parish Visit  
Field School, 10 a.m.

### Thursday, Feb. 6

Mass: St. Olaf, Williamsburg, 5 p.m.

# CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

## 1820 — TIME CAPSULE — 2020

*Throughout the Catholic Diocese of Richmond’s bicentennial year, a time capsule recalling a particular time in diocesan history is scheduled to be published in each issue of The Catholic Virginian. The bicentennial time capsules have been researched and compiled by Father Anthony E. Marques, chair of the Catholic Diocese of Richmond’s Bicentennial Task Force.*

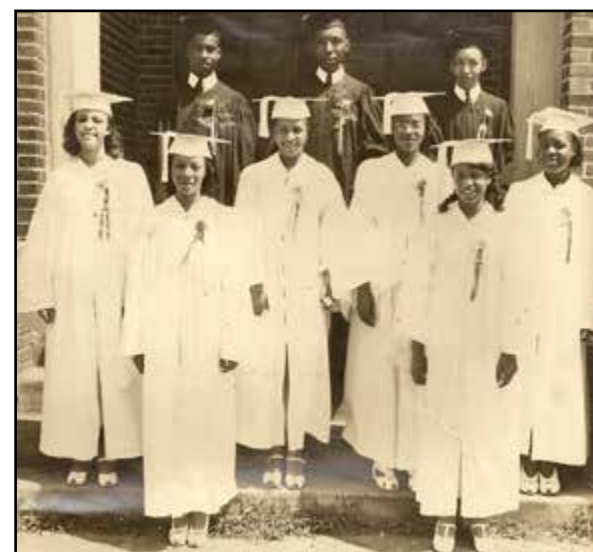
In the Catholic Diocese of Richmond, as elsewhere in the United States, Catholic schools helped generations of Catholics hand on their faith and advance professionally in a society that was sometimes hostile to them. Catholic Schools Week (Jan. 26 – Feb. 1) renews the mission of these institutions to educate and inspire witness to the Catholic faith.

In Portsmouth, Our Lady of Victory School educated African Americans for over 30 years,

leading some of them to enter the Catholic Church (1930–1964). This school was staffed by the Daughters of Charity from Emmitsburg, Md.

When Catholic schools in Portsmouth were integrated, Our Lady of Victory School and St. Paul’s Central High School were merged into Portsmouth Catholic High School (1964–1991). Since 1993, Catholic High School in Virginia Beach has served all Catholic students in Tidewater.

In the western region of the diocese, Roanoke Catholic School began as St. Andrew School in 1889. The Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Kentucky, joined the staff in 1893. Our Lady of Nazareth and St. Andrew consolidated their schools to form Roanoke Catholic School in 1950, with elementary grades added in 1985. Roanoke Catholic School continues the legacy of Catholic education in the Roanoke Valley.



**The Class of 1941 — the second graduating class from Our Lady of Victory School, Portsmouth.**



# For chef, a life of faith, family and food

Award-winning Roanoke chef feeds 500 students daily

KAREN ADAMS

Special to The Catholic Virginian

Roanoke chef Peter Radjou and his wife, Sara, wrap their days in prayer: both pray a morning rosary in their cars on the way to work, and both pray a novena on their routes home at night. When they walk out their front door, they make the Sign of the Cross and ask for safety and guidance, as they were taught by their parents in India.

"We pray for everything — our family, our friends, our work, our community," Peter said.

He carries a rosary given to him by his mother-in-law, Maria Theresa Bala, and at home prays with another rosary that belonged to his late mother, Catherine.

The Radjous' prayer life is the foundation for their busy days of running two Roanoke restaurants and Peter's weekday job as the beloved chef at Roanoke Catholic School, where he has worked since 2012.

On an average school day, Peter, 56, feeds about 300 students. But on Tikka Masala day once a month, he makes up to 400 meals for students, as well as parents and visitors who come for the fragrant chicken curry ladled over rice and served with na'an flatbread.

For many students, Peter's signature dish has been their introduction to Indian cuisine.

"And sometimes we see the children bringing their parents into our restaurants, saying, 'You have to try this food,'" he said with a smile.

On a recent Monday, college students Martha Drapac and Jesse Derringer, both 20 and both 2018 RCS graduates, returned to the cafeteria on their winter break to enjoy lunch. Although it wasn't Tikka Masala day, Drapac noted

that she had learned how to make that dish during one of Peter Radjou's occasional cooking classes.

"He taught us skills as well as recipes," Drapac said. "I tell people about how remarkable he is."

"I bought my lunch pretty much every day because I love everything he cooks," added Derringer, who had just finished a chicken quesadilla.

"Peter is a gift to all of us at Roanoke Catholic School," said principal Patrick Patterson. "His love for people in the Roanoke Valley is unmatched, and his passion for our faith is an inspiration."

Growing up in Chennai in southern India, Peter learned to cook by watching his parents. His late father, Alexis, was an engineer who loved being in the kitchen as much as his wife Catherine did, and Peter followed their example.

He attended culinary school in Chennai and spent several years working for cruise lines, hotels and restaurants worldwide before accepting a restaurant job in Roanoke in 2002 and later moving his family from Washington, D.C.

Sara, 50, also grew up in Chennai. She worked as a teacher and bank teller before the family opened its first neighborhood restaurant, Taaza, in 2006. She is the manager of that business.

Daughter Cathy, 24, is a financial services representative at a Roanoke bank and is earning a master's degree in management online from The Catholic University of America. She is her dad's partner at Food Fanatics Kitchen. Her sister, Alice, 19, is studying physical therapy at Shenandoah University and helps out when she is home.

"We could not do this without



The Radjou family, from left: Cathy, Sara, Peter and Alice, at Our Lady of Nazareth, Roanoke, on Christmas Eve 2019. (Courtesy of the Radjou family)

all of us working together," said Sara. "We are all very close, and we discuss things and pray together as a family."

Active members of the community, the Radjous are well known for their generosity in catering fundraising events and donating food. They're also known for praying the rosary in St. Andrew's chapel downtown before leading RCS students into the sanctuary for Mass on Tuesdays.

Every Christmas, they prepare a feast for homeless guests at the Rescue Mission. At their parish, Our Lady of Nazareth, they are surrounded by friends and admirers after Mass.

But Peter's culinary skill is known beyond the Roanoke Valley. In 2018, he won the Baconfest Virginia competition and advanced to win first place in his category at the World Food Championship held in New Orleans later that year.

After that win, Cathy said, people were asking where they could try the award-winning dishes that

were not available at Taaza, which serves traditional Indian food.

Cathy had always dreamed of owning a restaurant, so she and Peter opened Food Fanatics Kitchen in February 2019. The eclectic menu has the Radjou touch: complex flavors in an American menu, with "Indian fusion" influences in the wood-fired pizzas and other dishes.

"This is the food we have at home, so we're basically inviting people into our kitchen," Cathy said. "I am so grateful for this opportunity. I trust God's plan for my life."

With such busy lives, prayer is the Radjous' spiritual food. Before leaving each morning to pray their rosaries on the road, they pray for at least half an hour at home.

"Peter's list of prayer requests is so long," said Sara. "So many people ask him to pray for them. The list gets longer every day."

Peter nodded.

"I'm happy to pray for them, because we owe everything to the grace of God," he said.

Peter and Sara Radjou pray during Mass at Our Lady of Nazareth, Roanoke, on Sunday, Jan. 12. The couple pray a rosary on their way to work in the morning and pray a novena on the way home at night.

(Photo/Karen Adams)





# \$1M gift gives school Future Full of Hope

Anonymous donor invests \$100K annually in St. Mary's

KRISTEN L. BYRD

Special to The Catholic Virginian

Father Michael Renninger, pastor of St. Mary Parish in Richmond for the past 10 years, has seen his parish band together before. They've raised thousands of dollars for various social justice projects and ministries, helped build and support a school at their sister parish in Haiti, built and eliminated the debt for their new church, renovated their elementary school, and planned numerous events and outreach programs.

Now, with the help of an anonymous donor, they are going one step further in securing a Future Full of Hope for the students at St. Mary's Catholic School, which provides education for students in Pre-K through eighth grade.

Recently, an individual approached Father Renninger and simply said they "wanted to do something for the school."

That something was a pledge of \$100,000 a year for 10 years, for a total of \$1 million, dedicated to a new scholarship program.

"This donor believes that the educational environment of a school like St. Mary's has the ability to change the lives of students," said Father Renninger. "The donor also believes that Catholic education makes a difference in the lives of families and is a positive force which will help to shape the future of our country."

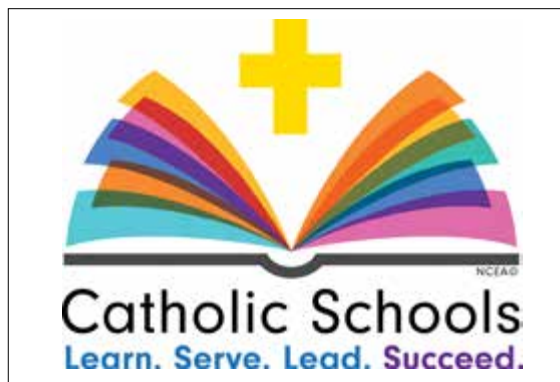
## Opportunity to know Jesus

St. Mary's decided to call the scholarship program "Future Full of Hope" after a Bible passage in which God speaks through the prophet Jeremiah, proclaiming, "I know well the plans that I have for you... plans for your welfare, not for woe, so as to give you a future full of hope" (Jer 29:11).

The only requirements to qualify for the program are that the students are local Catholic children, new to the school and could not otherwise afford parochial education.

Depending upon a student's financial need, each scholarship could cover up to 50% of the annual tuition, which is \$8,210 for the 2019-2020 academic year. This means at least two dozen students could be helped through the program per year. The student could also apply for additional tuition assistance through the Diocese of Richmond.

Principal Brandon Hess has served in his post for a little less than a year and quickly realized the



strength of the community.

"I have worked in many schools — public, private and parochial," he said. "The St. Mary's community is the tightest I have encountered."

Hess said that among the elements that help to create the tight-knit community are the generosity of parents with time and money, the high academic and spiritual standards, and the school's faith-guided curriculum. He believes the new scholarship program will open doors to families who never thought their children could attend Catholic school.

"So often when talking to prospective families, they say, 'We'd love to have our children in a Catholic school, but...' We can now eliminate the largest reason for not attending a Catholic school," he said.

According to Father Renninger, "the opportunity to know Jesus Christ and fall in love with him," is a special aspect of the St. Mary's School community.

"A Catholic school like St. Mary's provides opportunities for a child to excel in their intellectual, physical, social, emotional and spiritual development," Father Renninger said. "Ultimately, we want every student to develop their God-given gifts and talents so that they will become good citizens, dynamic thinkers and compassionate followers of Jesus Christ who have a desire to serve their neighbor."

## Parish invited to match funds

In an effort to help even more children, Father Renninger has challenged parishioners of St. Mary's to match the donor's gift, hoping to raise another \$100,000 per year in scholarship funds. He believes the parish will achieve that goal.

"In my experience, when people hear about

a significant gift to a community they care about, this often creates an opportunity for the Holy Spirit to invite lots of folks to pray about whether they, too, could share their resources in a similar way," he said. "Jesus reminds us that it is not the size of any individual gift that is important — it is the willingness of each believer to give according to their means."

Gregg Kamper, director of finance and development for St. Mary's School and St. Mary's Church, shared that an additional \$30,000 has already been raised by the community.

"While it certainly was a wonderful surprise, in many ways, it is just so consistent with the generosity we have here at St. Mary's," he said. "This gift will help us expand the number of young people that our community can impact. St. Mary's has a rich history of generosity and dedication to social justice concerns. This extends to the school community as well."

The emphasis of service to the community seen in the gifts given to the school is also a central component to student learning.

St. Mary's School's 385 students take part in multiple outreach programs, with middle school students required to perform 25 hours of service. They tutor students at the nearby public school, visit assisted living facilities, "adopt" students of St. Mary's twin parish in Haiti, volunteer at parish events, donate to a different charity each month and explore more ways to help local and global communities.

For Father Renninger, the new scholarship program is already living up to its name.

"The future leaders of our nation are currently sitting in classrooms all over the country," Father Renninger said. "We have the opportunity now to shape the future of our nation and world by the educational opportunities we make available to children. In an age of cultural transition and rapid change, Catholic schools have the ability to instill the virtues of academic rigor and critical thinking. As we shape the minds of children, we also have the responsibility to shape their hearts and souls."

*Editor's note: To donate to the Future Full of Hope program, visit [www.saintmary.org](http://www.saintmary.org), click "Donate" on the top center bar of the website, and then click "Full of Hope." To apply for a scholarship through the program, contact Anne Leigh Bisese at [albisese@saintmary.org](mailto:albisese@saintmary.org) or call 804-740-2197.*

## Saint Gertrude, Benedictine establish formal partnership

Saint Gertrude High School announced Friday, Jan. 17, that in 2021, it will move from its current campus in downtown Richmond to a 50-acre campus in Goochland County.

The move comes as Saint Gertrude and Benedictine College Preparatory signed a Memorandum of Understanding that establishes a formal partnership under the umbrella organization of the Benedictine Schools of Richmond. Although the schools will be co-located, they will continue to operate independently with a continued emphasis on single-sex education, maintaining independence in their functions, programs and curricula.

Saint Gertrude will move into a



new facility with state-of-the-art amenities, including a cafeteria, communal meeting rooms, labs and dedicated classrooms. The schools will share the gymnasium and athletic fields.

In a joint letter to the community, Benedictine Sister Joanna Burley, prioress of the Benedictine Sisters, and Benedictine Father Jonathan Licari, Benedictine's canonical administrator, said, "This announcement is about much more than a

new home for Saint Gertrude. It is about strengthening the foundation of Catholic education for our young men and women, now and well into the future."

Both schools' administrators met with Bishop Barry C. Knestout, who is supportive of the decision, to review plans for the program prior to the official announcement.

"The new model and vision for the Benedictine Schools of Richmond allow for the continued presence of the schools in the diocese and further encourage the values, mission and bonds shared by the schools," the bishop said in a statement on Jan. 17.

Kelly Lazzara, superintendent of the diocesan Office of Catholic

Schools, also expressed support of the new venture in the statement.

"We are supportive of this venture to preserve Catholic education in our diocese. It is admirable and inspiring that these two schools will continue the tradition of working side-by-side, yet, maintain their school's distinctive educational programs and allow for the continued health of Catholic Schools education in the metro-Richmond area," she said.

Long united by their origins in the Benedictine Catholic Order, Saint Gertrude and Benedictine were located within a block of each other in Richmond's Museum District until the latter moved to Goochland in 2013.

## Supreme Court to reexamine contraceptive mandate for religious employers

CAROL ZIMMERMANN  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — The Little Sisters of the Poor are once again going to the Supreme Court.

The order of women religious who care for the elderly poor have been down this road before, twice defending their right to not comply with the government's health law requiring employers to provide contraceptive coverage in their health plans.

Now the court is about to look at the Affordable Health Care Act's contraceptive mandate from a different angle, examining if the Trump administration can legally allow religious employers to opt out of the mandate.

In 2013, religious groups and houses of worship were granted a religious exemption by the Supreme Court from the government's mandate in the Affordable Care Act to include coverage of contraceptives and abortion-inducing drugs in their employee health plan.

Three years later, religious nonprofit groups challenged the requirement that they comply with the mandate, and the court sent the cases back to the lower courts with instructions for the federal government and the challengers to try to work out

a solution agreeable to both sides.

In 2017, religious groups were given further protection from the contraceptive mandate through an executive order issued by President Donald Trump requiring the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to write a comprehensive exemption to benefit religious ministries, including the Little Sisters of the Poor, from the contraceptive mandate.

HHS provided this exemption in 2018, but several states challenged it, including California, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, saying HHS didn't have the power to give this exemption.

Pennsylvania and New Jersey obtained a nationwide injunction against the rules protecting religious objectors from the contraceptive mandate; that injunction was then upheld by the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, based in Philadelphia.

This is where the Little Sisters come in. They appealed the circuit court's ruling and asked the Supreme Court to step in.

In one of the two consolidated cases, *Trump v. Pennsylvania*, the administration has argued that the exceptions to the contraceptive mandate for religious groups were authorized by the health

care law and required by the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, known as RFRA.

Lawyers for Pennsylvania and New Jersey said the administration lacked statutory authority to issue such regulations and said the government did not follow proper administrative procedures.

The second case will examine if the Little Sisters of the Poor had the standing to appeal the 3rd Circuit ruling since a separate court order had already allowed them to refuse to provide contraceptive coverage in their employee health plans.

"It is disappointing to think that as we enter a new decade we must still defend our ministry in court," said Mother Loraine Marie Maguire of the Little Sisters of the Poor. "We are grateful the Supreme Court has decided to weigh in, and hopeful that the justices will reinforce their previous decision," she said in a statement.

Mark Rienzi, president of Becket, a nonprofit religious liberty law firm that represents the sisters, agreed, saying: "It is time for the Supreme Court to finally put this issue to rest."

The oral arguments, which will be heard by the court later this spring are the combined cases of *Little Sisters of the Poor Saints Peter and Paul*

*See Supreme Court Page 14*

## Bishops welcome guidance on school prayer, proposed rules

JUNNO AROCHO ESTEVES  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The chairmen of the U.S. bishops' religious liberty and Catholic education committees Jan. 20 praised the Trump administration for issuing guidance on prayer in public schools.

The chairmen also welcome the administration's nine proposed rules to ensure the nation's faith-based service providers and organizations are not discriminated against by federal agencies' regulations or in their grant-making processes because of religion.

"We wish to express our gratitude for these steps to ensure that the constitutional right of individual students and teachers to pray voluntarily in public schools is protected," said Bishop George V. Murry, of Youngstown, Ohio, and Bishop Michael C. Barber, of Oakland, California. "This fundamental right ensures that persons may freely worship without sacrificing full participation in schools and in society."

The bishops — who are, respectively, the chairmen of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee for Religious Liberty, and its Committee on Catholic Education — made the comments in response to President Donald Trump's guidance on prayer in public schools and proposed rules issued Jan. 16, National Religious Freedom Day.

Primarily, states will now be required to report cases where public school students have been denied their right to pray.

In addition, among other things, for schools to receive federal funding, they will need to certify once a year with state education departments that they do not have policies in place that would prevent students

from constitutionally protected prayer, a senior administration official said.

Regarding the proposed rules, Trump said his administration "is committed to ensuring religious organizations can compete on a level playing field for funding, without discrimination."

The rules affect several federal agencies, including Veterans Affairs, Health and Human Services, Labor, Agriculture, Education, Justice, Homeland Security and International Development.

"The proposed rules would eliminate burdensome Obama-era requirements that unfairly imposed unique regulatory burdens only on religious organizations," the president said.

Under those requirements, faith-based service providers have had to give notice they are religiously affiliated and must make available a list of alternative secular service providers.

Supporters of the Trump administration's proposed rules say they will ensure implementation of what the U.S. Supreme Court decided in *Trinity Lutheran Church v. Comer* in 2017. The justices ruled Missouri had wrongly determined the church as a religious entity could not receive public funds for a playground used by students no matter their religion.

In their Jan. 20 statement, Bishops Murry and Barber said they were "heartened by the administration's action to ensure federal agencies are fully compliant" with the *Trinity Lutheran* ruling.

"That decision properly concluded that it is unconstitutional for government to exclude faith-based organizations from public benefits simply because of their religious status," they said.

Trump's action "and the court decision it echoes both honor the American tradition of embracing the contributions of faith-based organizations and enrich the work of social justice by harnessing the efforts of these vital institutions of civil society."

"Lastly, we are grateful for the proposal to lift certain regulatory burdens from faith-based organizations," the bishops said. "This will help ensure a level playing field for religious and secular social service providers."

Trump said the Office of Management and Budget also was to release a memo requiring federal agencies to ensure the grant-making

practices of state recipients of federal funding comply with the First Amendment's guarantee of religious freedom.

The federal agencies have 120 days to comply and provide evidence of updating their policies.

"Our nation has a proud heritage of religious freedom, and of religious institutions providing care and support to the poor and needy," U.S. Secretary of Labor Eugene Scalia said in a statement about Trump's proposed rules. Under these, he added, "religious organizations that receive federal grants may provide aid to the needy without posting a warning label regarding their faith."

### Knights support bicentennial



During a meeting Wednesday, Jan. 15, at the Pastoral Center, members of the Virginia State Council of the Knights of Columbus presented Bishop Barry C. Knestout, left, with a \$50,000 check from the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus as support for the diocese's bicentennial celebration. The Virginia State Council will match that donation with an additional \$50,000. Pictured with the bishop and Father Michael Boehling, the diocese's vicar general, are Virginia State Deputy Bob Szeszynski, Past State Deputy Edward C. Polich and Tommy C. Harger, a member of the board of directors. (Photo/Brian T. Olszewski)



# Why Catholic judges are under the microscope

## GUEST COMMENTARY

RICHARD DOERFLINGER  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Catholics wanting to serve our country in the legal system are coming under intense scrutiny.

In 2017, University of Notre Dame law professor Amy Coney Barrett was grilled by members of the Senate Judiciary Committee about her Catholic faith. Sen. Dianne Feinstein told Barrett that “the dogma lives loudly within you, and that’s a concern.”

This sparked a public backlash, and a cottage industry in selling “The Dogma Lives Loudly Within Me” T-shirts to proud Catholics. Barrett was confirmed as a federal judge, supported by 52 Republicans and three Democrats.

In 2018, Sen. Kamala Harris and Sen. Mazie Hirono objected to confirming Brian Buescher as a federal district judge because he belongs to the Knights of Columbus, the world’s largest Catholic fraternal service organization.

Their problem: The Knights defend Catholic teaching on abortion and marriage. Sen. Hirono asked

Buescher if he would leave the Knights if confirmed, “to avoid any appearance of bias.” Buescher was confirmed, with every Democrat present voting no.

In recent weeks, there was an unsuccessful effort to block confirmation of Sarah Pitlyk as a federal judge. She was opposed by all Democrats and one Republican, Sen. Susan Collins.

Some said she lacked trial and litigation experience. But Sen. Tammy Duckworth launched a different attack: Pitlyk had expressed “extreme” views against in vitro fertilization and “surrogate motherhood,” views consistent with Catholic teaching.

Sen. Duckworth said she was offended by Pitlyk’s stand because her own children were conceived by in vitro fertilization. She harshly attacked the attorney for what she called a “cavalier willingness to substitute her own ideological opinions in place of facts.” But Sen. Duckworth herself ignored some facts.

Pitlyk’s chief offense was that when she worked for the Thomas More Society, a nonprofit public interest law firm, she submitted a brief to the Supreme Court on behalf of Catholic and secular organizations

with expertise in medicine and medical ethics. (Full disclosure: I am affiliated with two of those organizations — the National Catholic Bioethics Center and Charlotte Lozier Institute.)

The brief urged the Supreme Court to hear the case of “M.C. v. C.M.” A woman, Melissa Cook, had agreed to be a “surrogate mother,” gestating a child conceived by in vitro fertilization using the sperm of Chester Moore Jr. and eggs donated by a young woman. When Cook became pregnant with triplets, Moore demanded under the surrogacy contract that she abort one child.

Cook refused on moral grounds, and later filed suit to ensure that Moore would be assessed for fitness as a father and would not get custody of the “extra” child he had wanted killed.

Pitlyk’s brief cited numerous medical journal articles and other secular sources to argue that a law demanding enforcement of such contracts against a birth mother was harmful to the health and well-being of women and children.

According to Sen. Duckworth, Pitlyk’s brief “cruelly implied”

that children conceived by in vitro fertilization are “inferior.” She had said exactly the opposite, that these children have the same rights as other children and should have those rights respected.

Is Pitlyk’s view extreme? Surrogacy contracts have been criticized by secular feminists, who understand that a coerced abortion is not “pro-choice” and that commercial exploitation of women’s bodies demeans their dignity. In vitro fertilization, which treats human procreation as a manufacturing process, has long been criticized by Leon Kass and other non-Catholic ethicists.

But the brief was written by a Catholic and was consistent with Catholic teaching, so Pitlyk was attacked for holding extreme “personal beliefs.”

Some senators, especially Democrats, should recall that under our Constitution “no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States.”

*Doerflinger worked for 36 years in the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. He writes from Washington state.*

## We’ve become the Church Misguided

We are the Church Militant. It seems that in our current liberal, progressive climate, not only in the secular realm, but also in the religious community, we have morphed, for some, into the Church Misguided.

It appears that many anti-death penalty advocates direct more compassion toward the perpetrator than the victim. In the recent article lauding the diminution of executions, there was no mention at all of the victims of these pariahs who get no reprieve for their sufferings. They are further victimized by society by being forced, through the tax laws, to support the very criminals who violated their God-given rights to live in peace, unmo-  
lested.

While we have an obligation to be concerned for the souls of all individuals, including criminals, we also have an obligation as a society to administer justice as well as punishment upon those who refuse to assimilate into the social compact and prey upon their fellow citizens.

When the crimes are of such a nature as to warrant condign punishment as the only just recourse, tradition-

ally, the Church has supported such a punishment.

– Gerald Pilley  
Chesapeake

## Administration has made good people safer

I write as a believing cradle Catholic and reliable Republican voter who came late to the Trump campaign given the alternatives: secular humanism which has no standard of truth beyond what a majority of citizens thinks is in their best interest.

With a lifetime of Catholic education gleaned from my parochial school education through high school, regular attendance at Mass along with many years of reading and trying to understand Scripture, and 50-plus years as a physician dealing with people in some of the most stressful situations of their lives, I have certain opinions which might be characterized by some as a right conscience.

I differ with the opinions expressed in the article by Dennis Sadowski (Catholic Virginian, Jan. 13). As Catholics or parents, we do no favor to children or neighbors by ignoring or condoning behavior or actions dangerous to either their material or spiritual well-being.

Of course, it’s better if they choose by right example from parents or role models than by force or control. Christ himself taught that a caring gardener or shepherd picks the fruit or culls the flock when it’s fully mature.

While it might be true that true love and forgiveness foster real peace among peoples, I would posit that it’s a greater good when our all-knowing, merciful God prevents a soul from doing even more evil.

I’m pleased and feel good that our administration has made good people safer.

– Martin August Thiel  
Williamsburg

## Liberals give enemies a pass

Re: “Is drone warfare moral?” (Catholic Virginian, Jan. 13): it’s funny how most people on the liberal/socialist side of the aisle, like Bishop Richard Stika, Dennis Sadowski and Stephen Schneck attack everything American but give a pass to our enemies.

Calling the elimination of a murdering dog like Soleimani an assassination is an assassination of the

## Letters

English language. Soleimani was a murderer who used the tactic of terror to kill more than 600 humans. Equating Soleimani to a cabinet member of the USA is ludicrous. No cabinet member of the USA has used terror as a tool.

I can’t remember a story

written by Sadowski regarding the illustrious career of Soleimani. There have been no stories carried by the CV telling of the abundance of murders carried out by Soleimani. No stories of how the good sisters, brothers, priests and bishops have pled with Soleimani and

his superiors to try talking to  
*See Letters, Page 12*

## CV letters policy

The Catholic Virginian welcomes signed letters to the editor that can be considered for publication *and/or* posting on The Catholic Virginian website. Submissions should be no more than 270 words and include the writer’s name, address or email, and phone number as all submissions are acknowledged. At the editor’s discretion, submitter’s name may be withheld from publication/posting. Letters should address topics reported in the CV or other topics relevant to Catholics. Personal attacks are not published. Letters may be edited for style, length or content. Opinions expressed by letter writers do not necessarily reflect those of The Catholic Virginian or the Diocese of Richmond.

How to reach us  
**Mail:** The Catholic Virginian Press, 7800 Carousel Ln., Richmond, VA 23294  
**Phone:** (804) 359-5654  
**www.catholicvirginian.org**  
**Circulation changes to:** [acarneal@catholicvirginian.org](mailto:acarneal@catholicvirginian.org)

**Publisher:** Most Reverend Barry C. Knestout  
**Editor:** Brian T. Olszewski (804) 622-5225 [olszewski@catholicvirginian.org](mailto:olszewski@catholicvirginian.org)  
**Creative Director:** Stephen Previtera (804) 622-5229 [sprevitera@catholicvirginian.org](mailto:sprevitera@catholicvirginian.org)  
**Circulation/Database Spec.:** Ashly Cameal (804) 622-5226 [acarneal@catholicvirginian.org](mailto:acarneal@catholicvirginian.org)  
**Eastern Correspondents:** Wendy Klesch and Jennifer Neville  
**Western Correspondents:** Karen Adams, Nanette Levin and Joseph Staniunas  
**Central Correspondents:** Kristen L. Byrd, Mary Howell, Victoria Kearney and Rosemarie Morrisette

**Postmaster:** Send address change to The Catholic Virginian, 7800 Carousel Lane, Richmond, VA 23294. The Catholic Virginian ISSN 0008-8404 – Published every other week on Monday by The Catholic Virginian Press, 7800 Carousel Lane, Richmond, VA. Periodical postage paid at Richmond, VA and at additional mailing office. Twenty-five cents per copy, \$12.50 per year



## IN MEMORIAM

## Marilyn M. Lewis



Marilyn M. Lewis with great-granddaughter Lyla.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Marilyn M. Lewis, Friday, Jan. 24, at St. Michael the Archangel, Glen Allen. She died Monday, Jan. 13, at the age of 88.

Marilyn served the Catholic Diocese of Richmond for 43 years — including 36 years as secretary to Bishop Walter F. Sullivan.

She is survived by her children: Roberta Talley (Randy), Suellen Rumford (Blaine), Brian Lewis, Tencer Darcy (Tom) and Scott Lewis; seven grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and two brothers, Robert and Donald Miller.

Marilyn was preceded in death by her parents, Rudolph A. and Roberta T. Miller; brother, Rudy Jr.; late husband, Bill Lewis; and longtime friend, Ambrose Parker.

She is remembered for her devotion to her family and friends, and as an enthusiastic fan of NASCAR — particularly Jeff Gordan.

## 'Ecumenical hospitality' important virtue in uniting Christians, pope says

JUNNO AROCHO ESTEVES  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Showing hospitality makes a person a better human being and a better Christian and is an important part of promoting Christian unity, Pope Francis said.

"Working together to live with ecumenical hospitality, particularly toward those whose lives are most vulnerable, will make us — all Christians, Protestants, Orthodox, Catholics, all Christians — better human beings, better disciples and a more united Christian people," the pope said Jan. 22 during his weekly general audience.

Christians today, like the people of Malta who welcomed St. Paul and his companions who were shipwrecked on their island, must show hospitality to and care for those who flee violence and persecution, he said.

"Unfortunately, they sometimes encounter even the worst hostility," he said. "They are exploited by criminal traffickers today; they are treated as numbers and as a threat by some leaders today; sometimes inhospitality rejects them as a wave carrying poverty or the very dangers from which they were fleeing."

In his audience talk, the pope reflected on the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which takes place Jan. 18-25. The theme for the 2020 celebration, "They showed us unusual kindness," is taken from St. Luke's account in the Acts of the Apostles of the hospitality shown by the people of Malta to St. Paul and his companions.

St. Paul and the other passen-

gers of the ship were welcomed by the Maltese people, who gave them food and shelter "even though they had not yet received the Good News of Christ," the pope said.

The virtue of hospitality, he added, "means recognizing that other Christians are truly our brothers and sisters in Christ."

"We are brothers and sisters," the pope said. "Someone may tell you, 'But that one is a Protestant, that one is Orthodox.' Yes, but we are brothers and sisters in Christ."

The pope said ecumenical hospitality means showing God's love to others and "a willingness to listen to other Christians, paying attention to their personal stories of faith and the history of their community."

"I think about the past, in my land for example, when some Evangelical ministers came," the pope said, "a small group of Catholics burned their tents. This isn't Christian. We are brothers and sisters. We are all brothers and sisters, and we must give hospitality to one another."

With so many migrants and refugees facing "risky voyages to escape violence, war and poverty," Pope Francis called on Christians to set aside their differences and work together to show them "the love of God revealed by Jesus Christ" and that "each person is precious to God."

"The divisions that still exist between us prevent us from being fully the sign of God's love for the world, which is our vocation and mission," he said.

Follow Arocho on Twitter: @arochoju

## Mardi Gras 2020

presented by **Bon Secours**

*An evening of celebration to benefit  
Catholic Charities of Eastern Virginia*

Friday, February 21, 2020

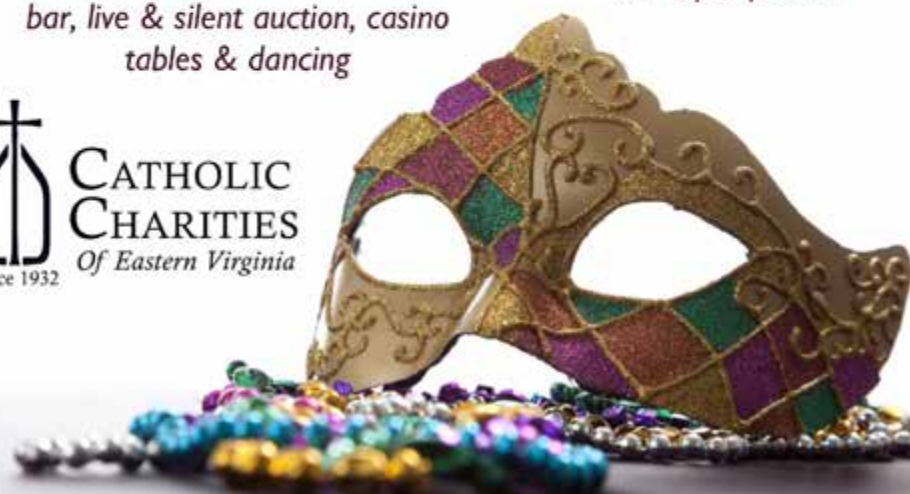
Hilton Norfolk, The Main

6:30—11:00 p.m.

Evening includes dinner, hosted  
bar, live & silent auction, casino  
tables & dancing

\$100 per person

 **CATHOLIC  
CHARITIES**  
Of Eastern Virginia



Visit [www.cceva.org/mardigras](http://www.cceva.org/mardigras) for tickets!

# Leave a legacy with just

# 1 ONE payment

With a Single Premium Whole Life, you build guaranteed cash value, and have a lifetime, tax-free death benefit to pass on with just one, single payment.

Financial Advice, Founded in Faith  
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



**THE ABBATE AGENCY**  
ROBERT W. ABBATE

"Excellence in Life Planning"

VIRGINIA BEACH - NORFOLK - WILLIAMSBURG - RICHMOND - ROANOKE  
[www.virginiakofc.com](http://www.virginiakofc.com) • [www.facebook.com/AbbateKofC](http://www.facebook.com/AbbateKofC)



# Few shining stars become great constellations

## Diocese begins celebrating bicentennial

**BRIAN T. OLSZEWSKI**  
The Catholic Virginian

In opening the Catholic Diocese of Richmond's bicentennial, Bishop Barry C. Knestout likened the faith of the area's first Catholics to that of those in the early Church, describing the diocese's early days as, "... beginning small with a few shining stars, and soon gathering into greater constellations of communities, bringing the light of our Catholic faith to the Commonwealth and the people we encountered."

Among the seven oldest dioceses in the United States, the Diocese of Richmond began its year-long celebration Saturday, Jan. 18, with Mass at Sacred Heart Parish, Norfolk. More than 600 people from the Eastern Vicariate participated in the celebration.

Concelebrated by Bishop Knestout and 42 priests, the Mass commemorated the arrival of Bishop Patrick Kelly, the first bishop of the diocese, in Virginia.

In his homily, Bishop Knestout focused on the jubilee theme "Shine like stars in the world as you hold fast to the word of life" from St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians (2:15-16).

The bishop said the "manifestation of faith" was accompanied by awe, wonder and acts of charity.

"Given the smallness of the Catholic community in Virginia, how few Catholics there were and still are in comparison to the rest of the population," he said. "I have seen how 'holding fast to the word' results in a devotion and generous engagement of the faithful in parish life, where works of charity and justice grow and thrive."

Linking the present to the past, Bishop Knestout used the crozier that belonged to Bishop Walter F. Sullivan, 11th bishop of the diocese (1974-2003), and the chalice that belonged to Bishop Augustine van de Vyver, sixth bishop of the diocese (1889-1911).

Also on display was a first-class relic of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, who briefly ministered in the Catholic Diocese of Richmond. During the Civil War, he was one of several priests who cared for ailing Union soldiers and who celebrated Mass and heard confessions at St. Mary Star of the Sea Church at Fort Monroe.

The diversity of the Eastern Vicariate was

expressed during the Mass in the proclamation of Scripture readings in English, Spanish and Tagalog and in music provided by choirs from the Norfolk parishes of Sacred Heart and the Basilica of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, and from St. Gregory the Great, Virginia Beach.

The celebration concluded with the singing of the diocese's bicentennial hymn, "We Shine Like Stars in the World."

The inauguration of the bicentennial was evident throughout the diocese the weekend of Jan. 18-19 as parishes celebrated the Mass for the Particular Church, proclaiming the same Scripture readings that were used during the Mass in Norfolk.

Bicentennial Masses for the Central Vicariate will be celebrated at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Richmond, on Saturday, July 11, and for the Western Vicariate, Saturday, Sept. 26, at St. Andrew, Roanoke.

*Editor's note: Additional information about the bicentennial is available at 2020.richmonddiocese.org.*



**Above:** The chalice used during the Mass belonged to the sixth bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Richmond, Bishop Augustine van de Vyver. (Photo/Michael Mickle)

**Above right:** Father Paul Muyimbwa, pastor of Sacred Heart, Norfolk, prays the Eucharistic Prayer. (Photo/Michael Mickle) **Right:** Students from St. Pius X Catholic School, Norfolk, and Catholic High School, Virginia Beach, present the offertory gifts to Bishop Barry C. Knestout. (Photo/Vy Barto)



**Twenty deacons from parishes in the Eastern Vicariate participated in the Mass.** (Photo/Michael Mickle)



**The choir from Sacred Heart, Norfolk, was one of three choirs to provide music for the celebration, Saturday, Jan. 18.** (Photo/Vy Barto)





**Above: The Knights of Peter Claver and Knights of Columbus provide the honor guard as the Knights and Dames of the Holy Sepulchre lead the procession into the Mass. (Photo/ Michael Mickle) Above right: Bishop Barry C. Knestout, holding a crozier used by one of his predecessors, Bishop Walter F. Sullivan, greets worshipers after Mass. (Photo/Vy Barto) Right: Forty-two priests from the Eastern Vicariate concelebrated the Mass. (Photo/Michael Mickle)**



## Worshippers see bicentennial as opportunity for evangelization

JENNIFER NEVILLE

Special to The Catholic Virginian

**M**embers of the Catholic faithful participating in the inaugural Mass of the Catholic Diocese of Richmond's bicentennial on Saturday, Jan. 18, at Sacred Heart, Norfolk, said they see the rich history of a Church that has weathered storms and celebrated the good. For example, during its 200 years, the diocese has faced war and scandal, risen above segregation, tackled climate change and seen times of peace.

Kent Rhodes, who serves on Sacred Heart's pastoral council, said the bicentennial celebration is "a connection to the past" and "a way to look forward into the future."

Sue Kassel, a parishioner at St. Mark, Virginia Beach, who attended the Mass, called the bicentennial celebration "an outward sign that the Catholic Church is alive and welcoming." She hoped the year-long celebration would bring back Catholics who have fallen away from the Church and attract others to the faith as they see the Church's "unity and perseverance over the years."

Having raised five children in the diocese, Kassel and her husband, Mike, said they appreciate

the many opportunities in the diocese for youth to practice their faith and "see others do so as well."

Similarly, Maria Lovisi, a choir member at Sacred Heart, said she hopes the upcoming year is "a real spiritual awakening" that brings people back to the Church.

Barbara Wright, choir member and director of Christian formation at the Basilica of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Norfolk, said "the word 'tradition' with a capital 'T' comes to mind" as she pondered the history of the Richmond Diocese. She, too, is hopeful that the celebration will draw Catholics who have left the Church.

"Over the years, the Church is pretty much constant," Wright said. "The Catholic faith is here to stay."

Christopher Cushna, a parishioner at St. Paul, Portsmouth, said, "It's exciting to be part of that history," and Brandon Spence, basilica parishioner and music director for St. John the Apostle Parish, Virginia Beach, said it is "a distinct honor" to be part of it.

Noting that a year-long celebration can be rejuvenating, Father Mike Joly, pastor at St.

Joan of Arc Parish, Yorktown, said, "It's important to unfold such a momentous milestone over time with a variety of opportunities for spirituality."

He said looking at the last 200 years of the diocese "gives us the opportunity to see the big picture." The priest likened God's relationship with us as marriage vows in which God pledges to be faithful to us in good times and bad.

Rhodes said the year-long celebration will give the Catholic parishes "more visibility," and Lovisi said the celebration "will remind people who we are."

Many individuals who attended the Mass praised the diocese and parishes for evangelizing through serving the poor. For example, parishes across the state run food pantries, serve meals to the hungry, provide financial aid to the needy and participate in regional "homeless shelters" in which area churches take turns providing homeless people with a good meal and places to sleep during the winter months.

Considering the age of the diocese, Sammy Logan, choir director at the basilica, sees the strength of the Church.

"We're all called to be Church," he said.

Wright added, "It's when we live the faith that we understand our God better, and it shapes our minds."

The diocese is diverse with multiple cultures, ethnic groups and social classes, and individuals at the Mass noticed such as Scripture was proclaimed in English, Spanish and Tagalog, and choirs from Sacred Heart, St. Gregory the Great and the basilica sang.

Sheila Janes, a parishioner at St. Paul, Portsmouth, said, "The diocese opens its doors to everybody and allows everybody to foster their spiritual journey."

Kacy Connors-Boyers, also a Sacred Heart choir member, said it was "powerful" to see the diversity of the congregation, and Mike Araojo, from St. Joseph Parish, Hampton, praised the Church's unity.

Logan, whose parish is primarily African American, said he was glad the basilica's choir could be part of the Mass. Likewise, Bel Jaring, a member of the Fil-Am Ministry Choir at St. Gregory the Great, said she was thankful the parish's choir was able to participate, noting she has seen the diocese increasingly embrace diversity over the years.

"You could really see the Body of Christ," Lovisi said of the Mass.



# Priest following proper procedure with extraordinary ministers



**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**  
FATHER KENNETH DOYLE  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

**Q.** Our new pastor is focused on making sure that everything at Sunday Mass is done strictly according to the rubrics. When it is time for Communion, he gives the host to each of the extraordinary ministers of holy Communion, who must stand back from the altar; then the deacon gives the cup to each one.

Then the pastor passes out the ciboria one by one, and he and the deacon hand out the cups one by one. No extraordinary minister is allowed to pick up anything from the altar, so there is a lot of walking back and forth. All this takes time; sometimes we are almost finished with the Communion hymn before anyone in the pews has received Communion. Is there some way to speed things up without violating the rubrics?

Also, if people come up to receive Communion without holding their hands the right way, the pastor stops and tells them what to do. That can be embarrassing; is there a better way to do that? (Richmond)

**A.** Your pastor is following what is the prescribed procedure. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in its liturgy guide says: "After the priest has concluded his own Communion, he distributes Communion to the extraordinary ministers, assisted by the deacon, and then hands the

sacred vessels to them for distribution of holy Communion to the people."

In a further explanation, the guidelines for the Archdiocese of Washington state that "extraordinary ministers should not take the sacred vessels from the altar themselves, but should be handed them by the priest or deacon."

All of this is to assure that the Eucharist is treated with the utmost reverence, and it doesn't concern me that this "takes time." Why not wait to start the Communion hymn until the people in the pews have begun to receive?

As for those who "grab" the host instead of receiving it in their open palm, I agree with you that there's a better way to prevent that. Why not have the priest explain the proper manner from the pulpit occasionally, rather than single out any individual for attention?

**Q.** At my previous parish, we said that the end of the Christmas season was the feast of the Epiphany. My current parish, though, says that the Christmas season concludes a week later on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Which one is right? If it's the latter, what does the baptism of Jesus have to do with Christmas? (New Middletown, Indiana)

**A.** Many people put away their Nativity creches and other Christmas decorations following the Epiphany, leading to a common assumption that the Christmas season closes with that feast. But liturgically, your current

parish is correct.

The Christmas 2019 website of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops said this: "The liturgical season of Christmas begins with the vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and concludes on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. During this season, we celebrate the birth of Christ into our world and into our hearts, and reflect on the gift of salvation that is born with him ... including the fact that he was born to die for us."

The baptism of Jesus marks a sharp line of demarcation: Previous to that, he was viewed simply as a carpenter from Nazareth. But with his baptism, his public life begins as he proclaims with his words and actions the arrival of the reign of God; with the baptism in the Jordan, the Holy Spirit begins to lead Jesus in a new way.

The second part of your question is a bit more difficult: What does Christ's baptism have to do with Christmas? Here, it's helpful to consider something Pope Benedict XVI said in a homily on the feast of the baptism in 2013.

He explained that the nativity of Jesus and his baptism show the savior's solidarity with us, the humble immersion in our human condition that allowed Christ to understand our weakness and frailty.

Even though Jesus had no need for baptism as a sign of repentance, he allowed it to happen. In the words of Pope Benedict, "He was moved to compassion, he chose to 'suffer with' men and women, to become a penitent with us."

**Q.** In one of your recent columns, you stated: "Strictly speaking, one is obliged to go to the sacrament of penance only for serious sins — although it is certainly a good idea to confess regularly even for lesser sins and imperfections."

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says, however (No. 1457), that all Catholics should go to confession at least once a year. If this is actually a precept of the Church, my understanding is that all of the precepts must be obeyed under penalty of mortal sin. Can you explain your position on this and why it differs from the catechism — or was it just an oversight? (Indianapolis)

**A.** My answer is consistent with Catholic teaching. The section to which you refer (No. 1457) in the catechism, referencing the Church's Code of Canon Law, actually says this: "After having attained the age of discretion, each of the faithful is bound by an obligation faithfully to confess serious sins at least once a year."


Again, though, I make a plea for much more frequent confession, even for venial sins. The introduction to the Church's rite of penance states: "Frequent and careful celebration of this sacrament is also very useful as a remedy for venial sins. This is not a mere ritual repetition or psychological exercise, but a serious striving to perfect the grace of baptism so that ... his (Christ's) life may be seen in us ever more clearly."



(Questions may be sent to [askfatherdoyle@gmail.com](mailto:askfatherdoyle@gmail.com) and 30 Columbia Circle Dr., Albany, New York 12203.)

**CATHOLIC SCHOOL WEEK**  
JANUARY 26 - FEBRUARY 1

WE SALUTE THE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN THE COMMONWEALTH THAT INSTILL A FOUNDATION OF FAITH, KNOWLEDGE, AND SERVICE TO THEIR STUDENTS EVERY DAY.

THESE FUTURE LEADERS DEMONSTRATE THE VALUES AND FAITH GAINED THROUGH THEIR CATHOLIC EDUCATION.

WE  A BRIGHTER FUTURE THROUGH THEM.

  
Commonwealth Catholic Charities  
We  The Power of Hope Every Day™  
[WWW.CCCOFVA.ORG](http://WWW.CCCOFVA.ORG)



## Sowing Faith in a Catholic Frontier

### A CONDENSED HISTORY OF THE DIOCESE OF RICHMOND

*Editor's note: Throughout the Catholic Diocese of Richmond's bicentennial year, The Catholic Virginian will publish the history of the diocese in the Shine Like Stars in the World section that will appear in last issue of each month. The content of this section is provided by the Bicentennial Task Force.*

**FATHER ANTHONY E. MARQUES**  
Chair, Catholic Diocese of Richmond  
Bicentennial Task Force

*A small group of Spanish Jesuits planted the seeds of Christian faith in Virginia in 1570, 37 years before Jamestown (1607), the first permanent English settlement in the New World.*

*Following the martyrdom of those first missionaries (1571), the Church grew slowly. "Sowing Faith in a Catholic Frontier" narrates the perseverance, achievements and failures of Virginia Catholics through the centuries. That chronicle is the testimony of the Catholic Diocese of Richmond at its bicentennial (1820–2020). This is the first of 13 installments that will be published monthly during the diocesan jubilee (Jan. 2020 – Jan. 2021).*

#### A Grain of Wheat and Rocky Ground:

#### Introduction

“Once we reached this bay, the military governor ordered us to search for Alonso, the boy who came with Father Baptista, whom we were told had not been killed.”

In 1572, a Spanish Jesuit priest, Father Juan Rogel, gave this account of his missionary work around the baía de la Madre de Dios (Bay of the Mother of God, today the Chesapeake Bay) to the superior of his religious order in Rome. Father Rogel's letter contained a portent and a parable: the Catholic Church in Virginia had begun with nine people in a vast country.

Like the grain of wheat (Jn 12:24), or the seed on rocky ground (Mt 13:5-6, 20-21), the Church in this territory would grow slowly under adverse conditions. Here, Catholics would contend with low membership, religious and secular hostility, geographic isolation, economic deprivation and a chronic lack of priests.

Furthermore, events in Virginia, the



Ambush of Fr. Luis de Quirós, Br. Gabriel de Solís, and Br. Juan Baptista Méndez (February 4, 1571).

Engravings by Melchior Küsell, in Mathias Tanner, *Societas Jesu usque ad sanguinis et vitae profusionem militans, in Europa, Africa, Asia, et America, contra gentiles, Mahometanos, Judaeos, haereticos, impios, pro Deo, fide, Ecclesia, pietate* (Prague: Typis Universitatis Carolo-Ferdinandae per Joannem Nicolaum Hampel factorem, 1675). Saint Louis University Libraries Special Collections. Material in the public domain.

United States and the wider Church would have an impact on the community's development. The presence of the Catholic Diocese of Richmond four-and-a-half centuries later bears witness to the perseverance of Virginia's Catholics, who overcame hardship and who experienced both successes and failures as they carried out the Church's work.

#### Seeds Among Thorns:

#### Inauspicious Beginnings (1570–1794)

Catholics faced tribulation during their first two centuries in Virginia as a band of

Spanish missionaries suffered martyrdom in that territory (1571), and religious intolerance permeated the English colony (1607–1794). These developments formed part of the broader narrative of the European colonization of North America, during which sectarian concerns shaped national interests.

#### Spanish Jesuit Mission (1570–1571)

Two years before Father Rogel wrote his letter, on Sept. 10, 1570, eight Jesuit missionaries, led by Father Juan Baptista de Segura (1529–1571), and a boy, Alonso de

*See Beginnings, Page III*



# 'Shine like stars'

## — THE BICENTENNIAL PRAYER, MOTTO

FATHER ANTHONY E. MARQUES  
Chair, Bicentennial Task Force

*"Shine like stars in the world, as you hold fast to the word of life" (Phil 2:15~16).*

Since we reached this bay, the military governor ordered us to search for Alonso, the boy who came with Father Baptista, whom we were told had not been killed."

In 1572, Father Juan Rogel, a Spanish Jesuit "Shine like stars in the world, as you hold fast to the word of life" (Phil 2:15~16).

St. Paul wrote these words from prison (1:7, 13~14, 17), between 55 and 63 AD. The bicentennial motto of the Catholic Diocese of Richmond is this exhortation of the Apostle to the Church in Philippi (Greece), a community he founded (Acts 16:9~40).

Paul, who was himself facing death (Phil 1:20~23), encouraged the Philippians, who were supporting him during his incarceration (2:25, 30; 4:14, 18), to continue the work of proclaiming the Gospel.

The mutual support of St. Paul and the Philippians, and their common endeavor to make Christ known, are manifestations of communion and mission respectively: "I hold you in my heart, you who are all partners with me in grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel" (Phil 1:7).

### Fundamental forces

Communion and mission are the fundamental forces at work in any Christian community, and they are themes of the diocesan bicentennial. "Communion," which is derived from the Latin *communio*, translates the Greek *koinonia*, a term used in the New Testament to denote fellowship.

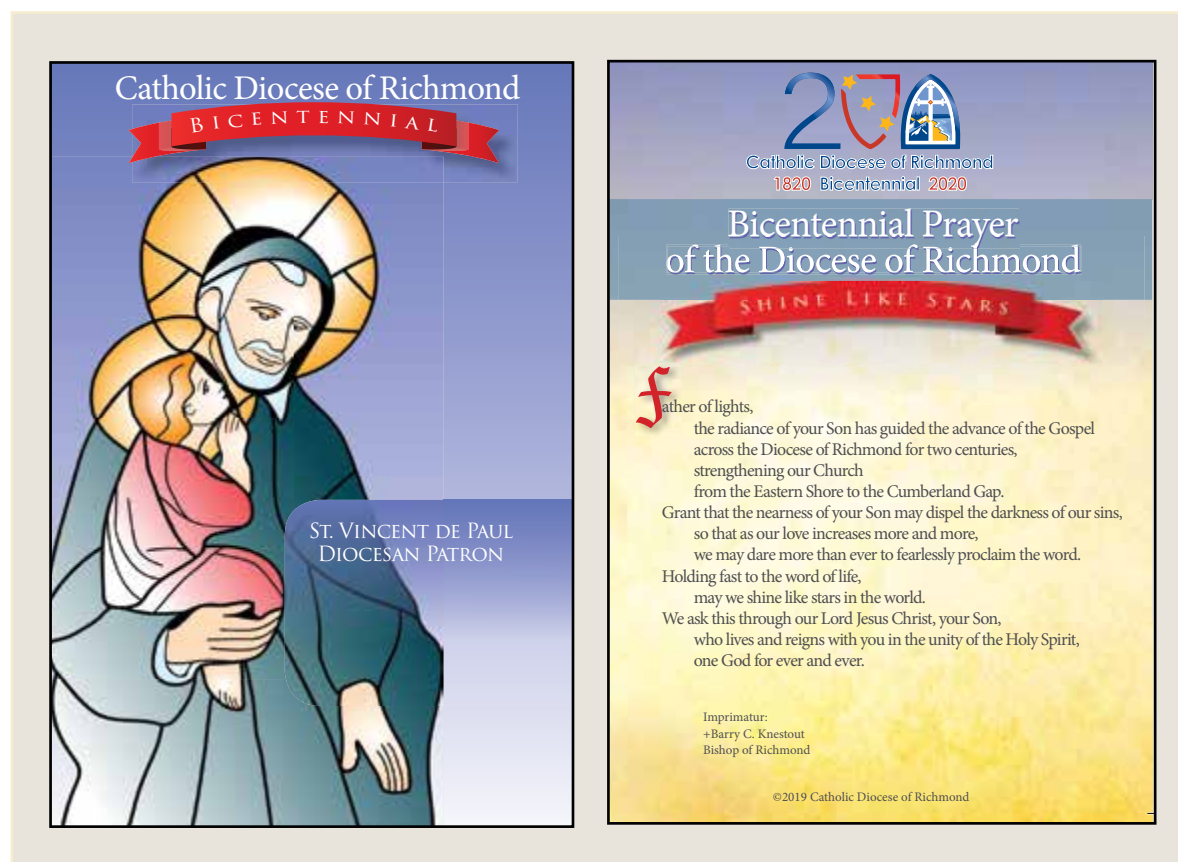
Communion refers to the bonds that unite members of the Church to God and to one another (see, for example, Phil 1:5; 2:1; 3:10).

The term "mission" comes from the Latin *missio* and means "sending." This same idea of "sending" is present in the Greek word *apostolos* (from which we get our English word "apostle") meaning literally "one sent" (see Phil 2:25).

Communion keeps the Church united; mission enables the Church to grow. Paul urged the Philippians to remain united as they spread the Gospel (Phil 1:27; 2:1~2; 4:1~3). The motto of the diocesan jubilee expresses both of these realities: "Shine like stars in the world" (mission), "as you hold fast to the word of life" (communion).

### Stars are significant

Stars are a vivid image of the bicentennial of our diocese because to gaze at the stars is to look back in time, to the moment when starlight began to travel to our eyes. Stars also aid navigation, and in that way represent the charting of



a new course.

Coincidentally, there are three stars in the coat of arms of the Catholic Diocese of Richmond, which represent the Trinity and the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The prayer composed for our diocese's bicentennial uses the image of stars to develop the themes of communion and mission. Many of the phrases in the prayer are drawn from the Letter to the Philippians.

For example, the prayer states: "The radiance of your Son has guided the advance of the Gospel across the Diocese of Richmond for two centuries, strengthening our Church from the Eastern Shore to the Cumberland Gap" (see Phil 1:12; 4:5).

Christ, like a star, has illuminated the work of this local Church for 200 years across a vast territory.

Stars give off heat as well as light. In the same way, the presence of Christ (communion) ignites a love that becomes a witness to the Good News (mission): "Grant that the nearness of your Son may dispel the darkness of our sins, so that as our love increases more and more, we may dare more than ever to fearlessly proclaim the word" (see Phil 1:9, 14).

### Prayer of gratitude

The jubilee motto recapitulates and concludes the prayer. Like Christ, Christians are "stars" that emit light in a world that is often

dark (Phil 2:15~16). In Philippians, these verses follow a magnificent exposition of Christ's saving work (2:6~11).

That passage is thought to be a hymn known to St. Paul's audience: "Though he was in the form of God, [Christ] did not regard equality with God... Rather, he emptied himself... becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him."

Jesus' act of salvation — the complete offering of himself that leads to his exaltation — is the model for any Christian community, whether in Philippi or in Richmond. Christ's death and resurrection also encapsulates the life of any local Church, with all of its sacrifices, difficulties, accomplishments, and even failures (see Phil 1:29~30; 3:7~16).

The Letter to the Philippians is filled with joy and thanksgiving, although St. Paul himself was in dire straits. The strength that the Apostle received from God, along with support of the community he founded, helped him to continue bearing witness to the Gospel (Phil 1:18~19; 4:13).

Paul, pointing to what God had done in his life, urged the Philippians to imitate him (Phil 1:30; 3:17; 4:9). This same principle is reflected in the stirring words he addressed to them: "Shine like stars in the world, as you hold fast to the word of life."

The Diocese of Richmond offers this prayer with gratitude, joy and conviction at the beginning of her bicentennial anniversary.



## Beginnings

*Continued from Page I*

Olmos, disembarked near the future site of Williamsburg. To Spanish ears, the native word for the region sounded like “Ajacán”; Spain claimed this land as part of la Florida (North America).

Indians of the Chiskiack tribe, led by Don Luis de Velasco (formerly Paquiquineo), an indigenous guide who betrayed the priests and religious brothers, killed these men between Feb. 4 and 9, 1571. Only the boy survived, having been rescued after living with his captors for a year after the massacre.

Three of the missionaries — Cristóbal Redondo, Gabriel de Solís and Juan Baptista Méndez — made their Jesuit profession sometime between their arrival and the attack. These were the first religious vocations in what became Virginia. The cause for the canonization of the Jesuit Martyrs of Virginia was introduced in 2002.

The short-lived Jesuit mission was one



**Martyrdom of Fr. Juan Baptista de Segura, priest; Br. Cristóbal Redondo, Br. Pedro Mingot de Linares; Br. Gabriel Gómez, and Br. Sancho Zeballos (February 9, 1571).**  
Saint Louis University Libraries Special Collections. Material in the public domain.

of many difficulties Spain encountered in its colonization of North America.

Unlike Central and South America, North America lacked precious metals, its terrain and climate were sometimes harsh, and its inhabitants proved more resistant to conquest and conversion.

Spain eventually controlled what is today the southwestern and southeastern United States. On the Atlantic coast, the fort of St. Augustine — the site of several battles and a base for launching operations against Spain's enemies — encapsulated the region's strategic role.

Founded in 1565 on the Florida peninsula, St. Augustine was the first permanent European and Catholic settlement in what became the United States. Ultimately, la Florida was a barrier for protecting Spain's more lucrative southern colonies against potential incursions by France or England.

*The complete version of “Sowing Faith in a Catholic Frontier,” including endnotes and bibliography, is available on the bicentennial website, 2020.richmonddiocese.org.*

## CHRONOLOGY OF THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF RICHMOND

### 1534

King Henry VIII initiates the Reformation in England, a decision that eventually results in its future colony of Virginia being Protestant.

### 1553~1558

The reign of Mary I, who restores Catholicism in England.

### 1558~1603

The reign of Elizabeth I, who re-establishes the Church of England.

### 1565 September 8

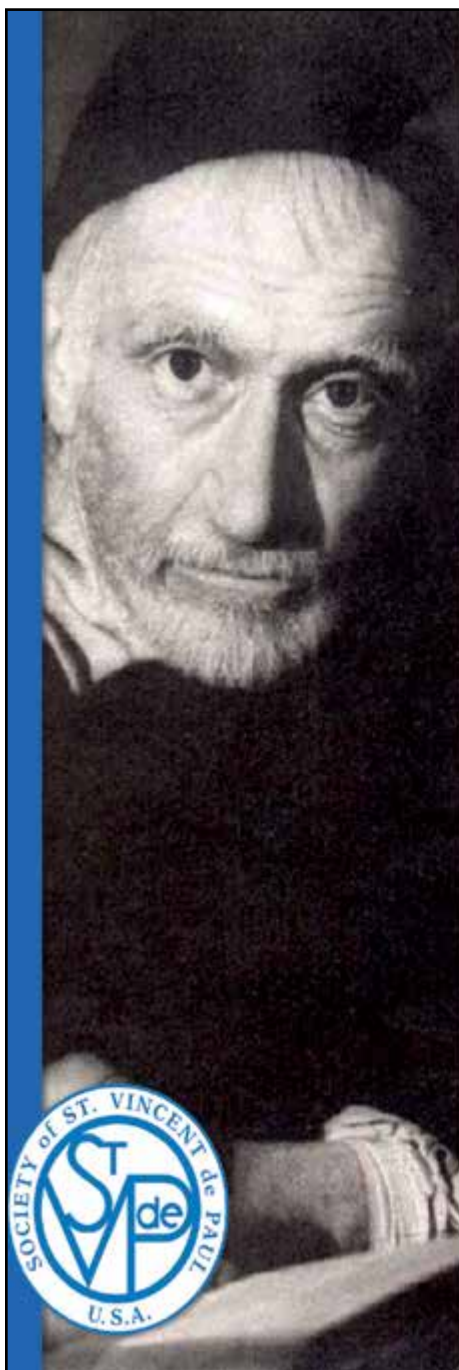
Spaniard Pedro Menéndez de Avilés founds St. Augustine, the first permanent European and Catholic settlement in what will become the United States.

### 1570 September 10

Eight Spanish Jesuits, led by Father Juan Baptista de Segura, establish a mission near present-day Williamsburg.

### 1571 February 4~9

The martyrdom of the Spanish Jesuits. Between their arrival and the massacre, three of the missionaries make their Jesuit profession. These are the first vocations to the religious life in what will become Virginia.



## Our Patron. Our Mission.

St. Vincent de Paul, patron of the Diocese of Richmond, wrote, “We should strive to keep our hearts open to the sufferings and wretchedness of other people, and pray continually that God may grant us that spirit of compassion which is truly the spirit of God.”

As our diocese celebrates its bicentennial, learn how that “spirit of compassion,” which is at the heart of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, can serve those in need.

Contact Dan Kearns,  
St. Vincent de Paul  
Council President, Richmond,  
at [Info@svdp-rva.org](mailto:Info@svdp-rva.org).

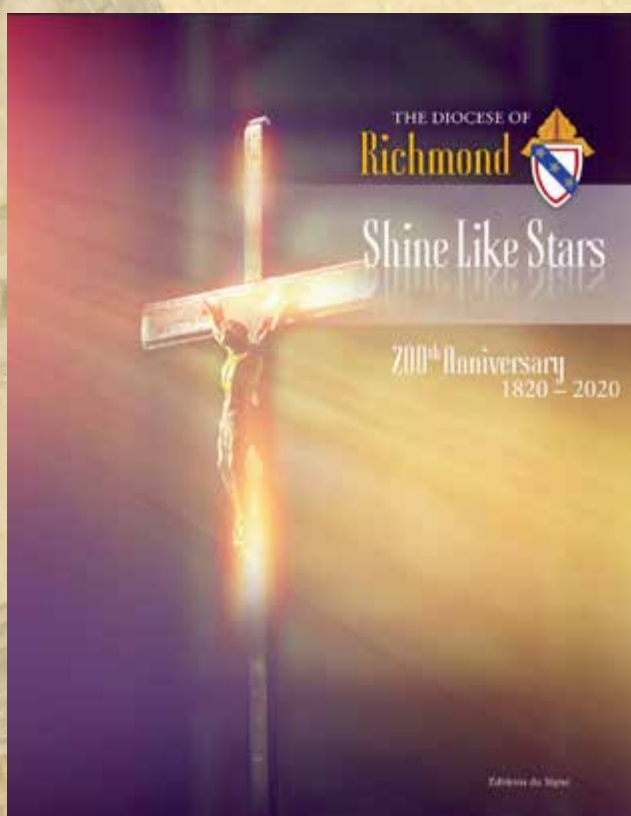


# Bicentennial Edition



## Shine Like Stars

a condensed history of the Diocese of Richmond



# Diocese of Richmond

1820 — 2020

## 200th Anniversary Commemorative Edition

Lavishly illustrated in full color and comprehensive in its depth of research and discovery. *The perfect gift.*  
Own a piece of our diocesan history by contacting your local parish today.



# Focus on the goodness and inspiration of others



## IN LIGHT OF FAITH

BARBARA HUGHES

Visiting our daughter and her family in central Florida means flying into Orlando. With Disney World as the primary destination, followed by Sea World, Epcot Center and Universal Studios, it's no surprise that the plane is populated with as many children as adults.

While some might be annoyed by the presence of so many children contained in a small space, I find it entertaining. Watching parents trying to manage the excitement of their young charges made last month's 90-minute flight from Norfolk pass quickly.

Seated amid the adventure bound travelers was a family that quickly captivated my attention. The couple was traveling with three children, all under the age of four, plus a dog. Although such an excursion would be a formidable challenge for most people, this couple was not only up to the task, they executed it perfectly.

Dad had the youngest child, who looked to be about 15 months old, strapped in an infant carrier to the front of his torso. In the seat behind him was Mom, who played peek-a-boo almost non-stop throughout the flight, interrupted only when the toddler caught the attention of another passenger by waving and saying "Hi" again and again. Smiles erupted all around, making the flight enjoyable for all.

Sitting next to Mom were the two children who looked to be about three and four years old. With eyes glued to their shared iPod, they were

entertained by — what else? — a Disney film.

Mom confessed that the children were not allowed to watch television at home, which made watching a movie while traveling a special treat. Amid passing a bag of Cheerios while making sure no one spilled their drinks, Mom and Dad never lost their cool. But the real show-stopper came when we deplaned.

Dad took all three children, the youngest remained strapped to his body, another in a stroller and the third child on a contraption, the likes of which I'd never seen. Hitched to the back of the stroller was what looked like the back of a tricycle that allowed the middle child to stand while being pulled by the stroller.

If you're wondering where Mom was while Dad was heading through the terminal with three children in tow, you can rest easy, as she was executing the other part of the plan. With Rover in tow, Mom was heading to the nearest doggy station for the pooch to do his business. From my vantage point, not one tear, threat or cross look spoiled the made-for-television scenario, and I was intrigued.

When our paths headed in different directions, I was sorry to lose sight of them. I would've loved to have a chat with the couple to learn how they acquired such amazing parenting skills.

In retrospect, it seems to me that the patience, planning and kindness of these parents didn't just happen. It came with effort, forethought and a willingness to counter what have become cultural norms.

The importance of teamwork, thoughtfulness and postponing gratification are lessons that are caught more than are taught. While

limiting television and computer time requires active participation — and parental involvement — the payoff is priceless.

As a mother of five children and a grandmother of six, I understand how difficult it is to maintain a countercultural position, but I also know that we can learn from one another. With so much focus on negatives, like name calling, bullying and individualism, it's refreshing to encounter people whose behavior inspires rather than condemns.

There's much to be learned from the so called "silent majority," which makes people watching a more accurate reflection of society than anything we see on television. I'm sure this quite ordinary but charming family had no idea how they inspired the people around them.

No wonder Jesus spent most of his time with ordinary people. He saw their goodness, gave them hope and contributed to their sense of wholeness. It's what being pro-life is about.

Throughout this year, we do well to look to the people in our midst who inspire rather than condemn, praise rather than judge.

During his inaugural speech, Nelson Mandela said, "When I let my light shine, I give others permission to do the same."

May we all take to heart the words of the song, "This Little Light of Mine," and "let it shine, let it shine, let it shine."

*Barbara Hughes is an author, retreat facilitator and spiritual guide. She lives in Virginia Beach and can be reached at brhughes16@gmail.com.*

## Like Simeon, pay attention to divine promptings



## BELIEVE AS YOU PRAY

MELANIE CODDINGTON

This Sunday, we interrupt our regularly scheduled programming — liturgically speaking — for a special observance. We skip the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time to celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. The temple setting and themes of surprise and sacrifice weave through the readings.

The prophet Malachi envisions a figure whose sudden arrival at the temple signals judgment and purification. Once this one has done his work, pure and pleasing sacrifice will once again be offered to the Lord for the people.

The ominous question, "Who will endure the day of his coming?" hangs in the air. To the sons of Levi, who in the time of the prophet dishonored the priestly office with corrupt practices, the message is clear: Your days are numbered!

Psalm 24 portrays the Lord as "king of glory" arriving (again, suddenly) at the city gates. The call rings out to open for this mighty one, returning victorious from battle. Who dares to keep this one waiting?

Except for Malachi's reference to the Lord coming to the temple, there seems little to con-

nect these formidable figures to the infant Jesus. Yet, Hebrews gives us a clue. Though many surely expected a powerful Messiah, a conquering hero, Jesus "had to become like his brothers and sisters in every way." Only then could he be a "merciful and faithful high priest," offering his very self to God on our behalf.

The story that gives today's feast its name forms part of the infancy narrative in the Gospel of Luke. In this account, Mary and Joseph journey to the temple to fulfill the requirements of the Law of Moses.

Following the prescription in Leviticus 12:2-8, they first offer sacrifice for Mary's purification after birth, then present Jesus according to Exodus 13:2: "Consecrate to me all the firstborn; whatever is the first to open the womb among the Israelites, of human beings and animals, is mine."

To take Jesus home, Joseph must offer a second sacrifice to "redeem" the child. The consecration of firstborn males and the necessity of redemption in the form of temple sacrifice reminded Israel of her own deliverance from Egypt, recalling the sacrifice of the lamb, which shielded the people from the final plague, the death of the firstborn.

Luke weaves these two moments of sacrifice together, seeming to cover all requirements with "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons" (Lv 12:8).

My favorite part of the story comes with the surprise appearance of two local characters. Luke describes Simeon as "righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of

Israel" (2:25) but also points to his familiarity with the Holy Spirit. Three verbs — rest (upon), reveal and guide — spell this out.

At the prompting of the Spirit, this holy man of Jerusalem is waiting in the temple to greet the Holy Family. Taking Jesus into his arms, he praises God for allowing him to live long enough to see the promised salvation of the Lord. He blesses the parents and the child and gives Mary plenty to ponder in his prophetic words concerning her son.

Then we meet Anna, a one-of-a-kind ancient widow, whom Luke identifies as "prophet." In a time when the average lifespan hovered around 40 (reflecting extremely high infant mortality), this woman reaches the venerable age of 84, having spent over 60 years as a widow. She spends every day and night in the temple, fasting and praying. She, too, comes forward to praise God and offer a prophetic word.

Simeon responds to the call of the Spirit to visit the temple on this blessed day. This "man of Jerusalem" finds a way in his busy life to pay attention to divine promptings and act upon them. Old and eccentric Anna prays 24/7, keeping her heart open to the divine word at all times. She, too, responds in the moment and comes forward to praise and prophesy.

*Melanie serves as regional minister for Christian formation, providing catechetical and pastoral support to parishes in southwest Virginia, and contributing to Office of Christian Formation initiatives across the diocese. She holds a master's in pastoral studies from Loyola University, New Orleans.*

**Feast of the  
Presentation of the Lord**  
**Mal 3:1-4**  
**Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10**  
**Heb 2:14-18**  
**Lk 2:22-40**



## OPPORTUNITIES

**Benedictine College Preparatory** seeks an Advancement Database Administrator who is directly responsible for data management, analytics and reporting, and serves as the primary point of contact in the Advancement Department for Blackbaud Raiser's Edge (RE) Gift Entry and Donor database issues and questions. The Database Administrator will oversee the process of developing/updating policies and procedures as it pertains to gift tracking, entry and donor data. It also provides prospect identification and research/analytics support which includes developing research related reports and presentations. The Database Administrator works closely with the Advancement Team to support the development of BCP and its programs.

To apply please submit a résumé, a completed application and an essay titled "My View of America" to the Senior Advancement Officer, Lori Schattner at [lschattner@benedictine-collegeprep.org](mailto:lschattner@benedictine-collegeprep.org). A cover letter is optional. The application can be found on our website at <http://www.benedictinecollegeprep.org/about-bcp/employment>.

**Church of St. Therese, Chesapeake** is seeking a full-time Custodian, approximately 30-35 hours per week. The Custodian assures that the church complex — worship space, commons, social center, meeting rooms, kitchen, bathrooms, chapels, offices and all entrances to the facility are maintained in a clean and orderly manner. This position requires heavy lifting, experience in cleaning and simple maintenance knowledge. Works closely with the office. Virtus and background check required. Compensation according to diocesan guidelines. Application deadline Tuesday, Feb. 18. Submit a diocesan application to Rev. Mr. Bubba Allen at [Ballen@sttheresechesva.org](mailto:Ballen@sttheresechesva.org). For additional information call 757-488-2553.

## SHORTTAKES

**Catholic Financial Seminars: Financial Advice, Founded in Faith.** You and a guest are cordially invited to an upcoming Knights of Columbus Financial Seminar. Topics include: guaranteed income for life; 401K, IRA and Roth IRA management, maximizing trusts and special needs trusts; discovering your market risk comfort and creating a portfolio that can work for you; ways to position your assets to help minimize taxes, fees, and losses and maximize income; and creating tax efficient strategies for preserving your nest egg. Upcoming events include: Jan 28 (Virginia Beach), Feb 4 (Henrico), Feb 7 (Portsmouth), Feb

11 (Richmond), Feb 22 (Chesapeake), Feb 29 (Virginia Beach), March 3 (Virginia Beach), March 7 (Norfolk), April 21 (Chesapeake). Events are typically well-attended and seating is limited. Visit the website for details and RSVP early at [www.virginiakofc.com/events](http://www.virginiakofc.com/events) or by calling 757-495-1492.

**Church of The Holy Family**, 1279, N. Great Neck Road, Virginia Beach, will have its Fifth Fun-Tastic Auction on Saturday, Feb. 8, starting at 6:30 p.m. with a silent auction, heavy hors d'oeuvres and beverages. Live auction with a professional auctioneer will start at 8 p.m. Advanced tickets are \$20. At the door, \$25. Tickets are on sale after all weekend Masses. For more information call 757-463-2263.

**Annual Spaghetti Dinner**, Friday, Feb. 14, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., St Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 332 S. Main St., Amherst. Meal includes spaghetti and sauce, salad, garlic bread, beverage and homemade dessert. Adults: \$7. Children under 12 years old: \$3. Dine-in or take-out. Call 434-946-2053 that day to order take-out meals or order at the door when buying tickets. Profits support local organizations and charities. Come join us for a wonderful meal — lunch, dinner or both!

**Church of the Redeemer**, 8275 Meadowbridge Road, Mechanicsville, is hosting Redeemer Royale Casino Night on Saturday, Feb. 15. Please join us as we raise money for rectory renovations for our new pastor, Father Jim Cowles. The Redeemer Royale will have professional game tables, stage prizes, door prizes, photo booth and silent auctions. We will host a cocktail hour at 6 p.m. and gaming will be from 7:30-10 p.m. Please visit [www.churchredeemer.org](http://www.churchredeemer.org)

**St. Jude Women's Guild Pre-Lenten Retreat**, Tuesday, Feb. 18, St. Jude Catholic Church, 1937 Davis Hwy., Mineral. Sister Sally Russell from Our Lady of the Chesapeake Parish in the Archdiocese of Baltimore will lead the retreat titled "Compassion: In Our World, Our Community, Our Church, Our Family, Ourselves." Her morning and afternoon presentations will be followed by discussions. The day will include opportunities for personal contemplation and prayer, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and reception of the sacrament of reconciliation (Father Michael Duffy). Send registration to St. Jude Catholic Church, ATT: Women's Guild. Please include a \$15 check (lunch provided) made out to St. Jude Women's Guild, and include your name, telephone number, email and name of your parish.

**Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church**, 6400 Newport Ave., Norfolk, 2019-2020 Concert Series presents the Strolling Silver Strings Valentine's Concert, Sunday, Feb. 9, 4 p.m. Free and open to the public. Reception to follow. For further information please visit [www.blessed-sacrament.com](http://www.blessed-sacrament.com).

## Letters

*Continued from Page 6*

head off war.

In the case of Soleimani, the time for talk ended at about his 200th murder. President Trump showed great restraint in not targeting him much sooner.

— **Henry A. Dowgielewicz**  
**Monroe**

### Every holiday is not a holy day

Re: "...And the festivities continue" (Catholic Virginian, Dec. 30): The unnamed author stated: "In the Catholic culture of the United States we live and experience these holidays on a deeply spiritual level, but as a universal Church, we also live and experience the holidays of many cultures in the same way."

This is absolutely not true. Because a day is declared a holiday does not necessarily make it a holy day to be acknowledged on a "deeply spiritual level" by Christ-centric Catholics. Epiphany is a holy day and is recognized as such by Catholics with attendance at Mass. Kwanzaa is

not remotely in the same category.

Kwanzaa is the December 26, 1966, brainchild of Ronald Everett. Everett changed his name to Maulana (Swahili for master teacher) Karenga. He is a Black Nationalist/Separatist and self-proclaimed Marxist.

Some of the "seven principles" of Kwanzaa as mentioned in the article seem laudable enough if you are just reading individual words like "Unity" and "Faith." However, Unity, as Karenga explains, is limited to black people, and "Faith" is rooted in self and other black people — not God.

It is baffling how the author of "festivities" managed to equate Kwanzaa with Epiphany and more so why the article was published in a Catholic newspaper. Hopefully, no one will take seriously the writer's suggestion to see Kwanzaa "as a testimony to the life Christ wants us to live." St. Stephen is that clear testimony on Dec. 26!

— **Christy Metacarpa**  
**Williamsburg**

## Bishops to concelebrate Mass prior to Va. March for Life

Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington and Bishop Barry C. Knestout of Richmond will concelebrate Mass Thursday, Feb. 13, prior to the second annual Virginia March for Life.

The Mass will be celebrated at the Richmond Convention Center beginning at 9:15 a.m. At 10:30 march participants will have the opportunity to meet with their General Assembly representatives in their offices. This will be followed by a rally at the State Capitol beginning at 11:45. The march will begin at 12:45.

The Virginia Catholic Conference, one of the co-sponsors of the march, has called participation in this year's march "critical."

In an announcement, the VCC stated, "The state legislature is considering extreme abortion legislation that would dismantle current pro-life laws and even deem abortion to be 'a fundamental right.'"

Further information about the Mass and the march are available at [www.vacatholic.org](http://www.vacatholic.org).

## WHAT WE'VE HEARD

**Serving those who serve:** Major General Timothy P. Williams of the Virginia Army National Guard expressed his gratitude to the parishioners of St. Theresa, Farmville; Sacred Heart, Mehrrin; and Immaculate Heart of Mary, Blackstone; and to their pastor, Father Stefan Migac, for providing six Masses at Fort Pickett's Bulla Chapel during the VaARNG training last summer.

In a letter to the priest, the major general wrote: "It is our mission to provide every soldier with the opportunity to exercise their right to worship, and your efforts assured that. ... Affording those soldiers the chance to find solace and connection with their areas of belief fuels them for the tough training that follows."

**Support for the bicentennial:** The Knights of Columbus at Church of the Redeemer, Mechanicsville, are doing their part to support the Diocese of Richmond's bicentennial celebration. They held a brunch on Sunday, Jan. 12, with a goal of raising \$2,000.

**First year, sixth place:** In its first year of competition, the middle school robotics team at Blessed Sacrament Huguenot School recently took sixth place during competitions in Richmond and Roanoke. They competed among 27 and 33 teams, respectively, in the competition. Most of the teams they faced were composed of high school students.



Bicentennial

Bicentenario

The opening of 2020 officially begins the celebration of the bicentennial year for the Catholic Diocese of Richmond. It will be a year full of memories, thanksgiving, diocesan/regional celebrations, and great opportunities for our volunteer leaders and employees who serve the different cultural communities of our diocese, to continue growing in faith and better serve the mission of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Office of Ethnic Ministries will be organizing many different moments of encounter and formation, encouraging growth as an intercultural Church, enriched by the diverse cultures and popular religious celebrations of the many different groups that form part of our diocesan family. Characterized by its unified diversity, these moments of encounter and formation will motivate parish communities and continuously promote the universality of our faith in every way.

Here are some of our initiatives so that you can be an active participant in the living expression of the Catholic faith in our diocese.

Este año 2020 iniciamos oficialmente la celebración de nuestro bicentenario como diócesis católica en Richmond. Será un año rico de memoria, acción de gracias, celebraciones diocesanas y regionales, y llena de grandes oportunidades para nuestros líderes voluntarios y empleados sirviendo a la comunidad étnica de nuestra diócesis para seguir formándose y así servir mejor la misión de nuestro Señor Jesucristo en estas tierras de Richmond.

Por parte de la oficina de ministerios étnicos se está organizando diferentes momentos de encuentros y formación para ir creciendo en nuestro ser una Iglesia local intercultural enriquecida por las diversas culturas y celebraciones religiosas populares de muchos pueblos que están presentes en nuestra diócesis y forman parte de esta familia diocesana caracterizada por su diversidad en la unidad. Esta vigoriza las comunidades parroquiales y hace viva la catolicidad de nuestra Iglesia.

Aquí le compartimos algunas de nuestras iniciativas para que puedan participar y ser expresión viva de nuestro ser católico en nuestra diócesis.

Testimonios de Fe

Para este bicentenario, los líderes hispanos que son facilitadores e instructores de la formación de la fe del adulto de toda la diócesis compartirán sus testimonios, abriendo sus corazones para ayudar a abrir los caminos de la fe a nuestros hermanos y hermanas que siguen intentando “brillar como estrellas, aferrándose a la Palabra de Vida” (Flp 2, 15-16).

Mindy Prats – Cuba - Incarnation, Charlottesville



“El ayudar a nuestros hermanos a sentirse parte del llamado que Dios les dio a aquellos primeros 12 discípulos, es una satisfacción inimaginable; un regocijo y ese gozo que solo Dios no puede dar por el deber cumplido”

Angela Phipps – El Salvador - St. Joseph, Hampton



“Paso a paso Dios continúa mostrándome el camino, abriendo puertas y corazones para continuar sirviendo a Su Iglesia, dentro de la Comunidad Hispana, en este país. ¡Nada fácil! porque requiere compromiso, sacrificio, perseverancia en la oración y en la Formación continua, sobre todo la fe. ¡Todo es gracia y debemos pedirla constantemente, porque para Dios, no hay imposibles!”

Kenia Aguilar – México - Blessed Sacrament, Harrisonburg



“Cresco más en mi fe espiritualmente y Dios me fortalece cada día más. Me he enamorado más de mi doctrina como Cristiana Católica y en base a ser una feligresa activa e instruirme por medio de talleres, conferencias diocesanas y por otros movimientos eclesiales.”

Miguel Hofius – Belice/Guatemala - St. Anne, Bristol



“Creo que es importante tener una actitud de servicio. Si no la tiene una persona, hay que pedírsela a Dios: «Ábreme las puertas, para que yo pueda seguir en el camino que Tú deseas para mí». Cristo vino y nos enseñó a participar, a servir y a dar de nosotros mismos. La conveniencia de uno mismo deja de ser importante, ante el servicio a Cristo y a su Iglesia.”



OFFICE OF  
ETHNIC  
MINISTRIES

2020

Office of Ethnic Ministries, Office of Hispanic Ministry,  
Office for Black Catholics, Office of Asian Ministry,  
Native American Ministry

January	15	OHM - DME Formation – (Discípulos Misioneros en el Espíritu) Pastoral Center - 7800 Carousel Lane, Richmond, VA 23294   7-9:30pm
	16	OHM - DME Formation – (Discípulos Misioneros en el Espíritu) Pastoral Center - 7800 Carousel Lane, Richmond, VA 23294   7-9:30pm
	17	OBC - Gospel Concert - St. Elizabeth - 2712 2nd Ave, Richmond, VA 23222   6:30 – 8:30 pm
	22-24	OEM- Migrant and Refugee Exhibit- Pastoral Center - 7800 Carousel Lane, Richmond, VA 23294   During Business Hours
February	14-16	OBC - Kujenga – (Youth Retreat) Roslyn Retreat Center- 8727 River Rd, Henrico, VA 23229
		OHM – IV Regional Formation - Saint Mary's Catholic Church - 7301 Annapolis Rd. Landover Hills, MD 20784   10am - 5pm
	12	OHM - DME Formation – (Discípulos Misioneros en el Espíritu) Pastoral Center - 7800 Carousel Lane, Richmond, VA 23294   7-9:30pm
	13	OHM - DME Formation – (Discípulos Misioneros en el Espíritu) Pastoral Center - 7800 Carousel Lane, Richmond, VA 23294   7-9:30pm
March	22	OHM - Pathways-Sacraments – (New Catechists) St. Joseph – 2481 Spruce St. Martinsville, VA 24112   9-3pm
	7	OEM - Convocation of Parish Leaders Conference – Cultural Arts Center – 2880 Mountain Rd. Glen Allen, VA 23060   7:30am-4:00 pm
	14	OHM - Adult Faith Formation Conference – St. Andrews Church – 631 N. Jefferson St, Roanoke, VA 24026   8:30am-3pm
	14	OHM – Intercultural Leadership Formation – Pastoral Center - 7800 Carousel Lane, Richmond, VA 23294   9am-3pm
	14	OAM - Asian Ministry Spiritual Retreat – Botanical Garden – 1300 Lakeside Ave. Henrico, VA 23228
	18	OHM - DME Formation – (Discípulos Misioneros en el Espíritu) Pastoral Center - 7800 Carousel Lane, Richmond, VA 23294   7-9:30pm
	19	OHM - DME Formation – (Discípulos Misioneros en el Espíritu) Pastoral Center - 7800 Carousel Lane, Richmond, VA 23294   7-9:30pm
	21	OEM - Men's Conference OE - St. Bede (Williamsburg) – 3686 Ironbound Rd. Williamsburg, VA 23188   9:00am-4:30pm
April	4	OEM – OneWE African Mass – Comboni Sisters Mission Center – 1307 Lakeside Ave. Henrico, VA 23228
	4	OHM – Intercultural Leadership Formation – Pastoral Center - 7800 Carousel Lane, Richmond, VA 23294   10 am-3:30pm
	29	OBC – Listening Session – Our Lady of Lourdes – 8200 Woodman Rd. Henrico, VA 23228   6:30-8:30 pm
	9	OHM – Intercultural Leadership Formation – Pastoral Center - 7800 Carousel Lane, Richmond, VA 23294   9 am-3pm
May	13	OHM - DME Formation – (Discípulos Misioneros en el Espíritu) Pastoral Center - 7800 Carousel Lane, Richmond, VA 23294   7-9:30pm
	14	OHM - DME Formation – (Discípulos Misioneros en el Espíritu) Pastoral Center - 7800 Carousel Lane, Richmond, VA 23294   7-9:30pm
June	17	OHM - DME Formation – (Discípulos Misioneros en el Espíritu) Pastoral Center - 7800 Carousel Lane, Richmond, VA 23294   7-9:30pm
	18	OHM - DME Formation – (Discípulos Misioneros en el Espíritu) Pastoral Center - 7800 Carousel Lane, Richmond, VA 23294   7-9:30pm



## Texas bishop explains why he sought 'thorough investigation' of McCarrick

CINDY WOODEN  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Bishop Joseph E. Strickland of Tyler, Texas, said he asked Pope Francis about the Vatican investigation into Theodore E. McCarrick and the release of a promised report on how the former cardinal managed to rise through the Church ranks.

The bishop, who was making his "ad limina" visit to Rome, drew widespread attention in August 2018 for a public statement saying he found "credible" the allegations made by retired Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, the former nuncio to the United States, regarding McCarrick.

Archbishop Vigano alleged that top Vatican officials, including Pope Francis, knew for years that McCarrick had been accused of sexual misconduct.

Bishop Strickland at the time called for a "thorough investigation, similar to those conducted any time allegations are deemed to be credible."

"Pope Francis was great" in answering all the questions of the bishops of Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas during an audience Jan. 20, Bishop Strickland told Catholic News Service the next day. But the pope did ask the bishops not to share certain details about the discussion.

Bishop Strickland said he does not regret what he said in his 2018 letter — "honestly, I guess I didn't realize how controversial it was at that time" — but as someone who studied canon law and as a bishop, "credible allegations" must be

investigated and dealt with.

"If I regretted anything," he said, it would be that Archbishop Vigano called for Pope Francis to resign. "I never intended to embrace that, because that's a major thing to say."

"I certainly didn't want to validate that," Bishop Strickland said, "but I said these allegations about McCarrick need to be investigated, and they have been and the report, according to Pope Francis yesterday," will be published.

"I'm a Catholic bishop. Of course, I support the vicar of Christ," he said.

The summer of 2018 had been difficult for Catholics, beginning with the news in June that McCarrick had been suspended from ministry, followed by dozens of stories detailing his sexual misconduct with seminarians and then allegations of sexual abuse of children; McCarrick's resignation from the College of Cardinals in July; and the release in August of the Pennsylvania grand jury report on abuse and its cover up in six dioceses.

Bishop Strickland said the priests and faithful of his diocese "were devastated at that time," and his reaction to Archbishop Vigano's report could be seen as him "taking on the smell of my sheep," as Pope Francis would say.

The bishop said he knew people are frustrated that it is taking so long for the report to be published, but "an institution that's been around 2,000 years doesn't turn on a dime."

Lobby and Zubik decisions, but because its ruling "threatens to reduce one of America's leading civil rights laws to virtual impotence," referring to RFRA.

This case, like previous ones, it said, asks if RFRA protects the Little Sisters of the Poor and other religious employers from federal regulations requiring most large employers to include contraceptive coverage in their healthcare plans.

It emphasized that RFRA essentially hangs in the balance because the appeals court "adopted a grudging interpretation of the statute that will, unless reversed, too often deny protection for religious people and institutions."

"Only this court's intervention can ensure that RFRA remains a meaningful security for religious freedom," it added.

Follow Zimmermann on Twitter: @carolmaczim

## Planned Giving Officer

The Diocesan Office of Development has an opening for a full-time Planned Giving Officer who reports to the Director of Planned Giving. The successful candidate must have an undergraduate degree and a minimum of 5 years' experience in fundraising; experience in carrying out gift planning programs preferred; extensive fundraising experience may be substituted for a completed undergraduate degree.

Responsibilities include assisting parishioners throughout the diocese to develop and implement long range financial plans for their benefit, the benefit of their family, their parish, diocesan entities and/or the diocese itself. Additional responsibilities include working directly with parishes to develop planned giving committees.



Please submit letter of interest and resume by  
February 15, 2020 to:

Gina Rhodes – Office of Development  
gmrhodes@charlottediocese.org or by mail to  
1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203

*The Diocese of Charlotte is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

## Supreme Court

Continued from Page 5

Home v. Pennsylvania and Trump v. Pennsylvania.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops filed a friend-of-the-court brief Nov. 1, siding with the Little Sisters of the Poor and stressing that the court needs to set the record straight particularly with its interpretation of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

RFRA — which says, "Governments should not substantially burden religious exercise without compelling justification" — was passed by Congress in 1993 and signed into law by President Bill Clinton.

The USCCB brief said there was a compelling need to review this case not only because the 3rd Circuit Court decision conflicts with other Supreme Court rulings on this topic in Hobby

## Peninsula Catholic High School

Open House  
February 5, from 5-7 pm  
All are welcome!



*Faith, knowledge and excellence  
in education since 1903.*



Come see us at, 600 Harpersville Road, Newport News, VA  
Tours begin every 15 minutes from 5-6 pm;  
tours en español at 6:15 pm.  
To register, visit our website at [peninsulacatholic.org](http://peninsulacatholic.org).





# CATHOLIC SCHOOLS LIGHT THE WAY



## THE SEGURA EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVE FOR CHILDREN: CELEBRATING A DECADE OF MAKING DREAMS A REALITY

In 2010, the late Most Reverend Francis Xavier DiLorenzo, Bishop of Richmond, recognized the growth of the Latino population in our Diocese and the need to provide a quality Catholic education to immigrant families. Thus, the Segura Educational Initiative for Children was founded. The initiative was named after Father Juan Baptista de Segura, a Spanish Jesuit missionary who was martyred in Virginia in 1571. The name was also derived from the Spanish word Segura, meaning safe.

Today our Bishop, the Most Reverend Barry Knestout, continues this important outreach ministry to provide access to quality Catholic education for low income Latino children in the Diocese of Richmond. The availability of tuition assistance creates opportunities for parents to work together with schools to help their children succeed.

Segura Advocates at each Diocesan school promote Catholic education to keep families engaged in the Catholic church and build enrollment in our schools. They recruit students, guide families through the enrollment process and help connect with the school community. If needed, they provide translation support with school staff and serve as a liaison for parent-teacher conferences and meetings. The success of the Segura Initiative is due in large part to the extraordinary support these advocates provide.

Over the past 10 years, the Segura Initiative has grown from 17 students to over 460 today. In addition, the total Hispanic enrollment in our schools has increased 68%. This increase in diversity combined with community activities celebrating Latino cultures builds the cultural competency of ALL of our students.

Hispanic people throughout the world know the value of Catholic education. Today's economic realities can make Catholic schools in America seem like an impossible dream to many families. At its core, the Segura Initiative offers a bridge to a better life and the opportunity to change the trajectory of young lives.

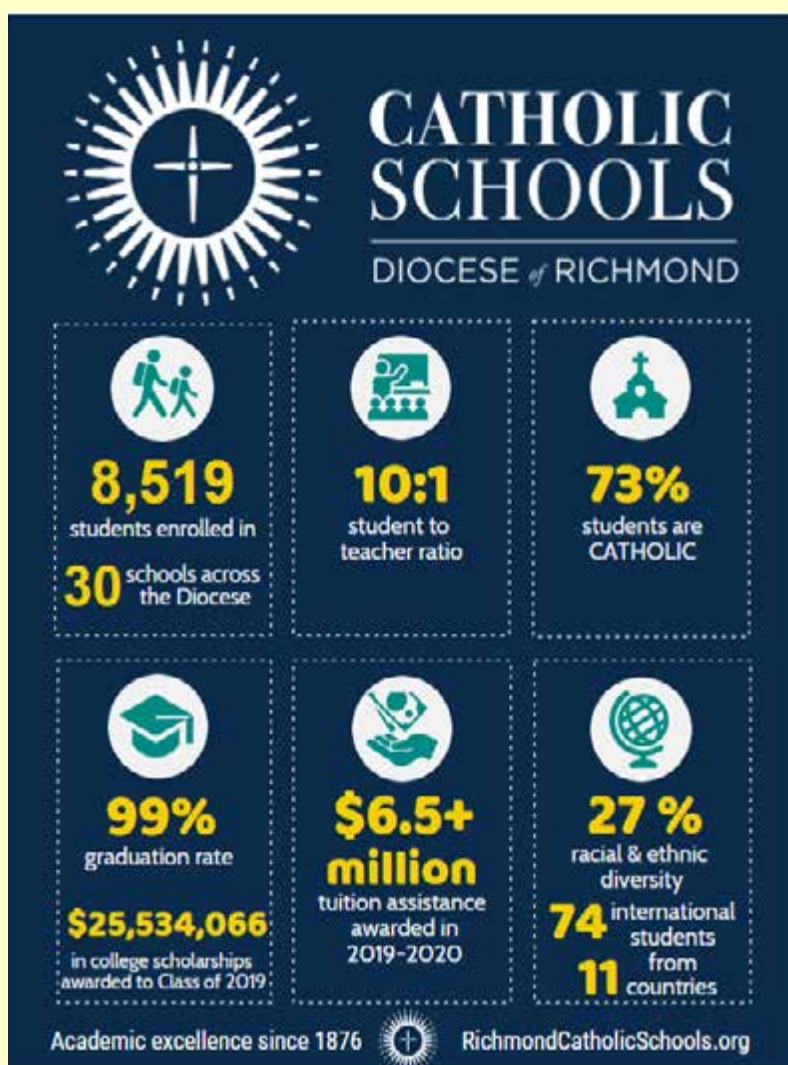
## FOUR SCHOOLS RECEIVE “PURPLE STAR” DESIGNATION BY THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The Virginia Department of Education awarded the “Purple Star” designation to Peninsula Catholic High School, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic School, Saint Mary Star of the Sea School and St. Pius X Catholic School. This designation is selectively awarded to recognize outstanding commitment to serving the needs of students and families connected to our nation's military.

Each school demonstrated their commitment to supporting military families by having trained staff members designated as liaisons between the schools and local military communities. Additionally, they offer resources and programming on issues unique to military-connected students.

“Understanding that the average child in a military family may move numerous times during their school career and may also face difficult separations when a parent is deployed, we strive to ensure that our students from military families are well cared for,” said Jenny Franklin, principal of Peninsula Catholic High School.

The Purple Star emblem was selected because the color purple symbolizes all branches of the military. The Hampton Roads area is home to one of the nation's largest populations of military personnel, and to the largest naval base in the world.







## Prepare your child for college & beyond







# SERVE

Faith formation built on Catholic values  
Nurturing school community  
Develop compassion & empathy with  
a commitment of service to others

**Prepare your child to live their faith**













VISIT US TO LEARN HOW OUR SCHOOLS CAN LIGHT THE WAY  
FOR YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO BUILD  
LEADERSHIP SKILLS, A COMMITMENT TO SERVING OTHERS  
AND MORAL COMPASS TO NAVIGATE LIFE.

RICHMOND REGION	 <b>All Saints Catholic School</b> JK-8th grade, Co-Ed 3418 Noble Avenue Richmond, VA 23222 804.329.7524 <a href="http://allsaintsric.org">allsaintsric.org</a>	 <b>Benedictine College Preparatory</b> 9th-12th grade, Boys 12829 River Road Richmond, VA 23238 804.708.9500 <a href="http://benedictinecollegeprep.org">benedictinecollegeprep.org</a>	 <b>Blessed Sacrament Huguenot Catholic School</b> PK2-12th grade, Co-Ed 2501 Academy Road Powhatan, VA, 23139 804.598.4211 <a href="http://bshknights.org">bshknights.org</a>
	 <b>Cristo Rey Richmond High School</b> 9th-12th grade, Co-Ed 304 North Sheppard Street Richmond, VA 23221 804.447.4704 <a href="http://cristoreyrichmond.org">cristoreyrichmond.org</a>	 <b>Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School</b> JK-8th grade, Co-Ed 8250 Woodman Road Richmond, VA 23228 804.262.1770 <a href="http://LourdesRVA.org">LourdesRVA.org</a>	 <b>St. Benedict Catholic School</b> JK-8th grade, Co-Ed 3100 Grove Avenue, Richmond, VA 23221 804.254.8850 <a href="http://saintbenedictschool.org">saintbenedictschool.org</a>
	 <b>Saint Bridget Catholic School</b> JK-8th grade, Co-Ed 6011 York Road Richmond, VA 23226 804.288.1994 <a href="http://saintbridget.org">saintbridget.org</a>	 <b>St. Edward-Epiphany Catholic School</b> JK-8th grade, Co-Ed 10701 W. Huguenot Road Richmond, VA 23235 804.272.2881 <a href="http://seeschool.com">seeschool.com</a>	 <b>Saint Gertrude High School</b> 9th-12th grade, Girls 3215 Stuart Avenue Richmond, VA 23221 804.358.9114 <a href="http://saintgertrude.org">saintgertrude.org</a>
	 <b>Saint Joseph Catholic School</b> JK-8th grade, Co-Ed 123 Franklin Street Petersburg, VA 23803 804.732.3931 <a href="http://saintjosephschool.com">saintjosephschool.com</a>	 <b>St. Mary's Catholic School</b> JK-8th grade, Co-Ed 9501 Gayton Road Richmond, VA 23229 804.740.1048 <a href="http://saintmary.org">saintmary.org</a>	<b>Celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2020</b> January 26—February 1
SOUTHWEST	 <b>Charlottesville Catholic School</b> JK-8th grade, Co-Ed 1205 Pen Park Road Charlottesville, VA 22901 434.964.0400 <a href="http://cvillecatholic.org">cvillecatholic.org</a>	 <b>Holy Cross Regional Catholic School</b> JK-12th grade, Co-Ed 2125 Langhorne Road Lynchburg, VA 24501 434.847.5436 <a href="http://holycrossforyou.org">holycrossforyou.org</a>	 <b>Roanoke Catholic School</b> PK3-12th grade, Co-Ed 621 North Jefferson Street Roanoke, VA 24016 540.982.3532 <a href="http://roanokecatholic.com">roanokecatholic.com</a>
	 <b>Sacred Heart Catholic School</b> PK3-8th grade, Co-Ed 540 Central Boulevard Danville, VA 24541 434.793.2656 <a href="http://sheartschool.com">sheartschool.com</a>	 <b>St. Anne Catholic School</b> PK3-8th grade, Co-Ed 300 Euclid Avenue Bristol, VA 24201 276.669.0048 <a href="http://stanneschoolbristol.org">stanneschoolbristol.org</a>	 <b>St. John Neumann Academy</b> PK-8th grade, Co-Ed 3600 Yellow Sulphur Road Blacksburg, VA 24060 540.552.7562 <a href="http://sjnacademy.org">sjnacademy.org</a>
TIDEWATER REGION	 <b>Catholic High School</b> 9th-12th grade, Co-Ed 4552 Princess Anne Road Virginia Beach, VA 23462 757.467.2881 <a href="http://chsvb.org">chsvb.org</a>	 <b>Christ the King Catholic School</b> PK3-8th grade, Co-Ed 3401 Tidewater Drive Norfolk, VA 23505 757.625.4951 <a href="http://ctkparish.org">ctkparish.org</a>	 <b>Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic School</b> JK-8th grade, Co-Ed 52 Harpersville Road Newport News VA 23601 757.596.2754 <a href="http://olmc-school.com">olmc-school.com</a>
	 <b>Peninsula Catholic High School</b> 8th-12th grade, Co-Ed 600 Harpersville Road Newport News, VA 23601 757.596.7247 <a href="http://peninsulacatholic.com">peninsulacatholic.com</a>	 <b>Portsmouth Regional Catholic School</b> PK3-8th grade, Co-Ed 2301 Oregon Avenue Portsmouth, VA 23701 757.488.6744 <a href="http://portsmouthcatholic.net">portsmouthcatholic.net</a>	 <b>Saint Gregory the Great Catholic School</b> JK-8th grade, Co-Ed 5343 Virginia Beach Boulevard Virginia Beach, VA 23462 757.497.1811 <a href="http://sggsvb.org">sggsvb.org</a>
	 <b>St. John the Apostle Catholic School</b> PreK3-8th grade, Co-Ed 1968 B Sandbridge Road Virginia Beach, VA 23456 757.821.1100 <a href="http://sjavb.org">sjavb.org</a>	 <b>Saint Mary Star of the Sea School</b> PK3-8th grade, Co-Ed 14 N. Willard Avenue Hampton, VA 23663 757.723.6358 <a href="http://saintmarystarofthesea.com">saintmarystarofthesea.com</a>	 <b>St. Matthew's Catholic School</b> PK2-8th grade, Co-Ed 3316 Sandra Lane Virginia Beach, VA 23464 757.420.2455 <a href="http://smsvb.net">smsvb.net</a>
	 <b>Saint Patrick Catholic School</b> PK-8th grade, Co-Ed 1000 Bolling Avenue Norfolk, VA 23508 757.440.5500 <a href="http://stpcs.org">stpcs.org</a>	 <b>St. Pius X Catholic School</b> PreK3-8th grade, Co-Ed 7800 Halprin Drive Norfolk, VA 23518 757.588.6171 <a href="http://stpiusxschoolva.org">stpiusxschoolva.org</a>	 <b>Star of the Sea Catholic School</b> PK3-8th grade, Co-Ed 309 15th Street Virginia Beach, VA 23454 757.428.8400 <a href="http://sosschool.org">sosschool.org</a>
	 <b>Walsingham Academy</b> PK-12th grade, Co-Ed 1100 Jamestown Road Williamsburg, VA 23187 757.259.1430 <a href="http://walsingham.org">walsingham.org</a>	<b>SCHEDULE A TOUR TODAY!</b>	

