



# The Catholic Virginian

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## Cathedral, St. Michael parishioners make history

Three are among first group of females to become Eagle Scouts

KRISTEN L. BYRD

Special to The Catholic Virginian

Rachel and Mara Snyder, and Madeleine “Maddie” Mullin are part of history. They are part of the inaugural group of young women to become Eagle Scouts in the Boy Scouts of America.

The Snyders, identical twins who are freshmen at Virginia Commonwealth University and members of St. Michael the Archangel, Glen Allen, and Maddie, their lifelong friend, a home-schooled high school senior and member of the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Richmond, give credit in part to their families and their faith for their accomplishment.

For all three, the love of Scouting was planted early by their families. Mara and Rachel’s great grandfather was one of the country’s first Eagle Scouts. Their father followed in his footsteps, something the girls wished to do as well.

Maddie was a member of Girl Scouts for five years but enjoyed

tagging along on her younger brother’s Boy Scouts activities. Maddie’s mother, Sarah, had longed to be a part of her own brother’s Scouting adventures as well, and saw that same longing for adventure in her four daughters. She also has one son.

When the dream of female Eagle Scouts became more realistic, the family took a weekend camping trip to try to figure out how they could start a troop in Richmond.

Maddie’s older sister, Anna, who had severe developmental delays, was diagnosed with Leukemia shortly after this trip and died one month later. This event served as a catalyst to create something lasting and good.

“We were devastated,” Maddie recalled. “As we were re-learning how to live our lives without Anna, one bright spot that helped us focus on the future was girls in Scouting.”

Maddie reached out to Rachel and Mara Snyder, and they got to work. St. Michael Parish supported

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Members of Troop 736G at St. Michael the Archangel, Glen Allen, build birdhouses for chimney swifts — the Eagle Scout project of Rachel Snyder — on the parish grounds, Monday, Jan. 18. Clockwise from foreground are: Taylor Campbell, Elizabeth Snyder, Rachel Snyder, Mara Snyder and Annabelle Van Saun. Last month, Rachel and Mara were among the first females in the United States to be honored as Eagle Scouts. (Photo/Patrick Snyder)

## Bishops address moral concerns about J&J vaccine

Reaffirm vaccination ‘act of charity that serves the common good’

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Use of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine, approved Feb. 27 by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, raises moral concerns because it was “was developed, tested and is produced with abortion-derived cell lines,” the chairmen of two U.S. bishops’ committees said March 2.

The bishops concluded, however, that “while we should continue to insist that pharmaceutical companies stop using abortion-derived cell lines, given the world-wide suffering that this pandemic is causing, we affirm again that being vaccinated can be an act of charity that serves the common good.”

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Doctrine, and Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann

of Kansas City, Kansas, chairman of the USCCB’s Committee on Pro-Life Activities, made the comments in a joint statement.

In December, the prelates addressed concerns over what then were the newly approved BioNTech and Moderna vaccines because “an abortion-derived cell line was used for testing them,” but “not used in their production.”

However, the Johnson & Johnson Janssen one-shot COVID-19 vaccine raises “additional moral concerns” because it was “developed, tested and is produced with abortion-derived cell lines,” Bishop Rhoades and Archbishop Naumann said.

In their December statement, the bishops noted that cell lines used were derived from fetuses aborted in the 1970s.

In their March 2 statement, the bishops

quoted the Vatican’s Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which judged that “when ethically irreproachable COVID-19 vaccines are not available ... it is morally acceptable to receive COVID-19 vaccines that have used cell lines from aborted fetuses in their research and production process.”

“However, if one can choose among equally safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines,” the bishops added, “the vaccine with the least connection to abortion-derived cell lines should be chosen. Therefore, if one has the ability to choose a vaccine, Pfizer or Moderna’s vaccines should be chosen over Johnson & Johnson’s.”

Doses of this newest vaccine — now the third approved for use in the United States, were being shipped to distribution points

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# Let St. Joseph guide you through uncertainties



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

From my childhood on, I have known that March 19, the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, was an important day. It was significant not only for the Church, but it had a special place in our family. If there was even a hint of spring-time warmth, Mom would begin planting her garden on this day each year.

Forty-eight hours earlier, the cultural celebration of St. Patrick's Day, which liturgically is an optional memorial, garners much attention. However, as the patron saint of the Universal Church, St. Joseph's Day warrants the greater designation of "solemnity." Later, as I acquired a better understanding of the relationship among prayer, Church and liturgy, the distinction between how the two saints are recognized was clear.

By announcing a Year of St. Joseph, Pope Francis, may be recognizing that the pandemic has been a long, cold, seemingly never-ending winter, is urging us to look for the first hints of spring. Those hints might be in the form of long-awaited vaccines and in our full capacity, in-person participation in the Mass, of everyone who desires to be able to assemble as a faith community.

As life opens up in the weeks and months ahead, St. Joseph can be our guide as we make our way through the uncertainties before us. He served as protector, provider and guide for our Lord and our Blessed Mother. When he faced uncertainties, he accepted them, know-



ing that his faith in God would sustain him.

Consider the enormity of St. Joseph's responsibilities. He was called upon to protect, provide for and guide the One who came to proclaim the Kingdom of God and who in turn entered into his passion death and resurrection in order to save us.

If God had given him a job description, it might have noted that St. Joseph's role would be critical in facilitating and supporting the whole work of salvation.

Consider, too, that God spoke to St. Joseph in dreams. He learns of Mary's pregnancy and is told to take her as his wife; he is warned to take his wife and child from Bethlehem to Egypt; he is told it's safe to return to Israel; and then warned again to go to Galilee instead of Judea. And he follows through immediately!

If I were in that situation, it would be a challenge for me spiritually to respond so

quickly, wondering if it was my own imagination or natural instinct rather than accepting that God was really speaking to me.

But St. Joseph was so integrated as a human being in his holiness and sanctity that there was nothing unruly about him. Not even his dreams. They reflected his cooperation with the Father and communion with the Holy Spirit.

In "Patris Cordes," the apostolic letter proclaiming the Year of St. Joseph, Pope Francis noted that St. Joseph "is certainly not passively resigned, but courageously and firmly proactive. In our own lives, acceptance and welcome can be an expression of the Holy Spirit's gift of fortitude. Only the Lord can give us the strength needed to accept life as it is, with all its contradictions, frustrations and disappointments."

During this year, let us recognize that St. Joseph is vital to our Church and to us. He is someone to whom we can turn, someone who can help us to navigate the experiences of human frailty, whether they are due to the pandemic, political turmoil, economic challenges or anything else that obstructs our reaching the spring we seek.

### Prayer to St. Joseph

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted his only Son;  
in you Mary placed her trust;  
with you Christ became man.  
Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
show yourself a father  
and guide us in the path of life.  
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,  
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*

# How funds support outreach to missions

DEACON BOB GRIFFIN  
Special to The Catholic Virginian

As director of the Diocese of Richmond's Office of the Propagation of the Faith, it is my privilege to share with you a report on the activities of that office. The statement of activity shows the financial activity for 2020.

The **Mission Cooperative Program** assigns mission parishes and other organizations to make an appeal at larger parishes to help support their operations. In 2020, \$71,114 was distributed. Thanks to those parishes that allowed pastors and others to make an appeal.

The amount distributed is substantially less than last year due to the inability to visit because of the pandemic. Assignments have been made for 2021 in the hope that visits will be able to resume later this year.

Collections for the program are slightly larger than the distributions as we have retained 3% of the funds to help defray some of the administrative costs. This deduction has been discontinued since the pandemic.

When we celebrate **World Mission Sunday** annually on the next to the last Sunday of October, a collection is taken up to support

mission work around the world. This year the people of our diocese contributed \$39,453.89.

The Office of the Society of the Propagation of the Faith has funds that are invested with the Catholic Community Foundation of the Diocese of Richmond. Distributions are made from this fund based on recommendations of an advisory committee and the approval of Bishop Barry C. Knestout.

The **Home Mission Grant Program** is not shown in the statement of activity. The source of the funds comes from a diocesan-wide collection in June and from the Annual Diocesan Appeal. The program is administered through the Office of the Propagation of the Faith in conjunction with a grant committee and the bishop.

This program provides grants for repairs and small construction projects to mission parishes and other smaller parishes. In 2020, grants of \$141,997 were made. Information about applying for grants can be found at <https://richmonddiocese.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/2021-Home-Mission-Grant-Application.pdf>. The

## Society of the Propagation of the Faith Statement of Activity for the year ended December 31, 2020

<b>Balances, January 1, 2020</b>			
Bank account		\$ 9,155	
Investments		526,784	\$ 535,939
<b>Increases</b>			
Realized gains on investments		\$ 2,928	
Unrealized gains on investments		57,425	
Interest & Dividend income		8,885	
Mission Cooperative collections		71,390	
<b>Total Increases</b>			140,628
<b>Decreases</b>			
Distributions:			
Mission Cooperative		\$ 71,114	
Contribution forwarded to national office or Propagation of Faith		50	
Investment fees		2,529	
Administrative expenses:			
Reimbursement to Diocese Year ended June 30, 2020		8,426	
State Corporation fee		25	
Supplies		111	
<b>Total Decreases</b>			(82,255)
<b>Balances, December 31, 2020</b>			
Bank account		\$ 9,245	
Investments		585,067	\$ 594,312

deadline is Friday, May 14, 2021.

The Office of the Society of the Propagation of the Faith also administers **Fuel & Hunger** grants. In December 2020, \$407,422 was distributed to 90 parishes, Commonwealth Catholic Charities, Catholic Charities of Eastern Virginia and conferences of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Funds for these grants come primarily from the Annual

Diocesan Appeal.

In gratitude we are called to share our faith as missionaries in our parishes, diocese and the world. Thank you to all who make this work possible — pastors, members of the advisory and grant committees and especially to the generous people of our parishes. For more information, please contact me at [bgriffin@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:bgriffin@richmonddiocese.org).



# Virtual learning now a permanent option at PCHS

Digital days have been part of the school since 2016

JENNIFER NEVILLE

Special to The Catholic Virginian

Students at Peninsula Catholic High School, Newport News, may be miles apart, but they learn together in their classrooms, and that scenario is expected to continue long after COVID is no longer a health risk.

In an effort to make Catholic education available to more families, the school has adopted a permanent virtual learning program.

When Catholic schools closed to in-person students in March 2020 due to COVID, the transition to virtual learning at PCHS went “smoothly” because the school already had a system in place, said Janine Franklin, principal.

Since 2016, teachers and pupils have had digital learning days six times a year as practice runs for inclement weather. As a result, the school already had the equipment, technology and familiarity with attending classes virtually. Teachers were Google certified and students were adept with their Chromebooks, which they use daily in classes.

“It was like someone had a crystal ball at Peninsula Catholic and saw this coming,” said Edward McGinley, whose daughters, Lily and Olivia, continue to attend PCHS virtually. “It was amazing.”

Franklin said this year has proven that virtual learning at PCHS can be a success, so the school is adopting the permanent option. Virtual students can enroll full-time or part-time, and they can change educational options between quarters in October, March or January.

Using Zoom and conference cameras, students and teachers can see each other in the classroom and at home, Franklin said. Technology allows virtual students to participate in class discussions and collaborate in small groups or with partners who are online or in school.

Franklin said the school is “investing in infrastructure to make the concurrent educational experience as top notch as it can be.” Next year teachers will have new computers so they will have “even more power behind them.”

## Making connections

Recognizing that lack of in-school socialization can be difficult for students, Franklin said PCHS offers opportunities throughout the day for all students to connect. Students virtually and physically attend homeroom where they can chat with friends. Many classes have a few minutes of “warm up” in which students talk about a particular topic of the day, not necessarily an academic one.

All learners may participate in social events and extracurricular

activities, and full-time virtual and in-person students also may participate in athletics.

“I think staying part of their high school and keeping in contact with their friends is very, very important to them,” Franklin said.

Jaden Moore and Lily McGinley, both learning virtually, said that being involved in theater after school has helped them feel part of the school community.

PCHS, which educates students from eighth through 12th grades, has 271 students, 67 of whom are learning from home. Class sizes are small and have an average of one teacher to 11 students.

Franklin said the school’s “comfortable capacity” is about 350 students, and she expects interest will grow and applications will increase due to the two educational options. To maintain small class size, Franklin predicts the school may need to hire more teachers to start in the fall.

Lily McGinley is glad the school will continue to have small classes because it allows teachers to give “one-on-one” tutoring sessions, virtually and in-person, when needed. Franklin said teachers also have office hours – time they set aside to be available to help students “in a more open format.”

The idea for concurrent education at PCHS is not new. Franklin said the school was already “heading in this direction,” but COVID “sped up the process.”

Mike Pilola, chair of English Department, said there’s “no substitute” for having students physically in front of a teacher, but virtual learning can be “successful.”

Reasons to opt for permanent virtual learning run the gamut. For example, it can be ideal for students suffering a chronic illness or who find learning at school distracting, Franklin said. Although the school has implemented measures to prevent COVID, some students this year continue to learn online as an extra precaution.

## Faculty have met challenges

Because virtual students are learning in the same classroom as in-person students, Christopher Moore, Jaden’s father, said virtual learning at PCHS is just as challenging as being at the school. Likewise, Edward McGinley is pleased that his daughters have the same “high-quality college preparatory coursework” and continue to have relationships with “the top-tier teachers and counselors.”

In addition to offering a “solid academic curriculum,” the school’s faith component continues as virtual students attend weekly school Masses online and attend retreats



Peninsula Catholic High School students Zach Moore, left, and Timothy Zemieniuski work on an experiment in dual enrollment biology while other students participate virtually. PCHS is making virtual learning a permanent option beginning with the 2021-2022 school year. (Photo/PCHS)

online or in person.

Franklin said teaching concurrently “has been harder for teachers” and “has taken a lot of preparation,” but it is “now becoming more normal and natural for them.”

Melanie Weser, economics, business and computer science teacher, said having both types of learners in the classroom is “a different kind of difficult” in teaching.

Working together, faculty have overcome technical glitches, mastered multiple online educational platforms and shared teaching ideas that engage online and in-person students. Franklin said frequent professional development for teachers has also been vital to the program’s success.

“There’s a lot that our teachers have had to figure out, and I am proud of everything that they’ve done to make it work,” Franklin

said. “It’s one thing to teach them virtually a few times a year; it’s another thing to teach them (virtually) every day.” Pilola said teaching virtually and in-person concurrently requires teachers “to think in a different way” and requires “a little extra planning.” They have to “re-imagine” some of their lessons and instructional techniques, often with trial and error, to engage both in-person and at-home students. Franklin said teachers are using educational interactive apps for things like games, videos and slide presentations.

“I think that having the two different types of learners happening at the same time is making me become a better teacher. It’s giving me a reason to seek out new methods and try new things in the classroom,” Weser said. “It’s an exciting time to be teacher.”

## Pope’s Lenten advice: Fast from gossip, read the Gospel daily

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — People should fast from gossiping and spreading hearsay as part of their Lenten journey, Pope Francis said. “For Lent this year, I will not speak ill of others, I will not gossip and all of us can do this, everyone. This is a wonderful kind of fasting,” the pope said Feb. 28 after praying the Sunday Angelus.

Greeting visitors in St. Peter’s Square, the pope said his advice

for Lent included adding a different kind of fasting “that won’t make you feel hungry: fasting from spreading rumors and gossiping. And don’t forget that it will also be helpful to read a verse from the Gospel every day,” he said, urging people to have on hand a pocket-size edition to read whenever possible, even if it is just a random verse. “This will open your heart to the Lord,” he added.



## History

*Continued from Page 1*

the endeavor. They needed five girls to form a charter; they got six. By the end of 2019, they had 11. That eventually grew to 21.

Maddie's father, John, became scoutmaster for Troop 736G, and her mother became an adult leader. Rachel and Mara's father serves as an assistant scoutmaster. One important part of BSA is that the Scouts, not parents, lead the troop.

"The adults joke that they are only there to call the ambulance or reserve a campsite," said Rachel. "They are responsible for health and safety. That is it. The Scouts are the ones who run meetings. They get the freedom to make mistakes – and learn from them."

### Busy, not bored

When Rachel heard the news that girls were allowed to become Eagle Scouts, she was overjoyed.

"I wanted to climb trees, camp, white-water raft, be an amazing archer, identify native plants and animals, earn a sash that shows my experience, and have friends who wanted to do it with me. I just assumed it wasn't possible," she said.

After signing up, the three young women immediately started working toward becoming Eagle Scouts.

Mathematically speaking, it was possible for them to earn their Eagle Scout rank — but just barely. They would only have about two years to accomplish what would normally take someone much longer, e.g., it took Rachel and Mara's father six years to earn the rank.

There were several lower ranks they had to achieve before this, each with their own list of requirements and activities. It would take an incredible amount of dedication and focus, things which they did not lack. They were determined to exceed expectations. And then something entirely unexpected happened: the pandemic.

While some teens may have felt bored or lonely during a year of quarantine, Scouts has provided a sense of community and a way to fill up the days.

"The busyness has definitely helped," said Mara. "I can't say that in any point I've felt lonely or bored over this last year of lockdown."

The troop has continued to

hold meetings twice a week and have monthly activities. Even though they have largely stayed socially distant, they have managed to grow closer.

"Having siblings and close friends striving to achieve the same goals was above all one of the reasons why we were able to succeed," said Mara.

Mara and Rachel are two of six children – all girls, ranging in age from 21 to 2. They and their 14-year-old sister, Elizabeth, are all in the same troop. Nine-year-old Therese is a Bear Scout.

Mara noted the challenges some girls may feel trying to become Eagle Scouts.

"There is a desire to prove that letting you try wasn't a mistake, which is a personal pressure that I know a lot of the girls felt," she said. "You simply had to be better than your male peers because if you failed, you would have a lot further to fall."

### Final projects

One of the main requirements of becoming an Eagle Scout is a final project. The Scout has to come up with the idea herself, write the proposal, and run and complete the project, all while demonstrating the skills she has learned during her journey as a Scout.

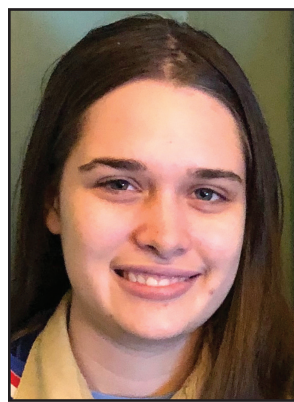
Mara is majoring in environmental studies, and her love of nature is evident in her Eagle Scout project. She decided to make bird toys for a local parrot rescue program.

She stated she's had a passion for birds since the age of 9 when she got her first finch, who is impressively still alive. She's been fostering birds through the parrot rescue for five years and hopes to work as a wildlife rehabilitator.

"Mara and Rachel have always been passionate about their appreciation for nature, wanting to observe and protect and learn everything they can," said mom, Donna. "Scouts has helped them hone that into real dreams of how they can take this passion into their adult lives."

Maddie's project was inspired by her deceased sister.

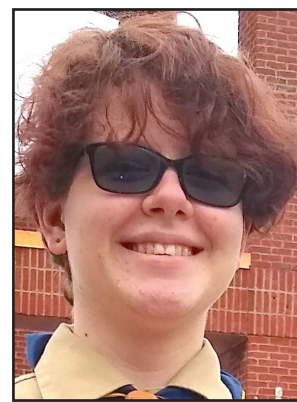
"Anna had shaped our lives. I basically grew up as one of her caregivers, and after she was gone, my life became easier, but definitely not better," she said. "I wanted



Mara Snyder



Rachel Snyder



Madeleine "Maddie" Mullin

to do something with this new, but painful, freedom. I wanted to help other children and families like ours."

A robotics enthusiast, Maddie used a 3D printer to create specialized luggage tag-style medical alert tags that can be attached to a wheelchair, stroller or car seat. She led a team that designed, printed and assembled these tags, and then ran a drive-thru demonstration and distribution event, all while adhering to COVID regulations.

"We are proud of the work Madeline has done and her accomplishments," said Maddie's parents. "The determination and planning she demonstrated to reach her goal is inspiring. Cold nights of camping in the rain she met cheerfully, knowing this was the path to her goal."

Like her sister, Rachel's project also focused on nature and birds, specifically chimney swifts. Rachel explained that chimney swifts are an endangered species living in Virginia. They lack adequate nesting sites, and their numbers have been declining for decades.

Since there is a flock of chimney swifts at the twins' parish, Rachel designed, planned and built a 10-foot steel tower for them to safely build their nests. She wanted to raise local awareness that there are living things here who need help.

"You don't need to travel the world to find a species that needs protection or some critter that stands out as special. All you need to do is go outside and observe the world around you," she said.

It is in nature that she nurtures her relationship with God.

"Honestly, the times that I feel closest to God are when I am camping," she said. "When I am out in nature and the world is quiet, the mountains are overhead, the birds are singing and everything is at peace. Seeing the amazing world around us that God has created, it gives you the space to listen and hear him."

### Faith integral to work

At BSA, talking about religion is not taboo; it is integral. There are 12 "points" of BSA, and the last one is "Reverent: Be reverent toward God. Be faithful in your religious duties. Respect the beliefs of others."

"It is the first club I've attended where you can and are encouraged to openly talk about your faith," Mara stated. "I've spent hours talking to my atheist friends from Scouts about what exactly we believe, and in turn, they have explained to me what they believe. Scouts gave me a chance to find context in faith, to find where my religion and what I believe fits into the world."

After two years of hard work, they have realized their goals.

"I would've never dreamed this would be possible, and I am simply amazed at their accomplishment," said Mara and Rachel's dad, Patrick. "I stayed active with my childhood troop for a couple of years after I earned my Eagle but stepped away from Scouting after I had three daughters. I always figured I'd go back some day. Six daughters later, I guess I had to wait for the BSA to expand the program."

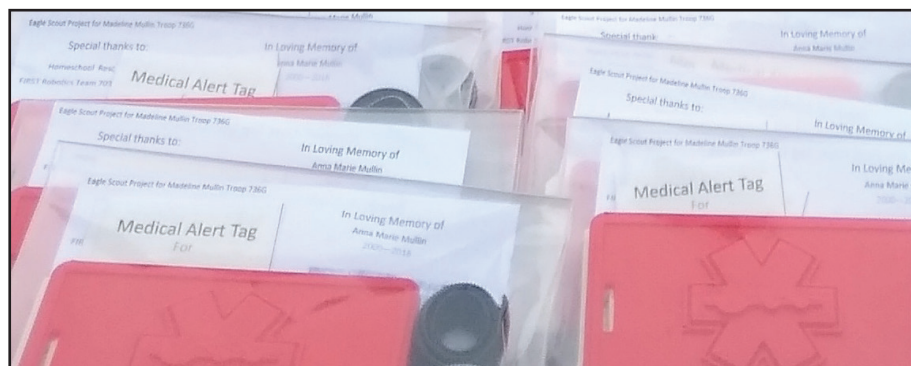
Maddie's parents described the pride they have in their daughter: "She has been fully immersed in so many ways with Scouting that the true rewards transcend something so fleeting as an inaugural class. It is an honor to be a part of it and to have that trailblazing journey recognized. But it is enough just to be able to do it. And that humility may be what brings us the most pride, ironically."

### More adventures

Maddie, Mara and Rachel will continue to be active in Scouts and are excited about the adventures to come. They already have two planned: a base in Florida that offers Scouts the chance to sail around the Bahamas, tag sharks, scuba dive, snorkel in coral reefs and perform conservation work; and a base in New Mexico that offers Scouts backpacking, horseback riding and the opportunity examine dinosaur footprints.

They recognize that their accomplishments will open doors to more young women. They are hopeful others will join BSA and follow in their footsteps while creating their own paths.

"It is an amazing program that is going to let them achieve so much – let them see the world, have stories to tell, make friends that last a lifetime," Rachel said. "I want them to have that. I'm glad they can now."



For her Eagle Scout project, Madeline "Maddie" Mullin designed, printed and assembled luggage tag-style medical alert tags that can be attached to wheelchairs, strollers and car seats. (Photo/Patrick Snyder)



# Little Sisters sell St. Joseph's Home to Accordius Health

Religious community has served elderly poor in Richmond since 1874

BRIAN T. OLSZEWSKI  
The Catholic Virginian

When the Little Sisters of the Poor announced on Oct. 30, 2019, that they were leaving Richmond, they noted that St. Joseph's Home was not closing. It didn't, and it won't.

In a joint statement released Tuesday, March 2, the Little Sisters and Accordius Health announced that the latter will take over operation of the home.

During a video posted on the Little Sisters' website, Congregation of Holy Cross Father Mark T. Creegan, lawyer for the religious community, said the transfer would "take a few months."

"We will be transferring licenses, obtaining regulatory approvals, preparing to transition operations," he said. "When these processes are complete, the operations of the home will be transferred to Accordius."

Responding to an email from The Catholic Virginian, the priest said that both parties agreed not to disclose the sale price "at this time."

The Little Sisters have operated a home for the aged in the Richmond area since 1874. St. Joseph's Home is situated on an eight-acre campus and is licensed for 32 nursing beds, 40 assisted living beds and 23 independent living apartments. There is also a house on the property known as "the cottage," which has been used as a guest house. Current residents of St. Joseph's will continue to reside in the home after the transfer.

During an interview with The Catholic Virginian in October 2019, Mother Jeanne Mary said the Little Sisters' decision to leave the diocese was part of the "strategizing" the religious community had been doing over the previous five years due to the declining number of vocations. They had already withdrawn from homes in St. Louis, Chicago, Cleveland and several other cities.

Kim Morrow, chief operating officer for Accordius Health, which operates 41 health care facilities throughout North Carolina and Virginia, said in the video, "We are committed to continuing the Little Sisters' tradition of caring for and recognizing the dignity of every resident we will have the privilege to serve."

Father Creegan told The Catholic Virginian in 2019 that

the model the Little Sisters used for charging most of the residents at the home was a "hybrid" — one in which residents paid only 30% of their income for rent while the sisters did fundraising to make up the other 70%.

When asked if Accordius would employ that same model, Father Creegan said, "We haven't spoken about this in particular, but Accordius will honor this formula for all current residents."

Sister Loraine Marie Clare, provincial superior of the Little Sisters of the Poor, stated in the press release, "Becoming part of the Accordius Health network should provide both the resources and the expertise necessary to provide quality care to the residents for years to come. While it is always difficult for the Little Sisters to withdraw from any of our homes, knowing that the residents will continue to receive good care does provide us comfort."

In the video, Mother Jeanne Mary, superior for the Little Sisters who serve at St. Joseph's Home, expressed gratitude for all who have supported their mission.

"They have been integral to the success of our work," she said.

Bishop Barry C. Knestout, in a statement released the day of the announcement, noted that when the sisters announced their decision to leave the area in 2019 that Mother Jeanne Mary said they would not leave until the day came when "everything had been handed over to a suitable buyer."

"The special charisms of the Little Sisters of the Poor — the spirit of being a family and creating a home for those in need — will be deeply missed in the Diocese of Richmond, but we fully support the sisters as they discern how their community can provide the best care possible for those to whom they minister," the bishop said. "I offer prayers of gratitude for all the Little Sisters who have served at St. Joseph's Home and pray that they will find a welcoming family atmosphere wherever they are assigned."

He added that he continued to pray for an increase in vocations to the Little Sisters and to all consecrated religious communities "so that their missions may be strengthened in the years to come."

## Thrifty Sisters store to remain

Since 2012, the Thrifty Sisters store has helped the Little Sisters of the Poor fund their work in caring for the elderly poor at St. Joseph's Home.

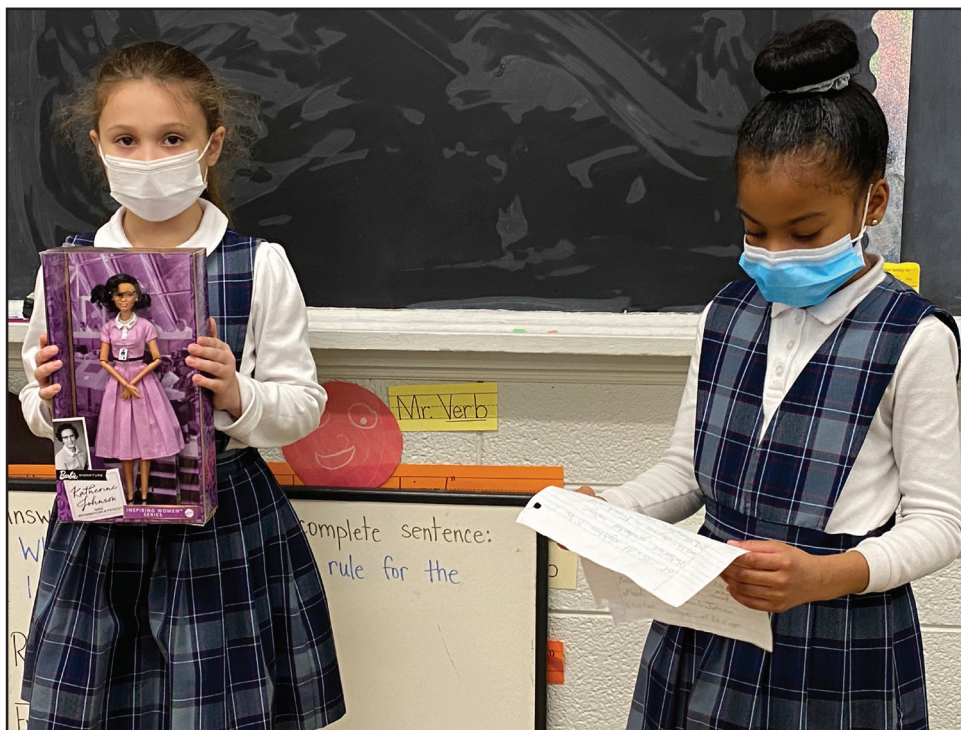
With the sale of St. Joseph's Home to Accordius Health, what would become of the not-for-profit thrift store?

"The Thrifty Sisters will continue," Congregation of Holy Cross Father Mark T. Creegan, legal counsel for the Little Sisters,

told The Catholic Virginian in a Tuesday, March 2, email. "The Little Sisters allowed them to become independent of the home and remain a charitable entity."

The store, located at 8911 Patterson Ave, Richmond, is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. It welcomes volunteers and donations. For further information visit [www.thriftysistersrva.org](http://www.thriftysistersrva.org) or call 804-658-4153.

## Celebrating Black History Month



St. Mary Star of the Sea second grader McKenzie Hudson, right, speaks to her class about Katherine Johnson while her classmate, Kate Pincus, holds the presenter's Barbie doll of Katherine Johnson during the presentation at the Hampton school on Wednesday, Feb. 17. Hudson shared the life stories of Johnson and Rosa Parks as part of the school's celebration of Black History Month. (Photo/Maritza Davila)

## Bishop's group completes work on Biden, 'eucharistic coherence'

JULIE ASHER  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — A special working group of the U.S. bishops formed last November to deal with conflicts that could arise between the policies of President Joe Biden, a Catholic, and Church teaching has completed its work, Los Angeles Archbishop José H. Gomez said in a March 1 memo to all the U.S. bishops.

Catholic News Service obtained a copy of the memo issued by Archbishop Gomez, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, as a follow-up to a February memo he sent to the bishops explaining the working group's two recommendations given to him in its final report.

The March 1 memo confirms the

actions taken on them.

The first of two recommendations made by the working group, he said, was to write a letter to Biden "conveying the USCCB's eagerness to work with him on issues where we will undoubtedly express strong support, while acknowledging a lack of support on other issues where we cannot agree with anticipated policies."

The second recommendation was to develop "a document addressed to all of the Catholic faithful on eucharistic coherence," the archbishop said.

Archbishop Gomez issued the Biden letter Jan. 20, which was Inauguration Day and Biden was sworn in as the nation's 46th president. "I look forward to working with President Biden

See Recommendations, Page 12



Questions CV’s support of bishops

The Catholic Virginian is pushing faithful Catholics further and further away from the principles of the Catholic Church. This is evidenced in many of your articles to include those on abortion. The most recent being “Bishop warns against ‘weaponization of Eucharist’” (Catholic Virginian, Feb. 8). Let’s not hurt the feelings of those who choose to ignore the teachings of the Church, but let’s reward them by giving them holy Communion!

There are three “non-negotiables” in the Church: 1. Abortion, 2. Sanctity of marriage, and 3. Freedom to practice our faith.

The CV has let down devoted Catholics on all three accounts. With that being said, I have to congratulate you on publishing the article from Catholic News Service on the following page. Mark Pattison gets it right with “Biden doesn’t define Catholic doctrine.” He does not agree, nor would devout Catholics agree, with the bishops who condone President Biden’s receiving Communion. Biden professes to be a Catholic, and yet, he doesn’t support any of the Church’s “non-negotiables.”

How can The CV support the bishops?

– Theresa Koren  
Midlothian

*Editor’s note: “Biden doesn’t define Catholic doctrine” was from Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann. It was reported by Mark Pattison.*

Disagrees with letter writers

Regarding letters in the Jan. 25 Catholic Virginian:

Dr. Mario Mazzarella: Perhaps you did not see the blizzard of letters condemning AG Barr for resuming federal executions because the recent revision to the Catechism is not an infallible teaching, and Catholics may still choose to accept the death penalty as an acceptable, albeit extreme, means of safeguarding the common good.

A priest or bishop

would not be justified in denying communion to a Catholic whom he knows to be in favor of the death penalty. Such is not the case for the immorality of abortion, which is an infallible teaching of the ordinary magisterium.

Daniel Moran: I know people who are pro-abortion. Referring to someone as pro-abortion is neither calumny nor hate speech. They specifically and proudly identify as pro-abortion. “Pro-choice” is false speech and a clever attempt to disguise what abortion really is.

Their opposition to the enforcement of religious beliefs by the government is wholly irrelevant. We have a moral obligation to develop and enforce laws in accordance with the natural law, i.e., prohibitions against murder, rape, theft, etc. These laws are a matter of justice and not an example of the government imposing religious beliefs on its citizens.

President Biden’s Jan. 28 presidential action, “Memorandum on Protecting Women’s Health at home and Abroad,” made it clear that he is promoting and actively contributing to the murder of unborn children around the world.

Biden is the one inciting violence — violence against the unborn. He has been excommunicated *latae sententiae*. It’s now the responsibility of a bishop to excommunicate him *ferendae sententia*.

– John B. Schamel III  
Fredericksburg

*Editor’s note: According to Msgr. R. Francis Muench, a canon lawyer and judicial vicar of the Diocese of Richmond, “The canonical issue about the bishop declaring a sentence (ferendae sententiae), a matter already evident in law itself (latae sententiae), is not required in canon law (cc. 1314-1318). Second, the one who would impose this, even if it were done, would be the offender’s own ordinary, not merely any bishop who takes it in his head. Finally, whether Mr. Biden is in fact excommunicated is hotly debated, as the procurement of abortion must*

*be actually accomplished (effectu secuto) by the offender. The law as presently written does not have any clause about remote causation.”*

Question for letter writers

All right, Joe Biden is wrong on abortion. I agree. So please tell me for whom I should have voted for president of the United States in November 2020. That is what I really want to know from all the letter writers critical of President Biden.

– Michael Danehy  
Newport News

Supports the president

While reading the letters to the editor (Catholic Virginian, Feb. 8), I noticed that six of the seven letters were either directly or indirectly focused on abortion. It seems to me that Catholic politicians and, more specifically, President Joe Biden, are judged by many Catholics solely by their stance on abortion.

I am so tired of this. I know abortion is an important issue, but it is not the only issue. (See Pope Francis Apostolic Exhortation “Gaudete et Exultate,” paragraph 101). I read a while ago something that stayed with me. The ultimate right to life issue may not be abortion, but rather creation care because if we destroy this planet, there will be no life on earth.

President Biden is working to make changes in environmental regulations that will care for our planet and God’s creation. Many of his policies follow Catholic Social Teaching. He is welcoming refugees and asylum seekers who are fleeing violence and persecution. He is working to provide aid to the poor and vulnerable through a COVID relief bill.

President Biden is a compassionate and sane man. He speaks of the importance of his Catholic faith and how it has sustained him throughout his life. As a Catholic, I feel proud to support him and the many initiatives he is taking for our common good.

– Pat Marlowe  
Roanoke

Science must be ‘in friendship’ with faith

In the guest commentary, “Pope is right; vaccination is ‘ethical choice’” (Catholic Virginian, Feb. 22), Dr. Carol Burger’s assessment on ethics was one dimensional. With a background in tumor immunology, she shares that “much time, expertise and money” has led researchers to “seriously reduce the infectivity of this virus and to save countless lives”; however, her commentary avoids mention of not only God, but it also fails to address that according to the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith’s “Note on the morality of using some anti-COVID-19 vaccines,” the course of research and production for vaccines against COVID-19 “employed cell lines drawn from tissue obtained from two abortions that occurred in the last century.”

Within the same document, the CDF also states this “vaccination is not, as a rule, a moral obligation and that, therefore, it must be voluntary.” The conclusion stresses it is “morally imperative” for the pharmaceutical industry to develop effective, safe, as well as ethically acceptable vaccinations, which are also “accessible to the poorest countries in

a manner that is not costly for them.”

In an address to the Pontifical Academy of Sciences (2006), Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI stated, “Science cannot replace philosophy and revelation.”

The Second Vatican Council along with our last three pontiffs have been consistent in publicly acknowledging the benefits gained by scientific advances, but the Church has also stressed that science must be “in friendship” with faith and that they cannot oppose each other.

For efforts for the common good to be truly fruitful, sustainable and sanctifying, all that is transcendent in the eyes of Church teaching, as well as the dignity of the pre-born and already living, must be discussed, included and upheld.

– Jiza Zito  
Williamsburg

*Editor’s note: The chairmen of two U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ committees — Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, Committee on Doctrine, and Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann, Committee on Pro-Life Activities — addressed this matter last December. Their statement is here: <https://www.usccb.org/moral-considerations-covid-vaccines>.*

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.

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# NBA rookie ‘surprise’ credits faith, family for success

JOHN SHAUGHNESSY  
Catholic News Service

INDIANAPOLIS — On the day his dream came true, Desmond Bane stood in front of the modest home where he grew up, wanting to pay tribute to all the people who supported him along the way.

Flashing a huge smile, 22-year-old Bane created a video that focused on his family, his friends and all his supporters in his hometown of Richmond, Indiana.

In that emotional moment, Bane thought of his great-grandparents – how he had lived with them since he was 2, how they loved him, and how they guided him to live a life rooted in faith, hard work and humility.

In the background, the video also captured a glimpse of the driveway where he had been playing basketball since he was 3, where he and his friends played countless games, and where he dreamed of playing in the NBA.

Now that dream was within hours of becoming a reality on Nov. 18, 2020 – the day of the NBA draft. Looking into the camera, Bane was trying to describe how he was feeling and what it would mean for him – one of the 20 graduates of the 2016 class of Seton Catholic High School in Richmond – to be drafted.

“You can’t really put it into words,” Bane said into the camera. “It’s starting to hit now. I mean, looking here at the home I grew up in, being in the city I grew up in, my family here, close friends here. It’s indescribable, it’s indescribable.”

Later that night, in that same house, Bane sat next to his great-grandmother, Fabbie, in a room filled with family and friends, watching the televised broadcast of the NBA draft.

And when the NBA commissioner announced that Bane was the last pick of the first round, the room erupted in cheers, smiles and



Desmond Bane of the Memphis Grizzlies drives to the basket against the Indiana Pacers' Malcolm Brogdon at Bankers Life Fieldhouse in Indianapolis Feb. 2, 2021. Bane is a 2016 graduate of Seton Catholic High School in Richmond, Ind. (CNS photo/Matt Kryger, Indiana Pacers Sports & Entertainment via The Criterion)

pure joy as Bane hugged his great-grandmother.

The only regret of the day was that his great-grandfather, Bob, wasn't physically part of the celebration. He died July 20 after contracting COVID-19.

Still, Bob's photo was prominently displayed on a table in front of where Bane sat. And he had the feeling that his great-grandfather – who was one of his coaches in his youth – was with him, celebrating the dream that came true.

Less than two months into the season, Bane was already being hailed by NBA analysts as “among the surprises of the 2020 rookie class.”

“If I said it was easy, I'd be lying to you,” he said in an interview with The Criterion, newspaper of the Indianapolis Archdiocese. “It's been an

extreme learning curve. We've had some injuries and some other things come up, and I've had the opportunity. I've tried to make the most of it.”

That approach defines Bane. He played at one of the smallest high schools in Indiana and became an Indiana All-Star.

He received only one scholarship offer to continue playing at a major college – Texas Christian University – and he was named to the Big 12's all-conference first team in two seasons.

And now he's in the NBA, making a significant contribution as a rookie.

He has made “the most of it” at every turn, yet he deflects the credit back to his great-grandparents.

“My great-grandparents did a great job of instilling values in me,” said Bane, who makes a point of calling his great-grandmother at least once a day and usually twice.

“It's indescribable the things I learned from them. There's not a lot of stuff they haven't seen. The experiences they've seen helped me think about life and what you want to get out of it.”

For Bane, that goal includes making the most of his Catholic faith.

“It serves as my backbone when things are going great and not going great,” he said. “You always have it to lean on. I wouldn't be where I am without it.”

As the principal of Seton Catholic High School, John Markward has seen how Bane lives his faith.

“He is not afraid to post something about God on social media, and he praises God for his blessings. In today's society, there are many people that would shy away from this for fear of being viewed differently.”

Living your life with character is important to him. A pre-draft analysis of him noted, “Bane is

See Bane Page 12



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# Why baby should be baptized soon after birth



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

**Q.** My wife gave birth to a beautiful healthy baby boy about five months ago. He has not been baptized yet due to concerns around COVID-19. Our current plan is to wait until grandparents, godparents, immediate family members and spouses as well as ourselves have had the opportunity to get vaccinated — which, as you know, may still not happen until the summer or later.

Has the Church made an official statement on how to handle situations like this or have an opinion? Does our approach make sense, or should we consider changing it? (Louisville, Kentucky)

**A.** I congratulate you on the birth of your new baby boy. This is surely an exciting time for you and your wife — and for all of your family. I can well understand your desire to have everyone together to celebrate the good news. But I would surely suggest that you have the child baptized soon and not wait for

months until everyone has the chance to be vaccinated.

Here's the Church's teaching on this: The Code of Canon Law, the official "rulebook" of the Church, says, "Parents are obliged to take care that infants are baptized in the first few weeks" (No. 867).

Several months is just too long to wait for the child to be missing the graces and blessings that come with the sacrament. Parents have grown a bit too casual about this — perhaps due in part to what the Church is currently saying about limbo.

It used to be the common belief of Catholics that children who died before being baptized went, not to be with God in heaven, but to a state of natural happiness called limbo. But in 2007, the Church's International Theological Commission, with the approval of Pope Benedict XVI, concluded that there are "theological and liturgical reasons to hope that infants who die without baptism may be saved ... even if there is not an explicit teaching on this question found in Revelation."

That "hope" is just too chancy. If it were my own kid, I'd want him baptized as soon

as possible. And don't worry — a parish will take caution in making sure that the baptismal ceremony is safe.

Social distancing will be observed for those you feel comfortable inviting — and I notice, for example, that the Catholic cathedral in Birmingham, Alabama, promises on its website that the parish rector "will disinfect the holy water font, wiping down all surfaces, and fill it with fresh water before the ceremony."

**Q.** Years ago, our parish in a northern Wisconsin farming community celebrated Rogation Days. If I remember correctly, these were the three days before Ascension Thursday, which often came during or right after planting time.

At Mass, we would pray for good weather and a bountiful harvest. The priest would even visit the farms and bless the fields. I'm no longer in farming, but I was wondering: Does the Church still observe Rogation Days? (West Milwaukee, Wisconsin)

**A.** The marking of Rogation Days, set aside to bless the fields, has a long history in the

Church. Rooted in the Latin verb meaning "to ask" and traditionally tied to the spring planting, the days were first instituted in the fifth century by a bishop in France whose diocese had suffered greatly from pestilence and other natural disorders. By the ninth century, the observance had been extended to the universal Church.

In 1969, when the Church's liturgical calendar was revised, the celebration of Rogation Days became optional, at the discretion of national conferences of bishops — primarily due to the fact that the Western world had become increasingly industrialized, with the primary focus no longer on agriculture and the changing of the seasons.

In some rural communities, though, the celebration continues to be observed, particular in certain parts of Europe, and a May 18, 2020, posting by the bishop of the Diocese of Harrisburg in Pennsylvania suggested that this might be an opportune time to revive the Rogation Days, given the plight of so many farmers who are struggling to make a living (<https://www.hbgdiocese.org/rogation-days-are-here-again>).

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

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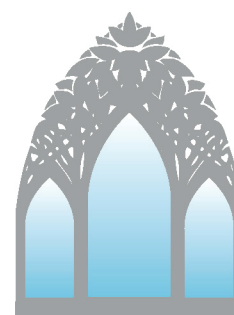
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# Honoring Joseph, one of 'the saints next door'



**IN LIGHT OF FAITH**  
BARBARA HUGHES

**T**his year, the Solemnity of St. Joseph, which the Church celebrates annually on March 19, has a special significance. On Dec. 8, 2020, Pope Francis ushered in the Year of St. Joseph, which will end Dec. 8, 2021. The proclamation was done in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of Pope Pius IX's declaration of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church.

As noted by Pope Francis, turning to St. Joseph is especially meaningful during these times, not only because cultural norms are eroding the sanctity of marriage and the family, but because of the pandemic. As patron of a happy death, we take comfort in St. Joseph, who is believed to have died in the company of Jesus and Mary.

With so many COVID victims deprived of the comfort of family and friends during their final hours on earth, we as Church can pray to St. Joseph and ask him to accompany and comfort the dying through their final days of loneliness.

Pope Francis also noted that the pandemic has helped us see more clearly the importance of ordinary people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope to the sick and dying. The Holy Father explained that the many health care workers whose human touch is truly the touch of grace resemble "Saint Joseph, the man who went unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence, who

nonetheless played an incomparable role in the history of salvation" ("Patris Corde").

St. Joseph was chosen by God for the privilege of being the husband of Mary and guardian of the child Jesus, yet he remained humble and hidden, sanctified in obscurity and silence. The fact that none of St. Joseph's words are recorded in Scripture is a testimony to silence as a powerful witness of God's loving presence.

We know from Scripture that Joseph was a just man whose obedience to God was unconditional. Therefore, we pray to him with confidence and great joy. As an ordinary carpenter, his sanctity was visible not because of what he accomplished, but in the way he lived his life as a faith-filled man of God.

Ordinary workers can look to Joseph as a model laborer who understood that all work is holy when embraced with careful attention for the honor and glory of God. It's unlikely that customers or neighbors of in this humble carpenter recognized his privileged position in the plan of redemption. Yet surely his dedication to Mary as husband and his loving presence as the father of Jesus could not have gone unnoticed.

Joseph of Nazareth was the kind of saint that Pope Francis referred to in "Gaudate et Exsultate," as "the saints next door." In that apostolic exhortation, Francis called ordinary people "the middleclass of holiness," and wrote that he likes to contemplate "those parents who raise their children with immense love, men and women who work hard to support their families, and the sick and elderly religious who never lose their smile."

In recent times, St. Joseph is often associated with real estate kits that claim burying a stat-

ue of the saint will result in a quick house sale. Such practices border on superstition. We must remember that it's the prayer of intercession to the saint who intercedes before God on our behalf that may result in the sale of the house, not the buried statue.

This year as we commemorate the feast of the foster father of Jesus, we honor him with the kind of devotion he so richly deserves. As Father Stanley Smolenski, diocesan director at the Shrine of Our Lady of Joyful Hope in South Carolina, noted, "This third millennium has been providentially reserved for St. Joseph. The first was Christocentric via the Councils, the second was Marian-focused on her devotions, apparitions and dogmas. That means that the third person of the Earthly Trinity, St. Joseph, would naturally follow."

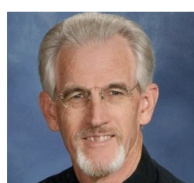
His reference to the Holy Family as the "Earthly Trinity" invites food for thought. While the Trinitarian nature of God is beyond human understanding, the Holy Family remains a human reflection of the perfect love that exists within the communion of the Most Blessed Trinity.

Only the Holy Family bears the name "holy," serving as a model not only for families, but for every person who strives to live out the call to holiness within the context of their vocation in life.

*Information regarding how to attain indulgences during the Year of St. Joseph is available at: <https://yearofstjoseph.org/indulgences>.*

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

## Lenten journey should be leading you toward God



**BELIEVE AS YOU PRAY**  
DEACON CHRISTOPHER COLVILLE

**T**his is Laetare Sunday — the midpoint of our Lenten journey. Laetare is a Latin word that means "rejoice." The name comes from the traditional first words of the Introit for this Sunday, "Rejoice, Jerusalem." We rejoice because we're halfway through Lent and closer to celebrating the fullness of God's love and our salvation.

It is a good time to look at our Lenten journey and determine if we are headed in the right direction. To do that, we need to know where we want to go, or where we should be going.

In the book "Alice in Wonderland," the Cheshire cat asked that question of Alice and tells her it didn't make any difference which path she took because she didn't know where she wanted to go. If our purpose is to draw closer to God, then the direction we take is extremely important and made clear in today's Scripture readings.

In the Gospel, we hear what is one of the most often-quoted Gospel verses. I remem-

ber seeing it at sporting events and other large gatherings; there always seemed to be someone in the crowd holding a sign that read, "John 3:16."

That one verse tells us a lot; however, it doesn't tell us everything we need to know and understand. We need to further understand that God sent his Son not to condemn us, but to save us (verse 17).

Jesus came for our salvation. If we realize the whole purpose of Jesus' life, death and resurrection is to offer us salvation instead of judgement, our Lenten journey takes a different focus, and our world takes on a different appearance.

The salvation offered to us by God is a free gift, given to us through grace. It cannot be earned, and we do not deserve it. Paul reminds us of this in the second reading (Eph 3:8): "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing; it is a gift of God..."

We can accept or reject this free gift.. However, if we truly accept this gift of salvation, there are consequences. Accepting the gift of salvation calls us into a relationship with God and to do the works Jesus did.

In the story of the man born blind (John 9:1-41, Fourth Sunday of Lent, Cycle A), Jesus tells us, "We must do the works of one who sent me while it is still day." Our works,

which are a result of our faith, reflect the presence of Jesus in our lives. As long as we reflect the presence of Jesus, it is day because Jesus is the light that creates the day.

He is also the truth lived through our acceptance of salvation. Jesus tells us this in verse 21: "But whoever lives the truth comes to the light so that his (and her) works may be clearly seen as done in God."

Salvation calls us to bring light to the world. That light brings love, not hate, and joy, not sadness. It calls us to love unconditionally because God loves us unconditionally. It also calls us to accept others unconditionally because God accepts us unconditionally.

These are not easy tasks, but the closer we get to God, the easier they become. The closer we get to God, the more the light will shine through us and guide us; the more the truth will be seen in us. Our Lenten journey should help draw us closer to God.

*Deacon Christopher Colville serves at Church of the Redeemer, Mechanicsville.*

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and spiritually. Must have a current Virginia teaching license with an endorsement in Special Education. Candidates should have organizational skills, as well as effective classroom management skills. Please submit a résumé and a diocesan application to [sajoseph@olmc-school.com](mailto:sajoseph@olmc-school.com). All inquiries should be directed to Dominican Sister Anna Joseph at 757-596-2754.

Also hiring elementary substitute teachers for the remainder of the 2020-2021 and the 2021-2022 school year. Please submit a résumé and a diocesan application to [ctucker@olmc-school.com](mailto:ctucker@olmc-school.com). All inquiries should be directed to Christine Tucker at 757-596-2754.

For further information, please contact: Alba Kim: 804-298-4035 or email: [tours@albastours.com](mailto:tours@albastours.com) or visit [www.albastours.com](http://www.albastours.com).

Reservations are available now. Space is limited. COVID policies available upon request.

**Join Deacon Charles Williams**, director of the Diocese of Richmond's Office for Black Catholics and deacon at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, on a

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, Oct. 21-30, 2021, for the most deeply moving spiritual experience of your lifetime. The 10-day tour for \$3,599 includes airfare, hotels, tours, breakfast and dinner, daily Mass in holy places and much more. For further information, contact: Alba Kim 804-298-4035 or email [tours@albastours.com](mailto:tours@albastours.com) or visit [www.albastours.com](http://www.albastours.com).

Reservations are available now. Space is limited. COVID policies available upon request.

WHAT WE'VE HEARD



**Now serving:** Cesar Vargas is the new administrator of Saint Francis Home — a mission of the Diocese of Richmond that provides care for older adults with limited means. He previously served as assistant administrator of Our Lady of Hope Health Center, Richmond, and for the VCU Police Department. An alumnus of Benedictine College Preparatory and VCU, Vargas, his wife and family are members of St. Joseph Parish, Bon Air.



Also joining the staff at Saint Francis Home as director of facilities is CJ Meade. He has 34 years of experience working in health facilities, include the last 23 as facilities director at Little Sisters of the Poor Saint Joseph's Home.

**Naming rights:** The name for the tunnel boring machine (TBM) that will be used to dig tunnels for the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel expansion project is the one submitted to a VDOT contest by the STREAM (science, technology, religion, engineering, art and mathematics) class at St. Gregory the Great Catholic School, Virginia Beach. The TMB will be named Mary. The Sancti Potentes ("Powerful Saints") team proposed Mary in honor of Mary Winston Jackson, a Hampton native and NASA scientist depicted in the 2016 film "Hidden Figures."

**What have you heard?** The CV would like to know what you've heard — or read — regarding Catholics in your community receiving honors and awards, as well as achievements, accomplishments and other good stuff. We'll try to publish a selection of submissions in each issue of The CV. Put "What we've heard" in the subject line and email your item to [akrebs@catholicvirginian.org](mailto:akrebs@catholicvirginian.org). Include your name and phone number in case we need to follow up. Information cannot be taken over the phone.

Bible reading boosts mental well-being

ROME (CNS) —Reading the Bible has had a positive effect on people's "mental well-being" during the pandemic, according to a Christian Research survey conducted in the United Kingdom. The survey also found that respondents were reading the Bible more and turning to Bible-related videos more during the pandemic.

The survey, carried out on behalf of the Bible Society, posed a number of questions to 1,000 people in the United Kingdom who identified themselves as Christians and who had attended church at least once a month before

restrictions aimed at curbing the pandemic. The questions were asked in December, and the results were published online by the Bible Society March 1.

Forty-two percent of respondents reported that reading the Bible increased a "sense of hope in God during the crisis, rising to nearly half (49%) among 45- to 54-year-olds," the report by the Bible Society said. "Some 28% said that reading the Bible had increased their confidence in the future," while 63% said they felt their level of confidence remained the same, rather than dropping, it said.

Correction

A sub-headline in the Feb. 22 Catholic Virginian incorrectly identified Charles Anderson Sr. as Christopher Anderson Sr.

SHORTAKES

**Organ Music by Women Composers Past and Present:** Join us for an exploration of music by women composers Saturday, March 13, 10:30 a.m., St. Bede Catholic Church, 3686 Ironbound Road, Williamsburg. Four members of the Tidewater Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, including the parish's Associate Director of Music, Carina Sturdy, will present a lecture recital featuring compositions by 16 female composers. See how organists discover new repertoire, hear snippets of the compositions and learn more about the music and composers. All are invited to attend this lecture recital in-person,

socially distanced, while following all Diocesan COVID-19 protocols or watch live-streamed on the "Music of Saint Bede" Facebook page. For more information, call 757-229-3631, or visit [www.bede.va.org/concerts](http://www.bede.va.org/concerts).

**Join Msgr. Patrick Golden**, pastor of Our Lady of Nazareth, Roanoke, on a Pilgrimage to Poland, Prague and Budapest, Sept. 18-30, 2021. We will reflect on the lives of St. Faustina and St. Pope John Paul II. In addition, experience scenic and historic Central Europe. 13-day tour for \$4,299 including airfare, hotels, tours, meals, Mass every day in holy places, including at Our Lady Victorious, home of the Infant Jesus of Prague, and much more.

LENTEN MENU

HEALTHIER THAN A FISH FRY

Every Friday during Lent, The Catholic Virginian is offering two healthy servings of spiritual nourishment at [www.catholicvirginian.org](http://www.catholicvirginian.org). Prepared by Catholic News Service's finest writers, we invite you to try one of the following.

Catholic Social Teaching

An overview on a different aspect of Catholic Social Teaching, this is excellent fare for personal reflection and/or group discussion.

This Week in Lent

Much about which to think and pray as you journey through each week of Lent. Plenty here, so you'll want to share.

[WWW.CATHOLICVIRGINIAN.ORG](http://WWW.CATHOLICVIRGINIAN.ORG)

SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT THROUGHOUT LENT



# El Papa en el Ángelus: ‘Meteos esto en la cabeza: con el diablo jamás se dialoga’



## ¿Qué nos enseña este Evangelio?

“Cada año, este Evangelio de las tentaciones de Jesús en el desierto nos recuerda que la vida del cristiano, tras las huellas del Señor, es una batalla contra el espíritu del mal”. Francisco ha recordado que “debemos ser conscientes de la presencia de este enemigo astuto, interesado en nuestra condena eterna, en nuestro fracaso, y prepararnos para defendernos de él y combatirlo”. Además – dice – “la gracia de Dios nos asegura, mediante la fe, la oración y la penitencia, la victoria sobre el enemigo”.

## El Papa advierte que nunca se debe dialogar con el diablo

El Papa Francisco después se ha parado en un punto que considera sumamente importante y es que Jesús “nunca conversa con el diablo”: “en su vida Jesús jamás mantuvo un dialogo con el diablo, jamás, o lo expulsa de los endemoniados o lo condena, pero jamás el dialogo”. Pero – dice - en el desierto “parece que hay un dialogo porque” el diablo le hace propuestas y Jesús no responde con sus palabras, “jamás”, sino que “responde con la Palabra de Dios, con tres pasajes de la escritura” y esto – señala – es válido también para todos nosotros: “cuando se acerca el seductor y comienza a seducirnos, piensa en esto, haz aquello, la tentación es hablar con él, como hizo Eva” dice Francisco. “Eva – continúa – entró en dialogo y si nosotros entramos en dialogo seremos vendidos”. “Meteos esto en la cabeza: con el diablo jamás se dialoga. No hay dialogo posible, solo la Palabra de Dios”.

## El Espíritu Santo nos empuja también a nosotros al desierto

Por último, el Papa afirma que el Espíritu Santo “nos empuja también a nosotros, como a Jesús, a entrar en el desierto”, pero “no se trata de un lugar físico, sino de una dimensión existencial en la que hacer silencio y ponernos a la escucha de la palabra de Dios, para que se cumpla en nosotros la verdadera conversión”. “No tengais miedo del desierto – dice el Papa – busquen momentos de más oración, de silencio, entrar dentro de nosotros, pero no tengan miedo”. Es por eso – concluye – que estamos llamados “a caminar por las sendas de Dios, renovando las promesas de nuestro bautismo: renunciar a Satanás, a todas sus obras y a todas sus seducciones”.

En el Primer Domingo de Cuaresma, el Santo Padre reflexiona sobre el desierto donde Jesús se retiró durante cuarenta días y fue tentado por Satanás: “No se trata de un lugar físico, sino de una dimensión existencial en la que hacer silencio y ponernos a la escucha de la palabra de Dios”. Además, advierte de los peligros de entrar en diálogo con el diablo: “si entramos en dialogo seremos vendidos”.

MIREIA BONILLA – CIUDAD DEL VATICANO

Este mediodía, el Papa Francisco se ha asomado desde el balcón del Palacio Apostólico para reflexionar sobre el Evangelio del día según Marcos, que relata el retiro de Jesús al desierto durante 40 días, donde fue tentado por Satanás, y con el que da comienzo la Cuaresma. Francisco recuerda que el evangelista subraya que el Espíritu empuja a Jesús al desierto: “El Espíritu Santo, que descendió sobre Él nada más recibir el bautismo de Juan en el río Jordán, el mismo Espíritu le empuja ahora a ir al desierto, para enfrentarse al Tentador, para luchar contra el diablo”.

## El ‘desierto’: lugar de prueba y tentación

El Papa se ha centrado precisamente en este

entorno natural “el desierto” para explicar que se trata del lugar “donde Dios habla al corazón del hombre, y donde brota la respuesta de la oración”. “Pero – dice – es también el lugar de la prueba y la tentación, donde el Tentador, aprovechando la fragilidad y las necesidades humanas, insinúa su voz engañosa, alternativa a la de Dios”. “El tentador seduce” ha puntualizado.

Francisco subraya que durante los cuarenta días vividos por Jesús en el desierto comienza el “duelo” entre Jesús y el diablo, que terminará con la Pasión y la Cruz: “Todo el ministerio de Cristo es una lucha contra el Maligno en sus múltiples manifestaciones: curaciones de enfermedades, exorcismos de los endemoniados, perdón de los pecados. Es una lucha. Después de la primera fase en la que Jesús demuestra que habla y actúa con el poder de Dios, parece que el diablo prevalezca cuando el Hijo de Dios es rechazado, abandonado y finalmente capturado y condenado a muerte”. Francisco asegura que “pareciera que el vencedor es el diablo”, pero en realidad – señala – “la muerte era el último “desierto” a atravesar para derrotar definitivamente a Satanás y liberarnos a todos de su poder”.

# Esta es la oración a San José que el Papa Francisco reza todos los días

En su Carta Apostólica Patris corde (con Corazón de Padre), el Papa Francisco recuerda el 150 aniversario de la declaración de San José como Patrono de la Iglesia Universal. También menciona dos oraciones para encomendarnos al patriarca de la Sagrada Familia. La primera oración es tomada de un libro de devociones francés del siglo XIX, de la Congregación de las Religiosas de Jesús y María.

“Todos los días, durante más de cuarenta años, después de Laudes, recito esta oración que expresa devoción, confianza y un cierto reto a San José”, escribe el Papa Francisco.

Glorioso patriarca San José,  
cuyo poder sabe hacer posibles las cosas imposibles,  
ven en mi ayuda en estos momentos de angustia y dificultad.

Toma bajo tu protección las situaciones  
tan graves y difíciles que te confío,  
para que tengan una buena solución.

Mi amado Padre,  
toda mi confianza está puesta en ti.  
Que no se diga que te haya invocado en vano  
y, como puedes hacer todo con Jesús y María,  
muéstrame que tu bondad es tan grande como tu poder.  
Amén.





## Recommendations

Continued from Page 5

and his administration, and the new Congress," the archbishop said.

"As with every administration, there will be areas where we agree and work closely together and areas where we will have principled disagreement and strong opposition," he said.

The archbishop said that the bishops hold deep concerns about "many threats to human life and dignity in our society," including euthanasia, the death penalty, immigration policy, racism, poverty, care for the environment, criminal justice reform, economic development and international peace.

He also expressed hope the incoming administration "will work with the Church and others of goodwill" to "address the complicated cultural and economic factors that are driving abortion and discouraging families."

For the U.S. bishops, the "continued injustice of abortion" remains the "preeminent priority," Archbishop Gomez said, but "'preeminent' does not mean 'only.' We have deep

concerns about many threats to human life and dignity in our society."

As for developing a document on "eucharistic coherence," as Archbishop Gomez called it, he said this recommendation has been "forwarded to the Committee on Doctrine in the hope that it will strengthen an understanding and deepen a common faith in the gift that has been given to us in the Sacrament of the Altar."

The reference to "eucharistic coherence" may reflect a growing concern among the bishops regarding Catholic understanding and practice regarding the sacrament.

While there has been fierce debate in some circles, including among bishops, over the reception of the Eucharist when one is not in accord with Church teachings, there also is a deep concern about polling that suggests a confusion or lack of understanding about the Real Presence in Catholic belief and practice.

Archbishop Gomez announced the establishment of this special working group at the end of the public portion of the U.S. bishops' fall general assembly Nov. 16-17, which was held completely online because of the pandemic.

He named Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron of Detroit, USCCB vice president, to head up the group to address issues surrounding the election of a Catholic president and policies that may come about that would be in conflict with Catholic teaching and the bishops' priorities.

Other members were the chairmen of USCCB committees focused on various policy areas.

"We are facing a unique moment in the history of our country" with the election of Biden, only the second Catholic to become president, Archbishop Gomez said in announcing the group. "This presents certain opportunities but also certain challenges."

Biden has indicated his faith commitments "will lead to certain policies that we favor," Archbishop Gomez said, such as immigration, aid to refugees and the poor, racial justice and climate change, but he supports *Roe v. Wade* and has said he favors repeal of the Hyde Amendment.

Hyde, reenacted every year for 45 years, outlaws federal tax dollars from directly funding abortion except in cases of rape, incest or when the life of the woman would be endangered.

## Vaccine

Continued from Page 1

around the country March 2.

On March 1, a number of dioceses, including the New Orleans Archdiocese, Diocese of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and the Diocese of Burlington, Vermont, issued their own statements warning about the moral concern over the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Bishop Rhoades and Archbishop Naumann reiterated in their latest statement what they stated in December: that getting a COVID-19 vaccine is an important act for the common good amid this pandemic.

The Vatican COVID-19 Commission and the Pontifical Academy for Life have said, "We believe that all clinically recommended vaccinations can be used with a clear conscience and that the use of such vaccines does not signify some sort of cooperation with voluntary abortion."

*Editor's note: The USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Secretariat has prepared an informational resource titled "Answers to Key Ethical Questions About COVID-19 Vaccines" and posted it online at <https://bit.ly/3sGUqUR>. For updates on this story visit [www.catholicvirginian.org](http://www.catholicvirginian.org).*

## Bane

Continued from Page 7

regularly praised for his character and approach to the game."

"Character is huge, whether you play basketball or not," Bane said. "The person you are will last longer than playing basketball. My great-grandmother instilled that in me at an early age. Whether it's the janitor or the CEO, you treat them all with respect."

Josh Jurgens, the head coach of Seton Catholic High School's boys' basketball team, said Bane is "always that person who wants to make everyone around him better."

"He's an old soul raised by his great-grandparents," Jurgens said.

"They raised him right, for sure. He listened to what they taught him about becoming a better person, staying humble, working hard and being kind to people. He took all that to heart. He gives back. He doesn't forget people or where he came from."

Bane says he never could.

"The people who I have in my career and my life are special people. Those are the people I've known my whole life," he said.

"There's no reason to act differently because of the position I'm in now. I'm extremely grateful for the position I'm in, and I'm extremely grateful to have those people around me. They've been following me my whole life and make me feel supported."



*"The spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
therefore, He has anointed me"  
(Lk 4:18)*

**Join Most Reverend  
Bishop Barry C. Knestout  
for the Annual Chrism Mass  
at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart**

**800 S. Cathedral Place  
Richmond, VA**

**Monday, March 29, 2021  
6:00 PM**

Due to social distancing requirements,  
seating availability is limited for the  
2021 Chrism Mass and only available  
by registering at:

**[www.cdrworship.org/chrism2021](http://www.cdrworship.org/chrism2021)**