



The Catholic Virginian

Serving the People of the Diocese of Richmond for 90 years

Vol. 96, No. 16

www.catholicvirginian.org

May 31, 2021

Returning to normal

Guidelines for liturgies sacraments updated

The Catholic Virginian staff

Print the worship aids, remove the blue tape from pews that designate socially distanced seating and pass the collection baskets. As of Friday, May 28, parishes, in accordance with the Governor of Virginia's Executive Order 79, in particular their liturgical celebrations, were returning to the way they were pre-COVID-19.

At the beginning of a Wednesday, May 26, webinar for clergy, seminarians, parish staffs, campus ministers and Pastoral Center personnel regarding guidelines based upon that order, Bishop Barry C. Knestout thanked participants for the "outstanding way" they handled the adjustments necessitated by COVID-19 and spoke of full resumption of the work of the Church.

"Although the pandemic is not over, and we recognize that some concerns remain, yet it is now time to weave a course that is reasonable, but also allows better access to the sacraments and liturgies," he said.

The bishop noted that the updated guidelines being provided by the diocese "allow a certain amount of discretion for implementation at the local level."

Father Sean Prince, director of the diocese's Office of Worship, spoke about matters related to liturgies. Among those:

Masks. Those fully vaccinated no longer need to wear a mask or supply proof that they've been vaccinated. Parishes should not ask to see or check a vaccination card. The unvaccinated should wear a mask.

Singing. Choirs and congregations may resume singing. Instrumentalists are welcome, but woodwinds and brass instruments included in a music ministry need to remain socially distant.

Communion. Priests, deacons and extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist may distribute Communion. All should

See Normal, Page 20

Celebrating an ordination



Left: Family and friends of Deacon Dillon Bruce join in acknowledging his being called to ordination as a transitional deacon during Mass, Saturday, May 22, at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Richmond. Front row, from left are the deacon's brothers, Derek and Karson, and his parents, Brian and Jeanette Bruce. Right: As part of the Rite of Ordination, Bishop Barry C. Knestout imposes hands upon Deacon Bruce. The gesture signifies the conferral of the Holy Spirit. See story, Page 3. (Photos/Vy Barto)

Next Supreme Court term critical for unborn

CAROL ZIMMERMANN
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — When the Supreme Court decided May 17 to take up a challenge to a Mississippi abortion law, it brought abortion back to the front burner months before the court will hear oral arguments about it this fall.

The court's announcement was not unexpected. For months, people on both sides of the issue have been wondering when the court would take up the Mississippi appeal and speculating about why there was a delay.

The case initially came to the court in 2020. The justices repeatedly rescheduled, reviewing it until this past January, and then they still considered it 12 more times before announcing they would take it up next term.

Their agreement to hear the appeal means at least four of the nine justices found it had merit.

What they'll consider

The case, *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, is an appeal from Mississippi to keep its ban on abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy, which was struck down by a federal district court in Mississippi in 2018 and upheld a year later by the New Orleans-based U.S.

Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit.

In announcing they would take this case, the Supreme Court justices said they would only review one of the three questions presented to them: "Whether all previability prohibitions on elective abortions are unconstitutional."

The viability aspect, when a fetus is said to be able to survive on its own, is key here because the Supreme Court has consistently ruled that states cannot restrict abortion before the 24-week mark. The ban on abortions after 15 weeks is more restrictive than current law.

Although the Mississippi case is not asking the court to overrule *Roe v. Wade* — the 1973 court case which legalized abortion — people on both sides of the issue are expressing either alarm or elation that this could happen.

If the court sides with Mississippi, it would be the first time the court would allow an abortion ban before the point of viability and could lay the groundwork for other abortion restrictions which other states could follow, or it could push states to enact more abortion restrictions.

Besides Mississippi, 15 other states have tried to ban abortions before viability, but they have been blocked in court, according to the Guttmacher Institute, which conducts research on abortion and reproductive health.

See Court, Page 20

The Catholic Virginian
7800 Carousell Lane
Richmond, VA 23294

Inside This Edition

'Heart and soul' of CHS retiring after 46 years
Page 5

Heed lessons from God's school of learning
Page 9

'Pillar of Walsingham' inspired others with her faith
Page 12

Service at the core of ministry for priests, deacons



CHRIST OUR HOPE
MOST REV. BARRY C. KNESTOUT

Spring has been a sacramental season in our diocese. Not only are we seeing an increase in the number of people celebrating the Eucharist each weekend, but parishes have celebrated baptisms, first reconciliation, first Communion and marriages. Meanwhile, I confirmed close to 300 of our youth throughout our diocese. The three regional episcopal vicars assisted me with the confirmations of

nearly 1,000 other young people in the diocese, bringing the total confirmed since last fall to 1,688. On May 22, I ordained Dillon Bruce to the transitional diaconate, and this Saturday, I will ordain Tom Lawrence a priest.

An important purpose of the sacrament of holy orders is to help bring about and facilitate good order in the life, activity and mission of our Church. Those who answer the call to holy orders dedicate themselves to Church leadership in cooperation with the bishop.

With the deacon and priest, the emphasis on service cannot be overstated. Pope Francis said as much when he ordained nine priests

on Good Shepherd Sunday: "Priests are established co-workers of the Order of Bishops, with whom they are joined in the priestly office and with whom they are called to the service of the people of God."

Our Holy Father emphasized that point when he later stated that priesthood "was not a career, it is a service."

Each of those called to ordained priesthood has a share in the one priesthood of Christ. We must remember that for the priest the call isn't just to ordination day, but it is a daily call in which he offers his life as a sacrifice to God

See Bishop, Page 3

CLERGY ASSIGNMENTS

Most Reverend Barry C. Knestout, bishop of Richmond, has announced the following clergy appointments effective Monday, July 5, 2021, unless otherwise noted.

OFFICIAL

Pastors

Father James M. Arsenault, from administrator of St. Elizabeth, Richmond, to pastor of St. Elizabeth, Richmond.

Father Salvador Añonuevo, from pastor at Holy Name of Mary, Bedford, and Resurrection, Moneta, to pastor of Holy Cross, Lynchburg.

Father James J. Begley Jr., from pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes, Richmond, to pastor of St. Paul, Richmond.

Father Ernest L. Bulinda, from parochial vicar of St. Patrick, Richmond; St. Peter Pro Cathedral, Richmond; and St. John, Highland Springs, to pastor of St. Ann, Colonial Heights.

Father Danny A. Cogut, from from pastor of St. Ann, Colonial Heights, to pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Salem, and St. Gerard, Roanoke.

Father Jonathan A. Goertz, from pastor of Sacred Heart, Danville, to pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes, Richmond.

Father Matthew A. Kiehl, from administrator of Holy Spirit, Virginia Beach, to pastor of Holy Spirit, Virginia Beach.

Father Matthias Lusembo, from pastor of Christ the King, Norfolk, to pastor of St. Francis of Assisi, Staunton.

Father Stefan Migac, from pastor of St. Theresa, Farmville; Sacred Heart, Meherrin; and Immaculate Heart of Mary, Blackstone, to pastor of St. Patrick, Lexington.

Father Michael Mugomba, from administrator of Holy Infant, Elkton, and Shepherd of the Hills, Quinque, to pastor of Holy Infant, Elkton, and Shepherd of the Hills, Quinque.

Father John Negparanon, from pastor of St. Pius X, Norfolk, to pastor of Holy Name of Mary, Bedford, and Resurrection, Moneta.

Msgr. Raphael A. Peprah, from administrator of St. Luke, Virginia Beach, to pastor of St. Luke, Virginia Beach.

Father Sean M. Prince, from priest secretary and director of the Office of Worship, Pastoral Center, to pastor of St. Pius X, Norfolk.

Father Gino P. Rossi, from pastor of St. Patrick, Richmond; St. Peter Pro Cathedral, Richmond; and St. John, Highland Springs, to pastor of St. Joseph, Petersburg.

Father Anthony O. Senyah, from pastor of Holy Spirit, Christiansburg, and Holy Family, Pearisburg, to pastor of Sacred Heart, Danville.

Father Kenneth J. Shuping, from pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Salem, and St. Gerard, Roanoke, to pastor of St. Bridget, Richmond.

Father Joseph Wamala, from pastor of St. Francis of Assisi, Staunton, to Christ the King, Norfolk.

Administrators

Father Patricio D. Alcantara, from parochial vicar of St. Theresa, Farmville; Immaculate Heart of Mary, Blackstone; and Sacred Heart, Meherrin, to administrator of Holy Spirit, Christiansburg, and Holy Family, Pearisburg.

Father Joseph Maxwell Appiagyei, from parochial vicar of St. Edward, Richmond, to administrator of St. Patrick, Richmond; St. Peter Pro Cathedral, Richmond; and St. John, Highland Springs.

Father Raner O. Lucila, from parochial vicar of St. Joseph, Hampton, and St. Mary Star of the Sea, Hampton, to administrator of Good Shepherd, South Hill; St. Catherine of Siena, Clarksville; and St. Paschal Baylon, South Boston.

Father Richard T. Mooney, from parochial vicar of Good Shepherd, South Hill; St. Catherine of Siena, Clarksville; and St. Paschal Baylon, South Boston, to interim administrator of Good Shepherd, South Hill; St. Catherine of Siena, Clarksville; and St. Paschal Baylon, South Boston, effective immediately and interim until Monday, July 5, 2021.

Father Magnus Tochi Iwuji, from parochial vicar of St. Bridget, Richmond, to administrator of St. Theresa, Farmville; Sacred Heart, Meherrin; and Immaculate Heart of Mary, Blackstone.

Chaplains

Father Dan N. Klem, priest on staff of St. Mary, Chesapeake; Church of the Holy Angels, Portsmouth; Church of the Resurrection, Portsmouth; and St. Paul, Portsmouth, to include interim chaplain of St. Matthew, Virginia Beach.

Msgr. Raphael A. Peprah, chaplain of Holy Apostles, Virginia Beach, in addition to pastor of St. Luke, Virginia Beach.

Father John Bosco Walugembe, assistant chaplain of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Newport News. Father Walugembe remains pastor of St. Vincent de Paul, Newport News.

Campus Ministry Chaplain

Father Kyle O'Connor, parochial vicar of Blessed Sacrament, Harrisonburg, to chaplain of the Catholic Campus Ministry serving the College of William & Mary, and parochial vicar of St. Bede, Williamsburg.

Parochial Vicars

Father John R. Baab, from parochial vicar of St. Bede, Williamsburg, to parochial vicar of Blessed Sacrament, Harrisonburg.

Father Jaime Delgado, from parochial vicar of St. Augustine, Richmond, to parochial vicar of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Salem, and St. Gerard, Roanoke.

Father Paul Kkonde, from parochial vicar of Our Lady of Nazareth, Roanoke, to parochial vicar of St. Edward, Richmond.

Father James P. O'Reilly, from parochial vicar of St. Joseph, Petersburg, to parochial vicar of St. Bridget, Richmond.

Father Policarpio J. Lagco, from priest-in-residence of St. Matthew, Virginia Beach, to parochial vicar of St. Theresa, Farmville; Sacred Heart, Meherrin; and Immaculate Heart of Mary, Blackstone.

Father Nicholas Redmond, from campus minister at the College of William & Mary and promoter of vocations to parochial vicar of St. Patrick, Richmond; St. Peter Pro Cathedral, Richmond; and St. John, Highland Springs.

Father Frank L. Wiggins Jr., from parochial vicar of St. Patrick, Richmond; St. Peter Pro Cathedral, Richmond; and St. John, Highland Springs, to parochial vicar of St. Augustine, Richmond.

Pastoral Center/ Other Assignments

Father Brian W. Capuano, from pastor of St. Joseph, Petersburg, vicar for vocations and judge in the Marriage Tribunal, to interim director for the Office of Worship and continuing as vicar for vocations and as judge in the Marriage Tribunal.

Father Ongen Largoza, administrator of Good Shepherd, South Hill; St. Catherine of Siena, Clarksville; and St. Paschal Baylon, South Boston, has returned to the Philippines.

Retired

Father Joseph A. D'Aurora, from pastor of St. Patrick, Lexington, to retired status.

Msgr. William H. Carr, from pastor of St. Bridget, Richmond, to retired status.

Father James C. Griffin, from pastor of St. Paul, Richmond, to retired status.

Msgr. J. Kenneth Rush, from pastor of Holy Cross, Lynchburg, to retired status.

Performing works of mercy at heart of jubilarian's priesthood

Father Drake cites 50 years of 'great joy' in ministry

JANNA REYNOLDS
The Catholic Virginian

"God so loved the world that he sent his only son. Whoever believes in him will not die but have eternal life." John 3:16

The confidence in God's love has been a constant in the ministry of Father Timothy Drake, who celebrated his 50th anniversary of priesthood on May 15.

"He proved it by sending his son, Jesus," the priest explained.

Father Drake was baptized in Norfolk, where his parents were members of Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church. His father, a U.S. Marine, spent the last year of WWII in Norfolk, before moving the family back to Cleveland.

Growing up in the Cleveland area, Father Drake attended Catholic school. He was also an altar boy.

"I loved the Mass," he said. "I liked to serve Mass and always felt an attraction there. And the sisters encouraged us to look toward a religious vocation to the priesthood."

Pursuing the call he had first felt as an altar boy, Father Drake entered a high school seminary in Cleveland after eighth grade.

Father Drake was in formation for the Diocese of Cleveland when he got in touch with Msgr. John McMahan of the Diocese of Richmond, who was also originally from Cleveland. The priest invited Father Drake to visit the Richmond Diocese during the latter's final year in college.

"We had visited Virginia several times, and

I liked it very much," Father Drake said.

After completing college, Father Drake, as a seminarian for the Diocese of Richmond, attended St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pennsylvania.

On May 15, 1971, Bishop John J. Russell ordained Father Drake a priest of the Diocese of Richmond. At that time, the diocese encompassed Northern Virginia; the Diocese of Arlington was established in 1974.

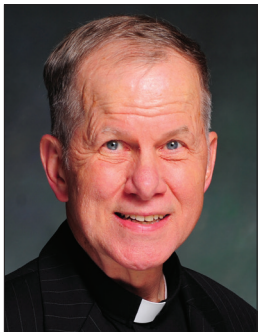
Following ordination, Father Drake served as associate pastor at Christ the King, Norfolk (1971-1974). He held a similar position at the Pro-Cathedral of St. Peter, Richmond (1974-1975), St. Matthew, Virginia Beach (1975-1976), and Church of the Holy Family, Virginia Beach (1981-1982).

He served as administrator of Prince of Peace, Chesapeake (1971-1981), St. John Neumann, Powhatan (1982-1983), Church of the Visitation, Topping (1989), and St. Francis de Sales, Mathews (1989). He was campus minister at St. Anthony, Norton, from 2001-2015.

He became pastor for the first time in 1975 at Prince of Peace, Chesapeake, where he served until 1981. He later served as pastor of St. Matthew, Virginia Beach (1989-2001), St. Anthony, Norton (2001-2015), St. Mary, Coeburn (2002-2005), Holy Spirit Catholic Community, Jonesville (2005-2015), Sacred Heart, Big Stone Gap (2005-2015), and St. Joseph, Clintwood (2006-2015).

From 1983-1988, Father Drake participated in an associate program with the Maryknoll priests in which he served at a parish in Mindanao, a province of Davao, in the Philippines.

See Father Drake, Page 7



Father Timothy Drake

Dillion Bruce ordained transitional deacon

BRIAN T. OLSZEWSKI
The Catholic Virginian

Family and friends were socially distant throughout the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Richmond, on Saturday, May 22, to celebrate the Mass during which Bishop Barry C. Knestout ordained Dillon Bruce a transitional deacon for the Diocese of Richmond.

During his homily, Bishop Knestout explained the three ministries entrusted to the deacon — Word of God, charity and at the altar and in service.

Referring to the first reading, the bishop continued, "Jeremiah reminds us that it is a ministry that requires total trust in God, that it is his grace, not our abilities or skills that make the word effective or fruitful. Our call is to trust totally in the Lord and his plan, whether our words fall on receptive or on deaf ears."

Highlighting the aspect of charity, Bishop Knestout reflected upon the second reading from the sixth chapter of the Acts of the Apostles that details the origins of the diaconate.

"Since (deacons) were to be entrusted with temporal as well as with spiritual treasures, they needed to be trusted, reputable men, filled with faith and the Holy Spirit. They were set aside and imbued with a share in the apostolic

ministry by prayer and the laying on of hands, to serve the mission of the Church," the bishop explained. "The result was good order in the assembly and growth in the community."

Noting the emphasis on service in John 12:20-26, the Gospel proclaimed at the ordination Mass, Bishop Knestout said, "As with Christ, our master and model, we are called to daily embrace our crosses, the difficult burdens of life, put our own selfish desires or needs aside, and give all to the service of God and neighbor."

Speaking directly to Deacon Bruce, the bishop instructed, "As a deacon, that is, as a minister of Jesus Christ, who came among his disciples as one who served, do the will of God from the heart: serve the people in love and joy as you would the Lord."

He continued, "Never allow yourself to be turned away from the hope offered by the Gospel. Now you are not only a hearer of this Gospel, but also its minister."

Deacon Bruce will serve at St. John, Waynesboro, this summer before returning to Rome in late August to complete his studies in sacred theology at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas. He is scheduled to be ordained a priest for the diocese in June 2022.

Bishop

Continued from Page 2

and in love of neighbor, continually striving for holiness.

Those called to priesthood are inspired to ongoing study, prayer and formation in the faith. They are encouraged to put their lives and relationships with those in and outside the Church in good order according to God's plan. With the graces priests receive, they seek to transform the world in accordance with the Gospel.

Pope Francis advised the newly ordained about the importance of accompaniment, of those with whom they must have "closeness" — God, their bishop, their brother priests and the people they serve.

Their closeness to God comes through prayer. An intentional prayer life is essential for a priest to remain immersed in his vocation and to continually answer the call to serve.

They are to be close to their bishop who is to regard them, as the fathers of the Second Vatican Council noted, "their indispensable helpers and advisers in the ministry and in the teaching, sanctifying and shepherding the People of God" ("Decree on the Life and Ministry of Priests," 7).

That same document speaks of priests having an "intimate sacramental brotherhood" in which they share in the building up of the Body of Christ. That bond is furthered and the closeness strengthened by their support of each other through prayer, study and fraternity.

Throughout his pontificate, Pope Francis has emphasized how close priests should be to the people they serve. He summarized that during his 2013 Chrism Mass homily when he said to priests, "This is what I am asking you: be shepherds with the smell of sheep."

In this and in upcoming issues of The Catholic Virginian, you will read about priests celebrating 25-, 40-, 50- and even 60-year jubilees. I invite you to join me in praying the prayer that accompanies this column, thanking God for their service and asking his guidance as they continue to answer the daily call to priestly ministry.

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Priests

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of our priests.

Through them, we experience your presence in the sacraments.

Help our priests to be strong in their vocation.

Set their souls on fire with love for your people.

Grant them the wisdom, understanding, and strength they need to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

Inspire them with the vision of your Kingdom.

Give them the words they need to spread the Gospel.

Allow them to experience joy in their ministry.

Help them to become instruments of your divine grace.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns as our Eternal Priest.

Amen.

— from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

'Great hope in Gospel' guides Msgr. Schmied's priesthood

Diocese's first vicar for Hispanic ministry celebrating golden jubilee

JANNA REYNOLDS
The Catholic Virginian

Life comes at you fast, and you just don't think it's going to happen that way, but it sure does," said Msgr. Michael Schmied, who celebrated his golden jubilee on May 15. "I live so much in the present that that's where I am, that's what's happening, that's where I both suffer and rejoice. So that's been the pattern. So here you are, wow, at 50."

Msgr. Schmied was baptized at St. Benedict Church, Richmond, in 1946. His family eventually became members of St. Bridget.

The priest said his family attended Mass every Sunday, and he and his siblings attended St. Bridget School.

It was in watching the parish priests celebrate Mass on Sunday and at school that Msgr. Schmied first felt the call to priesthood.

"The priest was so much shrouded in mystery between the Latin liturgy and so on, but it certainly just stood out as someone doing something important and good," he recalled.

Learning experiences

When St. John Vianney Minor Seminary in Richmond opened in 1960, Msgr. Schmied attended it for high school. After graduating, he went to St. Charles College in Catonsville, Maryland, which was part of St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore at that time. He then attended St. Mary's Seminary for philosophy and then graduate school for theology.

"The minor seminary at St. John's at that time, boy, we had some outstanding priests there, and I'd say as well in the seminary system in Baltimore. I think I had a great, excellent education all around," he said of his formation.

On May 15, 1971, Msgr. Schmied was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Richmond, which at that time included northern Virginia, by Bishop John J. Russell.

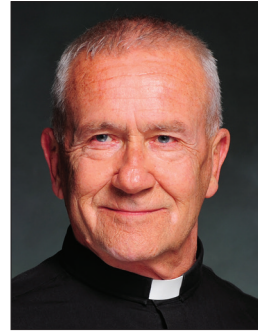
He was assigned to Blessed Sacrament, Norfolk, as associate pastor in 1971 and then served in that role at Our Lady of Nazareth, Roanoke, from 1971-1974. He was pastor of St. Gerard, Roanoke, from 1974-1977.

After serving as pastor of St. Elizabeth, Richmond, from 1977-1987, Msgr. Schmied was approved for a sabbatical by Bishop Sullivan to travel to Central America.

"I had become increasingly aware and concerned about what was going on in Central America, and I guess finally it was the death of Archbishop Romero, killed at the altar during the civil war in El Salvador, that made me decide," Msgr. Schmied said. "Not that I knew any Spanish at the time, but I was just concerned about the state, the life, the pain, of the Church there, and so that's when I decided to go."

He traveled to El Salvador with a good friend, Xavierian Brother Art Caliman, who had worked in the diocesan Office of Peace and Justice. For two years, they traveled around the country, learning the language and accompanying the locals.

"It was almost to help protect them, protect the local peasant population, from the pretty oppressive government and military forces that considered peasants as the guerilla, the enemy forces, what have you," he explained, calling his time there "a learning experience, a challenging experience, a hard experience."



Msgr. Michael Schmied

Highlights, challenges

Msgr. Schmied returned to the Diocese of Richmond in 1988 and became pastor of St. Joseph, Petersburg, where he stayed until 1995. He then went to Mexico and to the Mexican American Cultural Center in San Antonio to continue learning Spanish.

As the priest was becoming pastor of St. Augustine, Richmond, in 1996, Bishop Sullivan appointed him as the Richmond Diocese's first vicar for Hispanic ministry.

"That was the real beginning of Hispanic ministry in the diocese," he said. "I was in that position for 10 years."

Having served in all three of the diocese's vicariates, the priest experienced the diversity of many cultures of faith in Virginia.

"Although certainly I grew up in a lily-white school and Church environment, the difference of people culturally, color-wise and culturally – when I say that I mean food, music, style – it just was attractive to me, and I've certainly been enriched by it," he said.

Of his assignments, Msgr. Schmied said that "each parish was significant, had its highlights, its challenges."

The jubilarian noted the Gospel he chose for his first Mass, Luke 4: "The spirit of God is upon me, has enlightened me to preach Good News to the poor, sight to the blind, liberty to captives, freedom to the oppressed, to proclaim God's favor."

"To do that has not always been easy," he said. "There's reticence on the part of some and even not just reticence, reluctance, but

See Msgr. Schmied, Page 14

Call to priesthood 'felt natural' for silver jubilarian

Msgr. Golden credits parents, priests for helping him 'step forward'

JOSEPH STANIUNAS
Special to The Catholic Virginian

The weeks before Msgr. Patrick Golden's priesthood ordination in May 1996 were damp and cold. But the day he was ordained, it was sunny and hot. As he lay prostrate on the floor of the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Richmond, he remembers thinking: "It's finally happened, that complete feeling of humility at what else might be coming."

What was coming was 25 years of ministry in parishes across the Diocese of Richmond, 21 as a pastor at St. Mary, Suffolk; St. Jude, Radford; the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart; and now at Our Lady of Nazareth, Roanoke.

Msgr. Golden grew up in Lynchburg and belonged to Holy Cross Parish, where he began to find some mentors.

"I think I had feelings back in high school, pictured myself

as what it would look like to be a priest," he said. "One person who really touched me deeply was Father Joe Lehman. He just seemed to be a good picture of what a priest should be like and be." As did the parish pastor, the late Father Anthony Warner.

After graduating from Radford University with a degree in political science, Msgr. Golden was back in Lynchburg and active in the parish — eucharistic adoration, the rosary, prayer groups.

"I was starting to do more and more things at the church, so it became something that felt natural," he said. "When I was in that church at Holy Cross, I had just a great feeling of comfort."

Msgr. Golden said he felt he had a vocation but put off talking to his pastor, Father Warner, until one Good Shepherd Sunday.

"In his sermon, he said those who felt called should step forward if you feel you have a vocation. I thought that was a

pretty good message," he said with a wry smile, "so I stepped forward."

That fall, he began formation at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore.

His parents, Tom and Patricia, were also responsible for that first step to the priesthood, with their devotion to the faith that included a family pilgrimage to Medjugorje.

"They were just good, good, prayerful people," he said. "Dad made sure we were at Mass no matter what — rain, snow, whatever. They were a model and example for our family."

His pastoral year as a seminarian was spent at Holy Spirit, Virginia Beach, a year that helped him figure out that he wanted to focus on parish ministry. He missed Christmas with his family that year, celebrating with them



Msgr. Patrick Golden

later.

"But I fell in love with the congregation, and I realized then that I'd rather be with them at Christmas, follow up with the people of God," he said.

Msgr. Golden said it took him a while to develop and appreciate the best approach to pastoral ministry. He likes a set

schedule, to have a day pretty much all planned out.

"I had to surrender that because all of the sudden the week changes quickly," he said. "You get a hospital call, or someone dies, so I had to have the patience to let go instead of getting all worked up over it. I learned to say a prayer to the Lord that 'it's in your hands, I can't do it all on my own; you'll have to help me get through this.'"

See Msgr. Golden, Page 14

'Heart and soul' of CHS retiring after 46 years

Vann Sutton taught, coached and was dean of students

WENDY KLESCH

Special to The Catholic Virginian

For 46 years, Vann Sutton, dean of students at Catholic High School, Virginia Beach, has brought his keen sense of humor and sense of perspective to the school as a math teacher, administrator, coach, mentor and friend.

"Vann Sutton is the heart and soul of our school," said Noreen Baker, English instructor at CHS, "who leads through example with humility and unabashed optimism."

"He has a very unique and cheerful way of saying good morning," said CHS Principal Peggy Boon. "He puts a lot of enthusiasm into it, a heartfelt meaning that brightens everyone's day."

After nearly half a century in which he has witnessed changes in trends and in technology — and even in the school's location, from Norfolk to Virginia Beach — Sutton is retiring this June.

"I felt it was time," he said. "It's all gone by so fast. But I suppose that's an indication of how much I've enjoyed it all."

Bringing a career full circle

Originally from Murfreesboro, North Carolina, Sutton grew up in Hampton Roads, graduating from Cox High School, Virginia Beach, in 1967.

He worked his way through Old Dominion University, he said, while holding down a job at The Hub, a clothing store in Virginia Beach.

Upon his graduation in 1975 with a Bachelor's degree in secondary education, he accepted his first teaching position at Norfolk Catholic High, drawn to the school, he said, by a new, student-led program.

"I was fresh out of college, and it was cutting edge at the time," he said.

Throughout his career, he's taught algebra and geometry, making it his mission to help his students see the subjects from a fresh, new angle by emphasizing how mathematics is a concrete part of everyday life.

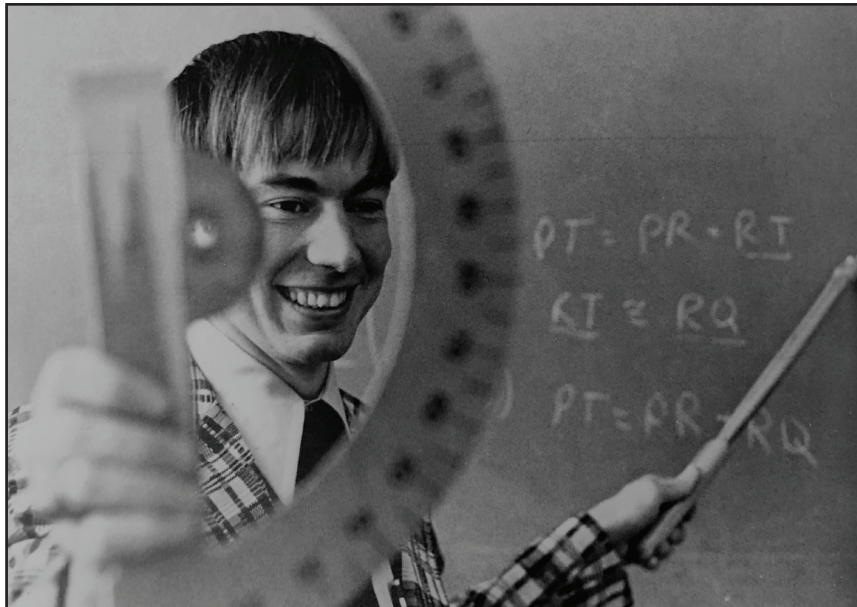
"Math is everywhere," Sutton explained. "When COVID hit, I asked the kids, 'What's the most efficient way to keep everyone six feet apart?' That's geometry."

"If ever I saw a student getting ready to throw a piece of paper, I'd say, 'If you can give me the equation of that parabola, I'll let you throw it.'"

"I never had anyone take me up on that," he added, laughing.

Now, in his final semester at Catholic High, he's been taking his career full circle, literally — picking up three classes of geometry for a teacher who retired unexpectedly earlier this year.

"I hadn't taught a class since



Left: Vann Sutton, as a first-year geometry teacher, is pictured in this 1976 Norfolk Catholic High School yearbook photo. It was his first and only teaching position in a career that lasted 46 years. Right: Sutton today. (Photos/Catholic High School and Wendy Klesch, respectively)

2015," he said, "so it's been nice, having this chance to get back into the classroom again."

Sense of perspective

Over the years, Sutton has brought the same sense of perspective to athletics as he has to academics, serving as assistant wrestling coach for 39 years, and as junior varsity and varsity softball coach for 10 and 12 years, respectively. There is a scholarship in his name at Catholic High, awarded to a student athlete from the wrestling team each year.

"It's all balanced out," he said. "Over the years, we've won some that we shouldn't have won, and lost some that we shouldn't have lost. The students were great through it all."

He always encouraged his students to keep it all in stride, he said, both the wins and the losses.

"I always told the students these are just the extracurricular activities," he said. "Academics need to come first."

New century, new challenges

In 2005, Sutton joined the administration as dean of students, a role in which one of his responsibilities has been scheduling, a job perfectly suited to a math teacher.

"It's like a nice, big puzzle, getting all of the pieces to fit," he said.

Sutton is also in charge of disciplinary issues, a challenge he handles with the same easy grace.

"It doesn't matter what the dress code is," he said. "There's always going to be students who will cross over the edge. Teens will always be looking for where the line is."

Adjusting for variables

"There's been new things to adjust to," he said. "I remember in 1981, when we got our first computers, and we wondered what are we going to do with them. And now we have some students who are com-

pletely online."

Although classroom technology has changed, the experience of being a teen remains a constant, he said, explaining that he's helped students to handle the same challenges, questions and concerns decade after decade.

"It all goes in circles. There's nothing really new," he said. "There's just different clothing."

His favorite part of teaching, he said, has been being there to witness that moment "when students get it."

"All of the sudden, you can see

the light go on in their faces, and you know they understand," he said. "I've had students come back even years later and say, 'Yes. I got it.'"

Sutton is looking forward to having more time to work in his garden and to spend with family, but he is grateful, he said, to have been a part of Catholic High.

"The environment — the students, the faculty, the parents — have all been great," he said. "I've enjoyed coming into work every morning. And I know not everyone has the pleasure of saying that."

Learn lessons from St. Ignatius' cannonball experience, pope says

ROME (CNS) — Sometimes a person's dreams and aspirations go up in smoke, but God always is there with bigger and better plans, Pope Francis said, pointing to St. Ignatius of Loyola as an example.

"In Pamplona, (Spain), 500 years ago, all Ignatius' worldly dreams were shattered in an instant" when he was hit in battle.

"The cannonball that wounded him changed the course of his life, and the course of the world," Pope Francis said in a video message May 23.

The pope, a Jesuit, joined his confreres, members of other orders of women and men who follow Ignatian spirituality, lay collaborators and others for an online prayer service as part of the Ignatian Year marking the 500th anniversary of St. Ignatius' conversion after being wounded in battle.

"That cannonball meant that Ignatius failed in the dreams he had for his life," the pope said, "but God had a bigger dream for him. God's dream for Ignatius was not about Ignatius. It was about helping souls. It was a dream of redemption, a dream of going out into the world, accompanied by Jesus, humble and poor."

Pope Francis said that "discernment does not consist in always succeeding from the beginning, but rather in navigating and having a compass in order to be able to set out on the path — which has many twists and turns — but always allowing oneself to be guided by the Holy Spirit, who leads us to the encounter with the Lord."

"On this earthly pilgrimage, we meet others like Ignatius did in his life," the pope said. "These other people are signs that help us to stay on course and who invite us to convert again and again."

"Conversion always occurs through dialogue — dialogue with God, dialogue with others, dialogue with the world," he said.

Pope Francis prayed that all Christians who are inspired by Ignatian spirituality would continue their journey of conversion together, helping one another draw closer to Christ and reaching out to others as well.

"Only Jesus has shown us the way. We help each other to find and follow this path," the pope said. "No one is saved alone; either we are saved as a community or we are not saved."

Secure human life first

Regarding the letter of Rich Howell (Catholic Virginian, May 3), in which he stated he was disappointed “to see some Catholics clamoring for holy Communion to be denied to President Joe Biden over a single issue.” The issue is abortion.

The sin of abortion has become acceptable in society at large and among many Catholics. Over time, Catholic politicians have been able to run for office on a pro-abortion agenda and couch their positions by saying how they personally deplore abortions, but that they do not let their personal faith dictate their public decisions. Hogwash! These politicians are profiting from the nasty business of abortion!

Paragraph 2272 in the Catechism of the Catholic Church states:

“Formal cooperation in an abortion constitutes a grave offense. The Church attaches the canonical penalty of excommunication to this crime against human life. A person who procures a completed abortion incurs excommunication latae sententiae.”

Some bishops and priests are calling out Biden and other Catholic politicians. Preserving and protecting life is the chief duty of the government and society. All other political or social objectives and obligations come after human life has been secured.

The Church is starting to publicly say so, and it is making many Catholics uncomfortable. Hell is uncomfortable!

– **Tad Stilwell**
Mechanicsville

Politicians are not above Church law

I was appalled at a letter to the editor (Catholic Virginian, May 3) where the writer supported President Joe Biden’s ability to receive holy Communion and dismissed abortion as a “single issue.” Does the writer realize that since the Roe v. Wade decision, 62 million innocent lives have been aborted?

Biden has publicly stated his support for abortion

on demand throughout his political career. His support is in stark contract with the tenets of the Catholic Church, which reject abortion as morally wrong at every stage.

Biden should, at the very least, abstain from or be denied Communion. A politician is not above Church law.

– **Deborah Parrott**
Mechanicsville

Every abortion is ‘God-killing’

Some Catholics wonder why abortion is considered a primary issue when considering for whom to vote.

When we consider that: The Fifth Commandment says: “Thou shalt not kill.”

- Each of us is made in the likeness and image of God.

- Without God’s participation, no baby (fetus) can be created.

- Jesus cautioned: “Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers, you did unto me.”

So in reality, isn’t every abortion God-killing?

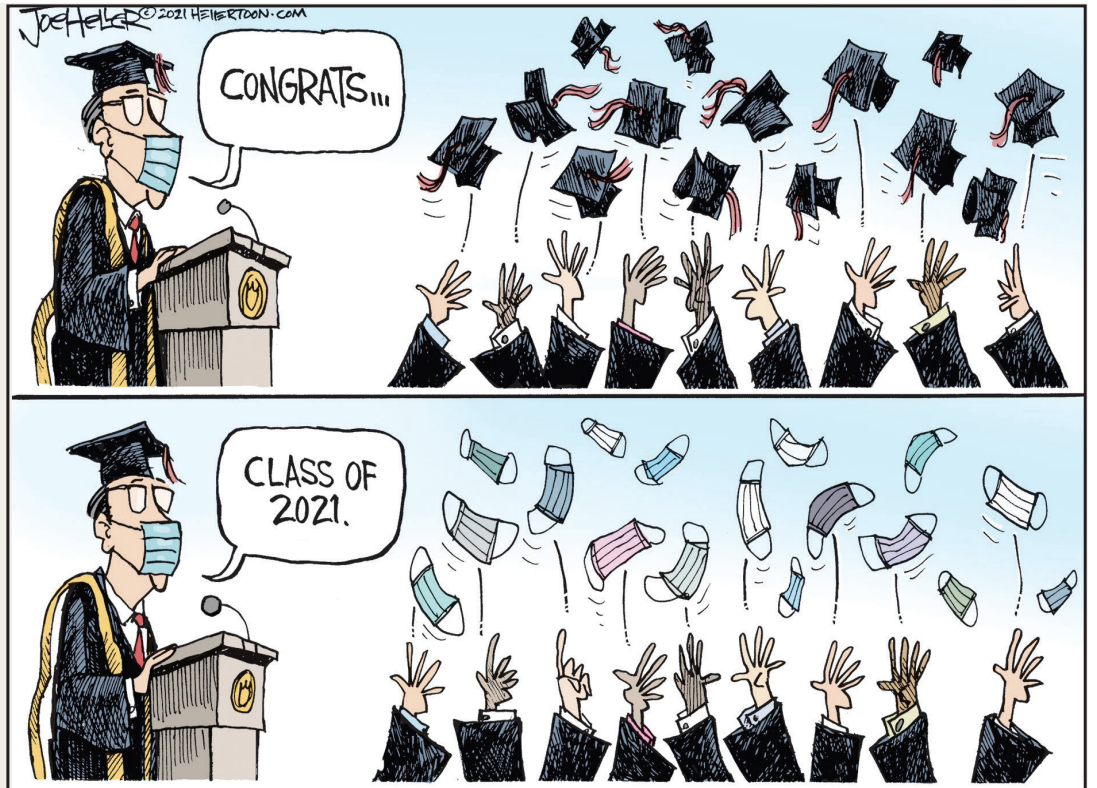
And our Declaration of Independence asserts:

- We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

Abortion has gone beyond just mutilating a baby in the womb. Now it is okay in some circles to allow a baby that is born alive to die while the mother and doctor decide whether to let the child live or die.

In addition, we have gotten so callous that Congress has voted to deny pain killing drugs before aborting the baby. Could this be because the organs of some aborted babies are to be born alive so that their living organs and tissues can be used in medical experimentation unsullied by chemicals?

This is not a matter of conjecture; it is happening in our medical schools. The *in vivo* procedure is taught at the University of



California at San Francisco among others.

According to the CDC, from 2018-2020, more than 600,000 abortions were performed. What do you suppose God thinks of this “freedom of choice”?

– **Patricia Horgan**
North Chesterfield

Must be consequences for pro-abortion Catholics

I’m confused on this issue. As a lifetime Catholic, it’s always been my understanding we don’t approve of abortions.

If a Catholic politician votes for abortion, then they need to feel consequences. My mother married a Baptist and then divorced him. She couldn’t take any of the sacraments even though she was a very good Catholic. This hurt her deeply. But you will allow someone who can make civil laws that kill unborn babies with a heartbeat.

This is unacceptable. The Catholic Church has not learned anything from the abuse scandal. You’re losing members because of your wishy-washy ways of doing things.

– **Gene Warren**
Newport News

Pray for wisdom

It really is not that complicated. Never, ever kill an unborn baby. If someone does kill an in-

nocent, unborn baby, have nothing at all to do with it or you become complicit in the heinous act of murder.

We make it complicated because we don’t like God’s laws, and surely God would never want us to suffer in any way at all.

Wrong. We are to suffer.

Quite frankly, obeying God is more important than our comfort, health or fear of death.

Pray, dear souls, for wisdom and final perseverance.

– **Marijo Heitman**
Newport News

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.

Mail: The Catholic Virginian, 7800 Carousel Ln., Richmond, VA 23294
Phone: (804) 359-5654 • www.catholicvirginian.org
Circulation changes to: akrebs@catholicvirginian.org

Publisher: Most Reverend Barry C. Knestout
Editor: Brian T. Olszewski (804) 622-5225 bolszewski@catholicvirginian.org
Creative Director: Stephen Previtera (804) 622-5229 sprevitera@catholicvirginian.org
Circulation: Ashly Krebs (804) 622-5226 akrebs@catholicvirginian.org
Eastern Correspondents: Wendy Klesch and Jennifer Neville
Western Correspondents: Karen Adams and Joseph Staniunas
Central Correspondents: Kristen L. Byrd and Rose 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. Sixty cents per copy, \$15 per year.

Father Drake

Continued from Page 3

"I learned one of the languages of the Philippines, and it helped me a lot when I came back to Virginia Beach," he said, noting the vibrant Filipino population in the Diocese of Richmond.

"That's been very helpful to me. And, of course, to see how the Church has prospered in another culture was wonderful," he added.

The priest noted that at the onset of his vocation, he had been prepared for working in larger parishes where he would be performing "many baptisms, many weddings" and other sacraments, and he said that he has served in some big parishes.

These days, however, he has "become more accustomed to a much smaller setting" where "you get to know the parish like your family."

"The longer you're ordained, you get to know generations of family, and so it's a wonderful experience to see the children," he said. "The children you knew, they're parents now. Their parents are grandparents. You get to see how the faith has grown in these families."

Having retired from active ministry in 2015, Father Drake now helps out at parishes that are part of St. Anne, Bristol — St. Bernard, Gate City, and St. Patrick, Dungannon, in southwestern Virginia.

"I don't do any of the administration, but I do offer Mass here every weekend, visit the sick and all," he said.

Until this past year and the challenges brought on by COVID-19, Father Drake had been actively involved in prison ministry, but prisons have been closed to visitors due to the pandemic.

Father Drake expressed "a deep gratitude for the people of the diocese for their great support over the years and all the places I've served."

Father Drake said that in addition to Mass and daily prayer, learning to count his bless-

ings rather than concentrate on problems or perceived failures in ministry has been key to sustaining his vocation as a priest.

"Learning from my own mistakes and going on from there, I think that's helped me to stay happy in priesthood," he said, "And having people who I can confide in, talk with, including my brother priests."

His brother priests from the 1971 ordination class, including those who serve the Diocese of Arlington, still get together.

"We've stayed in touch, which is a wonderful thing," said Father Drake. "We're kind of spread out, but we do have that much connection, keeping in touch."

This year, to celebrate their golden jubilee, six brother priests concelebrated the 12:05 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart on Tuesday, May 25.

In a more personal celebration, Father Drake presided at three Masses during his anniversary weekend at the parishes where he currently helps.

"We're a very small church. We average about 25 people, and if you spread them out, people don't get too jammed in there," he said. "So, I didn't want it to get more than about 25. It was good."

He was joined by his brother and sister, and parishioners from St. Matthew, Virginia Beach, with whom he has remained in touch.

Although he said it was "just a coincidence," Father Drake also participated in Mass in Kingsport, Tennessee, because he has gotten to know people from the parish since going to "the far southwest" in 2001.

"It was quite a big weekend," he said.

Reflecting on his golden jubilee, Father Drake recalled "so many happy memories" of the people he has encountered.

"I think untold stories could be told about the goodness of the people of our diocese toward the priests and the support that I've received over the years," he said.

He has appreciated being able to support the people of God, noting that being able to perform the works of mercy "has been the center of my ministry."

"Being able to reach out to people in their time of need: when they were sick, when they were dying, people in prison, nursing homes. All of the opportunities to do the works of mercy, that was a great joy," he said.

May Crowning



Father Matthew Kiehl, administrator of Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Virginia Beach, places a crown of flowers upon the statue of the Virgin Mary during the Coronation of Mary Prayer Service on May 7. The service, an annual event to honor the Virgin Mary during the month of May, was sponsored by the parish's Sisters in Faith ministry. Parishioners brought flowers for the vases. (Photo/George Bieber)

HUMAN TRAFFICKING



Yes...it happens here.

We are privileged to host fellow parishioner Stephanie Benton from the Beloved Haven as she presents the very real, very present human trafficking reality in our area.

Teens and adults can hear Stephanie's captivating stories and impactful information and get questions answered on **June 8th from 6:00 - 7:30pm at SSM**. To view this event live-streamed, go to SSMRCC.org and click the Facebook icon at the bottom of the page.

It is our prayer that Stephanie's presentation will help save lives and positively impact on the future of our community.

Come June 8th, 6:00 - 7:30pm at SSM and learn more at belovedhaven.org.

"Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked." PSALM 82:4



Virginia State-Wide Benefit Night

Benefits Available for Catholics



All are invited to this informative seminar to better their understanding of benefits available to Catholics through the Knights of Columbus. This is a wonderful opportunity for everyone in the community to learn more. It is open to the entire community.

Bob Abbate will be speaking about many of the features and benefits inherent in Knights of Columbus membership including: Knights of Columbus Founding Principles and facts - Fraternal Benefits - Life Insurance - Retirement Annuities - Long Term Care Insurance - Disability Income Insurance - and more.

Sponsored by Knights of Columbus: The Abbate Agency

Date: June 9, 2021

Time: 7:00 pm

Where: Online via zoom

Registration link: june9.abbatekofc.com



Knights of Columbus®
The Abbate Agency
www.abbatekofc.com



LIFE INSURANCE • DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE • LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE • RETIREMENT ANNUITIES

Insurance products are offered through Knights of Columbus, One Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510

'Perfume fests' force worshiper to leave Mass early



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

FATHER KENNETH DOYLE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Q. I read your response to the reader who asked when the proper time is to leave Mass. (You said after the recessional hymn is over.) I would have agreed with you until I became part of a parish that has perfume fests every Sunday.

Even though I take allergy meds before coming to church, the perfume is so awful that my nose runs, I cough, have difficulty breathing and feel nauseous. Sometimes it is so bad that I have to rush out right after Communion to keep from vomiting; then I feel sick for the rest of the day and cannot eat for hours.

When I do leave early, there are other people outside saying negative things about how they couldn't take the perfume any longer. I asked the parish council if we could have a perfume-free area in the church, but the pastor said that would make people feel unwelcome. Well, I feel unwelcome.

I used to love going to Mass, but now I dread it. You don't have to reply, but I wanted you to know that there are good and valid reasons why some people leave Mass early. (City and state withheld)

A. The woman who submitted this question said she preferred

I not publish her letter and that, if I did, I should not disclose her location in order to preserve her anonymity.

I yield to her second request, but not her first; she may be identifying a problem more prevalent than I would pick up from the altar and, if so, it deserves mention.

Since she has already approached her pastor unsuccessfully, it might be wise simply to find another parish. I don't believe that the problem of perfume terrorism is universal.

Q. When the Holy Father and Ayatollah al-Sistani met recently, at the end they stood facing each other and seemed to be talking without an interpreter. What language did they use in order to communicate? (Powhatan)

A. According to the website of the Jesuit magazine *America* there was, in fact, an interpreter present. *America* said in its report on the March 6 meeting that "the two leaders of Christianity and Shia Islam sat beside a small wooden table and spoke with the assistance of the pope's Palestinian-born translator."

I am happy that you have called our readers' attention to this important meeting in the cause of peace.

The 90-year-old grand ayatollah is a revered and highly influential

leader in Iraq, where more than 60% of Muslims are Shiites.

The Vatican noted that the meeting had given Pope Francis a chance to thank the ayatollah and the Iraqi Shiite community, which "raised their voices in defense of the weakest and the persecuted, affirming the sacredness of human life and the importance of the unity of the Iraqi people" during the 2014-17 offensive of the Islamic State militants in which Christians suffered heavily.

After meeting with Pope Francis, the ayatollah said that the meeting served as an example of the importance of world leaders holding powerful nations to account and calling on them "to give priority to reason and wisdom (and) to reject the language of war."

Q. Your recent column about coming back to the sacraments caught my eye. My husband and I were married 47 years ago by a justice of the peace. We were not able to be married in the Church because my husband had been married before.

When he was 19 years old, he had married his 16-year-old girlfriend in a Catholic wedding. She had just told him that she was pregnant. Their marriage lasted about a year and a half; then she left him and went home to live with her parents and her baby daughter.

My husband and I have three children; all of them went to Cath-

olic schools, graduated and now have children of their own. We are still in contact, too, with my husband's daughter from his first marriage.

I have watched our children go through all the sacraments in the Catholic Church but have been unable to receive holy Communion due to my husband's first marriage. Last year, my husband's first wife died, and I've been wondering how this affects the status of our marriage within the Catholic Church.

Might there be an opportunity to rejoin the Church and receive the sacraments again? (City and state withheld)

A. Yes, definitely. Since your husband's first wife is deceased, the way is open for the two of you to return to the sacraments. Visit with a priest soon.

He will recommend that you go to the sacrament of reconciliation first, to return fully to the graces of the Lord, and then he will be happy to bless your present marriage.

What surprises me a bit is that your husband apparently never sought to have his first marriage annulled by the Church.

The circumstances — a 19- and 16-year-old rushing into marriage, impelled by a pregnancy — present a classic case of a marriage where one or both partners probably lacked sufficient maturity to make a binding, lifelong commitment.

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



2,298 students depended on tuition assistance to attend Catholic schools in our diocese in the 2020-2021 school year

How you can help:

- Make a gift of \$500 or more to the McMahon Parater Foundation and become eligible for tax credits through the Education Improvement Scholarships Tax Credit Program.
- Establish an endowed fund
- Donate stock

For more information on how you can help, contact Margaret Keightley, Executive Director, Catholic Community Foundation at mkeightley@richmonddiocese.org or (804) 622-5121.



McMahon Parater
Scholarship Foundation

Heed the lessons from God's school of learning



IN LIGHT OF FAITH
BARBARA HUGHES

Few things are as invigorating as opening windows in the early morning, bringing the outdoors inside. Sitting by the open window, watching drapes flutter while listening to the sound of the wind rustling through the trees is a testimony to the sacrament of movement that is part of life. Nature's dance provides a multitude of sights and sounds that awaken and renew even the most sluggish hearts.

From the caw of the crow to the trill of the yellow breasted finch, our feathered friends offer a symphony of praise to the Creator that invites us to do the same. Doing only what comes naturally, they call us to join in singing the liturgy of nature because we, who have been created in God's own image and likeness, are too often oblivious to the wonder of God's ongoing presence and love for the world.

Among the many gifts from God that surround us, springtime events remind us that new life and renewal are ours for the asking. From the tiniest flower to the towering oak trees, outdoor cathedrals beckon us to enter a sacred space that awakens us, causing us to bow in awe at the wonder and majesty of God. In ways both great and small, we are surrounded by the footprint of God.

One such footprint has become an annual event that takes place in our backyard as year after year a family of blue birds occupies a birdhouse in our garden. Perched on top of a tree trunk, the dead wood serves as a natural pole to support the nest, reminding us that



from death comes new life.

We have no way of knowing if it's the same birds that return every year, but more important than their identity is their diligence. Every year they ferry twigs and grass, feathers and pieces of discarded twine to create a home that rivals the work of any skilled artisan. Yet, their relentless activity is only the beginning of an annual drama that plays out before our eyes.

As weeks go by, the male bluebird deposits food for the female while she warms the eggs that house their soon-to-be offspring. Hidden from view, we're not privy to the birth, but if we listen carefully while standing near the birdhouse, the birth announcement arrives in the form of soft chirping.

For the next few weeks, the adult birds deliver food to satisfy seemingly insatiable appetites. Sparing no effort to protect the life of their young family, adult birds alternate guard duty. From a nearby branch, they descend on any squirrel that might disrupt the young family.

The diligence and devotion of the new parents offer invaluable lessons in parenting,

serving as an indictment to humans willing to sacrifice the young in the womb or abuse and neglect children.

Nature's lessons instruct the young and the old, the wise and the unlearned alike. No one is excluded from God's school of learning. Not only does it provide lessons in birthing and parenting, but it teaches us about the importance of detachment.

Within a month or so the birdhouse becomes vacant. Cleaning out the nest, we are astounded by the intricate workmanship that the builders left behind.

I am reminded of the words of a wise rabbi who advised his congregation to pack lightly when preparing for heaven. His sage advice: "Touch everything but take nothing" is counsel that our bluebird friends have reinforced through the years. They take only what is needed, that which will contribute to new life, and when nature has run its course, they leave without so much as a backward glance.

If only our world could take these lessons to heart. Rather than deplete the world's resources, we would touch them lightly, treating them as communal property rather than personal possessions. We might begin by opening a window, planting a garden or simply by pausing to unite our song of praise with the sounds of nature.

Like blossoms that open to the sun, may our hearts embrace the many gifts that are to be touched but not taken, appreciated but not harmed, so that life will be renewed in abundance.

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

We're nourished at Mass by Eucharist, each other



BELIEVE AS YOU PRAY
DEACON CHRISTOPHER COLVILLE

One of the most difficult aspects of the past 15 months, for many of us, has been the inability to gather as one to celebrate liturgy and receive Eucharist. When Masses were totally livestreamed, only the few who were helping with the livestream were able to attend and receive the Eucharist. When churches started to open with limited attendance, many were still unable to attend Mass in person and receive the Body and Blood of Jesus.

Parishioners participating in live-streamed Masses were encouraged to make a Spiritual Act of Communion. While this is a wonderful prayer and it can enhance watching and participating in Mass online, many have said it doesn't come close to physically receiving the Body of Christ. The Eucharist,

the Source and Summit of our faith (CCC 1324), unites us as one and sends us forth into the world.

This feast speaks to us of the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, the belief that when Jesus said, "This is my body" and "This is my blood," the bread and wine truly became Jesus' Body and Blood. We also believe that the power to do this was conferred to the apostles: "Do this in remembrance of me," and from them to those who are ordained as priests.

It is encouraging to hear people say they miss coming to Mass to receive Eucharist, that they long for and are ecstatic about receiving

Communion. It is a blessing for me to see the people's reactions when they receive Eucharist in church or when it is brought to them.

One person to whom I bring Communion would close his eyes after receiving; his face would give off a glow from the joy he felt and he would say, "That's beautiful." Others, with tears in their eyes, would try to tell me what it meant to them.

Last week I was told that a parishioner had tears in her eyes because it was the first time she had been back to Mass and received

Communion in a long time. Another person I see regularly tells me, "I always love to see you come because you bring me Jesus." Recently a young man who received his first Communion, when asked how he felt receiving Eucharist, said "My heart just feels so full." I am sure you all have similar experiences.

Certainly, the true presence of Jesus is the preeminent understanding of this feast. However, when parishioners tell me they missed the people as well as the Eucharist, they are speaking of another understanding of the Body of Christ. In our theology, we refer to the people of God, the Church, as the Body of Christ. We are the Body of Christ (CCC 805).

That is another reason we need to return to Mass. We need to gather together as the Body of Christ. When folks are missing from Mass, we are not complete. As things continue to open up and we can have more and more people attending Mass, it is important for all of us to gather as community, to gather as Church, to gather as the Body of Christ. At Mass, we are nourished by the Eucharist and we, members of the Body of Christ, are nourished by each other's presence.

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

Feast of the Precious Body and Blood of Christ

Ex 24:3-8; Heb 9:11-15;

Mk 14:12-16, 22-26

BENEDICTINE COLLEGE PREPARATORY



Ryan P. Tremain

VALEDICTORIAN

Valedictorian: Ryan P. Tremain is the valedictorian of Benedictine College Preparatory due to his 4.63 GPA, driven by his success in five Advance Placement courses. Ryan earned first academic honors during each of his 16 quarters at BCP. He serves as the Corps of Cadets' battalion commander, holding the rank of lieutenant colonel, the school's highest. A state champion and an All-American wrestler, Ryan served as the BCP team captain this year. Ryan is also the president of the school's Key Club and is vice president of the senior class. He will attend the United States Air Force Academy.



Thomas Windsor Antal

SALUTATORIAN

Salutatorian: Thomas Windsor Antal is the salutatorian due to his 4.46 GPA, having excelled in nine Advance Placement courses. During his senior year, he served as the Corps of Cadets' National Honor Society Officer with the rank of captain. Windsor served as captain of Benedictine's golf team and its Battle of the Brains team. He was selected to the Battle of the Brains all-star team, one of eight selectees out of 36 schools. Windsor is a parishioner of St. Mary Catholic Church and a graduate of its parish school. He will attend the University of Virginia.

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



Brandon Ly

VALEDICTORIAN

Valedictorian: The Catholic High School Class of 2021 valedictorian is Brandon Ly, son of Minh and Melissa Ly of Chesapeake. Winner of the Princeton Book Award, Frank Parater Christian Service Award, National School Orchestra Award (piano and cello), and RPI Medal, Brandon plans to study chemical and biomolecular engineering at Johns Hopkins University in the fall.

Salutatorian: The CHS Class of 2021 salutatorian is Jacob Bovatsek, son of John and Marydawn Bovatsek of Norfolk. An AP Scholar with Distinction, member of the cross country, swim and crew team for four years, and a self-taught musician who plays piano, trumpet, guitar and drums, is planning to study materials science at Georgia Tech next year.

The 108 members of the Class of 2021 earned over \$6.8 million in scholarships and grants. Seniors were accepted at 117 colleges and universities in 30 states and the District of Columbia, including the United States Naval Academy, the United States Coast Guard Academy, the University of Virginia, Case Western Reserve University, Northeastern University, Boston College and Villanova University.



Jacob Bovatsek

SALUTATORIAN

BLESSED SACRAMENT-HUGUENOT CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Jessica Johnson

VALEDICTORIAN

The graduating seniors of The Blessed Sacrament Huguenot School are an incredibly resilient, lively and spirited group. Nearly half of the class, including

Valedictorian: Jessica Johnson has attended BSH since the first grade, which has fostered a strong sense of family and camaraderie. Jessica will join William & Mary in the fall.

Salutatorian: Gabriela Murillo joined BSH in middle school and will attend Virginia Tech.

Jessica, Gabriela and their classmates sought to make this year special despite the hurdles brought on by the pandemic. The senior class led a spirit week, organized fundraisers and activities for the rest of the school to make things feel a little more "normal" during this historic year. Their energy and positivity will be remembered and missed by all!



Gabriela Murillo

SALUTATORIAN

Pope to students: Treasure value of interpersonal relationships

CAROL GLATZ
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — After going so long without in-person learning and face-to-face contact with others, young people now should be more discerning and judicious concerning their time online, Pope Francis told students.

Having grown up in a digital world, they know the many new ways that have been opened up to them when it comes to learning and communication, the pope said during a private audience at the Vatican May 22 with a group of students and administrators from an Italian public high school.

"Yet we already know very well that there is the danger of closing oneself off and of always seeing reality through a filter, which only seemingly expands our freedom," he said.

The pope asked the students to make sure that the pandemic's forced "abstinence" from physically being with friends and others help them develop an even more "critical sense in the use of these (digital) tools so that they remain just that — instruments, subject to our intelligence and will."

The students were from the "Ambrosoli" vocational high school in the small northern city of Codogno, where the first locally acquired case of COVID-19 had been diagnosed in Italy.

Known as "Patient 1," a hospitalized 38-year-old man was found positive for the coronavirus Feb. 21, 2020, presaging a massive surge in cases and deaths throughout the area and the greater Lombardy region.

The pope said he and the students originally were scheduled to have their audience at the Vatican closer to the one-year anniversary of that first outbreak and the start of the pandemic in Europe.

The meeting was important, he said, because their school represented "a sign of hope" in such a difficult situation, and he congratulated them for "never losing heart" during this trial.

Many students and teachers have sent the pope letters about their pandemic experiences, describing a variety of positive experiences they have had, he said, which shows that when the "generative" power of teachers and the "dreams"

PENINSULA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



William Robertson

VALEDICTORIAN

Valedictorian: William Robertson is president of the Student Council Association, and has been a member of National Honor Society, Green Club, German Club as well as the baseball, swimming, sailing and basketball teams. He represented the Mayor's Youth Commission in Newport News and the International Youth Advisory Board. He is an Eagle Scout, student ambassador and altar server. Leaving PCHS with a 4.727 GPA, William heads to Duke University in the fall.

Salutatorian: Elizabeth Zillioux served as class secretary and a member of the Academic Code of Integrity Council. A scholar-athlete, Elizabeth has competed at the varsity level in swimming, earning her the MVP award this year. With a 4.725 GPA, Elizabeth will be attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

- 56 members
- 3.66 average GPA
- Over \$2 million in scholarship money awarded
- 6,558 service hours
- 24 NHS members
- 159 total college acceptances
- Acceptances to 69 different institutions in 22 different states



Elizabeth Zillioux

SALUTATORIAN

ROANOKE CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Alessandra Paras

VALEDICTORIAN

Roanoke Catholic School's Class of 2021 includes 42 graduates who have been accepted to colleges and universities all across the United States, as well as Europe. These graduates have cheered for each other in the academic arena as well as in sports. While being each other's biggest supporters, they have shown others how kindness, positivity and hard work can be qualities that will allow them to inspire others.

Valedictorian Alessandra Paras and **Salutatorian** Isabella Paras have attended Roanoke Catholic School since pre-Kindergarten. Over the years, these sisters have been members of Medico Club (for students interested in a career in the medical field) as well as the Key Club.

Isabella is president of the National Honor Society and Alessandra is treasurer of the National Honor Society. They are captains of the cheerleading team and have also played the piano since the first grade.

The Paras sisters will continue their education together at the University of Virginia in the fall. Alessandra will major in biochemistry and pre-medicine. Isabella will major in human biology and pre-medicine.



Isabella Paras

SALUTATORIAN

SAINT GERTRUDE HIGH SCHOOL



Morgan Scofield

VALEDICTORIAN

Valedictorian: Morgan Scofield, a straight A student, has earned the highest GPA in her class for the last three years. She has served on the school's honor council, as well as a math tutor and student ambassador. She is unafraid of hard work and plans the next several moves in front of her so that she always finishes on time or early. A saying that resonates with her is, "A goal without a plan is only a wish." Part of Morgan's strength comes from the balance she has in her life, nurturing her relationships with family and friends and her love of horseback riding. Working around horses since she was very young, Morgan has developed a strong and gritty work ethic, one which she will bring to her home next year at Virginia Tech.

Salutatorian: Natalie Wolpert has immersed herself in numerous activities over the last four years, earning awards for her extensive volunteer work. She has also worked behind the scenes and on the stage for several of the school's drama programs and attended two leadership conferences. She served as the assistant editor and the editor-in-chief of the school yearbook, putting to work her artistic talents and boundless energy for the last three years on those efforts, as well as artwork and a permanent mural that brightens the walls of the school. In addition to excelling academically, she has also served in leadership roles on the student council. Natalie will be attending James Madison University this fall.



Natalie Wolpert

SALUTATORIAN

WALSINGHAM ACADEMY



Katherine Haines

VALEDICTORIAN

Walsingham Academy's Class of 2021 is small but formidable! As of mid-May, the 22 graduates received more than \$2.6 million in merit scholarships and awards, and nearly 100 total college acceptances. All 22 students will continue their education at college in the fall.

Valedictorian: Katherine Haines will attend the University of Virginia.

Salutatorian: Jocelyn Covaney will attend Sewanee: The University of the South.

Five members of this year's graduating class — Elizabeth Barry, Lincoln Lubsen, Shiv Patel, Jake Rinaldi and Olivia Robinson — are Walsingham "lififers," having been with the academy since pre-kindergarten. The Sisters of Mercy, Walsingham's board of trustees, faculty and staff congratulate the Class of 2021 on their many accomplishments and for continuing the academy's tradition of excellence!



Jocelyn Covaney

SALUTATORIAN

'Pillar of Walsingham' inspired others with her faith

Sister of Mercy Rose Morris retires after 33 years at academy

JENNIFER NEVILLE

Special to The Catholic Virginian

Sister Rose Morris has been a "pillar" at Walsingham Academy, Williamsburg, as she taught with joy, comforted people in distress and lived her faith. She has retired after 33 years at the school, and she will be missed.

School president Sister Mary Jeanne Oesterle said Sister Rose is "a magnificent teacher" and "a beautiful religious, a beautiful Sister of Mercy" whose "faith life is an example to everyone she meets."

"She is beloved, and people will say that they have grown closer to God or have been brought back to God because of her faith and her spirituality," said Sister Mary Jeanne, also a member of the Sisters of Mercy.

Susan Morelli, lower school reading specialist, called Sister Rose "a pillar of Walsingham" who "humbly" cared for teachers, students and parents.

Growing up in Philadelphia, Sister Rose, 88, received a Catholic education and lived in a family where "religion was very much practiced" at home, she said. She remembers going to weekly Masses and praying the rosary for world peace at alternating homes in her Catholic neighborhood during World War II.

She had a younger sister who died of leukemia at age 7 and a younger brother. The tragedy helped Sister Rose in later life when comforting those in sorrow after a loved one passed away, she said.

When Sister Rose was in the fifth grade, she began considering becoming a religious after reading a book about St. Therese, known as the Little Flower. As the years passed, that thought "went on the back burner," especially in eighth grade when she was interested in boys and social activities, she said.

She was an upperclassman when she again felt called to be a religious. She prayed, read books, talked to and observed sisters of various communities and toured convents. She felt called to the Sisters of Mercy, which has a motherhouse in Merion, Pennsylvania, a suburb of Philadelphia. She joined the community in fall of 1951, soon after graduating high school.

At the time, the sisters were restricted to being teachers or nurses in hospitals. She chose to be an educator because she wanted to work with children. She said the job was "fun" and introduced her to "wonderful people."

Sister Rose earned a bachelor's in literature from Villanova University and a master's in curriculum development from Temple Univer-



After an All Saints' Day liturgy Nov. 1, 2019, Sister of Mercy Rose Morris talks with third-graders Walker Clayton (forefront, red crown), Lila Mayr (center with flowers) and Noah Rodriguez. Sister Rose, who has retired after teaching 33 years at Walsingham Academy, Williamsburg, enjoyed having children act out the Gospel stories and other lessons in religion class. (Photo/Walsingham Academy)

sity, both in the Philadelphia area. She began teaching in the mid-1950s.

Over the years, she taught every grade from pre-K to 12th in Catholic schools in Philadelphia, Florida and Williamsburg. She spent the last several years teaching religion to students from pre-K to fifth grade.

Sister Mary Jeanne said students looked forward to Sister Rose's religion classes because she made learning fun. She taught about faith in terms and methods tailored to each grade level. She especially enjoyed having students act out Gospel stories.

Sister Rose taught Bible stories, faith values and how to "talk to God quietly in their hearts," Sister Mary Jeanne said, adding that Sister Rose told the students, "If you need anything, turn to God. That is where the help will come from."

Students at Walsingham are encouraged to live their faith by being the hands and feet of Christ. Pre-COVID, Sister Rose took small groups of students from fourth through seventh grades to nursing homes to cheer the residents. Sister

Mary Jeanne said the students loved the opportunity and hoped to be among those selected to go each week.

"Jesus said go forth and teach all nations, and that is our task really as Christians, to go forth and do what we can in our little corner of the world," Sister Rose said. She also visited Catholics in nursing homes on her own on Sundays and offered them Communion.

Marian Gansler, school nurse who has known Sister Rose for 17 years, said she is a woman of great faith, knowledge and devotion and that she is "a giving, giving person" who "embodies the mercy charism" and is "a Sister of Mercy through and through."

Morelli, who has known Sister Rose for 25 years, called her "the comforter" at Walsingham because whenever someone, be it a student, teacher or parent, was sick, in sorrow or facing some other strife, Sister Rose was one of the first people to respond with a phone call, a card or a visit. She also sent people cards "just to bring some joy."

Similarly, Sister Mary Jeanne said, "She just has a gift for reaching out to anyone who just has a need of someone to say, 'I care. You are not alone, and you're loved by God.'"

When Morelli's mother died, the cards Sister Rose sent her were so "beautifully written" that Morelli "treasures them" and rereads them when she needs "to feel God's presence."

Morelli said Sister Rose is always positive and unassuming.

"We were blessed to have her," Morelli said.

Sister Rose also feels blessed. "It's really a privilege to teach," she said. "I've had so many good experiences really, and all I can say is thank you."

Myanmar cardinal calls for peace after church bombing

ROME (CNS) — Cardinal Charles Bo of Yangon, Myanmar, pleaded for an end to violence after a deadly mortar attack in his country claimed the lives of four people sheltering in a church. In a statement posted on his Twitter account, Cardinal Bo, who also serves as president of the Myanmar bishops' conference, expressed his anguish over the May 23 attack on "innocent civilians who sought refuge in Sacred Heart Church" in Kayanthayar, a town in eastern Myanmar near the country's border with Thailand.

"The violent acts, including continuous shelling, using heavy weaponry on a frightened group of largely women and children, result-

ed in the tragic death of four people and wounding more than eight," he wrote May 25.

The Southeast Asian country has been rocked by violence since Feb. 1 after the military seized power and overthrew the elected civilian government. Myanmar had been ruled by the military for more than 50 years before Aung San Suu Kyi's elected government took office in April 2016.

Since the coup, protests against military rule have led to deadly confrontations and have gained attention from world leaders, including Pope Francis, who celebrated a Mass for peace in St. Peter's Basilica May 16 with Catholics from Myanmar living in Rome.

Solar panels installed on diocesan Pastoral Center

Decision based on fiscal, environmental stewardship

JENNIFER NEVILLE
Special to The Catholic Virginian

Adopting solar energy for its Pastoral Center gives the Richmond Diocese the opportunity to practice what it preaches.

In his 2015 encyclical “Laudato Si’: On Care for Our Common Home,” Pope Francis stressed that climate change is a global problem with grave environmental, social, economic and political implications. He decreed that everything in creation is interconnected and that humans must be stewards of it.

Further, Bishops Barry C. Knestout, Richmond Diocese, and Michael Burbidge, Arlington Diocese, signed the U.S. Catholic Declaration, “a document supporting the call to take prudent action to protect the global climate,” according to the Virginia Catholic Conference website.

The Richmond Diocese is adopting solar energy for its 55,000 square-foot Pastoral Center, home to diocesan-level offices in Richmond, and has installed LED lighting (light emitting diode) which energystar.gov said produces light up to 90% more efficiently than incandescent light bulbs.

The solar power system is ready to go on the grid as soon as Dominion Energy switches out the meter. Church of the Holy Family Parish in Virginia Beach, Church of St. Therese Parish in Chesapeake, Immaculate Conception Parish in Hampton, Our Lady of Lourdes School in Richmond, Roanoke Catholic School, and Sacred Heart Parish and school in Danville had either completed their solar projects and were online or awaiting regulatory approval. St. Pius X Parish in Norfolk and St. Augustine Parish in Chesterfield are in the process of converting to solar power.

“You can ask any pastor or any principal of any of the projects what their message is, what they convey to me is they’re acting on what they preach,” said Page Gravely, head of client services at Catholic Energies. “They preach care for creation and environmental stewardship, and they are demonstrating to the community that they are acting on it by contributing to better environmental quality.”

Catholic Energies is a service of the Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit Catholic Climate Covenant which helps guide the U.S. Church’s response on climate change and care for creation.

The Richmond Diocese decided to use solar energy for the Pastoral Center because it made both fiscal and environmental sense, said Charles Mikell, director of the diocesan Office of Real Estate.



Installation of 610 solar panels on the roof of the Diocese of Richmond’s 55,000 square-foot Pastoral Center in Richmond was completed in March 2021. An estimated 432 tons of greenhouse gases will be offset by the solar project each year.

(Photo/Vy Barto)

The energy required to power U.S. buildings is responsible for about a third of the greenhouse gases in the country, according to a Catholic Energies press release.

Gravely estimates about 75% of the Pastoral Center’s annual electricity needs will be produced by the solar array. Using solar power and switching to LED lighting is expected to save \$14,000 to \$16,000 on average per year in electricity expenses. He anticipates the solar project will offset 432 tons of greenhouse gases annually. That equates to taking 94 passenger cars off the road for a year.

Employing solar power is in line with the Virginia Clean Economy Act signed in spring 2020. It calls for the state to move toward 100% of renewable energy such as solar and wind. Among other matters, it declares energy efficiency pilot programs to be “in the public interest” and requires nearly all coal-fired plants to close by the end of 2024, Dominion Energy to be 100% carbon-free by 2045 and Appalachian Power to be 100% carbon-free by 2050, according to a April 2020 press release from the governor’s office.

If a Catholic entity such as a parish or school wants to convert to solar power either completely or partially, Catholic Energies can take the reins. The organization can work with Catholic institutions without charge from the beginning to end; that is, from economic analysis to panel installation and activation. A solar project generally takes three to six months to be up and running.

Gravely said Catholic institutions have three options on how to pay for a solar energy system — pay upfront, finance it or sign a power purchase agreement (PPA). For the Pastoral Center, Madison Energy Investments footed the \$550,000 bill for the solar project, and in return, the diocese entered into a 25-year PPA to purchase the solar power from Madison at a lower rate than Dominion Energy’s.

It also locks in a rate. Dominion Energy can change its rate for kilowatt hours of electricity consumed, but the rate of kilowatt hours charged by Madison for the solar is set by contract. After five years, the diocese will have the option each year to buy-out the system that is expected to last 30 to 40 years, Gravely said.

Mikell said his personal goal is for the diocese to be the “greenest” in the country. He said employing solar energy is cost-effective for 70% of the diocese’s 146 parishes and 22 schools, and he hopes those will all have solar energy within three years.

He also hopes that the use of solar power throughout the diocese will inspire people in the community, not just Catholic parishes and schools, to consider using solar energy for their buildings.

“That thought will eventually enter people’s minds and maybe one house at a time, one neighborhood at a time, an entire community or an entire town can maybe go solar to where everybody is saving energy and money and the whole nine yards,” Mikell said.

Pope asks Catholics to work harder at saving creation

CAROL GLATZ
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — To help lead the world’s Catholics along a journey of intensified action in caring for creation, Pope Francis asked everyone to join a new global grassroots movement to create a more inclusive, fraternal, peaceful and sustainable world.

The new initiative, the Laudato Si’ Action Platform, is “a seven-year journey that will see our communities committed in different ways to becoming totally

sustainable, in the spirit of integral ecology,” the pope said in a video message released May 25.

“We need a new ecological approach that can transform our way of dwelling in the world, our lifestyles, our relationship with the resources of the Earth and, in general, our way of looking at humanity and of living life,” he said.

This can only come about by everyone working together in a coordinated effort, he said. “Only in this way will we be able to create the future we want: a more

inclusive, fraternal, peaceful and sustainable world.”

The pope’s message was released on the last day of Laudato Si’ Week — the “crowning event” of a special Laudato Si’ Anniversary Year, which closed May 24.

But the end of anniversary celebrations of Pope Francis’ 2015 encyclical, “Laudato Si’, on Care for Our Common Home,” ushered in a new wave of initiatives including a new website in nine languages at laudatosi.va and an action platform at [\[form.org\]\(http://form.org\) as part of a “road map” of action for the next decade.](http://laudatosiplat-</p>
</div>
<div data-bbox=)

The platform is meant to help those who want to increase their commitment to bringing “Laudato Si’” to life by promising a set of actions over a period of seven years.

Integral ecology requires every member of the wider Church to contribute their skills and work together on common goals, which is why the platform specifical-

Msgr. Schmied

Continued from Page 4

even resistance to hear the Good News. Some get adjusted to the way things are and don't see much hope. So I've always known great hope in the Gospel, the Good News."

People-focused

Despite the challenges, Msgr. Schmied said that "just about everything" about his vocation as a priest has brought him joy.

"And that is to say people — just real people who are not in church seven days a week, but who live ordinary lives, to help them or to celebrate with them, to affirm within them the reality of God and God's work," he said. "Celebrating the liturgy, the sacraments. The sacramental life with folks has been just rich, rich, rich."

For Msgr. Schmied, priesthood has "always been a people-focused thing," an important part of which has been service in the world and getting close to the people to whom he ministers.

"We used to say then, 'Get out of the sacristy and get into the streets. Get into people's lives,'" he said, noting Pope Francis' term of meeting people in the margins, or peripheries. "The shepherd, like Pope Francis says, needs to smell like the sheep. That closeness has just joy to it. The priest is able to get so close if you choose to do so, and I tried to do so, and I was rewarded for doing so."

A time for reconnecting

After retiring from active ministry in 2015, Msgr. Schmied said he has been reconnecting with his six siblings and old friends.

"Being so active in parish life, it really cut back a lot of my family life and relations with my siblings... as well as older friends and priests from other dioceses I was in school

with," he said. "So it's given me the time for connection and enjoying those relationships."

Although the priest said he has done "minimal weekend work" since retiring, he has returned to St. Augustine for funerals and some weddings and baptisms.

And, of course, prayer continues to be an important part of Msgr. Schmied's life.

"I'm pretty faithful to the liturgy of the hours, which I can do quite easily and do joyfully morning, noon and night," he said.

Almost every year since ordination, Msgr. Schmied has gone on Advent retreat, and he has picked his guitar back up after 40 years. He took a river tour from Berlin to Prague with a former parishioner from St. Augustine a few years ago.

He walks several miles each day with his Australian Cattle Dog, Sarai, an activity which the jubilarian has found to be a "great meditative, contemplative prayer and reflection time" in addition to healthy exercise for them both.

"I love to see her smelling the roses, and I smell them, too," he said.

On May 25, Msgr. Schmied concelebrated the daily Mass at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Richmond, with five of his brother priests from the 1971 ordination class.

Still the same

While they try to get together around their anniversary date, Msgr. Schmied said he has an "annual ritual" of his own for the occasion.

"Every year since ordination, on the weekend of my anniversary, I've always pulled out the original homily that I gave at my first Mass. I reread it, check it out, to see if it still makes sense, if I'm still in line with that, if things have changed much. But no," he said. "I'm still the same. Life has certainly changed in so many ways, but the mission, the vision, the work, is still the same."

Msgr. Golden

Continued from Page 4

Those moments, he said, can be rewarding — like the time he was visiting a dying woman in a hospital.

"And as she was dying, you heard a bell ring through the hospital. That meant a baby was being born, so you see that transition — one is leaving as another is coming into the world," he recalled. "At times you have doubts: 'Am I in the right place? You want me to be here God?' because sometimes there are certain days that you do question it. But belief in God? I've always felt that as very constant. I have never doubted that."

Sometimes the demand for homilies at weddings and funerals and weekday Mass, in addition to Sundays, can be a challenge, he said. He enjoys working in anecdotes and humor into sermons and missed having an audience during the pandemic restrictions. ("I am literally preaching to the choir," he noted during the Easter Vigil in April 2020.)

In the past six months, he has lost both parents, his mother dying in April.

At his ordination, as is the custom, he gave her the maniturgium, the cloth wrapped around his anointed hands, which symbolizes that he was now bound to the Church.

Patricia Golden kept it, and as is the tradition, it was placed in her coffin. That tradition also says she is supposed to give it to the Lord in heaven, to show she is the mother of a priest — a priest of 25 years with more to come.

Let's make 2021 a

Summer to Remember!




Commonwealth Catholic Charities
We The Power of Hope Every Day™

Drop off your items at
Our Lady of Hope
by Monday, June 14.
(13700 N. Gayton Rd., Richmond)

.....

Questions?
Contact Connie Salinas:
804-360-1960



Our Lady of Hope is sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of Richmond. We are open to people of all faiths.



Our Lady of Hope
HEALTH CENTER

HOPE IS WHERE THE *Heart* IS

804-360-1960 • ourladyofhope.com
13700 N. Gayton Road • Richmond, VA



- Sunglasses
- Insulated cups
- Sunscreen and lotion
- Lip balm
- Wordsearch or puzzle books
- Gift cards (Target, Walmart, etc.)
- Crystal Light or other sugar-free drink mixes
- Summer-themed hand towels and napkins



Coordinated Services Management, Inc.
Professional Management of Retirement
Communities since 1981



How bishops' planned discussion on Eucharist was set

Four cardinals among those who sought postponement

DENNIS SADOWSKI
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — After receiving an unprecedented letter from 67 bishops appealing for a delay in a discussion during the bishops' upcoming spring general assembly on whether to prepare a teaching document on the reception of Communion, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' president explained in a memo the procedure followed in bringing the question to a vote during the June 16-18 virtual meeting.

The back-and-forth messages follow an increasingly public debate among the bishops about Catholic politicians who support keeping abortion legal and whether they should be denied access to the Eucharist.

In a May 22 memo to fellow bishops, Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles explained that the USCCB Administrative Committee approved a request from Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, for the discussion on drafting a document to examine the "meaning of the Eucharist in the life of the Church."

The Administrative Committee includes conference officers and all of the committee chairmen. It set the spring assembly agenda during its meeting in March.

Bishop Rhoades chairs the bishops' Committee on Doctrine, which would draft the document if approved by the full assembly.

From 'Action Item' to draft

Archbishop Gomez's memo came in response to a May 13 letter, which was obtained by Catholic News Service, to him from 67 bishops who asked that any discussion on "eucharistic coherence" be removed from the assembly agenda.

The letter cites May 7 correspondence from Cardinal Luis Ladaria, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith at the Vatican, to Archbishop Gomez.

The bishops wrote that "we respectfully urge that all conference-wide discussion and committee work on the topic of eucharistic worthiness and other issues raised by the Holy See be postponed until the full body of bishops is able to meet in person."

Four cardinals are among those signing the letter: Cardinal Blase J. Cupich of Chicago, Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory of Washington, Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley of Boston and Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin of Newark, New Jersey.

Archbishop Gomez said USCCB rules require that the body of bishops first be asked whether to issue a document on a particular topic. Bishop Rhoades took such a step by asking the Administrative Committee to include time on the spring agenda

"The high standard of consensus among ourselves and of maintaining unity with the Holy See and the universal Church as set forth by Cardinal Ladaria is far from being achieved in the present moment."

- FROM LETTER OF 67 BISHOPS ASKING THAT DISCUSSION OF "EUCCHARISTIC COHERENCE" BE REMOVED FROM JUNE USCCB MEETING

to discuss such a question. The committee agreed.

The process, the memo explained, involves the creation of an "Action Item" for the bishops to consider.

"Importantly, the Action Item does not ask the body to approve a final statement, but only whether drafting of a text may begin," the memo said.

It added that if the action is approved, the doctrine committee would begin its work, subject to the conference's "usual process of consultation, modification and amendment" when presented for consideration at a future general assembly.

"As you will note, the focus of this proposed teaching document is on how best to help people to understand the beauty and mystery of the Eucharist as the center of their Christian lives," the archbishop wrote.

Archbishop Gomez's memo included a draft, dated May 14, of an outline of a possible document with the proposed title "The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church: Why It Matters."

It outlines three parts, subtitled "The Eucharist: A Mystery to be Believed," "The Eucharist: A Mystery to be Celebrated" and "The Eucharist: A Mystery to be Lived."

Each part has three topics that would be addressed including, respectively, the real presence of the body and blood of Christ in Communion, unity, beauty and identity as the "fount and apex of the whole Christian life," and moral transformation, eucharistic consistency and missionary discipleship.

'Substantive unity' sought

The letter from the bishops was sent on letterhead of the Archdiocese of Washington. The archdiocese did not respond to a CNS email seeking comment.

The bishops said the serious nature of "eucharistic worthiness" and other issues raised in Cardinal Ladaria's letter requires the bishops to "forge substantive unity," something which they said is "impossible to address ... productively in the fractured and isolated setting of a

distance meeting."

"The high standard of consensus among ourselves and of maintaining unity with the Holy See and the universal Church as set forth by Cardinal Ladaria is far from being achieved in the present moment," the prelates wrote.

"Moreover, as the prefect's sound theological and pastoral advice opens a new path for moving forward, we should take this opportunity to reenvision the best collegial structure for achieving that," the letter said.

Cardinal Ladaria in his letter urged the U.S. bishops to proceed with caution in their discussions about formulating a national policy "to address the situation of Catholics in public office who support legislation allowing abortion, euthanasia or other moral evils."

Extended dialogue

The cardinal also reiterated what he had said he had told several groups of U.S. bishops during their 2019-2020 "ad limina" visits, namely that "the effective development of a policy in this area requires that dialogue occurs in two stages: first among the bishops themselves, and then between bishops and Catholic pro-choice politicians within their jurisdictions."

Archbishop John C. Wester of Santa Fe, New Mexico, one of the 67 signatories of the letter to Archbishop Gomez, said the correspondence was not meant to be divisive, but was in fact "in keeping with Cardinal Ladaria's exhortation for an extended and serene dialogue."

"The letter is basically a direct response to Cardinal Ladaria's intervention," Wester told CNS May 26.

"The letter asked Archbishop Gomez to share it with the Administrative Committee. It is trying to use the processes of the conference," Archbishop Wester said, noting that the Administrative Committee must set the final agenda for the June plenary assembly.

Archbishop Wester said the letter was "meant to create unity among the bishops" in advocating for a better time to have this discussion. The

June meeting will be virtual, which means that 275 bishops will be in a giant Zoom meeting, he said.

The ability to talk both formally and informally with brother bishops is "very, very constrained on Zoom," he noted. The November plenary session of the U.S. bishops' conference is likely to be in person, which Archbishop Wester thought would be more conducive for the kind of extended discussion envisioned by Cardinal Ladaria in his letter.

'Don't derail process'

Meanwhile, two archbishops issued statements May 25 in support of keeping the discussion on a possible document focused on the Eucharist on the June general assembly agenda.

Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila of Denver and Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of San Francisco called for work on a document on eucharistic coherence to continue and the discussion to take place during the bishops' June spring general assembly.

Archbishop Gomez has followed the correct procedures to facilitate "this critical discussion as a body of bishops," Archbishop Aquila said.

Without citing who, Archbishop Aquila said "there have been some who have misrepresented" what Cardinal Ladaria's letter said, "but it was clear from it that the USCCB's plan to discuss and debate this important issue is warranted and encouraged."

In contrast, he continued, "the publication of the letter calling for a halt to discussion at our June meeting on this vital issue risks creating an atmosphere of factionalism, rather than unity among the bishops."

Archbishop Cordileone said he was "deeply grieved by the rising public acrimony among bishops and the adoption of behind-closed-doors maneuvers to interfere with the accepted, normal, agreed-upon procedures of the USCCB."

"Those who do not want to issue a document on eucharistic coherence should be open to debating the question objectively and fairly with their brother bishops, rather than attempting to derail the process," Archbishop Cordileone said.

He said he was looking forward to "serene dialogue," as Cardinal Ladaria urged in his letter, during the upcoming June general assembly "so that we may discern 'the best way forward for the Church in the United States to witness to the grave moral responsibility of Catholic public officials to protect human life at all stages.'"

Archbishop Cordileone issued a pastoral letter May 1 focusing on the unborn, Communion and Catholics in public life. It emphasized that "those who reject the teaching of the Church on the sanctity of human life and those who do not seek to live in accordance with that teaching should not receive the Eucharist."

Creation

Continued from Page 13

ly invites: families; parishes and dioceses; schools and universities; hospitals and health care centers; workers, businesses and farms; organizations, groups and movements; and religious orders. People can register May 25-Oct. 4 to assess what they are doing now and to see how they can further contribute to the seven Laudato Si' goals.

Those goals are: responding to the cry of the Earth and environmental degradation; responding to the cry of the poor and vulnerable; creating an ecological-sustainable economy; adopting simple lifestyles; supporting ecological education; promoting ecological spirituality; and building community awareness, participation and action.

Choosing the biblical time frame of seven years "enables us to work slowly but surely without being obsessed with immediate results," said Salesian Father Joshtrom Kureethadam, coordinator of the "ecology and creation" desk at the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

"We envisage the first year to be dedicated to the three fundamental tasks of community building, resource sharing and drawing up concrete action plans for each of the Laudato Si' goals," followed by five years of solid concrete action and a final year as a sabbatical year "to praise and thank God," he said May 25 at a Vatican news conference, unveiling the new projects.

The strategy, he said, is to create a snowball effect by enroll-

ing increasingly larger numbers of groups each year "to create the critical mass needed" for achieving real change in the world.

"The good news is that the critical mass is not a very big number. Sociologists tell us that if you reach 3.5% of a group" or community, "we have the critical mass. That's what Mahatma Gandhi did, that's what Nelson Mandela did," Father Kureethadam said.

Cardinal Peter Turkson, the dicastery's prefect, said at the news conference that "we must look at the world we are leaving to our children, to future generations."

"We no longer have time to wait or postpone action," he said, underlining the need to listen to and partner with science, young people and the poor.

"Pope Francis has invited all of us to join forces, to dream and prepare the future" by creating economic models for a world built on social equity and ecological sustainability, the cardinal wrote in his prepared remarks.

"It is time to embrace new opportunities. There is no sustainability without fairness, without justice and without involving everyone," he wrote.

"There is hope," the pope said in his video message.

"We can all collaborate, each one with his own culture and experience, each one with her own initiatives and capacities, so that our mother Earth may be restored to her original beauty and creation may once again shine according to God's plan," the pope said.

Working together



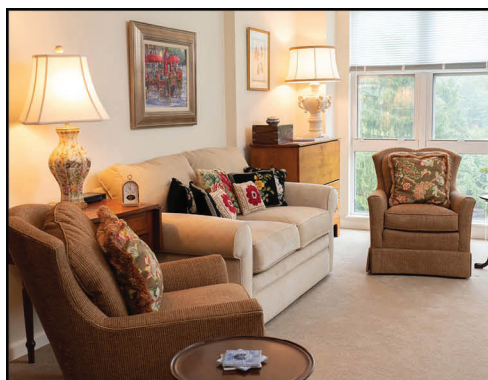
Members of the Vietnamese, Hispanic, Anglo and other ethnic groups gathered for a One World Encounter (OneWe) gardening event in Montpelier, on Saturday, May 15. Participants of all ages connected with nature and each other to strengthen cross-cultural skills and build a sense of community. OneWe aims to build understanding, healing, integration and a sense of shared humanity among diverse peoples. The event was organized by the Comboni Missionary Disciples, Comboni Missionary Sisters and Amigo Azteca Landscaping, Inc. (Photo/Nazia Shafi)

Impact of Floyd's murder continues

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) — Lift each other up in the midst of trauma, poverty and injustice. That's the simple but profound advice from Michael Goar as he works through the anxiety and sorrow of clients and employees at the organization he leads, Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis, during the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact one year ago of the police-involved death of George Floyd.

Many employees of Catholic Charities, and many of the people the organization helps, are Black, Hispanic, Asian and Native American, said Goar, president and CEO of the largest social services organization in the Twin Cities, with over 500 employees serving 23,000 men, women, children and families each year.

For them, the police-involved death of Floyd, an African American, and the subsequent trial and second-degree murder conviction of Derek Chauvin, a former Minneapolis police officer who is white, was particularly traumatic, said Goar, who is Black and South Korean.



Our Lady of Peace Retirement Community

Residential Living • Assisted Living
Memory Care • Nursing Care

434-973-1155 | our-lady-of-peace.com

751 Hillsdale Drive | Charlottesville

A not-for-profit community sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of Richmond.

No matter the circumstances, the health and well-being of our residents, families, and staff remains—as always—our top priority.

Now welcoming new residents!

Call today to learn more about the compassionate care, lovely apartments, wonderful amenities, and active, family-oriented lifestyle that makes our community one-of-a-kind.

What Our Residents Are Saying

"Now that I have been at Our Lady of Peace for over a year, I can honestly say that it was the best move ever. I wouldn't want to be anywhere else, especially now. Here I feel safe, loved, respected, and not alone."

Barbara Allison, Our Lady of Peace Resident



Coordinated Services Management, Inc.
Professional Management of Retirement Communities Since 1981



Walter Gannon Scholarship recipients named

The following members of the Class of 2021, as determined by the principals of their respective high schools, have each received a \$1,500 Walter Gannon Diocesan Scholarship. The criteria are that students must be deserving of the award because of their high level of scholarship, concern for others and economic need. The scholarships are made possible due to a gift to the diocese from Walter Gannon.

Benedictine College Preparatory

Azaan Johnson. Azaan Johnson is graduating with a cumulative GPA of 2.89. Azaan holds the rank of 1st Lieutenant and Officer in the Benedictine Corps of Cadets as the assistant security officer. Azaan has participated in cross country as a cadet and has worked at Smokey BBQ during the summers. Azaan plans to attend J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College starting in fall and pursue general studies.



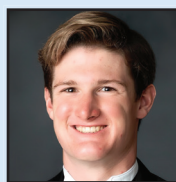
Blessed Sacrament-Huguenot

Shaw Forward. Shaw Forward is an outstanding young woman. A leader among her peers, she contributes to our school community with her kind and generous spirit. She is active in a broad spectrum of school activities from varsity sports to student government to the honor society and arts. She is a leader in and out of the classroom by serving as class president for four years, and as a captain for the cheerleading and tennis teams. Shaw has balanced her high school academics with working part-time and engaging in service to the community. She is truly a role model for all students and will no doubt contribute to making the world a better place.



Catholic High School

Austin Miranda. Austin Miranda is dedicated, self-motivated, intellectually gifted and a leader, but it is his compassion for others that sets him apart. Helping others is second nature to Austin and is one reason that he was chosen as the Knights of Columbus Young Man of the Year.



Austin was elected class president as a senior, is a member of six school honor societies, was MVP of the swim team, and was a finalist for the Hampton Roads Sports Hall of Fame High School Athlete of the Year.

The son of a pilot, Austin received the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering annual scholarship to Auburn University where he plans to study aerospace engineering in the fall.

Peninsula Catholic High School

Jailyn Jones. Jailyn Jones currently serves as vice president of the senior class. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society and the Council for Academic Integrity. She helped younger students transition to high school as a peer mentor and guided them on their spiritual journey as a member of the retreat team. She played on the varsity girls soccer team and competed in track and field. Jailyn leaves PCHS with a GPA of 4.46 and will be attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the fall.



Roanoke Catholic School

Christopher Moak. Christopher Moak has challenged himself academically to successfully complete the more rigorous course options. When given the opportunity to take a general education course or an Advanced Placement (AP) course, Christopher has been eager to rise to the challenge of the AP course. To enhance his understanding of the course material, he will tutor fellow classmates on a regular basis. Christopher has been an inspiration to his peers when it comes to his work ethic. He can be found in the cafeteria, library and classrooms working and studying material that has been discussed in the classroom. He is an extremely hard worker and has influenced others to follow in his footsteps.



Christopher has also been a leader among his peers with his community involvement. Acting as an altar server at our school-wide Mass, Christopher has become recognizable for his commitment to his faith, Church, school and others. He is always willing and able to lend a helping hand with a smile on his face. He takes the needs of others into consideration even before his own.

St. Gertrude High School

Brynn Vea. Brynn Vea has proven herself to be a very focused and determined scholar and athlete. She exudes cheerfulness and positivity in the classroom and on the cross country course. Brynn is also well-known for being generous in her appreciation of educational opportunities, faculty and staff. She has been a true example of the Benedictine values of community and hospitality from the moment she stepped onto the St. Gertrude campus. Brynn will attend the University of Virginia in the fall.



Walsingham Academy School

Andre Morgan. Andre Morgan is an outstanding scholar with a servant's heart. One of the challenges we have faced this year is not being able to have our regular lunches in the school cafeteria due to the need for social distancing. Students seemed to miss "normal" lunches more than anything else. Andre led a group of students this year to continually stock and promote a rolling snack cart with all the proceeds being donated to charity. Andre brought so much joy to our teachers and students during lunches just by showing up every day with a smile and plenty of available snacks. This is just one of many ways that Andre has made the days at Walsingham full of joy. He is an honors student and dedicated athletic teammate. We all know that we can count on Andre to do the right thing even if he is doing it alone.



WHAT WE'VE HEARD

Congratulations: Benedictine College Prep won its second consecutive VISAA Division I state baseball championship Saturday, May 22, by defeating St. Catherine's 8-7. The Cadets overcame a 5-1 first inning deficit en route to the title.

Record year: A school record 10 student athletes from Peninsula Catholic have accepted scholarships to compete in college: Madison Clark, volleyball, Hampton University; Cana Davidson, volleyball, UVA—Wise; Sharon Ni, fencing, New York University; Landon Kissell, wrestling, Newport News Apprentice School; Sam Parsons, swimming, William & Mary; Jaden Curry, basketball, Huntington College; Myles Teal, basketball, Pfeiffer College; Carlton Canaday, basketball, Penn State Fayette; Andru Boyd and Dustin Smith, wrestling, Roanoke College.

Honored: Kyle Santos DeGuzman, son of Al and Connie DeGuzman, members of Prince of Peace Parish, Chesapeake, recently graduated magna cum laude from George Mason University's Honors College/Volgenau College of Engineering with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. He will begin graduate work in aerospace engineering at Old Dominion this fall.



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. Include your name and phone number in case we need to follow up. Information cannot be taken over the phone.

Students

Continued from Page 10

of students come together, "there is no virus that can stop them."

He urged the students to cultivate the strength and desire they possess. He said when that is stimulated, nurtured and "accompanied with wisdom and passion by adults, it brings amazing fruits."

The pope recognized the difficulties students and teachers faced with online learning, which hurt the relational aspect of their schooling, and he said he hoped they could restart fully again soon.

"But I invite you to learn something from this absence, that, in a certain way, this bad experience may teach something, that is, the importance of interpersonal — not virtual — relationships," he said.

Pope Francis told the students he hoped the imminent end of the school year would go well, not just grade-wise, but also and most of all, people-wise. He asked they see school as a place to mature and grow in their hands, head and heart, learning to be open, respectful and constructive in their relationships and to become aware and responsible citizens.

OPPORTUNITIES

Catholic High School, Virginia Beach, seeks to fill the following positions:

Director of Facilities: General oversight includes maintenance of the building's interior, exterior and all building systems. The director ensures the building operations comply with state, federal and local laws and regulations. The director supervises school custodians and ensures a safe, clean and secure school building. Requirements include related work experience at the supervisory level, working knowledge of maintenance contracts, workplace safety and security, and purchasing procedures. Abilities include strong interpersonal skills, preventative maintenance, general repair skills, professional demeanor, computer proficiency and detail orientation to projects and tasks. Must possess ability to lift up to 75 lbs., complete routine maintenance tasks, and drive school vehicles when needed. This is a full-time position with some evening and weekend work required.

Athletic Fields Superintendent: Full-time position responsible for performing a variety of skilled tasks to maintain and develop the school's athletic fields and athletic grounds. Work includes maintaining, marking and preparing fields for a variety of sports. Experience in landscaping, basic maintenance and operating lawn machinery is required. Candidates must have the ability to engage in heavy lifting and manual labor. After-school coaching positions may be available for interested and qualified candidates.

Interested candidates should send a cover letter, résumé and completed diocesan application (www.richmond-diocese.org) to Catholic High School Principal Mrs. Peggy Boon at boonp@chsvb.org

Incarnation Catholic Church, Charlottesville, seeks a full-time music coordinator. Responsibilities include three English Masses; parish choir; providing and/or scheduling music for other liturgical services; and works with Spanish language ensembles for three Spanish Masses. Required proficiency on piano or organ.

Knowledge of Spanish helpful, but not required. Please see our website incarnationparish.org for more information.

The Catholic Diocese of Richmond is seeking a director of campus ministry to serve the Catholic Campus Ministry at Christopher Newport University in Newport News. The director of campus ministry is responsible for the development, implementation and oversight of a comprehensive campus ministry program for the students of Christopher Newport University. Furthermore, these responsibilities include developing student leaders, pastorally responding to student needs, and overseeing student programs and activities. Additionally, the director oversees financial accounts, serves as the liaison between the local Catholic parishes, furthers development efforts, and builds interfaith relationships among the other campus ministries.

Qualifications: Must be a practicing Catholic in good standing. A minimum of a bachelor's degree is required with a master's degree preferred (in a relevant field). 3-5 years of prior experience in pastoral work, preferably campus ministry.

This is a full-time exempt position on a salary basis. Salary is commensurate with experience and diocesan pay scale. Interested candidates should please send a cover letter, résumé and completed Diocese of Richmond Employment Application to jobs@richmond-diocese.org.

St. Ann Catholic Church, Colonial Heights, is seeking a **social ministry coordinator (SMC)**. This is a part-time, 20-hour per week position. The SMC coordinates outreach efforts by the parish to those in need in our area and beyond. Duties include responding to inquiries for family assistance, serving as staff liaison to the parish food pantry, coordinating holiday food and gift drives, and coordinating volunteers. The SMC reports to the pastoral associate and the pastor.

Candidate must be a practicing Catholic. Bachelor's degree in theology, social work or related field required; master's degree preferred. One to three years of experience working with underserved populations. Must have an understanding of Catholic Social Teaching, compassion and

excellent people skills, especially toward those in need, ability to keep organized and accurate records and budgets, ability to handle several projects at once, ability to maintain confidentiality.

To apply: Please send a résumé and diocesan application (<https://richmond-diocese.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/CDR-Application-For-Employment-11-17-16.docx>) to Katie Johnson, 17111 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Colonial Heights, VA 23834 or kjohnson@stanncc.com.

Jerusalem and other important biblical sites. Cost is \$3,695 (double occupancy) with an additional \$1,045 for the excursion to Petra and Jordan. To register or for more information, contact Megan Malhiot mmaalhiot@sttheresechesva.org; 757-488-2553 as soon as possible.

Join Deacon Charles Williams, director of the Diocese of Richmond's Office of 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 or visit www.albastours.com.

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

SHORTTAKES

"Walking with Jesus" trip to the Holy Land. Join Father Kevin J. O'Brien, pastor at Church of St. Therese, Chesapeake, as the spiritual director for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land (with an optional two-day excursion to Petra and Jordan) Nov. 30 – Dec. 10, 2021. Walk in the footsteps of Jesus as you explore Bethlehem, Nazareth, the Sea of Galilee, Je-

WAIT! THERE IS MORE.

You'll find additional

Catholic news and information at

catholicvirginian.org.

When kids win, we all win.

On behalf of Catholic Charities of Eastern Virginia and the Barry Robinson Center, we want to say thank you to our presenting sponsors and everyone who participated in the Third Annual Catholic Cup Golf Tournament. Thanks to the generosity of everyday heroes in our community, we raised more than **\$47,000** which will provide approximately **1800 hours** of children's mental health counseling services!

WALL
EINHORN &
CHERNITZER
— CPAs & ADVISORS —

Bon
Secours

TOWNE BANK

GRAVITY FORMS



El Papa: paz en Tierra Santa, es inaceptable la muerte de niños

El Papa hace un llamamiento por la paz entre Israel y Gaza. Francisco sigue con “gran preocupación” la violencia que se vive estos días en Tierra Santa y hace un llamamiento a quienes tienen funciones de “responsabilidad” para que ceda el fuego de las armas. El Santo Padre también expresa su dolor por los enfrentamientos entre árabes y judíos en ciudades israelíes y califica de “inaceptable” la matanza de niños

MARCO GUERRA
CIUDAD DEL VATICANO

Un llamamiento sincero a las partes en conflicto y a quienes tienen la responsabilidad de detener el ruido de las armas, y una exhortación a rezar para que israelíes y palestinos busquen el camino de la paz. Tras el Regina Coeli, el Papa se detuvo en la dramática escalada de violencia en Oriente Medio:

Sigo con gran preocupación lo que ocurre en Tierra Santa. En estos días, los violentos enfrentamientos armados entre la Franja de Gaza e Israel han tomado el relevo y corren el riesgo de degenerar en una espiral de muerte y destrucción. Numerosas personas han resultado heridas y muchos inocentes han muerto. Entre ellos hay niños, y esto es terrible e inaceptable. Su muerte es una señal de que la gente no quiere construir el futuro, sino que quiere destruirlo.

Fraternidad en Israel herida

El Pontífice expresa su preocupación también por la escalada de tensiones en las ciudades israelíes:

Además, el crescendo del odio y la violencia que está envolviendo a varias ciudades de Israel es una grave herida a la fraternidad y a la convivencia pacífica entre los ciudadanos, que será difícil de curar si no hay una apertura inmediata al diálogo. Me pregunto: ¿a dónde llevarán el odio y la venganza? ¿Realmente creemos que podemos construir la paz destruyendo al otro? “En nombre de Dios, que ha creado a todos los seres humanos iguales en derechos, deberes y dignidad, y los ha llamado a convivir como hermanos entre sí” (cf. Documento de la Fraternidad Humana), hago un llamamiento a la calma y, a quienes tienen la responsabilidad de hacerlo, a detener el estruendo de las armas y a recorrer los caminos de la paz, también con la ayuda de la Comunidad Internacional.

El camino del diálogo

La exhortación es a rezar, especialmente por



A wounded Palestinian protester is evacuated during clashes with Israeli police outside Al-Aqsa Mosque at the Temple Mount complex in the Old City of Jerusalem May 10, 2021. (CNS photo/Ammar Awad, Reuters) From Catholic News Service

los niños que son víctimas del conflicto:

Recemos sin cesar para que israelíes y palestinos encuentren el camino del diálogo y del perdón, para ser constructores pacientes de la paz y la justicia, abriéndose, paso a paso, a una esperanza común, a una convivencia entre hermanos. Recemos por las víctimas, especialmente por los niños; recemos a la Reina de la Paz por la paz. Ave María...

Otra noche más de violencia

Mientras tanto, ha sido otra noche de lanzamiento de cohetes desde la Franja de Gaza hacia Israel y de duras incursiones de respuesta por parte del Estado judío. Un portavoz militar israelí afirma que desde el comienzo de la violencia se han lanzado 2.900 cohetes desde Gaza, de los cuales 1.150 han sido interceptados por las baterías antimisiles Cúpula de Hierro. Las sirenas han vuelto a sonar esta mañana en Ashkelon, Ashdod, Kiryat Malakhi y las ciudades circundantes del sur de Israel. El número de israelíes muertos por cohetes lanzados por Hamás ha aumentado a 10. La última víctima es un joven de 28 años alcanzado por la metralla de un cohete que cayó sobre su casa.

Decenas de víctimas en Gaza

Durante las incursiones nocturnas de Israel contra edificios de Gaza, murieron 26 personas,

entre ellas 8 niños, y los heridos son más de 50. Así lo informa la agencia de noticias palestina Maan, según la cual una familia entera fue exterminada por las bombas. En una semana en Gaza, 174 palestinos han perdido la vida y 1.200 han resultado heridos, según el Ministerio de Sanidad de Hamás citado por los medios de comunicación. Golpeó, informa Israel, la casa del jefe de la oficina política de Hamás, Yahya Sinwar. Además, según las estimaciones del ejército israelí, la Franja de Gaza debería permanecer hoy sin electricidad. Se quedarán sin existencias de combustible para alimentar los generadores durante el día.

La labor de la diplomacia

Esta mañana ha comenzado la reunión del Gabinete de Seguridad del gobierno israelí, en la que se ha tratado la situación con la Franja y los próximos pasos a dar. Mientras tanto, Hady Amr - enviado del presidente estadounidense Biden - comenzó su ronda de reuniones viéndose con el ministro de Defensa Benny Gantz, su objetivo es una desescalada del conflicto. El mismo objetivo para el Alto Representante de la UE para la Política Exterior, Josep Borrell, que ha convocado una cumbre extraordinaria de ministros de Asuntos Exteriores de la UE el martes para abordar “la actual escalada entre Israel y Palestina y el inaceptable número de víctimas civiles”.

Visitas pastorales a las parroquias

Desde enero del 2021, la Oficina de Formación Cristiana Hispana comenzó un alcance pastoral con las diferentes parroquias de nuestra diócesis. Después de las muchas dificultades que tuvimos el año pasado, se inició en el mes de enero un esfuerzo para extender el alcance a las parroquias que tienen misa en español y/o comunidad hispana para tratar de proporcionar ayuda, apoyo, y/o acompañamiento a los ministerios. La respuesta a nuestra solicitud ha sido recibida muy bien con los líde-

res, párrocos, sacerdotes, y diáconos abriendo sus puertas y recibiendo la ayuda necesaria para empezar a regresar a la normalidad. Hasta ahora, hemos tenido la dicha de trabajar con las siguientes parroquias:

St. Joseph Hampton, St. Joseph Martinsville, Church of the Incarnation Charlottesville, St. James Hopewell, Holy Spirit Christiansburg, St. Gerard Roanoke, St. Francis of Assisi Rocky Mount, St. Augustine Richmond, y St. Luke Virginia Beach.

Estamos planificando en este

momento con las siguientes parroquias: Sacred Heart Danville, Holy Cross Lynchburg, St. John the Evangelist Waynesboro, y otras más.

Si usted y sus líderes les gustaría ayuda, apoyo y/o acompañamiento desde nuestra oficina, favor de comunicarse con su párroco y, con el consentimiento de él, favor comunicarse conmigo para planificar una visita.

Juntos saldremos victoriosos de los efectos de la pandemia porque para Dios todo es posible (Marcos 10, 27).



Daniel Villar
dvillar@richmonddiocese.org
804-622-5129

Court

Continued from Page 1

Fetal pain should be a factor

In a May 19 opinion piece in The Wall Street Journal, Clarke Forsythe, senior counsel at Americans United for Life, said: “Many Americans might be surprised to know that since Roe in 1973, the Supreme Court hasn’t addressed an actual abortion prohibition that applied before fetal viability.” He also said many scholars “on both sides of the abortion issue agree that the high court has never given an adequate rationale for its viability rule.”

Kat Talalas, assistant director for pro-life communications at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said this is the biggest abortion case to come before the court in almost 30 years. She was referring to the court’s 1992 decision in *Casey v. Planned Parenthood*, which affirmed Roe and also stressed that a state regulation on abortion could not impose an “undue burden” for a woman “seeking an abortion before the fetus attains viability.”

Talalas said the justices in the Mississippi case could establish criteria other than viability, such as fetal pain, to restrict abortions or they could “overturn Roe and Casey (decisions) completely.”

A brief submitted to the court from the Mississippi Catholic dioceses of Jackson and Biloxi urging the justices to take this case similarly stressed the need to consider fetal pain. It said the court should “find that the state’s interest in protecting unborn children who have the capacity to feel pain is sufficiently compelling to support a limited prohibition on abortion.”

The brief also urged that a “sense of morality, and indeed, logic, must prevail in the courts on this issue. How is it that Mississippi law recognizes that an unborn baby can be a victim of a crime, and can have property rights, and yet the label of personhood at 15 weeks gestation is denied them?”

‘Trigger laws’

What the court will do, of course, remains a mystery. Many legal experts and advocates on both sides of the issue expect the court will chip away the Roe decision.

In anticipating this could eventually happen, 10 states have what are called “trigger laws,” which in effect that would automatically ban abortions in the first and second trimesters if the Roe decision is overturned.

Plenty have pointed out this is the first abortion case before the court since the appointment of Justice Amy Coney Barrett, and many see her as sympathetic to anti-abortion legislation.

With the timing of an opinion in this case, before the end of June next year, politics also could play a role with the country heading into midterm elections.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki told reporters May 17 after the court said it was taking up this case that the administration was “committed to codifying” Roe but did not say how legislation supporting that would get through a divided Congress.

Commentators have said it is unlikely that Congress will be able to pass a law keeping the precedent set by the Roe decision because it would require the votes of at least 10 Republican senators and so far, only Republican Sens. Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska have said they would support it.

Pope: Prayer is dialogue with God, not ‘magic wand’

Stresses opportunity to grow spiritually, seek transformation of heart

CAROL GLATZ
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Prayer is not a magic wand or a way to ask God to be at one’s service, Pope Francis said.

Prayer is a humble dialogue with God to grow spiritually and discover his will for the world, the pope said May 26 during his weekly general audience.

“In prayer, it is God who must convert us, not we who must convert God,” he said.

The audience was held in the San Damaso Courtyard of the Apostolic Palace, where attendees were obliged to wear masks, but many ignored social distancing rules as they crowded along the barricades to greet and speak with Pope Francis.

The pope, who had taken off his mask, spoke at length with people, blessing them or objects they had brought, drinking maté, swapping zicchettos and signing books.

One of the many people the pope spoke with was Belarus-born Lidia Maksymowicz, 80, who spent three years at the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp after she was sent there when she was 2 years old. The pope kissed the prisoner number tattooed on her left arm, and the two embraced.

In his main audience talk, the pope continued his series on prayer by looking at how people can be certain God really listens to their prayers.

“Sometimes our prayers seem to go unheard, what we have asked for — for ourselves or for others — is not fulfilled,” he said.

“Why does he not respond to our requests?” the pope asked.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (2735) asks people to think more deeply about why they demand to see the results of their petitions: “What is the image of God that motivates

our prayer: an instrument to be used? or the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ?” it says.

The pope said this passage warns people to avoid “the risk of not living an authentic experience of faith, but of transforming the relationship with God into something magical.”

“Prayer is not a magic wand,” he said. “It is a dialogue with the Lord. Indeed, when we pray, we can give in to the risk of

mother prays for her sick child, the pope said. “Why does it sometimes seem that God does not listen?”

Looking at the Gospels, Jesus heals many people, either responding to their pleas immediately or much later, the pope said.

Over time, people may see that some things do work out, “but in God’s way, the divine way, not according to what we

“The evil one is never lord of the last day. God is the Lord of the last day. Because that belongs to God alone, and it is the day when all human longings for salvation will be fulfilled.”

- POPE FRANCIS

not being the ones to serve God, but of expecting him to serve us.”

“When we pray, we need to be humble” and believe “that God will give me what is right to give. He knows,” the pope said.

People sometimes pray for the wrong reasons, keen to make sure God is with them, he said, “but few bother to check whether they are actually with God.”

People need to pray God transforms their heart and to ask the right questions to discover what is best for their spiritual health, Pope Francis said.

However, what about when the prayer request is worthy and charitable, like for the end of a war that does not cease, or “when people pray with a sincere heart, when they ask for things that correspond to the Kingdom of God,” like when a

wanted at that moment. God’s time is not our time,” he said.

“Evil is lord of the penultimate day,” he said, “the moment when the night is darkest, just before the dawn” when it is so tempting to believe the devil has won.

But, the pope said, “the evil one is never lord of the last day. God is the Lord of the last day. Because that belongs to God alone, and it is the day when all human longings for salvation will be fulfilled.”

“Let us learn this humble patience, to await the Lord’s grace, to await the final day,” when God solves everything, he said.

And may people pray that the Lord give them real faith, he said, because Jesus said faith moves mountains, and Jesus “feels special tenderness before that faith and he listens.”

Normal

Continued from Page 1

sanitize their hands prior to distribution. Until further notice, Communion from the cup is only available for the priest.

Hands off. Parishes are to continue refraining from the practice of shaking hands, e.g., the sign of peace, and holding hands, e.g., the Our Father, until further notice.

Community. There are no limits to gathering before or after Mass. There are no limits on accessibility to restrooms. Worship spaces do not

need to be sanitized between Masses.

Father Prince also answered questions regarding celebration of the sacraments. All parishes have been provided with those guidelines.

The dispensation from attending Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation remains in effect. More information on this matter will be released in the future.

Editor’s note: Further information is available on the diocesan website <https://richmond-diocese.org> and by contacting the pastor of one’s parish.