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Archbishop: Shootings ‘most pressing life issue’

RHINA GUIDOS

Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Some U.S. bishops spoke out against the easy accessibility to guns in the country following a May 24 rampage that left at least 19 children and two of their elementary school teachers dead in Uvalde, Texas.

“Don’t tell me that guns aren’t the problem, people are. I’m sick of hearing it,” Bishop Daniel E. Flores of Brownsville, Texas, tweeted May 25. “The darkness first takes our children who then kill our children, using the guns that are easier to obtain than aspirin. We sacralize death’s instruments and then are surprised that death uses them.”

The comments came hours after Texas authorities said an 18-year-old wearing body armor evaded police after crashing his truck near an elementary school close to the U.S-Mexico border and entered the school building at around noon armed with two assault weapons.

“There was several law enforcement that engaged the suspect, but he was able to make entry into the school where he did go into several classrooms and, unfortunately, he did fire his firearm,” Sgt. Erick Estrada, of the Texas Department of Public Safety, told CNN late May 24.

In addition to the dead, reports say 15 children were injured as well as two law enforcement officers. Authorities named Salvador Ramos as the shooter and said he was killed by police. He also is said to have shot

his grandmother, who remains in the hospital. San Antonio Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller comforted families who waited outside a local civic center in Uvalde waiting for news of their loved ones.

“When will these insane acts of violence end?” the archbishop later said in a statement. “It is too great a burden to bear. The word tragedy doesn’t begin to describe what occurred. These massacres cannot

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“The right to bear arms will never be more important than human life.”

— Cardinal Blase J. Cupich

Celebration in bloom



Kindergartner Constance Koonce, right, presents eighth grader Jayden Deuling, second from left, with a flower during the “Bloom Mass,” Wednesday, May 18, at St. Anne, Bristol. Since 2002, St. Anne School eighth graders have given flower seeds to kindergartners at the beginning of the school year. At the end of it, the kindergartners give the plants to the graduates and sing “Bloom Where You Are Planted.” (Photo/Heather Weaver)

In synodal Church, laity ‘valuable collaborators’ with clergy

Cardinal proposes discussion about lay faithful’s role in decision-making process

CAROL GLATZ

Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — As the Catholic Church continues to reflect on synodality through a two-year process of listening and dialogue, a panel of six notable theologians and canonists discussed the nature of consultation and decision-making in a synodal Church.

The discussion took place May 20 at the Vatican’s Palazzo Pio during the presentation of a new book released by the Vatican publishing house and written by Cardinal Francesco Coccopalmerio, retired president of the Pontifical Council for Legislative Texts, the office charged

with interpreting canon law.

The book, released only in Italian, is titled “Synodality with ‘Limited Responsibility’ or from Consultative to Deliberative?” It proposes that synodality be seen as the communion of priests and faithful who strive to seek and discern the good of the Church together so that decisions to achieve that good could be made. It proposes there be greater discussion about the lay faithful participating not just in the consultative process in the life of the Church, but also in the decision-making phase.

The panelists agreed there was a difference between the process of decision-making as a

joint exercise of discernment, consultation and cooperation, and the authority of decision-taking, which is the competence of the bishop, according to the papal-approved document published by the International Theological Commission in 2018 on “Synodality in the Life and Mission of the Church.”

‘No threat to authority’

One of the speakers, Cardinal Mario Grech, secretary-general of the Synod of Bishops, said Cardinal Coccopalmerio’s reflection “does not repudiate or threaten authority,” whether it be of

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With faith, there's no reason to dread 'big birthday'



CHRIST OUR HOPE
MOST REV. BARRY C. KNESTOUT

On June 11, I will be celebrating what is commonly referred to as a “big birthday” — one of those that ends in zero. My big birthday is my 60th.

Like a lot of people, when it comes to these landmark birthdays, I think about my parents and wonder, “Where were my parents when they reached this age?”

Throughout our lives, we see our parents as much older and of a generation distant from ours, one to which we might have difficulty relating. We rarely imagine ourselves in their situations. For example, my dad was 60 when I was ordained a priest in 1989. He had already served in the military, had his family, retired from a government security agency and was serving as the full-time director of the Archdiocese of Washington's permanent diaconate office.

Our perspective changes as we near what we once viewed as “much older.” As a young(er) man, I could not fathom what my life would be like when I reached the age of my parents. When 43-year-old parents have a 10-year-old son, to him they might as well be 50, 60 and beyond. But when he arrives at those ages, he has had life experiences that allow him to see things differently.

I've had a lot of wonderful experiences from my childhood through today. My nearly 33 years of priestly life and service, which I will celebrate on June 24, has had many facets — pastoral experience as a parochial vicar and pastor, administrative experience as director of the Archdiocese of Washington's Office of Youth Ministry, serving in the offices of Washington's archbishops, much later in archdiocesan administration as an auxiliary bishop, and for more than four years as bishop of Richmond. I draw upon those experiences daily and thank God for all of them.

When we were younger, we thought that in 10 years we'd have life “all figured out.” When that didn't happen, we thought we'd have it all figured out in 20 years. Eventually we came to realize that figuring it out was a life-long, ever-changing process. It would never be past tense.

We developed that perception as we watched and listened to those who came before us because they seemed to have life all figured out. They always appeared to know what they were about. What we did not realize was that they were experiencing things for the first time, having to adapt to changes in their personal lives and to events of their day much the way we do.

They learned of world unrest from their newspapers and TV sets, while many of us learn of it from websites and social media. They had to deal with concerns about polio while we deal

with COVID. They had to adapt to a culture that was changing, just as we do. They asked as we ask: How do we, as disciples, act and carry out our mission to share our faith effectively in a world that so often seems to be going in different directions?

There is a challenge and a comfort in knowing that we don't have it all figured out. The challenge is frightening because we're aware that we don't always know how to respond to the upheaval and ideologies that disrupt communication, economics, politics and our culture as a whole.

However, we have comfort in recognizing that the unknowns we are experiencing parallel what other generations have encountered. What we also learn, especially when we have had people of faith as role models, is that we need to reaffirm our dependence upon Our Lord because he's got it figured out. When we turn to him, when we are in communion with him, when we allow the Holy Spirit to guide and inspire us, figuring things out is possible.

I do not dread having a “big birthday.” Rather, I rely on my faith and try to cultivate a heart open to what God calls me to be and to do. As I prepare to blow out 60 candles, I do not feel old. Nonetheless, I welcome the words of the psalmist: “In old age they will still bear fruit” (Ps 92:15). We might add to those words: “... and will keep trying to figure it out.”

CLERGY ASSIGNMENTS

Most Reverend Barry C. Knestout, bishop of Richmond, has announced the following clergy appointments effective Friday, July 1, 2022, unless otherwise noted.

OFFICIAL

Pastors

Father Rolo Castillo, from pastor of St. John the Evangelist, Waynesboro, to pastor of Christ the King, Abingdon, and St. John the Evangelist, Marion, effective Monday, Aug. 1, 2022.

Father Romeo Jazmin, from pastor of Prince of Peace, Chesapeake, to pastor of St. Mary Star of the Sea, Fort Monroe; St. Joseph, Hampton; and St. Vincent de Paul, Newport News.

Father Emmanuel Mensah, from pastor of St. Mary of the Presentation, Suffolk, to pastor of the Shrine of the Infant of Prague, Wakefield, and St. Jude, Franklin.

Father Francis Musolooza, from pastor of Christ the King, Abingdon, and St. John the Evangelist, Marion, to pastor of St. John the Evangelist, Waynesboro, effective Monday, Aug. 1, 2022.

Father Charles Ssebalamu, from pastor of St. Jude, Christiansburg, to pastor of St. Stephen, Martyr, Chesapeake.

Father John Walugembe, from pastor of St. Vincent de Paul, Newport News, to pastor of Prince of Peace, Chesapeake.

From Administrator to Pastor

(Same location)

Father Patricio D. Alcantara, from administrator to pastor of Holy Spirit, Christiansburg, and Holy Family, Pearisburg.

Father Eric Anokye, from administrator to pastor of St. Theresa of the Holy Family, Tazewell; Church of St. Joseph of the Holy Family, Grundy; Church of St. Elizabeth of the Holy Family, Pocahontas; and Church of St. Mary of the Holy Family, Richlands.

Father Joseph Maxwell Appiagyeyi, from administrator to pastor of St. John, Highland Springs, Pro-Cathedral of St. Peter and St. Patrick, Richmond.

Father Eric Baffour Asamoah, from administrator to pastor of Sacred Heart, Big Stone Gap; Holy Spirit, Jonesville; St. Joseph, Clintwood; and St. Anthony, Norton.

Father Francis Boateng, from administrator to pastor of St. Mary the Mother of God, Wytheville, and St. Edward, Pulaski.

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

Father Raner Lucila, from administrator to pastor of St. Catherine of Siena, Clarksville; St. Paschal Baylon, South Boston; and Good Shepherd, South Hill.

Father Peter Naah, from administrator to pastor of St. Matthew, Virginia Beach.

Father George Prado, from administrator to pastor of St. Jerome, Newport News.

Administrator and Campus Ministry Chaplain

Father Cassidy Stinson, from parochial vicar of St. Bede, Williamsburg, to administrator of St. Jude, Christiansburg, and chaplain of the Catholic Campus Ministry serving Radford University.

Parochial Vicars

Father Peter Barfi, from parochial vicar of St. Gabriel, Chesterfield, and Good Samaritan, Amelia, to parochial vicar of Church of the Holy Angels, Church of the Resurrection and St. Paul, Portsmouth, and St. Mary, Chesapeake.

Father Anthony Ferguson, from parochial vicar of St. Andrew, Roanoke, to parochial vicar of St. Bede, Williamsburg.

Father Thomas Lawrence, from parochial vicar of St. Mary Star of the Sea, Fort Monroe, and St. Joseph, Hampton, to parochial vicar of St.

Vincent de Paul, Newport News, in addition to St. Mary Star of the Sea, Fort Monroe, and St. Joseph, Hampton.

Father Christopher Masla, from parochial vicar of Church of the Incarnation, Charlottesville, and Our Lady of the Rosary, Crozet, to parochial vicar of St. Andrew, Roanoke.

Father Daniel Molochko, from parochial vicar of Church of the Holy Angels, Church of the Resurrection and St. Paul, Portsmouth, and St. Mary, Chesapeake, to parochial vicar of Church of the Incarnation, Charlottesville, and Our Lady of the Rosary, Crozet.

Father Santos Ramirez Chicas, from parochial vicar of Blessed Sacrament, Harrisonburg, to parochial vicar of Our Lady of Lourdes, Henrico.

Father Julio Reyes, from parochial vicar of Our Lady of Lourdes, Henrico, to parochial vicar of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Salem, and St. Gerard, Roanoke.

New International Priests

(Appointed in June for July 1 assignment)

Pastor of St. Mary of the Presentation, Suffolk. Parochial vicar of St. Catherine of Siena, Clarksville; St. Paschal Baylon, South Boston; and Good Shepherd, South Hill.

Parochial vicar of Blessed Sacrament, Harrisonburg. Parochial vicar of St. Michael the Archangel, Glen Allen.

Retired

Monsignor Walter Barrett, from pastor of St. Mary Star of the Sea, Fort Monroe, and St. Joseph, Hampton, to retired status.

Father Richard Mooney, from parochial vicar of St. Catherine of Siena, Clarksville; St. Paschal Baylon, South Boston; and Good Shepherd, South Hill, to retired status.

Father Brian Rafferty, from pastor of St. Stephen, Martyr, Chesapeake, to retired status.

Father Frank Wiggins, from parochial vicar of St. Augustine, Richmond, to retired status.

Jubilarian ‘wouldn’t change a thing’

Father Begley marks 40 years of priesthood

JANNA REYNOLDS
The Catholic Virginian

If you have attended a Mass celebrated by Father James Begley in the last 40 years, you have probably been greeted by the priest as he walked through the church aisles greeting people prior to the opening procession.

“Msgr. Mike McCarron did it when I was a deacon with him, and I just went, ‘Yes,’” said the priest, who celebrated his 40th anniversary on May 8. “Especially people before Mass. They come to get their seats and everything, but they also come here because they want to talk. They know you’re going to come around, and they’ll just talk to you about their son or husband or wife, that little bit, you know, and that’s just invaluable time. You can’t find that time otherwise.”

Father Begley said that he has 21 years of Catholic training, which began as a child when he attended St. Bridget School and later St. Mary School, both in Richmond, for his elementary education. His family were members of St. Bridget Parish and later became members of St. Mary when it opened.

“I would walk to school every day once we got to St. Mary’s,” said Father Begley, adding that he became an altar server at age 10, just when the Mass changed from Latin to English.

He attended St. John Vianney Minor Seminary, Richmond, for high school.

“I went there in August of ’70 and never looked back,” he said.

Father Begley described the atmosphere at St. John as “probably the best morale – that’s what we call the spirit in the house” of all three seminaries he attended.

After high school, Father Begley attended St. Meinrad in Indiana for his undergraduate studies, graduating in 1978.

Drawn to parish work

It was during his sophomore year of college that he began to seriously consider a vocation to the priesthood.

“I asked the vocation director at the time, ‘Can I do parish work?’ It was well ahead of its time,” Father Begley recalled. He spent three summers in Bristol at a shelter workshop working with special needs adults.

“I lived in the rectory and got the experience that I was looking for,” he said, “so after that point, I was ready. The thing was knowing that I could do it.”



Father James Begley

In 1981, he received his Master of Divinity from St. Mary’s Seminary in Baltimore, and the following year Father Begley and his classmates were ordained by Bishop Walter F. Sullivan at The Mosque in downtown Richmond, which is now the Altria Theater.

“We asked Bishop Sullivan if we could have the ordination there because we had nine in our class. That year, I think it was the biggest class in the country, and the cathedral was way too small,” Father Begley recalled. “So we asked, and he agreed. Of course, we had the reception in Monroe Park like he did when he became bishop. We served hotdogs to the homeless in Monroe Park, we served hotdogs to VCU students. We had about 2,000 at the ordination, so the Knights of Columbus cooked hotdogs for everybody.”

His first assignment after ordination was as parochial vicar of Church of the Holy Family, Virginia Beach, until 1983. He also served in that role at St. Andrew, Roanoke (1983-1986), and Church of the Epiphany, Richmond (1986-1988).

Father Begley received his first pastorate at Holy Name of Mary, Bedford, in 1988, where he served for nearly a decade. He was pastor of Church of the Redeemer, Mechanicsville, from 1997-2013, also serving in that role at St. Elizabeth, Richmond (2004-2005), and Our Lady of Lourdes, Henrico (2005-2007), during that time.

In 2013, Father Begley returned as pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes in Henrico. He has been pastor of St. Paul, Richmond, since 2021.

Sacraments and more

Father Begley said he finds joy in celebrating all of the sacraments.

“Baptisms are exciting, but also the sacrament of the sick is very humbling, especially if it really is at the last moment,” he said. “First Communion is always exciting. First reconciliation is hysterical, it’s precious.”

In addition to parish work, Father Begley has been involved in domestic violence prevention, Christian formation and Catholic schools. He served on domestic violence boards in Bedford and Hanover counties, and he also served five years on the Diocesan School Board and the Christian Formation Committee.

The priest said he was “lucky” to have completed a summer internship at St. Mary’s Hospital and two semesters at Johns Hopkins, which

See Father Begley, Page 16



Above: William Buckley, Armando Herrera and Christopher Weyer pray at the start of the Mass during which they were ordained transitional deacons, Saturday, May 21, at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Richmond. Left: Flanked by Deacons Mike Swisher and Mike Johnson, Bishop Barry C. Knestout delivers his homily during the celebration. (Photos/Michael Mickle)



Have ‘complete faith’ in the Lord, bishop tells deacons

Instructing them to “turn to the Lord with a complete faith,” Bishop Barry C. Knestout ordained three seminarians as transitional deacons, Saturday, May 21, at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Richmond.

The newly ordained are Deacons William Buckley, Armando Herrera and Christopher Weyer.

The bishop’s instruction was part of his homily at the concelebrated Mass.

In noting that the candidates had come forward to present themselves for ordination, Bishop Knestout said they expressed their willingness to go wherever the Lord needs them in service to the Church.

“You are to facilitate the shining of Christ’s light on every dark corner of human experience, to be ministers of the light of Christ by what you say and do,” he said. “This task will lead you to experiences of challenge and sometimes suffering. But also, treasured experiences of joy and love in the midst of God’s people.”

Reflecting on the first reading from the Prophet Jeremiah (1:4-9), Bishop Knestout said, “The task of every deacon is difficult, and there are unknown challenges and suffering ahead of all those who accept the call to service in the Church. We all need to rely on the grace of God and turn to the Lord in constant prayer for the help of his Spirit.”

Among the concelebrants of the Mass was Auxiliary Bishop Joseph L. Coffey of the Archdiocese for Military Services, USA, where he serves as episcopal vicar for veteran affairs. Bishop Knestout noted that Bishop Coffey was present for the ordination because the archdiocese is co-sponsoring Deacon Herrera. Later, after a yet-to-be-determined number of years of service in the Diocese of Richmond, he will minister in the military services.

Editor’s note: The diaconate ordination can be viewed at www.youtube.com/user/DiocesefRichmond/videos

Catholic Virginian editor to retire

Brian T. Olszewski, editor of The Catholic Virginian, will retire Friday, Sept. 30.

Since 1976, he has served in multiple communication positions in the Dioceses of Rapid City, South Dakota, and Gary, Indiana, and in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. He came to the Diocese of Richmond in 2017.

The search for a new editor is underway.

Author sees 'perfect time' for book about Mary

Carmelite perspective focuses on Blessed Mother's interior life

WENDY KLESCH

Special to The Catholic Virginian

The month of May, tradition holds, is Mary's month, a time to honor the Mother of the Church, of all those who seek to follow her Son.

"She's our mother, our intercessor and our guide," said Barbara Hughes, whose book, "Mary the Perfect Contemplative: Carmelite Insights on the Interior Life of Our Lady," was released in early May.

"Not only did she pray, but her whole life was a prayer," Hughes said. "A tribute, a love letter to God."

Hughes, a parishioner of St. Gregory the Great, Virginia Beach, and Catholic Virginian columnist, is an author, speaker and retreat facilitator. Her portrait of Mary is told in two parts: the first follows Mary's journey as recounted in Scripture; the second delves into the mysteries of the rosary, providing meditations on key events in the lives of Mary and Jesus.

Mary, pondering all in the silence of her heart, stands as a model of contemplative Carmelite spirituality, Hughes said. The writings of the Carmelite saints — particularly St. Teresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross — are woven throughout her book, as a means of shedding light on Mary's interior life, as best as can be imagined.

A guide at the end of the book offers discussion prompts for groups and questions for personal reflection.

"If we want a perfect model, who better than Mary to show us the way?" Hughes said. "She loves us so much, and she wants us to experience that love."

God's timeline

There was a time, Hughes said, when she felt that Mary seemed far too removed, far too perfect, to feel relevant to her own imperfect life. It was a homily about Joseph and Mary searching for 12-year-old Jesus, she said, that led her to see Mary through fresh eyes: As a mother, much like herself, anxious for a missing child.

Soon afterward, she began to pray the rosary.

"That was the genesis of my devotion to Mary," Hughes said.

She was moved by the experience, turning more and more often to prayer. Eventually, she went on to become a member of the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites, a religious community serving the Church through lives of prayer and ministry.

Two years ago, while on a retreat at Holy Hill, Wisconsin, her spiritual director, Carmelite Father Kevin Culligan, suggested that she might consider writing a book

about Mary.

At first she was daunted, she said, wondering what she might contribute when so many have written about Mary, but "the idea just kept nudging me along, which is typically the way the Holy Spirit works."

"I realized that what I could do was to approach it from a Carmelite perspective and really focus on her interior life," she said.

The book was originally scheduled for release last December, but its delay until May, Hughes said, now seems providential.

"With what is going on Ukraine, people are turning more and more to prayer, to the rosary," she said. "And then, with Pope Francis dedicating Russia and Ukraine to Mary, it seems like this is the right time. God's timing is perfect."

Daughter of Zion

Although Scripture passages pertaining to Mary's life are few, they give us telling glimpses into her life — a life lived in total faith and acceptance of God's will.

"And that's really the goal for every Christian," Hughes said. "It's that surrender of our will, so that our will is one with the will of God."

Hughes' story of Mary begins with a portrait of her girlhood and with the Annunciation — the moment when Mary's acceptance of God's plan for her life ushers in a new covenant, making the Incarnation possible.

The following chapters accompany Mary as she goes to her cousin Elizabeth to spread the Good News, and to the time when Jesus begins his ministry, leaving her to watch and to pray.

"Just like any mother sending her son into the world, hoping that he has a plan," Hughes said.

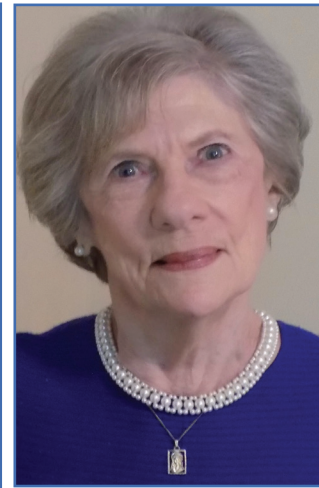
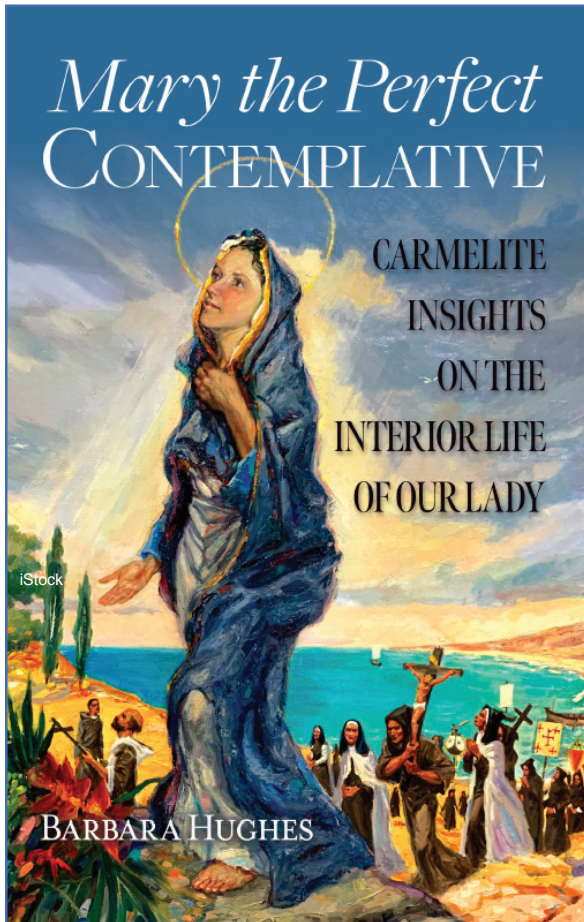
"In the events of her life, we see her humanity in all that she went through," Hughes said. "To search for a missing child, to watch her husband die. And then to watch her son die in such a cruel and horrible way. We have so much to learn from her."

A guide in prayer

"Mary is our gateway, our guide in contemplative prayer," Hughes said, explaining that the second half of her book is devoted to showing how Mary leads people in prayer — and to Christ — by journeying through the mysteries of the rosary.

There are the joyful mysteries, such as the Annunciation, and the luminous, such as the wedding at Cana, where Mary shows perfect faith in her son with the simple words, "Do whatever he tells you."

There are the sorrowful mysteries of the Crucifixion, where Mary stands at the foot of the cross, and



Two years ago, author Barbara Hughes, above, was encouraged by her spiritual director to write a book about Mary. With her Carmelite perspective, Hughes focuses on the Blessed Mother's interior life throughout the 434-page volume. (Photos/Wendy Klesch)

the glorious mysteries of the Resurrection and beyond.

It's a retelling of Christ's life that is in itself a prayer.

Prayer is where it all begins, Hughes said. The Carmelite saints focused not on the methodology — the "how-to" of prayer — but rather on how God works within those who pray.

"That's where the transformation takes place," she said. "It's God's grace. All we can do is prepare ourselves. They felt that God will bring you what God wants to bring you."

The repetition of the words of the rosary draws people in, Hughes said.

"It relaxes us and gives us the opportunity to reflect on the mysteries of the rosary — which are a biography of the life of Jesus. So, it's

really Mary, always pointing us to Jesus," she said.

Mary was not a cloistered nun, Hughes noted. She was a laywoman, a wife and a mother living an ordinary life, but with an extraordinary faith.

"I hope the book will enkindle a greater appreciation of Mary in our lives," she said. "Mary brought Jesus to the world when she gave birth to him, just as she wants to bring the world to Christ."

Editor's note: A paperback edition of "Mary the Perfect Contemplative" is available at www.ICSpublications.org. The publisher is Institute of Carmelite Studies Publications. The Kindle edition is available at Amazon where hard copies can be ordered after July 1.

Star of the Sea guide for all

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The congregation at the Maritime Day Mass in Washington May 21 prayed for "safe harbor" in heaven for mariners and other seafarers who died in the last year and for the protection of "our brothers and sisters" currently plying the waters aboard vessels delivering goods to the world.

Bishop Brendan J. Cahill of Victoria, Texas, the main celebrant and homilist for the Mass, said the Church entrusts the care of all seafarers to Mary under one of her earliest titles — Star of the Sea. She provides a light in a storm for all and "sets a course through these times to reach our safe haven in heaven ... a safe harbor home," he said in his homily, urging the faithful to always look to her for guidance and a source of joy.

The Mass was celebrated in the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington in observance of the National Day of Prayer and Remembrance for Mariners and People of the Sea. It was sponsored by the Stella Maris National Office of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Stella Maris is the Catholic Church's ministry to seafarers around the world. Its network of chaplains and volunteers offers spiritual care and various services to seafarers, fishers, port personnel and their families.

Bishop to commission 6 lay ecclesial ministers

Bishop Barry C. Knestout will commission as lay ministers six people who have completed studies through the diocese's Lay Ecclesial Ministry Institute (LEMI). The commissioning will take place during Mass, Saturday, June 18, 10:30 a.m., at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart.

Established by the late Bishop Francis X. DiLorenzo in 2011, LEMI provides participants with academic, human, spiritual and pastoral formation as they execute various ministries in parishes and schools.

According to Bernadette Harris, director of LEMI and an associate director in the diocese's Office of Christian Formation, since 2011, lay ministers from 59 parishes have completed LEMI formation. Over the last six years, 53 candidates have been commissioned as lay ecclesial ministers for the Diocese of Richmond. Thirty-one candidates are in formation and are expected to be commissioned over the next few years.

In anticipation of their commissioning, The Catholic Virginian asked the lay ministers to share their thoughts about LEMI formation. One of the six, Corrine Puzio, campus minister at UVA, did not respond.

Editor's note: Further information about LEMI is available by calling 804-622-5157 or emailing lemi@richmonddiocese.org.



Patti Kamper
Coordinator of Elementary Faith Formation,
St. Michael the Archangel, Glen Allen

What impact has LEMI formation had upon you personally?

Applying for LEMI was a prompting of the Holy Spirit, and the experience pushed me outside of my comfort zone. Each workshop and retreat helped me be a more confident and skilled minister. Completing an MA after a 25-year hiatus from the academic world was personally challenging and extremely fulfilling. Thank you to the diocese for this opportunity and to my family who, with God's grace, carried me through the past four years.

How will LEMI formation impact your ministry and those you serve?

I have grown in faith and knowledge that has ignited my desire to share my faith with others. I am better equipped for my ministry and hope to provide others with meaningful experiences to learn more and encounter Christ.



Andrew McCarthy
Coordinator of Youth Ministry,
St. Edward the Confessor, Richmond

What impact has LEMI formation had upon you personally?

I had two primary goals when applying for LEMI: to become the best version of myself and to be the minister God desires me to be. My time of formation has led me through five years of youth ministry, a marriage, two children and two different parishes. I can wholeheartedly say that the LEMI program played a significant role in forming me into the Catholic, husband, father and youth minister I am.

How will LEMI formation impact your ministry and those you serve?

My LEMI formation has equipped me to better answer the final command of our Lord in Matthew 28: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations." It has brought forth an abundance of graces in our ministry and prepared me to better meet the spiritual needs of today's young people.



Patty Gazewood
Chaplain,
St. Thomas Aquinas, Charlottesville

What impact has LEMI formation had upon you personally?

LEMI has deepened my spiritual life as a woman of faith, nurtured my growth in humility, broadened my prayer life, expanded my perception and expression of divine presence in diverse ways, increased my awareness of the Holy Spirit's work throughout human history, and developed my appreciation for how divine grace operates in all of creation.

How will LEMI formation impact your ministry and those you serve?

My growth in theological understanding, pastoral skills and spiritual grounding in divine love and mercy empowers me to humbly serve as an interfaith chaplain who offers spiritual care to those who suffer illness, old age or death, their families and caregivers.



Paulette Leonard
Art/Religion Teacher and Religion Coordinator
for St. Anne School, St. Anne, Bristol

What impact has LEMI formation had upon you personally?

The four-year LEMI formation commitment has been challenging because I teach full-time, am involved with several parish ministries and have a family. I like the immersion study process for several reasons. One, I prefer online courses because you can "attend" at your convenience. Two, I love to read and learn new things. Three, I enjoy writing papers and expressing my ideas.

How will LEMI formation impact your ministry and those you serve?

The impact this formation opportunity has had and will continue to have on me is the knowledge and understanding I have gained through a program that is very well thought out. The courses are sequential in order to build a solid foundation of the Catholic faith. I have also collected a good reference library from the books we studied.



Melody Smith
Director of Christian Formation,
Prince of Peace, Chesapeake

What impact has LEMI formation had upon you personally?

The LEMI program has supported my professional life by offering me training in time management, leadership and spirituality augmenting my Master's program in pastoral theology. On a personal level, the program has helped me identify my strengths and weaknesses. I've become more conscious of the needs of other people, especially those from differing cultures and socioeconomic groups. The process of giving up less critical roles, such as managing the livestreaming of Mass, allows me to participate more fully in the experience of the Eucharist. As a spiritual director, I help others find the Spirit's small voice and discern the direction God leads. With the IT courses offered through LEMI, I have been able to adapt to online spiritual direction during COVID. Additionally, the comradery and support of peers attending the program with me has set me up for successful ministry and support for years to come.

How will LEMI formation impact your ministry and those you serve?

I feel exceptionally blessed to have gone through formation as part of the LEMI program. It has opened the door to my future ministerial goals in adult formation and RCIA. Our diocese has worked to meet the need for lay ecclesial ministers and has made sure we are equipped with the resources and skills required to fulfill that call.

President, Congress need to comply with Constitution

GUEST COMMENTARY

JOHN GARVEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Every course in constitutional law begins with a discussion of *Marbury v. Madison*, an 1803 case that established the power of judicial review. *Marbury* struck down a federal statute that purported to enlarge the Supreme Court's original jurisdiction.

Chief Justice John Marshall said that when a statute said one thing and the Constitution said another, the court was bound to follow the Constitution: "It is emphatically the province and duty of the judicial department to say what the law is."

Marbury holds that when Congress and the court disagree about whether a law is constitutional, the court has the final word. We call this the principle of judicial supremacy. It does not mean that in going about its business, Congress should not endeavor to comply with the Constitution. It can't, for example, ignore the passage in Article I that says, "No Bill of Attainder ... shall be passed."

The same goes for the president. In executing the laws that Congress has enacted, he and his agencies can issue orders and make rules. When an order or a rule conflicts with the Constitution,

the court will follow the Constitution, as it did when President Truman tried to seize the nation's steel mills during the Korean War.

But once again, the principle of judicial supremacy does not mean that the president can do as he likes until the court blows the whistle. On the contrary, Article II, which creates the office of president, requires him to take an oath that he "will to the best of (his) Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution."

I find myself thinking about this point because President Joe Biden is giving serious consideration to canceling student loan debt in the amount of \$10,000 per person. That would cost about \$373 billion – as much as the government has spent on welfare in the past 20 years. And the left wing of his party is urging him to consider \$50,000 per person.

The Constitution gives the president no such authority. The appropriations clause says the government can't take any money out of the Treasury unless Congress passes a law. The property clause entrusts the Congress (not the president) with "Power to dispose of ... Property belonging to the United States."

As recently as last year, the president and the speaker of the house acknowledged that the president can't do this by executive fiat, and that Congress had given him no such authority.

But midterm elections are coming, and the president is feeling like the dishonest steward in Luke 16, about to be turned out for wasting his master's goods. Feeling too old to dig and ashamed to beg, he decided to curry favor with his master's debtors. So he said to the first, who owed a hundred measures of oil, "Take your bill ... and write 50."

This isn't the first time the administration has forgiven debts for a group of likely electoral supporters. Last August, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ordered a moratorium on rental evictions. President Biden openly conceded that he probably lacked authority to act, as a majority of justices had ruled just weeks before. But he went ahead anyway, *The New York Times* said, "to quell a rebellion among angry Democrats" who couldn't persuade Congress to act.

The Constitution gives Congress authority over the government's assets because it represents all the people who pay the bills. Congress has not forgiven student loans. The president has no authority to curry favor with one faction by writing off the debts they owe to the rest of us.

Garvey is president of The Catholic University of America in Washington. Follow him on Twitter @CatholicPres. Catholic University's website is www.cua.edu.

Pro-life advocates have 'broad scope of action'

In response to the letter "What now for the Pro-Life Movement?" (*Catholic Virginian*, May 16), I trust he is not one of the misinformed crowd that assumes that pro-life advocates are only interested in preventing abortion and not the woman and her child. In fact, the pro-life movement in our area has a broad scope of action. For those encountering our pregnancy center, there are teams dedicated to helping women with support and caring, including connections to childcare and education.

There is a vibrant ministry known as "Young Lives," which offers support and fellowship to mothers who carry their pregnancies. We also have an outreach to fathers, who should be the woman's best support but unfortunately are not.

Our Catholic community in Charlottesville is known for its advocacy and leadership in social

ministry, including work across denominations. There is outreach by Catholic students not just in 40 Days for Life, but at local nursing homes, food banks and support of homeless shelters' needs. I know from 40 years' experience with our pregnancy center that the community cares not about placards or pressure politics, but for each woman and born and yet-to-be born children that come through our doors.

I am not sure the intent in the comment that "ending access to abortion will most impact poor women," but it is certainly accurate that abortion disproportionately impacts poor women, especially those of color, with some areas of the U.S. having more Black babies aborted than born. Yet, our pro-life efforts are focused on nurturing the people we meet in their unique material and spiritual circumstances, and showing them the love of Christ in both.

– Dr. Kurt Elward, MD
Charlottesville

Mary's Choice RVA aids poor women

Dr. Frank Morgan of Henrico asks how the pro-life movement will respond to the needs of poor women after *Roe v. Wade* (*Catholic Virginian*, May 16).

In Richmond, Mary's Choice RVA, a Catholic non-profit (501c3) home for pregnant single women and their children, is seeking to do just that. They provide a free home and support, including help with job training or education, childcare, financial and parenting education and access to social services and mental health care for up to four years.

The Catholic community in Richmond has stepped up generously to support this organization

with private donations and volunteers. Mary's Choice RVA has been a recipient of the Diocesan Respect Life grant for two consecutive years in a row.

The maternity home movement, of which Mary's Choice RVA is a part, is a wonderful way to reduce abortions, and it provides women with a meaningful choice to parent (or make an adoption plan). It should be supported by those who are pro-life and those who are "pro-choice."

For more information about Mary's Choice RVA please see their website: <http://www.maryschoicervva.org>.

– Pamela H. Pilch
Henrico



CV letters policy

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

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Uganda Martyrs showed us how to be ‘firm in Christ’

FATHER ALEXANDER SSENTONGO MUDDU
Special to The Catholic Virginian

A martyr is one who witnesses and suffers courageously for faith without any fear. He/she works for Christian truth and practice contrary to atheistic demands of the world. A witness of faith has two alternatives: either abandon religion or lose his/her life for it.

The Uganda Martyrs — 22 Roman Catholics and 23 Anglicans — were executed at the orders of Kabaka Mwanga between 1885 and 1887. In addition, there were two catechists, David Okello (age 16) and Jildo Irwa (age 12-14), who were killed in Paimol near Kalongo in Northern Uganda on Oct. 18, 1918. They, too, had refused to renounce the new religion of which they were catechists.

This story and journey of faith began with the arrival of the first missionaries (White Fathers or Missionaries of Africa) to Uganda, Father Simon Lourdel and Brother Amans, on Feb. 17, 1879. It reached its climax on June 3, 1886, when most of these brave young men, who in barely 10 years of discipleship had become our ancestors in faith by embracing the supreme form of witnessing to Christ — martyrdom.

They are Achilles Kiwanuka (17), Adolphus Ludigo-Mukasa (24), Ambrose Kibuuka (18), Anatoli Kiriggwajjo (20), Andrew Kaggwa (30), Athanasius Bazzekuketta (20), Bruno Sserunkuuma (30), Charles Lwanga (25), Denis Ssebuggwaawo (16), Gonzaga Gonza (24), Gyavira Musoke (17), James Buuzaabalyaawo (25-30), Jean Marie Muzeeyi (30-35), Joseph Mukasa Balikuddembe (25), Kizito John Baptist (14), Lukka Baanabakintu (30-35), Matthias Kalemba Mulumba (50), Mbaga Tuzinde (17), Mugagga Lubowa (16), Mukasa Kiriwawanvu (20-25), Noa Mawaggali (35), and Pontian Ngondwe (25).

By killing these young men of faith, Kabaka Mwanga deluded himself. He thought that he could sweep the Christian faith away. On the contrary, he sowed the seeds which would grow and whose branches would spread out to the entire world.

This year, as we celebrate the feast day of St. Charles Lwanga and Companions on Friday, June 3, I invite you to follow their example of unshakable faith in word and deed, guided by the words of St. Paul: “For I am convinced that

neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom 8:38-39).

This rare dedication to the faith continues to be a challenge to Christians today. The Seven Deadly Sins have long been in our history and our media. Everyone grows up learning about them. Everyone knows what they are. Or do they?

Here is a list of deadly sins redefined for our modern world:

Envy is like a parasite. It is the most internally destructive. It will eat away at you until there is nothing left but a shell. You get what you think you want, but that want is not from desire.

Greed for money, greed for power, greed for material possessions. Whatever it is, you just need more.

Gluttony is consumption in excess to the point of being wasteful, to the point of being harmful. This can be food, drinks.

Lust can be for power, for knowledge, for money, for blood, for alcohol, for drugs, for anything. Today we live in a lust-filled world, where rape has become a culture, where adultery, masturbation and pornography are no big deal.

Pride. Beliefs, values, culture, race, gender, political standings, fashion, occupation, food preferences and everything else about someone’s identity are shoved into hierarchies of better and worse — you can be prideful of any of them.

Sloth. If you see someone getting harassed, do you step in to stop it? If you see someone who is having a hard life, do you try to brighten up their life? If you see something suspicious, do you say something? Or is it none of your business?

Wrath can be the most destructive sin on a global scale. Why? Because that is how wars begin, how the cycle of revenge can last for centuries, how one group of people can so easily demonize another to deserve “worse.”

Once St. Charles Lwanga and Companions embraced Catholicism, they stood firm never to contradict their faith. Their eyes were fixed on Jesus. Some martyrs broke the practice of po-

lygamy, some turned their backs to unbecoming demands of the king and paid their full allegiance to Jesus. When they faced martyrdom through being beheaded, castrated, speared, ravaged by wild dogs, dismembered and burned, their love of Christ was firm!

Is your love for Christ firm?

Father Muddu is pastor of St. Mary of the Annunciation Parish, Ladysmith. You can view his video presentation about St. Charles Lwanga and Companions at <https://youtu.be/JwCvMyHOUDA>.



A window at St. Jerome Church in Hyattsville, Md., depicts the Ugandan Martyrs, among them Joseph Mkasa and Charles Lwanga. The young Catholic men were executed with other Christians by Kabaka — or king — Mwanga in 1885-87. Mwanga’s savagery and the witness of those who were killed led to an increase in Christian believers in Uganda. The Catholic martyrs were canonized in 1964 by Pope Paul VI. Their feast is Friday, June 3. (CNS photo by Bob Roller)

Pope celebrates first canonizations in more than two years

CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — After a long pandemic pause, Pope Francis celebrated a Mass May 15 for the canonization of 10 men and women: five from Italy, three from France, one from India and one from the Netherlands.

The last canonization ceremony was celebrated Oct. 13, 2019, and included St. John Henry Newman.

The “big names” — globally — in the newly recognized heavenly host are soon-to-be St. Charles de Foucauld, who lived as a hermit in North Africa, and soon-to-be St. Titus Brandsma, a Dutch Carmelite martyred at the Dachau concentration camp.

Blessed Charles de Foucauld

was born in Strasbourg, France, in 1858. He strayed from the faith during his adolescence, but during a trip to Morocco, he saw how devoted Muslims were to their faith, which inspired him to return to the Church and, eventually, to join the Trappists.

After living in monasteries in France and in Syria, he sought an even more austere life as a hermit. Ordained to the priesthood in 1901, he lived among the poor and finally settled in Tamanrasset, Algeria.

In 1916, he was killed by a band of marauders. His writings inspired the foundation, after his death, of the Little Brothers of Jesus and the Little Sisters of Jesus.

The miracle approved for his cause involved Charle, a carpenter’s apprentice working on restoring a chapel in Saumur, France, who fell

over 50 feet, hitting a bench whose armrest pierced his left side and came out at the back at the base of his rib cage.

According to the Little Brothers of Jesus, Charle did not pass out, got up immediately to seek help and, after surgery, was discharged from the hospital after a week.

“He went back to work two months after the accident without suffering any physical or psychological ill-effects,” the order said. The accident occurred Nov. 30, 2016, the eve of the centenary of Blessed Charles’ death.

Blessed Titus Brandsma was born in Oegeklooster, Netherlands, in 1881 and entered the Carmelites in 1898. Ordained in 1905, he was sent to Rome for further studies and, while there, became a correspon-

dent for several Dutch newspapers and magazines. When he returned home, he founded the magazine Karmelrozen and, in 1935, was named chaplain to the Dutch Catholic journalists’ association.

During World War II, he was arrested and sent to Dachau for treason after defending Jews and encouraging Catholic newspapers not to print Nazi propaganda. He was killed with a lethal injection in 1942 at the age of 61 and cremated at the camp.

The miracle in his cause involved Carmelite Father Michael Driscoll, former pastor of St. Jude Church in Boca Raton, Florida, who is now 80 years old. In 2004, he had been diagnosed with severe, stage 4, metastatic melanoma and began

See Saints, Page 16

BENEDICTINE COLLEGE PREPARATORY



Michael Morrissey
VALEDICTORIAN

Valedictorian: The 2022 valedictorian for Benedictine College Preparatory School is Michael Morrissey. Michael has a 4.617 GPA. He is the current battalion commander, member of the National Honor Society and the Honor Court, president of the Student Government Association and captain of the cross country and indoor and outdoor track and field teams. Michael will attend Notre Dame to pursue a degree in biology for a pre-med track.

Salutatorian: The 2022 salutatorian for Benedictine College Preparatory School is Kobi Onyiuke. Kobi has a 4.613 GPA. He is a member of the National Honor Society and the Honor Court, president of the BCP Key Club and a member of the football and track and field teams. Kobi will attend Notre Dame, where he will continue his football career and pursue a degree in neuroscience in hopes of becoming a doctor.



Kobi Onyiuke
SALUTATORIAN

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



Josephine Mazzeo
VALEDICTORIAN

Valedictorian: Josephine Mazzeo, a multiple time All Tidewater Conference selection in field hockey, cross country, track and field, and lacrosse, was a Virginia High School Sports Hall of Fame finalist and member of six honor societies. She plans to study chemistry and has accepted an appointment to the United States Naval Academy.

Salutatorian: Dean Paler, Executive Council vice president, Virginia Youth Climate Cooperative student ambassador, and Philippine Cultural Center volunteer, will attend the University of Virginia and study psychology.

The 103 members of the Class of 2022 earned over \$8.6 million in scholarships and grants, including five military academy appointments and four ROTC scholarships. Students were accepted at colleges in 36 states, the District of Columbia and Canada. Among the universities accepting CHS students are Dartmouth College; Georgia Tech; Villanova University; the United States Naval, Military and Air Force Academies; Vanderbilt University; Carnegie Mellon University; The Catholic University of America; the University of Virginia and William & Mary.



Dean Paler
SALUTATORIAN

BLESSED SACRAMENT-HUGUENOT CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Braelyn Lawhorn
VALEDICTORIAN

Valedictorian: Braelyn Lawhorn will attend Maryland Institute College of Art, where she will study either illustration or interactive media design. Braelyn has been a student at Blessed Sacrament for nine years. She was an important part of the drama organization as she acted in plays and participated in stage crew. She also was a member of the National Honor Society and Spanish Club.

Salutatorian: Colin Hipps plans to attend Christopher Newport University, where he will be a part of CNU's President's Leadership Program. During his eight years at BSH, he enjoyed being a part of the school's tightly knit community. Colin played basketball throughout middle and upper school and was a member of the varsity soccer team for his sophomore, junior and senior years. He was also a member of the Latin Club, the stage crew for the theater program, and the National Honor Society.

The Blessed Sacrament Huguenot School's class of 2022 includes 20 graduates who are fully prepared to be successful at the university level and in life. BSH graduates are confident, well-rounded, independent-minded individuals, ready to address the challenges of this generation.



Colin Hipps
SALUTATORIAN

CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL OUR 2022
HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATES



Catholic Diocese
of Richmond

PENINSULA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



Lydia Hughes

VALEDICTORIAN



Jessie Bailey

SALUTATORIAN

Valedictorian: Lydia Hughes, graduating with a 4.83 GPA will be attending Eckerd College with plans to major in marine biology.

Salutarian: Jessie Bailey, graduating with a 4.79 GPA, will attend the University of Virginia and major in biomedical engineering.

Both women earned the Parater Service Award and were chosen as American Citizenship Award recipients during their high school years.

Peninsula Catholic's Class of 2022 is composed of 63 graduates who have earned an average GPA of 3.72 and completed more than 9,000 service hours over the past four years. As seniors, they have achieved 295 college acceptances and have been offered over \$6.7 million in scholarship awards.

ROANOKE CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Clare O'Herron

VALEDICTORIAN



Jacob Foster

SALUTATORIAN

Valedictorian: Clare O'Herron

Salutarian: Jacob Foster

Roanoke Catholic School is proud to announce that the 2022 valedictorian is Clare O'Herron and salutarian is Jacob Foster.

Clare and Jacob have been enrolled in the most rigorous college preparatory program available in our diocese and have achieved success at the highest levels. They have excelled athletically in a variety of sports. They are active members in our faith community and respected by our faculty and their fellow students. Clare is headed to the University of Dallas, and Jacob is headed to Hampden-Sydney College. Our Roanoke Catholic community celebrates these two seniors and all graduates across the diocese.

SAINT GERTRUDE HIGH SCHOOL



Anna Christian

VALEDICTORIAN



Mary Jane Erskin

SALUTATORIAN

Valedictorian: Anna Christian is a quiet leader and an active and insightful member of Saint Gertrude's Class of Orange and White. Anna is a two-year co-president of Saint Gertrude Honor Council, vice president of GatorAides and president of the drama society, Stuart Avenue Players. A motivated student, an athlete on the varsity swim team and a cast member of drama productions, Anna is involved in all aspects of Saint Gertrude life. Anna will be attending the College of William & Mary.

Salutarian: Mary Jane Erskin holds the top leadership position at Saint Gertrude as SCA president. Beginning each school day with morning announcements, Mary Jane is a unifying member of the Class of Orange and White. As a four-year varsity athlete, Mary Jane is captain of the tennis team and plays the number one spot. She is a leader on and off the court. She is a scholar with a rigorous and challenging academic schedule who will be attending the University of Virginia.

WALSINGHAM ACADEMY



Julia Wilson

VALEDICTORIAN



Alex Ambrose

SALUTATORIAN

Valedictorian: Julia Wilson has been a Walsingham student since fifth grade. She has been a leader in various campus organizations including Student Government Association, varsity girls' basketball and volleyball, National Honor Society, Mercy Ministries Club and Trojan Ambassadors. She will attend Notre Dame to study neuroscience and mathematics.

Salutarian: Alex Ambrose, a Walsingham "lifer," has been with us since kindergarten. He has been a campus leader in varsity boys' basketball, National Honor Society and the Math Modeling Team. Alex will attend the University of Virginia to study business.

Walsingham Academy will hold commencement exercises for 39 graduates in the Class of 2022 — our 75th graduating class — on Saturday, June 4.

Walter Gannon Scholarship recipients named

The following members of the Class of 2022, 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

Tyler Craig. The 2021-2022 recipient of the Walter Gannon Diocesan Scholarship for Benedictine College Preparatory School is Tyler Craig. He is the son of Timothy and Mary Ruth Craig of Glen Allen. Tyler is the Band company commander and a member of the National Honor Society and baseball and swim teams. Tyler will attend Elon University and pursue a degree in either criminal justice or communication.



Blessed Sacrament-Huguenot

Harrison Lee. Harrison has been a student at BSH since his freshman year. Harrison loves that BSH has a unique family that fosters his academic excellence. He fondly remembers the outdoor campus allowing him snow days and the fun weather. Harrison has been in Latin Club, Drama Club, football – where he was a captain his senior year, captain of the baseball team, and basketball. Harrison will attend Chowan in the fall where he will study sports management while also playing football for the Chowan University Hawks. Harrison would like to thank his fellow class members of 2022 and the teachers who have put in the time he and other students need to excel. His advice for current students is, “Always remain prepared for the long days that can happen while enjoying the active environment of BSH.”



Catholic High School

Guinevere Pomeroy. Guinevere, a member of the National Honor Society, is a strong student with a positive attitude. A four-year member of the cross-country, indoor and spring track teams, Guinevere completed over 150 hours of community service at the Virginia Aquarium and is now employed in guest engagement due to her communication skills and personality. Involved in a host of school clubs (School Literary Magazine, Environmental Club, and Pro-Life Club to name a few), Guinevere plans to study biology at James Madison University.



Peninsula Catholic High School

Diana Ibarra Balderas. Diana's commitments to her studies, family and job make her a role model to her peers and siblings, as well as an exemplary PC Knight. Diana has been inducted into the Spanish Honor Society and National Honor Society, and has challenged herself with a variety of AP, Dual Enrollment and Honors-level classes throughout her high school years. Diana also serves as a School Ambassador and member of the Retreat Team. Graduating with a 3.70 GPA, this first-generation college student will be attending Roanoke College and majoring in business and management.



Roanoke Catholic School

Johnatan Vargas. Johnatan is an outstanding student having earned First Honors distinction for three consecutive years while attending Roanoke Catholic School. He is a 2020 inductee to the Pacelli Chapter of the National Honor Society and has taken some of the most rigorous courses offered. Johnatan was the high school recipient of the coveted Gillespie Family Scholarship in 2021-2022 and will be attending Roanoke College. During his high school career, Johnatan has been an active volunteer in our community, supported the Red Cross Club at school, worked part-time at a local restaurant and has participated in varsity baseball and swimming. Johnatan represents all of the best qualities of a student graduating from Roanoke Catholic School.



Saint Gertrude High School

Julia Barrafato. Julia is a model student, friend and classmate. Her theology teacher noted this year that she has “a positive and peaceful attitude that makes our classroom a better place.” She defaults to observing when in a large group but pays close attention to details and opportunities to contribute. And contribute Julia has. She has added something new every year — theater (onstage and crew), performance choir, shot put, managing the field hockey team, as well as vice president of her class for four years. She is well-respected by her peers because she performs at a high level with the best attitude and sense of humor in whatever she takes on. Julia will be attending Virginia Commonwealth University.



Walsingham Academy

Anne Marie Singley. Anne Marie has a passion for creative intellectual inquiry. She continually strives to surpass academic standards of excellence at Walsingham Academy. She is an optimistic and engaged learner. She solicits and accepts constructive criticism from her instructors. Anne Marie is a young lady of conscience and compassion, having volunteered with many local community agencies during her time at Walsingham. Service within the school includes Student Government Association, National Honor Society and Trojan Ambassadors.



How Jesuit spirituality inspires scientists

CAROL GLATZ
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Hundreds of notable scientists have been Catholic — lay, religious and priests, according to lists compiled on Wikipedia.

And of all the Catholic clergy who have made significant contributions to the world of science, more than half of them have been Jesuits.

There seems to be something special about the education, spirituality and mission of the Society of Jesus that inspires its members to look at creation in a unique way, said U.S. Jesuit Brother Guy Consolmagno, a planetary astronomer and the director of the Vatican Observatory.

“We’re a society that’s dedicated to becoming close to Jesus, Jesus as God’s incarnation within this physical universe,” he said in a talk May 23 that was part of a lecture series celebrating the Ignatian Year. The talk, held at the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola in New York, was also streamed online.

‘Find God in all things’

Brother Consolmagno’s talk, “From Peru to Mars: New Worlds and Jesuit Science,” highlighted the pioneering achievements of just a handful of the more than 150 notable Jesuit scientists and suggested there may be a unique “Jesuit” form of science, influenced by Ignatian spirituality.

“The spirituality of the Jesuits is all about our place in creation: why we are created, why the world was created, how we relate to creation and that leads to that famous Jesuit mantra, ‘Find God in all things,’” the papal astronomer said.

“Being close to the created world is a way of being close to the creator and that’s why sciences played such an important role in the apostolates of the Jesuits,” he said.

According to his autobiography, St. Ignatius found consolation in gazing at the stars, Brother Consolmagno said.

In fact, astronomy has been a prominent pursuit of Jesuit scientists, who established observatories across the world; they also have been prominent in the fields of geophysics and meteorology.

Stars seeing stars

Who were some of these standout figures?

■ Father Angelo Secchi, the father of astrophysics, is “the greatest astronomer you’ve never heard of,” Brother Consolmagno said.

He became director of the Roman College observatory in Rome during the 19th century when he was 31 and turned it into a modern astronomic, meteorological and geomagnetic observatory. He discovered stellar spectra and used that data as a way to classify stars and study what they are made of.

He created the first meteorological network for the Papal States with data sent daily by telegraph; it also included a storm-forecasting service.

He studied how solar activity impacts magnetic fields on Earth. Intense geomagnetic storms can wreak havoc on power grids, which is why NASA is tracking solar activity and memorialized the Jesuit with its technology, he said. SECCHI, an acronym for the Sun Earth Connection Coronal and Heliospheric Investigation, is the name of a series of instruments used on the two spacecraft observing solar storms.

■ U.S. Jesuit Father James Macelwane was

See Stars, Page 12

We need the gift of joy more than ever



It makes perfect sense that the Church celebrates the Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, on the day after Pentecost, for Mary and the Holy Spirit are of one mind and one heart. Just as the Holy Spirit kissed the Virgin Mary by consummating the marriage between heaven and earth at the Annunciation, so the divine kiss of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost effected Mary's role as Mother of the Church.

She who was chosen to cradle the infant God in her arms was likewise chosen to cradle the infant Church from the moment of its inception, when the Holy Spirit once again visited Earth, not as a fleeting encounter but as an ongoing presence.

Unlike the private encounter that took place between the virgin of Nazareth and the Holy Spirit when the Word was made flesh, Mary's encounter with the Holy Spirit in the Upper Room was neither solitary nor secretive. Scripture tells us that the Holy Spirit descended to Earth as a rushing wind that formed a flame which separated into tongues of fire over those who had gathered to await the promised Advocate.

Although this is the last time that Mary is mentioned in Scripture, her role was far from complete. If anything, she serves as a prototype for the Church, for just as she hurried to visit Elizabeth following the Incarnation, so the apostles, filled with the Holy Spirit, went forth boldly proclaiming the Good News: that the promised Messiah who died was risen from the dead.

From that moment, it was up to the infant Church, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to carry on the mission that Jesus began — a mission that will continue until the end of time.

The wonder and joy that filled the room and those who had witnessed the events of that day were surely palpable. In fact, so much so that Scripture tells us that it caused some to accuse the apostles of being drunk. Speaking in tongues and being understood by people of many nations and languages, the confusion of those who had profaned God at the Tower of Babel was reversed.

A new day was dawning. Just as Mary had been the first to receive the Good News, believe and was filled with joy, so the apostles and the newly baptized experienced the prayer of Jesus who, when he prayed to the Father, said, "Now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that



they may have my joy made complete in them" (Jn 17:13).

If ever there were a time when the world needed the spirit of joy that is Christ's to give, it is now. At a time when the world seems to be turning away from God, and death and destruction are ever present realities, we need the gift of joy more than ever.

For the joy that comes from the Holy Spirit does not negate the presence of suffering. The joy that comes from the Spirit does not depend on external circumstances but rather, it is an internal disposition of serenity that is the fruit of the presence of God.

Consider that the Son of God could have come into the world

during the height of Israel's glory, when it was the pride and envy of nations. But instead, Jesus entered the world at a time when the Jews were living under Roman occupation, where fear and strife dominated everyday life.

The humility of God was fully on display from the moment he entered the world until he surrendered his life to the Father from the cross. Throughout Jesus' life on Earth, Mary lived with the mystery as she went forth in a pilgrimage of faith.

Many of our Protestant brothers and sisters wonder why Catholics hold Mary in such great esteem, but evidence that merits her renown couldn't be clearer. Mary's entire life was a song of joyful praise, despite the suffering she endured. From her we learn that suffering is a passing — though necessary — phenomenon that souls must undergo for transformation to take place. Along the way, we seek role models, and none shines as brightly as the woman who reflects the light of her Son during the midnight hours of every life.

So, we pray: Come, Holy Spirit, fill us with the fire of your love as you filled the heart of Mary so that our joy, like hers, may be complete!

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

Reflect upon the Holy Spirit's power in your life



St. Augustine called the Easter Vigil, "The mother of all vigils." If the Easter Vigil is the mother, the Pentecost Vigil is the eldest daughter. They are connected in theme and in structure.

The Easter Vigil celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ as the culmination of all of salvation history. Therefore, it is also fitting on this most holy of nights that we celebrate the baptism, confirmation and reception of first Communion for those newly incorporated into Christ and his Church.

The Vigil of Pentecost also asks us to reflect upon salvation history but hear how the Holy Spirit is at work in restoring the original plan of God — that all might be one in him, that we might all have life through him.

Pentecost is also a fitting time for the cele-

bration of sacraments, and many of our brothers and sisters will be received into full communion on this day and/or receive the sacrament of confirmation. The celebration of these rites and sacraments are in response to Jesus' prayer at the Last Supper, that they all might be one.

At the Easter Vigil, we reflect upon seven readings from the Old Testament that present us the great covenants of God with his people.

- At the Vigil Mass of Pentecost Sunday**
Gn 11:1-9;
Ps 33:10-11, 12-13, 14-15;
Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b;
Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56
or Psalm 19: 8-11;
Ez 37:1-14;
Ps 107:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9;
Jl 3:1-5;
Ps 104: 1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29, 30;
Rom 8:22-27;
Jn 7:37-39

The readings are responded to by psalms or silence, and a formal prayer offered by the celebrant after each reading.

The Pentecost Vigil offers four options for the first reading, but all can be and are encouraged by the Church to be read at the vigil. This mini-Easter Vigil has the same structure: reading, psalm or silence, and prayer.

The Church is asking us to reflect on the ongoing role of the Holy Spirit in the aftermath of our baptism in how we live our faith in the Church and in the world.

The reading from Genesis reminds us that when we try to remake the world in our image, we violate the natural harmony that God plant-

ed in the world. When we try to be our own gods, we break down the very unity that allows us to communicate and live in peace and in unity with one another.

The reading from Exodus reminds us that as God called us into covenant by the giving of his law, we are now called to live out that new covenant that the Holy Spirit has written in our hearts through the sacraments of initiation and our life in the Spirit.

Ezekiel tells us that our true life has, as its source, our relationship with Christ. Joel missions us to be prophets of that new life in the Spirit to the ends of the Earth and until the end of time.

The reason to keep vigil is that we sometimes let the events of life rush past. In days past, a knight-to-be would keep vigil on the eve of his knighting in order to understand his duties as a knight. A bridegroom would keep vigil in order to comprehend the power of the union he and his bride would undertake.

We are asked to keep vigil in anticipation of Easter and at the end of the Easter season in anticipation of Pentecost. We are asked to keep vigil so that we might just begin to understand what Christ has done for us in his resurrection and how we live out that resurrection in the Church through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Msgr. Timothy Keeney is pastor of Incarnation, Charlottesville.

Stars

Continued from Page 10

a pioneering seismologist in the 20th century, who established the first chain of seismographs in northern California.

After establishing the geophysics department at St. Louis University, he spearheaded the creation of the Jesuit Seismological Association and revived a Jesuit-led network providing seismological data since every Jesuit school in the nation at the time had seismometers.

A network of different seismic stations allows for “triangulating” the information to locate an earthquake’s epicenter and depth. This inspired the U.S. government to build a similar network to monitor whether the Russians were testing nuclear bombs underground, Brother Consolmagno said.

The priest inspired a whole new generation of scientists in seismology and meteorology, which prompted the American Geophysical Union and the American Meteorological Society respectively to create a medal, awarded annually, in Father Macelwane’s name.

■ Jesuit Father Roger Boscovich, an 18th-century physicist, astronomer, mathematician and diplomat, became “a hero” after he noticed a crack in the dome of St. Peter’s Basilica and figured out a way to secure the structure.

But he also “described for the first time in modern scientific language what we now recognize as the atomic theory, that the universe is made of atoms,” he said.

“At the time, 25% of all the observatories in Europe were run by Jesuits,” Brother Consolmagno said. Father Boscovich and other astronomers realized that if they observed from different points on Earth the transit of Venus across the sun, they could calculate the distance between Earth and Venus or between Earth and the sun.

“From that you have the basis of how big the solar system is, which is the

first step” in estimating how far away the stars are and how big the universe is, Brother Consolmagno said. “It all starts with this observation.”

■ Italian Jesuit Father Giovanni Riccioli, a 17th-century astronomer came up with a new way of naming features mapped on the moon, introducing the current method of lunar nomenclature. He named the “Sea of Tranquility,” which is where human beings would first land on the moon with Apollo 11.

The priest named many craters after important scientists, and today, more than 30 Jesuits have been honored with their names, often Latinized, identifying lunar craters.

Church supports science

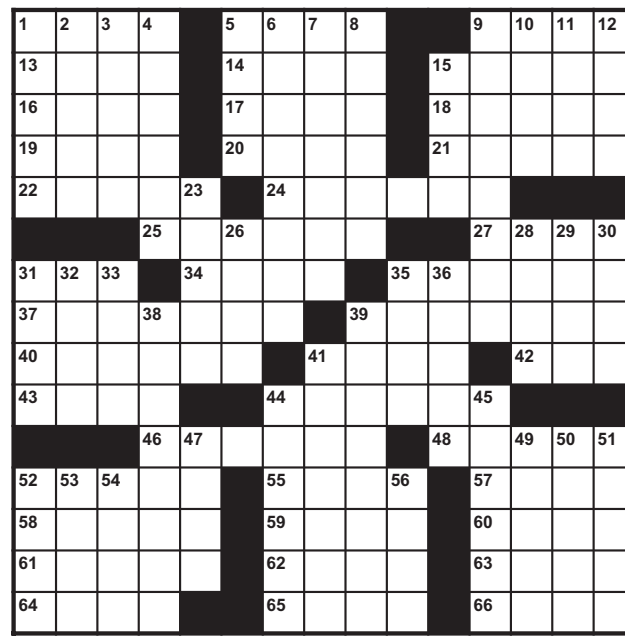
Brother Consolmagno said that, far from being opposed to science, the Catholic Church has been a major supporter of its faithful extraordinary pioneers.

The spirituality of the Jesuits, in particular, inspires them to see that the glory that comes from doing science is “to the greater glory of God, who created this universe, and not to the person who just happened to figure out how (God) did it,” he said.

To be a Jesuit scientist is to remember their motivation is to be closer to God, he said, and to feel “that jolt of joy that you get when you’ve been touched by the supernatural, when you see something you never saw before and the most exciting thing you can do is to tell somebody else about it.”

There are probably only a handful of people in the world who will care about hearing these results or discoveries, he said, “but boy, are they going to be excited when I tell them!”

For people of faith, he said, “research is a form of prayer” that brings people closer to “the author of the science, the author of the truth, the love of the Creator whom we find in all created things.”



www.wordgamesforcatholics.com

ACROSS

- 1 “...begotten not _____”
- 5 Michaelmas mon.
- 9 “Good” queen of England
- 13 Space
- 14 Continental money
- 15 Lucifer
- 16 Agts.
- 17 God of war
- 18 Terse bridge bid
- 19 Gnarl
- 20 Rock clinging plant
- 21 Biblical division
- 22 Satisfied
- 24 Took a quick look
- 25 “Notice the ____: they neither sow nor reap...” (Lk 12:24)
- 27 The Garden of Eden might have been in this modern-day state
- 31 LAPD alert
- 34 Trim
- 35 Pour from one container to another
- 37 Crier who calls Muslims to prayer
- 39 Surname of Pope Paul VI
- 40 Severe experience
- 41 She played Ginger on “Gilligan’s Island”
- 42 Immerse
- 43 Ooze
- 44 Split into two
- 46 Folds
- 48 Commandment that directs us to keep holy the Lord’s Day
- 52 Canonized pope known as “the Great”
- 55 Anchored float
- 57 “Are you ____ out?”
- 58 Grill fuel
- 59 Marian color
- 60 Wife of a rajah
- 61 Certain cars
- 62 Julie’s “Doctor Zhivago” role
- 63 Team
- 64 ____ Mawr
- 65 Greek goddess of strife

DOWN

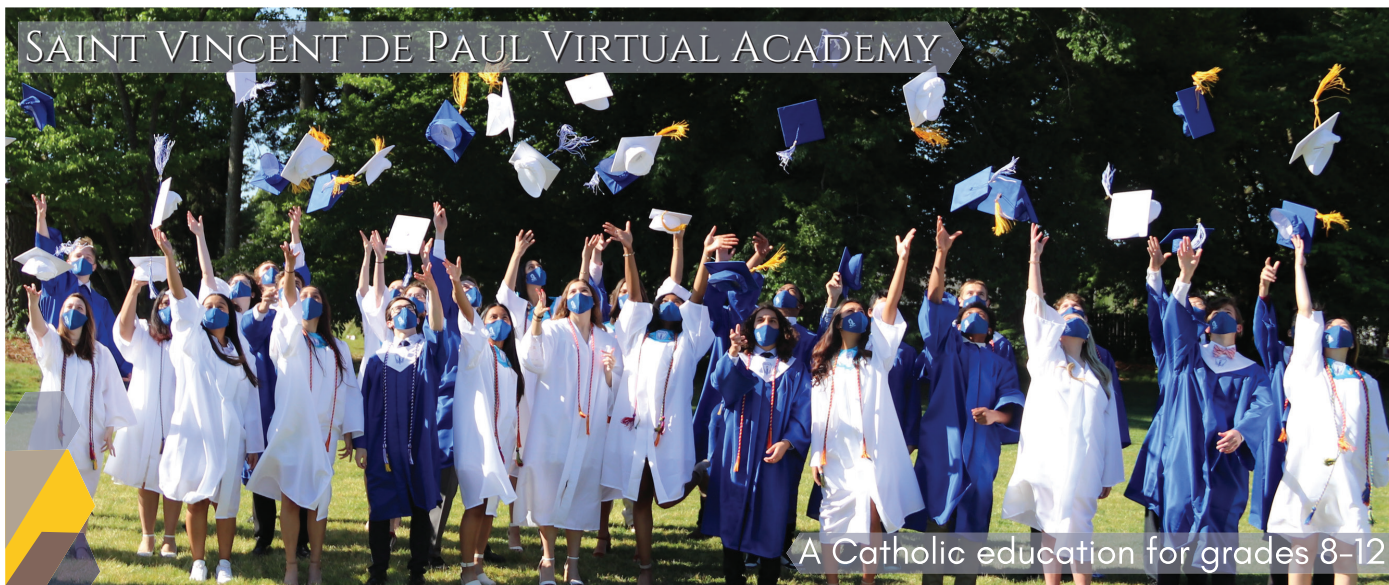
- 66 Stepped
- 1 The four ____ of the Church
- 2 Bowl, perhaps
- 3 Storage center
- 4 Most solemn Christian feast
- 5 Thin stratum
- 6 French or Italian, for example
- 7 Gift
- 8 Throws
- 9 Saint who wrote a rule
- 10 Blessed Mary, ____-Virgin
- 11 Original and actual
- 12 ____ gin fizz
- 15 It returned to Noah with an olive branch
- 23 Catholic actor, Tony ____
- 26 Nun topper
- 28 Sudden assault
- 29 Years, in old Rome
- 30 Swab
- 31 He called for justice to roll down like water
- 32 Free from contamination
- 33 Monk called “The Father of English History”
- 35 “...thy will be ____.”
- 36 Make real
- 38 Rigid airship
- 39 The Diocese of Jefferson City is here
- 41 Bishop with no regional jurisdiction
- 44 Prate
- 45 “Blessed are they who hunger and ____ for righteousness...” (Mt 5:6)
- 47 Forfeiture
- 49 “The bombs bursting ____.”
- 50 Musical composition
- 51 Withered
- 52 Strikebreaker
- 53 Travel from place to place
- 54 Our Blessed ____
- 56 Affirmative votes

Answers page 16

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For sculptor, clay is an instrument of healing

GEORGE P. MATYSEK JR.
Catholic News Service

BALTIMORE — Wayman Scott IV couldn't sleep.

Even as a professional grief counselor at Gilchrist Hospice whose job is to help others grapple with loss, the 43-year-old husband and father was reeling from news of the murder of the daughter of one of his colleagues.

"I knew the agony I felt was 10 times worse for my friend," remembered Scott, a parishioner of the Church of the Nativity in Timonium, Maryland, and an up-and-coming artist.

In his anguish, Scott drove to Baltimore Clayworks, where he had been working on a sculpture similar to Michelangelo's Pietà showing Mary cradling her lifeless son. Scott had already largely finished the image of Christ and the body of Mary, but hadn't started on Mary's face.

Through tears in an empty studio late at night, Scott pressed fingers into clay. With the loss of his friend's daughter consuming his mind, he steadily transformed a lump of earth into the countenance of a mourning mother.

Unlike the Italian Renaissance sculptor's serene Mary, Scott's depiction shows a woman with her mouth open in a scream. The African American figure's brow is furrowed as she gazes heavenward, away from the dreadlocked Jesus she clutches with both arms.

Scott said he normally has difficulty sculpting without looking at some representative figure.

"I don't know whose face this is," he said, gesturing to Mary's anguished visage in his miniature Pietà. "I almost find this to be a miracle because it just came to me in the middle of the night in my pain."

Challenged by a dying man

For Scott, art is a way to cope with the challenges of life. In his hands, clay becomes an instrument of healing.

Scott was a third grader at Phelps Luck Elementary School in Columbia, Maryland, when his teacher asked students to make clay figures. As Scott set to work, his classmates began gathering to watch. Dazzled by the realistic triceratops that took shape in Scott's hands, they asked him to make something for them.

"For me, it was just natural," he remembered. "I couldn't understand why they couldn't make a face or a dog or a dinosaur if they wanted."

Scott cultivated his talent, taking fine arts courses at Towson University while completing a degree in political science. He felt called to youth ministry as a young adult, spending several years as the youth minister of St. John in Columbia,



Wayman Scott IV, a parishioner of the Church of the Nativity in Timonium, Maryland, works on his Pietà sculpture, which features African American figures.

(CNS photo/Kevin J. Parks, Catholic Review)

his home parish.

Experiences of grief had a way of continually shaping the direction of the young man's life.

While Scott was at Towson, his mother, Carolyn Jean Scott, was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. A Fulbright Scholar who specialized in African American history, Carolyn Scott saw her health decline steadily until her death in 2017. Her son was so devastated he gave up his art.

The loss of his mother, together with the murder of a young man who gave a presentation on a drug-prevention program at St. John and the suicide of a friend led Scott to devote his life to helping others cope with loss.

After completing necessary certifications, he first worked as a chaplain at Gilchrist before taking on his current role as a grief counselor there.

While counseling a dying man at Gilchrist — who also happened to be an artist — Scott found himself challenged for abandoning art. The man had been impressed with Scott's elaborate cake sculptures he had made for various events at Gilchrist, and he insisted that Scott take up sculpting with clay again.

"When a dying man very firmly tells you to do something, you tend to listen," Scott remembered.

'Spirit and life' seen in work

Father Robert Albright, a former Catholic chaplain at Towson University who prepared Scott to receive the sacrament of confirmation, said his friend has a concern for justice.

"He's a man of faith — always humble, always joyful," Father Albright told the Catholic Review, the news outlet of the Baltimore Archdiocese.

The priest recalled how in college, Scott shared how as a Black man he had to be extra cautious about simple things such as obeying traffic rules.

"I think he has a need to excel and rise above the problems of the caste system into which Black people are born," Father Albright said.

Much of Scott's work honors his African American heritage. His Pietà symbolically draws attention to young Black men who lost their lives during encounters with police. Scott said he will soon craft a life-size version of the sculpture, an ambitious undertaking that will involve firing huge pieces of the figure in a large, gas-powered kiln at Baltimore Clayworks.

Kevin Rohde, artist and children's program manager at Baltimore Clayworks, said it is perilous to work with clay on the scale Scott intends.

"It has to get cooked to 2,100 degrees (Fahrenheit), so there's some stress that goes on in that process," said Rohde, an art instructor at Towson University and a parishioner of

St. Alphonsus Rodriguez in Woodstock, Maryland. There's a real possibility work could be destroyed in the process.

Rohde called Scott "up to the challenge."

Scott's sculptures have a realistic quality to them, Rohde said.

"Anyone can make a human figure that comes out looking inorganic, with almost a stiffness or rigidity," he explained. "Wayman's work takes it to the next level. It has that something within that you can see — just a spirit and a life to it."

Rohde said Scott's art, which includes depictions of St. Cecilia and Frederick Douglass, is characterized by honesty.

"He doesn't conceal the tool marks on the figures he's sculpting," Rohde said.

Using \$1,500 he received as the 2021 awardee of the Mary E. Nyburg Fund for Artist Development, Scott is planning to create a ceramics project at an East Baltimore public school where children come from neglected parts of the city plagued with violence. Many of them have lost loved ones to COVID-19 or have been displaced during neighborhood redevelopment, Scott said.

"If we're going to heal the city, I don't see how that happens without creative arts," he insisted. "I want to create something permanent for them — to show them that although change has been forced on them at tender age, you still have the power to build something new."

Matysek is managing editor of the Catholic Review, news outlet of the Archdiocese of Baltimore.



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OPPORTUNITIES

Editor, The Catholic Virginian

The Diocese of Richmond seeks a highly qualified editor to oversee the strategy, direction and operations of The Catholic Virginian, a biweekly publication, with specific attention to its editorial content and daily updating of its website.

The editor will be responsible for conveying and supporting the teachings, policies and positions of the Catholic Church, the U.S. bishops and the diocesan bishop to readers of the publication.

The editor will also be responsible for managing freelance writers and article assignments, managing The Catholic Virginian budget and supervising the paper's production costs. This position will collaborate regularly with the director of communications, the bishop/publisher, the Virginia Catholic Conference and other diocesan entities and ministries. The editor must have a proven track of story telling, as the position will also write news and feature articles for publication and maintain content for The Catholic Virginian website and other digital platforms.

Qualifications: A bachelor's degree in English, journalism, mass communications or related field is required, with seven years' experience in diocesan press and/or other Catholic media preferred. However, we will consider experience in other print or communications media. Must have supervisory experience managing the business and production side of publications. The ideal candidate should have working knowledge of all phases of the newspaper operation: writing, editing, budgeting, photography, designing and production, as well as advertising and circulation. Must have ability to analyze, interpret, multi-task, delegate assignments and use sound judgment regarding news, issues and events. Strong interpersonal skills, collaboration skills and teamwork are required. Impeccable written and verbal communication skills a must.

The editor must be able to establish and maintain working relationships with parishes, schools, diocesan leadership and other diocesan agencies and organizations. Proficiency with various PC software, including Adobe suite, website and social media required. A practicing Catholic in good standing, along with strong working knowledge of the structure and teachings of the Catholic Church is required.

Applications are being reviewed immediately. If interested apply at <https://rb.gy/fo2t6c>

The Virginia Catholic Conference (VCC), the public-policy agency of Virginia's Catholic bishops and their two dioceses, seeks applicants for a part-time social

and digital media outreach specialist to expand the VCC's digital presence and outreach. The successful candidate will be joining a collaborative, dedicated team in a flexible work environment while making an impact on policy issues central to the Catholic faith. Candidates must be practicing Catholics in good standing. For more information about the position's requirements and responsibilities, and the degree to which responsibilities can be performed remotely, please visit www.vacatholic.org.

To apply, please send cover letter and résumé either to: Jeff Caruso, executive director, at jeff@vacatholic.org, by mail to Virginia Catholic Conference, 919 East Main Street, Suite 1140, Richmond, VA 23219 or fax 804-225-0166

St. Joseph Church, Hampton, seeks a part-time music coordinator (25 hours/week); Responsible for the preparation, development, scheduling and presentation of all music for the parish. Job responsibilities include: 1) Coordinate/play music for all weekend and holy day liturgies. 2) Coordinate/play music for funerals, weddings, reconciliation services 3) Direct choir rehearsals 4) Participate in the planning of parish liturgies 5) Attend quarterly liturgy committee meetings 6) Coordinate, train and develop musicians, cantors/song leaders 7) Prepare an annual music budget 8) Participate in diocesan/regional gatherings pertinent to liturgy/music.

Applicants should possess a bachelor's degree in music or equivalent education and experience. Prefer a practicing Catholic in good standing, familiar with Catholic liturgy. Salary commensurate with experience. Send cover letter, résumé and application to Paul DeFluri, manager, Peninsula Cluster Parishes, phone: (757) 851-8800, fax: 757-851-1875 or email: pdefluri@gmail.com

The Abbate Agency with the Knights of Columbus is seeking multiple Catholic financial professionals and administrative assistants across Virginia and West Virginia. If you're interested in a career that builds up faith while providing for your family and other Catholic families, please <https://abbatekofc.com/career-opportunities>.

Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, West Point, Virginia is seeking applicants for the position of director of music. The successful applicant should have a bachelor's degree in music or equivalent professional experience. They should have a working knowledge of MS Office products and preferred to have bilingual English/Spanish skills. This position is responsible for overseeing the music arrangements for all

parish liturgies. This is an 8-12 hour per week part-time position with flexible hours to include nights and weekends, available Friday, July 1, 2022. Salary is negotiable based upon qualifications and experience. If interested, please submit a completed Diocese of Richmond employment application with a cover letter to Robert S. Ryalls, business manager, Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 207 W. Euclid Blvd., West Point, VA 23181 or submit via email to: businessmgr@olbs-catholic.org no later than Monday, June 13, 2022.

SHORTAKES

Sts. Peter and Paul Big Yard Sale is back! Join us Friday and Saturday, June 10 and 11, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m., 4309 Thomas Jefferson Parkway, Palmyra. Breakfast and lunch available. Contact Cynthia Aycock at 434-995-6065 with questions.

St. Stephen, Martyr, Catholic Church, Christmas in July Craft

Show, Saturday, July 16, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come in out of the heat and get a jump start on your Christmas shopping. This event features artists, artisans and authors from the Tidewater and NE North Carolina area, concessions and a 50/50 raffle. And, yes, there will be Christmas music and decorations! Admission is free, but please bring a canned good for our local food pantry. Located at 1544 S. Battlefield Blvd., Chesapeake.

The Hope 4 Life Eighth Annual Charity Banquet, Saturday, June 4, at the Basilica of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Norfolk. Mass 5 p.m., reception 6:15 p.m., banquet 6:45 p.m. Reverend Dean Nelson will be the keynote speaker. RSVP early to Louantha Kerr, louantha@gmail.com. The banquet will be livestreamed for those unable to attend. Tune in to our website at hope4lifeva.com to view this event. We extend a heartfelt thank you for your support and prayers.

Chinese bishop in detention

HONG KONG (CNS) — A Vatican-approved Chinese bishop remains in detention more than one year after his arrest for allegedly violating the communist country's repressive regulations on religious affairs.

Bishop Joseph Zhang Weizhu of Xinxiang was arrested May 21, 2021, reported ucanews.com. A day earlier, police arrested 10 priests and an unknown number of seminarians from a Catholic seminary in the diocese that was set up in an abandoned factory building.

About a year ago, authorities in Xinxiang shut down Catholic schools and kindergartens in line with a government ban on education by religious groups.

All those arrested were accused of violating China's regulations on religious affairs and subjected to "political lessons" in detention, said media reports. The priests and seminarians were released after brief detention but remain under surveillance, while the seminary is still closed.

Bishop Zhang, 63, remains detained, and his whereabouts are unknown, ucanews.com reported.

It said Bitter Winter, a magazine covering religious liberty and human rights, reported that Bishop Zhang has been targeted and oppressed by officials of the Chinese Community Party for not bowing to pressure to join the government-controlled Bishops' Conference of the Catholic Church in China and Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association.

The bishop is reportedly among "conscientious objectors" who oppose the 2018 secretive Vatican-Chi-

na agreement on the appointment of Catholic bishops, which was renewed in 2020.

Since signing the deal, Chinese authorities have intensified their crackdown on churches whose leaders refuse to join state-run church bodies.

A source told Bitter Winter that the Vatican had asked the Chinese regime to release Bishop Zhang, but the authorities responded by saying the bishop's crimes were serious, so he must remain in detention.

Since his secret ordination with a Vatican mandate in 1991, Bishop Zhang has been under constant pressure and barred from carrying out his duties as bishop. He was arrested on several occasions but later released.

Catholics in Xinxiang have expressed concerns for the bishop, especially about his health. Shortly before his latest arrest, the bishop had surgery for cancer, ucanews.com reported.

Religious groups, including the Catholic Church, faced a new clampdown after the Communist Party approved and implemented new regulations on religious affairs in May 2021. Among other things, the regulations state that Catholic bishops must be approved and ordained by the state-sanctioned bishops' conference.

The regulations say Christian clergy must support the Communist Party leadership and must regularly apply for recertification to carry out their duties. Clergy are allowed to run religious activities, including seminaries, only in government-registered and controlled institutions.

El Papa: aprendamos a decir cada día “Señor, dame tu paz, dame el Espíritu Santo”

“Cuanto más sentimos que el corazón está agitado, cuanto más advertimos en nuestro interior nerviosismo, intolerancia, rabia, más debemos pedir al Señor el Espíritu de la paz”. Palabras del Papa a la hora del rezo del Regina Coeli, meditando sobre la promesa de Jesús: “Les dejo la paz, les doy mi paz”. “Aprendamos a decir cada día: ‘Señor, dame tu paz, dame el Espíritu Santo’”, animó Santo Padre, que exhortó a pedirlo también para los demás.

«Les dejo la paz, les doy mi paz». Las frases de Jesús en la última cena fueron el centro de la reflexión del Papa Francisco sobre el Evangelio del Día, que, como cada domingo se asomó desde la ventana del Palacio Apostólico Vaticano para rezar junto con los fieles presentes en la Plaza de San Pedro la oración a la Madre de Dios.

Se muere como se ha vivido

Jesús – dijo el Santo Padre - se despide con palabras que expresan afecto y serenidad, pero lo hace en un momento que no es precisamente sereno: Judas ha salido para traicionarlo, Pedro está a punto de negarlo y casi todos los demás lo abandonarán. “El Señor lo sabe, y con todo no reprocha, no usa palabras severas, no pronuncia discursos duros. En vez de mostrar agitación, permanece afable hasta el final”.

El Santo Padre recordó seguidamente un proverbio que dice que “se muere como se ha vivido”. Y constató que, en efecto, “las últimas horas de Jesús son como la esencia de toda su vida”.

Experimenta miedo y dolor, pero no deja espacio al resentimiento y a la protesta. No se deja llevar por la amargura, no se desahoga, no es incapaz de soportar. Está en paz, una paz que proviene de su corazón manso, habitado por la confianza. De ahí surge la paz que Jesús nos deja. Porque no se puede dejar la paz a los demás si uno no la tiene en sí mismo. No se puede dar paz si no se está en paz.

Un testimonio que vale más que mil palabras

Con esta frase, Jesús, continuó diciendo el Santo Padre “demuestra que la mansedumbre es posible”. Él la ha encarnado precisamente en el momento más difícil; y desea que también nos comportemos así nosotros, que somos los herederos de su paz. Nos quiere mansos, abiertos, disponibles para escuchar, capaces de aplacar las disputas y tejer concordia. Esto – aseguró el Papa - es dar testimonio de Jesús, y vale más que mil palabras y que muchos sermones.

Preguntémonos si, en los lugares en los que vivimos, nosotros, los discípulos de Jesús, nos comportamos así: ¿Aliviamos las tensiones, apagamos los conflictos? ¿Tenemos una mala relación con alguien, estamos siempre preparados para reaccionar, para estallar, o sabemos responder con la no violencia, sabemos responder con gestos y palabras de paz? ¿Cómo reacciono yo? Que cada uno se pregunte.

Tras esta invitación al discernimiento, el Pontífice reconoció que, ciertamente, esta mansedumbre “no es fácil”. De hecho, constató cuán difícil es “desactivar los conflictos”. Pero es precisamente aquí que, según el Sucesor de Pedro, “viene en nuestra ayuda la segunda frase de Jesús: Les doy mi paz”.

Jesús sabe que nosotros solos no somos capaces de custodiar la paz, que necesitamos una ayuda, un don. La paz, que es nuestro compromiso, es ante todo don de Dios. En efecto, Jesús dice: «Les doy mi paz, pero no como la da el mundo». ¿Qué



El Papa Francisco habla durante una reunión con un grupo de jóvenes que se preparan para el sacramento de la confirmación, afuera de su residencia en el Vaticano el 21 de mayo de 2022. El grupo era de la ciudad italiana de Génova.. (Foto del CNS/Vatican Media)

es esta paz que el mundo no conoce y que el Señor nos dona? Es el Espíritu Santo, el mismo Espíritu de Jesús.

La fuerza de paz de Dios

Sucede que, tal como enseñó el Papa, el Espíritu Santo es “la presencia de Dios en nosotros, la ‘fuerza de paz’ de Dios”.

Es Él, el Espíritu Santo, quien desarma el corazón y lo llena de serenidad. Es Él, el Espíritu Santo, quien deshace las rigideces y apaga la tentación de agredir a los demás. Es Él, el Espíritu Santo, quien nos recuerda que junto a nosotros hay hermanas y hermanos, no obstáculos y adversarios. Es Él, el Espíritu Santo quien nos da la fuerza para perdonar, para recomenzar, para volver a partir. Y con Él, con el Espíritu Santo, nos transformamos en hombres y mujeres de paz.

Invoquemos al Espíritu Santo

Por todo ello, el Santo Padre Francisco reiteró que “ningún pecado, ningún fracaso, ningún rencor debe desanimarnos a la hora de pedir con insistencia el don del Espíritu Santo” puesto que “cuanto más sentimos que el corazón está agitado, cuanto más advertimos en nuestro interior nerviosismo, intolerancia, rabia, más debemos pedir al Señor el Espíritu de la paz”.

“Aprendamos a decir cada día: ‘Señor, dame tu paz, dame el Espíritu Santo’”, animó, exhortando a pedirlo también “para quienes viven junto a nosotros, para quienes encontramos todos los días y para los responsables de las naciones”.

Que la Virgen – concluyó- nos ayude a acoger al Espíritu Santo para ser constructores de paz.

Los pensamientos del Papa tras el Regina Coeli

Tras el rezo del Regina Coeli el Papa Francisco pidió un aplauso para Pauline Marie Jaricot, fundadora de la Obra de la Propagación de la Fe, cuya beatificación tendrá lugar esta tarde en

Lyon. “Esta fiel laica, que vivió en la primera mitad del siglo XIX, fue una mujer valiente, atenta a los cambios de los tiempos con una visión universal de la misión de la Iglesia. Que su ejemplo suscite en todos el deseo de participar, con la oración y la caridad, en la difusión del Evangelio en el mundo”, dijo.

También recordó que hoy tiene inicio la *Semana Laudato Si'*, para escuchar cada vez con más atención el grito de la Tierra, que nos impulsa a actuar juntos en el cuidado de nuestra casa común, y agradeció al Dicasterio para el Servicio del Desarrollo Humano Integral y a las numerosas organizaciones que adhieren, invitando a todos a participar.

Recordó también que el próximo martes se conmemora la Santísima Virgen María Auxiliadora, especialmente sentida por los católicos de China, que veneran a la Auxiliadora como su Patrona, y tras expresar que vive con atención y participación la vida y las vicisitudes de los fieles y pastores, a menudo complejas, aseguró que reza por ellos cada día. “Los invito a unirse a mí en esta oración, para que la Iglesia en China, en libertad y tranquilidad, pueda vivir en comunión efectiva con la Iglesia universal y ejercer su misión de anunciar el Evangelio a todos, ofreciendo así también una contribución positiva al progreso espiritual y material de la sociedad”, añadió.

Por último, en el saludar a quienes en Roma participaron del acto “Escojamos la vida”, les agradeció por su compromiso en favor de la vida de la objeción de conciencia, cuyo ejercicio, observó, se intenta a menudo “limitar”. “Por desgracia, en los últimos años se ha producido un cambio en la mentalidad común y hoy nos inclinamos cada vez más a pensar que la vida es un bien a nuestra total disposición, que podemos elegir manipular, hacer nacer o morir a nuestro antojo, como resultado exclusivo de una elección individual. Recordemos que la vida es un don de Dios”, lamentó el Santo Padre, que reiteró que la vida “siempre es sagrada e inviolable”, y que “no podemos silenciar la voz de la conciencia”.

Laity

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the bishop, the clergy or any leader in the Church.

“Rather, it is asked that authority always be involved in the process of expressing without fail one’s opinion and to pay careful attention so that there be authentic discernment,” Cardinal Grech said.

In this way, the progressive process of decision making is never about going against or without the person of authority, but always together with that person and with his consent, he said, explaining Cardinal Coccopalmerio’s reflection.

This process of “communitarian discernment,” in which clergy and the faithful “are united in the common listening of the Holy Spirit,” is not easy, Cardinal Grech said; but there are analogous examples, such as how the college of bishops is called to always exercise authority together and with the approval of the pope.

It is a “spiritual process” that does not pit clergy and laity against each other, but involves each person being “with” the others in the Church with the shared desire to listen, deliberate and determine, he said.

It is a Church that does not function like a monarchy or a parliament but is a Church of clergy and lay people united in their common baptismal identity and bringing their different ministries and charisms together to discern and plan, Cardinal Grech said.

‘Journey together’

Msgr. Severino Dianich, a theologian and expert on ecclesiology, said this kind of reflection is critical.

In Italy and perhaps in other parts of the world, he said, “there is a notable sense of frustration that must be recognized in how councils are actually working, whether they be diocesan or parish” councils.

There is a sense that “journeying together” means a journey that goes just halfway, because when it comes time to make a decision, it can seem that the bishop or the priest continues the rest of that journey all on his own, the priest said.

It is a concern that theologians and canonists must discuss, he said, especially in addressing objections to greater lay involvement, such as fears it will turn into “a fight for positions of power.”

Msgr. Dianich said he sees just the opposite.

All Christians are “rich in charisms” that are different for clergy and laity, so when “a priest decides alone, he is in fact impoverished.”

The deliberative process of the Church community “is nothing more than enriching the hierarchical ministry” with gifts and charisms that can serve each individual bishop or priest, he said.

‘Original purpose’

Pope Benedict XVI acknowledged this, he said, in a 2011 speech discussing St. John XXIII’s encyclical “Mater et Magistra.” The priest quoted the retired pope’s text, saying the lay faithful “cannot be solely passive beneficiaries but are the protagonists of the Church’s social doctrine at the vital moment of its implementation. They are also valuable collaborators of the pastors in its formulation, thanks to the experience they have acquired in the field and to their own specific skills.”

One reason there is greater awareness and desire for the Church to be more synodal, Msgr. Dianich said, is because the Church is rediscovering its “fundamental original purpose,” which is that it exists, not for itself, but to evangelize.

It has become clear, he added, that the most important evangelizers — besides the pope — are the people “in the peripheries and part of everyday life,” he said. The lay faithful are the ones who “are surrounded by” and directly encounter on a daily basis those who have yet to encounter Jesus and can immediately give witness to the Gospel in action, he said.

Cardinal Coccopalmerio said his proposals are very rudimentary and should be discussed further to determine their validity with the guidance of the Holy Spirit; if the ideas end up going nowhere, “at least there will have been the attempt to learn more about the nature of the Church.”

Shootings

Continued from Page 1

be considered ‘the new normal.’”

“The Catholic Church consistently calls for the protection of all life, and these mass shootings are a most pressing life issue on which all in society must act — elected leaders and citizens alike,” he said. “We pray that God comfort and offer compassion to the families of these little ones whose pain is unbearable.”

Chieko Noguchi, director of public affairs for the U.S. Conference of Catholic bishops, said the organization joined Archbishop García-Siller in prayers for the community.

“There have been too many school shootings, too much killing of the innocent. Our Catholic faith calls us to pray for those who have died and to bind the wounds of others,” she said in a statement. “As we do so, each of us also needs to search our souls for ways that we can do more to understand this epidemic of evil and violence and implore our elected officials to help us take action.”

In a statement, the Diocese of El Paso, Texas, suggested that a course of action from the Catholic Church could come “in finding ways to more effectively identify people at risk of such behavior and to push for reasonable limits to the proliferation of firearms.”

From Rome, Pope Francis also weighed in, saying: “It’s time to say ‘Enough’ to the indiscriminate trade of weapons!” and encouraged all to be committed in the effort “so that tragedies like this cannot occur again.”

Chicago Cardinal Blase J. Cupich in a May 24 tweet said the right to life trumps the right to have weapons and that “the Second Amendment did not come down from Sinai.”

“The right to bear arms will never be more important than human life,” he said. “Our children have rights, too. And our elected officials have a moral duty to protect them.”

Cardinal Cupich, in his tweets, implored people not just to lament, but to act.

“We must weep and soak in the grief that comes with the knowledge that these children of God were cut down by a man who was just a few years their senior. But then we must steel ourselves to act in the face of what seems like insurmountable despair,” he tweeted. “As I reflect on this latest American massacre, I keep returning to the questions: Who are we as a nation if we do not act to protect our children? What do we love more: our instruments of death or our future?”

Saints

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praying to Blessed Titus and putting a relic of the martyr’s clothing on his head and neck.

When the medical board of the Congregation for Saints’ Causes looked at the case, the Vatican said, “of the disease, which was particularly malignant and invasive, there was no longer any trace, even after more than 15 years.”

Those canonized brought to 909 the saints Pope Francis has recognized officially during his pontificate; the figure includes the 813 “Martyrs of Otranto,” who were killed in the southern Italian city in 1480 and declared saints in 2013.

Father Begley

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provided a “good background” for the hospital work required of him as a priest.

“That has been sad, but also, it’s a very good ministry,” he said.

‘Don’t judge’

Although Father Begley said “you get surprises” in priesthood, like people approaching in the middle of Mass to ask for money or food, “you handle it. You don’t get upset or anything like that. You say, ‘Okay, sit down, I’ll talk to you right afterwards.’ I find that if you’re nice to people, they are so nice back to you.”

He identified Matthew 7:5, “the splinter in the eye,” as his favorite Scripture passage.

“I think it’s just great wisdom,” he said. “When you work with people in families, don’t judge. In fact, the best thing we learned, especially in situations with hospitals or emergency rooms or funerals – follow their lead. You don’t come in there and try to fix it right away or make it right, because you can’t. Just follow their lead and don’t judge.”

Support from clergy, laity

Father Begley noted that “a good support group of priests” and “a good core group of parishioners and people that I work with” have helped sustain him in his vocation.

“I did 25 years of Engage Encounter, and the people that were on the team with me, we’re still pretty close,” he said. “So, I have a good crew around me. I kind of call it my support group, both lay and clergy. That’s been very important.”

He also mentioned that Msgr. Thomas Shreve, Father Ray Barton and the priests at St. John Vianney and St. Meinrad had a positive impact on his vocation.

The jubilarian celebrated his 40th anniversary the same way he celebrated his ordination: with hotdogs, this time with a potluck meal at St. Paul.

“Any food left over, we got it down to different agencies, food pantries, the same way we did 40 years ago,” he said. “It was, ‘Let’s do hotdogs, and whatever we have left over, let’s give it to the homeless.’ It was great.”

Reflecting on his anniversary, Father Begley said he loves what he does.

“I’m happy being a priest. I wouldn’t change a thing,” he said. “I’m looking forward to more years. Retirement is in four years, and we’ll see how it goes. If my health is good, I’ll continue on. If not, I’ll work someplace with priests.”

“You know, I have a great example,” he continued. “Tom Shreve, 86 years old and still going... 61 years a priest. A good example.”

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