



# The Catholic Virginian

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## Women to help choose bishops

### Pope: 'Things are opening up'

CINDY WOODEN  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis said he plans to name two women to the committee that helps him choose bishops for the world's Latin-rite dioceses.

In an interview July 2 with the Reuters news agency, the pope seemed to indicate the women would be members, not consultants or staff members, of the Dicastery for Bishops, which currently has only cardinals and bishops as members and five bishops and two priests as consultants.

"Two women will be appointed for the first time in the committee to elect bishops in the Congregation for Bishops," Pope Francis told Philip Pulella, the Reuters' Vatican correspondent.

"This way, things are opening up a bit," the pope said when asked about expanding the role of women in Church decision making.

Reuters published the pope's remarks about women's positions July 6.

Preparing nominations for the office of bishops is a long, multistep process. For most Latin-rite dioceses that are not in mission territories, the process begins with bishops submitting to their local archbishop the names of priests they think would be good bishops; once a year the bishops of the province discuss the names submitted and forward recommendations to the nuncio.

The nuncio studies the lists, investigates further, solicits feedback from people who know the candidate and forwards his recommendations to the Dicastery for Bishops.

The prefect of the dicastery, currently Canadian Cardinal Marc Ouellet, can make recommendations directly to the pope about transferring a bishop from one diocese to another or to an archdiocese. But if the candidate is still a priest, the members of the dicastery — currently 17 cardinals and six bishops — must review the dossiers and vote on the names to recommend to the pope. Although many of the members do not live in Rome, they usually meet twice a month on Thursdays to deliberate.

The prefect presents the nominations to

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Bishop Barry C. Knestout anoints the hands of Father Dillon Bruce with holy chrism during the priest's ordination Mass, Saturday, June 25, at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Richmond. The anointing symbolizes the priest's distinctive participation in Christ's priesthood. (Photo/Michael Mickle)

## Celebrating priesthood

### Father Dillon Bruce ordained for diocese

JANNA REYNOLDS  
The Catholic Virginian

With the sun shining brightly over the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Richmond, on Saturday, June 25, Father Dillon Bruce was ordained a priest for the Catholic Diocese of Richmond.

The 10:30 Mass was attended by more than 150 friends and family members of the newly ordained, 47 priests, 14 deacons and several religious.

In his homily, Bishop Barry C. Knestout noted that through his ordination to the priesthood, Father Bruce would be entrusted to serve the people of God as Christ's teacher, priest and shepherd.

He said that although the first reading from Numbers 11:11b-12, 14-17, 24 -25, clearly illustrated that the life of a priest has its challenges, the Lord always "sends his grace and

the help of his Holy Spirit," and Father Bruce should "turn frequently to the Lord in prayer, offering him all your needs, worries and concerns."

"With ordination," Bishop Knestout said, "you are ontologically changed, configured to Christ the Head, so that you may be an instrument of reconciliation."

The bishop reflected on the second reading, 2 Corinthians 5:14-20, in which St. Paul reminds people that in order to be an instrument of reconciliation, they must first meet their own need to be reconciled.

"All of us — laity, consecrated and clergy — fall into sin and are in need of God's grace," Bishop Knestout said. "We all are called to be vigilant and seek the holiness of Christ within ourselves if we hope to better lead others to that same holiness."

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# Convert hearts by focusing on women, children

## Archbishop Lori, others reflect on overturn of Roe v. Wade

**JULIE ASHER**  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Supreme Court overturning Roe v. Wade is “tremendously important” for the nation and the cause of life, but it’s not “a day simply for celebration,” said the chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

“As happy as we may be over this decision,” Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori said, “I think it is also important for us to recognize our need, our obligation to redouble our efforts to help women in difficult pregnancies.”

The archbishop made the comments in an interview via Zoom shortly after the court handed down its ruling June 24.

Joining him were Danielle Brown, associate director of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism; Dr. Kathleen Raviele, a retired OB-GYN; and Dr. Grazie Pozo Christie, a radiologist, columnist and senior adviser to The Catholic Association.

In a 5-4 vote, the high court overturned its landmark Roe v. Wade ruling, which legalized abortion nationwide in 1973.

The Catholic Church’s efforts to assist women facing difficult or unplanned pregnancies, Archbishop Lori noted, include the Gabriel Network and other affiliates of the Gabriel Project, pro-life pregnancy centers, and the “tremendous services” offered by Catholic Charities across the U.S. and Catholic health care.

In addition, the U.S. bishops in 2020 launched a new initiative called “Walking with Moms in Need,” which aims to engage every Catholic parish “in providing a safety net to ensure that pregnant and parenting moms have the resources, love and support they need to nurture the lives of their children.”

Asked about the claim the U.S. Catholic bishops are focused on the single issue of abortion to the exclusion of other social justice issues, Archbishop Lori said: “Hardly. The Church has a beautiful legacy of social teaching and we live that social teaching every day, not perfectly, (but) we are not simply people who issue statements on issues.”

“We are a people who serve and the Church is serving immigrants at the border, the Church is educating deserving young people in our inner cities, the Church is providing massive amounts of charitable and health care, the Church is working to limit gun violence,” he said.

“The Church has a beautiful vision of the dignity of human life from conception until natural death,” he continued. “In the

case of abortion and this decision that we are focusing on today, the Church’s admonition and advice to everyone is to love both the mother and the child, to focus on the needs of the mother as well as protecting the life of the child.”

Another challenge that remains in a post-Roe society is changing hearts and minds about abortion, which Brown said is not unlike what she and others are doing in their work to implement the bishops’ 2018 pastoral on racism, “Open Wide Our Hearts,” in parishes across the country.

Brown called the Roe reversal “a historic moment” and “just like our country was able to move away from the devastating and horrific” slave trade, the nation can “move away from the culture of death.”

“The slave trade is not the same as abortion but there are commonalities,” she said.

“We have to understand and agree the death of a person is a tragic and sad situation. We are not made for death, we are made for life,” Brown said. “Any loss of life is one to mourn.”

“We believe in conversion, conversion in Christ,” she said. Bringing people to “a conversion of the heart” can be “a long journey” but “we know that conversion can happen.”

“When people are challenged on their views of abortion and are given the opportunity to think deeply and to answer simple and critical questions about what life is and the importance of it, we know that conversion can happen. ... We see that every day in our work against racism.”

“The bishops see these two issues intrinsically enmeshed together. They stated in the pastoral that racism is a life issue,” Brown said, adding that “people of color have been disproportionately affected by poverty, targeted for abortion, have less access to health care and (account for) the greatest number on death row.”

Echoing Brown, Archbishop Lori said, “It is a day to ask for God’s help in winning minds and hearts to understand and to accept the precious gift of life from the moment of conception onward and to create the kind of conditions in society where no mother feels she has to choose between her future and the life of her child.

“When (St.) John Paul II spoke about a culture of life, I’m pretty sure that’s what he meant.”

As an adoptive mother, Christie noted the importance of continuing to spread the message that “Adoption is the loving option” — “like we say on all the marches.” She and her husband have four biological children and their fifth child is adopted.

“We need to keep holding that up before people and say every child conceived is conceived for a purpose, is loved into being and we can find a beautiful home for this child. Not to worry,” she said. “Death is not the answer for a child that comes with complications, and let’s face it, what child doesn’t come with complications?”

The reversal of Roe is “a new dawn for America,” said Christie. “It’s wonderful we don’t have to say any more that there’s a consti-

tutional right to destroy a child, that pits a woman against her own children.

The nation “will go through a very difficult period” and “there is already a great deal of anger” among opponents of the court reversing Roe, Archbishop Lori said.

“The best chance of winning minds and hearts” is to show the Church focuses “both on the mother and the child,” he said.

Follow Asher on Twitter: @jlasher

## Bishop: Continue to help those with unexpected pregnancies

Bishop Barry C. Knestout released the following statement Friday, June 24, after the United States Supreme Court issued a final ruling on Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization:

“Today, I am gratified that our nation’s highest court has overturned the fundamentally unjust Roe v. Wade decision and restored to states the ability to protect the dignity and rights of the human person from the moment of conception. Every life – both mother and children – is sacred and immeasurably loved and valued by God. I pray that throughout our nation – including here in Virginia – lawmakers will open their hearts to the opportunities before them to protect unborn children, support women in crisis pregnancies and promote life-affirming alternatives to abortion.

“Our local Church works to support and walk with women and couples who find themselves in unexpected or stressful pregnancies. As followers of Christ, we must walk with them during these challenging times.

“Throughout the year, many of our parishes and Catholic institutions faithfully are the hands and feet of Christ by providing support so women can be assisted, comforted and strengthened to transform their lives in order to give their baby life. I am deeply grateful for the work of Commonwealth Catholic Charities’ Seton Housing Program – a new initiative, nearly a year old, which provides a whole life care for mother and baby.

“In the eastern part of our state, Catholic Charities of Eastern Virginia served and empowered more than 350 mothers through its Pregnancy Support Program. Portsmouth-based Hope4Life dedicates itself to supporting moms with unplanned pregnancies and being a critical intervention to women when they are most in need. This non-profit is supported by many of our Catholic parishes and faithful.

“Resources are also found through Williamsburg House of Mercy – an extension of St. Bede Catholic Church, Mary’s Choice RVA, the East End Pregnancy Center as well as the pregnancy resource centers in Richmond and Roanoke supported by the Knights of Columbus.

“For decades, the faithful who have vocalized and promoted the sanctity of life have felt like “the voice crying out in the wilderness” – the words the prophet Isaiah uses to describe the role of John the Baptist in proclaiming the coming of Christ. There have been many courageous, devoted and faith-filled individuals and families who have embraced this teaching. I am thankful for the faithful who use their voice to advocate for the unborn and for the sanctity of all life.

“This goal must be pursued with firmness and respect. We should not mistake politeness or civility for faintheartedness. Respect and charity are the Christian manner of stating one’s case, listening to what others say and responding. If we are to have any success in promoting pro-life concerns, we must commit to engaging in charitable dialogue.

“While today’s decision brings much hope, tragically some will continue and even intensify their advocacy of abortion. I offer my prayers for the vitally needed conversion of minds and hearts and steadfastly ask the Holy Spirit to keep all safe during this time. With prayer and perseverance may we find the peace and abundant life that Christ offers.”



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

Bishop Knestout’s column is scheduled to return in September.



Above: During the Mass at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart where he was ordained a priest on Saturday, June 25, Father Dillon Bruce listens to Bishop Barry C. Knestout's homily. Behind Father Bruce are his parents, Jeannette and Brian, and his brothers, Derek and Karson. Right: Father Bruce prays the Eucharistic Prayer during Mass. (Photos/Michael Mickle)



Msgr. William Carr finishes vesting Father Bruce. The newly ordained priest served his pastoral year at St. Bridget, Richmond, while Msgr. Carr was the parish's pastor.



Left: Among the first people Father Dillon Bruce blesses following the Mass at which he was ordained a priest are his mother, father and brothers.

## Priesthood

*Continued from Page 1*

The bishop advised Father Bruce to focus his energy and life as a priest toward serving the people of God. By proclaiming the word, celebrating the sacraments and expressing charity to others, "you will grow in priestly life and devotion."

The bishop concluded his homily by emphasizing how important it is for a priest to understand what he does and to imitate what he celebrates:

"Remember when you gather others into the people of God through baptism, and when you forgive sins in the name of Christ and the Church in the sacrament of penance, when you comfort the sick with holy oil and celebrate the sacred rites, when you offer prayers of praise and thanks to God throughout the hours of the day, not only for the people of God, but for the whole world, that you are taken from among men and appointed on their behalf for those things that pertain to God," Bishop Knestout said. "Therefore, carry out the ministry of Christ the Priest with constant joy and genuine love, attending not to your own concerns, but to those of Jesus Christ."

On Sunday, June 26, Father Bruce celebrated his first Mass of Thanksgiving at his home parish of St. Francis of Assisi, Staunton. He will continue studies for his licentiate degree in sacred theology at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome later this year.



Along with the more than 150 family members and friends in attendance at the ordination of Father Dillon Bruce, priests serving in the Diocese of Richmond acknowledge the diocese's newest priest.

# Finding 'where my heart was' led jubilarian to vocation

## Father Mattingly celebrates 25 years of priesthood

JANNA REYNOLDS

The Catholic Virginian

A self-termed "mid-life crisis" as he neared age 30 led to Father Thomas E. Mattingly to pursue a vocation to the priesthood.

The priest, who celebrated his silver jubilee on June 7, had been working as an accountant for about eight years when he applied for formation.

"I enjoyed being an accountant, and that was very lucrative, but I really started considering where my heart was," he recalled.

The priest grew up in the Diocese of Cleveland. At age 5, his home parish was split to accommodate the area's growing Catholic population. He said that this family was "very involved in getting the new parish off to a good start."

"We began having Mass in a public school, and we had to set that up every Sunday morning in order to have Mass," he said. "And then as we started to build, we were having festivals and fundraising for a new building, and we were part of that."

Father Mattingly said he first considered priesthood after receiving his first holy Communion when he began altar serving.

"Then the Church changed," he said, referencing Vatican II and Church reforms, "so (priesthood) just got put on the backburner. But I started thinking of my options when

I was 30, and again it came to the fore. So, I don't think it died, I just think it was sort of dormant."

### Impressed by diocese, bishop

While the call to priesthood was waiting quietly within him, Father Mattingly earned an associate degree from a community college. He began working as an accountant and earned his bachelor's degree. In 1983, he moved to Richmond for a corporate accounting job.

"When I moved to Virginia, I was really impressed by the diocese," Father Mattingly said.

On the second weekend following his move to Richmond, Father Mattingly met Bishop Walter F. Sullivan, who had come to St. Benedict, Richmond, where the future priest was singing in the choir.

"I was able to talk to him, and I was very impressed because I had never really talked to a bishop before," he said. "And I was even more impressed when, several months later, I met him again and he remembered my name. Bishops didn't do



Father Thomas E. Mattingly

that much back then."

At that time in his life, Father Mattingly was "reassessing what I wanted to do with my life," and he learned that his heart was in ministry.

"I was involved in [ministry] at St. Patrick's Church in Churchville," he said. "The pastor at the time was Father [Pat] Apuzzo, and he had a big part in the renewal I felt in my faith."

Father Mattingly recalled the large parish in which he had grown up: "It was just 'get in line' ... and I don't know that I ever really engaged my faith. I was kind of just another face in the crowd."

In the Diocese of Richmond, however, the priest said he "discovered what I'd been missing in the Church. Through no fault of the Church, it was my fault. I really started engaging my faith in a more practical way as an adult, and that was really attractive to me."

### Moved by need for priests

While he was discerning, Father Mattingly said he had also realized "there was such a need for priests."

"We were really coming to terms with the lack of seminarians going

into priesthood... that definitely was a factor. I wanted to make sure the priesthood continued, that we had the people to serve the diocese," he said. "And in fact, I was the only one ordained the year that I was ordained."

Father Mattingly applied for formation, and attended St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Illinois, where he concurrently earned a Master of Divinity and a bachelor's in sacred theology.

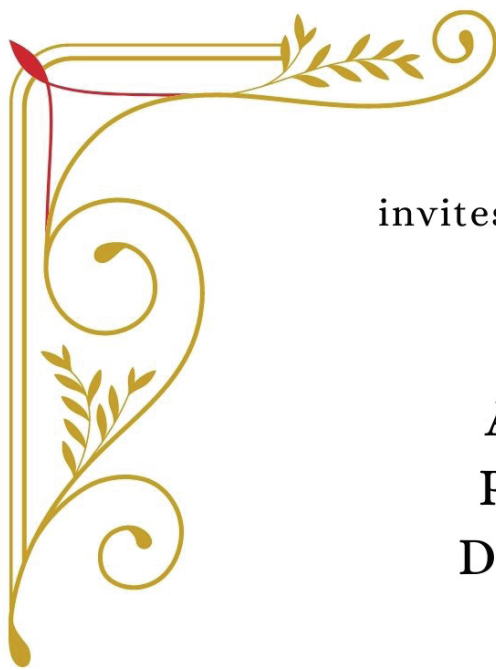
He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Richmond on June 7, 1997, at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Richmond.

His first assignment was parochial vicar of Church of the Holy Spirit, Virginia Beach (1997-1998). He received his first pastorate at St. Gerard, Roanoke, in 1998, and served there until 2003. He also served as pastor at St. John the Apostle, Virginia Beach (2003-2005); Blessed Sacrament, Harrisonburg (2005-2012); and St. Olaf, Williamsburg, since 2012.

"A big part of my ministry was multi-cultural ministry," the jubilarian said.

While serving at St. Gerard, Father Mattingly was "on-the-job learning Spanish," as the parish had recently welcomed a growing Hispanic community. He noted that the parish is traditionally African American, and there were also "a number of white parishio-

*See Father Mattingly, Page 5*



## "Perhaps Love"

Saint Mary's Catholic Church  
invites you to join us for a concert of songs  
full of love and life!

featuring:

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Dr. Charles Staples, Piano

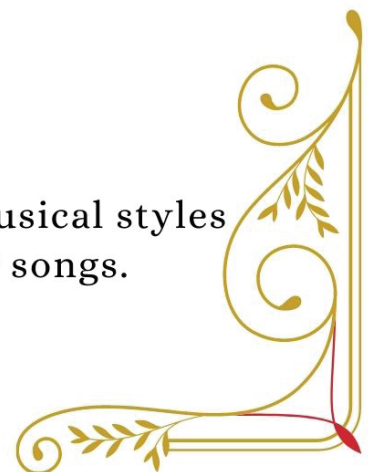
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This free concert will feature selections from a wide variety of musical styles including classical favorites, opera, Broadway, and popular songs.

A free will offering will be taken.

Please RSVP at [www.stmarysrichmond.org](http://www.stmarysrichmond.org)

Guests are invited to participate in a picnic buffet following the concert.



## Diocesan Work Camp in Wise



Diocesan Work Camp returned to southwest Virginia the week of June 19 with 70 youth, 15 chaperones, 17 contractors and nine volunteers from 18 parishes repairing the homes of those in need. Among the projects completed were roofs, ramps, handrails, porches and painting. Above: Gio Jimenez from St. Gabriel, Richmond, and Kristen Jones from St. Mary, Henrico, build a ramp in Norton. Right: Deacon David Nemetz from St. Michael, Glen Allen, guides young adults in framing porch stairs in Pound. Some of the funding for the Work Camp came through the Annual Diocesan Appeal and a Home Missions Grant. (Photos/Sarah French)

### 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

##### Pastor

**Father Rogelio Largoza**, from Caceres, Philippines, to pastor of St. Mary of the Presentation, Suffolk.

##### From Parochial Vicar to Administrator

*(Same location)*

**Benedictine Father Dominic Leo**, from parochial vicar to administrator of St. Gregory the Great, Chesapeake; replacing Benedictine Father Eric Vogt, who has returned to St. Vincent Archabbey.

##### Parochial Vicars

**Father Johnny Mintah-Mensa**, from Accra, Ghana, to parochial vicar of St. Catherine of Siena, Clarksville, St. Paschal Baylon, South Boston and Good Shepherd, South Hill.

**Father Ritche Malacas Sarabia**, from Kalibo, Philippines, to parochial vicar of Blessed Sacrament, Harrisonburg.

**Father Renier Supranes**, from Kalibo, Philippines, to parochial vicar of St. Michael the Archangel, Glen Allen.

##### Newly Ordained

**Father Dillon Bruce**, ordained on June 25, parochial vicar of St. Bridget, Richmond, effective July 1, 2022 and ending on Sept. 11, 2022, upon his return to Rome on Sept. 24, 2022, to complete his studies at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome.

**Deacon Armando Herrera-DosReis**, from studies at the Catholic University of America to serve as deacon at Blessed Sacrament, Harrisonburg, effective May 28, 2022.

### Father Mattingly

*Continued from Page 4*

ners,” so “I did a lot of experimenting on how to bring those communities together so we were not just sharing a space, but we were trying to share our lives together.”

The priest said although it was “a very stressful time” due to learning a new language and learning how to minister to different cultures, “it was very rich.” Gathering with local priests regularly and meeting with African American ministers was also “really helpful as a new priest.”

While at St. Gerard, Father Mattingly was also assigned to the VA Medical Center in Salem, where he was “under the auspices of the Military Archdiocese, serving there on a part time basis as a Catholic chaplain.”

At St. Olaf, Father Mattingly said his administrative background has helped the parish build a church and commons.

“That’s a complicated process between secular and with the diocese and various committees there, so I’m very proud of the church we’ve built here.”

#### ‘Love being a pastor’

After 25 years, Father Mattingly said of priesthood “it’s better” than he imagined it would be.

A major highlight of his life is celebrating Mass.

“I am just honored to be able to celebrate Mass almost every day,” he said. “That sense of awe of being able to serve as a priest within the Mass is amazing, and I’ve never gotten tired of it. Sometimes I just get tired, but I never tire of serving in this role. I love being a pastor.”

The jubilarian added that relationships between parishioners and between himself and parishioners are also very special.

“I love that people put trust in me, how they show they love me,” he said. “And I know it’s not just me. I know it is this connection I have as their pastor and a representative of Christ.”

For Father Mattingly, taking his vocation one day at a time has been key.

“One of the things that just overwhelms me as I look back is just how quickly it went, and I think that is common to many priests and, I imagine, married couples as well. You live it day-by-day, and yet it becomes a life,” he said. “I don’t know that there are big things that changed. The changes, for me, happened very gradually. And it is the day-by-day commitment that makes a vocation. I like to say that even the holiest lives that have ever been lived have been lived one day at a time... Our faithfulness is lived daily, and we strive and we have challenges and an overall commitment, but it takes flesh in every day.”

### VCC consistently addresses gun violence

The article “Prayers continue for an end to gun violence” (Catholic Virginian, June 27) included this statement from Deacon Chris Barrett: “I’m grateful for the work of the VCC (Virginia Catholic Conference), but they do not address gun violence, and they need to.” That statement is inaccurate.

VCC has supported state legislation to require background checks for firearm purchases for more than a decade, and thankfully this legislation was enacted by the Virginia General Assembly in 2020. The same year, the General Assembly also enacted a red flag bill, which we also supported.

We have repeatedly opposed measures – proposed numerous times in various forms – to remove current restrictions against firearms and other weapons on church and school property. We have successfully defended these restrictions and stand ready to continue doing so.

We are grateful to each person whose advocacy has helped ensure these outcomes, and to each person who took action on a recent U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ alert which we circulated and which addressed similar topics at the federal level. We will continue to explore future opportunities to advance sensible and urgently needed policies to address the tragic issue of gun violence.

We encourage everyone to join the VCC advocacy network (visit [www.vacatholic.org](http://www.vacatholic.org) and click “Join us!”) to receive alerts and updates on state and federal issues impacting life, dignity and the common good.

– **Jeff Caruso**  
Executive Director  
Virginia Catholic Conference

### Marriage preparation should not be lengthened

I strongly advise against Pope Francis’ suggestion that marriage preparation be lengthened to a yearlong catechumenate, especially adding a mandated rite of engagement (“Vatican suggests lengthier, revamped marriage prep,” Catholic Virginian, June 27).

Prolonging Roman Catholic preparation for the sacrament of marriage might increase the quality of catechesis for the couples who complete it, but it will greatly decrease the number of couples who seek a Catholic wedding. Adding to the rigor of preparation will unnecessarily delay the marriage of two well catechized young people (those mostly likely to obediently submit to the requirement), while chasing away others who will seek a civil or Christian marriage from another source.

Having a public rite of engagement will force young couples to begin their reflections of marriage in pre-Cana without the privacy and freedom to quietly end the engagement should they discover irreconcilable differences while working through the material.

There is no right age to marry nor is there a right length of marriage preparation to ensure a marriage will last. The best indication a marriage will last is two young people who believe marriage is a lifetime commitment and are determined to persevere together.

If they do not come to the altar with that fire of conviction, maybe priests should simply refuse to be a part of their marriage ceremony.

– **Jessica Drake**  
Suffolk

### Marriage preparation should apply KISS principle

I was confused by the article “Vatican suggests lengthier, revamped marriage prep” (Catholic Virginian, June 27). All members of my family, along with yours truly, found the article to be complicated, contradictory and a likely turn-off to newly engaged couples!

As to its complicated nature, consider its Flesch Reading Ease score of 28. Newspapers and the like seek a score of 70; this to better assure its readability. A complimentary “education level” assessment of this article indicates that a reader needs a 17th grade level education to readily understand it.

Although there are numerous examples of its contradictory nature, consider its title: “Vatican suggests lengthier, revamped marriage prep.” Just six paragraphs into it one reads the following: “The document is not a marriage preparation course.” If this document — “Catechumenal Itineraries for a Married Life” — is not a marriage preparation course, then what is it?

My final concern circles back to complexity. Do we really think that a yearlong program covering a mishmash of topics is appropriate for starting a marriage? Worse yet, it suggests bringing in multiple parties from outside the marriage. How will their qualifications be measured? There are other pitfalls in this approach but let’s look at just two.

First, does the Church really believe that in a world of tweets, TikTok, texting and so forth that it can sustain the interest of its target audience for an entire year?

Second, consider the acronym KISS — “keep it simple, silly.” I fail to understand how “Catechumenal Itineraries for a Married Life,” as described, comes anywhere close to embracing KISS.

– **Steve Stafford**  
Radford

### Two SCOTUS decisions are beginnings, not endpoints

Some on the left want us to think that the recent two pivotal cases decided by the Supreme Court are hypocritical. One restored rights for gun usage in New York, the other walked back the baseless “authority” of the Roe decision to claim a right to abortion.

In both our faith and our Consti-

tion, self-defense and the dignity of the human person are essential and must be upheld. Neither decision is an endpoint, but rather a beginning in reinforcing the Godly society that we must continue to build up.

– **Philip Cathell**  
Chincoteague

### Do what is good for the community

In her “Disagree with Cardinal Cupich” letter to the editor (Catholic Virginian, June 13), Beverly Trent notes that after 9/11 we did not throw away airplanes but enacted new security measures. Her point is exactly the defense of why we need more security with guns.

We learned from 9/11 that planes do not kill people but people use planes to kill people. We now have to take our shoes and belts off, not carry liquids and go through scanners to make sure that people do not use planes to kill people. It is refreshing to see that during that process I have never heard anyone crying, “You are violating my rights.” We all comply because while it may be inconvenient, it is for the good of all.

Guns do not kill people but we all know that people use guns to kill people or themselves at an alarming rate in our country. We are not asking for guns to be taken away from people, however, we are calling for new security measures to be drafted to ensure greater safety for people purchasing guns.

We know that other countries that have enacted these measures have seen a drop in suicides, domestic violence deaths and gun violence. People argue that people can kill with a rock, knife, etc. but honestly, I would rather try to survive an attack by a knife or rock than a semiautomatic gun that can shoot three shots per second.

Hopefully, we as a nation can embrace gun security measures the same way we have embraced air-plane security measures, in the spirit of doing what is good for the overall community.

– **Ellen Williams**  
Carrollton

### Let faith be your guide when voting

The presidency of President Trump, opposed covertly and overtly by all Democrats, many Republicans, and members of our Catholic hierarchy, has borne fruit for the Church regarding life. To Trump alone goes the credit for placing three constitutional, pro-life judges on the U.S. Supreme Court: Catholics Coney Barrett and Kavanaugh, and raised-Catholic Gorsuch. These three joined in voting to overturn Roe v. Wade in the 6-3 majority Dobbs v. Jackson decision.

A single businessman true to his campaign promises, not any previous career politicians with empty words, righted the court, which will ultimately save untold babies’ lives. The stark differences between Catholic Joseph Biden and much-maligned Donald Trump can no longer be swept under the rug by the mass media. All Americans are experiencing the differences.

Our country, since January 2021, is in a quick downfall regarding energy policy, government-sanctioned sexual deviancy, international diplomacy, open borders and illegal immigration, and religious freedom, to name only some.

Elections do have consequences. Catholics must obtain their news from more truthful sources than the mainstream media and cast their votes accordingly to improve the lot of all people in the City of Man, guided by the teachings of their faith.

– **John D. Stec**  
Covington

## 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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# NASA launches students' projects into space

## St. Mary School accomplishment a multi-year effort

KRISTEN L. BYRD  
Special to The Catholic Virginian

As the sun rose on Friday, June 24, students from St. Mary School, Richmond, looked to the sky as a NASA rocket launched. The shuttle hurtled into space while carrying dozens of experiments created by students, including two from St. Mary's. While the sub-orbital flight lasted only minutes, it was the culmination of years of planning, testing and teamwork.

The international Cubes in Space program works with NASA to offer students ages 11-18 the opportunity to literally let their dreams take flight. Students from 75 countries have participated in Cubes in Space, with more than 1,000 experiments blasting off so far. St. Mary's group was led by Peter Tlusty, the school's technology teacher.

Tlusty teaches STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) to all students from pre-kindergarten through eighth grade, though he adds a couple more letters to the acronym.

"I will often insert an 'R' and 'A' into STEM to make it STREAM. 'R' for religion and 'A' for art," he said. "I reflect on the Catholic Church's role in science and education. It is amazing the work done by clergy and religious orders in the early and modern ages of medicine, science and astronomy. You can say the Catholic Church started STEM."

In his class, students work on computers, 3-D printers, drones, coding and more. About 20 students participated in the Cubes in Space team, which met weekly after school and more frequently before the launch. There were countless hours spent brainstorming, designing and experimenting before the team learned they had won a spot on the rocket.

"I am certainly excited and proud when our students get this chance to 'go to space.' Not very many people can say they have had experiments travel to space on board a NASA rocket or science balloon. Several of those folks are students, not too many of those are middle school students. Our kids are in an elite group," Tlusty said.

### Rejection, then success

There is a rigorous application process teams must go through before their project can be accepted into Cubes in Space. Tlusty explained that first, the students present their idea and hypothesis for a cube experiment. If the committee likes the idea, they invite the team to write a detailed proposal for space flight.

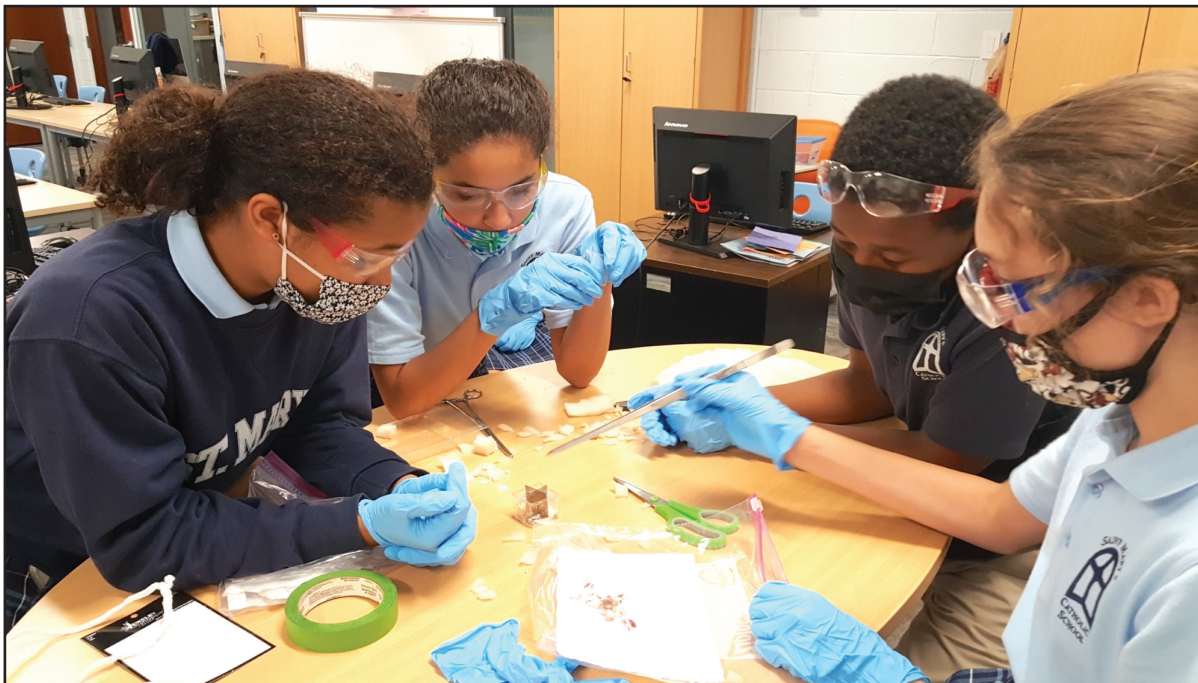
The students must address all aspects of the experiment, including design and variables. Then Cubes in Space will accept or reject the project. They may also request revisions to the proposal. Each experiment needs to fit and function inside a 4cm x 4cm cube.

Hundreds of ideas are submitted annually but only a fraction are accepted. Though St. Mary's had two accepted for this launch, they have received multiple rejections in the past.

"Sometimes rejection is pretty hard, but you have to pick yourself up, make adjustments, and learn from it to do better next go. Our students are good at that!," said Tlusty.

Rejection isn't the only setback the team has faced. COVID greatly affected the program, canceling the launch in 2020 and forcing the team to meet virtually. While the concepts of their cubes were penned before the pandemic hit, it wasn't until years later that the projects finally got to be launched.

Last year, 80 cubes were lost in shipping en route to the launch, including the ones from St.



Above: St. Mary School students Sophia Dugger, Lourdes Olivencia, Chase Green and Alexa Bandy pack the one of the cubes NASA sent into space as part of its Cubes in Space program. The packaging consisted of foam and glass, which are pieces of Christmas tree ornaments. Left: Peter Tlusty, STEM teacher at the Henrico school, opens one of the Cubes in Space canisters to retrieve experiments after the launch and rocket retrieval at the NASA Wallops Flight Facility.

(Photos provided)

Mary's. The team had to completely rebuild the experiments for this year.

Tlusty said a silver lining of this is the team was able to reconfigure and improve upon the original designs. This year, the cubes were hand-delivered.

### Interest in STEM

Ana Reveles Leon, who worked on the cube in the beginning, is now a rising junior at The Steward School in Richmond.

Leon has been interested in STEM studies since childhood.

"I have always been drawn to STEM," she said "I have been curious about how the world works and the principles behind gravity, space, etc. Rockets in general and aerospace have always had a special place in my heart."

The cube experiment she worked on centered on springs. Leon was intrigued by springs because they are capable of being stretched to the point of deformation.

Tlusty explained that the goal of the cube was to engineer a simple accelerometer to measure forces mechanically without the use of electricity or computer chips. The experiment used hand-wound copper wire and lead fishing weights to observe the effects of different Gs on the springs. In traveling 100 miles into space, the rocket experienced 19Gs at lift off, 7Gs during the flight, and 10Gs coming back to Earth with the parachute. The experiment proved successful as the springs did stretch and change shape in response to the Gs felt.

### Commitment, dedication

The other experiment sought to find the best method of protecting fragile payload from the intense G-forces rockets experience during their rough rides. A G or g-force is a measurement of acceleration or deceleration, a change in speed over time. A sounding rocket gets going fast in a few seconds, thus producing 19 Gs.

The team experimented with foam, bubble wrap, and polyfill stuffing (found in teddy bears) to ascertain which was best at protecting glass. It turned out that the same material that makes teddy bears so cuddly was also successful at keeping glass secure.

Rising eighth grader Lourdes Olivencia, who serves as team captain, explained why this experiment would be useful to NASA.

"If we can protect a delicate object from breaking during a forceful rocket launch, then we can apply that knowledge to protecting other delicate or sensitive equipment that would travel on rockets," she said.

Olivencia was tasked with writing the proposal, later making more than a dozen revisions. She also helped manage the team to make sure each individual's skillsets were being utilized.

"If I wasn't as interested in Cubes in Space then I wouldn't have put my whole heart and soul into it," she said. "The commitment and dedication I saw not just from me but also from the team was truly worth it when I looked back on the whole process."

See NASA, Page 12

# Free will must be used for the common good



IN LIGHT OF FAITH  
BARBARA HUGHES

Changing the human heart requires more than changing laws. Therefore, it should come as no surprise that overturning Roe v. Wade has not silenced its opponents.

We've been created in the image and likeness of God, but the tendency to create God according to our own image is nothing new. Ridding our country of the unwanted or of those considered undesirable has a lengthy history, which began with the advent of eugenics in the United States.

The Eugenics Society argued that those who had physical or mental disabilities, the poor and criminals should be separated, alienated, institutionalized, sterilized or eliminated. The group actually served as an example for Adolph Hitler who looked to them for a model.

Perhaps even more shocking is the fact that when Hitler's draconian philosophy began to take hold, the Eugenics Society in the United States not only praised his success, but they lamented the fact that he was more successful than they were.

Some might find it unthink-

able to compare Hitler with those who advocate for abortion, but one might ask: Is there really a distinction to be made between the undesirable and the unwanted if the result is to eliminate them?

Lamenting the travesty of abortion, Mother Teresa of Calcutta decried the practice, noting that if a mother can kill her own child, anyone can be killed. We see this over and over with the rising tide of violence in our streets and even in our schools.

Pro-choice groups insist that it's a woman's right to have control over her own body, but it's not just her body that is impacted when abortion takes place. As with the poor and disabled, the voice of the one whose life is at stake is dismissed or permanently silenced.

Jesus told us that the second greatest commandment is to love our neighbor as our self. Could there be any neighbor closer than the one that lives inside a mother's womb? Carrying an infant to full term may alter the plans of the mother, but when weighed against eliminating the life of another human being, there is no moral equivalent that can justify taking the life of another. This is the reason why the Church considers capital punishment morally unjustifiable, but our soul searching cannot stop there.

Videos documenting the death and destruction in Ukraine raise questions about the endless appropriation of funds for weaponry. When is enough too much? When we consider the ongoing destruction of life and property, the words of Pope St. John Paul II: "There are no winners in war" ring true. His words are more than naïve and wishful thinking, they are prophetic and should be regarded as such.

Jesus' message to turn the other cheek and to pray for our enemies remains unheeded. For many it seems that Jesus' teachings have little to do with the world in which we live, but nothing could be further from the truth.

More than an ideology that is impossible to live, Jesus offered us real and viable solutions that transcend time and culture. However, until we accept Jesus' teachings at face value and are willing to live the Gospel without compromise, peace and reconciliation will continue to elude us.

We can point to saints like Francis of Assisi, Ignatius Loyola and Martin of Tours who gave up military careers after their conversion, but there are also saints like Joan of Arc, George, and Sebastian who became saints despite their military service.

There is also Father Emil Kapun, the Army chaplain whose

cause for sainthood began in 1993. This should remind us that only God knows what takes place in the deepest center of a person's soul. It's not for us to judge individuals, but we are all called to take a stand against systems and ideologies that promote evil.

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "The fifth commandment forbids the intentional destruction of human life. Because of the evils and injustices that accompany all war, the Church insistently urges everyone to prayer and action so that the divine Goodness may free us from the ancient bondage of war. All citizens and all governments are obliged to work for the avoidance of war" (CCC 2307-2308). This is especially true when nuclear weapons are an ongoing threat.

God gave us free will and he will not rescind it. It is an awesome responsibility entrusted to us for the common good. Therefore, let us not take it upon ourselves to shorten the life of another, for we never know when prayer and God's grace will change someone's heart and ultimately change the world.

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

## Invest time in praying Liturgy of the Hours



BELIEVE AS  
YOU PRAY  
MSGR. TIMOTHY KEENEY

Jesus' response to Martha seems very pertinent to us today. "[Insert your name, and insert your name again], you are anxious and worried about many things." We fill up our lives with appointments and noise, and even our quiet moments are not that quiet. We are connected to phones and devices to constantly be in touch with whomever is texting, poking or whatever the terminology is for the on-line version of communication that we use.

Why did Jesus say that Mary had chosen the better part? It was because Mary was giving one of the most valuable gifts we have to give — the gift of time, our time. Time is God's gift to us, and how we spend our gift determines our lives.

Our time is limited, and it is meant to be used intentionally. It is one of the most precious things that we can give to another. It is the only thing we can give that really allows a loving relationship to grow.

One of the greatest tragedies is to throw away this valuable, limited gift, and it is

almost an equal tragedy to waste this gift on that which is passing and of limited value. Mary, in giving her time to Jesus, is choosing to allow him to consecrate her entire life.

So, how do we begin a different way of marking time intentionally, and intentionally giving Jesus our time. As a Church we have a whole liturgy that is marked by time. It is the Liturgy of the Hours. Traditionally, it is marked by the great bells of the day, morning and evening prayer. The other hours are prayed during the day and at night. The Office of Readings is usually prayed first thing in the morning but can be prayed at any time during the day.

### Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C

**Gn 18:1-10a**

**Ps 15: 2-3, 3-4,5**

**Col 1:24-28**

**Lk 10:38-42**

The bulk of the Liturgy of the Hours is made up of Scripture, especially the psalms and canticles. Many people are intimidated to pray it because they thought it was only something that priests and nuns prayed. Or if they tried it, they became confused with all the ribbons in the book and all the page turning you had to do to celebrate the hours. When I gave one young man who is now a priest of our diocese his first set of the Liturgy of the Hours, he said it read like stereo instructions.

But marking the hours of the day with prayer is an ancient and valuable custom. The majority of the prayers in it are prayers

that Jesus himself prayed and probably knew by heart. Praying the hours opens us up to praying with people throughout the world and throughout time through every human emotion, desire and aspiration.

There is a new vehicle being published by Word on Fire ([www.wordonfire.org/pray](http://www.wordonfire.org/pray)), the initiative of Bishop Robert Barron. It is simply called the Liturgy of the Hours. It includes Morning Prayer, Evening Pray and Night Prayer. There are no ribbons; everything you need is together. Morning and Evening Prayer take about seven to eight minutes to pray, and night prayer takes about five minutes.

This is not an infomercial, but encouragement to consider an affordable way to begin spending time with Jesus. Try just one of the hours. Stay faithful to that one prayer time. Later you might want to add a second hour and then a third. Try praying one of the hours as a family. St. Pope Paul VI called the Liturgy of the Hours the highest form of family prayer.

The whole purpose of the Liturgy of the Hours is that in spending those small amount of minutes with Jesus each day, we make him a part of every minute of our lives.

*Msgr. Timothy Keeney is pastor of Incarnation, Charlottesville.*



# Women

Continued from Page 1

the pope, who makes the final decision.

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin of Newark, New Jersey, who has been a member of the dicastery since March 2021, told Catholic News Service, "The dicastery serves the Church by assisting the discernment of the Holy Father regarding the appointment of bishops. I would welcome the presence of women and other laity who could enrich significantly that discernment."

"As a member of the Council for the Economy, a body of the Roman Curia that includes eight cardinals and seven non-ordained people — six of whom are women — I can testify that the faith, experience and expertise of the lay members are real gifts to the governance of the Church," Cardinal Tobin said.

Pope Francis did not give Reuters the names of the women he intends to name to the dicastery, nor did he say when they would be announced.

The pope's new apostolic constitution on the Roman Curia said, "The dicastery deals with all matters concerning the appointment of diocesan and titular bishops, apostolic administrators and, in general, the provision of the particular Churches. It does so by considering the proposals presented by the particular Churches, the episcopal conferences and the papal representations, and after having consulted the executive officers of the respective episcopal conference and the metropolitan (archbishop)."

"In appropriate ways, it also engages in this process the members of the people of God of the dioceses in question," the document added.

While the constitution opened almost all roles in the Roman Curia to lay men and women, it also reserved a special place for cardinals as the members of dicasteries.

"The members of curial institutions are appointed from among the cardinals living in Rome or outside the city, to whom are added some bishops, especially diocesan or eparchial ones, insofar as they have expertise in the particular matters involved," it said. "Depending on the nature of the dicastery, priests, deacons, those in institutes of consecrated life and societies of apostolic life and lay faithful may also be appointed members."

"I am open to giving (women) an opportunity" to lead Vatican offices, the pope told Reuters. "There is now a woman deputy governor" of Vatican City State, Sister Raffaella Petrini, a member of the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist, whom he appointed in November.

"As heads of dicasteries," the pope continued, it is possible that women could lead the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life, the Dicastery for Culture and Education or the Vatican Library, "which is almost a dicastery."

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## SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for July 17, 2022

Luke 10:38-42

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C: Jesus visits in Bethany. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

|              |          |           |
|--------------|----------|-----------|
| JESUS        | VILLAGE  | BETHANY   |
| WOMAN        | CALLED   | MARTHA    |
| WELCOMED HIM | SISTER   | MARY      |
| WHO SAT      | LISTENED | BURDENED  |
| SERVING      | LORD     | BY MYSELF |
| ANXIOUS      | WORRIED  | MANY      |
| CHOSEN       | BETTER   | FROM HER  |

### ANXIOUS

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A Y L I O W A H T R A M
E D J O S N A M O W I A
F R R N A U X A I H R R
B Y J O H C S P D O E Y
Y N G T L W K E D S H B
M A N Y U I M P J A M U
Y H I C H O S E N T O R
S T V A C B E T T E R D
E E R L S I S T E R F E
L B E L S U O I X N A N
F W S E V I L L A G E E
B C D D I W O R R I E D

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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 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 and maintain content for The Catholic Virginian website and other digital platforms.

**Qualifications:** 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. 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>.

**St. Mary Catholic Church, Henrico,** seeks a Coordinator of Adult Formation to collaborate with the pastor, staff members and lay leaders in the development and implementation of adult faith formation and discipleship opportunities for members of the parish community. The Coordinator of Adult Formation is responsible for the planning and coordination of Bible study programs, adult faith formation sessions, retreats for women and men, and the development of leadership for small faith sharing groups. This part-time position encompasses 25 hours per week, including some evening and weekend hours.

The ideal candidate is a practicing Catholic who holds a bachelor's degree in theology, religious studies or related field. Demonstrated ministerial experience in a Catholic parish is also preferred. Candidates should possess

basic skills in word processing, data base management, communication and volunteer coordination. Position is available starting July 15, 2022. If you have questions or wish to receive the full job description, contact Heather Heishman at [hheishman@stmarysrichmond.org](mailto:hheishman@stmarysrichmond.org).

**To apply:** Send cover letter, résumé and completed diocesan application to Heather Heishman at [hheishman@stmarysrichmond.org](mailto:hheishman@stmarysrichmond.org).

**Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church** is seeking a skilled bookkeeper to join its vibrant parish staff. The bookkeeper will work under the direction of the pastor. The responsibilities of the bookkeeper position will include accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll and financial statements. The bookkeeper assists in preparing the annual budget and prepares and clarifies monthly reports for the parish finance council and, as needed, to the diocese. This position requires knowledge of accounting principles, as well as a degree in accounting with three or more years' experience. A minimum of 30 hours per week is required for this position, with the potential for expanded hours. Salary and benefits are competitive. The ideal candidate will be detail oriented and organized so as to meet monthly deadlines. Interested parties are asked to send a cover letter and résumé to Father Silvio Kaberia, Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 154 N. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22802 or [pastor@bsccva.com](mailto:pastor@bsccva.com).

**St. Pius X Catholic Church and School, Norfolk,** are seeking a facilities maintenance manager to work with the pastor, principal and parish and school staff in the development and management of building operations (including HVAC, mechanical, plumbing, electrical and safety/energy systems); capital improvement planning; asset replenishment; and buildings and grounds maintenance. The facilities manager is responsible for ensuring applicable diocesan and facilities policies and standards are implemented by the parish and school, including property and risk management policies. The facilities manager oversees the building, grounds and maintenance for the St. Pius X campus, which includes the parish, school, convent and rectory (priest's residence). This position is regular full-time, 35 hours a week. The facilities maintenance manager maintains regular office hours Monday through Friday except when church business necessitates time away. The position, at the discretion of the pastor, may require the presence of the manager on evenings and weekends. The ideal candidate holds a bachelor's degree in engineering, business administration, facilities management or related field; designation as facilities manager professional (FMP) or certified facility manager (CFM) is desirable; working knowledge of contract negotiations, facilities and maintenance

management (including dedicated HVAC systems), workplace safety and security, and purchasing procedures is required; possesses initiative, self-direction, leadership abilities in planning, administration and volunteer management. If you have questions or wish to receive the full job description, please email the pastor, Father Sean Prince, at [pastor@spxnorfolk.org](mailto:pastor@spxnorfolk.org). To apply, please send a cover letter, résumé and completed diocesan application (accessible at <https://bit.ly/3pSfKZm>) to Father Sean Prince, pastor, via email to [pastor@spxnorfolk.org](mailto:pastor@spxnorfolk.org).

**Star of the Sea Parish, Virginia Beach,** is seeking a full-time (36 hours/week) music coordinator. The music coordinator will collaborate with the pastor and other staff members in implementing and providing music for all parish liturgies and other parish celebrations. Must work well with others to plan, evaluate and set objectives, with the specific focus on music. They will recruit and schedule musicians for all Sunday and other major liturgical celebrations. They will plan and organize appropriate music for Sunday and seasonal liturgical celebrations with the pastor and those involved with liturgy. They will also recruit, train and support the instrumentalists, choir members and cantors, while scheduling and holding rehearsals. Assist parishioners needing music for weddings and funerals. They will develop and maintain a list of instrumentalists, organists and cantors available to assist with weddings and funerals. Will work within their budget, help prepare the budget and monitor the authorized expenses to ensure keeping in line with the budget. Must maintain a level of knowledge and skills required for the ministry, through music lessons, reading and attending workshops and conventions. They also participate in regional, diocesan and national professional organizations, as approved and appropriate. Qualifications include being a Roman Catholic participating in regular worship. A degree in music is preferred or equivalent education and experience. Has a developed skill in at least one musical instrument. Demonstrates good organizational skills and has good volunteer leadership skills. Has knowledge of computer skills especially with music software. Please contact Father Steve DeLeon at [frsteve@staroftheseaparish.com](mailto:frsteve@staroftheseaparish.com) to apply.

**St. Gabriel Catholic Church** has openings for the following positions:  
**Music coordinator** (25-hour-per-week, part-time position) to facilitate and plan the music for all liturgies. The ideal candidate must possess a solid understanding of Catholic liturgy; knowledge of liturgical music in a variety of styles, leadership skills to enable vocal training with the cantors, and the ability to work in cooperation with and under the direction of the pastor. Keyboard or guitar proficiency is preferred. The ability to play the keyboard, piano and/or guitar is a plus. A degree in music is preferred but not

required. In addition to coordination of the cantors, musicians and choirs, this position will help coordinate holy day, wedding, funeral and other special occasion music. Strong computer skills a must. Must be a Roman Catholic in good standing. Salary is in accordance with diocesan scale.

**Education and/or certification:** Degree in music performances and composition or equivalent education is preferred.

**Experience:** Three to five years' liturgical music experience. Strong knowledge and appreciation of Catholic liturgy.

**Children's formation coordinator.** This position is responsible for overseeing the faith formation program for pre-school through grade 5, children's preparation for first reconciliation and first Eucharist and Vacation Bible School.

**Qualifications:** Candidate must be a practicing Catholic in good standing. Possess an undergraduate degree in theology, ministry, religious education or equivalent. Excellent people skills, outstanding computer skills and the ability to maintain confidentiality. This is a 25-hour-per-week, part-time position with regular weekend events and occasional evening meetings. Office days are Tuesday through Friday.

**To apply for either position,** please send a résumé and diocesan application to: Therese Venti, 8901 Winterpock Road, Chesterfield, VA 23832; fax 804-639-6591 or [therese.venti@saintgabriel.org](mailto:therese.venti@saintgabriel.org).

## SHORT TAKES

**Sacred Heart/St. Augustine School Reunion,** Saturday, Aug. 27, 1400 Perry St., Richmond. Mass, 4 p.m., Sacred Heart Church. 5 p.m. potluck meal and fellowship in the old school building. Bring any pictures or items you have saved over the years. Tour the building to bring back memories. RSVP to Sharon (Craig) Pierce for details and potluck sign-up. [spierce742@gmail.com](mailto:spierce742@gmail.com) or 804-279-0838 and leave a message. Volunteers are needed to help.

**All are welcome to join** Msgr. Patrick Golden on a pilgrimage to Scotland and Ireland, May 16-28, 2023, for a profoundly moving spiritual experience. This is a 13-day tour for \$4,899 includes airfare, 4-star hotels, daily Mass, local tours, breakfast and dinner, and much more! Some places on the itinerary include Blarney Castle, The Ring of Kerry, Knock, where Our Blessed Mother appeared in 1879, and Dublin. In Dublin, one can admire the 9th-century Book of Kells, one of the most famous medieval manuscripts. The tour moves to Edinburgh, which will serve as a base for trips outside the city to explore Scottish history and natural beauty. Reservations are available now. Spaces are limited. For further information, please contact Alba Kim at [tours@albastours.com](mailto:tours@albastours.com) or 804-298-4035. Visit our website [albastours.com](http://albastours.com).

# Palabras del Papa Francisco sobre la vida

**E**n sus nueve años de Pontificado, Francisco ha pronunciado palabras muy claras sobre la defensa de la vida por nacer que, según él, está ligada a la defensa de cualquier derecho humano. La vida, observa, debe defenderse siempre: la de los no nacidos, así como la de los ancianos y los enfermos o la de quienes corren el riesgo de morir de hambre o en el trabajo o en los barcos de emigrantes

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO

La Iglesia defiende la vida, especialmente la de los que no tienen voz. En la Iglesia -recuerda el Papa en la "Evangelii Gaudium"- hay un signo que nunca debe faltar: "la opción por los últimos, por aquellos que la sociedad descarta y desecha" (EG 195). Es la atención preferente a los más débiles.

## Del lado de los más débiles y de los derechos humanos

Entre estos más débiles, de los que la Iglesia quiere ocuparse con predilección -subraya Francisco-, están también los niños no nacidos, que son los más indefensos e inocentes de todos, a los que hoy se quiere negar su dignidad humana para poder hacer con ellos lo que se quiera, quitándoles la vida y promoviendo una legislación para que nadie pueda impedirlo". Con frecuencia, para ridiculizar alegremente la defensa de la vida de los no nacidos por parte de la Iglesia, se hace presentar su posición como algo ideológico, oscurantista y conservador. Sin embargo, esta defensa de la vida por nacer está íntimamente ligada a la defensa de cualquier derecho humano. Supone la convicción de que el ser humano es siempre sagrado e inviolable, en cualquier situación y en cualquier etapa de su desarrollo. Es un fin en sí mismo y nunca un medio para resolver otras dificultades. Si esta convicción cae, no queda ningún fundamento sólido y permanente para la defensa de los derechos humanos, que estarían siempre sujetos a las conveniencias contingentes de los poderosos" (EG 213).

## No es progresista eliminar una vida humana

El Papa Francisco tiene palabras claras: "No se debe esperar que la Iglesia cambie su posición en este tema. Quiero ser completamente honesto al respecto. No es un tema que esté sujeto a supuestas reformas o "modernización". No es progresista pretender resolver los problemas eliminando una vida humana. Pero también es cierto que hemos hecho poco para acompañar adecuadamente a las mujeres que se encuentran en situaciones muy difíciles, en las que el aborto se les presenta como una solución rápida a sus profundas angustias, especialmente cuando la vida que crece en ellas ha surgido como consecuencia de la violencia o en un contexto de extrema pobreza. ¿Quién puede dejar de entender situaciones tan dolorosas?" (EG 214). El Papa tiene palabras muy fuertes: el aborto "es un crimen". Es eliminar uno para salvar otro. Es lo que hace la mafia" (Conferencia de prensa durante el vuelo de regreso de México, 17 de febrero de 2016). "Es como contratar a un sicario para resolver un problema" (Audiencia General, 10 de octubre de 2018).

El Papa ha dicho muchas veces que el problema del aborto "no es un problema religioso: no estamos en contra del aborto por la religión. No. Es un problema humano" (Conferencia de prensa durante el vuelo de regreso de Dublín, 26 de agosto de 2018). Explica: "El aborto es un asesinato. Aborto... sin medias



El Papa Francisco preside la misa para la comunidad congoleña en Roma en la Basilica de San Pedro en el Vaticano el 3 de julio de 2022. (Foto CNS/Remo Casilli, Reuters)

tintas: quien aborta, mata. Coge cualquier libro de embriología, de los que se estudian en las facultades de medicina. La tercera semana después de la concepción, muchas veces antes de que la madre se dé cuenta, ya están todos los órganos, todos, incluso el ADN. ¿No es eso una persona? Es una vida humana, y punto. Y esta vida humana debe ser respetada (...) Científicamente es una vida humana. Los libros nos enseñan. Pregunto: ¿es correcto suprimirlo, para resolver un problema? Por eso la Iglesia es tan dura en este tema, porque si acepta esto, es como si aceptara el asesinato diario" (Conferencia de prensa durante el vuelo de regreso de Bratislava, 15 de septiembre de 2021).

## Los pequeños lanzados por los espartanos

De niño, en la escuela", recuerda el Papa, "nos enseñaban la historia de los espartanos. Siempre me llamó la atención lo que nos contaba la maestra, que cuando nacía un niño o niña con malformaciones, lo llevaban a la cima de la montaña y lo tiraban para abajo, para que no hubiera estos pequeños. Los niños decíamos: "¡Qué crueldad!". Hermanos y hermanas, hacemos lo mismo, con más crueldad, con más ciencia. Lo que no se necesita, lo que no produce, debe desecharse. Esta es la cultura del descarte, hoy no se quiere a los pequeños" (Homilía en San Giovanni Rotondo, 17 de marzo de 2018).

## Defendiendo cada vida, siempre

Francisco recuerda que estar del lado de la vida no significa cuidarla sólo al principio o al final, sino que significa defenderla siempre: "El grado de progreso de una civilización se mide precisamente por su capacidad de preservar la vida, especialmente en sus fases más frágiles, más que por la difusión de instrumentos tecnológicos. Cuando hablamos del hombre, no olvidemos nunca todos los ataques a la sacralidad de la vida humana. Abortar es un atentado contra la vida. Es un atentado contra la vida dejar que nuestros hermanos y hermanas mueran en las barcazas del canal de Sicilia. Es un atentado contra la vida cuando las personas

mueren en el trabajo porque no se respetan las condiciones mínimas de seguridad. Morir de desnutrición es un atentado contra la vida. Un ataque a la vida es el terrorismo, la guerra, la violencia; pero también la eutanasia. Amar la vida es siempre cuidar a los demás, querer su bien, cultivar y respetar su dignidad trascendente" (Discurso a los participantes en el encuentro promovido por la Asociación Ciencia y Vida, 30 de mayo de 2015).

## La misericordia es para todos

El Papa subraya el drama que viven las mujeres y a quienes le acusan de no tener misericordia les responde lo siguiente: "El mensaje de la misericordia es para todos, también para la persona humana que está en gestación. Es para todos. Después de este fracaso, también hay misericordia, pero una misericordia difícil, porque el problema no está en dar el perdón, el problema está en acompañar a una mujer que ha tomado conciencia de que ha abortado. Estos son dramas terribles. Una vez oí a un médico hablar de una teoría según la cual -no recuerdo bien...- una célula del feto recién concebido va a la médula de la madre y allí hay una memoria física. Esto es una teoría, pero decir: cuando una mujer piensa en lo que ha hecho... te digo la verdad: hay que estar en el confesionario, y allí hay que dar consuelo, no castigar nada. Por eso he abierto la facultad de absolver [del pecado de] aborto por misericordia, porque muchas veces -pero siempre- deben encontrarse con el niño. Y les aconsejo, muchas veces, cuando lloran y tienen esa angustia: "Tu hijo está en el cielo, háblale, cántale la nana que no le cantaste, que no pudiste cantarle". Y ahí está una vía de reconciliación de la madre con su hijo. Con Dios ya lo hay: es el perdón de Dios. Dios siempre perdona. Pero la misericordia también es para ella [la mujer] para procesar esto. El drama del aborto. Para entenderlo bien, hay que estar en un confesionario. Es terrible" (Conferencia de prensa durante el vuelo de regreso de Panamá, 28 de enero de 2019).

# Seton shrine breaks ground for museum, visitor center

EMMITSBURG, Md. (CNS) — When the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg opens its \$4 million museum and visitors center next year, it will be a milestone for those with a deep devotion to America's first native-born saint. But for the sisters who trace their lineages back to Mother Seton, it will be an especially poignant moment — especially as pilgrims enter through the grand provincial entrance that so many of their predecessors used.

“Our sisters are very excited,” said Sister Mary Catherine Norris, provincial of the Daughters of Charity’s Province of St. Louise and a member of the shrine’s board of directors. “They’re excited to have the space utilized in such a way that they will see the pilgrims coming and going and have opportunities to interact with people, which we think will be lovely.”

The sisters are “happy to have folks come and share in the legacy of Mother Seton,” she added.

The shrine broke ground June 24 for a yearlong project to renovate and relocate the museum and visitor center. The work will begin this fall with completion scheduled for fall 2023.

The modernized museum will bring state-of-the-art and interactive techniques to tell Mother Seton’s life story, from childhood to sainthood, and strengthen devotion to Mother Seton and spread “her message of faith, hope and perseverance in the face of adversity,” said a news release.

## NASA

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### Guided by faith

While the process could be stressful at times, the team relied upon their school community, family and faith for support. They also see Cubes in Space as an opportunity to share the gifts with which they were blessed.

Rising eighth-grader Sophia Duggar said, “My faith has guided me to fun things like this. I’m using my talent that God has given me to put forward into my projects.”

Olivencia added, “My Catholic faith has guided me by showing me that I can rely on God to put me in the right place and on the right path.”

The team credits much of its successful journey, both literally and figuratively, to *Plucky’s* tutelage.

“Mr. *Plucky* is a one of a kind teacher. He opened countless doors and made the whole process fun,” said Leon. “Every step of the way, I was excited. He helped us research, get and choose the materials, set up everything, and was overall an amazing mentor. I would not be where I am right now without his support. In the future I look forward to studying aerospace engineering, all because of his teaching and support.”

## Outreach in Richmond



Natalie Yago, a member of St. Anthony Maronite Church, Glen Allen, helps to cut stringers for a staircase that she and her father, Chris Yago, built to replace stairs at Boaz & Ruth, a Richmond agency that aims to rebuild lives and communities through relations, jobs and economic revitalization. They were among the 150 volunteers from throughout the United States participating in the June 19-24 Catholic Heart Workcamp — one of Bon Secours Virginia Health System’s community wellness and revitalization initiatives in the Richmond area.

(Photo provided)

## EMMAUS JOURNEY RETREAT

August 13, 2022  
Our Lady of Mount Carmel

A faith-based, day-long, spiritual retreat for grieving parents offered by a team which includes grieving parents, spiritual directors, priests, deacons, and parish leaders



Learn more and register at:  
[EvangelizeRichmond.org/Events/EmmausRetreat](https://EvangelizeRichmond.org/Events/EmmausRetreat)

## Victim-Survivor Support Group Meetings

The Office of Safe Environment will be hosting Support Group meetings on **Wednesdays, July 13 and July 27 at 6:30 p.m. at the Meyera E. Obendorf Central Library**, in Virginia Beach. All victim-survivors of sexual abuse by clergy residing in the Catholic Diocese of Richmond are welcome to participate. Spouses or other support persons are also welcome. This will be an ongoing initiative by the Diocese of Richmond to encourage victim-survivors and their families to share personal experiences, feelings and coping strategies. Light refreshments will be provided. If you have any questions, please contact the Victim Assistance Coordinator, Karen Loper, at (877) 887-9603 or by email at [vac@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:vac@richmonddiocese.org). Those unable to attend in person may join virtually with link below:

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://richmonddiocese.zoom.us/j/99322958674>  
Meeting ID: 993 2295 8674

