



# The Catholic Virginian

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## NY cardinal commits to helping migrants

### 'Welcome with the eyes of Jesus'

NEW YORK (CNS) — The Catholic Church's perspective on the needs of migrant families arriving in New York City on buses from Texas is to see them "with the eyes of Jesus," Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan told reporters at a news briefing Aug. 16.

"He's the one who said to us, 'When I was a stranger ... an immigrant, you welcomed me,'" the cardinal said.

"Our perspective is not the political perspective" others may have about what has led to huge numbers of asylum-seekers from dozens of countries crossing into the United States from Mexico, he said. "Our perspective is to help them ... (with) a sense of honor that we are able to help these people in whom we see the face of God."

Before the briefing, Cardinal Dolan and Msgr. Kevin Sullivan, executive director of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York, met privately with several individuals and families who had arrived in recent days on buses sent by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott.

More than 6,000 migrants have been bused to the city to date and Catholic Charities of the New York Archdiocese has assisted 1,500 migrants.

Abbott said Texas "has had to take unprecedented action to keep our communities safe" due to "President (Joe) Biden's continued refusal to acknowledge the crisis caused by his open-border policies."

New York Mayor Eric Adams has called the transportation of migrants to New York "horrific" and accused Abbott of using migrants as a political tool. Adams

announced the city will house hundreds of them in a Times Square hotel.

These migrants are seeking "safety, protection and opportunity" in the U.S., Msgr. Sullivan said.

Catholic Charities has been "steadfast in accompanying immigrants and refugees for over a century," and serving these asylum-seekers who "suddenly and unexpectedly arrive at our doorstep" is no different, he added.

The agency's "dedicated staff" is treating them with "respect, compassion, dignity and professionalism," the priest said.

Catholic Charities and its partners are helping the newly arrived with food, clothing and information about city services such as shelters, as well as providing them with the assistance of immigration attorneys.

Msgr. Sullivan said the agency's business partners, Catholic philanthropic groups and city officials have stepped up and responded generously to help. He recognized in particular city officials, who he said have "never shirked from accepting responsibility to provide shelter ... even though this surge is unprecedented." The priest said the archdiocese and Catholic Charities "continue to look forward to working with New York City as a reception center is established to help these new New Yorkers."

The center, expected to open Aug. 25, will be set up by the city, and Catholic Charities and other nonprofits will provide migrants information and services "to help them make it in our city," he said.

Msgr. Sullivan acknowledged

*See Welcome, Page 2*



A demonstrator shouts at police during protests demanding that the government of Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry do more to address gang violence, including constant kidnappings, in Port-au-Prince March 29, 2022. A coalition of religious orders working at the United Nations has written to U.N. officials, asking them to address the reign of terror of armed gangs they described as "diabolical, frightening and unacceptable." (CNS photo/Ralph Tedy Erol, Reuters)

## Religious coalition seeks UN help to end violence in Haiti

NEW YORK (CNS) — A coalition of religious nongovernmental organizations with consultative status at the United Nations has written to U.N. officials, asking them to address the reign of terror of armed gangs in Haiti that they described as "diabolical, frightening and unacceptable."

The same gangs are responsible for nearly four kidnappings a day in 2022 and violence that killed more than 200 and forced 3,000 to flee their homes during July alone.

In an Aug. 4 letter to Najat Maalla M'jid, U.N. special rapporteur on violence against children, and 29 other U.N. officials — special rapporteurs and representatives — the Justice Coalition of Religious urged the international community "to respond swiftly and effectively to the atrocities occurring in Haiti."

The letter and accompanying testimonies were not made public, but copies were obtained by Catho-

lic News Service. In one testimony, Passionist Father Rick Frechette, a doctor in Port-au-Prince, described the situation on the streets of Port-au-Prince as "Somalia-type battles."

The coalition letter noted that the "Haitian state has failed in its sovereign obligation to protect the population."

In a follow-up letter with Catholic News Service, Annemarie O'Connor, representing the coalition, noted that the coalition was not diverging from a late-July statement from the Haitian bishops' conference, which said state authority must be restored and that the government must take immediate action to "disarm the gangs, to allow the police to tackle violent crime and create a climate of serenity and confidence."

"We agree that authority must be restored and that gangs must be disarmed. Indeed, we cited the arms

*See Help, Page 2*

The Catholic Virginian  
7800 Carousell Lane  
Richmond, VA 23294

### Inside This Edition

Pro-life Catholic education in post-Roe America  
Page 6

How to deepen your faith while reading  
Page 7

When God calls the least likely  
Page 8

## Vatican concerned about those 'hyperconnected' in digital world

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Good journalism has to be creative and promote communication that focuses on dialogue, intelligence and helping build active communities, said the prefect of the Vatican Dicastery for Communication.

Paolo Ruffini, the prefect, said the challenge of good journalism is to find new ways for a new kind of communication by "focusing on dialogue rather than on marketing of ideas, on intelligence as a moral category rather than on fanatical moralism of the crowd."

"This calls for creativity, capable of reaching people where they are living, finding opportunities for listening, dialogue and encounter. We need to return to the simplicity and enthusiasm of the Acts of the Apostles," he said in his talk Aug. 16 to members of Signis, the World Catholic Association for Communication.

The Signis World Congress was taking place online and in-person in Seoul, South Korea, Aug. 15-18, with the theme, "Peace in the Digital World." Vatican News published excerpts of Ruffini's talk Aug. 16.

Ruffini reminded his audience that Pope Francis commented on some of the problems with social media in

his message for the 2019 World Day of Social Communications. He said, quoting the pope, how these networks are not automatically synonymous with a healthy community; too often, their identity is "based on opposition to the other, the person outside the group."

Too often "we define ourselves starting with what divides us rather than what unites us, giving rise to suspicion and to the venting of every kind of prejudice" and "what ought to be a window on the world becomes a showcase for exhibiting personal narcissism," he said, citing the pope.

The paradox of today, he said, is that "we are hyperconnected and also alone." The problem arises "when there is no longer communication, but only connection."

"We need to question ourselves, to make a personal and collective examination of conscience," he said, as well as to seek answers to such questions like, "How is it possible to be simultaneously hyperconnected and terribly alone? What is missing from our connection that can bridge this loneliness, and that is strong enough to endure over time?"

## Welcome

*Continued from Page 1*

some have expressed frustration over this migrant surge, "but there is pride in being a New Yorker and stepping up to the plate. And there is hope, too, that with a little bit of help, these individuals and families will contribute to the vibrancy of New York."

Jennifer, an asylum-seeker from Venezuela, told reporters she was "thankful to God" for the help she has received from Catholic Charities, including legal assistance.

With Kelly Agnew-Barajas, director of refugee resettlement for Catholic Charities, interpreting for her, she repeated that she was "thankful from the bottom of my heart."

"I have never been more proud or grateful ... for how they have risen to the need," Cardinal Dolan said of the Catholic Charities staff, noting they "are old hands at this and used

to doing this with respect and efficiency."

He added that these newly arrived families with whom he had just visited "aren't just cases ... aren't just problems, statistics. These are people with names, dads and moms, husbands and wives, kids. We love them, we are so happy to see them. They are happy to be here."

"They have been through turmoil for months. Now they feel at home," he said. "We see them and love them and ... the Church which they love which has helped them all along the way. Alleluia."

The cardinal added that these newcomers "just want to get settled and have a normal life and to have their children in school."

According to the cardinal, the New York Archdiocese will make scholarships available for these children to go to Catholic schools, just as it has done for children of Haitian, Afghan and Ukrainian refugees.

## Help

*Continued from Page 1*

flow coming into Haiti, and the co-responsibility of the international community to curtail it. Our letter urged the U.N. to respond to support Haiti in this time of crisis. Our sense is that a Haiti-alone solution is not possible," O'Connor wrote.

In a phone conversation with Catholic News Service, she emphasized the justice coalition was not seeking military intervention.

In a separate statement issued Aug. 12 and published on AlterPresse, an alternative information network made up of experienced Haitian journalists, the Jesuits of Haiti called on the international community to use a new approach to come to the aid of the imperiled Caribbean nation with "scrupulous respect for the sovereignty of the Haitian state."

The statement, signed by Jesuit Father Jean Denis Saint-Félix, superior of the Jesuits in Haiti, described the Haitian government as "completely incapable of fulfilling the basic functions it is accorded by the constitution."

"An ultimate solution must necessarily be brought about by the serious and sincere engagement of the international community," the letter said.

Citing a "real link" between gang leaders responsible for the violence racking the country and the government, as well as political and business sectors, the statement described the Haitian National Police as "dysfunctional" and "eaten by corruption" with "more than 15% of its members working with armed gangs."

The Haitian National Police was created in 1995 and has since then received training from U.N. police, until the departure of the last U.N. mission in 2019.

The Jesuits said the international community must urgently work with the Haitian National Police to disband and neutralize the criminal gangs terrorizing the country and

restructure and reform the same police force.

A new approach must be "relatively long-term" and propose structural state reforms, including national dialogue, judicial reform and an electoral council and must address constitutional issues. It must facilitate a government capable of leading such efforts for reform, the Jesuits said.

The calls from the bishops and religious came after a month of violence in Port-au-Prince in which a 10-day battle between two armed gangs in the populous slum of Cité Soleil killed 209 people and forced 3,000 to flee their homes. On July 24, a police inspector was killed in front of the congregation during a Sunday service at a Protestant church in Croix-des-Bouquets, taking the number of officers killed in 2022 to more than 30.

On July 27, the Catholic cathedral in Port-au-Prince was set on fire during a turf war between two gangs; firefighters were able to extinguish the fire before it did major damage.

Gangs also were responsible for arson attacks on courthouses in Port-au-Prince and Croix-des-Bouquets; files and pieces of evidence were burned.

Father Frechette said he had spent the past two weeks "on my belly in Cité Soleil and at the burned cathedral."

"It is way past obvious that there is no state," he wrote. The priest said there is a "civil war in the clothing of gang wars" and wrote the gangs are "sponsored by politicians, the government and other actors."

The Justice Coalition of Religious described the July 16 U.N. Security Council unanimous vote to extend the mandate of a small U.N. political mission in the country as "nowhere near what Haiti needs from the U.N. to enhance the protection of lives and human rights of Haitians." It called a vote to ban small weapon sales to Haiti "insufficient."

The situation has taken a toll on the activities of the religious orders in Haiti. The Sisters of

Charity of St. Elizabeth, working near Croix-des-Bouquets, reported that, because of the violence, they lost \$250,000 in funding for new projects that would have protected women and children and reduced child trafficking; investors considered the situation too risky.

"When you leave your home, you take your life in your hands and carry a coffin on your shoulder," said one team member, when describing the state of constant fear for their lives.

Croix-des-Bouquets is the area where 17 North American missionaries were kidnapped in 2021 and held for two months by the notorious Mawozo gang.

The Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth reported that the headmaster of the school run by the order was kidnapped recently by a gang. The headmaster, known as Pastor Cesar, was released when one of the kidnapers, a former pupil at the school, recognized him and told the others that the pastor does a lot of good in the community. The pastor, who lives in Croix-des-Bouquets, is worried he will be kidnapped again.

The same school offers a free medical clinic for children and local residents, but the doctor no longer comes to the school because he fears being kidnapped and held for ransom. The doctor now sees patients on Zoom when there is electricity, and the nurse resident on the school property distributes prescribed medicine.

"Nearly all Haitians are asking why the international community does not come to their assistance," the Justice Coalition of Religious wrote in the open letter. "We implore you to listen to the cry of the people of Haiti," expressed in the testimonies sent by some religious working in that country.



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

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

# School year opens with new hires in administration

## Two associate superintendents for diocese, six principals at schools

JANNA REYNOLDS  
The Catholic Virginian

As the 2022-2023 school year begins, the Diocese of Richmond welcomes two new associate superintendents for the Office of Catholic Schools as well as six new principals across the diocese.

**Michael Riley**, Ph.D., brings more than 20 years of experience in Catholic education to his new role as associate superintendent of operations for the Office of Catholic Schools. He most recently worked as principal of Charlottesville Catholic School and has also held the positions of assistant principal and middle school teacher in other diocesan Catholic schools. He holds a doctorate and a master's degree in educational policy, planning and leadership from the College of William & Mary and a bachelor's degree from Barton College.

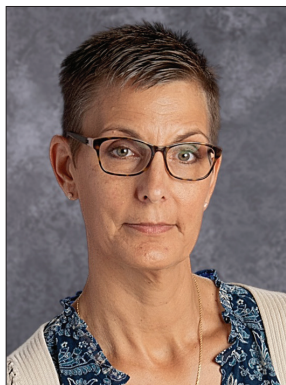
**Laura Dvornick Clift**, Ph.D., is the diocese's new associate superintendent for curriculum and instruction. Her experience includes over 30 years of education in Catholic and public schools. She has worked as assistant principal, dean of students and educational consultant, and most recently was principal at St. Bridget Catholic School, Richmond. Clift holds a doctorate in curriculum and instruction from Liberty University, a master's degree in administration and supervision from the University of Virginia and a bachelor's degree from Radford University.

In June, **Scott Meadows** began his role as principal of All Saints Catholic School, Richmond. For the last nine years, Meadows worked as a principal in the Yorktown County public school system. Other roles in his 25-year education career include assistant principal, teacher, public information specialist and coordinator of marketing. He holds a master's degree in educational leadership and policy study from Virginia Tech and a bachelor's degree from Hampden-Sydney College.

**Vada Fallica** is Charlottesville Catholic School's new principal. Fallica taught fourth grade at CCS for three years before assuming the role of assistant principal, in which she served for the last six years. Prior to her work at Charlottesville Catholic, she worked in Charlottesville city schools for 21 years. Fallica completed her certificate of leadership and supervision at Liberty University. She holds a master's degree in



Michael Riley



Laura Dvornick Clift



Scott Meadows



Vada Fallica



Heather Whitchurch



Donna Henry



Allie Strollo



Andrew Snyder

curriculum and instruction from the University of Virginia and a bachelor's degree from the University of Arkansas.

**Heather Whitchurch** was promoted to principal of Peninsula Catholic School, Newport News, in April 2022. She had been working as interim principal since January 2022 and has also served as dean of faculty and department chair. Prior to joining Peninsula Catholic as a social studies teacher in 2018, Whitchurch taught at St. Mary Star of the Sea School, Hampton. She holds a master's degree in educational leadership and administration from Old Dominion University and a bachelor's degree from Oregon State University.

**Donna Henry**, newly appointed principal of Portsmouth Catholic Regional School, has been a member of the school's faculty as a teacher since 1994 and assistant principal since 2010. She is a graduate of Portsmouth Catholic Elementary School and Portsmouth Catholic High School. Henry holds a master's degree in early childhood education from Old Dominion University and a

bachelor's degree from the College of William & Mary.

Effective July 1, **Allie Strollo** is the new principal of St. Bridget Catholic School, Richmond. She has 20 years of experience in Chesterfield County public schools, where she has worked as principal, assistant principal, professional development facilitator and teacher. Strollo holds master's degrees in curriculum and instruction, and leadership and supervision from Virginia Commonwealth University and a bachelor's degree from Longwood University.

**Andrew Snyder** has joined the faculty of St. Anne Catholic School, Bristol, as principal. His previous experience includes teaching in Bristol, Tennessee, public schools since 2016, where he also served as department chair and head soccer coach. Snyder is currently working to complete his educational doctorate degree at Milligan University. He holds a master's degree in education from Milligan University and a bachelor's degree from the University of Tennessee – Knoxville.

# Elderly can unite all generations, pope says

CAROL GLATZ  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis dedicated his general audience talk to the urgent need for young and old to come together so older people can share their faith and wisdom about the world.

“Let’s think about dialogue, about the alliance between old and young,” he said, as well as make sure this bond is not broken. “May the elderly have the joy of speaking, of expressing themselves with young people and may young people seek out the elderly to receive the wisdom of life from them.”

It was an appeal one small boy in the Vatican’s Paul VI audience hall seemed to take to heart, walking past the guards and straight up to the pope to stand transfixed by his

side during the final greetings at the audience’s end.

The pope affectionately rubbed the boy’s close-cropped hair and reassured him he was welcome to stay.

“During the audience we talked about dialogue between old and young, right? And this one, he has been brave and he’s at ease,” the pope said about his small guest to applause.

The pope continued his series of talks on old age and reflected on how reaching a ripe old age is a reassurance of eternal life in heaven.

In fact, “the image of a God, who is watching over everything with snow-white hair, is not a silly symbol, it is a biblical image, it is a noble image, even a tender image,” the pope said. To depict God the Father as venerable in age and authority

“expresses God’s transcendence, his eternity and his constant care for this world and its history,” the pope’s talk said.

The vocation for every older man and woman, the pope said, is to bear witness to the faith and to the wisdom acquired over the years.

“The witness of the elderly is credible to children. Young people and adults are not capable of bearing witness in such an authentic, tender, poignant way, as elderly people can,” the pope said.

He said it is also very compelling when the elderly bless life as it comes their way and show no resentment or bitterness as time marches on and death nears.

“The witness of the elderly unites the generations of life, the same with the dimensions of time: past, present

and future, for they are not only the memory, they are the present as well as the promise,” the pope said.

“It is painful and harmful to see that the ages of life are conceived of as separate worlds, in competition among themselves, each one seeking to live at the expense of the other. This is not right,” he said.

An alliance between the elderly and young people “will save the human family,” he said. “There is a future where children, where young people, speak with the elderly. If this dialogue does not take place between the elderly and the young, the future cannot be clearly seen.”

Humanity, even with all its progress, still seems “to be an adolescent born yesterday,” which needs “to retrieve the grace of an old age that holds firmly to the horizon of our destination.”

# Catholic agencies praise Inflation Reduction Act

## Praise emphasis on environment, health care

**DENNIS SADOWSKI**  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Landmark legislation to address climate change, reduce prescription drug costs and establish a minimum tax on large corporations once thought dead but was suddenly passed by the Senate is being hailed by Catholic advocates.

“It’s a minor miracle that it got passed,” Dan Misleh, founder of the Catholic Climate Covenant, said of the Inflation Reduction Act, which was approved 51-50 Aug. 7. Vice President Kamala Harris cast the deciding vote.

Misleh and his organization have long advocated for passage of the climate-related components of the renamed bill, a pared down version of President Joe Biden’s original \$2-trillion Build Back Better plan.

The bill includes \$369 billion in funding for investments in clean energy, domestic manufacturing of batteries and solar panels, electric vehicle tax breaks and greenhouse gas reduction efforts.

Environmental advocates said such provisions will bring the U.S. closer to meeting its pledges to reduce carbon emissions under the Paris climate agreement. Taken together, the bill’s components are projected by 2030 to reduce the country’s carbon emissions by 40% from 2005 levels, the highest ever recorded.

The Democrat-controlled House of Representatives approved the bill by a 220 to 207 vote Aug. 12. No Republicans voted for the mea-

sure. Biden signed it into law Aug. 16 during a ceremony in the State Dining Room of the White House in Washington.

Catholic Climate Covenant staff and volunteers have urged passage of the legislation’s environment-related components in one form or another for months. A covenant-sponsored sign-on letter to members of Congress that calls for action on climate garnered more than 300 institutional partners including parishes, religious congregations, dioceses, nonprofits and schools.

“We’re just delighted that the United States is back in the game (to address climate change) internationally and nationally,” Misleh told Catholic News Service Aug. 10.

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, also expressed support for the Senate vote.

He particularly cited the bill’s provisions tackling environmental concerns and lowering drug prices in an Aug. 9 statement. He also said it was “prudent” that the measure “contains revenue provisions to offset the investments when concerns around inflation and the economy are high.”

“Climate change is a global challenge that requires courageous, long-term action from Congress, and I am grateful for the many substantial climate provisions that bring the United States closer to honoring its emissions reductions goals under

the Paris Agreement, which Pope Francis has strongly encouraged us to meet,” the archbishop said.

“I am also grateful for provisions in the bill that will lower prescription drug costs for those who rely on Medicare, and continue to call on lawmakers to ensure all health care policy respects the inherent dignity and right to life of every human being,” he added.

Misleh, a longtime environmental advocate, said the legislation’s support for renewable energy projects are designed to aid Catholic facility managers choose to add solar panels and energy-efficient equipment to their buildings.

“It’s going to make a lot of economic sense to do so,” Misleh said.

He also welcomed \$60 billion for environmental justice priorities, including \$15 billion for reducing carbon emissions and providing clean energy for low-income and disadvantaged communities.

Despite it being renamed to address the high inflation American families are facing, economic analysts have said the bill will do little to slow rising prices.

An analysis from the Penn Wharton Budget Model at the University of Pennsylvania estimates that act would cause inflation to rise “very slightly” through 2024 and then fall in later years.

It also would reduce cumulative federal deficits by \$248 billion over the next decade, according to the analysis.

A summary from Senate Demo-

crats projects the bill would reduce the federal deficit by about \$300 billion.

While the bill still is largely focused on addressing environmental concerns, there are a wide range of provisions that would reach across the economy, including the health care sector.

Lisa Smith, vice president of advocacy and public policy at the Catholic Health Association of the United States, said the bill would extend expanded subsidies for uninsured people to pay for health insurance under the Affordable Care Act through 2025. Households with incomes up to 400% of the federal poverty level, about \$106,000 for a family of four, would be able to receive help to pay for insurance premiums.

The expanded subsidies were scheduled to end in December under the American Rescue Plan passed in response to the pandemic.

“When it went (under the American Rescue Plan) into effect we saw an increase of 20% of people eligible for the subsidies,” Smith said.

Another provision caps premium payments at 8.5% of income.

For people eligible for Medicaid, the bill will cover the cost of vaccines. Smith said about 4.1 million people will be eligible for free vaccines.

She also welcomed a provision that will allow the Medicare program to negotiate the cost of a limited number of prescription drugs. It is expected that the change will result in significant cost savings beginning in 2026. Currently drug manufacturers set drug prices.

# We pray for another successful school year.



**G**od of wisdom and might,  
we praise you for the wonder of our being,  
for mind, body and spirit.  
Be with our children as they begin  
a new school year.  
Bless them and their teachers and staff.  
Give them strength and grace as their bodies grow;  
wisdom and knowledge to their minds  
as they search for understanding;  
and peace and zeal to their hearts.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



**CATHOLIC  
SCHOOLS**  
DIOCESE of RICHMOND

Prayer courtesy of The Catholic Catalogue.

# Cursillo movement marks 50 years in central Virginia

## Weekend teaches God's love, need for people

BRIAN T. OLSZEWSKI  
The Catholic Virginian

Glenn E. Pfluger Jr. vividly remembers the impact a Cursillo (pronounced Ker See O) weekend had on his father.

"In the late '70s, my dad, who was very conservative, was talked into going on a Cursillo weekend," Pfluger said. "I didn't know anything about it. He didn't know anything about it. But when he came back, my pre-Vatican II, conservative dad was a very much different person."

Pfluger, a member of the Church of the Epiphany, Richmond, felt that impact when he made his Cursillo in 1992.

"It cannot not affect you because the people that are putting it on are all spiritual, they all have life stories, whether it was a struggle in their life or a victory in their life, they are all inspirational to the candidates, stories that say, 'OK, there is more to just working and raising a family. What can I do to help?'" he said. "And God wants us to help. That's a huge realization during Cursillo — God is calling us to help each other, and we can, and we should."

Established in Spain in 1944, the Cursillo movement came to the United States in 1957, and to Richmond in 1972. Cursillo in central Virginia will mark its 50th anniversary, Sunday, Sept. 18. (See related story)

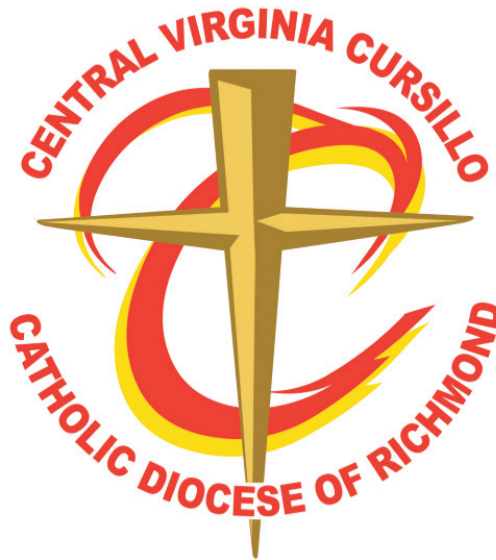
Cursillo is a one-time, Thursday night to Sunday afternoon weekend in which a team of 12 people presents talks and spiritual reflections to participants, called candidates. When they complete the weekend, they are known as Cursillistas. Separate weekends are held for men and women. Cost for the weekend is \$250, with some financial assistance for those who cannot afford the entire fee.

The content of a Cursillo weekend is "all stuff" Catholics have heard before, according to Pfluger, who has served on nine teams.

"If you've paid attention being a Catholic, all of this is all stuff that you've heard before but never in such a coordinated, concentrated and powerful messaging weekend," he said.

For those concerned about the length of the weekend, Pfluger has an answer.

"I respond by saying, 'This isn't for somebody else, this is for you.' There's so much noise, so much responsibility through society, work and family pressures, it's not easy to be one-on-one with your faith in God," he said. "So, you really deserve to take the time with God and your faith. On another level: Eternity is a really long time, and what you do on this earth happens with eternity."



'Spark I needed'

During a Sunday Mass at Church of the Epiphany in 2015, Deacon Steve Haut announced that registration for the men's Cursillo was underway.

"We were sitting next to some friends. The woman is blind but has exceptional hearing," Russell Titone recalled. "My wife turned to me and said in almost a whisper, 'That might be something you'd be interested in.' This friend of ours heard that, and she's very, very persuasive. Before we left the church, I was signed up to go on the weekend."

Titone said that when he and his family moved to Richmond in 1980, they were active in the parish as lectors, religious educators and extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist. However, when he took a job that required him to travel, he couldn't do those things, but following his retirement in 2014, he wanted to return to them.

"I was in a searching mode. (Cursillo) came up at the time I was looking for something to do," he said. "It turned out to be the spark I needed. Since then, I've been back into different ministries. It was just the right time of where I was at in my life."

Describing himself as a "cradle, pre-Vatican II Catholic," Titone cited the benefits of Cursillo.

"Since making a Cursillo, Scriptures became richer to me and my Catholic experience," he said. The biggest thing is it not only helped me in my Catholicism, but it's helped me be a better spouse, a better father, grandfather and really helped me reorient my life in a more meaningful direction. My only regret? I wish I had done it earlier."

**Show people God loves them**

Dick Commander, a Central Virginia Cursillo

lay leader from 2001 to 2015 and a Cursillo team member, noted that "bloom where you are planted" is one of the catchphrases of the movement.

"If you go to a parish, especially back in the '80s and '90s and since then, most of the people in the parish who are really the doers — the ones who are involved in the ministries and the administrative duties of a parish — have been on a Cursillo weekend," he said. "They go back and want to serve, bloom where they are planted. Serving is what they do."

Commander, a member of St. James, Hopewell, said that through the nine talks by laypeople and 10 given by spiritual directors, participants will hear a consistent message.

"We teach and show candidates that God loves them and needs them.... Some people don't understand God loves them. They don't understand what God's love looks like. The weekend is not to fix anybody; the weekend is to show them God loves them," he said.

Another guiding phrase for Cursillistas, according to Commander, is, "Be a friend, make a friend, bring a friend to Christ."

"If you're excited about the weekend, look around your parish and in your family. You continue to interact with them in a spiritual way and invite them to come on the weekend," he said, adding, "People who see a person come home from a Cursillo weekend feel the person has changed for the good."

*Editor's note: Two Cursillo weekends are planned for 2023. For further information, contact Ellen Herod, 14031 Rockhaven Drive, Chester, VA 23836, call 804-896-3033 or email precursillo@comcast.net.*

## 50th anniversary celebration

Cursillo of Central Virginia will celebrate its 50th anniversary on Sunday, Sept. 18, 2-6 p.m., at the Abbey, 12829 River Road, Richmond.

According to Dick Commander, a lay leader of the Cursillo Community of Central Virginia from 2001-2015, more than 3,000 people have attended a Cursillo in central Virginia during the past 50 years.

Those wishing to participate in the anniversary potluck can RSVP at <https://bit.ly/CursilloPotluck> before Sunday, Sept. 11.

Questions? Contact Adria Hogan at [ahogan605@gmail.com](mailto:ahogan605@gmail.com).

# Course developers hope to reenergize lifelong Catholics

JULIE ASHER  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — A new online study course titled "What We Believe: The Beauty of the Catholic Faith" was "created by a few very imperfect disciples who happen to be crazy about Christ and his Church," said one of the authors and presenters of the course.

"The goal of the study is not only to instruct but to inspire and reenergize. Catholics who are joyful, excited and informed have very little trouble attracting others, even the young, to the Church," Marcellino D'Ambrosio told Catholic News Service.

"What is the Catholic Church all about? What does it mean to be

Catholic? What do Catholics actually believe?" are some of the questions the 10-session course aims to answer for new Catholics, lifelong Catholics and those considering becoming Catholic.

D'Ambrosio and co-creators and co-presenters Andrew and Sarah Swafford recently filmed the course in Rome for Ascension. The three also wrote an accompanying book with the same title published by Ascension.

The course "was developed to cast a broad net" to meet the needs of Catholics "already hungry to know more about their faith" and non-Catholic Christians "curious about what Catholics believe," said D'Ambrosio.

"The videos and/or the paperback book can be shared with those who are 'nones,'" those who claim no affiliation with any religion, he said. The course also has something for those who are non-Christian or come from an atheist background, he added. "In fact the book is a great evangelist giveaway tool."

He told CNS he has been "sounding the alarm for years about the fact that young people, millennials and Generation Z, are increasingly losing interest in the Catholic Church and organized religion."

"If you probe a bit, the main reason young people themselves give for this is that they perceive Catholicism

and organized religion in general as irrelevant to their real concerns like love, community and adventure" he said.

"This study presents following Jesus in the fullness of Catholic faith as the greatest of all adventures, a journey made together with others, a journey home, into the heart of One who loves each person intimately and perfectly," he said.

D'Ambrosio is a professor of theology at Catholic Distance University, a private online Catholic university based in Charles Town, West Virginia.

Andrew Swafford is an associate professor of theology at Benedictine

*See Course, Page 9*

# Pro-life Catholic education in post-Roe America

## GUEST COMMENTARY

EILEEN LAPINGTON

Catholic schools opened this month and are teaching students in a new social and political landscape — a post-Roe America. Bishop Barry C. Knestout's statement following the Supreme Court decision overturning *Roe v. Wade* highlighted the need for Catholics to be voices for the sanctity of human life, to offer assistance and comfort to women and families in need, and to engage in charitable and informed dialogue to promote pro-life concerns. With those objectives in mind, I offer five suggestions for Catholic education in the post-Roe era.

Catholic schools should provide opportunities for community service that focus on personal interaction and include structured reflection. Service learning helps us to form the whole person by providing a framework for encountering people in need, developing empathy and solidarity through encounter, and reflecting on moral and ethical questions that these encounters raise.

In support of our call to Christian solidarity, Catholic schools should include civics courses in their curriculum. We can teach government structure, public policy and civic engagement. When

schools couple civics curriculum with a strong moral foundation, they graduate informed and engaged citizens interested in the common good and capable of civil dialogue.

As schools consider the moral formation of our students post-Roe, we should examine our human sexuality curricula. A comprehensive and unambiguous education in human sexuality, moral theology and bioethics is a necessity in our 21st century cultural and scientific landscape.

In partnership with parents, Catholic schools must affirm the Church's teachings on human sexuality, family life and fertility. Teaching human sexuality will prepare our students for healthy relationships and enable them to affirm the human dignity of others.

Education that affirms the value of every human life goes beyond science and theology classes. Catholic educators should compile a pro-life book list tailored to their student body. For younger readers, the books may depict family life as a joyful endeavor worthy of self-sacrifice.

For middle school students, books should provoke discussion about individual conscience and making difficult choices in the face of peer pressure. High school students are ready for books with themes about social and cultural structures that affirm or harm human dignity. The high school

list should include the papal encyclicals "Rerum Novarum," "Humanae Vitae," "Evangelium Vitae," and "Caritas in Veritate."

Finally, schools should examine their mission to Catholic families. This challenge merits a focused, all-hands discussion. In what ways does the culture of the school affirm the value of human life? Is the school providing support to families in ways that affirm the dignity of all human beings?

These discussions may include topics such as maternity and paternity leave, employee health care, mitigating the financial burden of private education on a family, better including persons with special needs into the life of the school, or even reconsidering the burdens of time that homework and extracurricular activities place on students.

Catholic schools are beacons of hope for our students, our faculty and staff, our families and our larger community. Our pro-life vision should be joyful and all-encompassing. The recent Supreme Court decision has offered all Catholic schools an opportunity to show the world what the pro-life, post-Roe generation stands for and how we engage the world with courage, confidence and compassion.

*Eileen Lapington, a parishioner at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, helped found and teaches at Cardinal Newman Academy, Richmond.*

### Charge of 'systemic racism' is insulting

Regarding "How Church leaders can address system racism" (Catholic Virginian, Aug. 8): The unwarranted, baseless, purely political charge of "systemic racism" is insulting, to say the least, to members of a Church that is purported to be Catholic (universal) in its concern for the soul of each of its members. The whole subject is Marxist by definition — pitting groups against one another. Very sad.

— Philip Melita  
Charlottesville

### Don't blame people based on their appearance

Chaz Muth's article (Catholic Virginian, Aug. 8) raised these issues:

Bishop John Stowe is quoted: "I don't think we understand the concept of systemic racism yet. Both how we operate from it and — God forbid — you use a phrase like 'white privilege.'"

Why is the term "systemic racism" used in an article that provides no definition or examples? If we use it, let's identify where we have work to do. I start with the U.S. government dividing Americans into five tribes (see the 2020 census).

Let's stop such systemic division — we are all human beings who can and should treat each other with dignity and respect. Let's stop systemic racism when we treat two of those tribes differently as was done throughout the article: one tribe is capital "B" Black, another lowercase "w" white.

Bishop Stowe is also quoted: "The topic of white privilege is delicate, frequently misunderstood, and it often puts white Americans on the defensive..." Why does it put a group of Americans on the defensive? Could it

be that the term implies persons with not a hint of racism in their hearts are somehow responsible for events and sins outside of their control and experiences?

Let's build upon Bishop Michael Burbidge's words in the letter: "You are hearing directly from people whose experiences might be very different from yours."

We must do the hard work of getting to the roots of racism, roots that live in the hearts of individual persons, and not take the easy road by simply assigning blame and culpability to larger groups of people based on their appearance.

— Charles Doty  
Norfolk

### Listen to each other to form a common culture

In his guest commentary (Catholic Virginian, Aug. 8), Dr. William Donohue cites CNN and MSNBC not covering certain stories as a contribution to "our cultural collapse." He has evidently chosen to turn a blind eye to the contribution that Fox News has made to enflaming our national and cultural discourse.

By spreading disinformation about the last election, critical race theory and the environment, their reports and commentary have led to attempts on the lives of honest election officials, the Jan. 6 attack and threats against education professionals.

Equating liberal media with ultra conservative media, like Fox and Newsmax, is at a minimum misleading and at worst dangerous. Conservative media has chosen to ignore science, data, historical facts and democratic principles. Their inflammatory rhetoric disguised as "patriotic fervor" has resulted in those

who are easily led committing acts of violence against innocent citizens.

America is and always has been a blend of many cultures. We have attempted to hold it together with bonds of brotherhood, but now one segment of our society is being goaded into acting on fear of the "other" and choosing to hate. We must respect each other's differences.

Until we start speaking to and of one another respectfully and with compassion, it will be hard for us to truly listen to what the other person is saying. And it is important that we truly listen to each other if we are ever to form a common culture.

— Sandra Jarvis  
Virginia Beach

### Make better use of Catholic contributions

I will readily admit that I am a naive 76-year-old "cradle Catholic." I have been through at least 50 years of tithing and contributing to various Catholic collections over the years.

I never imagined that one cent of my contributions would be part of the "millions of dollars" that the Catholic Church supplied to the failed "Value Them Both Amendment" campaign

in Kansas to change the abortion law in the state.

Here are a few examples of ways I would hope our money would be spent:

■ Give a million dollars to starving infants in African countries who will die without proper sustenance.

■ Divide \$2 million among 10 mothers who will be raising their child for 18 years without male support.

■ Give a million dollars to any U.S. city to provide safe shelter for the homeless.

I shudder to think of how much of the treasure of the Church might have been used in the past in political campaigns.

— Annette Rimkus  
Newport News

*Editor's note: According to the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission, financial support for the "Value Them Both Amendment" came from the Kansas Catholic Conference (\$275,000), as well as more than \$2 million from the Archdiocese of Kansas City. The Diocese of Richmond did not contribute to this campaign.*

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**Creative Director:** Stephen Previtera (804) 622-5229 [sprevitera@catholicvirginian.org](mailto:sprevitera@catholicvirginian.org)

**Circulation:** Ashly Krebs (804) 622-5226 [akrebs@catholicvirginian.org](mailto:akrebs@catholicvirginian.org)

**Eastern Correspondents:** Wendy Klesch and Jennifer Neville

**Western Correspondents:** Karen Adams and Joseph Staniunas

**Central Correspondents:** Kristen L. Byrd and Rose Morrisette

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# How to deepen your faith while reading

JENNIFER HOLMES-AVIS

Special to The Catholic Virginian

Long ago, inside the sturdy walls of Catholic High School (CHS) in Tidewater, English classes were so meaningful that years later, I became an English teacher. While at CHS, I studied with the best of teachers, growing stronger every year. When I look back, I think about what those dedicated teachers had in common. The answer is faith.

From the first book that we cracked open as a class, "Lord of the Flies," to the halfway point, Dante's "Inferno," to the last benchmark, "Taming of the Shrew," I was taught that we were not just reading words. We were not just picking out parts of a plot or analyzing character traits or taking political sides in free-thinking platforms. We were all on a journey to deepen our faith in Christ.

CHS was one place where teachers of faith could implement this approach and, in my experience, the opportunity changed the way I look at everything. Years later, the same mission instilled in me holds true: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil 4:13). The biblical reference hangs in my classroom next to my desk. It shines for every student who enters my room as a reminder that we are given a gift to seek Christ in all things, including literature.

Literature is a gateway to spiritual constructs. When we look for them, we can see biblical patterns and references in every piece. Whenever my students open a book, it is like opening a pathway to the Lord where we seek meanings that collectively call us. As we journey through stories, we pinpoint religious objects, hunt for faith-based ideas, compare events to possible representations of sacramental grace, holy messages and much more!

Like my teachers, who were deeply committed to this type of training, the amazing

outcomes generate a level of understanding that is spiritual and academic. This immersion ignites readers' thinking about their faith, maximizing a total, holistic challenge. The things we read have lasting messages that we can take with us throughout our lives.

Reading for meaning means diving deeper into what the soul hears beyond the words. When I work with my students, I understand that I, too, am uncovering messages I may not have heard. Every time I open a piece of literature, whether I have read it before or not, the Lord refreshes me. He opens doors to new perspectives. Because I want to read with him at the pinnacle, he allows his wisdom to wash over me. And then I understand: Words are three-dimensional and multi-faceted. The transferable meanings light the way like diamonds in the dark.

## Seeking the Sacred

I often tell my students that the hero's journey is the act of facing a giant where the impossible becomes possible; where redemption can lead to transformation; where adversity, sin and suffering can lead to hope, love and honor; where even tragedies can make sense. By associating a secular work with our faith, we drive the human experience with God at our wheel. We visit parables, psalms, proverbs and many other biblical passages.

We make pitstops in the houses of David, Noah and Job. Then we marvel around the Gospels, seeking Jesus' words. This gives reading a new level of symbolic meaning, archetypal understanding and universal growth. It is a way of bringing us together not only as a class, but as a people of God, strengthening our own heroic journeys. This is important because reading this way is not just for a classroom, but it simply crosses every boundary there is.

The reading experience is a powerful one,

but to seek out sacred meanings within multiple texts stretches it higher. This approach makes reading a prayerful journey where we begin to understand universal complexities and symbols that are rooted in faith.

These associations create transferable meanings that move beyond facts or baseline elements for literature studies. They essentially

*See Reading, Page 12*

## Think spiritually as you read

■ How does the process of events in the story relate to a similar progression in a story from the Bible?

■ Examine areas of the story that contribute to the hero's transformation. Keep the Beatitudes, the Commandments and the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy in mind. Create a ladder or hierarchy of spiritual growth that this character has reached.

■ What are the roots of evil/conflict within this story? Find evidence of what the Bible says about those things.

■ As a character progresses, they increasingly rely on outside help. Why is this important, and how does this directly relate to real life growth on a physical and spiritual level?

■ How does faith drive the archetypes of a story?

— Jennifer Holmes-Avis

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# God calls the least likely to do the impossible

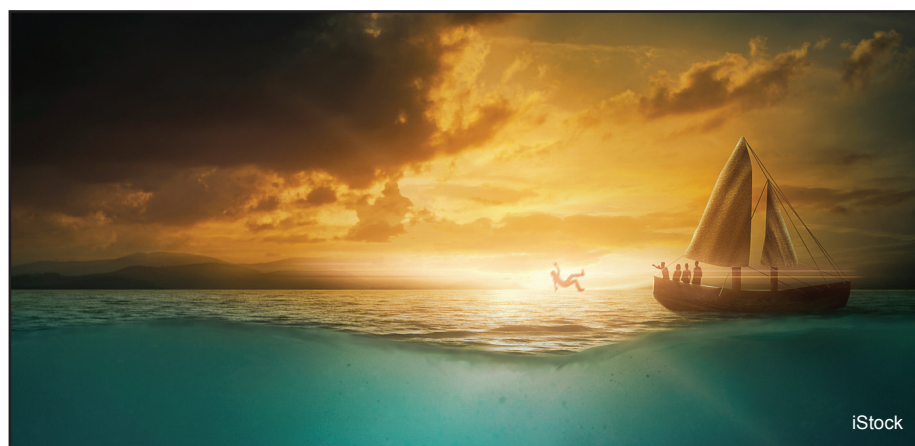


IN LIGHT OF FAITH  
BARBARA HUGHES

Is the biblical story about Jonah in the Bible fact or fiction? While there seems to be historical support for the character of Jonah as a prophet, specifics about the account have been debated for years. However, since I'm not a Scripture scholar, I'm happy to leave the mental wrangling over details to minds that are far more astute than mine.

Yet, after reading about Michael Packard, a diver swimming off the coast of Massachusetts who reported that after experiencing a huge surge, he found himself in the mouth of a whale, the wheels of my mind began spinning. He claims to have spent about 30 seconds in the whale's mouth before being spewed out. His story seems to align with an account by two women who had been swimming in the Pacific Ocean and found themselves in the mouth of a whale only to be spit out within seconds.

According to whale experts, the throat of a whale is large enough to swallow fish, but much too small to ingest a human being. Therefore, anything larger than a fish would immediately set off a gag reflex that would propel the object back into the ocean. After reading these articles, I'm veering toward the position of those who consider Jonah spending three days in the belly of a mammoth creature as a whale of a tale.



From a faith perspective, whether every detail about the story is true or improvised, the message that it portends remains solid. Not unlike the parables that Jesus told, the lesson that Jonah learned is one to which we can all relate.

Who among us has not tried to run from God when we are asked to do something that we feel is beyond our capabilities? We may begin by making excuses, voicing objections about a lack of qualifications or simply arguing that we don't have the time.

Yet, when we look at Scripture, it seems that God has always called the least likely to do the impossible. In fact, he seems to have a penchant for choosing people whom any job recruiter would immediately disqualify.

Consider that Moses had a stuttering problem, Jeremiah said he was too young, Isaiah said he was unworthy and Elijah complained that he had been duped by God. In

the New Testament, Jesus seemed to follow his Father's recruiting pattern. Consider that the men Jesus chose to be apostles were uneducated fishermen, a tax collector and a thief. None of them would have amounted to anything remarkable; their lives would have come and gone unnoticed except for the fact that God used them to do the seemingly impossible. And that's the point! It shines the light on what God is doing, not on any particular talent or gift that any person might claim to possess.

That's been the way God has worked and continues to work. His saints are not the flashy executive types. They can be found among the poor and those caring for the sick. They're working in kitchens and classrooms, on street corners and in families and communities where transgressions are forgiven, and wounds are healed.

This brings us to the question: How am I responding to God's call to

serve and to help build his kingdom? If you've been baptized, you have a role. So what's keeping you from volunteering in your parish or at the local food pantry, or driving a neighbor to the doctor?

With the beginning of the school year, volunteers are needed in schools and in parish religious education programs. Keep in mind that weekend liturgies don't just happen. It takes a host of extraordinary ministers of holy Communion, lectors, ushers and volunteers who are willing to step outside their comfort zone.

Where would we be today if Moses, Isaiah and Elijah or the apostles had turned and walked away? In the story about Jonah, God didn't take no for an answer. Whether the reluctant prophet actually spent three days in the belly of the whale is not the point, but it does serve as a beautiful prototype for Jesus' spending three days in the tomb. The real lesson is about the mercy of God who loved the Ninevites enough to send a prophet.

We have more than a prophet; we have Jesus who calls us to be his voice. When we remember that the call is never just about us, amazing things can happen. It happened in Nineveh, and it can happen here. All it takes is for each person to say: "Here I am, Lord, I come to do your will."

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

## Caring for the poor is a way of worshiping God



BELIEVE AS  
YOU PRAY  
MSGR. TIMOTHY KEENEY

The byline of this column is "Believe As You Pray." The origin of that idea is rooted in an early Christian tradition in how the Church instructed the newly baptized with post-baptismal catechesis. This was called mystagogical catechesis because it helped the newly baptized to break open the mysteries of the sacraments they had celebrated and the word of God that they continued to hear each week in the Mass.

That is what we are doing in writing this column. We are not just breaking open the word of God, but we are rooting that catechesis in our liturgical worship of God the Father in Jesus Christ.

There are two ideas — humility and care for the poor — that connect our first reading and Gospel today. The reading from Sirach begins with the admonition to conduct our affairs with humility, and we will be loved more than a giver

of gifts. The reading ends with the reminder that alms atone for sins.

The Gospel begins with a parable about humility and ends with a charge to remember the poor if we want to build up heavenly treasure. How are humility and almsgiving connected?

I am always struck by St. Thomas' description of humility. Humility is truth. The truth is that before God, we are all poor and in need. All our human honors are mere wisps of nothing.

We encounter this truth each time we enter into worship. When we gather in worship of the living God, Jesus fills our poverty with his abundance. In ministering to our poverty through his sacrifice on the cross, Jesus opens the riches of his mercy to us.

Following that line of thought, when we conform our way of acting with that of Jesus in caring for the poor, we are also participating in a liturgical act of worship of God.

St. John Chrysostom made the comparison between our worship of God in the Eucharist and our care for the poor: "You honor this altar indeed because it receives Christ's body [at the Eucharist]. But the poor man, who is himself the body of Christ, you treat with scorn, and when perishing, neglect. You can see this altar

lying around everywhere, both in streets and in marketplaces, and you can sacrifice upon it every hour; for on this, too, is sacrifice performed."

St. John Chrysostom is asking us to see that giving to the poor is not just a charitable act. It is a *liturgical* act. We are being asked to recognize in the poor the mystical body of Christ. And, if Jesus' body really is what the New Testament says it is, the temple of God, then every poor person to whom you give alms is a living altar, a representative of Christ. Thus, every act of almsgiving becomes an acceptable sacrifice to the Lord.

This is a beautiful mystagogical understanding of what happens when we give to the poor. It helps us in humility to recognize our own poverty and to build up treasure in heaven by giving God worship on the altar of the poor through our almsgiving.

Celebrating the Eucharist is how we participate in the sacrifice of Christ that forgives our sins. But in giving alms, we also celebrate sacrificial worship of God that forgives sins. Earlier in Luke's Gospel (11:41), Jesus gives us a charge about almsgiving, which almost seems a paraphrase of the last line in the reading from Sirach: "Give alms, and behold, everything will be clean for you."

Msgr. Timothy Keeney is pastor of Incarnation, Charlottesville.

### Twenty-second Sunday Ordinary Time – Year C

Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29;

Ps 68: 4-5, 6-7, 10-11;

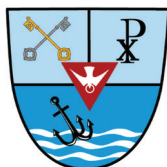
Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a;

Lk 14:1,7-14



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Dr. Massimo Faggioli is full professor in the department of theology and religious studies at Villanova University (Philadelphia). He received his PhD in Religious History from the University of Turin in 2002 with a thesis on the history of the appointment of bishops after the Council of Trent. His books and articles have been widely published in eight languages. Massimo Faggioli is a young, bright, articulate, theologian of the new generation of Catholic intellectuals who is making a very significant contribution to theology, ecclesiology and church history in the contemporary Church.

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## Course

Continued from Page 5

College in Atchison, Kansas. He is host and author of Ascension's DVD series "Hebrews: The New and Eternal Covenant" and "Romans: The Gospel of Salvation." He also is editor and contributor to Ascension's "Great Adventure Catholic Bible."

Sarah Swafford is author of "Emotional Virtue: A Guide to Drama Free Relationships."

"I think most of us have experienced one time or another being caught by surprise by a question or challenge about Catholic teaching and have found ourselves coming up short," D'Ambrosio said.

"This study will prepare those who participate to have a better answer in these situations and 'be ready to give a reason for their hope,'" he added, quoting from Chapter 3 of the First Letter of Peter.

He said the course also will correct the misconception he believes most people have, "even Catholics," that Catholicism is an 'ism,' a belief system and a code of ethics taught by an impersonal institution."

*Editor's note: More information about the online course and the accompanying book can be found at [www.ascensionpress.com/WhatWeBelieve](http://www.ascensionpress.com/WhatWeBelieve).*

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### ACROSS

- 1 Charity
- 5 Funeral fires
- 10 PC hookup
- 13 Debatable
- 14 Island inhabited by Circe
- 15 Place
- 17 Nobel Institute city
- 18 Priestly
- 20 Furtive
- 22 Where Jesus went for 40 days
- 23 Greek goddess of the dawn
- 24 Deride
- 25 Patron saint of Scandinavia
- 29 Small
- 33 One of the prophets
- 34 Rive Gauche sights
- 35 The Dead or the Red
- 36 Former Russian ruler
- 37 Mongrels
- 38 Taxis
- 39 Lever for rowing
- 40 Wearies
- 41 Midwest hub
- 42 Brief joke
- 44 Disorderly disturbance
- 45 Wading bird
- 46 Agency headed by uncle of Cardinal Dulles
- 47 Very handsome young man
- 50 Reading disorder
- 55 First five books of the Old Testament
- 57 Lends a hand
- 58 Tempo
- 59 Eleve's place
- 60 Fine fabric
- 61 N.J. neighbor
- 62 They were found in Juan Diego's cape at Guadalupe
- 63 Gifts for dad

### DOWN

- 2 The \_\_\_ Sheep
- 3 Underground mammal
- 4 Portico
- 5 Parish leader
- 6 Okays
- 7 Suggestive
- 8 Loafer letters
- 9 They're packed
- 10 Shuts
- 11 Religious ceremony
- 12 Rip
- 16 Maximum (abbr.)
- 19 In some versions of The Lord's Prayer, trespasses are called these
- 21 She and her sister Rachel were both married to Jacob
- 24 What the Magi brought
- 25 "Are not!" rejoinder
- 26 Jewish month of Passover
- 27 Frighten
- 28 Freshwater fish
- 29 "\_\_\_ Noster"
- 30 Husband of Rebekah
- 31 Horse-like African mammal
- 32 Relaxes
- 34 Heals
- 37 \_\_\_ of Hospitality
- 38 Half a dance?
- 40 Leg bone
- 41 Like much lore
- 43 Window support
- 44 Jesus multiplied these
- 46 Recurring series
- 47 Computer program, for short
- 48 David asked Saul if he pursued a "\_\_\_ dog" (1 Sam 24:14)
- 49 A single time
- 50 Pairs
- 51 The Wise Men came from here
- 52 Unlucky in Rome?
- 53 These hands are the devil's workshop
- 54 Inquires
- 56 The Name of the Rose author

Answers on page 12

## OPPORTUNITIES

**The Catholic Diocese of Richmond** is seeking an associate director for the Office of Christian Formation who would be responsible for lay ministry formation. This position oversees two areas: the Lay Ecclesial Ministry Institute (LEMI), and the formation and development of parish catechetical leaders. This position works within a framework of collaboration in the Office of Christian Formation and is guided by the office's goal to support ministry leaders to become Spirit-filled disciples, accompanying others in their encounter with Christ.

**LEMI.** Develops and manages a systematic approach of training, accrediting and recognizing catechetical leaders in the diocese through the Lay Ecclesial Ministry Institute, ensuring that it is reflective of a standards-based formation program guided by best practices formulated in Church documents.

**Parish Catechetical Leader Formation.** Develops relationships with pastors and parish catechetical leaders and supports them through the selection and creation of resources, leadership training and ongoing formation using the most current resources and methodologies. This position develops and implements orientation, training and ongoing support of new and volunteer parish catechetical leaders, supporting them to implement the Church's mission for evangelization and catechesis in their parishes.

**Qualifications:** Must be a practicing Catholic in good standing. A master's degree in theology or religious studies and 3-5 years of pastoral ministry experience is preferred. Strong written and verbal communication skills are necessary, as well as a working knowledge of "Co-workers in the Vineyard of the Lord" and the "Directory for Catechesis." This position requires travel within the Diocese of Richmond. This is a full-time exempt position on a salary basis. Salary is commensurate with experience and diocesan pay scale. Interested Candidates apply now at [bit.ly/3vQXuC4](http://bit.ly/3vQXuC4).

**Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, Norfolk,** is seeking applicants for the position of director of music ministry. 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. This position is responsible for overseeing the music for all parish liturgies. This is a 20-hour-per-week, part-time position with flexible hours to include nights and weekends. Piano and organ skills are a requirement. Position is available Sept. 1, 2022. Salary is negotiable based upon qualifications and experience. If interested, please submit a completed Diocese of Richmond employment application ([bit.ly/36ndEsX](http://bit.ly/36ndEsX)) with a cover letter and résumé to pastoral associate Alfie Martinez-Coyle, PA2@blesed-sacrament.com. Or mail: Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, c/o Alfie Martinez-Coyle, 6400 Newport Ave. Norfolk, VA 23505.

**The cluster parishes of St. Joseph, Martinsville, and St. Francis of As-**

**sisi, Rocky Mount,** seek a part-time music coordinator who, under the guidance of the pastor, will plan and coordinate music for parish worship. Responsibilities include close collaboration with pastor in oversight of the music program at parish celebrations. Coordinator will lead and/or accompany music for all Saturday evening and Sunday morning liturgies. They will coordinate musical needs and provide direction and training of choir, cantors and musicians. Must be available on short notice for exceptional liturgies (funerals).

**Qualifications:** At least one year of related experience required along with proficiency in keyboards (piano/organ) and vocal skills. Ability to work with Spanish Music Ministry (knowledge of Spanish language not necessary). Knowledge of Roman Catholic liturgy, and experience is preferred. This position requires consistent attendance at liturgical celebrations in accordance with duties and responsibilities. Applicants should email a résumé to [bookkeeper@stjoe24112.com](mailto:bookkeeper@stjoe24112.com) or [bookkeeper@stjoe24112.com](mailto:bookkeeper@stjoe24112.com) on ComcastBiz.net. In the subject line, denote which parish (or both) in which you are interested.

## SHORTTAKES

**Join Father John Kazibwe from Church of the Epiphany** on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Jordan, April 19-29, 2023, for the most incredible spiritual experience of your life. For \$4,399 you receive round-trip airfare, 4-star hotels, daily Mass, breakfast and dinner, and much more! As we walk in Jesus' footsteps in Jerusalem, a few places on the itinerary include the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the Garden of Gethsemane and the Basilica of Agony, and the Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu. In Tiberias, we will sail through the Sea of Galilee, tour places like Nazareth, and witness the site of the Transfiguration on Mount Tabor. We will spend two nights in Amman and visit Petra, one of the magnificent Seven Wonders of the World. For further information, contact Alba Kim at 804-298-4035 or email: [tours@albastours.com](mailto:tours@albastours.com). You can also visit the website: <https://www.albastours.com/>. Reservations are available now. Spaces are limited.

**Roanoke Catholic High School Multi Class Reunion — '74, '75, '76, '77, '78 and '79.** Friday, Aug. 26, through Sunday, Aug. 28. Just a few of the highlights: Friday Celtic football game, Roanoke Catholic School tour, Big Saturday reunion party, Sunday Mass, outdoor adventure and picnic. Meet your classmates and enjoy the storytelling of years gone by! Sign up and learn more at [www.roanokecatholic.com/resources/alumni](http://www.roanokecatholic.com/resources/alumni). Hosted by the Class of 1977, celebrating their 45th reunion year. Contact Lilli Kelley Winstead at 540-871-3670 or [lilwins@gmail.com](mailto:lilwins@gmail.com); GERALYNN SLOUGH TRELLUE at 540-519-4532; or Joanna Coleman, dean of advancement, at

540-982-3532x1005 or [jcoleman@roanokecatholic.com](mailto:jcoleman@roanokecatholic.com).

**St. Ann Catholic Church Yard Sale,** 105 S. Snead St., Ashland, (Inside - Rain/Shine) Friday and Saturday, Sept. 9-10, 7:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Contact the church office at 804-798-5039 with any questions.

**St. Michael the Archangel Church, 4491 Springfield Rd., Glen Allen,** 18th Annual Rummage Sale to benefit the St. Jean Baptiste Community in Haiti will be held Friday, Sept. 9, 3 to 7 p.m. and Saturday, Sept. 10, 8 a.m. to noon. Visit the website for more information <https://saint-mikes.org/haiti-rummage-sale>.

**St. Mary Catholic Church, 9505 Gayton Rd., Richmond,** is offering a healing Mass with sacrament of anointing, Saturday, Sept. 10, 10:30 a.m. All are invited to join our parish community for Mass and for lunch in the parish commons following Mass. Come to be anointed if you are anticipating surgery, have chronic mental or physical illness, or bear the burdens of aging. All are welcome to participate in this liturgy; if you plan to join us for lunch, please RSVP to the parish office at 804-740-4044 or register on our website at [www.stmarysrichmond.org](http://www.stmarysrichmond.org).

**Join Monsignor 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, including: 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. The tour then moves to Edinburgh, which will serve as a base for trips outside the city to explore Scottish history and natural beauty. 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). Reservations are available now. Spaces are limited.

**Eucharistic chapel is open at the Abbey!** The bishops of the United States have undertaken a three-year grassroots revival of devotion to and belief in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. This revival officially started on the Feast of Corpus Christi, June 16, 2022.

At the heart of the Eucharistic Revival is a call for every parish to reflect on its devotion to the Real Presence of Christ. All the faithful are welcome to spend some time with our Lord. The adoration chapel at Mary Mother of the Church Benedictine Abbey, 12829 River Rd., Goochland, is open daily from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Please call Benedictine Brother Jeffery Williams at 804-708-9673 for the door code, and please keep us in your prayers as we do for you and your loved ones.



*Harm happened in isolation.  
Healing can happen together.*

As a community, we strive to support survivors of child sexual abuse on their journey toward healing and wholeness. For those who have suffered abuse by clergy residing in the Catholic Diocese of Richmond, we invite you to join virtually, on August 24 at 7pm. Spouses and affected community members are also welcome. These gatherings, led by an independent facilitator, will offer a safe environment for participants to connect, share experiences, support, and heal. If you would like more information, or the virtual meeting link, please call (877) 887-9603 or email [vac@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:vac@richmonddiocese.org)



# Ángelus del Papa: Nuestra historia está firmemente en manos de Dios

En su reflexión sobre el Evangelio de este domingo, propone las dos claves para superar los miedos y la tentación de una vida pasiva: No temer y estar preparados, atentos a los demás, disponibles para escuchar y acoger, porque, también en las situaciones en las que no lo esperamos, el Señor viene.

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO

El Papa Francisco introdujo el rezo mariano del Ángelus con una reflexión sobre las “dos palabras -clave” que propone el Evangelio de este domingo “para derrotar los miedos que a veces nos paralizan y para superar la tentación de una vida pasiva, adormecida”. Desde la ventana de su estudio y ante una Plaza de San Pedro repleta de fieles y peregrinos, el Pontífice retomó las palabras de Jesús a sus discípulos en las que lo tranquiliza para aplacar sus miedos y los exhorta a estar alerta: la primera es “no temas, pequeño rebaño” (Lc 12,32); la segunda « estén preparados” (v. 35).

## No temer

El Santo Padre recuerda que Jesús al hablar a sus discípulos del cuidado amoroso del Padre los conmina a no afanarse y agitarse. “Nuestra historia está firmemente en las manos de Dios” afirma el Papa, y es por ellos que Jesús nos alienta a no temer:



(Foto del CNS)

“A veces, en efecto, nos sentimos presos de un sentimiento de desconfianza y de angustia: es el miedo a no lograrlo, a no ser reconocidos y amados, a no conseguir realizar nuestros proyectos, a no ser nunca felices...Y entonces nos afanamos buscando soluciones, para encontrar algún espacio en el que emerger, para acumular bienes y riquezas, para obtener seguridades; y terminamos viviendo en la ansiedad y en la preocupación constante”.

En cambio, asegura Francisco, Jesús nos tranquiliza y nos pide no temer, confiar en el Padre que ya nos ha donado a su Hijo, su Reino y siempre nos acompaña con su providencia.

“Pero saber que el Señor nos cuida con amor, no nos autoriza a dormir, a dejarnos llevar por la pere-

za! Al contrario, debemos estar despiertos, vigilantes. En efecto, amar significa estar atento a los demás, darse cuenta de sus necesidades, estar disponibles para escuchar y acoger, estar preparados”.

## Estar preparados

La segunda invitación de Jesús en el Evangelio es a estar preparados asegura el Obispo de Roma y recuerda unas palabras de San Agustín: “Tengo miedo de que el Señor pase y yo no me dé cuenta”. De estar dormido y no notar que el Señor pasa.

“Es necesario estar despiertos, no dormirse, es decir, no estar distraídos, no ceder a la pereza interior, porque, también en las situaciones en las que no lo esperamos, el Señor viene”.

Francisco advierte que Dios “al final de nuestra vida nos pedirá cuentas de los bienes que nos ha encomendado”. Se trata también de “ser responsables, custodiar y administrar esos bienes con fidelidad”, desde nuestras familias o la fe, hasta nuestra ciudad y la Creación. De allí la exhortación de Francisco a preguntarnos si cuidamos ese patrimonio que el Señor nos ha dejado, si lo custodiamos o lo usamos con egoísmo o por conveniencia.

“Hermanos y hermanas -concluyó el Papa - caminemos sin miedo, en la certeza de que el Señor nos acompaña siempre. Y estemos despiertos, para que no nos durmamos mientras el Señor pasa”.

## El Papa a los jóvenes: “Que Jesús se convierta en su gran amigo”

“Dios ama las preguntas”. Lo dijo el Papa Francisco a los jóvenes italianos y europeos que se reúnen en el Campamento Alpha, organizado por la Diócesis italiana de Isernia -Venafro, para crear amistades, inspirar y soñar a lo grande”. Si uno se hace preguntas es joven, aunque tenga ochenta años”, afirmó el Santo Padre, Y si no se las hace, “es viejo, aunque tenga veinte años”. Esto porque las preguntas “abren”, mientras que las respuestas “son cerradas”.

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO

“Jesús no es una idea ni una regla moral, sino una persona, un amigo, un compañero de camino”. Lo hizo presente el Papa Francisco a los jóvenes participantes en el “Campamento Alpha”, evento organizado por la Diócesis italiana de Isernia -Venafro y por el Alpha Youth Italia, que reúne por una semana a los jóvenes italianos y de diversas partes de Europa convocándolos para “crear amistades, inspirar, soñar a lo grande”.

## Dios ama las preguntas

“¿De dónde venimos? ¿Qué hay en el origen de todo? ¿Cuál es el sentido de mi existencia? ¿Y por qué hay tanto sufrimiento? ¿Por qué afecta también a los pequeños e indefensos?”. Son preguntas que según el Papa se plantean también estos jóvenes “nacidos en un contexto que se define como ‘secularizado’ en donde la cultura no está dominada por la dimensión de lo sagrado sino por las realidades del mundo”. A ellos Francisco les aseguró que “Dios ama mucho las preguntas”. “¿Por qué?”, planteó el Papa. “Porque las respuestas son cerradas, las preguntas son abiertas. Una persona que sólo vive de respuestas – constató – es una persona acostumbrada a cerrar, cerrar y cerrar. Una persona que vive de las preguntas es una persona que está acostumbrada a abrir, abrir, abrir”.

De hecho, prosiguió, “Jesús se dirigió un día a los dos primeros que le seguían a orillas del río Jordán con estas palabras: ‘¿Qué buscan?’ (Jn 1,38)”.

“Antes de dar respuestas, - les dijo - Jesús enseña a hacerse una pregunta esencial: ‘¿Qué busco?’ Si uno se hace esta pregunta, es joven, aunque tenga ochenta años. Y si no se la hace es viejo, aunque tenga veinte años”.

## Siempre con Jesús

Tomando el nombre del campamento, “Alpha” como punto de partida, el Papa señaló que el mismo es “sinónimo de nacimiento, de principio, de amanecer de la vida”. Cristo es “alfa”, dijo, y es también “omega”, es decir, “el fin, el cumplimiento, la plenitud”. Con Él, unidos a Él, “cada uno de nosotros se convierte en una semilla destinada a germinar, crecer y dar fruto”. Pero, - advirtió el Santo Padre, - es necesario seguirlo. Y acrecentó:

*Decir no al egoísmo, al egocentrismo, a apartar más de lo que somos. Ser uno mismo, no inflarse, tampoco abatirse, reconocerse por lo que se es, esta es la verdadera humildad. Y ante el mal que hay en nosotros y a nuestro alrededor, no escapar, no evadir la realidad, no encerrarse en uno mismo, sino tomar cada uno su parte de responsabilidad -Jesús dice “su cruz”- y llevarla, con amor, con alegría. No solos, no, eso no es posible: siempre con Jesús, Él delante y nosotros detrás.*

## “No sean fotocopias”

Jesús, continuó diciendo el Papa, “nos conoce y nos ama más que a nosotros mismos, y quiere para cada uno de nosotros una plenitud original, única para cada uno”. “Dios no quiere fotocopias, sólo originales” subrayó recordando al beato Carlo Acutis. La corta vida de este joven “hijo de este tiempo”, fue una vida “corta, pero

plena”, afirmó el Santo Padre. Fue “como una carrera, una escalada hacia el cielo”.

*Tomó la carrera desde el día de su Primera Comunión, cuando se encontró con Jesús en su Cuerpo y Sangre. Sí, porque Jesús no es una idea, ni una regla moral, no, Jesús es una persona, un amigo, un compañero de camino.*

Por todo ello, a los chicos y chicas del Campamento Alpha el Papa Francisco los dejó con un deseo: “que Jesús se convierta en su gran Amigo, en su Compañero de Camino”. “Que Jesús vivo se convierta en su vida”. Y les repitió: “¡Por favor, no sean fotocopias! Cada uno de ustedes, un original”.

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF RICHMOND

# OHM

Office of Hispanic Ministry

CALENDARIO DE EVENTOS

2022-23   Entrenamientos, Formación de Líderes parroquiales, Eventos Diocesanos	
10, Septiembre 2022	<b>Taller de liturgia Nivel 1 (Oeste) @:</b> St. Gerard Catholic Church   809 Orange Ave. NW Roanoke, VA 24016
24, Septiembre 2022	<b>Taller de formación en el liderazgo (Este) @:</b> St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church   25236 Coastal Blvd. Onley, VA 23418
1, Octubre 2022	<b>Taller de liturgia Nivel 2 (Centro) @:</b> Centro Pastoral   7800 Carousel Ln. Richmond, VA 23294
8, Octubre 2022	<b>Taller de liturgia Nivel 1 (Este) @:</b> St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church   25236 Coastal Blvd. Onley, VA 23418
11, Marzo 2023	<b>Conferencia Formación fe del adulto (Oeste) @:</b> St. Andrew's Catholic Church   631 N. Jefferson Street Roanoke, VA 24016
22, Abril 2023	<b>Encuentro Juvenil (Centro) @:</b> Más información próximamente

OHM -CDRI, Catholic Diocese of Richmond, VA | [ohm@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:ohm@richmonddiocese.org) | Tel. 804-622-5241

### Honor guard for visiting bishop



Bishop Serverus Jjumba, bishop of the Diocese of Masaka, Uganda, concelebrated Mass at St. Stephen, Martyr, Catholic Church, Chesapeake, Friday, July 22, with the parish's pastor, Father Charles Ssebalamu, and Father John Bosco Walugembe, pastor of Prince of Peace, Chesapeake. Both are priests of that diocese. Members of three Fourth-degree Knights of Columbus Assemblies provided the honor guard for the celebration. From left are Wayne Phelps, Tom Schares, Mike Pselio and Ramon Betancourt. (Photo/David B. Hollingsworth Photography)

### Reading

Continued from Page 7

catapult the learning experience to a more conceptual level where problem-solving and deeper thought — relatable and practical in daily living — must occur. Catholic schools are a landmark for helping learners build their spiritual journeys with Christ. As my teachers did, I recognize that gift. Hands down, it is something to celebrate!

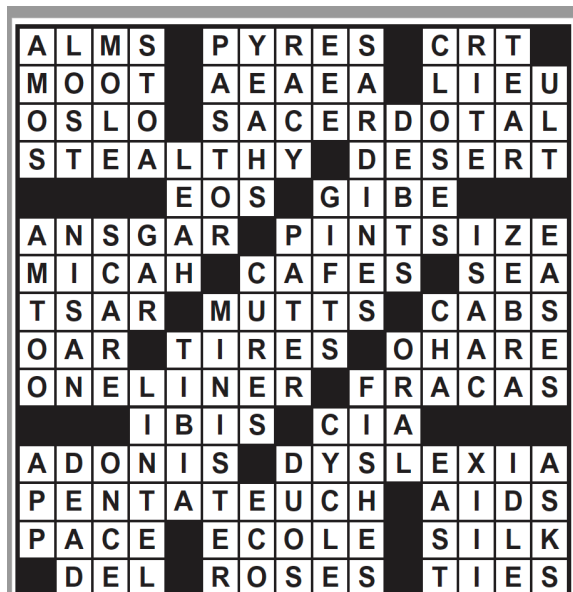
In spring 2022, Jay McTighe, an educator, author and consultant, asked diocesan teachers an important question at our annual teacher's meeting: "What is worth learning deeply?"

I would say our faith. In this secular world, looking for faith in the words that we read builds

bigger ideas with much deeper transfers. Looking for faith in words that we read means knowing our faith even more. This is where the truest and the deepest form of transferable information is sparked, and it is everywhere! We just need to want to find it.

This type of immersion has the potential to break barriers and cross multiple subjects, behaviors, thoughts and actions with the promise of God at its forefront. Therefore, when we read, we know that we walk with Christ so that we may find a more powerful learning experience that not only moves the mind, but moves the soul, too.

*Jennifer Holmes-Avis teaches middle school language arts at St. Matthew School, Virginia Beach.*



**Movies.  
Games.  
Books.  
Videos.**

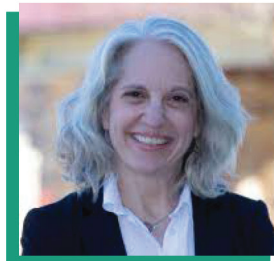
Read the reviews

**catholicvirginian.org**

# AGEISM UNMASKED

Exploring Age Bias and How to End It

**Thursday, September 29**  
**6 PM - 7 PM**



LOCATION:

St. Mary's Catholic Church  
9505 Gayton Road  
Richmond, VA

Dr. Tracey Gendron, chair of the Department of Gerontology at VCU and executive director of the Virginia Center on Aging, will discuss topics from her book and share strategies to help create an anti-ageist society.

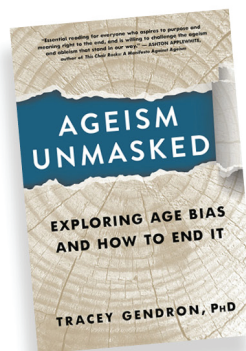
**Join us for a pre-event reception at St. Mary's Woods before the discussion!**

**4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

Refreshments and light hors d'oeuvres.

Community tours will be available.

*Please park at St. Mary's Catholic Church where a shuttle will be provided.*



Tracey will answer audience questions and sign copies of her book, which will be available for purchase.

**RSVP to Connie Salinas at 804-360-1960.**

A free public event sponsored by:

**Our Lady of Hope Health Center**

**ourladyofhope.com**

**St. Mary's Woods Retirement Community**

**stmaryswoods.com**



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