



The Catholic Virginian

Serving the People of the Diocese of Richmond for 90 years

Vol. 98, No. 14

www.catholicvirginian.org

May 15, 2023

Love of music and the Lord to lead to priesthood

Deacon William C. Buckley set to be ordained June 3



(Left to right) Father Brian Capuano, Vicar for Vocations; Bishop Barry C. Knestout; and Deacon William C. Buckley celebrate Mass April 25 at the Pastoral Center, Richmond. (Photo/Stephen Previtera)

JOE STANIUNAS
Special to The Catholic Virginian

Growing up in Rockville Centre, New York, Deacon William C. Buckley spent most Sunday mornings looking down on the altar where the priest presided at Mass. “As long as I can remember, I was singing in the church choirs,” the 30-year-old deacon said.

“So that really became more and more my place in the church, in the religious life. My view of the church was from the choir loft,” said Deacon Buckley. In a few weeks, he will be the one the choir and congregation watch during his first Masses as a priest for the Diocese of Richmond.



Deacon William C. Buckley

‘Chorus of moments’

In a phone conversation a few days after receiving his Call to Orders from Bishop Barry C. Knestout, Deacon Buckley said his vocation developed through a chorus of moments

“all important in their own ways, God speaking to me through the Scriptures, through the sacraments, through different people, gradually helping me to open my ears, to open my eyes to what he was saying to me.”

A gift for music helped set him on his way to the priesthood, along with a devout family. His father worked at Goldman Sachs and is now retired; his mother was a teacher who became a full-time homemaker when he was born. Deacon Buckley, the eldest child, has three sisters.

He attended public schools and received religious education through his parish. As he was finishing high school, he said he decided to pursue a music degree and auditioned as a pianist at several colleges. The University of Richmond offered a decent scholarship, so he headed south.

He got involved in the small but close Catholic community there and

in music ministry. “To be honest, I wouldn’t say I was explicitly thinking about the priesthood during my studies there,” he said.

“But the seeds were being planted, because of the childhood that I had, the combination of growing up in the Church and having that strong example set for me and also feeling very much drawn to the music,” he added.

Even as he felt his faith challenged at times in his last couple of years in college, he said music was that kindly light still leading him on.

“I was definitely struggling with my faith and struggling with a number of different things in my life,” he recalled. “And I’m thankful that through that time, the music was the thing that was keeping me there.”

“I’m thankful for God working through that because that really did make a difference for me going forward,” explained Deacon Buckley, “that I was able to stay connected to

the Church and know that I could turn to the Church.”

‘Dramatic growth’ in faith

After graduation, he moved back to Long Island, reconnected with his old parish, found part-time jobs in music ministry and became a better organist. In the summer of 2015, he returned to Virginia, landing a full-time job in music ministry at Saint Bridget, Richmond.

“From when I started that job I started experiencing a dramatic growth in my own faith and my own discipleship of Christ,” Deacon Buckley said. “And not too long after that I also started hearing the call to the priesthood more explicitly.”

He had found the parish a “beautiful place to be” and felt he was growing closer to the Lord and that the Lord wanted more from him. But he said he also wasn’t sure that this call was real and that he was ready to give up the idea of marriage and a family

See Deacon Buckley, Page 12

Defying doubt over true presence in the Eucharist

KRISTEN L. BYRD
Special to The Catholic Virginian

Like many teenagers, Carlo Acutis loved technology, often spending hours playing video games or scrolling through the internet. However, he also shared a profound relationship with God and was deeply committed to his faith from a young age.

He volunteered in the community, prayed the rosary daily, knelt before the tabernacle every Sunday, and dreamed of visiting holy sites around the world. At the same time, he was battling leukemia, and his dreams of travel remained just dreams.

Confined to his home in Milan, Italy, he decided to create a website

See Miracles exhibit, Page 13



Eucharistic Miracles of the World exhibition makes a stop April 29-30 at Saint Michael the Archangel, Glen Allen.

(Photo/Kristen L. Byrd)

The Catholic Virginian
7800 Carousell Lane
Richmond, VA 23294

Inside This Edition

Guests of honor visit diocese from Haiti
Page 3

St. Joseph Furniture Closet fills void in homes
Page 4

Preserving Polish Catholic faith, food, tradition
Page 5

Ascension awakens us to expectation of Spirit's power



CHRIST OUR HOPE
 MOST REV. BARRY C. KNESTOUT

Those who have observed the gathering of the bishops of the United States in our annual general assemblies know that the bishops, although striving to live and express communion with one another, don't always agree about matters affecting the life of the Church.

In my experience, two of the many things on which the U.S. bishops often do not agree is the age for receiving the sacrament of confirmation and what should be the holy days of obligation.

Years ago, when there were debates among the bishops about transferring the dates for the observance or the obligation of attendance at Mass on holy days, Cardinal James A. Hickey of Washington, in support of retaining the obligation, even if the holy day fell on a Saturday or Monday, was known to have said that holy days are spiritual alarm clocks. They awaken us so that we take time to pause on this day and maybe do something out of the ordinary in terms of our routine with home, work and school.

This alarm clock awakens us to something that is important and significant — our spiritual life of faith. God has given us this gift of new life that we celebrated during Holy Week and which we recognize in our celebration of Easter.

Obligatory holy days on the Church calendar alert and awaken us to the truth and to the good in the spiritual life. They help us refocus and examine how we are living Christian lives. Just as every Sunday is a little Easter, every Sunday is a time for pause, prayer and worship.

We often try to combine the day of rest and the day of worship, even though historically they might be different — one being the Sabbath, the other being the day of gathering as a community to worship on Sunday, the day of the Resurrection. The Church encourages that combination.

As will most dioceses in the United States, we will transfer the celebration of the "alarm clock" of Ascension from Thursday to this Sunday. In 1999, the Holy See granted U.S. bishops the option of transferring the celebration to the Seventh Sunday of Easter.

Part of the reason for that transfer was knowing that many people are so occupied with demands of home, work and school that they might not be able to make it to Mass on a Thursday. Moving the observance was a way of encouraging as much participation as possible, inviting all who gather on Sunday to appreciate this feast which, in some ways, gets lost between Easter Sunday and Pentecost.

Another reason was the bishops' concern for their priests. In dioceses that cover an entire state, e.g., Idaho, Utah and Wyoming, and in others that are largely mission territory where one priest serves multiple parishes, the well-being of the priests had to be considered.

The Ascension highlights our time of waiting. Jesus has completed his work. After his Resurrection he has prepared his disciples to carry out his work. He ascends to the right hand of the Father, where he reigns over his kingdom in which he has established many dwelling places into which he wants to welcome us.

In our spiritual lives, it can sometimes also be helpful to see ourselves as living perpetually between this time of the Ascension and this waiting for the coming

of the Spirit at Pentecost. We're in this place spiritually all the time because the Spirit can always be renewed in our hearts, in our lives.

As Pope Francis stated in his general audience address on Ash Wednesday, "When Jesus says to his disciples — and also to us — 'Go!', he is not just communicating a word. No. He simultaneously communicates the Holy Spirit because it is only thanks to him, thanks to the Holy Spirit, that one can receive Christ's mission and carry it out (cf. Jn 20:21-22). The apostles, in fact, out of fear, remain closed up in the Upper Room until the day of Pentecost arrives and the Holy Spirit descends upon them (cf. Acts 2:1-13).

"And in that moment the fear leaves them and, with his power, those fishermen, mostly unlettered, will change the world. ... It is the word of the Spirit, the strength of the Spirit that bears them onward to change the world. The proclamation of the Gospel, therefore, is only realized in the power of the Spirit, who precedes the missionaries and prepares hearts: He is 'the engine of evangelization.'"

Sometimes we can feel lethargic, a lack of zeal in terms of life, duties and responsibilities toward family and work, as well as the faith. What gives us the ability to overcome that lethargy is confidence in and awareness of the movement and grace we receive from the Spirit.

All of our life should be like this time during Christ's departure and our awaiting of the fulfillment of the promises. We get a taste of it when we receive those graces in baptism and confirmation and when we continually turn to the Spirit.

See the Ascension as an alarm clock, an awakening of what we should be about: joyful, hopeful expectation of the power of the Spirit to assist us to grow in holiness and to assist us in leading good lives.

Bishop visits William & Mary



Above: Bishop Barry C. Knestout celebrates Mass at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Williamsburg, April 30, with servers Benjamin Moskalski and Austin Alanis, and singers Beth Anne Dell, Sofia Valle, and Lucy Keegan.

(Photos/Will Kopic) Below: Dinner following Mass at William & Mary's Catholic Campus Ministry Student Center. (Photo/John Hopke)



Blessing for Williamsburg House of Mercy



Bishop Barry C. Knestout blesses the building, staff, and volunteers of the Williamsburg House of Mercy, April 30. Interim Director Liz Buckley said, "We are so grateful to Bishop Knestout for blessing the building and the people that do God's work for the Greater Williamsburg area. Both corporal and spiritual works of mercy are prevalent in all we do ... and we feel renewed in this blessing." Top: (Photo/Liz Buckley)

Bottom: (Photo/Sam Samorian)



Strengthening the twin bond between Virginia Beach and Haiti

Fundraiser returns after hiatus with special guests of honor from Haiti



Approximately 180 runners and walkers take part in a 5K run/walk and dinner fundraiser at Holy Family, Virginia Beach, on May 5, in support of five schools for its sister parish, St. Jude, Baptiste, Haiti. Proceeds from the event will go toward maintenance and paying teachers' salaries. (Photos/Wendy Klesch)

WENDY KLESCH

Special to The Catholic Virginian

The friendship between Holy Family, Virginia Beach, and its twin parish, St. Jude, Baptiste, runs deep – and all around the neighborhood and back.

The Virginia Beach parish held its annual 5K fundraiser on Friday, May 5, in support of its Haiti Ministry's Teacher 2 Teacher program. Proceeds from the event will go to the maintenance of five schools in Baptiste and to pay the salaries of its 40 teachers.

"It's a time to raise awareness of what's going on in Haiti," Kathy Dowdy, of Holy Family's Haiti Ministry, said. "Most of all, it's just a fun, family night."

Approximately 180 runners and walkers participated – from teens raring to begin, to parents with young children, to adults content to stroll and enjoy a warm spring evening.

Among those gathered were the parish's special guests from Haiti – Father Jean Ronel Bonnet, pastor of St. Jude, and Father Cassagnol Métellus, former pastor of St. Jude, who had arrived the previous week for a visit.

"It's the 12th year of the run with a three-year hiatus," social justice minister Brian Alexander said. "We were glad to be able to bring it back

again."

An after-party followed the race, with music, a traditional dinner of beans, rice and cornbread, and a bar featuring mixed drinks with Haitian rum.

Starting line

Holy Family's Haiti Ministry began in 2004, not long after Father Thomas Quinlan became pastor.

"He came to our parish, and asked, 'Who is your twin in Haiti?'" Dowdy said. "When we told him that we didn't have one, he said, 'Well, you do now.'"

Through the diocesan twinning program, the parish was assigned St. Jude, Baptiste, located in a mountainous area near the border of the Dominican Republic in the Diocese of Hinche.

"Our first project was to replace the church roof," Dowdy said, "and it grew from there."

One of the larger endeavors undertaken by the two parishes has been the construction of a water pipeline leading from a reservoir in the mountains and traveling two miles to feed seven fountains within the town of Baptiste.

"In the past, people in Baptiste had to walk two miles up to the reservoir. We'd see kids, walking up the mountain with their buckets," Dowdy said. "Now the kids just walk down to the corner, fill up their

buckets and go back home."

Holy Family's 5K run/walk began, Alexander said, as a walk to commemorate the installation of the pipeline.

"People were given a cup at the beginning, and they had to walk two miles to get water and then return. It represented how far a person would have to walk to the source of water and back," he said.

Today, the event has grown into a 5K in support of the twinned parishes' largest ongoing project: five schools in Baptiste. There is a larger school, named for Father Quinlan, three chapel schools, and a smaller school in the mountains.

"We prioritize education," said Dowdy, who also serves on the Diocese of Richmond Haiti Education Support Team. "Haiti needs good, young leaders for things to get better."

Keeping on course

"*Dèyè mòn, gen mòn.* Beyond the mountains, there are mountains," Alexander said, addressing the crowd gathered at the starting line.

The Haitian proverb served as words of inspiration for the evening: whether they be obstacles in one's path, or stumbling blocks of the spirit, there are always new challenges to be faced.

"Let us take a minute to think about the mountains that we've encountered in our lives and those who helped us over them," Alexander said.

After a few moments of prayer and reflection, the racers awaited the start.

Among those prepared to follow

the winding course through the leafy suburban neighborhood behind the church was Father Bonnet, who said he was pleased to have been able to make the trip to Virginia Beach.

"For a long time, due to COVID, the situation was not good, and we had to be careful," he said.

He'd had a good visit thus far, he said. He celebrated three Masses over the previous weekend and was ready to walk in support of the ministry.

Sandra Hall, a parishioner of the Basilica of Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Norfolk, said she heard about the event through a friend from Holy Family.

"I was invited by a great, great friend of mine," she said, "and I was interested in learning more about the Haiti Ministry here."

Parishioner Yves Tanguy signed up for the 5K with one of the younger racers, his 9-year-old son, Matthieu, who is celebrating his first Communion this May.

"It's nice to be able to bring this support to the people of Haiti," he said, "and it's a nice thing for a father and son to do together."

Matthieu was confident that they would complete the course in good time.

"It will be fun," he said.

"We've been training in the neighborhood, to prepare," his father said, smiling.

The Tidewater Striders running club volunteered to keep time at the finish line, where children jumped and cheered, and early finishers waited to give incoming runners high-fives.

See Haiti 5K, Page 9

Bishop Désinord Jean visits from Haiti

To strengthen the bond between the Dioceses of Richmond and Hinche, Haiti, Bishop Désinord Jean of Hinche traveled to Richmond during the weekend of May 5-7.

Bishop Jean met with Bishop Barry C. Knestout and numerous leaders in the Haiti Twinning Ministry from parishes across the diocese.

During the daylong meetings on Saturday, May 6, Bishop Jean had a chance to tell leaders in the twinning programs about the challenges in his country currently. In a letter written to them, he said they include "gang violence, a shortage of basic goods, terrible inflation, a government that does not function, corruption, and a police force that is outgunned."

Bishop Jean said they are "in the most desperate state that Haiti has ever known."

However, the bishop of Hinche said, "I do not come to you in despair. I come to you in hope and thanksgiving."

He shared progress being made in his diocese to educate children and help the poor, much of it due to twinning programs.

Kathy Dowdy, the chair of the Haiti Education Support Team, was one of the leaders to meet with Bishop Jean and said, "we enjoyed the wonderful opportunity to speak with Bishop Jean. It enabled us to reinforce the relationship we have with him and our brothers and sisters in Haiti."

Dowdy said Bishop Jean is worried about the parishes in his diocese that are not twinned and do not receive financial support.

The bishop asked our diocese to try and find more twins and also encouraged more people to donate in order to help the non-twinning parishes, she added.

Bishop Knestout and Bishop Jean wrapped up the weekend by celebrating Mass at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Richmond, on Sunday, May 7.

— Lily Nguyen Dunkle

St. Joseph's Furniture Closet serving in Roanoke area

Members of Society of St. Vincent de Paul embody 'Jesus' message of great love'



St. Vincent de Paul Society members (from left) Aimee Valenzuela, Lynn Marie Lee, and Kathy Sullivan look over donations at St. Joseph's Furniture Closet. "St. Joseph is the patron saint of the home, so it's the perfect name for this furniture ministry," said Lee. (Photo/Karen Adams)

KAREN ADAMS

Special to The Catholic Virginian

"Lord, help me to make time today to serve you in those who are most in need of encouragement or assistance."

— St. Vincent de Paul

Inside a small apartment in downtown Roanoke, a donated table, chair, loveseat, and lamps from St. Joseph's Furniture Closet have turned "a shelter into a home," in the words of the man who lives there.

Patrick Crowe, a wheelchair-bound senior citizen who recently moved to Roanoke, said the gift of the furnishings was an unexpected blessing. "This just proves that God will provide," he said.

St. Joseph's Furniture Closet is an offshoot ministry of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP), a worldwide Catholic lay organization of men and women from all backgrounds that helps those in need in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul. Although the local society, founded in 2017, is based at St. Andrew Catholic Church, its membership is open to all Catholics in the Roanoke Valley and beyond.

The society's members pay visits to homebound parishioners and also help others outside the parish with disaster relief, transportation, and financial and material assistance – including groceries and household furnishings.

The furniture ministry accepts donations of gently used furniture and other household items such as dishes, cookware, and utensils. All tax-deductible donations go directly to those who need them.

Making places 'homey'

"A lot of people have places to stay but it's bare and it doesn't feel very comfortable," said Aimee Valenzuela, Adult Faith Formation and Social Ministries Coordinator at St. Andrew and also a member of the SVDP. "Having some nice things makes it homey."

Some clients are referred by organizations besides the SVDP, including Commonwealth Catholic Charities, Blue Ridge Women's Center, and Family Promise. Others are parishioners who are, or who know someone, in need of assistance. Sometimes people call the parish office or simply knock on the door of the church, asking for help.

Recently the furniture ministry helped an Afghan family of six – soon to be seven, with a baby on the way – who was referred by Commonwealth Catholic Charities.

"They were so happy and grateful," said

Valenzuela. "They had only been here about two weeks and had very little, and we were able to help them furnish their home."

The need for furniture and household items became clear in the ministry's early days when Vincentians Kathy Sullivan and Teresa Hancock-Parmer delivered food to two women and their two toddlers who had fled domestic violence.

"There was no table, no chairs, no sofa, and they only had one pot to cook in," Sullivan recalled. The volunteers quickly rounded up some furniture and kitchenware to help them.

"We asked each other, 'How many other people are in that situation?' and put out a call for donations," she said.

Thus the Vincentians' small furniture ministry was started, with a few items stored in a garage behind St. Andrew. Two years later, that space was needed as a construction office during the church renovation project, and the ensuing pandemic curtailed the ministry's in-person activity.

Ministry gets new home

Early this year, the diocese offered the parish a nearby property that it owns: a warehouse of about 7,000 square feet, including two private offices and bathrooms, plus a parking lot. The space had been used by the nursing and retirement facility Our Lady of the Valley but was no longer needed. The parish accepted it as the new home of St. Joseph's Furniture Closet and pays for maintenance.

Soon after the February launch of the rekindled furniture ministry, donations began arriving from area Catholics and the larger community.



St. Vincent de Paul Society member Kathy Sullivan helps Patrick Crowe choose two lamps from St. Joseph's Furniture Closet for Crowe's apartment. "These Catholic Christians are the embodiment of Jesus' message of great love," Crowe said. (Photo/Karen Adams)

Some donors have expressed their happiness at being able to give the belongings of deceased loved ones to the ministry.

"It makes them feel good to know their family members' things will go to someone who really needs them," said Sullivan, a retired veterans' benefits administrator.

Items must be clean and in good shape, "Like something you'd give to a friend or family member," she added. Financial donations are always welcome.

"It's a great ministry and we've had a lot of good donations, from individuals and from businesses," said Wayne Gould, development coordinator for St. Andrew Parish.

Noble Office Furniture of Roanoke donated tables, chairs, and sofas, as well as furniture from a retirement home that was being redecorated.

Gould also reached out to George Cartledge and Robert Bennett of Roanoke-area Grand Home Furnishings, who allowed him to post flyers about St. Joseph's Furniture Closet inside their stores.

"I thought if people come in to buy new furniture, they may be looking for a place to donate their old items," Gould said.

It's also a good way to get the ministry's name out into the larger community. "Most people don't know Catholics do all these charitable things," added Valenzuela.

Visiting two by two

The Vincentians visit people in pairs, to chat with them, ask what they need, and observe their living situations.

"We go out two by two, just as Jesus sent his disciples in pairs," explained Sullivan. "And also, as Jesus said: 'When two or more are gathered in my name, I am there.'"

They also pray with them, she added. "No one has ever said no to prayer when we ask," she said. "They are so moved. Some were not brought up in the Catholic faith, or any faith, and they often say, 'No one has ever prayed for me before.'"

Crowe, 71, contacted St. Andrew when he needed transportation to Mass, and two Vincentians came to visit him. They discussed a regular ride to church for him, but they also offered something else.

"They saw my apartment and the lack of furniture and said, 'We can help you out.' They were very gracious," Crowe said. "I met them by the grace of God."

One of those visitors was retired social worker Lynn Marie Lee, who helped measure Crowe's apartment to see what would fit. "St. Joseph is the patron saint of the home, so it's the perfect name for this furniture ministry," she said.

Just before learning about the Vincentians in 2017, Lee had prayed "Lord, give me the heart of a servant."

"This has been so fulfilling. Even though we serve our neighbors in need, it is more of a blessing for me," she said, with tears in her eyes.

"What they provided me with turned a shelter into a home," said Crowe, who now has a ride to Mass at St. Andrew each Sunday as well.

On a cold and gray St. Patrick's Day, he returned to St. Joseph's Closet to meet with Sullivan to happily accept two table lamps that she had described to him.

"Jesus told us to love God and love one another, and the St. Vincent de Paul society embraces that," Crowe said. "These Catholic Christians are the embodiment of Jesus' message of great love."

Editor's note: Read our story at catholicvirginian.org to learn more about St. Joseph's Furniture Closet.

St. Mary is a little piece of Poland

Polish Catholic community preserves legacy of faith and tradition



Far left: The Michas Polish Folk Dance Ensemble of Virginia Beach performs at the St. Mary Polish Festival in Chesapeake, Saturday, April 29.

(All photos/Wendy Klesch)

Top left: The Michas Polish Folk Dance Ensemble of Virginia Beach invites members of the audience onstage to learn a dance at the St. Mary Polish Festival in Chesapeake, Saturday, April 29.

Left: Gary Szymanski helps festival-goer Trinity Hall of Chesapeake to pot a pepper plant at the St. Mary Polish Festival on Saturday, April 29.

WENDY KLESCH
Special to The Catholic Virginian

It's a labor of love. And thousands of homemade cabbage rolls.

St. Mary, Chesapeake, held its annual Polish Festival on Saturday, April 29, celebrating more than 100 years of faith with traditional food, music and dancing, church tours, and a children's fair.

"It's a very unique community," Bruce McDaniel, co-chair of the festival, said. "We are the only Polish agricultural neighborhood in Virginia."

Hidden amongst the honeysuckle in an area known as Sunray, St. Mary is a little piece of Poland under a Tidewater sun. Its spring fest, which serves as a fundraiser for the parish, typically draws between 1,000 to 2,000 visitors.

"Everyone loves the food," McDaniel said. "We really work hard to make sure everything is authentic."

More than 80 volunteers, both from St. Mary and from its cluster parishes in Portsmouth of St. Paul, Church of the Holy Angels, and Church of the Resurrection pitch in to make the festival happen.

"We try to get as many people as possible involved," Allison Stewart, festival co-chair, said. "It's quite the endeavor. But it's a fun day for all."

A legacy of faith

The story of St. Mary is one of a faith that endures in the face of hardship. In 1907, the Franklin Land and Lumber Company, having cleared a large section of land for timber, decided to sell the parcel for farming. The company took out ads in several Polish-language newspapers based in coal towns and the industrial northeast, offering ten-acre plots for sale.

"They were promised good, quality land, but what they found was land that had been timbered – full of cypress stumps and yellow flies and mosquitos, right at the edge of the Great Dismal Swamp," third-generation parishioner Gary Szymanski said.

The immigrants labored to make a home in Virginia, clearing the

stumps and digging ditches to drain the marshy land.

"They needed everyone. The families really had to pull together," Szymanski said.

The first families to settle in Sunray met each Sunday in the home of Jan Zawada to sing hymns, say prayers, and recite the rosary.

With the arrival of Father Andrej Wilczek in 1914, the community began to raise money to build a church, putting down roots in a land much different than the one they had left. St. Mary celebrated its first Mass on February 16, 1916.

"It was the center of the Polish community," Szymanski said, not only for Sunray, but for all of south Hampton Roads.

Szymanski has written two books on the history of the area, recording stories such as that of John and Helen Cichorz, the first couple to marry in the church, in October 1916.

The couple's granddaughter, Janet Cichorz, came from Greenville, North Carolina, to attend the festival.

"These streets, all through here – this is where my best childhood memories were formed," she said. "So much of life revolved around St. Mary. Anytime the church doors were open, we were there."

Pulling together

"Part of what makes the festival so special is the dedication of the volunteers," Stewart said.

Joe Noha, a parishioner of Church of the Holy Angels, volunteered Saturday by manning a grill to make potato pancakes.

"We all decided to come out and support St. Mary," he said. "All of the parishes in the cluster do what they can for one another. They'd do the same for us."

Some of the most labor-intensive work revolves around preparing the food. The pierogi are delivered from Pennsylvania and the Polish beer through an import company, McDaniel explained, and much of the rest – including the fresh baked goods – are homemade.

His wife, Mary McDaniel, whose

grandmother attended St. Mary, led a team of 15 volunteers in making 2,000 cabbage rolls for the festival, following the recipe of a parishioner who has since passed away.

The team faced an extra hurdle this year, she said, when the parish kitchen was closed for plumbing repairs.

"The Church of the Resurrection offered us the use of their kitchen so we could work there," she said. "I like to think we're the little engine that could."

"We are smallest church in the cluster, but we have the largest fund-

area affords parents a chance to sit in the shade of the surrounding magnolias as the children play.

Proceeds from the children's fair go to the youth group, which plans to use the funds to attend the Diocesan Youth Conference in Richmond next year.

"They have a great time here, working with the kids, and then the money they raise helps them to have that experience," she said.

A faith that grows

The festival was also a day to celebrate the parish's agricultural roots.



The St. Mary Polish Fest offered tours of the historic church, which celebrated its first Mass in February 1916.

raiser," Bruce McDaniel said. "And we do it with the help of everybody."

A fair for kids, by kids

While the main tent featured an area for music and dancing, as well as long tables at which to enjoy kielbasa and rye bread, a smaller tent pitched at the side of the church offered a children's fair, run by the cluster parishes' youth group. There were bubbles, face-painting, carnival games and prizes.

"We built some of the games and put up the tables, to set it all up," Arturo Munoz, 14, a parishioner of St. Mary, said. "It's been pretty busy."

"The kids have fun, and the parents enjoy it, too," Madre Collins, recently-retired youth minister for the cluster parishes, said. The quieter

Parishioner Raquel Munoz said she was drawn to begin volunteering at the festival eight years ago, because of the chance to help run the annual plant sale.

"I love working with the flowers," she said. "We always get the best plants. It's just nice to see everyone out."

Szymanski operated a cart nearby where children and teens could pot a free plant – choosing from zinnias, peppers or cilantro – to take home with them to grow.

"It's nice for them to have that simple experience, of nurturing something," he said.

"Things are always changing, especially here in Hampton Roads," Szymanski said, "but this little community has kept its flavor, against all odds."

The consecration to Mary is worth doing badly

GUEST COMMENTARY

KYRIL WOLFE
OSV NEWS

During the month of May, Mary is honored as Mother of God and Mother of the Church.

I used to be spiritually allergic to Marian devotion. Even though I grew up saying the rosary with my family, I never really understood the idea of being devoted to Mary, specifically. Asking saints to pray for me made sense, and I knew Mary as the greatest of the saints.

Still, I never understood why Mary was so important to the spiritual life of Catholics. I also thought people who were devoted to Mary were weird. They would call her “Mama Mary,” or give me a bunch of scapulars and medals to ward off demons.

For someone who had not developed his own devotion to Mary, it all seemed a bit much. This changed one day when, at my university, I saw some students handing out pamphlets for Marian consecration.

The pamphlets were based on Father Michael E. Gaitley’s “33 Days to Morning Glory,” a book that was becoming very popular with Catholic young people. I don’t know why, but I picked up a pamphlet and then decided to do it.

I went through the consecration process very poorly. I was at a point in my life where I strug-

gled with prayer and praying for 33 days in a row did not happen.

I once had to make up a whole forgotten week of meditations and prayers. Still, I persevered, and managed – one day late – to say the consecration prayer.

And ... nothing happened. The semester was ending, and it was time for finals. I stayed for the summer, taking classes and working part time, so there was a lot of downtime. I was able to take some advice given to me a long time ago and spend more time in prayer.

One day, I was in the campus chapel praying the rosary when I suddenly began to think about the prayers I was reciting, especially the words “blessed is the fruit of your womb.”

As a young man, a woman’s pregnancy was and still is a wonder and a mystery to me. I can never know exactly what it is like to nourish and grow a person within me, but I do know it is a miracle and a blessing.

What surprised me in that moment of prayer was the wonder and fact of Mary’s pregnancy, how she even more wondrously gave life to Christ. She received the body of Christ first in her womb; the body of Christ that we receive sacramentally at Mass was first nourished by Mary.

I talked with a priest about this afterward, and he reminded me that Mary also received the Eucharist at Mass with the apostles and disciples of the early Church. She never stopped receiving

Christ’s body, even after being united to Jesus so closely. All of this deeply moved me, and I spent much time afterward contemplating this mystery.

This, I think, was the fruit of my first consecration to Mary. It was also certainly not the last gift I was given. That summer I managed, somehow, to pray and attend Mass almost every day. I picked up St. Louis de Montfort’s book “Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary” and learned more about Marian devotion.

All in all, my life – not just spiritually but in every respect – greatly improved that summer, and all of it seemed to have happened because of my poorly carried out consecration.

Over the last few years, Marian consecration has become a bit of a phenomenon, especially for young adult Catholics, and the movement is still growing.

Students at the Catholic high school where I teach have started their own consecration group, using Father Gaitley’s ever-popular book. I joined them and renewed my own consecration this year, out of gratitude for the fruits I received the first time, and a desire to continue growing in devotion to Mary.

G.K. Chesterton famously said, “Anything worth doing is worth doing badly.”

In this month dedicated to Mary, I would encourage everyone to start or strengthen their own Marian devotion in this way. Even if you do it badly, as I did, graces can be planted within you that will grow your spiritual life.

Compassion is not enough for gender dysphoria

I was pleased to see the diocese addressing the difficult issues of gender dysphoria in the March 20 front-page article “Be compassionate, yet firm.”

Compassion is a very necessary characteristic of anyone’s response to someone experiencing gender dysphoria, no less than for young children experiencing precocious puberty. Cultural ideologies, including those promoting superficial and easy answers to our core human identity, are not comforting and often add to the confusion that already exists.

However, compassion is necessary but not sufficient. Our faith is not itself an ideology to be preached at children or teenagers to discourage them from wrestling with these difficult experiences.

Our faith offers us a framework for discernment, thoughtfully stepping back to inquire how we may be good stewards of our bodies in service and love, in thanksgiving, and in praise.

It is this process of discernment that I would hope our diocese would advocate, teach to our parents, our clergy, and our young people.

This same discernment can become the practice when confronting other issues of how to use our sexuality when making decisions on forming intimate relationships, getting married, and having children.

One additional point – let us not confuse the teaching of ensoulment with biologically assigned sex. Catholic natural theology does not simplistically equivocate our biologically assigned sex to our capacity to know God through reason. Consider those

children born with genetic abnormalities that obscure determination of their male versus female identity; they are still given the capacity to know God, and their sex organs neither determine nor limit that capacity.

– **Deacon Melvin Dowdy, Phd**
Richmond

Social justice is pro-life

The April 17 article on interfaith action for social justice is welcome news. Two Charlottesville groups, IMPACT and RISC, are addressing major problems, including homelessness and poor housing conditions.

Other urban centers, for example, Richmond and Tidewater, may be wise to adopt this interfaith model of the biblical Nehemiah approach to a city’s needs.

With so much achieved, and so much still to do, it may seem awkward to ask for more. In fact, some major pro-life issues require attention, not only locally, but also at the level of Virginia’s legislature and executive branch.

Specifically (and these suggestions are minimal), an increased minimum wage and enforcement of workplace safety rules are of immense importance. There have been recent revelations of high numbers of teenage migrant workers, exploited by low pay, long hours, and dangerous working conditions.

Environmental justice is also of pro-life importance, considering how many people work without protection from pollutants, and how many of us live downwind of them. These conditions contribute to miscarriages and to maternal and infant mortality.

Interfaith efforts are warranted for these problems. Whatever one’s

faith, residence or economic status, nobody should have to eat, drink or breathe industrial waste.

– **Philip F. O’Mara**
Lexington

Editor’s note: As noted in the April 17 article, IMPACT is a Charlottesville-based group, while RISC works in Richmond.

We need more Catholic schools

This is in reply to our bishop’s column on April 17, dealing with Catholic schools. It was an outstanding article which needs to be further implemented with positive actions.

When I was a youngster growing up in the Brooklyn Diocese of New York, which covered downtown Brooklyn out to Montauk Point, the then-Bishop Thomas E. Molloy ordered that no new churches were to be built until a school was operating using the school’s auditorium for church services. He wanted to see that every parish had access to a Catholic school.

I attended Catholic schools for over 20 years and loved every moment. I attribute my successes to

that fantastic Catholic education.

We need Catholic schools to be opened, not closed, and we should start by reopening Holy Cross School, and establishing schools in the western part of Virginia, for example: Staunton and Harrisonburg areas.

Catholic schools are where religious vocations develop, and it would be great if we could have one or two religious in each school.

As for the financial aspects, may I suggest a foundation be set up just for investing principal and using only the income for funding tuitions.

Virginia is a prosperous state, and I can imagine getting funding from the people. This could reduce the tuition to manageable levels.

We need more Catholic schools – not fewer. Let’s all get together and see that it happens.

– **Francis Chester Swoope**

Editor’s note: Learn more about the Virginia Education Improvement Scholarships Tax Credits (EISTC) program at richmonddiocese.org/eistc/.

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

Publisher: Most Reverend Barry C. Knestout

Editor: Lily Nguyen Dunkle (804) 622-5225 lnynguyen@catholicvirginian.org

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

Circulation: Ashly Krebs (804) 622-5226 akrebs@catholicvirginian.org

Eastern Correspondents: Wendy Klesch and Jennifer Neville

Western Correspondents: Karen Adams and Joe Staniunas

Central Correspondents: Kristen L. Byrd and Rose Morrisette

Postmaster: Send address change to The Catholic Virginian, 7800 Carousel Lane, Richmond, VA 23294. The Catholic Virginian ISSN 0008-8404 – Published every other week on Monday by The Catholic Virginian Press, 7800 Carousel Lane, Richmond, VA. Periodical postage paid at Richmond, VA and at additional mailing office. Sixty cents per copy, \$15 per year.

Do I have to donate and what do I do with the knickknacks?



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
JENNA MARIE COOPER
OSV NEWS

Q. I receive solicitations from many religious organizations with pictures of saints, etc. I cannot afford to give donations to all, so I trash them. I hope it's not a sin to throw away those pictures of saints? My priority is my contribution to our parish and other areas that the Church gives donations. (Location withheld)

A. One of the five "precepts of the Church" – i.e., big-picture rules Catholics are obliged to follow – is to provide for the material needs of the Church. This is reflected in Canon 222 of the Code of Canon Law, which states: "Christ's faithful have the obligation to provide for the needs of the Church, so that the Church has available to it those things which are necessary for divine worship, for apostolic and charitable work and for the worthy support of its ministers."

You are fulfilling this obligation by contributing financially to the support of your parish.

However, the Catechism of the Catholic Church clarifies that members of the faithful are to give "each according to his own ability" (CCC 2043).

Similarly, Canon 222 §2 tells us

that besides supporting the administrative needs of the institutional Church, the faithful – being "mindful of the Lord's precept" – are to also "help the poor from their own resources." But here too, the Church's law would only expect us to give insofar as we are truly able.

In some cases, we might justly decline to give to a charity soliciting a donation because we are on a strict budget, a fixed income, or even because we need to save that money for emergencies or retirement.

Finally, our charitable giving is a matter of prudence and discretion on our part. Not all charities are created equal. Even if you were a billionaire and could give to everyone who asks for donations, it would still be perfectly reasonable to be selective in which charities you choose to support.

In any case, even if you don't give to a charity, it's fine to keep whatever free gift they send you.

If you don't want to keep all the saint images (and holy cards, rosaries, medals, etc.) that come in the mail, generally we say that devotional items should be disposed of in a reverent way, such as burning or burying.

Perhaps the best thing to do with the unwanted pious knickknacks that come in the mail would be to pass them along to someone who can use them. Many parishes have something like a "free table" where people can leave, share, and

swap these kinds of religious articles.

Q. Why do Catholics pray for the souls in purgatory to lessen their sufferings? Is it possible that the souls already in purgatory would even go to hell, so our prayers for them would save them from going to hell? (Piscataway, New Jersey)

A. We don't pray that souls in purgatory won't wind up in hell, because hell is no longer a possibility for them. We do pray because we hope that, through our prayers and sacrifices, the sufferings of their purgation might be eased and their journey to heaven might be hastened.

Whether we go to heaven or hell is decided at the point of our death. But we know that God is merciful and wants us to be in eternity with him. God is therefore very forgiving and will save even the most sinful soul – even if that person only repents at the last minute!

However, not everyone ultimately destined for heaven will be ready to meet the all-holy God face-to-face immediately upon death. Catholics believe in a state called purgatory, which is a place of purification specifically in preparation for heaven.

As the Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us: "... Every sin, even venial, entails an unhealthy attachment to creatures, which

must be purified either here on earth, or after death in the state called Purgatory. This purification frees one from what is called the temporal punishment of sin. These two punishments must not be conceived of as a kind of vengeance inflicted by God from without, but as following from the very nature of sin." (CCC 1472)

In other words, all sin leaves some damaging effect on our souls which can often last even after we have repented or sought absolution in the sacrament of penance. Purgatory is a time of repairing this damage.

We understand purgatory to be a finite period of suffering, often described or depicted artistically as a purifying fire. Still, the suffering of purgatory is of a radically different nature than the torments of hell, since the souls in purgatory have the joy of knowing that they are on their way toward God.

Incidentally, we can pray for the dead even if we may personally have doubts about an individual's salvation. While a soul in hell can no longer benefit from prayers, we never know what happens between a soul and God in the final moments of life. Prayers for the dead are never wasted.

Jenna Marie Cooper, who holds a licentiate in canon law, is a consecrated virgin and a canonist whose column appears weekly at OSV News. Send your questions to CatholicQA@osv.com.

PENINSULA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

THE HIDDEN GEM OF THE HAMPTON ROADS AREA SINCE 1903.

Grade 8-12
Rolling Admissions
Flexible Tuition

Applications are open
Space is available for the
2023-2024 School Year



Faith



Academics



Athletics



Service



Arts

INQUIRE TODAY

757-596-7247

WWW.PENINSULACATHOLIC.ORG

600 HARPERSVILLE RD

NEWPORT NEWS, VA 23602



Barbie affirms children with Down syndrome despite targeted abortions

KIMBERLEY HEATHERINGTON
OSV News

(OSV News) – When Mattel announced the release of a Barbie doll portrayed with Down syndrome April 25, the global toymaker explained the addition to its product line is intended “to allow even more children to see themselves in Barbie.”

But a corresponding awful and certainly unintentional irony is that – due to elective abortion – the doll has fewer potential lookalike playmates than ever before.

While estimates vary, elective abortions of children whose Down syndrome is detected in prenatal tests are as high as 67-75% in America. In Denmark, the figure is 98%, while other European nations report rates exceeding 90%. In England, Wales and Scotland, the rate is 90%, as it is in mainland China. Virtually no children are born with Down syndrome in Iceland.

Speaking with OSV News concerning the new Barbie doll, Mark Bradford – founding president of the Jérôme Lejeune Foundation USA – said, “I think we have to see this as a positive development, and use it to point out the contradiction of promoting individuals with disabilities, and using Down syndrome as the symbol of that, against the push – and there is a push in many

areas of this country – for prenatal diagnosis and the termination of individuals with Down syndrome.”

Bradford also is now the Venerable Jérôme Lejeune fellow at Bishop Robert E. Barron’s Word on Fire Institute. Lejeune, the French scientist who identified the genetic cause of Down syndrome, is a candidate for sainthood. In January 2021, his “heroic virtues” were officially recognized by Pope Francis, who declared him “venerable.”

Bradford has a son with Down syndrome and five daughters.

“When our daughters had Barbie dolls 20 years ago and more, Barbie was pretty much white, and you could either get brown hair, blonde hair or red hair,” recalled Bradford.

“Eventually, skin tones became more varied, and ethnicities became more varied, and so they began to open up, and appeal to more of what the United States looks like nowadays,” he added.

The Barbie line currently features dolls with 35 skin tones, 97 hairstyles and nine body types. A Barbie with Down syndrome is, Bradford said, “a natural and positive extension of that, because it’s beginning to include individuals with disabilities.”

More than just a toy, the doll becomes “an affirmation of who they are. It’s an acknowledgment that a



Model and influencer Enya holds Barbie’s first doll with Down syndrome, in Haarlem, Netherlands. (OSV News photo/Radek Leski for Mattel, handout via Reuters)

major toy company has created a doll that looks like them,” Bradford said, “and represents who they are.”

Lisa McKnight, executive vice president and global head of Barbie & Dolls, noted in a Mattel press release that the new Barbie also is meant to encourage “children to play with dolls who do not look like themselves. Doll play outside of a child’s own lived experience can teach understanding and build a greater sense of empathy, leading to a more accepting world,” McKnight said in the statement.

The doll quickly sold out online at major retailers such as Amazon and Target, leaving parents to complain in Mattel’s website comment boxes that it could only be found on eBay selling at \$85 instead of the \$10.99 retail price.

“Additional product will be available this summer,” Aly Lloyd, Mattel’s senior PR associate for Barbie & Dolls, told OSV News.

To reflect someone with Down syndrome, the doll features a body shape and face sculpt different than a traditional Barbie; Mattel notes these “physical features were reviewed by a medical professional.”

Its blue and yellow outfit highlights the colors of Down syndrome awareness, and it sports a pendant necklace representing both the Down syndrome community and chromosome symbols genetically associated with Down syndrome. It also wears ankle foot orthotics for support, as do some children with Down syndrome.

“As parents – and consumers

– we get to choose the culture we want,” Daniel Schreck, current president and chairman of the Jérôme Lejeune Foundation USA, said in a statement to OSV News. “That means supporting companies and causes that align with the values we teach at home.”

“As a result, I’d welcome anything that highlights the essential contributions that persons with Down Syndrome make to our culture: their positivity, accomplishments, determination, purity, and the like. There’s so much to celebrate,” he added.

Down syndrome advocacy benefits society as a whole, Schreck asserted. “Being vocal about our loved ones is important for everyone. In upholding and promoting the intrinsic human dignity of those with Down Syndrome, we are upholding the dignity of all persons. Doing that will begin to bend the culture, including corporations, back to humanity. That’s the legacy of Dr. Lejeune that we now advance at our foundation,” Schreck shared with OSV News.

“Mattel is proud to continue its partnership with NDSS by donating 2,500 Barbie Fashionista dolls, inclusive of the Barbie doll with Down syndrome, to the NDSS flagship New York City Buddy Walk® on September 9,” Lloyd said in a statement.

Launched in 1995 by the National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS), the Buddy Walk is a fundraiser that promotes acceptance and inclusion for those with Down syndrome.

WHAT WE’VE HEARD



(Photo/Joy Bowes)

Women’s Giving Circle held its Awards Luncheon on April 26, at the Pastoral Center, Richmond. Grants were awarded to four organizations:

■ **Mary’s Choice RVA:** \$8,331 awarded for computer equipment. The organization provides a “Christ-centered program of guidance and support for women facing a crisis during pregnancy.”

■ **Boaz & Ruth:** \$2,500 awarded for computer lab. The faith-based group is working to rebuild the Highland Park neighborhood of Richmond, empower people to improve their lives, and help the community prosper.

■ **Society of St. Vincent de Paul - Richmond:** \$7,500 for furniture. The society of Vincentians works to serve those in need. In April, the Richmond conference opened the society’s first thrift store in the diocese.

■ **St. Joseph Catholic School, Petersburg:** \$6,907 for automated external defibrillators (AED).

The Women’s Giving Circle is a network of approximately 30 women in the Richmond area helping to strengthen communities across the diocese through collective philanthropy. The circle raises awareness and funds to support organizations which serve communities. A total of \$25,238 was awarded this year.

Catholic hospital: federal government backs off ultimatum over sanctuary candle

KATE SCANLON
OSV News

(OSV News) – A Catholic hospital in Oklahoma said the federal government has backed off after presenting it with a choice to either extinguish a candle in its chapel’s sanctuary or risk its ability to treat patients covered by Medicare, Medicaid or the Children’s Health Insurance Program, which would have jeopardized its ability to operate at all.

The hospital was represented by a religious liberty law firm that says the government violated the First Amendment.

Lori Windham, vice president and senior counsel at Becket, wrote on Twitter May 5 that the government “has seen the light and has abandoned its attempt to force an Oklahoma hospital to blow out a small candle or stop serving elderly, disabled, and low-income patients.”

The Department of Health and Human Services, Windham said, “has told Saint Francis that it can keep its living flame – a sacred candle housed in the hospital chapel.”

St. Francis Hospital South, which is part of St. Francis Health System, the 12th largest hospital system in the nation, has a sacred candle lit inside its hospital chapel at all times, in accordance with Catholic teaching that a lit candle is a symbol that Christ is present.

The hospital said it follows every pertinent fire regulation, and the sanctuary flame is enclosed, away from any medical equipment and regularly passes annual reviews by the local fire marshal.

But the hospital said that following a February inspection on behalf of the Centers for

Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), a federal agency under HHS, a surveyor said the flame was not in compliance with CMS regulations.

In response, Becket, a Washington-based religious liberty law firm, sent a letter May 2 to HHS officials said that despite “many sprinkler heads surrounding the candle, good exhaust, the flame’s double glass encasing, the bronze top enclosing the flame, despite its mounting to a wall over six feet high, and despite the surveyor’s knowledge of the fire marshal’s long-standing approval of the eternal flame, the sanctuary lamp did not meet with the surveyor’s favor.”

Failure to extinguish the flame could jeopardize the hospital’s accreditation, and thus its ability to serve elderly, disabled and low-income patients who rely on Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP, the letter said.

“You have threatened to deny accreditation because Saint Francis keeps a candle – an eternal flame – in its hospital sanctuary,” the letter said, adding, “If we go to court, you will lose.”

Barry Steichen, St. Francis’ executive vice president and chief operating officer, said in a statement that “over 60 years ago, Saint Francis was founded by William K. and Natalie Warren as an act of gratitude and service to God and to the people of Oklahoma.”

“The cornerstone of Saint Francis is love for God and man,” Steichen said. “To this day, the Saint Francis torch insignia indicates a space of hope: a place where the medical and spiritual stand as one.”

Steichen, whose statement was issued before Becket said the government had backed off its demand, said the hospital was “being asked

to choose between serving those in need and worshipping God in the chapel, but they go hand in hand.”

“To share a quotation of Saint Francis Xavier that is familiar to many Saint Francis staff, ‘it is not the actual physical exertion that counts towards one’s progress, nor the nature of the task, but by the spirit of faith with which it is undertaken,’” he said.

“Our work depends upon our faith in the living God, and the sanctuary candle represents this to us,” he added.

Windham in her earlier statement called the government’s demand “absurd and unlawful – it is targeting Saint Francis’s sincere beliefs without any good reason.”

“The government has a simple choice: either stop this attack on Saint Francis’s faith or expect a legal firestorm,” she said.

A spokesperson for CMS did not immediately respond to a request for comment from OSV News.



Holy Family, Virginia Beach, hosts a 5K fundraiser, May 5. (Photo/Wendy Klesch)

See Haiti 5K

Continued from Page 3

A fast friendship

Jacki Friedsam volunteered at the party after the race by working at a table offering Haitian goods for sale: a selection of coffee as well as PeaceCYCLE bags – totes made by a small Port-au-Prince company whose workers make new products from the thousands of discarded plastic water bags that clog the city’s streets.

“The Haiti Ministry at Holy Family has always been very active,” she said. “We have found that, in ministry, people will help if you invite them.”

It’s a policy that has also served to make the annual fundraiser a success.

This year’s 5K raised \$6,800. The Holy Family Day School also raised \$600, which will be used for seeds that they will send to one of the schools in Baptiste.

“It was a lot of fun,” parishioner Pat Connor said. “There were a lot of children, which is always very welcome and cute to see. Next year, I’m going to run it.”

“We all made it,” Hall said, laughing. “That’s the main thing.”

Pregnancy Counseling

Commonwealth Catholic Charities is committed to providing free, life-affirming support to women.

To learn more about this ministry visit:

www.cccofva.org/pregnancy-counseling





Charlottesville • Norton • Richmond • Roanoke

Ascension teaches us to trust and hope in Jesus



inheritance of holy ones, and the “surpassing greatness of his power for those who believe” (19). He reminds them of the good things promised to those who listen to God and follow God’s commands.

In the Gospel reading, Jesus tells disciples: “all power in heaven and earth has been given to me” and sends them out to preach the Gospel. He says they will make disciples throughout the world and be his witnesses from Judea to the whole world.

In the reading from Acts, the disciples are told they will receive power to do this when they are baptized by the Holy Spirit and directs them to go back to Jerusalem and wait there for the fulfillment of the promised Spirit of God.

While the disciples didn’t fully understand Jesus and what the Kingdom of God was about, as evidenced by their question about the restoration of the Kingdom, they had learned to trust Jesus and listen to him.

Acts 1:12-14, which follows this reading, is the first reading for the Seventh Sunday of Easter, the in-between Sunday when the Ascension is celebrated on Thursday. It describes how the disciples believed Jesus and followed his instructions to return to Jerusalem and wait. They, along with Jesus’ mother Mary and other women in their company, returned to Jerusalem, devoted themselves to prayer, and awaited the coming of the Holy Spirit.

**Acts 1:1-11;
Ephesians 1:17-23;
Matthew 28:16-20**

The message of hope for the disciples and the early Church is also a message of

hope for us. Like the disciples, we might not always understand God working in our life, but like them we have been taught to trust God. Jesus promises to remain with us always and he fulfills this promise in the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

The Holy Spirit is certainly present in our lives. It is present in the Church gathered, the sacraments celebrated and in various ways in our life. The Holy Spirit is continually poured on us, the people of God, the Church. It gives us the power to be God’s presence in the world.

As we prepare to commemorate and celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, we first celebrate Jesus’ return to the Father and the promise of the Holy Spirit.

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

In his Christ Our Hope column for Easter Sunday (April 3), Bishop Barry C. Knestout talked about the “in-between time” from the Crucifixion until the Resurrection, a time when Jesus’ disciples were confused and unsure of what to do next.

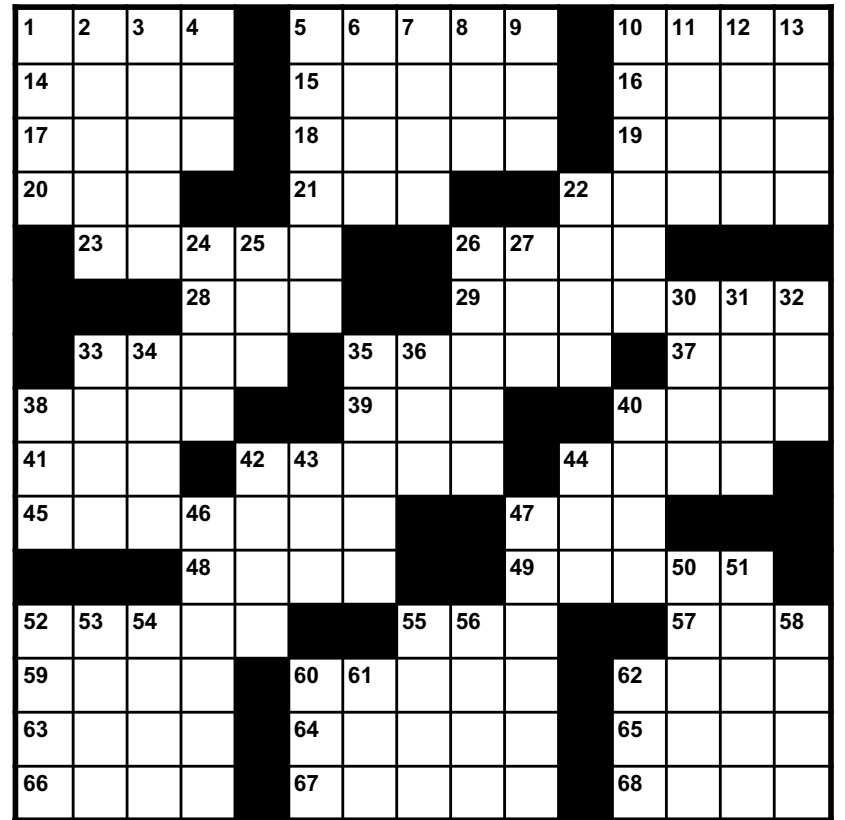
The Seventh Sunday of Easter marks the start of another in-between time for the disciples – between the Ascension, Jesus’ return to the Father, and the coming of the promised Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

This time, however, is different. Consider what you might have done in the same situation as the disciples. We might have also been looking up to heaven wondering, did that really happen? Did he just float out of sight? Maybe also looking on in disbelief that Jesus was gone?

The reading from Acts might give us the impression of doubt and confusion. This is not the message intended for us.

While the disciples might have been a little confused or dazed at first and the two messengers had to get their attention and ask them why they were looking up to heaven, there is no doubt or confusion in Jesus’ message. It is a message of hope.

In the letter to the Ephesians, Paul prays that they know the hope of those called by Jesus, the



www.wordgamesforcatholics.com

ACROSS

- 1 Husband of Ruth
- 5 Starting point of the Exodus
- 10 “As I see it, those who plow mischief and sow trouble will ____ them.” (Job 4:8)
- 14 Rubberneck
- 15 Get to know
- 16 Jaguarundi
- 17 “...that I have sinned exceedingly in thought, word, and ____”
- 18 Small land mass surrounded by water
- 19 Borscht ingredient
- 20 Affirmative
- 21 French holy woman (abbr.)
- 22 Tribe of Israel
- 23 “Quiet!”
- 26 Made off with
- 28 Agency headed by uncle of Cardinal Dulles
- 29 Level of command
- 33 Furnace
- 35 Muscular type
- 37 Writer Fleming
- 38 Mary made a request of Jesus here
- 39 High mountain
- 40 Soft drink
- 41 Schnozz ending
- 42 “...but I could be wrong”
- 44 Members of a religious order
- 45 Out of the game
- 47 Governor Bush, convert to Catholicism
- 48 French-speaking Canadian diocese
- 49 Whatsoever
- 52 These fell in Jericho
- 55 In ____ Signo
- 57 Hotel annex?
- 59 Fourth person
- 60 “____ in Deum Patrem omnipotentem...”
- 62 Typee sequel
- 63 Traveled
- 64 Speak off the cuff
- 65 Wading bird
- 66 Couple
- 67 Bundles
- 68 The Spirit descended on Jesus as this

- 6 Exploit
- 7 Eli’s university
- 8 ____-Cana Conference
- 9 Explosive stuff
- 10 Reprimand
- 11 Looked at
- 12 Certain code
- 13 Route
- 22 Fourth Evangelist
- 24 Sch. with the motto “Fiat lux”
- 25 It may be one of omission
- 26 Entice one to sin
- 27 Wood sorrel
- 30 The just are as confident as this animal, according to Prov 28
- 31 Mighty shades
- 32 Vane reading
- 33 Green vegetable
- 34 “____ ideal world...”
- 35 Laying on of ____
- 36 “Strange Magic” rock grp.
- 38 Swan
- 40 Benedict XVI visited here in 2012
- 42 Units of electrical resistance
- 43 Classic wheels
- 44 “...the kingdom of heaven is like a ____” (Mt 13:47)
- 46 Phoned
- 47 ____ Ladder
- 50 It was thought to be the abode of the unbaptized but innocent
- 51 Pope before Benedict III
- 52 One of two names in a Catholic book publishing company
- 53 “____ Ben Adhem”
- 54 Castor’s mother
- 55 The Inferno
- 56 Drooling dog of comics
- 58 Patron saint of South America
- 60 Singer Calloway
- 61 Dietary data
- 62 Fact finale

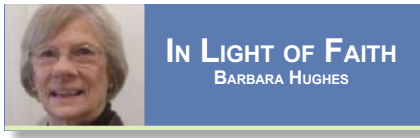
Answers page 16

DOWN

- 1 “We are many parts, we are all one ____.”
- 2 Double curves
- 3 First letter of the Hebrew alphabet
- 4 Last letter in Paris
- 5 He cured Naaman of leprosy in 2 Kings



Be agents of hope in 'culture of death'



In his encyclical "Evangelium Vitae," St. Pope John Paul II described the ethos of the world as a "culture of death." Given the current moral state of much of our world today, the 1995 document seems sadly prophetic.

Amid daily news reports of mass shootings, war crimes, and the escalation of religious persecution, St. Pope John Paul's assessment of a world philosophy that has gone terribly wrong is becoming more ominous by the day.

Rampant disregard for human life seems to have taken on a life of its own. One might wonder how we got here.

When the pope penned his encyclical, he was referring to the widespread practice of abortion and a growing acceptance of euthanasia.

At the time of its publication, Cardinal Joseph L. Bernadin described it as a "Teaching for the entire world." However, rather than taking the words of the saint to heart, proponents of abortion now disguise it as a woman's right to choose, and euthanasia is considered an act of compassion.

In dressing up disobedience to God as personal freedom, Satan

is perpetuating the great lie, using the same tactics he did with Adam and Eve.

However, just as the sin of Adam and Eve could not diminish God's love for his people, so our sins cannot estrange us from the love of God, who assured us that forgiveness is always possible. Nevertheless, God's mercy should not lead to presumption or complacency on our part.

I recently read where busyness has become the new sloth when it comes to prayer and our relationship with God. What the author meant was that busyness, as often as laziness, provides us with an excuse not to go to Mass, spend time in prayer, or help a neighbor in need.

As long as I stay busy, I don't have to think about the state of my soul or what God might be asking of me. The author, Lauren E. Winner, makes a good point. It seems a lot of discretionary time is spent trying to keep from being bored.

Instead of prioritizing time with God at the center of our life, God gets sidelined. It's little wonder then that a restless boredom sets in, and that family values, the sanctity of life and our true identities as sons and daughters of God become irrelevant and seemingly outdated.

There's a lot of discussion these days about artificial intel-

ligence. While in Hungary, Pope Francis addressed the students and faculty at a university in Budapest that is the center of research for information technology and bionic science that specializes in genetics.

During his speech, Pope Francis warned of the dangers of hedonistic, conformist freedom that enslaves people to material objects and practices.

The way forward, said Pope Francis, "is truth and the key to accessing truth is knowledge that is never detached from love of God and neighbor, which is the gift of the Holy Spirit."

He urged the audience to defeat world conformism with the Gospel. In a way he was echoing the words of St. Pope John Paul in "Evangelium Vitae," which translated means the "Gospel of Life." Forty days after Easter, Jesus ascended into heaven, but not before promising to send the Holy Spirit as an Advocate. Jesus knew how difficult it would be to forge a path against cultural winds, and so he promised to be with us until the end of time.

We cannot give into pessimism, for as Christians, we are people of hope. There is much to celebrate in this world that is good and holy, and ironically, that can include suffering. Rather than banishing suffering from life, we are called to look to Jesus who

suffered and died for us because we are broken by sin.

To be a Christian means that we have discovered our true identity is in Christ, because everything else will pass away. Many in the early Church suffered and died for the faith because they believed that their suffering was a self-giving participation in the sorrows of the world and that when united with the sufferings of Jesus on the cross, they were redemptive.

Such divinely inspired acts of love are sourced in the Holy Spirit, which we received at baptism and confirmation, but unless they are cultivated, they will be of little help when we need them most.

The apostles spend nine days praying and preparing for the first Pentecost. May we as members of the Church prepare for the Feast of Pentecost by prayerfully renewing our commitment to all that is good in this world so that we will become agents of hope and instruments of love in a world desperately in need.

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



Healing Service

June 1st + 7-9PM

Saint Bede Catholic Church

3686 Ironbound Road Williamsburg, VA 23188

Anyone can come. Bring a friend! We are boldly believing in miracles, signs, and wonders! **Expect the Holy Spirit to show up in power!**



Praise & Worship



Adoration



Intercessory Prayer

Order of Malta makes history with new grand master

JUSTIN McLELLAN
Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) – The Sovereign Order of Malta has elected Canadian Fra' John T. Dunlap as its 81st grand master, the first non-European to head the order in its history.

Dunlap was elected May 3 by an absolute majority of the 99 voters



Fra' John T. Dunlap is elected grand master of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta at Rome's Villa Magistrale, May 3. (CNS photo/Courtesy Sovereign Military Order of Malta)

from 18 different countries, according to a statement released by the order.

A corporate and immigration lawyer from Ottawa, Dunlap has

been legal counsel to the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations since 1997. He joined the Order of Malta just one year earlier and took his vows to become a professed knight of the order in 2008.

In June 2022, Pope Francis appointed Dunlap to lead the order as lieutenant of the grand master. The Order of Malta had not had a grand master since the death of Fra' Giacomo Dalla Torre in 2020.

Pope Francis issued a new constitution and code for the order in September 2022 following a lengthy review process with the help of his special delegate, Cardinal Silvano Tomasi, who had been working closely with the order.

In it, the pope underscored that the Order of Malta is a religious order that “depends on the Holy See,” and that its sovereign nature is only meant to help facilitate its purpose and function, which includes providing humanitarian and charitable assistance around the world.

Founded in Jerusalem in the 11th century, the Order of Malta is a lay religious order recognized as a sovereign state by international law, which helps to facilitate its humanitarian missions around the world and maintain diplomatic relations



Members of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta vote for a new grand master at Rome's Villa Magistrale, May 3. (CNS photo/Courtesy Sovereign Military Order of Malta)

with over 100 countries.

“There are many challenges that await us, but united in the awareness of our mission of ‘tuitio fidei et obsequium pauperum’ (witnessing the faith, helping the poor), I am sure that we will be able to face them together united and cohesively,” Dunlap said to the voting members of the order following his election.

Dunlap was sworn in May 3 in the presence of Cardinal Tomasi.

According to the order's new constitution, he will remain in office

for 10 years. Grand masters were previously elected for life.

The order's code specifies that the grand master must “devote himself fully to the growth of the order's works and serve as an example of authentic Christian life for all members.”

The Order of Malta oversees thousands of volunteers and medical professionals providing services from support for refugees to natural disaster relief in some 120 countries, according to data from its website.

Deacon Buckley

Continued from Page 1

of his own.

He shared his feelings with a friend, and she advised him to talk to his pastor, Msgr. William H. Carr. “That initial conversation and talking with him about it really made a huge impact on me,” said the deacon.

“Hearing his story, the encouragement that he was able to give me, seeing the similarities in what he had gone through and what I was going through was really encouraging,” he recalled.

Msgr. Carr suggested he talk to the director of vocations for the diocese. As it turned out, a retreat for men thinking of the priesthood was scheduled for that weekend, and Deacon Buckley decided to go.

Realizing the calling is ‘real’

The theme was *Duc in Altum* from Luke 5:4, where Jesus tells the fishermen who will become his first disciples to “put out into the deep.”

For Deacon Buckley, it was a powerful experience. He met seminarians, other young men at various levels of discernment, and concluded that his calling “was real, it was very possible.” By January 2017, he had started the application process.

He said he continued to struggle with some of the expectations of his vocation but brought that into his prayers “where the peace came from bringing all those struggles to the Lord and experiencing a great amount of peace when I considered that call to the priesthood and hearing the reality that he would be with me.”

He entered the seminary that fall. The six years of preparation for ordination have been challenging and rewarding, he said. He has appreciated the opportunities to pick up the baton a bit in his parish assignments, starting his first summer after entering the seminary.



Deacon William C. Buckley receives the Call to Orders from Bishop Barry C. Knestout during a visit to the Pastoral Center, Richmond, on April 25. Deacon Buckley is set to be ordained a priest on June 3.

(Photo/Stephen Previtera)

“Those experiences really helped, helped me understand the vocation more, reinforced that call, challenged me to grow in a lot of ways,” he said, “to grow into gradually becoming a more public person, trying to conform more and more to a priestly presence, to Christ the priest.”

He spent most of 2020-2021 at Our Lady of Nazareth, Roanoke, where he will celebrate one of his first Masses June 11. Many pandemic restrictions were still in place, and he said he learned a lot from that experience, “finding new ways to proclaim the Gospel and bring people to an encounter with Christ.”

The young man who will be ordained a priest June 3 at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Richmond, has also found inspiration in the lives of the saints. He said he appreciates the zeal and humility of Saint James the Apostle, his confirmation saint.

He has also grown close to Saint Therese of Lisieux, “a great intercessor for me in my vocation.”

And he said he has always been close to Saint Cecilia, admiring the patron saint of music for her humility and devotion to Christ – not just because he was born on Nov. 22, her feast day.

Though he does not know what his first parish assignment will be, he is excited “to give myself fully to the priesthood,” trusting that the Lord has “called me to be a priest for a reason.”

One of the most attractive things about the vocation, he believes, is “the ability of the priest to be present and to bring Christ's presence to people in a way that others don't have the ability to do ... to be there for people in whatever they're going through and being able to do that because of the foundation of my relationship with Christ.”

Celebrating Mass, hearing confessions, and being a shepherd to his parishioners will all soon be at the center of William Buckley's life as he completes his journey from the choir loft to the altar.

Miracles exhibit

Continued from Page 1

cataloging every single reported eucharistic miracle in the world, complete with photographs and historical information detailing each event.

This massive undertaking took four years to complete. The online catalog served as his passport, and he visited dozens of cities with the click of his mouse.

He died in 2006 at the age of 15, his body buried in the town of his favorite saint, Francis of Assisi.

Priests in Italy printed and assembled Carlo's catalog and launched a traveling exhibition of the eucharistic miracles, which has now reached hundreds of places over five continents, including the Diocese of Richmond.

The Eucharistic Miracles of the World exhibit was displayed at Saint Michael the Archangel, Richmond, April 29-30.

Approving eucharistic miracles

According to Catholic World Mission, "A eucharistic miracle involves the body and blood of the Eucharist taking on biological qualities of Christ's blood, flesh, or both."

This includes blood or bodily tissue appearing on the Host; the Host emitting a bright light or pulsing like a beating heart; wine turning into blood; the Eucharist surviving traumatic events such as fire, flood, or physical attack; and other occurrences.

There have been hundreds of incidents reported over the centuries, but not all are approved as miracles. After a miracle claim is made, a lengthy approval process begins. An investigation is opened, which may take months to years to complete.

Though each case is different, the investigation may include questioning witnesses, examining the Eucharist, and scientifically testing samples before the Vatican will approve of a eucharistic miracle.

While many reported incidents have been deemed fake by the Church, more than 100 eucharistic miracles have been approved, and each has its own display panel in the traveling exhibition.

Hope for eucharistic revival

Deacon Andy Cirno was instrumental in bringing the exhibition to Saint Michael. Before moving to Virginia, he served as a deacon in the Chicago area, where the exhibition had traveled before.

At the event, he was moved by the unifying force of the Eucharist for Catholics around the world, despite cultural and language barriers between countries. Once Deacon Andy established himself at Saint Michael, he suggested bringing the exhibition there, and pastor Dan Brady swiftly agreed.

"As the source and summit of our faith, yet an incredible truth that is doubted by so many, I believe that seeing an exposition of these miracles will have a very positive effect," Deacon Andy said. "I pray that this experience can go a long way to help those who doubt."

Doubt is a common theme among these miracles, with parishioners and even priests often struggling with the idea of transubstantiation, where the bread and wine turn into the body and blood of Christ after consecration.

Even though this is a central tenet of the Catholic faith, the idea of the bread and wine becoming Jesus' actual body and blood is hard for many to believe. That's where the miracles come in.

Timothy McAndrew used to doubt. He and his wife Jenny were both born into Catholic families but were never religious. Together, they felt called to become closer to God, leading them to regular confession, prayer, and parish involvement – eventually becoming regional stewards of the exhibition.

They made the Eucharist the center of their lives and the lives of their five children, one who



Eucharistic Miracles of the World exhibition makes a stop April 29-30 at Saint Michael the Archangel, Glen Allen. Blessed Carlo Acutis catalogued every reported eucharistic miracle in the world before his death in 2006. (Photo/Michael Mickle)



Exhibit featuring more than 100 approved eucharistic miracles set up at Saint Michael the Archangel, Glen Allen, during the weekend of April 29-30. Exhibit has made hundreds of stops on five continents. (Photo/Kristen L. Byrd)

is now a Carmelite nun. Their home is in Ohio, but they travel on weekends to share the ways they were moved by the exhibit. Richmond is the farthest they have journeyed with the exhibit.

"You may wonder if I always believed in my heart that this was truly Jesus hidden in this little tiny Host," McAndrew said. "I would say in my head yes, in my heart no. But over the last ten years of traveling with the miracles and spending many hours in adoration with our Lord, now my heart says yes. It is truly Jesus."

Miracle after miracle

With the melodic sound of Gregorian chants gently playing on endless loop in the background, the exhibit takes visitors on a world tour.

A volcano erupted on the Caribbean island of Martinique 121 years ago, its lava swiftly flowing towards the village of Morne-Rouge. Many of the villagers gathered in the church, praying to be spared. The priest bestowed a general absolution and distributed the Eucharist.

It was then that parishioners claimed to see an image of the Sacred Heart on the Host. The apparition lasted several hours while the volcano raged on, and the village survived the eruption despite other towns being destroyed.

On another island in the same year, a similar miracle was recorded. On the island of La Reunion, a priest saw a halo glowing around the Host, and then a human face with a crown of thorns. He said he couldn't believe his eyes, and abruptly left the altar during Mass.

He asked several others to go to the tabernacle to find out if they observed anything unusual. They all returned, claiming to see Jesus in the Host as well. The image later changed to a crucifix and then disappeared after being witnessed by thousands.

In 1345, days before Easter, a man in Amsterdam named Ysbrand Dommer was suffering from extreme illness and asked his priest for the Eucharist. He promptly vomited the Host, the pieces of which were thrown into the fireplace. The next morning, Ysbrand awoke completely healed and claimed to see the Host intact and floating under a glowing light.

Though the Host was then given to the priest, it reappeared three times over Dommer's fireplace. His house was converted to a chapel, which was lost to fire more than a century later. The Host, however, is said to have survived the blaze. The miracle is still celebrated each year with a procession through the city.

In several countries, there are stories of doubt-

ing priests having their faith restored by a eucharistic miracle. In Austria, one priest saw wine turn to blood and start boiling in its chalice. Other priests claimed to see Jesus' face, or the Host pulsating like a heart.

In Lanciano, Italy, a priest who had been internally questioning the sacredness of the Eucharist during Mass saw the Host become flesh and the wine become blood. Though this happened back in 750, a scientific examination of the remnants took place more than 1,200 years later in 1970.

According to the doctor who conducted the tests, the Host contained myocardium (heart) tissue and the wine contained human blood, specifically blood type AB, known as the "universal receiver" blood type. The flesh was found to be living tissue and not that of a corpse, something that baffled many.

In 1973, the World Health Organization appointed a separate commission which conducted hundreds of tests, all of which corroborated the original doctor's findings with no medical explanation.

More recently, in 1996, a church in Buenos Aires became the site of a eucharistic miracle. A consecrated Host had fallen to the floor, and the priest followed procedure and put it in a glass of water to dissolve. The priest checked on it days later, only to find it bloody and no longer looking like a regular Host, but like human flesh.

The auxiliary bishop was notified and an investigation was conducted over the next several years. The Host was tested and found to contain living heart muscle, just like the one in Lanciano. Human blood was also found, again type AB like in Lanciano. Additional tests were performed years later with the same result.

The auxiliary bishop involved was none other than Father Jorge Mario Bergoglio, though he is better known by his current title: Pope Francis.

Today, the 15-year-old boy who started it all is well on his way to sainthood, with Pope Francis beatifying Carlo in 2020.

While he was still alive but suffering greatly, Carlo said, "To always be close to Jesus, that's my life plan."

Though his life was cut short, he stuck to this plan. Now in death, he is helping others do the same.

Editor's note:

Read this story at catholicvirginian.org to learn more about Carlo and his catalog, as well as the miracles in the exhibit.

OPPORTUNITIES

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Rocky Mount, seeks a part-time Music Coordinator who, under the guidance of and in close collaboration with the pastor, will plan and coordinate music for parish worship. The coordinator will lead and accompany music for Saturday 4:30 p.m. and Sunday 8 a.m. 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). 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. Salary based on experience. Applicants should email a résumé to bookkeeper@stfrancism.org.

Peninsula Catholic H. S., Newport News, has the following positions open:

• **Marketing Coordinator/Development Assistant.** This position emphasizes the promotion of the school, private strategic gathering, and disseminating information to raise the awareness and image of the school within its own constituency and in the broader community to increase financial support and enrollment. Moderator of the Yearbook student club and development of the school's yearbook. Bachelor's degree in a related field or experience in public relations, website and social media management and fundraising. Minimum three years development experience, including annual campaigns, preferred. Must

possess reliable transportation and be approved by an insurance carrier to drive a personal vehicle. Proficiency with Microsoft Suite, InDesign and donor database management preferred. Proficiency in using a DSLR camera.

• **Director of Development.** Charged with organizing and implementing, while guiding, a comprehensive philanthropy program to secure support, with a focus on major gifts and scholarship funding, through strategically cultivating constituency groups and the broader business community. Responsible for raising private and corporate funds. Supervise Development and Marketing Team. Network with outside groups and organizations. Bachelor's degree in a related field or significant experience in major gifts giving and public relations. Minimum five years development experience including annual and capital campaigns preferred. Able to handle multiple projects/priorities. Must be flexible regarding work schedule and location to support Development events. Proficiency with Microsoft Suite.

• **Media Center Specialist.** The specialist's primary responsibilities include ordering educational materials, equipment, and supplies for the media center; maintaining inventory of media center; coordinating use of media center, audio-visual equipment, and computer resources; teaching library and research skills using a multi-media approach; administering federal funding program; serving as the school liaison for Title 2 Funding; serving as school liaison with the Newport News Public Schools System for media center-related matters; chairing the committee that investigates instances of challenged material; maintaining and supervising use of Media Center Internet

sources; maintaining and operating the School Store; and assisting the Technology Specialist with management of Chromebooks. Minimum of a bachelor's degree in library science, state certification (persons pursuing minimum certification requirements may be hired with a provisional certificate provided they will be professionally certified within two years), familiarity with preparing a budget, professional oral and written communication skills required. Please send cover letter, résumé, diocesan application (<https://bit.ly/36ndEsX>), and references to Peninsula Catholic High School, Attn: Principal, 600 Harpersville Road, Newport News, VA 23601 or email principal@peninsulacatholic.org. Application deadline is Thursday, June 15 or until the position is filled.

Portsmouth Catholic Regional School has the following open positions:

• **Full-time Spanish Teacher**, grades K-8

with high school Spanish endorsement for the 2023-2024 school year.

• **Full- or Part-time Music Teacher**, who will engage pre-school-8th grade students in meaningful, quality music instruction – including singing, rhythm, theory and music reading appropriate to the age/grade. The Music Teacher will also provide keyboard playing and appropriate liturgical music for weekly Mass as well as keyboard performance/support for Christmas and spring music performances. Candidates must desire to work in a Christ-centered environment and be thoroughly prepared to enthusiastically educate students in both faith and content knowledge. A current Virginia teaching certification is required. The candidate will maintain all state-required teaching certifications as well as any diocesan human resource requirements. To apply, please send a cover letter, résumé and a diocesan application (<https://bit.ly/36ndEsX>) to Priscilla Taylor at priscillataylor@portsmouthcatholic.net.

SHORTTAKES

Resurrection Catholic Church will hold its Joyous Junque sale at its Parish Center, 15353 Moneta Road (Route 122), Moneta. Friday and Saturday, June 2 and 3, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Everything and anything you could use inside and outside your house. Toys, linens, dishes, electronics, small appliances, computers, flowers, pots and pans, collectibles, jewelry, antiques, furniture will be inside the building. Outside are tools, lawn/garden, sporting goods, electric ranges, watercraft, a vehicle, miscellaneous hardware, and construction material. For more information go to JoyousJunque.org.

The Catholic Women's Organization of St. John Neumann Catholic Church (2480 Batterson Road, Powhatan) will hold our annual Indoor Yard Sale in

the church's Father Val Hall on Saturday, June 3. Rain or shine – come one, come all! Browse all that we have! Yard sale is open 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Proceeds benefit church ministries. Please contact Marge Vitch with any questions: margeryvitch@gmail.com.

You are invited to the **9th Annual Hope 4 Life Charity Banquet**, Saturday, June 10, St. Matthew Catholic School, 3316 Sandra Lane, Virginia Beach. Reception at 6:30 p.m., banquet at 7 p.m. Keynote by Sister Catherine Marie of the Sisters of Life. RSVP early to save your seat: email Louantha Kerr at ourhope4life@gmail.com or call 757-810-1653. Donations gratefully accepted. All proceeds benefit Hope 4 Life Medical Mobile Pregnancy Center to assist moms and families in crisis pregnancies.

Come join an incredible Catholic community of educators, students and parents at



Now Hiring for the 2023-2024 academic year: Elementary, Middle and High School Faculty, School Leadership Positions - Assistant Head of School and Dean of Faculty, and Teaching Assistants in all levels. Please contact Mr. Patrick Patterson, Principal & Head of School at ppatterson@roanokecatholic.com or 540.982.3532 www.roanokecatholic.com Learn more about joining us in this short video below.



Mayo con María, arte y fe en los Jardines Vaticanos

Con ocasión del mes mariano, los Museos Vaticanos proponen una serie de visitas especiales a los Jardines Vaticanos. Un viaje cultural y espiritual para descubrir las maravillas botánicas y las obras de arte con las que los Papas han querido venerar a la Virgen María

PAOLO ONDARZA - CIUDAD DEL VATICANO

Diez como los granos de cada cuenta del rosario. Estas son las etapas del itinerario espiritual, cultural y naturalista dedicado a la Virgen María durante el mes de mayo, todos los miércoles y sábados, desde los *Museos Vaticanos hasta los Jardines Vaticanos*.

Silencio y belleza

El itinerario es mucho más que un simple recorrido cultural y naturalista para descubrir las imágenes marianas que salpican los jardines del Papa: es una peregrinación, una experiencia espiritual y contemplativa favorecida por el silencio, la belleza de las obras artísticas dedicadas a la Virgen María y las maravillas botánicas que caracterizan el espacio verde, verdadero oasis de paz, que ocupa aproximadamente la mitad de la superficie de todo el Estado Vaticano.

A través de la creación, una alabanza al Creador

Mayo con María. “En este itinerario – explica a *Vatican News* sor Emanuela Edwards, responsable de la Oficina de Actividades Didácticas de los Museos Vaticanos – podremos ver muchas estatuas e iconos marianos que decoran los Jardines Vaticanos y con los que los Papas a lo largo de la historia han querido honrar a la Virgen María. Es una manera de estar cerca de María en este mes de mayo que está dedicado a ella”. Cada parada va acompañada de una explicación sobre la obra de arte y la historia a la que hace referencia y termina con el rezo de un Ave María.

María, la flor más bella de la creación

Arte y fe acompañan pues al visitante peregrino favoreciendo a través de la contemplación de la creación, la alabanza a Dios, Creador de toda Belleza. “Es una tradición de la Iglesia – continúa la religiosa – dedicar el mes de mayo a la Santísima Virgen María porque, así como en este mes la naturaleza despierta y se muestra en toda su belleza, así honramos a la flor más bella de la creación: la Inmaculada Concepción. Si además pensamos en el hermoso rezo del Santo Rosario, recordamos que fue creado para ofrecer, idealmente, a la Virgen una corona de rosas que luego se convierten en Ave María”.

El itinerario de la devoción a María

Entre olivos centenarios, cedros, pinos, cipreses, acompañados por el perfume de las flores y el canto de los pájaros que pueblan los Jardines Vaticanos en esta estación, pasan bellas imágenes marianas: la estatua de Nuestra Señora de la Guardia, donada por los genoveses a

Benedicto XV en recuerdo de la aparición al campesino Benedetto Pareto, o la escultura de la Virgen de Fátima, recuerdo de las apariciones a los tres niños pastores portugueses en 1917 y de los fenómenos que las acompañaron, como el milagro del sol, pero también del atentado sufrido por San Juan Pablo II el 13 de mayo de 1981.

Dulce y maternal es la mirada de Nuestra Señora del Sagrado Corazón, donada en el 2006 por el obispo de Ventimiglia a Benedicto XVI en recuerdo de la estatua milagrosa que en Taggia, en 1855, movió los ojos y tomó la apariencia de una persona viva.

Una pequeña gruta de Lourdes en el Vaticano

A continuación, llegamos al monumento dedicado a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, que recoge el momento en que Juan Diego abrió su manto, mostrando al obispo Juan de Zumárraga las flores que habían florecido fuera de temporada en el lugar donde más tarde se construyó el santuario. Especialmente cautivadora es la parada ante la reproducción de la Gruta de Nuestra Señora de Lourdes, que, hoy como en tiempos de León XIII, permite rezar en el Vaticano a la Virgen Inmaculada que se apareció en Francia en 1858 a Bernadette Soubirous.

Aquí se encuentra el altar que originalmente se guardaba en el famoso santuario mariano y que más tarde fue donado a San Juan XXIII.

El itinerario conduce después, idealmente, a América Latina con las diez imágenes marianas veneradas y realizadas en mosaico por varios artistas o con la Virgen de Luján, patrona de Argentina y particularmente querida por Francisco. “Esta obra – señala la hermana Emanuela Edwards – fue realizada por Alejandro Marmo que, por voluntad del Papa, utilizó material de descarte para recordarnos que ante Dios nunca se tira nada, sino que siempre todos somos recuperados por su misericordia”.

Tras la audiencia general del Papa

El calendario del Mayo con María ofrece al peregrino y turista la oportunidad de participar en esta experiencia, además del sábado, el miércoles, día de la catequesis del Papa en la Plaza de San Pedro: “Una vez terminada la audiencia, se puede disfrutar de este maravilloso itinerario espiritual”. Las visitas que se pueden reservar en la página web de los Museos Vaticanos están abiertas a todos, incluidas las familias con niños o personas con discapacidades sensoriales, motoras e intelectuales. Estas últimas podrán beneficiarse de la reserva específica en la dirección de correo electrónico: education.musei@scv.va.

Todo es fácil con la ayuda de María

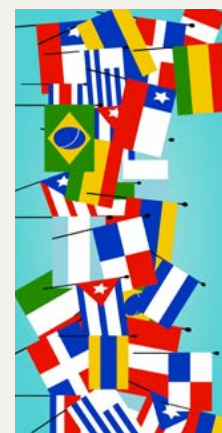
“Con este recorrido – concluye la responsable de la Oficina para las Actividades Didácticas de los Museos Vaticanos – tocamos los muchos modos en que la Virgen ha hablado a sus hijos a lo largo del tiempo. Es siempre



conmoverse detenerse ante este amor materno de María por todos nosotros y ver también cómo el arte ha inmortalizado la presencia de María en la vida de la Iglesia”.

“Me gustaría que los peregrinos, al final del camino, se llevaran a casa, pero aún más en su corazón, las palabras que Nuestra Señora de la Guardia dijo al campesino Benedetto Pareto”:

“Confía en mí. No te faltarán los medios. Con mi ayuda todo será fácil”



Vatican investigates possible eucharistic miracle

GINA CHRISTIAN
OSV News

(OSV News) – A possible Eucharistic miracle in Connecticut is now under investigation by the Vatican.

Archbishop Leonard P. Blair told a Hartford television news station May 2 that the Dicastery (formerly Congregation) for the Doctrine of the Faith will examine whether an apparent multiplication of Communion hosts during a March 5 liturgy at St. Thomas Church in Thomaston, Connecticut, was supernatural. The church, along with Immaculate Conception Church and St. Casimir Church, both in Terryville, Connecticut, is part of St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish.

St. Maximilian Kolbe pastor Father Joseph Crowley said in a YouTube livestream of his March 12 homily that an unnamed extraordinary minister of Holy Communion at the previous week's liturgy had begun to run out of hosts – only to find that “all of a sudden there (were) more hosts in the ciborium.”

The minister continued to distribute the hosts to some “100, 150 people in the congregation,” after which “there was the same amount, if not more hosts” in the ciborium, said Father Crowley in his March 12 homily.

“What happened is Our Lord multiplied himself. ... I have no doubt. I know what I gave the person. I know what (was) returned (to the tabernacle). It was just very obvious and plain to me as to what happened,” the priest added.

In a livestream video of his post-Communion remarks at the March 5 liturgy at St. Thomas Church, a visibly struck Father Crowley said the experience was “very powerful, very awesome, very real, very shocking.”

A local saint in the making also may have played a role, Father Crowley said in his March 12 homily, since Blessed Michael McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus, served as pastor of St. Thomas Church from 1884 until his death in 1890.

“I think in a very profound way that ... because of Blessed McGivney's



life here ... it shows that this is a very special place. And it's important to God,” said Father Crowley in that reflection. “And I think good things are coming. I think great things are coming.”

David Elliott, associate director of communications for the Archdiocese of Hartford, told OSV News at the time that the archdiocesan judicial vicar, Father George S. Mukuka, was “looking into the possibility of a eucharistic miracle” at the parish.

Speaking to media May 2, Archbishop Blair said he had “(sent) out an experienced priest who has knowledge of Church law, canon law, to follow procedure, (and) to just examine exactly what happened and under what circumstances.”

He noted that “the guidelines for these kinds of situations do call for me to notify the (Dicastery) for the Doctrine of the Faith in Rome.”

The Vatican's investigation is expected to take approximately two weeks.

In the 21st century, only four eucharistic miracles have been recognized throughout the world, according to the Magis Center, which, under the leadership of scholar and Jesuit Father Robert J. Spitzer, promotes dialogue between faith and science.

The last recognized miracle occurred in 2013 in Legnica, Poland, where a consecrated host, left to dissolve in water after it was accidentally dropped, formed red stains that under scientific analysis were found to contain fragmented parts of cross-striated muscle resembling that of heart muscle. The host was approved for veneration in April 2016 by then-Bishop Zbigniew Kiernikowski of Legnica.

OSV News has contacted both the Archdiocese of Hartford and Father Crowley for comment.

Pope: visit grandparents before World Youth Day

JUSTIN McLELLAN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Just under three months before World Youth Day gets underway in Lisbon, Portugal, Pope Francis said young people should consult their grandparents about how to prepare.

In a two-minute video message recorded in Spanish and published May 4, the pope urged young people preparing for World Youth Day to “look toward your roots.”

“Try to spend time with the elderly. Many of you have grandparents; visit your grandparents,” he said, and ask them “what do you think I must do?” to prepare for World Youth Day.

“Talk a little with your grandparents. They'll give you wisdom, but always go forward,” said the pope.

Pope Francis is expected to attend part of the weeklong international meeting, which will take place Aug. 1-6.

Despite the many things young people have on their minds to prepare for the international gathering – such as requesting vacation or getting what they need before making a long trip – they must look to World Youth Day with hope, Pope Francis said.

“Have hope, because one grows a lot at an event like World Youth Day,” he said. “We don't realize it, but things remain inside us. The

values we find within us remain, the relationships we form with other young people from other countries, the encounters, it all remains inside.”

“Above all,” he said, “seeing the strength of young people. The Church has the strength of the youth.”

A spokesperson for World Youth Day said that as of May 4 more than 550,000 young people already were registered for the event in Lisbon. The pope, on camera and live in front of thousands of people gathered to pray the Angelus with him, registered in October with the help of some Portuguese young people.

The theme for this year's World Youth Day is “Mary arose and went in haste,” a passage from the Gospel of Luke.

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

www.wordgamesforcatholics.com

6TH ANNUAL

ST. NICHOLAS CARNIVAL

2023

JUNE 1 - 4

ST. NICHOLAS CATHOLIC CHURCH
712 LITTLE NECK ROAD, VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23452
WWW.STNICHOLASVB.COM

EXCITING NEW RIDES - CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

HUGE FLEA MARKET - LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

DELICIOUS CONCESSIONS INCLUDING OUR FAMOUS "RIDICULOUS NICHOLAS FRIES"

PLUS 2 FREE CONCERTS

THE DELOEANS
FRIDAY
JUNE 2
7 - 10 PM

WONDERLAND
SATURDAY
JUNE 3
7 - 10 PM

1 - DAY ALL-YOU-CAN-RIDE WRISTBAND:
ADVANCE: \$20
AT THE GATE: \$25

SCAN QR CODE TO PURCHASE TICKETS:

CARNIVAL & FLEA MARKET HOURS:
THUR, JUNE 1 5 - 10 PM
FRI, JUNE 2 5 - 10 PM
SAT, JUNE 3 10 AM - 10 PM
SUN, JUNE 4 NOON - 5 PM