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Father William C. Buckley receives 'awesome gift of being ordained a priest'

LILY NGUYEN DUNKLE
The Catholic Virginian

“We are to constantly seek to be one with the Lord’s mind and heart,” Bishop Barry C. Knestout said as he ordained William C. Buckley to the priesthood, on June 3, at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Richmond.

“It is God the Father who is the source of all fatherhood and from whom our fatherhood comes,” said the bishop during his homily.

“This fatherhood is much more than an intention that accompanies your ordination,” Bishop Knestout told Father Buckley, “It is a daily commitment, renewed and practiced in each situation as we are called to be Christ’s priest – in teaching, sanctifying and shepherding God’s people.”

During the rite of ordination, the tall and reserved young man’s voice and actions were steady as he answered the bishop and resolved to accept all the responsibilities of the priesthood.

Father Buckley said he was a little nervous at different points during the ordination, “but it was comforting to remember to focus on what God was doing, and to just allow myself to be present and open to receiving this awesome gift of being ordained a priest.”

He knelt and placed his hands in Bishop Knestout’s hands as a sign of obedience, promising his fidelity. He then prostrated himself on the floor in front of the altar, an act of humility and surrender to God, as everyone in the church sang a litany to the saints, asking for their prayers on behalf of Father Buckley.

“When I was laying on the floor during the litany, I knew the Holy Spirit was there, opening my heart ... It was surreal,” Father Buckley said after Mass, with a big smile on his face.

Becoming brother priests

The newly-ordained priest was vested with the stole and chasuble by his former pastor, now-retired Msgr. William H. Carr. In a previous interview with The

Catholic Virginian, Father Buckley said Msgr. Carr was very influential in his discernment to entering the seminary.

“It meant a great deal for Msgr. Carr to be there and to vest me at the ordination,” said Father Buckley. “From the very beginning of my discernment of the priesthood, he has been there for me and has encouraged me to keep following the Lord’s call.”

From the time Father Buckley was a child, he sang and played music in church. As the Rockville Centre, New York, native grew older, he became a talented musician and worked as a music minister. In 2017, he was working as a music minister at Saint Bridget, Richmond, when he began hearing the call to the priesthood.

Msgr. Carr was pastor at the time and recalled Father Buckley being a “superior” musician and vocalist, but also “shy, humble, and eager to learn about parish life.” Msgr. Carr said “something in his (Father Buckley’s) heart touched him” about the music minister becoming a priest.

Before the ordination began, Msgr. Carr said he was thinking about the “spiritual handing off of priesthood, from my own time to William’s.”

“I had 54 years of fulfillment and I’m glad I did it,” Msgr. Carr said about his life as a priest. “I wish the same for him, and more.”

Father Buckley also spoke of the new bond he has with his former pastor. “His priestly fatherhood really shaped me in many ways, and so it is an amazing gift to have been able to have him at the ordination and to be a brother priest with him now.”

Prayers from family, friends, strangers

The new priest’s father, Christopher Buckley, also talked about the impact of Msgr. Carr on Father Buckley’s path to priesthood.

He said the path may have started when his son was very young. “He was always very dedicated to the Church.

See Father Buckley, Page 10



Msgr. William H. Carr and Father William C. Buckley share a touching moment after the newly-ordained priest is vested the first time with stole and chasuble.



Among the first people Father William C. Buckley blesses as a priest are Bishop Barry C. Knestout (above left); and his parents and sister.



Bishop Barry C. Knestout lays his hands on Father William C. Buckley’s head, signifying the conferral of the Holy Spirit during the Rite of Ordination. (Photos/Michael Mickle)



Bishop Barry C. Knestout lays his hands on Father William C. Buckley’s head, signifying the conferral of the Holy Spirit during the Rite of Ordination. (Photos/Michael Mickle)

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The Catholic Virginian
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Celebrating birthday on Corpus Christi a 'special grace'



CHRIST OUR HOPE
MOST REV. BARRY C. KNESTOUT

As a twin, I grew up sharing my birthday each year. My brother Thomas and I usually celebrated the day with each other and with family.

During college, in the seminary, and as a priest, I would clear my calendar in anticipation of my birthday. There was only one thing I wanted on that day — a day off! No classes, no meetings, no appointments, no work. Just a day off.

That changed after I was named a bishop as my birthday almost always occurs during the U.S. bishops' spring assembly. Thus, I often share my birthday with the work of the bishops' conference. No day off.

Generally, birthdays are an opportunity to express our appreciation for somebody not for anything they've done, but just because of who they are. We honor them for no other reason than that we care about them, and we want to show our affection for them. We're grateful that they are with us. That's the ideal birthday — one that is focused on the individual.

But, from time to time, a birthday coincides with something else that is significant, e.g., another person's birthday, an anniversary, a holy

When our celebrations are shared with others, that is significant. It's an experience of communion, a reminder that none of us is an island, none of us is isolated, none of us is the center of things.

— BISHOP BARRY C. KNESTOUT

day or some other special event.

This year, the Feast of Corpus Christi — the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ — fell on the same day as my birthday. It was a special grace to have a birthday coincide with this feast, which is part of a year in which we are focusing on the Eucharist. That focus is being observed by dioceses throughout the United States.

When our celebrations are shared with others, that is significant. It's an experience of communion, a reminder that none of us is an island, none of us is isolated, none of us is the center of things.

Rather, all of us are part of a larger community, a network of individuals that we appreciate and on whom we rely. We can enhance each other's lives with what we say and do.

In having a birthday on the Feast of Corpus Christi, I reflected upon the communion we share with God — a communion that's made possible by Christ and his sacrifice. God enters our human experience; he accompanies us and shares in our humanity so we can share in his divinity.

That's what Corpus Christi is about. We recognize, praise and worship God for his real presence, for his being with us and for his ongoing eucharistic presence in his Body and Blood. This is a source of awe and blessing. It's God's generosity, his love for us expressed through his desire to be one with us so we can be one with him.

This real presence is stated beautifully during the preparation of the offertory gifts when the priest places a drop of water into the wine and prays: "May we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity."

There is no greater gift anyone could receive than God giving his presence to us. Consider the magnitude of this gift: he gave himself to us so that we could be lifted into the fullness of life with him.

Just as birthdays recognize and celebrate a person merely for being, so, too, on Corpus Christi we recognize, celebrate, embrace and express gratitude for the presence of God.

CLERGY ASSIGNMENTS

Most Reverend Barry C. Knestout, bishop of Richmond, has announced the following clergy appointments effective Saturday, July 1, 2023.

OFFICIAL

Episcopal Vicars

Father Brian Capuano, from vicar for vocations and interim director for the Office of Worship to judicial vicar and chancellor of the Diocese of Richmond.

Father Matthew Kiehl, from pastor of Holy Spirit, Virginia Beach, to vicar for vocations of the Diocese of Richmond.

Father Kenneth Shuping, while remaining pastor of St. Bridget, Richmond, appointed episcopal vicar for the Central Vicariate and member of the College of Consultors of the Diocese of Richmond.

Pastors

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

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

Father Rolo Castillo, from pastor of Christ the King, Abingdon, and St. John the Evangelist, Marion, to pastor of Church of St. Therese, Chesapeake.

Father Christopher Hess, from pastor of St. Anne, Bristol; St. Bernard, Gate City; and St. Patrick, Dungannon, to pastor of Immaculate Heart of

Mary, Blackstone; Sacred Heart, Meherrin; and St. Theresa, Farmville.

Father Gerald Kaggwa, from pastor of Church of Francis de Sales, Mathews, and Church of the Visitation, Topping, to pastor of Blessed Sacrament, Norfolk.

Father Anthony Mpungu, from pastor of St. Mark, Virginia Beach, to pastor of Holy Spirit, Virginia Beach.

Administrators

Father Peter Barfi, from parochial vicar of Church of the Resurrection, Portsmouth, to administrator of Immaculate Conception, Bumpass, and Saint Jude, Mineral.

Father Magnus Tochi Iwuji, from director of the Office for Black Catholics and pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary, Blackstone; Sacred Heart, Meherrin; and St. Theresa, Farmville, to administrator of Holy Rosary, Richmond, while remaining as director of the Office for Black Catholics.

Father Policarpio Lagco, from parochial vicar of Immaculate Heart of Mary, Blackstone; Sacred Heart, Meherrin; and St. Theresa, Farmville, to administrator of Church of the Transfiguration, Fincastle, and St. John the Evangelist, New Castle.

Father Thomas Lawrence III, from parochial vicar of St. Joseph, Hampton; St. Mary Star of the Sea, Fort Monroe; and St. Vincent de Paul, Newport News, to administrator of St. Anne, Bristol; St. Bernard, Gate City; and St. Patrick, Dungannon.

Father Christopher Masla, from parochial vicar of St. Andrew, Roanoke, to administrator of Christ the King, Abingdon; and St. John the Evangelist, Marion.

Father Johnny Mintah Mensah, from parochial vicar of Good Shepherd, South Hill; St. Catherine of Siena, Clarksville; and St. Paschal Baylon, South Boston, to administrator of Church of Francis de Sales, Mathews; and Church of the Visitation, Topping.

Father Ritche Sarabia, from parochial vicar of Blessed Sacrament, Norfolk, to administrator of Holy Spirit Catholic Community, Jonesville; Sacred Heart, Big Stone Gap; St. Anthony, Norton; and St. Joseph, Clintwood.

Father Renier Supranes, from parochial vicar of St. Michael the Archangel, Glen Allen, to administrator of Church of St. Elizabeth of Holy Family, Pocahontas; Church of St. Joseph of Holy Family, Grundy; Church of St. Mary of Holy Family, Richlands; and St. Theresa of Holy Family, Tazewell.

Parochial Vicars

Father Dillon Bruce, from studies at the Pontifical North American College in Rome, Italy, to parochial vicar of St. Joseph, Hampton; St. Mary Star of the Sea, Fort Monroe; and St. Vincent de Paul, Newport News.

Father Julio Buena, from parochial vicar of Church of the Sacred Heart, South Prince George; St. James, Hopewell; and St. John, Petersburg, to parochial vicar of St. Augustine, North Chesterfield.

Retired

Father Michael Duffy, from adjutant judicial vicar of the Diocese of Richmond and pastor of Immaculate Conception, Bumpass; and St. Jude, Mineral, to retired status.

Father Walter Lewis, from pastor of St. John Neumann, Powhatan, to retired status.

Msgr. R. Francis Muench, from judicial vicar and chancellor of the Diocese of Richmond and episcopal vicar for the Central Vicariate, to retired status.

Father Kevin O'Brien, from pastor of Church of St. Therese, Chesapeake, to retired status.

Young cancer survivor is 'back to being a kid again'

JENNIFER NEVILLE

Special to The Catholic Virginian

A fall when he was 5 years old saved Tucker Davis' life.

On Easter 2019, while standing in his living room in Virginia Beach, Tucker fell, hitting his head. Thinking he had a concussion, his parents, Adam and Kelly Davis, rushed him to Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters (CHKD) in Norfolk – and learned he actually had a brain tumor.

Although Tucker needed brain surgery, Kelly considers the incident "a divine fall" because had the aggressive form of cancer not been discovered, it would have infected his spine.

The seven-hour surgery, which came a mere four days after diagnosis, removed 97% of the tumor; however, instead of recovering in the expected 24 to 48 hours, Tucker developed posterior fossa syndrome. According to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital website, that can cause problems with communication, motor skills and mood.

"Over the next month, May of 2019, Tucker woke up very slowly, as if he was starting as an infant again. He had to learn everything – from focusing his eyes, holding his own neck up, sitting, moving his arms and legs, talking, crawling and eventually walking," his mother explained.

"Through it all, he never complained. He wanted to get back to being a kid again, and so he just kept moving forward," she said.

That summer, he received six weeks of proton therapy, a less invasive form of radiation, and he underwent "a light dose of chemo-

therapy," Kelly said. A year later, in August, his first post-treatment MRI revealed that the remaining 3% of his tumor was gone.

Nevertheless, he had an additional six months of chemotherapy to ensure the cancer was killed at the cellular level, Kelly said. He also had physical and occupational therapy.

A loving school community

Tucker repeated kindergarten, and when he started first grade, his parents enrolled him at Star of the Sea (SOS), Virginia Beach, which educates pre-K3 through eighth grade. He is in third grade, while his younger brother, Brooks, attends first grade.

Principal Carey Averill described Tucker as kind, sweet and "a very happy young man."

"He participates in everything. I've never seen him without a smile on his face. When he walks down the hall, he kind of has a little skip in his step," she said.

Tucker said he likes the variety of classes at Star of the Sea – especially art, music, Spanish and library – but his favorite times of school are lunch and recess.

Kelly said the school's loving, family-like atmosphere has proven beneficial for Tucker, who has lingering effects from the chemotherapy and posterior fossa syndrome. He is slower at processing information than his peers, has some physical limitations and has hearing loss.

"(SOS) has really been such a blessing," Kelly said. "They will go above and beyond for the parents and the kids. It's like one huge family."



Tucker Davis (bottom right) and his family celebrate after his treatment for brain cancer ended in 2020. Tucker, who was five when diagnosed with brain cancer in 2019 and is now in remission, underwent proton therapy and chemotherapy. Pictured are his parents Adam and Kelly Davis and his brother Brooks, 3. (Photo/Kelly Davis)

Adam added, "We knew right away that he was in the right place," a feeling that was solidified that first autumn when Tucker had to

run a mile. Knowing that Tucker was apprehensive, the coach talked with Kelly and Adam

See *Cancer survivor*, Page 13

Scrap the sin of pride when you're sick

LISA M. HENDEY
OSV News

When I was diagnosed with invasive lobular carcinoma during Lent this year, I prayed to experience spiritual transformation as a part of my treatment journey.

Calling to confirm my diagnosis, my doctor uttered that cliché phrase, "Are you sitting down right now?" At that moment, I asked God to help me overcome my desire to handle my illness privately. By inviting everyone I knew to pray for me, I took my first step out of pride and into the fullness of healing.

This is my second foray down the breast cancer path. My first happened when I was 45 years old and still had children at home. Then, I approached my surgery and treatment as a project to overcome and complete, an item to be checked off of my to-do list.

With a relatively uncomplicated case, I was able to continue life and my work schedule with little disruption. Daily Mass became part of my path to wellness. My illness and subsequent healing transformed me physically but especially spiritually.

This time around has been markedly different. In late March, I underwent a 10-hour surgi-

cal procedure followed by four days of inpatient care. Back at home, an infection wreaked havoc on my system. For six weeks, I marked time to the beat of my next dose of non-prescription painkillers. As soon as I could raise my arms over my head, my daily radiation oncology treatments began.

When I complete radiation in a few weeks, I will commence a five-year path of endocrine treatments. With every passing day, as my pain diminishes and reality sets in, I realize that far from being something I will mark as "done," this cancer journey is a life lesson I'm only just beginning.

It is a consolation to be a person of faith when health issues arise. Prior to surgery, I received the sacraments of penance and anointing of the sick. I've been blanketed by the prayers of friends and strangers.

I had my most poignant Easter celebration ever when my husband, a convert to the faith, returned home from his music ministry duties at the Easter Mass I'd watched on television with a pyx in hand. With tears of gratitude filling both our eyes, Greg quietly offered me the Body of Christ in my recliner. Amen, alleluia, my heart sang.

By far, the roughest spiritual lesson of this illness and recovery has been the one I apparently most needed to learn: humility. Like many seniors, I am growing increasingly concerned with my ability to continue to function independently. I went into this experience expecting to be back on my feet and at my desk a few weeks after surgery. I've been slow to accept the fact that God has other plans.

Learning to humbly accept help has become a beautiful spiritual practice for me during a time when my normal prayer disciplines feel too daunting. In trying to admit my frailty and need, I am unlocking the sweetness of the virtue that has long eluded me.

When "I want to do it all for myself" is impossible, the opportunity to grow in humility presents itself at every turn.

Saying yes to humility has meant accepting meals from the women in my parish. Their generous gifts have sustained us — body and soul.

Striving to embrace humility has helped me trust that having my work commitments reassigned to others is a blessing in disguise.

Putting the sin of pride behind me has led me to be honest about my need to seek care for my

See *Sick*, Page 13

Bishop issues statement on shooting after Richmond high school graduation

THE CATHOLIC VIRGINIAN STAFF

A graduating senior and his stepfather were killed, and five others injured, in a shooting outside Altria Theater in downtown Richmond on June 6. It happened after a graduation ceremony for Huguenot High School, causing a chaotic scene for families.

Interim Richmond Police Chief Rick Edwards said a 19-year-old suspect was arrested and will be charged with two counts of second-degree murder.

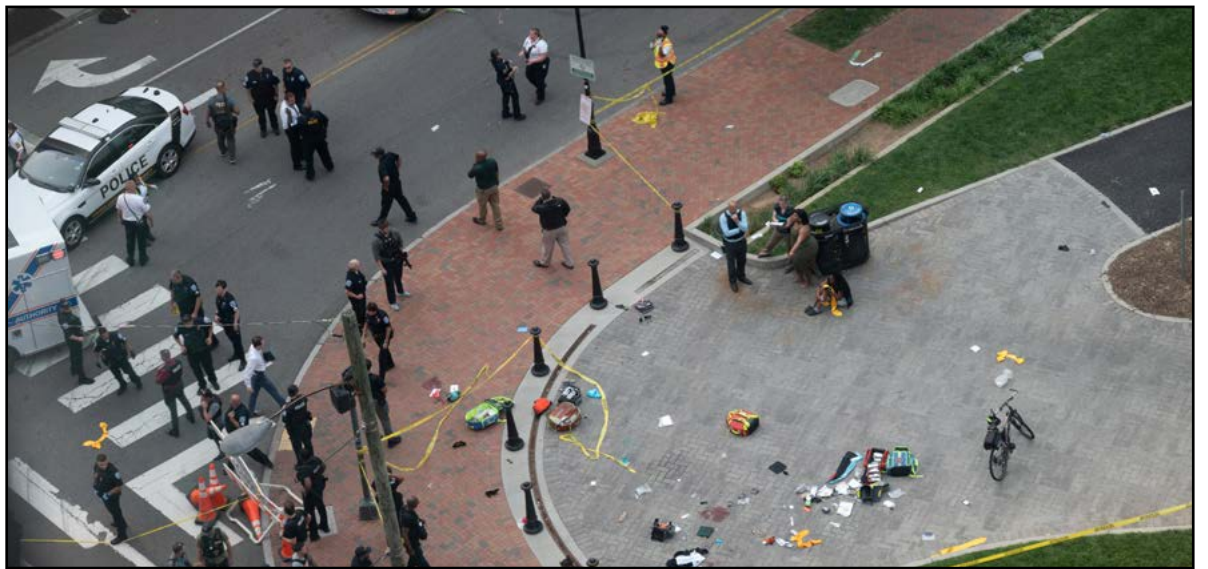
Police said one of the victims was an 18-year-old boy who had just graduated. The other was a 36-year-old man who was attending the graduation. Police believe the suspect knew at least one of the victims.

Altria Theater hosted the public school's graduation ceremony and is two blocks from the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart.

Bishop Barry C. Knestout issued a statement following the shooting:

"Yesterday a violent shooting occurred, this time following a Richmond public high school graduation, resulting in the loss of life and multiple injuries.

"Seven months after an act of gun violence took the lives of three University of Virginia college students, we, in our diocese, are faced with another wrenching act of violence.



Law enforcement officers investigate the scene after a gunman shot seven people following a high school graduation ceremony at Altria Theater, Richmond, on June 6. (OSV News photo/Clark Frierson, Instagram @by.esign/via Reuters)

"This callous act and subsequent chaotic, terrorizing scene occurred just yards away from our Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, causing fear and pandemonium for so many leaving the ceremony. What should have been a day of celebration for families and of student achievements – instead is marred by gun violence.

"Words fail to fully express the trauma so many experienced yesterday, and the lives

crushed because of it. However, I am immensely grateful for our law enforcement community who, despite the chaos, were there to respond swiftly and bring order to a confusing scene.

"In this month of June, in which we celebrate the Sacred Heart of Jesus, may our Lord bring consolation and healing to the lives affected and suffering because of yesterday's violence. May he hold their broken hearts in his."

Pope Francis undergoes successful three-hour surgery for hernia

JUSTIN McLELLAN
Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) – Pope Francis was conscious and alert after a three-hour abdominal surgery that was performed "without complications" to treat a hernia, the Vatican said.

The 86-year-old pope was taken to Rome's Gemelli hospital shortly after his general audience on Tuesday, June 7.

He was put under general anesthesia and underwent abdominal surgery to treat a hernia that developed at the site of abdominal incisions from previous operations, Dr. Sergio Alfieri, the chief surgeon operating on the pope, said at a news conference at the hospital following the operation.

Speaking to journalists after the surgery, Alfieri said Pope Francis had a number of internal scars and adhesions from two operations many years ago, possibly in Argentina; one was to treat peritonitis – inflammation of abdominal tissue – caused by an infected gallbladder and another to treat hydatid disease caused by cysts containing a parasite.

It was this last operation that had left behind scars in the pope's abdominal tissue where another hernia had developed.

Alfieri said that during the three-hour operation, adhesions were found between the intestine and the



Pope Francis greets visitors from the papamobile as he rides around St. Peter's Square at the Vatican before his weekly general audience June 7. The pope underwent surgery that same day for a hernia. (CNS photo/Lola Gomez)

membrane that lines the abdomen, that for months caused an "aggravating, painful" intestinal blockage.

The adhesions were freed during the surgery and the opening in the abdomen's wall that led to the hernia was repaired with prosthetic mesh.

Alfieri, who also operated on the pope in 2021, said the pope had no complications and responded well to the general anesthesia he was administered during this surgery and the one in 2021 that removed part of his colon.

The chief surgeon underscored that, in both operations, all affected tissue had been benign.

"The pope does not have other illnesses," he said.

Alfieri explained that while the medical team that follows the pope had been discussing the scheduled operation for several days, the final decision to operate was not taken until one day earlier, June 6, when Pope Francis briefly visited the hospital for a medical checkup and tests.

"It was not urgent," he said, "or else we would have operated on him then."

Before going to the hospital, the pope seemed well and in good spirits, holding his general audience as usual, riding in the papamobile,

blessing babies, walking with a cane and meeting special guests afterward. He had held two private meetings before the general audience in the St. Peter's Square.

Vatican News reported he arrived at the Gemelli hospital around 11:30 a.m. local time in the compact Fiat 500 he often rides in. The windows of the papal suite on the 10th floor of the hospital were opened just after 6 p.m.

Alfieri noted that shortly after the surgery Pope Francis was already working and making jokes, and had asked the surgeon in jest: "When are we doing the third (surgery)?"

While Alfieri said recovery for this operation typically lasts about seven days, Vatican News reported that the pope's audiences have been canceled until June 18 as a "precaution."

Pope Francis was scheduled to meet with 29 Nobel Peace Prize winners at the Vatican June 10 for an event to celebrate human fraternity. Before going to the hospital, the pope encouraged its organizers to continue with the event as planned, a statement from the foundation organizing the event said.

This was Pope Francis' third hospitalization at the Gemelli hospital; the most recent was from March 29 to April 1 when he was admitted for an acute respiratory infection.

40 years of being 'a good shepherd'

Father Dan Klem celebrated for 'charisma' that 'creates communities'

JENNIFER NEVILLE

Special to The Catholic Virginian

Father Dan Klem is "a kind, gentle soul" who lovingly tends his flock, parishioners past and present said.

When he was pastor at Sacred Heart, Norfolk, he traveled to Pennsylvania to officiate a funeral for a parishioner's mother.

While pastor at St. Therese, Chesapeake, he returned from vacation and learned that a parishioner's son had died while the priest was gone. Even though the funeral had already occurred, he still celebrated a memorial Mass.

He's officiated at weddings out of town and attended graduations.

Stories of his kindness go on, making it clear that Father Klem, who is celebrating his 40th anniversary as a priest, has touched many lives over a lifetime.

But he is humble about it.

"I'm just doing what I'm supposed to do to bring Christ to the world, to help people," he said.

Father Klem has served six parishes, all in the Diocese of Richmond: parochial vicar at Church of St. Therese, 1983-1987; pastor at the Cluster Parishes, St. Catherine of Siena, Clarksville, and Good Shepherd, South Hill, 1987-1990; St. Mark, Virginia Beach, 1990-2002; and Sacred Heart, 2002-2016.

After taking extended sick leave to recuperate from Stage Four Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma and two strokes, he became weekend assistant of the Cluster Parishes of St. Mary, Chesapeake, and Holy Angels, Resurrection, and St. Paul, all three in Portsmouth, about five years ago.

He said each parish has its own "unique character" and "unique needs" which has caused him "to look at things differently and stretch myself some."

Creating communities

Terry Woods, a parishioner at Sacred Heart, called Father Klem "a good shepherd" who brought "the people together."

He strengthened unity at many, if not all, parishes he served, according to people at his 40th anniversary celebration May 21 at Church of the Resurrection.

Amy Woods, former religious education director at Sacred Heart, said Father Klem "brought together the parish," creating a sense of community that continued after he left the parish.

Wherever he goes, he makes friends. The 200 people at the celebration included family, high school and college friends, former and current parishioners and other friends. Rather than eat-



Phil Young, a former parishioner, gives Father Dan Klem (right) a hug at a celebration for the priest's 40th anniversary of ordination on May 21, at Church of the Resurrection, Portsmouth. (Photo/Jennifer Neville)

ing, he visited the 25 tables to chat. As people left, they talked with him some more and hugged him goodbye.

Because Father Klem is "personable, easy going and confident of who he is," he can "wade right into a crowd," said Kevin Kearney, a Sacred Heart parishioner.

Delores Oliver, of St. Paul, added that Father Klem, "sensitive and gentle," has "a charisma" so that "wherever he goes, people are drawn to him."

In fact, one of his biggest assets is being able to connect with people, those at the celebration stressed. He strives to know each person by name, Woods said. And he's always there when one needs him, whether it's day or night, added Susan George of Sacred Heart. Many said he has made a difference in their lives.

"I spend a lot of time listening to people, listening to the movement of the Spirit," Father Klem said. "I guess during my ministry I've never seen myself as a person set apart; I try to enter into life with people and invite them to enter into my life which is what I think Jesus did."

Finding his calling

Father Klem, the oldest of five, was born in 1954 in Chicago. Because his father was a salesman, his family moved often as a child, living in the Midwest, Rochester, NY, and Virginia. His favorite memories center around spending time with his family at Cayuga Lake in New York where they spent many summers. Today, he likes to travel and read.

He went to Northern Virginia Community College and Radford University from which he graduated in 1977 with a major in social work. After college he was the assistant director for two years at St. Francis-Manchester, an assisted living facility in Richmond.

He regularly attended Mass with his family as a child and attended Catholic schools periodically where he said he learned the importance of service. He taught religious education when he was in high school. As a college student, he was on the Campus and Young Adult Ministry, started a program similar to Big Brothers/Big Sisters in Radford, and was a director of the short-lived diocesan charity Fluvanna Project in which college students did census work for parishes and provided services such as running summer daycares and winterizing homes.

During college, he became involved with Encounter with Christ, a retreat experience for college students, and he also became involved in the College Contact Program, a program for college students discerning priesthood or other ministry. He credits both as being instrumental in his discernment to the priesthood.

He went to St. Mary's Seminary & University in Baltimore before transferring to Catholic University of America, in Washington D.C., in his fourth year.

Making it meaningful

Father Klem said he enjoys his calling.

"I'm happy in a sense that I touch people's lives, that I'm able to celebrate the Eucharist and do it with meaning and conviction," he said.

He sees his strengths as "the ability to listen to people, to be present to them, minister to and with them at their vulnerable moments." He strives "to facilitate building community" and "help people to live out their baptismal promises."

Ed McNamee, from Church of Francis de Sales, Mathews, said Father Klem was "probably the finest liturgist I know" who ensures the liturgy "has meaning for everyone." McNamee was a parishioner at St. Mark when Father Dan was its pastor.

Kevin Kearney, a member of Sacred Heart, said Father Klem "is fully about being a Catholic priest and bringing people into the Church."

Cindy Pauler, who belongs to St. Paul, said his "biggest asset" is that "he's so good with babies." She explained that on the day of a baptism, he holds the baby during his homily.

Pat Walsh, a member of Sacred Heart, also praised Father Klem for his spiritual leadership.

"He is a wonderful liturgist. His deep faith shows through in his words and actions while presiding over the Mass. He prays the words, not just recites them," she said. "I often felt that his homilies were directed specifically at me which speaks to his ability to find meaning in the day's Scriptures and apply it to people's daily lives."

"He's a caring pastor, ministering lovingly to his flock whether baptizing a baby – which he does beautifully and lovingly and memorably – or presiding at a wedding, or ministering to a sick person, or celebrating life at a funeral. His dedication to his priestly ministry is evident in all that he does."

During the celebration of his 40th year as a priest on May 21 at Church of the Resurrection, Portsmouth, Father Dan Klem makes an effort to talk with guests at each of the 25 tables. Here, Susan George, parishioner at Sacred Heart, Norfolk, chats with him. Delores Oliver, a former parishioner, said "wherever he goes, people are drawn to him." (Photo/Jennifer Neville)



Accept the gift of the Sabbath: no need to do anything

GUEST COMMENTARY

BISHOP ROBERT REED
OSV NEWS

Let's talk about the Sabbath.

It's "shabbat" in Hebrew. To my Jewish friends heading into Friday evenings, I am always happy to wish them "shabbat shalom," which vaguely means "enjoy a peaceful rest," but actually means so much more, as "shalom" references wholeness within one's entire being. But for our purposes here, we'll keep it easy.

What a wonderful thing to wish someone – a peaceful rest, a break from the daily tumult of noise and news, the ever-growing sense of seeming chaos all around! A break from the daily, and extremely destructive, interior orders that we must "go" and "do" and "get things done" in order that we may prove our worth to a world that seems only to value humans who are accomplished or useful.

The utilitarian instinct is strong in humans, especially in striving societies that have taken their instructions from a Calvinist ancestry. But utilitarianism was never the way of the saints, and it also wasn't the way of Christ, who saw the intrinsic value of all people, regardless of how much or how little they could "get done" in their world.

He saw the value of their simply "being." And "being" – perhaps much more than we realize – is what Jesus was trying to teach us about.

As we learn to rest, as we learn how to simply

"be" with God, with our friends and families, and with the world, eventually the balanced fullness this rest creates within the wholeness of our being gives right-orientation to our doing.

All of that usefulness we so value doesn't go away, but it becomes better channeled toward what pleases God and honors the world and the life we are given.

If we must live purposeful lives (and most of us must, to some extent), then it seems absolutely essential for us to reclaim the idea of Sabbath rest if we are to feel peaceful, well-adjusted and – dare I say it – sane.

Jesus taught that "the Sabbath is for man, and not man for the Sabbath" (Mk 2:27), indicating that this one day of the week is meant to be a blessing, rather than a burden, to those who observe it. We know that God rested after six days of work, and God really did work quite extensively before resting. I mean, when was the last time you created a universe in a week?

I suggest we Christians take a long hard look at the Sabbath, which for us is on Sunday. Whether you're single, or married with a family, young or old, living alone or with a roommate, woman, man, priest, bishop: We all need a day of rest.

This day of rest is a spiritual exercise, and it's meant to be a weekly renewal, a retreat of sorts. It's an opportunity to strengthen your spiritual core.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics says that since the COVID-19 pandemic, people have become more relaxed about their work schedules,

with the average number of worked hours each week dropping. I've noticed in my life a greater willingness to admit that, on a particular day, I've done enough, and that I need to sit down, say my prayers, watch a little TV, eat a meal and simply rest.

The Sabbath seems almost designed for those who have the awesome and sacred responsibility of raising families. Imagine permitting the Sabbath its own schedule. Maybe planning a big post-Mass breakfast is in order, dressing up for church and attending together, planning some afternoon activities, preferably related in some way to the readings, or the feast, or the season.

I realize that sports and other commitments can make such planning a challenge, but if we recognize the power of the Sabbath day and how it benefits our being, I believe we can find a way.

Imagine Sunday as a day completely different from any other day of the week, a day to give glory to God and to worship him, a day to get to know and care for your family or your spouse or your neighbors or your roommates better, a day to rest and to think of other – otherworldly! – things!

The Sabbath was made for us! It is a gift designed and ordered to our good. Let us find a way to embrace the gift, to take advantage of the temporal and eternal blessings of this weekly day of rest.

Bishop Robert Reed is an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Boston, pastor of St. Patrick and Sacred Heart parishes in Watertown, Mass., and president of the CatholicTV network.

How to effectively communicate truth with love

GUEST COMMENTARY

GRETCHEN R. CROWE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, OSV NEWS

You are probably aware of the term "emotional intelligence," which was first coined in 1964 but only really gained in popularity in the last 25 years or so. Emotional intelligence boils down to the ability a person has to be able to manage one's own emotions, and to be able to recognize and respond to – and perhaps even influence – the emotions of those around her.

Some people have more of it, some people have less of it, and companies are making big bucks training workforces to harness it for maximum business impact.

But have you heard of "conversational intelligence?" This idea builds off emotional intelligence, but with an emphasis on how two individuals speak with one another. The idea behind conversational intelligence is that you are able to introduce into dialogue "conversational rituals" that help build trust, teamwork and lead to mutual success.

Conversational intelligence is used primarily to promote business success, but it translates very nicely into any kind of relationship. It's built on neuroscience that has identified what conversation styles trigger the brain in positive, or negative, ways. And it, unsurprisingly, teaches techniques for how to have conversations in such a way that triggers the brain positively.

As interesting as the concept is, however, when studying it, I couldn't help but think that, neuroscience aside, conversational intelligence really comes down to speaking the truth in love. It's the Gospel.

The longtime practice of and the mission behind OSV Publishing is to "speak the truth

through charity in a way that unites" – to not shy away from the challenging issues, or challenging conversations, but to approach them with love, and in a way that seeks the unity that can only be found in Christ.

When it comes to communications, "Once we have practiced listening, which demands waiting and patience, as well as foregoing the assertion of our point of view in a prejudicial way, we can enter into the dynamic of dialogue and sharing, which is precisely that of communicating in a cordial way," Pope Francis wrote.

"After listening to the other with a pure heart, we will also be able to speak following the truth in love (cf. Eph 4:15). We should not be afraid of proclaiming the truth, even if it is at times uncomfortable, but of doing so without charity, without heart," wrote Pope Francis.

In other words, the truth is much more effectively communicated if it is done so in a way that does not trigger the brain negatively! Those who communicate in this cordial way, Pope Francis explains, demonstrate love for the other "because they care and protect their freedom without violating it."

This applies for those of us in the field of media and communications, but it doesn't end there. As Pope Francis wrote, "the commitment to communicating 'with open heart and arms' does not pertain exclusively to those in the field of communications; it is everyone's responsibility."

How might we challenge ourselves to speak the truth in love? On

social media, what if we make a point to be kind, even when someone says something that is less than charitable? Within the Church, what if we approached dialogue with humility rather than as a member of "a side" that seeks to win?

What if, in our workplaces, we spoke to one another directly and generously, rather than resorting to gossip behind the backs of our co-workers?

What if, in our marriages, we abandoned the silent treatment or stopped expecting that our spouses should be mind-readers, and instead respond to conflict with patience, that invaluable fruit of the Holy Spirit?

What if, in our families, we taught our children the difference between right and wrong with peace and compassion, not frustration, directing our actions and emotions?

As Pope Francis wrote, "From the heart come the right words to dispel the shadows of a closed and divided world and to build a civilization which is better than the one we have received." May we work – through our actions and our words – to make it so.

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Does a prenuptial agreement invalidate a marriage?



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
JENNA MARIE COOPER
OSV NEWS

Q. A friend is in a relationship where his fiancée won't sign a prenuptial agreement because she thinks it would make the marriage invalid. It could be grounds for annulment. "For richer and for poorer" etc. What is the canonical opinion here? (Sydney, Australia)

A. When we speak about a prenuptial agreement, or a "prenup," generally we're talking about a secular civil law agreement made prior to a marriage one that details how the individual spouses' resources are to be shared or not shared.

Although laws can vary slightly within the United States, for the most part the presumption is that the spouses combine their resources upon marrying meaning – if the parties were to divorce – one spouse might be legally entitled to property that originally belonged entirely to

the other.

Since as Catholics we believe that marriage is for life, obviously the Church does not recommend having a prenuptial agreement, which seems like a pre-plan for an eventual divorce.

However, by itself a prenuptial agreement is not grounds for a declaration of nullity from a Church marriage tribunal and having a prenuptial agreement does not automatically make a marriage invalid.

In fact, there can be some entirely legitimate reasons why a couple might have a prenuptial agreement. For example, if an older widowed couple marries, they might have a prenuptial agreement in place to ensure that their respective children receive their proper inheritances.

A prenuptial agreement might also be helpful in clarifying exactly who owns what in a multi-generational family farm or business, especially one in which multiple siblings have a stake.

Still, if a divorced couple with a prenuptial agreement were to present their case before a diocesan marriage tribunal, the exact terms and circumstances of the agreement can often be of great interest to the tribunal judges.

Even if a prenuptial agreement is not a direct cause of nullity, it can be a "symptom" of a larger (and invalidating) problem within the union.

An example is the ground of partial simulation "contra bonum sacramenti," often translated into English as "against the good of permanence." This describes a situation where one of the spouses, even if they outwardly promised a lifelong marital commitment at the altar, always intended to allow themselves the possibility of leaving the union. (See can. 1101, 1)

Similarly, but less commonly, one or both spouses might have been genuinely mistaken about the fundamental nature of marriage as a permanent union, in such a way that they never intended to enter into an unbreakable life-long bond. (can. 1099)

A prenuptial agreement which was clearly intended to facilitate an easy civil divorce could be a convincing piece of supporting evidence for grounds such as these.

Additionally, it could also happen that someone might attempt to marry in a contingent way, for instance by saying: "I will marry you, but for only as long

as you remain fit and attractive" or, "I will only consider myself married to you if we are able to have a big family." In canon law, this is called "marriage subject to a future condition," and such attempted marriages are always invalid. (can. 1102, 1)

If the future condition in question was spelled out in a civil prenuptial agreement, this would indeed be a very strong sign of the nullity of the marriage.

Ultimately, just because something doesn't automatically make a potential marriage invalid doesn't mean it's the best thing for fostering a healthy marital relationship. If one party is proposing a prenuptial agreement and the other is uncomfortable with this, it's important to have a pastoral conversation about everyone's feelings, expectations and intentions.

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.

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Thousands line up to venerate nun's apparently incorrupt body



The exhumed body of Sister Mary Wilhelmina Lancaster, founder of the Benedictines of Mary, Queen of Apostles, lies in repose at the Abbey of Our Lady of Ephesus, in Gower, Missouri, on May 21. (OSV News Photo/Megan Marley)

MEGAN MARLEY
OSV News

GOWER, Mo. – Thousands flocked to a rural Missouri monastery over the Memorial Day weekend to venerate the apparently incorrupt body of a Benedictine nun. Visitors told OSV News the experience has been spiritually powerful for them.

“It’s electrifying. It’s galvanizing the hearts of the faithful and the unfaithful as well,” said Luke Nold of Easton, Missouri, a volunteer helping the crowds converging at the Abbey of Our Lady of Ephesus, located outside of Gower.

“I’ve talked to people who have come from as far as Colorado, as near as Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, ... northern Minnesota, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, North Carolina. And some of the stories I’m hearing are just profound. A local mortician came out just in disbelief; this doesn’t happen.”

The remarkably intact remains of Benedictine Sister Wilhelmina Lancaster of the Most Holy Rosary have been on display for several weeks at the Abbey of Our Lady of Ephesus. On April 28, the Benedictine Sisters of Mary, Queen of the Apostles had exhumed the body of their foundress to transfer it to a new shrine altar honoring St. Joseph.

Despite a lack of embalming, an in-ground burial in a wooden coffin and water pooling in the grave, both the remains and the habit looked essentially the same as when Sister Wilhelmina died at age 95 in May 2019.

A May 22 statement from the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Missouri, said the condition of Sister Wilhelmina’s remains “has understandably generated widespread interest and raised important questions.”

It added, “Bishop (James V.) Johnston is working to establish a thorough process for understanding the nature of the condition of Sister Wilhelmina’s remains.”

As word of Sister Wilhelmina’s remains spread, pilgrims from several states have steadily descended on the abbey, praying before and touching items to the body, which the sisters cleaned and protected with a coating of wax.

The visits intensified ahead of a May 29 rosary procession, after which Sister Wilhelmina’s body was encased in glass at the altar shrine. The steady stream of pilgrims – which one law

enforcement official told OSV News numbered “close to 5,000” on just Friday alone of Memorial Day weekend – flowed on either side of the body. They knelt for 60-second intervals before the body, and then passed by a table to touch Sister Wilhelmina’s veil.

Many pilgrims also stopped to spend some time in eucharistic adoration at the abbey’s church. Outside, hay bales and folding chairs formed makeshift confessionals in the nearby fields.

Volunteers from neighboring parishes – including St. Joseph in Easton and Seven Dolors in Hurlingen – and from Knights of Columbus councils across the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph were on hand to direct traffic, hand out water and food, and shuttle visitors in golf carts.

Maegan Meyers of Lincoln, Nebraska, traveled to the abbey with her family for “love of the saints and to be able to have (her) kids experience that.”

The two-hour journey to see a possible saint in the making was “such a gift,” she said.

“We were just talking about just how prevalent and how loud the culture is, and how very clear it is, the timing of this,” said Meyers. “(We have) just so much gratitude for her witness.”

For some, Sister Wilhelmina’s apparently miraculous incorruptibility was a sign of divine approval for her founding of the religious community. After 50 years as a member of the Oblate Sisters of Providence in Baltimore – a historically African American religious community whose foundress, Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange, is on the path to sainthood – Sister Wilhelmina established the Benedictine Sisters of Mary, Queen of the Apostles in 1995.

The congregation uses the older forms of the Roman Rite promulgated prior to the start of the Second Vatican Council: they have Mass according to the 1962 Roman Missal and chant the psalms according to the 1962 Monastic Office. The sisters have even had commercial success with their recordings of chants, topping Billboard’s traditional classic album charts in 2013 and 2014.

As an African American, Roberta Crawford of Kansas City, Missouri, told OSV News it was “even more awesome to know” that Sister Wilhelmina also was Black, and that “her belief was strong.”

“This is kind of a once-in-a-lifetime thing, and it was something we needed to see,” she said. “We’re not Catholic, but we have a belief that we just needed to see it, that it actually happened.”

Through experiences like this, “we still see how God is acting in our life,” said Father Sam, a priest from the Diocese of Tulsa, Oklahoma, who did not provide his last name. He told OSV News he was visiting with fellow Hispanic Catholic parishioners.

“God is using these kinds of events to be able to show his power, to help us to understand that God is alive,” the priest said, “so we may trust in him and believe in him.”

Question: Is incorrupt Sister Wilhelmina possibly a saint?

Q: Does the incorrupt body of the Benedictine nun, Sister Wilhelmina, mean that she is a saint? What does the church think of it? (Farmingville, New York)

A: We say that a saint is “incorrupt” when, years after their death, their mortal body is found to have remained in an unexplained state of preservation. That is, their body has not followed the expected natural process of decomposition. Some well-known incorrupt saints include St. Cecilia and St. Bernadette of Lourdes.

For a saint to be considered incorrupt, their body must not have been subjected to any deliberate artificial embalming process. Natural explanations for the lack of physical decay – such as, for example, sustained cold temperatures due to climate or the specific chemical composition of the local soil potentially having preservative properties – must also be ruled out.

While we can’t come to any firm conclusions while the initial investigations are still ongoing, based on what we know so far, it seems that Sister Wilhelmina’s case meets these criteria: she was buried without embalming, and in moist Missouri ground that should have hastened the decomposition of a body.

It’s reported that since she had been buried for four years, her Benedictine community fully expected to find only her bones. It’s particularly striking that while the cloth lining of her casket had disintegrated, Sister Wilhelmina’s religious habit remained in near-perfect condition.

Yet the question of whether a person is incorrupt has no bearing on whether they will be eventually declared a saint. It’s true that part of the canonization process involves exhuming the body of the proposed saint (essentially as a way of verifying their identity), but in the canonization process, the state of the person’s mortal remains is of minimal relevance.

What the church looks at first and foremost is the way the proposed saint lived their life – i.e., did they live a life of holiness and heroic Christian virtue? There are far, far more canonized saints who are not incorrupt and whose earthly bodies “returned to dust” in the normal way.

Still, when a deceased member of the faithful is found to be incorrupt, this can serve as a strong reminder to us of our belief in the “resurrection of the body” which we profess when we pray the Apostles’ Creed.

As the Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us: “In death, the separation of the soul from the body, the human body decays and the soul goes to meet God, while awaiting its reunion with its glorified body. God, in his almighty power, will definitively grant incorruptible life to our bodies by reuniting them with our souls, through the power of Jesus’ Resurrection.” (ccc 997) – Jenna Marie Cooper, OSV News

Bishop to commission five lay ecclesial ministers

Bishop Barry C. Knestout will commission five people from across the diocese as lay ecclesial ministers on Saturday, June 24, 10:30 a.m., at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Richmond. The five candidates have completed studies through the diocese’s Lay Ecclesial Ministry Institute (LEMI).

The diocesan Office of Christian Formation created LEMI in 2011 at the request of the late Bishop Francis X. DiLorenzo. Bishop DiLorenzo wanted to help lay leaders better serve our diocese by giving them an opportunity to develop in human, pastoral, intellectual and spiritual formation.

The candidates are required to be practicing Catholics in full communion with the Church and be serving in a lay leadership position. The five candidates participated in either a Catholic university’s Master of Arts study in theology, or certificate study in a related field. They also attended formation workshops and spiritual retreats.

Once all the requirements were met, the candidates applied for commissioning by the bishop as lay ecclesial ministers in the diocese. Since 2016, 59 lay leaders have been commissioned.

In anticipation of their commissioning, the candidates shared their experience with LEMI and how the formation will impact their ministries.

Editor’s note: For more information about LEMI, contact Tracy Brookmire at 804-622-5157 or email lemi@richmonddiocese.org.



Aaron Hostetter: M.A. in Theology, Augustine Institute

Parish: Holy Trinity, Norfolk

Position: Youth Minister/Director of Life Teen

What impact has LEMI formation had upon you, and how will it impact your ministry and those you serve?

This process has been life changing. My LEMI formation and classes have been an experience of being sanctified “in the truth” (Jn 17:17) – while I was “transformed by the renewal of [my] mind” (Rom 12:2) through the study of divine truth and pastoral wisdom, I was also interiorly “being changed into his likeness from one degree of glory to another” (2 Cor 3:18). It is necessary for there to be well-formed lay leaders in the Church today, through whom Christ will “progressively illumine the whole of human society with His saving light” (Lumen Gentium 36). The formation I have received has equipped me to be a better husband and youth minister, and I look forward to seeing the different ways God has prepared me to serve through it.



Austin Farinholt: M.A. in Catholic Studies, Franciscan University in Steubenville

Parish: Blessed Sacrament, Harrisonburg

Position: Director, James Madison University Catholic Campus Ministry

What impact has LEMI formation had upon you, and how will it impact your ministry and those you serve?

Through LEMI, I had the opportunity to be formed intellectually by one of the most outstanding Catholic universities in the country, which has helped tremendously in my ministry to college students. The formation of LEMI exposed me to a wide array of Catholic thought which is sure to help me minister to many throughout the course of my life.



Jean Hawley: M.A. in Theology, Saint Leo University

Parish: Immaculate Conception, Hampton

Position: Director of Religious Education

What impact has LEMI formation had upon you, and how will it impact your ministry and those you serve?

LEMI has been an integral part of helping me to grow my own human, spiritual, pastoral, and intellectual formation. I am now able to celebrate the goals and joys of my daily ministry and personal life, and also courageously face any challenges that may occur along the way. I am blessed to have been given the opportunity to be a LEMI student within the Diocese of Richmond. As a newly commissioned lay ecclesial minister, I look forward to continuing to actively serve within my faith formation ministry. Sharing the gifts of strength, understanding, prayerfulness, reflection, grace, and joy that I have received from LEMI provides the opportunity to link arms with others to formatively discover and then actively do the Gospel message of Jesus in the world today.



Laura Muller Stapleton: M.A. in Pastoral Theology, Saint Joseph’s College of Maine

Parish: Saint Mary’s, Richmond

Position: Coordinator of Christian Formation

What impact has LEMI formation had upon you, and how will it impact your ministry and those you serve?

The formation, education, and personal development made available to me through the Lay Ecclesial Ministry Institute have shaped me into a better servant leader. Lessons in compassion, humility, listening, grief, and forgiveness have been most valuable to me, equipping me to answer God’s call and embrace my vocation with peace and joy. I am confident in my dignity as God’s child, stronger and more capable of overcoming challenges with his accompaniment. I have seen the Lord in new ways through eyes of faith. My LEMI journey has been an adventure of trusting the Lord. Now I turn around and see the great distance I have traversed! I thank my support team, those who have loved me unconditionally since this journey began — I could not have made it without you!



Timothy J. Hatton: Certificate in Catechesis Levels I and II, University of Dayton

Parish: Church of the Holy Spirit, Virginia Beach

Position: Facilitator of Adult Faith Formation

What impact has LEMI formation had upon you, and how will it impact your ministry and those you serve?

The LEMI program has enriched my knowledge and understanding of what is required to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. Through God’s graces, I am better prepared to present the teachings of the Church to the RCIA participants at my parish and enhance the information shared in the adult Scripture study I have facilitated for many years. I believe that our diocese has worked very hard to provide lay ecclesial ministers with the tools to meet that call and I feel blessed to have had the chance to participate in such a well-supported ministry. It is a blessing to be part of a diocese that has the love of God and neighbor at the forefront of its ecclesial and apostolic mission.

Father Buckley

Continued from Page 1

From the time he was six years old, he was singing in the choir. We knew he would always have that connection. “

Father Buckley’s parents and 10-year-old sister Abigail traveled from New York for his big day, along with other family members. Father Buckley said the six years of his formation felt long at the time, but “looking back ... it’s surprising how quickly it seemingly went by!”

Abigail sings in the church choir back home like her big brother once did; she was bouncing up and down after Mass. “I was really excited!” she said about her brother’s ordination. “I couldn’t believe this day was finally here – and finally happening!”

“It’s overwhelming,” said Christopher Buckley, “An extraordinary day for the entire diocese and for our family. “

A long line of people stretched inside the cathedral after Mass, waiting to receive a blessing from the new priest. Father Buckley was grinning ear-to-ear after blessing dozens of people. When asked if he needed a break to sit down, he replied with a big smile, “No, I’m doing great! God is good!”

A group of six women religious from the Little Sisters of Saint Francis of Assisi in Williamsburg traveled to Richmond for the ordination. After receiving Father Buckley’s blessing, the women had their picture taken with the new priest, then sang a beautiful song of praise, their voices filling the large cathedral.

A member of the order, Sister Rose Michael said joyfully, “I just told him (Father Buckley) to keep the faith, be close to Christ everyday and he will be close to you!”

A new reality

Father Buckley would return to Saint Brigid the following day to celebrate his first Mass. Bishop Knestout noted during his homily that the following day would be the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity – a “fitting feast for the celebration of a first Mass.”

“By our openness to the Holy Spirit’s gifts, we receive the grace to follow in Christ’s priestly footsteps and bring the Father’s love and providential care to his people, so that we all share in the fullness of life and love in the Blessed Trinity,” explained the bishop.

The bishop also announced at the end of the ordination Mass that Father Buckley’s first assignment as a priest would be at Saint Andrew, Roanoke. The newly-ordained priest said he is looking forward to returning to the parish; he was assigned there as a seminarian in 2019, but it would be a new experience this time serving as a priest.

Father Buckley said he is excited to settle into his “new reality” as a priest.

“I’m most excited to finally get to fully embrace and enter into this identity the Lord has given me as a priest,” he added, “and to experience how he uses me to allow others to encounter him, especially in the sacraments.”

Most of all, he said, “It’s comforting to trust in Jesus’ promise, ‘what you say of me does not come from yourselves; it is the Spirit of my Father speaking in you.’”



Father William C. Buckley kneels before Bishop Barry C. Knestout and places his hands in the bishop’s hands as a sign of fidelity. (Photo/Michael Mickle)

‘Handing off’ from one priest to another



Bishop Barry C. Knestout blesses Father William C. Buckley’s chalice and paten on June 3 in the bishop’s residence ahead of the ordination. (Photo/Michael Mickle)

The chalice was a gift from Msgr. Carr. It is originally from 1891 and was the chalice of Father Joseph Frioli. It was given to Msgr. Carr as a gift upon his ordination in 1969 and he decided to hand it down to me. We had it replated gold before the ordination; it was in decent condition but had seen much use over the years. For me, it is very meaningful to know that I will be celebrating the Mass with the same chalice both Father Frioli and Msgr. Carr used for many years. It’s a beautiful way for me to experience the connection I have with the priests who have gone before me, whose ministry I share. And it is a blessing that Msgr. chose me to carry on this chalice’s history in the diocese.

– Father William C. Buckley

Seminarians given parish assignments

The Diocese of Richmond’s Office of Vocations has announced assignments for seminarians, effective May 27. The summer assignments end August 6.

Transitional deacon summer assignments

Deacon David Arellano: Good Samaritan, Amelia; St. Gabriel, Chesterfield

Deacon Seth M. Seaman: St. Jude, Radford

2023-2024 pastoral year assignments

Deacon Christopher Weyer: St. Brigid, Richmond

Chase Imoru: Our Lady of Lourdes, Richmond

Continuing pastoral assignments

Andrew Clark: St. Jerome, Newport News

Samuel Hill: Holy Spirit, Virginia Beach

Matthew Kelly: Our Lady of Lourdes, Richmond

Paul Flagg: Holy Trinity, Norfolk

Summer assignments

Graham Fassero: Holy Cross, Lynchburg

John Paul Shanahan: St. John the Apostle, Virginia Beach

Charlie Tamayo: Our Lady of Nazareth, Roanoke

Peter Olbrych: Church of the Ascension, Virginia Beach

William Yearout: St. Peter the Apostle, Onley

David Hairston: St. Andrew, Roanoke

Michael Anctil: Holy Trinity, Norfolk

Maximus McHugh: Holy Comforter, Charlottesville

Scott Campolongo: St. Brigid, Richmond

Brennen McCoy: Church of the Ascension, Virginia Beach

Chad Wilson: St. Peter the Apostle, Onley

Samuel McPeak: Basic Training, Archdiocese of Military Services

Jack Domark: home for the summer

Time is precious so let's not 'kill time'



“What can be killed but never dies?” In case you haven’t guessed, the answer is: “Time.” With another birthday only days away, I look at the number and wonder where has the time gone, which reminds me of another riddle.

“What flies but doesn’t have wings?” By now you’ve probably guessed that the topic for this column is time – a subject that’s always timely.

Days come and go because time never stands still. In a world where digital clocks have replaced clocks bearing a face with hands marking the passing of every second, we can forget time is passing and that every moment is precious. That being the case, why then, would anyone want to kill time?

This was definitely not the case at a birthday celebration I recently attended for a woman who had just turned 90. Hardly intimidated by the number, Frances, the honoree, chatted with guests, danced, and sang along with the piano player.

However, what impressed me most was what happened after the prayer that we said before the meal we were about to enjoy. Her family broke into song, singing “This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad!”

This had been the family’s practice for years. With that as a daily mantra, how could anyone fail to realize that time is about more than the ticking of a clock? It’s a way to value what’s really important.

Since God’s timing is always perfect, it came as no surprise that a few days later I came across a video by a nun who shared a practice that her community uses to hold them accountable for the way they spend their time. Using a daily self-examination, they’re able to evaluate whether or not they’re using time in a productive manner. Since learning of it, I’ve tried it and thought it worth passing along to others.

This practice doesn’t mean that we’re to keep busy all day, every day. It simply means that we notice how we spend our day and decide if there are ways that we can make the day more fruitful. The practice involves six easy steps:

- 1. Place our self in the presence of God and ask for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.**
- 2. Review the day as if it was a video playing out in our mind.**
- 3. Thank God for all the things that happened during the day for which we are grateful.**
- 4. Consider where God was present in the ordinary events and tasks of the day.**



5. Consider where I failed to recognize the presence of God during the course of the day.

6. Ask God to help me recognize his presence in the people and events in the course of the day and resolve with the help of his grace to do better tomorrow.

There’s no need to promise to do better for the rest of our life — just for the next day. Focusing on one day at a time, we are better able to be attentive to the present moment, a practice that has been lauded by saints for centuries. We can hardly go wrong by incorporating the practice into our life. As we look back on the years, we can’t change what took place, but we can learn from it.

Understandably, with the passage of time comes a decline in our energy level, which is a good thing. Doing less allows us to realize that

the most important things in life are relationships – relationships with God and with the people we encounter every day.

Much is often said about the greying of the Church. For the most part, those who attend daily Mass are senior citizens. Those who are retired have time to make their relationship with God a priority. But it may also be because with age comes the realization that all things are passing and that God alone can fill the empty space and moments of our life with the peace and joy that can come with letting go.

As the author of the “Cloud of Unknowing” wrote, “So be very careful how you spend your time. There is nothing more precious. In the twinkling of an eye heaven may be won or lost. God shows that time is precious, for he never gives two moments of time side by side, but always in succession.”

That being the case, why would anyone want to kill time? Time is a gift from God, given to us for the purpose of gathering treasures in life as a way to be with God forever in heaven. Mindful of this precious gift, let’s resolve to make every moment of our lives count because we will not pass this way again.

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

WHAT WE’VE HEARD



The **Daughters of Mary Immaculate (DMI)** held a fundraising event on June 4 at ACCA Shrine, Richmond. The money raised will go toward the DMI sisters’ charity work to provide food, shelter, education, and medical care to the poor and disadvantaged in Vietnam. Approximately 450 people attended in support of their work, including Father Renier Supranes, St. Michael the Archangel, Glen Allen; Benedictine Father John Mary Lugemwa, Mary Mother of the Church Abbey, Richmond; Deacon Liem Do, Church of the Vietnamese Martyrs, Richmond; and the Comboni Missionary Sisters. (Photo/Nazia Shafi)



Members of **Knights of Columbus** Councils, District 5: Mary Star of the Sea 511; Walter Pollard 5480; St. Rose of Lima 11264; and Immaculate Conception 16226, formed a team to take part in Care Net Peninsula’s annual Walk for Life on May 13 at Newport News Park, Newport News. The Knights raised more than \$865 to provide financial support for the pregnancy resource center serving the Virginia Peninsula. (Photo/Carolyn Moore)



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

As a community, we strive to support survivors of child sexual abuse on their journey toward healing and wholeness.

For those who have suffered abuse by clergy residing in the Catholic Diocese of Richmond, we invite you to join virtually on June 21 at 7:00pm. Spouses and affected community members are also welcome. These gatherings, led by an independent facilitator, will offer a safe environment for participants to connect, share experiences, support, and heal.

If you would like more information, or the virtual meeting link, please call the Victim Assistance Coordinator at (877) 887-9603 or email dana@atreeplanted.org

Dodgers' faith night 'not enough' amid anti-Catholic controversy

GINA CHRISTIAN
OSV News

The Los Angeles Dodgers' decision to host a July 30 Christian Faith and Family Day does not allay concerns and outrage over the team's plans to honor a self-described "order of drag, queer and LGBTQ+ nuns," Catholic experts told OSV News.

"This is not a quid pro quo," said Kathleen Dominga, executive director of the California Catholic Conference. "You can't have a night where you invite one group that is openly bigoted towards another, then invite that other group. Why do you have to encourage inclusivity at our expense?"

On June 5, Sacramento Bishop Jaime Soto led an ecumenical prayer vigil sponsored by the California Catholic Conference at the state Capitol in Sacramento, in response to the state Senate's plans to honor the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence.

Dodgers starting pitcher Clayton Kershaw called for the relaunch of the club's annual Christian event, which had been on pause since the pandemic, after the team said it would proceed with feting the LA Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence during a June 16 Pride Night game. The invitation had been briefly withdrawn after protests, but reinstated with a public apology to the group from the Dodgers.

According to its website, the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence – founded in 1979 in San Francisco, are an organization that uses "humor and irreverent wit ... to promulgate universal joy and expiate stigmatic guilt." Members don drag-style makeup, religious habits

and names such as "Sister Jezebel" and "Pope Dementia the Last."

The LA Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence – a separate, self-described "house" of the broader organization and the one at the heart of the Dodgers' controversy – began in 1995 and was set to receive the Dodgers' Community Hero Award for charity work.

The Dodgers' Kershaw, a devout Christian, who along with his wife founded the faith-based charity Kershaw's Challenge, told media he disagreed with the team's call to honor the group, and approached the team about reviving the Christian family night event.

"I don't agree with making fun of other people's religions," he said in a May 26 interview with the Los Angeles Times. "It has nothing to do with anything other than that. I just don't think that, no matter what religion you are, you should make fun of somebody else's religion. So that's something that I definitely don't agree with."

Teammate Blake Treinen backed Kershaw, saying in a May 30 statement that the Dodgers' recognition of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence "disenfranchises a large community and promotes hate of Christians and people of faith."

Washington Nationals pitcher Trevor Williams said in a May 30 statement that "as a devout Catholic" he was "deeply troubled" by the Dodgers' decision, which was "a clear violation" of the team's own discrimination policy banning "conduct or attire at the ballpark ... deemed to be indecent or prejudice(d) against any particular group (or religion)."

The Archdiocese of Los Angeles said in a statement the Dodgers' "decision to honor a group that clearly mocks the Catholic faith and makes light of the sincere and holy vocations of our women religious who are an integral part of our Church" has caused "disappointment, concern, anger, and dismay from our Catholic community."

In addition, the archdiocese called on "all Catholics and people of goodwill to stand against bigotry and hate," and to support both religious liberty and women religious.

Bishop Robert E. Barron of Winona-Rochester, Minnesota, and Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, also denounced the Dodgers' decision to honor the LA Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence.

In a May 25 video posted to Twitter, Bishop Barron, a former LA auxiliary, said the Sisters "can only be described as an anti-Catholic hate group." He noted that "there's a long tradition in our country of anti-Catholicism," often described as "the last acceptable prejudice in America."

"Suppose this group had dressed up in a kind of simulacrum of a rabbi and had done something deeply disrespectful to the Torah, or ... (in a) mockery of a Muslim cleric or imam, and then had desecrated the Quran. What would the reaction be?" he asked.

Archbishop Naumann said the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence "openly mocks Catholic beliefs, and their actions are nothing less than blasphemous."

However, the LA Sisters maintain they have been unfairly characterized.

"We are devoted to charity work and we raise much needed funds for local nonprofit charities," said Sister Dominia, the head of the Los Angeles branch of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence.

But the group's charitable efforts do not mitigate its parodies of Catholic faith, said Archbishop Naumann.

"Though the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence historically advocated for the underserved population of victims of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, they now promote ideologies that have the effect of condoning sexual promiscuity, the behavior that was responsible for the spread of AIDS and the deaths of many individuals with same-sex attraction," he told OSV News.

Both the Leadership Congregation for Women Religious and the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious declined requests for comment from OSV News.

Throughout American history, "Catholic sisters, because of their traditional religious garb, have been an easy target for parodies," Kathleen Sprows Cummings, professor and director of the Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism at the University of Notre Dame, told OSV News.

Thomas Rzeznik, associate professor of history at Seton Hall University, noted that the controversy over the Dodgers' decision "speaks to how we need to be careful about any sort of religious and cultural appropriation."

"Sisters' habits and other religious garments are not costumes," he said.

Allow the Eucharist to be your 'source of life'

MARIA WIERING
OSV News

On Sunday, June 11, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi), the National Eucharistic Revival moves into its second phase, the Year of Parish Revival.

The Eucharistic Revival is a movement to restore understanding and devotion to this great mystery and summit of Catholic faith – that Jesus Christ is truly present in the Holy Eucharist.

"The parish year of the revival is the most important one" in the three-year National Eucharistic Revival, said Tim Glemkowski, executive director for the National Eucharistic Congress. The nonprofit organization is tasked with organizing the 10th National Eucharistic Congress in 2024 and supporting the U.S. Catholic bishops' vision for the revival.

The Year of Parish Revival aims "to create Eucharistic communities, communities that are

full of life because they've received life from the source of life," he said.

Parish leaders seeking guidance for the National Eucharistic Revival's upcoming parish year now have a resource to assist their discernment. The "Leader's Playbook" is based on the revival's four "pillars": reinvigorating worship, personal encounter, robust faith formation and missionary sending.

A similar playbook was developed in the fall of 2022 for the revival's Year of the Diocese, which ended June 11 with the opening of the Year of the Parish.

In a welcome letter introducing the Year of the Parish playbook,

Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of Crookston, Minnesota, described the revival as an invitation "to deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ, Our Lord, through the celebration of the Eucharist, so that we can be set on fire for the mission our Church needs so desperately."

Bishop Cozzens is chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on

Evangelization, and the chairman of the bishops' advisory group for the revival.

The third year of the revival is the Year of Going Out on Mission. Next summer, between its second and third years, the revival is holding a National Eucharistic Congress July 17-21 in Indianapolis.

God the Father sent his son "to reconcile all things to himself," he said. "That's why there is Church – so that every person in every time and in every place could receive life, and life to the full. That's mediated through the Eucharist. This isn't just one thing among many in our faith. ... This is the source and summit."

Editor's note:
The Catholic Virginian Staff contributed to this story.

To learn more about the National Eucharistic Revival, scan this code or find it on catholicvirginian.org.



Cancer survivor

Continued from Page 3

regularly to determine how to alleviate his fears. On the day of the run, the coach arranged for three eighth graders to run beside him while the other students cheered from the sidelines. By the end, much of the eighth-grade class was running with him as well.

“It was a joyful, tearful moment because everybody knew this was a huge, huge accomplishment for him,” said Diana Socha, Tucker’s first grade teacher.

Even before the mile run the students showed compassion and encouragement. One day at practice for the run, a fellow student assured him, “Tucker you can do it.” As a result, Tucker told his mother, “I ran as fast as I ever did because Cru believed I could do it.”

Kelly is confident the school would “rally around” Tucker and the family should his cancer come back.

“That’s what I feel like Star of the Sea teaches them. The kids are all really supportive of one another, and they cheer each other on for everything,” she said.

Fighting cancer with faith

Tucker was “wobbly at first,” still perfecting how to walk and talk when he entered SOS, his mother said. Now almost three years cancer-free, she said Tucker has resumed “normal” activities. He is an altar server at his family’s parish, Church of the Holy Family, Virginia Beach, swims competitively, plays golf, played basketball this past winter and is currently on the school’s track and field team.

Tucker is an ambassador for CHKD, representing the hospital at various functions as a cancer survivor. However, he still has difficulty



Tucker Davis (right) is now an altar server at his parish, Church of the Holy Family, Virginia Beach. Next to him is John Schleicher. (Photo/Kelly Davis)

with tasks such as riding a bike, tying his shoes and writing in cursive.

“No matter what the challenge is, he doesn’t think twice about doing it. It doesn’t even matter if it’s something that seems impossible for him. He’s going to try as hard as he can, and he’s very inspiring,” Kelly said.

Although Kelly worries that Tucker will fall ill again, she has hope. As she watched her son serve at the altar during this year’s Holy Week, she was comforted.

“I thought I would have to plan a funeral at this church, and here he is now as a server in it. Like what a miracle, so I think faith gives you

those moments of realizing how lucky we are and those blessings,” she said.

“I guess it does give you strength, but it definitely gives you hope that someone’s looking out for you. Even if things go wrong, you have faith that there’s life after this life,” she added. “I can’t even fathom having no faith and having your child die.”

At the beginning of his illness, Tucker received the sacrament of the anointing of the sick, and during his treatment, people across the country prayed for him. Many sent his parents prayer cards, Kelly said.

“It was awesome. I was so grateful for that. I think that what really carries you through are people praying for you,” Kelly said. “When you’ve been through something like cancer, having that faith to rely on and having it taught and re-enforced in the school day is really nice because when you’re at that point where you don’t know how things are going to go, that’s what you rely on.”

Adam said his faith gives him strength, confidence and reassurance.

Even though he can’t articulate it, Kelly believes Tucker has strong faith.

“He feels some kind of calming or peace with it, and when he’s altar serving, he’s not just a kid up there. You can feel him soaking it in. He’s very empathetic, and he always has been,” she explained.

Adam finds Tucker’s compassion inspirational.

“It’s amazing to see how he just takes how good and how kindly people treat him, and he turns it right back around and I think is kinder towards others as a result,” Adam said.

“To be able to see that kind of maturity in a young kid is really impressive and is a constant reminder on how I can work on being the best version of myself as well,” Tucker’s father added.

IN MEMORIAM

Sister of Mercy Lourdes Sheehan



Sister of Mercy Lourdes Sheehan, former superintendent of schools for the diocese and a pioneer in Catholic education, died on June 1 at the age of 88.

Sister Lourdes entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1953. She earned her undergraduate degree at Mount Saint Agnes, a Master’s in Education at the University of Pennsylvania, and her Ed.D. from Virginia Tech.

She began a lifelong career in Catholic education in Georgia, teaching at schools in Columbus, Savannah and Macon. She then became superintendent of schools and director of religious education for the Diocese of Richmond.

During her career, she also served as executive director of the National Association of Boards of Catholic Education; she was the first woman to be secretary of education for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB); director of Alliance for Catholic Education; executive director of the Department of Chief Administrator of Catholic Education; executive director of the National Catholic Education Association; and associate general secretary of the USCCB.

Sister Lourdes received numerous awards, including: Holy Cross Pro-Ecclesia et Pontifice medal by Pope Benedict XVI; Presidential Award for Outstanding Service to Catholic Education, from the National Catholic Education Association; and the Catholic School Executive Leadership Award from Fordham University.

Sister Lourdes is preceded in death by her parents, Joseph and Valerie Sheehan; her sister Ann Sheehan Blanco; and brother Thomas Sheehan. She is survived by her Sisters of Mercy community, many relatives and friends.

IN MEMORIAM

Benedictine Sister Doris Nolte



Benedictine Sister Doris Nolte passed away on Sunday, May 21, at St. Benedict Monastery, Bristow, Virginia, at the age of 93.

Sister

Doris was born on October 27, 1929, in Richmond to William Joseph and Helen Cecilia (Kusterer) Nolte. She attended Saint Benedict Catholic School and Saint Gertrude High School in Richmond.

Sister Doris entered St. Benedict Monastery after graduating high school in 1946. She began her religious service in education, including service at Saint Gertrude. She then became a registered nurse and continued that work until she retired.

Sister Doris was preceded in death by her parents and five of her siblings. She is survived by the members of her monastic community; sister, Mary Ann Sheehan of Richmond; and many nieces and nephews.

Sick

Continued from Page 3

mental health. Counseling now accompanies the physical treatments that fill my days.

My most significant humility lesson has also been the hardest. For weeks, so weak and needy, I tried to humbly accept my husband Greg’s love as he bathed, dressed and nursed me back to health.

Fighting against my pride, I let him take on my share of running our household. And by me humbling myself and Greg serving from a place of selfless love, God has bonded us in ways we could never have imagined.

Our life together will have trials. We will be stronger as a married couple facing those humbly together than we would if we met them with prideful independence. Being humble in loving service to each other has blessed our 37-year marriage with new joy and unexpected hope.

In his spiritual classic “The Imitation of Christ” Thomas à Kempis wrote, “The more humble you are in heart and the more you submit yourself to God, the wiser will you be in everything, and greater peace will be yours.”

I am far from wise. But humbly, one step at a time, I am growing ever closer to the peace that surpasses all understanding.

OPPORTUNITIES

Blessed Sacrament, Harrisonburg, seeks a **Religious Education Coordinator**. The Coordinator of Religious Education works in collaboration with the pastor to coordinate catechetical programs for infants through fifth grade in a large and vibrant parish in the heart of the Shenandoah Valley. Programs include nursery, pre-school, and elementary Sunday programs, as well as our annual Vacation Bible School. All children's programs serve our English-speaking and Spanish-speaking communities. This position is a full-time member of parish staff and occasionally assists with parish-wide initiatives. Knowledge of Spanish is an added advantage to communicate with the parents. Please send your résumé to Father Silvio at Pastor@bsccva.com.

St. Mark Catholic Church, Virginia Beach, seeks a collaborative, part-time (25 hour a week) **Coordinator of Religious Formation**. Under the supervision of the Director of Religious Formation, the Coordinator is responsible for the administration of the Children's Liturgy of the Word on Sundays, the religious formation program for grades Kindergarten to 5th Grade, sacramental preparation for the sacraments of first reconciliation and first Communion, along with the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults adapted for Children, summer Vacation Bible School and assisting the Director of Religious Formation in any other programs and events. Must be an active, practicing Catholic; a bachelor's degree in church ministry, theology, religious studies, religious education, or equivalent experience in parish ministry; knowledge of the Church's teaching and renewed effort in the New Evangelization. Must be proficient in Microsoft Suite. Excellent written and oral communication skills; excel in electronic communication and social media. Occasional travel required. Submit résumé to Deacon Mike Johnson at deacon_mike@stmark-parish.org.

The Catholic Diocese of Richmond is seeking a **Director of The McMahon Parater Scholarship Foundation and Catholic School Development** for the Office of Development. For the full ad and how to apply, visit <https://bit.ly/45ncRIZ>. For any questions, please contact Kelly Shumate, HR Generalist / Recruiter at jobs@richmonddioocese.org.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, Newport News, seeks candidates for 2023-2024 school year with a strong commitment and desire to work in a Christ-centered environment and be thoroughly prepared to enthusiastically educate students in faith and content knowledge.

Kindergarten Teacher

Second grade teacher

Spanish teacher, full-time, grades K-8 with high school endorsement

A current Virginia teaching certification is required for all positions. To apply, please send cover letter, résumé, and diocesan application <https://bit.ly/36ndEsX> to Sister Anna Joseph, O.P., Principal, at sajoseph@olmc-school.com

Peninsula Catholic High School, Newport News, has an immediate opening for a skilled **Administrative Assistant**. This position will be responsible for collaborating with the principal and administrative team to perform a variety of administrative and clerical tasks. This position is a 12-month/year part-time (30 hours/week) position. Responsible for assisting the front office in all daily administrative tasks, data entry and filing systems, answer and direct phone calls, write and distribute email, correspondence memos, letters, etc. Assist in the preparation of regularly scheduled reports. A minimum of an associate degree or significant experience. Excellent verbal and written communication. Strong organizational skills and service-oriented approach. Proficient with Google Suite, Microsoft Office and database management. Exceptional time management skills and the ability to prioritize work. Attention to detail and problem-solving skills. Professional demeanor, flexible and able to respond to multiple demands. Familiarity with an academic environment is preferred. The ability to maintain confidentiality. Interested applicants should submit a cover letter, résumé, diocesan application <https://bit.ly/36ndEsX> and references to Heather Whitchurch, Peninsula Catholic High School, 600 Harpersville Road, Newport News, VA 23601 or email hwhitchurch@peninsulacatholic.org.

The Cluster Parishes of Portsmouth and Chesapeake are seeking an engaging, enthusiastic and disciplined person for the job of **Religious Education Coordinator for Children**. This person would work with children Pre-K through fifth grade, responsible for first sacraments, RCIA for children, Vacation Bible School and children's formation. Experience preferred, but not necessary. Bilingual a plus. Submit résumés to Father Anthony Morris at pastor@clusterparishes.com.

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Staunton, seeks a **Religious Education Leader**. The candidate will be a Catholic in good standing with a passion for the faith. This part-time position (25 hour/week) will be responsible for revitalizing our faith formation program, instilling the rich truths of Catholic doctrine in the parish. The ideal candidate will be able to demonstrate organizational and interpersonal skills to support our existing programs. The Religious Education Leader will also recruit volunteers for catechists, work with volunteer leaders for RCIA, Youth Ministry and Adult Faith Formation, monitoring of the diocesan mandated VIRTUS training program and background checks for all volunteers, as well as working with the pastor, office staff, volunteers and parishioners daily. A bachelor's degree, previous parish ministry experience and conversational Spanish are desirable. Salary commensurate with experience. All interested candidates should submit a cover letter, résumé and application <https://bit.ly/36ndEsX> to office@stfranciscparish.org.

Catholic High School, Virginia Beach, a college preparatory high school, is seeking a Campus Minister for the 2023-24 school year. The Campus Minister focuses on the faith formation of students, faculty, and staff through liturgy, service, prayer, and retreats. A degree in Theology or Religious Studies and prior experience working in Catholic campus ministry are required; three or more years working with high school students is preferred. Qualified candidates will be a Catholic in good standing and highly skilled in communication, organization, developing pastoral relationships, and facilitating student service programs and large-scale events, including multi-day spiritual retreats. Interested candidates should submit a letter of interest, résumé, and diocesan application (www.richmonddioocese.org) to Mrs. Peggy Boon, principal at Catholic High School, via email at boonp@chsvb.org.

SHORTAKES

Vespers with the Notre Dame Children's Choir: All are invited to Vespers with music led by a combined choir of the Notre Dame Children's Choir from South Bend, Indiana, and the St. Bede Youth Choir. Vespers will include a choral prelude and postlude with both choirs. Join us Wednesday, June 21, 7 p.m., St. Bede Catholic Church, 3686 Ironbound Road, Williamsburg. For more information, call 757-229-3631 or visit www.bede.va.org/concerts.

St. Stephen, Martyr, Catholic Church, Christmas in July Craft Show, Saturday, July 15 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come in from the heat and get a jump start on your Christmas shopping. This event features artists, artisans and authors from the Tidewater and NE North Carolina area, concessions and a 50/50 raffle. And, yes, there will be Christmas music and decorations! Admission is free, but please bring a canned good for our local food pantry. Located at 1544 S. Battlefield Blvd, Chesapeake, Virginia. Contact Denise Huffstickler – craftymartyrs@gmail.com for any questions.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for June 18, 2023

Matthew 9: 36-10:8

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A: The choosing of the 12 Apostles. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

CROWDS	SHEEP	HARVEST
LABORERS	SEND OUT	TWELVE
GAVE	AUTHORITY	CURE
NAMES	SIMON PETER	BROTHER
ANDREW	JAMES	BARTHOLOMEW
MATTHEW	JUDAS	BETRAYED HIM
ISRAEL	CLEANSE	LEPERS

THE CHOSEN TWELVE

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Y W E M O L O H T R A B
T S B R O T H E R D E N
I W I C C U R E E T J A
R G E M N O J O R F U N
O W S L O D G A V E D E
H E E K V N Y I L Y A H
T H M R L E P E R S S A
U T A J D S H E E P D R
A T N H O N K W T G W V
B A I I S R A E L E O E
C M O M L A B O R E R S
B J A M E S N A E L C T
    
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Papa, Regina Caeli: “El Espíritu Santo nos libera de las presiones del miedo”

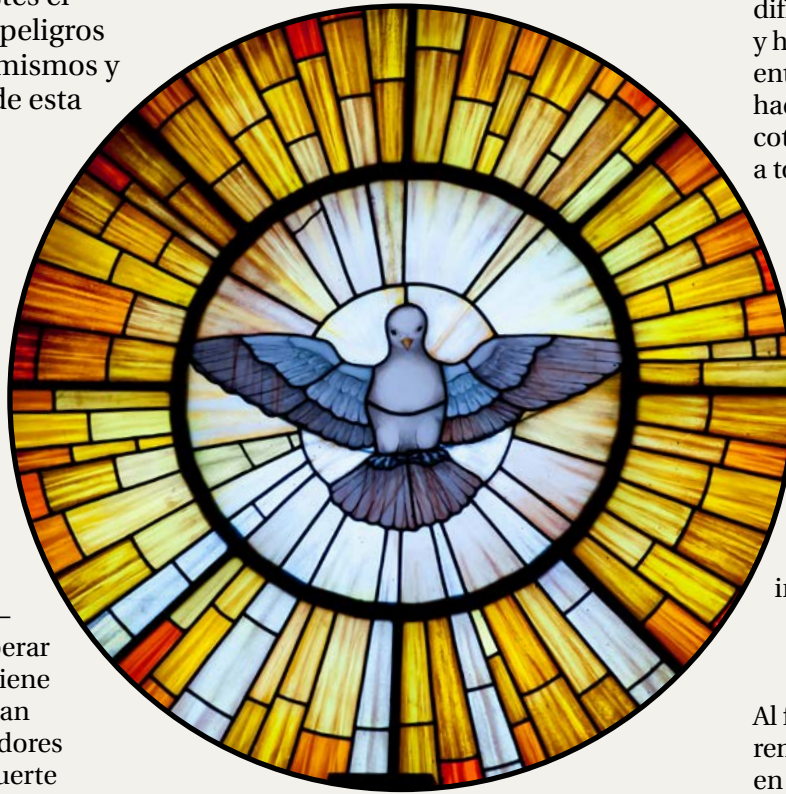
En la solemnidad de Pentecostés el Papa Francisco recuerda los peligros de encerrarnos en nosotros mismos y ofrece el remedio para salir de esta situación y seguir adelante.

MIREIA BONILLA – CIUDAD DEL VATICANO

Este mediodía durante el Regina Caeli, tras celebrar la Santa Misa en la Fiesta de Pentecostés, el Papa Francisco ha reflexionado acerca de la cerrazón del corazón. Para ello ha recordado lo que dice el Evangelio hodierno según Juan, que relata cuando los apóstoles se habían refugiado después de la muerte de Jesús en el Cenáculo llenos de miedo y angustia. El Resucitado, en la tarde de Pascua, se presenta diciendo: “Recibid el Espíritu Santo”. Así – asegura el Papa – “con el don del Espíritu, Jesús quiere liberar a los discípulos del miedo que los mantiene encerrados en sus casas, para que puedan salir y convertirse en testigos y anunciadores del Evangelio”. Los discípulos, tras la muerte de Jesús, tenían los sueños hechos añicos, sus esperanzas se habían desvanecido, y se habían encerrado en sí mismos, continúa el Papa.

¿Cuántas veces nos encerramos en nosotros mismos?

El Papa Francisco asegura que, al igual que los apóstoles, a veces por alguna situación difícil, por algún problema personal o familiar,



por el sufrimiento que nos marca o por el mal que respiramos a nuestro alrededor, “caemos poco a poco en la pérdida de la esperanza y nos falta el valor para seguir adelante, encerramos en nosotros mismos, atrincherándonos en el laberinto de las preocupaciones”. Por ello, hoy el Papa explica que “este encerrarnos en nosotros mismos sucede cuando, en las situaciones más

difíciles, permitimos que el miedo tome el control y haga su ‘gran voz’ dentro de nosotros”. La causa, entonces, es el miedo: miedo a no ser capaz de hacer frente, a estar solo para afrontar las batallas cotidianas, a correr riesgos y luego decepcionarse, a tomar decisiones equivocadas.

El miedo bloquea, paraliza y aísla

“El miedo bloquea, paraliza, y aísla” ha dicho el Papa, para después invitar a los fieles presentes en la plaza de San Pedro a “pensar en el miedo al otro, al extranjero, al diferente, al que piensa distinto”. “E incluso – dice – puede haber miedo a Dios: que me castigue, que se enfade conmigo”. Antes esto, el Santo Padre recuerda que “si damos espacio a estos falsos miedos, se cierran las puertas: las del corazón, las de la sociedad, e incluso las puertas de la Iglesia”.

El remedio ante el miedo es el Espíritu Santo

Al final de su reflexión, el Papa ha citado el remedio ante el miedo que podemos encontrar en el Evangelio: el Espíritu Santo. “Él libera de las prisiones del miedo. Al recibir el Espíritu, los apóstoles -hoy lo celebramos- abandonan el cenáculo y salen al mundo para perdonar los pecados y proclamar la buena nueva. Gracias a Él, se vencen los miedos y se abren las puertas. Porque esto es lo que hace el Espíritu: nos hace sentir la cercanía de Dios y así su amor echa fuera el miedo, ilumina el camino, consuela, sostiene en la adversidad”.

Francisco anima a los movimientos eclesiales a mantenerse siempre en camino

Se ha publicado el video con la intención de oración del Santo Padre para mayo de 2023. El Pontífice invita a rezar “para que los movimientos y grupos eclesiales redescubran cada día su misión, una misión evangelizadora, y que pongan sus propios carismas al servicio de las necesidades del mundo. Al servicio”.

SEBASTIÁN SANSÓN FERRARI - CIUDAD DEL VATICANO

“¡Los movimientos eclesiales son un don, son la riqueza en la Iglesia! ¡Esto son ustedes!”. Estas son las palabras del Santo Padre en el video difundido en la tarde de este martes 2 de mayo a través de la Red Mundial de Oración del Papa, en el que el Pontífice anima a los movimientos y grupos eclesiales a redescubrir su misión evangelizadora.

El Sucesor de Pedro sostiene que estas organizaciones “renuevan la Iglesia con su capacidad de diálogo al servicio de la misión evangelizadora”, “redescubren cada día en su carisma nuevas formas de mostrar el atractivo y la novedad del Evangelio”.

“¿Cómo lo hacen?”, se pregunta el Obispo de Roma, y añade: “Hablando idiomas diferentes, parecen diferentes, pero es la creatividad que crea esas diferencias. Pero entendiéndose siempre y haciéndose entender”.

“Y trabajando al servicio de los Obispos y las parroquias para evitar cualquier tentación de encerrarse en sí mismos, que este puede ser el peligro, ¿no?”, continúa.

Luego, dirige dos exhortaciones: la primera

es a mantenerse siempre en movimiento, “respondiendo al impulso del Espíritu Santo, a los desafíos, a los cambios del mundo de hoy”. La segunda es a mantenerse en la armonía de la Iglesia, pues esta “es un don del Espíritu Santo”.

El mensaje concluye con la petición de dedicar el mes de mayo a rezar “para que los movimientos y grupos eclesiales redescubran cada día su misión, una misión evangelizadora, y que pongan sus propios carismas al servicio de las necesidades del mundo. Al servicio”.

La variedad de carismas

Este video fue realizado en colaboración con el Dicasterio para los Laicos, la Familia y la Vida, según informa un comunicado de la Red Mundial de Oración del Papa, una de cuyas tareas es acompañar el nacimiento y el desarrollo de las asociaciones de fieles y movimientos eclesiales.

La pieza audiovisual narra trozos de sus vidas, en contextos muy diferentes. Las historias van desde los scouts portugueses en peregrinación con la cruz de la Jornada Mundial de la Juventud hasta los jóvenes del Movimiento Eucarístico Juvenil en su congreso internacional, en adoración ante la Eucaristía, entre otras experiencias. Es decir, muestra tantos carismas diferentes, pero con una única misión: anunciar el Evangelio en diversos ambientes y de diversas maneras.

Internacional, intergeneracional, plurivocacional

De acuerdo con Linda Ghisoni, Subsecretaria del Dicasterio, estas instituciones “son un gran

don para la Iglesia en las sociedades actuales: son, en efecto, portadores de una creatividad que se renueva continuamente para dar testimonio de Jesucristo y de la buena noticia del Evangelio a los hombres y mujeres de hoy en las circunstancias más diversas y con acciones muy concretas. Son realidades internacionales, intergeneracionales, plurivocacionales, con un potencial formativo probado, y están llamadas a no encerrarse nunca en sí mismas, sino a vivir su vocación y su misión auténticamente eclesiales”.

En movimiento

El P. Frédéric Fornos S.J., Director Internacional de la Red Mundial de Oración del Papa, comentó acerca de esta intención: “De alguna manera, Francisco se detiene en una nota fundamental de estos movimientos eclesiales: que sigan en movimiento. Que sigan ‘respondiendo al impulso del Espíritu Santo, a los desafíos, a los cambios del mundo de hoy’, que sigan despertando, según su propio carisma, ‘la misión evangelizadora de la Iglesia de tantos laicos comprometidos en vivir y testimoniar el Evangelio en las realidades ordinarias de la vida, en el trabajo, en el mundo educativo, social, cultural’. Acompañemos al Papa Francisco en esta importante intención de oración, y roguemos como Juan Pablo II, mientras esperamos la fiesta de Pentecostés: ‘¡Ven, Espíritu de vida, Espíritu de verdad, Espíritu de comunión y de amor! La Iglesia y el mundo tienen necesidad de ti. ¡Ven, Espíritu Santo, y haz cada vez más fecundos los carismas que has concedido!’”.



The Kids' Catholic Virginian

“Let the little children come to me” – Matthew 19:14

What a priest wears at Mass

Father William Buckley was just ordained (see p. 1) and is the newest priest in our diocese. Check out the vestments he'll now wear to celebrate Mass. Kindly modeling the vestments is Father Michael G. Boehling, the Diocese of Richmond's vicar general.



Word Bank

alb white robe that symbolizes purity, and also the white we wear at baptism

cincture (SINK-cher): braided belt/cord with tassels on ends that reminds priests of their vow to live a pure life and not get married

amice (AM-iss): (not pictured) small white cloth around the neck that covers priest's clerics (his "street clothes")

stole looks like a scarf and matches the color of the liturgical season; a sign of his authority as a priest

chasuble (CHAZ-i-bull): looks like a big poncho; matches the color of the liturgical season; symbolizes charity to show a priest must always act in love



Ask the Bishop

Q. When is your birthday?

-Elizabeth Pugh, 4, St. Bede, Williamsburg

A. June 11, and I'll say this – as a kid growing up, it was good to have a birthday in June because it was always close to the last day of school! It was also good because June is evenly spaced from Christmas – so you knew you would get gifts every six months.

Q. What is your favorite Bible story from the Gospels?

-Joseph Pugh, 8, St. Bede, Williamsburg

A. There are so many, but the one that's most touching to me is the story of Jesus, Lazarus, Martha, and Mary. It helps me connect with Jesus when I see how he interacts with family, how he has friendships, and how he feels all the same emotions we feel. We can see ourselves in Jesus' encounters with family and friends.

Q. “Do you have a pet?”

-Elizabeth Sumner, 4, St. Andrew, Roanoke

A. No, I don't have a pet. Growing up, my family briefly had two dogs at different times, but now, my schedule is busy and I travel a lot, so I wouldn't be able to give a pet the attention it deserves.

SAINT SUPERHERO



St. Germaine Cousin • The real-life 'Cinderella' saint

Feast day: June 15 / Say it: jur-MANE coo-ZAN

St. Germaine Cousin was a little girl who lived in France a long time ago, from 1579 to 1601. Her life has been compared to the story of “Cinderella,” but it's actually even better. Instead of a fairy godmother, St. Germaine trusted in God and he didn't let her down.

St. Germaine was born with a deformed arm and hand. She also had a disease that caused bad sores on her neck and face. Her mother died when she was a baby and her father married another woman.

Her stepmother was like the “wicked stepmother” character that we've read about in books. She tormented St. Germaine and made St. Germaine sleep on a pile of leaves in the barn. She fed the starv-

ing, sick little girl scraps of food in a dog's bowl.

From the time she was a little girl, St. Germaine was sent out to watch the family's sheep. Every day, she asked her guardian angel to watch the sheep so she could go to Mass – and it worked! The sheep were always safe. If the water in the river was high, God would part the waters so she could walk to Mass. If St. Germaine was running late, she would walk right on top of the water!

Her life was terrible, but St. Germaine was still sweet and kind to others, even her stepmother. She died when she was just 22 years old. After that, her stepmother went to confession and became a good woman. Many sick people have been cured because of prayers to St. Germaine!

Sources: Hunter-Kilmer, M. (2021) *Saints Around the World* • Catholic News Agency • OSV News

Kids 12 and younger
Email Bishop Kneestout [YOUR](mailto:AskTheBishop@catholicvirginian.org) question.
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Include your full name, age, and home parish.

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