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The East Tennessee

Catholic

News from The Diocese of Knoxville • Visit us at dioknox.org or etcatholic.org

October 5, 2014

Volume 24

Number 1



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The heart of a lion

At 6 months old, Aaron Morales is teaching a community about the value of life and the power of prayer

By Bill Brewer

Aaron Roman Morales should not be here. By all accounts, birth defects would rob Aaron of the life his parents desperately wanted for him. At least that's what the doctors concluded.

But here he is, at 6 months old, growing and thriving and behaving like most children his age.

That's a far cry from Nov. 28, 2013, when Aaron's mother and father – Sandra Morales De La Sancha and Bernabé Roman Torres – were first alerted that their unborn baby had life-threatening health issues.

The crushing report followed an ultrasound that detected insurmountable medical conditions. The prenatal diagnosis then took a turn that's devastating to any mother- or father-to-be. Doctors urged Mrs. Morales to end her child's life.

"They told her he had a defect in his heart and had Down syndrome

and club feet. They then gave her the option of aborting Aaron, but she refused," said Luis Garcia, Mrs. Morales 18-year-old son.

The life-altering dilemma suddenly consumed the family. They wanted to follow their physicians' medical recommendations, but they couldn't go against their conscience and faith.

Father Steve Pawelk, GHM, pastor of St. John Paul II Catholic Mission in Rutledge, noted that Mrs. Morales and Mr. Roman

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The miracle of life

Sandra Morales De La Sancha and Bernabé Roman Torres are shown with their children, (from oldest to youngest) Luis, Cristina, Adrian, Jasmin and Aaron. The family prayed intensely that Aaron would survive childbirth, although doctors said he likely would not due to a heart defect. Aaron's pediatric cardiologist now says Aaron's heart is nearly normal and credits the healthy turnaround to faith and prayer.

STEPHANIE RICHER



He dwells among us by Bishop Richard F. Stika

Love and mercy

The 'Gospel of Life' challenges us to show mercy even to those who denied it to others

Thirty-six years ago, two of my uncles were senselessly and brutally gunned down during a robbery of their small urban grocery store. The gunman, a 16-year-old youth, was arrested six months later but hanged himself in jail while awaiting trial. I struggled with the same question everyone does who is touched by such horrible acts of violence: "Why?"

As I mourned their loss, my prayers over time led me to reflect more upon the sanctity of life, and not just upon my uncles' but even the very youth who took their lives and his own. Only when I began to pray for this youth did I begin to find peace. Vengeance can never bring back a loved one, but love and mercy brings Christ into our pain.

Each October we celebrate "Respect Life Month," a time when we reflect more deeply upon the sanctity of life, from conception to natural death. And while many can easily admit that the sanctity of life begins at conception, it is much more difficult to promote "natural death" and to include those guilty of horrible crimes.

Why, we might ask, should those

Follow Bishop Richard Stika on Twitter @bishopstika and his blog for news and events from the diocese.

on death row be afforded mercy when they withheld it so cruelly from others? What about the victims' families whose lives are tortured by so painful a loss of loved ones? But while the enormity of the threats against innocent life, particularly the unborn, calls for our greatest efforts to help protect, we mustn't exclude even the most guilty from our witness to the sanctity of life.

As a priest in the Archdiocese of St. Louis, I used to visit inmates on death row. For some, the knowledge of their pending fate humbled them, and for others, it only hardened their hearts. Even when St. John Paul II visited Ali Agca in prison, the man who nearly succeeded in assassinating him, the pope didn't hear words of remorse, but only a question—"Why aren't you dead?"

Standing even before God, Cain expressed no remorse in taking the life of his brother, Abel (Genesis 4:9). God punished the world's first mur-

derer, not by taking his life, but by banishing him as an outcast, marking him in such a way that others might not take his life.

Here I am reminded of the example of great restraint that our young troops must exercise on the battlefield when an enemy combatant surrenders or is captured or wounded.

Even should the enemy have inflicted great harm upon them prior to their capture, once they are rendered a noncombatant, the enemy is protected by military and international law against reprisals or execution. If our soldiers are expected to exercise such restraint amidst the raw emotions of combat, shouldn't our society exercise the same restraint with those guilty of capital crimes?

The Church traditionally has not excluded recourse to the death penalty when it is the only possible way to safeguard society from an unjust aggressor. But particularly in our modern age where we have the ability to separate those who are a danger to society by means of incarceration, we should limit ourselves to those means.

Bishop continued on page 3

Bishop's schedule

These are some of Bishop Stika's public appointments:

Oct. 8: 12:10 p.m., Red Mass at Immaculate Conception

Oct. 9: 3 p.m. Groundbreaking for the Religious Sisters of Mercy, Alma, convent in Knoxville

Oct. 11: 11 a.m., Celebration of Marriage Mass at Holy Trinity Church in Jefferson City

Oct. 12: 11:15 a.m., Mass and installation of Father Don Andrie, CSP, as pastor of St. John XXIII Parish

Oct. 14: 11 a.m., general priest meeting

Oct. 16: 6 p.m., Young adults Mass with Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe at Sacred Heart Cathedral; 7 p.m. holy hour

Oct. 18: 9:30 a.m., Opening address for Ministries Day at Sacred Heart Cathedral School gym

Oct. 19: 11 a.m., Farewell Mass of the Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe at the Sacred Heart Cathedral

Oct. 19: 5 p.m., Catholic Foundation of East Tennessee dinner at Fox Den Country Club

Oct. 21: 4 p.m., Scrolls Mass and dinner at the bishop's residence

Oct. 25: 7 p.m., Mass and installation of Father Antony Punnackal as pastor of St. Mary Church in Gatlinburg

Schedule continued on page 36

Diocesan policy for reporting sexual abuse

Anyone who has actual knowledge of or who has reasonable cause to suspect an incident of sexual abuse should report such information to the appropriate civil authorities first, then to the bishop's office, 865-584-3307, or the diocesan victims' assistance coordinator, Marla Lenihan, 865-482-1388. ■



The East Tennessee Catholic

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Support grows for Amendment 1 proposal as Nov. 4 election nears

Bishop Stika joined by Bishop Choby, Bishop Steib in urging Catholics to vote for state constitutional measure

By Bill Brewer

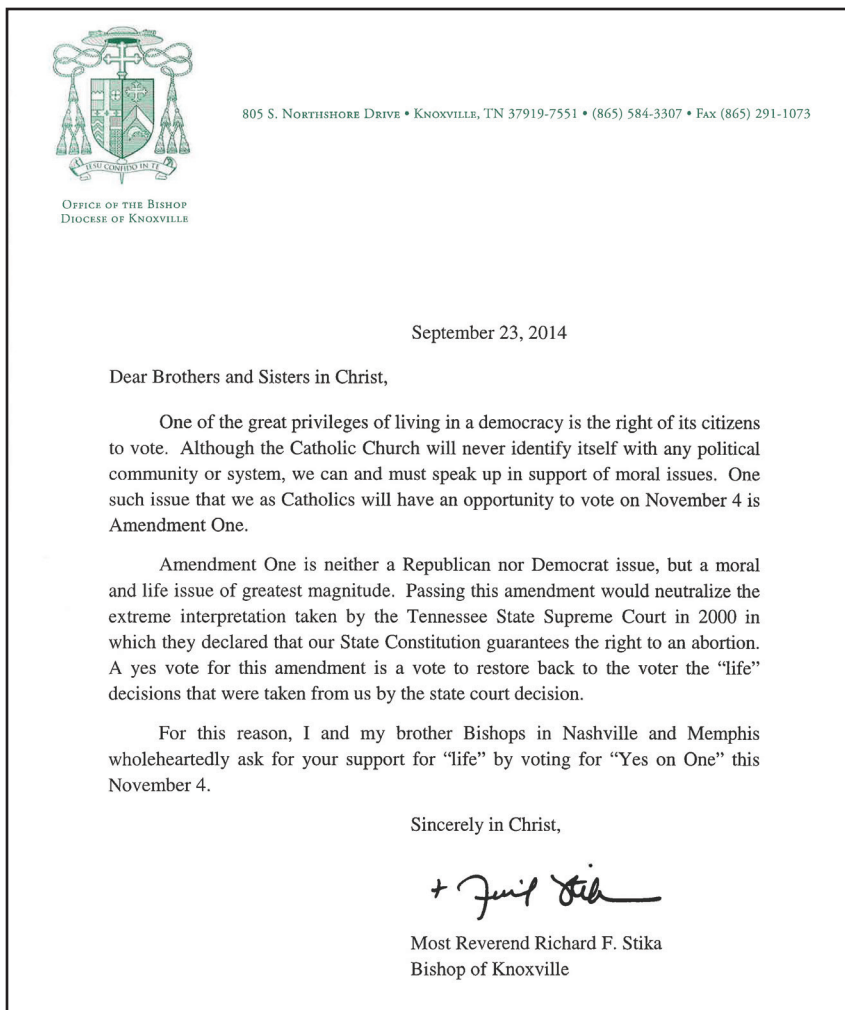
As the Nov. 4 election draws near and with early voting beginning Oct. 15, the dioceses of Knoxville, Nashville and Memphis are reinforcing their support for Amendment 1 to the state constitution.

Tennessee residents are being asked to vote yes on the measure, which states:

"Shall Article I of the Constitution of Tennessee be amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section: Nothing in this Constitution secures or protects a right to abortion or requires the funding of an abortion. The people retain the right through their elected state representatives and state senators to enact, amend, or repeal statutes regarding abortion, including but not limited to, circumstances of pregnancy resulting from rape or incest or when necessary to save the life of the mother."

Following his statement several weeks ago urging Diocese of Knoxville parishioners to support life and vote yes on Amendment 1, Bishop Richard F. Stika issued a second statement Sept. 23 re-emphasizing the importance of returning the constitution to a neutral position on abortion.

Bishop Stika said that while the Catholic Church will never identify itself with any political community or system, Catholics can and must



speak in support of moral issues such as Amendment 1.

"Amendment 1 is neither a Republican nor Democrat issue, but a moral and life issue of greatest magnitude. Passing this amendment would neutralize the extreme inter-

pretation taken by the Tennessee Supreme Court in 2000 in which they declared that our State Constitution guarantees the right to an abortion. A yes vote for this amendment is a vote to restore back to the voter the 'life' decisions that were taken away

from us by the state court decision," Bishop Stika stated.

"For this reason, I and my brother Bishops in Nashville [David R. Choby] and Memphis [J. Terry Steib, SVD] wholeheartedly ask for your support for 'life' by voting 'Yes on One' this November 4."

Stacy Dunn, an East Tennessee director of Tennessee Right To Life and the East Tennessee coordinator for the Yes on 1 campaign, said momentum in support of Amendment 1 is building across the state.

"Tennessee is at a pivotal junction. In November, we will either restore our state as a place for life or we will find ourselves paying for abortions with tax dollars," said Mrs. Dunn, who is a member of Holy Ghost Parish in Knoxville.

Mrs. Dunn said if the amendment fails, Tennessee will continue to be an abortion destination, and abortion clinics in Tennessee will continue to not be required to be licensed and inspected.

"It's all up to Tennessee's voters. Tennessee has always been a pro-life state and this is our chance to take action. It's as easy as voting, but we need every pro-life voter to vote," she said. "Amendment 1 will pass if pro-life people turn out to vote. But if they stay home and we allow this amendment to fail, our state will suffer for years to come. We've got to seize this opportunity to restore and protect life in Tennessee." ■

Bishop continued from page 2

In Tennessee, 11 men were scheduled to be executed beginning Oct. 7, but a last-minute court challenge has delayed this date. The crimes they were found guilty of are truly horrible, and to advocate mercy toward them may seem itself to be an offense against proper justice, and against the victims' families as well. But we cannot invite Jesus into the

pain of these crimes through a spirit of vengeance. While Bishop David R. Choby, Bishop J. Terry Steib, SVD, and I have petitioned Gov. Bill Haslam to reconsider the fate of these condemned men, I also ask you to pray for him.

A very powerful scene from the 1920 silent film, *The King of Kings*, depicts a group of grieving men and woman mourning as Christ passes

by them carrying his cross to Calvary. As He disappears from view, the crowd's mourning suddenly turns to anger as the two thieves come into view carrying their own crosses behind Christ. In striking contrast to their earlier demeanor, this same group of people begins hurling insults at the two thieves and throwing rocks and garbage at them.

This scene is a powerful reminder

of how we must all be the face and heart of Jesus, not only to those we feel are deserving of His mercy but also especially to those who the world feels are not. And we must pray for the victims' families that their hearts might be comforted, to stand with them beneath their cross of mourning and suffering and to offer consolation and help as a people of love and mercy. ■

Restore LIFE to Tennessee



In 2000, the Tennessee Supreme Court silenced the voice of the people by striking down 3 state laws providing for the health and safety of women and girls considering abortion: informed consent, 48 hour waiting period and a requirement that later term abortions be performed in hospitals.

On November 4th, Tennesseans will have the opportunity to:

- Provide safeguards for women considering abortion, unborn children, and Tennessee taxpayers.
- Require inspection, licensure, and regulation of abortion facilities.
- Stop Tennessee from being a destination for out-of-state abortions.
- *Vote YES on Amendment 1.*

www.YesOn1.org

Miracle linked to Paulist Father Isaac Hecker reported in Knoxville

Bishop Stika signs decree launching formal inquiry into matter as first step toward Vatican investigation

By Jim Wogan

Bishop Richard F. Stika has officially launched an inquiry into whether a miracle has occurred in the Diocese of Knoxville, a move that could strengthen the case for sainthood for a Catholic priest.

Bishop Stika issued a formal decree on Sept. 15, initiating a diocesan inquiry regarding the possible medical miracle.

The inquiry is highly unusual and is the first time any kind of Catholic religious miracle has been investigated in the Diocese of Knoxville.

The inquiry centers on Father Isaac Thomas Hecker, an American Roman Catholic priest and founder of the Paulist Fathers, a North American religious society of men.

"A number of months ago, Father Ron Franco, the pastor at Immaculate Conception Church here in Knoxville, came to me," said Bishop Stika. "Father Ron is involved in the cause of Father Hecker, the founder of the Paulist community."

According to the decree signed by Bishop Stika, the diocese will investigate whether a miracle took place here through the intercession of Father Hecker.

Father Hecker died in 1888.

His case for sainthood was officially opened in 2008 in New York City and is sponsored by the Archdiocese of New York.

Bishop Stika has appointed four members and officers for the diocesan inquiry—including Cardinal Justin Rigali, who will serve as the Episcopal Delegate.

Cardinal Rigali is a former archbishop of St. Louis and Philadelphia.

In addition to Cardinal Rigali,



Under investigation This decree issued by Bishop Richard F. Stika officially opens an inquiry into a miracle attributed to Father Isaac Thomas Hecker, founder of the Paulist fathers. Bishop Stika has convened a diocesan panel to research the matter.

other members of the board of inquiry are: Father David Carter, JCL, rector at Sts. Peter and Paul Basilica in Chattanooga, Deacon Sean Smith, chancellor of the Diocese of Knoxville, and Chancery staff member Janie Hennessy.

The decree was signed by Bishop Stika and co-signed by Paul Simoneau, vice chancellor of administration for the Diocese of Knoxville. Mr. Simoneau also is the diocese's director of the Office of Justice and Peace.

Abiding by Church rule, members of the board of inquiry are bound by an oath of secrecy — so circumstances surrounding the possible medical miracle aren't being released.

However, Bishop Stika has indi-

cated the event will be thoroughly investigated by the diocese and a team of un-biased medical experts, including doctors.

If Bishop Stika is comfortable that the panel's findings indicate a medical miracle has taken place — a report will be sent to the Vatican, where another thorough investigation will be conducted.

Father Hecker is now known as a Servant of God in the Catholic Church, which is the first step on the path to sainthood.

If a miracle can be attributed to Father Hecker, he would be eligible for beatification. If a second miracle can be connected to the priest, he would be in line for possible canonization.

Word of the possible miracle has sparked significant media interest inside and outside of the Diocese of Knoxville.

It also has given Bishop Stika an opportunity to educate Catholics and non-Catholics alike on a process that is often seen as mysterious and equally misunderstood by those unfamiliar with the faith.

Do Catholics pray to saints?

"What we do is we seek their intercession," Bishop Stika said. "It's like when you ask a friend to pray to Jesus for you or for someone else. That is our relationship with the saints. We believe the saints are people who have lived good and virtuous lives and now they are standing at the foot of God. So we are asking them to have this conversation with the Lord, to intercede for us for good health, or for well-being or just for the spirit of holiness."

Humorously, the bishop also admitted that there are different kinds of miracles.

In sports, he cited the Miracle Mets winning the 1969 World Series.

In football, he spoke of Tennessee overcoming a 24-point halftime deficit to beat Notre Dame 35-34 in South Bend in 1991. To UT fans, the game is known as The Miracle at South Bend.

While those events remain historic topics of conversation for sports fans, the bishop admits the type of miracle the Diocese of Knoxville is investigating is much more serious.

There is no indication how long the process will take.

"In God's time," the bishop said to one member of the media covering the story. ■



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Hundreds on hand for 2014 Diocesan Homecoming

Diocese of Knoxville marks end of silver jubilee year with daylong celebration, outdoor Mass

By Dan McWilliams

The Diocese of Knoxville concluded its silver jubilee year on Sept. 13 with a daylong homecoming celebration that attracted some 750 to 1,000 people who enjoyed fun, games, food, music, and an outdoor Mass celebrated by Bishop Richard F. Stika.

Parishioners of all ages from across the diocese gathered on the grounds of Knoxville Catholic High School to take part in the event that officially wraps up the diocese's yearlong celebration of the 25 years since its founding on Sept. 8, 1988.

Youth who attended the homecoming had fun with bounce houses, a dunk tank, a giant hamster ball, a climbing wall, volleyball games, face painting, trike races, and a softball tournament among parish schools.

Adults also got involved in the fun, taking part in a barbecue competition, a cornhole game course, live music, free food and drinks, and the diocesan Mass to conclude the anniversary.

Bishop Stika rode inside the hamster ball and won a tricycle race over John Deinhart, director of Stewardship and Strategic Planning, Deacon David Luchon, and Communications director Jim Wogan. Knoxville radio personality Frank Murphy, a parishioner at All Saints Parish, emceed the various homecoming events.

The silver jubilee began in September 2013 with a Eucharistic Congress that attracted more than 5,000 people to the Sevierville Convention Center to see Cardinal Justin Rigali lead a special diocesan adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Bishop Stika celebrate Mass, Cardinal Timothy Dolan give the keynote address and talks by Father Robert Barron and Dr. Scott Hahn.

Threatening weather in the forecast for homecoming day never materialized, and the sun was out for much of the day.

"What a day it's been," the bishop



STEPHANIE RICHER

Boys will be boys Bishop Richard F. Stika, far right, fends off challengers during the Great Tricycle Race during the Diocesan Homecoming at Knoxville Catholic High School on Sept. 13. Competing against the bishop are Deacon David Luchon, behind Bishop Stika, John Deinhart, middle, and Jim Wogan, left.

said to begin his homily.

"That's what we gather together today for: with a spirit of gratitude to almighty God."

Cardinal Rigali was in choir for the homecoming Mass, which was held in the KCHS stadium, where the altar and diocesanwide choir adorned the football field and priests, deacons, women religious, and parishioners were seated on the track and in the stands.

Twelve priests and four deacons took part in the Mass along with masters of ceremonies Father Joe Reed and Father Arthur Torres Barona and assisting deacons Sean Smith and Tim Elliott. It was the vigil Mass of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

Homecoming continued on page 20



DAN MCWILLIAMS

Diocesanwide Communion Bishop Richard F. Stika, center, was the celebrant during the outdoor Mass Sept. 13 to close the silver jubilee year celebration. Joining Bishop Stika at the altar are priests and deacons from the Diocese of Knoxville.

Aaron continued from page 1

Torres do not speak English and did not attend Mass regularly, but she had faith that God would guide her through this crisis.

And her maternal instinct began kicking in.

“They went to church occasionally. But Sandra felt God was telling her to keep her baby, and that’s what she decided to do,” Father Pawelk said, explaining how he became involved with the family.

Faced with a pregnancy crisis and pressure from doctors to abort her baby, Mrs. Morales and Mr. Roman Torres followed their faith, which led them to St. John Paul II Mission that serves the Grainger County area.

Devastating diagnosis

“The doctors originally said the baby had no chance to live because its heart wasn’t sealed properly. That’s when (the couple) approached me for spiritual guidance,” Father Pawelk said.

The Glenmary Home Missioners priest advised the couple to see another doctor and begin praying. Mrs. Morales and her husband started praying intensely and sought second medical opinions.

But abortion was not going to be an option.

“I was going to leave it up to God and let Him decide what He wants,” Mrs. Morales said through her son, Luis, who pointed out that physicians continued to warn her the baby likely wouldn’t survive after birth or survive the required surgery needed to repair its heart.

Crestfallen by the diagnosis that a section of their baby’s heart would never close, the couple sought spiritual sanctuary with Father Pawelk and Father Aaron Wessman, another Glenmary Home Missioners priest who was the associate pastor at St. John Paul II Mission.

The two Glenmary priests have been working with the Diocese of Knoxville to establish Catholic com-



STEPHANIE RICHER

A special blessing Father Steve Pawelk, pastor of St. John Paul II Catholic Mission in Rutledge, gives a blessing to Aaron Morales during a recent Mass.



STEPHANIE RICHER

Bright eyed Aaron Morales takes in his new surroundings at St. John Paul II Catholic Mission during a recent Mass.

munities in Grainger and Union counties. The Union County church, Blessed Teresa of Calcutta in Maynardville, recently was elevated to

parish status by Bishop Richard F. Stika. The Glenmarys also are establishing a mission in Unicoi County, led by Father Tom Charters, pastor

of St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Mission.

A growing percentage of people attending Mass in those counties are Hispanic.

Sandra Morales and Bernabé Roman Torres first came to St. John Paul II Mission from Jefferson City as sponsors for another couple that was having their marriage convalidated. That first visit led to more.

As Father Pawelk and Father Wessman got to know Sandra, Bernabé and their family, they began to advise the couple on strengthening their faith.

Sandra and Bernabé also decided to convalidate their marriage during this time.

“They were eight months pregnant when they got married. But they were married,” Father Pawelk explained, emphasizing the couple’s sacrament of matrimony.

As Mrs. Morales and Mr. Roman Torres received guidance for their unborn child, they also were receiving guidance for their relationship and their blended family.

Father Pawelk and Father Wessman advised them to return to the Church and attend Mass on a regular basis as a family. So, as the couple continued to receive prenatal medical care, they also received spiritual care, prompting their decision to convalidate their marriage.

“One of the reasons she wanted to get married in the Church is because she wanted young Aaron in the womb to receive the Holy Sacrament,” Father Pawelk said.

And that would be the first Holy Communion for Mr. Roman Torres and Mrs. Morales.

And as the family’s faith grew stronger, the Grainger County Catholic community grew closer to the family. News of the family’s crisis was being shared.

The crisis pregnancy spurred Mrs. Morales, Mr. Roman Torres, their children and the St. John Paul II Mission to offer a critical response.

Aaron continued on page 8

The power of prayer

Shortly after the fateful ultrasound, rosaries and novenas began to be prayed in homes throughout the mission. Throughout the month of December, prayers, rosaries and novenas filled those homes as Aaron's family drove considerable distances daily to pray at the mission.

Father Pawelk made people aware through the mission's prayer chain. And the family responded in kind.

"Every evening we prayed the rosary. Every morning we woke at 3 a.m. to pray the Divine Mercy prayer," Mr. Roman Torres said through his son, Luis.

After a full-court press of prayer, rosaries, and novenas was initiated and carried out during Mrs. Morales' pregnancy, a local medical professional took notice.

"Just before Aaron's birth, we went to a cardiologist, and the doctor asked me if we were involved in any church and if we were praying for him (the doctor)," Luis Garcia said. "The doctor said the heart was healing fast and that Aaron was a true miracle. He said he's never seen anything like that and to keep praying for him."

Father Pawelk said the re-diagnosis is proof that Aaron is living and thriving because of those prayers and God's intercession.

As Mrs. Morales' pregnancy came to term, a physician at a Morristown clinic pronounced the baby ready for birth during a routine check-up. The doctor wanted to induce labor, but when told of the baby's diagnosis, she was referred to the University of Tennessee Medical Center. She then was quickly transferred to Vanderbilt Medical Center after UT told her the baby would require surgery immediately after birth.

Within six hours, Mrs. Morales had traveled from Morristown to Knoxville, then to Nashville. She and her husband arrived at Vanderbilt on March 31 and Aaron was born on



STEPHANIE RICHER

April 3.

"I couldn't even get to Knoxville in time to pray with her. They moved her that fast," Father Pawelk said.

Mr. Roman Torres said doctors at Vanderbilt did another ultrasound prior to birth, and a heart specialist told them the baby likely was not going to live.

"The baby would require three surgeries and the doctors told them that babies with Down syndrome usually don't survive heart surgery," Luis Garcia said.

Mr. Roman Torres described the scene after Aaron's birth, where machines were affixed to Aaron to monitor his condition. But the physicians and nurses were quickly caught off guard.

"They were surprised the baby was breathing on his own and did not require oxygen. No surgeries were

Motherly touch

Sandra Morales De La Sancha cradles her son, Aaron, as she and daughter Jasmin read from a missal during Mass at St. John Paul II Catholic Mission in Rutledge. The mission community in Grainger County has been praying for Aaron's safe arrival and have welcomed him as one of the mission's newest members.

the prayer line into action and prayed to St. John Paul II, Blessed Teresa of Calcutta and St. Gerard Majella, the patron of difficult pregnancies. Padre Pio was invoked for healing as was Our Lady of Guadalupe."

'A true miracle story'

Father Pawelk beams when talking about how the Holy Spirit has blessed Sandra Morales, Bernabé Roman Torres and their family.

His excitement was evident in a letter he sent Bishop Stika last spring outlining the events surrounding Aaron's birth. He started the letter with, "Dear Bishop Stika, I wish to report a true miracle."

Bishop Stika has been with the family and was moved by young Aaron and his impactful story.

"I remember reading about all the potential life lost within the context of those millions of babies — those who may have found a cure for cancer or become the next president of the United States, a great peace-maker," Bishop Stika said. "It just shows you the potential of life and when that life is destroyed before it's allowed to walk on the earth, it's just a great loss."

"For one, life is so sacred, but also, the potential of those lives lost, and then you see this young baby, you see God's creation in the smile and in the eyes," the bishop added.

Bishop Stika praised Sandra Morales and Bernabé Roman Torres for ignoring some of the doctors and instead opting for life. He said her decision to give birth to Aaron was a true act of faith.

"You talk about absolute trust in God, from the advice of the physician — which I can't understand because physicians by their nature are supposed to save life, preserve life and safeguard life — for the advice she received and yet she trusted in the Lord — and she had this beautiful baby," he said.

The pediatric cardiologist the family

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Aaron continued from page 8

finally placed their trust in also has been wowed by the outcome.

Dr. Michael Liske, who is with the East Tennessee Pediatric Cardiology medical practice in Knoxville, began treating Mrs. Morales while she was pregnant with Aaron.

Dr. Liske points out that he was not among the doctors who recommended aborting Aaron.

"I never give that advice," he said.

Following thorough examinations and tests before delivery, Dr. Liske advised Sandra and Bernabé that their baby likely would have serious congenital heart deficiencies that would be life-threatening.

Dr. Liske's diagnosis was that Aaron's mitral valve was too small at six millimeters in the womb. The valve should be eight millimeters.

"This would require a complex set of heart surgeries — three in all. These surgeries are difficult and the chances of survival are quite small in children with Down syndrome," he said.

Dr. Liske said a decision was made for Aaron to be born at Vanderbilt Medical Center in Nashville, and when Mrs. Morales was rushed to Nashville during child birth, a Vanderbilt physician treating her confirmed Dr. Liske's diagnosis.

But to everyone's surprise Aaron's mitral valve had reached a measurement of 7.8 millimeters — nearly normal.

Dr. Liske examined Aaron at 12 days of age and his mitral valve measured 9.8 millimeters. He examined Aaron again in recent weeks and found him to be doing quite well.

Dr. Liske shared his findings, and he didn't discount the effects of prayer on Aaron's medical phenomenon.

"I am absolutely thrilled with this child's cardiac status. It's certainly conceivable that the value of the mitral valve I measured prior to delivery was in error, although the fact this was confirmed by a Vanderbilt evaluation makes this less likely," Dr. Liske said.

"I really do not have a good explanation for this child's wonderful status. Perhaps it's the prayers of this

family and their church that were answered. We still have some minor issues with the heart, but ultimately I think this child will do great from a cardiac standpoint. His heart, which I thought would have been a major issue, has faded into the background."

Father Pawelk points out that the miracle story involves more than young Aaron. He said it's also a wonderful story of faith, courage of conviction, forgiveness and redemption.

"Part of the story is they got their life reorganized so that God was a priority. Father Aaron and I worked with them in bringing them back into the Church through God's intercession," he said.

Mrs. Morales and Mr. Roman Torres were so moved by the outpouring of support and prayer by the Glenmary priests and the St. John Paul II mission that they named Aaron after Father Wessman.

In the six months since Aaron's birth, his father has been confirmed in the Church, the youngster has been baptized and he continues to grow out of baby clothes.

"He's drinking from a cup and making sounds, so he is functioning as almost a normal child," Mr. Roman Torres said.

Aaron's big brother, who has prayed as hard as anyone, believes Aaron's life is a true blessing from God. But you don't have to take his word for it.

"The doctor did say it's a real miracle and he told me to keep praying for him (the doctor)," Luis Garcia said.

Father Pawelk agrees with Dr. Liske but not every physician involved in Aaron's case — the ones who strongly urged Mrs. Morales to abort Aaron.

"Doctors don't know everything. Faith does work. The Lord has done this for a reason," he said. "Their (the family) faith is incredible. It shows what can happen through faith and prayer.

"This is a true miracle story and a story of faith. God helped them love this child into life." ■

FAMILIES TOGETHER IN CHRIST



MINISTRIES DAY 2014

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9:30am-3:30pm • Cathedral of the Sacred Heart • Knoxville
\$20/Person, Includes Lunch

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Cathedral kickoff event introduces historic plan to parishioners

Hundreds turn out for celebration marking the beginning of two-year construction project

By Jim Wogan

The first shovel of dirt hasn't been turned yet, but parishioners at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart of Jesus finally have a good idea of what their new home will look like when construction is completed in 2017.

Plans for a new cathedral were unveiled with video presentations during Masses on Sept. 6-7 followed by a Sunday afternoon festival Sept. 7 in front of the current cathedral structure.

It's estimated that more than 500 people, including Rep. John H. Duncan Jr., attended the kickoff celebration.

WATE-TV news anchor Kristin Farley emceed the event. Cathedral campaign co-chairmen Bruce Hartmann and Dugan McLaughlin also were in attendance.

"The day gives evidence that there is an enthusiasm both for the normal parish life of the cathedral but also real enthusiasm for a new house of worship," Bishop Richard F. Stika said.

"It's been a very festive celebration. Throughout my almost 29 years of priesthood I have always enjoyed parish gatherings, parish picnics and homecomings and such. This has been a tremendous and uplifting experience," Bishop Stika added.

Individual information stations with detailed architectural renderings were set-up under tents in the cathedral parking lot allowing parishioners to ask specific questions relating to all elements of the planned construction.

Project officials did their best to answer them.

"We were asked some very good questions," said Sacred Heart parishioner and building committee chairman Jerry Bodie.

"One of the biggest concerns, believe it or not, was about parking," said Bodie. "We explained that under the plan we will have three access points to the cathedral campus, our parking will increase (from approximately 280 spaces to more than 400) and on both sides there will be parking closer to the cathedral and the slope of the lot will be much gentler."

One element of the cathedral plan that has drawn plenty of curiosity is a crypt that will be located under the worship space.

"Plenty of people were asking how a bishop gets buried in a crypt," Mr. Bodie said.

It wasn't all about building issues. The festival was intended to give Sacred Heart parishioners a chance to relax, have fun and share fellowship. Food booths, games and music by local band the Chillbillies provided an outlet for amusement.

One of the more popular activities was face paint-



Cathedral kickoff Sacred Heart Cathedral parishioners spread out on the parish grounds for an afternoon of fun, food and fellowship Sept. 7 as a formal beginning to the cathedral construction project.



Spread the Word Sacred Heart Cathedral rector Father David Boettner briefs parishioners on the cathedral building project on Sept. 7.

ing—in a booth run by Sacred Heart parishioner and artist Christine Maentz. A long line of children snaked through the parking lot and past booths set up for other purposes. Clearly, face painting was a hit.

All of this took place in a parking lot that will be transformed next year. The front steps of the current cathedral were used as a festival stage. Three large banners—two with artist renderings of what the new cathedral will look like and measuring 12 feet by 18 feet—were hung from the front of the church. A third banner measuring 55 feet by 10 feet was hung from the cathedral bell tower.

It made for an impressive backdrop. Bishop Stika reminded those attending the festival that the hard work is just beginning for Sacred Heart

Parish and the Diocese of Knoxville.

"I ask you all in a very special way, to entrust this project, the building of this parish, the continued building of this parish, to entrust it all to the Sacred Heart of Jesus," Bishop Stika said. "That's what he wants. He wants us to be drawn closer and closer and closer to himself."

The vibe at the kickoff festival was relaxed—over his clerical collar, Bishop Stika wore a jersey of his beloved St. Louis Cardinals, and just to make sure everyone knew who he was, the name "Bishop" was emblazoned on the back.

True to his Tennessee connections, Father David Boettner, who serves as cathedral rector and as a vicar general for the diocese, was hard to miss. He wore his clerical shirt—with a bright orange pair of slacks.

Did he have the bishop's permission to make such a fashion statement?

"No, because I would have said no," Bishop Stika joked.

"Well, maybe I would have said OK. Anybody who wears orange pants is devoted to the Tennessee Volunteers and how can you disagree with that?"

That devotion will be tested in the coming months. Father Boettner likely will trade his orange slacks for an orange vest and a hard hat—as he helps oversee a construction project that is scheduled to begin in June 2015. ■

Sacred Heart, KCHS feature Medalists of Honor in programs

Service and sacrifice are themes as distinguished veterans lead assemblies, visit classrooms

By Dan McWilliams

Students from Catholic elementary schools and Knoxville Catholic High School heard stories of courage, honor, and sacrifice as Medal of Honor recipients, in town for a national convention, spent time with them Sept. 12.

All of the speakers arrived by helicopter, including retired Army Staff Sgt. (Retired) Leroy A. Petry and Army Specialist Ty M. Carter, who were greeted at Sacred Heart Cathedral School by Bishop Richard F. Stika, Cardinal Justin Rigali, and Sacred Heart rector Father David Boettner after they landed on the school grounds.

Sgt. Petry and Specialist Carter appeared on stage at Sacred Heart, where they fielded questions from WBIR-TV's John Becker and students. The two Medal of Honor recipients entered the gym through a double line of students that included Boy and Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Brownies, and American Heritage Girls in their uniforms. A military band and a full house of students from SHCS, St. Joseph, St. John Neumann, and St. Mary in Oak Ridge greeted them. Bishop Stika led an opening prayer and later presented gifts to the two honorees.

Sgt. Petry lost his right hand when he picked up a grenade that detonated while serving as a Ranger in Afghanistan. He demonstrated his robotic artificial hand for the students, turning it 360 degrees to oohs and aahs from the gathering.

Specialist Carter said during the assembly, when asked by Mr. Becker how faith figured into his service, that "you find part of a religious experience when the bullets are flying and the bombs are going off."

"The faith I actually experienced while I was in severe combat was not of the religious type at all," he said. "The trust with your fellow soldiers: while I had my rifle pointing one direction firing, I didn't have to worry about my back. I didn't worry about



Heroes welcome Sacred Heart Cathedral School students who are in the Scouts salute Medal of Honor recipients Leroy Petry, center, and Ty Carter, right, as the veterans visit the school on Sept. 12. Army Staff Sgt. (Retired) Petry and Army Specialist Carter were among nearly 50 Medal of Honor veterans attending a convention in Knoxville. Walking with the veterans are Cardinal Justin Rigali and Father Arthur Torres Barona.

what's behind me because I know that my fellow servicemen would commit their entire existence to protect my back as I'm protecting their back, so the faith actually came from the trust and love and camaraderie of my fellow servicemen."

Sgt. Petry is a Catholic who went to St. Catherine Catholic School in his native Santa Fe, N.M.

"Unfortunately we were the last graduating class," he said. "The school closed down after we graduated."

His faith played a role in his service in both Afghanistan and Iraq.

"Well, I always felt there were prayers always out there for me and so many that kept me alive," he said,

"and I knew, I prayed, that I'd always do my best to do all I could for my guys and complete the mission and get home to my family."

When he speaks to students, Sgt. Petry said he hopes the message he gets across is for the young people "to just do all that they can do to be contributors to our society. The greatest feeling that a parent can have is for their child to be a contributor to our society and not a drain on it."

He told the Sacred Heart students that they can be a hero without picking up a grenade "or without any accolades or anything," including by such a simple act as picking up trash they see on the ground.

After their talk, Sgt. Petry and

Specialist Carter toured the cathedral school and spoke to students.

Sgt. Petry addressed students in the Sacred Heart Cathedral School library, where he took a variety of questions. Those included: "what advice do you have on being a model citizen," "what gave you the courage to save someone's life," "what was hardest about leaving home and going overseas," "was it a conscious decision to pick up the grenade" (he answered yes), and "were you brave and courageous as a kid?"

Sgt. Petry's heroics came under enemy fire that wounded him in both legs before the grenade attack that cost him his hand. The incident oc-

Medal continued on page 12

Medal continued from page 11

occurred May 26, 2008, in Paktya Province, Afghanistan. He received his Medal of Honor on July 12, 2011.

Specialist Carter and his comrades awakened to an attack by some 300 enemy fighters on Oct. 3, 2009, in Outpost Keating, Nuristan Province, Afghanistan. Specialist Carter, as part of a number of heroic actions, ran twice through a 100-meter gauntlet of enemy fire. He also ran through a hail of rocket-propelled grenades and machine-gun fire to rescue a critically wounded comrade. He received his Medal of Honor on Aug. 26, 2013.

Sgt. Petry was 28 and Specialist Carter was 29 when they committed the acts that earned them the Medal of Honor.

Medal of Honor recipients Walter Joseph Marm Jr. and Thomas G. Kelley were the guests of honor Sept. 12 at Knoxville Catholic High School, where students turned out en masse to greet the decorated veterans as they arrived by Black Hawk helicopter.

Following a brief reception, Col. Marm and Capt. Kelley, who both served in Vietnam and retired after 30-year military careers, then spoke to the student body during an all-school assembly before they visited classrooms.

During the assembly, the men offered words of wisdom as they described the events that led to their

Medals of Honor and were asked questions by students.

Capt. Kelley voiced his excitement to be at KCHS and urged the students to develop and use moral courage in their daily lives. He compared that to having courage on the battlefield in the face of enemy assault.

"You face (obstacles) every day. ... You have to be a good Christian in knowing what to do," he said. "As they say in Boston, it is wicked awesome to be here, to be at a school like this."

Col. Marm shared in Capt. Kelley's awe of the KCHS response to their visit.

"It's an awesome experience to be here in front of a wonderful student body like this," Col. Marm said.

He told the students that one day the country will be in their hands and to use their faith in serving their country, in whatever path they choose.

"God has a plan for you. God is not going to put more in your backpack than you can stand," Col. Marm said.

Marm is Catholic and attended Catholic school growing up in Pittsburgh. Capt. Kelley is a lifelong Catholic from Boston.

When asked how faith influenced his life during military service, Col. Marm said faith was very important.

"There's a saying that there are no atheists in foxholes and I believe that," he said. ■

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Diocesan calendar

by Margaret Hunt

Bishop Richard F. Stika will celebrate **two more bilingual Masses in celebration of marriage** this fall: on Saturday, Oct. 11, at Holy Trinity Church in Jefferson City, and on Saturday, Nov. 22, at St. Stephen Church in Chattanooga. Both celebrations will begin at 11 a.m. and will be followed by a luncheon. Participants are asked to register at least one week in advance to receive a commemorative certificate and a professional photo opportunity with Bishop Stika. To register, contact Marian Christiana at 423-892-2310 or mchristiana@dioknox.org, or Karen Byrne at 865-584-3307 or kbyrne@dioknox.org.

A men's Cursillo will be held Oct. 16-19 at the Apison Retreat Center in Apison, Tenn. For more information, call Barb Lorenz at 931-788-1460 for an application and to arrange a sponsor if needed.

Course 1 of the catechetical program sponsored by the Office of Christian Formation and Aquinas College will be taught Saturday, Oct. 11, at the Chancery in Knoxville, at Notre Dame Church in Greeneville on Nov. 1, and at Holy Spirit Church in Soddy-Daisy on Nov. 8. All sessions will take place from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The event is open to catechists, DREs, RCIA teams, or those interested in broadening their understanding of Church teaching. Topics covered in Course 1 include faith, dogma, the Magisterium, introduction to the sacraments, human dignity, morality, prayer, and celebrating the liturgical year. To register, visit the Diocese of Knoxville Eventbrite page, www.eventbrite.com/o/diocese-of-knoxville-office-of-christian-formation-3149767104. For more information, call Father Richard Armstrong at 865-584-3307.

The annual **Ministries Day** will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 18, at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Twenty-

four workshops will be presented on a wide variety of topics of interest to catechists, RCIA teams, youth ministers, parents, youth, and music and liturgy planners. The cost is \$20 per person. Register before Oct. 11 to reserve a lunch. Registration after Oct. 11 remains \$20, but no lunch will be guaranteed. Class sizes are limited, so register early. Register online at bit.ly/1m8d8BN. For more information, contact Father Richard Armstrong at 865-584-3307 or rarmstrong@dioknox.org or Chris Kite at ckite@dioknox.org.

The 11th annual Chattanooga for Life Respect Life Banquet is scheduled for 6-9:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 16, at the Chattanooga River Boat Pier 2 at the Landing located at 201 Riverfront Parkway No. 2. Chet McDoniel, a nationally recognized pro-life speaker, will give the keynote address. The cost is \$75 per person. For tickets, donations, and sponsorships contact Donna Jones at 423-718-4387 or djones6029@gmail.com.

Catholic Charities needs volunteers for several of their programs. The Pregnancy Help Center needs Spanish-speaking volunteers to assist with the "Earn While You Learn" program for parents-to-be, giving them the opportunity to learn about pregnancy-related concerns and parenting tips while earning needed supplies for their infants. Contact Sandi Davidson for more information at 865-776-4510 or sandi@cctn.org.

The Children's Emergency Shelter is also in serious need of volunteers to care for and prepare meals for the residents of the program. Fingerprinting and a background check are required to participate. Contact Jackie Fleming at 865-544-0578 or jackie@cctn.org for more information.

Horizon House group homes for low-income adults with mental illness need individuals to prepare and serve home-cooked meals for residents of the homes. The homes also

need donations of cleaning supplies, arts and crafts items, umbrellas, and gift cards for local stores and restaurants. For details, contact John at 865-253-6648 or john@cctn.org.

The Knoxville Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting is hosting a **retreat for young people involved in Scouting** in grades one through 12 on Saturday, Oct. 25, at St. John Neumann Church in Farragut. Grades one through five will meet from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and those in grades six through 12 will meet from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The \$10 fee includes lunch. For more information, call Giannine Morris at 865-531-6447.

An Engaged Encounter weekend is scheduled for Oct. 17-19 at the Holiday Inn Express in Lenoir City. For more information, contact Jason or Carmen Jeansonne, weekend registration couple, at 865-377-3077 or Tom and Maggie Slankas, local coordinators, at 483-7896 or ceeknoxville@yahoo.com.

A Beginning Experience weekend is planned for Oct. 24-26 at the Carson Springs Retreat Center in Newport. Beginning Experience is geared toward those who have lost a spouse through death, divorce, or separation and who wish to heal their grief and move forward with renewed hope and acceptance. For more information, contact Beverly Short at 706-820-1753 or bbshort@comcast.net, or Marian Christiana at 423-892-2310 or mchristiana@dioknox.org. Visit www.beginningexperience.org for more information on the weekend.

Two RCIA conferences remain for those who participate in faith-formation activities with catechumens and candidates in the Diocese of Knoxville. The first is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 8, at St. Mary Church in Johnson City, and the second is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 17, 2015, at Immaculate Conception Church in Knoxville. Both sessions meet 9 a.m.-to 3:30 p.m. Registration forms are available online at

dioknox.org/offices-ministries/christian-formation/. For more information, contact Sister Mary Timothea Elliott, RSM, at 865-584-3307 or Chris Kite at ckite@dioknox.org.

The next **Picture of Love engaged couples retreat** is scheduled for 7-10 p.m. Friday, Nov. 7, and 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 8, at St. Jude Church in Chattanooga. The retreat is to supplement couples' marriage formation process with their parish priests. The cost is \$135 per couple, which includes a certificate good for \$60 off a marriage license. Couples must attend the entire program to receive the certificate. Mass will be celebrated during the event. For more information, contact Marian Christiana at 423-892-2310 or mchristiana@dioknox.org.

Father Dan Whitman will celebrate a **charismatic Mass** at 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 9, at Holy Spirit Church in Soddy-Daisy. Singers and instrumentalists who would like to participate should arrive at 4:30. Prayers for healing will follow Mass. For more information, contact Dee Leigh at 423-842-2305 or deeleigh@comcast.net.

Knoxville Catholic High School is hosting an **open house** for prospective families at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 9, in the gym. A placement test is also scheduled from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 6, in the KCHS administration building. To set up a tour of the school or to obtain further information, contact Nichole Pfohl, dean of admissions, at 865-560-0502 or npfohl@knoxville-catholic.com.

The 2014 Diocesan Youth Conference, "Contagious Catholicism," will take place Nov. 22-23 at Holy Trinity Church in Jefferson City. The event will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 22, and end at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 23. Activities planned for the weekend include games, service projects for Children's Hospital of East Tennessee, making flowerpots for the elderly, writ-

Calendar continued on page 14

Chattanooga Deanery calendar

The 17th annual **St. Mary Church (Athens) Fall Festival** will take place from noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 12. There will be a wide variety of ethnic foods, silent and live auctions, children's games, and live entertainment. There will be plenty of free parking. For more information, call 423-745-4277 or visit the parish website, www.stmaryathenstn.org.

Join parishioners of Holy Spirit Church in Soddy-Daisy for a one-day **bus trip to the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Hanceville, Ala., and the Ave Maria Grotto in Cullman, Ala.**, scheduled for Monday, Oct. 20. The group will leave the church at 7 a.m. The cost is \$35 per person and is due by Oct. 3. Space is limited. Call Dee Leigh for more information at 423-842-2305. ■



Birthdays celebrated at Holy Spirit

Parishioners of Holy Spirit in Soddy-Daisy recently helped Deacon Mike Kucharzak (above with wife Andra) and Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus Wesley Bell (with wife Janet) celebrate a pair of milestone birthdays. Deacon Kucharzak turned 75 and Mr. Bell 74.

St. Thérèse of Lisieux Parish plans columbarium

St. Thérèse of Lisieux Parish in Cleveland is exploring the potential for developing a columbarium for its parishioners.

A columbarium is a respectful repository for a person's cremated remains. Several parishes in the Diocese of Knoxville have created columbaria, which are typically free-standing units in an outdoor setting designed and landscaped to create a peaceful, reflective environment.

After visiting and collecting information from these other parishes, the columbarium committee for

St. Thérèse Parish contacted a firm that specializes in the design and construction of columbaria. The Columbarium Committee worked with Matthews Granite to create a design that includes three types of units containing niches, each of which accommodates the cremated remains of two individuals. Each niche will have a plaque displaying the names and dates for the interred remains.

For more information on this project or to inquire about purchasing a niche, call the parish office at 423-476-8123 or Ron Braam at 479-9039. ■

Parish notes: Chattanooga Deanery

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Chattanooga

Knights of Columbus Council 6099 is sponsoring an aluminum-can drive to support diocesan seminarians. The cans may be dropped off in the parking lot next to Madonna Hall. Call the parish office for more details at 423-622-7232.

St. Jude, Chattanooga

The Council of Catholic Women will sponsor the eighth annual International Day of the Rosary starting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 9, at St. Jude Church. Volunteers will pray the rosary in different languages from around the world. A potluck dinner will follow the rosary in Siener Hall around 7 p.m. To volunteer, call Mechtild Boles at 423-877-0467 or Cathy Palisoc at 423-322-6482.

St. Stephen, Chattanooga

The St. Stephen Parish potluck picnic will take place from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 12, on the parish grounds. Knights of Columbus Council 6099 will prepare hamburgers and hot dogs. Meet the new pastor, Father Manuel Pérez, and participate in games and other activities planned for the day. For more information, call the parish office at 423-892-1261.

Newcomers: Miguel and Adriana Casillas, Dan and Sierra Mushett, Cesar and Alma Escarcega, Jose and Claudia Contreras, Kimberly Wilkins, Kathleen Hill ■

Calendar continued from page 13

ing letters to military personnel, and eucharistic adoration, and there will be a closing Mass. The guest speaker will be Tony Melendez, a nationally known speaker and recording artist. The cost is \$85 per person, which includes one night at a hotel. For more information, call Deacon Jim Fage at 423-748-2836.

Monsignor Al Humbrecht and Father William Oruko, AJ, will be the spiritual directors of a **pilgrimage to the Holy Land** scheduled for Feb. 15-28, 2015. The itinerary includes stops at religious sites in and around Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, and Mount Carmel. The cost of the pilgrimage is \$3,708 payable by credit card, or \$3,499 if paid by cash or check. The price includes economy-class airfare from Atlanta, plus meals, fuel surcharges, taxes, and tips. The registration fee is \$400. Contact Sister Albertine Paulus, RSM, for registration information at 865-207-4742 or smaevang@yahoo.com. To request a brochure, visit www.gocatholictravel.com/brochure/paulus-2015-brochure.

Mass in the extraordinary form ("traditional Latin") is celebrated at 1:30 p.m. each Sunday at Holy Ghost Church in Knoxville; at 3 p.m. on first and third Sundays at St. Thérèse of Lisieux Church in Cleveland; at 3 p.m. on second and fourth Sundays at St. Joseph the Worker Church in Madisonville; at 11 a.m. on most Sundays at St. Francis of Assisi

Calendar continued on page 16

Parish notes: Cumberland Mountain Deanery

All Saints, Knoxville

The Hispanic ministry at All Saints will celebrate its fifth anniversary after the 7 p.m. Mass on Saturday, Oct. 4, at the parish pavilion. Music, dancing, and food from different Hispanic countries is planned for the evening. For more information, call the parish office at 865-531-0770.

Blessed Sacrament, Harriman

The Council of Catholic Women will sponsor its annual fall bazaar from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 11, in the church hall. Items include attic treasures, baked goods, crafts, and plants, and there will be a silent auction. Proceeds from the bazaar will benefit parish and community programs. For more information, contact Joann DeGroff at 865-354-8205 or j.degroff@comcast.net.

St. Francis, Fairfield Glade

Patty Johnson shared her experience with the National Council of Catholic Women's 2014 Haiti Vision Trip during the CCW September meeting. The October meeting will focus on Amendment 1, which is a bill that will allow the Tennessee State Constitution to be changed so that limits may be placed on abortion laws in Tennessee.

Anniversaries: Walter and Delores Novak (68), Guy and Victoria Bretl (66), Les and Marjorie Cavell (66), Milton and Regina Jerabek (65), Ralph and Patty Hargraves (64), Dion and Emily Frate (64), Roger and Marguerite Audette (64), William and Arlene McShane (61), Herb and Ginny Adams (59), Tom and Terry Boylston (58), Eugene and Elaine Riggelman (57), Nick and Pat Santore (57), Bob and Dorothy Connor (57), Robert and Evelyn Tomaszewski (56), Ron and Marilyn Horstman (56), Roy and Jackie Richardson (55), Tom and Pauline Higgins (55), Rudy and Denise Difazio (54), Ron and Catherine DeBels (54), Mark and Karin Salsbury (53), Fred and Dottie Belvo (53), John and Virginia Smith (53), Pat and Sara Tripiciano (52), Lawrence and Myra Opatik (52), Charles and Pat Bunnell (52), Jerry and Diane Barbeau (50), Michael and Diane Treanor (50)

St. Joseph, Norris

The parish thanked all those involved in making the international dinner a success.

The Council of Catholic Women is participating in the "Caps of Love" project sponsored by the National Council of Catholic Women. Plastic bottle caps are being collected to be recycled, and the proceeds from the project will help provide wheelchairs for handicapped children.

Anniversary: Eric and Linda Rausch (40)

St. Therese, Clinton

The Council of Catholic Women rummage and bake sale will take place from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 3, and Saturday, Oct. 4. For more information, call the parish office at 865-457-4073.

The parish will sponsor a Trunk or Treat from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 24. The event is free and open to the public. Call the parish office at 865-457-4073 for more information. ■

The Frassati Fellowship for young adults ages 18-35 meets at the main entrance of All Saints Church in Knoxville at 7 p.m. Thursdays. For more information or a schedule of activities, call Elijah Martin at 828-606-2961.

St. John Neumann Parish in Farragut is hosting an **eight-week grief-support class** for adults starting at 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 4. The program, Path Toward Healing Grief Support: Finding Peace and Acceptance After the Death of a Loved One, is a Catholic-based program for the bereaved. The cost is \$20 per person. For more information, contact Natalie Tabler at 865-228-3509 or nprender@knology.net. To register, contact Marilyn Derbyshire at 865-777-4312 or mderbyshire@sjknnox.org.

The St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a **Polish Feast and dance** the evening of Friday, Oct. 10. Tickets are \$25 per person and are available after all the weekend Masses before the event. For more information, contact Bill Twohig at 865-607-2248 or bombero@charter.net, Ed Valente at 406-9641 or evpv315@gmail.com, or Chet Kwiatkowski at 988-3894.

Knights of Columbus Council 8152 in Crossville will hold its **annual Oktoberfest** from 11:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 10, at the Crossville Knights

of Columbus Grounds located at 2892 Highway 70 East. Enjoy authentic German food, dancing, and polka music. For more information, visit www.crossvilleoktoberfest.com or call 931-707-7291.

The 64th annual Fall Festival at St. Mary Church in Oak Ridge

The kickoff for this year's festival will be Friday, Oct. 17, with the Knights of Columbus spaghetti dinner. Doors will open at 5 p.m. in the St. Mary's Parish Life Center, and spaghetti will be served until 7, when a traditional live auction will begin. On Saturday, Oct. 18, festival activities will begin at 10 a.m. and continue with extended hours until 6 p.m. on the parish grounds. Armbands will again be available for unlimited play on the inflatables this year. The Silent Car Auction will take place Saturday. Live entertainment will be on the main stage throughout the day. The line up will include The Mount LeConte Jug Band, The Habit, Max Souza, and the Tracy Walker Band. St. Joseph's Food Pantry will be accepting Thanksgiving food item donations. Another of St. Mary's outreach ministries – The White Elephant – will be open for business from 3 to 5 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. For more information about this year's festival, call Lenna Aird at 865-256-9130 or visit www.stmarysoakridge.org/Parish/fallfest.html or visit the parish Facebook page. Those interested in becoming a festival sponsor should contact Rob Halcrow at development@stmarysoakridge.org. ■

St. Francis CCW presents check to Legacy Clinic

Several members of the Council of Catholic Women of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Fairfield Glade traveled to Crab Orchard on June 10 to present a check to the St. Mary's Legacy Clinic to further its work.

This check was made possible from proceeds of the CCW's rummage sale held annually in the spring. The mobile medical clinic visits Crab Orchard Care Center in Cumberland County twice a month. The Diocese of Knoxville and the St.

Mary's Legacy Foundation of East Tennessee are committed to providing care for the medically underserved in East Tennessee.

The 40-foot mobile clinic is staffed by Sister Mariana Koonce, RSM, MD, other physicians, nurses and volunteers, many from St. Francis of Assisi parish.

CCW members at the check presentation included Pam Brophy, Janice Cahill, Carol Stenger, Judy Johnson, Patty Johnson, RN, and Gloria Tartaglia, RN. ■

Five Rivers Deanery calendar

St. Mary Parish in Johnson City is hosting **“Tell All Souls About My Mercy,”** a dramatic presentation based on the writings of **St. Faustina Kowalska** by Dave and Joan Maroney, a couple affiliated with the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary based in Stockbridge, Mass. It is scheduled for 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 2, followed by a holy hour concluding with benediction. The presentation is open to the public. For more information, call the church office at 423-282-6367. Visit www.thedivine-mercy.org/momm for more information about the Mother of Mercy Messengers.

Father Bruce Nieli, CSP, a Paulist missionary, will present **“Responding to the Spirit with Pope Francis and St. Francis”** at Holy Trinity Church in Jefferson City from 7-8:30 p.m. Oct. 6-8. Father Nieli will also preach at the Masses on Saturday, Oct. 4, and Sunday, Oct. 5, and at the 9 a.m. Masses on Oct. 6-8. Confessions will be heard before each evening of the mission beginning at 5:30 p.m. For more information, contact the parish office at 865-471-0347 or Marlene Yurick at myurick@investidi.com. For further information on Father Nieli’s presentation, contact Eileen Mundelein at 303-519-6286. ■



Baby Bottle campaign sets record at St. Elizabeth

St. Elizabeth Church in Elizabethton raised \$3,000 in its annual Baby Bottle campaign to support the community service programs of the TLC Community Center, also known as the Abortion Alternatives and Women’s Center. The campaign this year was conducted between Mother’s Day and Father’s Day. The center provides crisis pregnancy services and parenting services as well as a summer food program for children and holiday meals for clients. From left are Isabella Hope Odom and Bethany Odom, along with their mother Angie Odom, the center’s founder and director, and St. Elizabeth parishioners Fran Robey and Luster Shell, who both helped organize the fundraiser at St. Elizabeth. Parishioners at St. Elizabeth have participated in the Baby Bottle campaign since 2007, depositing pocket change into baby bottles distributed at the beginning of the campaign at the parish. “Including this year’s contribution of an all-time high of \$3,000, St. Elizabeth parishioners’ donations in eight years have totaled more than \$18,000 for the center to use for its local clients in need,” said Mrs. Robey, coordinator of the fundraiser.

Parish notes: Five Rivers Deanery

Holy Trinity, Jefferson City

The annual parish birthday party–potluck honoring those ages 90 and older is scheduled after the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Oct. 5. For information, call the parish office at 865-471-0347.

Father Patrick Resen will bless family pets at 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 4, in honor of the feast of St. Francis of Assisi in the church parking lot.

The parish will host a candlelight prayer vigil for life at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 22, in the church. A rosary will be led by members of the high school youth group and other members of the parish.

Anniversaries: Jack and Sue Elsaesser (53), Christopher and Stacy Mynuk (20)

St. Dominic, Kingsport

A 5:30 p.m. Mass is now being celebrated on Wednesdays for those who want to attend Mass during the week but who cannot attend the morning Masses.

St. Mary, Johnson City

The Council of Catholic Women will host a Women’s Expo from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 1, at the church. Dr. Ruth Queen Smith will be the featured speaker at the event. David Green, JD, CPA, will speak on estate planning. For more information, call the parish office at 423-282-6367.

St. Patrick, Morristown

The St. Patrick Parish potluck picnic will take place following the 10 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Oct. 5. Events and activities planned include music, a cake walk, a climbing wall, and face painting, and there will be plenty of food. Meat, chips, and drinks will be provided. A donation of \$20 per family or \$10 per couple is requested to help defray the costs involved. For more information, call the parish office at 423-586-9174. ■

Calendar continued from page 14

Church in Townsend; and at 3 p.m. on the first and third Sundays at St. Mary Church in Johnson City. Visit www.knoxlatinmass.net for updated information.

The St. Thomas the Apostle Eastern (Byzantine) Catholic Mission has moved to 2304 Ault Road, Knoxville, TN 37914. Divine Liturgy times remain the same. All services are in English. Call Father Richard Armstrong at 865-584-3307 or visit www.saintthomas-knoxville.org for details.

Holy Resurrection Ruthenian Byzantine Catholic Mission has **Divine Liturgy celebrations** at 9:30 a.m. Sundays at the old Holy Ghost Church, 1031 N. Central St. in Knoxville. For times of holy-day services or for more information, visit www.knoxbyz.org or call Father Thomas O’Connell at 865-256-4880. ■

Parish notes: Smoky Mountain Deanery

Holy Family, Seymour

The seventh annual Holy Family Church craft bazaar is scheduled for the weekend of Oct. 3-5 at the parish. The event will run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 3; 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 4; and 8 a.m. to noon Sunday, Oct. 5. Crafts and baked goods will be available for sale. Proceeds from the event will support parish needs. For more information, call Libby Waldman at 865-429-3999 or 865-712-8252.

Holy Ghost, Knoxville

There will be a blessing of the animals in the Holy Ghost Church parking lot in front of the statue of the Blessed Mother at 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 4.

Immaculate Conception, Knoxville

Bishop Richard F. Stika will celebrate a Red Mass for attorneys and judges at the 12:10 p.m. Mass on Wednesday, Oct. 8. For more information, contact the parish office at 865-522-1508.

Baptism: Lucan Marcus Lon, son of Mariusz and Anna Lon.

The Immaculate Conception Haiti Committee is hosting a family-friendly fundraiser for the St. Francis Xavier School in Fond des Blancs, Haiti, from 5-9 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 26, at the Emporium on Gay Street in Knoxville. Events planned include music, a silent auction of Haitian artwork, and a dinner featuring Haitian dishes. For more information, call the parish office at 865-522-1508.

Our Lady of Fatima, Alcoa

Our Lady of Fatima parishioners will be participating in the Blount County Prayer Chain for Life from 2-3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 5, at the corner of Lamar Alexander Parkway and Montvale Road. This is the 23rd year the parish has participated in this event. For more information, call the parish office at 865-982-3672.

Our Lady of Fatima Church is hosting a White Mass and healing service at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 15, for those in the health-care field. For more information, call Sister Yvette Gillen, RSM, at 865-982-3672.

The parish is having a build day on consecutive Saturdays, Oct. 18 and Oct. 25, for Habitat for Humanity. Building skills are not necessary, and there will be jobs for everyone who wants to participate. Call Sister Yvette Gillen, RSM, for more information at 865-982-3672 or Dr. Andrew Dirmeyer at 681-3650.

Sacred Heart, Knoxville

The parish Haiti committee has several mission trips planned to Boucan-Carre during the late fall and early winter months of 2015. A medical mission is being planned for November 2014. Doctors and nurses are needed for this trip. During December, volunteers are needed to assist with a variety of construction projects at St. Michel Parish. In February volunteers are needed to photograph the 2,000 students at the St. Michel School. For more information, call Deacon Ben Johnston at 865-548-1134. ■

Smoky Mountain Deanery calendar

The St. Joseph School Memorial Golf Tournament is scheduled for 11 a.m. Friday, Oct. 24, at Three Ridges Golf Course in Knoxville. Lunch will be served before the noon shotgun start. The format will be a four-man scramble. An array of prizes will be awarded both during and after the tournament. Dinner will be served at the close of the event. For more information, contact Howie Sompayrac at 865-804-

8977 or hsompayrac@sjsknox.org.

Cardinal Justin Rigali will celebrate a **bilingual Mass for the visitation of the Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe** at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 9, at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The image will be displayed in the cathedral from Oct. 9-19. ■



DAN MCWILLIAMS

Farewell receptions held for Monsignor Mankel at Holy Ghost

Holy Ghost parishioners said farewell to longtime pastor Monsignor Xavier Mankel during a series of receptions after Masses on June 29. Monsignor Mankel, still a diocesan vicar general, retired as Holy Ghost pastor July 1. Above, the monsignor greets Isabella Ziggrossi at a morning reception.

Schola concert will celebrate Renaissance music

The Pope Benedict XVI Schola will present *Come, Let's Rejoice: A Celebration of English Renaissance Music*, a concert of sacred choral music, at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 18, at Holy Ghost Church in Knoxville.

There is no charge for the program, but donations will be gratefully accepted to support the group's music budget, which is entirely self-funded, as well as Holy Ghost Church.

The schola's repertory for the concert includes works in English and Latin by Thomas Tallis, William Byrd,

Christopher Tye, and John Sheppard.

The concert will also feature a set of sacred songs by soprano Maria Magdalena Rist and lutenist Thomas Tallant.

The church is located at 1041 N. Central St., Knoxville, TN 37917.

Schola members come from churches throughout Knoxville, and the group's director is Mary C. Weaver. The Pope Benedict XVI Schola rehearses on Monday evenings at Holy Ghost and welcomes singers ages 18 and up. For more information, call 865-437-8620 or e-mail mary@b16schola.org. ■

KCHS recognized as School of Excellence

On Sept. 15, the Cardinal Newman Society released the list of schools recognized by the Catholic Education Honor Roll as 2014 Schools of Excellence. For the third time since the Honor Roll was established in 2004, Knoxville Catholic High School was named to the list.

The Schools of Excellence are recognized for overall excellence in all three Honor Roll categories – Catholic identity, academics, and civic education.

“Since competition began in 2004, the Honor Roll has been a helpful tool for administrators, families, and benefactors in recognizing the quality of a Catholic high school,” said Patrick J. Reilly, president of the

Cardinal Newman Society.

This year’s Honor Roll schools are diverse: large and small, new and long-established, both highly selective and open enrollment admissions policies, and high and low tuition rates. The common trait is an institutional commitment to providing a truly integrated and faithful Catholic education across all disciplines and in all areas of student activities. Seventy-one schools received the honor of being named as a School of Excellence, less than five percent of the Catholic high schools in the United States.

“Being named a School of Excellence validates our partnership with our parents and supporting parishes

as a truly authentic Catholic institution,” said Dickie Sompayrac, KCHS president. “This honor is also a testament to the outstanding commitment and work of our faculty and staff. We are all very proud to be a part of this incredible KCHS community.”

The Catholic High School Honor Roll was created by the Acton Institute in 2004. The Cardinal Newman Society assumed the program in 2012, consistent with its mission of helping Catholic families and promoting faithful Catholic education.

Notre Dame High School in Chattanooga was recognized as a School of Excellence in 2010-11 and in 2012-13. ■

KCHS teacher awarded 500-book grant from BLF

Knoxville Catholic High School recently announced that English teacher Ben Wilkinson was awarded 500 books for his classroom library through a grant from the Book Love Foundation.

The Book Love Foundation (BLF) received 136 applications in 2014 from teachers across the United States, and Mr. Wilkinson is one of only 10 to be awarded this prestigious grant. BLF seeks to promote the love of reading among adolescents by providing classroom libraries of highly engaging books to middle and high school English teachers.

Of the 500 donated books, 400 of them will be carefully chosen by the Book Love Foundation, while Mr. Wilkinson will pick out the remaining 100 titles. Additionally, Friends of the Knox County Public Library has pledged to match the BLF grant book for book, which marks the first time that the organization has made a donation of this size. Mr. Wilkinson will work closely with Mary Ann Merrill, KCHS teacher and library volunteer, to select the books. The 1,000 books will be added to Wilkinson’s classroom library of nearly 300 that he purchased during the 2013-14 school year.

During 2013-14, Mr. Wilkinson implemented the Independent Reading Program, allowing students to read a book of their choosing for 10 minutes at the beginning of class. More than 250 students participated in the program; increasing library circulation by three times what it was the previous school year.

Mr. Wilkinson said he hopes to continue to increase his classroom library in the future. ■

Three honored by NDHS Alumni Association

The Notre Dame Alumni Association has named Steve Hammond, class of ‘69, as its distinguished alumnus and Billy ‘82 and Bucky Dearing ‘84 as recipients of the Jim Phifer Service Award for 2014.

The Distinguished Alumni Award is presented to a Notre Dame graduate who has made a difference in his or her chosen field and/or community.

Mr. Hammond is a former teacher and wrestling coach at the school, and is the founding principal of St. Patrick Catholic School in Norfolk, Va. He was the superintendent of Catholic schools for the Diocese of Nashville before that and was headmaster at Battle Ground Academy in Franklin, Tenn.

The Jim Phifer Service Award is named in honor of the former principal, coach and teacher who was known for his unwavering love and service to the school and for helping hundreds of students during his time there.

The Dearing brothers are being



COURTESY OF GAYLE SCHOENBORN

Brothers recognized Billy and Bucky Dearing, pictured with NDHS president George Valadie, received the Jim Phifer Service Award for 2014

honored for their many years of service to the school. For more than 20 years, the pair has coached the sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade football teams at Our Lady of Perpetual School, a feeder for Notre Dame. Graduates of both schools, the Dearing brothers have dedicated many hours to

the kids and teams at OLPH with the knowledge that it also helps Notre Dame by sending quality kids and players to the high school.

Mr. Hammond and Billy and Bucky Dearing were honored at an Alumni Awards reception at the school on July 24. ■

KCHS religion department given \$2,000 grant

The Knoxville Catholic High School Religion Department was recently awarded a \$2,000 challenge grant from the Retreats Initiative at Catholic Extension.

Catholic Extension is a fundraising organization that provides funding and resources to dioceses and parishes across the United States through programs and services investing in people, infrastructure and ministries. One of the organization's goals is to support ministries that serve children, teens, young adults, and families that provide faith formation.

The generous grant will allow the religion department to take 22 seniors to SEEK 2015, a conference presented by FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students), in Nashville this January. This five-day event gathers approximately 8,000 college students seeking to learn more about their call from God. KCHS students will hear from some of the nation's most dynamic youth speakers about building their relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church. This transformative experience is an amazing opportunity for seniors to meet college students vibrantly living their faith – a great model for the next chapter in their lives.

As a challenge grant recipient, the KCHS religion department faculty and students need to raise an additional \$2,000, which will cover half of the expenses for the students. They will be fundraising throughout the fall semester to help reach their goal. If you wish to make a donation, contact Sister Joan of Arc Wicks at srwicks@knoxvillecatholic.com. ■

KCHS takes 2014 Irish Bowl by 15-12 score

By Bill Brewer

Notre Dame High School battled rival Knoxville Catholic and the clock Aug. 22 as the Chattanooga Fighting Irish's hopes for a last-second tie or victory fell short in the teams' first football game of the 2014 season.

Knoxville Catholic scored 15 points in the first quarter and held off a tough Notre Dame squad to win its second straight Irish Bowl 15-12 at NDHS's Jim Eberle Field.

The Fighting Irish from Knoxville were led by quarterback Zac Jancek, who had a career night by completing 21 of 35 passes for 268 yards and one touchdown. Jancek connected with Jordan Anderson on a 44-yard touchdown pass, and Amari Rodgers scored on a 25-yard run as KCHS racked up 427 yards in total offense.

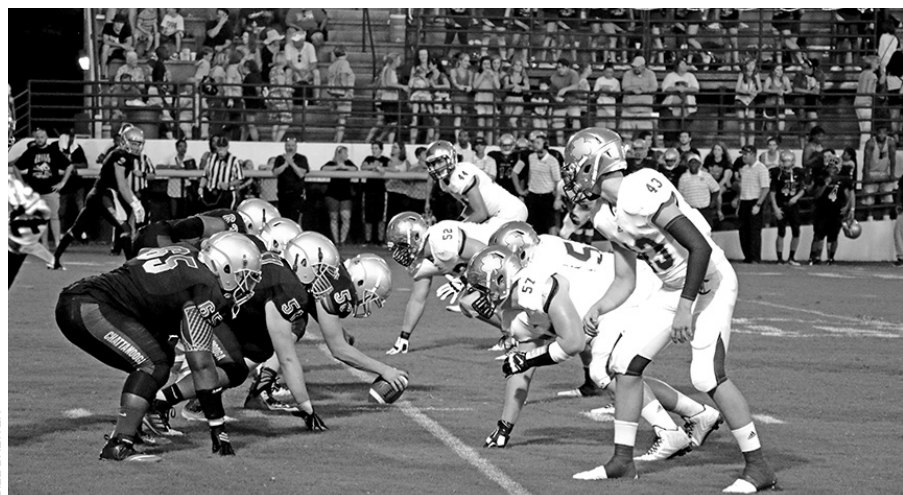
Notre Dame was able to intercept Jancek twice and stay within striking distance of the Knoxville rival.

Notre Dame quarterback Alex Darras, who had been sidelined following surgery on an injured leg in early August, was given the go-ahead to play and entered the game after halftime with the Irish trailing KCHS 15-6. He sparked Notre Dame, leading drives that put the Chattanooga Irish in field goal range twice.

After closing the gap to 15-9 in the third quarter and then 15-12 in the fourth quarter, Notre Dame's defense held Knoxville Catholic and took over possession in KCHS territory. With less than five minutes remaining in the game, Notre Dame's offense took over and began a final drive sustained by key Darras completions and rushes that led to first downs.

NDHS running back Auston Banks rushed for 150 yards on 22 carries, including a 49-yard touchdown run.

Darras led Notre Dame to within 35 yards of the end zone as time ran



BILL BREWER

Rivals clash Notre Dame prepares to snap the ball against Knoxville Catholic in the 2014 Irish Bowl.

out, but a stingy KCHS defense that would bend but not break kept Notre Dame out of the end zone.

Knoxville Catholic coach Steve Matthews praised his team for striking early in the game, which proved to be the difference. "We found a way to win. We gutted it out somehow," Mr. Matthews said.

Notre Dame coach Charles Fant told his players that the game was hard fought but KCHS's early scores were the difference.

Bishop Richard F. Stika and Diocese of Knoxville schools Superintendent Sister Mary Marta Abbott, RSM, presented Knoxville Catholic with the Irish Bowl Trophy. Bishop Stika then addressed the Notre Dame team, praising the players for their competitiveness in a hard-fought game.

"I couldn't be prouder of both teams. It was a very competitive game and Notre Dame came very close," Bishop Stika said after the game.

The game attracted a full stadium of fans from Chattanooga and Knoxville, including Cardinal Justin Rigali.

Notre Dame and Knoxville Catholic have played each other at various

times in past years, but the decision to create an annual season-opening game is relatively new.

"Bishop Stika and I talked about this a while back," said Sister Mary Marta. "Part of the reason for this game is to try to unify us as a diocese. It's also a way to celebrate good and healthy athletic competition."

"We hope the kids get to know each other, and in the process the bishop and I both feel this is a great way to strengthen our community," she added.

Knoxville Catholic won last year's game 22-13.

As of Sept. 19, neither team had lost since the Irish Bowl, KCHS having improved to 4-0 and Notre Dame posting a 4-1 record.

KCHS's three additional wins were routs, 61-0 over Coalfield in the Irish's home opener, 70-23 over rival Christian Academy on the road, and 55-7 over Tyner Academy at Knoxville Catholic.

Notre Dame followed the loss to Knoxville Catholic with a 34-20 win at East Ridge, then blowout victories at Chattanooga Christian (42-7) and at home against Boyd Buchanan (50-7) and Bledsoe County (48-0). ■

Homecoming continued from page 6

The bishop remembered two people at the start of his homily, one of whom was Cardinal Rigali, celebrating his 29th anniversary of ordination to the episcopacy on the day after homecoming.

“The other one is someone who was called home to God three years ago tomorrow. His name is Archbishop Francis Zayek. He’s the one who I am saying this Mass for,” Bishop Stika said. “He was the Eastern-rite bishop who was the first person I told that I was going into the seminary.

“And he’s the one, they say, when I was in my coma five years ago, when he came to visit me in the hospital and said, ‘Bishop Ricky, get up,’ that my feet actually began to move, and three days later I was out of the hospital. So as he’s entered heaven, I pray that he intercedes for us in our diocese. He was a very holy man.”

Bishop Stika told the outdoor congregation that “we gather together today” with gratefulness.

“We’re grateful for the decision that was made so many years ago by St. John Paul to create the Diocese of Knoxville, to erect this diocese by Archbishop Pio Laghi, at the time, the nuncio,” he said. “A spirit of gratitude, for Bishop O’Connell, of blessed memory; to Archbishop Kurtz, the president of the [bishops’] conference; to me. I think all three of us would say if we were able how wonderful the Church is in East Tennessee. It’s struggled from its early days when being Catholic meant you were ostracized and separate and questioned about whether or not you were a Christian.”

The bishop said the diocese is blessed with religious sisters, vocations to the priesthood, a mobile medical clinic, Catholic Charities, and its parishes. The latter include Blessed Teresa of Calcutta in Maynardville, recently elevated from a mission to full parish status, and the Vietnamese mission of Divine Mercy, to be elevated to a full parish later



STEPHANIE RICHER

Showing 'em how it's done Bishop Richard F. Stika throws out the ceremonial first pitch to start the diocesan middle school softball tournament during the 2014 Diocesan Homecoming. Students from St. Mary in Oak Ridge, St. Joseph, St. John Neumann and Sacred Heart took part in the competition.

this year.

“Gratitude is one of those interesting things,” Bishop Stika said. “We could be generous to another by giving finances – don’t forget we’re building a cathedral – but that doesn’t belong to us. Money is not ours. Money is legal tender that belongs to the United States of America.

“The precious gift that we give is ourselves because that’s where faith is. Faith is not in a bank account; faith is in our hearts. . . . If we’re not grateful, then how can we actually have the gift of hope or the gift of joy or the gift of compassion? If we don’t express that compassion moment to moment, then we become selfish and dried up in our faith.

“So that’s the challenge for all of us in this Diocese of Knoxville, a small little speck that has been recognized nationally by the National Catholic Roundtable as the No. 1 diocese. To

be recognized by Boston College as No. 10, tied with Memphis, for most conversions, to be recognized by the country five years ago, before I came, by Crisis magazine as the No. 1 diocese in the United States.”

The bishop asked if on the feast of the Holy Cross whether “you are willing to take up your cross and come and follow” Jesus.

“That’s what it comes down to. Are you willing to pick up your cross? You know what your cross is, if you’re honest with yourselves. . . . Whatever it is, that cross that Jesus invites you to take, lift high that cross, because by that cross and resurrection, we are set free.”

Bishop Stika concluded his homily with a thank-you to “all of you for gathering together in a true celebration of the life and vitality of the Diocese of Knoxville.

“We have so much in front of us. We have many challenges like many

dioceses, but we have so much in front of us. By virtue of the leadership I share with the priests and the deacons and all of you, God’s people, we will move forward, because, after all, it’s not about me, and it’s not about you, it’s about Jesus and his invitation to all of us to come and to follow.”

In closing remarks the bishop expressed thanks for the Chancery staff, for Sister Timothea Elliott, RSM – who originated the idea for a diocesan Eucharistic Congress – for the Knights of Columbus, for All Saints Parish, the choir, the servers from various parishes, and for “the generosity of people who went way out of their way these last 25 years and before that.”

The bishop also expressed gratitude for Paul Simoneau, who led the organizing of the homecoming, and for the bishop’s trusted assistant,

Homecoming continued on page 21

Homecoming continued from page 20

Deacon Smith, who serves as chancellor of the diocese. Bishop Stika also encouraged his audience to vote “yes” on Amendment 1 to the Tennessee Constitution in November’s election.

Later in his closing remarks the bishop again drew attention to Cardinal Rigali’s 29th anniversary of ordination to the episcopacy.

“We take him for granted sometimes,” Bishop Stika said. “He’s a cardinal of the Church. He was one of the electors for two papal elections, he’s internationally respected, he’s written many books, and I live with him, and so often I don’t express my gratitude for the fact that he’s a true man of the Church in the best sense of the word.”

The bishop closed the Mass by encouraging his audience “to be not afraid and to have a generous heart, and this diocese will continue to grow because we’ll be blessed by God.”

In the middle school softball tournament at the homecoming, Knoxville’s St. Joseph School defeated St. Mary School of Oak Ridge 4-2 in the championship game.

The Saintly Smokers team won the barbecue contest and donated their prize to the fund for the new cathedral. Also competing in the contest were the Knights of Columbus and Church Lady Sue’s BBQ.

Joining youth and adults in playing volleyball were Sister Joan of Arc, OP, of Knoxville Catholic High School and Sister Grace Mary, OP, of St. Mary School in Oak Ridge.

Elaine Natividad of Knoxville attended the homecoming with her husband and two daughters. She said she and her family enjoyed “everything” about the day.

“The kids enjoy the bounce houses, the hamster ball – just being here and being part of the celebration,” she said.

Mrs. Natividad said she was glad to help the diocese close out its anni-



STEPHANIE RICHER

A really good sport Father Michael Woods, pastor of All Saints Church, reacts to getting dunked by a sure-handed parishioner at the Diocesan Homecoming on Sept. 13 on the Knoxville Catholic High School campus.

versary year. “It’s a big thing for the Catholic community, so we want to be here and celebrate.”

Beth Parsons of Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Alcoa came to the homecoming with her husband and seven of their eight children.

“We just enjoy having some family time and seeing a lot of other people from the diocese,” she said, adding that the inflatable games for the kids were her family’s favorite part of the event.

Paula Emond attended the homecoming with husband Ed and their four children. They were “celebrating that our Church is growing,” she said.

Her kids liked the bounce houses and “just about everything” at the homecoming.

“They liked the adult tricycles and the hamster wheel, and my husband’s over there playing football,” she said.

The Emonds were “glad to be a part of” the homecoming, Mrs. Emond said.

“We’re not originally from here, and it’s just nice that our diocese is growing,” she said. “It’s just wonderful to be a part of.”

Marian Christiana of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Chattanooga praised the homecoming for focusing on families.

“I thought it was an excellent family event. It was a great way for families to be together and for a day to be able to relieve the stresses of everyday life,” said Mrs. Christiana, who is the diocesan coordinator for the Office of Marriage Preparation and Enrichment.

“It was neat to see the families and children enjoying the bounce houses and tricycle races, enjoying the free food and seeing all the priests and sisters in a casual atmosphere,” she said. “I hope even more people will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity if we have the homecoming again.”

Lisa Morris and Dorothy Curtis served as sacristans for the homecoming Mass.

Setting up for Mass involved bringing items from Sacred Heart Cathedral and the Chancery, “and then, of course, All Saints provided everything for the altar, so we’re just all working together and setting up for the Mass, which is a great joy,” Mrs. Morris said.

Mrs. Curtis is the Chancery receptionist and handles sacristan duties for diocesan events.

“It’s what I like to do most and contribute something, and this was an area I thought I could contribute a little something to the diocese,” she said. “Lisa Morris is helping me. We did all the packing for the Mass today, the different liturgical things like books and hosts and wine and vessels, the ciborium and chalices and patens.”

Mrs. Curtis also was a sacristan for the Eucharistic Congress.

“This is a wonderful closing,” she said. “I was waiting for this to happen, and this is a wonderful day. God has blessed us with beautiful weather.”

Deacon Bob and Janel Lange were visiting the homecoming from St. Dominic Parish in Kingsport.

Mrs. Lange said “just being here and seeing people from around the diocese and the fellowship that is part of who we are as a diocese” was what she enjoyed most.

“It’s a beautiful day, and the event is very well put together,” Deacon Lange said.

The homecoming capped “a special year from the beginning until now,” Deacon Lange said. “And it will continue on. Just coming together as family, I think that’s what the focus of [the homecoming] is, and it’s really what it’s all about—that we are a church family and we’re having an opportunity to get together and enjoy each other is a wonderful experience.”

Host pastor Father Michael Woods of All Saints Parish was dripping wet when interviewed, having just completed dunk-tank duties.

“Anything for the cause; whatever it takes,” he said, smiling.

Father Woods said the homecoming was “successful for being the first time.”

“I hope we have it again,” he said. “I think it’s a good idea to gather people from across the diocese.” ■

Handy helpers: Frassati Fellowship works on Habitat project

Group gets crash course in homebuilding, sweat equity in preparing house for young North Knox family

By Stephanie Richer

School was back in session for several Frassati Fellowship members Aug. 23 as the young adults received a crash course in homebuilding and sweat equity during a Habitat for Humanity project.

The Frassati members didn't let the steamy dog days of summer deter them from hammering, caulking, wielding a nail gun ... or sweating as they worked to create a new home for Jennifer Paul, who contributed her own sweat equity in renovating a craftsman style home in North Knoxville.

"We are ready to make this house a home," she said, one that she will share with her son, Javon, who is in kindergarten. "I appreciate everyone out here helping us out."

The Frassati builders included Cozette Sanders, Angela Strong, Maricclair Tan, Alvin Manabat, Andrew

Giminaro, Elijah Martin, and Caleb Scroback. They installed cabinetry, baseboards, and molding under the guidance of skilled builders with Habitat for Humanity.

"Well, you know, Jesus said, 'Faith without works is dead,'" said Dr. Martin, leader of the Frassati Fellowship. "So today, we are doing good works for other people, and so we are enriching our faith by spreading the love of Christ."

He noted that although she could not be present, Jess Mearns was the member who arranged for the Frassati Fellowship to partner with Habitat for Humanity on the project.

The project also gave Frassati members an opportunity to hone their skills.

"I have a lot of handyman skills, being an engineer," said Andrew Giminaro. "It's a good fit to be here."



STEPHANIE RICHER

Building up the Church Frassati Fellowship builders included, left to right, Cozette Sanders, Caleb Scroback, Alvin Manabat, Angela Strong, Elijah Martin, Maricclair Tan, and Andrew Giminaro.

But more important was the fact that it was an opportunity to provide service to others. "I think it's impor-

tant for us to give back to the community," Mr. Giminaro said. "That's why I'm here today." ■

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Diocese of Knoxville growth continues as 48th parish added

Bishop Stika elevates Blessed Teresa of Calcutta from mission during special Mass at Maynardville church

By Bill Brewer

The Diocese of Knoxville is now 48 parishes strong after Bishop Richard F. Stika elevated Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Mission in Maynardville during a special Mass on Sept. 5.

It has been a swift, yet remarkable journey for a Catholic community that officially formed on Sept. 1, 2011, when 26 people gathered for a “bring-your-own-chair” Mass at a carport at 131 N. David Drive, where Masses would be held for a year.

On Sept. 15, 2012, 18 people gathered for the first Mass in Spanish at Blessed Teresa’s present location in a storefront along Highway 33 in Maynardville, according to Father Steve Pawelk, GHM, pastor of Blessed Teresa.

Nearly two years later, 102 people attended the 9 a.m. English Mass and 115 attended the 11 a.m. Mass in Spanish on Aug. 3, he said.

Bishop Stika, giving the homily at Blessed Teresa on Sept. 5, praised parishioners for working to build the Union County Catholic community into a parish and inspired them to continue their efforts to construct a permanent church nearby.

Bishop Stika noted the significance of holding the special Mass on the anniversary of the death of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, MC, who died in 1997. She was beatified in 2003. A framed picture of Mother Teresa was positioned prominently next to the altar during the Mass.

“If there is any expression that Mother Teresa is known for it is ‘to do something beautiful for God,’” Bishop Stika said. “When this mission began to be formulated, it was easy for me to designate this new entity under the patronage of Mother Teresa because what’s been going on here with Father Steve and all the leadership and with all the people from this area and our visitors is that we’re doing something beautiful for God. We’ve brought together all



BILL BREWER

Becoming a parish Bishop Richard F. Stika signs the documents Sept. 5 establishing Blessed Teresa of Calcutta in Maynardville as the Diocese of Knoxville’s 48th parish. Deacon Sean Smith, right, chancellor of the diocese, also was on hand to sign the documents as Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Parish pastor Father Steve Pawelk observes.

kinds of people to be able to come together to praise our Lord, and to come together and worship the Eucharist.”

During the Mass, the bishop put his signature on decrees establishing the parish that also were signed by Deacon Sean Smith, chancellor of the Diocese of Knoxville. Father Pawelk was concelebrant of the Mass and Mr. Smith was the deacon of the Word.

“So as I now elevate this mission to parish status, it’s just a reaffirmation on my part as the bishop of this diocese to all of you in a spirit of gratitude knowing that you’re self-sufficient and can stand on your own feet, but we also know that this is a very historic moment for this parish and for the Diocese of Knoxville as

we continue to grow,” Bishop Stika said.

Blessed Teresa has been one of four Catholic missions in the Diocese of Knoxville. The others are St. John Paul II in Rutledge, where Father Pawelk also is pastor, St. Michael the Archangel in Erwin pastored by Father Tom Charters, GHM, and Divine Mercy in Knoxville, pastored by Father Hoan Dinh.

During the Mass, Bishop Stika recognized a group of parishioners who were visiting from St. Malachy Catholic Church in Geneseo, Ill., which is a sister parish to Blessed Teresa of Calcutta.

Members of the Illinois church have been raising money to assist in the development of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Parish as part of a Glen-

mary Home Missioners program. St. Malachy parishioners have visited at Blessed Teresa several times.

“We’ve been a sister parish for nearly three years. Our pastor put us in touch with them and we were interested,” said Rich McClimon of St. Malachy Church. “We want to get others in the parish interested in doing this.”

Mr. McClimon and his wife, Kathy, were among the group of seven from St. Malachy.

Another member, Mary Hughes, said she has been inspired by Father Pawelk’s work in the Diocese of Knoxville and decided to assist Blessed Teresa financially each month.

The relationship goes deeper than

Parish continued on page 27

A mother's gift gives rise to Marian chapel at All Saints Church

Bishop Stika blesses re-created side chapel made possible by Mrs. Siminerio's gift

By Stephanie Richer

The gift of a mother is finally realized in the gift of the Mother.

Before her death, Elizabeth Siminerio approached Father Michael Woods with a considerable donation for All Saints Church in Knoxville.

"For some five years before she died," Father Woods said, "Elizabeth would come up to me to ask, 'Well, have you done anything with the money I gave you?'"

Her family was on hand at All Saints Church on Aug. 14 to witness Bishop Richard F. Stika bless the fruits of their mother's generosity with the dedication of the new Marian chapel at the church.

In a side chapel where previously the Blessed Sacrament was kept before being returned to a place of prominence in the church sanctuary, a hand-carved wooden retablo now resides. It is a triptych, with the main panel in the middle depicting the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas. To her left is a relief of the Virgin Mary as a young mother, letting go of her Child's hand. On the far right panel is an older Mother, mourning at the foot of her Son's cross.

Scott DeWaard, the artisan who created the cabinet piece in which the reliefs are displayed, recalled receiving a phone call from Bill Christiansen, a member of the parish pastoral council at All Saints.

"It was like getting a call from an old friend," he said.

That is because Mr. DeWaard is no stranger to All Saints, having been called before to help create much of the woodwork in the church. He was careful to continue certain motifs already present in All Saints, such as the vines and triangles (a symbol of the Holy Trinity) seen around the church. In his words after Mass, Father Woods pointed out that the dividers between each panel contain some 900 cuts, all handmade, to allow the viewer to see different perspectives of the Virgin Mary.

But the task presented to Mr. DeWaard was not without a challenge. He met with Father Woods to discuss the idea of a Marian chapel.

Mr. DeWaard said, laughingly, "[Father Woods] had something in mind – he just didn't know what he was looking for."

As the idea was developed, Mr. DeWaard realized that the Virgin Mary needed to be presented not just as the Mother of God but as a "universal mother, the mother of us all."

Mr. DeWaard realized it would require a special artist to create the images of the Holy Mother. For this reason, he called Sabiha Mujtaba.



STEPHANIE RICHER

A chapel's blessing Bishop Richard F. Stika, center, is shown with the artists and family members of Elizabeth Siminerio, who made the Marian Chapel at All Saints Church possible. From left are Father Michael Woods, Scott DeWaard, Sabiha Mujtaba, Patti Siminerio, Caden Cheverton, Fran Siminerio, Ashley Teeters, Caitlin Siminerio, Lacey Siminerio, and Patrick Siminerio.

"Her work possessed the qualities needed for this chapel," he said. "I knew she could bring a strong feminine quality to the work, but with great softness at the same time."

Born in Pakistan and educated in London, Ms. Mujtaba admitted that before she agreed to work with Mr. DeWaard, she did not know anything about the Virgin of Guadalupe.

"This project has been enlightening," she said. "I realized that each element in the original tilma meant something . . . hers is an image that is incredibly hopeful for the New World, the Americas."

Ms. Mujtaba said she wanted to make each panel "about motherhood, entirely."

"I saw Mary as the 'all-mother.' In the first panel, I hoped to show the sadness, but also the trust, of a mother as she lets her child take his first steps, letting go of his hand, while her other hand rests on her heart."

Ms. Mujtaba described how in the panel of Mary at the foot of the cross, she wanted to show the fear of losing a child. At first she did not want to include any imagery of Jesus, fearing it would distract from the image of the Virgin.

"But people told me that Jesus had to be present – why I included His feet – and that Mary herself encourages such a distraction, as she is always pointing to her Son."

That imagery was reflected in Bishop Stika's homily during the Mass that followed the blessing and dedication of the new chapel.

"We are here because of Mary's fiat, because of her saying 'yes,'" the bishop said. He explained that her gift to us is that despite not knowing what the future would hold, she said yes to an angel because she trusted in God.

"Trust in Jesus, believe in Jesus, listen to Jesus . . . when you're happy, sad, doubting, frustrated, confused – turn to Mary." ■

Matthew Kelly speaks to a packed house at All Saints Church

Internationally known motivational speaker discusses the need for engagement in the workplace, in church

By Dan McWilliams

Internationally known motivational speaker and author Matthew Kelly brought his “Living Every Day with Passion & Purpose” message to 900 people who filled All Saints Church on Sept. 19.

Mr. Kelly spoke in three sessions, with interludes by musical guest Eliot Morris, that lasted nearly four hours.

In the first session, Mr. Kelly talked about a “spectrum of engagement” at workplaces that ranges from 100 percent to zero. He had a name for the people who are 0 percent engaged.

“Way on the other end of the spectrum you’ve got what I call the Q and S people. They’ve quit and they’ve stayed,” he said. “You say to these people, ‘How long have you worked there?’ ‘Ah, 20 years.’ ‘When did you quit?’ ‘About 16 years ago.’

“You know if you’ve ever had to work with a quit-and-stay person, say ‘uh huh.’ They will suck all the energy out of you. They will poison an organization. They are toxic. They will make your life miserable.”

Human beings not only disengage at work but also “in everything we do,” such as in relationships, marriage, parenting, health and well-being, politics, environmental concerns, personal finances, and even Mass, Mr. Kelly said.

“If you went into any Catholic church on a Sunday morning, what you would discover is that there’s a spectrum of engagement,” he told the audience.

“You’ve got some people 100 percent engaged and guess what? We’ve got Q-and-S people in the Church. In the United States we’ve had 30 million American Catholics who have stopped practicing their faith in the last 20 years. We’ve got an engagement problem.

“We look at the Church, whatever



DAN MCWILLIAMS

Engaging the audience Nearly 1,000 people filled All Saints Church in Knoxville Sept. 19 to hear internationally known motivational speaker Matthew Kelly deliver his popular brand of professional and spiritual fitness.

we think the problems are, what we think the challenges are, whatever we think the opportunities are, at the core of all that we’ve got engagement problems. We’ve got to wonder what do the highly engaged people don’t, and how can we give it to them? How can we broaden engagement within ourselves, how can we increase engagement within our parish, within our community spiritually, within the lives of the people around us? That’s essentially the challenge,” he continued.

Highly engaged people are “hungry for best practices,” Mr. Kelly said.

“If you ask them to do something they haven’t done before, the first thing they do is ask ‘who is the best

in the world at doing this, and how can I learn from them?’ They want to know what is the best way of doing something.

“Interestingly, we tend not to be hungry for best practices. We tend to be hungry for our practices. We don’t want to do it the best way; we want to do it our way.”

People who are highly engaged also are “committed to continuous learning. They want to learn new things,” Mr. Kelly said.

“I make my living as a business consultant. I go into a lot of businesses. I can tell in five minutes if they’re a great business or if I’m in a world-class organization . . . because of the number of people who have pen and paper and are taking notes, because in a world-class organiza-

tion, no one goes anywhere without pen and paper.”

Pen and paper are rarely seen at Mass, Mr. Kelly said.

“On Sunday in church when Father gets up to give his homily, all of a sudden everybody takes out their pen and paper and takes notes, right? No, in fact you probably don’t remember the last time you saw somebody taking notes at church during the homily. In fact, it’s actually worse than that. People don’t actually bring pen and paper, which tells us what? They decided that even before they came to church that Father wasn’t going to say anything worth writing down.”

Mr. Kelly’s talk was hosted by the All Saints Parish spiritual-life committee. ■

Spotlight on the Home Campaign: Questions parishioners have

In each issue of *The East Tennessee Catholic*, hot topics relating to the Home campaign will be covered.

Since the launch of the campaign in September, parishioners throughout the Diocese of

Knoxville have been submitting good questions about the campaign.

Two of the most common questions being asked are:

How will my parish benefit from the Home campaign?

When will my parish's Home campaign occur?

So, how will your parish benefit from the Home campaign?

The Home campaign will directly benefit every parish in the diocese.

At least 50 percent of the funds raised in each parish during the campaign will fund

priorities in the parishes such as capital improvements, debt retirement, and maintenance of churches and parish buildings.

Each pastor and his parish leadership will work together to identify the needs to be addressed.

The campaign dollar

graphic illustrates how each parish's campaign would work at different levels of fundraising success:

Now for the second question, "When will my parish's Home Campaign occur?"

The Home Campaign will be conducted in four waves, with each wave lasting approximately six months.



WHERE DOES YOUR CAMPAIGN DOLLAR GO?



Parish Priorities 50%
Pope Francis Charitable Trust Fund 10%
Catholic Education Trust Fund 6%
Priests Retirement 8%
Cathedral 18%

*Remainder is set aside for campaign expenses and unmet needs of parishes.
† After reaching 100% of goal, your parish receives 75% of all dollars raised.
‡ After reaching 150% of goal, your parish receives 100% of all dollars raised.

Pilot Wave Aug 2014 – Jan 2015	Wave 1 Feb 2015 – July 2015	Wave 2 Aug 2015 – Jan 2016	Wave 3 Feb 2016 – July 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Saints Sacred Heart Cathedral St. John Neumann Sts. Peter and Paul 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blessed Sacrament Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Good Shepherd Holy Cross Holy Spirit Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Chattanooga St. Ann St. Bridget St. Christopher St. Francis, Fairfield Glade St. Francis, Townsend St. John XXIII St. Joseph, Norris St. Jude, Helenwood St. Michael the Archangel St. Patrick St. Therese, Clinton 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christ the King Holy Family Holy Trinity Notre Dame Our Lady of Lourdes Our Lady of Perpetual Help, LaFollette Shepherd of the Valley St. Anthony St. Catherine St. Dominic St. Elizabeth St. Henry St. James the Apostle St. Joseph the Worker, Madisonville St. Jude, Chattanooga St. Mary, Gatlinburg St. Mary, Johnson City St. Mary, Oak Ridge St. Stephen St. Therese, Cleveland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Divine Mercy Holy Ghost Immaculate Conception Our Lady of Fatima St. Albert the Great St. Alphonsus St. Augustine St. John Paul II St. Mary, Athens St. Thomas the Apostle

With input from each pastor and parish leadership, parishes have been assigned to the waves illustrated in the accompanying graphic.

All 48 parishes and three missions will participate in the Home Campaign over the next two years. ■

Catholic Extension offering gift annuities to benefit diocese

A charitable gift annuity to benefit parishes, schools, Catholic Charities or the Diocese of Knoxville is a generous expression of support for God's work in East Tennessee via a sound investment program, according to a new program being introduced in the diocese.

Catholic Gift Annuities, provided in partnership with the diocese, are now available through a program offered by the Catholic Church Extension Society, one of the largest, oldest and strongest managers of annuities in the United States, according to Deanene Catani, major gifts and planned giving officer with the Diocese of Knoxville.

By taking out a Catholic Gift Annuity individuals may be eligible for a charitable tax deduction, receive fixed payments for life and leave a legacy to the church.

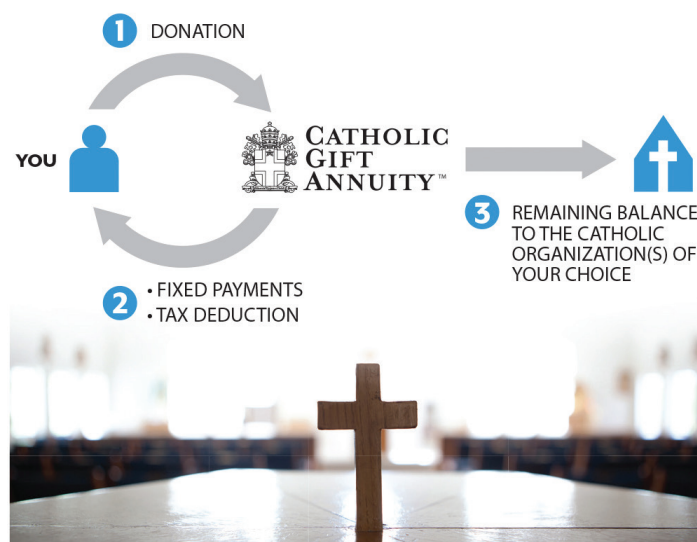
What is a charitable gift annuity? A charitable gift annuity is a simple contract where

individuals make a gift to Catholic Gift Annuity, and in return, they receive fixed payments for life. At death, the remaining balance of the gift annuity is distributed to the Catholic organizations in East Tennessee they designated.

What are the benefits? One is the satisfaction felt in making a significant gift that benefits an individual now and the Catholic organizations of their choice for future generations.

Another benefit is receiving fixed payments for life, with a portion of these payments being tax free.

Receiving an income tax deduction for a portion of a gift, as allowable by IRS rules, is yet another benefit as is joining a pool of thousands of Catholics in a financially strong program that helps the Catholic Church.



To learn more about how to provide for the future of Catholic ministries, contact Mrs. Catani at dcatani@dioknox.org or 865-584-3307. ■

Putting faith into practice is St. Luke Guild conference theme

The St. Luke Guild of East Tennessee and the Diocese of Knoxville's Office of Health Services sponsored a conference for medical professionals on Sept. 20 that dealt with putting faith into practice as it relates to medical science.

Dr. John M. Haas, president of the National Catholic Bioethics Center, delivered the keynote talk at the conference, attended by nearly 50 people from across the diocese. The conference was held at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Lenoir City.

Also addressing the conference was Dr. Gail-Marie Walter, a family practice physician with Summit Medical Group.

Bishop Richard F. Stika celebrated a White Mass for the medical group as part of the

conference.

Dr. Haas discussed the challenges involved in finding balance between science and technology and the protection of life.

Dr. Haas asked what is seen as the greatest threat or challenge in bioethics, such as cloning, destruction of embryos in in vitro fertilization, stem cell research, or the sale of human organs?

"It is the dehumanizing of the person, the human being," he said. "Principles don't matter if the other is not seen as a person."

Dr. Haas pointed out that as scientific breakthroughs occur, there is a greater temptation to manipulate the science while sacrificing the protection and dignity of life, especially of the weak and vulnerable.

He cited as a recent example a young Thai woman who was paid to be a surrogate mother for a couple. When the baby was born with birth defects, the couple refused to take the baby.

"We're faced with grave challenges from the dehumanizing of the human being," he said as he praised the Catholic Church's stance on social issues that protect life.

He then quoted Pope Benedict XVI in saying "The Catholic Church is the sole surviving coherent institutional voice of morality in a world under the tyranny of relativism."

The St. Luke Guild and Office of Health Services are directed by Sister Mariana Koonce, RSM, who also is a physician. ■

Parish continued from page 23

a monthly check. Mrs. Hughes exchanges recipes and crafts with her peers to the south and is a pen pal with them.

The group even sponsors a child's education in the diocese.

They are as excited as the Blessed Teresa members for the elevation to parish status.

"We have observed the community here and how they have had to travel distances to attend Mass. We're seeing the enthusiasm these folks have for Catholicism," Mr. McClimon said. "We're receiving much more from this relationship than what we're giving."

Mrs. McClimon agreed.

"We want to travel with them on their journey. We get a lot from watching this church grow from the grass roots," she said.

In his homily, Bishop Stika told the nearly 100 Blessed Teresa members in attendance that they are the fruit of a seed planted in Union County three years ago.

"So this seed has been planted in rich, Tennessee soil, and now it has continued to grow and to blossom. And their branches have reached out into northern Illinois as we have guests that have donated these vestments," Bishop Stika said.

"But also the Diocese of Knox-



BILL BREWER

Building a parish together Blessed Teresa of Calcutta parishioners join hands Sept. 5 during a special Mass celebrated by Bishop Richard F. Stika and celebrated by Father Steve Pawelk to elevate the mission to parish status.

ville has welcomed the Glenmarys, and through the gift of the Catholic Foundation of East Tennessee, we were able to purchase property. So as you begin this parish, you begin debt free. As we look into the future on that property, God willing, sooner rather than later, we will build a beautiful edifice to God," the bishop added.

"So God willing, doing all of this with the different seeds that come from people like the foundation,

and Glenmary, and from all of you, and the generosity from people all around the United States who give to the Extension Society who we're going to be calling on their efforts, we're building something beautiful for God. You, a community of faith, centered on Jesus who invites you to come, and to follow, and to build," the bishop added.

A confirmation during the Mass was another first for the new parish and Bishop Stika was presented with

an award from the Scouts.

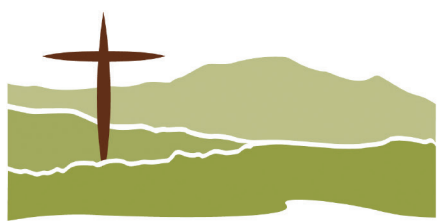
Father Pawelk described the confirmand as a man who has been converting to Catholicism a little bit at a time for 28 years.

It is another sign of growth for the young, rural parish that will soon be building a Catholic church in the hills of East Tennessee.

"It is incredible to reach the stage of parish so quickly. This is clearly the work of the Holy Spirit who has been present in the bishop, the missionary team, and the people of God. We are blessed," Father Pawelk said.

"This, however, is but a stage on the journey to become a fully established and missionary-guided Catholic congregation. It does mean that we are permanent. Yet, the goal for a Glenmary missionary is to develop the Catholic parish so that a diocesan priest would be able to function here with joy and the normal expectations of a pastor," Father Pawelk said.

"This means that we are financially stable, with dependence on outside resources, have the appropriate worship space and buildings, have a developed laity able to provide both leadership in the parish and the broader community. Thus, we have many more stages to go before Glenmary would consider Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Church fully established," he noted. ■



Catholic Charities
of East Tennessee, Inc.

SPECIAL

2013 - 2014

ANNUAL REPORT

Program Provides Needed Transportation to Seniors



The goal is to reach out beyond the Catholic community and recruit volunteers who are willing to help fill this need regardless of their religious affiliation. Information about the history of the Interfaith Senior Services program is available by contacting Jamie at Catholic Charities, 423-265-2397 or jamiieg@ccetn.org. Soddy-Daisy, Red-bank and East Ridge remain areas of great need for transportation due to the absence of public transportation service in those areas.

The Chattanooga region's Interfaith Senior Services (ISS) provides case management and transportation services to and from medical appointments and other essential errands for Hamilton County seniors 65 and older.

The program relies on volunteers to assist the case coordinator in providing these transportation services. This outreach helps make it possible for the clients to remain independent and continue living in their own home.

Program Manager Jamie Gavlenksi says, "Our greatest need continues to be building the volunteer base." The waiting list has over 40 potential clients and continues to grow. Many long-standing volunteers have aged out of driving or have stopped due to the high cost of gasoline.



If you are interested and able, you could make a difference in the lives of seniors like Evelyn, who is 94 and has no local relatives to assist her. She relies on Interfaith Senior Service's transportation program to be able to see her dentist, primary care doctor, heart specialist, podiatrist and pain management doctor (for the arthritis in her back and legs). Thanks to the staff and volunteers of Interfaith, Evelyn is able to have regular medical appointments and is thriving as a result.

"Our greatest need continues to be building the volunteer base." The waiting list has over 40 potential clients and continues to grow."

PROVIDING HELP | CREATING HOPE

Offices: Knoxville/Administrative - (865) 524-9896
Chattanooga - (423) 267-1297 Tri-Cities (423) 328-0070

www.ccetn.org

OUR MISSION

Empowered by the grace of Jesus Christ, Catholic Charities of East Tennessee addresses the unmet needs of the most vulnerable of our region by providing shelter, nourishment, counseling and education in order to foster human dignity.

OUR CLIENTS



CCETN serves those in our community with demonstrated need, regardless of race, religious affiliation or ability to pay. Clients are not asked about religious preference, but based on our region's demographics we estimate that fewer than 5 percent are Catholic.

Our clients include:

- Children who are victims of abuse, neglect or other endangerment.
- Vulnerable adults, including those living with HIV/AIDS or mental illness, and homebound and homeless seniors.
- Families in hardship, including immigrants, refugees, the rural poor and those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- Those facing the challenges of unplanned pregnancy and families wishing to adopt.

Appalachian Family Housing Assists Abused Mother

Below is a letter of appreciation received by Appalachian Family Housing Program Manager SuZi Burrows from a former client. For more information on Family and Transitional Housing, visit our website at www.ccetn.org.

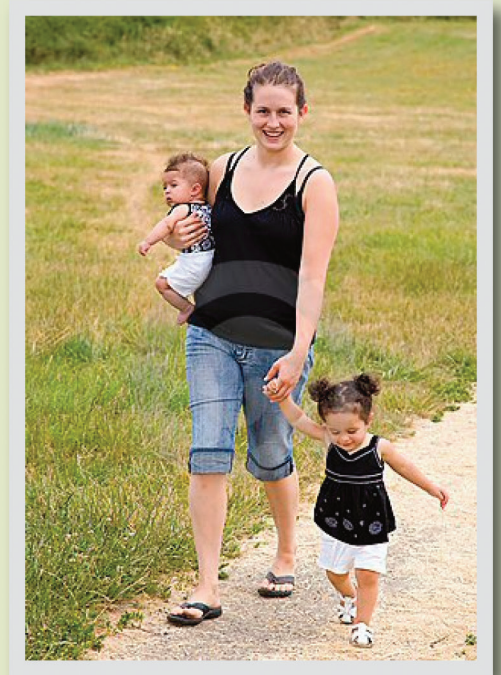
This is a letter of thanks.

In May 2012 I was in the process of running from an abusive husband with 2 children in tow. I had never finished college, I no longer had a vehicle in my name, and my credit was destroyed. He had wanted to control everything to make sure I was stuck, and for several years that had worked. I had a job at the mall with full time hours but not full time benefits, but even that isn't enough to pay for deposits and everything that is needed. I was out of options and my family of 3 was living in my parents' living room, with time running out. That's when I found Catholic Charities and Suse. I don't even have words to express what a God send she and that organization have been.

With Suse's help, we found an apartment, turned on lights and water, and began picking me up on my own two feet. While in the program, I started rebuilding my credit, bought a vehicle, took classes and tests to obtain an Insurance license, began a career, and put my life back together. Just meeting with Suse every week really helped me stay focused and kept me on track. You can tell she is just an amazing person and truly cares about people. I never felt judged by her and it was like I didn't have to do it alone.

I left the program at the very end of 2013. I am renting a house with intent to buy. I have a vehicle in my name. My credit score is moving in a positive direction. I have a career I love. All of my bills/utilities are in my name. I have my life back on track thanks to Suse and Catholic Charities. I would not be right where I am had they not been there. I have a future now; my daughters have a future, because of the help we received. If all assistance programs were operated the way Catholic Charities is set up, this world would be better off. It is designed to be temporary but extremely effective and I cannot even express how appreciative I am for everything. So from the bottom of my heart, thank you Catholic Charities and Suse Burrows.

Sincerely,

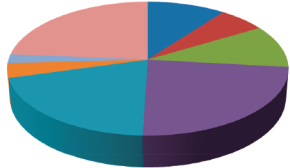




Revenues

Donations	25.6%
Diocese of Knoxville	11.0%
Generated Income*	13.0%
Government	30.4%
Private Foundations	12.6%
United Way	7.4%

* Sliding scale fees, thrift store sales, interest income



Expenditures

Administration	10.2%
Fundraising & Development	6.2%
Low Income Disabled Adults	10.4%
Children's Services	23.7%
Families & Youth	20.1%
Immigrant Services	3.5%
Pregnancy & Adoption	2.1%
Seniors	23.7%

Individuals Served in FY 2013-2014

Children's Services	3,140	Outreach	3,456
Counseling and Education	2,051	Information & Client Advocacy	4,093
Shelter and Housing	1,142	Total Individuals Served	13,882

Save the Date | 2014 - 2015

November 7 & 8, 2014

CHATTANOOGA BAKE SALE
to benefit The Home Place
Chattanooga-area Catholic Churches

CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE
Chattanooga-area Catholic Churches
Dates TBA (Call CCETN for info)

March 5, 2015

TRI-CITIES ANNUAL DINNER
St. Dominic's Church, Kingsport

March 12, 2015

KNOXVILLE'S 30TH ANNUAL DINNER:
"An Emerald O'ccasion"
Knoxville Marriott Hotel

March 26, 2015

CHATTANOOGA'S 32ND ANNUAL DINNER
The Chattanooga Hotel

KNOXVILLE'S 17TH ANNUAL KIDS HELPING KIDS FUN WALK
Knoxville Catholic High School
Date TBA

KNOXVILLE'S 6TH ANNUAL COMMON GOOD CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT
Cherokee Country Club
Date TBA

CHATTANOOGA ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT Date TBA

Teen Gets a Rare Second Chance and Takes it



Curtis' second stay at Columbus Home Group Home is going much better than his first.

He originally came to the group home in 2013 after living in several foster homes and in a number of other group homes. His past experiences made it difficult for him to trust anyone, especially adults, and his insecurities eventually led him to run away from the facility.

on the run, it seems to have given him a different perspective than the insecure, untrusting one he formerly possessed.

Now 17 years old, he has a new attitude, and is working very well with counselors, participating in group and individual sessions, and developing a plan for his future.

Curtis did not attend school during his time away, but he is on a waiting list for a boot camp in Georgia that will allow him to work at his own pace toward acquiring a G.E.D., while teaching him life-skills and discipline that will serve him for the rest of his life.

Like so many other young men, Curtis had odds and obstacles that seemed insurmountable, especially to him, but because he was placed at Columbus Home and able to both hear and be heard by patient and caring people, he has been able to make necessary changes that should make for a better quality life.

Nearly a year later, Curtis is back in state custody and once again at Columbus Home. Though he has shared very little about his year

Therapeutic Counseling Relieves the Anxiety Caused by Loneliness and Unfamiliar Surroundings



Never having been a wanderer, and having lived in the same city all her life, when a much higher paying job opportunity in another state came Catherine's way, she was reluctant to accept it. However, her circumstances, as well as the lack of any comparable offers led her to relocate to Knoxville.

Having a job that he could not walk away from, Catherine's fiancé, Bryan, stayed behind, hoping to visit often and distribute résumés before relocating to join her.

Being in a strange place with no friends or family proved to be more stressful than Catherine could have imagined. On more than one occasion, she considered leaving the office, packing her bags and going back home without so much as prior notice. This anxiety led

to many sleepless nights, or nights in which she cried herself to sleep.

Concerned for her mental well-being, Bryan searched the Internet for affordable counseling in the Knoxville area, and found Catholic Charities of East Tennessee's Therapeutic Counseling services.

Catherine needed the "give-and-take" exchange with the therapist to organize the chaos created by loneliness, strange surroundings and her new job. She and her fiancé are actively seeking employment for him that will allow them to reunite as soon as possible, and she says she is actually starting to like Knoxville.

Counseling services are available for local parishes and schools, and to the broader community on an income-based, sliding fee scale at various locations. For appointments or information on counseling services in your area, visit our website at www.cctn.org.

Parties with a Purpose: a Great Way to Make a Collaborative Contribution



Looking for a great reason to have a fall party? Why not stage a **"Party with a Purpose"** and give your friends a good reason to make an impact on another person's life while having a great time? That's what Parties With a Purpose is all about: hold a birthday, anniversary, or theme party but trade in the kitsch for the opportunity to make a

donation to the outreach work of Catholic Charities. Help a homeless senior, a child without a family or a young mother facing a difficult pregnancy, and make a difference in someone's life! Contact Sherrie for more information: 865-524-9896 Ext 1005 or sherrie@cctn.org.

Tracye Jahn recently hosted a Pampered Chef party in order to purchase needed kitchen and food preparation items for Samaritan Place. She invited friends and neighbors and they enjoyed "shopping" for Samaritan Place. Shown are some of the kitchen goodies purchased by these generous women.

The kitchen staff at Samaritan Place was excited about these high-quality items. This get-together was yet another creative spin on a Party With a Purpose - thank you, Tracye!



Photos: Left - The Pampered Chef items recently donated to Samaritan Place.

Above - Samaritan Place Chefs Amy & Shannon with the "Parties with a Purpose Pampered Chef" donations

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Weekday readings

Wednesday, Oct. 1: Memorial, St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, virgin, doctor of the Church, Job 9:1-12, 14-16; Psalm 88:10-15; Luke 9:57-62

Thursday, Oct. 2: Memorial, the Holy Guardian Angels, Job 19:21-27; Psalm 27:7-9, 13-14; Matthew 18:1-5, 10

Friday, Oct. 3: Job 38:1, 12-21 and 40:3-5; Psalm 139:1-3, 7-10, 13-14; Luke 10:13-16

Saturday, Oct. 4: Memorial, St. Francis of Assisi, religious, Job 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17; Psalm 119:66, 71, 75, 91, 125, 130; Luke 10:17-24

Sunday, Oct. 5: Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:9, 12-16, 19-20; Philippians 4:6-9; Matthew 21:33-43

Monday, Oct. 6: Galatians 1:6-12; Psalm 111:1-2, 7-10; Luke 10:25-37

Tuesday, Oct. 7: Memorial, Our Lady of the Rosary, Galatians 1:13-24; Psalm 139:1-3, 13-15; Luke 10:38-42

Wednesday, Oct. 8: Galatians 2:1-2, 7-14; Psalm 117:1-2; Luke 11:1-4

Thursday, Oct. 9: Galatians 3:1-5; Luke 1:69-75; Luke 11:5-13

Friday, Oct. 10: Galatians 3:7-14; Psalm 111:1-6; Luke 11:15-26

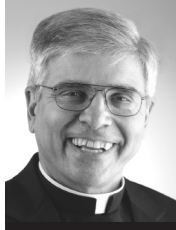
Saturday, Oct. 11: Galatians 3:22-29; Psalm 105:2-7; Luke 11:27-28

Sunday, Oct. 12: Isaiah 25:6-10; Psalm 23:1-6; Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20; Matthew 22:1-14

Monday, Oct. 13: Galatians 4:22-24, 26-27, and 4:31-5:1; Psalm 113:1-7; Luke 11:29-32

Tuesday, Oct. 14: Galatians 5:1-6; Psalm 119:41, 43-45, 47-48; Luke 11:37-41

Wednesday, Oct. 15: Memorial, St. Teresa of Jesus, *Readings continued on page 34*



Living the readings by Father Joseph Brando

The colors are changing

Christ wants us to be radiant in faith, hope, and love

In our part of the country, the leaves change into a myriad of autumn colors. There are oranges and reds and browns blown by the capricious wind over the green grass opening groves up to the blue sky resulting in thousands of color combinations.

People experience as many moods as there are color patterns. One thing is sure, however. Soon enough, the trees will lose their leaves as winter begins its snowy invasion.

The scripture readings for October match the weather. They are colorful, dynamic and forebode confrontation and wintry death. Appropriately, they center on Holy Week. All four Sunday Gospels are discourses delivered by Jesus after he entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Jesus had arrived with a large enthusiastic crowd and proceeded to cleanse the temple. This caused all the civic and religious leaders to take notice and ask the Lord what this is all about.

The Church does a remarkably beautiful job this month with the Liturgy of the Word. The first readings give us the Old Testament background for each Sunday's Gospel. The New Testament readings continue the progression from last month and give us two passages each from Philippians and Thessalonians. However, these passages can demonstrate how Jesus' words were received by the early Church and put into practice.

So our method for October is to go Sunday by Sunday to explain Jesus' gospel discourse, then give the Old Testament background and then the practical response that Paul teaches to his new Christian communities in Philippi and Thessalonica.

In the Gospel of the first Sunday of October, Jesus tells a parable about tenants in a vineyard. When you consider the background, you can tell it

We can be like the Philippians and Thessalonians, filled with faith, hope and charity. We can be like October, bright, colorful, loving and alive with Christ.

provoked a lot of hot discussion. Jesus used this story to name the issue between him and all those who thought they controlled Israel.

Jesus had entered Jerusalem and cleansed the temple with his crowd peacefully and enthusiastically brandishing palm leaves. But it looked menacing to every Jewish faction who considered themselves responsible for the governance of Israel.

Matthew identifies them as chief priests, Sadducees, Pharisees, and Herodians all coming out to challenge Jesus. Each thought they ran Israel. Jesus, quite aptly, put them into the category of "tenants." If Israel belonged to God, then any de facto leadership would quite easily fit into that Old Testament concept. So, Jesus, in this first part of his Holy Week discourses, states what's at stake in his confrontation with the "powers that be."

What was at stake was the ownership of Israel. To whom does Israel belong? Some would realistically answer, Rome. Others would say that Moses put the Levitical priests in charge. Still others pointed to the development of Jewish history and claimed the Pharisees had been given the right to determine how the Mosaic Law was to be applied in daily life. Thus, they were in charge. The result was chaos.

Jesus wanted to clarify the matter. He took an allusion used by the Prophet Isaiah. Israel was a vineyard lent to tenant farmers. They did have rights to the vineyard; but they were not owners. God was. Where Jesus' parable of the vineyard cuts to the

heart is that the tenants all thought the land belonged to them.

So from their point of view, each would claim a right to kill anyone who disputed that "right." In so thinking, they killed prophets and were about to put the Son of God to death. Jesus already had given them cause (in their own minds) when he cleansed the temple.

We can go to the first reading of the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time to look up Isaiah's poem of the vineyard. You can imagine Jesus pointing to such landmarks as the tower of the temple as he related his description of the vineyard just as Isaiah did. Who's in charge? Isaiah makes the point. The vineyard is Israel and the owner is the Lord of Hosts. With this issue so disputed, the result will inevitably be the destruction of Jerusalem.

In Paul's letter to the Philippians we look for the lesson the early Church gleaned from the words of Christ in the Gospel. It is quite simple, "the God of Peace will be with you." That's the bottom line. If you recognize that God is in charge then we can live in joy, totally avoiding anxiety.

The opponents of Jesus were good people who were anxious about who was in charge. The Philippians knew that God was in charge, so they experienced the joy and peace that Jesus wanted to give those he spoke to in the Gospel. He wants that for us, too.

On the 28th Sunday of Ordinary Time the Gospel passage is the Parable of the Wedding Feast. To understand parables you start by looking for items that don't make common sense. The first exceptional item here is that the invited guests did not come to the wedding of the king's son. If such an action happened in reality, that would, in effect, be an act of treason. The king is the person who guarantees each subject's ownership of land. To deny the king's wishes frees the king to confiscate his land.

So the parable was accurate in describing the king's reaction to the

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snub. He considered those not coming to the royal wedding as rebels. The other “eye-opener” in the parable is the man who came without a wedding garment. He was thrown out into the darkness where there was only weeping and grinding of teeth.

Remember that the parable of the net is where the kingdom of God is a net where all sorts of fish and scrap ended up in the net. However, it was not until the boat got to shore that the contents were judged as good or bad. So it is after death that the judgment takes place. That man without the wedding garment goes to verify the other parables in which Jesus maintains that salvation is a matter of choice that we make now and that God makes after our life is completed.

The point Jesus makes for the people who confront him during the last week before his crucifixion is that they have a choice. He restates the issue at hand: it’s a matter of life or death. Jesus, like the king’s servants, offers them a joyful life here on earth and in heaven. All they need to do is recognize his Father as the God of Israel. Or, they could see only themselves as sovereign. That would be choosing death.

In the first reading, Isaiah describes what material joys there will be if his people accept the Lord as God. That is the same choice the people of Jesus should take. What Jesus was saying had been Jewish tradition from before the time of Isaiah. Jesus’ opponents should have known this.

Paul claims there is a secret that governs the way we should live. It is neither to live well fed or in hunger. The secret is to live in God’s strength. That is the way Paul and the Philippians lived. That is the way offered by Jesus to his opponents. They preferred to rebel.

On the third Sunday of October, the subject brought up is the tax to Caesar. Jesus had a clever way to answer the dilemma he was presented. But, that wasn’t the point. True, the case was settled when the Pharisee pulled a sil-

ver coin with the image of the Roman emperor on it. That was tantamount to idolatry. Carved images were against Jewish law.

At that point Jesus would have been considered the winner of the debate. But more than winning a silly argument was at stake. The real question was what does the Torah teach about ownership of the land of Israel? The Roman rule is quite clear. The emperor representing “Rome and the Roman People” owns the land. Using that coin to pay Roman taxes admits that the holder abides by Roman law and is, basically, a hypocrite. Jesus’ answer is different. God is in charge. He doesn’t even have such a coin on him.

The Old Testament reading presents some important background to this issue. At a critical moment in Jewish history, the population of Jerusalem and practically all of Judea lost their land to the Babylonians. Isaiah announces that God has sent Cyrus the Great of Persia to conquer Babylon and free the Jews.

Isaiah, in effect, tells Cyrus (a pagan who knows nothing of God) that God is using him for the sake of God’s people. The same could have been said of the Romans, who were being used by God to protect Israel and would soon be used to destroy Jerusalem as Jesus was predicting.

So then, how do Christians live in a world dominated by secular politics? Paul provides the answer in the second reading. Interestingly, this passage contains the very first words written in what we now call the New Testament. Scholars date this letter as written in early summer of 51 AD. It begins (as all of Paul’s epistles) with a thanksgiving. Paul thanks God for the Thessalonians’ “work of faith, labor in love and endurance in hope of our Lord Jesus Christ.” If only the inhabitants of Jerusalem had the same mindset. Living by faith, hope and love (the theological virtues) transcends politics and world events. That was the first thought ever put into the New Testament!

The last Sunday of the month is the 30th Sunday of Ordinary time. As one would expect for the very last week of Jesus’ life, he was asked what the greatest commandment was. He responded there are two: to love God with all your heart, soul and mind and to love your neighbor as yourself. Jesus received no grief on that point. If only his opponents realized that same answer could have satisfied them on all the other points they raised. Jesus’ program was based on God’s infinite love for us and our need to return that love with hope and faith.

The Church takes us out of Isaiah all the way back to the Book of Exodus to find a passage that would fit Jesus’ answer on the greatest commandment. What we now call the Ten Commandments come at the beginning of Chapter 20 of Exodus. Today’s passage comes two chapters later. It is considered a code of kindness. The basic concept is that God is good and we need to be so as well. Jesus is not proclaiming anything radically different from what his opponents held. Only, Jesus was radically on the side of God’s love.

In that first chapter of the first book of the New Testament (chronologically), Paul adds two elements to Jesus’ radical love of God. They are power and Holy Spirit. He recalls how powerfully Christianity is spreading. It was not so much an intellectual movement. It was to be received not with insight as much as conviction. Paul congratulates the Thessalonians for their joy in serving the living God.

This conviction and joy can be ours. We need not be in a battle of ideas with Christ as Jesus’ opponents were up to his trials and execution. We can be like the Philippians and Thessalonians, filled with faith, hope and charity.

We can be like October, bright, colorful, loving and alive with Christ. ■

Father Brando is a retired priest of the Diocese of Knoxville.

Readings continued from page 33

virgin, doctor of the Church, Galatians 5:18-25; Psalm 1:1-4, 6; Luke 11:42-46

Thursday, Oct. 16: Ephesians 1:1-10; Psalm 98:1-6; Luke 11:47-54

Friday, Oct. 17: Ephesians 1:11-14; Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 12-13; Luke 12:1-7

Saturday, Oct. 18: Feast, St. Luke, evangelist, 2 Timothy 4:10-17; Psalm 145:10-13, 17-18; Luke 10:1-9

Sunday, Oct. 19: Isaiah 45:1, 4-6; Psalm 96:1, 3-5, 7-10; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5; Matthew 22:15-21

Monday, Oct. 20: Ephesians 2:1-10; Psalm 100:1-5; Luke 12:13-21

Tuesday, Oct. 21: Ephesians 2:12-22; Psalm 85:9-14; Luke 12:35-38

Wednesday, Oct. 22: Ephesians 3:2-12; Isaiah 12:2-6; Luke 12:39-48

Thursday, Oct. 23: Ephesians 3:14-21; Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 11-12, 18-19; Luke 12:49-53

Friday, Oct. 24: Ephesians 4:1-6; Psalm 24:1-6; Luke 12:54-59

Saturday, Oct. 25: Ephesians 4:7-16; Psalm 122:1-5; Luke 13:1-9

Sunday, Oct. 26: Exodus 22:20-26; Psalm 18:2-4, 47, 51; 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10; Matthew 22:34-40

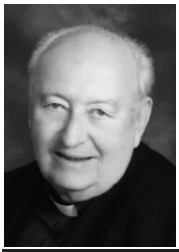
Monday, Oct. 27: Ephesians 4:32-5:8; Psalm 1:1-4, 6; Luke 13:10-17

Tuesday, Oct. 28: Feast, Sts. Simon and Jude, apostles, Ephesians 2:19-22; Psalm 19:2-5; Luke 6:12-16

Wednesday, Oct. 29: Ephesians 6:1-9; Psalm 145:10-14; Luke 13:22-30

Thursday, Oct. 30: Ephesians 6:10-20; Psalm 144:1-2, 9-10; Luke 13:31-35

Friday, Oct. 31: Philippians 1:1-11; Psalm 111:1-6; Luke 14:1-6 ■



Once upon a time by Monsignor Xavier Mankel

The warm, friendly confines of home

Campaign to build up Church in East Tennessee promises to be a blessing to all of us

As a child I suffered from asthma — so much so that I sometimes had to sleep in a chair in an upright position for days, weeks, or months at a time.

If I would try to lie down, I would choke. Sophisticated drugs that make breathing a bit easier for asthmatics had not been developed. They came from research, which World War II initiated among servicemen so afflicted. The solace given by that favorite chair made it truly a home base for relief and comfort.

I was allergic to grasses, leaves, and fall pollens, so I had to be kept indoors while the other kids in the neighborhood played outside. I also was allergic to dander from cats and dogs, so when I mustered enough strength to yell, “go home,” the dogs always left the first time I cried out — the cats sometimes needed a second call.

We talk about home plate on the baseball field and a home run is part of the athlete’s victory happiness. Perhaps the very greatest happiness during a family’s vacation is visiting the “old home place” or best of all, arriving back home after being away for a whole day or more. Imagine the emotional glee that a soldier experiences when he or she returns home after a long deployment.

It was not from thin air that the committees working on the biggest financial campaign in our diocese’s history, now over a quarter of a century old, chose Home as one of the major themes of the campaigns surrounding us.

Where we live is our home. Where we work is our home away from home. And so is our parish church. No matter how elegant or plain, large or small, old or new, urban or rural, old style or new, our church home is, it is in this building, no

matter how grand or simple, in which we are given the new life of grace in baptism, healed in penance, fortified with the nourishment of the Eucharist, made a family in holy matrimony, and dispatched into the next world in our Christian funeral rites. And what we can honestly say of a parish church is especially true, let us say by a hundredfold, of that sacred spot where the bishop takes his seat, his cathedra, our cathedral.

A campaign is being launched to build up the Church in East Tennessee. Funds will be generously given for our poor (for are they not our real treasure?). Money will be raised to assure our priests a comfortable retirement. Capital improvements will be made in every single parish, from structural repairs to leaky windows. The value of Catholic education will be underwritten by funds that you will contribute. Our seminarians will be educated in the world’s most prestigious seminaries so as to give you priests who can serve you better. And at the top of this list of wonderful projects will be the building of a new cathedral.

The Church of East Tennessee is coming into its own. From the tiniest mission outpost to an area with large parishes, schools, and active social organizations, there is someplace for each of us to call home and from that place or person, the love of God, the holy face of Jesus shines forth.

This concept of home as foundational to a happy life is not a pipe dream. It is real. I do hope that every member of our diocese, local or imported, will implement this concept of home in the manner we think, pray, and live as the years fly by.

If I may be permitted a personal reflection:

My father purchased a 105-year-old farmhouse in 1935. It had five rooms with 11-and-a-half-foot-high ceilings (an architectural device to afford cooling on summer days), a 30-foot central hallway with only 10-foot-high ceilings, and an added on kitchen. Inside plumbing and electricity had been added by 1900. Mansions, some three- and four-stories tall were added during the 1880s and 1890s, along streets and avenues laid out shortly after the American Civil War. Many have been razed as the University of Tennessee has grown and grown. A few remain in various stages of repair or disrepair.

Nevertheless, old West Knoxville still lives.

I first moved into these warm walls on April 1, 1935. I moved back home on July 1. The intervening years saw World War II, the Korean conflict, the Vietnam War, and the present wars, skirmishes, invasions, and fights. Now as I enter partial retirement, I hope to make the old home place an area of prayer, reading, research, and dabbling with tools. I might even bring my 1935 eight-cylinder Oldsmobile. I now belong once again to Immaculate Conception Parish (my grandparents, Robert Lewis Mankel and Lena Weyer, had been the first couple married in the completed new church building in May 1889). In the years God gives me, I hope to serve the parish, the diocese, the neighborhood, my family, and my brother priests in a positive manner for the good of the Church and my good, too. ■

Monsignor Mankel is a vicar general and the historical archivist for the Diocese of Knoxville.

Upcoming Virtus training sessions

The Diocese of Knoxville’s program for the protection of children, youth and vulnerable adults is offered throughout the diocese. The seminars are required for parish and school employees and regular volunteers in contact with children and vulnerable adults. The following training sessions are scheduled:

- St. Albert the Great, Knoxville, 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 2;
- St. Henry, Rogersville, 11 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 5; 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 7;
- St. John XXIII, Knoxville, 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 12;
- St. Mary, Johnson City, 6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 20 (session will be conducted in Spanish);
- Immaculate Conception, Knoxville, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 21;
- St. Mary School, Johnson City, 5:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 24; 5:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 15;
- St. Dominic, Kingsport, 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 24; 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6;
- St. Jude, Chattanooga, noon, Thursday, Nov. 6;
- St. John Neumann School, 11:45 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 9. ■

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Oct. 26: 9 a.m., Mass at St. Elizabeth Church in Elizabethton

Oct. 27-30: Lake Junaluska priest retreat ■

Catholic Charities Parent Place finds new home at Helen Ross McNabb

Parent Place, a service of Catholic Charities of East Tennessee, has found a new home at the Helen Ross McNabb Center.

Effective Oct. 1, the Helen Ross McNabb Center added Parent Place to its continuum of care.

Parent Place provides supervised visitation for children and their non-custodial parents, grandparents or other relatives. Families are referred to Parent Place by the court system, Department of Children's Services, family therapists, attorneys, and various community agencies, with some families self-referring.

Catholic Charities of East Tennessee has provided the visitation service to the East Tennessee community for nearly 14 years. The program serves approximately 135 families each year.

Catholic Charities of East Tennessee continually evaluates its services for improvements and identifies ways it can best serve the community. Through this process, Catholic Charities determined that partnering with HRM would allow Parent Place to expand services to better provide for the needs of clients.

"Parent Place is a good service but it can be better if provided within the Helen Ross McNabb Center's comprehensive set of services," said Sister Mary Christine Cremin, RSM, Catholic Charities of East Tennessee executive director.

"We won't let any program go unless it is going to the right place and we feel that the Helen Ross McNabb Center is the right place," Sister Mary Christine added.

Families served by Parent Place now will have access to additional supportive services under the umbrella

Parent Place continued on page 37



Marriage enrichment by Marian Christiana

Focus on the family

Synod of Bishops preparing to deal with a world of challenges facing family life

Families come in all shapes and sizes and every one of them has its own particular set of challenges. Luckily for us, Pope Francis understands the challenges of family life and has decided to see how the Church can better respond to the realities of the family in today's culture.

Beginning Oct. 5 through Oct. 18, Pope Francis and the Synod of Bishops will convene in Rome to discuss "The Pastoral Challenges to the Family in the Context of Evangelization." To prepare for this extraordinary Synod of Bishops, Pope Francis asked all bishops' conferences around the world to complete a series of questions on how Catholics perceive church teachings on marriage and family.

Global responses to these questionnaires showed that there was great difficulty in accepting Church teachings on subjects like the use of contraception, annulments, remarriage, cohabitation and same sex marriage.

There also was a general lack of understanding of these teachings and on all of the other Church teachings regarding family life. A guiding document, *instrumentum laboris* (which means working document or instrument), was developed as a result of the answers provided in the questionnaires and will be used by the synod to lead the discussions in which the bishops will be involved.

The 2014 synod is the first of two back-to-back yearly meetings at the Vatican of the world's Catholic bishops to discuss the issues outlined in this guiding document. The synod in 2014 will be attended mainly by leaders of national bishops conferences. The 2015 meeting will be much larger, consisting of leaders of national bishops conferences and several elected bishop-representatives from each country.

Both synods will be an opportunity to rearticulate the Church's teaching on the family, but there is great speculation that some reform regarding these teachings will be discussed and maybe put into place after the conclusion of the 2015 meeting.

Families and their wellbeing are a strong focus of Pope Francis. The *instrumentum laboris* emphasizes the need for the Church to respond to families "with great mercy" and to "find forms of accompaniment which can support her children on the path of reconciliation."

Some of the issues facing the synod include:

■ Cohabitation of couples before marriage has become a way of life in our culture and not all of our Catholic engaged couples are immune to society's powerful influences. Anyone working in the field of marriage preparation is certainly swimming upstream in trying to articulate the beauty of the Church's teaching regarding cohabitation.

■ The form and detail of the annulment process is another issue that I deal with frequently. The Church court (Tribunal) uses canon law on the subject of the sacrament of marriage to review each petition. The process is labor intensive, confusing, and by no means a guarantee that the court will be in favor of the declaration of nullity.

A Catholic cannot remarry in the Church without an annulment. A negative outcome can be devastating for people who want to remarry and remain a fully participating member of the Catholic Church. This issue can get even more complicated when a couple who may be in a second or third marriage wants to become Catholic.

■ The Church's teaching on contraception and focus on how married

couples can remain open to life is another example where the teaching on the subject can be confusing and unclear.

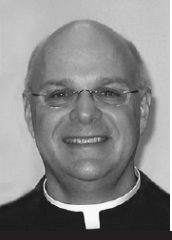
The Catholic Church does not teach that couples must have as many children as possible, but many couples going through our marriage preparation courses believe this to be what the Church says and wants. We always get nervous laughter when presenting information on natural family planning and we explain that the Church does not say you must have as many children as possible, but rather that the Church does wish married couples to bring their faith with them when making family planning decisions.

Our Church teaches responsible parenthood. Birth regulation is then based on prayerful discernment, self-observation and the use of infertile periods commonly known as natural family planning, which is not the old rhythm method. It is scientifically based and conforms to the Church's teaching on responsible parenthood. Couples can be open to life without the use of artificial contraceptives.

The synods on "The Pastoral Challenges to the Family in the Context of Evangelization" will address many of these significant issues but we won't know the full outcome for some time. In the meantime, we can pray for the Holy Spirit to guide the bishops in their discussions.

If you would like to review the *instrumentum laboris*, you can find it in its entirety at: http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/synod/documents/rc_synod_doc_20140626_instrumentum-laboris-familia_en.html ■

Mrs. Christiana is coordinator of the diocesan Marriage Preparation and Enrichment Office.



Nurturing family devotions

Synod on the Family to address Church concerns, including safeguarding and promoting forms of popular piety

On Oct. 5 the third Extraordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops begins its work on the “pastoral challenges to the family in the context of evangelization.”

In preparation for the synod, the Vatican sent out a questionnaire in October 2013. The responses to the questionnaire have been distilled into what is known as the *instrumentum laboris* or working document, the beginning of a profound reflection and discussion by the Church’s bishops.

One of the sacramental concerns revealed in the working document is the need for families to live the sacrament of confession, which I discussed in my previous column. Another concern revealed in the working document is the “need to safeguard and promote the various forms of popular piety” (n. 57), especially the practice of Marian devotions (n. 42), which is the subject of this column.

It is generally acknowledged that there was a sharp decline in the practice of Catholic devotional life following the Second Vatican Council. “Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, public recitation of the Rosary, novenas, Stations of the Cross, the annual Corpus Christi procession, the Forty Hours devotion — they all vanished in many parishes” (“John Paul II Helped Bring Back Traditions After Vatican II, *Our Sunday Visitor*, 4/16/2014). Many factors contributed to this dramatic change in the Church’s spiritual life.

In a 2012 interview, Holy Cross Father James Phalan, president of the Mariological Society of America, discussed some of the main factors that led to a decline in Marian devotion. One factor was what he calls an “overly rationalist” historical approach to Marian studies in the years

following the Council that marginalized most forms of devotion. This was compounded by the cultural and social upheaval of the 1970s that questioned or dismissed religious traditions and beliefs, developments that affected Marian devotion (“Marian Devotion”, Catholic News Service, 9/7/2012).

The example and teaching of St. John Paul II were crucial in reversing the decline in Catholic devotions. Every year he participated in a solemn Corpus Christi procession in Rome. He led Stations of the Cross at the Colosseum on the evening of Good Friday. He spoke often of his intense devotion to Our Lady, and in 2002 he published the apostolic letter “*On the Most Holy Rosary*,” encouraging the faithful to rediscover this profound prayer and proposing the Luminous Mysteries.

It also was during his papacy that the Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments produced *The Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy: Principles and Guidelines* (2001). It begins with a historical survey of popular piety, a summary of the Church’s teaching on the subject, and a discussion of the relationship between popular piety and the liturgy. It then discusses specific devotions in detail. Individual chapters discuss (1) popular piety and the liturgical year, (2) the veneration of the Blessed Virgin Mary, (3) the veneration of the saints and beatified, (4) prayer for the dead, (5) and shrines and pilgrimages. It is a wonderful resource for clergy and laity in supporting and promoting the devotional life of families and parishes. It is available online at http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/ccdds/documents/rc_con_ccdds_doc_20020513_vers-direttorio_en.html.

In his recent apostolic exhortation *The Joy of the Gospel (Evangelii Gaudium)*, Pope Francis devoted a section to “The Evangelizing Power of Popular Piety.” He describes popular piety as “a true expression of the spontaneous missionary activity of the people of God...an ongoing and developing process, of which the Holy Spirit is the principal agent” (n. 122). He stressed that it “is an active evangelizing power which we must not underestimate: to do so would be to fail to recognize the work of the Holy Spirit” (n. 125).

Expressions of popular piety specifically praised in the working document for the upcoming synod include not only the rosary but also the Angelus, “Mary’s Pilgrimage,” in which a statue or icon of Our Lady is passed from one home to another. Other examples cited are folk festivals and celebrations of local saints, a home altar or “Gospel Pilgrimage” in which a Bible and icon are displayed with a commitment to regular prayer and reading Sacred Scripture, and praying the Liturgy of the Hours as a family.

The Synod’s working document concludes with a prayer to the Holy Family, which reads in part: “Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic Churches. Holy Family of Nazareth, may the approaching Synod of Bishops make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, its beauty in God’s plan.” May this be our prayer for the upcoming Synod. ■

Father Stice is pastor of St. Mary Church in Athens and directs the diocesan Office of Worship and Liturgy. He can be reached at frandy@dioknox.org.

of one organization. The Helen Ross McNabb Center provides additional services like family therapy, parent education and case management that encourages and supports healthy families in East Tennessee.

“The goal of Parent Place fits nicely into the Helen Ross McNabb Center’s mission and will increase our ability to provide wrap-around services to children and families in our community. We are pleased to collaborate with Catholic Charities of East Tennessee to provide greater access to care for those served by Parent Place,” Jerry Vagnier, Helen Ross McNabb Center president and chief executive officer, said in a statement.

Parent Place, currently located in North Knoxville at 119 Dameron Ave., will relocate to the Helen Ross McNabb Center’s John Tarleton Campus at 2455 Sutherland Ave. The phone number for Parent Place will remain the same, 865-544-0577. Current Parent Place staff has the option to remain with the program as employees of the Helen Ross McNabb Center.

Empowered by the grace of Jesus Christ, Catholic Charities of East Tennessee addresses the unmet needs of the most vulnerable of our region by providing shelter, nourishment, counseling and education in order to foster human dignity. CCETN provides services to anyone with demonstrated need, regardless of race, income or religion. Fewer than 5 percent of all clients served are Catholic.

The Helen Ross McNabb Center is a premier not-for-profit provider of behavioral health services in East Tennessee. Since 1948, the center has provided quality and compassionate care to children, adults and families experiencing mental illness, addiction and social challenges. As the center celebrates more than 65 years of providing services to communities in East Tennessee, its mission remains clear and simple: “Improving the lives of the people we serve.”

For more information, call 865-637-9711 or visit www.mcnabbcenter.org. ■

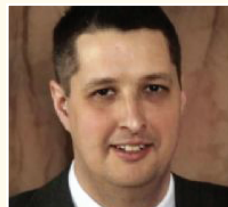
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Diocese of Knoxville Mass Times

Cumberland Mtn. Deanery

All Saints, Knoxville
Saturday 5, 7 p.m. (Spanish);
Sunday 8:15, 10, 11:45 a.m.

Blessed Sacrament, Harriman
Saturday 5 p.m.;
Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Bl. Teresa of Calcutta, Maynardville
Sunday 9, 11 a.m. (Spanish)

Christ the King, Tazewell
Sunday noon

Church of Divine Mercy, Knoxville (Vietnamese)
Sunday 9:30 a.m.

OLPH, LaFollette
Sunday 9:30 a.m.

St. Alphonsus, Crossville
Saturday 5 p.m. (CT);
Sunday 8:30, 11 a.m.;
6 p.m. (Spanish)

St. Ann, Lancing
Sunday 8:30 a.m.

St. Christopher, Jamestown
Saturday 6:30 p.m. (CT)

St. Francis of Assisi, Fairfield Glade
Saturday 5 p.m.;
Sunday 8, 10 a.m. (CT)

St. John Neumann, Farragut
Saturday 4:30 p.m.; Sunday
8:30, 10:30 a.m.; 6 p.m.

St. Joseph, Norris
Sunday 9 a.m., 7 p.m. (Spanish)

St. Jude, Helenwood
Saturday 5:30 p.m.

St. Mary, Oak Ridge
Saturday 5:30 p.m.
Sunday 8, 10 a.m.; noon
2 p.m. (Spanish)

St. Therese, Clinton
Saturday 5 p.m.;
Sunday 11 a.m.

St. Thomas the Apostle, Lenoir City
Saturday 5, 7 p.m. (Spanish);
Sunday 9, 11:30 a.m.

Holy Trinity, Jefferson City
Saturday 5 p.m.;
Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Good Shepherd, Newport
Sunday 9:30 a.m.

Notre Dame, Greeneville
Saturday 5 p.m.;
Sunday 8, 11 a.m.;
3 p.m. (Spanish)

St. Anthony of Padua, Mountain City
Sunday 11 a.m.; 3rd Sunday
3 p.m. (Spanish)

St. Dominic, Kingsport
Saturday 5:30 p.m.;
Sunday 8, 9:30,
11 a.m. (Spanish);
12:30 p.m.

St. Elizabeth, Elizabethton
Saturday 5 p.m.;
Sunday 9 a.m.

St. Henry, Rogersville
Sunday 9 a.m.

St. James the Apostle, Sneedville
Sunday noon

St. John Paul II, Rutledge
Saturday 5 p.m.;
Sunday 5 p.m. (Spanish)

St. Patrick, Morristown
Saturday 5 p.m.;
Sunday 9, 11:30 a.m.;
5:30 p.m. (Spanish)

St. Mary, Johnson City
Saturday 5 p.m.;
Sunday 8, 10 a.m.;
noon (Spanish)

St. Michael the Archangel Mission, Erwin
Sunday 10 a.m. (bilingual)

Five Rivers Deanery

Smoky Mountain Deanery

St. John XXIII, Knoxville
Saturday, 5:30 p.m.;
Sunday 9, 11:15 a.m.; 5:30,
10 p.m.

Holy Cross, Pigeon Forge
Saturday 5 p.m.; Sunday 8,
10:30 a.m.; 7 p.m. (Spanish)

Holy Family, Seymour
Saturday 5:30 p.m.;
Sunday 8, 10:30 a.m.

Holy Resurrection Mission
9:30 a.m. (Ruthenian Rite)

Our Lady of Fatima, Alcoa
Saturday 5, 7 p.m. (Spanish);
Sunday 8:30, 11 a.m.

Sacred Heart Cathedral
Saturday 5 p.m.;
Sunday 7:30, 9, 11 a.m.;
1 p.m. (Spanish)

St. Francis of Assisi, Townsend
Saturday 4 p.m.;
Sunday 9, 11 a.m. (Latin)

St. Mary, Gatlinburg
Saturday 7 p.m.;
Sunday 9, 11 a.m.

Holy Ghost, Knoxville
Saturday 7 p.m. (Spanish);
Sunday 8, 10, 11:30 a.m.
6 p.m.; 1:30 p.m. (Latin)

Immaculate Conception, Knoxville
Saturday 6 p.m.; Sunday
8:30, 10, 11:30 a.m.

St. Albert the Great, Knoxville
Saturday 5 p.m.;
Sunday 9, 11 a.m.

St. Thomas Byzantine Mission, Knoxville
Sunday 9:30 a.m.

St. Joseph the Worker, Madisonville
Sunday 8, 10 a.m.; 12:30
p.m. (Spanish); 2nd, 4th,
Sunday 3 p.m. (Latin)

Chattanooga Deanery

Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul
Saturday 5:30 p.m.; Sunday 9,
11:30 a.m.; 1:30 p.m. (Spanish)

Our Lady of Lourdes, South Pittsburg
Saturday 5:30 p.m. (CT);
Sunday 10:30 a.m.

OLPH, Chattanooga
Saturday 5:30 p.m.
Sunday 7:30, 10 a.m.; noon,
2 p.m. (Spanish); 2nd
Sunday 4 p.m. (Korean)

St. Catherine Labouré, Copperhill
Saturday 5:30 p.m.; Sunday
9 a.m.; 6 p.m. (Spanish)

St. Jude, Chattanooga
Saturday 5:30, 7:30 p.m.
(Spanish); Sunday 8,
10:30 a.m.; 12:15, 5:30 p.m.

St. Stephen, Chattanooga
Saturday 5:30 p.m.;
Sunday 8:30, 11 a.m.

Holy Spirit, Soddy-Daisy
Saturday 5:30 p.m.;
Sunday 8, 10:30 a.m.

Shepherd of the Valley, Dunlap
Sunday 8 a.m. (CT);

St. Augustine, Signal Mountain
Saturday 5:30 p.m.;
Sunday 10:30 a.m.

St. Bridget, Dayton
Saturday 5:30 p.m.;
Sunday 10 a.m.; 12:30 p.m.
(Spanish)

St. Mary, Athens
Saturday 5 p.m.; Sunday
10 a.m.; 1 p.m. (Spanish)

St. Thérèse of Lisieux, Cleveland
Saturday 6 p.m.;
Sunday 8 a.m. (Spanish)
9:30 a.m.; noon; 1st, 3rd
Sunday 3 p.m. (Latin)

Catholic school leaders named to Loyola Marymount leadership cohort

By Sedonna Prater

Catholic Extension and Loyola Marymount University are partnering to offer a certificate leadership program to Catholic school leaders, such as assistant principals and rising instructional leaders.

The educational program, offered through Loyola Marymount's Catholic School Leadership Academy, provides professional training that is specific to Catholic schools by focusing on topics such as Catholic identity, curriculum development, best practices in governance, fundraising, finance and human resource administration.

Sister Mary Marta Abbott, RSM, superintendent of Diocese of Knoxville Catholic schools, applied for grants from Catholic Extension and Loyola Marymount University for three Catholic school leaders: Andrew M. Zengel, Elizabeth Raudat, and Lisa Maki.

The diocese was awarded \$29,520

in grants from Catholic Extension and Loyola Marymount for the three selected that will pay for 80 percent of the costs for the program. The remaining tuition costs will be paid by each student or their school, approximately \$2,620 per student.

Mr. Zengel, interim principal at St. Joseph School in Knoxville, Mrs. Raudat, fifth-grade teacher at St. Mary School in Johnson City, and Mrs. Maki, assistant principal at Sacred Heart Cathedral School in Knoxville, will join selected Catholic school leaders across the country to begin the cohort educational experience.

"As educators and leaders, our nominees epitomize the reasons why the Diocese of Knoxville continues to earn so many honors through our schools. These three individuals are among the dedicated educators helping to lead our schools to greater levels of excellence, exemplifying the leadership

qualities necessary for this initiative," Bishop Stika said in a letter of support of their nomination,

Sister Mary Marta has made it a priority to foster and promote Catholic school leaders among the educators in the diocese's schools.

"This year, two of our experienced principals retired, causing the schools to launch a nationwide search for talent and expertise. While these schools have been blessed to hire two extraordinary people to assume the positions, being a part of this process really confirmed the need to continue to grow and cultivate the talent of leaders within our school communities," she said.

"The three educators selected for nomination and awarded this honor to participate in the program have already been exhibiting leadership within their respective schools. This program should further develop their

skills. By sharing their expertise and establishing a professional network with other Catholic school educators through the cohort experience, these three leaders will impact our diocese by applying new administrative or instructional skills in their work," Sister Mary Marta added.

Mr. Zengel, Mrs. Raudat and Mrs. Maki will begin their study in August. The Diocese of Knoxville Catholic Schools office, pastors and principals of the respective schools congratulate them on their accomplishment and request prayers for them as they begin this educational initiative.

"I am very proud of our Catholic schools and believe the investment of Catholic Extension in helping to further hone the skills and leadership of Andy Zengel, Elizabeth Raudat, and Lisa Maki will bring rich dividends to our diocese and our schools," Bishop Richard F. Stika said. ■

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