Refugee resettlement awaits final word on cut to number coming to U.S.

Andy Telli

The people who help refugees from around the world resettle in the Nashville area and across Tennessee are waiting to see if the Trump Administration’s decision to reduce the number of refugees to be admitted to the country to 18,000 in the next fiscal year, the lowest number since the resettlement program was created in 1980, will stand.

“The agencies are waiting and crossing their fingers, and in the meantime continue doing what they do. And they do it well,” said Holly Johnson, director of the Tennessee Office for Refugees, which oversees the resettlement program in the state.

“The resettlement programs we have in Tennessee are exceptional,” Johnson said. “They are strong programs that serve a lot of people and serve them really well.”

Catholic Charities of Tennessee’s Refugee and Immigration Services office is one of five resettlement agencies operating in the state and one of two in the Nashville area.

In the last federal fiscal year, which stretched from Oct. 1, 2018, to Sept. 30, 2019, Catholic Charities helped to resettle 258 refugees. “It was more than we expected,” said Kellye Branson, director of Refugee and Immigration Services for Catholic Charities of Tennessee.

About half of the refugees are natives of the Democratic Republic of Congo and had been living in refugee camps throughout Africa. The next largest group were Burmese from camps in Thailand and Malaysia, Branson said.

There also were several people from Afghanistan who were targets of persecution because they worked with U.S. military forces in their country, Branson said.

Catholic Charities also resettled Eritrean, Iraqi, Ukrainian and Sudanese refugees last year.

Last year, the federal government set the limit of the number of refugees to be admitted into the country at 30,000 and about 600 were resettled in Tennessee, Johnson said.

“Ninety-nine percent of the cases we got were reuniting families, so they had somebody already here,” Branson said. “The resettlement program is designed to assist people fleeing persecution. In being displaced from their country, families are often separated,” Branson said.

The resettlement program tries to reunite families when possible, Johnson said, “That’s a priority always.”

For new arrivals, having family nearby provides an important support network, Branson said. One important service family can help with is transportation so the new arrivals have a way to get to and from a job.

“That’s our biggest challenge,” Branson said of finding transportation for new arrivals. “That’s how family members can help.”

The U.S. State Department’s Office of Refugee Resettlement oversees the resettlement program across the country. Refugees, who typically live in a refugee camp for 15-20 years before being resettled in a third country, are thoroughly vetted by several U.S. agencies before they are resettled.

Continued on page next page

Recipe for Success

Students of Catholic Charities’ new Culinary Training Academy, Brittaney Baker, left, Denesey Newsom, and Denesy Dorantes, listen as chef and instructor Mark Rubin, far right, reviews the proper storage protocol for kitchen utensils. Chef and instructor Keith Batts, second from right, listens in. The class had prepared a full meal, as they do every weekday, and were waiting for the final components to finish cooking. The new eight-week pilot program, based at the McGruder Family Resource Center, prepares students to work in commercial restaurant or hotel kitchens. See story on page 9.
St. Mary Villa among ministries benefiting from Bishop’s Annual Appeal

Theresa Laurence

Like most in-demand daycares in Nashville, St. Mary Villa Child Development Center has a long wait list of families hoping to secure a spot for their child.

In fact, they have almost as many names on the wait list as they have children enrolled, which currently stands at 88. “We have about 85 on the wait list,” said St. Mary Villa Director Alyssa Garnett. Quality, affordable childcare, like St. Mary Villa offers through its income-based sliding scale fee schedule, represents “a huge need in our community,” said Melissa Dunn, president of the St. Mary Villa board of directors and parishioner at Holy Family Church in Brentwood.

When Dunn and her husband were first exploring the cost of childcare in Nashville, “we were shocked,” she said. Full-time infant care can cost as much as a rent or mortgage payment for some families and $1,300 a month.

St. Mary’s is unable to offer a price break for infants, due to the low teacher to child ratio required by the state. But for families with older children, especially those on a fixed income, the sliding scale fee schedule can be “a game changer,” Dunn said.

Tuition fees do not cover St. Mary Villa’s entire operating budget; they rely on monetary, in-kind donations and volunteer power, as well as an annual donation of $30,000 from the Bishop’s Annual Appeal for Ministries.

A final decision on the number of refugees the U.S. will admit will be made after consultation with Congress. A moratorium on admitting refugees has been put in place until Oct. 22, waiting for the cap to be finalized, Johnson said. “So it could change,” Johnson said. “I suspect that it won’t.”

Donations to Appeal top $2M

The Bishop’s Annual Appeal for Ministries offers vital support to Catholic Charities that allows it to expand programming in places like St. Mary Villa. Almost $550,000 of the Appeal money – about 20 percent of the total raised – is used to support the services provided by

Refugee resettlement awaits final word on cut to number coming to U.S.

Continued from front page

The Office of Refugee Resettlement works with nine national agencies who have local affiliates across the country to resettle the refugees. Catholic Charities works with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

After the State of Tennessee gave up responsibility for managing the resettlement program here, the federal government invited Catholic Charities to take over the program, which led to the establishment of the Tennessee Office for Refugees.

The Tennessee Office for Refugees distributes federal funding to the local resettlement agencies in the state to help pay for cash and medical assistance, initial medical screenings, employment, social adjustment services, and English language classes for the refugees.

“Family reunifications are also raising questions,” Johnson said. Resettlement officials aren’t sure whether the county or city were a refugee is currently living have to opt in to the program so newly arriving refugees can be resettled near their family.

“We have more questions than answers right now for sure,” Johnson said. Continued on page 11

Tennessee Register file photo by Theresa Laurence

2 Tennessee Register
October 4, 2019

THE FATHERS OF THE CHURCH
(And why do they matter?)

Mondays at 10am & 7pm
Catholic Pastoral Center
2800 McGavack Pike - Nashville, TN 37214

November 4 ....................... Mike Aquilina

Mike Aquilina is the award-winning author of more than forty books on Catholic history, doctrine, and devotion. His works have been translated into many languages. He has hosted nine television series and several documentary films and is a frequent guest on Catholic radio.

November 11 ....................... Dr. Brad Peper
John Paul II High School

November 18 ............... Andrew Petiprin
Diocese of Nashville

November 25 ............. Sr. Anastasia, O.P.
Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia

Questions? Contact the Office of Faith Formation
faithformation@dioceseofnashville.com or 615-645-9770

St. Mary Villa students Josiah Jackson, left, and Evan Mayer play together with their teacher in this 2018 file photo. St. Mary Villa Child Development Center, which offers high quality childcare to diverse families using a sliding-scale fee schedule, is one of about 50 ministries in the Diocese of Nashville that benefits from the Bishop’s Annual Appeal for Ministries.

The Fathers of the Church: And Why Do They Matter?

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St. Vincent de Paul School, the diocese shared an additional $60,000 from the Bishop’s Annual Appeal for Ministries with St. Mary’s Child Development Center, said Bill Whalen, chief financial officer for the Diocese of Nashville. Those funds helped St. Mary’s stabilize their operations, which set the stage for the present growth, he said.

“Before Alyssa came on, I think they were still struggling to get the word out to the North Nashville neighborhood,” Dunn said. Now, with a positive three-year track record there, and thanks to Garrett’s work since early 2019, additional support from the Appeal, and word of mouth recommendations, the center is on solid footing and ready to grow.

Awaiting some final inspections before they can start renovating space in the upstairs of the building for additional classrooms, Garnett anticipates a future where the daycare’s capacity could eventually double. “It will be gradual,” she said, most likely by adding additional slots for older children, since the teacher to student ratio is higher for them.

With support from Catholic Charities’ Family Empowerment Program, St. Mary Villa is able to expand its support to lower-income families by offering coaching in reaching career goals. They also organize a new monthly community-building event open to all St. Mary Villa families that includes dinner and childcare. “The first time we did it, the energy was great,” said Garnett.

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Continued on page 11
October 4, 2019

Necrology

The Diocese of Nashville asks for your prayers for vocations, for our priests and for the following deceased clergy of the Diocese of Nashville.

Rev. James Bret, S.D.S.
October 6, 2010

Rev. Charley A. Giacosa
October 12, 2007

Rev. James T. O'Neil
October 11, 1930

Rev. Joseph John Angers, O.P.
October 13, 2001

MOSS golf tourney to benefit Camp Marymount

Camp Marymount will host the 25th annual Marymount Open Scholarship Scramble (MOSS) Friday, Oct. 25. The tournament, to be held at Harpeth Hills golf course, benefits the Camp Marymount scholarship program.

Camp Marymount is a home away from home each summer for more than 600 campers from 20 different states who want to experience summer camp in the Catholic tradition. Thirty-eight families requested financial assistance in the 2019 camp season benefiting 53 campers. The Marymount scholarship fund relies almost entirely on contributions and proceeds from the MOSS.

The registration fee of $100 per person includes greens fee and carts, a goody bag, and breakfast and barbecue lunch for each player. Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. and a shotgun start will be at 8 a.m. The tournament will be a four-person team scramble format. In addition to a game of golf, there will be prizes for closest to pin, longest drive, and door prizes.

For more information about Camp Marymount, sponsorship opportunities, or to register to play, visit www.camp-marymount.com, or call 615-799-0410.

Follow Bishop Spalding on Twitter: @bbspalding
World-renowned composer to perform at St. Philip

From staff reports

World-renowned pianist and composer Eric Genuis will perform a concert on Sunday, Oct. 13, at St. Philip Church in Franklin to support his initiative “Concerts for Hope,” in which he performs concerts for the inmates and staff at prisons.

“Music is a language with the profound ability to stir the heart, inspire the mind, and enliven the soul,” Genuis said. “It is my sincere desire that my music will awaken hope, uplift the emotions, renew the spirit, and resonate within the heart of our shared human experience.”

The aim of the “Concerts of Hope” tour, which Genuis started in 2016, is to bring music and beauty to the imprisoned and marginalized. Since the prisoners cannot go to Carnegie Hall themselves, said Genuis, a parishioner of the Archdiocese of Louisville, he decided to bring Carnegie Hall to them.

Genuis’ music has taken him all over the world, from his native Canada all the way to Poland. He performs nearly 100 concerts a year with a traveling group of cellists, violinists and vocalists. His live shows consist of music, stories, humor, and audience interaction. Those in attendance can expect a well-balanced performance that forces the audience to think deeply while still maintaining levity.

John Angotti, the director of music and liturgy for St. Philip, is bringing Genuis to the parish. Having seen him perform before, Angotti hopes to bring the beauty of both the music and the message to everyone within the diocese.

The concert, which is open to the public, will be 7-9 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 13, in the main church at St. Philip at 113 Second Avenue S., Franklin, TN 37064. The performance is free, but any free will offerings to cover the cost of the concert will be accepted gladly.

For more information, contact John Angotti at 615-550-2834 or liturgy@stphilipfranklin.com.

Pianist and composer Eric Genuis will perform a concert at St. Philip to support “Concerts for Hope,” his initiative to bring musical performances into prisons.
Seeking an annulment can be an emotionally difficult process, requiring people to open up about some of the most painful moments in their lives. To help people on that journey, the Catholic Church appoints case sponsors. "They are the face of the Tribunal," Father John Hammond, Judicial Vicar for the Diocese of Nashville, said of the case sponsors. "We're dealing with real people, and we do many things, most of our work is a purely spiritual matter," he said. "We never deny this was a real relationship that included love," Father Hammond said. "Our job is to determine if there was something at the moment the couple exchanged consent, either in their background or psychology or intent they brought to the marriage, that created a fundamental problem from the beginning of their marriage," Father Hammond said.
The role of the Tribunal is to "consider whether this is a union we consider binding," under Church law, Father Hammond said.

There are many grounds for granting an annulment, he said. "It's a complicated, technical process. The case sponsor helps us serve," the person seeking the annulment, Father Hammond added. The case sponsors typically work at the parish level and are the first contact for someone seeking an annulment. Their role is to explain the process and help the person assemble all the documents and other materials needed for the tribunal to consider the request. No fee is charged the person seeking an annulment, Father Hammond said. "It's an expense the bishop takes on himself and the diocese as one of the services for the faithful," he said. The diocese doesn't want people to be deterred from doing something they need because of a lack of money, nor to give anyone a reason to doubt the integrity of the process, Father Hammond said.

"What we're doing is a legal process, based on the law of the Church, clarifying a person’s status in the Church in regard to their freedom to marry," Father Hammond said. "It's based on the law and the theology of the Church." But the process is more than merely a legal proceeding, Father Hammond said. "We're dealing with real people, dealing with their lives, often painful moments in their lives," he said. "Because what we're doing affects people's lives, that makes it incredibly sacred." The case sponsors typically work at the parish level and are the first contact for someone seeking an annulment. Their role is to explain the process and help the person assemble all the documents and other materials needed for the tribunal to consider the request.

"An annulment is a Church process and does not affect a marriage's status under civil law nor the legitimacy of any children produced during the marriage," Father Hammond said. "This is a purely spiritual matter," he said.

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"Everything the Church does is about the salvation of souls and pastoral care of people as they live their lives as best as they can with the grace of God," Father Hammond said. The goal in the annulment process is "to bring together truth and justice with mercy and love." Granting an annulment is a Church process and does not affect a marriage’s status under civil law nor the legitimacy of any children produced during the marriage, Father Hammond said. "This is a purely spiritual matter," he said.

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ONE SUNDAY FOR THE WHOLE WORLD

On this World Mission Sunday, Pope Francis reminds us of our baptismal call to be Christ’s Church on mission in the world. Today we respond to that call, through our prayers and personal sacrifices for our brothers and sisters in the missions.

UN DOMINGO PARA EL MUNDO ENTERO

En este Domingo Mundial de las Misiones, el Papa Francisco nos recuerda de nuestro llamado bautismal a ser la Iglesia de Cristo en misión en el mundo. Hoy respondemos a ese llamado, a través de nuestras oraciones y sacrificios personales por nuestros hermanos y hermanas en las Misiones.
U.S. Cardinal William Levada, former doctrinal head, dies in Rome

CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY. U.S. Cardinal William J. Levada, former head of the Vatican’s doctrinal congregation and retired archbishop of San Francisco, has died. He was 86.

When Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was elected Pope Benedict XVI in 2005, he named then-Archbishop Levada to replace him as head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the Vatican agency charged with protecting and promoting the Church’s teachings on faith and morals.

It was the first time a U.S. prelate had headed the congregation, and Cardinal Levada served in that position until 2012. Before his Vatican appointment, he had served as archbishop of San Francisco since 1990, and auxiliary bishop of Portland, Oregon, 1986-95, and an auxiliary bishop of Los Angeles, 1983-86.

For decades, he was a frequent collaborator with the Vatican and with the future Pope Benedict. He was a doctrinal congregation staff member from 1976 to 1982 and was a bishop-member of the congregation beginning in 2000.

In the 1980s, he worked with then-Cardinal Ratzinger as one of a small group of bishops appointed to write the “Catechism of the Catholic Church.”

Before his ordination as a priest in 1961, Cardinal Levada studied in Rome’s Pontifical North American College, where he was a classmate of former Nashville Bishop Edward Kniec and Nashville priest Father Joseph Patrick Breen.

Cardinal Levada was a key figure in the Vatican’s efforts to eliminate priestly sexual abuse. He headed the Vatican agency that oversaw the handling of priestly sexual abuse cases; in 2002, he was a member of the U.S.-Vatican mission that made final revisions to the sex abuse norms in the United States, which laid out a strict policy on priestly sex abuse and provided for removal from ministry or laicization of priests.

In a 2006 decision approved by Pope Benedict, Cardinal Levada ruled that 88-year-old Father Marcial Maciel Degollado, founder of the Legionaries of Christ, should not exercise his priestly ministry publicly. Father Degollado was accused of sexually abusing minors, but the Vatican said it would not begin a canonical process against him because of his advanced age and poor health.

In 2009, Cardinal Levada ordered a doctrinal assessment of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, a Maryland-based umbrella group with about 1,500 leaders of U.S. women’s communities as members.

Cardinal Levada’s department released an eight-page “doctrinal assessment” of the LCWR in 2012, citing “serious doctrinal problems which affect many in consecrated life,” and announced a reform of the organization to ensure its fidelity to Catholic teaching.

The LCWR national board criticized the Vatican’s action as “based on unsubstantiated accusations and the result of a flawed process that lacked transparency,” saying it had “caused scandal and pain throughout the Church community and created greater polarization.” The process ended in 2015 with no new disciplinary measures or controls.

In an interview with Irish Catholic, Cardinal Levada rejected media portrayals that pitted Pope Francis against retired Pope Benedict.

The cardinal rejected a “certain tendency that I find in some of the media presentations: ‘Well, now we have a pope who does this, and he’s contradicting what the previous pope did or he’s turning things into a different story’ and so forth. I think that’s way overdone.”

Cardinal Levada warned that “this, ultimately, makes the pope less a sign of unity and (instead) a sign of division, which he is not.”

He said he was impressed by Pope Francis’s “reminders to the Church and the world about the poor, people who are easily forgotten or put aside outside of our mind and vision.”

On the decision of Pope Benedict to resign, Cardinal Levada said he believes that was “a giant step in regard to the future of the Church and the future of the papacy, so that this particular question can be resolved by any future pope because of what he (Benedict) has done.”

As archbishop of San Francisco, Cardinal Levada dealt with the issue of same-sex marriage. In 2004, he helped lead a prayer rally for the defense and promotion of marriage after the city decided to issue same-sex marriage licenses.

In 1997, he opposed a city ordinance requiring all agencies contracting with the city to provide spousal benefits to domestic partners of their employees. Noncompliance could have jeopardized the Church’s social service contracts with the city.

At the archbishop’s urging, the city changed the ordinance so that employees of church agencies could designate any legally domiciled member of their household for spousal benefits.

In a Sept. 27 telegram to San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone, Pope Francis said he offered his “heartfelt condolences to you and to the clergy, religious and faithful of the archdiocese.”

“Recalling with immense gratitude the late cardinal’s years of priestly and episcopal ministry among Christ’s flock in Los Angeles, Portland and San Francisco, his singular contributions to catechesis, education and administration, and his distinguished service to the Apostolic See, I willingly join you in commending his noble soul to the infinite mercies of God our heavenly Father,” the pope said. He offered his apostolic blessing and a pledge of consolation “to all those who mourn Cardinal Levada’s passing in the sure hope of the resurrection.”

Register online: AliveHospice.org/symposium

Alive Symposium

Middle Tennessee’s only conference on end-of-life issues in Family, Health, Ethics, and Spirituality

Thursday, Nov. 7, 2019 1-8 am & 4-30 pm Belmont University, Janet Ayers Academic Center

$45 in advance and $75 at the door. (FREE for students with student ID)

JOIN US FOR OUR OPEN HOUSE!

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 23 9-11 A.M.
RSVP AT STHENRYSCHOOL.ORG
Holy Family Parish in Lafayette joyfully dedicates new church

Theresa Laurence

Finally! Alleluia! Praise the Lord! Finalmente! Aleluya! Gloria A Dios! These words filled Holy Family Church in Lafayette on Saturday, Sept. 21, as the Catholic community of Macon County celebrated the dedication of their long-awaited new church.

“I never thought I’d live to see it,” said Yvette Baber, 76, one of the parish’s original members. “It’s overwhelming, the joy for us to have this now.” Baber moved to Lafayette from California with her husband in the early 1980s to start a farm. At that time, in rural Tennessee farm country near the Kentucky border, “we were outsiders” as Catholics, and as West Coast transplants.

The Catholic community back then celebrated Mass in different homes, and then for decades gathered in a simple, low-slung building that “we turned into a church,” Baber said.

When Holy Family Lafayette was officially established in 1982, “it was a renegade parish, it just started,” organized from the ground up by the people, said Holy Family pastor Father Vic Subb, a Glenmary priest who has served the parish for the last seven years.

Father Subb thanked parishioners past and present, members of the Glenmary order, especially his predecessor Father Dennis Holly, who led initial efforts to build a new church, continuing the efforts of previous pastors and parishioners, who have been working for over 15 years to make a new Catholic church in rural Macon County a reality.

Father Vic Subb, a Glenmary priest who has served as pastor of Holy Family Church in Lafayette for the past seven years, oversaw his parishioners’ efforts to build a new church, continuing the efforts of previous pastors and parishioners, who have been working for over 15 years to make a new Catholic church in rural Macon County a reality.

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Father Subb thanked parishioners past and present, members of the Glenmary order, especially his predecessor Father Dennis Holly, who led initial efforts to build a new church, and parish pastoral associates Father Charles Aketch and Deacon Jose Pineda.

“Thank you for doing this, your sacrifices, coming together and building this church,” Father Subb said during his remarks at the dedication Mass. After more than 15 years of planning and fundraising, Holy Family broke ground for their new $1.6 million church in August 2018. Olympian Construction Company of Hendersonville oversaw the construction of the new 300-seat church; Matchett and Associates served as the architects. Both companies had worked on previous church building projects in the diocese. Macario and Maria Hernandez, members of Holy Family for more than 20 years, sold food after Masses and supported other events that raised money to build the new church. “We are very happy and very blessed,” to have the new church, Maria Hernandez said.

When the Hernandez family first joined Holy Family, they were one of only a handful of Hispanic parishioners. Now, Spanish-speakers make up the majority of the parish, drawn to the area to work on nearby tobacco farms, sawmills, and chicken processing plants, “hard jobs,” Marcario Hernandez said.

The multi-cultural spirit of Holy Family was on display at the dedication Mass, which featured a choir with members of the Anglo, Hispanic and Filipino communities, and readings in both English and Spanish. At the reception after Mass, ham biscuits and sweet tea were served alongside tamales and horchata.

The new church was filled to capacity for the dedication Mass with Holy Family parishioners, visiting priests, laypeople and community members. In addition to the special Mass on Saturday, Holy Family also hosted a musical program on Friday, Sept. 20, and a community open house on Sunday, Sept. 22.

“The next chapter is ahead for all of us at Holy Family,” Father Subb wrote in a message to parishioners. “God is calling each of us to evangelize to fill his church with new members. May we show mercy to others, as He has shown mercy to us.”

Father Subb and his Holy Family parishioners are confident the new church will encourage more people to actively join the parish. With a larger sanctuary, better visibility and parking, the new space is more welcoming and accommodating.

“This church is built of living stones,” said Bishop J. Mark Spalding, who was the principal celebrant for the Mass and led the dedication rites. “The stones must be fortified by what happens in this building,” he said. “The Holy Spirit brings us together to open our minds and hearts to God.”

After gathering to share the sacrament of the Mass and fellowship with others, “we go outside this church building and transform the world as Christ Jesus did,” said Bishop Spalding.
Charities’ new Culinary Training Academy offers recipe for success

Theresa Laurence

At lunchtime on a recent weekday, the smells of simmering spaghetti sauce, homemade vinaigrette salad dressing, and fresh-from-the-oven oatmeal chocolate chip cookies blended into an enticing aroma at the McGruder Family Resource Center in North Nashville.

Students in Catholic Charities’ new Culinary Training Academy were buzzing around the kitchen, putting the finishing touches on a classic Italian-inspired meal.

“Food is what brings people together, everybody loves good food,” said culinary student Denesy Dorantes, 20, who aspires to open a food truck featuring tacos and Mexican cuisine after completing her culinary training.

Dorantes, whose family attends Sagrado Corazon Church, has worked as a banquet server in the class for four weeks, Baker, who self and her two children. After being better and more nutritious food for her-

Students from Catholic Charities’ new Culinary Training Academy, Denesy Dorantes, left, Brittany Baker, and Denedra Newsom prep ingredients for a salad at the McGruder Family Resource Center in North Nashville on Oct. 1. The new eight-week pilot program, part of Catholic Charities larger workforce development initiative, prepares students to work in commercial restaurant or hotel kitchens.

To do that, Calvin knows he needs to convince clients to be patient and work hard to get what they want, teaching them how to “climb the ladder.” That might also mean convincing someone to wait before striking out to start their own business.

“Everybody says they want to start their own business, but they really need to realize what it takes,” Calvin said. “If you go out on your own too soon it could be a disaster, and we don’t want that to happen.”

To give people a more realistic idea about what it takes to run their own business, the workforce development classes at McGruder include entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and budgeting components. Working industry professionals are also invited to speak to the students about their experiences, successes and failures.

“It’s really about investing time and changing mindsets,” said Haddock, who grew up in North Nashville and is excited to oversee all the programming at McGruder aimed at empowering residents in a neighborhood that suffers from some of the highest crime and incarceration rates in the city and has been deeply affected by recent and rapid gentrification.

“These programs really help people stay out of trouble,” said culinary student Baker, who lives two blocks away from McGruder. “We need this program. We need it to stay and grow,” she said. “It means a lot that someone is looking out for us, caring for us. We have help and support from the community and we’re not just out here on our own.”

Culinary Training Academy students show off their Italian-inspired meal, which included spaghetti with meat sauce, green salad with fresh-made vinaigrette dressing, homemade rolls, and oatmeal chocolate chip cookies. In addition to cooking skills, students also learn about kitchen sanitation and food safety, team work, budgeting, and entrepreneurship.
Catholic health care workers address burnout during conference

**Andy Telli**

Burnout among physicians has become such a problem that the Catholic Medical Association dedicated its 88th annual Educational Conference to a discussion of the subject.

“Fifty percent of doctors are suffering from burnout,” said Dr. Michael Parker, an obstetrician-gynecologist from Columbus, Ohio, and president of the Columbus Medical Association. “Our ability to influence and treat our patients is dependent on our own spiritual and physical health.”

The theme of the conference, which was held Sept. 26-28, at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, was “Physician Heal Thyself: Living the Fulfilled Life.”

“I’m hoping what (the conference attendees) are going to take away is we first have to focus on ourselves and our spiritual and physical health,” said Chris Curlin, co-director of the Theology, Medicine and Culture Initiative at Duke Divinity School, in his talk “Burn Brightly: How to Resist the Provider-of-Services Model and Recover the Intrinsic Rewards of Practicing Good Medicine.”

Christ could have demonstrated his power in many ways, but he did it by curing the sick, Curlin noted. And throughout the history of the Church, caring for the sick has been a central practice, he added.

Some consider burnout to be a problem of inadequate self-care, and an imbalance in a physician’s work and life outside of work, Curlin said.

“But it isn’t getting close to the heart of the problem,” he said. Health care has become less morally significant because the work no longer resonates with what physicians feel they were called by God to do, Curlin said.

“We’ve learned not to allow personal values to interfere with professional obligations,” Curlin said. “We see medicine as a job,” but seeing medicine as simply a job seems “sacriligious,” he said.

The answer to burnout is to “burn brightly,” Curlin said.

He called on health care workers to resist, reject the “provider of services” model of medicine. Instead, medicine should be seen as a moral dedication to a person’s health.

Physicians should reject the separation of their personal values from their professional obligations, Curlin said.

The conference drew more than 900 people from across the country, the highest attendance ever.

“One reason for the turnout is the topic,” Parker said. “Another reason is the location of Nashville, which is easily accessible … and the third is the growth of our organization.”

More and more people are getting the message it’s about education and spiritual renewal,” Parker said.

**Catholic Medical Association taps Nashville as top guild**

**Andy Telli**

The Catholic Medical Association showered the Nashville Guild, its chaplain, and its president with honors during the 88th annual Educational Conference held Sept. 26-28 at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville.

The Nashville Guild and its sister organization, the Society of Saints Cosmas and Damian for medical students at Vandy, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine and Meharry Medical College, received the Outstanding Guild Award.

Father John Raphael, the chaplain of the Nashville Guild and a chaplain at Saint Thomas West Hospital in Nashville, received the Outstanding Guild Award. The first time this award has been presented by the Catholic Medical Association.

And Dr. Wes Ely, a critical care doctor at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and the Veterans Administration Center, as well as a professor at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine and the president of the Nashville Guild, received the Evangelium Vitae Award for outstanding service to the pro-life movement, from conception to natural death.

Ely called the award “a showering of blessings.”

The late Bishop David Choby asked Ely, Dr. Daniel Kaiser, and Sister Mary Diana Drexer, O.P., who is a physician, to start a guild of the Catholic Medical Association for health care professionals in the Nashville area.

“It’s become spiritual food,” Ely said of the work of the Guild.

The goal of the organization is to help Catholic health care workers strengthen their faith and use it to inform their work in their professions.

“You don’t hide and became anonymous,” Kaiser said. The Church has truth. I’m going to bring that truth to patients of all faiths and no faiths with love.”

The Nashville Guild is unique in its association with the Society of Saints Cosmas and Damien and the relationship it has fostered between practicing health care workers and medical students, Ely said.

“What really set us apart as a guild is our interactions with the medical students, pharmacy students and nursing students,” Ely said. “They are integrally involved in all that we do.”

Dr. Mariu Carlo Duggan started the student organization in 2006 when she was a medical student at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine.

“We didn’t have a medical student group for the Catholic students,” said Duggan, who specializes in geriatric medicine at Vanderbilt Medical Center.

“I ended up meeting Wes Ely who had been praying for how he could bring Jesus to the medical campus. It totally clicked.”

The two groups host events together, such as the annual Hippocratic Oath Banquet and the annual White Mass for health care workers.

Though the two organizations, medical students can find mentors among the Catholic physicians and health care professionals in the area, said Duggan, who is now the vice president of the Nashville Guild.

“It’s been really beautiful to see it blossom,” she said.

“Medical training is very hard, regardless of what kind of medical profession you are, but especially for physicians,” Duggan said. “It’s unfortunate that we see so many young physicians die by suicide. The rate of burnout is really unfortunate.

“Our group tries to build up each other’s faith and relationships among physicians so if you’re struggling you have a group to help you,” Duggan said.

“There’s also the ethical aspect,” she added. “You know you have certain beliefs as a Catholic that are contrary to current medical practice. One of which is contraception. It was incredibly helpful to have other Catholic physicians for advice on how to approach this issue.”

The Nashville Guild is open to all healthcare workers, including physicians, nurses, pharmacists and others, as well as students in all those disciplines, Ely said. For more information, visit nashvillecma.org.

“We invite anybody working in the health care field to be part of our work,” Duggan said.

Ely also was honored for his support of pro-life issues, particularly his work on end-of-life issues. Ely is a frequent speaker and writer about end of life and led a session during an End of LifeForum held the day before the official start of the CMA conference titled “Suffering and the Caring for Patients in the ICU in the Age of Physician Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia.”

“By ending a person’s life we destroy a person’s intrinsic worth,” Ely said during the session. “We turn a somebody into a nobody.”

“People are dulled into thinking this is ordinary care,” he said of physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia.

“What are we doing to heal patients when we can’t cure them?” he asked.

Patients need a reason to live, Ely said.

Continued on page 15

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Andy Telli

The directors of youth and young adult ministry in the seven dioceses of Kentucky and Tennessee are planning a two-day retreat for the fall of 2020. The group discussed plans for the retreat, which will be held at the Gaspar River Youth Camp and Retreat Center in Bowling Green, Kentucky, owned by the Diocese of Owensboro, during a meeting at the Catholic Pastoral Center in Nashville on Monday, Sept. 23. "It will be for anyone in youth formation to come and have some retreat time but also some prayer time and formation," Billy Staley, director of youth and young adult ministry for the Diocese of Nashville, said of the retreat. It will be open to all who work in youth ministry for a diocese, parish or other organization in the Louisville Province, which includes the Archdiocese of Louisville and the Dioceses of Covington, Lexington, Owensboro, Nashville, Memphis and Knoxville.

Sixteen youth ministry directors attended the Nashville meeting. "We gather once a year in the fall to plan events and share best practices," Staley explained. As part of their meeting, the group met with the two-time Grammy award winning duo King and Country, who are based in Nashville. The Christian music group will be performing at the National Catholic Youth Conference to be held Nov. 21-23 at the Indiana Convention Center and Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

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"It's a way for us to engage and inspire kids who come from rural pockets from around the Midwest, the Southeast," he said. "We get more participation from the rural parishes, and the kids are always blown away by how big the Catholic Church is."

There are still a few spots open for the Nashville delegation, Staley said. To register, visit: www.soundscatholic.com/searcher.

St. Mary Villa among ministries benefiting from Bishop’s Annual Appeal

Continued from page 2

About 50 ministries in the Diocese of Nashville are supported through the annual appeal, and those ministries, like St. Mary Villa, serve a wide range of people in need.

"When you donate to the Appeal you're helping the greater Catholic community, and the greater Nashville community in a lot of ways," said Ashley Linville, director of development for the Diocese of Nashville.

As the Bishop’s Annual Appeal “Summer Sizzle” challenge wraps up, total donations have now exceeded $2 million, with a number of parishes recently hitting their goals, including: St. John the Evangelist in Lewisburg, Divine Savior Mission in Celina, Holy Family in Brentwood, Christ the King, Holy Name, Sagrado Corazon, Our Lady of Guadalupe, and the Church of the Korean Martyrs.

With a goal of $2.7 million, the annual appeal is still on-going. "The parishes are working really hard and we have good movement toward the goal," he said. "If we continue the progress and momentum of the last few weeks, I believe strongly we can reach the goal. We are so grateful for each person who has given to the appeal," Linville said. By donating to the appeal, individuals can support a range of ministries that benefit society and bring about positive change, he said.

For more information or to donate to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal for Ministries, visit www.dioceseofnashville.com.

St. Mary Villa among ministries benefiting from Bishop’s Annual Appeal

The duo, brothers Joel and Luke Smallbone, will meet with any youth from Region 5, which includes all the dioceses in the states of Alabama, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee, before the start of the National Catholic Youth Conference for a private question-and-answer session.

The diocese usually brings a large delegation to the conference, Staley said.

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The State of Tennessee continues to rev up its execution machine. The Attorney General’s office has filed a request with the state Supreme Court to set execution dates for nine more Death Row inmates.

The state’s determined push for more executions has put Tennessee at odds with the rest of the country where the use of the death penalty is declining. Since August of 2018, Tennessee has executed five people. Another execution is scheduled for December and two for 2020.

One of the executions scheduled for 2020 is of Abdu-Alli Abdur’Rahman of Nashville, who was convicted in the 1986 stabbing death of Patrick Daniels. But a criminal court judge, citing U.S. Supreme Court rulings, approved a deal struck between the Davidson County District Attorney General’s office and Abdur’Rahman’s defense attorney that reduced Abdur’Rahman’s death sentence to life in prison without parole because of racial bias and misconduct by the prosecutor in his trial.

The state Attorney General’s office believes that the Tennessee Supreme Court to dismiss the deal so the case can move ahead with the execution could come next April. The Attorney General is arguing that Abdur’Rahman had his chance to prove misconduct in his appeals process and failed, and that the district attorney general and the criminal court judge do not have the evidence to vacate the death penalty.

It all serves as another stark reminder how our Church stands with the odds with the broader culture around us.

As Catholics, God is the husband in any marriage.

Protestants believe that the wedding is a sacred event because the spouses exchange their vows in front of God. God is their witness.

They do believe in the permanence of the marriage bond but do not see marriage as a sacrament. They recognize only two sacraments: Baptism and Communion, the Eucharist for Catholics.

Catholics, on the other hand, believe that marriage is a sacred event because it is a sacrament.

The United States Catholic Bishops explain in their pastoral letter on marriage what happens when spouses exchange their promises: “The Holy Spirit binds the spouses together through their exchange of promises in a bond of love and fidelity to death.”

For Catholics, the wedding vows are not just a promise in front of God, but a promise before witnesses. The Catholic wedding is a moment when the spouses open their life to God and let God bind them to each other and to himself. At that moment “their marriage covenant becomes a participation in the undying covenant between Christ the Bridegroom and his Bride, the Church,” write the Bishops. This is why Catholics believe that a valid marriage can never be dissolved.

God has a stake in marriage and can help yours succeed

John Bosio

Today many weddings take place between a Catholic and a person from a different faith or religion.

According to a publication of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 30 percent to 40 percent of Catholic weddings are celebrated in interfaith marriages. This percentage varies depending on where you live in the country.

What prompts me to write this article is the realization that when we gaze at a couple standing at the altar ready to proclaim their promise, we might be looking at two persons who have been brought up with different ideas of what Christian marriage is.

For example, one may be Catholic and the other Protestant. Do Catholics and Protestants have a common understanding of what happens at the altar when a couple makes their promises?

To find out what Catholics believe about Christian marriage I visited with a friend who is a Methodist minister, an author and a professor who served as the chair in Philosophy and Religion at Cumberland University: Dr. Richard Shriver.

“The professor explained that both Catholics and Protestants believe that the exchange of wedding promises is a sacred moment in the life of the couple and for the faith.”

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You may fax your letters or comments to the Register at (615) 783-0285. By e-mail: turegister@dioceseofnashville.com.

October 4, 2019

Respect for life must include opposition to death penalty

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With unending love, God restores us to life

Msgr. Owen F. Campion


Once the two books of Kings were a single volume, but time past has broken it into two parts. These writings are among the Old Testament’s “historical books.” While they are inter- ested in the careers of the early kings of Israel, as the name implies, none of the Old Testa- ment is primarily about secular history in and of itself.

Instead, the Old Testament books all are concerned with religion, and more precisely with the relationship between God and all the Hebrew people. In the view of the ancients, the most important question in life was how to be faithful to God. Nothing else mattered.

Therefore, while the kings are prominent in these books, religious figures very much are in evidence.

This weekend’s reading is an example. The central personality is not a king, but rather it is Naaman.

Two strikes are against Naa- man. He is a Gentile, and he is a dishonest, economy-minded man who thought his wealth entitled him to a king. Nevertheless, he knew he was sick. Israel’s king, Ahab, referred to him as “Naaman of Damascus,” an honorific.

Naaman was cured by bath- ing in the Jordan. When the Jordan formed an important border between the Promised Land, overflowing with life, and the foreign world, filled with treachery and death and people who were unbelievers. Crossing the Jordan symbolized, and was entry into the land of God’s Chosen.

After being cured, Naaman went to thank God, represented by Elisha, the prophet. It is a story, then, of divine mercy and of recognizing God.

The Second Epistle to Timo- thy is the next reading. The epistle reminds us all of the chal- lenge Timothy, an early con- vert to Christianity, disciple of Paul, to face. Paul assures Timothy that any- one who truly dies with Christ by dying to sin receives ever- lasting life with God.

St. Luke’s Gospel provides the last reading. “Leprosy” occurs throughout the Scriptures, but modern scholars do not know precisely what the disease was. Even so, the ancient problem obviously was chronic, progres- sive, and a fearful fate.

Unaware of the scientific workings of disease, ancient Jewish saw a curse from God in leprosy, assuming that some- how, somewhere, the leper had disobeyed God.

Fearing contagion, communi- ties forced lepers to live. Lepers were not allowed any communication whatsoever with those “clean” of leprosy. Lepers lived in total isolation, rejection and want to the point of starvation.

This reading also has an eth- nic component. Jews scorned Samaritans. Samaritans long ago had tolerated pagan invaders.

Nevertheless, the 10th leper believed God’s mercy had come to him. He gave thanks to Jesus, whom the leper saw as the bearer of divine mercy.

So by sinning we all have de- serted God. We are all lepers, and Samaritans, in the biblical context. With menstruation, God cures us of the weakening effects of our sin, restores us to life, and welcomes us into the fold of those loyal to God.

We can repair our relationship with God. God always forgives.

Msgr. Owen Campion is a former editor of the Tennessee Register.

Ceremonies cured in this story from St. Luke’s Gospel, as Jews, saw themselves as being entitled to God’s mercy and forgiveness.

The 10th leper, a Samaritan, was different. The Jews, at least, would have thought that his ancestors forfeited this claim to God’s mercy. He had to live amid this perception. He was hopeless.

The Second Epistle to Timothy is primarily about recognizing God, acknowledging that, somehow, somehow, the leper had disobeyed God.

Our late fall wedding was the culmination of months of planning and eager anticipation. My mother encouraged us to have a big wedding, perhaps to compen- sate for the one she and my dad had been unable to have, and since all we cared about was getting married and living happily ever after, we willingly went along with any suggestions she had.

I bought my prospective bridegroom and we selected china, silver and crystal patterns for formal and everyday use. (It was extremely difficult to con- vincing him that we needed any- thing other than dishes and tumblers and stored the silver and china in Mamma’s attic. I learned to stretch a paycheck, iron a dress shirt, and darn a sock, (verbally as well.)

Both of us worked every day, and our night out was usually spent at the grocery or the laundromat. We looked forward to Sunday dinner at his folks’ house, iron a dress shirt, and darn a sock, (verbally as well.)

We have understood what was ahead of us, would we have exchanged wed- ding bands and made a lifetime commitment?

He suffered through burnt toast, undercooked chicken, lumpy mashed potatoes and lots of variations of hamburger and tuna. The pretty “every- day” dishes earned us our company. We acquired a set of Melmac and some aluminum tumblers and stored the silver and china in Mamma’s attic. I learned to stretch a paycheck, iron a dress shirt, and darn a sock, (verbally as well.)

Both of us worked every day, and our night out was usually spent at the grocery or the laundromat. We looked forward to Sunday dinner at his folks’ house and managed to visit my parents at suppertime once every week. I don’t know which of us was the happiest about not eating at our apartment – me, not having to cook it, or him, not having to eat my mishaps. Later, as my waist began to grow, I had to be more careful about what I ate.

In many areas of God’s world, man suffers through burnt toast, undercooked chicken, lumpy mashed potatoes and lots of variations of hamburger and tuna. The pretty “every- day” dishes earned us our company. We acquired a set of Melmac and some aluminum tumblers and stored the silver and china in Mamma’s attic. I learned to stretch a paycheck, iron a dress shirt, and darn a sock, (verbally as well.)

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In a wet tent in the mountains, survived a cross country family vacation in a van, and marveled at the beauty that surrounds us in many areas of God’s world. I have watched football when I should have been vacuuming, and he has danced with me when he would have preferred being a couch potato. I have seen him unshaven, unhappy, and unsure. He has been me, weep, listened to me complain, and watched me age. There have been times, I’m sure, that he would have liked to send me to Siberia – one way. And I’ve had times when I would have willingly gone.

Somewhere between Romeo and Juliet, Scarlett and Rhett, Lucy and Ricky, and Miss Piggy and Kermit are we, as we cele- brate our 30th anniversary, and wonder how we got here so quickly, this column still holds true.

“The joys and sorrows are now hidden from your eyes.” The priest spoke the words, but they were just part of the marriage ceremony that united two very young people, and the meaning was too remote for us to fully comprehend at the time.
‘Dead Man Walking’ invites a deeper look at death penalty

Margaret Sizemore

Charles Walton Wright, 64, was scheduled to be executed this coming week, on Oct. 10, at Riverbend Maximum Security Institution. He died at the prison infirmary in Nashville last May 17, succumbing to prostate cancer after 34 years on death row.

He loved motorcycles, and a contingent of Hells Angels escorted his body from North Nashville to Greenwood Cemetery for burial.

Demetria Kalodimos, a longtime Nashville broadcast news veteran, had been visiting Wright for several years, as did Kathy Ingleson, a parishioner at Holy Family Church in Brentwood, who visited him for almost 18 years.

Both women considered Wright a dear friend and shared stories of their experiences following a showing of the movie ‘Dead Man Walking’ by the Faith and Justice Ministry at St. Henry Church in Brentwood, as did Kathy Ingleson, a parishioner at Holy Family Church in Brentwood, who visited him for almost 18 years.

Both women considered Wright a dear friend and shared stories of their experiences following a showing of the movie ‘Dead Man Walking’ by the Faith and Justice Ministry at St. Henry Church in Brentwood.

“The battle over the death penalty in Tennessee has intensified, particularly in recent weeks as the state’s Attorney General has asked that execution dates be set for nine more inmates and is aggressively challenging a life-in-prison agreement for another.”

The Catholic Church holds that the death penalty is not admissible in any circumstance “because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person.”

Kalodimos and Ingleson spoke about how their friendship with Wright developed and also gave them insight into how inmates on death row – also known as unit 2 – formed a supportive community. As Wright’s health declined, fellow inmates would tenderly help him out.

“Charles, he never asked me for anything, including legal help or connecting him with someone,” she said. “He wanted to be friends, and that’s what we were.”

“We had a lot of good phone calls. I met his family members,” Kalodimos said. Some of his siblings – “He was one of 10 children by six different fathers” – told of growing up in profoundly poverty and violence. “It was an amazing, just astounding sort of childhood and the fact that that family despite all that was like this,” she said, intertwining her fingers. “I mean, they really, really, really cared for one another.”

Wright never talked about the death penalty, Kalodimos said. “We talked about everything else, from cooking to chopper motorcycles, to classic R&B, to a good voice he had. What else, Kathy?”

“Television programs,” Ingleson replied. “And he was learning Spanish.”

“He liked westerns and they were mainly on the Spanish channel.”

“All I can relate to you guys is that every time I walked out of there to my nice car and a beautiful day and my own freedom, it was a spiritual experience. Sometimes you’re thinking, I have no right to complain about anything and other times you were fired up about the system has to change,” Kalodimos said.

Handwriting can be key to future success for students

Continued from back page

understand the structure of sentences and the paragraphs because they wrote them. If you get to students who are having difficulty early, you get great progress,” Caudle said.

“Students are judged for how well they are mastering the keys to successful handwriting, and those keys are size, shape, slant and spacing,” Woodman said.

“We teach manuscript, or printing, up to second grade here, then begin teaching cursive in the middle of that second-grade year,” Woodman said.

In the classroom, Woodman noted, “our teachers spend between 30 to 45 minutes a week on handwriting with some of that actual instruction time, and the rest practice time.”

Students spend more time on perfecting their handwriting ability in the lower grades, then do more of a review during their years in the upper grades.

Christ the King purchases its handwriting materials from the publishing company Zaner-Bloser, Inc., and the school follows its instruction methods.

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Spiritual conversion led former Planned Parenthood employee to fight abortion

Andy Telli

Sue Thayer worked for Planned Parenthood for 18 years, before she finally had enough.

“God got ahold of my heart,” Thayer told a group of people praying outside the Carefem abortion facility in Mt. Juliet on Wednesday, Oct. 2, as part of the 40 Days for Life prayer vigil to end abortion. “I learned to lean on God and trust in him.”

Thayer was fired from Planned Parenthood after sharing information with the Iowa Right to Life organization, and later joined the national staff of 40 Days for Life as director of outreach. She was in the Nashville area on Tuesday, Oct. 1, and Wednesday, Oct. 2, to visit with people praying outside the Planned Parenthood clinic in Nashville and in Mt. Juliet.

Thayer managed the Planned Parenthood clinic in Storm Lake, Iowa, when “webcam abortions” were introduced to other clinics in the state. With “webcam abortions,” doctors are not on site, but instead consult with patients over the internet before a chemical abortion procedure is done. For a chemical abortion, the woman is given a drug in the office and a second drug to take at home to complete the procedure.

“I was becoming more vocal about what a stupid idea I thought it was,” Thayer said of the “webcam abortions”. At the same time, she was listening to a Christian radio station more and more, even at work, which helped lead her to a re-evaluation of what she was doing. “I finally shared with Iowa Right to Life about what was going on,” which led to her firing, Thayer said. “It was really a blessing.”

In 2011, three years after leaving Planned Parenthood, Thayer was talking to a Christian group about Planned Parenthood and its operations when she worked for them. When they asked what they could do, she suggested a 40 Days for Life prayer vigil outside the clinic.

“I didn’t know a lot about it, but I knew Planned Parenthood hated it,” Thayer said.

Thayer ended up leading the prayer vigil outside the clinic where she used to work. “I was scared, terrified actually, about seeing my former co-workers,” Thayer said.

But the campaign was a success, and a couple of months later, Planned Parenthood closed the clinic in Storm Lake, Thayer said.

“It was a miracle,” she said. “God answered our prayers.”

The public witness of people praying outside an abortion clinic can have an impact on the people driving by, the women coming for an abortion, and the clinic workers, Thayer said.

The people who see the crowds praying on the sidewalk start to think, “If they care enough to be out there doing that maybe I need to rethink where I am,” Thayer said.

“As Christians, we are called to stand for life in the heat and the cold and the rain and the snow,” she said. “We do this because we’re compelled to do this. We’ve called by God.”

Thayer said she has talked to many women who told her they didn’t want to have an abortion but didn’t see any other choice for themselves. It’s important for the participants in the 40 Days for Life campaigns to know about pregnancy resource centers in their communities to refer women to so they can find alternatives and the support they need to have their baby, she said.

This fall’s 40 Days for Life campaign is the largest ever, Thayer said, with prayer vigils going on at 504 locations. Recent attempts to change laws to allow abortion up to and beyond birth, “have brought out a lot of pro-life people who have been silent,” Thayer said. “It’s spurred people to speak up.”

The 40 Days for Life campaign began on Sept. 25 and will last through Nov. 3. People interested in joining the campaign in Mt. Juliet or Nashville can sign up for a time slot online at www.40daysforlife.com/mount-juliet or www.40daysforlife.com/nashville.

“After the first time, you realize it’s hard but it’s an awesome thing, and you come back,” Thayer said.

Catholic Medical Association taps Nashville as top guild

Continued from page 10

added. “How many of these patients requesting to die would change if they could find their why?”

For the first 10 years of the Nashville Guild’s existence, it did not have a chaplain, Ely noted. But Bishop Choby asked Father Raphael to fill that role in 2017, shortly before he died.

Besides helping to plan the guild’s events, Father Raphael “serves as a shepherd and a guide to the physicians, nurses, patients and families with whom our guild interacts throughout the year,” according to the nomination of him for the award.

Besides serving as the chaplain of the guild, Father Raphael serves on the Ethics Committee and as an ethics consultant at Saint Thomas West Hospital, and has written several articles on medical ethics.

Chris-centered health care “is central to our mission” as a church, Father Raphael said.

“We come together as a community to serve … our patients in light of the love we have received from God,” he said. “The beauty of faith-based health care is that science and faith are not separated. … Neither staff or patients have to put their faith aside.”

Veneration of relics

Debra Ramos venerates relics of St. Padre Pio on display at the Cathedral of the Incarnation on the saint’s feast day, Sept. 23. The relics included a glove, a feather from a boyhood pillow and a piece of bandage that covered the saint’s heart.

Photo by Rick Musacchio
Learning cursive handwriting is about more than neat penmanship. Studies have shown that handwriting skills are associated with academic success in reading and math as well as fine motor skill development and memory, all skills and knowledge that last a lifetime.

At Christ the King School in Nashville, the staff takes handwriting instruction seriously.

“Our students have won many awards in handwriting competition,” Christ the King Principal Sherry Woodman said. “Over the last five years a total of 26 state grade-level winners, and in the 2016-17 school year second grade student Emerson Darr was a semifinalist at the national level.”

But Christ the King teachers are after more than ribbons and trophies. Handwriting “is becoming a lost art through lack of instruction,” said Woodman, who has been principal since 2012 and started teaching at Christ the King in 1993. “We should teach how important it is for our children to learn it, how to shape letters, and there is a definite connection between handwriting and literacy acquisition.”

Woodman sees the handwriting program at Christ the King paying off in other ways as well.

“The students are able to take pride in their work, and when their handwriting is fluent, they can focus on their content,” Woodman said.

One of Christ the King’s eighth-graders, Woodman noted, “actually told me that handwriting was really important to appearing professional when you are applying for a job, which I thought was a shrewd observation.”

“I have seen that teaching students to work on their handwriting helps them to take more ownership and pride in their work,” said Sarah Witt, who teaches the third grade at Christ the King. “I feel that it is important to teach cursive to children today because it is a beautiful way to represent their thoughts on paper, and also a way to connect past
Weddings & Marriages

A wedding begins a lifetime of memories that fill a marriage
Engaged Couples Retreats help prepare for life after the wedding

Christie McCullough

Scientific studies are beginning to show what the Catholic Church has known all along: premarital counseling can help prevent divorce.

“In order to have a successful marriage, you have to prepare for it,” said Deacon Tom Samoray, director of Family Life and Marriage for the Diocese of Nashville. His office organizes the Engaged Couples Retreats held for couples preparing for marriage.

The issues and tools presented in the Engaged Couples Retreat are issues and tools that are relevant at every stage of marriage, he said.

“Communication is key. We go through different talks that mainly help couples learn how to communicate,” Deacon Samoray said. “Even couples who have been married for a long period of time have to work on their communication. So, that comes early on in the retreat.

“All of the other talks, finance, spirituality, intimacy all include the importance of communication,” he added. “So often we find that couples get into small groups and they haven’t communicated about things such as student loans. So, the couples come in and goes, ‘Oh, and I forgot to tell you that I have $100,000 in student loans.’ This may come up on the retreat. It’s just something that they never thought to discuss before.

“Our children. They haven’t really talked about how many or when,” Deacon Samoray said. “But, in the retreat, they’re in small groups with peers and they feel comfortable talking about these things as a couple. … It helps lessen some of the anxiety about marriage.”

“A robust experience of marriage preparation can have a significant positive effect upon those who marry, by helping them weigh their decision to marry more seriously and consider more thoughtfully the various dynamics of married life,” said Erin Stracener, director of the Tribunal for the Diocese of Nashville, which handles requests for annulments. “Too often couples become so preoccupied with the practical details of wedding preparation that they fail to prepare themselves adequately for married life itself.

“If couples more fervently prepared for marriage and entered married life with a deeper and more realistic knowledge of the commitments and sacrifices involved, we would likely see fewer divorces and, therefore, fewer petitions for a declaration of nullity,” she added.

An April 2019 article in Catholic World Report backs Samoray’s and Stracener’s emphatic support of premarital preparation including the importance of communication. The article cites a recent study that showed that in states where premarital counseling was mandatory, the divorce rates are about 1.5 percent lower than in states where premarital counseling isn’t required.

When faith is an influencing factor, the numbers drop even more. A 2016 Pew report showed that even “nominal” Catholics had a 5 percent less chance of getting divorced than their non-religious counterparts.

The study further demonstrated that the more active a couple was in their parish community, the more their chances of divorce decreased. In situations where Catholic couples were actively involved with parish life beyond weekly Mass attendance, statistics showed that the couple was 31 percent less likely to divorce than their non-religious counterparts.

Having an appreciation of the sanctity of marriage isn’t enough, Deacon Samoray said. Catholic couples must understand the significance of marriage as a sacrament and a vocation.

“As we see it from a Catholic perspective, we understand marriage as a sacrament – the sacrament of matrimony, which imparts graces in the way that all sacraments do. … It is also a vocation,” Deacon Samoray said. “It’s a call to holiness. Just as a call to the priesthood or religious life, we want to make sure that couples understand that they are entering their vocation.

“One of the ways we get called to holiness is through our vocation,” he said. “Your vocation is to get each other to heaven. To help that person be the best person they can be and to help them get to heaven. There again, that’s an awesome responsibility. And it takes some preparation to do that.”

In addition to the Engaged Couples Retreat that the diocese offers nine months out of the year, Father Jayd Neely, pastor of St. Mary’s of the Seven Sorrows Church in downtown Nashville, offers a weekend retreat called Three to Get Married. “They don’t offer the retreat that often. But, if couples have the ability to set aside an entire weekend, it’s a wonderful opportunity for them to dedicate the time to preparing for their marriage and not just their wedding,” Deacon Samoray said.

While the Diocesan Engaged Couples retreat and Three to Get Married are both preparatory tools, they work in conjunction with the preparation provided by the deacon or priest who will preside at a couple’s wedding, Deacon Samoray said. “Ideally,” he said, “the Engaged Couples Retreat is just the beginning of the couple preparing for marriage. In addition to pre-Cana, the couples should find a home parish where they can continue their ongoing faith formation as a couple.”

For more information on the Engaged Couples Retreat and upcoming retreats, visit https://www.dioceseofnashville.com/getting-married.
Wedding & Marriage Announcements

ENGAGEMENTS

Askland-Krauss
Vanessa Maria Askland and John Sebastian Krauss will be married on July 11, 2020, at the Copper Ridge Venue in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. The bride is the daughter of Esmeralda Guadalupe Askland. She works as a high school Spanish teacher. The groom is the son of Teresa Krauss. He works in law enforcement. The couple will reside in Murfreesboro.

Weddings

Clippard-Scaiglione
Elizabeth Ann Clippard and Patrick James Scaiglione were married on March 2, 2019, at the Church of the Assumption in Nashville. The bride is the daughter of Richard and Norma Clippard. She works as the staff counselor at Avenir. The groom is the son of Rich and Ginny Scaiglione. He works as a Solution Executive at Healthstream. The couple resides in Nashville.

Farone-Hurtado
Mary Grace Farone and Jorge Ignacio Hurtado were married on Aug. 11, 2018, at St. Rose of Lima Church in Murfreesboro. The bride is the daughter of Anthony and Mary Farone. She works as a registered dietitian at Vanderbilt Medical Center. The groom is the son of Gabriela Perez and Miguel Hurtado. He works as a registered nurse at Saint Thomas Midtown Hospital. The couple resides in Nashville.

Crowder-Hobson
Trevor Lanese Crowder and Carl L. Hobson were married on Sept. 19, 2019, at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Nashville. The bride is the daughter of Anthony and Mary Crowder. She works as a public health director. The groom is the son of the late Ronald and Charlene Hobson. He is retired. The couple resides in Nashville.

ANNIVERSARIES

Burns 10th anniversary
Jason and Aubrey Burns celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary on June 29, 2019. They were married in Nashville. They have one child, Gary. Mr. Burns is a legal assistant and Mrs. Burns is a paralegal. The couple resides in Nashville.

Calzavara 25th anniversary
Deacon John and Jacqueline Calzavara will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary on Oct. 22, 2019. The couple were married in Orange, California. The couple has one child, Adriana. He serves as a deacon at Holy Family Church in Brentwood and is a professional musician. She is the manager of client experience at Ingram Content Group.

Spehr 25th anniversary
William and Tricia Spehr will celebrate the 25th anniversary of their wedding on Oct. 8, 2019. They were married at St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Darien, Connecticut. They have three children, W. Tyler Spehr, Grace V. Spehr and Henry Allen Spehr II. Mr. Spehr is executive director at Express Scripts, and Mrs. Spehr is retired. The couple resides in Brentwood.

Thomas 30th anniversary
Joni and Karl Thomas will celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary on Dec. 16, 2019. They were married at Holy Name Church in Louisville, Kentucky. The couple has two children, Kala and Jordan, and two grandchildren. Mr. Thomas is a retired U.S. Army officer.

Hollmann 50th anniversary
Joe and Clara Hollmann celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 29, 2019. They were married in Sacred Heart Church in Loretto, Tennessee. The couple has five children, Tara, Timothy, Jessica, Mark and Laura, and 14 grandchildren. Mr. and Mrs. Hollmann are retired and reside in Loretto.

Joseph and Marlene Gawkowski Ashburn will celebrate the 50th anniversary of their wedding on Oct. 12, 2019. They were married at St. Basil the Great Church in Edinboro, Pennsylvania. The couple has three children, Christopher and Matthew Victory, and four grandchildren. They are both retired.

McKeegan 55th anniversary
Paul and Mary Ann McKeegan celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on June 20, 2019. They were married at Our Lady of the Lake Church in Edinboro, Pennsylvania. The couple has three children, Shawn, Brian and Keith, and four grandchildren. Mr. McKeegan is a retired university professor, and Mrs. McKeegan is a retired elementary school teacher.

Moynahan 60th anniversary
John D. and Virginia Moynahan will celebrate the 60th anniversary of their wedding on Oct. 10, 2019. They were married at St. Eugene Catholic Church in Chicago. The couple has four children, Laura Moynahan, Mark Moynahan, Tricia Spehr, and Kate Moynahan. They are both retired and reside in Brentwood.

Every married couple is like the couple at the wedding in Cana. Sometimes we run out of wine but if we invite Mary and Jesus into our marriage they can help us like they did for the couple at Cana.

This book helps spouses grow in the six attitudes (six jars of love) couples need to experience the joy their hearts desire.

Read the Introduction
happy-together.net/six-jars-of-love-book/
Emily Renee Burns and Arthur Whitsitt “Whit” Gray will be married on Oct. 5, 2019, at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Nashville. The bride is the daughter of James and Jill Burns. She works as a speech pathologist. The groom is the son of Arthur and Marcia Gray. He works as a certified public accountant. The couple will reside in Nashville.

Susan Klem and Edgar Macuil will be married on Oct. 19, 2019, at Holy Family Church in Brentwood. The bride is the daughter of Christopher and Laura Klem and works as a quality engineer. The groom is the son of Hugo and Maria Macuil and works as a process engineer. The couple will reside in Dallas, Texas.

Isabel Tipton and Isaac Krispin will be married on Nov. 2, 2019, at St. Ann Church in Nashville. The bride is the daughter of Curtis and Rosalina Tipton and works as a project manager and in board relations for the Nashville Ballet. The groom is the son of William and Barbara Krispin and works as a freelance stage manager. The couple will reside in Nashville.

Taylor Campbell and Paterick Zell will be married on Oct. 5, 2019, at Our Lady of the Lake Church in Hendersonville. The bride is the daughter of Dana and Charlie Campbell and works as a preschool teacher. The groom is the son of Amy and Scott Zell and works as a network engineer. The couple will reside in Clarksville.

Bridget Varley and George Bock IV were married on June 23, 2018, at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Nashville. The bride is the daughter of Pam Kohl and Bill Varley. She works as a clinical leadership recruiter at Sound Physicians. The groom is the son of George and Jamy Bock. He works as the director of operations and business development at Bock Construction. The couple resides in Nashville.

Bevin Gwyn Murphy and Nathan Mark Klabunde were married on Dec. 29, 2018, at the Church of the Assumption in Nashville. The bride is the daughter of Joe and Carol Murphy. She works as a Collegiate Development Specialist for Delta Gamma Sorority. The groom is the son of Mark and Dana Klabunde. He is a dentist. The couple resides in Columbus, Ohio.

Julia Morgan and Murray Montesi were married on Sept. 28, 2019, at Christ the King Church in Nashville. The bride is the daughter of Janet Morgan Mann. She works as a nurse practitioner. The groom is the son of Dr. Scott and Trudi Montesi. He works as an accountant. The couple resides in Nashville.

Sandra Lee DeMers and Brian Paul Savko were married on June 22, 2019, at St. Rose of Lima Church in Murfreesboro. The bride is the daughter of John and Barbara Schaifer. She works in insurance operations. The groom is the son of Robert and Eleanor Savko. He works in insurance operations. The couple resides in Murfreesboro.

Bethann Anthony and Justin Guidry were married on July 27, 2019, at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Nashville. The bride is the daughter of Beverly and David Anthony. She works as a social media manager. The groom is the son of Janice and Paul Guidry. He works as a certified public accountant. The couple resides in Nashville.

Catherine Michelle Tibbetts and Daniel Alexander Vinson McCulley were married on Sept. 20, 2019, at St. Lambert Church in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The bride is the daughter of Christopher and Jennifer Tibbetts. She works as a nurse practitioner. The groom is the son of the Rev. Mr. Daniel McCulley and Dr. Janice Vinson. He works as a chemist. The couple resides in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Erica Jackson and Craig Lydon were married on April 6, 2018, in Nashville. The bride is the daughter of John and Lisa Jackson. She works as a nurse-IT. The groom is the son of Patrick and Jeannette Lydon. He works as a project manager. The couple resides in Lebanon, Tennessee.
Audry McInturff and Ryan Hoffman were married on Aug. 10, 2019, at the Church of the Assumption and Belle Meade Plantation in Nashville. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Shawn McInturff. She works as an engineer. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joey Brown. He works as a lawyer. The couple resides in Nashville.

Erica Diann Aldin and Mark Jeffery Mosrie were married on July 20, 2019, at the Church of the Assumption in Nashville. The bride is the daughter of Gabriel and Mary Ann Aldin. She works as a formulation scientist at Mars Petcare. The groom is the son of Zook and Caroline Mosrie. He works as a professional photographer. The couple resides in Spring Hill, Tennessee.

Kevin and Michelle Barber celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on July 16, 2019. The couple were married in Plano, Texas. The Barbers have four children: Madeline Louise, Audrey Claire, Kate Amalia and Mary Isabelle Grace. He works for Barber Cabinet Co., and she is the Dean of Admission and Admissions for Pope John Paul II High School in Hendersonville.

Bernie and Dotti Goggins celebrated the 25th anniversary of their wedding on Aug. 22, 2019. They were married in Bowling Green, Kentucky. The couple has four children, Bernie III, Scotty Lynn, Corey and Kylie, and nine grandchildren. Mr. Goggins is retired, and Mrs. Goggins is an ophthalmic technician. The couple resides in Goodlettsville, Tennessee.

Robert and Karyn Labadie celebrated the 25th anniversary of their wedding on Aug. 6, 2019. They were married at Sacred Heart Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The couple has four children, Matthew, Jameson, Aidan and Zachary. Dr. Labadie is an otolaryngologist, and Mrs. Labadie is a homemaker. The couple resides in Nashville.

Lito and Carmela Tiamson celebrated the 25th anniversary of their wedding on Sept. 9, 2019. They were married in Lelong, Tennessee. The couple has two children, Gabriel and Isabella. Both Mr. and Mrs. Tiamson are registered nurses. The couple resides in Old Hickory, Tennessee.

David and Rose Marie Suchanick will celebrate the 25th anniversary of their wedding on Oct. 15, 2019. They were married at St. James Catholic Church in Tupelo, Mississippi. The couple has one daughter, Katie Suchanick. Mr. Suchanick is the territory manager for Armstrong Medical Supply, and Mrs. Suchanick is a registered dental hygienist for Dr. Justin Paff. The couple resides in Nashville.
Book shows couples how to let marriage age like fine wine

Kristina Shaw

John and Teri Bosio met at a Kansas church in 1971 where he was working as the director of religious education and she was working as the parish secretary. Almost 47 years of marriage later, with two daughters and a grandson, they are an author team with their latest published book, “Six Jars of Love: Loving Attitudes to Help Married Couples Reconnect” was published in July 2019 and revolves thematically around the Biblical wedding feast at Cana. When the wine runs out at the feast, Mary tells the servants there to do whatever her Son tells them to. Jesus commands them to fill six jars with water and take it to the chief steward. They do and the water had turned into wine.

The book goes through each jar and offers practical advice and stories related to enriching a marriage. At the end of each chapter there is a prayer, a set of questions for personal and/or couple reflection, a set of questions for group sharing, and a tip about how to practice what was discussed in the chapter. The jars correspond with the sacraments. The first centers around welcome and acceptance for baptism; the second is faithfulness for confirmation; the third is generosity and sacrifice for the Eucharist; the fourth is forgiveness for reconciliation; the fifth is compassion and empathy for the anointing of the sick; and the final jar is service to God and one another, with the backdrop of Holy Orders and marriage.

“We want to show that Christ’s love for the Church, expressed in the seven sacraments, is the model for spousal love in marriage,” John said.

The Bosios have called the volume “a book that all newlyweds should have.”

“One of the purposes of the book is to remind couples of the reality of married life: we all run out of wine from time to time and hopefully we are friends of Mary and Jesus who will help us, like the couple at Cana,” John said. “This is especially important for newlyweds to know. They expect life to be wonderful, and it will be, but it is inevitable that shortly after the wedding they will drift apart emotionally and will need to regroup to reconnect.”

The inspiration for the novel came in 2012 at the World Meeting of Families in Milan, Italy. The couple attended the celebration on the way to visit John’s brother and sister who also live there. At the event, Pope-emeritus Benedict XVI was asked by a young couple from Madagascar his advice about getting married. The pope responded that feelings surrounding falling in love, do not last forever. He compared the feelings to the first wine at the Cana wedding, but said that the second, more mature wine that comes in marriage is “more wonderful” than the first. The analogy stuck with John and he expressed it through articles written for the Tennessee Register, The Leaven, a newspaper published by the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas; and the Diocese of Charleston publication, the Catholic Miscellany; and at couples’ retreats. It came to fruition after contact with the publisher, Twenty-Third Publications. John has partnered with the publisher to produce other books including “Happy Together: The Catholic Blueprint for a Happy Marriage” and “Blessed is Marriage: A Guide to the Beatitudes for Catholic Couples.”

These books also have accompanying programs that can be used in parishes. The programs contain videos with accompanying handouts, all produced by the Bosios. They plan to do the same with “Six Jars of Love.”

Another book, “Joined by Grace: A Catholic Prayer Book for Engaged and Newly Married Couples” was published by Ave Maria Press in 2017. An accompanying marriage preparation program was also developed for it and it was the couple’s first book written together.

John said that he develops the main concepts, while Teri helps fill in the content with appropriate stories and is a good judge of what appeals to readers. “My contribution to John’s writing is about style,” she said. “I read the drafts of his articles as if I were the average person in the pew.”

John is a certified marriage and family counselor and had a private practice for 10 years in Kansas City. In 1978 he and Teri began working as Family Life Coordinators for the Family Life Office in the Archdiocese of Kansas City. Teri also served as the Director of Adult Formation. She is now the Director of Youth Formation at St. Stephen Catholic Community in Old Hickory, and John serves as president of Nashville Catholic Radio. The two also lead couples’ retreats across the country.

To learn more about and purchase their materials, visit happy-together.net.
Couples should make dinners special, cooking priest says

When Father Leo Patalinghug was leading parish marriage preparation programs, he noticed couples put a lot into wedding planning but didn’t necessarily think about celebrating small milestones after they were married, such as their month anniversaries.

But as he sees it, newlyweds should not wait a year to celebrate their wedding anniversary but instead they should do something special once a month to celebrate their marriage.

He isn’t suggesting four-course meals necessarily but simply preparing and sharing good food and conversation. To that end, he wrote the cookbook “Spicing Up Married Life.”

Father Patalinghug’s apostolate is “Grace Before Meals” – encouraging families to eat dinners together and share their faith at the table. His “Spicing Up” cookbook offers prayer and conversation topics for couples along with pastoral advice about raising children, forgiving each other, caring for extended family members and aging, in between dinner and dessert recipes.

In the introduction, he notes that it “may seem strange for an unmarried priest to write a book about marriage (much less a cookbook about marriage),” but he also points out that he is, to use a cooking phrase, simply trying to stir the pot and encourage couples to actively work on their relationships.

He dedicated the cookbook, published in 2012, to his parents on their 50th anniversary. Today the book is used in a number of marriage preparation programs across the United States.

He told Catholic News Service that when he was growing up, his family life helped inspire the apostolate he now dedicates his life to. It involves travels across the country giving parish workshops and speaking at conferences, appearing on radio programs and communicating via social media about the need for families to celebrate everyday meals together. He also has written three books and is currently working on two more.

The Filipino-American priest is the youngest of four children and he jokingly says he grew up in “Hotel Patalinghug” because of his family’s hospitality, which is so typical of the Filipino culture. He said he helped or watched his mother cook and they never ate dinner until his father, a doctor, came home from work, usually around 7:30 p.m.

His extended family gets together for big meals and his mom still does a lot of the cooking, because she’s such a good cook, said Father Patalinghug while coincidentally getting ready for a family gathering at his home.

In his book, the priest says: “It doesn’t take an extensive study to show me that couples that take time to share a meal together have stronger relationships.”

He also said this information shouldn’t surprise anyone, because if couples think back to when they first started dating they’ll remember that they likely met for coffee, went on picnics or romantic dinners. “Why stop that momentum after marriage?” he asked.

Dinner dates work for married couples, he points out in another chapter, but he also knows that many couples give the excuse that they are too busy for this.

Again, he advises thinking back to the dating stage of a relationship, when couples may have been just as busy as they are now but they still made time to be together.

“Admit it, nothing was more important than keeping that relationship alive and well. So why should anything change now?”

And to that end, he would simply advise picking a recipe from his book, cooking it together, and sitting down to eat it at the kitchen table. Bon appetit! ✪
Francis and Carolyn Kovac celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 28, 2019. They were married in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. The couple has one child, Jerry Kovac. Mr. Kovac is retired from Vanderbilt University, and Mrs. Kovac is a retired teacher. They reside in Hendersonville, Tennessee.

Gordon and Willie Wathen celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Sept. 29, 2019. They were married in Morganfield, Kentucky. The couple has one child, Trevor Dean Wathen, and two grandchildren. They are both retired and reside in Old Hickory, Tennessee.

Edward and Mary Margaret Formosa Lambert will celebrate the 60th anniversary of their wedding on Nov. 7, 2019. They were married at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Nashville. The couple has three children, Edward Lambert Jr. (Michele), Charles Lambert, and Dominic Lambert (Sonya), and four grandchildren. Mr. Lambert is a retired bearing salesman and court officer for Division II of the Davidson County Criminal Court. Mrs. Lambert is a retired office manager for Joseph Formosa and Sons Wholesale Produce and administrative assistant to Bishops Edward Kniec and David Choby. She is a regular columnist for the Tennessee Register. The couple resides in Nashville.

Ray and Colleen Turner will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Oct. 18, 2019. They were married at SS. Peter and Paul church in Detroit, Michigan. They have two children, Kenneth and Kimberly, and six grandchildren. They are retired.

Gary and Diane Agansky will celebrate the 50th anniversary of their wedding on Oct. 11, 2019. They were married in Jacksonville, Florida. They have one child, Patricia Kathleen Vincent. They are retired and reside in Franklin, Tennessee.

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