Theresa Laurence

At 6 p.m. on Sunday evenings, the Frassati House, the hub of University Catholic life in Nashville, is buzzing with activity as students from Vanderbilt, Belmont, and other local colleges gather for a home cooked meal and good conversation. The vibe is laid-back and welcoming, the event designed to bring newcomers into the “UCat” fold.

“The Sunday Supper is the first thing a lot of people come to,” said Margaret Gonzalez, a senior at Vanderbilt University and co-president of UCat’s student board at Vandy. The weekly event is the gateway where many students get their first glimpse of the welcoming and immersive community of University Catholic.

Ever since Gonzalez attended the Awakening retreat her freshman year, she has felt “so known and loved” by this community of people who are “excited to be vibrantly Catholic, which is something I hadn’t experienced before.”

For many young adults, the college years are a time for experimentation and rebellion, a time to question their faith or lose their religious affiliation altogether. But University Catholic offers an alternate vision: a strong, supportive community of joy-filled students serious about their faith.

Chris Castel, who was raised in the heavily Catholic culture of Louisiana, came to Belmont University for music business studies. Connecting with UCat and witnessing “the rich and diverse and authentically Catholic” group, was very life-affirming for him. As Castel got more involved, “I’ve been inspired to grow intellectually in my faith, to learn more about the history of the faith,” he said.

With weekly talks on different aspects of the Catholic faith, opportunities for Mass and confession, service projects, and a supportive peer group, University Catholic offers many ways to be formed in the faith.

Patrick Deneen, co-president of UCat’s student board at Vandy, appreciates that UCat has taken a very Pope Francis-like approach to offering “a culture of encounter” that drew him in during a fragile time.

“I came to UCat just returning to the Catholic Church,” he said. “God has worked through that, because I went from five years ago, not being Catholic, to now discerning a call to the priesthood.”

University Catholic is a true “intermingling of school, friendship, and faith.”

Continued on page 8
Honoring St. Teresa of Kolkata

The St. Teresa of Kolkata Syro-Malabar Mission in Nashville held its annual Mass to mark the feast day of its patronness on Saturday, Sept. 7, at the Church of the Assumption. After the Mass, the community made a Eucharistic procession through the community carrying portraits of St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara, St. Alphonsa, both of India. The Syro-Malabar Catholic Church, established in India, is one of the Eastern Rite churches in union with Rome. Karol Chacko, above, left, reads during Mass; in front of her is a portrait of St. Teresa of Kolkata, displayed at the front of the church. Dona Biju, right, says a prayer before Mass. For more photos visit www.tennesseeregister.com.

Vanderbilt professor builds bridges between Christians, Jews

Amy-Jill Levine, a professor of New Testament and Jewish studies at Vanderbilt University, and Marc Zvi Brettler, a professor of Jewish studies at Duke University, present Pope Francis with “The Jewish Annotated New Testament” during one of his weekly general audiences in March. Levine taught at the Pontifical Biblical Institute last spring, and this month made a presentation to the priests of the Diocese of Nashville at the Catholic Pastoral Center.

Amy-Jill Levine

The Catholic Church has come a long way in its relations with the Jewish people since the end of the Second Vatican Council, when the document “Nostra Aetate” was issued, declaring that the death of Christ cannot be charged “against all the Jews” and Jews should not be represented as rejected by God. But there is still work to be done, according to Jewish and biblical scholars like Levine.

Levine’s presentation at the conference, on “Preaching the Pharisees: How to Avoid Homilies of Hate,” offered suggestions to priests on how to correctly interpret the biblical passages describing the actions of some Pharisees, as well as resources for better preaching on the topic, including the Jewish Annotated New Testament, a volume she co-edited. Earlier this month, she addressed the Diocese of Nashville’s Priest Assembly on the same topic. She has similar engagements scheduled at other dioceses and seminaries across the country.

Levine said that some of the negative stereotypes of the Pharisees — as xenophobic, elitist, legalistic, money-loving hypocrites — persist and continue to be used in homilies, rarely with the intention to harm, but because they have persisted for so long in popular imagination without being corrected.

She understands that not all priests are going to come out of the seminary as biblical scholars but encourages more dioceses to offer continuing education in this area.

“My point is not to inculcate anyone for conveying unfortunate information; it’s to say, you no longer need to do this and here are some resources to help,” she said. Teachers and preachers alike, “say things we don’t intend to be harmful. But our words are harmful anyway, so we need to be very aware, particularly preaching about other groups, groups that are not us, about how our preaching and teaching might sound to those other ears,” Levine said.

She often tells her priest audiences to picture a group of young Jewish children in the front row of the congregation during the homily. “Avoid saying anything that would hurt these children, or cause members of the congregation to hurt these children.”

The widespread prejudice against Pharisees, Levine said, fits into the anti-Jewish presentation of the “Old Testament God of wrath” versus “the New Testament God of love.”

Some “unfortunate statements” in priests’ homilies, she said, stem from “finding something negative in Judaism over against which Jesus can be the savior. It’s a terrible model, because it’s based on using Judaism as a negative foil, and that’s simply not helpful.”

The image of Jesus as “a unique social reformer amidst a toxic Jewish world,” should best be avoided, Levine said.

In her classes and in presentations to priests, Levine encourages them to “locate Jesus more clearly in his Jewish environment.”

“If one could begin with the idea that Jesus is Jewish, embedded within the Jewish community … then we begin with a better understanding of the historical context of the New Testament,” Levine said.

In the course she taught at the Biblical Institute last spring, Levine instructed, debated and shared meals with priests and religious men from all over the world. “They were terrific,” she said of her students. One of the struggles her students wrestled with was how to look at the parables of Jesus “and make it

Continued on page 11
September 22
• Installation Mass for Fr. Francis Appreh, St. Vincent de Paul Church, 10 a.m.
• French Mass, Holy Name Church, 5 p.m.

September 24-26
• Collegial Gathering of Bishops, Sacred Heart Seminary, Hales Corner, WI
• Mass for Homeschool Community, Catholic Pastoral Center, 10 a.m.

September 29
• Mass for Women’s Cursillo, Camp Marymount, Fairview, 8:30 a.m.
• University Catholic Mass, Vanderbilt, Benton Chapel, 9 p.m.

October 1
• Gathering of Deacons and their wives, Bishop’s residence, 6-8 p.m.

October 3
• School Mass, St. Matthew Church, 8 a.m.

October 4
• School Mass, Sacred Heart School, Lawrenceburg, 9 a.m.

Follow Bishop Spalding on Twitter: @bpspalding

MOSS golf tourny to benefit Camp Marymount

Camp Marymount will host the 25th annual Marymount Open Scholarship Scramble (MOSS) Friday, Oct. 2. 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 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.

Correction

The list of inductees in the Father Ryan High School Athletics Hall of Fame in the Sept. 6 issue of the Tennessee Register omitted the name of the late Joe B. Sullivan.

A 1950 graduate of Father Ryan, Sullivan was a star for both the basketball and football teams. He was a high school All-American, Father Ryan’s first, for his exploits on the football field during the late 1940s, attracting the attention of many a college program. He played football one year at Middle Tennessee State University before being called to military duty. Sullivan, who died in 2011, remained active in sports, particularly as the coach of the football team at Holy Rosary Academy, where he led the Vikings in parochial league play, developing exceptional players, many of whom went on to play for Father Ryan.

He was honored as a member of the inaugural class of inductees for the Father Ryan Athletics Hall of Fame for his athletic achievement and a dedication to Catholic education.

Additionally, the sports for inductee Paula Helton Kennedy, class of 1975, were incorrectly listed. She starred in basketball and track and field for Father Ryan. She received the Most Outstanding Track Award in 1975, and was All-District, All-City and All-NIL in basketball her senior year.

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 T. Lorigan
September 24, 1935

Rev. Vincent H. Kaufman
September 25, 1979

Rev. Richard E. Wilson
September 29, 1998

Rev. Innocent I. Bergrath
September 25, 1881

Rev. James J. Mooney
September 27, 1878

Rev. Joseph L. Biemans
October 3, 1895

Rev. James Allen Black
September 25, 1979

Rev. Patrick Ryan
September 28, 1878

Rev. James Bred, S.D.S.
October 6, 2010
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

September

23 Monday
† St. Padre Pio
GriefShare Sessions (Mondays, through Dec. 21, 6:30 p.m., St. Philip, 113 Second Ave., S., Franklin. Info: 615-479-9504.

24 Tuesday
† Martyrs of Chalcedon

25 Wednesday
† Sts. Cosmas & Damian

26 Thursday
† Sts. Cosmas & Damian
Lay Order of the Missionaries of St. Francis of Assisi Sales Meeting, 6-7:30 p.m., St. Joseph, Parish Center, 1225 Gallatin Pike S., Madison. Info: transalanassociates@gmail.com or 615-596-0320.


27 Friday
† St. Vincent de Paul
JPII Community Knight, 5 p.m., JPII High School, 117 Caldwell Dr., Hendersonville. Elementary and middle school students and parents are invited for a free tailgate before the Homecoming football game. K-8 students in attendance receive a free ticket. Info: Pamela.Wegenka@jp2hs.org.

Father Ryan Junior Irish Night, 5 p.m., 700 Norwood Dr., Nashville. Area grade school students welcome. RSVP for child’s swag bag: fatherryan.org/juniorirish.

Father Ryan Homecoming, 5 p.m., 700 Norwood Dr., Nashville. Pride in the pit BBQ contest, salute to the class of 1970, welcome to Homecoming Queens from history, and game. Info: fatherryan.org/homecoming.

28 Saturday
† St. Lorenzo Ruiz
Magnificat, ministry for Catholic women, 8:30 a.m., St. Edward, 150 Thompson Ln., Nashville. Info: 314-655-2069 or leahfish414@gmail.com.

Champion of Mary Public Rosary, Noon, meet at walkway entrance on Saundersville Rd., next to library, Hendersonville. Info: 615-710-4288.

Entering Canaan: Hope and Healing After Abortion, Sept. 28-29, Nashville. Info: 615-414-0230 or hopeandhealingnashville@gmail.com or hopeandhealingnashville.com.

29 Sunday
† St. Michael the Archangel,
Margaret Ministry, 9:45 a.m.-11 a.m., Christ the King Parish, 3007 Oldland Ave., across from parish center. Coffee, donuts, and community to connect and support families who have a child with diverse needs. Info: meganlenihan810@gmail.com or 858-243-5371.

October

2 Wednesday
† St. Lager
JPII Taste & See Prospective Parent Lunch & Tour, 10 a.m., JPII, 117 Caldwell Dr., Hendersonville. Lunch with headmaster, administrative staff, department chairs, and coaches. Tour, visit with students and faculty, RSVP: pamela.wegenka@jp2hs.org or 615-596-0614.

4 Friday
† St. Francis of Assisi
Treasure Hunt, Oct. 4, 7 a.m.-5 p.m.; Oct. 5, 7 a.m.-2 p.m, St. Stephen, 14544 Lebanon Rd., Old Hickory. Furniture, appliances, kitchen items, home decor, linens, holiday decorations, luggage and handbags, toys, shoes, sports equipment, electronics, yard tools, food and homemade baked goods.

Holy Hour, 7 p.m., St. William, 719 N. Main St., Shelbyville.

5 Saturday
† St. Faustina Kowalska

Harvest Happening Fall Festival, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., St. Anthony, 1900 Huntsville Hwy., Fayetteville. Yard sale, baked goods, silent auction, crafts & jewelry, games, and Mexican cuisine. Lasagna & Spaghetti dinner, dine-in or carry-out (10 a.m.-6 p.m.). Dinner: $8 adults; $4 children under 12.

The Original Germantown Oktoberfest, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Church of the Assumption, 1227 7th Ave. N., Nashville. Info: assumptionnashvilleevents.com.

Morning of Prayer, 10:30 a.m., Carmel Center of Spirituality, 610 Bluff Rd, Liberty. Rosary, Mass, program, lunch. Jean Nicholson speaks on, “The Timelessness of Mary’s Message at Fatima.” Info/Rsvp: 451-536-5177 or carmelcenterin@gmail.com. Eucharistic Adoration will be available in lower chapel 9-10 a.m.

Breakfast concert to focus on importance of evangelization

JACOB TELLI

Our Lady of the Lake Church in Hendersonville will host a breakfast concert on Saturday, Oct. 5, to spread the word on the importance of evangelization.

Headlining the concert will be Jimmy Mitchell, a speaker and musician who plays all over the world. Besides performing, Mitchell is also the founder and chief curator of Love Good, a media company that transforms ordinary consumers into cultural influencers who raise their standard for media and turn that standard into a way of life.

The title of Mitchell’s presentation will be “Let Beauty Speak: The Art of Evangelization in a Culture of Noise.”

The concert will be held in Our Lady of the Lake’s St. Joseph Hall, starting with breakfast at 8 a.m. The performance and talks will begin about 9 a.m. and last until noon. The concert is open to all people, regardless of their parish or religious affiliation.

The cost of the concert is $10. But Dr. Tim Lynch, chairman of the Evangelization Committee of the Our Lady of the Lake Parish Council, which is sponsoring the concert, doesn’t want price to be an obstacle to people attending. He is encouraging people to buy multiple tickets and give away extras to friends and family.

The content, not the cost, is the most important aspect of the concert, Lynch said, and he wants to make sure as many people can absorb the content as possible. Any proceeds from the concert will be used to fund future events of the Evangelization Committee.

Lynch first began to take evangelization seriously after reading two encyclicals written by Pope Paul VI and Pope John Paul II.

“When I was growing up, evangelization was something that Protestants did. It was seen as marketing, and it was looked down upon,” he said. “The reality is it isn’t that. Jesus Christ was the first and greatest evangelist. So the more I studied the encyclicals, the more impressed I became.”

All Christians are called to spread the Gospel, Lynch said. “Each of us has to be evangelized. We really don’t get it, growing up as Catholics. It’s truly a foreign topic, because up until recently, evangelization wasn’t really connected to the Catholic Church.” Lynch said.

“So that’s part of the purpose of the concert, to learn how to evangelize ourselves first. Our goal is to help people reach their greatness.”

Tickets will be on sale at Our Lady of the Lake before and after the weekend Masses. Tickets are also available online by visiting the parish website: www.ololconline.com.

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Fall 40 Days for Life campaign to begin Sept. 24

Briana Grzybowski

The pro-life community in Nashville will launch its semi-annual 40 Days for Life campaign on Tuesday, Sept. 24, and it will last through Sunday, Nov. 3.

The campaign, which begins with an opening Mass at the Church of the Assumption in Nashville and a prayer vigil outside Planned Parenthood, consists of 40 days of prayer and community outreach to end abortion.

“While abortion should be illegal, I don’t want to just sit and wait for that to happen,” said Kathleen Rickards, parishioner at St. Mary’s Church in Nashville and coordinator for the fall 2019 campaign. “I want to live, right now, in a city where every woman and child are loved to the point that abortion would never even cross someone’s mind. The body of Christ is called to create such a place.”

The first 40 Days for Life was held in 2004 in College Station, Texas. Four members of the Brazos Valley Coalition for Life were looking for spiritual inspiration when they met with each other, they noted that the movement has spread to all 50 states and roughly 61 countries around the world.

Major highlights of the Nashville campaign will include an opening Mass and candlelight vigil on Jericho March, in which participants silently march around Planned Parenthood seven times, reminiscent of the Israelites marching around the city walls of Jericho in the Old Testament; and a visit from pro-life activist Sue Thayer.

Thayer managed a Planned Parenthood clinic in Iowa for 18 years until she got fired from her job there. She joined the pro-life movement soon afterwards and now works for the 40 Days for Life national team.

“I am so excited to meet Sue,” Rickards said. “I have known her story for years, seen her debate an abortion doctor, and listened to her on the 40 Days for Life podcast. She is a wonderful woman, who is so strong and compassionate. She will not be joining us for any major event, but she will be stopping by Nashville and will meet us on the sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood on the evening of Oct. 1 at 5:30. She will give a short speech, sharing her story and discussing the importance of the vigil.

“As someone who ran a Planned Parenthood clinic and then led a 40 Days for Life campaign outside her former workplace, she has a unique perspective on the abortion industry and the power of the vigil,” Rickards said. “I highly encourage everyone to come hear her speak and meet her.

Rickards says the campaign this fall is especially important in light of Nashville’s Planned Parenthood temporarily shutting down and reopening earlier this year. “Now is not the time to stop or slack off,” she said. “We need to keep up the prayer and community outreach to end this injustice and to help women and families in need. Planned Parenthood did stop abortions for a time, and have even cut their Saturday hours, but the vulnerable in our community are still at risk as long as Planned Parenthood is in business.

“We know God hears our prayers, and, as Paul tells us, we need to continue to ‘pray without ceasing’ and to humble ourselves so that, as 2 Chronicles assures us, God will hear us and heal our land,” Rickards said.

While it’s not required, it is strongly recommended that all who want to participate sign up online to be sure that enough volunteers are there to cover the 504 hours of prayer over the 40 Days.

Rickards encourages all who are interested to join in. “Please be part of the culture of life. In the Bible, God repeatedly calls his people to help the weak, needy and vulnerable. Who fits this description more than a child scheduled to be terminated or a woman who feels she must destroy her own child? We need lots of prayer warriors at the vigil to make this happen. Whether you can pray once for an hour, or come back each week, or come five times a week, you are needed. This is an opportunity to save lives.”

Those wanting to learn more can visit 40daysforlife.com/Nashville.

Friends of the Poor Walk/Run to benefit St. Vincent de Paul Society

The St. Matthew Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will hold its first Friends of the Poor Walk/Run on Saturday, Sept. 28, at St. Cecilia Academy.

The conference provides assistance to those in need in several ways: providing funds to pay utilities and rent; bringing food to the homeless; helping people find housing; and providing funds for medical care.

In addition to providing assistance as needed, the conference is dedicated to creating systemic change, working to bring an end to the cycle of poverty.

The Friends of the Poor Walk/Run will be held on Saturday, Sept. 28, at St. Cecilia Academy, 4210 Harding Pike.

Everyone is welcome to register to walk, run, or donate to other registrants if they cannot make it on the day of the walk.

Adult registration is $20, children under 18 is $10, children under 10 are free. All paying registrants will receive a tee shirt. Registration on the day of the event will open at 8 a.m. and the run/walk will start at 9 a.m.

Corporate sponsorship opportunities are also available. Please contact Joe Lyons at joelyons387@yahoo.com or (615-788-6788 or Paul Stigamier at pstigamier@me.com or (615) 788-6788 if you have any questions or wish to sponsor this event.

For more information, visit https://www.fopwalk.org/eventlisting/eventdetail/?eventid=2352.

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‘Just the facts,’ pope tells reporters, commenting on news media

Cindy Wooden CNS

A BOARD THE PAPAL FLIGHT FROM MADAGASCAR. No one really knows what the future of the news media will be, but it will have no future if reporters and the public cannot distinguish between facts and fiction, Pope Francis said.

Honoring a request from the Spanish news agency EFE to contribute to its collection of views about the future of the media, Pope Francis responded publicly during his flight Sept. 10 from Madagascar to Rome.

When he was a boy, he said, his family did not have a television; instead they listened to the radio and read newspapers. Sometimes, depending on the government in power, they were “clandestine newspapers,” distributed under cover of night.

“Compared to today’s news industry, it all seems very precarious,” he said. But today’s media may look just as precarious when people in the future look back.

“What remains, however,” he said, is the ability and responsibility of the news media “to inform the audience of an event and to distinguish these facts from narrative, fiction or opinion. It is extremely easy to move from the facts to narrative,” he said, “and this damages the news industry. It’s important to stick to the facts.”

Pope Francis said the Catholic Church and its media are not exempt from that danger. “Within the Church, when there is a fact, it goes around the corner, and then it gets adorned, it gets embellished. Everyone adds their own contribution, and not even in bad faith.”

But “the mission of the journalist is to always stick to the facts: ‘The facts are these. My interpretation is this. I was told this.’ It distinguishes you from the storyteller.”

And if a news report includes an account of something an individual or group believes is true, but the reporter has not witnessed, the reporter must inform readers or listeners, he said. “This is what being objective is all about, and this is one of the values that the news industry needs to retain.”

Pope Francis also said journalists must remain human, humane and “constructive.”

“The news industry cannot, for example, be used as an instrument of war, as this is inhumane, it destroys,” the pope said. “Think back to the propaganda of the dictatorships of the past century. There were dictatorships that communicated well, that tried to sell you the moon. ... They were well structured, they communicated well. They encouraged war, destruction; they were not humane.”

Pope Francis answers questions from journalists aboard his flight from Antananarivo, Madagascar, to Rome Sept. 10.
Ten years ago, Danny Snyder became the commander of the Our Lady of the Lake chapter of Fraternus, a national organization dedicated to mentoring teen boys to help them mature into virtuous Catholic men.

In helping the youngsters connect to their faith, his own faith became deeper and richer.

"Fraternus helps us to live like Christ wants us to live," Snyder said.

For the last two years, Snyder has served as the National Sage of Fraternus. His responsibilities include running Fraternus' leadership team at its national level, as well as for the Nashville area.

"We are a 99 percent volunteer chapter, with a national leadership team that is volunteer as well," Snyder said.

Justin Bianco, Tommy Van Horn and Jason Craig came together to found Fraternus as an organization that would provide a place for Catholic boys to interact with Catholic men, learn about the Church's understanding of masculinity, and be immersed in the seven heavenly virtues: faith, hope, love, prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance.

The organization began in Florida and spread to the Nashville area in 2010. Today there are four chapters in the Nashville area – at Church of the Nativity in Spring Hill, Our Lady of the Lake Church in Hendersonville, St. Edward Church in Nashville, and St. Philip Church in Franklin. Fraternus chapters also can be found in Alabama, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, Washington and Wisconsin.

At the heart of the program are the weekly meetings, called Frat Nights, which include play, teaching, discussion of the Sunday Mass readings, and a challenge to put one of the virtues into action.

Another key activity are Excursions, in which the boys and their adult mentors spend time in nature, away from the hustle and bustle of modern life.

And every summer, the boys in Fraternus can attend the week-long Summer Ranch in East Tennessee, where they can participate in outdoors activities in an atmosphere where their faith is reinforced.

"Our goal is to meet boys where they are at mentally at that age and help them through the transition of going from boyhood to manhood," Snyder said.

He urged young Catholics to "get involved with Fraternus if they want to really, really lead their peers, and also shed the baggage that too often keeps us from enjoying a full relationship and friendship with God."

There is a similar program for girls called Fidelis, which has chapters at St. Edward Church in Nashville, St. Philip Church in Franklin and Church of the Nativity in Spring Hill.

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For Christ the Teacher Award winner, education is ‘my passion’

Andy Telli

For more than 30 years, Lisa Rippy has taught first grade students at St. Edward School in Nashville. For her, teaching is more than a job. “I feel that teaching is my calling. It’s my passion,” Rippy said. “It’s what I’m supposed to be doing.”

For her dedication to her students and the art of teaching, Rippy has been honored with the 2019 Christ the Teacher Award from the Diocese of Nashville’s Schools Office. She received the award during the Advancement of Catholic Education fundraising dinner held Tuesday, Sept. 17.

“The award allows the diocese to recognize teachers that emulate Jesus in their roles,” said diocesan Superintendent of Schools Rebecca Hammel. “In Catholic schools, teachers give so much of themselves as ministry, as vocation. It’s more than their career. We want to acknowledge that.”

“The award recognizes teachers who truly embrace the mission of Catholic education,” Hammel said. “I will have to say I’m very humbled,” Rippy said. She followed several members of her family into teaching, Rippy said. “My mother is a teacher. My dad has six sisters. They’re all teachers. I have several cousins who are teachers,” she said. Rippy played teacher as a child and spent time in her mother’s classroom after school, watching her, she said. “I think I always knew I wanted to be a teacher.”

Lisa Rippy, first grade teacher at St. Edward School for more than 30 years, loves the enthusiasm of her young students and teaching them to read. In recent years she has started teaching some of her students’ parents, who are English language learners. She has also made several trips to Sierra Leone to work with children at an orphanage there.

“My mother is a teacher. My dad has six sisters. They’re all teachers,” Rippy said. “My mother believed in me. My friends and siblings believed in me. My friends and their parents believed in me. I wouldn’t have gotten through medical school without that support.”

Rippy found her role teaching first graders and has done so ever since she started at St. Edward. “I love the fact that I’m one of the first teachers that they have.”

“I think having a goal of reading sets the stage for everything,” Rippy said. “There are so many different facets of reading,” Rippy said, including using phonics to sound out words, becoming comfortable with writing, learning to visualize what you are reading, reading for information, and reading for pleasure.

“In my relationship with God,” she said. “Mostly my relationship with God.”

Rippy said. “I’m looking forward to a great future,” which has been made possible by attending Catholic schools and the tuition assistance her family has received, said Derrick.

Bishop J. Mark Spaulding talks with Drew Rodgers and Sister Catherine Marie, O.P., principal of St. Rose of Lima School in Murfreesboro, at the Advancement of Catholic Education fundraising dinner at Cathedral of the Incarnation’s Fleming Center on Tuesday, Sept. 17. Rebecca Hammel, right, superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Nashville, speaks at the ACE dinner before presenting the Christ the Teacher award. For more photos go to www.tennesseeregister.com.

Support for Catholic schools from the people of the diocese has also allowed the diocese to expand the Hand in Hand Options program for students with intellectual disabilities and delays to a third school this year, Hammel said. “We want schools at full capacity so students can have a deep and loving relationship with Christ.”

Rippy’s passion isn’t contained to the first graders in her classroom at St. Edward. For the last two years, Rippy has been teaching parents of some of her students to read English so they can better help their children.

ACE dinner raises $408K to support Catholic schools

Continued on page 14
A line snaked around Municipal Auditorium in downtown Nashville on Saturday, Sept. 7, as hundreds of uninsured and under-insured Nashvillians waited patiently to receive free medical care at Ascension Saint Thomas’ annual Medical Mission at Home.

Melvin Watson joined the line right after working the overnight shift at a Shell gas station. “I mostly came to see the dentist,” he explained as a nurse checked his vital signs and asked questions about his health history. “I heard about this opportunity so I came straight here,” after his shift, he said.

Watson was one of 485 attendees who received free medical care, and among the 200 people seeking dental care. Other services offered at the mission included: free pharmacy services, mammograms, vision services, foot and wound care, flu vaccines, lab and imaging services, and spiritual care.

Attendees left the event with free bags of fresh fruit and toiletries. “We make sure patients leave with supplies that can make their life a little easier,” said Dan Thompson, director of the Saint Thomas Health Foundation.

Medical mission attendees also leave with a follow-up appointment, which is critical to connecting them with ongoing primary healthcare.

It takes a lot of volunteers to make the mission successful, and about 650 were on hand for this year’s event. They included more than 300 members of Ascension Saint Thomas, as well as numerous community partners. Employees of the Diocese of Nashville and Catholic Charities were among those on hand to volunteer.

Bishop J. Mark Spalding offered an opening prayer and blessing for the day.

“Medical Mission at Home events are a unique opportunity for us to work alongside other Middle Tennessee organizations that share our driving motivation – to show compassionate care to those in need,” said Nancy Anness, Chief Advocacy Officer at Ascension Saint Thomas.

Emad Khalil, a medical assistant with Siloam Health, was one of the volunteers at the mission, and one of the many who were serving as Arabic translators. “There are a lot of Egyptians, a lot of Arabic-speakers who don’t have insurance, and have difficulty accessing health care,” he said. “I'm here to serve my community, to help them get access,” he added. “This is a huge blessing today.”

Arabic and Spanish language translators were in abundance at the mission to help the many immigrant attendees navigate the event and get connected with the right healthcare.

Amanda Maples, a registered nurse with Saint Thomas Health, checks the vital signs of Melvin Watson, who attended Ascension Saint Thomas’ Medical Mission at Home at Municipal Auditorium in Nashville on Saturday, Sept. 7. A total of 485 people attended the mission to receive free medical and dental care, pharmacy services, mammograms, vision services, foot and wound care, flu vaccines, lab and imaging services, and spiritual care. For more photos, go to www.tennesseeregister.com

This year’s Medical Mission at Home came just as a new U.S. Census Bureau report revealed that the number of uninsured Tennesseans continues to rise. About 46,000 more Tennesseans were without health insurance in 2018, one of the largest increases in the rate of uninsured residents in the nation. The Census Bureau now estimates that more than 675,000 Tennesseans, about one in 10 state residents, have no insurance coverage.

Ascension Saint Thomas’ Medical Missions at Home, which have also been held in Rutherford, Warren and Hickman counties, are part of the health system’s broader mission to serve the poor and the growing number of uninsured Middle Tennesseans. Saint Thomas also operates several family health clinics that serve patients without insurance on a sliding scale.

More information can be found at: https://www.sthealth.com/About-Us/Mission-Integration/Care-for-the-Poor.

Ascension is one of the nation’s largest Catholic and non-profit health system. Led by Ascension caregivers and partners, Medical Mission at Home healthcare clinics were founded in Nashville and are now held annually across the United States.
University Catholic offers authentic community of faith, friendship

Continued from front page

ship and sacraments,” said Marian Campos, a senior at Trevecca Nazarene University.

After the Sunday Suppers, many of the students shift gears from the boisterous mealtime session at the Frassati House to the solemn and prayerful atmosphere of Vanderbilt’s Benton Chapel, where they have the opportunity for adoration, confession and Mass. Some of the young women cover their heads with lace veils to enter the chapel; everyone is reverently quiet.

“So many college students love the deep traditions” of the Catholic faith, Campos said, and join in these opportunities whenever possible.

Even though she goes to school across town, Campos is able to fully participate in University Catholic because of its unique structure. As a ministry of the Diocese of Nashville rather than a specific college, University Catholic is open to all local college students.

While UCat is very much student-led, Father Gervan Menezes, a priest of the diocese, serves as the chaplain and spiritual father for the group. He follows Father John Sims Baker and Father Michael Fye, also priests of the diocese, who recently served in the same role.

Vanderbilt and Belmont students account for the majority of UCat’s regular attendees, in part because of the location of the Frassati House, adjacent to Vanderbilt’s campus and the Cathedral of the Incarnation, and not far from Belmont. The house is a home away from home for students, with offices, a small chapel, library, study rooms, and 24/7 access. Having a safe, late-night place to study and pray is especially helpful during exam times.

The University Catholic community gathers for Sunday Supper every week at the Frassati House, the hub of “UCat” life in Nashville. Students from Vanderbilt, Belmont and other local colleges meet here every week to share a meal and hang out. University Catholic is a place where Catholic college students attending local Protestant and secular universities can feel known, loved, and affirmed in their faith.

FOCUS missionaries (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) are also a regular and important presence at the Frassati House and on Belmont’s campus. As recent college graduates, FOCUS missionaries meet students where they are and draw them into closer relationships with Christ. They lead small-group Bible studies, offer personal mentorship, and help to build the UCat community.

The FOCUS missionaries “take the model of Jesus to go forth and make disciples,” Gonzalez said. The missionaries are “interweaved here, their presence really enhances our community,” said Castel, a senior at Belmont University, and the president of UCat at Belmont.

Three dedicated FOCUS missionaries are committed to Belmont and five are committed to Vanderbilt’s campus.

“They are leaders who call us to mission, to reach out to those on the margins,” said Deenan.

Some of the social, spiritual, and service opportunities for University Catholic participants include: Wednesday night “Faith Explained” talks with “Father G,” retreats, serving at Room in the Inn and Dismas House, and attending the March for Life in Washington, D.C. The uniqueness of University Catholic, however, is not its calendar of events, but rather its family-like embrace. “It’s a community, it’s not just a club or an organization where you go to events,” said Gonzalez.

For students at Protestant or secular universities, of which Nashville has many, “it can get lonely being Catholic if you don’t have other Catholic[s] around,” said Campos, which is why she has become so involved with University Catholic. One of UCat’s former ministry team leaders met with Campos once a week for her entire freshman year. “The love they’ve shown me,” she said, “has impacted my life in so many ways.”

It’s reminded Campos to lead by example, especially when representing her Catholic faith on the heavily Protestant campus of Trevecca or in the wider world. “It’s so important to build relationships with anyone before you try to evangelize. You have to show love first.”

University Catholic has inspired Gonzalez to think about her path after college in a different way, possibly becoming a FOCUS missionary, pursuing graduate studies in theology or further exploring her passion for music. She thinks and prays about what doors God will open for her. The question now, Gonzalez said, is not where does she want to go, but “Where does He want me to go?”

More information is available at www.universitycatholic.org.
Frank Cronin, the principal at St. John Vianney School in Gallatin, has announced he is retiring, effective Sept. 24.

“While there are many tasks I had hoped to accomplish here, lately I began to think about retirement and the reality of accomplishing these goals,” Cronin wrote in a letter to parents of St. John Vianney School. “The more I thought about this and some other anticipated events in our parish community, I realized leaving now might be the best possible timing for a leadership change at the school.

“As the opening of the school year is well underway, this timing would afford the new leader a chance to see the school’s routines, its rhythm and its rigour, as well as the school’s culture first hand,” he said. “Joining the school now would allow the new principal to concentrate on enrollment development and marketing for the 2020-21 school year, as we will be entering that season soon.

“Now seemed to me to be a more optimal point for such a transition, as it would provide for an accelerated transition with immediate effect, rather than delaying such a transition to the end of the school year and the summer months,” he said.

Lara Schuler, the assistant superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Nashville, will serve as the interim principal at St. John Vianney while the search for a permanent replacement is ongoing, said Rebecca Hammel, superintendent of schools for the diocese.

“She will be on site at the school two to three days a week,” Hammel said of Schuler. “We’re willing to share her for as long as we need to get the right person.”

Cronin took over as St. John Vianney’s principal in the spring of 2018 after working for several months as a consultant. He brought to the job more than 30 years’ experience as a teacher and school administrator, including three years as assistant principal at Overbrook School in Nashville. He’s also been a leadership consultant, a counselor and an adjunct professor at the University of Connecticut and Aquinas College in Nashville, where he taught philosophy and education courses.

Cronin has graduate degrees in education from Harvard University and the University of Connecticut, in leadership from Columbia University, and in theology from Regent University in Virginia and Holy Apostles College and Seminary in Connecticut.

“Frank stepped in to help the school when they were in a difficult place,” Hammel said. “St. John Vianney, which opened in 2003, has struggled to maintain enrollment for several years. This year, the enrollment at the pre-kindergarten through eighth grade school is 64 students, an increase from last year’s enrollment of 60 students.

The school was one of four that participated in the diocese’s Welcome Grants program, which offered reduced tuition for students coming from other schools to a Catholic school.

“The diocese has been helping St. John Vianney with marketing and with 11 Welcome Grants in hopes of growing enrollment,” Hammel said. The diocesan Schools Office will assist St. John Vianney Pastor Father Stephen Gideon in searching for a new principal.

“We’re looking for someone who will provide the vision and move toward the vision over a long period of time,” Hammel said.

Cronin expressed gratitude to St. John Vianney parents in his letter. “Thank you for all your support, encouragement and feedback since I became involved with SJV in January 2018,” he said. “My successor will be truly blessed by your attitude and commitment, just as I have enjoyed these traits since arriving at SJV.”

Vanderbilt professor builds bridges

Continued from page 2

meaningful today,” she said. One priest from Zimbabwe, a country facing down the genocide in its past, “was using the parables to address reconciliation. You can’t get stuff that’s more profound than that,” she said. “These guys wound up inspiring me.”

During her time in Rome, Levine also had the opportunity to personally meet Pope Francis and present him with a copy of The Jewish Annotated New Testament. “He was extraordinarily gracious,” she said.

Catholic News Service contributed to this report.

Blessed is She

Blessed is She, a Catholic women’s community committed to deepening a life of prayer and creating a supportive sisterhood, held a retreat at Cathedral of the Incarnation in Nashville Sept. 6-7. An international movement that started in the Diocese of Phoenix, Blessed is She offers daily devotional readings, in-person meetups, retreats, and more. More information is available at www.blessedisshene.net.
**EDITORIAL**

Those fighting to boost respect for all life in our culture have received some good news from an unlikely source: the Guttmacher Institute, which supports legalized abortion, released a report that showed the number of abortions per 1,000 women aged 15-44 in 2017 have continued a long, downward trend. And the numbers are falling in all areas of the country.

The report’s authors estimated there were about 862,300 abortions performed across the U.S. in 2017. That’s almost 200,000 fewer than in 2011 and more than 450,000 fewer than in 2000. The abortion rate in 2017 was 13.5, compared to 16.9 in 2011 and 21.3 in the year 2000.

The report cited several possible reasons for the decline, including the growing use of long-term contraceptive methods, such as intrauterine devices and implants, and a declining birthrate.

Rather than a reason to relax in the fight for the dignity of every human life, from conception until death, the report should be a spur to continued action and vigilance. We know we still have much work to do to ensure a broader culture in which an unborn fetus is a human life that deserves our protection and affection.

We know there is still much to do to provide all women with a crisis pregnancy the support they need to choose life.

The Catholic Church’s opposition is rooted in a long-standing and well-known fact. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI wrote: “God’s love does not differen- tiate between the newly conceived infant still in his or her mother’s womb and the child or young person, or the adult who has reached the age of reason. God does not distinguish between them because he sees an impression of his own image and likeness in each of them, a reflection of his holiness and infinity.”

He also wrote: “Life is the first good received from God and is fundamental to all others; to guarantee the right to life for all and in an equal manner for all is the duty upon which the future of humanity depends.”

We Catholics can draw on our faith and our teaching to support our belief that all of God’s children deserve respect and protection. But in the case of abortion, we also have science on our side. All the scientific criteria of a living organism are present at the moment of conception and the unique human life is created. If you accept that scientific fact, you then must face a moral question: at what point in the development of a human being should society, through our laws, recognize that life and protect it from anything other than the moment of conception would mean that some lives have more moral weight than others, and that is unacceptable.

As Catholics, we look at life as a gift from God, and try to treat it as such, honoring it, nurturing it, protecting it. That means we can’t simply see abortion from the perspective of the child, but we must also extend our rights and respect to the life of the mother as well.

A crisis or unplanned preg- nancy can stir many fears that might prevent a woman from choosing an abortion. She might be afraid the father of her child will abandon her or her family will reject her. She might fear she doesn’t have the financial or emotional ca- pacity to raise her child. She might fear raising a child will mean an end to her education and the dreams that might rest on that education.

The Church and many of its affiliated organizations, such as Catholic Charities, is work- ing in every sector and context the support they need to choose life, whether it be to raise their child themselves or to place it in a loving home through adoption.

That kind of effort, one that recognizes the importance of families and each member of a family, will lead society to an ultimate rejection of abortion. The numbers are falling, and for that we can be grateful.

We need and benefit from a renaissance of women in particular with the degree to which its mission is important, urgent, beneficial and salutary. Deep within the Catholic imagination, if not universally applied in practice, is “Imago Dei,” the conviction that all people are created in God’s likeness. All forms of prejudice and discrimination are contrary to Catholic teaching. The faithful are called to fight for the full participation, value and equal respect for women as for men.

Deep within the Catholic imagination, if not universally applied in practice, is “Imago Dei,” the conviction that all people are created in God’s likeness. All forms of prejudice and discrimination are contrary to Catholic teaching. The faithful are called to fight for the full participation, value and equal respect for women as for men.

A vibrant Church needs women at decision-making table

Kerry Alys Robinson CNS

The Catholic Church is the largest global humanitarians network with enormous potential, and thus responsibility, to address human suffering and complex global challenges. It is also the vehicle through which the Catholic faith is transmitted to nearly 1.3 billion people.

Sui generis, with a divine purpose, engaged in the service of God’s people, the Church needs women to serve as men serving on boards of philanthropy, spirituality writer, speaker and advocate for the Church, and diocesan staff member, or of the diplomatic core, communication apostolates and the pastoral councils, diocesan finance councils and boards of trustees of Catholic charities? What informative restructuring and appointment of bishops? We can reimagine the Church to ensure that it is conducive to healthy lay-collaboration and co-responsibility. We can insist that a candidate’s ability to work collaboratively and effectively with women be a requirement in the selection and appointment of bishops.

We can establish effective mentoring programs for young Catholic women. And we can promote new positions in each diocese, such as diocesan communication apostolates and the pastoral councils, diocesan finance councils and boards of trustees of Catholic charities.

Women are essential to the future of a vibrant Church.

Kerry Alys Robinson is a writer, speaker and advocate of philanthropy, spirituality and women in the Church. She is global ambassador of Leadership Roundtable and the author of “Imagining Abundance: Empowering Catholic Philanthropy and A Spiritual Call to Service.”

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Jesus offers a different perspective of life and its rewards

**NEXT SUNDAY**

**Msgr. Owen F. Campion**

BACKGROUND. The Book of Amos provides the first reading for the weekend of Sept. 29. The book itself states that it was written during the reign of King Uz- ziah of Judah, or between 783 and 742 B.C. It was a time of tranquility and prosperity. No wars troubled the kingdom.

Still, Amos strongly spoke against laxity in religion and morally careless living. It was not necessarily a denunciation of utter vice, but rather it condemned lukewarmness.

To be precise, chief among his concerns was the sluggishness with which people practiced their religion. In all, Amos insisted, the situation was a sure recipe for condemned lukewarmness.

The Book of Amos provides the second reading for the liturgy of the Sept. 29 weekend. The previous weekend’s second reading also came from First Timothy. Timothy was an early convert to Christianity. The epistles written to him, and now contained in the New Testament, assured his place in the tradition of the Church.

As his life unfolded, he became a disciple of Paul and then a Christian leader in his own right, destined to be one of the major figures in the development of Christianity. This reading calls Timothy to genuine virtue by being diligent and dedicated in following Jesus and in leading the community committed to Timothy’s pastoral care.

It was easy to be distracted from such faithfulness in the face of the glory, power and excesses in the mighty Roman Empire, to say nothing of the peril Christians faced since their religion was outlawed. To encourage Timothy, Paul cited the example of Jesus in the Lord’s trial before Pontius Pilate.

Despite the over-bearing power of Rome, the reading insists that God’s justice will endure, and that Jesus will come again in triumph and vindication.

St. Luke’s Gospel furnishes the last reading, a parable, rather straightforward in its message.

A rich man is enjoying all the benefits of financial success and well-being. By contrast, Lazarus is desperately poor, yearning to just have the scraps that fall from the rich man’s table.

In time, Lazarus died. Then the rich man died. As the rich man reached the hereafter, he realized that he himself was then in great need, whereas Lazarus was being held close to Abraham, the holy father of the Hebrew people.

By this time, the once rich man is desperate. He pleads with Abraham for just a drop of water to quench his thirst. The once rich man implores Abraham to send Lazarus back to earth to warn the rich man’s brothers that they too will be punished unless they turn to God and forsake greed.

Abraham replies that messengers already have been sent, namely Moses and the prophets, and Moses and the prophets were ignored.

**Reflection**

At first glance, the readings, and especially that from Luke’s Gospel, seem to present a clear message, but beneath the obvious is another, stronger lesson. It is more than a question of avoiding greed or being unjust in less important things.

It is instead the lesson that Christians must judge earthly life by a standard that not only transcends the boundaries of this life but renders everything secondary, or even irrelevant, in the process of judging life, pursuing the belief that only the things and ways, of God are worthy of attention.

The story of the rich man and Lazarus is more than merely a coincidence about a person who has succeeded in the world versus a person who has not succeeded.

At the time of Jesus, many thought that earthly riches showed that God blessed the rich, whereas poverty and want indicated that a great sin somehow lay in the background of a poor person.

Jesus totally debunked this notion by offering a different perspective of life and its rewards, a new standard for living.

**PINCH OF FAITH**

**Mary Margaret Lambert**

It is my favorite season. I love Fall, with its crisp air and spectacular array of red, gold and orange leaves. Despite the ragweed pollen and my daily bouts of sneezing, I still feel much more alert and in tune with Mother Nature during the autumn months every year. Cool, crisp mornings and evenings typically call for a sweater or light weight jacket, and fall wardrobe consists of layers, warm slacks, boots and layers for warmth.

It’s supposed to be the season for hot chocolate and apple cider, not iced tea and watermelon. This year, however, it’s still so unseasonably hot, everyone is at a loss over what to do. While record breaking heat seems to be the norm every day, and parched gardens wither and wilt, retailers seem to be determined to force ahead with everything associated with autumn. Huge pots of burnt orange, purple, gold, white and bright yellow chrysanthemums tempt us to take them home, but in our heart of hearts, we know the heat will destroy these cool weather favorites. No matter how much water they get, it is simply too hot for them to thrive.

With no regard for the thermometer, we are bombarded with displays of Halloween ghosts and goblins, Thanksgiving table decor and even…yes, Christmas trees.

Despite what the calendar shows, the outside temperatures stubbornly fail to comply. If this trend continues through late October, we will be handling out snow cones and sunscreen to Halloween trick or treaters.

While we think we should be donning sweatshirts and jeans, we must opt for short sleeved shirts and shorts a while longer, lest we succumb to heat stroke. Most swimming pools closed on Labor Day, and here we are well past that date, in search of a nice place to take a dip in the water to cool off. It is so hot that roasting hot dogs and marshmallows can be done without ever building a fire.

Each night I watch the weather forecast, hoping there is some relief due soon, but the pattern of heat and humidity remain constant and unrelenting.

I have recently observed lots of squirrels scurrying about, gathering up food in preparation for the winter that is certain to come eventually.

I think this is supposed to be an indicator of a very severe winter. Their internal calendars tell them, “Get yourself ready for cold weather and store up lots of nuts and seeds so you will have food for your family when the ground is frozen.” They are doing it but look rather confused as they feel the unseasonable heat all around them.

If one trusts the old folklore predictions found in the “Farmers’ Almanac,” we are supposed to be able to foretell what kind of winter we will be blessed with. According to the almanac, the 13 brown bands on the orange and black fuzzy moth, and legend has it that when the 13 brown bands on the ground is some relief due soon, but the pattern of heat and humidity remain constant and unrelenting.

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If one trusts the old folklore predictions found in the “Farmers’ Almanac,” we are supposed to be able to foretell what kind of winter we will be. This legend has proven accurate about 80 percent of the time, and many people swear by them. Now I, for one, have never gotten up close and personal enough with a wooly worm to measure the width of his black bands, but I just have to trust those who do that sort of research.

And little little things have all shed their woolly coats this year in favor of going “au naturel” and won’t easily be recognizable. I think they will most likely be heading for the nearest pond in search of a cool hideout.

The new spirit of fall, despite the unrelenting heat, I guess I will just be forced to experiment and come up with a recipe for pumpkin spice popsicles.

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For Christ the Teacher Award winner, education is ‘my passion’

Continued from page 8

“Our population has changed here in the last few years,” Rippy said. “Now we have a lot more English language learners, which has been a challenge. “Last year, I decided to take a step out and offer an English class for parents, which has been a challenge. “They’re really trying hard. They really try hard. I really like that.”

Rippy also has brought her passion for teaching to Africa. For the last four years, she has traveled to Sierra Leone where she has worked with students and teachers at the Raining Season orphanage. She’s going back over fall break this year. “It was life changing going over there,” Rippy said. “It just opened my eyes.”

“I think for them, their life is so hard, but so simple,” she said. “These kids have nothing, but they’re so filled with God, it fills you when you’re there.”

Helping at the Raining Season allows Rippy to help in the way she knows best. “When you think about mission trips you think about building houses or digging wells. But this was a trip I could do what I know,” Rippy said. “I know kids and I know teaching. That was something I was very comfortable doing.”

Although Rippy is not Catholic, teaching in a Catholic school has been very fulfilling, she said. “What I love the most about being here is just teaching the children about Jesus. No matter what denomination you are, Jesus came to earth and died for us and he loves us,” she said. “Sharing that with the children is what I love the most about this school.”

ACE fundraiser should top $400K schools

Continued from page 8

“The work we do here tonight through ACE is paramount to make Catholic schools more accessible to people in our community,” Hammel said.

“We need an endowment of $30 million,” he said. “It seems overwhelming when you first hear it. But other dioceses, including some smaller than ours, have made it happen. They share three things: great leadership, passion and purpose.”

“I’m here as a beggar,” Bishop J. Mark Spalding told the crowd. “Begging for good things, worthy things, is an awesome responsibility. It’s not easy for any priest or lay person or bishop to be a beggar.”

But, the bishop said, he keeps in mind, “I’m a blessed person. God blessed me with a great family and a wonderful home.”

He reminded the crowd of his constant refrain, “To whom much is given, much will be required.”

“With the great things happening in Catholic schools, they’re worth investing in,” Bishop Spalding said. With a donation to support Catholic schools, “you help change lives,” he added.

“I don’t care the way you give, I care that you give,” Bishop Spalding said.

“As a meager beggar, I just say, please share.”

The first ACE event raised about $65,000, and that number jumped to $170,000 last year, setting the stage for this year’s record total.

The increased support is the result of “a lot of people devoting a lot of hard work to the cause of Catholic education,” Burnett said. “We can only go up from here.”

Fraternus offers boys a path

Continued from page 7

“Father Gilstrap praised the Fraternus volunteers for giving so much of their time to these boys. They are a really wonderful group of people to be around.”

“I’ve attended some of the camping trips, and have celebrated Mass as Chaplain at two of the five-day ranch outings,” said Father Gilstrap, who was ordained in 2014. He downplayed, however, his own work through the diocese’s Office of Vocations, simply saying that, “we are very intent and focused on helping anyone who has thoughts of becoming a priest and will help them as much as possible.”

“We are very grateful for their (Fraternus) support and help to the diocese,” Father Gilstrap said.

Christ the King Church seeks Maintenance Technician to assist facility manager with maintaining operations and equipment for campus buildings and grounds.

Full-time position which includes weekends. $14-$16 per hour based on experience.

Maintenance experience with HVAC, electrical, plumbing, and carpentry skills preferred.

Contact Mike Decker 615-777-8978 or mike.decker@cks-nashville.org

Catholic Schools

PRINCIPAL OPENING

Facts and Qualifications

• St. John Vianney is a hidden gem in Sumner County, a growing suburb northeast of Nashville.

• The school serves sixty-five children in PK-8th grades.

• The school principal has direct oversight of all aspects of the school’s operation with the support of the parish pastor and superintendent of schools.

• The school is fully accredited through AdvancED district-wide accreditation and the State of Tennessee.

• Applicants must demonstrate knowledge of institutional advancement, communicate effectively, and employ collaborative practices to engage all stakeholders in the mission of the school.

• Successful candidates are practicing Catholics in good standing with the Catholic Church and possess a Master’s degree in Educational Leadership and Supervision or Curriculum.

• Experience in a Catholic school is preferred.

St. John Vianney Catholic School, located in Gallatin, TN, actively seeks an innovative leader to serve as school principal this school year.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a letter of interest and resume to Rebecca Hammel Superintendent of Schools Rebecca.Hammel@dioceseofnashville.com.

No phone calls, please.


Are you single and looking to belong to a ministry that meets the needs of someone living a single life? Holy Family is calling all single people regardless of age, parish or denomination to join a new ministry for singles called UNUM, Latin for “one”.

For events and info, go to www.holyfamilycc.com or lisazieisloft@bellsouth.net or hmtaborr@att.net.
Headed for home

Hundreds of runners braved the heat for the first weekend of the Parochial League cross country season on Sunday, Sept. 8. Runners from kindergarten through eighth grade gather weekly on the Sundays of September at the Dominican Campus in Nashville. Deacon Cox, above, a kindergarten student at St. Matthew School in Franklin receives encouragement from Coach Khanh Chau as he crosses the finish line. Ariana Harris, a fourth grade student at St. Rose of Lima School in Murfreesboro, powers her way down the track. The final races of the season will be Sept. 22 and 29. They start at 1 p.m. at Overbrook School.

Author says music is a gift of love from God

BRIANA GRZYBOWSKI

A classically trained composer and music composition professor at Vanderbilt University’s Blair School of Music hopes to inspire a greater love of the beauty of music amongst other Catholics who may otherwise be unfamiliar with the craft. St. Mary of the Seven Sorrows parishioner Michael Kurek has released his book, “The Sound of Beauty.” In it, he seeks to examine music from a scientific, spiritual, and psychological perspective in ways that laymen can understand.

Kurek himself is a lifelong lover of classical music, counting Johannes Brahms and Ralph Vaughan Williams amongst his favorite artists. He is also an accomplished musician, having received recognition from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and had his songs performed in 43 countries on five continents.

His inspiration to write the book came from lectures he’s given at Catholic schools about music and spirituality. “Music was always such a mystery to me; just these ephemeral, invisible wisps of sound in the air that floated in and then floated out, and yet they had the power to move me to great emotion. I was mastering the art of music but really had no idea what it was,” Kurek said.

“In college, I did coursework in the psychology of perception, and when I came back into the Church 11 years ago, I began to apply Catholic theology to this study, and began giving guest lectures at Aquinas College, Ave Maria University, the Dominican Motherhouse, and Catholic high schools,” he added. “At some point, I realized that the substance of these talks could make a book that might help more people,” Kurek said. “My good friend, author Joseph Pearce, read it and passed it on to Ignatius Press, and they offered to publish it.”

To choir directors and cantors who want to help make the liturgy more reverent, Kurek doesn’t necessarily offer a list of pointers. Rather, he encourages them to reflect upon the purpose of liturgical music and act accordingly.

“It is crucial that they read for themselves the sections on music in the Church’s documents, especially the General Instruction of the Roman Missal and the documents on music from Vatican II, to see what they actually say, and not what someone has told them they say, which can be very different,” he explained.

“But one point I can make here: We must not merely understand a list of do’s and don’ts in those documents, but the guiding philosophy behind them,” Kurek said. “According to the Church’s teaching, music in the liturgy is purposely supposed to sound different than music for entertainment. It isn’t supposed to look or sound like a performance, even if it’s the most sincere and heartfelt performance on earth,” he said. “That’s fine for elsewhere, but for the holy sacrifice of the Mass it has a very specific function: to create a sacred space that can be seen and heard nowhere else.

“Sacred music is designed to work in harmony with beautiful architecture, statuary and art to foster genuine interior contemplation as you enter the most holy space housing the Lord in the tabernacle, as you examine your conscience and prepare yourself to receive his real presence in the Eucharist,” Kurek explains.

Kurek hopes his readers will discover a richer appreciation for the spiritual side of music. “As one of the quotes on the back cover says, ‘Even the most devoted atheist recognizes the spiritual component of music.’ And I think that’s true; people sense that music is spiritual but don’t know how to describe it in words. I give them a vocabulary with which to discuss the spiritual aspects of music, and to some extent I demystify it for them,” Kurek explains.

“Of course, I hope that the book also causes people to see God’s hand in music in a deeper way than they did before, and give Him the glory for it, and appreciate the wonder of it more deeply than ever before. The book also offers some tips for starting to listen to classical music, for those who have always wanted to but didn’t know where to begin, with a list of classics that are very ear friendly,” he added.

Kurek appreciates music as a gift from God and hopes others will do likewise.

“God did not have to create the world with sound and people with ears, but He did, as a gift of love,” he said. “He is omnipresent in every atom of His physical creation, including the atoms of gas moved in sound waves through the air. Yet God is transcendental, outside of His creation, too.

“My book shows how music can wonderfully symbolize both immanence and transcendence and symbolically point us to the Eucharist, the Trinity, and more,” Kurek said. “It can remind and enthrall us aurally in beautiful symbols of spiritual truth and of our relationship with God all the time, not only in church.”

All who are interested may pre-order the book at ignatius.com.
Authenticity and excitement,” he added. “These transactions will undoubtedly add to the project’s profits generated by the investment of successful career in banking and finance.

Page said. “The creative and innovative piece and partnering it with really strong academics. And then we add the service aspect.”

Students don’t have to keep those aspects of their education separate, she said. Combining them in one effort allows students to become the people their faith calls them to be, Dye said.

The Innov8 program allows teachers and students to pursue their special interests through independent study, internships and service projects. The class topics include the sciences, business, government, the arts and social justice, among others.

Students sign up for one Innov8 class each in the fall, winter and spring. The classes meet twice a week. The school’s sports teams use the Innov8 class periods for practice, but athletes can pursue other topics when their sport is not in season.

Page’s classes are among the most popular in the program, Dye said. “Signing up for his classes is about as hot as a Rolling Stones ticket,” she said. “That is the first class that fills.”

The interns with area businesses, physicians, social service agencies and others that are available through the program have been popular with students. “Last year we had over 80 placements in internships,” Dye said.

The school has worked to include a stronger service component in the Innov8 classes, Dye said. A new class this year where that is happening is the AP With WE class, which is offered in conjunction with the College Board, which oversees the Advanced Placement program, and its educational partner WE. Students identify a topic they covered in one of their AP classes, “and really take a deep dive into that,” Dye said.

Using their research into the topic, the students are then expected to develop a service project related to that subject, she explained.

The Innov8 program can allow students to explore areas they are considering for a career, Dye said.

If students have an idea of what they want to pursue in college and beyond, school officials are encouraging them to align their regular classes, Innov8 classes, internships and service projects to support that goal, Dye said.

“That doesn’t limit them from still being what JPII has always been, which is to let students explore” all their interests, Dye said.

The Innov8 program and the experiences it provides students is helping them in the college admissions process, Dye said.

“We are hearing as our kids are entering college, they’re being looked at by admissions counselors as students who understand better what it means to be in college,” Dye said. “The universities are looking at them with a different lens than the general admit kid who hasn’t had any experiences.”

Cup runneth over for JPII

The Pope John Paul II High School Knights claimed the Bishop’s Cup for the fourth year in a row with a 28-17 win over the Father Ryan Irish on Friday, Sept. 13, at Father Ryan. JPII junior quarterback Sawyer Watts, top right, celebrates his first quarter touchdown run that gave the Knights a lead they would never relinquish. Watts also passed for a touchdown, and JPII junior running back Antwan Roberts rushed for 194 yards and a touchdown. Father Ryan quarterback D.C. Tabscott led the Irish with two passing touchdowns. After the game, photo at right, the two teams gathered at midfield where Father Mark Simpson, chaplain at Father Ryan, led the players and coaches in prayer. For more photos, visit www.tennesseeregister.com.

Gift allows JPII students to put cash into service

Andy Telli

At Pope John Paul II High School, Bob Page’s Investment class has been a virtual exercise. Students put together an investment portfolio and then track how well they would have done if real money was at stake, all the while learning how the stock market really works.

But thanks to an anonymous donation of $290,000, students will have the chance to put real money where their ideas are.

The donation was earmarked specifically for use by Page’s Investment and Entrepreneurship classes that are offered as part of the school’s Innov8 program, said Jennifer Dye, director of innovation at JPII.

One of the goals of the gift is to use the money to support a service project, Dye said. “We are expected to do good things with that gift,” she said.

A portion of the gift will be used to create an endowment-like fund with an investment plan developed by students in the Investment class, said Page, who became a teacher after a long and successful career in banking and finance.

The next step will be to use any profits generated by the investment of the endowment to fund a JPII service project, Page said. “These transactions will undoubtedly add to the project’s authenticity and excitement,” he added.

The students in Page’s Entrepreneurship class in the winter, working with a committee of professionals, will evaluate proposals to use the cash grant to finance service projects developed by students in the class or projects developed by students in other Innov8 classes, Dye said.

“He runs a sort of Shark Tank experience for them in the Entrepreneurship class,” Dye said, referring to the television show where would-be entrepreneurs pitch their business ideas to a panel of financiers and venture capitalists. “He provides a great opportunity for students to learn true boots-on-the-ground, how the stock market works and how to develop ideas and pursue startups.”

By incorporating the service aspect, the gift allows the students to live “that example that faith leads us beyond ourselves,” said Dye, echoing the school’s branding.

“It’s a program unlike any that I know of,” Dye said. “This true, let’s take real money and invest it and do good things with it.”

The anonymous gift and the project it will finance represents the fulfillment of the vision school officials had when they launched the Innov8 program in 2016.

“It’s really awesome to watch what we envisioned four years ago and watch that transformation,” Dye said. “It’s really starting to work out the way we hoped.”

“Innov8 takes everything we say we value at JPII,” Dye said. “The creative and innovative piece and partnering it with really strong academics. And then we add the service aspect.”