THE MAGAZINE OF THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD

Easter Issue

The Catholic mirror

thecatholicmirror.org
April 2021

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

In the know with Fr. Joe
I felt abandoned during the pandemic

Parish Angel
Meg Skowron says parish service is how she honors God for giving her life

Back to Better,

Our Road to Emmaus

Bishop Byrne's Pastoral Letter | Page 14

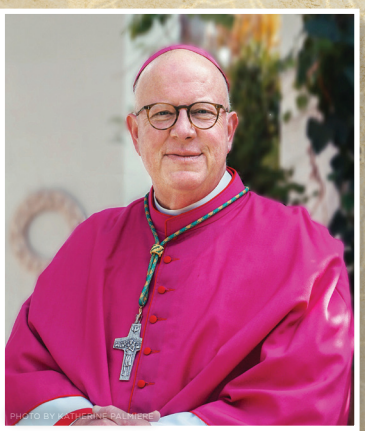


PHOTO BY KATHERINE PALMIERI



ROBERT ZUND/PUBLIC DOMAIN



IMAGE BY SIDNEY DE ALMEIDA/GETTY IMAGES

Wishing You a Blessed Easter Season!

May the hope and joy
of the Resurrection
bring comfort and peace to you,
in this season, and always.

Catholic
Communications
Diocese of Springfield



Chalice of Salvation

Mother's Day & Father's Day Remembrances



Each year, we invite the ***Chalice of Salvation*** viewing community to join us in honoring those who have played parental roles in our lives. All are invited to send in the names for inclusion in our **Mother's Day** and **Father's Day Remembrances**. The names will be placed before the altar on the week of and following the holidays.

Please watch your mailbox for forms or contact Catholic Communications at 413.732.3175 to be included!

Chalice of Salvation can be seen Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. on WWLP 22News

Finding a way forward

Stories of survival, hope, lead us 'faith first' into the future



PHOTO BY FATCAMERA/GETTY IMAGES

We have recently passed the one-year anniversary of the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and, with the widespread availability of vaccines, are now anticipating a return to cherished in-person activities, including liturgies, parish events, and diocesan gatherings and celebrations.



REBECCA DRAKE, PH.D., *editor of The Catholic Mirror. Submit comments, responses and suggestions to the editor at 413.452.0636 or r.drake@diospringfield.org.*

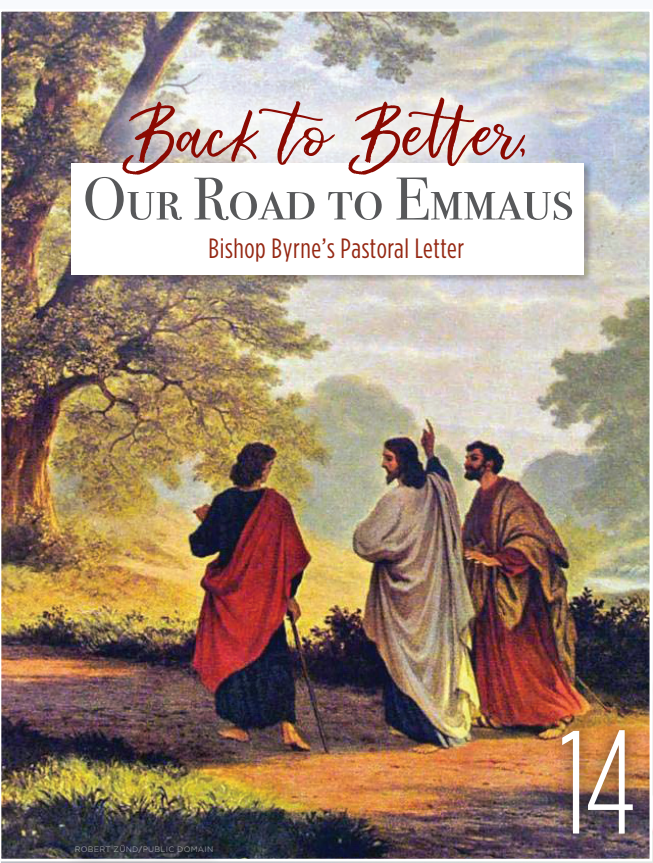
As we embark on this journey, we are led by Bishop Byrne, who in his first pastoral letter, "Back to Better: Our Road to Emmaus" (pages 14-18), provides a "roadmap" that leads us through Scripture and the Eucharist to the "mission territory" of evangelization that is the joyful sharing of the person of Jesus through the example of our daily lives.

Now in the midst of a multi-year celebration of the 350th anniversary of their founding, the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, and their message of mercy, are featured in a special story in this issue (pages 20-23). Our report is based on the local community of Marians, located at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge. After surviving more than three centuries of conflicts and persecutions, it is no surprise that the Marians' ministry persevered during the pandemic, reaching an ever-widening audience of believers through their digital, online and print media.

In other local news, the College of the Holy Cross in our neighboring Diocese of Worcester has named its first lay and first Black president, Vincent Rougeau, who is currently the dean of Boston College Law School (page 8). And, as Bishop Byrne's recently published book, *5 Things with Father Bill*, continues to grow in popularity, it also has received the Illumination Gold Award (page 9).

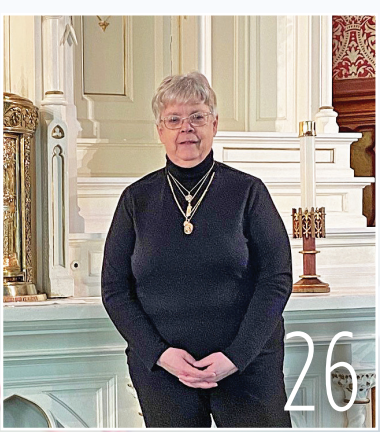
Our Parish Angel, Meg Skowron, believes serving her Pittsfield parish is the perfect way to thank God for the gift of her life (page 26).

As we continue our celebration of the Easter season, we are more than ready to welcome the bishop's invitation to embark on the "Road to Emmaus," the Marian Fathers' "gift of hope," the endless mercy of God's unconditional love, and a renewed appreciation of the blessings of life in the presence of the Risen Lord. ✝



ROBERT ZUND/PUBLIC DOMAIN





BACKGROUND IMAGE BY BORCHEE/GETTY IMAGES

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PHOTO BY SVYPA/GETTY IMAGES

Finding joy on Easter Monday

Winnie-the-Pooh once realized, "Although eating honey was a very good thing to do, there was a moment just before you began to eat it which was better." (A.A. Milne)

The anticipation of a happy event is in itself exciting, and for Easter, we Catholics sure do a lot of preparing. During Lent, we mindfully curtail bad habits and make sacrifices. We pray the Stations of the Cross and have solemn services during Holy Week. At home, we set our tables with plentiful food: dyed eggs, home-baked bread and babkas, and, if you're Polish like me, kielbasa.

What happens, though, when the day, we so anxiously awaited finally arrives and passes? Many of us, myself included, focus so much on getting ready that after Easter Sunday, we simply return to business as usual. We don't feel that same buzz of anticipation anymore. But consider this: In the church calendar, Easter lasts for 50 days, called "Eastertide." These days mark a period of discernment, struggle and courage for the 11 Apostles in the early church. Eastertide is also a time of great hope: We celebrate Jesus' resurrection, ascension and gift of the Holy Spirit in Pentecost. As such, this season is when we can truly focus on cultivating joy in the Good News of eternal life.

To nourish joy, we must do so with prayerful intention. This means noticing how God dwells in the everyday moments of our lives. From a simple cup of coffee to walking your dog, helping your child with homework to holding your spouse's hand, God is there. God resides in the big moments of our lives and all the gray, unmemorable moments in between. It's like breathing. We forget that we do it, but it keeps us alive. We may forget that God is with us, but he is. During Eastertide, we can try to see how God reveals himself to us. Realizing his ongoing presence – no matter how quiet or loud – will bring us joy.

Spiritual joy does not mean feeling happy all the time. That is unsustainable, and we are biologically built to feel a wide range of emotions. Rather, spiritual joy is a joy that remains in our hearts no matter how we feel. It's the faith and peace we find when we realize that God's love is real, healing, unconditional and everlasting. It is an Easter kind of love. ✝



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The Catholic mirror
The Magazine of the Catholic Diocese of Springfield

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The Catholic Mirror (USPS 556980) is a membership publication of the Catholic Diocese of Springfield, 65 Elliot St., Springfield, MA 01105. Published six times per year. Subscription rates are $20 per year. Individual issues are $3. Send all subscription information and address changes to: *The Catholic Mirror*, Catholic Diocese of Springfield, 65 Elliot St., Springfield, MA 01105; (413)732-3175 or e-mail m.dupont@diospringfield.org. Periodicals postage paid at Springfield, MA and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Catholic Mirror*, Catholic Communications Corporation, Catholic Diocese of Springfield, 65 Elliot St., Springfield, MA 01105. ©*The Catholic Mirror*, Catholic Communications Corporation, Diocese of Springfield. ©2021 FAITH Catholic.

Liturgical calendar: Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper **April 1** | Friday of the Passion of the Lord **April 2** | Easter Vigil **April 3** | Solemnity of Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord **April 4** | Divine Mercy Sunday **April 11** | St. Martin I, pope and martyr **April 13** | Third Sunday of Easter **April 18** | St. Anselm, bishop and doctor of the Church **April 21** | St. George, martyr; St. Adalbert, bishop and martyr **April 23** | St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, priest and martyr **April 24** | Fourth Sunday of Easter **April 25** | St. Peter Chanel, priest and martyr; St. Louis Grignion de Montfort, priest **April 28** | Memorial of St. Catherine of Siena, virgin and doctor of the Church **April 29** | St. Pius V, pope **April 30**



PUBLIC DOMAIN

ST. PIUS V

Birthplace: Bosco Marengo, Italy
Feast day: April 30

AT A TIME WHEN corruption, heresy, immorality and invasion threatened the church's existence, Pope Pius V was elected to lead the Body of Christ and zealously worked to implement the renewal of the church mandated by the Council of Trent.

As a Dominican friar devoted to a life of prayer, fasting and poverty, he called the princes of the church back to a simpler and holier way of life — a message that was not well-received by bishops and priests who had become accustomed to the wealth, power and freedom they enjoyed while collaborating and reveling with the royalty of the day.

Pius was tireless in pursuing the broad reforms called for by the church fathers. To address the lack of knowledge of faith among Christians, he created a new catechism and established the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) for forming the young in the faith. He founded new seminaries for providing proper training for priests. To elevate the prayer life of the church, he released a new missal and a new breviary. The 1570 edition of the Roman Missal he promulgated was used for 400 years until Pope Paul VI revised it after Vatican II.

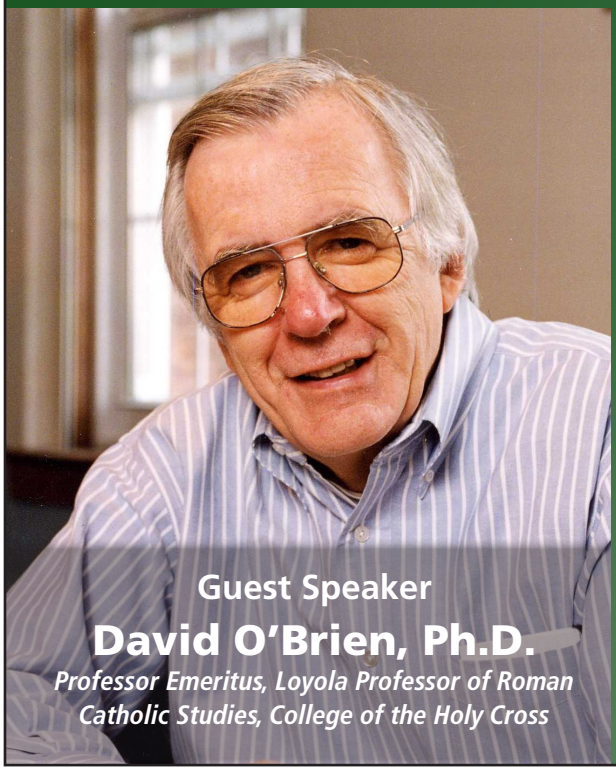
Pius also significantly changed the way the church engaged the world. He built hospitals and provided food for the poor that had previously been spent for decadent papal banquets. He ordered the building of public water and sewer systems in Rome that reduced the risk for spreading malaria and typhoid. Tradition reports that he spent his own money to import corn to feed the poor during a famine.

Pius successfully rallied the warring Catholic states to form the Holy League just in time to defeat the vastly larger fleet of the invading Ottoman Empire in the Battle of Lepanto on Oct. 7, 1571. He proclaimed Oct. 7 the feast of Our Lady of Victory, in honor of the Blessed Mother, whose intercession was invoked prior to the battle. The feast is now called Our Lady of the Rosary.

St. Pius was canonized in 1712. ✝

Rev. Hugh Crean Distinguished Lecture

Reflections on the Year of St. Joseph



Guest Speaker
David O'Brien, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus, Loyola Professor of Roman Catholic Studies, College of the Holy Cross

Tuesday, April 20
4 - 5:30 p.m.

FREE ONLINE EVENT

REGISTER AT:

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Bishop Byrne names Father Piotr Calik vicar general, moderator of the curia



Springfield Bishop William D. Byrne on Feb. 8 named **Father Piotr Calik** as vicar general of the Diocese of Springfield. A vicar general reports to the bishop and is the moderator of the curia, or administrative affairs.

"After much prayer and consultation, I am appointing Father Piotr Calik as vicar general and moderator of the curia for the Diocese of Springfield. Father Piotr's many gifts are well-suited for this time of transition," said Bishop Byrne. "The position will be full-time to allow me to be bishop, not of an office, but of our diocese. I am grateful that Father Piotr has agreed to serve in this capacity because I know he loves being a pastor."

Father Calik was serving as pastor of All Saints and St. Mary parishes in Ware at the time of the appointment.

"Of course, being asked by Bishop Byrne to be vicar general was a huge surprise to me. I do remember very well that, after that news, I wasn't able to sleep the whole night," said Father Calik. "However, I am a strong believer in obedience, which comes from the rite of priestly ordination. For sure, it is a very humbling experience."

Father Calik attended SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary in Krakow, Poland from 2007-2008, before attending SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary in Michigan from 2008-2013. He was ordained a priest in the Diocese of Springfield in 2013 by then Springfield Bishop Timothy A. McDonnell.

He serves on the College of Consultors and the Presbyteral Council. In addition, he was assigned to the World Youth Day Committee in 2016, the Vocation Advisory Team, New Pastors Program, and the Commission for the Clergy. Father Calik is currently the dean of the Hampden-East Deanery. ✝

Laura Hurley appointed chief advancement officer of Irish Cultural Center



Laura Hurley of Longmeadow has been appointed to serve as chief advancement officer at the Irish Cultural Center (ICC) of Western New England. Hurley, who has strong ties to the area and who has worked in several capacities strengthening nonprofit groups and organizations, will help steer the ICC towards expansion on all levels, including patronage, events, travel, and fundraising.

The Irish Cultural Center was established in 1999 to foster an appreciation of Irish culture in Western New England. The mission of the Irish Cultural Center is to cultivate a connection with Ireland, through the arts, culture, history, language, and heritage. The center, located at 429 Morgan Rd. in West Springfield, offers opportunities to engage in educational, travel, and social events that promote Irish culture.

ICC president Sean F. Cahillane welcomed Hurley to the organization that promotes Irish culture and heritage throughout Western New England. "We are thrilled to have Laura Hurley working with us to further our mission and to keep us viable for the future, for many years to come," he said. "She's a perfect fit for our organization in all ways."

"I am happy to be a part of this organization, and I look forward to helping steer it forward to greater growth and success," she said. "I feel I am where I belong."

Hurley has lived in the area for over 45 years and is vested in the region as well as in her Irish heritage. She comes to the ICC with over 25 years of development and grant-writing experience. Her professional experience includes time at Partners for a Healthier Community, and as a consultant in elder care and estate management. She also has experience in strategic planning and facilitative leadership. ✝

Assignments Diocese of Springfield

Effective Jan. 31:

Father Michael Wood, formerly co-vocations director, resigned from that position. He remains pastor of Mary Mother of Hope Parish, Springfield.

Effective Feb. 2:

Father John Tuohey, formerly administrator of St. Charles Parish, Pittsfield, was appointed pastor of that parish.

Effective Feb. 7:

Father Piotr Calik, pastor of St. Mary and All Saints Parishes, Ware, was appointed vicar general of the Springfield Diocese.

Bishop William D. Byrne was named director of vocations for the Springfield Diocese.

Effective Feb. 8:

Father David Darcy, formerly co-vocations director, was appointed diocesan director of seminarians, while remaining pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Belchertown.

Father Jonathan Reardon, pastor of Holy Family Parish, South Deerfield, was appointed diocesan director of recruiting, while remaining pastor of Holy Family Parish, South Deerfield.

Effective Feb. 10:

Father Michael Lillpopp, pastor of St. Mary Parish, Hampden, was appointed chaplain of Springfield College, while remaining pastor of St. Mary Parish, Hampden.

Effective Feb. 20:

Father Tomasz Gorny, formerly on medical leave, was appointed administrator pro-tem of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Granby.

Effective March 1:

Father Steven Montesanti, formerly pastor of St. John Paul II Parish and St. Stanislaus Kostka Mission, Adams; St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Cheshire and North American Martyrs Chapel, Lanesborough, was appointed pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Pittsfield.

Effective March 3:

Father Daniel Pacholec was named diocesan director of pro-life activities, while remaining pastor of Our Lady of Blessed Sacrament Parish, Westfield.

Effective April 1:

Father Barrent Pease, formerly parochial vicar at St. John the Evangelist Parish, Agawam, was appointed administrator of St. John Paul II Parish, Adams, and St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Cheshire.

Father Paul Norman, formerly parochial vicar at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Northampton, was appointed administrator of St. Mary and All Saints parishes, Ware.

Father John Gawienowski, formerly parochial vicar at Our Lady of the Valley Parish, Easthampton, became parochial vicar at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Northampton.

Effective May 1:

Father Timothy Campoli will retire.

Father Douglas McGonagle will become pastor of Blessed Sacrament and Holy Trinity parishes in Greenfield.

Father Ryan Sliwa will become administrator of Our Lady of the Valley Parish, Easthampton.

In memoriam

Sister of the Assumption Evelyn R. Brault, formerly Sister Gerard-Marie, 94, died Jan. 21 in Marlborough, Mass. A native of Chicopee Falls, she was a longtime missionary in Japan and was in the 71st year of her religious life.

Sister of St. Joseph Jean Marie (Lucille) Lyonnais, 89, died on Jan. 27 in Holyoke. A native of New Bedford, Mass., she was a longtime teacher in the Fall River Diocese, and was in the 70th year of her religious life.

Deacon George Keator, 85, died on Feb. 1. A native of Cornwall, N.Y., he was a longtime deacon in Lenox, Lenox Dale and West Stockbridge.

Deacon Arthur E. Ratté, 83, of Warwick, died on Feb. 3. A native of Haverhill, Mass., he was a 20-year deacon at St. Patrick Parish, Northfield.

Deacon Antonio F. Gois, 78, of Ludlow, died at home on Feb. 4. A native of Portugal, he had served as a deacon at Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Ludlow since 2005.

Marian Father Seraphim Michalenko, 90, of Stockbridge, died on Feb. 11 in Pittsfield. He was a world-renowned expert on the life and spirituality of St. Faustina Kowalska, the Polish nun whose diary inspired the Divine Mercy devotion.

Complete obituaries can be found at iobserve.org.

Frances Nevins: Mid 20th Century Carmelite - Friend, Scholar, Wife, Nun, Mystic

by Joan Ward Mullaney, PhD ~ Pittsfield, MA



A 2020 update about a cloistered nun. Spiritual biography of Frances Nevins/Sr. Christine born into a prominent, wealthy, Longmeadow, MA family.

Sr. Jane Morrissey SSJ, PhD, former president of the Sisters of St. Joseph defines Frances Nevins/Sr. Christine as a "rare and holy woman".

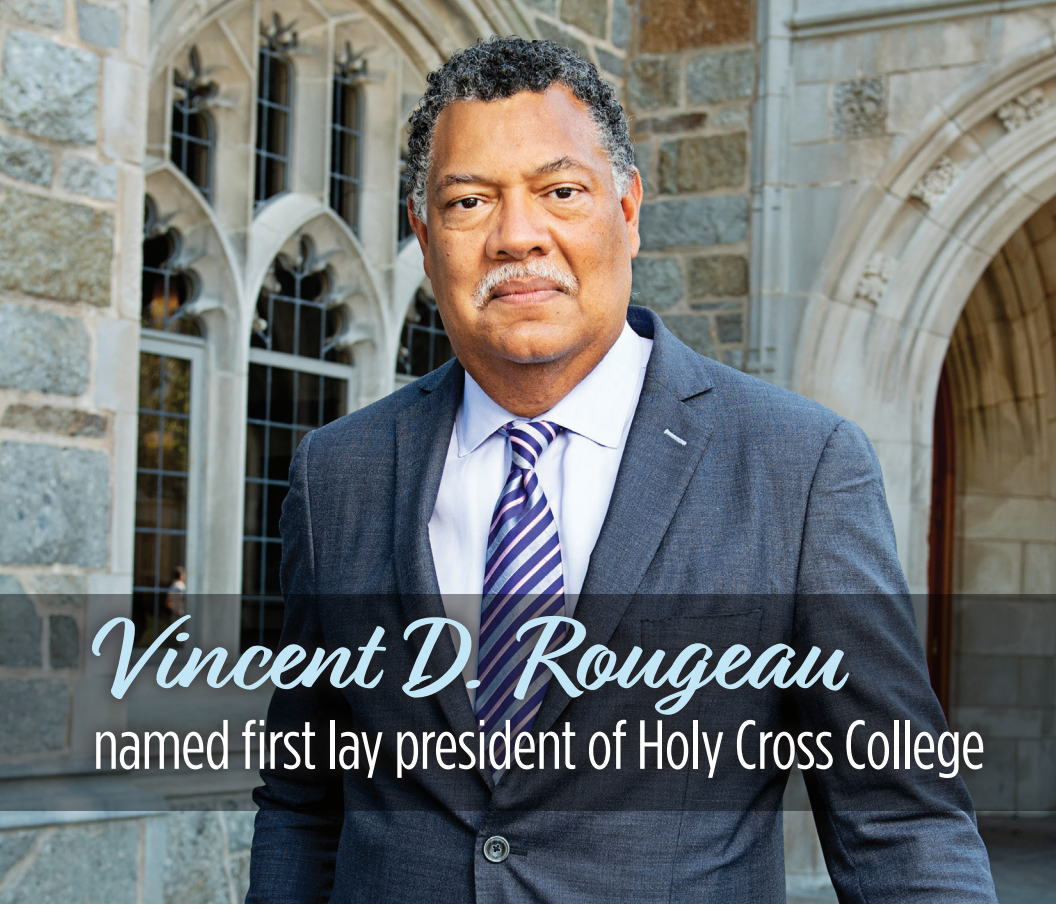
Albany Bishop Howard Hubbard calls the book "a fascinating story".

Soft cover, 332 pages, over fifty photos & illustrations
$14.95 (plus S&H)

To order call Divine Mercy Shrine
413-298-1121 or 1-888-484-1112
Also available at:
Spirit Among Us, Ludlow, MA
413-583-4014

Staff report

Photo Credit: Courtesy of College of the Holy Cross



Vincent D. Rougeau named first lay president of Holy Cross College

WORCESTER, Mass. – **The College of the Holy Cross has named Vincent D. Rougeau its 33rd president, the first lay and first Black president in the history of the college. The announcement was made by Richard Patterson '80, chairman of the Board of Trustees.**

Rougeau is currently dean of the Boston College Law School. He was approved unanimously by the Board of Trustees on Feb. 9. He was chosen after a thorough nationwide search, and will assume the role on July 1, 2021. He will succeed Jesuit Father Philip L. Boroughs, who announced in September that he would be leaving his post at the end of June, after a successful presidency spanning almost a decade.

"We are thrilled to welcome Vincent to the Holy Cross community, and look forward to his leadership in building on the college's success of the past decade," said Patterson. "Vincent brings the strategic vision, deep experience as a faculty member and administrator, and commitment to liberal arts education that will allow him to lead Holy Cross in meeting the many challenges facing higher education today. Both his scholarship and his leadership demonstrate his profound dedication to Catholic social teaching and to educating students toward seeking justice and making a meaningful difference in our world."

Rougeau has been dean of the Boston College Law School since 2011. During his tenure, he has led a reorganization in leadership structure to support a more holistic approach to student services, expand the school's national and international recruitment of a diverse student body, and enhance the school's commitment to experiential learning and global engagement. He was recently named the inaugural director of the new Boston College Forum on Racial Justice in America, a meeting place for listening, dialogue, and greater understanding about race and racism in our country.

Prior to his role at Boston College, Rougeau was a tenured professor of law at Notre Dame Law School, and served as their associate dean for academic affairs from 1999-2002. He writes and speaks extensively on legal education reform. He was recently named president-elect of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS), and has served as a member of the Executive Committee of AALS, and on the council of the Boston Bar Association. He also has served as chair of the AALS Deans Steering Committee.

Rougeau is a national expert in Catholic social thought. His book *Christians in the American Empire: Faith and Citizenship in the New World Order* was released by Oxford University Press in 2008. His current research and writing consider the relationships among religious identity, citizenship, and membership in highly mobile and increasingly multicultural democratic societies. He serves as senior fellow at the Centre for Theology and Community (CTC) in London, where he researches broad-based community organizing, immigration, and citizenship in the UK as part of the Just Communities Project.

"I am thrilled to be joining the Holy Cross community as its new president," said Rougeau. "I have long admired the college for its academic excellence, its talented students and accomplished alumni, its dedicated faculty and staff and its unique place as our nation's only Jesuit, Catholic liberal arts college. Our current moment in history cries out for the mission-driven education that Holy Cross provides, and I am very excited about what this community can accomplish in the years ahead."

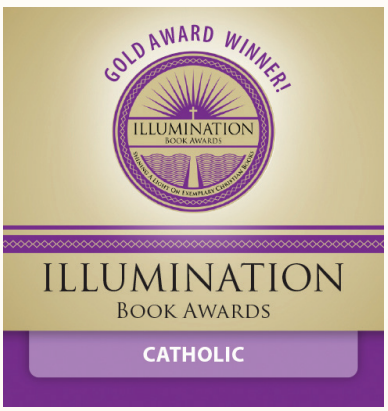
Rougeau earned his bachelor of arts degree in international relations from Brown University and his juris doctor from Harvard Law School, where he served as articles editor of the *Harvard Human Rights Journal*. He is an elected member of the American Law Institute and currently serves on the American Law Institute Project on Sexual Misconduct and the Brigham Young University Law School Visitors Board. He is a member of the American Bar Association, the Maryland Bar Association and the District of Columbia Bar Association.

He and his wife, Dr. Robin Kornegay-Rougeau, a pediatrician, have three sons. ✝

Staff report

Bishop Byrne's '5 Things' book wins Illumination Gold Award

SPRINGFIELD – **Springfield Bishop William D. Byrne's recently published book, *5 Things With Father Bill: Hope, Humor, and Help for the Soul*, has won the Illumination Gold Medal Award. Published by Loyola Press, the book features 50 topics to enhance ordinary days and holidays with insights, reflections, and encouragement.**



According to the Illumination Awards website, "The Illumination Awards annually recognize the best Christian books. These winners come from well known publishers and independents with a passion for the Word. Their works challenge, comfort, enlighten, and engage. They truly offer illumination to readers."

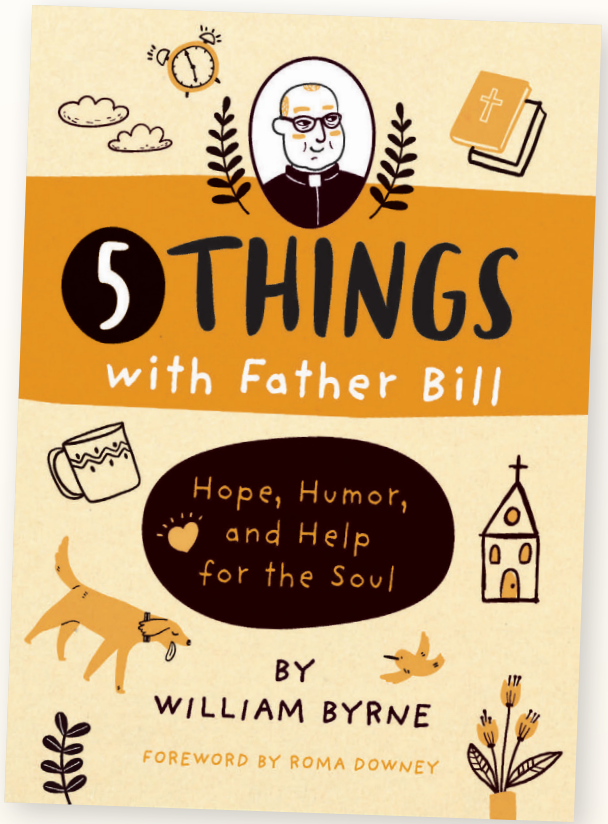
Award categories range from Bible Study and Devotional to family-oriented subjects like Education and Children's Picture Book. The purpose of the Illumination Book Awards is to bring award recipients the credibility and publicity they need to further their book marketing and sales success.

Judging is based on content, design, and production quality, with emphasis on innovation and creative ways of expressing a Christian worldview. The judging panel includes experts from the fields of education, clergy, book production, and bookselling.

Bishop Byrne's book was tied in the Gold Award Catholic category with *The Outsider: Pope Francis and his Battle to Reform the Church*, by Christopher Lamb.

The topics in the bishop's *5 Things* book include ways to conquer fear, how to be a genius, the power of blessings and prayers, saints to emulate, tips for Lent, Easter, Advent and Christmas, and even lessons from Maggie, the bishop's pet Labrador retriever.

A portion of the Illumination Awards entry fees are donated to a worthy charitable organization each year. This year's charity is Habitat for Humanity, "a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing organization building simple, decent, affordable housing in partnership with people in need," the website notes. ✝



5 Things with Father Bill can be purchased at loyolapress.com and amazon.com.

Nineteenth Annual Diocesan Wide
Eucharistic Rosary Procession
"Celebrating the Year of St. Joseph"
DATE & TIME (RAIN OR SHINE):
Sunday, June 6, 2021 • 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
WHERE:
The Church of
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish
99 King St., Northampton 01060


To Jesus Through Mary To Console Their Two Hearts

• Guest speaker: Bishop William D. Byrne on "The Rescue Mission"
• Confessions, Rosary Procession, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Adoration and Benediction
• Reception will follow
For more info, call George or Brenda D'Astous, 413-221-4372
www.eucharisticprocessionnorthampton.com

Walking in the footsteps of our risen Lord means we are "Sowing the Seeds" of our faith in the world. Your combined contributions help to feed the hungry, clothe those in need, and reach beyond the prison bars to share our faith. You reach children at risk, the unborn, the sick, the elderly, and the dying across Western Mass.

To date, over 8,000 donors have pledged $1,418,799 in support toward our $3 million dollar goal. Please consider making a donation or pledge to the 2021 Annual Catholic Appeal and become the face of the Catholic Church to your neighbors in need.

Parish Donations through March 23rd

St. John Paul II	Adams	$13,360
St. John the Evangelist	Agawam	$27,680
Newman Center	Amherst	$4,185
St. Brigid	Amherst	$7,050
St. Francis of Assisi	Belchertown	$28,121
St. Christopher	Brimfield	$2,285
St. Christopher	Charlemont	$300
St. Mary of the Assumption	Cheshire	$5,485
Holy Name	Chicopee	$8,170
St. Anne	Chicopee	$17,790
St. Anthony of Padua	Chicopee	$9,715
St. Rose de Lima	Chicopee	$27,907
St. Stanislaus	Chicopee	$25,706
St. John	Colrain	$900
St Mark	Conway	$1,215
St. Agnes	Dalton	$33,272
St. Michael	East Longmeadow	$35,351
Our Lady of the Valley	Easthampton	$24,506
Sacred Heart	Feeding Hills	$16,144
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Granby	$6,595
St. Peter	Great Barrington	$4,665
Blessed Sacrament	Greenfield	$9,625
Holy Trinity	Greenfield	$40,435
Most Holy Redeemer	Hadley	$10,732
St. Mary	Hampden	$16,605
Our Lady of Grace	Hatfield	$4,926
Our Lady of the Hills	Haydenville	$11,595
Blessed Sacrament	Holyoke	$31,140
Immaculate Conception	Holyoke	$1,355
Our Lady of the Cross	Holyoke	$18,560
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Holyoke	$4,945
St. Jerome	Holyoke	$8,360
St. Teresa of Calcutta	Housatonic	$2,685
Immaculate Conception	Indian Orchard	$3,612
St. Mary	Lee	$9,367
St. Ann	Lenox	$9,490
St. Vincent de Paul	Lenox Dale	$3,405
St. Mary	Longmeadow	$64,155
Christ the King	Ludlow	$16,658
Our Lady of Fatima	Ludlow	$7,880
St. Elizabeth	Ludlow	$40,895
St. Patrick	Monson	$7,940
Our Lady of the Hills	Monterey	$50
St. Elizabeth of Hungary	North Adams	$13,437
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	Northampton	$30,560
St. Patrick	Northfield	$3,655
St. Mary	Orange	$6,500
St. Mary of the Lakes	Otis	$460
St. Thomas the Apostle	Palmer	$8,695
Sacred Heart	Pittsfield	$24,485
St. Charles	Pittsfield	$18,072
St. Joseph	Pittsfield	$20,333
St. Mark	Pittsfield	$15,770
Holy Family	Russell	$6,955
Our Lady of the Valley	Sheffield	$4,640
St. Joseph	Shelburne Falls	$4,640
Holy Family	South Deerfield	$10,955
St. Patrick	South Hadley	$55,300
St. Theresa of Lisieux	South Hadley	$11,880
Our Lady of the Lake	Southwick	$9,825
Blessed Sacrament/All Souls	Springfield	$4,380
Holy Cross	Springfield	$18,873
Holy Name	Springfield	$30,325
Mary, Mother of Hope	Springfield	$12,455
Our Lady of Mount Carmel	Springfield	$9,085
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart	Springfield	$8,620
Sacred Heart	Springfield	$38,343
St. Catherine of Siena	Springfield	$25,475
St. Patrick	Springfield	$21,050
St. Paul the Apostle	Springfield	$9,060
St. Michael's Cathedral	Springfield	$17,559
St. Joseph	Stockbridge	$1,030
Divine Mercy	Three Rivers	$6,592
Our Lady of Czestochowa	Turners Falls	$6,670
Our Lady of Peace	Turners Falls	$15,145
All Saints	Ware	$9,005
St. Mary	Ware	$6,482
St. Thomas the Apostle	West Springfield	$42,906
St. Patrick	West Stockbridge	$6,220
Holy Trinity	Westfield	$7,460
Blessed Sacrament	Westfield	$26,850
St. Mary	Westfield	$39,055
St. Peter and St. Casimir	Westfield	$8,215
St. Cecilia	Wilbraham	$60,655
Sts. Patrick/Raphael	Williamstown	$10,635

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I felt abandoned during the pandemic

By Fr. Joe Krupp

Q Dear Father Joe: Unlike in most parishes, my priest did not appear to minister during the COVID pandemic. I feel abandoned, so why should I go back to my parish?

A I understand the sense of betrayal and sorrow, I do. I ministered to many people during the height of the quarantine who expressed the same feelings.

What I would like to do now is offer you a perspective that may help you move through this. We'll look at priests, bishops and laity and how I saw each respond during the crisis.

We'll start with priests: Why did some priests not minister during the COVID crisis?

For some priests, they simply couldn't do it: Physical limitations among priests are the same as those among lay people. Some of us have bad lungs, some bad hearts — for many health reasons, some of us simply couldn't minister without getting seriously sick or infecting other people. Other priests have limitations of imagination; God did not give them the gift of reimagining a way to minister beyond what they are used to. Because of that, they weren't able to step out of the norm and find a different way to do things.

I hope we all realize that none of these things are sins or failings. They are a reality of broken people like myself being called by a God who requires dependence, not dependability.

If there were some priests who decided that this was basically a break time, let me say on the church's behalf that I am so sorry.

But there were priests to whom God gave good lungs and hearts. There were priests to whom God gave an abundance of imagination, and I urge you to remember that those priests were able to continue ministering in life-giving and beautiful ways. There were priests who tried their best to be present in whatever way God called them to.

Now, let's look at bishops:

Our bishops have an awesome and monumental responsibility. They are entrusted by God to do their best to care for their flock and, honestly, I don't think we often consider what a grave responsibility that is. Some people have implied or outright said that our bishops' decisions to temporarily suspend public Masses was caving in to secular pressure rather than caring for the good of God's people. This is an incredibly harsh judgment. Jesus flat-out told us that the measure with which we measure others will be measured back to us. I look at my bishop and believe with all my heart that he did (and does) his absolute best to do the right thing.

Finally, let's look at the laity.

I worry sometimes that because of the way we priests sometimes minister in parishes, we leave God's people with the impression that it is our job to take care of things and it is the role of the laity to support that. This is trouble.

The fact is, for every priest who didn't minister, there were innumerable lay people who could have. It doesn't require a priest or even a parish employee to call a lonely parishioner. It doesn't require a priest or parish employee to deliver groceries or to pray with people over the phone. As long as we act as if only priests can do these things, our church will suffer.

Beyond that, some of us at times made the problem worse: Our fear and anger were our defining traits — when instead we are called to show the world what it is to be loved by God and how that changes us.

There is room for all of us in the church to repent for our attitudes and actions during the crisis, and also to celebrate our attitudes and actions during the crisis.

But, even then, if I may, I'd like to suggest that none of these are reasons to stay in or leave the church. There is only one reason to stay in the church — because what we believe is true.

That's it.

Priests come and go, bishops come and go, lay people come and go. Here's what doesn't come and go: The truth of Jesus Christ and his bride, the church.

With this, I invite you to take a moment and read over the Apostles' Creed. Take some time and read it, pray through it and then ask yourself if it is true. If so, then forgive those who failed you, forgive yourself for any failures and press forward with a heart filled with joy, knowing that Our Lord will never allow our sin to be a reason to abandon us. ✝



FATHER JOE KRUPP
Send your questions to: "In the Know with Fr. Joe" The Catholic Mirror, P.O. Box 1730, Springfield, MA 01102-1730, Or: JoeInBlack@faithpub.com

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By Carolee McGrath



Bishop Byrne leads rosary at 40 Days for Life campaign

Springfield Bishop William D. Byrne led close to 40 people in praying the rosary for the 40 Days for Life campaign, Friday, March 12 at 3 p.m. on Wason Avenue in Springfield on the public right-of-way outside of Planned Parenthood.

The 40 Days for Life campaign kicked off Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17, and ran through Palm Sunday, March 28.

"When we pray for the end to abortion, we also pray for all of those in the act of discerning this: the doctors, the nurses. This sin not only affects ourselves, but families, so we really need to hold them close in prayer," said Bishop Byrne, who added there is power in public witness.

The peaceful, pro-life vigil has three components: prayer and fasting, public witness, and community outreach. People from several parishes from across the Diocese of Springfield came to join the bishop.

"Any decade, any rosary, any prayer we do saves lives," said Mabeline Burgos, of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Holyoke. She was joined by her husband, Tony, and several members of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish. Burgos led the fourth decade of the Sorrowful Mysteries. Burgos went through Rachel's Vineyard Retreats, a post-abortive ministry, to receive healing from an abortion she had when she was a young woman.

"It makes a difference, even if it's just one life. And so it is important for me because of my own story of having an abortion at an early age. So you know, the more I can spread the word to prevent everything I went through, that's what I'm going to do," Burgos said.

National organizers report that since the first 40 Days for Life in 2007, more than 18,000 babies have been spared from abortion, 107 abortion facilities have closed, and 211 abortion workers have quit their jobs.

Locally, organizers report more than 20 babies have been spared from abortion in the last 12 years because of the public prayer and alternative resources offered to women in crisis.

"It makes a big difference. It gives women a chance to have a second thought. It also encourages them to know there is help available, always having signs down here that say there's help available and assistance available to them," said Tim Biggins, chair of the Diocese of Springfield's Pro-Life Commission.

Among the pro-life agencies which help women facing a crisis pregnancy are Bethlehem House Pregnancy Care Center in Easthampton; New Directions in North Adams; Alternatives Pregnancy Center in Greenfield; and Clearway Clinic in Springfield. All four nonprofits are supported by the Annual Catholic Appeal.

Father Daniel Pacholec, pastor of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish in Westfield, also was in attendance. Bishop Byrne recently appointed Father Pacholec as diocesan director of pro-life activities.

"It was a wonderful experience to be with the bishop and so many people who are committed to the pro-life movement in our diocese," said Father Pacholec.

The 40 Days for Life campaign is scheduled each spring to coincide with Lent and again during Respect Life Month in October. ✝

Father Dan Pacholec appointed director of pro-life activities



Springfield Bishop William D. Byrne has appointed Father Daniel Pacholec, pastor of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament in Westfield, as diocesan director of pro-life activities.

Through the years, Father Pacholec has been active in hosting holy hours for life and informing people on legislation recently passed which expands abortion into the ninth month of pregnancy.

"I am humbled to work alongside so many people who hold pro-life issues deeply in their hearts. May God bless our continuing efforts," said Father Pacholec. ✝

Back to Better,
Our Road to Emmaus







Luke 24:13-35 (short form, 24:13-16, 28-35)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

That very day, the first day of the week,
two of the disciples of Jesus were going
to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem,
and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred.
And it happened that while they were conversing and debating,
Jesus himself drew near and walked with them,
but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.
He asked them,
"What are you discussing as you walk along?"
They stopped, looking downcast.
One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply,
"Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem
who does not know of the things
that have taken place there in these days?"
And he replied to them, "What sort of things?"
They said to him,
"The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene,
who was a prophet mighty in deed and word
before God and all the people,
how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over
to a sentence of death and crucified him.
But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel;
and besides all this,
it is now the third day since this took place.
Some women from our group, however, have astounded us:
they were at the tomb early in the morning
and did not find his Body;
they came back and reported
that they had indeed seen a vision of angels
who announced that he was alive.
Then some of those with us went to the tomb
and found things just as the women had described,
but him they did not see."
And he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are!
How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke!
Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things
and enter into his glory?"
Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets,
Jesus interpreted to them what referred to him
in all the Scriptures.
As they approached the village to which they were going,
Jesus gave the impression that he was going on farther.
But they urged him, "Stay with us,
for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over."
So he went in to stay with them.
And it happened that, while he was with them at table,
he took bread, said the blessing,
broke it, and gave it to them.
With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him,
but he vanished from their sight.
Then they said to each other,
"Were not our hearts burning within us
while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?"
So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem
where they found gathered together
the Eleven and those with them, who were saying,
"The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!"
Then the two recounted
what had taken place on the way
and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



WILLIAM D. BYRNE,
Bishop of Springfield

Easter is the reason for our hope and so I offer to you this message of hope.

At Mass, after we pray the Lord's Prayer, the priest prays these words, "May we be always free from sin and safe from all distress as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ." That prayer is most poignant to me these days. Each time I celebrate Mass, I see entire congregations wearing masks, socially-distant in the pews and unable to shake hands with one another. Some wonder if things will ever be the same. Some wonder if the crowds will ever come back to Mass.

The COVID crisis follows decades of difficulty. The abuse scandal, declining numbers of parishioners in our pews, no diocesan seminarians, young couples not being married sacramentally, and large numbers of parents choosing not to have their children baptized remain causes of great concern.

So, what are we to think in this time of distress? Has God given up on us?

I begin this pastoral letter to you with the definitive answer: NO! God has most certainly not given up on his people of western Massachusetts. He loves us more than we can imagine and suffers with us in this time of trial.

This letter is intended to be a message of hope, and, I pray, a guide for our future. Since it is intended to be a road out of the dark and into the light, I think we should begin by meeting our Lord on the road, not just any road, but the road to Emmaus.

Luke 24: 28-53 tells the story of two disciples on their way home after having witnessed the horror of the crucifixion. On the way, they encounter the Risen Lord Jesus, although they do not recognize him. As he walks with them, he explains the Scriptures, breaks bread with them, and disappears from their midst. These two disciples hurry to Jerusalem to announce to the Apostles that they have seen the Risen Jesus and have recognized him "in the breaking of the bread."

Let us together see how this encounter will show us the road to the Kingdom of God in western Massachusetts.

Looking Downcast – Facing our Troubles

It's not hard to imagine these two disciples experiencing disappointment, if not despair, after having witnessed the crucifixion of Jesus. By all accounts, the Roman punishment of crucifixion was intended to be brutal and humiliating. It was a message sent to insurgents to let them know that controverting the Roman government would be painful beyond imagination and humiliating to you and to everyone whom you knew. The disciples we encounter at the beginning of the Emmaus story had just witnessed Jesus, "a prophet mighty in word and deed" for whom they had left family and friends behind, undergo the same brutal death endured by the worst of criminals.

With their hopes dashed and dreams shattered, confusion soon began to arise among the Emmaus disciples. Some women in the group were claiming they had seen Jesus. How could this be? The two disciples had seen him die. In the midst of so much confusion, the disciples did not recognize Jesus when he joined them on the road.

The inability to see Jesus results both from the darkness of their spirits and from the reality that the resurrected Jesus must have looked different. Sadness and despair can make the world look different to us. Our expectations can cloud our vision. In these days in which we are living, it can be difficult to see how Jesus is walking with us, but it does not mean that he is not truly present.

These disciples are not the only ones who do not recognize the Risen Lord. When Mary Magdalene meets Jesus after finding the empty tomb, she mistakes him for a gardener (Jn. 20:15). Jesus must have looked different because indeed he was, and is; he was the same but transformed from our perspective. Why this is we won't know fully in this life, but I do know that things had clearly changed, not just for Jesus, but for all of humanity. Resurrection literally changes everything for everybody.

St. Paul writes to the Corinthians, "So whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come." Our calling is now to bring life from death as we have been brought from death to life. Here are some ways:

Abuse Crisis

The most devastating wound we face is one caused by a relatively small number of clergy who did unspeakable crimes against our children. As I have said since my arrival in the diocese, bringing healing to the victims/survivors, atoning for these sins, and honestly communicating what we know must be our priority. The ongoing work of the Independent Task Force is charting a path for the future rooted in the principles of transparency and accountability. These efforts are not the culmination of our commitment, rather just the start.

Pope Francis wrote in his apostolic letter "Vos Estis Lux Mundi": "The crimes of sexual abuse offend our Lord, cause physical, psychological and spiritual damage to the victims and harm the community of the faithful."

Recognizing the harm done to victims/survivors and their families must be a guiding concern as we move forward. I pray for all those harmed and pledge to never forget our Church's past failures. We will continue to create safe environments for our children and implement best practices to prevent sexual abuse of anyone in our faith communities in the future. Together we need to pray and encourage victims/survivors who have not yet come forward to know we will support them should they choose to do so and that our efforts give them some courage to know that they are not alone.

Please pray for and encourage our priests who uniquely feel the pain of this crisis. They live lives committed to their parishioners and yet often feel distrusted. These good and dedicated men need to be celebrated for their commitment and not associated with those few who did so much damage to their victims and the whole Church.

Continued on page 16

Declining Numbers

In the past 70 years, the culture of Catholicism in New England has dramatically changed — in some ways good and other ways not so good. We have mirrored our culture and found ourselves awash in a secular age.

In his apostolic exhortation "Evangelii Gaudium," Pope Francis states:

"The process of secularization tends to reduce the faith and the Church to the sphere of the private and personal. Furthermore, by completely rejecting the transcendent, it [secularization] has produced a growing deterioration of ethics, a weakening of the sense of personal and collective sin, and a steady increase in relativism. These have led to a general sense of disorientation, especially in the periods of adolescence and young adulthood which are so vulnerable to change" (Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* #64).

The pope is spot on!

The remedy is seen in our encounter with God. The disciples encounter Jesus on the road and they encounter him in Scripture and sacrament. All good things flow from him "through whom all things were made." This encounter with the Risen Lord sends them immediately to Jerusalem to proclaim that they have met Jesus and recognized him in the breaking of the bread. The encounter with Jesus compels us to encounter one another.

I repeatedly use the word "encounter" for good reason. It is a word rich in meaning. It is a word Our Holy Father often uses, especially when speaking of what it is to build a culture of encounter:

"In today's world, the sense of belonging to a single human family is fading, and the dream of working together for justice and peace seems an outdated utopia…. Isolation and withdrawal into one's own interests are never the way to restore hope and bring about renewal. Rather, it is closeness; it is the culture of encounter. Isolation, no; closeness, yes. Culture clash, no; culture of encounter, yes" (Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti* #30).

In our relationship with God, "we encounter in the community of the three divine Persons the origin and perfect model of all life in society" (*Fratelli Tutti* #85). True community only flows out of our knowledge and love of Jesus. "Back to better" will only happen when we as individuals and as a church move closer to Christ through the Scriptures and the Mass.

Jesus Interpreted All the Scriptures

As the disciples walk along with him, "beginning with Moses and all the prophets, Jesus interpreted to them what referred to him in all the Scriptures." Jesus, the "Word made flesh" (Jn. 3, 16), opens their minds and their hearts to his revelation from the beginning. So, too, for us on life's journey the opening of our eyes in the light of faith begins with our encounter of the Lord. Jesus is clearly giving the entire scope of the history of salvation, the complete rescue mission decreed by God for the salvation of the world. All Scripture points to Jesus. The Word flows through history, indeed history is HIS story.

The cross that scandalized our two disciples is the moment and place when Jesus took on our suffering and died under its burden. The resurrection is the beginning of God's new creation. This is to say that we are not just sitting around waiting for Jesus to come again. We who are baptized into the Body of Christ are part (or not!) of an active new creation. We are called and empowered to build and to manifest his Kingdom.

Scripture is our blueprint and the teaching of the Church is our action plan. Ignorance of either, or both, will leave us unable to carry out our mission — to make all things new. "Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?" our friends on the way exclaimed. If we want others to know Jesus, our hearts must be burning with his love. We must constantly listen to the Scriptures and the teaching of the Church.

With that in mind, I strongly encourage all opportunities for Bible studies, both personal and small group. As St. Jerome famously said, "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ."

In the Breaking of the Bread

In the story of Emmaus and its account of the breaking of the bread, we witness the second Mass in human history. There is a Liturgy of the Word as Jesus explains Scripture to them. Then there is the Liturgy of the Eucharist when "he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them." The language is intentionally eucharistic and, in fact, the earliest Church referred to the Mass as the Breaking of the Bread. Their first reaction is to share the news and so they head back to Jerusalem.



A true encounter with Jesus compels us to share the news. If we are not prepared to do that then perhaps we still do not recognize the Risen Lord.

While I am grateful that technology has allowed many parishes to stay connected with parishioners, particularly with regard to virtual participation in the Mass, it is not and should never be the norm. For the truly homebound, it is a blessing which we recognize and have offered since 1957 through our televised "Chalice of Salvation" Mass. I am grateful for the hard work of Passionist Brother Terrance Scanlon and his production team and the generosity of WWLP-22NEWS for their gift of Sunday airtime which make this Mass possible.

However, beginning again means getting back to church, participating in person, and renewing our sacramental encounter with Jesus. Today, as from the very first days of the Church described in the Acts of Apostles (2:42), we as Jesus' disciples need to come together to listen to the Word of God, to renew and strengthen our community bonds, to share in our prayer and joy and, above all to celebrate the Eucharist and receive the Lord's Body and Blood together.

We NEED to be back together as soon as we can.

Eucharistic Adoration

Pastors and administrators who have begun some form of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will tell you that it has transformed their life and the life of the parish. Where it does not already exist, I encourage parishes to consider beginning this practice. Just as the disciples recognized Jesus in the breaking of the bread, our encounter with the Lord in eucharistic adoration is transformative. It helps us see and cherish the things that truly matter.

Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life – A Call to Holiness

The staggering fact that there are no seminarians for our diocese is a clear sign of the need for us, priests and lay faithful, to take up the privilege of inviting the next generation of future priests to hear and embrace the call. Each of us should be a vocation recruiter. What are we looking for? One question is: Would he make a good son-in-law? Bring it up.

Recently, I interviewed a man who was applying to the seminary. A few years before, I had suggested the idea and he was a bit put off, even annoyed. But that seed grew and now he is studying to be a priest.

A joyful priest is the best invitation for a young man to consider the seminary. True joy is intimately connected to a strong prayer life. A prayerful priest is a priest that prays daily and with great personal fervor. I have asked my brother priests to pray a daily holy hour; it is the way I begin my day. An hour with Jesus keeps me rooted and centered. Ministry flows from my personal encounter with Jesus. My encounter with Jesus does not flow from ministry.

I also asked priests to help me form a committee to see how we can support one another in our efforts to grow in holiness. Fourteen of my brothers stepped forward! This spring we will be having Eucharistic Holy Hours each week in each of the four counties. I am grateful to God for my brothers.

Family Life

Luke names one of the disciples, "One of them, named Cleopas." Many scholars think that the other disciple was his wife Mary because in John 19:25 there is a reference to "Mary the wife of Cleopas." This adds a whole new dimension to the story. A husband and wife supporting each other in their following of Jesus, their disappointment at the scandal of the cross, and their discovery of the Lord.

Vatican II referred to the family as the "domestic church" (Lumen Gentium #11). This means that the most basic level of the Church is not the parish but a husband and wife, together the visible sacramental sign of Christ loving his bride. Together they recognize him in the breaking of the bread. Make your house a school of prayer. Say a blessing before your meals. On the way home from Mass discuss the homily. Ask one another if they have anything for which they would like you to pray.

One of the perceived consequences of the pandemic was that families often spent much more time with each other. I pray that this never changes! As things open up, it may be necessary for couples and families to recreate this pandemic situation by scheduling a "family/date night." Please make this a priority and I assure you that you will recognize the blessing of each other.

Mission of Evangelization

Pope Francis recently said:

"The Church is either on the move or she is not the Church. Either she evangelizes or she is not the Church. If the Church is not on the move, she decays, she becomes something else" (Pope Francis, *Without Him, We Can Do Nothing: a Conversation About Being Missionaries in Today's World,* Fides: Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples).

It is time for us to be on the move. As the pandemic hit, so many priests and parishes pivoted to meet the need for us to be with one another virtually. Now, we need to pivot again.

As we make our way back to church, we need to be a people of invitation and welcoming. Parishes can begin by establishing teams to invite people back. A call from a neighbor may be all that is needed to light a spark in someone's soul. If someone is unable to return, we may be able to have an encounter in their home with a visit.

To help in this effort, I am re-establishing the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry to help coordinate events and assist parishes in outreach to our youth.

Catholic education is one of our principle vehicles of evangelization. In recent weeks, I have been creating videos to help our parents catechize their children. Although we have traditionally relied heavily on catechists and formal programs to introduce our children to the truths of our faith, an unintended consequence of the pandemic is that parents are now being invited to assume their

Continued on page 18


IMAGE BY ORBON ALIJA/GETTY IMAGES

responsibility as the primary teachers of their children in ways of faith. In this virtual age, it is my intention to provide quality videos that will support parents in this important task.

Our Diocesan Schools Office is helping me evaluate the strength of catechesis in our schools. This is where the value is added because the mission of Catholic education is to teach the whole child: mind, body and soul. Additionally, we are reaching out to home school families in their mission to educate their children and support them in this form of Catholic education.

The Pathways to Faith Initiative serves as a way to revitalize and protect the future of our Catholic schools. Starting with the evangelizing mission, the report lays out aspirational, yet practical steps to revitalize all aspects of our Catholic schools. We believe by addressing our schools holistically, they will continue to provide excellence in all things and, most importantly, be an avenue of encounter with Christ for our students and families. Our schools will also grow in their vitality, better serving all of our families, so that those who desire a Catholic education have the opportunity to be a part of one of our Catholic schools.

Our mission of evangelization also includes numerous life-giving and faith-sharing events and conferences. Our Catholic Family Life Conference, Catholic Youth Day, and many other diocesan- and parish-based events will offer opportunities for all to grow in faith.

The Human Right of Life

Jesus taught us to stand up for the most vulnerable among us. Protection of the unborn, the poor, the immigrant, and the elderly is not just a religious value, it is a human right. The fundamental human right of life is constantly under attack. Pope Francis explains:

"Human beings are ends in themselves and never a means of resolving other problems. Once this conviction disappears, so do solid and lasting foundations for the defense of human rights, which would always be subject to the passing whims of the powers that be" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 213).

The unborn, the elderly and the infirmed are most at risk. God alone is the author of life and any attempt to usurp that principle undermines every effort to build up the dignity of human persons and to break down walls of hatred.

Conclusion

Jesus is the One to Redeem Israel and Western Massachusetts

The despair felt by the disciples on the road to Emmaus can be attributed to the horror they felt as they stood beneath the cross of Jesus. Their despair can also be attributed to unmet expectations. The Emmaus disciples had hoped that Jesus was the chosen one who would set Israel free from Roman enslavement. The inscription above the cross, "King of the Jews," served only to mock that hope.

The good news is that on the road to Emmaus, unmet expectations and hopes were fulfilled. On the road to Emmaus and in the breaking of the bread, everything was made new.

Although things may seem to be bleak for the Church and naysayers abound, we take some comfort in knowing that our Church has lived through and emerged from other periods of great crisis. We have been down this road before. Kingdoms and empires have come and gone, yet the Church still stands. Pope Francis, the 365th successor of St. Peter, still preaches the unchanging Gospel from the very same place where Peter was crucified. Why should it be any different for us in the Diocese of Springfield? We are in the process of purification. If we embrace this time with hope, great things will happen.

Where is the Road to Emmaus?

A brother bishop once recounted a story of a trip he took to the Holy Land. The friar who was acting as his guide asked him if there was anything in particular he would like to see. "The Road to Emmaus," the bishop responded. "Alas," the friar mused, "we don't know where it is anymore. Perhaps so that every road can be the road to Emmaus."

The Mass. Pike, I-91, Routes 20, 2 and 5, along with the Main Streets of every community — indeed every road in western Massachusetts should be the road to Emmaus. These are the streets we journey, but they must also be the places where we move from dismay to discovery. Roads where we encounter the Risen Lord. These are the roads on which to share the Good News with all whom we meet.

Join me on the road to getting not to normal — but to better!

Prayerfully commending our beloved Diocese of Springfield to Our Blessed Mother and St. Michael the Archangel, I am

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

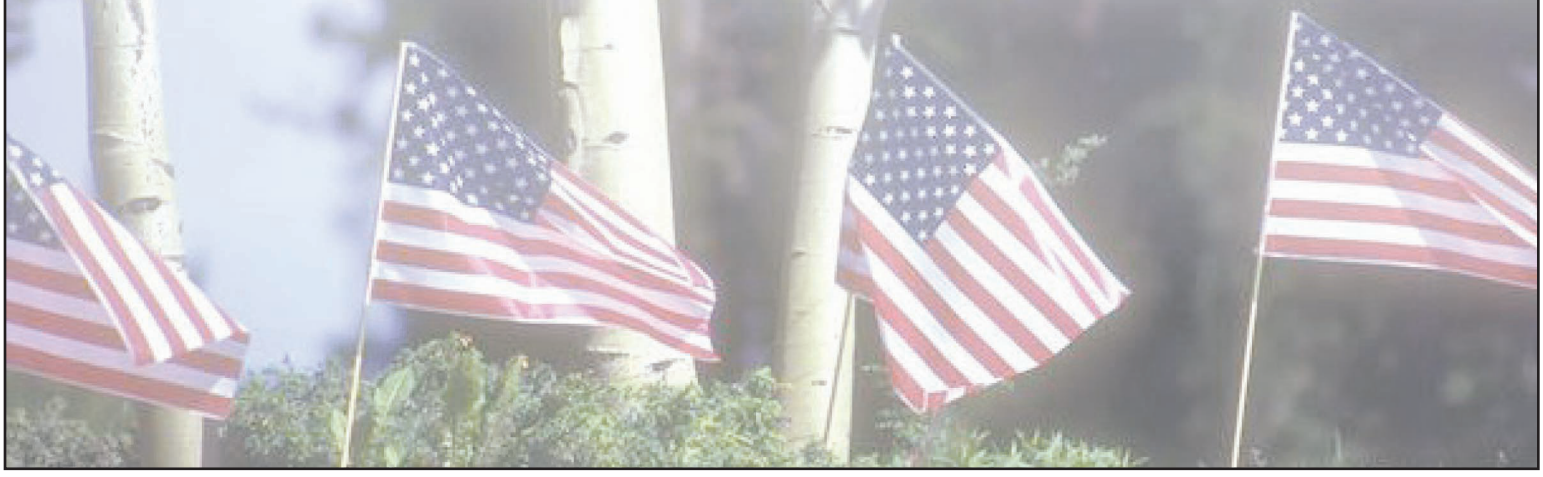
+ William D Byrne

MEMORIAL DAY CEMETERY SERVICES 2021

As we continue following best safety practices, our annual Memorial Day Cemetery Services will be announced in the coming weeks. Please check with your parish or the diocesan website at www.diospringfield.org for the latest updates.

Thank you for visiting our Cemeteries

Catholic Cemeteries – Here to serve our parishioners of Western Mass.





Marian Fathers Kazimierz Chwalek, Anthony Gramlich and Chris Alar pose inside the shrine church at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge.

That gift of hope

After 350 years, the Marian Fathers' message of mercy endures and inspires

By Stephen Kiltonic | Photos by Fred LeBlanc

Their history is marked by wars, persecution, division, expansion, renovation and near extinction.

STOCKBRIDGE — The Congregation of Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary have survived some of the most tumultuous events in the world and, through it all, is in the midst of celebrating its 350th anniversary.

With a professed motto, *Pro Christo et Ecclesia*, "For Christ and the Church," the Marians were founded on the basis of three charisms: a devotion to the mystery of the Immaculate Conception; devotion to the holy souls in purgatory; and serving the church where the need is greatest.

"God's greatest act of mercy ever bestowed upon a creature was the Immaculate Conception and we are the first religious community in the world to bear the title, Immaculate Conception," says Marian Father Chris Alar, the director of the Association of Marian Helpers and the "Father Joseph" of the local congregation, which is located at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge.

"Our founder had a very big love of aiding those souls who can't pray for themselves," Father Alar explains. The Marians conduct daily plenary indulgences to offer graces for the holy souls in purgatory and "aids parish priests and others trying to carry out the mission of the holy mother church."

The Marian Congregation is best known today for its work promoting the message and devotion of The Divine Mercy, the culmination of which occurs on Divine Mercy Sunday, the first Sunday after Easter, when thousands of pilgrims descend on the shrine in Stockbridge.


St. Stanislaus Papczynski

St. Stanislaus Papczynski, a Polish priest, founded the Marian Congregation in 1670. "He was quite famous. He wrote textbooks and was a great orator and a great preacher who became quite well-known among the aristocracy. King John Sobieski actually sought him for spiritual direction," says Marian Father Kazimierz Chwalek, the provincial superior of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy Province.

According to Father Chwalek, Papczynski left the Piarist Order and announced in the Oblatio his desire to establish a congregation of men dedicated to spreading the honor of the Immaculate Conception. Papczynski's "Rule of Life" served as the blueprint for the community, which was officially proclaimed by Pope Innocent XII in 1699.

After Papczynski's death in 1701, a period known as the "Rostkowski Dispersion" followed, which was characterized by internal conflict between those who wanted a strictly contemplative life and those who favored more missionary and pastoral outreach.

Father Casimir Wyszynski spearheaded the Marians' expansion into Portugal and Italy. However, the rest of the 18th century saw political turmoil, which led to the partition of the Polish Republic by Russia, Prussia and Austria.

The 19th century witnessed more repression and the closing of Marian monasteries. The Czarist Russian government prohibited new vocations and Father Christopher Szwernicki was exiled to Siberia, earning the title "Apostle to Siberia" by Pope Leo XIII.


Father George Matulaitis-Matulewicz

By 1865, the Russians allowed one Marian monastery to remain open in Marijampole, Lithuania. Further persecution and natural deaths left the Marians with one priest, Father Vincent Sekowski. At this critical juncture in 1908, a dynamic Lithuanian priest, Father George Matulaitis-Matulewicz, known as the "Renovator," rescued the congregation.

"Blessed George focused on the desire to renew and restore all things in Christ and, as Marians, wanted us to be involved in every possible way," says Father Chwalek. This included monasteries, schools and missions. "He restored everything back and focused on mission printing, press publications, things that will help people to be renewed in the spirit of our founder," adds Father Chwalek.

With the support of the pope and bishops, Matulaitis renewed the Marians' constitutions, which were approved by St. Pope Pius X in 1910. Blessed Matulaitis is credited with transforming the Marians into a modern religious congregation while adhering to its founding ideals and devotions. "He asked us to gather lay

Continued on page 22


The Shrine of the Holy Innocents is located on the grounds of the Divine Mercy shrine in Stockbridge.



Divine Mercy Sunday attracts thousands of visitors annually from across the country to the grounds of Eden Hill in Stockbridge. (Used with the permission of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M.)



A ceiling mural in the shrine church depicts the founding of the Marian Community and includes Pope Innocent XII giving his blessing to St. Stanislaus Papczynski, the founder. (Photo by Fred LeBlanc)

people around us because they could help us extend the mission of the church," says Father Chwalek.

After Father Matulaitis' death in 1927, the congregation grew to 300 members. Blesseds George Kaszyra and Anthony Leszczewicz were martyred during World War II when the Marians suffered many losses. Today, nearly 500 Marian priests and brothers serve in 20 countries.

Since 1941, the Marians have been the official promoters of the Divine Mercy message through St. Faustina Kowalska, a poor and uneducated Polish nun, who wrote a 600-page diary recording the revelations she received about God's mercy. After her death in 1938, Father Sopocko, Faustina's confessor and spiritual director, entrusted her extraordinary messages, compiled in notebooks, to a Marian priest, Father Joseph Jarzebowski.

In 1941, Father Jarzebowski miraculously escaped the Nazis and eluded the Communists through the Trans-Siberian railroad, made his way to Japan, crossed the Pacific and eventually landed in Seattle. "An expired visa. In the middle of wartime. How is that possible? Only pure, beautiful grace of God that got him here safely," explains Father Alar.

In 1941, Father Jarzebowski miraculously escaped the Nazis and eluded the Communists through the Trans-Siberian railroad, made his way to Japan, crossed the Pacific and eventually landed in Seattle. ... "Only pure, beautiful grace of God that got him here safely."

– Father Alar

"From that moment on, he promised to God that he will do everything to promote this message and he did," says Father Chwalek. Three months after arriving in the U.S., Father Jarzebowski published 5,000 booklets on the Divine Mercy message.

"Divine Mercy for us is a source of renewal of every aspect of our Catholic faith but also a renewal to religious life, commitment to fidelity, to the church just like she (St. Faustina) was," adds Father Chwalek.

In 2000, St. Faustina was canonized on Divine Mercy Sunday and the feast of Divine Mercy Sunday was officially proclaimed by St. Pope John Paul II.

The Marians in Stockbridge

Headed by Father Walter Pelczynski, the Marians came to Stockbridge in 1943. On 375 acres known as Eden Hill, they established the Marian Press, the Association of Marian Helpers and the Divine Mercy Apostolate. In 1950, construction of the shrine chapel was entrusted to a 74-year-old Stockbridge resident, master furniture maker and wood carver, Antonio Guerrieri.

"He had never built a church in his life. He did not have any plans or blueprints for the church. It was day-by-day," says Father Anthony Gramlich, the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy rector. Marian novices and seminarians helped with the construction, which was completed in 1960.

The shrine itself was closed for major renovations in January/February of 2020 and reopened for a few weeks before closing to the public because of

The Divine Mercy Shrine church under construction and the day of its dedication during the early 1950s. (Used with the permission of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M.)







The Marian Helper Center, home of the Marian Press. (Photo by Fred LeBlanc)



Another mural depicts the renovation of the congregation with Father Senkowski handing the jurisdiction of the community over to Blessed George Matulaitis. (Photo by Fred LeBlanc)

COVID-19. People can see the restored beauty of the shrine only through the daily livestreamed Masses.

"We just wanted to reach out to the people, give them the opportunity to receive a virtual Mass when we started. We were surprised because we have people not just from the States but all over the world tuning in," says Father Gramlich. "It keeps them connected. It helps them to grow in their faith so it's been a real blessing."

The Marians also have gone virtual with the daily rosary, first Friday and Saturday devotions, and Saturday talks by Father Alar, who recently wrote *Understanding Divine Mercy*. He also produces the popular "Divine Mercy 101," and hosts "Divine Mercy Matters."

"We've seen an explosion in involvement in the (Marian Helpers) Association. Our membership has increased by 100,000 and our YouTube subscriptions have increased by 100,000. It's been all-around amazing," says Father Alar. He says the livestreams have been so successful as an evangelization tool, they will continue even after restrictions are lifted. "It's a beautiful way God is using technology for his benefit," he adds.

Father Alar also is the director of the Marian Press, the publishing arm of the Marians. Since 1979, they have been entrusted to print the English version of the *Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*. Each year, the shrine prints 50 million pieces of devotional prayer cards, religious books, pamphlets, catalogues, images, CDs, and DVDs promoting the ministry and work of the Marians. Because of the sheer volume of mail received and shipped, the shrine was issued its own zip code.

The Marians launched a four-year long Jubilee celebration in 2019 but everything remains on hold. Although Divine Mercy Sunday was cancelled again this year, a virtual Mass from the shrine chapel was to be televised by EWTN.

The Marian Community also suffered a coronavirus outbreak in January which took the life of Father Seraphim Michalenko. An internationally renowned expert on St. Faustina and The Divine Mercy, Father Michalenko served more than 20 years as vice postulator for North America for the canonization cause of St. Faustina.

The Marians pray for an end to the pandemic when visitors will again be able to experience in-person the shrine and its spiritual renewal.

"This shrine gives them that gift of hope. All they have to do is trust in God's mercy. Just come here with humility, receive God's mercy, and they leave a little bit lighter filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit," says Father Gramlich. ✝





A Marian Press worker is pictured, left and a sheet of prayer cards at right. (Photos by Fred LeBlanc)

By FAITH Catholic

One year later: THE CHURCH AND THE PANDEMIC



IMAGE BY BOONYBUG/GETTY IMAGES

When COVID-19 shut down parishes just before Easter 2020, the missionary spirit of the church burst to life in creative and innovative ways to provide the essential services of prayer, worship, catechesis and comfort to the people of God. Catholic parishes across the country livestreamed Masses so people could hear God's word, give thanks and praise him from the safety of their homes. Priests and deacons donned personal protective equipment to anoint the sick and comfort the mourning. Volunteers delivered meals previously served in crowded halls. DREs and RCIA directors provided online classes for children and adults seeking the sacraments. Catholic schools modified buildings and practices to ensure safety for children and teachers. Parish staff and volunteers found new ways to stay connected to parishioners, calling and writing parishioners most alone.

A year later, the increasing availability of vaccines guides the country toward herd immunity, with the promise of life returning to normal. Many Catholic parishes wonder what "normal" will look like, and are eager to gather the community that has been separated by illness together again – in person, to celebrate and express the faith they share. The missionary spirit and attitude of the church will again guide parish leaders in rebuilding the Body of Christ. In a Feb. 19 Catholic News Service (CNS) story about what elements are crucial to inspiring all Catholics to come back to church, Dominican Sister Teresa Rickard, president and executive director of Renew International, said, "People have to be creative, innovating. It can't be about maintenance, it's got to be about mission. You've got to do the personal touch."

Welcome with a personal touch – What does that mean?

Meet people where they are

According to a March 2021 Pew Research Center Survey on attendance of Religious Services, 58 percent of adults who regularly attend services say keeping COVID-19 restrictions of social distancing, mask-wearing and limiting attendance in place is necessary. Only 26 percent say congregations should be open as normal. It will be helpful for parishes to be welcoming and accepting of what parishioners are comfortable with regarding exposure to the virus and continuing safety precautions.

Individuals are resuming in-person worship under one roof

As individuals and families arrive in greater numbers at Mass in the coming weeks and months, parishes can begin the process of rebuilding relationships and continuing to be creative with their outreach and welcoming. Thousands of Catholics have consistently gathered in their homes to celebrate Mass virtually in the past year, nurtured and sustained by Jesus in the Word of God and practicing spiritual communion, while longing to receive the Body of Christ in person. The return to the sacraments and the ability to join together in worship is a cause for celebration! The Pew Survey found that roughly 25 percent of U.S. adults say their religious faith is stronger as a result of the pandemic. An enthusiastic greeting by the pastor or other liturgical

ministers upon arrival may be a factor in whether or not the faithful feel welcomed "home" enough to return in the following weeks and months. For those experiencing an increase of faith, being greeted warmly to in-person worship may spark renewed involvement in the parish.

Patience is a virtue

The trajectory of the pandemic is unpredictable, and it is uncertain when parishes can resume worship in ways considered normal prior to the pandemic. The comfort level for resuming in-person worship will vary with each individual. Patience and flexibility will be important. Parishes can engage in a continuous welcoming process over a period of months as increasing numbers of individuals become comfortable in returning. Providing remote worship, prayer, and catechetical opportunities, and maintaining connections with parishioners will most likely be appreciated.

Celebrate the reunion

As people gather together again, parishes can find ways to celebrate the reunion of the faithful as the warmer temperatures of spring and summer provide opportunities to gather outdoors in larger groups. Parishes can rebuild the sense of community by hosting events that give individuals a chance to renew relationships and reestablish bonds shared with one another in faith. Parish festivals can be resumed as conditions permit, or new events can be created to mark the feast days such as Pentecost, the Nativity of John the Baptist, Mary Magdalene or the Assumption.

Acknowledge loss

Almost every individual in the U.S. may know someone who was ill with COVID-19 or who has died. Many people were unable to have traditional funerals for loved ones. Thousands of Americans lost jobs or income, and many families struggled with the challenges of guiding children in virtual school, many while trying to also work from home. Supporting individuals who experienced losses due to the pandemic can be an important component in drawing individuals back into the life of the parish. Creative parish leaders and volunteers will listen to the faithful and find ways to serve those grieving, such as hosting memorial services, organizing support and prayer groups, or helping connect them with needed resources.

Prayer is the foundation

Before beginning any planning for rebuilding, begin with prayer. Invite everyone in the parish to pray for each other and for parish leaders as they seek to serve the parish and resume gathering to worship together.

In Christ, We Continue the Mission

Since the Apostles first answered the call to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19), the church has responded with creativity and innovation in response to even the darkest and most dangerous threats. In response to this pandemic, his faithful disciples will once again follow the example of Christ the Healer to reach out to his people and restore the Body of Christ. ✝



IMAGE BY THANASIS/GETTY IMAGES

By the Numbers

3/4 of U.S. adults who normally attend religious services now say they are "very" or "somewhat" confident they can attend safely — up 12 percentage points from July 2020.

4-in-10 people who attend religious services at least once or twice a month have attended in person, during the past month — up nine points from summer 2020.

58% of those who generally attend religious services at least once or twice have not attended during the past month. Only 39 % of U.S. Christians will attend in person for Easter Sunday, down from 62% who usually attend church on Easter.

A majority of people continue to say modifications and restrictions — social distancing, mask-wearing and limiting the number of people who can attend at any one time — are necessary.

1/4 of U.S. adults say their religious faith is stronger as a result of the pandemic, while only 4% say their faith has weakened

Source: *Pew Research Center Survey on attendance of religious services (March 2021) (The survey was conducted March 1-7, 2021, among 12,055 U.S. adults on the center's online, nationally representative American Trends Panel. The margin of sampling error for the full sample of 12,055 respondents is plus or minus 1.5 percentage points.)*

PARISH ANGEL

By Peggy Weber
Photo courtesy of Meg Skowron



'MY GIFT TO GOD'

Meg Skowron says parish service is how she honors God for giving her life

PITTSFIELD – You might say Meg Skowron has two homes – her house in Pittsfield and her parish church.

It is obvious how much St. Charles Borromeo Parish means to her as she recalls when the church was closed due to COVID and how much she missed it. "When I walked in after not being there, I cried. I felt so welcome and at home. When I am there, I am at peace," she says.

A member of the Pittsfield parish since she was 3 years old, Meg says her parish has meant so much to her. Now 71, she says it is an honor to be nominated by a fellow parishioner as a Parish Angel. However, like other nominees, she stressed she is part of a team there. "I was totally surprised and thankful for this honor."

Father John Tuohey, pastor of St. Charles Borromeo, praises his parishioner. "Meg has keen insight into what's good for the parish and easily offers her thoughts. She has helped me to change course on several occasions. She also is wonderful at creating floral arrangements for our major holidays."

The first time she formally volunteered at the parish was when she was a junior in high school. "Ever since fourth grade, I always I knew I wanted to be a teacher. I pleaded with Father (Daniel) Brunton to let me teach CCD. I took a training course and he let me," she recalls.

Meg pursued her dream of being a teacher and is a 1971 graduate of Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (then North Adams State College.) She taught in the Pittsfield public schools for 34 years. In 1993, she received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Math Teaching and was named one of the top three math teachers in the state. And she will be honored this year by her alma mater as an "outstanding educator emeritus."

Meg continued to participate in religious education in her parish until the early 1980s. However, she also brought other gifts to the parish. In 1981, she opened Meg's Craft Shop and was asked by her pastor, Father Francis Walsh, to help with decorations in the church.

"We made our own silk flowers. For Easter, we made a silk lily cross. There were 200 leaves on the cross and we handmade made each one. There wasn't an inch of our church that didn't have a flower on it when Father Walsh was there," she recalls. "It took us hours to decorate the church. We were there sometimes until 2 or 3 in the morning but we loved it."

Meg also became a eucharisic minister, a lector and a member of the parish council.

"We had a bazaar for many years and I was in charge of the arts and crafts booth," she says. "When Father Walsh left in 1989, Father Peter Gregory came on and I wanted to continue to help. Happily, we hit it off. We made a great team."

Meg continued to help with decorations but with primarily fresh flowers. "Also, being a math person, I became a member of the finance committee."

In 1991, Meg was honored as the Catholic Woman of the Year from the Holy Name Society for the Diocese of Springfield. In 1993, she chaired the Centennial Committee for her parish and organized a dinner for 500 people.

Meg retired as a teacher in 2005. "But I was only retired for nine days and then became the principal for St. Mark's School for 10 years. I was there until 2015 when it closed," she says.

However, Meg is always doing and helping. She works part time at Viale Florist. And she continues to decorate the church. She also is a member of the Cemetery Fundraising Committee.

When asked why she does all she does, Meg says simply, "What we are is God's gift to us. What we become is our gift to God."

She added, "God has been good to me and I hope I can be good to him." ✝

Parish Angels

Nominations of lay volunteers from the Springfield Diocese for *The Catholic Mirror*'s "Parish Angel" series may be sent to r.drake@diospringfield.org; or Rebecca Drake, Editor/News Director, Catholic Communications, P.O. Box 1730, Springfield, MA 01102-1730. Please include contact information for the person or persons being nominated.

BACKGROUND IMAGE BY GEORGEPETERS/GETTY IMAGES

"I'm worry free!"

– Resident Rose Toti



Rose moved into Providence Place during the pandemic and she is so happy she did. **"I was stuck at home. I am very social! I looked around my condo and saw all the work that needed to be done."** It was time, and Providence Place was the right place. These days Rose keeps active enjoying the library and many of the activities and programs offered on site. **"I feel like I have been here forever,"** she says. **"It's great!"**

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One of the best family traditions is the Easter meal. Trying to put together an exciting Easter spread without spending hours cooking and prepping? These recipes are for you. Your family will be excited to partake in the tradition without ever knowing how simple this year's feast was to prepare.



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CITRUS BROWN SUGAR GLAZED HAM

30 min. PREP TIME | **1 hr. 25 min.** COOK TIME | **16 (9-oz.)** SERVINGS

The glazing is amazing.

3 cups Big Y ginger ale soda
9 lb. Full Circle Market Spiral Ham
6 oz. orange marmalade
¼ cup water
3 Tbsp. fresh-squeezed orange juice
2 Tbsp. Big Y dark brown sugar
¼ tsp. Big Y ground cinnamon
⅛ tsp. cayenne pepper
-pinch of ground cloves

1. Preheat oven to 325°F.
2. Wash hands with soap and water.
3. Pour ginger ale into the bottom of a roasting pan; place rack in pan and add ham, flat-side-down. Cover with aluminum foil and bake for 1 hour or until heated through. Wash hands with soap and water after handling ham.
4. In a medium saucepan over medium-low heat, combine marmalade, water, orange juice, brown sugar, cinnamon, cayenne pepper and cloves; bring to a simmer. Cook glaze for 10 minutes or until mixture reduces to a syrup consistency and coats the back of a spoon.
5. When ham is heated through, remove the aluminum foil and generously pour or brush glaze over the top to cover completely.
6. Raise oven temperature to 400°F. Return ham to oven and cook, uncovered, for 25 minutes or until instant read thermometer reaches 145°F. Let rest for 10 minutes before slicing.

NUTRITION INFORMATION PER SERVING

Calories: 395, Total Fat: 13g, Saturated Fat: 2g, Cholesterol: 166mg, Sodium: 2,540mg, Total Carbohydrates: 12g, Dietary Fiber: 0g, Sugars: 11g, Protein: 58g

Living Well Eating Smart Tip: *Watching sodium intake? Simply enjoy a smaller serving of ham this Easter holiday!*





LEMON BLISS CAKE

25 min. PREP TIME | **37 min.** BAKE TIME | **16** SERVINGS

Golden, tangy and delicious.

1 box yellow cake mix
3.4-oz box instant lemon pudding mix
¼ cup Big Y lite sour cream
4 Big Y large white eggs
1 cup water
¼ cup Big Y vegetable oil
1¼ cups Big Y powdered sugar, sifted
4 tsp. fresh lemon juice
1 lemon, zested

For more Easter-inspired recipes, visit bigy.com/rs/recipes.

Scan the code for the full recipe or go to bigy.com/digin.

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Due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, events and trips may be subject to cancellation.
Please contact organizers for updates.

St. Joseph Parish, Pittsfield, will **reschedule its Sept. 27-Oct. 6 Trip to Austria and Switzerland.** For more information, contact Msgr. Michael Shershanovich at 413.445.5789 or msgrmike@berkshire.rr.com.

The **Springfield Diocesan 150th Anniversary Mass**, originally scheduled for **Sept. 27, 2020,** at 1:30 p.m. at St. Michael's Cathedral in Springfield, has been postponed to **June 2021**.

The Catholic Communications Corporation and the Springfield Roman Catholic Diocese will sponsor a **2022 Pilgrimage to Germany**, including the Oberammergau Passion Play. Father Gary Dailey is the spiritual director. For more information, visit iobserve.org.

The **St. Joseph's Chapter of the Discalced Carmelites, Secular** meets every fourth Saturday of the month at Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish in Turners Falls. For more information, call Judith Nero, community president, at 802.254.4818.

The Gathering of Deacons, Candidates, Aspirants, and Wives meets monthly at various locations. For more information, contact Deacon Leo Coughlin at 413.452.0624.

The **Mother of God Community of Lay Carmelites** meets at the Jericho Pastoral Education Center in Holyoke on the first Sunday of the month. For more information, contact Mary Bart, community director, at 413.268.7201 or mabart129@verizon.net

The **St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Community of Discalced Carmelites, Secular** meets monthly at the Marian Center in Holyoke. For more information, call Trish Regan, community president, at 413.567.6816.

The **St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina Prayer Group** meets the first Saturday of each month at St. Stanislaus Basilica, 556 Front St., Chicopee beginning with confessions from 9-10 a.m. The rosary is prayed at 10:30 a.m., followed by Mass at 11. Light refreshments are served after the Mass, followed by the regular monthly meeting. All are welcome. For more information, contact Patrick DeCrosta, pdrecrosta@sbcglobal.net or Joseph Cavanaugh, candjc11@msn.com.

Breath of God Prayer Group and Mass is held every Monday evening at Mary's House of Prayer, 202 East Main St., Chicopee. Includes a Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 6-7 p.m., Benediction and Mass at 7, followed by a light social. The services are held in the rectory and are open to all.

A Monthly Healing Mass is held every fourth Sunday of the month at Mary's House of Prayer (formerly St. George's Church) 202 East Main St., Chicopee. Rosary at 1 p.m., Praise and Worship at 1:30; Mass at 2. Pray-overs follow the Mass, along with a brief social at the rectory. (No Mass if the fourth Sunday of the month falls on Christmas or Easter.)

The **Chalice of Strength, Prayers for Priests Group** meets Tuesdays from 10-11:15 a.m. at Mary's House of Prayer, 202 Main St. Chicopee. Includes Exposition and Chaplet of Divine Mercy. All are welcome. For more information, contact Jean at 413.452.0511 or maryshouse@diospringfield.org.

A **Vigil for the Unborn** is held the second Thursday of each month at the Holy Spirit Chapel at St. Michael's Cathedral, 254 State St., Springfield, beginning at 10 a.m. Three mysteries of the rosary and Benediction precede the 12:10 daily Mass. All are welcome. Call 413.567.6085.

For more events in the Springfield Diocese and beyond, log onto iobserve.org and click on "Calendar of Events."

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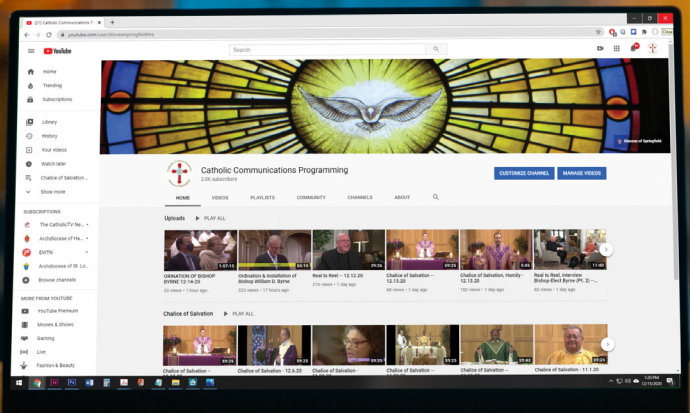


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Office Hours: Weekdays 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.