

PARISH FOOD PANTRIES
Fighting Food Insecurity
During the Pandemic

RACISM SPECIAL REPORT
U.S. Bishops Respond
to Racial Tension

STUDENT-ATHLETES
Connecting Faith and
Sports in Catholic Schools

CORNACIÓN DE MARIA
Coronando a Nuestra
Madre y Reina

St. Augustine

JULY/AUGUST 2020

dosafi.com

catholic



Back to School

What will the 'new normal' look like for our Catholic schools?



AUGUSTINE

ASSET MANAGEMENT

Values-Based Investing for Catholics

Augustine Asset Management provides a full range of investment strategies that adhere to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' *Socially Responsible Investment Guidelines*. We help Catholic institutions and private clients invest in accordance with Church teaching.



Catholic Values Equity | Catholic Values Fixed Income | Comprehensive Advisory Services
AUGUSTINECATHOLICSRI.COM | AUGUSTINEASSET.COM | 904-396-6944 | INQUIRIES@AUGUSTINEASSET.COM

YOUR FAITH, YOUR FAMILY, YOUR FUTURE.

Plan a gift to your Church that's simple, smarter, and meets your needs better than ever. Find out more today!

Contact Cliff Evans, Planned Giving Officer, at 904-262-3200, ext. 139, cevans@dosafll.com, or visit www.dosafll.giftplans.org.

Catholic Foundation
DIOCESE OF ST. AUGUSTINE 

— GIFTS THAT LAST LIFETIMES —

Remember your parish, Catholic school, or favorite ministry in your will or estate plan and make sure your Catholic faith is here for generations to come.





features:

12
GETTING MARRIED AMIDST A PANDEMIC

Wedding planning can be difficult, but during a global pandemic, it's near impossible. Whether it resulted in a postponed wedding or a downsized ceremony, local couples relied on their faith to get through the challenge.

14
PARISH FOOD PANTRIES

Parish food pantries play an integral role in helping local families suffering from food insecurity, which has been made even worse by the coronavirus. But local parishes are quickly adapting to the constant changes.

16
RACISM SPECIAL REPORT

The racial tension throughout the United States has left many Catholics wondering, where does the church stand? A special report from FAITH Catholic explains the U.S. bishops' response.

18
BACK TO SCHOOL

After experiencing the difficulties of online learning at the end of the school year, parents everywhere are looking forward to students going back to school on August 10. But what safety precautions will Catholic schools in our diocese be taking to protect against COVID-19?

22
ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC ACADEMY

As the only Catholic High School on the western side of the diocese, and the newest one in our diocese, St. Francis Catholic Academy has a lot to offer, from academics to extra-curricular activities, athletics, faith and more.

24
STUDENT-ATHLETES IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Catholic schools in the Diocese of St. Augustine may be overlooked when it comes to their sports programs, but according to some local student-athletes, faith and athletics are interdependent.

28
CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES LAUNCHES NEW CAMPAIGN

The CRS "Lead the Way on Hunger" campaign brings to light communities across the globe that are suffering from food scarcity exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Read more to learn how to help.



**what you will
find inside**

- 4** EDITOR'S NOTES | BISHOP'S JUBILEE
- 5** SAINT | ST. DOMINIC
- 6** BISHOP'S MESSAGE | CO-RESPONSIBILITY

- 8** WHY DO CATHOLICS | WHAT DO PRIESTS DO?
- 10** FAITH MATTERS | BECOMING CATHOLIC
- 30** AROUND THE DIOCESE | COMMUNITY
- 33** SAN AGUSTÍN CATÓLICO

On the cover: Second-grade teacher Rachel Thurson stands with Eloise Libra, 4th grade, and Julien Libra, 2nd grade, wearing masks in preparation for new school standards in the fall. (photo by Scott Smith)

The *St. Augustine Catholic* is the official magazine of the Diocese of St. Augustine, which embraces 17 counties spanning Northeast and North Central Florida from the Gulf of Mexico to the Atlantic Ocean. The diocese covers 11,032 square miles and serves more than 157,000 registered Catholics.

Most Rev. Felipe J. Estévez
PUBLISHER

Kathleen Bagg
EDITOR

Savanna Kearney
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Pat Dally
ART DIRECTOR/GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Thomas Clark
Father Joe Krupp
Iraida Martinez
Dr. Claudia Rojas
Lilla Ross
Mark Udry

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Brandon Duncan
Woody Huband
Scott Smith
Mark Udry

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Cindy Barrier
PRINTING REPRESENTATIVE

Write to us at
KBAGG@DOS AFL.COM

Read us online at
WWW.DOS AFL.COM



St. Augustine Catholic (USPS 024-733) is a membership publication of the Diocese of St. Augustine, 11625 Old St. Augustine Road, Jacksonville, FL 32258-2060. Published six times a year; every other month. Periodicals postage paid at Jacksonville, FL. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to *St. Augustine Catholic*, c/o Office of Communications, 11625 Old St. Augustine Road, Jacksonville, FL 32258-2060. **PARISHIONERS:** If you have a change of address, please contact your parish or call (904) 262-3200, ext. 127 or email: lendvay@dosaf1.com.

©*St. Augustine Catholic*, Diocese of St. Augustine. No portion of the *St. Augustine Catholic* may be published, broadcast, rewritten or otherwise reproduced or distributed in whole or in part without prior written authority of the Diocese of St. Augustine. For reprint information or other questions regarding use of copyright material, contact the *St. Augustine Catholic* editorial offices.

DATABASE UPDATE PROJECT

Parishes of the diocese are currently updating their database of registered parishioners, and some readers may not receive your magazine as a result. If this happens, please contact your parish office to update and verify your registration. We have mailed extra copies of the magazine to each parish too. Or you can visit us online at faithdigital.org/staugustine/SA0320/ to read the current issue. For more information, email lendvay@dosaf1.com or call (904) 262-3200, ext. 123.

Editor's Notes | Milestones

Bishop Estévez Celebrates Golden Jubilee

IT'S ONLY JULY, and already 2020 has become one of the most challenging and heartbreaking years that Americans have had to face. The coronavirus pandemic has caused many people to postpone celebrations and, in some cases, cancel them altogether. I didn't want to let Bishop Felipe Estevez's milestone anniversary go by without sharing it with our readers.

This year, Bishop Estévez celebrates his Golden Jubilee - 50 years of priesthood and service to God's people. He didn't plan a special gathering to celebrate, but he did get a big surprise from Pope Francis, who wrote to congratulate him on this momentous occasion.

Pope Francis wrote a letter to the bishop in Latin, which included an Apostolic Blessing. The English translation reads as follows:

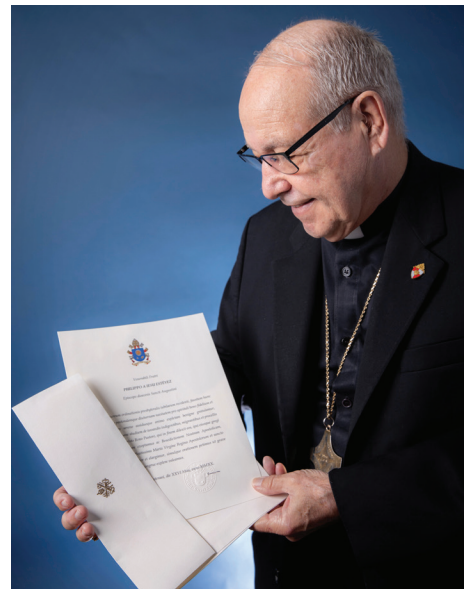
"As we recall the golden jubilee of his priestly ordination, we lovingly rejoice in this joyous event and in his enduring pastoral zeal, carried out with a serene and constant desire for the spiritual good of the faithful and of his priests, especially his vigorous fervor with regard to helping the disadvantaged, the migrants, and those afflicted by storms. We wish from Christ the Good Shepherd, 'who loved them to the end,' divine grace for him and for his flock, and we lovingly bestow upon him Our Apostolic Blessing, through the intercession of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of the Apostles and of Saint Augustine, and we likewise ask him to pray that we may have the strength properly to discharge the arduous Petrine Office."

Bishop Estévez was born in Havana, Cuba, and came to the United States as part of Operation Pedro Pan as a teenager. He was ordained a priest in Fort Wayne, Ind. on May 30, 1970, for the Diocese of Matanzas, Cuba. But due to political unrest in Cuba, he was unable to return to his homeland and serve as a priest for the Matanzas diocese.

He began his service to the church as an associate pastor at Guascoran Parish in Honduras. He then taught at two seminaries in Honduras before joining the faculty of St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach, Fla. in 1975. Five years later, he returned to the seminary as its president. He also served as pastor of St. Agatha Parish in Miami and campus minister for Florida International University, before he was named an Auxiliary Bishop of Miami in 2003. On April 27, 2011, Bishop Estévez was appointed the tenth Bishop of St. Augustine.

And on February 5, 2021, Bishop Estévez will mark another milestone year. He will turn 75, the mandatory retirement age of bishops. Let us pray for Bishop Estévez as he continues to guide his flock in developing an ever-closer relationship with our Lord and sharing that faith with others.

Happy anniversary Bishop Estévez! 🐦



BRANDON DUNCAN

► Bishop Estévez shares the letter he received from Pope Francis on the occasion of his Golden Jubilee.

Saint | Patron of Parish Priests



ST. JOHN VIANNEY

Feast Day: August 4

JOHN VIANNEY WAS A DRIVING FORCE for reviving the faith in Europe following the persecution of Catholics after the French Revolution. Known affectionately as the Cure d'Ars, he is the patron saint of parish priests because of his zealous call to Gospel values and his compassionate care of those who returned to God in the sacrament of reconciliation.

Born Jean Baptiste-Marie Vianney in Dardilly in 1786, John joined his devout parents in worship at their local parish and in caring for the poor. When it became illegal and dangerous to be Catholic, his family traveled secretly to distant farms for Mass celebrated by priests hiding in fear for their lives. John prepared for receiving the sacraments by candlelight, covering the windows during lessons to avoid being discovered, jailed or even killed.

John was drafted to serve in the military but, when separated from his unit, he deserted. When granted amnesty, he persevered in his quest to become a priest. Challenged by Latin and other academic courses, he was admitted to the seminary only when his local pastor convinced his superiors of John's great love of God. He was finally ordained at age 30.

Assigned to his home parish of Ars, word of his fervor for bringing the lost back home to the church spread quickly. His insightful work as a confessor to people who had been denied the

comfort of their faith soon drew people from neighboring villages, cities, and eventually from throughout Europe. John heard up to 300 confessions daily, spending 11-12 hours helping people turn back to God. In the summer, the time stretched to 16 hours, and penitents waited up to a week to receive forgiveness. Accounts report that by 1855, John was hearing 20,000 confessions a year, a number that reportedly grew to 75,000 in later years.

John's passion for reconciling people to God was also expressed in his care for the down-trodden. In 1824 he opened La Providence, a home and school for destitute girls and women forced into prostitution during the economic upheaval after the Napoleonic Era.

John's life is an important example of the value of both welcome and witness to those who have turned away from God and in the power that reconciliation has in healing and renewing their love for God. John served all who came to him at Ars selflessly until his death at age 73. 🐦

ATTENTION

The Diocese of St. Augustine treats all allegations of sexual misconduct seriously and deals with allegations in a prompt, confidential, and thorough manner.

To Report Abuse, call the police or the Department of Children and Families at (800) 962-2873. Or call the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator at (904) 208-6979 or email inquiries@dosaf1.com.

To report abuse by a bishop, call (800) 276-1562 or visit WWW.REPORTBISHOPABUSE.ORG.

ATENCIÓN

La Diócesis de San Agustín trata seriamente todas las acusaciones de conducta sexual inapropiada, de manera rápida, confidencial y minuciosa.

Para reportar Abuso, llame a la policía o al Departamento de Niños y Familias al (904) 962-2873. O llame al Coordinador Diocesano de Asistencia a Víctimas (904) 208-6979 o envíe un correo electrónico a inquieres@dosaf1.com.

Para denunciar abuso por parte de un obispo, llame al (800) 276-1562 o visite WWW.REPORTBISHOPABUSE.ORG

ATANSYON

Dyosez Sent Ogisten trete tout plent kont enkonwit seksyel seryezman epi li aji nan yon fason konfidansyel, rapid ak korek, pou li rezoud yo.

Pou denonse enkonwit say o, rele Depatman Lapolis ki Regle Afe Timoun ak Lafanmi Nan (800) 962-2873. W byen rele Koodinate Dyosez La Pou Asistans Viktim yo nan (904) 208-6979, w byen kontakte li nan kourye electwonik inquiries@dosaf1.com.

Pou denonse enkonwit yon evек, rele (800) 276-1562 w byen vizite WWW.REPORTBISHOPABUSE.ORG.

PAUNAWA

Ipinagbibigay alam na lubos na pinahahalagahan ng Diyosesis ng San Agustin ang mga paratang sa anumang uri ng abusong sekswal, at agad na masusing sinusuri ang anumang alegasyon habang pinananatiling kumpidensyal.

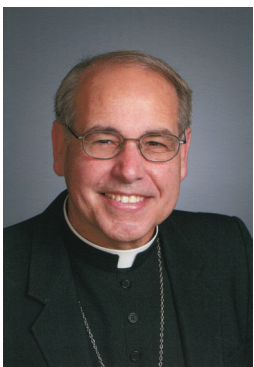
Kung meron kayong nalalamang alegasyon tumawag agad sa Pulisya o kaya ay sa Department of Children and Families (800) 962-2873. O tawagan ang Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator sa (904) 208-6979 o kaya ay mag-email sa inquiries@dosaf1.com.

Kung ang irereport nyo naman ay isang Obispo, tumawag sa (800) 276-1562 o kaya ay tumungo sa WWW.REPORTBISHOPABUSE.ORG.



▶ Bishop Estévez talks with members of the faithful at one of three listening sessions to address racism last year.

BRANDON DUNCAN



A Church Where We Are All **ENGAGED**

BY BISHOP FELIPE J. ESTÉVEZ

When I made a Cursillo at age 18 in South Bend, Ind., we sang a song: *La Iglesia soy yo!* I am the church. No wonder we were all fired up to evangelize the world.

St. Peter teaches that each person who is baptized is “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people he claims for his own to proclaim the glorious works.” Such is the great dignity of God’s people. Being salt of the earth and light to the world makes each of us a missionary disciple bringing good news to others.

As Pope Francis reminds us in the *Joy of the Gospel* (no. 120), the laity does not need to wait to take courses on their faith before reaching out as missionary disciples. What matters the most is to know God loves us experientially, and then simply share our story with others.

Most Catholics identify the church first with the hierarchy, but this perception leads to clericalism. Pope Francis says that the only authority in the church is the one of service “it is like an upside-down pyramid” – the only power is the cross.

The best way to combat clericalism is by promoting co-responsibility in the

local church. To attain that with the laity as a whole, we need to be more engaged in constructively sharing our opinions and ideas to improve the common good. And we especially need to learn to listen to others, which involves more than just hearing what they have to say.

In seminary, I learned about *sensus fidei*: the entire community of the faithful has a “sense” to perceive truth regarding faith and morals. St. John Henry Newman wrote about a time in which the laity saw the error of Arianism even when many of the bishops in the region didn’t catch the heresy.


It is worth noting that many in Latin

America use the word *corresponsabilidad* to refer to stewardship. But this word has another meaning that is rich and insightful.

The culture of co-responsibility calls for the active participation of laypeople in the life of the parish, joint responsibility in the mission of the church, and a fuller sense of universality, for we are a global church rich in diversity.

We are blessed with dedicated and talented pastors, deacons, and well-formed lay ministers who have a remarkable passion for serving, as well as very generous stewards among the faithful. But we need to find more creative ways to engage people at the grassroots level – especially families who make up the domestic church. There are many families unaware of their potential in helping to shape and guide our parish communities.

Pope Francis envisions a 21st-century church that relates more effectively with the people. He envisions a synodal church with a real capacity for dialogue as St. Paul VI dreamed. Good dialogue requires mutuality in listening leading to greater understanding and a deeper communion of hearts. To participate constructively in this vision, we need to learn the “discernment of spirits.” A life of prayer and virtue will nourish us. There are so many voices, multiple websites, and some with an anti-ecclesial bias and conflicting opinions that we must learn to sort them out by aligning our mind to the holy will of God and with a love of the church with realism.

Briefly, let us learn from the early Christians who were of “one heart and one mind.” They were energized by the Holy Spirit and focused on the kerygma, letting Jesus’ paschal mystery be the center of their lives and their proclamation to neighbors. They shared their goods and put them at the foot of the Apostles. To use their finances as pressure on their leaders was totally inconceivable to them. As the letter to Diognetus stated, they did not have visible signs, yet they were the soul of society. 



OUR LADY of LA LECHE
 NATIONAL SHRINE
at Mission Nombre De Dios
 DIOCESE OF ST. AUGUSTINE 

CELEBRATE SOMEONE SPECIAL IN YOUR LIFE.
A memorial purchase at the Shrine is a heartfelt way to honor the cherished memory or life of a loved one.

– NEW MEMORIAL OPPORTUNITIES NOW AVAILABLE! –
 Great gift idea for Anniversaries | Marriage | Mother’s/Father’s Day and more...
 Call for more information or to request a brochure: (904) 824-2809 EXT.7249
www.missionandshrine.org/memorials

HOURS OF OPERATION 9am-5pm Monday - Saturday | Noon - 4pm Sundays
101 San Marco Avenue | Saint Augustine, Florida 32084 | (904) 824-2809

St. Joseph Academy

Catholic High School

- 146th graduating class
- 19th year in a row to have 100% college placement
- Over \$3 million offered in scholarships
- 87% graduated with a 3.0 or better for all four years
- Performed over 17,000 hours of community service during their four years

Advancing the State of the Art in Technology and Practice

★ **Founded in 1866 by the Sisters of St. Joseph** ★

155 SR 207 • St. Augustine, FL 32084 • (904) 824-0431 • www.sjaweb.org



Not all heroes wear capes.



WE ARE BISHOP KENNY

www.bishopkenny.org • (904) 398-7545



POPE ST. JOHN XXIII
NATIONAL SEMINARY
Answering the Call | Founded in 1964

**CONGRATULATIONS
ON YOUR ORDINATION TO PRIESTHOOD**



Rev. Maurice Culver



Rev. Anthony Hamaty



Rev. Mason Wiggins

POPE ST. JOHN XXIII NATIONAL SEMINARY
Very Rev. Brian R. Kiely, Faculty, Seminarians and Staff



558 South Avenue • Weston, MA 02493 • 781-899-5500 • www.psjs.edu



► Deborah Tauro receives the sacraments of initiation from Father George Vaniyapurackal, pastor of St. Paul Parish in Riverside.

A Conversion of Heart at the Catholic Center

BY SAVANNA KEARNEY

OVER THE YEARS, Deborah Tauro has held jobs that have challenged her in a variety of ways. She worked in risk management for a company that unexpectedly let her go after years of dedicated service, just six weeks after the passing of her father. She ran the business education department of a local college on top of teaching classes, working 60-hour weeks while creating meaningful connections with low-income students. But none of these changed her life like working for the Diocese of St. Augustine.

Although Tauro's first introduction to Christianity was when a temporary guardian put her in Catholic school around the age of six, she wasn't baptized Catholic. After experiencing some turmoil as a young child, she was introduced to her father – whom she had never met – at the age of nine, was reunited with her mother and sister, and the family moved from Chicago to Central City, Ky. There, she grew up amid two very different faiths – she was baptized Southern Baptist and attended services regularly with her mother and experienced intensely spiritual Pentecostal services on special occasions with her father.

“I come from a very small town in Kentucky, and I found that as I got older, church was more about people looking at what you were wearing and talking about what you were doing,” she recalled. “It was a gossip mill, which is what drove me away.”

As a young mother at 17, she wasn't active in her faith. But Tauro made sure her daughter had a foundation in God, and she often went to church with friends growing up.

Her job with a national trucking company transferred her to Jacksonville in 2000, where she met her husband. She started a new job with a real estate investment trust, but five years later, they let her go with no warning or reason; and just six weeks prior, her father had died from cancer. She hit an all-time low.

“I was in a bad place,” she said. “I was a daddy’s girl, and the loss of my dad was devastating. My job was all I had to focus on. And then that was gone too.”

She went into teaching and directing the business program at a local college for a while, but she wanted to get back into the risk management field. That’s when she saw an opening at the Diocese of St. Augustine.

“I had to look up what ‘diocese’ meant!” she laughed. “And that was definitely the first interview I’d ever been to where I waited in the lobby with a statue of Mary. But looking around, I felt at peace. I thought, ‘I think this is where I’m supposed to be.’”

“**Even though I hadn’t lost my faith, I had lost my connections,” said Tauro. “But when I started watching Mass virtually, I felt like a weight had been lifted off me. I finally started to feel reconnected.**”

She was hired in 2017, and three years later, on May 27, 2020, Deborah Tauro entered the Catholic Church at St. Paul Parish in Riverside. She attributes much of her conversion to the support of the Catholic Center staff.

“Nine months into working for the diocese I was diagnosed with cancer. I was terrified,” she said.

“But everyone was so supportive. By the time I went into surgery, I felt totally confident that I was safe in God’s hands.”

After that, conversion was on her heart. She got to know Father Steven Zehler, pastor of St. Ambrose Parish in Elkton, through her work, and they had many faith-based discussions. She spoke with seminarians, who talked about coming to the faith later in life. But it wasn’t until she walked into St. Paul Catholic Church that she knew what she needed to do.

“That was a turning point for me,” she said. “That church speaks to me, and I feel God’s presence there.”

The support from diocesan leadership continued, with St. Paul’s business manager, Tony Zeaiter, as her sponsor, and she was well on her way to becoming Catholic. That is until the coronavirus hit.

“When Bishop Estévez announced the suspension of public Masses, Father George [Vaniyapurackal, pastor of St. Paul], not only postponed the Rite of Initiation, but



WOODY HUBAND



► Tauro sewed matching face masks for her entire RCIA class, Father George Vaniyapurackal and Deacon James Scott.

WOODY HUBAND

he canceled RCIA altogether,” said Tauro. “I was crushed.”

Without being able to gather in a faith-based setting, whether it was RCIA or Mass, she was left feeling lost.

“Even though I hadn’t lost my faith, I had lost my connections,” said Tauro. “But when I started watching Mass virtually, I felt like a weight had been lifted off me. I finally started to feel reconnected.”

Despite not being able to become Catholic at the Easter vigil, she’s grateful she completed the sacraments of initiation and her journey into the church in May.

According to Tauro, she probably wouldn’t have been introduced to the Catholic faith if not for her job with the diocese. And she wouldn’t have it any other way.

“My faith was dormant, and this job reawakened it,” she said. “Obviously, I love the field I work in. But I find that working in risk management for the diocese is so much more rewarding than with past employers. Now, I’m truly helping people. I get the privilege of protecting the people of the diocese.” 🙏



WOODY HUBAND



► Loved ones virtually watch Laurel and James profess their vows to each other.

BROOKE IMAGES



BROOKE IMAGES

IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH

Getting married in the midst of a pandemic

BY SAVANNA KEARNEY

THE VENUE WAS BOOKED, the date was set, and the details were finalized. After months and months of wedding planning, everything came to a screeching halt when the coronavirus hit. To protect the health and safety of friends and family members, engaged couples everywhere have had to either postpone or drastically downsize their special day. Although it's been difficult for everyone, many Christian couples say they relied heavily on their faith and each other to get through the ordeal.

James Todd, an attorney, and Laurel Carter, a resident physician at Mayo Clinic, both consider their faith to be a central part of their lives. James grew up Catholic in Raleigh, N.C., altar serving

every Sunday, while Laurel was baptized Methodist in Columbia, S.C. They met when Laurel was visiting North Carolina in 2017, and eventually, James moved to Jacksonville to be closer to her. A

► James and Laurel Todd were wed on May 9, 2020.

.....
year into dating, he asked Laurel to marry him.

The date was set for May 9 at a parish in Columbia, but with the coronavirus spreading, the couple knew they'd need to make some changes so that they didn't put their family and friends at risk. They moved the location to St. Paul Parish in Jacksonville Beach and asked Father Michael Houle to marry them, with only a few guests present.

"It was very difficult at first," recalled James. "Our initial reaction

was sadness at the loss of a day we had both been imagining for the last 18 months, but in the end, we both realized that the essential part of the day – our union as husband and wife and the love that represented – would be the same regardless of whether we had 150 guests or three.”

On May 9, Laurel and James joyfully celebrated the sacrament of marriage with one best man, one maid of honor, Laurel’s mom, and a photographer. But family and friends were able to be present virtually.

“The most important part of our wedding was brought into focus with this pandemic,” said Laurel. “Building a strong relationship between two people centered on God.”

Rather than downsize their wedding, **Kerrie McConaha and José López** decided to postpone their wedding – not once, but twice – so that they could celebrate with loved ones.

The couple met in 2013 when Kerrie moved in with her sister who lived across the street from José. A year and a half ago, they got engaged, and they planned to get married on March 21 at the Mayport Naval Station Chapel with Father Christopher Liguori, pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Jacksonville. Not wanting to endanger José’s family from Puerto Rico and Kerrie’s family members coming from Ireland, they rescheduled for June 13 but had to cancel once again when the naval base chapel closed. Now, they’re not sure when they’ll be able to get married.

“We’d been planning the wedding for more than a year and a half. It’s something I’ve dreamed about my whole life,” said Kerrie. “But I just have to believe that God has a plan and that I’m being shepherded toward something better.”

They both agree that some positives have come from the chaos – they’re able to spend more time together working from home, and

they finally got a puppy after years of wanting a dog.

“As frustrating as it is, we’re not the only ones in this boat,” said José.

“I try to keep perspective about the whole situation,” added Kerrie. “My wedding is important to me, but postponing it is not the end of the world.”

Caitlin Sears and Marek Pilarski couldn’t wait to celebrate their wedding with friends and family – especially because they’ve been long distance since the beginning of their relationship.

They met when Marek, a member of the U.S. Coast Guard, was in Jacksonville for ship repairs. He returned to Key West just a few months after they started dating and has been stationed in Miami ever since. To make matters worse, Marek was deployed at sea during the months the pandemic was beginning to make its way throughout the U.S., and they made the difficult decision to downsize their wedding rather than postpone it.

“At first, I was very confused as to why all of this was happening,” said Caitlin. “But after spending a lot of time in prayer, I realized that God has a plan for our lives, and even if I don’t understand that plan, I’m going to continue to trust him. He knows what’s best for us.”

Both agreed that despite all of the challenges, their relationship is stronger because of it. Being in a long-distance relationship prepared them for the trials of the pandemic, and these obstacles are preparing them for a life of marriage. And on June 27, they were married at Sacred Heart Parish in Fleming Island by Father Mike Pendergraft.

“Whatever you decide to do, be a witness,” advised Marek. “Whether you are downsizing your wedding or postponing it all together, being a witness by projecting and relying on your faith helps others who may be going through something similar.” 🐦

“

I realized that God has a plan for our lives, and even if I don’t understand that plan, I’m going to continue to trust him. He knows what’s best for us.”



Laura Plantedos

► Marek and Caitlin Pilarski were wed on June 27, 2020.



Adanna Nicole Olivo

► Kerrie McConaha and José López are patiently waiting for the pandemic to end to get married with loved ones present.

Volunteering in the time of COVID-19

Parishes adjust to helping the underserved during a pandemic

STORY AND PHOTOS BY MARK UDRY

AT THIS POINT in the early summer months, life goes on as much as it has changed with COVID-19. A mask is required to gain entry in some places, and social distancing between people is the new normal. With all the uncertainty that comes with a pandemic, there is still one constant – people who need help.



▶ A group of volunteers sort through donated food for distribution at the Mandarin Food Bank at St. Joseph Parish in Jacksonville.

With unemployment at near-record levels, the number of underserved has grown in recent months. There are volunteers on the front lines to meet the challenge of providing goods and services to those in need, all the while trying to stay safe.

St. Joseph Parish in Jacksonville houses the Mandarin Food Bank, a pantry and clothes closet that meets the needs of the underserved in six zip codes in Duval County and a portion of St. Johns County. It opened in the spring of 1991 and has grown to 175 helpers, with 25 to 30 daily, accepting donations, making the rounds of grocery stores to collect food, sorting goods, filling bags of groceries, and keeping records of regulars who come to the pantry.

Bonnie McNulty has volunteered at the pantry since it opened, and she has never seen changes like the ones implemented for the coronavirus. Without clear guidelines, the food bank has adjusted on the fly.

“We’ve gone from having people walk in to receive groceries and make donations to a drive-thru service, which has worked out better; it allows us to serve more families.”

The food bank serves 30 to 40 families a day during the four hours it operates. A volunteer asks if they are clients, how many family members, are there any dietary needs or restrictions. Each vehicle is given a number, and another volunteer wheels a cart with groceries out to the vehicles. Family members load their own groceries – another precaution.

After each vehicle goes through, carts are sanitized, hands are washed, masks and gloves are changed. Most of the volunteers have stayed on during the outbreak, with those advanced in age and with health issues sheltered in place.

McNulty said the community assessed the situation and responded to the challenge.

“The Mandarin community has formed a circle of love since the pandemic began,” she said. “The community has really come together. It gives us a lot of hope, a feeling that we’re going to be okay.”

Assistant director Burt Davison said morale has been high among the volunteers since the pandemic hit.

“We have a great group of volunteers, and their sense



▶ Volunteers Aileen Knox, left, and Dot Bertram give bags of canned and dry goods to a client at the four-room food pantry at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Palm Coast.

of purpose has never been greater,” Davison said. “Ours is like a family – we watch out for one another and we’ve all pulled together during this crisis.”

Linda Mensching, a retired insurance claims adjuster and manager, has volunteered at the food bank for more than 10 years. She said there has been a huge surge in donations along with an increased need for the pantry’s services.

“Almost every other car is a parishioner or a community member stopping off to donate food,” she said. “People have been very kind, very generous. It’s a wonderful thing to see, and to help give back to others.”

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Palm Coast operates a small food bank with 40 volunteers. The pantry cuts its hours to ensure the safety of its helpers but still serves 15 to 20 families.

Teri Kennelly, a volunteer leader, said that the pantry offers additional services.

“We help with paying bills, with rent, and make referrals to other social services in the community to help bridge the gap for things we’re unable to help with,” Kennelly said. “People are very appreciative; they are stressed about having enough food for their families.”

Clients are allowed inside the building, one family at a time. Their needs are assessed and the volunteers fill grocery bags with canned and dry goods. Helpers maintain a six-foot distance while interacting with families and they wipe down surfaces with disinfectant after each visit.

The food pantry relies mostly on donations from its parishioners, who “have really answered the call to serve,” Kennelly said. “We were worried that there would be a drop in donations and that volunteers would stay away to avoid being infected, but that hasn’t been the case.”

Aileen Knox, a volunteer and parishioner, said Mondays are the busiest time, with a surge of families in need as well as parishioners dropping off food and monetary contributions.

“Normally, people bring food and money to Mass, but services were suspended,” Knox said. “There’s been an increase in donations; it seems like the more we give, the more we receive in return.”

Knox said she’s glad the pantry didn’t close down during the pandemic.

“[The volunteers] are here because they want to be here,” she said. “It’s a tiny little thing, this pantry, but it makes a big difference in the community.” 🐦

“People have been very kind, very generous. It’s a wonderful thing to see, and to help give back to others.”



▶ Linda Mensching, a volunteer at the Mandarin Food Bank, writes down client information.



▶ Volunteers Dot Bertram, left, Aileen Knox, and Liz Tinder prepare for clients at the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish food pantry.

SPECIAL REPORT:

RACISM

what does the Church have to say?

Recent events have reignited national protests in the United States. The death of George Floyd under the knee of a police officer has sparked a response in cities across the country; sadly, some of those protests have devolved into riots and looting. George Floyd's death follows several years of similar incidents — the deaths of other African-American people at the hands of police — in Missouri, Ohio, New York, Florida, Minnesota and elsewhere.



FOR PRAYER RESOURCES AND STATEMENTS BY ORGANIZATIONS ADVOCATING FOR JUSTICE FOR ALL,

VISIT THE USCCB WEBSITE: WWW.USCCB.ORG/ISSUES-AND-ACTION/CULTURAL-DIVERSITY/AFRICAN-AMERICAN/RESOURCES/INDEX.CFM

STATEMENT OF THE U.S. BISHOPS ON THE DEATH OF GEORGE FLOYD

- U.S. Bishops Label Death of George Floyd an Atrocity and Antithetical to the Gospel of Life
- Bishops Call Catholics to Stand for Just Action — Say Indifference Is Not an Option

Seven chairmen of committees within the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops issued a statement May 29 in response to the death of Mr. George Floyd and the protests that have broken out in Minneapolis and other cities in the U.S.

“We are broken-hearted, sickened and outraged to watch another video of an African-American man being killed before our very eyes. What’s more astounding is that this is happening within mere weeks of several other such occurrences. This is the latest wake-up call that needs to be answered by each of us in a spirit of determined conversion.

“Racism is not a thing of the past or simply a throwaway political issue to be bandied about when convenient. It is a real and present danger that must be met head on. As members of the church, we must stand for the more difficult right and just actions instead of the easy wrongs of indifference. We cannot turn a blind eye to



“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”
— Martin Luther King, Jr.

MLK PHOTO: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, NEW YORK WORLD-TELEGRAM & SUN COLLECTION

these atrocities and yet still try to profess to respect every human life. We serve a God of love, mercy and justice.

“While it is expected that we will plead for peaceful, nonviolent protests, and we certainly do, we also stand in passionate support of communities that are understandably outraged. Too many communities around this country feel their voices are not being heard, their complaints about racist treatment are unheeded and we are not doing enough to point out that this deadly treatment is antithetical to the Gospel of Life.

“As we said 18 months ago in our most recent pastoral letter against racism, *Open Wide Our Hearts*, for people of color, some interactions with police can be fraught with fear and even danger. People of good conscience must never turn a blind eye when citizens are being deprived of their human dignity and even their lives. Indifference is not an option. As bishops, we unequivocally state that racism is a life issue.

“We join Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda of St. Paul and Minneapolis in praying for the repose of the soul of Mr. George Floyd and all others who have lost their lives in a similar manner. We plead for an end to the violence in the wake of this tragedy and for the victims of the rioting. We pray for comfort for grieving families and friends. We pray for peace across the United States, particularly in Minnesota, while the legal process moves forward. We also anticipate a full investigation that results in rightful accountability and actual justice.



We cannot turn a blind eye to these atrocities and yet still try to profess to respect every human life. We serve a God of love, mercy, and justice.”

- Bishop Shelton Fabre, chairman of the USCCB's Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism

“We join our brother bishops to challenge everyone to come together, particularly with those who are from different cultural backgrounds. In this encounter, let us all seek greater understanding amongst God's people. So many people who historically have been disenfranchised continue to experience sadness and pain, yet they endeavor to persevere and remain people of great faith. We encourage our pastors to encounter and more authentically accompany them, listen to their stories, and learn from them, finding substantive ways to enact systemic change. Such encounters will start to bring about the needed transformation of our understanding of true life, charity and justice in the United States. Hopefully, then there will be many voices speaking out and seeking healing against the evil of racism in our land.”

Issued as the church prepared to celebrate Pentecost, the U.S. Bishops called upon “all Catholics to pray and work toward a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Let us pray for a supernatural desire to rid ourselves of the harm that bias and prejudice cause. We call upon Catholics to pray to the Holy Spirit for the Spirit of Truth to touch the hearts of all in the United States and to come down upon our criminal justice and law enforcement systems. Finally, let each and every Catholic, regardless of their ethnicity, beg God to heal our deeply broken view of each other, as well as our deeply broken society.” 🐦

- The statement was issued by Bishop Shelton J. Fabre of Houma-Thibodaux, chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism; Archbishop Nelson J. Pérez of Philadelphia, chairman of the Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church; Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development; Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City in Kansas, chairman of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities; Bishop Joseph C. Bambera of Scranton, chairman of the Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs; Bishop David G. O'Connell, auxiliary bishop of Los Angeles and chairman of the Subcommittee on the Catholic Campaign for Human Development; and Bishop Joseph N. Perry, auxiliary bishop of Chicago and chairman of the Subcommittee on African American Affairs.

U.S. Bishops receive call of encouragement and assurances of prayer from Pope Francis

▶ On June 3, Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, received a call from Pope Francis, where the Holy Father expressed his prayers and closeness to the church and the people of the United States in this moment of unrest.

Archbishop Gomez shared this news with the U.S. bishops in the hope that they could take comfort and gain strength in the Holy Father's encouragement. Pope Francis expressed his gratitude to the bishops for their pastoral tone in the church's response to the demonstrations across the country in their statements and actions since the death of George Floyd, and assured the bishops of his continued prayers and closeness in the days and weeks ahead. He expressed special prayers for Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda and the local church of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Archbishop Gomez, on behalf of the bishops' conference, conveyed gratitude to the Holy Father for his strong words of support and, in turn, assured the Holy Father of their prayers.



GETTY IMAGES/SCOTT HENS

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TRADITION

Here are a few relevant themes at the heart of our Catholic social tradition:

- **Life and Dignity of the Human Person** – Human life is sacred and the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.
- **Option for the Poor and Vulnerable** – A basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.
- **Solidarity** – We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they may be. At the core of the virtue of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace.



Catholic Schools are Preparing for a **NEW NORMAL** this Fall

BY LILLA ROSS

PREPARING FOR THE RESUMPTION OF CLASSES in schools of the Diocese of St. Augustine is always a big job, but this year it comes with the challenge of incorporating new health and safety protocols in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

“I see us going back to normal classroom instruction,” said Deacon Scott Conway, school superintendent. “We have already enhanced our program with digital learning. The important part of learning, however, is having the educator present in the classroom. Distance learning was a gift, but the ideal is to have a formally trained certified educator working with students hands-on.”

It’s hard to plan, however, when you don’t know what you’re planning for. As this is being written, the state is still reopening as the number of cases of the coronavirus continues to rise. It’s hard to anticipate what the level of restrictions will be by August 10, the day Catholic schools resume classes.

“We have multiple scenarios in play. We’re trying to prepare for every scenario,” Deacon Conway said.

The principals have been working

“*The diocese has schools in seven counties, where there are differing levels of infection and protocols, and each school will adapt the requirements to fit local guidelines and needs*”

with Deacon Conway on a 300-page “Diocesan Return to School Plan” that sets health and safety standards for the diocese’s five high schools, 25 parish elementary schools, and nine early learning centers.

Though the final safety measures had not been decided yet, Deacon Conway said they would probably include temperature checks at the beginning of school each day, strongly recommending, if not mandatory, masks and social distancing.

There also will be guidelines for how many students can gather at any given time and also requirements for sanitizing spaces, surfaces, and equipment throughout the day. Students, faculty and staff who are sick will be required to stay home, and if they are exposed to the virus, they will have to go through quarantine measures.

Each school will be making decisions about larger gatherings

in cafeterias, sporting events and at Mass, depending on the size of buildings and student bodies.

The diocese has schools in seven counties, where there are differing levels of infection and protocols, and each school will adapt the requirements to fit local guidelines and needs, he said.

Students also can expect tests of their math and reading levels. That is done routinely at the beginning of academic years, but this year Deacon Conway said the schools are being especially alert for learning gaps that might have occurred during distance learning.

“If there are gaps, we want to create educational plans, so students have all the things they need,” he said.

Deacon Conway said he is pleased with the way principals, faculty, staff, students and families rallied when schools were closed Friday, March 13.

“We had to switch quickly, from Friday to Monday,” Conway said. “We weren’t on spring break like the public schools. We’ve had very little experience teaching online, but we were blessed with a lot of online platforms – Schoology, Microsoft Team, Google Classroom – that helped us span the gap.”

Challenges quickly arose, though. Not everyone, especially people in rural counties, had access to Wi-Fi, or the available Wi-Fi wasn’t robust enough to meet the demands of several people in a household working and studying online.

Epiphany School in Lake City serves 130 students in several outlying rural counties, where not everyone has electronic devices and Wi-Fi.

“The spotty availability of Wi-Fi in Columbia, Lafayette and Suwannee counties made it difficult for students to connect with online classes, so we relied on traditional paper packets,” said Principal Rita Klenk. “Bus drivers in Live Oak and

Branford took materials to those churches multiple times a week and picked up paperwork. We were trying to make it easier for families who often work hourly jobs.”

“We conducted Zoom classes, but not all the students could attend them in real-time,” Klenk said.

The school is going to spend more time teaching people how to use online resources.

In the fall, Epiphany will be returning to its traditional classroom of students in desks facing the teacher, instead of flexible seating, Klenk said.

Across the diocese at St. Paul School in Jacksonville Beach, Principal Krissy Thompson said she is proud of how the faculty and staff at the diocese’s largest elementary school handled the sudden switch to distance learning. St. Paul’s has 90 children in its early learning center, 80 in Pre-K, and 550 in K through 8th grade.

Most of the families had reliable Wi-Fi and their own devices, or they could get a loaner from the school.

Thompson said one of the biggest challenges was selecting one of many digital educational platforms. They chose Schoology, Google Classroom and Seesaw, for younger students. And the teachers recorded YouTube videos and held Zoom conferences.

Since the semester ended, Thompson said she has been brainstorming with teachers and other principals about what worked and what didn’t.

“If we have to return to distance learning, we want to have everything in place so we can do that successfully,” Thompson said.

For the fall, students can expect to see staggered lunch breaks with some students eating in the classroom. Extra precautions will be taken with the school’s sports programs.

St. Paul’s had to cancel its spring carnival, but it is planning to have its other big fundraiser, the Oyster Roast, in November.

At the diocese’s largest high school, Bishop Kenny, Principal Todd Orlando said the transition to virtual school wasn’t too bumpy because all students have iPads, and teachers and students were already comfortable using Schoology and other learning management systems.

“Virtual school was fun and cool for the first week or two; then it got old for them and their parents. They miss their friends and teachers. The social aspect is such an important part of high school. Parents are saying I want my kids to be in person in school.”

More than 100 students enrolled in summer school, which is serving as a dress rehearsal for what fall will look like.

Students arrived in masks and had their temperatures taken. Their classes were half the usual size.

Orlando’s biggest frustration is not knowing what the rules will be when classes resume on August 10.

“It changes almost every week, so we have to plan for every scenario,” he said.

The scenarios include block scheduling, extending the school day, or having half the student body attending classes on alternate days.

With more than 1,200 students and eight buildings, Orlando has had to come up with a lot of scenarios.

The cafeteria is one of the biggest challenges. Typically, 350 to 400 students eat in three shifts, but that’s going to be difficult under coronavirus protocols.

Orlando is working on putting in an outdoor structure that will allow students to eat outside while sheltered from sun and rain. Students could eat two to a table outdoors and three to a larger table indoors.

Mass is another issue. And attendance at the daily Mass in the chapel will have to be limited.

Traditionally, the school has Mass as a community once a month in the gym. But Orlando said now the

“*Schools throughout the diocese will be creating new habits and procedures to ensure the safety of students, staff and faculty*”

school would have four Masses each month, one for each class.

And then there are sports. Gov. Ron DeSantis has said he expects a full high school football season.

Bishop Kenny began conditioning in mid-June and phased in workouts and playing with equipment that is frequently sanitized.

Sanitizing a school with 70 classrooms and eight buildings is a big production at the best of times. But during the break, Orlando said a professional cleaning company cleaned the whole school. And staff are stockpiling supplies so that the sanitizing can be continued throughout the day.

Schools throughout the diocese will be creating new habits and procedures to ensure the safety of students, staff and faculty while maintaining high academic standards, Deacon Conway said.

“It’ll be a new normal, but I think our kids will adapt,” he said. 🦋



Catholic School News

St. Clare Early Learning Center Opens This Fall

St. Clare Early Learning Center will open this fall at Wildlight, a master planned community in Yulee. It is the ninth early learning center in the Diocese of St. Augustine and will be under the pastoral oversight of St. Francis of Assisi Mission, which opened in 2014.

The opening and dedication of the ELC is set for August 22 at 10 a.m., where Bishop Felipe Estévez will bless the school.

The new center can accommodate 177 children between the ages of 6 weeks to 4 years old. They are expected to come from Yulee, Fernandina Beach, Amelia Island and Southern Georgia including Kings Bay Navy Base, which is part of the Diocese of Savannah.

The construction of the 19,810 square-foot building cost \$6.2 million.

The diocese chose Wildlight as the site for an early learning center because it is a new community on 2,900 acres with about 1,000 homes and apartments and a retail center. Construction on homes began about four years



DEACON SCOTT CONWAY

ago and the community is expected to grow dramatically in the coming years.

The diocese also is considering opening an elementary school and possibly a high school in the area.

If you would like to register a child, call the Catholic Schools Office at (904) 262-0668. To learn more about St. Clare Early Learning Center, visit www.stclareelc.org.



LESTER DEL ROSARIO

Morning Star Celebrates Bittersweet Transition

An era has ended for Morning Star School with the retirement of Principal Jean Barnes.

Barnes began at the school in 1986 and has been principal since

2007. She has seen the school go through a lot of changes over the years. The biggest was the addition of Hurley High School, which just graduated its second class of nine seniors. Several of them are going on to college.

When asked what she was proud of, she said, "the obvious answer is the high school. But what I'm most proud of are the little things, the little changes we brought to these kids' lives. Making sure they were safe and loved and accepted for who God made them to be."

Making a difference in a child's life also affects the family, she said.

"I had a dad in my office once

who said we have given him back his family. It can be difficult to have a child with learning differences but especially if you have the wrong placement. But we have a place where these kids can thrive and have a bright future."

Barnes has a bright future planned for herself. She and her husband own several acres of land in St. Augustine with a citrus grove, a garden, and chickens. Her son and daughter and their families live nearby.

The new principal is Elaine Shott, former assistant principal. Shott has been at Morning Star for 23 years, teaching 7th-grade literature and



► Stephen Eiswert



► Barbara Kavanagh

Diocese of St. Augustine Gains Two New Principals

Two parish schools will be getting new principals this fall: Stephen Eiswert at Annunciation School in Middleburg and Barbara Kavanagh at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School in Palm Coast.

Eiswert has been teaching junior high social studies and religion. He said he enjoyed teaching but wanted to get into a leadership position, so he earned a

master's degree in educational leadership at Creighton University in Omaha, Neb.

“Annunciation is a big, beautiful community with our students, families, and parishes – St. Luke, St. Catherine and Sacred Heart, Fleming Island,” he said. “I look forward to helping our students succeed.”

Kavanagh is coming to Palm Coast from Queens, N.Y., where she was the principal of Holy Trinity Catholic Academy. She said she had thought about moving to the diocese about 15 years ago but the timing wasn't right.

“My children are grown, and I heard about the position and I thought, I'm going to take a leap of faith and see if this is the time,” she said.

Kavanagh said she knows the area because her son, who teaches at Holy Family, and his family live here.

“I see Mother Seton as a place with a lot of potential that can grow. I've been a Catholic educator for over 30 years and I feel passionately that more children can benefit from an education at Mother Seton.”

“Especially in our world today with all the things we have gone through, children need to learn in this environment where we nurture souls and develop a sense of faith and hope that they can deal with the challenges.”



social studies for 10 years before becoming the assistant principal.

Moving into the principal's role will be a natural transition for everyone, she said.

She said the school is already getting ready for fall with adjusted classrooms in keeping with new COVID-19 protocols.

She also hopes a new fitness center for junior high and high school students will be ready. And the campaign to raise up to \$500,000 for a new life skills center will be one of her priorities. 🐦



► Jean Barnes blows a kiss to former and current students, teachers and friends.





▶ Student life at St. Francis Catholic Academy encompasses faith, arts, science and technology, athletics, academics and more.

A Small School with a Big Impact

BY THOMAS CLARK

SIXTEEN YEARS AGO, a group of high school freshmen began taking classes in the church hall at Holy Faith Parish in Gainesville. Very soon, however, the students and their teachers moved into a brand-new school building - the first and only Catholic high school in Gainesville. Envisioned by Bishop John J. Snyder and made possible by a fundraising campaign, the new school was named after St. Francis of Assisi in homage to the nearby site of the mission of San Francisco de Potano, founded in 1660. Since its founding in 2004, St. Francis Catholic Academy (SFCA) has grown to an enrollment of more than 200 students from nine counties. Following the school's motto of "Faith, Knowledge, and Virtue," the school has established a rigorous academic curriculum and a range of extracurricular opportunities for students, integrated through the school's Catholic identity.

According to Principal Jason Acosta, St. Francis Catholic Academy offers a "small-school environment while providing a college-preparatory, AP Capstone education to our students that is rich in extracurricular opportunities, faith-based tradition and service." For students at the school, faith cohesive with academics and school life, not a superficial addition. The school hosts weekly all-school Masses, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every quarter, and regular opportunities for the sacrament of reconciliation. In addition, there are unique opportunities such as the annual "Back from the Dead Cemetery Walk," which showcases the lives of the saints, and the "Living Nativity" program during Advent.

Complementing these larger, all-school activities are more intimate gatherings, such as class retreats, rosary groups, and Christian service projects organized by teams and clubs. A recent milestone for the school was receiving a relic of St. Francis of Assisi from the Vatican, which will soon be on display in the school's chapel. According to Principal Acosta, the relic is "a tangible link to the life of faith, simplicity, and service of our patron saint."

One way that SFCA has distinguished itself academically is through its commitment to STEM

(Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) opportunities and education for its students. *Newsweek* magazine ranked SFCA in its Top 5,000 STEM schools list for 2020. The school is one of only four in the state of Florida to have an Anatomage Virtual Dissection table for students to perform realistic digital dissections. SFCA's Technology Enhanced Active Learning Lab contains four MakerBot 3D printers, which students can use to print 3D models that they design themselves or find online. The technological amenities of the school are supplemented by a small average class size of 16 students and a student-to-faculty ratio of 11:1.

At SFCA, more than 90 percent of students participate in athletics and more than 75 percent participate in two or more sports, clubs, or student organizations. More than half of the student body is a member of at least one of the school's six honor societies, and 70 percent complete at least one Advanced Placement class before graduation.

Every graduating class in the school's history has had 100 percent college acceptance. From the Class of 2020, two students were named scholars in the National Hispanic Recognition Program, placing them in the top 2.5 percent of Hispanic students taking the PSAT/NMSQT in the nation. One recent graduate received the four-year, full-tuition Poetter Scholarship from the Savannah College of Art and Design. Another, accepted to Princeton, Johns Hopkins, and Georgetown University, is a semi-finalist for the Elks National Foundation scholarship. And yet another member of the Class of 2020 has received the Benacquisto Scholarship from the University of Florida through the National Merit Scholarship competition.

While many large cities have one or more Catholic high schools that parents can choose to send their children to, this opportunity is not always available in more rural areas. Principal Acosta is grateful to the Bishop's Annual Stewardship Appeal for the opportunity to bring Catholic education to high school students in Alachua County as well as the surrounding counties.

"We are proud to be part of the bishop's Rural Education Initiative, which assists students in outlying areas to have the benefits of a Catholic high school education," said Acosta.

Many families also take advantage of the Florida School Choice Scholarship program to assist in providing their students with an academically rigorous, faith-based education. St. Francis Catholic Academy may be a small school, but the impact it has had on its students has been huge. 🐺

More information about St. Francis Catholic Academy can be found on their website:

WWW.SFCAWOLVES.ORG



WOODY HUMBER

“We are proud to be part of the bishop's Rural Education Initiative, which assists students in outlying areas to have the benefits of a Catholic high school education.”



► Bishop Snyder graduate Danny Neri

FAITH on the FIELD

BY SAVANNA KEARNEY

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOLS are well known for the elevated standards they hold for students in areas of curriculum, faith, discipline, tradition and preparation for college. But what about athletics? Bishop John Snyder High School, Bishop Kenny High School, St. Joseph Academy and St. Francis Catholic Academy all offer high-quality athletic programs that teach students not only physical discipline but leadership, teamwork, time-management, perseverance, humility and so much more.

Bishop John Snyder High School

■ “Young, but still competitive” is how Zach Osbeck, athletic director at Bishop Snyder High School, describes the school’s athletic program. Although Bishop Snyder was founded just 18 years ago, the school is still growing and so are the sports programs.

Danny Neri is one of the students helping to grow the Bishop Snyder athletics program – he’s been involved since the age of 10. His older brother ran track, his sister played volleyball at Bishop Snyder, and he attended BSHS baseball camp every summer.

According to Neri, he’s discovered that if you want to excel in any field, you have to discipline yourself. But he’s also learned to

rely on and trust his teammates.

“Accountability is another thing I learned from baseball,” said Neri. “You have to make sure you get your job done on and off the field because if you don’t, it negatively impacts your team.”

He’s gone through some ups and downs throughout his athletic career, but Neri says he’s grateful he has his faith to fall back on during the hard times. And his hard work over the past four years has paid off, as he’ll be attending the University of Notre Dame in the fall on an athletic scholarship.

“I’m sure I would be a very different person if I hadn’t grown up playing sports at Bishop Snyder.”

Haley Bujeda knows what it’s like to

overcome difficult challenges in life.

After being a competitive gymnast for 13 years, she suffered a back injury, and her doctor told her she would have to give up gymnastics. She labored through physical therapy, and ultimately recovered, but decided against returning to gymnastics. That’s when she discovered diving.

“I was skeptical at first, but as soon as I got into the water, I just fell in love with it,” recalled Bujeda.

And now the 18-year-old is not only a member of the All First Coast Swim and Dive Team, but she’s also Bishop Snyder’s only diver. Bujeda said that being the only diver has taught her patience and perseverance in perfecting her techniques – all which has led her to attend Florida International University on an athletic scholarship. There’s a certain peace that comes with diving, she explained.

“Every time I get on the diving board, I take two deep breaths and I know that whether it’s an easy dive or a hard dive, God will be with me through it.”

Bishop Kenny High School

■ Many of the student-athletes at Bishop Kenny High School have not only impressive athletic careers but strive for high grades and active participation in community service.

“Our athletes are really well-rounded,” said Mark Thorson, athletic director at Bishop Kenny. “Our coaches keep things in



► Bishop Snyder graduate Haley Bujeda



► Bishop Kenny student Jasmyne Roberts

perspective for the students, but we're still competitive at the local and state levels."

Jasmyne Roberts is one of those well-rounded athletes. The 17-year-old rising senior has played basketball since 2nd grade – when she started playing as the only girl on an all-boys youth league.

"It made me tougher. And by the time I got to middle school, basketball was easy," said Roberts. "It definitely shaped me into the player I am today."

And she certainly is an impressive player. Roberts was named First Coast Basketball Player of the Year and eclipsed the 1,600-career point mark before her senior year. And as a junior, she already committed to the University of Miami on a full basketball scholarship.

Although she's disappointed spring training was canceled due to the pandemic, she said she's grateful they're staying connected virtually. They even do Zoom workouts together multiple times a week.

"It set us back for a while, but we managed to figure out how to work around it," she said. "I don't let challenges knock me down."

Patrick Tucker juggled not one, but two sports throughout high school. He's been playing golf since his grandfather used to take him on golf trips as a little kid. And he started playing basketball by the age of five with his older siblings, who played basketball at Bishop Kenny before him.

"My siblings really showed me the value of playing sports at Bishop Kenny," he said.

Tucker values the camaraderie that comes with being on the basketball team, but says he enjoys the challenges that comes with golf.

"Some people might not think golf is very hard, but it's the most mentally and physically challenging sport I've ever been a part of."

Tucker is equally committed to both sports. In fact, halfway through high school he was forced to choose between them, but he ended up giving up his collegiate golf dream so that he could continue to be involved in both sports.

"That was a turning point for me," he said. "But ultimately it turned out better for me that way."

St. Joseph Academy

■ "Pursuing Victory with Honor" is the motto of St. Joseph Academy's athletic program, and according to assistant athletic

director Sherri Nowatzki, both are necessary for Catholic student athletes to succeed.

"We want to be competitive in our athletics, but we want to pursue that with the integrity and character of our Catholic faith," she said.

Upcoming senior Jessamy Gaetanos is familiar with St. Joseph's standard of athletic performance. In fact, it runs in the family. Both of her older brothers played basketball at St. Joseph, and her dad is an assistant coach. She's been captain of the girls' basketball team since her sophomore year.

"St. Joe's basketball is something the whole family enjoys together," explained Gaetanos.

She said her coaches emphasize the importance of taking what you learn on the court and applying it to everyday life.



► (Left) St. Joseph student Jessamy Gaetanos



► (Left) Bishop Kenny graduate Patrick Tucker



► (Left) St. Joseph graduate Logan Ely



► St. Francis graduate Katie Calhoun

“St. Joseph has a really strong athletics program, and I’m thankful for the coaches that make it so amazing,” she said. “It’s more than just sports. My team is my family.”

Another outstanding student-athlete from St. Joseph is St. Johns County Sports Club 2020 Student Athlete of the Year, Logan Ely.

Ely tried out lots of sports when he was younger, but something about soccer just stood out from the rest.

“I love the camaraderie and teamwork of soccer,” he said. “And it taught me to be a leader, both on and off the field.”

Faith is a big component, too. Ely’s Catholic faith and the spiritual practices taught at St. Joseph have shown him how to be the best player he can be.

“I’ve learned proper sportsmanship, and that I always need to respect my opponents,” said the recent graduate. “Always treat others how you’d want to be treated.”

St. Francis Catholic Academy

■ “Remember, you represent your school and your community.” This is the message that David Fallo, athletic director of St. Francis Catholic Academy, instills in his athletes.

Katie Calhoun an SFCA student who represents her school in not one, but two sports. She was captain of both St. Francis’ girls softball team and the cheerleading squad. Not to mention being class president three years in a row.

There are two important skills that Calhoun learned from each sport she plays. Cheerleading taught her personal perseverance, while softball requires constant communication between teammates.

“The only way to get better is to practice and work hard,” said the recent graduate.



► St. Francis graduate Patrick Tucker

“Sports have definitely helped me to be a representative and a leader.”

Being involved in St. Francis’ athletics is time-consuming. Eight hours of school followed by two to three hours of practice and homework makes for a long day. But in the end, Calhoun says it’s all worth it.

“Being involved in sports can be difficult,” explained Calhoun. “But I wouldn’t have the happy memories of high school if I hadn’t participated in those sports and made friendships through them.”

Tristan McDaniel started playing tackle football in third grade and running track in eighth grade, and he hasn’t stopped since. He said he appreciates the polar opposite aspects of each of the sports he plays.

“My favorite part about playing football is being on a big team; it feels like a family,” he said. “And with track, I like how individual it is. It’s more competitive in a way because whether you succeed or fail, it’s all on you.”

Perseverance and leadership are two key skills that McDaniel has learned during his time in the athletics program, especially as captain of the football team his senior year. He also learned how to apply his faith to his athletics, thanks to the coaches who read passages from the bible before every game and related them to their experiences on the field.

“We hold ourselves to a higher standard at St. Francis. We practice good sportsmanship and always respect our opponents.”

Although local Catholic high schools have a lot to offer in terms of athletics, Catholic sportsmanship can be found at home too.

Eighteen-year-old Ella Kemna, an active parishioner of Holy Family Parish in



► Holy Family parishioner Ella Kemna

Jacksonville, has been homeschooled since 2nd grade. She said she enjoyed the flexibility it offers, and what she lacked in classmates and peers, she made up for by rowing in the First Coast Varsity Rowing Club.

“I’ve made some lifelong friends thanks to rowing,” she said. “And it’s taught me leadership skills.”

During her time in club rowing, Kemna received Florida State gold and silver medals, a Southeast Regional silver medal, and made it into the top 15 at nationals. Not to mention the full athletic scholarship she accepted to the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa in women’s rowing.

“I found solace in my faith in learning to embrace challenges,” she said. “These past few months have all been a part of God’s plan.”

In terms of how COVID-19 will affect athletics in the summer and fall, Catholic High schools of the diocese will follow guidelines put forth by the National Federation of State High School Associations, which breaks down safety precautions into three phases. The first phase will require temperature checks, limiting close gatherings to 10 people, and maintaining six-foot distancing between players.

The second phase will allow for 50 percent of people to gather for outdoor workouts and games. Phase three will increase indoor gatherings to 50 percent capacity, although three-foot distancing must be maintained. Coaches and officials may be required to wear masks throughout all three phases.

These precautions and the timing of the phases may vary by county, but conditioning and camps will take place throughout the summer. 🐦

CIVILIZE IT



DIGNITY BEYOND THE DEBATE

A **DIVIDED COUNTRY. Fights at the dinner table. Political vitriol. What does it mean to love our neighbors in the midst of such a climate?**

As Catholics, we have a long tradition of engagement in the political process as a means of putting our faith into action. We are called to bring the best of ourselves and our faith to the public square – and yet today, many shy away from such involvement because our national and local conversations are filled with vitriol and harsh language, often directed at people themselves.

When personal attacks replace honest debate, no one wins. This kind of attack, no matter the reason, only serves to divide our communities further. As Catholics, we must model a better way. The U.S. bishops invite you to join the Civilize It campaign by taking the pledge below as a way to promote civility, love our neighbors, and build community.

Civilize It is about making room in your heart for those with whom you disagree. We are called to recognize that each one of us is a beloved child of God and to respond in love to that reality. Civilize It is a non-partisan call to focus on the dignity of all people, even when we disagree, and to put faith in action by bearing witness to a better way forward.

Take the pledge as an individual, family, or community. Anyone and everyone can commit together to honoring human dignity through civil conversation.

I PLEDGE:

1. Civility

To recognize the human dignity of those with whom I disagree, treat others with respect, and rise above attacks when directed at me.

2. Clarity

To root my political viewpoints in the Gospel and a well-formed conscience, which involves prayer, conversation, study and listening. I will stand up for my convictions and speak out when I witness language that disparages others' dignity while also listening and seeking to understand others' experiences.

3. Compassion

To encounter others with a tone and posture, which affirms that I honor the dignity of others and invites others to do the same. I will presume others' best intentions and listen to their stories with empathy. I will strive to understand before seeking to be understood.

■ To take the pledge online, and for additional resources such as a handout on forming your conscience, visit www.wearesaltandlight.org/civilize-it. To learn more about Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, visit usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/index.cfm.





CRS Launches Campaign to LEAD THE WAY ON HUNGER

BY SAVANNA KEARNEY

▶ Laborers carry bags of wheat at a warehouse in Ethiopia.

COVID-19 has created food scarcity across the United States. But how is it affecting communities across the globe that are already struggling with a food crisis?

“As a result of widespread restrictions on movement, disruptions to supply chains, and soaring food prices, the pandemic is making it even more difficult for already vulnerable families to access basic necessities,” said Vivi Iglesias, a community engagement manager with the Southeast Regional Office of CRS.

Catholic Relief Services, the official international Catholic relief and development agency of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, launched its “Lead the Way on Hunger” campaign in May to tackle global hunger, as COVID-19 pushes millions of families towards starvation.

This campaign is a multi-year effort that calls on supporters to take action through fundraising, advocacy, and public awareness-raising activities.

Currently, one in nine people worldwide does not have enough food to eat. The secondary impacts of the coronavirus

pandemic could dramatically increase those needs. According to Iglesias, isolation and quarantines caused by the pandemic are exacerbating widespread hunger already caused by climate change and poverty. Although CRS workers are now limited in their access to these communities, they are continuing to work with more than 30 countries to provide assistance and reduce the risk of COVID-19.

According to the World Food Program, the coronavirus pandemic could increase the number of people suffering from acute hunger by 130 million people. What’s more, it’s estimated that currently, the number of children facing a lifetime of developmental challenges caused by malnutrition exceeds 149 million – that’s more than twice the number of all children in the United States.

“If we don’t provide adequate food to children now, it will impact them for the rest of their lives,” said Sean Callahan, CRS’ president and CEO. “The welfare of the next generation hangs in the balance.”

The call to help spreads beyond the U.S. In May, Pope Francis called for prayer and fasting to end the pandemic, where he spoke about the impact it has had on

communities struggling with food scarcity.

“In the first four months of this year, 3.7 million people died of hunger. There is the pandemic of hunger,” the Holy Father said.

So how can we take action to fight global hunger? Donate, advocate, share, and pray.

The faithful are encouraged to write to members of their Congressional delegations to advocate for specific bills that help improve food security in poor and vulnerable communities overseas. That includes asking for an additional \$12 billion in foreign assistance funding in the next emergency COVID-19 bill. In addition, CRS is urging supporters to spread the word about the campaign through social media and use of the hashtag #LeadNow.

In addition to spreading the word through social media, CRS is growing its network of CRS chapters across the country, including right here in the Diocese of St. Augustine.

Santa Maria del Mar Parish in Flagler Beach has a small but active CRS chapter. In the past three years, they’ve collaborated with the parish’s social justice committee to organize Lenten suppers and prayer walks, fundraise for Operation Rice Bowl, and



NANCY McNALLY/CRS

▶ A young woman kisses her baby at a community-led class.

volunteer at a local fair-trade fair.

Despite the challenges COVID-19 has presented to their parish community, Judy Spears and Marcia Stambouljian are continuing to advocate for the underserved. Currently, they are working on an offering of letters from parishioners to send to legislators, encouraging them to support the Global Child Thrive Act HR 4864, which offers aid to children in developing countries.

“I think it’s vital that people become aware of the problems our world faces,”



JENNIFER HARDY/CRS

▶ Biak New Sung feeds her youngest daughter in their makeshift home in Myanmar.



JIM STIPE/CRS

▶ CRS staff register people to receive food.

said Stambouljian. “The efforts of CRS will not only help communities here and now but will also make a lasting impact on future generations.”


If you are interested in joining the Santa Maria del Mar chapter of CRS, email marciastambouljian@yahoo.com



WILL BAYTER/CRS

▶ A 15-year-old girl feeds her brothers porridge outside their home in South Sudan.

or judyncih@yahoo.com. For more information on joining or developing a CRS chapter at your parish, email mparkison@ccb dosa.org. For more information on Catholic Relief Services, visit www.crs.org.

“The shadow pandemic of worsening hunger is playing out in some of the world’s most vulnerable countries,” said Callahan. “Now is the time for us to lead the way forward to ensure that these communities have the support they need to make it through this crisis and beyond.” 




Catholic Cemeteries

DIOCESE OF ST. AUGUSTINE

- *Burial Space – Tradition & Cremation*
- *Columbarium Niche’s*
- *Veteran Discount on Grave Purchase*
- *Assist in Creating your Loved Ones Monument*
- *Affordable Payment Plans*

San Lorenzo Catholic Cemetery


DIOCESE OF ST. AUGUSTINE 

~ Since 1892 ~

1635 U.S. 1 South
St. Augustine, FL 32084

|| 904.824.6680 ||

St. Mary Catholic Cemetery

DIOCESE OF ST. AUGUSTINE 

~ Since 1914 ~

21 Cemetery Rd.
Korona, FL 32110



WOODY HUBAND

► Cole Koenig and Pablo Equivas at Urban Plunge-Interlachen 2019.

Urban Plunge Transitions to 'Faith + Action' During Pandemic

Despite having to cancel this year's Urban Plunge due to COVID-19, the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry will host monthly "Faith + Action" service days instead.

The first service day will be held Saturday, July 25, from 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. In the fashion of the original Urban Plunge, youth will spend the day providing work and outreach to the impoverished and elderly that reside in the Diocese of St. Augustine. Their work includes painting houses, repairing homes, building wheelchair ramps, doing yard work, cleaning and more. Not to mention growing and developing their Catholic faith.

This unique experience is grounded in James 2:17, *Faith without action is dead*. The goal is for local youth to not only understand Catholic social teaching, but also for it to become a way of life.

If you are interested in learning more about or participating in "Faith + Action," contact your parish's youth minister or email Robin Shipley at rshipley@dosaf1.com.



WOODY HUBAND

Retrouvaille Offers Hope for Marriages

The COVID-19 pandemic and resulting quarantine have had adverse effects on many areas of life – for some, that includes marriage. But Retrouvaille is here to help.

Retrouvaille is a marriage program for couples whose marriage has lost direction and gone off course. It begins with a weekend program to get relationships back on track. The next Retrouvaille weekend is Friday, July 31 through Sunday, August 2 at Marywood Retreat and Conference Center in St. Johns.

The retreat cost is \$250 per couple. To register or learn more, call (904) 662-8604 or visit www.helpourmarriage.com.



SCOTT SMITH

Diocese Celebrates Ordination of Six New Priests

On Saturday, June 20, Bishop Felipe Estévez ordained six men for the Diocese of St. Augustine. From left, Father Steven Zehler, director of vocations, Father Jared De Leo, Father Christopher Knight, Father Mason Wiggins, Bishop Felipe Estévez, Father Maurice Culver, Father Clay Ludwig, and Father Anthony Hamaty.



KEN MCCRAY

► The reenactment of the landing of the Spanish at the 2018 Founder's Day celebration.

Founder's Day Celebrates America's First Parish and City

Mark your calendars for the celebration of Founder's Day on Saturday, Sept. 5, at Our Lady of Leche National Shrine at Mission Nombre de Dios (101 San Marco Avenue, St. Augustine). This year, we celebrate the 455th anniversary of the day the city of St. Augustine was founded.

The celebration begins at 9 a.m. with a reenactment of the landing of the Spanish at the mission grounds, followed by Mass at the rustic altar with Bishop Felipe Estévez.

Founder's Day celebrates the founding of St. Augustine, our nation's oldest community, on Sept. 8, 1565. On that day, Don Pedro Menéndez de Avilés and a group of Spaniards founded the city, and Father Francisco Lopez celebrated the first Mass of thanksgiving on its shores. They named the new settlement St. Augustine in honor of the saint whose feast day they first sighted the shores of the city. For event details, visit www.missionandshrine.org.



KEN MCCRAY



SARAH PASCUAL

Ministry Formation Program Celebrates Seven Graduates

Congratulations to this year's Ministry Formation class, who graduated from the three-year program on Sunday, June 21! (From left) John Peterson from Holy Family Parish, Daniel Coniligaro, MFP program coordinator, George Howell from Prince of Peace Parish, LouAnne Hawkins from Our Lady Star of the Sea, Bishop Felipe Estévez, Samantha Matthews from St. John the Baptist Parish in Atlantic Beach, Erin McGeever director of Christian Formation, Jim Kersten from St. Joseph Parish and Susi Pittman from Epiphany Parish. To learn more about the Ministry Formation Program, visit <https://formation.dosafl.com/ministryformation/>.

Bishop Estévez Accepts Five Men as Seminarians

In June, Bishop Felipe Estévez accepted five men, from various parishes of the Diocese of St. Augustine, as seminarian candidates. Please join us in welcoming the new seminarians, and continue to keep them in your prayers.

The following men will be studying philosophy at St. John Vianney College Seminary in Miami:

George Gilbert of St. John Paul II Mission, Nocatee

Andrew Lands of the Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine

The following men will be studying pre-theology at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach:

Justino Moreno of San José Parish

Landon McCollum of St. Paul Parish, Jacksonville Beach

Stephen Parker of Holy Family Parish, Jacksonville



George Gilbert



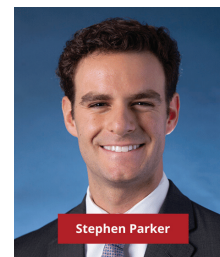
Andrew Lands



Landon McCollum



Justino Moreno



Stephen Parker



JULY/AUGUST

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY 27-31

12th Annual Summer School of Theology

Formation for religious, clergy, teachers, and catechists. Guest speaker: Msgr. Christopher Schreck. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Marywood Retreat and Conference Center, St. Johns. To register, email emcgeeever@dosaf.com

JULY 31 - AUGUST 2

Retrouvaille Weekend

A program for couples with troubled marriages. Marywood Retreat and Conference Center, St. Johns. Call (904) 662-8604 to register. Information is kept confidential.

JULY 25

Faith + Action Service Day

A full day of work and service for middle school teenagers. Sponsored by the diocesan youth office. Contact Robin Shipley at rshipley@dosaf.com or call (904) 262-3200, ext. 189 for details

AUGUST 10

2020-2021 Catholic School Year Begins

AUGUST 21-23

Diocesan Marriage Renewal Weekend

Discover keys to a more loving relationship as a couples and with God at Marywood Retreat Center, St. Johns. Call Jerry and Anne Webster at (904) 268-3758 for details.

AUGUST 29

Experiencia Cristo Day of Reflection

A day of reflection for Spanish-speaking teens to experience Christ. Camp St. Johns, Marywood Retreat and Conference Center, St. Johns. Sponsored by diocesan Multicultural Youth & Young Adult ministry. Email Norma Garcia at ngarcia@dosaf.com for details.

AUGUST 30

Mass for Young People

Bishop Felipe Estévez will celebrate quarterly Mass for the spiritual needs of young people in the diocese. 5 p.m., Basilica of the Immaculate Conception with social gathering to follow.

SEPTEMBER 5

Founder's Day

Reenactment of Spanish landing on shores of St. Augustine. 9 a.m., Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche, Mission Nombre de Dios followed by Mass at Rustic Altar with Bishop Estévez. Visit www.missionandshrine.org for details.



FOR MORE DIOCESAN, PARISH AND ORGANIZATIONAL EVENTS, visit www.dosaf.com/events



► Dr. Susan Parker

Dr. Susan Parker is Guest Speaker for Augustinian Day

August 28 is Augustinian Day, the feast day of St. Augustine of Hippo, in which we celebrate our diocesan namesake and one of the greatest Doctors of the Church. The Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine will commemorate this day by hosting vespers at 6 p.m. in the parish, followed by a presentation by guest speaker Dr. Susan Parker at the Cathedral Parish Center at 7 p.m. Dr. Parker will present on St. Augustine of Hippo's influence around 1870, the time when the diocese was founded.

Dr. Parker is a well-known Florida historian and St. Augustine native who has taught at the University of Florida, the University of South Florida, and the University of North Florida. She served as the executive director of the St. Augustine Historical Society and as a historian and preservation consultant with the Florida Department of State. She served as the director of research for the PBS documentary, *Secrets of the Dead*, about colonial St. Augustine. Currently she freelances as a researcher, writer, editor, and historical projects consultant.

For more information, call the cathedral at (904) 824-2806.

católico



CORONACIÓN DE MARÍA,

MADRE Y REINA

POR FATHER JHON GUARNIZO

El año que viene, Nuestra Señora de La Leche recibirá una coronación canónica. Será un gran evento para nosotros porque seremos parte de este acto de reconocimiento de Nuestra Madre como Reina en la Diócesis de San Agustín.

Considerar a la Virgen María como Reina es una tradición muy antigua. Durante siglos ha sido representada con una corona y en un trono como la Madre de Cristo Rey. En el siglo XVI, las misiones de los frailes capuchinos a menudo terminaban con una colección de joyas. La

gente las daba como un signo de desapego y conversión, y fundieron el oro para hacer una corona para María. Históricamente, la primera vez que una imagen de Nuestra Señora fue coronada canónicamente fue en 1631. Pero las coronaciones canónicas no fueron incorporadas en todas las

celebraciones litúrgicas católicas hasta el siglo XIX.

Para comprender la importancia de la coronación de María, es necesario comprender el significado de la corona para los hebreos. Para el pueblo judío, la corona simbolizaba la dedicación o consagración del rey en su ministerio como gobernante. La investidura de un rey se mostraba con su coronación como se puede ver en Joás en el segundo libro de Reyes: “Y los guardias se colocaron cada uno con sus armas en la mano, desde el lado derecho de la casa hasta el lado izquierdo de la misma, junto al altar y junto a la casa, alrededor del rey. Entonces Joiada sacó al hijo del rey y le puso la corona, y le dio el libro del testimonio; lo hicieron rey y lo ungió, y batiendo palmas, gritaron: ‘¡Viva el rey!’” (2 Reyes 11:11-12)

La corona es el prototipo símbolo real. “Porque le sales al encuentro con bendiciones de bien; corona de oro fino colocas en su cabeza”. (Salmos 21: 1-3) En la cultura griega, la corona tenía una sensación de triunfo; era el símbolo del ganador en los juegos. La corona estaba tejida como una guirnalda de cedro, perejil, laurel u oliva, o hecha de oro imitando vegetales o plantas.

De manera poética, el libro de Proverbios nos muestra cómo la mujer virtuosa es corona de su esposo. (12:4) Por otro lado, en el Nuevo Testamento, podemos ver a la mujer más virtuosa, María. En el Evangelio de Lucas, el evangelista siempre se destaca con Nuestra Señora como una mujer de elección y acción. Es protagonista de eventos importantes y participa en el proceso de la nueva creación. Pero es en el libro de Apocalipsis, en la visión del capítulo 12, donde podemos ver el papel de María como Reina, donde la Madre que da a luz al Mesías aparece con una “corona de doce estrellas”. (Apocalipsis 12:1) Ella es una reina y una madre. Y debido a que Cristo es el reinante Mesías

Davídico, su Madre lleva la corona de Reina en el nuevo Reino de Dios.

La coronación de Nuestra Señora tiene el significado de proclamar la realeza de Nuestra Señora. En el acto de coronarla, proclamamos:

1 Que María es la Reina del Universo no solo en un sentido metafórico sino también en un sentido estricto, literal y apropiado. La base principal de la realeza de María es su maternidad divina.

2 Que María también es Reina del Universo por derecho de conquista, como la Corredentora de la humanidad.

3 Que el poder real de María, aunque es verdadero, no es total y absoluto como el de su Hijo, sino limitado y relativo, recibido y participado de su hijo Jesucristo.

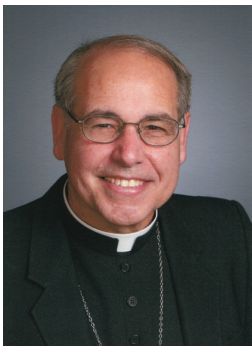
4 A semejanza y en perfecta dependencia de Jesucristo, el reino de María no es un reino temporal y básico, sino un reino eterno y universal: un reino de verdad y vida, de santidad,

de gracia, de justicia, amor y paz.

5 María se convirtió en Reina en el mismo momento en que concibió a Jesucristo Rey por medio del Espíritu Santo; reafirmó su realeza por derecho de conquista con su compasión al pie de la cruz de Jesús. Ella ejerció esta compasión sobre la iglesia primitiva, los Apóstoles y los primeros discípulos del Señor, y continuará ejerciéndola eternamente en el Cielo sobre todos los seres creados.

“Finalmente, la Virgen Inmaculada, preservada inmune de toda mancha de pecado original, terminado el curso de su vida en la tierra, fue asunta en cuerpo y alma a la gloria del cielo y enaltecida por Dios como Reina del universo, para ser conformada más plenamente a su Hijo, Señor de los señores y vencedor del pecado y de la muerte”. (CIC 966) Coronar a María como Reina y Patrona de la Diócesis de San Agustín es proclamar el reinado de María en nuestros corazones como sus hijos fieles en esta diócesis y en nuestra sumisión filial a ella. 🕊





UNA IGLESIA DONDE TODOS ESTAMOS INVOLUCRADOS

POR EL OBISPO FELIPE J. ESTÉVEZ

Cuando hice un Cursillo a los 18 años en South Bend, Indiana, cantamos una canción: ¡La iglesia soy yo! Con razón estábamos entusiasmados para evangelizar el mundo.

San Pedro enseña que cada persona que se bautiza es parte de “un pueblo elegido, un sacerdocio real, una nación santa, un pueblo que él reclama para proclamar las maravillas”. Tal es la gran dignidad del pueblo de Dios. Ser sal de la tierra y luz para el mundo nos hace a cada uno de nosotros un discípulo misionero que trae buenas noticias a los demás.

Como nos recuerda el Papa Francisco en *La alegría del evangelio* (n. 120), los laicos no necesitan esperar para tomar cursos sobre su fe antes de acercarse como discípulos misioneros. Lo que más importa es saber que Dios nos ama por experiencia, y luego simplemente compartir nuestra historia con los demás.

La mayoría de los católicos identifican a la Iglesia primero con la jerarquía, pero esta percepción conduce al clericalismo. El Papa Francisco dice que la única autoridad en la Iglesia es la del servicio: “Es como una pirámide invertida”, el único poder es la cruz.

La mejor manera de combatir el clericalismo es promover la corresponsabilidad en la iglesia local. Para lograr eso con los laicos en su conjunto, necesitamos estar más involucrados para compartir constructivamente nuestras opiniones e ideas para mejorar el bien común. Y especialmente necesitamos aprender a escuchar a los demás, lo que implica más que solo oír lo que los otros tienen que decir.


En el seminario, aprendí sobre *sensus fidei*: toda la comunidad de fieles tiene un “sentido” para percibir la verdad sobre la fe y la moral. San John Henry Newman escribió sobre un tiempo en que los laicos vieron el error del arrianismo, incluso cuando muchos de los obispos de la región no se percataban de la herejía.

Vale la pena señalar que muchos en América Latina usan la palabra *corresponsabilidad* para referirse a “stewardship” (mayordomía). Pero esta palabra tiene otro significado que es rico en profundidad.

La cultura de la corresponsabilidad exige la participación activa de los laicos en la vida de la parroquia, la responsabilidad conjunta en la misión de la Iglesia y un sentido más amplio de la universalidad, ya que somos una iglesia global rica en diversidad.

Somos bendecidos con pastores, diáconos y ministros laicos dedicados, talentosos y bien formados que tienen una notable pasión por el servicio, sintiéndose corresponsables muy generosos entre los fieles. Pero necesitamos encontrar formas más creativas para involucrar a las personas a nivel comunitario, especialmente las familias que forman la iglesia doméstica. Hay muchas familias que desconocen su potencial para ayudar a dar forma y guiar a nuestras comunidades parroquiales.

El Papa Francisco imagina una iglesia del siglo XXI que este mas presente efectivamente con el pueblo. Él imagina una iglesia **sinodal** con una verdadera capacidad de diálogo, como soñó el Papa San Pablo VI. Un buen diálogo requiere mutualidad en escuchar, lo que lleva a una mayor comprensión y una comunión más profunda de corazones. Para participar constructivamente en esta visión, necesitamos aprender el “discernimiento de espíritus”. Una vida de oración y virtud lo hace posible. Hay tantas voces, múltiples sitios web y algunos con un prejuicio anti-ecclesial y con opiniones conflictivas que debemos detectar para así alinear nuestras mentes con la santa voluntad de Dios y con un amor por la Iglesia.

Brevemente, aprendamos de los primeros cristianos que daban testimonio de tener “un solo corazón y una misma mente”. Fueron animados por el Espíritu Santo y se enfocaron en el kerygma, dejando que el misterio pascual de Jesús fuera el centro de sus vidas y también lo compartían a sus vecinos. Compartieron sus bienes y poniéndolos al pie de los apóstoles. Usar sus finanzas como presión sobre sus líderes era totalmente inconcebible para ellos. Como decía la carta a Diogneto, no tenían signos visibles, pero eran el alma de la sociedad. 

LA PANDEMIA

Y EL AUMENTO DE LA ANSIEDAD

POR CLAUDIA ROJAS

En este artículo seguiremos tratando el tema de la pandemia y sus consecuencias en la salud mental. En el artículo anterior, dijimos que los efectos deben ser tratados individualmente. La mejor forma de enfrentar esta pandemia, desde la perspectiva de la salud mental, es vivir en el presente y buscar, una a una, soluciones prácticas a las necesidades inmediatas. Así podemos evitar el aumento de una enfermedad mental que está incrementando: **La ansiedad**. Es normal sentir preocupación debido a eventos negativos o nocivos que enfrentamos en la vida; pero **cuando la preocupación se vuelve excesiva, intensa y persistente**, y lo que empezamos a sentir es miedo que rápidamente se transforma en pánico dentro de diez minutos, ya es un problema más serio que requiere ayuda profesional. Este miedo puede incluir síntomas como: Taquicardia, sudor, oleadas de calor, temblor, dificultad para respirar (hiperventilación), mareo, náusea, presión en el pecho, visión borrosa, miedo de morir o de perder el control, etcétera (DSM-V-TR).



Si la ansiedad no se trata adecuadamente, puede presentar problemas más graves como **la agorafobia**, un pánico extremo que incluye tener miedo al miedo y a la gente, o tener fobia a lugares públicos y situaciones donde el individuo cree que va a perder el control. Los pensamientos trágicos causan este miedo extremo que provoca más pensamientos negativos. Estos pensamientos causan reacciones fisiológicas en el cuerpo, manteniendo atrapado al individuo en ciclos de desesperación. Actividades normales como ir al supermercado, restaurantes, eventos sociales y lugares con muchas personas, aunque estén en espacios abiertos, causan tanto estrés al individuo que evita salir de casa.

Durante la pandemia, es normal sentir cierta preocupación y tomar medidas adecuadas de protección, pero no debe causar un miedo extremo que llegue hasta el punto de que no podemos funcionar en la vida diaria.

Es importante durante esta época hacer una autoevaluación: ¿Cómo la pandemia me está afectando? Si han subido mis niveles de preocupación, ¿he prestado atención a mi diálogo interno o he tenido pensamientos trágicos?

Es importante controlar el estrés con buena nutrición, actividad física, pasatiempos y, como dijimos en el artículo anterior, la oración y los sacramentos. Recordemos que ahora ya podemos recibirlos y no necesitamos enfocarnos en los problemas. Ahora podemos fijar nuestra esperanza en Dios mientras pasa la tormenta, para disfrutar el tiempo en familia. Ahora es una oportunidad para hacer cambios positivos en nosotros, en la familia y en la humanidad. 🕊

¿Ha recibido beneficios durante la pandemia?

La carga pública y el COVID-19

POR IRAIDA M. MARTÍNEZ



El gobierno de los Estados Unidos ha aprobado varias medidas para ayudar a las familias durante la pandemia. Algunas medidas incluyen asistencia médica, programa de alimentos y compensación por el desempleo, entre otras. Hoy aclararé si el uso de estos beneficios podría afectarles al ser evaluado para determinar si usted sería una carga pública.

Una persona podría ser calificada como inadmisibles y negada su solicitud, si USCIS pronostica que podría convertirse en carga pública. La persona podría perder su solicitud de visa de inmigrante o no inmigrante, ajuste de estatus, o readmisión como Residente Permanente a los Estados Unidos si se ausentó por más de 180 días. En la prueba se evalúa la totalidad de las circunstancias del solicitante como edad, salud, estado familiar y financiero, educación, destrezas y el sostenimiento económico del peticionario.

Solo algunos inmigrantes

son elegibles para recibir el Medicaid. En cambio, toda persona podría recibir el Medicaid de Emergencia en caso de que necesite inmunizaciones, prueba y tratamiento para enfermedades transmisibles y servicios en clínicas comunitarias. USCIS ha clarificado que el uso del Medicaid de Emergencia para examen y tratamiento a causa del COVID-19 no será considerado en la determinación de inadmisibilidad por carga pública.

Al igual, sus hijos podrían recibir beneficios del Programa de Nutrición para niños (comedor

escolar), la tarjeta de alimentos (P-EBT), entre otros. Esto no le afectará negativamente para que el gobierno determine que usted sería carga pública. Debo aclarar que toda persona, sin importar su estatus migratorio, es elegible para recibir productos de los bancos de alimentos.

Algunos inmigrantes autorizados para trabajar podrían cualificar para recibir el beneficio por desempleo. Al ser este un beneficio adquirido, no lo declararía inadmisibles por ser carga pública. Lamentablemente, las personas que tienen TPS, DACA, o Visa U, aunque están autorizados para trabajar, no cualifican para este beneficio.

Por otro lado, al momento de redactar este artículo, USCIS anunció que el 4 de junio comenzará a reabrir sus oficinas siguiendo las guías del Centro para el Control y Prevención de Enfermedades. Todas las personas que tenían citas durante el periodo de cierre recibirán una nueva cita. Esa notificación tendrá instrucciones específicas de cómo deberá presentarse a su cita. Usted deberá reprogramar su cita, si se siente enfermo o ha estado expuesto al COVID-19. Una medida importante es que se limitará la cantidad de personas a presentarse a la cita. Solo podrá ir el solicitante, su representante legal y un familiar para asistir al solicitante en caso de discapacidad. Su interprete tendrá que estar disponible por vía telefónica.

Esta columna está escrita a modo de orientación general, no debe tomarse como una consejería legal formal. Todo asunto migratorio debe conversarlo con un profesional en inmigración, ya sea un abogado o un representante acreditado por el Departamento de Justicia que trabaje para una organización sin fines de lucro. Si tiene alguna duda o comentario, no dude en escribirme a mi correo electrónico imartinez@ccebaj.org. Hasta la próxima. 🦋

Santo | Patrón de los Párrocos

San Juan Vianney Festividad: 4 de agosto

Juan Vianney fue una fuerza motriz para revivir la fe en Europa después de la persecución de los católicos luego de la Revolución Francesa. Conocido cariñosamente como el Cura de Ars, es el santo patrón de los párrocos por su celo llamado a los valores del Evangelio y su cuidado compasivo por aquellos que regresaron a Dios en el sacramento de la reconciliación.

Nacido en Dardilly en 1789 con el nombre de Jean Baptiste-Marie Vianney, Juan se unió a sus devotos padres en el culto en su parroquia local y en el cuidado de los pobres. Cuando se volvió ilegal y peligroso ser católico, su familia viajó secretamente a granjas lejanas para la Misa celebrada por sacerdotes que se escondían con miedo por sus vidas. Juan se preparó para recibir los sacramentos a la luz de las velas, cubriendo las ventanas durante las lecciones para evitar ser descubierto, encarcelado o incluso asesinado.

Juan fue reclutado para servir en el ejército, pero, cuando se separó de su unidad, desertó. Cuando se le concedió la amnistía, perseveró en su búsqueda para convertirse en sacerdote. Desafiado por el latín y otros cursos académicos, fue admitido en el seminario solo cuando su pastor local convenció a sus superiores del gran amor de Juan por Dios. Finalmente fue ordenado a los 30 años.

Asignado a su parroquia de origen en Ars, la noticia de su fervor por llevar a los perdidos a casa a la Iglesia se extendió rápidamente. Su perspicaz trabajo como confesor de personas a quienes se les había negado la comodidad de su fe pronto atrajo a personas de pueblos vecinos, ciudades y, finalmente, de toda Europa. Juan escuchó hasta 300 confesiones diarias, pasó de 11 a 12 horas ayudando a las personas a volverse a Dios. En el verano, el tiempo se extendió a 16



horas y los penitentes esperaron hasta una semana para recibir el perdón. Las cuentas informan que, hacia 1855, Juan escuchaba 20,000 confesiones al año, un número que según los informes creció a 75,000 en años posteriores.

La pasión de Juan por reconciliar a las personas con Dios también se expresó en su cuidado por los abatidos. En 1824 abrió La Providence, un hogar y una escuela para niñas y mujeres indigentes forzadas

a la prostitución durante la agitación económica después de la era napoleónica.

La vida de Juan es un ejemplo importante del valor de la acogida y el testimonio de quienes se han apartado de Dios y del poder que tiene la reconciliación para sanar y renovar su amor por Dios. Juan sirvió a todos los que acudieron a él en Ars desinteresadamente hasta su muerte a los 73 años. 🌿



HAVEN

Cuidado de hospicio

Haven brinda atención y apoyo compasivo a personas con enfermedades limitantes de la vida y a sus familias, que se ocupa de las necesidades físicas, psicosociales, emocionales y espirituales relacionadas con la enfermedad avanzada, respetando las metas, creencias y deseos de cada individuo.

Quando la salud se convierte en un desafío, seremos su refugio.

BeYourHaven.org | 877.379.6270

Serving advanced illness needs in North Florida since 1979. Licensed as a not-for-profit hospice since 1993. Haven does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. Si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 800.727.1889. Si w pale Kreyol Ansyen, gen sèvis ed pou lang ki disponib gratis pou ou. Rele 800.727.1889.

MORALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTING

Investments You Can Believe In



AVE MARIA
MUTUAL FUNDS

Ave Maria Mutual Funds take a PRO-LIFE, PRO-FAMILY approach to investing. Our proprietary screening process examines corporate compliance with Catholic teachings regarding abortion, pornography and policies undermining the sacrament of marriage. Investments are made only in companies that do not violate core teachings of the Catholic Church as set by our distinguished Catholic Advisory Board.

1-866-AVE-MARIA (1-866-283-6274)
avemariafunds.com

Mutual Fund investing involves risk, principal loss is possible. Request a prospectus, which includes investment objectives, risks, fees, expenses and other information that you should read and consider carefully before investing. The prospectus can be obtained by calling 1-866-283-6274 or it can be viewed at www.avemariafunds.com. Distributed by Ultimus Fund Distributors, LLC.



St. Augustine

catholic

The Magazine of the Catholic Diocese of Saint Augustine
11625 Old St. Augustine Road
Jacksonville, FL 32258-2060

www.dosafl.com

The *St. Augustine Catholic* is a gift from your parish and the Diocese of St. Augustine.



Open for appointments

Schedule now. Ask about virtual visits.
GetJaxHealthCare.com

Fully prepared for your safety in our care

At Ascension St. Vincent's, the care you need is available today. From routine visits and health screenings to surgical procedures and specialty care, our caregivers are fully prepared for your arrival.

As we all embrace a new care experience, Ascension St. Vincent's will continue to maintain strict precautions for your safety in our care including screenings, social distancing and protective equipment. Yet our compassionate, personalized care remains unchanged.

We are now open to schedule appointments for your urgent and ongoing care needs.

