



NATIONAL CATHOLIC REGISTER



NCREGISTER.COM

NOVEMBER 10-23, 2019

Volume 95, No. 24 | \$3.00 USA | \$4.25 Canada

Whither Women Deacons?

Pope Francis Allows Further Debate

BY JOAN FRAWLEY DESMOND
SENIOR EDITOR

VATICAN CITY — Should women be ordained to the permanent diaconate?

Delegates at the Synod of Bishops on the Pan-Amazon Region repeatedly returned to that question, communicating a desire among many synod participants for a major change in the Catholic Church's long tradition of reserving the sacrament of holy orders for men alone.

And when the synod issued its final report, the proposition on this matter called for concrete consideration of the possibility.

"In the many consultations carried out in the Amazon, the fundamental role of religious and lay women in the Church of the Amazon and its communities was recognized and emphasized, given the multiple services they provide," read Paragraph 103 of the final report. "In a large number of these consultations, the permanent diaconate for women was requested."

The synod document noted that "in 2016, Pope Francis had created a 'Study Commission on the Diaconate of Women'" and that this body "arrived at a partial result based on what the reality of the diaconate of women was like in the early centuries of the Church and its implications for today."

"We would therefore like to share our experiences and reflections with the commission and await its results."

During an Oct. 26 vote, this brief paragraph was approved by 137 synod fathers and opposed by 30.

Speaking shortly after the voting on the synod document, Pope Francis himself addressed the report's language on women, the diaconate, and a proposed ministry of "women community leaders," designed to help address local Church needs.

On the one hand, he suggested, the document fell short of explaining women's full role in the Church, particularly "in the transmission of faith, in the preservation of culture. I would just like to underline this: that we have not yet realized what women mean in the Church," he said. Rather, "we focus on the functional aspect, which is important," but is not everything.

Still, even though he had recently acknowledged that the deaconesses described by St. Paul in the New Testament were not equivalent to the modern sacramental under-

CONTINUES ON PAGE 12



CONTROVERSIAL SYNOD. Pope Francis celebrates the closing Mass of the Amazon synod on Oct. 27. Daniel Ibañez/CNA

Pan-Amazon Aftermath

Final Document Requests Married Priests, Regional Rite, 'Ecological Conversion,' Further Study of Female Diaconate

NEWS ANALYSIS

BY EDWARD PENTIN
ROME CORRESPONDENT

VATICAN CITY — The Synod of Bishops on the Pan-Amazon Region wrapped up Oct. 27 with controversial recommendations that married men be ordained in the Amazon region, a study be restarted into introducing women deacons, and the "elaboration" of an Amazonian rite of the liturgy be considered.

The majority of the synod fathers also voted for the creation of a bishops' council dedicated to the vast Latin American region, the institution of a ministry for women leaders, and for "new ways of ecological conversion."

The proposals, made in a 30-page final document, were voted on by 181 synod fathers and concluded the Oct. 6-27 regional special assembly, whose theme was "New Paths for the Church

and for Integral Ecology."

In addition to bishops from Amazon's nine countries, the synod was attended by selected representatives from indigenous communities, religious orders, lay groups, charities and experts.

In his closing remarks, Pope Francis called the final document a "diagnosis" of the varied challenges facing the region and criticized "elite Christians" who try to make them apply universally.

Francis said he would reopen the Church's 2016-2019 study on women deacons and possibly add new members to the commission. He added that he hoped his post-synodal apostolic exhortation — his definitive reflection on the synod that will contain measures to take forward — will be completed by the end of the year.

The so-called "mastermind" of the synod, Bishop Erwin Kräutler, prelate emeritus of Xingu, Brazil, was ebullient about the results of the final doc-

ument voting, telling the Register he was pleased with the outcome, and it is "what we expected, of course."

Austrian-born Bishop Kräutler, who has long supported the ordination of married men and women priests (he admitted during the synod that he views a female diaconate as a possible step to ordaining women), also said that after the synod, women deacons "will come." The meeting, he said, was "a step to a new epoch," and the Church "cannot be understood without this synod."

"It's a new opening for the Amazon region, but also for the whole world," he added.

Most-Contested Propositions

The proposal to create a permanent diaconate for women, as well as the propositions on ordaining married men "of proven virtue" (the so-called *viriprobat*)

CONTINUES ON PAGE 12

US Bishops' Conference Plans Fall Assembly

Elections, Faithful Citizenship and Priestly Formation on the Agenda

BY LAURETTA BROWN
STAFF WRITER

WASHINGTON — The election of a new president and vice president will top the agenda at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' fall assembly.

Meeting in Baltimore Nov. 11-13, the bishops will also vote on seven action items, which include supplementing documents on faithful citizenship ahead of the 2020 U.S. presidential election and voting on changes for a sixth edition of the "Program of Priestly Formation."

Russell Shaw, a Catholic author who served as secretary for public affairs of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops/U.S. Catholic Conference from 1969 to 1987, told the Register it "would be a great surprise" if the current USCCB vice president, Archbishop José Gomez of Los Angeles, were not elected president. Since 2016 the archbishop has served alongside the current USCCB president, Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, who is retiring from the post at the completion of his three-year

term. "The bishops almost always elect the vice president as president," Shaw noted, "so I just take it for granted that Archbishop Gomez will be the next president of the bishops' conference — and a very good one, I'm sure."

"The interesting question then becomes who will be elected vice president, with a good chance of being elected president three years from now; and there, I think, it's really a toss-up."

The 10 archbishops and bishops listed on the USCCB's presidential ballot are: Archbishop Gomez, Archbishop Timothy Broglio of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, Bishop Frank Caggiano of Bridgeport, Connecticut, Archbishop Paul Coakley of Oklahoma City, Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone of San Francisco, Bishop Daniel Flores of Brownsville, Texas, Archbishop Jerome Listeecki of Milwaukee, Bishop Thomas Paprocki of Springfield, Illinois, Bishop Kevin Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, and Archbishop Allen Vigneron of Detroit.

CONTINUES ON PAGE 11

How Funeral Rites and Devotions Help the Faithful Face Death

BY PETER JESSERER SMITH
STAFF WRITER

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — Before he had an opportunity to celebrate a baptism or marriage, Christian rites that mark the beginning of new life, the newly ordained Deacon Michael Forrest was assisting at the Christian rites that mark the end of life for two people close to his heart.

"Before I had a chance to breathe, I was serving at a dear friend's funeral, a friend who wanted to be at my ordination," he said. Soon thereafter, his own mother passed away.

"It was my mother who once told me way back in the day that I should be a minister," Deacon Forrest, a former Baptist, recalled. He had held his mother's hand on the vigil of her death, praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet before she passed away the following morning. "She held on, to just after I was ordained."

For Deacon Forrest, celebrating the Church's funeral rites was an intensely emotional experience. But their architecture, he said, conveys



PRAYING FOR THE DEAD. A requiem Mass is offered for the repose of a soul. 2016 photo, Raymond DeLeon/Shutterstock.com

"the sense of God's great mercy and loving-kindness."

The Catholic Church provides beautiful rites and devotions — some of them not well-known — that help people squarely face death with the hope of the resurrection and turn their mourning into intercession on behalf of their loved ones.

The Church's funeral rites are divided into three main parts: the vigil service, the funeral Mass and

CONTINUES ON PAGE 6

San Francisco's Archbishop Cordileone Discusses *The Mass of the Americas*

IN PERSON

The *Mass of the Americas*, a newly composed Mass setting commissioned by Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone of San Francisco, will be celebrated Nov. 16 at 10am at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington and broadcast live on EWTN. Archbishop Cordileone will be the main celebrant for this solemn pontifical high Mass, the first-ever celebration of *The Mass of the Americas* in the Extraordinary Form. In late October, Archbishop Cordileone spoke with the Register's Joan Frawley Desmond about his decision to present the soul-transforming power of beauty in unexpected places — like the 60th floor of the Salesforce Tower, the tallest building in his city, as well as



SAN FRANCISCO ARCHDIOCESE

in local parishes and schools.

Last April, fire badly damaged the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris, provoking shock and grief across much of the world. What did that reaction tell us about the power of beauty?

Its power to touch and ennoble the soul is universal. Everyone — not just Catholics, but also nonbelievers — mourned the damage to the cathedral. And that reaction shows the power of beauty to unify.

Christianity was once the well-spring of Western culture. Can it still inspire great art?

That power can be revived, and we have the resources at our fingertips. Our Judeo-Christian spiritual tradition, which sees the human person as created in God's image and likeness, views the good, the true and the beautiful as the three attributes of God. I launched the "Truth, Beauty and Goodness Project" with the goal of tapping into the spiritual energy of these attributes, so we can promote the healing and unity

CONTINUES ON PAGE 12

INDEX

NATIONAL NEWS	2
NATIONAL NEWS	3
WORLD NEWS	4
VATICAN NEWS	7
IN DEPTH	9
PUBLISHER'S NOTE, EDITORIAL LETTERS	10
BOOKS & EDUCATION	5
CULTURE OF LIFE	13
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT	15
TRAVEL, HISTORY & SAINTS	16



Eternity Essentials
In Depth, page 9

NATION

Despite Obstacles, Daleiden Trial Shows Gruesome Side of the Abortion Industry

Civil Case of Pro-Life Undercover Journalist Is Currently Underway

BY LAURETTA BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Pro-life activist David Daleiden is in the middle of a federal civil jury trial facing charges brought by the nation's largest abortion provider, Planned Parenthood, over his undercover videos, initially released in 2015, which allegedly show the organization trafficking in unborn baby body parts.

The civil trial almost immediately followed a nine-day preliminary hearing in the criminal case last month over 15 felony charges of invasion of privacy brought by California Attorney General Xavier Becerra.

Over the course of the civil trial this month, gruesome details about the harvesting and sale of unborn baby body parts have been highlighted, despite attempts by the judge to avoid discussion of the content of the undercover videos.

Planned Parenthood's lawsuit alleges that Daleiden and his associates at the Center for Medical Progress (CMP), Troy Newman, Albin Rhomberg and Gerardo Adrian Lopez, violated the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act (RICO Act), engaged in wire fraud, mail fraud, invasion of privacy, illegal secret recording and trespassing. Planned Parenthood is seeking nearly \$600,000 in damages resulting from increased security costs that its representatives argued are necessary because of an increase in violence against abortion providers following the undercover videos.

The defendants are being represented by various pro-life attorneys and legal groups, including the Thomas More Society and the Life Legal Defense Foundation.

Daleiden's attorneys with the Thomas More Society argue that he was acting as an undercover journalist attempting to expose trafficking in unborn baby body parts by Planned Parenthood. California law allows the recording of confidential conversations without consent if it is done to obtain evidence of a violent felony.

Daleiden's legal team is also arguing that Daleiden and the Center for Medical Progress should not have to pay for security upgrades on the part of Planned Parenthood, as they did not cause the problems that necessitated security upgrades.

Allegations of Bias

Peter Breen, vice president and senior counsel at the Thomas More Society, told the Register about some of the difficulties Daleiden is facing in the civil case.

Breen said that the judge in the case, U.S. district court Judge William Orrick, "tied our hands on the evidence presentation," pointing out that he is excluding the testimony of medical experts like Dr. Forrest Smith, a practicing abortionist and OB-GYN, who testified in the criminal preliminary hearing last month that Planned Parenthood appeared to be modifying abortion techniques to result in live births and more intact organs.

"The judge is still going to allow a lawyer to get on the stand and talk about all sorts of violence against abortion providers over the last 40 years," he pointed out. "We think that's outrageous; we fought that ruling. We're going to continue to challenge it, but, again, that's where we are. In the civil case we are much more limited in our evidence presentation than we were in the criminal case."

Thomas Brejcha, the president and founder of the Thomas More Society, also told the Register that Orrick has excluded a great deal of evidence in the case, including the undercover videos, because "the opposition objected that it would be prejudicial to Planned Parenthood and the other plaintiffs. The prejudice would outweigh any probative value."

"It really is an anomaly," he emphasized. "The anomaly is that while the other side testifies to the impact of the videos on Planned Parenthood — that they were scary; they were upset — our jury wasn't allowed to see them."

Daleiden's attorneys made an unsuccessful attempt to have Orrick removed from the case, based on his wife's apparent support for



BACK IN COURT. David Daleiden, shown arriving for court at the Harris County Courthouse on Feb. 4, 2016, in Houston, was in court again in San Francisco, where a civil trial is hearing arguments. Eric Kayne/Getty Images

Planned Parenthood on social media and the fact that Orrick is a founder and officer of the Good Samaritan Family Resource Center (GSFRC), an organization that partners with Planned Parenthood and had a Planned Parenthood business incorporated on its premises while Orrick served as secretary and counsel to the organization.

"Despite all these adverse rulings — the judge is no fan of ours; we moved to have him recused earlier — we are achieving breakthroughs that are having an impact on the jury," Brejcha said. "While it's an uphill struggle, we're not without hope that some degree of justice might be accomplished here."

Hearts and Scals

Over the course of both Daleiden's civil trial, which will continue at least through mid-November, and the preliminary hearings in the criminal case, which wrapped up last month, some gruesome testimony surfaced regarding the alleged practices of abortion providers involved in harvesting fetal body parts for research.

Last week, Life Legal Defense attorney Katie Short cross-examined Albin Rhomberg, a pro-life activist who is being sued by Planned Parenthood for his role as then-CMP board treasurer. In the course of discussing his research into alleged trafficking in fetal tissue, Rhomberg referenced the use of the scals of aborted babies in one study.

"We realized that one, for example, was research being done on baldness," he testified. "That could be just vanity. On the other hand, we do know that patients receiving therapy — there's many reasons for baldness. And they were attempting — they were using fetal — they were scalping the babies and taking their scals and grafting them on to immune-suppressed mice, and then using various pharmaceuticals on these humanized mice to test the effect upon preventing or, I suppose you might say, treating baldness."

Brejcha told the Register that Daleiden consulted with Theresa Deisher, a stem-cell researcher with a Ph.D. from Stanford University, who told Daleiden, regarding a 2012 study that used hearts supplied by the fetal-tissue procurement company StemExpress, that, "in fact, to harvest hearts the hearts had to be beating or they were without scientific research value and they had to be moved quickly to a Langendorff perfusion machine."

"He [Daleiden] really felt that there was ample evidence that not only did physicians change the abortion methods to enhance the quality of the fetal organs, bodily organs, but Deisher's testimony indicates that, indeed, they had to be born alive, some of them, at least for heart organs," Brejcha emphasized.

"I handled aborted fetal tissue at two Planned Parenthood clinics during this undercover project, and I handled the actual individual body parts and organs," Daleiden testified Oct. 21.

Brejcha reflected that abortion advocates often use the word

"stigma." "Stigma is a big concern of the abortion lobby," he said. "That's what they're really afraid of. They don't want these details about the barbarity and grisliness of what they do becoming openly discussed and recognized, because it'll just turn your stomach."

Gosnell Parallels

The gruesome testimonies regarding the harvesting of fetal body parts during the civil trial caused Phelim McAleer, author and producer of the *Gosnell* movie, to recall his past coverage of the case of abortionist Kermit Gosnell. Gosnell was convicted in May 2013 of the first-degree murder of three infants born alive after attempted abortions and the involuntary manslaughter of one woman during an abortion.

"It's kind of Gosnell 2.0, in some ways," McAleer told the Register in a phone interview shortly after attending the trial in San Francisco.

He noted that the media was largely ignoring the trial, as they did with Gosnell.

"At the beginning of the trial somebody mentioned the name Gosnell and the judge almost had a heart attack and shut them down," he said. "Gosnell was convicted: There was a trial; there was evidence. It's not like he's some tabloid person who there's no evidence about — there's evidence coming out of everywhere about Gosnell. I don't see why he couldn't be used as an example, or as a reason for Daleiden to do the work he did."

McAleer was physically pushed last week as he was attempting to question Planned Parenthood medical director Dr. Mary Gatter, featured in the undercover videos joking that she wanted a Lamborghini from fetal-tissue sales.

"Did you ever get your Lamborghini?" he asked Gatter as she left the courthouse. "In the tape you said you asked surgeons to change the method of abortion. Is that legal or ethical?" He was then pushed by someone who appeared to be a security guard for Gatter.

"They're so used to journalists asking them softball questions, or when it's really difficult, asking no questions, so I decided to ask every Planned Parenthood witness hard questions," he told the Register about the incident. "They don't like it, and they get really, really violent because they're so unused to being asked difficult questions."

Abortionists' Testimonies

Alexandra Snyder, executive director at the Life Legal Defense Foundation, told the Register that, in recent testimony, abortionists have revealed that Planned Parenthood's security measures were not prompted by any real danger caused by the undercover videos.

Life Legal Defense's Short cross-examined Gatter over her claim that she felt violated, and "that's why she needed security or that's why Planned Parenthood thought she needed security," Snyder said.

However, Short "was able to get her [Gatter] to admit that by feeling violated it meant that she was uncomfortable with the way she

was portrayed in that video; and she admitted that, yes, that's what she meant — not that she was fearful, but that she didn't like how she was portrayed; it 'made her look bad,' in her words."

Snyder emphasized that the case "is all about the security upgrades and the damage that supposedly Planned Parenthood abortionists incur as a result of feeling threatened by the videos, and so we're showing that they did not feel threatened. They are used to this; they're out in the public."

Jennifer Castle, Planned Parenthood's director of clinical services, and Jen Gupta, the group's director of medical standards, also were cross-examined by Short this week.

Castle and Gupta acknowledged that they never received any threats and did not incur any expenses due to increased security because of the videos.

Brejcha emphasized that Castle had written an article titled, "Why I'm Proud to Provide Safe and Legal Abortions: Abortion Providers Are Heroes." Planned Parenthood is "claiming that privacy is paramount," he noted, but "she's out there publishing how proud she is to do what she does. It's hypocritical."

Daleiden's Inspiration

A key video that was permitted in the trial this week was "Body Parts for Sale," produced by *20/20* and hosted by Chris Wallace. It aired on March 9, 2000, and featured a *20/20* producer posing as a potential investor and secretly recording an abortionist talking about the massive profits he made from the sale of body parts he harvested from the bodies of babies he aborted.

Daleiden testified that he first saw this video in 2010 and was inspired by it to found the Center for Medical Progress and begin his own undercover project investigating the illegal sale of aborted baby body parts in California.

"I think for the first time since the beginning of this trial three weeks ago the jury was able to see the potential for greed to come into play and then the absolute callousness with which people who are involved in this tissue trafficking trade" exhibit, Snyder said regarding the video.

Brejcha pointed out that the video showed Gloria Feldt, the president of Planned Parenthood at the time, "on camera saying that, well, these laws [about tissue trafficking] are on the books, and this is terrible; they should be enforced."

Brejcha said that the video

"really got" to Daleiden when he saw it as a young boy, and "he couldn't understand why there was never any follow-up" investigation. "There was a congressional hearing; but apart from that, nobody in the media, no government action — nothing — and that's why he started his work."

An Uphill Battle

Daleiden's attorneys face many obstacles, as they are in the midst of the civil trial at the same time as they are waiting to hear, following last month's criminal preliminary hearing, whether Daleiden and his associate Sandra Merritt will have a trial before a jury on any or all of the 15 felony charges brought by the California attorney general.

Breen noted that "they're putting incredible burdens on David and our legal team that no one else would ever have to bear. Forcing a group of lawyers to go into a six-week civil jury trial right on the heels of a criminal preliminary hearing is unheard of. We opposed it, we tried to keep the proceedings separate and stayed, but that was rejected."

He also noted that Planned Parenthood has "one of the biggest law firms in the country representing them, and they're doing everything possible to stick it to us; but we've been giving it as good as we're getting it, at this point."

"We are going to be able to be victorious and vindicate the truth of what the Center for Medical Progress videos show, and we're going to be able to vindicate the rightness and correctness of what David and his team did," Breen concluded. "It's the most consequential undercover investigation of the abortion industry in history."

Lauretta Brown writes from Washington, D.C.

TIMELY NEW WORKS ON CRUCIAL ISSUES

◆ **A TIME TO DIE: *Monks on the Threshold of Eternity*** — Nicolas Diat
Behind monastery walls, men of God spend their lives preparing for the passage of death. Best-selling French author Nicolas Diat set out to find what their deaths can reveal about the greatest mystery faced by everyone — the end of life. How to die well? To answer questions on preparing for death, Diat travelled to eight European monasteries including Solesmes Abbey and the Grande Chartreuse. His extraordinary interviews reveal that monks have the same fears and sorrows as everyone else. What is exemplary about them is their humility and simplicity. When death approaches, they are like happy children who wait with impatience to open a gift. They have complete confidence in the mercy of God.
TTDP ... Sewn Softcover, \$17.95

"I am infinitely thankful to Nicolas Diat for having brought us for a moment before the mystery of death, and I recommend to all the reading of this wonderful book." — **Cardinal Robert Sarah**, from the Foreword



◆ **WESTERN CULTURE TODAY AND TOMORROW**
Addressing Fundamental Issues — Joseph Ratzinger (Benedict XVI)
Well known for his important scholarly contributions to theology and biblical commentary, Ratzinger has also written penetrating observations of our times, revealing here his keen insights about the social and political challenges confronting modern Western societies.
He reminds us that Jerusalem, Athens, and Rome were the foundation stones upon which Western civilization was built. Their invaluable contributions form the basis for the Western understanding of human dignity and human rights. This book also includes the new essay by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI on the clerical sex abuse crisis, which traces the moral disorder to the collapse of faith both inside and outside the Church.
WCTTP ... Sewn Softcover, \$16.95

"Benedict XVI has long been an acute analyst of the ills that beset the West. His prescription is to rediscover the human dignity implicit in its Christian roots while absorbing the best achievements of the Enlightenment."
— **George Weigel**, Author, *The Fragility of Order*



◆ **THE FRAGILITY OF ORDER** — George Weigel
One of America's most prominent public intellectuals brings thirty-five years of experience in Washington and Rome to bear in analyzing the turbulence that characterizes world politics, American public life, and the Catholic Church in the early twenty-first century.
In these bracing essays, Weigel reads such events as the First World War, the collapse of Communism, and the Obama and Trump presidencies through a distinctive cultural and moral lens, even as he offers new insights into Pope Francis and his challenging pontificate.
FROP ... Sewn Softcover, \$17.95

"Every page in this book shines with moral clarity, and the illumination of history. It proves once again that George Weigel is our Virgil through the dark woods of modernity."
— **Mary Eberstadt**, Senior Research Fellow, Faith and Reason Institute





ignatius press
P.O. Box 1339, Ft. Collins, CO 80522

www.ignatius.com
(800) 651-1531

Habsburgs: Prayers — and Royalty — Never Die

The Powerful Faith of a Family Continues in Today's Generation

PART 1

BY VICTOR GAETAN
SENIOR CORRESPONDENT

Editor's note: The reorganization of Europe following World War I had a profound impact on many Catholic communities and on one pillar of European Catholicism in particular: the Habsburg family. Victor Gaetan's two-part interview with His Imperial and Royal Highness Archduke Rudolf of Austria is the first in a series of articles exploring the legacy of this legendary dynasty, which was founded in the 11th century.

Archduke Rudolf of Austria, 69, is a very busy man. Having worked in the financial sector for decades, he now concentrates on holiness: promoting the cause for beatification of his grandmother, Servant of God Zita, the last empress of Austria; monitoring progress toward sainthood of his grandfather, Blessed Charles I (or Karl), the last emperor of Austria and the last king of Hungary (who reigned from Nov. 21, 1916–Nov. 11, 1918); being a father to eight children, including four in religious life; and supporting favorite charities, including sitting on the board of directors of the U.S. Magnificat Foundation and co-founding the Zermatt Summit, dedicated to “humanizing globalization” and projecting the Catholic Church’s social teaching as an antidote to the World Economic Forum at Davos, Switzerland.

In a rare interview, senior international correspondent Victor Gaetan spoke to the humble paterfamilias to learn more about the enduring devotion of this legendary Catholic family, a pillar of European civilization, the Habsburgs.

Your grandfather, Emperor Charles I of Austria and king of Hungary, who reigned from 1916 to 1918, was well-known for his devotion to God, to the Church and to his family. As a condition of ending World War I, President Woodrow Wilson demanded the empire be dissolved and your grandparents were exiled. Yet they bore this pain with dignity. Charles is the only 20th-century ruler to be beatified — by Pope St. John Paul II in 2004. How is Blessed Charles’ cause for sainthood progressing?

The greatest work to establish sainthood is done before beatification. The *positio* is compiled, a whole 2,000-page history proving his life was heroic, and a miracle is identified. In 1960, a Polish nun living in Brazil was completely healed — she was bedridden, but after praying for my grandfather’s intercession one night, she woke up and could walk. This was the first miracle. The next step is canonization, and what is needed is a second miracle; only two or three are analyzed by the postulator, Andrea Ambrosi, who is in Rome. He is hopeful regarding one potential miracle in particular, but it takes some time to make sure everything is absolutely correct before you close the file. The Church, of course, has time, so everything goes quite slowly, but it is better not to make a mistake.

We had another miracle, but, sadly enough, it was a case of terminal cancer; and although the person healed totally, the individual died four years later from another cause. The Vatican wants the person to survive five years, so it could not count in the end.

It is interesting: One of the potential miracles is a breast-cancer survivor, and that person is not a believer, does not have the faith. People around that person prayed for the healing and obtained it. So a question is: Will that person find the faith or not?

No one is born a saint. It is a work in progress, your whole life. My grandfather for sure, he was always, always deeply Christian. Even as a child, he gave away things to the poor. He was already involved in his faith and in the action linked to faith.

Blessed Charles and his wife, your grandmother, Empress Zita, were a very close, loving couple. His feast day is Oct. 21, the anniversary date of their marriage in 1911. What is the status of her cause?

For the last 10 years, on behalf of my family, I’ve been working on the process of beatification for my



FAITHFUL FAMILY. The Habsburgs pose for a family photo in 2018; At left, Cardinal József Mindszenty met with Empress Zita in 1972. Courtesy of the family of Archduke Rudolf Habsburg

Yes, his devotion to Hungary was so strong, he asked that his heart be interred at the Benedictine Abbey of Pannonhalma, outside Budapest, while his body is buried in the Habsburg family crypt in Vienna.

Yes, and the hearts of Emperor Karl and Empress Zita are enshrined together in the Loreto Chapel at Muri Abbey, Switzerland.

I read that Cardinal József Mindszenty met with your grandmother, Empress Zita, after his departure from Hungary in 1971. Did you ever meet Cardinal Mindszenty?

I met Cardinal Mindszenty once at the 80th birthday of my grandmother in 1972, in Switzerland. We celebrated on the Monday after Pentecost and always had a bishop or a priest attending her birthday celebrations. That year Cardinal Mindszenty came. I remember my grandmother speaking with him in fluent Hungarian. She was happy, and he was happy. He was a very young chaplain and participated in the crowning in 1916, so they had a lot of common memories.

Did your grandmother and Cardinal Mindszenty talk about the regency?

I don’t know because my grandmother was always very discreet. I think if she spoke to the cardinal — both of them, without even making a deal, knew that they would not tell other people what was said, so they could talk freely. What I know is that the regent, Miklos Horthy, who had betrayed his king [my grandparents], came to Brussels to ask my grandmother to pardon him, and she did it.

When was that, approximately?

I don’t know when exactly. All I know is my father told me that story because he was living in Brussels at the time. I suppose it was after he [Horthy] was overthrown by the Nazi regime in 1944.

Had Emperor Karl stayed in power, it was his intention to implement the following reforms: Develop the ministries of social affairs and of health; develop his monarchy into a federal state; implement agrarian reform for Bohemia and Hungary; create social-assistance programs and medical insurance; protect youth from vulgar literature; and grant autonomy to the different nationalities. My grandfather discussed autonomy with Archduke Franz Ferdinand [the heir to the Habsburg throne whose assassination in Serbia led to World War], and they both agreed to implement this reform after the death of Emperor Franz Joseph.

In Part 2, Rudolf Habsburg shares the secrets to raising and keeping children in the Catholic faith.

Victor Gaetan is an award-winning international correspondent and a contributor to Foreign Affairs magazine and The American Spectator.

WRIGHTNATURALBAKERY.COM
Healthy, delicious baked items (gluten & gluten free) using mostly unprocessed organic ingredients!
Coupon code: HEALTHY88 for \$6 off
FREE SHIPPING FOR ORDERS OVER \$79!
Phone: 970 883-2600 or 970 812-8026
Email: wrightnaturalbakery@gmail.com

Used, out-of-print Catholic books for sale. Send for listings to:
S. Vranizan
2930 Cedar Street
Philadelphia, PA 19134



Request Gregorian Masses for Souls in Purgatory!
Missionaries of the Holy Family
(888) 484-9945 ~ www.msf-america.org
Please watch our 2-minute Vocation Video:
tiny.cc/HolyFamilyMSF

NATIONAL CATHOLIC REGISTER
America's most complete Catholic news source
A Service of EWTN

Register ads get results.
800-356-9916
advertising@ewtn.com

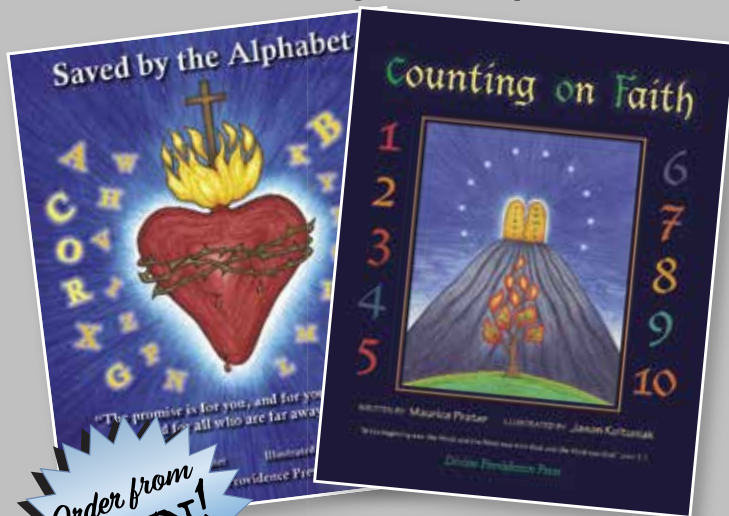


Want to make a difference using your God-given talent?
We have positions available.
www.NCRegister.com/jobs

QUALITY CATHOLIC
Books, Videos, Audio, Art, Religious Education
Bibles, Study Bibles, Children's Bibles, Conversion Stories, Apologetics, Marian Apparitions & Devotions, Evangelization, Popes, Saints, and more!
ignatius press www.ignatius.com
1-800-651-1531

We'd like to introduce you to millions of committed Catholics worldwide. Advertising in our print and digital publications can showcase your products and services to the world's largest Catholic buying audience.
www.EWTNAdvertising.Com

Preschool - Age 7: Imprimatur



Order from EWTN! \$10 each

tinyurl.com/EWTNAlphabet
1-800-854-6316

ewtnreligiouscatalogue.com

Catholic Ranch treatment programs for at risk young men ages 10-28
Three distinct programs based on the Educational approaches of St John Bosco and St John Paul II work with youth:
Triangle Cross Ranch : ages 10-17
Rocky Mountain Frontier: ages 10-17
Beartooth Mtn Ascent: Ages 18-28
Therapeutic Treatment for the following behavioral Health issues:
Substance abuse
Sexual promiscuity/porn addiction
Video/internet addictions
Depression /anxiety
Impulsive/narcissistic behavior
Anger issues
Defiance towards authority
Autism Spectrum/Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
Visit Our Website at:
www.catholicrecoveryprograms.com
Or call us at:
Triangle Cross & Rocky Mountain Frontier 307-645-3322 for boys ages 10-17
Beartooth Mtn Ascent (307)-645-3381 for men ages 18-28

Prayer is conversation with God!

CATHOLIC PRAYERS FOR CHILDREN
Written by Deek Johnson
Illustrated by Tracy Arsham
Share the joy of prayer with your children through the words and illustrations of Catholic Prayers for Children!
Available at Amazon, Etsy, and a bookstore near you!
A perfect gift for Birthdays, Baptisms, or First Holy Communion!

Home Schooling Gains Ground in Italy

More Families, Inspired by US Example, Choose Alternative to Public Instruction

BY SOLÈNE TADIÉ

ROME — Home schooling is a relatively new phenomenon in Europe, compared to how widespread the educational method has become in the United States over the last 40 years. Recent estimates indicate that more than 2.3 million students are being home-schooled in the United States (against an average of 850,000 in 1999 and 1.5 million in 2007), and there are, reportedly, an estimated 48,000 students in the U.K. (against approximately 20,000 in 2009), 30,000 in France (its number has doubled over the past seven years), 4,000 in Spain (although home schooling is not yet officially legal there), and approximately 1,000 in Italy.

The phenomenon has been constantly gaining ground in all the countries where legislation provides for freedom of education and has gradually emerged as an alternative to public school's shortcomings, whether concerning the collapse of the quality of education or the spreading of ideologies of which parents disapprove.

In Italy, numerous new initiatives have contributed to the rise in alternative educational methods. Associations promoting home schooling and home-school cooperatives or home-school academies are flourishing in the country and are being led by parents who are inspired by the success of such methods in the United States.

Freedom of education is guaranteed by the Italian Constitution, and under the law a student can finish his entire educational journey without ever having set foot in an elementary and secondary school building. The parents that choose to instruct their children themselves or through home-school cooperatives are required to notify the local school authorities every year, certifying that they have the necessary technical and economic resources to do so.

Further, as of June 2018, students must be tested at the end of each academic year to advance to the next grade, until the fulfillment of the obligatory education level (age 16). This new measure was taken by the Ministry of Public Education (Miur) to provide a legal framework for the growing home-school phenomenon throughout the country. Such a test can be administered in a school of the parents' choice and is based on a personalized curriculum provided by the family to the school in the months before the exam.

"Until a few years ago, there wasn't great freedom in Italy, but it has changed," Maria Allen, a mother of eight children and a home-schooling parent for 20 years, told the Register. She started educating her children at home in the U.S., where she lived for a few years with her husband, and then decided to continue upon their returning to Italy in 2007.

"I think that mentalities are changing, thanks to active networks of home-schoolers," she said. "This practice is becoming more and more known, and parents are increasingly searching for alternative solutions, so there are less oppositions and prejudices [to home schooling]."

Dissatisfaction With Schools

According to the parents interviewed, the growing number of families looking for educational alternatives for their children is primarily motivated by the recognition that public schools are not adequately preparing students for the demands of the workforce or adult life. Learning methods are often singled out by parents, backed up by numerous studies demonstrating the collapse of the quality of education in Italy, as well as in many other Western countries. Indeed, according to recent figures, one in every three Italian children leave primary school without being able to read, to write and to count.

"In many different places and situations, the state school offers excellency in one place while it



HOME-SCHOOLING FAMILY. Erika Di Martino believes in the benefits of home education and is committed to helping parents in 'playing their role as primary guides in this crucial phase of their children's life.' Courtesy of Erika Di Martino

shows serious deficiencies in another context," said Nili Santoro, a home-schooling mom, speaking to the Register on behalf of parents from Scuole Parentali Cattoliche, a cooperative of Italian Catholic families who have chosen home schooling or a home-schooling academy.

"The situation of Italian schools is patchy, and it doesn't play in favor of the educative coherence that the state used to guarantee until 50 years ago." One concern is that public schools have pushed the trend of "inclusiveness," which tends to favor a leveling down of the quality of education by refusing to acknowledge different aptitudes and skills for the sake of fostering equality. The outcome has been an overall decline in students' performance.

"Honestly, such policies are not the role of schools, especially in the first years of instruction, where one lays the foundations of real knowledge and true freedom of thought," Santoro said.

An increase in the number of class hours mandated by public education, as well as a significant amount of homework, has paradoxically done little to raise Italian students' test scores. Thus, those who turn to home-school education are generally drawn by the possibility to completely rethink the learning framework for their children, whether they use the services of a third party or they decide to teach them personally.

In the face of increasing demand for home schooling, new leaders have emerged in the educational panorama, offering innovative learning methods.

A pioneer in this field is Erika Di Martino, who has become a point of reference in Italy and beyond.

The mother of five children who have never attended a traditional school and the founder of Italian network edupar.org, Di Martino has dedicated the past few years to sharing her experience and expertise with parents throughout the country.

Her book *Homeschooling: L'Educazione parentale in Italia* (Homeschooling: Parental Education in Italy, 2017) is the first on this topic in Italy and came as a response to growing interest in the educational method.

"Nowadays, children live immersed in an exhausting routine made up of hours and hours of school, followed by homework, sports classes, support classes, and God knows how many other things," Di Martino told the Register.

According to her, the current school system is by nature restrictive for a child.

"Sadly, even the best schools, with the best teachers, are made of classrooms of 20 children or more, in reduced spaces, with obsolete curriculums and little possibility to personalize educational pathways,

which brings the negative results that all of us see," she said.

Renewing Parents' Role

For Di Martino and those she has worked with, one of the issues underlying the collapse of public-school quality is the gradual estrangement of parents from their children's education and the replacement of the parents' role with that of the state.

"The misleading notion of 'compulsory school' still makes parents believe they have no right in their children's education, while it would be enough to read the [Italian] Constitution to know our rights and exercise them," Di Martino said, calling Italian parents to rediscover the essential mission of "taking care of their children and see them growing up, playing their role as primary guides in this crucial phase of their children's life."

The recent emergence of initiatives and associations promoting home schooling has helped parents gain new awareness of their legal right to govern what their children are taught.

For many parents, the effort to find an alternative to public schools is fueled by the desire to renew their primary role in the education of their children, especially when they disagree with the direction of government-run institutions.

In particular, the spread of gender theory in school curriculums in recent years has strongly boosted parents' decisions to have their children instructed at home or in home-school cooperatives, such as Scuola Libera G.K. Chesterton, which draws inspiration from the U.S. educational model. Although there are no official figures or studies on this new social resistance in Italy yet, the religious motivations of many parents for removing their children from public schools have been cited in virtually all articles on home schooling in the Italian press over the past five years.

"We cannot deny that today, school has become a place for secularist propaganda that, by systematically denying the 2,000-year roots of Christian culture, inevitably ends up flouting a priceless and unparalleled heritage," said Santoro, who noted that the number of children joining Scuole Cattoliche Italiane is increasing every year.

The current ideological approach of many public schools, according to Santoro, is an open door to the totalitarian mindset of secular society that increasingly "sacrifices true culture in favor of experiments whose bad results can be seen by anyone."

It is the same reason that led Maria Allen to continue home schooling after she left the U.S. to go back to Italy in 2007. While the desire to provide her children with a fully bilingual education in Italian and English influenced her deci-

sion, her Christian faith, as well as her husband's, has been a decisive criterion.

"We wanted to give our children a more creationist education, made of sound Christian values. We didn't want to transmit a too evolutionist vision of life to them," she said. "The public schools only talk about evolution, and we wanted to show them both sides of the coin, without removing God from the picture, from life."

Beside home schooling or parental schools, Italian Christian families often decide to entrust the education of their children to religious organizations.

Overcoming Challenges

While home schooling is on the rise, Italy's home-schoolers still face challenges sometimes stemming from the prejudices of public officials.

Although most families report a sensible tolerance from Italian local authorities, some have experienced hostility from those who see home schooling as an act of defiance toward the government. In these instances, bureaucratic obstacles become a deterrent measure against home-schooling families.

Gabriella Severance, an inhabitant of Albano (Latium) who has been educating one of her three children at home for the last four years, reported to the Register that she initially received a summons letter from social services, as well as from the head of the local public-school system, which she interpreted as an attempt at intimidation. She was then ordered to have her son take the admission test at the end of the academic year, which was not yet obligatory.

"We were fortunate enough to meet a woman at social services that took up the cudgels for us," she told the Register.

According to those interviewed, initial prejudices are usually swept away by home-schoolers' results on admission tests, which are generally more than satisfying. "Most of our students have very good grades and a high intellectual preparation;

they are average — and sometimes above-average — compared to their peers who go to public schools," said Santoro, speaking of the students of Scuole Cattoliche Italiane.

"Our friends in the U.S., where home schooling started 30 years ago, tell us that universities there have great feedback from students who enjoy a high level of sociability and an excellent preparation," Santoro said. "It encourages us to pursue our initiatives."

She said these results can be explained by the fact that such an educational system allows children to follow a more child-friendly schedule, in harmony with their needs, thus providing the opportunity to go deeper into the subjects they naturally excel in and more frequently do activities (such as visits to museums, weaving, reading and memorizing poetry) they would not normally have time to do in school.

Allen has seen the results of such a tailor-made education.

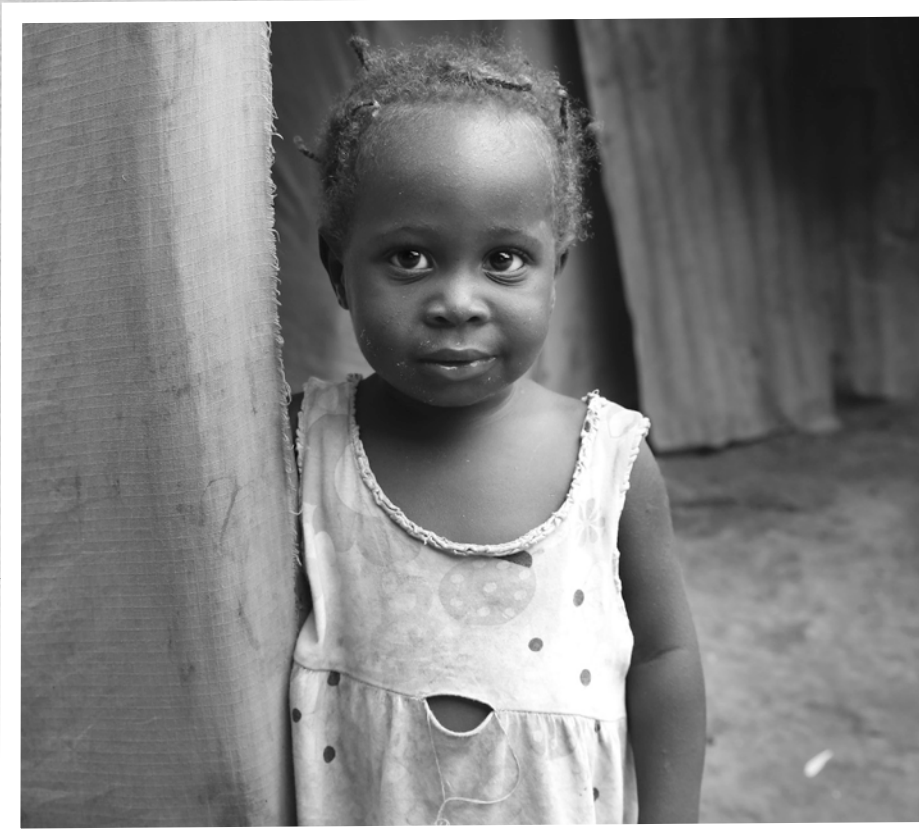
"My two daughters went to scientific high school, and the eldest graduated the equivalent of *summa cum laude*. It is the proof that I am not doing anything wrong," she told the Register, noting that people are often inspired by her children's testimony. "My children are very independent and mature for their age, and they always accomplish what they want with serenity."

She added, "I wish that more parents could have the same opportunity of enrichment for their children."

Solène Tadié is the Register's Europe correspondent. She writes from Rome.

Clergy and Religious Order Priests

Food For The Poor has opportunities for English and Bilingual (English and Spanish) Priests to speak on behalf of the destitute poor as you continue to share the Gospel.



"But He said to them, 'You give them something to eat...'"

(Luke 9:13)

Visit www.FoodForThePoor.org/speakers for more information or call 877-654-2960 or email us at speakers@foodforthe poor.org to learn more about how you can serve the poor by becoming one of our speakers.

 **FOOD FOR THE POOR, INC.**

6401 Lyons Road, Coconut Creek, FL 33073 • 800-487-1158
www.FoodForThePoor.org

Funerals

CONTINUING PAGE ONE STORY
the Rite of Committal (for burial or interment).

According to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the vigil service is a special Liturgy of the Word, or it can take the form of praying the Office of the Dead from the Liturgy of the Hours. It can be held in the funeral home (at the wake), or in the church itself where the funeral Mass is to be subsequently held.

"Having the vigil service allowed loved ones to come forward," Deacon Forrest said, explaining it offers opportunities for prayer and for loved ones to offer reflections on the life of the person who has died.

Deacon Forrest said that many people today have a "Celebration of Life" when their loved one dies. He said that while there is an important place for that, the Catholic funeral rites help a person come to grips with the full ramifications of death and what it means for their lives.

"The Catholic rites, whether it is the funeral Mass, the Office of the Dead, the vigil service, they resonate with us on some level precisely because we know it is true and we need this," he said.

"We see this ability to face the reality, face the fear, face the brokenness, and to say, 'No, we have an answer. You can trust your God who is going to deliver,'" he said.

Symbols and Meaning

The funeral Mass is also heavily laden with symbolism, but it is stressed in different ways in the ordinary and extraordinary forms of the Roman Rite. Father Robert Schmid, parochial vicar at St. Paul Catholic Church in New Bern, North Carolina, told the Register that the ordinary form of the Roman Rite makes more explicit connections between the deceased person's baptism and the funeral rite, such as having the Paschal candle, which is a reminder of the hope of the resurrection. It also has prayers of thanksgiving for that person's life.



The Prayer of St. Gertrude

Eternal Father, I offer thee the Most Precious Blood of thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the holy souls in purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal Church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen.

The laying on of the funeral pall is also reminiscent of one's baptismal garment. The Church in the U.S., he said, has an indulgence to use white at funerals.

He said traditionally the Church ordinarily uses black or purple for funeral colors for a deceased Catholic who has attained the use of reason. These traditional colors intend to affirm the person's experience of the desolation of death, while having white or gold trim on the vestments is to remind people of the hope of the resurrection.

Father Schmid said the funeral rites of the extraordinary form have far less variability in the prayers and put a far greater stress on the expiatory prayers for the deceased, that they may be delivered from eternal punishment.

"There's an emphasis of the Church praying for and mourning, with a definite sense of loss and uncertainty with whether a person is in heaven," he said, something that is reflected in the *Dies Irae* (Day of Wrath) and *Libera Me* (Deliver Me). These are not in the new rite, but can be requested as hymns.

However, he said the old rite also stresses "the hope" that a per-

son may be delivered from his or her sins into paradise with God.

The incensing and sprinkling rites at a Catholic funeral, he said, also remind people that this person was baptized and anointed as a temple of the Holy Spirit. At the graveside committal, the resurrection is invoked in the prayers.

"The resurrection is ever present as we invoke God's mercy for this person," he said.

One of the rarely seen features (outside religious life) in Catholic parishes is the Office of the Dead contained in the Liturgy of the Hours, which is the public prayer of the Church and available to all the baptized faithful.

"The Office of the Dead is a beautiful part of the Church's liturgy," Father Schmid said.

The Latin Church's Office of the Dead goes back to the Church's first millennium.

Office for the Dead

According to Knud Ottosen in *The Responsories and Versicles of the Latin Office of the Dead*, vespers (Evening Prayer) from the Office of the Dead would precede the vigil service, which would be followed by lauds (Morning Prayer) from the Office of the Dead. These offices would be prayed again on the third, seventh and 30th days following the funeral.

However, Father Schmid said these offices are rarely requested. Without the Liturgy of the Hours, such as lauds or vespers, being regularly prayed in the parish church, "which Vatican II called for," people are not going to have vespers or lauds for the dead "in their field of vision."

"They don't think about it, they don't know about it, and they don't think to ask," he said.

Deacon Forrest said between the devotions and public rites of the Church, a Catholic does not have to sit with their grief, but can "transform it through faith, hope and love in concrete ways."

He added, "These are all things a person can do to harness that grief and, through faith, turn that into an engine of salvation and healing."

Read a longer version of this story at NCRRegister.com.

Seton Hall

CONTINUING PAGE 2 STORY
tion the homosexual subculture he witnessed. "When I saw that, I said: 'Wait a minute — you didn't do an investigation just because of McCarrick. You were investigating the seminary.'"

Like Hoatson and Father Ramsay, the priest who spoke with the Register about his experiences at St. Andrew's College Seminary said he has never been contacted by Seton Hall since he gave his testimony and characterized the measures that have been taken as a "whitewash."

And the priest suspects that, right from the outset, university officials and Cardinal Tobin had communicated to investigators that they shouldn't probe deeply into the issue of the existence of an entrenched and long-standing homosexual subculture at Seton Hall's seminaries. He said at the conclusion of providing nearly three hours of testimony to the Latham & Watkins investigators that one of the investigators thanked him but then pointedly commented, "You know, Father, this all can't be about homophobia."

The priest stressed that he agrees that efforts to address sexual misconduct at seminaries should not be misused to unjustly target same-sex-oriented priests who are living integrated, chaste lives. But he said he took vehement issue with the investigator's remark downplaying the homosexual character of the Seton Hall misconduct.

Father Lavers said that from what he has seen of the Seton Hall review, the scope of the investigation was "very, very narrow" and "only focusing on McCarrick."

"In many ways, it's kind of easy to do that type of an investigation because the person has already been removed from the clerical state," he said. "He has already had the full weight of both the public and the Catholic media placed upon him and the scrutiny — and, of course, all of that has taken place almost after the fact."

Father Lavers emphasized that McCarrick did not operate alone and said that a full investigation needs to be conducted into McCarrick's net-



Cardinal Joseph Tobin, archbishop of Newark, New Jersey 2016 photo by Franco Origlia/Getty Images

work and the atmosphere in which his behavior was tolerated.

According to Seton Hall's review update, one of five key areas the university has identified as needing improvement is "the structural relationship among the university, Immaculate Conception Seminary (an affiliated yet separate corporate entity) and the Archdiocese of Newark (an affiliated yet separate corporate entity) to enhance oversight, control and compliance to prevent recurrence."

However, it appears that under the existing governance structure, the archbishop of Newark already has the formal authority to make whatever changes he judges necessary. Seton Hall University is a diocesan university with a unique affiliation agreement with the Archdiocese of Newark. Under its provisions, Cardinal Tobin serves as chairman of the university's board of trustees and as president of its board of regents.

And because Immaculate Conception is the archdiocesan seminary, the cardinal is also in charge there, appointing its faculty and administration.

The Register asked Maria Margiotta, the director of communications for the Archdiocese of Newark, if Cardinal Tobin, given his oversight role, could comment further on the investigation or on steps the archdiocese is taking, aside from a Title IX-based review, to address the allegations of homosexual behavior in the seminary.

Margiotta said that "the Archdiocese of Newark cannot comment further on this ongoing process. We continue to focus on transparency and accountability and to reinforcing established reporting and prevention policies and programs to protect the faithful and support victims in our parishes, schools and ministries. We continue our full and proactive collaboration and transparency with state and local law enforcement officials and with the attorney general's office, which remains a priority."

With respect to the administration of Immaculate Conception Seminary itself, Hoatson pointed out that he told the investigators that the current rector is Msgr. Joseph Reilly, who was a priest secretary to McCarrick in 1994 when he was archbishop of Newark. Consequently Msgr. Reilly "should have known about what was happening with McCarrick," Hoatson said.

Msgr. Reilly told the Register he had no comment when asked about the alleged homosexual subculture at the seminary, his past work with McCarrick and his thoughts on the independent review the school had conducted.

Based on his own experiences at Immaculate Conception, Father Ramsey expressed skepticism that there was a real desire to make substantive change in the area of governance.

"When I was there the seminary was treated as if it was a special place that was 'theoretically' under the jurisdiction of the university, and the seminary liked it that way," Father Ramsey said. "The less oversight the better."

Lauretta Brown writes from Washington, D.C.

Senior editor Joan Frawley Desmond and news editor Tom McFeely contributed to this report.

pioneers

Educating working adults for 60 years.

For 60 years, the University of Mary has been an innovator in adult education.

Since 1959, the University of Mary, inspired by our founders and sponsors, the Sisters of Annunciation Monastery, has faithfully served the Church through its mission to serve the needs of the people.

Today, it's never been more clear that the Sisters have been astoundingly visionary:

- Offering credit for work experience
- Creating flexible master's degree programs
- Delivering affordable online and evening classes so working adults can earn their degrees.

University of Mary—then and now.

Faithfully Christian.

Joyfully Catholic.

Gratefully Benedictine.

Discover truly affordable, quality adult education at the University of Mary.

online.umary.edu/Catholic

 **UNIVERSITY of MARY** | *Online*

enroll@umary.edu • 800-288-6279 (MARY)

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

There are far too many priests, religious & fellow Catholics aside of you in the pews that do not know where to get **FAITHFUL AND DEPENDABLE** news content in print.

You can be a great blessing to them all & help them stay on track in this confusing world! Please tell your parish & fellow parishioners about EWTN's *National Catholic Register*.

And with our **DISCOUNTED BULK SHIPMENT PROGRAM**, you or your parish can get the *Register* – and the Truths of our Faith – into the hands of many more Catholics!

Call us today at (800) 781-0382 or email us at Register@kable.com



WOMEN MADE NEW



In this must-see miniseries, host Crystalina Evert examines the fundamental Catholic values of being a wife and mother, answering the important questions Catholic women have about marriage. *Airs November 18-22 at 5:30 PM ET.*

EWTN Global Catholic Network

LIVE TRUTH. LIVE CATHOLIC. ewtn.com TELEVISION • RADIO • NEWS • ONLINE • PUBLISHING

Cardinal Defends Property Deal

BY ED CONDON
CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY

VATICAN CITY — Cardinal Angelo Becciu has denied any impropriety in a real estate investment made with Vatican funds and insisted that he only acted in the best interests of the Holy See.

In an interview with Italian media published Oct. 29, the former deputy at the Holy See's Secretariat of State rejected any wrongdoing in the authorization of a \$200-million property deal to develop a building in London.

Responding to what he called “slanderous charges” that he had “played with and tampered with the money of the poor” in the 2014 transaction, the cardinal defended the investment, saying it was “accepted practice.”

Speaking to ANSA, the cardinal said: “My conscience is clear, and I know I have always acted in the interest of the Holy See and never in my personal one. Those who know me well can attest to that.”

Cardinal Becciu served as *sostituto*, or the second-ranking official at the Secretariat of State from 2011 to 2018, when Pope Francis named him a cardinal and moved him to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

The interview came in response to media coverage of an ongoing investigation by Vatican criminal and financial authorities into a 2014 \$200-million investment made through Athena Capital, a Luxembourg investment fund, which financed a stake in the development of a luxury apartment project in London. Details of the investment were first reported by the *Financial Times* earlier this month.

The money was taken from Swiss bank accounts under the control of the Secretariat of State and kept separately from other curial accounts held at the Vatican.

The London investment, along with a nearly \$50 million 2018 investment in the same property, has raised questions about the internal control of Vatican money held in international banks and investment vehicles, especially after repeated efforts to bring financial practices into line with international practices and standards.

On Oct. 29, Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin said the investment was a one-off, and the fund in question appeared to be “well managed.”

He said that he was addressing questions about the project.

“We are working to clear up

everything. This deal was rather opaque, and now we are trying to clear it up,” Reuters quoted Cardinal Parolin as saying.

Cardinal Becciu told ANSA that there is a difference between Vatican funds intended for the benefit of the poor and the proceeds of the annual Peter's Pence collection taken up in every parish in the world and sent to Rome.

“It is accepted practice for the Holy See to invest in property; it has always done so: in Rome, in Paris, in Switzerland and also in London,” Cardinal Becciu said, insisting that the deal was “regular and registered according to law.”

“In the Secretariat of State we had a fund entitled ‘money of the poor.’ And it was destined for the poor. If, on the other hand, for money of the poor they want to refer to Peter's Pence, we have to clarify,” Cardinal Becciu said.

“The Pence is not only for the Pope's almsgiving, but also the funding for his pastoral ministry,” Cardinal Becciu said, suggesting that the secretariat's two investments in the luxury apartment development were an appropriate use of donated funds.

Cardinal Becciu did not address his reported involvement in other complicated Vatican transactions during the interview.

On Oct. 29, CNA reported that Cardinal Becciu was involved in a complicated series of events and financial transactions around the purchase of the Istituto Dermopatico dell'Immacolata (IDI), an Italian hospital that collapsed in 2013 under 800 million euros of debt through theft and fraud.

As *sostituto*, sources told CNA, Cardinal Becciu was the “driving force” behind requests for a \$25-million grant from the U.S. based Papal Foundation, ostensibly to supply short-term liquidity to the hospital, but actually intended to help remove a 50-million-euro bad loan from the books at the Vatican's central bank, APSA.

While the balance of the grant was canceled after pushback from Papal Foundation board members, \$13 million was initially sent to the Secretariat of State, though how the money was used has not been reported.

Cardinal Becciu told CNA that although he had been involved in the purchase of the IDI by a partnership created by the Secretariat of State, “Cardinal Parolin assumed the office of secretary of state [in 2013], and I no longer concerned myself with IDI.”

In early 2019, Cardinal Parolin wrote to the Papal Foundation saying

the \$13 million would be reclassified as a loan, rather than a grant, and would be repaid.

Two sources within the Papal Foundation told CNA that the Vatican has proposed the loan be repaid through “discounts” applied each year to the list of grants requested of the Papal Foundation by Vatican offices and Catholic apostolates.

“The poor will end up paying the debt,” a source close to the Papal Foundation told CNA.

Cardinal Becciu's role in authorizing the \$200-million investment and the potential focus on his time at the Secretariat of State by Vatican investigators have placed his tenure there under renewed scrutiny.

While there, he was responsible for the cancellation of an external audit of all Curial finances, intended to centralize information and details of Vatican assets and funds held away from the Vatican and unavailable for scrutiny.

On Oct. 1, Vatican prosecutors raided the Secretariat of State's offices. Documents and devices were seized.

Although the Vatican did not indicate what exactly had prompted the investigation, subsequent reporting has indicated the London property investment and Cardinal Becciu were being looked into.

The next day, a confidential memo was leaked announcing the suspension of five Vatican employees, including two officials: Msgr. Mauro Carlino, who oversees documentation at the Secretariat of State, along with layman Tomasso Di Ruzza, director of the Vatican's Financial Intelligence Authority (AIF). Di Ruzza was subsequently cleared to return to work following an internal AIF investigation.

Cardinal Becciu's interview came two days after the same paper reported that Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte had been hired to consult on the deal in May 2018, just weeks before taking office.

Conte has since distanced himself from the Vatican-backed deal and ensuing investigation.

On Oct. 28, his office released a statement in response to the *Financial Times*' story.

The statement said that “it should be noted that Mr. Conte only gave a legal opinion and was not aware of, and was not required to know, the fact that some investors were connected to an investment fund supported by the Vatican and now at the center of an investigation.”

Desmond

CONTINUING PAGE 7 STORY

in much of South America. And now, as the Pan-Amazon Synod draws to a close, little has been said publicly about what the rise of Pentecostalism can teach the Church in the 21st century.

But scholars like Chesnut warn that if the Church does not reckon with its failure to offer a compelling reason for staying Catholic, it is destined to repeat its mistakes.

Experts told the Register that the Church must revise its overly centralized model for evangelization and lay engagement and bring the Gospel to the people and

inspire the laity to work alongside pastors. Likewise, as the synod prompts the Church to more definitively embrace climate-change issues and join campaigns that defend the rights of the indigenous people in the Amazon Basin, the experience of the past half-century suggests bishops and pastors must be wary of displacing the Gospel and the sacraments with political projects.

Indeed, even if Pope Francis approves the proposal to ordain married men to the priesthood, experts contacted by the Register made clear that the local Church has a great deal more work to do.

“The Church had no religious competition for over four centu-

ries, so there was no need to implement effective evangelization strategies,” Chesnut observed.

The “Pentecostal boom, in which droves of Catholics ... started leaving the Church for this charismatic branch of Protestantism,” changed everything, he said.

“Ordination of permanent deacons could be part of a larger solution, but Pope Francis does not believe in aggressive Pentecostal-style evangelization, which is why he hasn't paid much attention to the Catholic Charismatics as a dynamic force of evangelization.”

“Without large-scale evangelization,” he concluded, “the Church will continue to hemorrhage members.”



*Help is just
a call away*

Whether you want a better marriage or more proactive parenting skills, if you're looking for emotional healing or spiritual support, we have a Catholic Counselor who can help.

For more information, visit

CatholicCounselors.com



USCCB

CONTINUING PAGE ONE STORY

Once a new USCCB president is elected, the assembled U.S. bishops then choose from among the remaining nine candidates for the position of vice president.

Veteran Church analyst George Weigel told the Register that it “seems virtually certain that Archbishop Gomez will be elected president.” He didn’t speculate on the vice president.

Shaw explained that when nominating their fellow bishops, the bishops were likely looking for “a personality that would suit the leadership position in the conference of bishops, as it operates largely on the basis of consensus. Someone who has a sense of consensus, if you put it that way, is able to build consensus among a group of people and respect the wishes and dealings of the membership.”

Weigel said that “solidity of doctrine and serious pastoral ability” were likely factors that the bishops were taking into consideration in their nomination.

Conspicuous Absences

Regarding the list of those nominated for president and vice president, some have noted the absence of the names of three prelates who are perceived to be closely aligned with Pope Francis’ vision for the Church: Cardinal Blase Cupich of Chicago, Cardinal Joseph Tobin of Newark, New Jersey, and Bishop Robert McElroy of San Diego.

“I can only say while they are certainly prominent in the American hierarchy, they still have yet to establish their particular presence within the conference of bishops,” Shaw said. “It takes time; you don’t get to be president or vice president of the bishops’ conference quickly. The feeling, I’m quite sure, among the bishops is that they want a man who has been a member of the conference for some years and who has served on committees.”

He added that he did not see the absence of their names as a “put-down or repudiation of Pope Francis. The American hierarchy is intensely loyal to the papacy, and

always has been, so the bishops are not taking a sort of unspoken shot at the Pope or the Vatican or anything like that.”

Weigel said that it seemed “fairly obvious that whatever support these men enjoy in Rome is not matched by the support they enjoy among their brother bishops, but that’s nothing new.”

‘Faithful Citizenship’ Videos

Bishop Paprocki spoke with the Register about some of the other significant action items that the bishops will address at the assembly, including approval for the scripts of a video format for their “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship” teaching document.

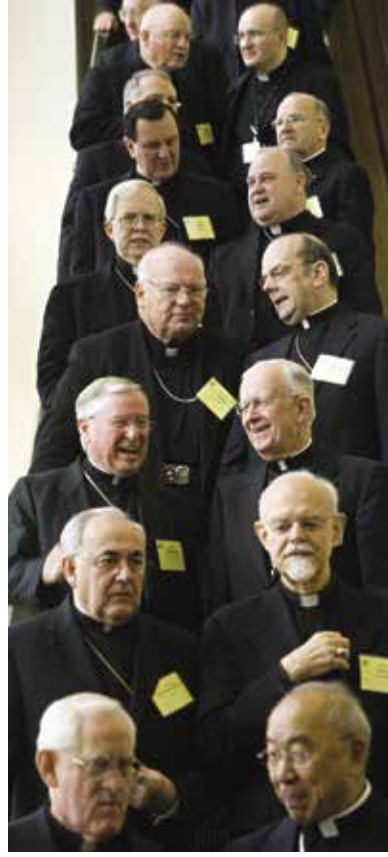
Bishop Paprocki explained that at the bishops’ general meeting in June 2018, “The decision was made that rather than trying to do a revision of the document ‘Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship,’ we wanted to focus more on doing a video or videos. The discussion then was that we spent a lot of time, it seemed, writing and revising documents that we wonder: How many people read them?”

“For example,” he continued, “I’ve noticed when I travel, I rarely see people reading books anymore. They’re all on their cellphones or tablets or they’re watching videos and movies. We thought we would have a greater impact and reach more people if we would do videos.”

“What we’re looking at is not really so much the content or any change in the content,” Bishop Paprocki emphasized. “It’s more to try to make our message more accessible to a greater number of people.”

The bishops will be considering for approval a short letter that would supplement “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship” and the scripts for five videos taking themes from the document.

Bishop Paprocki said that the first video is “Catholics Participating in Public Life” and has the theme of the importance of participation in political life. The second video is on Catholics protecting human life and dignity, he said, noting that “that would refer to, of course, the unborn, abortion, women, migrants, the elderly, dis-



2006 BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

abled, persons in poverty,” and “the spectrum of issues involving human life and dignity.”

The third video is “Catholics Promoting the Common Good,” Bishop Paprocki said, since “a major theme in Catholic social teaching is common good and the dignity of every human being.” The fourth video will be about Catholics loving their neighbors and “solidarity and subsidiarity: how we organize society to work together and fight problems and to respond to people’s needs.” He said that the fifth video is “Faithful Citizens Work With Christ as He Builds His Kingdom” and is “about how we as Catholics then work in our society to try to build a better world.”

Bishop Paprocki emphasized that these videos will be short — the shortest is roughly 90 seconds, and the longest is 5-6 minutes — so that Catholic viewers can see these issues discussed in a concise way. The bishops will be “looking at the text, just as in the past we would look at documents and revise documents.”

“I really don’t see anything that would be a matter of debate,” Bishop Paprocki said regarding what he

anticipated from the discussion. “These are matters of Catholic principle of Catholic social teaching, so we tend to speak more in terms of the principles like the common good, the dignity of the human person, and then in terms of specific issues. These are things that would’ve been pretty much a mainstay of Catholic teaching. There’s a teaching against abortion, promoting the rights of migrants, the poor. There are general categories like that, rather than getting into specific policies, and certainly not taking partisan sides in this.”

Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone of San Francisco told the Register regarding the discussion of faithful citizenship that “while there has been movement in different directions on different issues over the past four years, the issues themselves remain pretty much the same.”

“I anticipate that there will be no major rewriting of ‘Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship,’” he said, “only some modifications. We will see, though, where the sense of the body of bishops takes us.”

But Shaw said that given the upcoming U.S. presidential election, he couldn’t be sure there wouldn’t be a debate on the faithful-citizenship material. “If even one bishop feels strongly about that, then there will be a debate,” he said, while noting that the bishops have historically reached some consensus on these matters.

Priestly Formation

Another item the bishops will be considering is a vote to approve the sixth edition of the “Program of Priestly Formation.” The Register asked Bishop Paprocki if this discussion might touch on the recent scandals in the U.S. Church, particularly involving now-laicized former Cardinal Theodore McCarrick’s sexual misconduct with seminarians and allegations of a homosexual subculture in some seminaries (see story on page 2).

Bishop Paprocki, who was on the collaborative committee that worked on the changes, said that “seminary formation, in at least the last decade, if not longer, I think,

has taken that into account.”

“There are psychological evaluations that are required before a man is even accepted into the seminary, and then there is continued psychological work that is being done while they’re in the seminary,” he pointed out. “The ‘Program of Priestly Formation,’ sixth edition, is not saying that we need to radically change the seminaries because we have a current problem. I think what we’re saying is the seminaries have done a very good job, at least in the last 20 years, of addressing the previous problems, and this is really just trying to strengthen it.”

“It would be naïve to think that we’ve eliminated all the problems, but I think it’s a question that perhaps we’re more vigilant or even better at diagnosing the problems,” he concluded on that matter. “In the past maybe the problems were present and they were allowed to continue or even fester, whereas, now, I think problems, if they are present, they are more quickly identified and then dealt with.”

Weigel thought the issue “should be” discussed, although, in his opinion, “a lot of that problem has been resolved.” He added that “the real formation issue now is less a question of ‘culture’ than of the availability of gay-dating apps.”

Shaw said that a discussion of a homosexual subculture is “a rather remote possibility.” However, he added that “this latest updating of the ‘Program of Priestly Formation’ could encourage some of the bishops to strongly suggest a close study of the issue. If they did advocate that, I would think it quite a reasonable thing to do. This is rather early in the game to make any broad, sweeping statements about the issue.”

The Propaedeutic Stage

Bishop Paprocki anticipated, regarding the priestly-formation discussion, that debate will occur over the stages being added to the current program, which are “described in a document that came out from the Holy See called the *Ratio Fundamentalis*, the basic foundation for priestly formation for the universal Church.” The four stages they talk about are “the pro-

paedeutic stage, the discipleship stage, the configuration stage and the vocational synthesis.”

“The area where there will be the most debate is this propaedeutic stage,” he predicted. “What that refers to is asking for a full year for a new seminarian to spend time really getting to know the Church better and Catholicism better before they enter major seminary.”

“What we’re finding is we’re getting more candidates that are coming to the seminary right after college and in some cases are recent converts,” Bishop Paprocki explained.

“So they’ve converted and then have felt the call to become a priest, but they are, in a sense, learning how to be Catholic; and so this propaedeutic stage is to give a little bit more foundation before they enter into their seminary studies.”

“If you don’t go to a college seminary, it would be a year for the propaedeutic stage, two years for philosophy, and then four years for theology, so it could add a year to that program,” he said. “That probably will get some discussion because there’s a need there, but then it’s also adding another year to the seminary formation.”

Archbishop Cordileone was in agreement with Bishop Paprocki that the propaedeutic stage will be “a major area of focus.”

“The propaedeutic stage can be fulfilled in different ways, and I think bishops will want to know how to make sure it is done well, without adding a burden of more time required of seminary formation beyond what it already is,” he said.

Addressing the question of sexual misconduct and alleged homosexual subcultures in seminaries, Archbishop Cordileone said that “this early stage of formation places a heavy focus on human formation, which gets to the heart of the issues which you ask about. I think an effective program at the propaedeutic stage can get seminarians off to a good start in understanding and living affective maturity, provided that is continued throughout their seminary formation.”

Lauretta Brown writes from Washington, D.C.



At Champion Shrine,
our Blessed Mother
will help you find
peace, love and healing.

The only church-approved Marian apparition site in the USA.



Between Lake Michigan and the Bay of Green Bay, lies Champion Shrine, where the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared 160 years ago. Today, thousands of pilgrims make the journey to Champion every year to experience the Peace, Love and Healing graces of our Blessed Mother as she brings us closer to her Son, Jesus.

To plan your pilgrimage to the place in America where the Queen of Heaven appeared on earth, visit our website today.



Champion, Wisconsin, USA

www.shrineofourladyofgoodhelp.com

Preparing for the Eternal

Hospice Offers Comfort, Care Bolstered by Prayer

BY PATTI ARMSTRONG

“Accompanying someone to death through hospice happens in small steps,” according to Debbie Hoermann of Toms River, New Jersey, who accompanied her 99-year-old aunt, Edith Hipp. “It is like a candle slowly burning out,” she said of those final days. “You have the chance to say everything you could possibly say, and it makes death easier.” Hoermann was very close to her aunt, as Hipp’s three children live out of state.

Hoermann went through hospice with her mother, who died in 2010 at the age of 95. Her father died 11 years earlier, at age 89, just a week after he caught pneumonia. There was no hospice since they hoped he would get better. Hoermann said the lack of preparation for his death made it harder to accept.

Hipp stopped taking her heart and thyroid medications to let death unfold naturally. “The nurse told us she’s in transition,” Hoermann said as the time of death drew near. “Her skin is whitish, and her legs are swollen due to lack of circulation. She’s unable to speak now and not conscious very often.”

In one of their last conversations, Hoermann told her aunt, “You’re beautiful.” Hipp smiled, squeezed her hand and replied, “You’re beautiful.”

“She has been ready for a while,” Hoermann told the Register shortly before her aunt’s death. “She would often smile and point her finger up and say, ‘I’m ready.’”

Hospice care is a sacred juncture from the ending of earthly life to the beginning of the eternal. It is a philosophy of care for patients when death is expected within six months. The goal is comfort — not treatment — during farewells and preparation to meet God. It is not a place, but rather an insurance benefit, where a nurse comes for two or three hours a day to monitor how the patient is doing as they and the family prepare for death.

Hospice is especially a time for spiritual accompaniment, according to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and a time for guarding moral principles for the treatment of the dying based on love, compassion and a respect for life. In their document “Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services,” the bishops stated that care should be “rooted in a commitment to promote and defend human dignity; this is the foundation of its concern to respect the sacredness of every human life from the moment of conception until death.” Thus, euthanasia is never acceptable.

They noted that, whenever possible, dying patients themselves should be consulted, and loved ones should arrange for pastoral care, especially in administering last rites, which include *viaticum* (Communion for the dying), a commendation for the dying and prayers for the dead. Last rites may also often include the sacrament of extreme unction (the anointing of the sick).

Janice Willet, a pastoral care hospital chaplain in Howell, New Jersey, and a No. 1 best-selling author on Amazon, wrote *Dying Without Crying* to help patients and their loved ones experience the



SHUTTERSTOCK

Ensuring Proper Care

According to gerontologist Dr. Lisa Honkanen, it is morally imperative to remember that food and water, even when administered by medically assisted means, are considered ordinary care due to all patients. Unless a patient is imminently dying (in which case food and water will not make a difference), nutrition and hydration should be provided except if there is a medical contraindication against it and providing such actions would pose a great burden to the patient (inability to absorb/assimilate it, causing pain, etc.). It is not wrong to request a feeding tube to assist with providing food and water even though most hospice providers will discourage that even when it is morally appropriate. Listen to your instincts, ask questions, and seek good advice. The National Catholic Bioethics Center is available to assist in these difficult situations, at NCBCenter.org or (215) 877-2660. Above all, pray, and trust in God!

— Patti Armstrong

end of life with joyful anticipation. “It’s a privilege and an honor to be in someone’s sacred space when they are dying,” she explained.

She has been comfortable with dying since she was 18 and her 97-year-old grandmother had come to the end. Her grandmother sat straight up and said there were 12 people around her. “She had a beautiful look in her eyes, and her skin was glowing and translucent and beautiful,” Willet recalled. “She let out a sigh and laid back and died.”

Once, when a man was dying alone at the hospital, Willet sat at his bedside and held his hand. “You’re okay,” she told him. “There’s love around you. You can go. The angels and saints are there.” He then turned his hand the other way and gave Willet a handshake shortly before he passed away.

To make the best of the time in hospice, Willet advises people to respect the wishes of the dying. She said, “If they say, ‘I only want visitors from 2-4,’ respect that and don’t take it personally. It’s about helping them make the journey into God’s arms as peaceful and loving as possible.”

Most importantly, Willet said not to be afraid to talk with a patient about death. She acknowledged it can be hard, especially when it is a child,

but that the dying are often very candid about their experiences. Willet witnessed such candor firsthand with a 5-year-old daughter of a friend. “I find children are very accepting and so full of grace,” she said. “Their lack of fear helps give courage to the rest of the family.”

While hospice has many blessings, Dr. Lisa Honkanen, a geriatrician in East Northport, New York, with a medical practice dedicated to the homebound elderly, warns against ignoring easily correctable situations. “For instance,” she said, “a urinary tract infection is often easily remedied with antibiotics, but untreated it can cause serious distress.” Honkanen also cautions against overmedication. “Patients not in severe pain usually do not need controlled substances, which are often overprescribed and with too high of a dose,” she explained. “Of course, you don’t want to deprive a loved one of needed pain management, but sometimes the recommended regimen is too aggressive.” As the disease advances, Honkanen said they may need higher doses, but in older, frailer patients, starting with small doses is important to avoid unnecessary sedation and side effects, including premature death. “If you are concerned about overdosing, usually sedation or excessive sleeping is the first obvious sign,” she said. Unless there is a serious need to continue those doses, she said that a decrease is likely warranted.

Patients should not be deprived of consciousness out of convenience, she said. “This medical option should only be used in rare instances,” Honkanen said. “In the case where it is morally appropriate and there are no other alternatives to relieve the patient’s symptoms, make sure the patient has received the sacraments and spiritual ‘loose ends’ have been addressed.”

Father Stefan Starzynski has been a full-time chaplain for more than four years at Inova Fairfax Hospital in Virginia, a 1,000-bed facility. For someone dying, he offers last rites and especially the anointing of the sick as part of these rites for the dying. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church on the anointing of the sick: “This last anointing fortifies the end of our earthly life like a solid rampart for the final struggles before enter-

CONTINUES ON PAGE 14



PRAYERFUL GLOW. The faithful light many candles at the Shrine of Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Courtesy of the Marians of the Immaculate Conception

Lights of Faith

Candles Keep Vigil, Become Votive Offerings

BY JOSEPH PRONECHEN

Not far from Puget Sound, at St. Mark Church in Shoreline, Washington, Mike Scarpelli regularly lights a five- or seven-day votive candle by the Sacred Heart statue and another votive candle before the statues of St. Joseph and the Blessed Mother on both sides of the sanctuary.

He remembers as a child watching his grandmother and mother “light votive candles and say prayers, always at the statue of Mary. I learned it was a special way to pray, in that case to Immaculate Mary, and also to ask for her intervention to God to hear and answer our prayers.”

In Philadelphia, Vincentian Father Michael Carroll also uses candlelight to recall his loved ones in prayer. “Every time I go into a new church, I light a candle for my parents,” he said. “It’s my custom and a way of remembering them and acknowledging them.”

The votive candle also recalls some memorable pontifical moments of prayer, said Father Carroll, noting that Pope Emeritus Benedict, while visiting Ground Zero in New York City, prayed for the lost souls of the horrific Sept. 11 attack there and lit a large candle. Likewise, more recently, after the 9/11 memorial was completed, Pope Francis visited Ground Zero while a candle was lit at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in memory of the 9/11 victims and their families.

Neither Scarpelli, Father Carroll nor the Holy Fathers are alone in their fondness for votive candles.

Father Carroll, current director of the Miraculous Medal Shrine in

Philadelphia, said that from the 1940s to the 1960s, people lit approximately 2,500 candles every Monday during several Miraculous Medal novena services held throughout that day. After every service, the candles had to be moved to the downstairs Marian shrine chapel. Even with fewer novena services scheduled today, still approximately 400 candles are lit every Monday at the shrine.

Lighting votive candles and vigil lights is a strong tradition in the Church that began at least 1,800 years ago, when lights were burned in the catacombs at the tombs of martyrs as a sign of unity with them. The lights kept “vigil”; hence, they were named “vigil lights.”

Father Carroll points out that candles have long been recognized with prayer. Whenever the faithful light a candle and say a prayer before or after lighting it, he said, they are “turning that lit candle into a continuation of our prayer ... as long as that candle is lit.” It, too, keeps vigil.

“The word ‘vigil’ comes from the Latin *vigilia* and means ‘to keep watch.’ How? With light,” explains Father Chris Alar of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception. “The vigil candle we light for a period of time symbolizes how we as persons wish to remain present to the Lord in prayer even though we might leave the church and go to our own homes.”

Scarpelli is comforted as he reflects on this. “The light staying there as the candle is burning will continue to maintain your prayer to God.”

Because the lit candle maintains

CONTINUES ON PAGE 14

Daniel Mitsui, Modern Artist With a Medieval Gothic Heart

Pen-and-Ink Drawings Depict Jesus, Saints

BY JAY COPP

A captivating new drawing of Our Lady of Seattle, created for St. Luke Church in Washington, is rich in details and symbols. To wit: On the border of the illustration, pairs of animals approach Noah’s Ark. Chief Seattle, the local Native American leader who converted to Catholicism in 1848, took Noah as his baptismal name.

“It’s a very creative piece,” says Father Brad Hagelin, pastor of the Seattle-area church. “It’s obvious that it comes from a place of devotion. This is the artist’s calling. It was like commissioning an icon from a monk who has a great devotion.”

The artist, Daniel Mitsui, who is married with four young children, is no monk, and he prefers not to talk at length about his Catholic faith because he does not want to leverage his devotion as a way to attract clients. But his idiosyncratic yet traditional Gothic art, inspired by illustrated manuscripts, panel paintings and tapestries from more than 800 years ago, has drawn a devoted following. Clients praise



DRAWN BY HAND. Indiana artist Daniel Mitsui carefully crafts each work of art, including Our Lady of Seattle, shown above right. Courtesy of Daniel Mitsui



his work as “richly layered and very complex” and “beautiful, reverent, thought-provoking and mystical.”

Working from his studio at his home in Hobart, a small city in northwestern Indiana, Mitsui specializes in pen-and-ink drawings. His art is scooped up by churches, devout Catholics for their shrines at home, and seminarians announcing their ordinations. Recent clients include a Knight of Malta from England who commissioned a Lady of Victory drawing and the Cathedral-Basilica of the Assumption in Covington, Kentucky, which had Mitsui design the

intricate pattern for new carpets.

As a measure of his stature as an artist, the Vatican commissioned him to illustrate a new edition of the Roman Pontifical. In 2011, he completed his work for the liturgical book that contains the rites performed by bishops.

He is a serious artist with a touch of whimsy: He’s authored a series of coloring books. Published by Ave Maria Press, the series includes books on the saints, the Rosary and labyrinths.

No matter the medium, Mitsui takes great pains to create art embedded in Church Tradition.

“Art without tradition is pretty, but without deeper meaning,” he said in a lecture at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio. “Tradition — art — has a content that comes down to us from the beginning of the Church. It doesn’t belong to us. It’s not about self-expression, but the history and tradition.”

Mitsui, 37, is an unlikely torchbearer for traditional Catholic art. He was not baptized until he was a senior at Dartmouth College. His mother had been raised Catholic, and he went to Mass only on Easter and Christmas. His conversion was “not a dramatic moment. It came by the grace of God,” he says.

Growing up in a Chicago sub-

urb, he admired the Gothic architecture at the University of Chicago. But his attachment to Gothic art was solidified by a fortuitous — or providential — discovery.

Shortly after college, while working at a liturgical arts supplier, he picked up a book about medieval Gothic art by Émile Mâle, a French art historian. He was hooked. His growing faith fed his appetite for traditional Catholic art, and his immersion in Catholic art fortified his faith.

Mitsui jokingly calls himself a “spirit of Nicea II Catholic.” His understanding of the role of religious art has its roots 1,200 years ago with that Church council, which reversed an earlier council’s suppression of sacred images and restored the use of icons for devotion. Mitsui often quotes from the teachings of the Second Council of Nicea: “The tradition does not belong to the painter; the art alone is his. True arrangement and disposition belong to the Holy Fathers.”

These ancient prescriptions regarding art are especially relevant today when art is trivialized, he says. Even sacred images find their way onto coffee mugs and T-shirts. People look at it but don’t really see it. “Unlimited quantities of

CONTINUES ON PAGE 14

Artist

CONTINUING PAGE 13 STORY

art can be reproduced. When you see it on Facebook, you hit the 'like' button," he says. "But you don't engage with it. The idea is that the image is disposable. There is such gluttony of images that the meaning of the art is an afterthought."

The religious artist needs to be knowledgeable and intentional. "Art should not just be familiar and comforting. It needs to be real and beautiful and interesting. It needs to engage people intellectually and spiritually," he says.

Like most of his work, intended not for churches but for private

devotion, the Our Lady of Seattle drawing is quite small — 12 inches by 17 inches. But the level of detail of the drawing, done on deerskin parchment, is astonishing. Mary is dressed similar to a treasured statue of Our Lady of Seattle at St. James Cathedral in nearby Seattle. The "Undoer of Knots," the one we can turn to in times of need, carries the Christ Child in a sling. She stands astride a crescent moon, with 12 stars above her head. The shape of the piece suggests a copper shield, a reference to a Native American artifact.

Another enthused patron of Mitsui is Father James Smith of St. Francis de Sales Church in Mableton, Georgia. He treasures Mitsui's

depictions of the Stations of the Cross and the Mysteries of the Rosary. The art is part of the priest's devotional life. "Art is not just a pretty picture. It's very helpful to pray. It's helpful to knowing and loving God," says Father Smith of the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter. "He [Mitsui] imbues his work with so much research and knowledge. So much symbolism is incorporated into his art."

Over the next decade, Mitsui is working on incorporating all the major events of the Old and New Testaments into his work. Begun at Easter 2017 and slated to be finished by Easter 2031, he's drawing 250 biblical scenes. Like a medieval encyclopedist, he envisions his highly ambi-

tious *Summula Pictoria: A Little Summary of the Old and New Testament* to include the foundational events, stories and beliefs rooted in the Bible.

"It will be the most important and profound events from the Book of Genesis to the death of the apostles," he says.

He's using metal-tipped dip pens and paintbrushes on calfskin vellum, and the prodigious output possibly could become a book. At least, functioning as a visual online catechism, the full-color art will be available for all to see and savor.

Besides 40 drawings of the life of Christ, the project also will include 124 smaller drawings related to the Old Testament, 56 illustrations depicting the lives of the Mary, John

the Baptist and the apostles, and 13 portraits of other holy people.

"It's a legacy I want to leave," Mitsui says. "I don't want to regret never having done them."

Like his other art, the *Summula Pictoria* will emanate from the past but strive for relevance for today's faithful.

"I don't want to make 13th-century art," he says. "It's not as if art from that time has an ending principle. I want to embrace the same ideas but make a new connection to them now."

Jay Copp writes from La Grange Park, Illinois.

INFORMATION
DanielMitsui.com

Light

CONTINUING PAGE 13 STORY

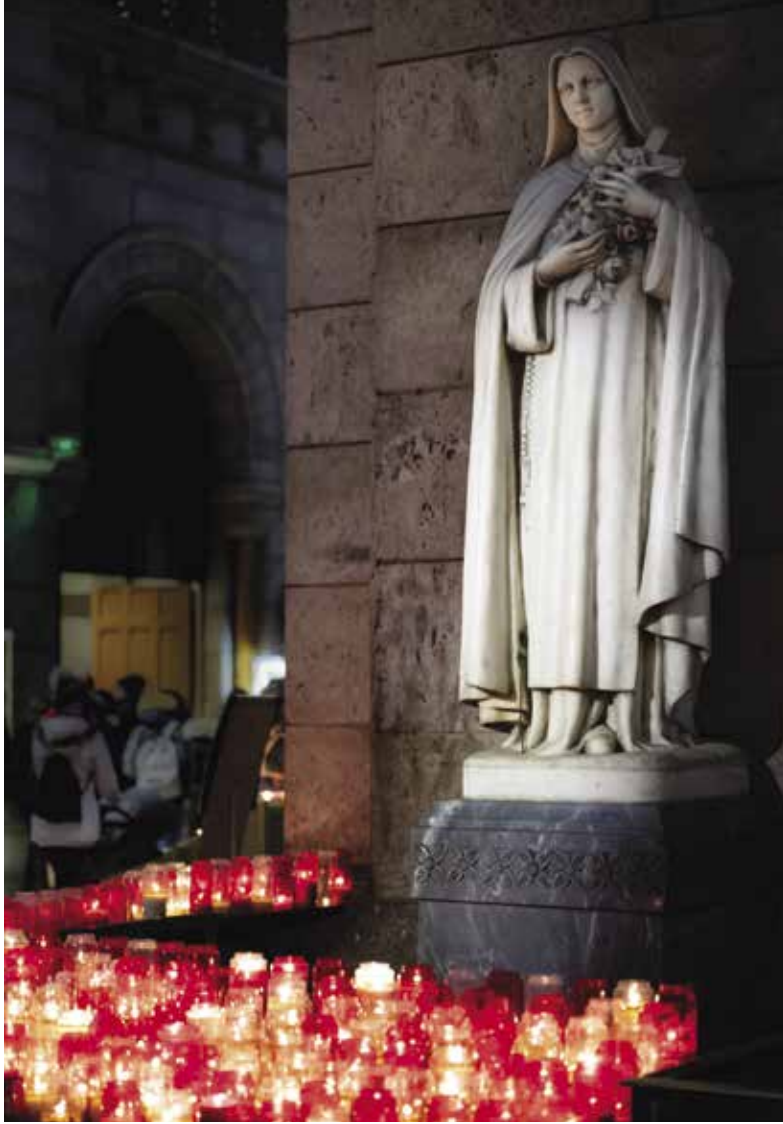
that prayer, it is also called a votive candle. The terms "vigil lights" and "votive candles or lights" are basically interchangeable. The word "votive" comes from the Latin *votum* meaning a "promise or a prayer," indicating that "a candle which we call a votive candle really represents our prayer before God," Father Alar said. "When we light a candle, we're basically giving a prayer intention. It's a physical sign of a spiritual prayer."

"My prayer is in my heart," he explained. "How do I show this internal prayer? The votive candle is the way we can express in a physical, tangible way our inward prayer. Our prayer is symbolized by the candle."

We don't light candles because God is going to be able to see and hear our prayer better, but because we need something visual to connect our body and our soul, he said.

By lighting the candle our prayer is physically represented, and we join our prayers to the light of Christ, explained Father Alar.

That's also why these candles are official sacramentals, which, like the sacraments, are an external sign of an internal grace and involve the body and the spirit; although, unlike the seven sacra-



LIGHT OF LIGHT. Lit candles radiate light before a statue of St. Thérèse at Sacre Coeur Basilica in Paris. Stephanie LeBlanc/Unsplash

ments, the Church's sacramentals, which also include holy water and sacred images such as the crucifix, do not directly confer grace upon the faithful but prepare them to receive the graces of the sacraments (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1669-71).

The faithful illuminate vigil lights and votive candles for any number of reasons. "Everyone has an intention when they light the candle," noted Father Carroll. They may tell a person, "I will light a candle for you. That's an expression of 'I will say a prayer for you.'"

Father Alar pointed out the common practice of lighting votive candles before a saint's statue to express devotion to that saint.

Yet most candles are placed before images of Jesus and Mary.

"When I light a candle before the Sacred Heart or in front of the Blessed Mother," Father Alar said, "it shows my devotion to them, asking for their help."

Along with showing devotion to Our Lord, the Blessed Mother and the saints, the faithful will also light a vigil candle asking for God or his saints' intercession or expressing thanksgiving for a favor granted.

St. Mark Church has "many places where people can take a quiet moment and can be in peace and prayer," said Veronica Olson, pastoral assistant for liturgy and

parish life. The faithful regularly light votive candles placed by every image and work of art in the church.

"Everyone obviously prays in thanksgiving," Olson explained. "We often see people kneeling and praying. We also see people having hardship and going through trials, some weeping, some for joy raising hands — any kind of emotion. They take special moments to be in the church, praying outside of normal Mass times."

Scarpelli connects lighting the candles also to different events in life, "like illness in family, or death, or happier occasions, and you want to emphasize your prayers to God more deeply."

As Father Carroll explained, "You're not in the church alone; you're there with the prayers of others. We know we are never alone in our prayer, and the candles around us remind us of it."

"The beauty of the votive candle is that the light signifies our prayer offered, united in faith going to the light of God," Father Alar concluded.

"With the light of faith, we basically ask Our Lord or a saint in prayer to help us. We ask the light be given to the Light, which is God."

Joseph Pronechen is a Register staff writer. Read more at NCRegister.com.

Hospice

CONTINUING PAGE 13 STORY

ing the Father's house" (1523). He also offers the apostolic pardon, which is an indulgence offered to the dying for the remission of punishment due to sin. "Then I do the Litany of Saints and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy," Father Starzynski said.

Father Starzynski said that the prayers and sacraments bring peace and help people struggling with their faith at the end. He encourages loved ones to pray the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet with the patient.

He also provides some pastoral advice, warning loved ones against overseducating a patient and advising them to let the patient know that he or she is not a burden. "So often, they feel that they are," he said. Once a patient is prepared, Father Starzynski said that the family should let them go to God. "I see hospice as a human response to this: helping to prepare the patient and family for death," he said. "It is one of the most beautiful parts of this ministry, escorting a soul into heaven with prayer."

Deb (Liffrig) Kaul, a nurse for 15 years with Hospice of the Red River Valley in Fargo, North Dakota, said that it was a privilege to accompany the dying: "The superficial focus goes away then, and people care about what is most important: their spiritual walk, relationships and healing and forgiveness. It was gratifying to see those things happen."

In that way, she said that although a terminal diagnosis is often hard, she witnessed the opportunity it is for people to decide what they want to do with their remaining time on earth.

One memorable patient in his 70s looked forward to his death because, years earlier, he had a near-death experience where he saw his body below and was drawn to a beautiful light. "He was disappointed when he was pulled back," Kaul said.

"He told me, 'I can't wait to die. I got a taste of what it was like.'"

As Kaul added, "Not everyone feels ready to leave loved ones, but their time to say good-bye is sacred. I always felt like I was walking on hallowed ground."

Patti Armstrong writes from North Dakota.



THE BRIGHTEST MINDS. THE CHURCH'S MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES.

This summer's ninth annual Napa Conference brought together the Church's brightest minds and most innovative leaders to discuss important issues vital to Catholics today. Over a three-day period, this distinguished group of Cardinals, Bishops, renowned Priests and lay intellectuals engaged in highly impactful sessions on subjects like holiness, parish revitalization and Church reform. Now, see for yourself this exciting and informative Napa Conference designed to help prepare Catholics for the next America. You'll come away on fire with your faith!

Airs November 16-17. For more information go to ewtn.com/tv/schedule.

ARTS & Entertainment

TV Picks

Nov. 10-23
All Times Eastern
By Daniel J. Engler

SUNDAY, Nov. 10, 4am

Angels in the Outfield

TURNER CLASSIC MOVIES This 1951 dramedy features little orphan Bridget (Donna Corcoran), whose innocence and prayers help her pacify her beloved Pittsburgh Pirates' angry manager (Paul Douglas) — and enlist angels to help the team win games. Janet Leigh, Spring Byington and Ellen Corby also star.

MONDAY, Nov. 11, 4pm

FRONTLINE FATHERS

EWTN On Veterans Day, this documentary profiles two Catholic chaplains in the U.S. Army in South Korea as they minister to troops at and near the DMZ (Demilitarized Zone) with communist North Korea.

MONDAY-WEDNESDAY, Nov. 11-13

USCCB Fall General Assembly

EWTN In this biennial meeting, our U.S. bishops will elect their new leaders and chart their agenda for the coming year.

WEDNESDAY, Nov. 13, 10pm

Mother Cabrini and the Heart of Jesus

EWTN This EWTN docudrama bios Italy-born St. Francis Xavier Cabrini (1850-1917), who founded the Institute of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in 1880. She and her sisters came to the United States in 1889 and over the years established 67 institutions to minister to immigrants and the poor. Pope Pius XII canonized her in 1946. Re-airs Thursday at 10am and Friday at 8pm.

SUNDAY, Nov. 17, 1:30pm

In Concert: The Great Organ of Notre Dame Cathedral

EWTN Olivier Latry, a titular organist of the Cathedral of Notre-Dame de Paris and professor at the Paris Conservatory, played the Great Organ not long before the fire at the cathedral this past April 15. The organ, which has 8,000 pipes, dates to 1403 but has been extensively remodeled through the years and needs repairs after suffering smoke and water damage.

SUNDAY, Nov. 17, 8pm

America in Color: Coming to America

SMITHSONIAN CHANNEL This season premiere employs colorized news footage and home movies to depict immigrants' arrivals and assimilation in the United States between 1900 and the 1960s.

MONDAY-FRIDAY, Nov. 18-22, 5:30pm

Women Made New

EWTN Author and speaker Crystalina Evert founded Women Made New Ministries and co-founded Chastity Project. In this miniseries she proclaims Catholic teaching about love, family and the vocation of marriage.

WEDNESDAY, Nov. 20, 8pm

Nature: Bears

PBS This new documentary surveys the many types of bears around the world and discusses their lives, habitats, survival adaptations and prospects.

THURSDAY-TUESDAY, Nov. 21-26

Apostolic Journey to Thailand and Japan

EWTN Follow coverage of Pope Francis' apostolic journey to Thailand and Japan via EWTN. Check times at EWTN.com.

Dan Engler writes from Santa Barbara, California.

'Apostle of Divine Mercy' in Film

New Documentary Adds to List of St. Faustina-Themed Movies

BY STEVEN D. GREYDANUS

St. Faustina Kowalska, the first saint canonized in the new millennium, is far from the best-known or most venerated saint of the 20th century — but the impact of her calling is out of all proportion to her popular celebrity.

Indeed, perhaps only her fellow Pole St. John Paul II has had a more decisive influence on the shape of Catholic theology and spirituality. It's not inconceivable, moreover, that canonizing Faustina and advancing her vision could ultimately be John Paul II's most enduring contribution to the life of the Church.

From the time the original Divine Mercy image was first displayed in Vilnius, Lithuania, during the Easter season in April 1934 to the institution of the Sunday after Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday at Faustina's canonization by John Paul II on that very day in April 2000, the explosive spread of the Divine Mercy devotion has been without precedent in Church history. A new documentary about Faustina and the Divine Mercy devotion, *Love and Mercy: Faustina*, which debuted in American theaters in a Fathom Events screening on Oct. 28, is returning for an encore screening on Dec. 2, at 7pm. *Love and Mercy: Faustina* is far from the first film to explore the life of this saint and her vision.

Among the best is a lovely Polish-language drama, *Faustyna* (1995), also known as *Faustina: The Apostle of Divine Mercy* (Ignatius Press DVD title). Directed by Jerzy Lukaszewicz and starring Dorota Segda, the 75-minute film offers an impressionistic portrait of Faustina's life and spirituality told in flashback through the eyes of an elderly nun looking back on her relationship with Faustina from her younger days.

Zdzislaw Najda's rich cinematography floods the film with light — golden-hour rays falling on faces; sunbeams in the doors and windows of the convent basement or in sunshowers on the street — as if to fill the world with the rays emanating from the Lord's heart.

Perhaps the best thing about the film is the perplexity with which Faustina's visions and ideas are regarded by confessors and fellow religious. With one notable exception, most aren't suspicious or resentful of Faustina; they're simply ordinary human beings who don't know what to make of her.

In Vilnius Faustina meets Blessed Michael Sopocko (Maciej Malysa), a priest and assistant professor of theology who becomes her spiritual director and, later, an advocate for her vision. Although initially no more comfortable with her strange "confessions" than her last confessor, Father Sopocko does his best to support her, ultimately connecting her with the artist Euge-



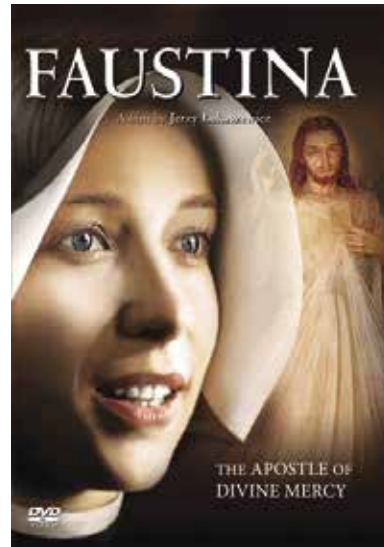
nusz Kazimirowski (Janusz Chabior), who paints the original Divine Mercy image.

For viewers interested in learning more about the image itself, *The Original Image of Divine Mercy* (2016), a two-hour documentary, is available on DVD and streaming via Vimeo. First-time filmmaker Daniel DiSilva crafts a generally engaging blend of first-person voice-over narration and occasional onscreen interaction, location shooting and interviews with subject-matter experts and other talking heads ranging from the likes of Bishop Robert Barron and George Weigel to comedian Jim Gaffigan and musician Harry Connick Jr. There are also, of course, lots and lots of close-ups of the original Divine Mercy image — and of many other versions of the image — with commentary on the meaning of various features of the image (the dark background, the positioning of the hands and the feet, and so forth).

There's also a critique of sorts of popular versions of the image based on the work of the Polish artist Adolf Hyla, who is responsible for the Divine Mercy variant I find least appealing, with the Lord making eye contact with the viewer and tilting his head to one side.

Then, of course, there are insights into the original image's sometimes surprising history. I had heard of the two women who recovered the image from a Soviet guard at the government-shuttered Church of St. Michael in Vilnius, where Father Sopocko was rector. But the "kidnapping" operation to rescue it from another shut-down church in Belarus — which involved swapping it with a replica — was news to me. Among minor missteps are an overreliance on Christian pop songs, suggesting a lack of trust in the audience. For the most part, though, *The Original Image of Divine Mercy* is highly watchable and worthwhile.

Billed as a docudrama, *Love and Mercy: Faustina* might be better described as a documentary with dramatized recreations as well as talking-head commentary, location shooting and archival images. If that still doesn't quite capture it, that's because the production is formally too slapdash and inconsistent, alas, for a clearer characterization. Although the docudrama sequences feature Polish actors



who played the roles speaking Polish, each scene was shot twice in Polish and English, so the English version of the film features actors speaking English with Polish accents. This was once a more common technique, but in a historical recreation today, it feels cheesy and inauthentic. Likewise, when interview subjects speak Polish, their voices fade and a translator speaks for them, like in radio interviews.



MOVIES ABOUT MERCY. Clockwise from top left: *Love and Mercy*, *The Original Image of Divine Mercy* and *Faustyna*. Kondrat-Media, Knights of Columbus, Springtime

Do the filmmakers not trust *The Passion of the Christ* audience to be willing to read subtitles?

As the film progresses the editing becomes less jarring, and the film becomes fitfully watchable. The dramatized bits are competent at best and most of the talking-head sequences are dully composed, so by default the best sequences are those that use voice-over with location shooting or other images. Much of the content, of course, will be familiar to devotees, although there were some surprises for me.

For example, the artist Kazimirowski, who happened to live in the same building with Father Sopocko and thus became the painter of the original Divine Mercy image, was a Freemason, in an awkward detail left out of most treatments. Nor had I heard that his later paintings included images of himself as Judas — nor that, like Judas, he committed suicide by hanging.

(At least, according to Matthew; Luke describes Judas' death differently. Curiously, Kazimirowski's death seems likewise ambiguous: *The Original Image of Divine Mercy* suggests that he died of pneumonia!)

I can't recommend *Love and Mercy: Faustina*, except to pious viewers for whom the sacred subject matter alone is enough of a selling point. (It did win an audience award at a Polish film festival in Wrocław, so it's not without appeal to some viewers.)

Fortunately, there are other options that do better justice to the story of this extraordinary visionary and the powerful devotion that continues to spread around the globe. (For a longer version of this article, including coverage of additional films, visit DecentFilms.com/faustina.)

Deacon Steven D. Greydanus is the Register's film critic.

Film

Don't Let Another Year Roll By

**AVE MARIA
MUTUAL FUNDS**

Have you retired or changed jobs recently? If so, you may want to consider rolling over your retirement account assets, such as those in a 401(k), 403(b) or 457(b) into an Ave Maria Mutual Fund IRA. Here are some reasons to consider:

- Tax-free transaction when moving from one qualified account to another
- Continued tax deferral benefit
- Consolidation of assets
- Diversification through one of our five unique funds
- Morally responsible mutual funds to match your Pro-Life, Pro-Family beliefs

CONTACT US TODAY

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

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.

200-116-011520 / 0837402-075-0/11/2019

Home Video Picks & Passes

By Steven D. Greydanus

It's a Wonderful Life (1946) 
The Wizard of Oz (1939) 

Two classic Vatican film-list honorees from Paramount — both universal pop-culture touchstones and straight-up masterpieces — have pristine new 4K Ultra-HD + Blu-ray + Digital releases.

Both Frank Capra and Jimmy Stewart picked **It's a Wonderful Life** as their favorite of all their films. Various celebrated or castigated both for its sentimentality and for its darkness, it's a wiser film than many fans and detractors allow.

It's a celebration of a heroic life that is far from typical, the absence of which leaves a hole more awful than most of us would leave. Yet George's life isn't simply useful to others; it is also rich and full.

The Wizard of Oz ranks among our earliest and most defining experiences of wonder and of fear, of



fairy-tale joys and terrors, of the lure of the exotic and the comfort of home.

Like all fairy tales, this one has suffered countless attempts to interpret it, from every conceivable angle. Yet L. Frank Baum, in his introduction to the book, said it "was written solely to pleasure children of today." Read more about both at DecentFilms.com.

CAVEAT SPECTATOR: It's a Wonderful Life: *Some tense family scenes; contemplation of suicide; brief inebriation.* The Wizard of Oz: *Some scary and menacing scenes. Both fine family viewing.*

TRAVEL *History & Saints*

Heaven, Happiness And Holiness

Are You Prepared To Be Glad in Paradise?

The 4 Last Things

BY STEPHANIE MANN

Carrie Fisher and Debbie Reynolds died within one day of each other in December 2016. Todd Fisher, Carrie's brother and Debbie's son, later made some comments on ABC's *20/20* about his sister and mother dying and being together again after death. Knowing nothing of his religious upbringing or background, his comments gave me pause and made me wonder: What do we, as Catholics — what do I, as a Catholic — really think heaven is?

Fisher referred to God calling Debbie Reynolds to heaven to help the angels handle her daughter Carrie, who might have been creating some problems. He described how close the mother and daughter were and how much Debbie wanted to help Carrie all the time. He pictured heaven as them being together, continuing the relationship they had on earth. He clearly believed in a life after death. His view of heaven seemed like a continuation of this life — just without all the problems of addiction, failed relationships, thwarted projects, bad days and other human troubles.

Life Everlasting

Reading the Catechism of the Catholic Church on heaven reveals great mysteries of happiness and holiness. In the Creed we say that “I believe in life everlasting,” and as the Catechism explains, that life after death will either be spent in heaven or in hell, after each one of us has been judged on the basis of our “works and faith” (1021). Our particular judgment results either in immediate entrance into heaven — or a period of purification before

heaven — or “immediate and everlasting damnation” (1022).

Those who go to heaven become like God! They see him as he is, “face-to-face.” With the angels and saints and the Blessed Virgin Mary, they achieve the highest, most perfect happiness. Paragraph 1024 states: “Heaven is the ultimate end and fulfillment of the deepest human longings, the state of supreme, definitive happiness.”

What Is Happiness?

The Catechism (1027) acknowledges that this is the great mystery of heaven and one that we can't completely understand:

“This mystery of blessed communion with God and all who are in Christ is beyond all understanding and description. Scripture speaks of it in images: life, light, peace, wedding feast, wine of the kingdom, the Father's house, the heavenly Jerusalem, paradise: ‘no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him’ (1 Corinthians 2:9).” We get glimpses of happiness throughout our lives, but do we really know what happiness is? Am I prepared to be happy in heaven?

Deal Hudson wrote a book in the 1990s, *Happiness and the Limits of Satisfaction*, in which he described a more classical view of happiness that might prepare us better for the mysterious happiness of heaven. Hudson noted that our conventional idea of happiness is that we feel good; we are satisfied by what we do or what we have. Our happiness depends on things and how we feel about them. That sort of happiness prepares us for a heaven in our own image.

‘A Church Is Like Heaven’

The classical and medieval view of happiness meant that a person must be good to be happy; should be living her life according to moral standards — should be holy.

That happiness as holiness prepares us for the heaven the Cate-

chism describes. St. John Henry Newman describes this standard of holiness in his *Parochial and Plain Sermon*, “Holiness Necessary for Future Blessedness”:

“To be holy is, in our Church's words, to have ‘the true circumcision of the Spirit’; that is, to be separate from sin, to hate the works of the world, the flesh and the devil; to take pleasure in keeping God's commandments; to do things as He would have us do them; to live habitually as in the sight of the world to come, as if we had broken the ties of this life, and were dead already. Why cannot we be saved without possessing such a frame and temper of mind?”

And then he makes the startling statement that “even supposing a man of unholy life were suffered to enter heaven, he would not be happy there; so that it would be no mercy to permit him to enter.” Newman comments that we can have the wrong idea about heaven — that it will be a place of pleasure and satisfaction — and then proposes a better way to think of heaven:

“Heaven, then, is not like this world; I will say what it is much more like — a church. For in a place of public worship ... we hear solely and entirely of God. We praise Him, worship Him, sing to Him, thank Him, confess to Him, give ourselves up to Him, and ask His blessing. And therefore, a church is like heaven; viz. [namely] because both in the one and the other, there is one single sovereign subject — religion — brought before us.”

So someone who has no thought of God, what Newman calls an “irreligious man,” would be miserable in heaven: The face of God and the worship of God “would be no object of joy to him.” On the other hand, if you are happy in church, at Mass, in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, etc., you will be happy in heaven, as heaven truly is.

Stephanie Mann writes from Wichita, Kansas.



Giusto de' Menabuoi, ceiling of the Padua Cathedral Baptistery, c. 1377

Being Holy in the Present Moment

User's Guide To Sunday

Sunday, Nov. 17, is the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C. Mass readings: *Malachi 3:19-20A; Psalm 98:5-6, 7-8, 9; 2 Thessalonians 3: 7-12; Luke 21:5-19.*

In setting the scene for today's Gospel, Jesus and his disciples are in Jerusalem for the final Passover — his passion and death. They are in the Temple, and a few verses before, Jesus has commented on the offering of the widow: small to the world, but worthy to



CLAIRE DWYER

God. Her poverty is in stark contrast to the splendor of the Temple, which people are remarking on as the reading begins.

Jesus overhears their admiration and says something striking and unsettling: “All that you see here — the days will come when there will not be left a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down.”

What did one see when one saw the Temple? The historian Josephus writes that the outside of the Temple “was covered all over with plates of gold of great weight, and, at the first rising of the sun, reflected back a very fiery splendor, and made those who forced themselves to look upon it to turn their eyes away, just as they would have done at the sun's own rays. But the Temple appeared to strangers, when they were at a distance, like a mountain covered with snow, for, as to those parts of it that were not gilt, they were exceeding white.”

This dazzling building, destined to be destroyed, was only a symbol — an important and sacred symbol —



UNSPASH

but ultimately only a placeholder for the Living Temple, the Body of Christ.

“When will this happen?” His followers ask, and then things go from bad to worse. Jesus not only foretells of wars, earthquakes, famines and plagues, but of the suffering, persecution and martyrdom of these same friends because of his name.

But they won't be alone. “Remember,” Jesus says, “you are not to prepare your defense beforehand, for I myself shall give you wisdom in speaking that all of your adversaries will be powerless to resist or refuse.” In other words, “do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Let the day's own trouble be sufficient for the day” (Matthew 6:34).

It would have been natural for the disciples to be paralyzed by fear over the days ahead. But God himself would give them the grace exactly when they would have need of it: right in the moment, not a minute before. And in the meantime, life would go on, salvation would play itself out in eternity and in their own lives, and they were to

live each moment in trust and faith as it revealed itself in its slow unfolding. Mary did so; so can we.

St. Paul speaks to this in the second reading when he corrects those Christians who are not busy because they think Christ will be coming soon and are living with a why-bother attitude.

Because it is the present moment we are to concern ourselves with, in its duties and obligations. However small they seem in the light of eternity, they have enormous weight when united to Christ — they are the stones on which we build our inner temples, the sacred minutes we chisel with each small, and maybe unseen, surrender to “working quietly” and waiting for that longed-for day from the first reading when will arise the “sun of justice with its healing rays.”

Claire Dwyer is editor of *SpiritualDirection.com* and coordinates adult faith formation at her parish in Phoenix, where she lives with her husband and their six children.



GIVE A GIFT. GET A GIFT.

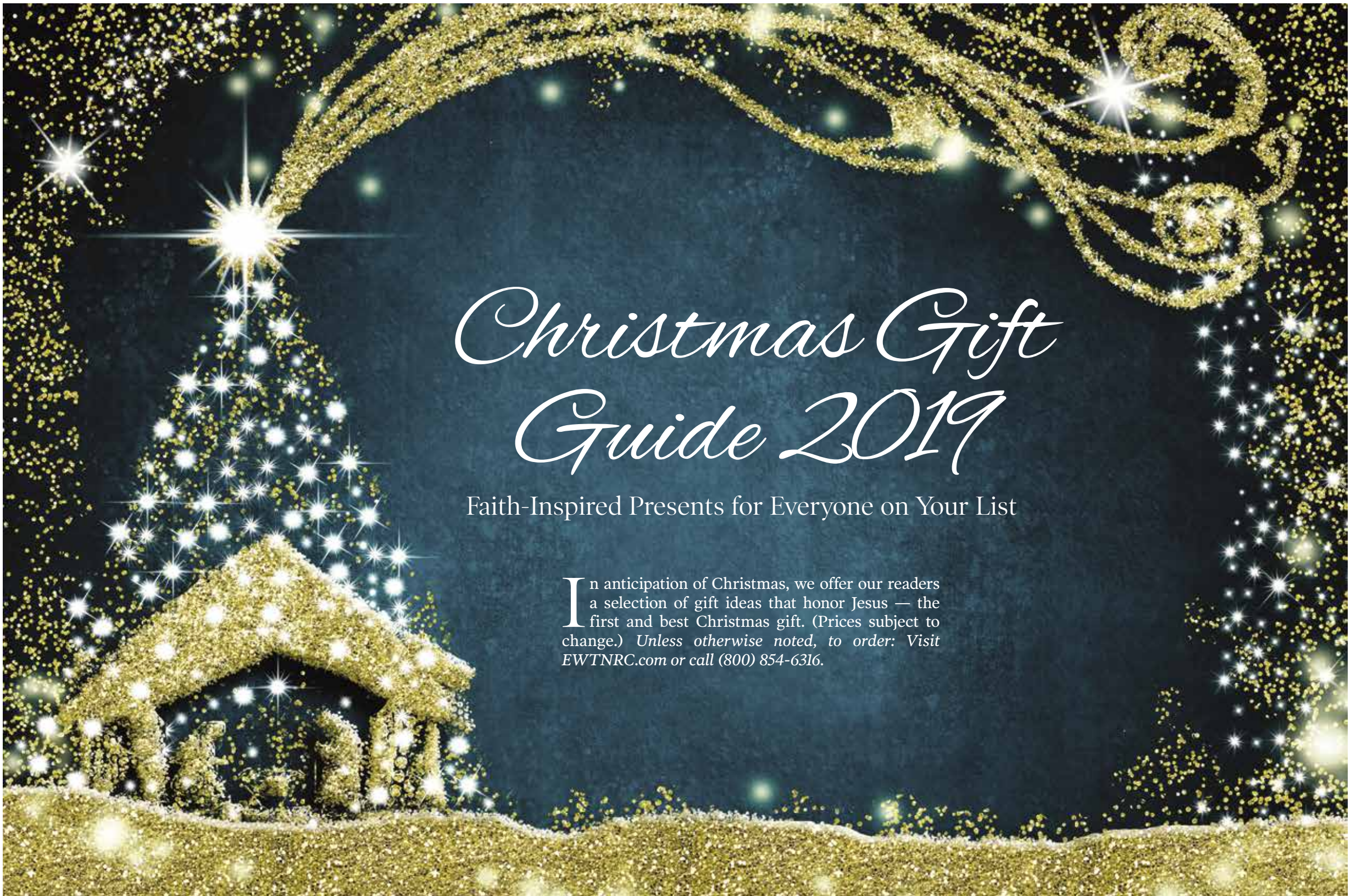


Give something special this Christmas. A subscription to EWTN's National Catholic Register. It's the award-winning newspaper filled with in-depth news reporting and faithfully Catholic analysis, catechetical resources, and features highlighting Catholic culture and more!

Order a subscription for a friend, or one for yourself, and get 26 issues of the Register for less than \$2.00 per issue. **And, for a limited time, we'll send you a thank you gift - the EWTN original movie, *Mother Cabrini*, absolutely free!** Give more and save more. Get \$10.00 off every additional gift subscription you order. This Christmas, give the National Catholic Register as a gift, or simply treat yourself.

GO TO: NCREGISTER.COM/DVD
OR CALL: (800) 421-3230
MENTION CODE 919DVD

NATIONAL CATHOLIC REGISTER
READ FAITHFULLY
A service of EWTN News



Christmas Gift Guide 2019

Faith-Inspired Presents for Everyone on Your List

In anticipation of Christmas, we offer our readers a selection of gift ideas that honor Jesus — the first and best Christmas gift. (Prices subject to change.) Unless otherwise noted, to order: Visit EWTNRC.com or call (800) 854-6316.



1



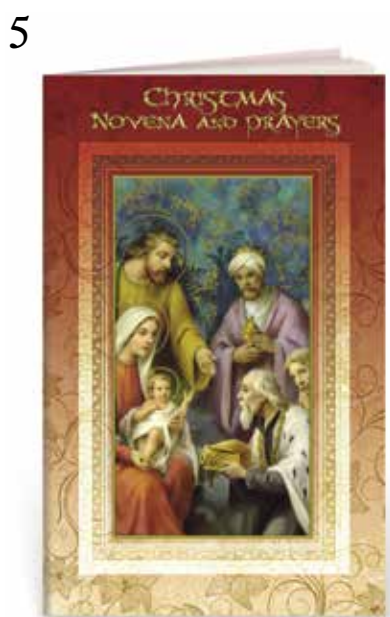
2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9

1. NATIVITY MUSICAL GLITTER DOME WITH THREE KINGS
This musical glitter dome features the Holy Family and the Three Wise Men in the glass globe that swirls with glitter when tipped upside down and plays the *Little Drummer Boy* music when wound. The globe is 4 inches in diameter, and the decorative base is made of resin. Measures 6 inches high. Item: 33028, \$38.

2. HOLY FAMILY IN CHERRY FRAME
This beautiful print of the Holy Family is displayed under glass in a natural tiger cherry finish frame with carved gold edges. It has a hook for hanging and a black velvet easel back for tabletop display. Measures 12 inches x 10 inches. Item: 22362, \$20.

3. WINTER WHISPER HOLY FAMILY ORNAMENT
A small Holy Family ornament with delicate filigree paper cutout details of the city of Bethlehem is made of resin and measures 5 1/3 inches high. Item: 32994, \$6.

4. HOLY FAMILY STAINED-GLASS ORNAMENT
This beautiful miniature stained-glass window Christmas ornament features the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph and the newborn Baby Jesus surrounded by a cerulean blue sky with the bright star of Bethlehem above them. Oval ornament measures 4 1/2 inches high x 3 3/8 inches wide and comes with a silver chain for hanging. Item: 56387, \$10.

5. CHRISTMAS NOVENA AND PRAYERS
This novena is translated from the Italian prayers of St. Alphonsus Maria de Liguori and was first published in 1758. Although this novena is intended primarily as a preparation for the feast of Our Lord's Nativity, it can be used with spiritual profit at any time of the year as a devotion in honor of the Infant Jesus. Also included along with the novena is the "St. Andrew Christmas Novena Prayer to Obtain Favors"; an account of the birth of Christ; a "Litany for the Christmas Season"; and other prayers. Paperback. 25 pages. Item: 43280, \$2.50.

6. NATIVITY GICLÉE ADVENT CANDLE HOLDER
Designed to look like an old-world stone sculpture with tiled artwork, this rustic piece features a beautiful giclée print of the Holy Family, the Magi and an angel on the front. It will hold four taper candles as either an Advent display when using one rose and three violet candles or as a decorative Christmas piece with candles of your choice. Made of a resin-stone mix, it measures 9 inches long x 3 inches high x 1 3/4 inches deep. The candle wells measure 7/8 inch in diameter. (Candles not included.) Item: 33264, \$29.50.

7. BEST-LOVED CHRISTMAS CAROLS BOXED SET
In a richly illustrated book of timeless art from world-class museums, Ronald Clancy offers historical perspective on the development of carols since the 13th century, with fascinating facts about each carol. This boxed set includes a CD with 25 carols performed by world-renowned choirs and orchestras. Also includes a bonus songbook. Item: 4601, \$30.

8. PEACEFUL NATIVITY ADVENT CALENDAR
This devotional Advent calendar measures 8 1/4 inches x 12 inches and features a colorful Nativity scene with glitter accents. There are 24 numbered windows with Bible text on the back of the flaps. Count down the 24 days until Christmas with this fun family tradition: Beginning Dec. 1, open window No. 1 and then another each day to reveal a special picture and also read the Bible text that tells a part of the Nativity story. Item: BB811, \$4.

9. CHILDREN'S FELT NATIVITY SET
Young children will delight in the anticipation of Christmas as they re-enact the story of Jesus' birth with this six-piece plush Nativity set. What a wonderful way to keep the focus of festivities on the real reason for Christmas joy. Set includes St. Joseph, Mary, Baby Jesus, lamb, ox and zippered carrying case. Item: 20967, \$24.

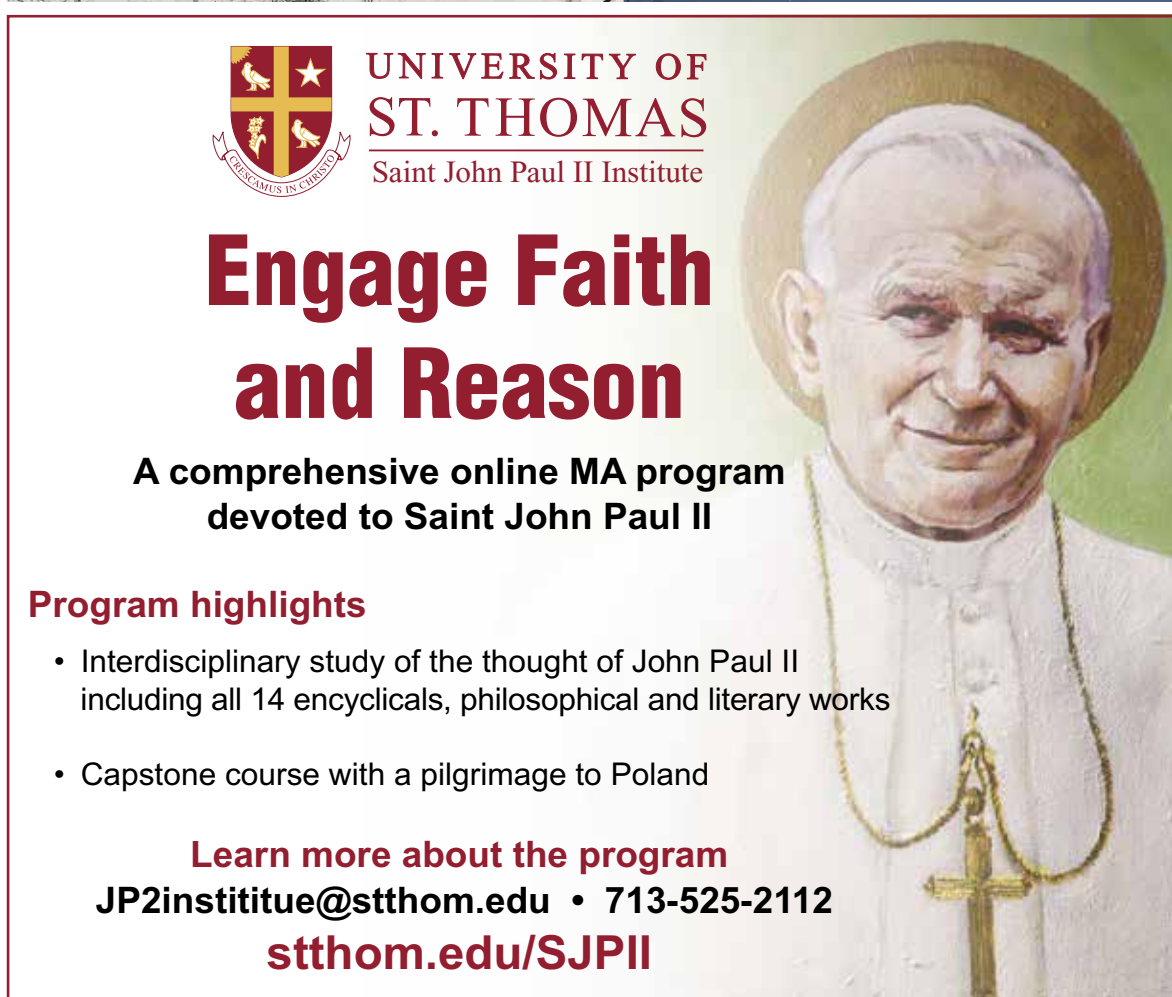
SHUTTERSTOCK



Comfortable Catholic Tees and Inspiring Gifts

Just In Time For Christmas

Order Today!
catholicshirtclub.com



UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS
Saint John Paul II Institute

Engage Faith and Reason

A comprehensive online MA program devoted to Saint John Paul II

Program highlights

- Interdisciplinary study of the thought of John Paul II including all 14 encyclicals, philosophical and literary works
- Capstone course with a pilgrimage to Poland

Learn more about the program
JP2institute@stthom.edu • 713-525-2112
stthom.edu/SJPII



JOY TO THE WORLD!

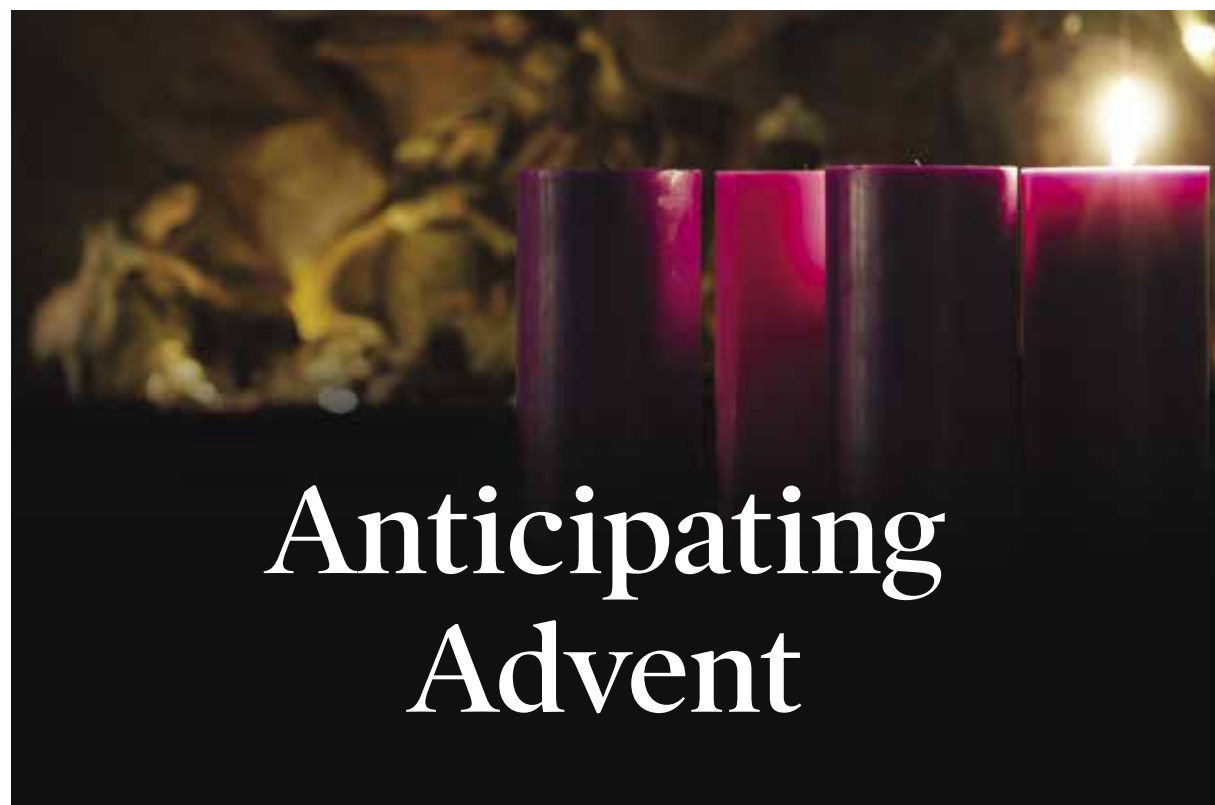
the **EWTN Family** CHRISTMAS Special
The Choir of the Eternal Word Television Network

This Christmas, share the joy of our Savior's birth with twelve timeless hymns Catholics have enjoyed for centuries. Experience an extraordinary concert performed by The Choir of the Eternal Word Television Network with a special introduction by Father Joseph Mary Wolfe, M.F.V.A. Recorded on location at the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Tuesday, Dec. 17 at 5:00pm; Thursday, Dec. 19 at 10:30pm
Sunday, Dec. 22 at 12:00am; Tuesday, Dec. 24 at 6:00pm
Thursday, Dec. 26 at 1:00pm ET

LIVE TRUTH. LIVE CATHOLIC. ewtn.com

EWTN Global Catholic Network



SHUTTERSTOCK

9 Ways to Live The Season Well

BY CLAIRE DWYER

By the time we've put away the pumpkins, Christmas decorations and gift buying are in full swing. Storefronts blaze with advertisements, television specials and commercials light up our living rooms with holiday themes, and the radio has us singing about snowmen and reindeer before we've finished our Thanksgiving turkey.

It can be difficult, especially with children, to keep Advent as a sacred time of preparation rather than a long, run-on feast. By the time we actually arrive at the liturgical celebration of Christmas, we may already feel overstuffed and exhausted from the noise, lights and materialism of our modern culture.

How can we still our hearts and focus on the real meaning of the season with our families — without begrudging the joy of authentic anticipation? This is a time of expectation that should feel sacred but celebratory. Is that possible?

Many Catholic parents have found a healthy balance. Here are some simple ideas to live Advent well.

1. Try to have gift shopping done by the start of Advent, and cull the house of catalogues and references to toys, wish lists and shopping, in order to focus on spiritual preparation.

2. Fill your home and cars with sacred seasonal music — there is music specific to Advent that can balance the holiday tunes filling stores and airwaves. The *Advent at Ephesus* CD from the Benedictine Sisters of Mary, Queen of Apostles, is ethereal and will fill your soul and quiet your heart: <https://music.benedictinesofmary.org/content/advent-ephesus>. This could be a perfect gift for a Catholic teacher, too.

3. Set out an empty manger along with a container filled with pieces of straw or yellow yarn. Each time a child does a charitable deed or makes a sacrifice, have them place a piece in the manger. By the time Christmas comes, Jesus will have a soft bed made out of the straw or yarn that each represent loving actions. On Christmas morning, the first gift to be opened can be the statue of the infant Jesus, and the youngest child can place Jesus in the place the family has prepared. This **hand-painted Baby Jesus** in the crib is exquisite, from EWTNRC.com, Item: N1126, \$68.



4. Begin your observance of Advent by blessing your Advent wreath with this traditional prayer, which the entire family can participate in (source: EWTN.com/catholicism/library/blessings-for-advent-4209; from *Shorter Book of Blessings*, USCCB Publishing). This short one is perfect for little ones:

All make the Sign of Cross as the minister says:
Our help is in the name of the Lord.

All reply:

Who made heaven and earth.

One of those present or the minister reads a text of sacred Scripture, for example:

Brothers and sisters, listen to the words of the prophet Isaiah: 9:1-2, 5-6:

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom, a light has shone.

You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing.

As they rejoice before you as at the harvest, as men make merry when dividing spoils.

For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests.

They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace.

His dominion is vast and forever peaceful,

From David's throne, and over his kingdom, which he confirms and sustains.

By judgment and justice, both now and forever.

A minister who is a priest or deacon says the prayer of blessing with hands outstretched; a lay minister says the prayer with hands joined.

Lord God,
your Church joyfully awaits the coming of its Savior, who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness of ignorance and sin.

Pour forth your blessings upon us as we light the candles of this wreath;
may their light reflect the splendor of Christ, who is Lord, forever and ever.

R. Amen.

Or:

Lord our God,

we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples,

he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us, he is the Savior of every nation.

Lord God,

let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath.

May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation.

May he come quickly and not delay.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

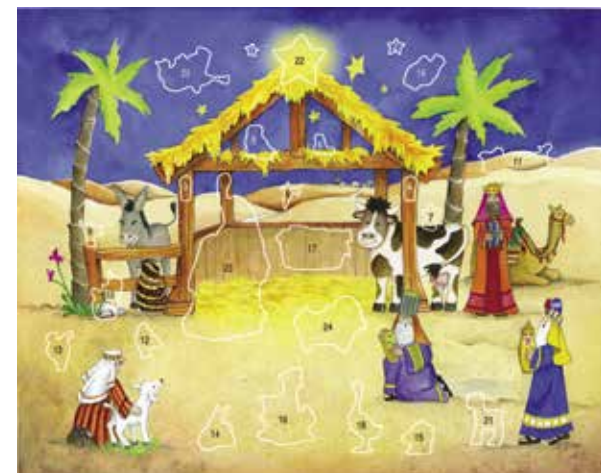
R. Amen.

5. Read the daily Mass readings or the Gospel at dinner. Demonstrate how the readings are leading us up to the birth of Christ with themes of conversion, watchfulness and preparation, and point out how the third week, beginning with Gaudete Sunday, reminds us to rejoice as we light the rose-colored candle.

6. Sing a verse of *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* each evening while lighting the Advent candle during before-mass prayers. Nervous about mixing little people and flames? You can use battery-light options: **LED Advent Tea Lights**, Item: 37954, \$7.50.

7. Use a religious **Advent calendar**. At EWTN Religious Catalogue, there are several beautiful, affordable options, including Item: BB886, \$4, and Item: BB881, \$4.

A fabric option is ideal for little fingers, Item: VC200, \$45. A calendar that allows children to add a sticker to the manger scene each day is also a good choice, Item: BB204, \$6. And a **back-lit Nativity scene/Advent calendar** can become a treasured heirloom (shown on next page). It has 24 drawers that can be custom-filled with a prayer, holy card, charitable deed or even a small anticipatory treat: Item: 32371, \$65.



8. Already have your tree up? What about pink and purple decorations for Advent?

Some families wait until Gaudete Sunday or even later to put up the Christmas decorations.

In the meantime, a Jesse Tree tradition is fun for kids and teaches them about the stories of the Old Testament that lead up to the birth of Christ.

The Jesse Tree Book and Ornaments Set is a good choice, from EWTN Religious Catalogue. Item: JTSET, \$49.95 (shown on next page).

9. Seasoned parents would advise not to take on too

CONTINUES ON PAGE 19

Valuing Vocations as a Family

BY CLARE WALKER

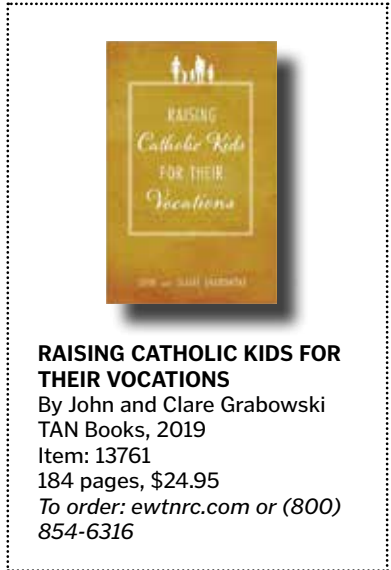
The primary task of Catholic parents is to raise their children to become true disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ and to discern his will for their lives. Yet it is naïve to ignore the current state of the modern world: Every sphere of life — politics, education, entertainment, the media — is hostile to Christian values.

But we also know that with God all things are possible. Authors John and Clare Grabowski are living proof. They raised five kids who, by the grace of God, are still faithful, practicing Catholics. They outline their family's faith journey in *Raising Catholic Kids for Their Vocations*.

First of all, the Grabowskis take pains to dispel the myth that the word "vocation" refers only to priesthood, religious life or marriage. "Every Christian, joined to Christ in baptism, is called by God to a life of holiness," they write. "This is the basic and indelible vocation of every believer."

This distinction is crucial for Catholic parents to understand. Our primary goal is not to steer our children into a particular state in life — priesthood, religious life or marriage. Our goal is to help our children embrace the universal call to holiness. If our children grow up seeking Jesus and pursuing closeness with him, the particular state in life to which God calls them is likely to become clear.

One of the best chapters of this



RAISING CATHOLIC KIDS FOR THEIR VOCATIONS
By John and Clare Grabowski
TAN Books, 2019
Item: 13761
184 pages, \$24.95
To order: ewtnrc.com or (800) 854-6316

lives." The children also appreciated their parents' openness to questions and discussion about the faith:

"Our parents helped the faith take root within us by intertwining faith with reason — by allowing and encouraging us to try to understand what we believed. ... The key was that, in presenting a tenet of the faith, our parents would try to explain how it made sense, encourage us to think it through, and ask questions. We were never taught to just blindly believe."

This book is a good balance of theory and practical, actionable ideas, including what they call "post-Cana" formation for married couples.

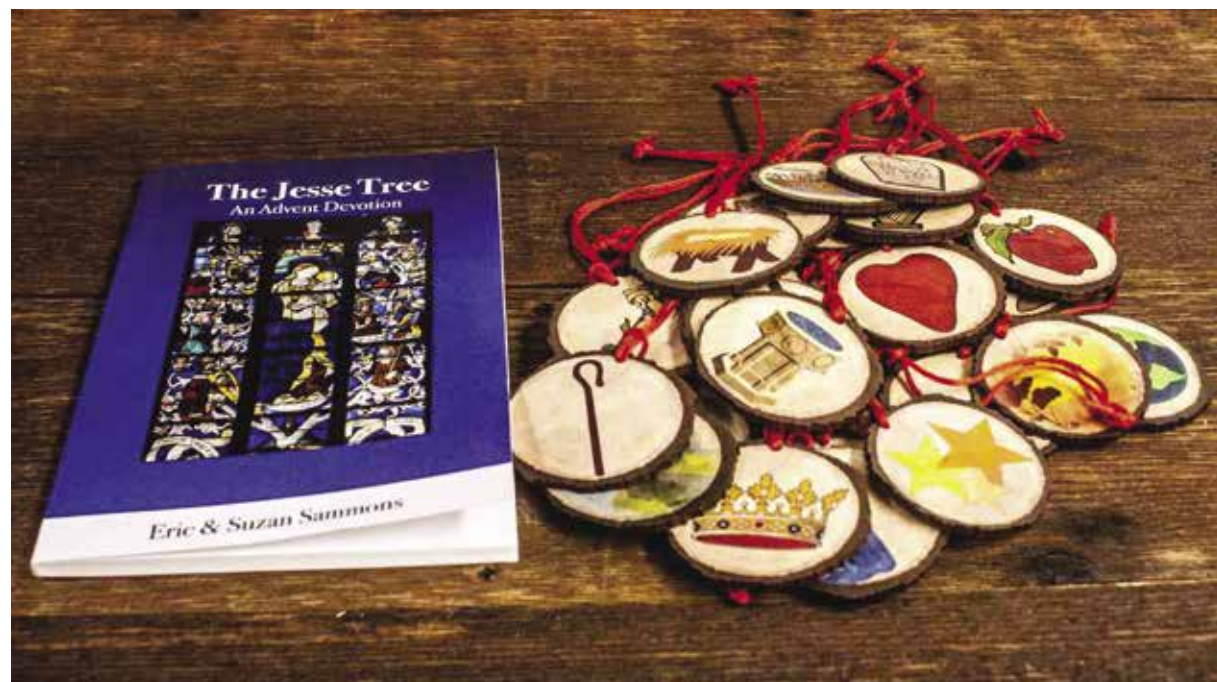
The Christian family is supposed to be a "school of love" in which children learn by doing and by observing. But if the headmaster and headmistress of that school — Mom and Dad — have a shaky foundation due to inadequate preparation for marriage, some kind of "remedial" formation would no doubt be helpful. Sadly, an in-depth treatment of this idea was beyond the scope of this book.

In the end, though, even successful Catholic parents like the Grabowskis must give all the glory to God, for they know that only his grace enables Christians to navigate the minefield of the modern world, with its many dangers to faith, holiness of life and moral uprightness. Let all Christian parents commend themselves and their children to this grace!

Clare Walker writes from Westmont, Illinois.

book includes testimonies from each of the Grabowskis' adult children.

All the children praised their parents' deliberate integration of the Catholic faith into every day and into every moment. "Our mother was striking in this," writes one of the children. "She would pray for everything — little things, like asking St. Anthony to intercede for us when we lost something, and big things, like God's blessing in selling our house. Her posture was never one of independence and self-sufficiency but rather of an implicit recognition of utter dependence upon God in the everyday circumstances of life. By not relegating faith to Sunday alone, but by demonstrating it daily, our parents helped to make faith central in our



Advent

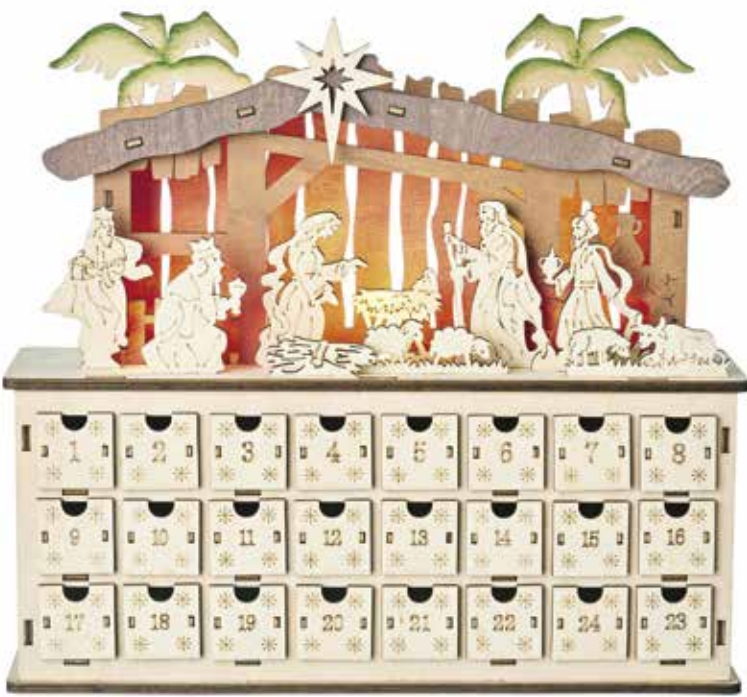
CONTINUING PAGE 18 STORY many traditions. Choose a few that work well for your family, and be faithful to those.

The key is consistency and simplicity and not feeling like you've failed if you don't "do it all."

Remember: Children will cherish time together above all else and will continue traditions into adulthood that meant the most to your family. Jesus is our joy.

He is coming, and that is celebration enough!

Claire Dwyer is editor of *SpiritualDirection.com* and coordinates adult faith formation at her parish in Phoenix, where she lives with her husband and their six children.



Advertising in the Register Generates SALES

- UPCOMING ISSUES**
- Dec. 8 - Last-Minute Gift Guide Reserve space by Nov. 15
 - Dec. 22 - Christmas Reserve space by Nov. 29
 - Jan. 1 - Vocations Reserve space by Dec. 13

Contact us at advertising@ewtn.com or call 800.356.9916

The 2019 Christmas Gift Guide

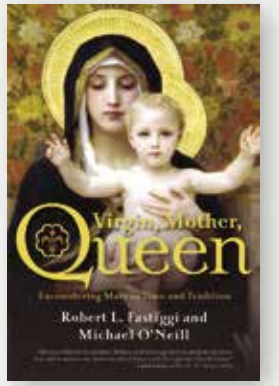
Virgin, Mother, Queen Encountering Mary in Time and Tradition

ROBERT L. FASTIGGI AND MICHAEL O'NEILL

In *Virgin, Mother, Queen*, popular radio and television host Michael O'Neill gathers fascinating details from Mary's mystical appearances around the world. Robert Fastiggi, professor of systemic theology at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, answers questions about the historical and theological development of Marian teachings throughout Church history.

192 pages, \$17.95

"A beautiful book."
—Carrie Gress
Author of *The Marian Option*



Exalted How the Power of the Magnificat Can Transform Us

SONJA CORBITT

Combining her own story with an invitation to engage the scriptures through personal study and "God prompts," Sonja Corbett will help readers unlock the treasures contained within Mary's song to her cousin Elizabeth, revealing a song that speaks to each of us in a unique way, calling us to delight in the power of God to transform us and make us into everything he created us to be so we can revel in the fullness and joy of life in Christ.

192 pages, \$16.95

"You will LOVE this book!"
—Rev. Larry Richards
Founder of The Reason for Our Hope Foundation



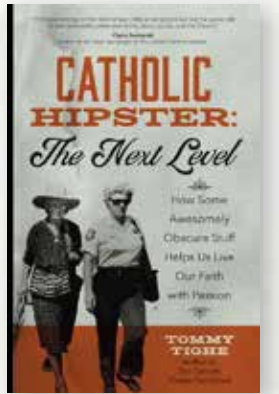
Catholic Hipster: The Next Level How Some Awesomely Obscure Stuff Helps Us Live Our Faith with Passion

TOMMY TIGHE

Building on the overwhelming popularity of *The Catholic Hipster Handbook*, Tommy Tighe is back with a new cast of fellow hipsters—including Haley Stewart, Samantha Povlock, Matthew Sewell, Fr. Damian Ferrence, and Patrick Neve—to share overlooked saints, forgotten prayers, and profound practices that define the countercultural Catholic lifestyle, inspiring you to live your faith in radical ways.

224 pages, \$15.95

"Belongs on the shelf of any Catholic."
—Claire Swinarski
Author of *Girl, Arise!*
Creator of *The Catholic Feminist* podcast



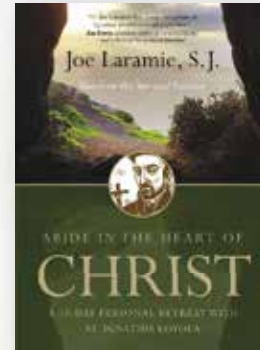
Abide in the Heart of Christ A 10-Day Personal Retreat with St. Ignatius Loyola

JOE LARAMIE, S.J.

In *Abide in the Heart of Christ*, Rev. Joe Laramie, S.J., offers accessible wisdom from the foundations of Jesuit spirituality—St. Ignatius Loyola's Spiritual Exercises—in a ten-day personal retreat that will help you encounter Christ, grow your relationship with him, and shape your heart.

160 pages, \$14.95

"A journey with Christ."
—Rev. Mark Thibodeaux, S.J.
Author of *Reimagining the Ignatian Examen*



The Reclaiming CATHOLIC HISTORY SERIES

The Reclaiming Catholic History Series

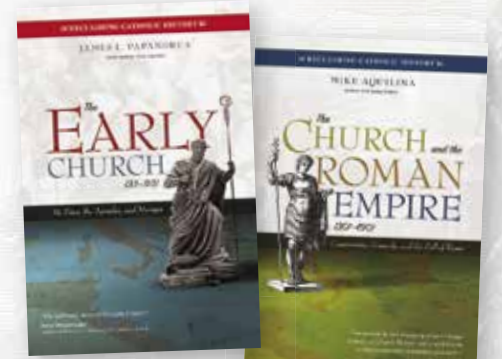
EDITED BY MIKE AQUILINA
Books in the Reclaiming Catholic History series, edited by Mike Aquilina and written by leading authors and historians debunk myths and misinformation one era at a time.

St. Peter, the Apostles, and Martyrs

JAMES L. PAPANDREA
160 pages, \$16.95

The Church and the Roman Empire (301–490)

Constantine, Councils, and the Fall of Rome
MIKE AQUILINA
192 pages, \$17.95



Live Big, Love Bigger Getting Real with BBQ, Sweet Tea, and a Whole Lotta Jesus

KATHRYN WHITAKER

The stressful premature birth of her fifth child threw her orderly world into chaos and ultimately led her to rethink her priorities. In *Live Big, Love Bigger*, Kathryn Whitaker shares her journey and challenges readers to understand that they, too, can live a life of authenticity with joy-filled purpose, love, and faith.

160 pages, \$15.95

"I highly encourage you to read this book."
—Jenna Guizar
Founder of Blessed is She



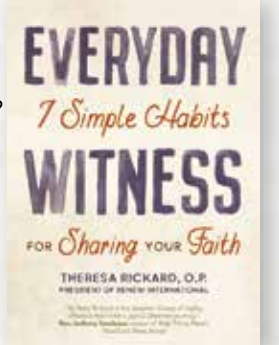
Everyday Witness 7 Simple Habits for Sharing Your Faith

THERESA RICKARD, O.P.

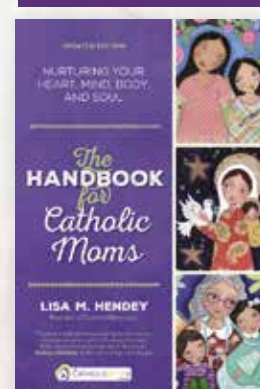
Do you want to share your faith with others but think you might not know enough? Are you worried that conflicts will arise as you openly talk about and share the love of Christ? In *Everyday Witness*, Sr. Theresa Rickard, O.P., president of RENEW International, offers seven simple habits to help fellow Catholics more comfortably talk about and model Christian faith in our everyday lives.

128 pages, \$12.95

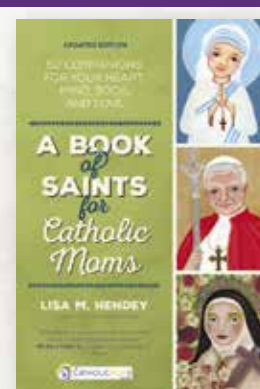
"Captivating stories."
—Rev. Anthony Randazzo
Pastor of The Catholic Church of the Holy Trinity
Westfield, New Jersey



REVISED EDITIONS from Lisa M. Hendey



The Handbook for Catholic Moms
Nurturing Your Heart, Mind, Body, and Soul
256 pages, \$17.95



A Book of Saints for Catholic Moms
52 Companions for Your Heart, Mind, Body, and Soul
352 pages, \$18.95

Look for these titles wherever books and eBooks are sold.

For more information, visit avemariapress.com.



Welcoming the Light of the World

Good Reads for Christmastime

CHILDREN'S BOOK PICKS

BY KERRY CRAWFORD AND PATRICIA A. CRAWFORD

Guess Who's in the Manger? A Christmas Story

Written by **Vicki Howie**
Illustrated by **Julia Seal**
Pauline, 2019
28 pages, \$14.95

A barn owl gives a bird's-eye view of life in a bleak and dismal place: "That stable was dark./ It was bare; it was poor!/ No wonder few visitors stepped through the door..." But, soon, some very special guests do indeed come, and suddenly the barn becomes a very different place. The Holy Family arrives announcing, "We've traveled so far, any shelter will do./ We're Joseph and Mary — our baby is due!" The once gloomy barn becomes bright and radiant when the Light of the World comes to dwell within it. Words and pictures are just right for young children and remind readers that Jesus is at the very center of the Christmas story. Ages 3-8.

The First Christmas Night

Written by **Laura Godwin**
Illustrated by **William Low**
Feiwel and Friends, 2016
32 pages, \$16.99

What was it like on that first Christmas night? This beautiful picture book invites readers to imagine being there, to think what it must

have been like to see, hear, feel and smell all that surrounded the birth of Baby Jesus. While the quiet, poetic text is prayerful ("Welcome this tiny baby boy./ Feel this hush./ This peace on Earth./ This first Christmas night"), the deep, jewel-toned oversized illustrations add an elegant tone. A great Nativity story for bedtime and beyond. Ages 3-8.

Silent Night

Illustrated by **Lara Hawthorne**
Lincoln Children's Books, 2018
32 pages, \$15.99

"Silent night, holy night;/ All is calm, all is bright." The words of the beloved, well-known carol spring to life in this eye-catching book. The song's traditional lyrics are paired with illustrations that seem to pop off the page with a bold, primitive style. Sensitive rendered images depict the Holy Family loving and gently caring for the "[h]oly infant, tender and mild," while luminescent stars twinkle against an inky black night sky. The depictions and tone reflect life in the Middle East. An afterword includes historical notes about the carol. A perfect choice for reading aloud — and singing along, too! Ages 3-8.

The Christmas Fox

Written and illustrated by **Anik McGrory**
Knopf, 2016
32 Pages, \$16.99

This gentle tale repositions the Nativity story into a snowy, winter wonderland. One by one, a host of forest animals urge a little fox to prepare for a most important event: "A baby is coming. There's work to be done."

Everyone has a special role to play: The woodpecker spreads the good news, the lamb prepares soft, cozy wool, and the bluebird is ready to sing the baby to sleep. But the little fox just plays in the snow and ignores the call to action. What could he possibly do for the special baby? Finally, the donkey urges the little fox to simply be present, "Just come. It is enough." When the little fox comes to the stable, he brings the perfect gift. He brings joy that makes the baby smile. The warm illustrations will nudge readers to think of ways to welcome the baby in the manger. Ages 3-8.

God's Wildest Wonderment of All

Written by **Paul Thigpen**
illustrated by **John Foley**
TAN, 2019
32 pages, \$16.95

A little boy goes to the zoo and is amazed at all of the incredible animals he encounters. Why would God paint parrots various colors of green or give wings to ostriches who don't fly? The rhyming couplets of this story capture the natural curiosity of children ("What's this? Who taught the seals to bark?/ Did dogs give lessons on the Ark?"). After pondering the wonders of creation, the little boy decides that human beings have been fashioned in the most wonderful manner of all and that all creatures have the potential to bring God glory in their own ways. With roots in Psalm 139 ("I am wonderfully made"), this book uses engaging images and fun word play to convey the important message that God has lovingly created each of us with a unique and important purpose. Ages 3-8.

A Little Camel for Baby Jesus

Written and illustrated by **Maria Gianola**
Pauline, 2019
32 pages, \$9.95

The star has appeared! Seven-year-old Joel, the son of a stableman, accompanies his dad and the King's caravan. Following the light, they search for the newborn King of Kings. Joel whittles a small camel for the infant, but freely gives it to a needy baby he meets on the way. Arriving empty-handed at the stable, Joel is surprised to learn just how special his gift was. Inspired by Matthew 25:40 ("Whatever you did for one of these least brothers and sisters of mine, you did it for me."), it's ideal for Christmas and Epiphany. Ages 3-8.

Mozart: Gift of God

Written and illustrated by **Demi Magnificat**, 2019
48 pages, \$15.99



For the musicians in your circle, this text-rich picture book of young Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart will inspire and amaze. Composing music by the age of 5, Mozart and his sister Nannerl would soon dazzle audiences, including kings and queens throughout Europe. Raised in a Roman Catholic family, Mozart composed his first major piece of sacred music, the *Te Deum*, when he was only 13. A year later he met the pope in Rome — and he would become a favorite musician of a 21st-century pope, Benedict XVI. Ages 7 and older.

Saintly Rhymes for Modern Times

Written and illustrated by **Meghan Bausch**
Our Sunday Visitor, 2018
40 pages, \$16.95

"Jesus came to Saint Faustina, asking her to share/ the message of his mercy/ with people everywhere..." is just a sampling of the 16 delightful rhymes telling the stories of 19 holy men, women and children. As you turn each page, find beloved friends (such as St. Mother Teresa, Pope St. John Paul II, St. Padre Pio) and friends with whom

to become better acquainted (e.g., Blessed Chiara "Luce" Badano, St. Josephine Bakhita, St. Gianna Beretta Molla and more). Full-page illustrations featuring the saint, "Blessed" or "Venerable" against a background that is particularly his or her own (think snowy mountains for Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati!) make the book all the more engaging. Ages 4-10.

The Crawford sisters write from Pittsburgh.

All books are available at Amazon.com.

POLAND PILGRIMAGE TOUR
of SAINT JOHN PAUL II • MAY 7TH - 16TH, 2020

10 Day, 9 Night PILGRIMAGE
\$3,890

ALL INCLUSIVE based on Double Occupancy add'l \$762 for Single Occupancy

VISITING:
• Kraków • Wieliczka
• Wadowice
• Częstochowa
• Auschwitz • Zakopane
• Łódźmierz
• Zalpie

Shrines of France
OCTOBER 14TH - 24TH, 2020
11 Day 10 Night
\$4,349

ALL INCLUSIVE based on Double Occupancy add'l \$700 for Single Occupancy

For more information contact Erika Piotrowski (231) 720.8378 -or- erikap.euro@hotmail.com

NATIONAL SHRINE OF **ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE**
AT MARYTOWN
A Ministry of the Conventual Franciscan Friars

Vibrant Center for Catholic Renewal in the Midwest

RETREAT & CONFERENCE CENTER

24/7 Eucharistic Adoration
Centered around Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Marytown is recognized as one of the most beautiful pilgrimage sites in the nation.

1600 W. Park Avenue
Libertyville, IL 60048
KolbeShrine.org
847-367-7800
Gift Shop
MarytownGiftShop.com

Jerusalem Tours International Ltd.
your best trip starts with us

May 25—June 5 or 7, 2020: Central Europe and Oberammergau, with Fr. Rob Ramser
(Zurich, Munich, Austria, Prague with optional extension to Berlin.)

June 9—18 or 21, 2020: The Holy Land with Oberammergau option, with Fr. Pete Gideon

June 12-20, 2020: Fatima and Lourdes with Oberammergau option, with Fr. Peter Asantebwana

Contact Katy Wyatt at **614.501.6714** or **888.373.8687**
Or email kw Wyatt@jerusalem-tours.com for more information.

The Buy Small, Buy Catholic Gift Guide

30-Plus Ideas for Men, Women, Children, Families and Teachers

BY KATIE WARNER

In this list below, I've rounded up some of my many favorite items for men, women, children, families and teachers — mostly from Catholic small businesses, entrepreneurs and artists. Not only do I think these selections — many of which I already own and love and others I have on my own shopping list — make fabulous gifts, but I also love that I can give something heartfelt to friends and family, while supporting creative Catholic families and companies in the process.

Hope this gift guide matches you with some gems.

For Men

1. Wood Pardon Crucifix or other handcrafted items from The Catholic Woodworker. Gorgeous, high-quality rosaries and other prayer aids.
CatholicWoodWorker.com
2. *Monk Manual*. "A system for being + doing" (basically the coolest type of planner you can imagine).
MonkManual.com
3. Guadalupe Roastery. Good coffee from a company with a great mission and policies.
GuadalupeRoastery.com
4. Rugged Rosaries. Paracord rosaries with tons of styles. I think my husband owns at least three of



them. *CordBands.com*

5. SignumX T-shirt. Signum X (meaning the Sign of the Cross) apparel was started by a Catholic dad who wanted "So-Cal" style shirts with rich meaning.
TheSignoftheCross.com

6. *The Catholic Gentleman* book. "A solid and practical guide to virtuous manhood." Author Sam Guz-

man is a truly genuine soul and wise guide. *EWTNRC.com* or (800) 854-6316; Item: 40684.

For Women

7. Brick House in the City shirts. I love the designs, the gal behind the business, and the fact that they have a new line for kids now, too.

8. Jewelry from Telos Art and Design. Custom faith-centered pieces with modern design. While you're browsing the gorgeous necklaces, check out the super cool rosary window clings for the kids.
TelosArtShop.com

9. Marian pillow cover from

CONTINUES ON PAGE 21

Warner

CONTINUING PAGE 20 STORY

Rooted Designs. If you're looking for something a little more holiday-themed, I also love the Advent wreath coloring pillow.

TheRootedMom.com

10. Sacrifice beads from Happy Nest Home Goods. And if you want to grab sets for the little kids, here are some chewable-friendly ones from Little Praying Hands. Etsy.com

11. Saint notecards from Saint Script: on my wish list. Love these beautiful, artistic cards for anytime. SaintScriptShop.com

12. *Catholic Mother's Planner*: It has all of the bells and whistles of a regular planner, plus inspirational quotes, spiritual challenges, feast days and more. *Blessed Is She* also has a lovely planner for Catholic women. AscensionPress.com; BlessedIsShe.net

For Home and Family

13. *Theology of Home*. More than a lovely addition to your coffee table, this book will capture you with its beautiful photography while nourishing your soul with its wisdom for cultivating authentic faith at home. EWTNRC.com or (800) 854-6316; Item: 3655.

14. Wall Rosary. So many different colors and designs, and a wonderful way to give the holy rosary a special place of honor in the home. Etsy.com

15. Corda Candles. The scents are amazing and the religious theming is so cool. I have the Compline (reminiscent of the Liturgy of the Hours) and Shower of Roses (in honor of St. Therese) candles, and I plan to get more. CordaCandles.com

16. Botanical Rosary art. From Rose Harrington, these gorgeous floral mysteries of the Rosary watercolor paintings add so much spiritual depth and color to any room.

RoseHarrington.com

17. **A Spouse Who Prays*. This little guide to praying for your spouse and marriage has 52 intentions, one for each week of the year, that will take you through praying for an increase in the theological virtues, the cardinal virtues, the fruits and gifts of the Spirit, as well as other virtues and intentions especially important in marital life. Amazon.com

18. Rosary wall hanger. From Rough2Rustic, these hangers sell out quickly, but they are lovely, useful and perfect for a living or prayer room wall. I also love the natural-wood Nativity garland, which you can paint, color or stain and jazz up any fireplace mantel. Rough2Rustic.com

For Kids

19. **First Faith Treasury* books. My absolute favorite board and picture books for little ones and some of the most used and loved books in our home. Check out *Father Ben Gets Ready for Mass*, which is both fun and interactive while also being catechetical, and *Kiddie Cat: A Child's First Catechism Lesson* as a great way to introduce little ones to the story of their Catholic faith.

FirstFaithTreasury.com

20. Saint dolls. These handmade Marzipantz shop dolls are my absolute favorites, but can be hard to get your hands on. Your little ones will also love these saint pillow dolls from Blessed Friends Forever or the wide variety of little saint dolls from Shining Light Dolls. Marzipantz.com; Etsy.com; ShiningLightDolls.com

21. Catholic baby swaddles. The Our Lady of Guadalupe, Sacred Heart, and Saint Francis blankets from Be a Heart Design are all adorable and perfect for boys or girls. BeaHeart.com

22. Catholic Family Crate. Monthly packages help you build Catholic culture at home and live liturgically. I love the activities, mementos, prayers and music. CatholicFamilyCrate.com

23. Saint paper puppets. From Studio Senn, these come in soldier saints and princess saints; perfect shoe stuffers (for St. Nicholas' Day) or stocking stuffers. While you're at her shop, grab a Litany of Humility static cling for your bathroom mirror. (I have one and love it.) StudioSenn.com

24. Lego Catechism of the Seven Sacraments from Holy Heroes. This book is so cool. Your kids will love it, and you'll learn a lot from it, too! EWTNRC.com or (800) 854-6316; Item: 8701.

25. Soft saint bracelets from Chews Life. Cute and perfect for little wrists. Also check out their Divine Mercy teether, chewable rosaries, and now their beautiful rosary bracelets for older kids and adults. ChewsLife.com

26. *My Catholic Keepsake*. A



7



8



9



SHUTTERSTOCK

Appreciating Advent

The word Advent is from the Latin *adventus* for "coming" and is associated with the four weeks of preparation for Christmas. Advent always contains four Sundays, beginning on the Sunday nearest the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle, Nov. 30, and continuing until Dec. 24.

Source: EWTN



10



11



12



13



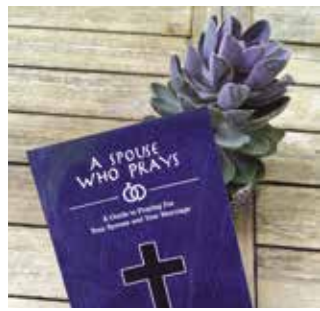
14



15



16



17



18



19



20



21



22



23



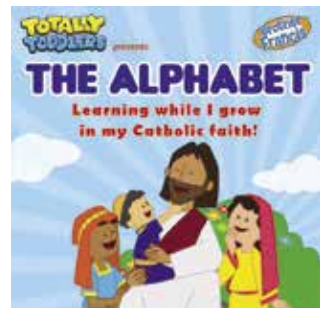
24



25



26



27



28



29



30

unique and modern Catholic baby (through high school) memory book to record both faith and developmental milestones. Such a neat way to record your child's sacraments for him/her. ThyOliveTree.com

27. Brother Francis DVDs. These episodes have solid teaching and are incredibly appealing to the little crowd. I love the *Days of Advent* reflections for little ones, as well as all of the various topics on saints, prayer and sacraments. Also check out the newest series, *Totally Toddlers*. BrotherFrancis.com

For Teachers and Catechists

28. Coffee cozy. These adorable

coffee cozies from The Cozy Wife come in tons of different colors with lots of great saint quotes, Marian titles and customizable options. Consider designing your own with your favorite Bible verse. Etsy.com

29. **A Teacher Who Prays: A Journal to Guide You in Praying for Your Students*. Beautiful little companion for teachers to help them pray intentionally, specifically and uniquely for their students each week. Amazon.com

30. Religious tea towel. In addition to the stylish tea towels from Live Today Well, I also love their tote bags and mugs as great teacher gifts. LiveTodayWellCo.com

Shopping tip: I try to wrap my

gifts before the First Sunday of Advent. This frees up December for making Advent a time of preparation for the birth of Jesus, rather than a month full of stress and shopping. If you haven't tried early holiday shopping before, try it this year. I think you'll be hooked.

Follow Katie Warner online for more Catholic resources for the holidays and year-round @katiwarnercatholic on Instagram, Katie Warner, author & children's book writer on Facebook, and at KatieWarner.com.

*Denotes books written by the author of this guide.

CANDACE GRECO JEWELRY

- 14K TRI-COLOR JERUSALEM CROSS
- BEAUTIFUL ALL-OCCASION

SIZE: 1 1/4" H x 1" W

TO ORDER
772.713.7177
CANDACEGMACMILLAN@GMAIL.COM

Simply The Best! **TRAPPIST PRESERVES**

30 All-Natural Flavors

Trappist Ale Brewed in Massachusetts

Trappist Fruitcakes

- Chocolate • Cookies • Fudge
- Christmas Gifts • Made by Monks & Nuns

FREE CATALOG With Hundreds of Monastery Products

MonasteryGreetings.com
800-472-0425

Your Strong Faith deserves a Strong Rugged Rosary.

Use Code EWTNSHIP for Free Shipping

RuggedRosaries.com

GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE INSURANCE

Learn how you can help protect and insure your family's financial future through the purchase of a very competitive FCSLA life insurance policy.

First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association
of the United States of America • a Fraternal Benefit Society domiciled in Beachwood, OH

FRATERNAL LIFE INSURANCE AND ANNUITIES

24950 Chagrin Boulevard, Beachwood, Ohio 44122 • 800-464-4642 • www.fcsla.org



UNSPASH

Priests, to Save the Church, Answer the Call to Save Souls And Seek the Lord Above All

BOOK PICK

BY JANET SMITH

The Priests We Need to Save the Church by Kevin Wells could, in fact, be the book needed to save the faith of many laity and the priesthood of many priests.

It is an understatement to say that our Church is in a dismal state and that those of us who love her more than our own lives are nonetheless tempted to despair: "Can I really remain in a Church so full of corruption of various kinds and where leaders of the Church seem to be jettisoning dogmas and doctrines we have made many sacrifices to live and defend?"

Our love for the sacraments and our conviction that the Catholic Church is the one founded by our beloved Savior keeps us in the Church despite our shattered trust in our leaders.

Some of us have a hard time conceiving what could possibly be the solution to the crises vitiating the Church today: doctrinal confusion, seemingly rampant sexual misconduct, financial corruption, and the infiltration of alien ideologies. We have lost faith in the bishops as a whole and perhaps especially in the leadership in Rome to be agents of reform; with great reluctance we have come to see they are more of the problem than the solution.

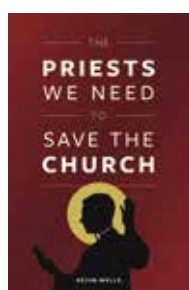
Wells does not dwell on the horrors in the Church, nor does he downplay or ignore them. He does not purport to offer the cure to the life-threatening sepsis in the Church, but he does offer a vision of the priesthood that could strengthen priests and laity and enable us to survive the undoubtedly severe and unsettling purgation that is sure to come, although no one knows the time or hour or what shape it will take. Wells tells that he was urged to write the book by Msgr. John Esseff, once a co-worker of St. Teresa of Calcutta, a renowned exorcist, now 92 years old and still giving retreats and spiritual direction to priests and laity at a ferocious rate.

Decades ago, St. Teresa strongly urged Msgr. Esseff to stop working with the poor and turn his attention to the formation of seminarians. Msgr. Esseff reports that when he began the work, he found seminaries riddled with homosexuality. Wells also records the testimony of priests who have found the priesthood likewise scourged. This problem in the presbyterate is not one that occupies Wells in the book, but it is a part of the background and part of the urgency for finding a way to "save" the Church.

Msgr. Esseff's words seem to permeate Wells' work: "We don't have a priest shortage right now, nor do we have a shortage of vocations. What we have is a shortage of priests who pray. We have a severe crisis in our priesthood because priests are not praying. They are not fathers. If we are to do anything well as priests, it must come from prayer, but we've stopped praying. Consequently, most of our priests seem to be bachelors today."

While this book was written within a year of the revelations concerning the predatory erstwhile cardinal Theodore McCarrick, it is clearly not a rushed project. Wells did his homework: He read the lives of saintly priests and spoke with saintly living priests to clarify what makes for holy priests.

Wells had the great blessing of



THE PRIESTS WE NEED TO SAVE THE CHURCH

By Kevin Wells
Sophia Institute Press, 2019
240 pages, \$17.95
To order: sophia institute.com or
(800) 888-9344

being the nephew of Father Thomas Wells, whom he clearly loved and whose life manifested the characteristics Wells found mark a holy priesthood. The key characteristics are prayerfulness, asceticism, and being willing to be radically available to others and to sacrifice for them. Father Wells was known for walking his neighborhood to chat with people, a chat which regularly included an exhortation to take up one's cross in life, softened by his loving and joyful demeanor.

This book is extremely readable. While it might seem implausible to some that a sports writer would be an excellent prose stylist and full of spiritual wisdom, Wells is. I haven't read a great deal of sports journalism in my lifetime but have read enough to know that there are first-rate writers among sports writers: They have the skill of capturing the lure of challenges, the life-enhancing power of struggles, and especially the joy of victory.

While Wells emphasizes the self-sacrificing dimensions of the priesthood and castigates "bachelor priests," he depicts the self-sacrificing life as one full of surprises, adventures and the inestimable reward of saving souls. Wells possess admirable pedagogical skills; he introduces his subject brilliantly and paces his narrative in such a way that the reader eventually comes to realize that the sacrifices required of a priest are pretty much required of anyone who would be a true follower of Christ.

The book opens with the poignant story of the struggle that Kevin and his wife, Krista, were having with infertility. Krista was so determined to have a baby she was willing to undergo IVF. Kevin arranged a meeting with his uncle,

who cut to the chase and explained why a Christian could not engage in a procedure that was not in accord with God's will for sexuality and procreation.

The priest did not recite comforting platitudes that all would be well and was fully aware of the suffering involved; he simply reminded the Wellses that following our Savior means there will be crosses. Later that night, a drug-crazed man broke into Father Wells' rectory and brutally murdered him.

Wells at one point in his life asked God for a severe suffering to advance his spiritual growth. God's answer was an untreatable brain hemorrhage from which Wells nearly died. When he called upon "Uncle Tommy" for help, his hospital room was filled with light, and Wells was apparently miraculously healed. He attributes his cure to the priest who tended to him on his deathbed and, of course, to his beloved uncle.

Good priests today are hurting — and hurting badly. They are hurting because their flock distrusts them and they distrust their bishops. They are at a loss of how to fortify the faith of their flock when their own faith is under siege.

The laity really do love and appreciate our priests; we should all give this book to priests and seminarians we love — and to the laity we know who wonder what they can do to reform our Church.

Laity should read this book since we too should respond generously to the call that Wells makes to priests: the call to put the salvation of souls above every other good in our lives, to seek intimacy with the Lord through prayer and sacrifice, and to allow that intimacy to guide our every decision.

This book reinforces the message of another book I recently reviewed, Father Carter Griffin's *Why Priestly Celibacy: Reclaiming the Fatherhood of the Priesthood* (Item: 3313, \$24.95, from EWTN Religious Catalogue). Both link celibacy with the demands of being a father and provide a vision of the priesthood totally incompatible with a life of comfort and timidity. Priests who embrace the need for prayer and sacrifice inherent in both priesthood and fatherhood will indeed be the priests we need to save the Church.

Janet E. Smith, Ph.D.,
is a moral theologian,
recently retired from Sacred
Heart Seminary in Detroit.

A Prayer for Priests

By St. Thérèse of Lisieux

O Jesus, Eternal Priest,
keep your priests within the
shelter of your Sacred Heart,
where none may touch them.
Keep unstained their anointed
hands, which daily touch your
sacred Body.
Keep unsullied their lips,
daily purpled with
your Precious Blood.
Keep pure and unearthly
their hearts,
sealed with the sublime mark of
the priesthood.
Let your holy love surround
them and shield them from the
world's contagion.
Bless their labors with abundant
fruit, and may the souls to whom
they minister be their joy
and consolation here
and in heaven their beautiful
and everlasting crown.
Amen.



Source: CNA

UNSPASH

scapulars.com

Scapulars Built to Last

For as long as we can remember, average brown scapulars have been poorly made. They look cheap, they irritate your skin, and, worst of all, they break very easily. That's why scapulars.com is bringing some much-needed innovation to this beloved devotion. Now you can get beautiful, comfortable scapulars that are guaranteed to last.

SAINT JOHN PAUL II NATIONAL SHRINE Christmas Gifts & More

Rosaries • Books & DVDs • Advent & Christmas • Apparel
Children's Section • Items for the Home • Sacred Art



Across the street from Catholic University!

Open Daily 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
gift.shop@jp2shrine.org • www.jp2shrine.org
3900 Harewood Road NE • Washington, DC 20017

Present this Ad for
15% OFF
Entire purchase
Expires:
01/06/20

Help Us Spread THE TRUTH.



Donate Securely Online
at NCRegister.com/donate
For additional information
or giving options please
contact Mission Advancement
at 205.795.5777 or
missionadvancement@ewtn.com

NATIONAL CATHOLIC
REGISTER
READ FAITHFULLY

NCRegister.com/donate A service of **EWTN News**