Fatima story continues to intrigue

**Junno Arocho Esteves CNS**

**VATICAN CITY.** While conversion and prayer are at the heart of Mary's messages at Fatima, Portugal, the miracles and unexplained phenomenon that accompanied the events 100 years ago continue to intrigue believers and nonbelievers alike.

The apparitions of Mary at Fatima in 1917 were not the first supernatural events reported there. Two years before Mary appeared to the three shepherd children – Lucia dos Santos and her cousins, Jacinta and Francisco Marto – they saw a strange sight while praying the rosary in the field, according to the memoirs of Sister Lucia, who had become a Carmelite nun.

"We had hardly begun when, there before our eyes, we saw a figure poised in the air above the trees; it looked like a statue made of snow, rendered almost transparent by the rays of the sun," she wrote, describing what they saw in 1915.

The next year, Francisco and Jacinta received permission to tend their family's flocks and Lucia decided to join her cousins in a field owned by their families. **Continued on page 6**

**Deacon Harrington looks to the faith to endure cancer diagnosis**

**Ned Andrew Solomon**

Deacon Henry Harrington is a man of very strong faith. It is safe to say that it permeates every aspect of his life and work.

And, as he deals with immuno-therapy treatments to fight stage four cancer of his lungs, kidneys and lymph nodes, he relies on his Catholic faith more than ever.

He has been a dedicated parishioner at St. Vincent de Paul Church since 1977, a campus minister for Tennessee State University, Fisk University and Meharry Medical College for six years, and is currently a guidance counselor for H.G. Hill Middle School. In 2006 he became a deacon, deepening his involvement with the St. Vincent de Paul parish.

"I've always felt a calling," said Deacon Harrington. "I always did things around the church for the church. When I became a campus minister for TSU, Fisk and Meharry, I really started wanting to do more."

He has a special place in the hearts of his fellow parishioners, who organized a mass early April to honor his long-time commitment. Deacon Harrington was told the parish wanted to do something to thank him, but he wasn't expecting anything big.

Besides a church packed with the St. Vincent de Paul congregation, there were seven deacons present from other churches.

"It was so powerful and so overwhelming, their love, and their commitment to me," he said. "I love that parish. I'm not talking about the building. I'm talking about the people. God has entrusted them to me as their deacon, and I really take that responsibility seriously."

For Deacon Harrington, one of the best parts of being a deacon and having such an extensive history with one parish is watching youth turn into adults, get married, have their own children and become involved in their own ways with St. Vincent de Paul.

"I have one – Aaron Shelton – he was the TSU president on campus when I was the minister," said Deacon Harrington. "He met his wife – Sabrina Haney – who was the Meharry president. They met at Fisk University when we were having a bible study. Now they're in our parish. Aaron is on the... **Continued on page 10**
Bishop Choby celebrates Mass while recovering

On Tuesday of Holy Week, the night before undergoing surgery for treatment of injuries that he suffered in a fall at his home on Feb. 7, Bishop David Choby celebrated Mass in his hospital room surrounded by members of his family and a few friends.

He preached on the annual celebration of Christ's passion and death on the cross and our hope in the resurrection that follows on Easter Sunday.

The surgery that took place on Wednesday, April 12, went well as a preliminary step toward a more extensive surgery to stabilize broken vertebrae that have kept the bishop in bed since the fall. The second surgery should take place in the near future, but plans were not final as the Tennessee Register went to press.

The bishop has been confined to bed and has been undergoing treatment since he fell at the back door of his home on Feb. 7. In the fall, he suffered a cut on the back of his head and damaged his vertebrae.

He was taken by ambulance to Skyline Medical Center for initial treatment and later transferred to Saint Thomas West Hospital, where his regular doctors practice.

The bishop underwent a series of tests to determine the extent of the injury to his back when a serious infection developed. He has been successfully treated for that infection, and the successful completion of the latest surgery moves the bishop closer to a surgery to treat the broken vertebrae that have kept him confined to the bed.

Bishop Choby’s health problems have been lingering for several years. In September 2010, he felt discomfort and was taken to Saint Thomas West Hospital for treatment of injuries and a blockage in his heart. He underwent surgery on his back in preparation for the more extensive surgery to repair fractures in his back planned for a few weeks later. Father Germán Menezes, center, and Deacon Jim McKenzie, right, assist Bishop Choby during the Mass.

On Feb. 2, he was hospitalized briefly after he became ill while celebrating Mass for Catholic school students. Since his fall Feb. 7, the bishop on several occasions has expressed his gratitude for all the prayers and good wishes he has received from the people of the Diocese of Nashville.

“I very much appreciate all of the prayers following my injury,” Bishop Choby said. “Together let us look forward to better days through improving weather, as well as better times through my improved health.”

Catholic Charities hosts meeting to release report on community needs

ANDY TELLI

The income disparity between African Americans and whites in Davidson County is just as great today as it was in 1960, according to the 2016 Community Needs Evaluation released by the Metro Social Services Department during a special meeting held April 7 at the Catholic Pastoral Center.

In 2015, the median household income for whites in Davidson County was $69,366 and $34,856 for African Americans, noted Dinah Gregory, director of planning and coordination — social data analysis, who presented the study to a group of more than 300 people representing service organizations, other non-profit groups, advocacy groups, elected officials and Metro and state government officials.

The report focused primarily on whites and African Americans because they are the two largest racial or ethnic groups in Davidson County, Gregory said.

The difference in income can be attributed to several social and economic factors, including the lower number of college graduates in the African American community, which can have a long-term impact on a person’s earning potential, Gregory said.

It is getting harder for people to climb up the economic ladder out of poverty, she said. “Minorities are not able to catch up.”

The Community Needs Evaluation is a profile of Davidson County based on social, socio-economic and demographic data, Gregory explained. It includes statistics on a variety of topics, including aging and disability, health, housing, workforce and economic opportunity, and food and nutrition.

The purpose is to provide information to governmental agencies and community organizations to help them set policy and funding levels and to develop programs to address the most pressing issues facing the city, Gregory said.

Nashville Mayor Megan Barry was on hand as Gregory and others from the Metro Social Services Department reviewed the document.

This year’s evaluation, the eighth annual, included two additional areas of interest: income disparity and the effects of toxic stress.

Children who experience stress due to poverty over a long period of time or from very intense experiences can suffer lasting damage, physically and emotionally, Gregory said.

She decided to include a section on toxic stress and poverty in this year’s Community Needs Evaluation after attending a 2015 summit sponsored by Gov. Bill Haslam on adverse childhood experiences, Gregory said. “It just opened up my eyes to how much difference this makes.”

Toxic stress for children can have a negative impact on brain development that can lead to poorer health, lower educational achievement, and higher risk for drug and alcohol abuse as adults, Gregory said.

One thing that can reduce the adverse effects of toxic stress is establishing positive, protective and caring relationships with adults, Gregory said.

“The best way to address these are through prevention and very early intervention,” Gregory said.

Catholic Charities of Tennessee, which hosted the meeting to unveil the Community Needs Evaluation, is one of the agencies that will use the report to shape its programming. “Now that we have a copy of the report, we’ll use the information as part of our own assessment of services we provide in Davidson County,” said Pam Russo, executive director of Catholic Charities.

Her predecessor, Bill Sinclair, before he retired, made arrangements to offer the Catholic Pastoral Center as a location for the meeting to release the report.

The Catholic Pastoral Center was convenient and offered plenty of parking, Gregory said. “It was wonderful. We appreciate that so much.”
Effort to boost endowment for schools gains momentum

Theresa Laurence

Principals and administrators in the Diocese of Nashville have long known that the need for tuition assistance to attend Catholic schools far exceeds the available funds. Over the years, “we haven’t done a great job of championing the cause,” but now, “we’re definitely building traction, getting momentum” to support a sustainable tuition assistance program, according to Marty Blair, co-chair of a new fundraising event for the Endowment for the Advancement of Catholic Schools Inc.

A reception to support EACS will be held at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, May 6, at Holy Family Church in Brentwood. Tickets are $100 each.

Leading up to the main event May 6, several preliminary, smaller fundraising gatherings have taken place, and donations and sponsorships totaling more than $50,000 have already been raised, according to Blair. “This is really about raising awareness,” he said. Blair, whose wife taught at St. Henry School, and whose two children attended St. Henry and Father Ryan High School, said organizers are making an effort to tap into Catholic school alumni, and parents whose children have graduated from Catholic schools. “We want to keep folks engaged,” he said.

For a Catholic school education can be a sacrifice for many families today, and tuition requests for tuition assistance far outpaces the ability of schools in the diocese to meet them.

“This past year we had over $400,000 of requests, and the earnings on the unrestricted endowment provides a little less than $20,000 annually,” Blair said. “Our Catholic schools are in dire need.”

To distribute the tuition assistance funds, the Catholic Schools office sends out an application to each of the diocesan school principals; they make an application for tuition assistance for their students most in need. The development committee of the EACS board, which includes Father Dexter Brewer, pastor of Christ the King Church, Father David Perkin, Moderator of the Curia, and Therese Williams, Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Nashville, along with other EACS board members, meet and review the applications and make a recommendation to Bishop David Choby as to how the limited funds get distributed, Blair said.

Blair is hopeful that new EACS fundraising efforts will expand access to Catholic education. “Catholic schools should not just be for those who have the ability of schools in the diocese to meet them.”

To this end, an EACS reception grew out of the work of a task force formed in 2014 by Bishop Choby to explore ways to make Catholic schools more affordable. One recommendation of the task force was to develop a diocesan-wide marketing campaign, and another was to increase the funds invested through EACS.

Blair is hopeful this inaugural EACS reception will become an annual event growing at a pace similar to the annual Seminarian Education Benefit Dinner and Auction fundraiser. Seven years ago, that event raised $6,000, and the goal for the 2017 event, to be held May 25 at Holy Family, is $225,000. “I really like the model for the seminarian event,” said Blair. “It’s grown and gets support from all over the diocese. Everybody is aware and involved in it.”

EACS has more than 20 designated funds that benefit schools and educational programs in the diocese, including every diocesan school. The foundation also has several designated funds donated to the bishop to support Catholic education. The EACS board advises the bishop on how to distribute the returns on those funds.

Blair is hopeful the May 6 reception will be the first step toward building the endowment to meet future needs while also boosting the amount available for current needs. Toward that goal, 50 percent of the money raised will be deposited into the endowment and 50 percent will be available for current needs.

The May 6 reception will be a diocesan-wide effort meant to complement the efforts of individual schools to raise funds for tuition assistance, Blair noted. The May 6 reception will start at 6:30 p.m. with music from the Holy Family Deacon John Calzavarra’s jazz group. The program will also feature two talks, one by a current Catholic school student receiving tuition assistance and another by an alumnus of Catholic schools whose life has been impacted by the education they received.

Everyone in the diocese is invited. Tickets will be available for purchase online or by calling Betty Lou Burnett, the facilities director at Holy Family Church, at 615-373-4696, extension 223, or emailing BettyLou.Burnett@holymfamilycc.com. Organizers are still seeking corporate sponsors for the reception.

For more information about EACS or making a donation, contact Therese Williams at 615-383-6395 or therese.williams@dioceseofnashville.com, or visit www.dioceseofnashville.com/endowment-for-the-advancement-of-catholic-schools.
St. Cecilia builds support for Mary’s Meals hunger relief program

Theresa Laurence

St. Cecilia Academy students have no shortage of lunch options in the school cafeteria. They can choose to make a fresh salad or dish up something from the hot bar, loaded with meats, vegetables and starches. There’s no question where their next meal is coming from.

That is not a luxury that millions of children who live in poverty around the world have. Some may go days without eating or else subsist on one meager meal a day.

For the past three years, and especially this recent Lenten season, St. Cecilia students have been taking steps in solidarity with children around the world who go hungry every day, and raise money to support them. During Lent, students worked with the school cafeteria manager to serve a simple meal of rice and beans every Friday; for a donation of any amount, the students could support Mary’s Meals, an international non-profit organization dedicated to providing school lunches to children in developing countries, and get a taste of what those children eat to survive, day after day.

As part of St. Cecilia’s support for Mary’s Meals, every student, and some parents, watched the documentary film “Child 31,” which gives an intimate glimpse into the lives of children served by Mary’s Meals.

“Seeing that documentary makes it really real,” St. Cecilia senior Elise Driver said. “It’s not a generalization,” she said, explaining that often problems like “child poverty” and “hunger” can seem vague and too big to solve, but “Child 31” made those issues personal and alive for her. “I learned that you can do something about it. …We learn to put our faith into action.”

By targeting schools, Mary’s Meals and rice during one of the last school lunch services of Lent. Every Friday during Lent, students were encouraged to eat a simple lunch and donate money to Mary’s Meals, an international hunger relief organization. The school raised more than $2,000 to help Mary’s Meals feed school children living in poverty.

For the past three years, and especially this recent Lenten season, St. Cecilia students have more than $2,000 to help Mary’s Meals feed school children living in poverty.

For more information about Mary’s Meals, go to www.marysmeals.org.uk.
A few words can begin journey from stress to balance

Mary McWilliams

“Hey, I’d like to come in and talk to someone about counseling.”

It’s a stress-free way to get help for stress that could be getting out of control. Just a few words can help begin to re-route a person feeling overwhelmed, back into balance and on the road to health again, according to Lisa McGovern, supervisor of counseling services for Catholic Charities of Tennessee. With April designated as Stress Awareness Month, McGovern is taking the opportunity to shine a light on a lesser known service of Catholic Charities, its counseling program, which is available year-round to anyone who needs help.

With a sliding scale that takes into account not just income but expenses, fees for counseling sessions range from $2 to $92, which makes it affordable even for individuals and families in the most dire financial circumstances. Services are available to everyone; you don’t have to be Catholic or a member of the Diocese of Nashville to make an appointment. But how do you know that you might need counseling? The circumstances are highly individual, said McGovern. It could be a situation as specific as dealing with a co-worker to an overwhelming home or financial circumstances. Services are highly individual, said McGovern.

The term “stress” can often be used causally to indicate a negative response to an unpleasant or difficult situation, but stress, in balanced condition, is a survival mechanism.

McGovern said, “It cues the body that there’s a danger.” She explained that the body changes with stress. There is a release of hormones that are sent throughout the body to tell us there is a potential threat. An example of stress working in balance would be the drive to study for an exam or meet a deadline. “Stress helps us to push things done. It helps us pay attention.”

Stress that has gone on too long can become problematic. With chronic stress, the body has a hard time resting and is always on alert due to the flood of hormones, McGovern continued. She said that it can lead to fatigue and difficulty in concentration. Eventually, other quite serious manifestations may arise: pain, depression, digestion issues, immune system weakness, and a constant state of feeling overwhelmed and out of control.

Counseling is a way of trying to get yourself back in balance so you can manage that stress. Catholic Charities offers individual counseling: sitting down face to face with an experienced professional and talking about the problem. McGovern said that the counselor and patient decide together what they want to accomplish.

“It’s a collaborative experience,” she said. “We want the counseling experience to be meaningful for them.” And, the intention is to put a framework around it so a client is not in therapy indefinitely. “We have people put into words what their stress is – it may not be as big as they thought. Putting it into words has clarity. The goal is for people not to need counseling.”

That goes even for those who think their problems are too big to solve. “It’s okay to say ‘I got nothing to lose’ by seeking counseling, McGovern offered. “Counseling helps them slow down, step back and take things in smaller bites.”

In addition to eating well and getting proper sleep, McGovern recommends helping yourself maintain a balance by engaging in some kind of regular form of movement or exercise – whatever type works for you. She also says to take time daily in stillness, such as prayer or meditation. “That’s normally the point when people go ‘I need to talk to someone about counseling.’”

With a counseling service that is confidential, counselors man the phones. Some- times callers are ready to make an appointment to meet with a counselor for an appointment at one of five locations: the main office on McGavock Pike, St. Stephen Church in Old Hickory; St. Rose of Lima Church in Murfreesboro; St. Philip Church in Franklin; and West Nashville. Sessions for Spanish speakers are available at the main office and the South Nashville Family Resource Center.

• 17 middle school students received Grand Recognition by Duke University’s TIP Scholar Program
• Saint Matthew School was nominated by the Council for American Private Education to the U.S. Board of Education as one of 50 private schools eligible for Blue Ribbon status
• 3 middle school students received State Recognition
• Every grade level scored in the top 15% on national standardized tests
• Saint Matthew School was nominated for Blue Ribbon status
• 2 seventh grade students were awarded 1st place trophies in the state Science Olympiad competition

Divine Mercy Sunday highlights God’s merciful love

On Sunday, April 23, Catholics around the Diocese of Nashville will join others around the world in celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday, asking for God’s mercy for themselves and the whole world with special services that will include praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet and venerating the Divine Mercy image. A list of prayer services in the diocese that will host Divine Mercy services is below.

The devotion to Divine Mercy is based on the writings and revelations of St. Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun in the 1930s. The revelations from Jesus Christ were recorded in notebooks that were compiled as “The Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska.”

Parishes hosting services on Divine Mercy Sunday include:
• Cathedral of the Incarnation, Nashville, Conferences 1:30-2:30 p.m., Divine Mercy Celebration at 2 p.m.
• Church of the Assumption, Nashville. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 2:30 p.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet, followed by Vespers and Benediction, begins at 3 p.m.
• Church of the Nativity, Spring Hill. Divine Mercy Celebration at 2 p.m. The Divine Mercy image will be venerated at all Masses during the weekend: 5 p.m. Saturday and 8:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday.
• Good Shepherd Church, Decaturville. A Divine Mercy service will follow the 10:30 a.m. Mass.
• holy Trinity Church, Hohenwald, 3 p.m.
• Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Nashville, 1-3 p.m.
• Our Lady of the Lake Church, Hendersonville, 3 p.m.
• Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Springfield, 3 p.m.
• Sacred Heart Church, Lawrenceburg, 3 p.m.

The Divine Mercy Celebration will include praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Anointing of the Sick, and Benediction.
• Sacred Heart Church, Loretto, 3 p.m.
• St. Andrew Church, Sparta, 9:30 a.m. following the 8:30 a.m. Mass.
• St. Anthony Church, Fayetteville, 3 p.m. Divine Mercy Service and Adoration followed by Benediction.
• St. Catherine Church, McMinnville. Rosary at 2:30 p.m. followed by the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction.
• St. Christopher Church, Dickson. Adoration, Rosary and Conference at 2 p.m. Divine Mercy prayers at 3 p.m. Re- ception to follow in the parish Social Hall.
• St. Edward Church, Nashville, 3 p.m.
• St. Ignatius of Antioch Church, Nashville will have one hour of Eucharistic Adoration between Sunday Masses, 9:15-10:15 a.m.
• St. Joseph Church, Madison, 3 p.m.
• St. Luke Church, Smyrna, Conferences 1:30-2:30 p.m., Divine Mercy Celebration, 3 p.m., followed by a reception.
• St. Paul the Apostle Church, Tullahoma, 3 p.m.
• St. Philip Church, Franklin, 3 p.m.
• St. Pius X Church, Nashville. Conferences at 2:30 p.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3 p.m., followed by refreshments in the back of the church.
• St. Rose of Lima Church, Murfreesboro. Rosary at 2:30 p.m. Divine Mercy Celebration at 3 p.m. The service will be bilingual.
• St. William Church, Shelbyville. The parish will host a special presentation on the Divine Mercy devotion after the 10 a.m. Mass on Sunday, April 23. The presentation will be bilingual. The parish hosts a Divine Mercy service at noon and 3 p.m. every day except Sunday.
It was 1916 when the mysterious figure appeared again, this time approaching close enough to “distinguish its features,” Sister Lucia recalled.

“Do not be afraid! I am the Angel of Peace. Pray with me,” Sister Lucia recalled the angel saying.

The three told no one about the angel’s visit and received no more heavenly visits until May 13, 1917. While the children tended their sheep and played, they were startled by two flashes of lightning. As they made their way down a slope, the children saw a “lady all dressed in white” standing on a small tree. It was the first of six apparitions of Mary, who gave a particular message or revelation each time:

- May 13, 1917. When asked by the children who she was and where she came from, the lady said she was “from heaven” and that she would reveal her identity later. She asked the children to continue to pray to the Conception of the Immaculate Heart of Mary on earth for “some time longer” until her identity was revealed.

- June 13, 1917. The lady said she would take Francisco and Jacinta to heaven soon while Lucia would remain on earth for “some time longer” to establish devotion to the Immaculate Heart.

- July 13, 1917. The lady said she would reveal her identity in October and “perform a miracle for all to see and believe.” After telling the children to make sacrifices for sinners, she revealed three secrets: two of the secrets were not shared publicly until 1941 and the third secret, written down by Sister Lucia and sent to the Vatican, was not released until 2000.

The first secret involved a vision of hell in which the children saw “a sea of fire” with demons and human souls shrieking “in pain and despair.” In her memoir, Sister Lucia said people nearby, who had begun gathering around the children on the 13th of the month, heard her “cry out” during the frightening revelation.

The second secret was that while World War I would come to an end, a “worse one will break out” if people continued offending God. The children were told that calamity would be prevented if Russia was consecrated to the Immaculate Heart. Although Sister Lucia confirmed that the consecration was done properly by Pope Pius XII in 1942 and by St. John Paul II in 1984, some Fatima devotees continue to argue that it was not.

The third and final secret, revealed 83 years after the Fatima apparitions, was a vision of a “bishop dressed in white” shot down amid the rubble of a ruined city. The official Vatican interpretation, discussed with Sister Lucia before its publication, was that it referred to the persecution of Christians in the 20th century and, specifically, to the 1981 assassination attempt on the life of St. John Paul II.

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the future Pope Benedict XVI, was prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith at the time of the third secret’s publication in 2000. Presenting the secret and the interpretation to the press, he said the vision’s purpose was not to show an “irrevocably fixed future” but to “mobilize the forces of change in the right direction.”

- Aug. 13, 1917. The lady again said she would perform a miracle in October and asked that the money given by pilgrims be used to build a chapel on the site of the apparitions.

- Sept. 13, 1917. The lady asked them to continue to pray the rosary “to obtain the end of the war,” and she said that Jesus, St. Joseph, Our Lady of Sorrows and Our Lady of Carmel would appear during the miracle in October.

- Oct. 13, 1917. Despite the pouring rain, thousands of people went to the Cova da Iria to witness the long-awaited miracle.

The lady identified herself as “Our Lady of the Rosary” and said the war would end and the soldiers would return home. After asking that people cease to offend God, she opened her hands, which reflected a light toward the sun.

Sister Lucia recalled crying out, “Look at the sun!” As the crowds looked on, the sun appeared to “dancing” and changing colors. The children also saw the promised figures of Jesus, St. Joseph and Mary.

Amazement at the “dancing sun” turned to panic when the sun seemed to hurl toward earth. Fearing the end of the world, some people screamed and ran, some tried to hide and lay on their knees, praying for mercy. Then the sun returned to its place.

Thirteen years after Mary’s final apparition, Pope Francis declared the visions of the three shepherd children “worthy of belief” and allowed the veneration of Our Lady of Fatima. However, the bishops have not canonized the “dancing sun” as miraculous.

On April 20, the Vatican announced Pope Francis will declare the sainthood of Jacinta and Francisco on May 13, during his visit to Fatima to mark the 100th anniversary of the apparitions.

A year after the apparitions, both of the Marto children became ill during an influenza epidemic that plagued Europe. Francisco died April 4, 1919, at the age of 10, while Jacinta succumbed to her illness Feb. 20, 1920, at the age of 9.

The children’s cousin, Lucia, entered the Carmelites. Sister Lucia died in 2005 at the age of 97. The diocesan phase of her sainthood cause concluded in February and is now under study at the Vatican.
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If you have enough room in your heart for a child who desperately needs a loving home, please consider becoming a foster parent.

[Image: Youth Villages logo and contact information]

Open hearts can open doors.

Catholic Charities to host poverty simulation and discussion May 6

The Family Empowerment Program of Safe Haven Family Shelter and Catholic Charities of Tennessee is hosting a poverty simulation and discussion for people ages 16 and older on Saturday, May 6, at the Goodwill Career Center, 937 Herman Street, in Nashville. The simulation will help participants experience firsthand the disadvantages faced by families living in poverty, hear true stories about how poverty has affected the lives of many families in Nashville, and engage in dialogue and action to end family homelessness.

Light breakfast and registration is 8:45 a.m.; the event will conclude by noon. The event is free and people can register online by May 1 at bit.ly/SpringIntoActionSim. For more information, contact Morgan at 865-835-8381 or msouthers@cctenn.org.

Saint Thomas Health to host free clinic in Rutherford County

Saint Thomas Health, part of Ascension, the nation’s largest Catholic and non-profit health system, is partnering with various locally-based agencies to sponsor a Day of Hope, Healing and Health to provide care for hundreds of low-income uninsured or underinsured individuals in Rutherford County.

The event, which will be held 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, April 29, will include free primary and specialty healthcare services, such as pediatric and adult dentistry, mammograms, vision services, foot and wound care, behavioral medicine and no-cost prescription medication made possible through the Dispensary of Hope.

The free clinic will be held at Hobgood Elementary School at 307 South Baird Lane in Murfreesboro. It is part of the Ascension Medical Mission at Home program, a national effort by Ascension and its caregivers to host similar events across the country. To date, Medical Mission at Home events have been held in Tennessee, Washington D.C., New York, Alabama, Florida, Connecticut, Indiana and Texas, and there are plans to expand to other markets in the coming months to meet individual and community health needs.

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New transitional deacons urged to let people see Jesus in them

Andy Telli

As Anh Tuan Phan and Richard Childress processed down the main aisle of St. Joseph Church in Madison toward the altar and their ordination as transitional deacons, Phan said, “I wasn’t nervous but my palms were sweating.”

“My palms were sweating because I knew I’m not worthy,” said Deacon Phan. “But since the beginning of my life God is working through me.”

The two seminarians for the Diocese of Nashville passed an important milestone toward their ordination as priests, scheduled for the summer of 2018, when Bishop Richard Stika of Knoxville laid his hands upon their heads and ordained them as transitional deacons on Friday, April 7.

“We beseech you, Lord: look with favor on these servants of yours, who will minister at your altar and whom we now humbly dedicate to the office of Deacon,” prayed Bishop Stika. “Send forth upon them, Lord, we pray, the Holy Spirit, that they may be strengthened by the gift of your sevenfold grace for the faithful carrying out of the work of the ministry.”

During his homily, Bishop Stika, who celebrated the ordination Mass for Bishop David Choby who could not be there because of his health problems, told of a man from his native St. Louis who built ambos. The man would decorate each with a line from the Gospel of John: “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.”

“The two of you have now made a public proclamation,” Bishop Stika said. “People will be saying for the rest your life, ‘Sir, we wish to see Jesus.’”

He urged the two men to allow people to see Jesus in their lives as deacons and ultimately as priests, in proclaiming the Gospel and in the breaking of bread at the communion table.

“We should be the face and hands of the Gospel in the world,” said Bishop Stika.

Bishop Richard Stika of Knoxville ordained Richard Childress and Anh Tuan Phan to the transitional diaconate during a Mass at St. Joseph Parish in Madison on Friday, April 7, 2017. Bishop Stika celebrated the ordination on behalf of Bishop Choby who continues to recover from a fall in February. Photos by Rick Musacchio

Seminarian Education Dinner adds auction items to lineup

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The eighth annual Seminarian Education Dinner and Auction has added a list of fun live auction items, including several dinners prepared by priests and deacons.

Among the auction items that will be available at the event, which will be held 6-9 p.m. Tuesday, May 23, at Holy Family Church in Brentwood, will be:

- A Brazilian dinner for eight people with a special Mass at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Nashville provided by Fathers Dan Steiner, Gervan Menezes and Michael Fye, who are all in residence at the Cathedral.
- An Eastern North Carolina Dinner for 10 prepared by Father John Hammond and Deacon Dan Pyles at the home of Deacon Pyles and his wife Beth in College Station.
- A Jamaican dinner for eight prepared by Father Zack Kirangu, the associate pastor at St. Philip Church, at your home or the location of your choice.
- A Cajun Dinner and Mass with Father Phillip Halladay, a native of Mobile, Alabama, prepared by Paul and Monica Garvey.
- A barbecue dinner for 100 catered by Fate Thomas Jr.
- A Chef’s Table dinner provided by the Clean Plate Club.
- High tea Dominican style, with homemade delicacies, on a Sunday afternoon at the historic motherhouse of the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia in Nashville. After the high tea, the high bidder will be able to join more than 100 Dominican sisters for sung vespers, rosary and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in the chapel at the Motherhouse.
- The use of two vacation homes in Panama City, Florida, and a cabin on Center Hill Lake in Tennessee.
- A bronze statue of the Pieta from Romania to educate its seminarians.
- A bronze statue of the Pieta from Romania.
- A Chef’s Table dinner provided by the Clean Plate Club.
- High tea Dominican style.

The above is just a partial list of some of the many auction items that folks can bid on,” said Bob Rudman, chairman of the Seminarian Dinner and Auction, which is sponsored by the Serra Clubs of Williamson County and Nashville and the Knights of Columbus. “It might be wise to have a group of friends combine their resources for not only a great experience but a marvelous way to help us reach our financial goal for this year is $225,000.

To help reach this year’s goal, the Catholic Extension Society, which helps mission dioceses like the Diocese of Nashville, a matching grant up to $50,000 on any funds raised and received in cash between March 16, 2017, and May 31, 2017.

The diocese currently has 28 seminarians studying at seminaries in the United States and Rome. Each year, the diocese spends more than $1 million to educate its seminarians. Since the fundraiser was established in 2010, the event has quickly grown as an important contributor toward the costs of educating the future priests of the Diocese of Nashville. In its first year, the event raised $6,000, but last year it raised $190,000. The goal for this year is $225,000.

Organizers are hoping for another sellout crowd for the event; Holy Family can accommodate 600 people. Tickets are $100 each and tables of eight are available for $800 and tables of 10 for $1,000. Reservations will be taken until the maximum of 600 is met or by Monday, May 15, whichever comes first.

For more information about tickets, sponsorships, auction items or making a donation toward the matching grant, contact Sandra Jordan at 615-783-0267 or sandra.jordan@dioceseofnashville.com.
Celebrating Holy Week

Christians churches around the world marked the most sacred week of the year, Holy Week, commemorating Jesus’ passion, death and resurrection, Apr. 9-16. Special liturgies were held in the Diocese of Nashville and around the world during the week. Below, Bishop Terry Steib celebrated the Chrism Mass for the Diocese of Nashville at the Cathedral of the Incarnation on Wednesday, April 12. During the Chrism Mass, the bishop blesses all the holy oils used for sacraments in the diocese throughout the year; it is also the time when priests renew their vows.

The congregation of Holy Name Church in East Nashville celebrated Palm Sunday on April 9 with an outdoor procession around the block from the parish center into the church, recalling Jesus’ final entry into Jerusalem before his death.

Photo by Theresa Laurence

Father Thomas Kalam, CMI, associate pastor at Our Lady of the Lake Church in Hendersonville, celebrates Mass on Easter morning, April 16. Father Kalam delivers his homily during the Mass.

Photo by Andy Telli

Photo by Rick Musacchio
Deacon Harrington looks to his faith to endure cancer diagnosis

Deacon Henry Harrington is surrounded by members of the St. Vincent de Paul parish choir after a special Mass held to honor him earlier this month. A member of the parish for 40 years, Deacon Harrington is relying on his faith, family, and fellow parishioners as he copes with a late-stage cancer diagnosis.

New transitional deacons urged to let people see Jesus in them

Jesus to all we meet, but especially the heart of Jesus,” Bishop Stika said. Bishop Stika’s message resonated with the new transitional deacons. “Sir, (we) wish to see Jesus.” That’s what I’m hoping to do,” said Deacon Childress, who in his homily was praying for God to bring unique perspectives to their work for the Church. “I pray that you might be the best of witnesses,” he told both men. Bishop Stika told them to give themselves totally to the Church, “to be wedded to the Church,” he said. “I think the Lord is gonna pull me out of this. I’m praying that he will. I have my faith that he will.”

The cancer was not diagnosed until last December, and had already advanced to the latter stages. At first, doctors suspected it was pneumonia. Deacon Harrington was given three rounds of antibiotics, but there was little improvement.

“That’s when we figured out that something else must be wrong,” he recalled. “They checked me for other things and I had cancer.”

To make matters worse, Deacon Harrington’s arm was badly injured the day of his diagnosis. He was getting into his truck and – though not even using it – his left arm broke. That arm hasn’t healed since December and has actually healed to the Church, ‘to be wedded to the Church.’

The new transitional deacons urged to let people see Jesus in them

Continued from page 8

Continued from front page

parish council; Sabrina is in the Ladies’ Auxiliary. It is such a wonderful thing.’ He has also lived long enough to watch his own family grow, exponentially. He and his wife, Rosilyn, have been married 39 years. They have four children – Dawn, Henry III, Charles David and Amanda, ages 31 to 37. They have witnessed the births of eight grandchildren, including a fourth Henry.

Despite his diagnosis, Deacon Harrington is planning to continue watching his grandchildren become adults, remaining an involved father and grand- father. ‘We’re looking forward to a full life,’ he said. ‘I think the Lord is gonna bless me and let me through a “why me?” phase, but ultimately arrive at some further understanding through delving into his faith. I started looking at how Jesus endured the cross,” explained Deacon Harrington. ‘He didn’t want to go to the cross. It showed up at the Garden of Gethsemane, when He was praying. His humanity did not want to go to the cross, but His faith took over. He was able to endure the cross because of His knowledge of God’s will. Right now, I’m able to endure my cross because I know that whatever I have, God is with me. ’

‘I don’t think I would be able to deal with the cancer if it wasn’t for my faith,’ continued Deacon Harrington. ‘I’m not worried at all about living or dying. I’m really not, because I know that if I’m absent from my body, I’m present with the Lord.’

His biggest fear now is being unable to work at the middle school and at the parish. He has chosen not to take short-term disability. He does physical therapy regularly to try to strengthen his arm and shoulder. He does immunotherapy bi-weekly, a treatment that stimulates a person’s own immune system to attack the cancer cells.

‘I don’t want to sit around the house and just think about having cancer,’ said Deacon Harrington. ‘I love what I do as a counselor. I love talking to the kids and helping them through their transitions. And I don’t want to lose my preaching. I think the Lord has blessed me with the ability to preach, and I don’t want the Lord to take that away from me.”

Deacon Harrington is extremely grateful for the St. Vincent de Paul parishioners, who have taken him and his wife under their wings. ‘They’ve kept my spirits up,’ he said. ‘The church and the pastor are so supportive. They give us money and whatever we need. They love to share their gifts. I’m so happy that we belong to a church that we love like we do.’

Deacon Childress, a convert to Catholicism, Bishop Stika said both men bring unique perspectives to their work for the Church. ‘I pray that you might be the best of witnesses,’ he told both men. Bishop Stika told them to give themselves totally to the Church, “to be wedded to your work but also more than that to be wedded to the Church.”

A key moment in the ordination rite for Deacon Phan came when he and Deacon Childress were laying prostrate on the altar as the congregation prayed the Litany of Supplication. “When I was laying down I was thinking I am dying, in a good sense,” Deacon Phan said. When he stood up to have the bishop lay his hands on his head, he thought, “Now I am alive.”

After the ordination rite, the two new deacons assisted Bishop Stika at the altar during the consecration of the bread and wine. “The thing that was most moving for me was being behind the altar and realizing this has been what I’ve been waiting for,” Deacon Childress said. “I was just taking it moment by moment,” Deacon Childress said of the experience. It felt that his life had been building to this point, he said, and “this is where I was meant to be.”

The church was filled with family, friends and fellow seminarians. “A bunch of people who rarely get together were here,” said a happy Deacon Childress at a reception following the ordination Mass.

That was especially true for Deacon Phan. Many of the crowd were members of the Vietnamese Catholic Community in the Diocese of Nashville. “I looked out and (saw) all my friends and family and their support,” Deacon Phan said. Thirty-one members of his family were on hand for the ordination, including his grandmother, aunt and older brother who all traveled from Vietnam to be there. He wasn’t sure his grandmother and aunt would be able to make the trip, but found out at the last minute they would be here, Deacon Phan said.

“It’s been five years since the last time our family has been together,” said Deacon Phan, who is a seminarian at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans. He noted that during his homily, Bishop Choby talked about the family being the first seminary. “I thought that’s true.” When the bishop said before they were concelebrated, God knew them, “That was close to me,” Deacon Phan said.

Bishop Choby, who has walked with both men through their formation as seminarians, was unable to be there. But Bishop Stika assured Deacon Phan and Deacon Childress, “Your father is with you in spirit.”

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Weighting the ethics of New Age medicine

**EDITORIAL**

The State of Arkansas’ plan to execute eight death row inmates in 11 days this month – before its supply of one of the drugs it uses in executions runs out – has devolved into chaos brought on by a bevy of court rulings. The chaos only serves to highlight just how many questions about whether the death penalty can be carried out fairly or justly. The questions will only continue to mount until we as a society come to grips with how to administer justice in a way that both holds people accountable for their crimes and recognizes their dignity as human beings, even if they have committed heinous acts. As biases in the administration of justice, mistakes at trials, and problems with the methods of execution all become more apparent, it is becoming harder to justify the use of the death penalty.

Months ago, Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson announced that eight inmates would be executed between April 17 and 27. Officials said the executions had to be done in quick succession to use the state’s final batch of midazolam before it expired at the end of April. Midazolam is supposed to induce unconsciousness before two other lethal drugs are injected.

The first legal roadblock to the Arkansas’ executions came from a temporary restraining order issued after two pharmaceutical companies sued the state, claiming the state may not have obtained midazolam properly. The next day, a federal judge issued a preliminary injunction stopping the state from executing six of the inmates in part because of the inaccessible drug. The inmates claimed the drug doesn’t always work, causing unconstitutional pain and suffering from the use of the other lethal injection drugs.

Then in another wild swing, the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals put a hold on proceedings to allow the executions of six of the eight inmates to continue.

There have also been questions raised because five of the eight inmates scheduled to be executed committed serious mental illness or intellectual impairment. The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that executing people with intellectual disabilities is unconstitutional. If all the court proceedings can’t be concluded by the end of the month, the executions will have to be put on hold indefinitely because the state’s supply of midazolam will run out and state officials have said they have no other source to acquire it.

None of these problems are new or unique to Arkansas. Tennessee made plans to go forward with 10 executions between 2014 and 2016, but none have yet been carried out. The Tennessee Board of Parole has faced legal challenges. The last person executed in Tennessee was Cecil Johnson in 2009. Since then, two death row inmates have died of natural causes.

The Catholic Church has long advocated for an end to capital punishment, arguing it is unnecessary to protect society and that the many problems surrounding its use, including the high number of people wrongly convicted and its dehumanizing effect on the executioner, even those who commit the most evil of crimes, make it an immoral choice.

There are alternatives, such as the sentence of life without parole, that hold people accountable while avoiding the many problems associated with the death penalty.

Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Florida, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, urged Gov. Hutchinson to reconsider the scheduled executions in Arkansas and reduce the sentences to life imprisonment.

“May those in Arkansas who hold the lives of these individuals in their hands be moved by God’s love, which is stronger than death, and abandon plans for execution,” he wrote.

In his statement, Bishop Dewane quoted from Pope Francis’ 2015 address to the U.S. Congress, in which he called for the end to the death penalty around the world. “I am convinced that this way is the best, since every life is sacred and the human person is endowed with an inalienable dignity, and society can only benefit from the rehabilitation of those convicted of crimes,” the pope said. “A just and necessary punishment must never exclude the dimension of hope and the goal of rehabilitation.”

It can be very difficult to think of mercy at a time when justice for unthinkable crimes seems to cry out for vengeance, the pope said. “The harm and pain caused by terrible sin is real.”

But the answer comes in another quote from the pope, the bishop said: “Jesus on the cross prayed for those who had crucified him: ‘Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.’ Mercy is the only way to overcome evil. Justice is necessary, very much so, but alone it is not enough. Justice and mercy must go together.”

Let us pray that justice and mercy will ultimately guide the State of Arkan-
sas, in Tennessee, and across the land.

**Father Tad Pacholczyk**

Patients who face serious illnesses are sometimes attracted to alternative medicines, also referred to as “holistic” or “new-age” medicine. These can include treatments like homeopathy, hypnosis, “energy therapies” like Reiki, acupuncture, and herbal remedies, to name just a few. Reiki, acupuncture, and herbal remedies may be harmful to patients.

These approaches raise various medical and ethical concerns. An important 1998 article in the New England Journal of Medicine sums it up this way: “What most sets alternative medicine apart, in our view, is that it has not been scientifically tested and its advocates largely deny the need for such testing. By testing, we mean the marshaling of rigorous evidence of safety and efficacy, as required by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the approval of drugs and by the best scientific journals for the publication of research reports.”

Beyond the fact that their clinical effects have not earned a pass-
grade using ordinary meth-
ods of scientific investigation, the basic premise behind some alternative medicines can also be highly suspect, raising concerns about superstitious viewpoints or misguided forms of spirituality motivating certain therapies. If we consider acupuncture, this technique does appear to provide benefit in certain cases of pain control. Yet similar results have been reported using “sham” needles – tapping the skin in random places with a thin metal needle – that have demonstrated that treatment with genuine needles, as opposed to the sham needles, causes disturbing electrical activity in the brain. But, when researchers ignored acupuncturists’ recommended “meridian placement” of the needles, the genuine needles and random placement in the skin, the same brain effects were observed.

Hence, it is unclear whether the results seen in acupuncture arise mostly from the well-known “placebo effect” or not. Further research should help resolve this question.

Even if the apparent effects are not placebo-related, acupuncture’s non-rational justification for its purported ef-
ficacy is a legitimate concern. It is based on energy principles that neither science nor faith affirm. Glenn Braunstein, M.D., described it in an article in the following way: “Chi, the invisi-
ble nutritive energy that flows from the universe into the body at any one of 500 acupuncture points, is conducted through the 12 main meridians (can-
nals) in (ideally) an unbroken cycle and can result when either Yin energy (from the sun) or Yang energy (from the earth). All maladies are caused by disharmony or disturbances in the flow of energy.”

Clearly, then, some alternative therapies, beyond the basic issue of whether they work, raise serious spiritual concerns as well.

Another new-age therapy known as Reiki, developed in Japan, is based on the belief that sickness can be caused by a disruption or imbalance in a patient’s “Reiki” or “life en-
ergy.” This has been faulted for the lack of scientific evidence. The last person executed in Tennessee was Cecil Johnson in 2009. Since then, two death row inmates have died of natural causes.

The Catholic Church has long advocated for an end to the death penalty, arguing it is unnecessary to protect society and that the many problems surrounding its use, including the high number of people wrongly convicted and its dehumanizing effect on the executioner, even those who commit the most evil of crimes, make it an immoral choice.

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Let us pray that justice and mercy will ultimately guide the State of Arkansas, in Tennessee, and across the land.

**Father Tad Pacholczyk**

Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, Massachusetts, and serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadel-
phia. See www.ncbcenter.org.

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**By our discipleship, we extend Christ to those whom we meet**

**Rev. Owen F. Campion**

**BACKGROUND.** Again, as is usual in the weeks of the Easter season, the Acts of the Apostles provides the first reading for the Liturgy of the Word during the weekend of April 30.

This reading recalls an event similar to several others in Acts. Peter preaches, in the name of all the 11 surviving Apostles. His remarks, or at least those recorded in this passage, are brief and crisp.

The term used by biblical scholars is that Peter's message was kerygmatic, drawing from kerygma, the Greek word for "message." It means that Peter's words contained the basic information about Jesus and about God's plan of salvation.

Despite the small number of Christians at the time, and in spite of the facts that the Jewish culture and the effects of Roman domination were overwhelming, the Apostles still were determined to speak aloud of Jesus.

Their determination revealed their trust and faith in Jesus, as Savior and as Son of God. The world desperately needed Jesus. Only Jesus could fill what the world, still today, needs. Remembering last weekend's first reading that described both the early Christian community's love for the Lord and its outreach to the troubled and needy, this reading shows that the first followers of Christ saw informing others about the Redeemer as a loving service.

Note also, here, as elsewhere in Acts, even though the other Apostles were present, Peter, and Peter alone, spoke in their behalf.

The First Epistle of Peter supplies the next reading. Scholars debate the authorship of this epistle. Was Peter the author? Or, was someone writing in Peter's name the author, or was the author presenting ideas that came from Peter?

In any case, the reading shows how total was the commitment to Jesus the Savior. The early Christians were, and how aware they were that salvation had come through the Lord's death and resurrection.

The last reading, from Luke's Gospel, is the powerful and lovely story of the Risen Lord's walk to Emmaus with two disciples. The text is unique in the New Testament. Important in its message is the fact that, regardless of their devotion to Jesus, the disciples still do not understand everything. They are limited human beings, bewildered by the events of the Lord's death and resurrection. They need Jesus to understand the deep meaning and purpose of all that they have been experiencing.

Secondly, Jesus meets this need. He teaches them. Thirdly, Jesus is with them. Finally, as they celebrate the meal, with its Eucharistic overtones, Jesus is the central figure presiding as they "break the bread." After hearing the Lord's explanation of events, and encountering Jesus, they join in a holy meal. The connection with the Eucharist is too strong to overlook.

**Little red wagons never go out of style**

**Mary Margaret Lambert**

Children's toys are very sophisticated now. The traditional alphabet blocks, wooden log construction sets, crayons and coloring books have been abandoned in favor of computerized games that are age specific, and designed to mentally stimulate children of all ages.

There are videos for babies that introduce them to colors, shapes, and classical music, and apps that teach pre-K children to count, perform simple math equations, and spell.

The most challenging feat my own children accomplished was babies were stacking colored plastic rings on a rocking post. That particular toy would have most likely been recalled today because it might cause an injury to a little one, but mine would sit

for several blissfully quiet moments trying to arrange the rings in their proper order.

With the first baby, I would dutifully arrange the multicolored circles in their correct sequence each night in preparation for the following day. However, after the third child arrived, he was fortunate to locate only a couple of the rings to gnaw on and the post was buried beneath toy trucks and Cheerios in the bottom of the toy box.

As children become more mobile and gain more mature motor skills, they want to have wheels. Tricycles and bicycles seem to hold their popularity, but one of the more traditional wheelless toys seems to never lose its appeal. The well-recognized "little red wagon" has been utilized and enjoyed by boys and girls for many years, and it can become anything a child's imagination desires.

In 1917, a Chicago craftsman named Antonio Pasin built a wooden toy wagon to transport the tools he required to build phonograph cabinets that he sold. His utility wagon became a much sought after item, as so many over the age of 50.

As children grew, so did round ups or trail drives, the chuck wagon was a crucial part of those events. The cooks were often older cowboys who outfitted the wagons with pots, pans, plates and the essential coffee pot. They were the forerunner to today's food trucks.

Everyone is happy to see a welcome wagon when they move into a new home, but nobody wants to take a ride in a paddy wagon, which was an early version of a police van. If you had a large family during the 1950s and 1960s, a station wagon was the preferred vehicle, and with the introduction of the minivan in the 1980s, the trusty old station wagons became dinosaurs. The Ford Country Squire, which we proudly owned, was discontinued in 1991, while Buick and Oldsmobile produced their final versions in 1992.

I have recently purchased a wagon for myself. Now lest anyone think I will be scooting around the streets in it, I assure you it will be utilized for hauling books, groceries, plants, and anything that I deem is too heavy for us to lift or move without causing major trauma to our aging backs and knees.

My "little red wagon" isn't fire engine red and it's not metal. It is made of soft canvas fabric in a dark red shade closer to burgundy, and it folds up to store in the back of my car. It has a collapsible table with cup holders and a receptacle for my dumb phone. (I still don't have a smartphone, much to the dismay of my tech savvy children and grandchildren). I personalized it by putting a tee shirt to it that should be a required purchase for anyone over the age of 50.

Ralph Waldo Emerson told us to "hitch your wagon to a star," and while my wagon won't co-operate with that lovely idea, it will certainly enable me to revert back to childhood days when life was uncomplicated and full of adventure.

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**NEXT SUNDAY**

**Sunday, April 30, 2017**

Third Sunday of Easter

Readings:
- Acts 2:14, 22-33
- 1 Peter 1:17-21

**Sunday, May 7, 2017**

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Readings:
- Acts 2:14a, 36-41
- 1 Peter 2:20b-25
- John 1:1-10

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**PINCH OF FAITH**

**Mary Margaret Lambert**

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Diocese of Nashville fiscal year 2016 report

The full audit report on the financial records for the Diocese of Nashville and Tennessee Register are posted on the diocesan website. The report provides an unqualified opinion indicating the diocesan financial records are materially accurate and reliable. Bishop David Choby is pleased to assure you the resources you have devoted to the works of the Catholic Church of Middle Tennessee — through time, talent and treasure — are being used efficiently and responsibly to continue the mission of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Fiscal year 2016 revenues were similar to 2015 at $13.77 million. Expenses increased by $1.35 million due to one-time expenses, losses on our residual trusts, assistance to schools, and increased ministry. This resulted in a net loss of $1.59 million. At right, in a summary of the Balance Sheet and Income Statement. Much of the loss was for non-cash expenses.

The new Catholic Pastoral Center (CPC) has provided opportunities for all of our ministries to expand and enhance their services to our Catholic community. The facility is used for Sunday Mass for the Sagrado Corazon and Egyptian Coptic Catholic communities, Engaged Couples retreats, Confirmations, lectures and presentations, and youth activities. Opportunities for spiritual growth are expanding through both youth and adult programs. Father Ryan and Pope John Paul II high schools have held student retreats at the CPC.

Our ministry programs are funded through the Bishop’s Annual Appeal for Ministries. Bishop Choby encourages everyone to support these Christian works of mercy. Your donations will enable us to expand services to the poor, homeless, seniors, youth, college campuses, and churches, and continue our support of Catholic Charities. We can continue our current level of support for these services with a 10 percent increase in participation; please consider making a donation. Your participation is more important than the dollar amount of your gift made as an act of charity.

Catholics have led the way with several well-known ministries in Nashville. Safe Haven started as St. Patrick’s Church Shelter for Women. Room in the Inn was started by a Catholic priest. Catholics urged the bishop more than 40 years ago to sponsor several housing programs. Did you know the diocese is the second largest non-profit provider of affordable housing in Metro Nashville, sponsoring more than 300 apartments? Your donation to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal helps Bishop Choby help those in need of food, clothing and shelter.

Catholic education is also a priority. This year many good people, who invite you to join them, have launched the inaugural event “Celebrating Catholic Education” at 6 p.m. Saturday, May 6, at Holy Family Parish Hall in Brentwood. Please attend or make a donation. The proceeds will benefit the 16 diocesan schools through the Endowment for the Advancement of Catholic Education.

Above is a chart showing the sources of revenue to the diocese. Presently, our greatest needs are (1) Bishop’s Annual Appeal for Ministries, (2) Catholic education, and (3) Seminarian education. Any assistance you can provide by prayer or penny is greatly accepted.

Provided above is a designation of how diocesan expenses are distributed on a functional basis. More than $9 million is spent to nurture, communicate and foster our Catholic faith through action. *Not separated out in these years.
Catholic Schools (EACS). The event will provide funds to both grow the endowment to meet future needs and provide needed tuition assistance now. The EACS Trust was created in 1994 and we are grateful to those who started it. Since that time, EACS has awarded more than $2 million to our schools, and the EACS Trust funds have grown to more than $3 million.

Details for the event are on the diocesan website at www.dioceseofnashville.com.

You can also support the continued presence of Catholic education by leaving a gift to EACS or the Catholic Community Foundation through your will. Sample wills and codicils can be found on the diocesan or foundation website. These bequests and gifts act to preserve our faith for future generations. Consult a financial or legal advisor for guidance.

Today, the diocese is financially sound. Our pensions are fully funded. Our future is bright. God has blessed us with vocations and ordinations. We are blessed and thankful for your generosity with your time, talent and treasure in living out our Catholic faith.

Yet, we are experiencing an increasing need for support to parishes, schools and people. Your generosity allows us to respond to that need. Please consider a gift if you have not given recently, or increasing your gift by 10 percent, whether to your parish, a ministry, a school, or to Bishop Choby’s appeal.

Your Christian acts of charity and mercy have made all of our ministries possible. Thank you.

As mentioned, our audit by Puryear, Hamilton, Hausman and Wood is available in full on the website.

Very truly yours, William J. Whalen, CFO

Professional Services Directory

Classifieds

Part time Nurse Sonographer or Medical Sonographer: Catholic Non-profit seeks sonographer to perform ultrasounds on mobile ultrasound unit in Nashville. Interested parties should email resumes to Matthew Melion at matthidemelion@icloud.com.
Seminarians of the Diocese of Nashville 2017

Congratulations to Rev. Mr. Dillon Barker, Rev. Mr. Joseph Fessenden, and Rev. Mr. Andrew Forsythe who are to be ordained to the priesthood June 23, 2017

Rhodes Bolster
Sam Browne
Rev. Mr. Rick Childress
Edwin Cardona
Jackson DuBois
Juan Carlos Garcia
Patrick Held
Jacob Lamoureux
Augustine Mang
Dominic Nguyen
Michael Nolte
Nonso Ohanaka
Hung Pham
Robert Nelson
Rev. Mr. Anh Tuan Phan
Seth Reed
Quinn Robinson
Oscar Romero
Dustin Shane
Mark Simpson
Anthony Stewart
Malachi Walker
Luke Wilgenbusch

You are cordially invited to the
8th Annual
Diocese of Nashville
Seminarian Education Dinner & Auction

May 23, 2017
6:00 to 9:00 pm
Holy Family Church

Hosted by
The Most Reverend
David R. Choby, D.D., J.C.L.
Bishop of Nashville

Sponsored by the
Serra Clubs of
Williamson County and Nashville,
and the Knights of Columbus

Name_________________________________________________________________Parish_______________________ Phone_____________
Address___________________________________________________________________City/State/Zip________________________________
Number attending: _______ at $100 each =_______________ or Tables for 10 at $1,000 _______ or Tables for 8 at $800 _______
   Tables on a first come, first served basis. Tables must be paid for with one check.
   ____ I/We am/are unable to attend. Please accept my contribution to the Seminarian Education Endowment Fund of :
   _____$250 _____$500 _____$1000 $_________________ Other

Make checks payable to:  Diocese of Nashville, Seminarian Education Fund with the Memo: Serra/Knights Fundraiser
Mail to:  Diocese of Nashville, Seminarian Education Fund, Catholic Pastoral Center, 2800 McGavock Pike, Nashville, TN 37214
For more information, contact Sandra Jordan at 615-783-0267 or Sandra.Jordan@DioceseOfNashville.com