

CATHOLIC AWAKENINGS

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ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2020

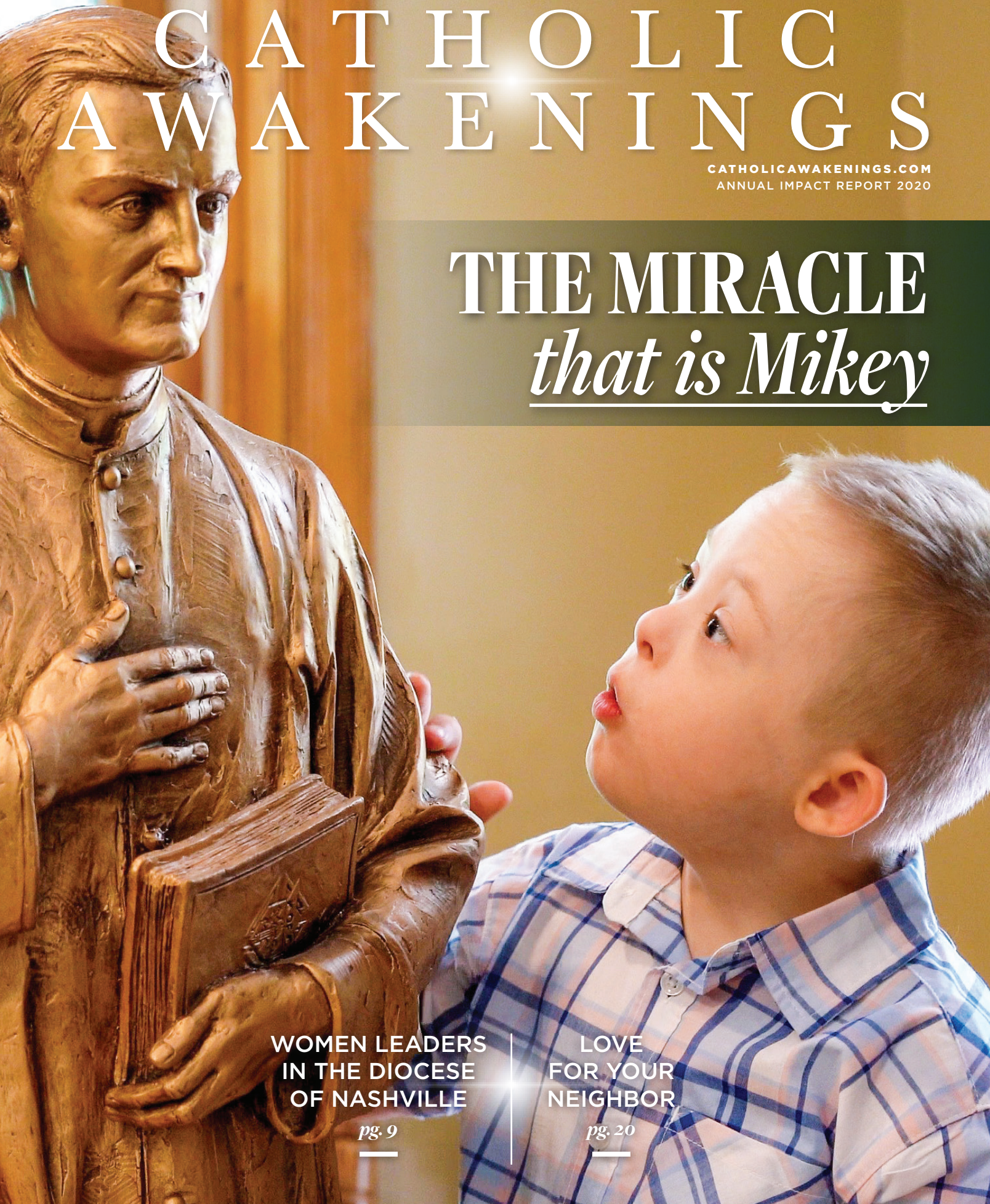
THE MIRACLE *that is Mikey*

WOMEN LEADERS
IN THE DIOCESE
OF NASHVILLE

pg. 9

LOVE
FOR YOUR
NEIGHBOR

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR BISHOP





DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST,

As we navigate through what can humbly be called a “most challenging year,” I am touched by the resiliency and determination you have all shown. Throughout our history, Mother Church has always remained steadfast during moments of trial, rising to the challenge and emerging stronger than before. At times like this, we must remember the pain and suffering of our Lord, which ultimately brought us the resurrection and our redemption. Even in the difficult moments, it is good to be reminded that God is always giving us what we need to prosper. As St. Paul teaches us, “When I am weak, then I am strong.” (2 Cor 12:10)

During this pandemic, our strength is found in caring for the hurting, giving to those in need, and sharing companionship with the lonely. Like others before it, this moment of trial has brought us closer together. While the nation has encountered divisiveness around polarizing issues, we as a family of Christ are called to come together as one. The common bond of **FAITH, HOPE, and LOVE** is what unites our community. These gifts of God allow us to live in harmony with Him and with one another.

It is in this spirit that we present this year’s Annual Impact Report. In it, you will see the work we have accomplished together as the People of God — from one family to another, in community as the Body of Christ.

As we look to the future, and the upcoming year of St. Joseph, it is so important for us to recognize the need to rise up from the challenges of this year ever stronger. By revitalizing our **FAITH**, expanding our **HOPE**, and continually spreading our **LOVE** to those in need, we can help others find their way, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, or financial standing. I ask that each of us, guided by the torch of **FAITH, HOPE, and LOVE**, embrace our mission of **“Living and Proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ, Welcoming All!”**

I will keep you in my prayers. Please pray for me. ♦



Sincerely yours in Christ,
+ J. Mark Spalding

Most Reverend J. Mark Spalding
Bishop of Nashville



Bishop Spalding traveled to India earlier this year to experience the homeland of the 11 Indian priests serving in our diocese.

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*The Magazine of the
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FROM THE DESK OF THE CHANCELLOR



“

We, both clergy and laity, each have our roles to play in evangelizing....”

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WELCOME TO OUR VERY FIRST ISSUE OF *CATHOLIC AWAKENINGS*, A MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO HIGHLIGHTING THE GOOD NEWS HAPPENING THROUGHOUT THE DIOCESE OF NASHVILLE.

While a significant part of this inaugural issue focuses on the diocesan Annual Impact Report for 2020, future issues will better acquaint you with some of the wonderful treasures of the diocese: our faithful. Our diocese is blessed with ordinary people doing extraordinary things and truly living out their Catholic faith every single day. They are people who demonstrate by example the most powerful way to evangelize: being Christ to others in everyday life and building desire in others for the peace of having Christ in their hearts.

We have such a rich Catholic legacy right here in Middle Tennessee, along with the cherished traditions of our Mother Church. One such example is our cover story. We simply could not pass up the opportunity to detail the recent beatification of Blessed Michael McGivney, whose miracle took place right here in our diocese!

This issue also features new ways that the Diocese is stepping up to provide leadership for innovative and creative solutions that address challenging circumstances. In one such case, Catholic Charities, St. Mary's Day Care, and St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church teamed up with Room In The Inn to support the homeless. It's a great example of a mindset we refer to as "Team Catholic"!

Our third feature spotlights the highly sought after and nationally acclaimed U.S. Department of Education's National Blue Ribbon designation awarded to our own Holy Rosary Academy for the second time. This impressive accomplishment is representative of the excellence of our Catholic schools.

As you will see, there are so many good things happening in our diocese that one magazine can hardly contain it all. In future issues, we hope to highlight more of the remarkable happenings in our diocese as a reminder of why our Catholic community in the Diocese of Nashville is so special.

In the words of Pope Francis, "Jesus taught once and for all that love for God and love for one's neighbor are inseparable; indeed, more than that, they support one another." We, both clergy and laity, each have our roles to play in evangelizing and spreading the word of the Kingdom. That's what "Team Catholic" is all about — dedicated Catholics working together for a common vision. Get involved, continue to do good, and love your neighbor. Become closer to your parish and diocesan family. Fall in love with your Church, while growing closer to Christ Jesus.

We encourage you to participate and continue your conversation with us. For further information, you can check us out at CatholicAwakenings.com. ♦

In Christ,

Brian L. Cooper
Chancellor and Chief Operating Officer



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OPENING



Since the decision to open our schools for in-person learning this year, we have increased Catholic School enrollment by 1.25 percent. The “Now More Than Ever” campaign, launched at the beginning of the school year, met the needs of a significant number of families who were ready for their kids to go back to school. Even with its challenges, the pandemic has highlighted the advantages that our small schools have in being flexible to accommodate the needs of our individual students. This flexibility has also benefited those families who did not feel that they were ready for in-person learning. Besides the classroom, our schools provided a variety of virtual learning opportunities to meet the needs of all. The combination of in-person and virtual lessons provided by our teachers is a testament to their hard work and ability to adapt. Throughout this semester, we have been able to keep all of our 16 Diocesan schools open with appropriate social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic. Rebecca Hammel, Superintendent of Schools, has given every resource available to the schools to help them stay open and keep the students safe. ♦



BEATIFICATION MASS OF BLESSED MICHAEL MCGIVNEY



The Beatification Mass was held at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in the Archdiocese of Hartford on October 31, 2020. In a socially distanced liturgy, Bishop Spalding joined many bishops and three cardinals on the altar. Cardinal Tobin of Newark was Pope Francis' designee to read the apostolic letter proclaiming the beatification.

KITCHEN COLLABORATION PROJECT



When Brian Cooper, Chancellor and Chief Operating Officer, first began his service at the Diocese in 2017, one of his first building projects was to renovate the large kitchen area at the Catholic Pastoral Center, which had fallen into disrepair. The extensive commercial kitchen renovation was quite successful, and the space was immediately put to use for staff meals and major diocesan events. That being said, until recently, one piece was still missing. As Brian himself commented, “I had not been able to find an appropriate partnership organization that could help us to fulfill the kitchen’s renovated potential.”

That hole was finally filled when Whitney Pastorek, Nashville Project Lead of World Central Kitchen (WCK) out of Washington, D.C., approached Judy Orr, Executive Director of Catholic Charities, to ask for help in a local initiative to enlist local restaurants and chefs to help prepare hundreds of ready-to-go meals for those in need. WCK had received the needed funding but wanted to use the kitchen at the Catholic Pastoral Center as a part of its program. When asked about this project, Brian’s reply was a definite “Yes!” His long-time dream of using the space for community relief efforts was finally in motion.

In mid-October, after ironing out the details, the plan came to fruition when Dega Catering began to operate out of the CPC kitchen as a part of this impressive joint effort. The catering company normally travels with musical artists to provide meal services during their tour. However, during this time of hardship, Dega, WCK, and the Diocese of Nashville are now working together to provide weekly meals for hundreds of out of work music industry touring professionals. The initiative will continue through Christmas and is an important part of showing support during this blessed season to all those who have helped make Nashville “Music City, USA.”

This creative and exciting endeavor is just one of the many efforts of Catholic Charities to respond to the increased need brought about by the pandemic and COVID-related income loss. In particular, the “Loaves and Fishes” program at Holy Name Church remains the flagship program. Nevertheless, new partnerships and opportunities are always necessary to expand the mission and impact as many people as possible. Donating the use of the diocesan kitchen in partnership with WCK and Dega Catering is just one more way that the Diocese of Nashville strives to share the love of Jesus Christ with those most in need in our community. ♦



WOMEN LEADERS OF THE DIOCESE OF NASHVILLE



From left to right: Rebecca Hammel, MaLinda Oden, Erin Stracener, Judy Orr, Jerilyn Rost, Joan Watson, Julie Perrey. Not pictured: Teresa Coburn

PHOTO BY RICK MUSSACHIO

During Bishop Spalding's ad limina visit to Rome in December of 2019, Pope Francis encouraged the bishops to bring more women into leadership within their dioceses. The Pope was quite demonstrative in making his point. He put a finger beside his nose and said, "Women can smell things which men may not." Common wisdom recognizes that many women have a sixth sense of observation that the Church must appreciate and utilize.

Popes and other Church leaders have been making this point for a number of years now. In his 1995 Letter to Women, Pope St. John Paul II encouraged a "necessary emphasis" on "the feminine genius" and drew attention to "those ordinary women who reveal the gift of their womanhood by placing themselves at the service of others in their everyday lives." As he explained, "There is constantly revealed, in the variety of vocations, that beauty—not merely physical, but

above all spiritual—which God bestowed from the very beginning on all, and in a particular way on women."

Across all fields of work, women are acquiring more and more leadership roles today in typically male-dominated positions. A recent governmental study reported that almost 40 percent of managers in the United States were women. At the Diocese of Nashville five of the nine top director roles are occupied by women. Far from being a mere statistic, however, these women are true professionals at the top of their game, helping to carry out our mission of "Living and Proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ, Welcoming All!" In the article which follows we feature Julie Perrey, Rebecca Hammel, Judy Orr, Erin Stracener, Teresa Coburn, Joan Watson, MaLinda Oden, and Jerilyn Rost—eight professional women holding top leadership positions at the Diocese. All of these women are committed to excellence, and all are dedicated to serving our Diocese.

JULIE PERREY

Vice Chancellor, Chief Mission Integration Officer

Julie Perrey is entrusted with the duties of Vice Chancellor of the Diocese of Nashville and also serves as Chief Mission Integration Officer. She comes to us with a wealth of experience and invaluable political savvy and connections. She served in various capacities for 25 years within the government of the State of Tennessee, with her last role as TRICOR's Chief People Officer. In her new position, Julie has responsibility for Human Resources, the Safe Environment Program, and the duties of Vice-Chancellor, as outlined in the Code of Canon Law. In addition, she focuses on how everything we do at the Diocese reinforces our core mission and values. Both her father and mother were employed by their Catholic parish, and she is excited to pay it forward by continuing their tradition of service at the diocesan level. She said, "My life experiences, faith, and commitment to the Church allow me to bring my 'best self' to the role; and [the role] provides a unique opportunity as a woman to draw from what I've learned as a mother and wife to add a different perspective." Julie and her husband, Ralph, attend St. Matthew and have two adult children.

REBECCA HAMMEL, M.Ed.

Superintendent of Catholic Schools

The mission of the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Nashville is to "promote a love for and a knowledge of Christ through a quality education in the Catholic tradition." Rebecca Hammel, modeling the nurturing care of the Blessed Mother, does just that. Before coming to the Diocese of Nashville she served as an educator and Catholic school principal in Indiana and Texas and as Associate Superintendent for the Archdiocese of Atlanta. Rebecca feels that her presence in the Diocese of Nashville is a good fit and that her service here makes her whole. She said, "I always incorporate prayer into my journey. When it came down to making a decision, I was trusting in whatever God's will was for me. I have a firm belief that God has given each of us a mission on earth, and this was mine. I feel honored to serve the Church in this way." As superintendent, Rebecca, first and foremost, represents the Bishop in all matters of Catholic education. She said, "My office exists to support pastors, principals, parents, and students in our Catholic schools—the teaching arm of the Church." In addition to her many responsibilities in the Diocese, Rebecca is also a doctoral candidate at The Catholic University of America. With her husband, Christopher, Rebecca is mother to two adult stepchildren and attends the Cathedral of the Incarnation.

JUDY ORR

Executive Director of Catholic Charities

Judy Orr was born to communicate. At the youthful age of 18, she began her career that has expanded to include public relations, branding and marketing, advertising, and many other aspects of the communications world. In particular, she served for 20 years as head of an in-house marketing group at Vanderbilt University. After her kids completed their schooling, Judy obtained a master's degree in social work that led her to oversee grief counseling services at Alive Hospice. This responsibility was made even more personal by the death of her older sister, who had passed away at the residential facility several years earlier. Judy said, "I was then called by the Holy Spirit to accept the opportunity to work at the Diocese, and, although it was

a long time coming, I embrace all of my work here in that manner. It feels natural to be here." As the Executive Director of Catholic Charities, she directs a multifaceted social service agency with the mission to "follow Christ's example, recognize the dignity of all people, and serve our neighbors." Judy says that the agency's "bottom line is self-sustainability for every client—helping people get back on their feet." Coming from a family who is Catholic on both sides, Judy continues a tradition of faith that has been handed down for generations. Even beyond her family, she remembers with gratitude all of the teachers, priests, and sisters who formed her through Catholic schooling. Describing this legacy of faith, she said, "It is a sacred privilege to be in service to others and also to minister to the 120 staff who work for us—in the school system, as refugee resettlement case managers, providing essential services, and in many other programs." Judy has attended Christ the King with her husband, Jay, since 1984 and often attends St. Patrick as well.

“

I've always been a working mother. For me, my mothering experience informed my work in management. And in turn being a manager helped me be a better mother. Both involve nurturing qualities—you guide, encourage, and gently shape lives.”

JUDY ORR

ERIN STRACENER, M.Div.

Director of the Tribunal

Erin Stracener serves as Director of the Tribunal and plays an integral role in the mission of promoting and safeguarding justice in the Church. In particular, the office aids the faithful to address irregular marriage situations in both charity and truth. Erin always had a love for canon law but did not know how it would apply to her career path. Prior to working in the Tribunal, she has held various other roles in the Church, including Director of Religious Education at St. Matthew and assisting with hospice ministry. Even in her current role,

Erin sees her work as a ministry. She stated, “Canon law exists to help the faithful. Marriage is one of the seven sacraments, so it is holy ground and we take it very seriously. I love what I do and I’m passionate about it. This is where I’m supposed to be!” Diocesan outreach is important to Erin. One such event that the Tribunal held in conjunction with the Office of Faith Formation was “Restoration: Life in the Church after Divorce”. This program helped dispel common myths and lead people back to the Church. As a married woman, Erin’s experience allows her to interact with those who come to the Tribunal with both compassion and understanding. Erin and her husband, Adam, attend St. Matthew and have two children.

TERESA COBURN

Controller

Diocesan Controller Teresa Coburn is no stranger to the financial marketplace, and we are glad she shares her expertise with us. She has been a source of tremendous help to the Diocese, even before becoming a diocesan employee. At her prior accounting and consulting firm, Teresa handled the diocesan account. When Bishop Spalding decided to bring the financial capabilities in-house, it was an obvious choice to get Teresa’s help. It was a challenging transition, but Teresa rose to the occasion. Under her leadership, the Diocese has updated its capabilities and is positioned well for the future. Currently Teresa manages the accounting and financial reporting for the Diocese, including the Advancement for Catholic Education (ACE), Hand In Hand Option (HIHO), Catholic Community Investment and Loan (CCIL) and more. She said, “It is an honor to work here and to play a role in the success of parishes and the organizations I support.” Teresa enjoys the responsibilities she has been given. As she said, “It’s always good to see women in leadership roles.” Teresa also thinks that it is wonderful that the Diocese is extremely supportive of families, which allows for a positive work-life balance. She and her husband, Gary, have two children and attend St. Henry.

JOAN WATSON, M.A.

Director of Faith Formation

Prior to her employment at the Diocese, Joan Watson created a definite ripple effect during her six years at Aquinas College, where she taught up to 3,000 teachers of religious education. Rooted in faith and spirituality, she applies her background to her current role as Director of Faith Formation. Joan works to deliver a variety of faith opportunities across the Diocese, including speaker series, catechetical conferences, adult formation programs, and the widely acclaimed 3-Minute Theology series. Although produced for Nashville-area parishioners, her video series has a broad following, with more than 2,000 subscribers. She enjoys helping parishes with major outreaches and sacramental initiatives. Joan is passionate about her faith and says, “My

heart has always been in church. I knew during college I wanted to use my gifts and talents to help people to fall in love with the Church, but I didn’t know how this would translate to a career. I am humbled to be able to serve the Diocese in this way.” She hopes that as a woman she conveys empathy, a “roll with the punches attitude,” and good listening skills—all crucial to effective problem-solving. Joan attends St. Mary of the Seven Sorrows.

MALINDA ODEN

Director of Facilities and Technology

As Director of Facilities and Technology, MaLinda Oden completes her work with diligence and excellence. From the smallest request to the conversion of a 7,000+ square foot gymnasium into a premium venue that can host up to 600 people for diocesan events, MaLinda is effective and reliable. She stated, “When guests pull into the Catholic Pastoral Center parking lot, I want them to experience a clean, well-kept setting, and know that the building is secure.” MaLinda, working in collaboration with a specialized IT firm, also monitors network security and provides staff with the latest technologies. It was her insightful planning that enabled a virtually seamless transition to a temporary work-at-home option when the building closed in March. The staff were able to use diocesan laptops on secure network platforms. MaLinda also monitors the CPC with 24/7 real-time cell phone technology that allows her to immediately address large equipment issues. In more ways than one, MaLinda’s mission is vital to CPC operations. When asked what she likes most about her work she said, “It feels wonderful to be a part of helping and to be involved with the Catholic faithful to host various mission events, and also it is so rewarding to have the opportunity to attend Mass every day.” MaLinda and her husband Randy have two daughters.

JERILYN ROST

Vocations Office Coordinator

In her work with priestly vocations Jerilyn Rost provides unparalleled support to those who are trying to answer God’s call and to those just beginning to discern it. She shines as our in-house producer of videos, commercials, social media content, and other vocations-related printed materials. When asked about her role in the vocations office she said, “I feel that I bring the Marian heart to the office. As a wife and mother, I have a different yet valuable perspective.” Jerilyn and her husband, Craig, have three children and attend St. Luke. To learn more about this servant warrior and her esteemed Producer of the Year Award, see her feature story on page 12. ♦



DIOCESAN AWARDS - EVANGELIZATION THROUGH COMMUNICATIONS



Although the Diocese of Nashville may not be the country's largest diocese in terms of size or number of parishioners, it has proven to be one of the most highly awarded—especially when it comes to printed and digital communications.

First and foremost, Diocesan communications are created with our Nashville Catholic community at heart. All of our published content shares in the ultimate goal to inspire and change lives right here in Nashville by the light of the Gospel. As our mission statement says, we are “Living and Proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ, Welcoming All!” From time to time, though, it is gratifying to know that our efforts are recognized by industry colleagues. In this sense, 2019 was a banner year for us! A partial list of awards and awardees is shown to the right.

One CPC staffer whose name is constantly in the mix of awards is our very own Jerilyn Rost, Vocations Office Coordinator. Jerilyn was recently awarded the Producer of the Year Award from the Catholic Media Association (CMA), the American Advertising Federation's (AAF) Nashville Gold Addy advertising award for Film/Video/Sound, and the 2020 Communicator Award. With a background in marketing and promotions, it is easy to see how Jerilyn's charismatic demeanor translates into award-winning material.

Jerilyn provides support to the efforts of Director of Vocations, Rev. Austin Gilstrap and Associate Director of Vocations, Rev. Luke Wilgenbusch. Together they provide guidance to help young men who are interested in answering God's call to become a priest. In her important

role, Jerilyn provides indescribable help to the overall functioning of the Office of Vocations. She and the two priests all feel that even if only one man answers the call to become a priest of Jesus Christ, their efforts will have been worthwhile.

Utilizing a combination of audiovisual media and innate creativity, Jerilyn has a vision to help potential seminarians identify and acknowledge the call that is already stirring in their hearts. The awarded “Follow Me” video on the NashVocations.org website is one tool that has done just that. By watching this video, hearts are stirred, the veil is lowered, and young men are invited to take the first step to search out the application process. In addition, the parents and families of young men have a resource to help them navigate through the unfamiliar. Jerilyn's heart was made full when she learned that two of our newest seminarians were in a small part encouraged to begin the process after visiting the website. She said, “I am using my gifts and talents in a way I never thought possible!”

Jerilyn's ultimate purpose is to help young men to listen to God's call, whether He is speaking with a whisper or a shout. She helps to plant the seeds but ultimately relies on the Holy Spirit to make them blossom and bear fruit. She said, “To see that your work has a lasting and positive influence is awe-inspiring!”

Catholic Media Association (CMA) was formerly known as the Catholic Press Association. CMA's website states that sponsors "award programs that recognize the talents of writers and editors, photographers and videographers, graphic designers and illustrators, and all whose skills join to make a great product." These awards recognize what peers in the media industry designated as the best of the best in Catholic communications in the United States and Canada.

- ♦ **JERILYN ROST WON FIRST PLACE** award for "Videographer/Video Producer of the Year" for the "Follow Me" vocations video and others in the series. Her work was produced in partnership with Spirit Juice Studios of Chicago and KGV Studios in Nashville. The "Follow Me" video also won a prestigious Communicator "Award of Excellence" from the Academy of Interactive and Visual Arts.
- ♦ **THE DIOCESE WON FIRST PLACE** for "Best Annual Report, Catholic Non-Profit Organization" for the 2019 Annual Impact Report, a collaboration between Brian Cooper, Bill Staley, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry and New Media Evangelization, and Debbie Lane, Creative Services Manager for the communications office and the Tennessee Register.
- ♦ **THE OFFICE OF VOCATIONS WON A SECOND-PLACE** award for "Best Illustration with Graphic Design or Art" for "The Process" animated video posted at www.nashvocations.org.
- ♦ **THE DIOCESE WON SECOND PLACE** for "Best Diocesan Pastoral Message—Audio or Video" for the Catholic Minute on Titans Radio, a collaboration between Bishop J. Mark Spalding, Brian Cooper and Bill Staley.
- ♦ **THE DIOCESE RECEIVED AN HONORABLE MENTION** for "Best Website", www.dioceseofnashville.com, designed and managed by Yanel Pinto, graphic/web designer for the Diocese, in collaboration with diocesan department heads.
- ♦ **THERESA LAURENCE, TENNESSEE REGISTER STAFF WRITER AND PHOTOGRAPHER**, won third place in the "Writer of the Year (English)" category

The *Tennessee Register* won four first place awards including:

- ♦ **THE EDITORIAL "NASHVILLE NEIGHBORS SHED DIFFERENT LIGHT ON IMMIGRATION DEBATE"** by Register Managing Editor Andy Telli, in the category Best Editorial on a Local Issue—Non-weekly Diocesan Newspaper, Circulation 25,000 or Less.
- ♦ **THE EDITORIAL "WHAT IS THE PRO-LIFE RESPONSE?"** by Rick Musacchio, in the category Best Editorial on a National or International Issue—Non-weekly Diocesan Newspaper, Circulation 25,000 or Less.
- ♦ **THE STORY "NEW COMMUNITY COURT BRINGS JUSTICE TO NORTH NASHVILLE"** by Theresa Laurence, in the category Best Reporting on a Social Justice Issue, Call to Family, Community and Participation.
- ♦ **THE STORY "FIRST HALL OF FAME CLASS HONORS RYAN'S ATHLETIC LEGACY"** by Andy Telli, in the category Best Sports Journalism—Sports News.

Additional awards include:

- ♦ **A PHOTO OF REFUGEE CHILDREN PLAYING AT THE CATHOLIC PASTORAL CENTER**, accompanying the story, "Agencies 'appalled' by reports US could end refugee admissions," by Theresa Laurence, second place in the category of Best Photograph, Immigration/Migration.
- ♦ **THE STORY "DIOCESE'S FIVE NEW PRIESTS EAGER TO SERVE GOD'S PEOPLE"** by Andy Telli, third place in the category Best Reporting on a Celebration of a Sacrament—Non-Weekly Diocesan Newspaper, Circulation 25,000 or Less. ♦

Catholic Media Association honored the Diocese of Nashville Office of Vocations with the 2020 Award of Excellence for communications, a category that includes competition with a wide variety of Fortune 500 companies!



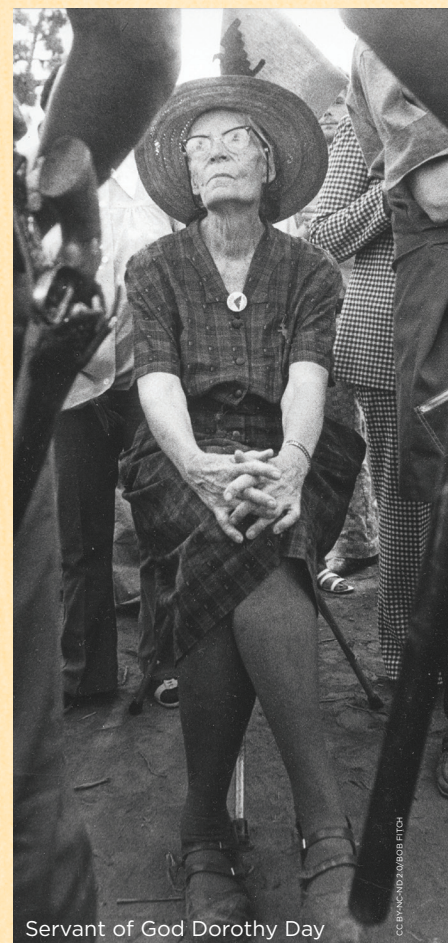
CANONIZATION PROCESS

This is a look at the current canonization process. It has been a formal process since the 10th century and has been reserved to papal authority since the 17th century.

There is usually a five-year waiting period after death before an individual's cause may be opened. This waiting period can be waived, but it is there for a good reason. The Church wants to make sure this person has a lasting reputation for holiness.

Servant of God

The bishop of the diocese where the person lived initiates the cause. If it is accepted by Rome, the person may be called "Servant of God." People may pray privately to the Servant of God to ask his or her intercession. Documents are collected by the local diocese (or religious order to which the individual belonged) to see if the person manifested heroic virtue. All of their public and private writings are examined, and, if possible, witnesses are called. The results of this investigation are summarized by a diocesan tribunal. If their conclusion is that the person demonstrated heroic virtue, everything goes to Rome to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. The cause is examined by a theological commission, then by members of the Congregation, and eventually by the Pope. This is not something the Church takes lightly, and this stage often takes a long time. There is a person whose whole job in this process is to present obstacles and objections! At this point in the process, Therese of Lisieux had more than 3,000 pages of documents, and there had been 109 sessions that each lasted more than five hours. That's pretty incredible for a cloistered nun who died at the young age of 24.



Servant of God Dorothy Day

Venerable

If the Pope officially recognizes that the individual manifested heroic virtue, he or she is called "Venerable." The next requirement is an indication of the intercessory power of the individual. We pray that God may work a miracle through the individual's intercession. All miracles reported are subject to intense scrutiny to ensure that there is no natural explanation. The alleged miracle is first examined by a scientific commission. If there is any reason to think the healing might have been the result of treatment or may not be permanent, the miracle is not accepted for the cause. The miracle is also examined by a theological commission. There must be ample proof that the miracle was the result of the intercession of this particular individual. These investigations happen on both a local level and in Rome. Generally, miracles that tend to pass the tests are instantaneous cures of diseases that are incurable.



Venerable Augustus Tolton

Saint

If the Pope approves the miracle, the individual is then beatified. This is usually done by a representative of the Pope, often in the person's home country. A feast day is designated for the individual, but there is no public veneration by the universal Church. Generally, celebration of the individual is limited to their local region or their religious order. After beatification, another miracle is required and is subject to the same commissions and investigations by both the diocese and the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

Blessed

If a second miracle is approved by the Holy Father, the person is then canonized. The canonization usually takes place during a Mass in St. Peter's Square. It is important to remember that when the Pope canonizes someone, that does not mean that he is making that person a saint. A saint is simply someone in heaven, and the Pope does not decide who is in heaven! Rather, by this official decree of canonization, the Holy Father is making a formal declaration that the person is in heaven and is worthy of emulation by Christians throughout the world.



Blessed Concepcion Cabrera



Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos

Servant of God:

- Catherine de Hueck Doherty
- Dorothy Day
- Chiara Corbella Petrillo
- Father Patrick Ryan

Venerable:

- Father Augustus Tolton
- Matt Talbot
- Father Patrick Peyton
- Father Nelson Baker

Blessed:

- Bl. Francis Xavier Seelos
- Bl. Stanley Rother
- Bl. Jerzy Popieluszko
- Bl. Concepción Cabrera de Armida ♦

THE MIRACLE *that is Mikey!*

BY BILL STALEY

“ *If you think our hands are full, you should see our hearts.”*
In June of this year, we paid a visit to the rural middle Tennessee home of the Schachle family to learn more about the Vatican-approved miracle that had advanced Father Michael McGivney’s (1852-1890) cause for canonization. The miracle was approved by Pope Francis himself on May 27, 2020. Pope Francis then named Father McGivney ‘Blessed,’ placing him one step away from being a saint. When we pulled up, the home exuded happiness and holiness. Being from a large family myself, the busy hubbub of children bopping about brought back fond memories.





Little Mikey Shachle was cured in utero of fetal hydrops, a condition that causes deadly fluid buildup.



anticipated her reaction of “Ouch!” He listened to her heartbeat with his toy stethoscope and checked her temperature with the plastic thermometer. After he conducted other tests, he playfully reviewed his charts on his toy clipboard. Even after everything he has been through, his own personal instinct is caring for others, reciprocating the care that has been given to him.

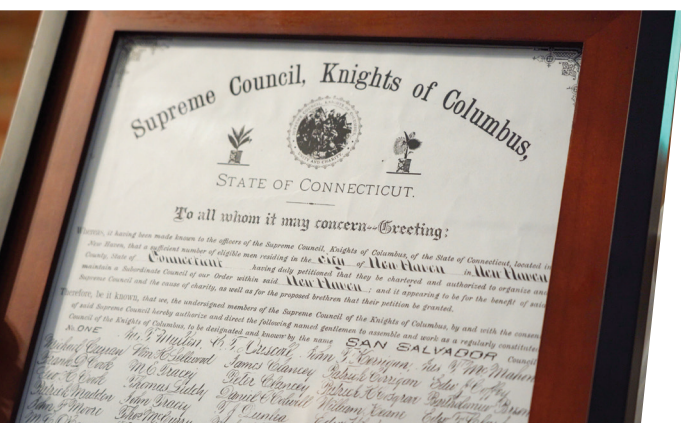
Mikey’s mother, Michelle, pulls out a mound of brisket on a plate from the microwave saying, “Here, help yourself,” laying the plate with ease on their kitchen island. Everyone milled around chatting with our team and sharing their own take of what had transpired. As Daniel and Michelle sat down for the interview, there was a plaque on a shelf that reads, “if you think our hands are full, you should see our hearts.”

The Schachles go on to recount the story of how they got the news about Mikey. They found out that Mikey had Down Syndrome and fetal hydrops, a condition where fluid builds up in the body in utero. The chances of survival after being born were zero. That is when Daniel fired off an email to his colleagues at the Knights of Columbus asking for their prayers. As a family, they asked for Fr. McGivney’s intercession. Ever since Daniel served as Grand Knight over a decade ago, the family has always had a strong devotion to this priest who gave his life caring for widows and orphans. One of the main purposes of the Knights of Columbus, founded by

And then I saw Mikey. He was shy but had a big smile as he sat on his big sister’s lap. It was wild to think—this boy is a living testament to an actual miracle, all thanks to the heavenly intercession of a man who spent his whole life caring for children and widows. As his father said, there was no better person for Blessed Michael McGivney to intercede for than this little boy given a 0% chance of life.

Bl. Michael McGivney was the oldest of 13. Mikey Schachle is the youngest of 13. Bl. Michael McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus. Mikey’s dad, Daniel, works for this fraternal service organization with 1.9 million members worldwide. Simply calling this a coincidence would harbor doubt. This story is nothing short of miraculous.

Mikey wanted to show me his medical kit. He gave his sister a “shot,” as he understood it, and



Knights of Columbus, San Salvador Council #1, New Haven, Connecticut Charter was signed on May 15, 1882. 133 years later, on the same day, Mikey was born.



Left, The Schachle brothers play on their computer in “McGivney Academy.”

Right, a shadow box of mementos in the Schachle home is visible reminder of Mikey’s miraculous healing.

Bl. Michael McGivney, was to provide insurance for families in order to give them financial security in the event of the loss of the husband and father.

Shortly after this diagnosis, it so happened that Daniel had been awarded a pilgrimage for top performing agents to go to Fatima. They prayerfully decided to go on this trip. They asked for family and friends to join them in prayer on the very day that they would be at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima.

With the help of their parish priest, Fr. Matthew, Michelle was hoping for the best but planning for the worst, as any concerned mother would. She had prepared the obituary for the baby and sketched out funeral plans. Again, doctors said that the fetal hydrops condition gave him a 0% chance of survival. Daniel, in his prayers, told Fr. McGivney, that if the baby lived, he would name the child in his honor. They continued to wait.

On May 15, 2015, the day had come. Michelle gave birth to a beautiful baby boy, and he continues to thrive today. Donning a shirt, “BEST. EXTRA CHROMOSOME. EVER.”, Mikey is more than a miracle. He is a light for so many. He is a light that could have easily been snuffed out. According to a *New York Times* op-ed by bioethicist Dr.

Chris Kaposy, 67 percent of unborn babies diagnosed with Down Syndrome are aborted in the U.S. After spending just a few hours with this cheerful, loving human, I could only think, “The world needs more joy like him.”

The family is the domestic church. Pope St. John Paul II writes in *Familiaris Consortio*, “The family has the mission to guard, reveal and communicate love.” This mission is evident in this beautiful family who trusted in God and had faith to go home. Their son had been healed. ♦

“If you think our hands are full, you should see our hearts.”

Then, while they were at Mass with the Supreme Chaplain, Archbishop William E. Lori of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the Gospel was proclaimed. It was the account of the royal official and his son who was deathly ill. The official pleaded with Jesus, saying, “Sir, come down before my child dies.” Jesus said to him, “You may go home, your son will live.” The man believed what Jesus said to him and left. Daniel and Michelle looked at each other in shock. Their prayer became, “Please, Fr. McGivney, let this baby be the miracle.” They left for home hoping that something greater, possibly divine intervention, was set in motion.



FEATURE - LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR

PARTNERSHIP TAKES CARE OF HOMELESS



Bishop Spalding and Brian Cooper present a \$50,000 check to Executive Director of Room In The Inn, Rachel Hester and Founding Director, Charles Strobel.

A five-fold partnership between the Catholic Diocese of Nashville, St. Vincent de Paul Church, St. Mary Villa Child Development Center, Catholic Charities, and Room In The Inn will work to provide shelter for the homeless this winter.

The collaboration came about in response to needs expressed by Room In The Inn. The organization provides programs to assist those experiencing homelessness in the Nashville area. Examples include education opportunities through their Hope University, classes about obtaining housing, drug and alcohol recovery sessions, and the Winter Shelter program.

The Winter Shelter program provides a place of rest for the homeless as well as two warm meals and a carry-out

lunch for the next day. The program takes place every November through March and is in its 35th season.

On average there are 200 congregations that provide 160 locations for shelter. This year there are a little more than 40 participating locations as of late October, according to the Executive Director of Room in the Inn, Rachel Hester.

“Not that their heart’s not there it’s just that they can’t even fathom worshipping together in their spaces let alone participating in this,” Hester said.

In order to address this gap, St. Vincent de Paul’s gymnasium has been renovated to properly house approximately a dozen people every Monday through Friday, from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.



Child Development Center Alyssa Garnett-Arno shows Bishop Spalding, Cooper, Executive Director of Catholic Charities of Tennessee Judy Orr and Fr. Francis of St. Vincent de Paul Church around the gym.

Things like painting, cleaning, removing materials, and security upgrades were completed to make the space ready for the program.

Part of the renovation included installing a small kitchen so as to not interfere with the activities of St. Mary Villa Child Development Center. St. Mary is a ministry of the Diocese of Nashville and rents the space from St. Vincent de Paul.

"I'm thrilled that this came our way," said Deacon Harold Guess of St. Vincent de Paul. "I often think about the history of St. Vincent de Paul—we've been there for many, many years, founded by an American saint who actually walked the streets of Nashville (St. Katharine Drexel). I often think about how she would look at this and what she would say, and I think she would say something that translated to a very enthusiastic 'yes.'"

Catholic Charities will also provide transportation from Room In The Inn to St. Vincent de Paul with their vans.

"We are thrilled to assist this important ministry in our community and to serve our neighbors," said Executive Director of Catholic Charities of Tennessee, Judy Orr.

In addition to the \$50,000 given to St. Mary Villa and St. Vincent de Paul for the remodel, the Diocese gave a \$50,000 donation to Room In The Inn.

"We were floored," Hester said. "When someone thinks of you it is overwhelming, especially in the mission field."

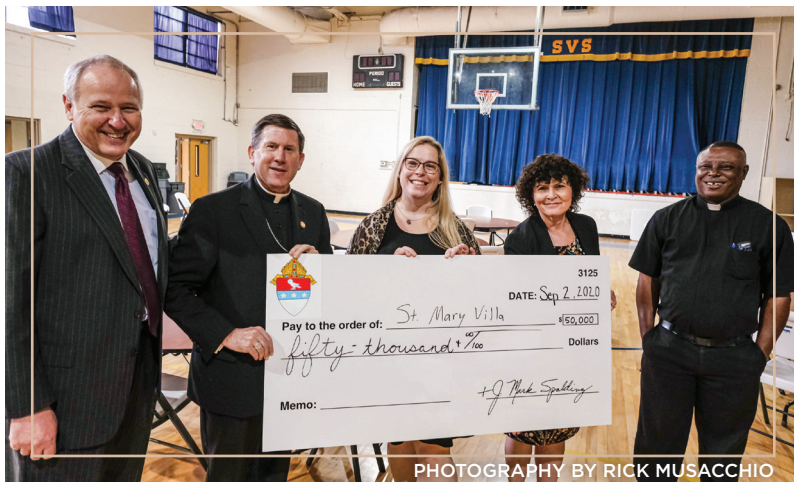
Hester said this will make the logistics easier and help with new expenses brought about by the pandemic.

These new costs include items such as disposable materials for to-go meals, more washers and dryers to make up for non-participating churches that would do laundry, hospital sanitized bedding, and costs associated with in-house meal preparation.

On top of these expenses the program has had to comply with mask and capacity mandates. Best practice suggestions include distancing beds six feet apart, hand sanitizer stations, propping doors open where possible, and removing high-touch items.



Executive Director of Room in the Inn Rachel Hester speaks to Chancellor Cooper (right) during a tour of their facility on Drexel Street in Nashville.



Garnett-Arno and Fr. Francis are presented with a \$50,000 check to renovate the gymnasium.

Hester called this year's program "lifesaving" and a "ministry of presence."

"It is a radical thing to meet people when [they] are at their hardest," she said.

"The broader theme in the Church's mission of charity is all of us need to work together," said Brian Cooper, Chancellor and Chief Operating Officer of the Diocese of Nashville. "This is a great example where all of the faithful are working together to do the right thing." ♦

FEATURE - HOLY ROSARY

Local Catholic School receives PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL AWARD

WHAT IS THE DRAW OF A CATHOLIC SCHOOL?

It's about the **mission**. The entire goal of Catholic education is to direct all things to Christ. Our Diocesan Catholic schools teach students to live according to God's will and the teaching of Jesus with the power of the Holy Spirit. They build kind hearts, strong minds, and confident leaders for today and tomorrow.

According to *Vatican News*, Pope Francis remarked that Catholic education gives "soul to the world through an intellectual and moral formation." Students attending Catholic schools receive lasting educational and ethical teachings that shape their character and, ultimately, their communities and future places of work. Nevertheless, it does not stop there. The academic instruction in Catholic schools is of the highest quality. In fact, according to research referred to by the University of Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education, "Students in Catholic and other private schools demonstrate higher academic achievement than students from similar backgrounds in public schools."

Our Catholic community and the parents throughout Middle Tennessee who send their children to our schools depend on us to continue this legacy of success, as we make strides to become the premier education brand in Middle Tennessee. That is why we were overjoyed to hear the announcement that Holy Rosary Academy was once again awarded the highly sought after National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence designation by the U.S. Department of Education. The National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) reports that, "Of 50 schools recognized in the private school category, Catholic schools earned 40 of the coveted awards." The combination of this superior education with faith-filled instruction, makes Catholic schools an unparalleled blessing for our diocese.





As their recent award indicates, Holy Rosary Academy has consistently shown by example how to reinforce and live out that mission. Holy Rosary, serving grades PreK3 through 8, is known in Donelson and in the surrounding community for its academic excellence. Student standardized test performance is in the top 15 percent of the nation, and the school is now recognized as the **only private school in the Nashville area to receive two Blue Ribbon designations**—the first in 2013, and now in 2020. Other Diocesan Catholic schools in the Nashville area to receive this award are St. Matthew in 2017, St. Bernard in 2017, and Overbrook in 2010.

The Council for American Private Education (CAPE) handles the application process for non-public schools. They posted a comment on their website on the importance of receiving the National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence designation saying, “It affirms the hard work of educators, families, and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging and engaging content.”

Holy Rosary Academy’s new principal, Kimber Halliburton, has a mission of her own to take this success into the future. She strives “to support and encourage the development of each child’s unique set of God-given talents by providing a Catholic education grounded in Gospel values and committed to excellence.”

Lara Schuler, Assistant Superintendent for Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Nashville, stated, “The National Blue Ribbon Designation of Holy Rosary Academy serves as a symbol of excellence of Catholic education in our area. When newcomers move to the Nashville area and search for private education for their children, this symbol of academic excellence may help them decide to choose our schools. Current families are assured in their choice of school, and new families can feel confident in choosing to entrust the education of their child to this school.”

Lara also said, “It’s important to realize that this could not have happened without the hard work of administrators current and past, excellent teachers, supportive parents, and engaged students—all who were active in the process.” Teachers have to be on board with a mindset of excellence and must work hard to achieve a common goal. Teamwork is vital for overall improvement and is a necessary investment that benefits the school community for years to come.

The faculty, staff, and students were gathered together and cheered loudly when they watched and heard their school name an-

nounced on Sept. 24 in a video presentation by U.S. Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos. The excitement started to build when she stated, “Congratulations to this year’s National Blue Ribbon School awardees. It’s a privilege to recognize the extraordinary work you do to meet students’ needs and prepare them for successful careers and meaningful lives.”

Bishop J. Mark Spalding and Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Rebecca Hammel, planned to attend a school-wide celebration in mid-November in honor of this great news. Rebecca stated, “I am very proud of Holy Rosary for applying for and receiving this award. It truly is a mark of excellence that distinguishes this school from others throughout the country. Only 50 private schools in the entire country are able to receive this honor each year, and for Holy Rosary to receive it a second time is quite remarkable! For not only has the school community demonstrated commitment to excellence, they have demonstrated commitment to continuous improvement. I join the Holy Rosary community in celebration of this prestigious award. It is well deserved.”

“Speaking from my heart, getting the Blue Ribbon award the first time was exciting, but the second time was even more so!” said Amy Lavendar, Director of Instructional Programs and Tuition Manager at Holy Rosary. Schools can only apply for the award once every five years. Amy noted, “It’s not easy to maintain the test scores required to qualify—there is no perfect formula to do this. This is a testament to the hard work of teachers, students, and families. Our faculty is always committed to getting to know our students and strategically accommodating the wide variety of learning abilities—through after-school tutoring, seeking out those with dyslexia and other learning issues, and providing them different ways to learn.”

What does this award mean for the entire school community? Lara Schuler said, “This designation is recognition of the excellent teaching and engaged learning happening at Holy Rosary Academy every day. It is an honor for our system of Catholic schools here in the Diocese of Nashville as a whole. While not all of our schools are applying for recognition right now, many could. They are all excellent and extraordinary in so many different ways, and all are gems of the community at large.”

Holy Rosary Academy looks forward to proudly displaying their new 2020 sign and advertising their recent success. Go Vikings! ♦

FEATURE - VIRTUAL

LIVESTREAMING USED TO SPREAD THE GOSPEL

IN MANY WAYS the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to re-examine the pace of our lives. We could no longer rely on the events that had dictated it in the past. Things like long-distance travel, getting the kids to soccer practice, workplace projects, funding events, and even public celebrations of the Mass were paused during the global health crisis. Nevertheless, for the Diocese of Nashville, this lifestyle alteration challenged us to find creative new ways to continue to spread the Church's message of hope and love.

BRINGING CHURCH TO THE PEOPLE

On March 17, Bishop J. Mark Spalding released his letter dispensing the faithful from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. The announcement also cancelled public celebrations of the Mass and group gatherings at our churches.

The decision was made in conjunction with bishops from other dioceses in the province of Kentucky and Tennessee.

Because of the resulting inaccessibility of the Mass, many churches turned to livestreamed or recorded celebrations. Holy Family Catholic Church in Brentwood, TN, is one example.

During the lockdown, the parish began a combination of livestreaming and pre-recorded Mass. The videos were posted to their Facebook page and on YouTube. Once the lockdown was lifted at the end of May, they kept livestreaming some of their Masses and enabled parishioners participating in their car in the parking lot to receive Communion from extraordinary ministers of holy Communion.

For the pre-recorded Masses, Facilities Director, Bill Plantz, became the videographer and Director of Pastoral Care, Betty Lou Burnett, became the coordinator and lecturer. Betty Lou called the recordings "almost like another ministry" but noted that you can be "at the mercy of wifi."

For all their efforts, they have gotten good feedback. Many have requested to keep it going, even after some normalcy returns.

"It's good for folks who are homebound too," Betty Lou said.



Several parishes across the Diocese, such as St. Philip, Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. Thomas Aquinas, Holy Name, and Church of the Nativity, similarly host and provide virtual Masses. A detailed list of parishes can be found at www.watchmass.com

Until the implementation of high-quality livestreaming at the Cathedral of the Incarnation, this site also hosted Sunday Masses filmed and produced weekly by a team at the Catholic Pastoral Center. They filmed in the building's chapel, and the Masses were celebrated by the Bishop and different priests of the Diocese.

Director of the Office of Faith Formation, Joan Watson, and St. Stephen Catholic Community parishioner, Angie Bosio, filmed the first Mass on March 22. The two ran the production with a Mevo camera and a Zoom audio recorder. These Masses have also been posted on the diocesan YouTube account.

"It has been difficult at times, but it has been worth it," Angie said. She also helps to produce one of the livestreamed Sunday Masses at St. Stephen.

BRINGING SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS TO THE PEOPLE

The spring is a special time in the Church, but this year COVID-19 presented challenges.

With the dispensation still in place, the dilemma for the Diocese was how to bring the Triduum services to the faithful. In response, the Palm Sunday Mass, Holy Thursday Mass, Good Friday liturgy, and the Easter Vigil were all filmed at an empty Cathedral of the Incarnation.

Most significantly, the Easter Sunday Mass was broadcast on Fox 17 at 11 a.m.

"We're looking to grow our presence in the virtual world through the airwaves and tv, and this was a great way to do it," said Bill Staley, Director of Youth, Young Adult, and New Evangelization Ministries. He went on to say that a contact at the station reported that the

viewership numbers from the Easter Mass rivaled those of ratings the station got when it aired *American Idol*.

The Chrism Mass, originally slated for the Tuesday of Holy Week, was rescheduled for June 16. The virtual event was invitation only and limited to diocesan priests, deacons and their wives, and seminarians. It could be viewed through the diocesan Facebook page and on www.watchmass.com.

"We want to return to that diocesan-wide invitation and celebration next year if and when the COVID-19 pandemic is addressed appropriately," Bishop Spalding said.

The health crisis even delayed this year's priestly ordination. Originally scheduled for May, the ordination of now Fr. Juan Carlos Garcia-Mendoza and Fr. Javier Suarez took place on Aug. 15, the Feast of the Assumption. It was livestreamed to the diocesan Facebook page and was posted on www.watchmass.com and on YouTube. A live radio broadcast was also available to listen to on 100.5 FM or at wbou.org.

It goes without saying, behind the scenes there was plenty of planning for these events.

Each of the ordinandi submitted a guest list to be used to form a seating chart that grouped families together in pods. Pew markers were readjusted, and hand sanitizer and masks were made accessible.

"We are blessed that we were able to have an ordination," said Office of Vocations Coordinator, Jerilyn Rost. Jerilyn recalled having a plan A, B, and C for every scenario and watching to learn what phase of reopening the city of Nashville was in. To be on the safe side, the Vocations Office also planned a virtual-only event.

COMING TOGETHER FOR STEWARDSHIP

The annual Seminarian Education Dinner and Auction was scheduled to take place on May 19 at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church. However, a live event looked questionable by late March.

"We realized that the need was still there, so we decided virtual was our only other option," said Director of Stewardship and Development, Ashley Linville.

The Virtual Seminarian Education Mass, Event, and Auction took place on July 28 on Facebook and on the diocesan website.

The program kicked off with a recorded Mass celebrated by Fr. Mark Simpson. Talks followed from Bishop Spalding, Fr. Austin Gilstrap, then Deacon Suarez, and the creators of the event, Lloyd and Elizabeth Crockett.

Those interested in donating could do so at the website or by calling in to speak to one of our seminarians.

Funds also came from auction items such as a dinner with Bishop Spalding and Titans Coach Mike Vrabel, bourbon and whiskey tasting with Frs. John Hammond and Andrew Forsythe, a five-night stay in Panama City Beach, and more.

The evening was a great success and raised \$280,000, which exceeded their goal of \$275,000.

"It always is a beautiful thing for us to see how much the people of the Diocese of Nashville love their seminarians and their priests, and they have never let us down," Fr. Gilstrap said.

The event is sponsored by the Serra Clubs of Nashville and of Williamson County along with the Knights of Columbus.

All money raised goes toward the cost of seminarian education which Fr. Gilstrap estimated at about \$60,000 per man, per year. There are currently 22 men in formation with the Diocese of Nashville.

The success of this virtual fundraiser started the year strong as the Office of Stewardship and Development approached a second annual event that would have to be virtual, this time for the Catholic Schools Office.

"We learned a lot of lessons," Ashley said. "Things to do and not to do. That made us feel a lot more confident."

The Advancement for Catholic Education (ACE) hosts an annual fundraiser to support its endowment fund, which is most commonly used for tuition assistance. This year's program was called "Celebrating the Impact of Catholic Education."

Marty Blair, ACE board member, was the emcee, and Bishop Spalding and Will Donnelly, a graduate of Fr. Ryan High School and St. Henry School, both spoke at the event. As part of the evening, Randy Lancaster, an English teacher at Father Ryan High School was honored as the 2020 recipient of the Christ the Teacher Award.

Donors could purchase table sponsorships and participate in a table naming contest for a chance to win a virtual meeting with local sports radio personnel Dave McGinnis and Pete Weber. Table sponsors also qualified for a virtual happy hour 45 minutes before the start of the program with a Catholic school principal.

"Time with the principals is a way to share the needs of the school firsthand and tell the guests how they will benefit directly," said Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Rebecca Hammel.

An auction was part of the night for the first time, and among items up for bidding was a pig roast at Camp Marymount.

This was the second year that an anonymous donor agreed to match donations up to \$250,000. The fundraiser generated \$210,000 totaling \$420,000 with the matching donation.

"We remain so grateful for the financial contribution that people continue to invest in our students because it is truly an investment," Rebecca said. "The children are the leaders of tomorrow, and they are the ones who will take care of us and the Church one day."

In a time of uncertainty, these virtual events and last-minute adaptations showed a perseverance to preach the Good News of Jesus Christ, welcoming all. ♦

DIOCESE OF NASHVILLE FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2019 – 2020



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On behalf of the leadership of the Diocese of Nashville, I am pleased to share our 2019-2020 Annual Impact Report.

As Chief Financial Officer, my office is responsible for the administration of goods, ensuring their proper use, safeguarding the assets of the church, operating the Fiscal Services Office, responding to requests from the Chief Operating Officer and Bishop, and managing all financial transactions and investments conducted by the Chancery Office and five other entities.

The Diocese of Nashville Finance Council approves the Diocesan annual budget and advises the Bishop, Chief Operating Officer, and Chief Financial Officer on major financial matters. The objective is to spend wisely, secure market-based returns on investments, and provide the resources for our priests and lay ministers to promote our Catholic faith.

The first eight months of the Fiscal Year had strong results. Financially, the Diocese and parishes saw increases in donations and activity. Then the pandemic hit. "Stay at home" orders initially closed the churches and then limited church attendance. We were fortunate and collections stayed above 90% year over year. Some parishes increased collections over 2019, although Hispanic-dominated parishes experienced 50%+ declines in contributions.

Collectively, our Catholic community has supported over \$45 million in new facilities for prayer and ministry in the last 10 years, with many new opportunities ahead. One exciting new opportunity is in Nolensville. The Diocese, through donations, purchased 160 acres of land. It will be the future home of a new parish and school complex. Studies are underway to determine the capacity for pre-K through 12th grade.

The Diocese benefited from several large gifts while other revenues from usage fees and Sunday collections declined. The SBA PPP loan helped to offset those lost revenues. Savings were achieved from the reduced activity. All staff were retained and a one-time award was issued in lieu of raises.

Highlights from Fiscal Year 2020 include the following:

- ▶ **TOTAL ASSETS INCREASED BY \$ 1.3 MILLION**
- ▶ **NET ASSETS (EQUITY) INCREASED BY \$ 825,000**
- ▶ **REVENUES INCREASED BY \$ 1.38 MILLION**
- ▶ **EXPENSES DECLINED BY \$ 555,000**

The full audited financial report can be found at dioceseofnashville.com/financial. ♦

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "William J. Whalen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

William J. Whalen MBA, JD, CPA, CMA
Chief Financial Officer

ANNUAL REPORT ON FINANCES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2019 TO JUNE 30, 2020, DIOCESE OF NASHVILLE

HIGHLIGHTS

Presented below are summaries of the data and more details on some categories which may be of interest:

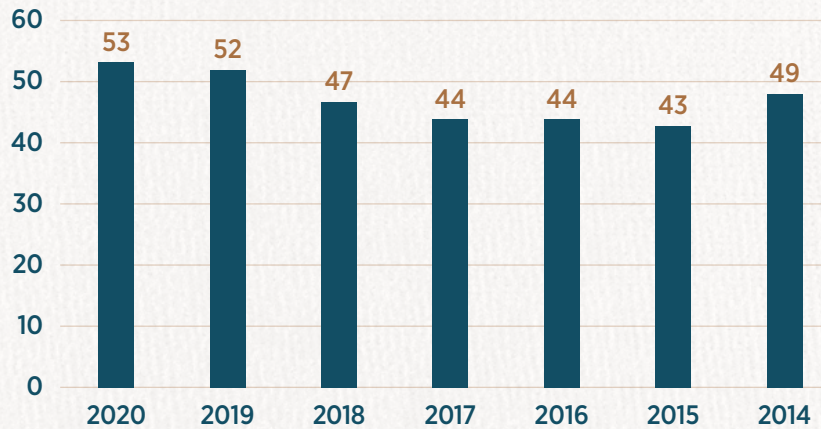
- ▶ Actual expenses were \$15,408,466 compared to budgeted expense of \$15,949,001. The reduction in expenses is primarily related to reduced programming due to the Stay-At-Home orders and the pandemic.
- ▶ Operating Net Income of \$261,373 was slightly below budget yet positive for three years in a row.
- ▶ Total Net Income was better than budget by \$922,116 through a \$1 million donation.

| BALANCE SHEET AS OF JUNE 30, 2020 | FY2020 | FY2019 |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| Cash, Investments, Receivables (net) | \$ 23,049,123 | \$ 26,368,771 |
| Land, Buildings, Equipment (net) | 31,813,986 | 27,676,593 |
| Residual interest in trust | 3,713,458 | 3,188,487 |
| Total Assets | \$ 58,576,567 | \$ 57,233,851 |
| | | |
| Liabilities - short term | \$ 1,884,788 | \$ 1,963,244 |
| Amounts owed or Pledged ¹ | 12,972,593 | 12,377,312 |
| Total Liabilities | 14,857,381 | 14,340,556 |
| | | |
| Net Assets w/o Donor Rest | 928,312 | 4,691,191 |
| Net Assets Designated | 32,751,608 | 28,429,582 |
| | | |
| Net Assets Restricted | 10,039,266 | 9,772,522 |
| Total Net Assets | 43,719,186 | 42,893,295 |
| Total Liabilities and Net Assets | \$ 58,576,567 | \$ 57,233,851 |

¹The Diocese has a pledge of \$4,800,000 to Pope John Paul II High School to contribute to its bond debt due December 2020 and December 2025. The Diocese has a liquidity loan of \$7,325,811 from First Horizon Bank due June 2021. The Diocese has reserved monies to fund these commitments. The Diocese and Tennessee Register have \$846,800 in SBA loans that are "forgivable."

FINANCIALS

REGULAR MSO EMPLOYEE POSITIONS (FTE)

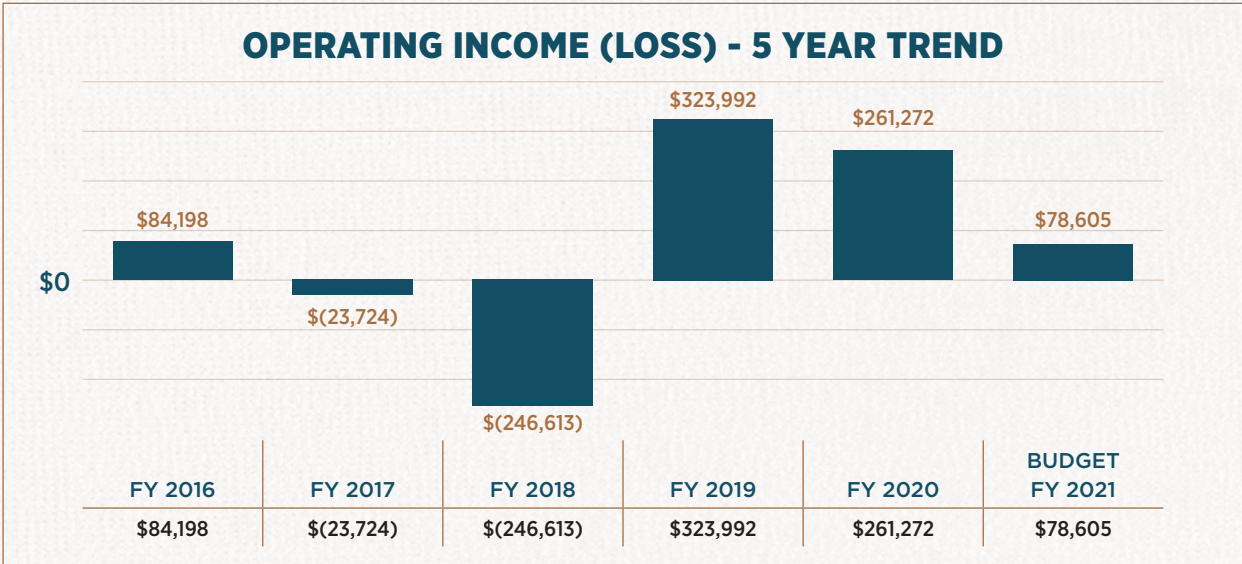
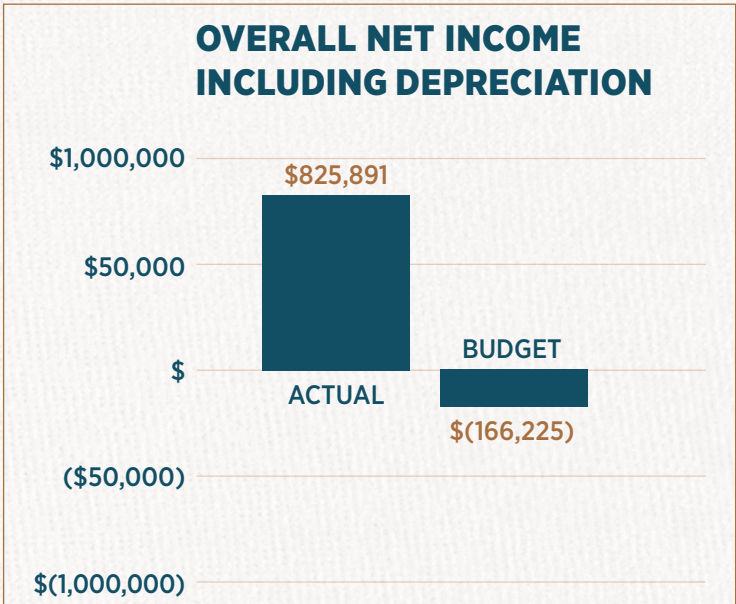
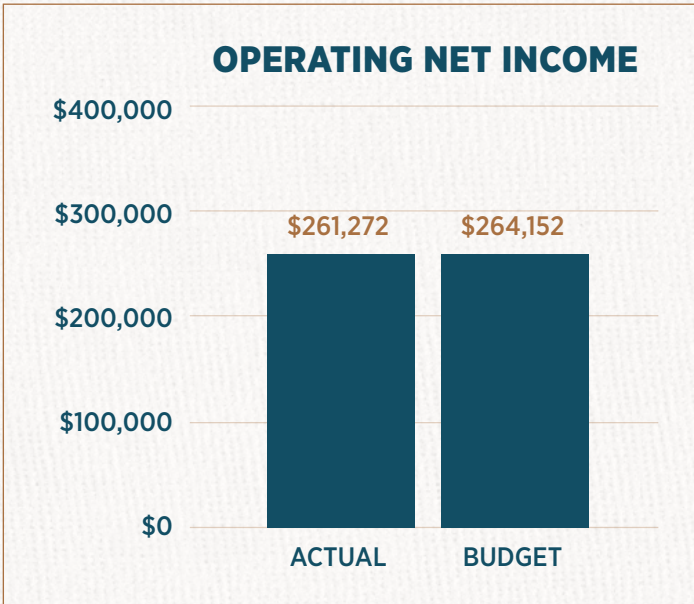


INCOME STATEMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

| REVENUES | FY2020 | FY2019 |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Assessments Revenue | \$ 6,257,356 | \$ 5,821,870 |
| Contributions, Fees, Grants | 9,594,246 | 8,153,675 |
| Investment Income | 1,026,424 | 1,421,409 |
| Gain on Sale of Assets | - | 5,449,227 |
| Change in Residual Values | (78,029) | 21,877 |
| Total Revenues | \$ 16,799,997 | \$ 20,868,058 |

Assessable income from parishes continue as a stable source of revenues, primarily funding core financial operations and pensions. Contributions, Fees, and Grants (mostly the Bishop's Annual Appeal for Ministries) increased by \$1,440,571 from FY 2019 to FY 2020. Investment income was \$394,985 lower in FY 20 compared to FY 19. Residual values refer to trust funds of which the diocese is a beneficiary.

| EXPENSES | FY2020 | FY2019 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| Salaries and Benefits | \$ 5,997,989 | \$ 6,148,536 |
| Subsidies and Distributions | 3,457,526 | 3,525,800 |
| Professional Services | 1,552,475 | 1,592,092 |
| Operating Expenses | 4,398,958 | 4,761,652 |
| Depreciation | 567,158 | 501,370 |
| Total Expenses | \$ 15,974,106 | \$ 16,529,450 |
| | | |
| Net Income (change in net assets) | \$ 825,891 | \$ 4,338,608 |



The Diocese of Nashville annually publishes the financial results of operations. The audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, which covers the Administrative (MSO or Chancery) Office of the Diocese and Tennessee Register, is published on dioceseofnashville.com in its entirety. ♦

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Mr. Sergio Ora

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Most Reverend J. Mark Spalding
Very Rev. Dexter S. Brewer
Very Rev. John J. H. Hammond
Mr. Brian L. Cooper
Mrs. Julie Perrey
Mr. William Whalen, MBA, JD, CPA, CMA

LEGAL:

L. Gino Marchetti, Jr.

Presbyteral Council

Most Reverend J. Mark Spalding
Very Rev. Dexter S. Brewer
Very Rev. John J. H. Hammond
Rev. Pat Kibby
Rev. Ed Steiner
Rev. Eric Fowlkes
Rev. Thomas Kalam, CMI
Rev. Stephen Brett
Rev. John Sims Baker
Rev. Phillip Halladay
Rev. Andrew Bulso
Rev. Daniel Steiner
Rev. C. Andrew Forsythe

Catholic Community Investment and Loan, Inc.

Mr. Drew Rodgers, President
Mr. Francis Bedard, Vice President
Rev. Dan Rehill, Secretary/Treasurer
Mr. Brian T. Gilbert
Mrs. Angela Robinson
Mr. Kevin McDermott
Rev. Joe McMahon
Rev. Ben Butler

EX-OFFICIO:

Most Reverend J. Mark Spalding
Very Rev. Dexter S. Brewer
Very Rev. John J. H. Hammond
Mr. Brian L. Cooper
Rev. Mr. Hans Toecker

LEGAL:

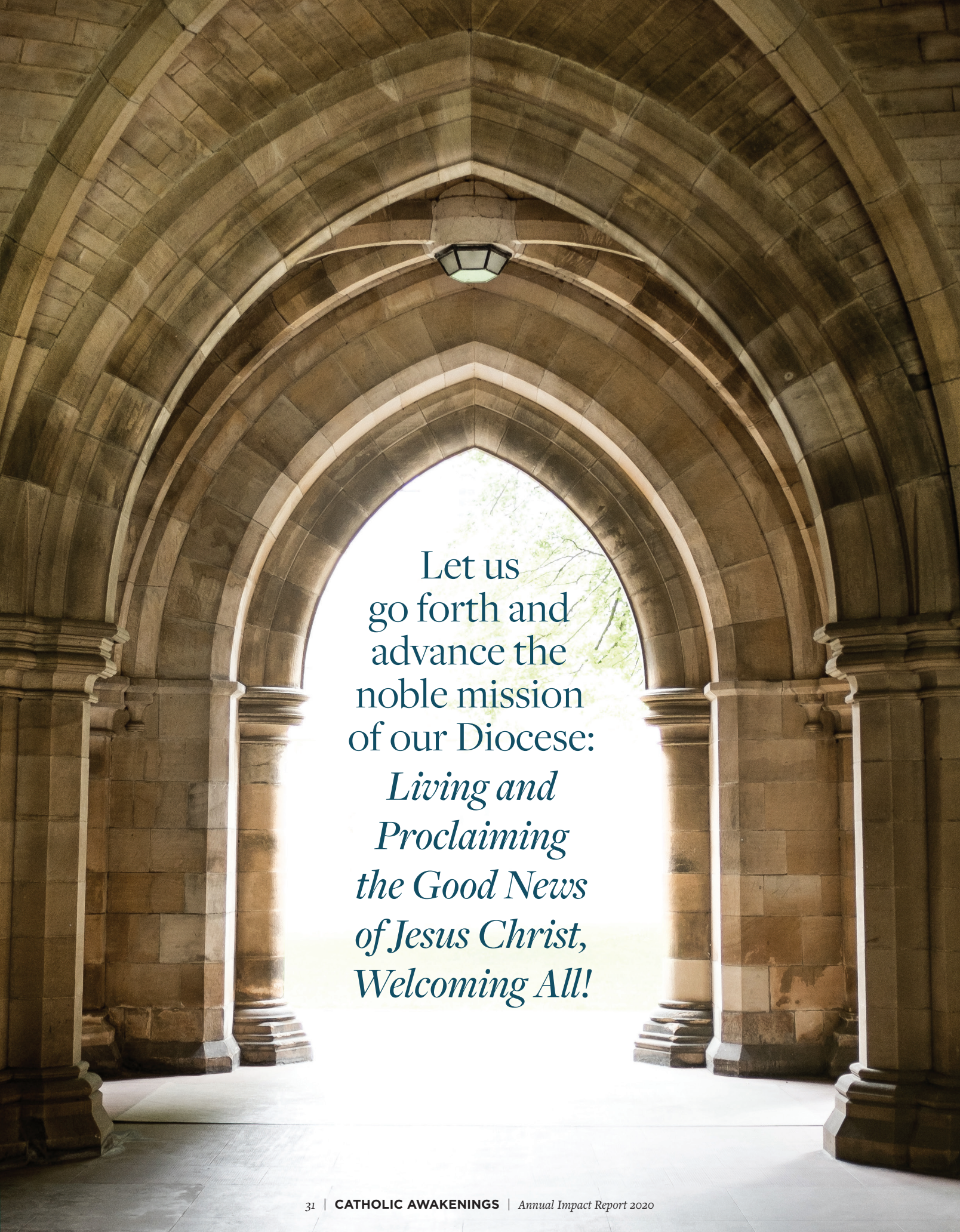
L. Gino Marchetti, Jr.

Corporation Members

Most Reverend J. Mark Spalding
Very Rev. Dexter S. Brewer, Vicar General
Very Rev. John J. H. Hammond,
Vicar General
Mr. Brian L. Cooper ♦

Bishop Spalding's Senior Staff:

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Very Rev. Dexter S. Brewer | Mr. Rick Musacchio |
| Very Rev. John J. H. Hammond | Mrs. Judy Orr |
| Rev. Austin Gilstrap | Mrs. Julie Perrey |
| Rev. Mr. Hans Toecker | Mrs. Erin Stracener |
| Mr. Brian Cooper | Mr. Bill Staley |
| Mrs. Rebecca Hammel | Ms. Joan Watson |
| Mr. Ashley Linville | Mr. William Whalen |
| Mr. Gino Marchetti | |



Let us
go forth and
advance the
noble mission
of our Diocese:
*Living and
Proclaiming
the Good News
of Jesus Christ,
Welcoming All!*

GOOD NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE OF NASHVILLE

CATHOLIC AWAKENINGS

2800 McGavock Pike
Nashville, TN 37214-1402

CATHOLICAWAKENINGS.COM



BE A GOOD STEWARD
PLEASE RECYCLE

Save the date

Midnight Mass
Broadcast Live on Fox 17
Christmas Eve

Diaconate Ordination
March 27, 2021

Chrism Mass
March 30, 2021

Catholic Charities' Pathways to Possibilities
April 13, 2021

University Catholic 15th Anniversary Gala
April 10, 2021

Seminarian Education Dinner
May 25, 2021

ACE Benefit Dinner
Sept. 14, 2021

*Due to COVID-19, events may be changed. Visit DioceseofNashville.com
for the most up-to-date information ahead of these events.

POPE FRANCIS
proclaims this year as

THE YEAR OF
St. Joseph

