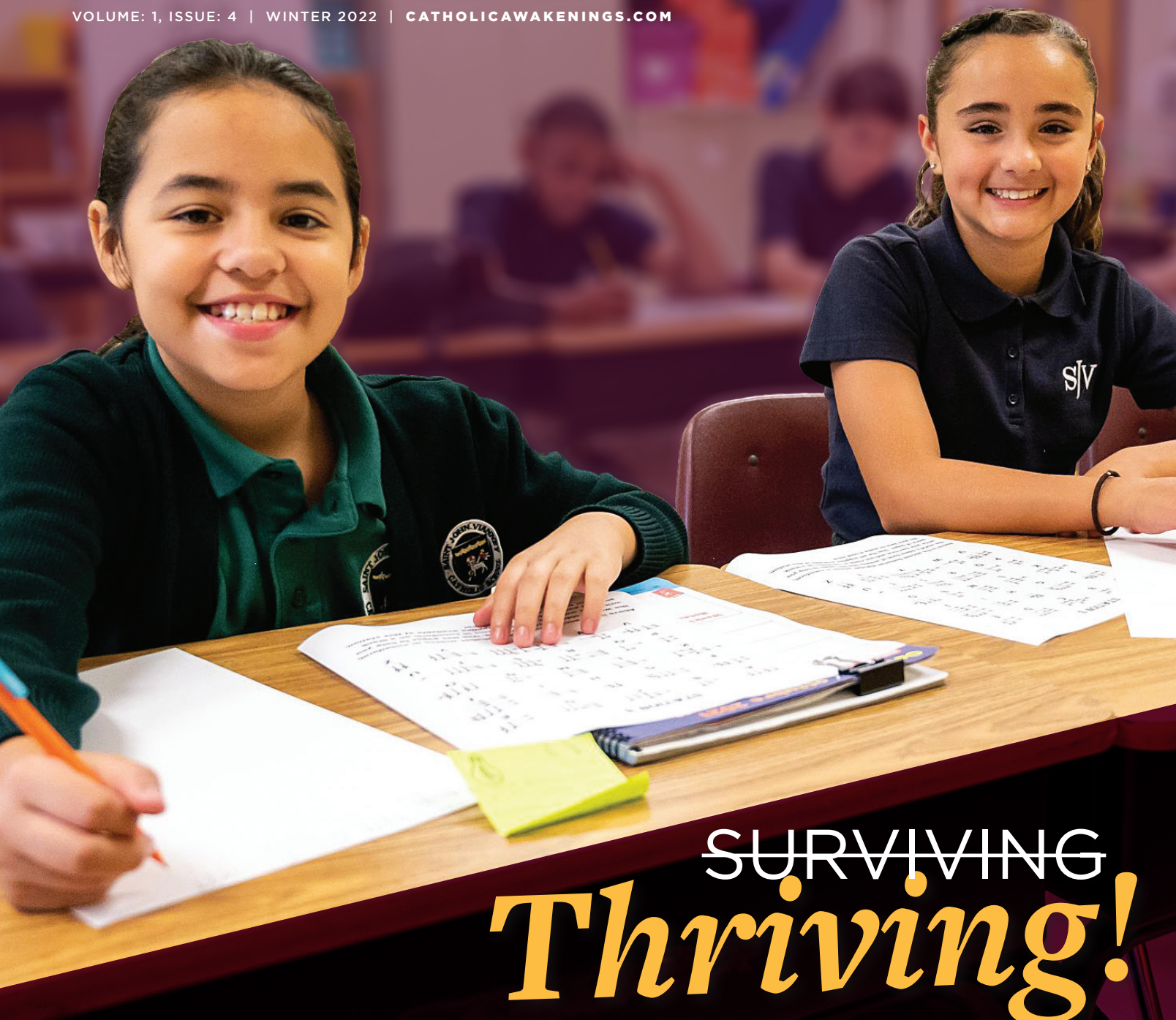


CATHOLIC AWAKENINGS

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SURVIVING *Thriving!*

STREAM COMES
TO CATHOLIC
SCHOOLS

pg. 19

AND THEN
THERE
WERE 60

pg. 28

THE DIOCESE'S ANNUAL
IMPACT REPORT

From Kentucky to Alabama and everything in between ...

HAVING JUST CELEBRATED MY FOURTH anniversary as your bishop, I reflect back upon the year that was 2021. In the midst of any crisis, it is always good to remind ourselves that God gives us the gifts we need to respond and to endure. I am truly grateful that the gifts we needed, to not only survive the pandemic but ultimately to thrive despite the difficulties, were found within the Body of Christ here in the Diocese of Nashville.

St. Paul reminds us, "... but as it is, there are many parts, yet one body." (1 Corinthians 12:20) We are encouraged to unite our wide-ranging gifts as one Body of Christ, valuing each and every person — clergy, religious and lay-faithful — with diverse backgrounds and skillsets from all ethnic cultures and working co-responsibly to build God's Kingdom here on earth. When we can view the world as one of abundance from God and then we engage together, great things can be accomplished as this annual report proves. Some of the particularly noteworthy highlights include:

- Catholic Charities led the relief efforts for Metro Nashville in the aftermath of the Christmas bombing one year ago, assisting nearly 1,000 displaced individuals and businesses in the downtown area.
- They also were awarded a \$7.3 Million TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) grant from the State of Tennessee to significantly expand our Catholic Charities resource centers and outreach into 10 additional counties, serving thousands more in need of food, shelter, counseling and job training for a better life.
- Our Catholic Schools not only remained open throughout the entire school year (2020-2021), but also grew by more than 9% in overall enrollment for this present school year, reversing a decades long decline. Full graduation ceremonies were held outdoors to celebrate the seniors' accomplishments with parents and family.
- Our pastors and parishes adapted to multiple challenges brought on by pandemic restrictions and provided the faithful with creative worship opportunities such as outdoor Mass, virtual Mass, drive-up Mass and in-home visitations. Through it all, our attendance and collections remained strong, reflecting strong Catholic community values.





■ The diocesan senior living campuses, Mary Queen of Angels and Villa Maria, navigated direct hardships of COVID-related isolation/lockdowns and challenged work environments, persevered through the crises and emerged stronger than ever before.

■ Two new transitional deacons were ordained on March 27, 2021 at Sagrado Corazon Church. Deacon Brent Thayer and Deacon Nonso Ohanaka are in their final year of formation and will be ordained priests in Spring of 2022. Although 10 new priests were ordained in the past four years, we have a total of 20 men in seminary, providing confident hope that future needs for well-formed priests will be met.

■ Also, the Diocese of Nashville began its second cohort of permanent diaconate formation, bringing the total number of men in formation to become permanent deacons to 25. The inaugural class will be ordained in the Spring of 2023.

■ Financially, our parishes and schools continue to thrive with the help and commitment of their communities — for the first time in many years, no parish or school operated at a deficit.

■ As Bishop, I had the privilege of erecting the first new parish in several years, Mother Teresa Church in Nolensville, Tenn. (naming Father Anthony Stewart as its first pastor), along with the creation of a new diocesan school — St. Michael Academy.

■ We also have partnered with the Glenmary Home Mission Society to establish a new community in Carthage, Tenn., the first Catholic church ever to operate in Smith County. The Diocese of Nashville led efforts to secure a permanent church with the new parish, St. Peter the Apostle, and will transition ownership when it is erected later this year.

■ Lastly, we successfully launched a major philanthropic endeavor with a \$50 Million permanent funding goal through the creation of endowments for Catholic Charities, Catholic Education, Vocations and Parish expansion/revitalization. The Legacy of Faith, Hope and Love Campaign — A Campaign for Future Generations is simply transformational for our diocese.

Like all of us, I too dream of a diocese where any student can pursue a first-class education with foundational values and where new churches, schools, and outreach centers can serve those in need — spiritually, academically and physically — and a seminarian program with double the number of men in formation to provide for the sacramental needs of the growing number of faithful in our parishes.

An old proverb says, “a society grows great when people plant trees whose shade they know they will never sit in.” When every member of our Church works co-responsibly with each other, we can do great things together benefitting future generations as we indeed become, the living Body of Christ. ♦



+ J. Mark Spalding

FROM THE CHANCELLOR

With Ash Wednesday around the corner, it's time to begin preparing our hearts and minds for Easter. Yet often during the last year, many of us struggled to recognize the beginning and end of our religious seasons and cycles of celebration. In precisely moments like this, I try to pause and reflect. As I consider all that the diocese has accomplished in the past year in the face of a variety of challenges and tragedies — not only the global pandemic, but also tornadoes, a bombing and floods — the culmination of events can feel biblical in the severity of their impact. But our response to these events as a community of faith feels invigorating and hopeful.

We in the Diocese of Nashville — parishioners, pastors, fellow Christians who walk alongside us in faith — have continued to pray, to care for one another and to remain hopeful for the future despite the challenges before us.

In the face of the calamities that befell Middle Tennessee from July 2020 to June 2021, Bishop Spalding called upon his team to dig deep and meet these problems with courage. We answered his call in the summer of 2020, without being able to meet altogether ourselves, let alone sit in a church pew side-by-side with all of you — the Catholic community of Middle Tennessee. Like you, we called upon our creativity and determination to find a way through unprecedented times replete with compounding natural disasters and health catastrophes.

In this issue of *Catholic Awakenings*, you will learn about good works happening across the Diocese of Nashville. There is much to celebrate: new churches (pages 28-29) and a new school (page 21); ministries, orders and organizations gathering to advance the faith (pages 26-27); the work of Catholic Charities to meet the needs of Middle Tennesseans right where they are (pages 10-13) and much more.

What we dubbed “the extraordinary year of COVID-19” among Bishop’s Spalding leadership team was marked by striving for innovation. Live streaming of Masses across the region; adaptation of pandemic protocols to parishioners’ health, spiritual and educational needs;

pivoting existing social service and outreach programs to serve the emerging needs of local communities in the moment. Services and programs that we did not imagine could be virtual became precisely that.

We came together as a community and supported each other. Today, we embrace the growth, opportunity and the fresh set of challenges before us now.

Last year, we launched the diocesan capital campaign, themed “A Legacy of Faith, Hope & Love.” You can read more about it in this issue (pages 24-25). The scripture featured in this campaign comes from the Book of Esther, “Perhaps you were born for such a time as this.”

No one would have chosen to spend the last two years in a global pandemic, but it happened. And here we are — some of us shaken, some of us grieving, many of us still uncertain about what the future holds.

As Catholics, we are certain, however, that our faith can sustain us through any adversity. None of us is here by accident. Let us continue to innovate, to see to our neighbors and to look to the future with courage and hope. ♦

In Christ,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian L. Cooper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent "B" and "C".

Brian L. Cooper
Chancellor and
Chief Operating Officer

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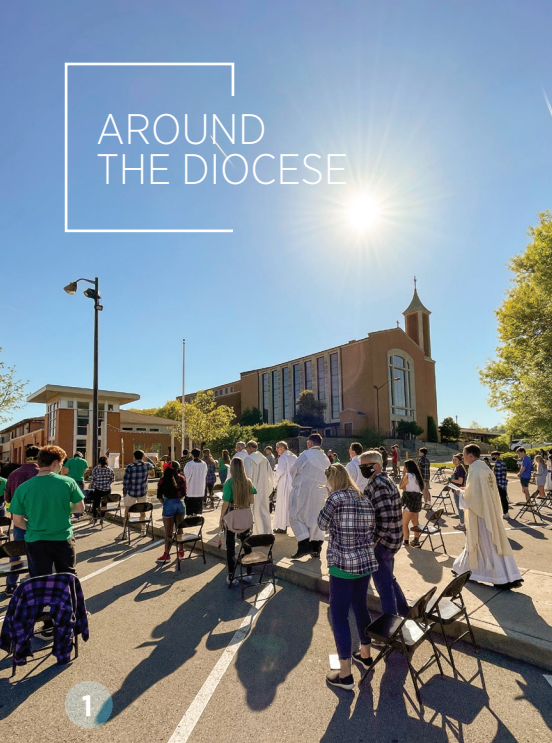
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AROUND THE DIOCESE



1

1 The 50th Anniversary SEARCH Retreat Mass begins at St. Henry Catholic Church. Nearly 16,000 people have made this retreat experience since Father Ed Arnold brought it to our diocese in 1971.



2

2 Deacon Rafael Bourgat records homilies in Spanish every month to air on Nashville Catholic Radio. From 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. the broadcast is in Spanish. Listen at 100.5 FM or online at NashvilleCR.com!

3 Deacon Tom Samoray and his wife, Barb, are photographed at the Nashville Catholic Radio appreciation dinner. Many folks around Nashville know this deacon's iconic voice from his year's as a DJ for Oldies 96.3 FM.

4 David Lee, a seminarian at the Pontifical North American College in Rome, had the incredible opportunity to meet with His Holiness, Pope Francis. David is in his second year of theological studies.

5 Bishop Spalding and U.S. Senator Bill Hagerty speak to students at the Cathedral in January 2021. Instead of the regular March for Life + Human Dignity pilgrimage in Washington, D.C., the students attended a local two-day event that presented local resources, formation, education and prayer opportunities throughout the city.



7



8

The 50th Anniversary of the SEARCH Retreat



9



6 Rising juniors and seniors attended Youth Leadership Workshop at Gasper River Retreat Center in the Diocese of Owensboro. The four day event focuses on leadership training and team building through the lens of our Catholic faith.

7 Father Hammond confers the sacrament of confirmation at St. Patrick Catholic Church. Amid the pandemic, formation opportunities for those wishing to join the Church continued in unique and beautiful ways.

8 From the first SEARCH at the Graystone Building where the Fleming Center now stands to today's teens at Camp Marymount, the SEARCH retreat program has inspired thousands over the years.

9 Bishop Spalding celebrates All Souls Day Mass at Priest Circle in Calvary Cemetery. Four of our former bishops and dozens of our priests are laid to rest in this special place.

10 In August 2021, Bishop Spalding celebrated the 30th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. It was enjoyed by the public, family, friends and even Archbishop Emeritus Kurtz and Bishop Brevard.

11 The new Annunciation Chapel is complete at the Cathedral of the Incarnation. Stop by and see the beautiful renovations!



AROUND THE DIOCESE



12

12 Parishes participated in a first-ever young adult kickball league. It was fun to meet new peers as folks from all over the nation continue to flock to Tennessee in record numbers.

13 Bishop Spalding visits the booth of Smashville's most recognizable voice, Pete Weber. Bishop Spalding's Catholic Minute airs on NFL and NHL radio networks throughout the season!



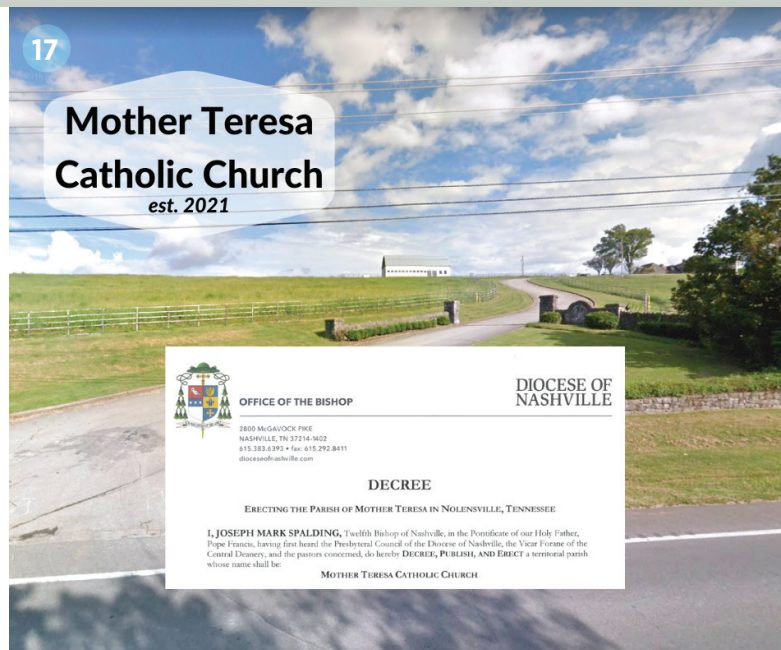
13

14 Governor Bill Lee spends time with the three apostolic successors of the great state of Tennessee. Bishop Stika of the Diocese of Knoxville and Bishop Talley of the Diocese of Memphis join our bishop in continuing a dialogue with our state's leadership regarding key Catholic issues.

15 Students visit a mobile pregnancy support vehicle to learn about all the wonderful services provided by Mulier Care.



16



17

Mother Teresa Catholic Church est. 2021

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DIocese OF NASHVILLE

DECREE

ERECTING THE PARISH OF MOTHER TERESA IN NOLENSVILLE, TENNESSEE

I, JOSEPH MARK SPALDING, Twelfth Bishop of Nashville, in the Pontificate of our Holy Father, Pope Francis, having first heard the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Nashville, the Year Forum of the Central Deanery, and the pastors concerned, do hereby **DECREE, PUBLISH, AND ERECT** a territorial parish whose name shall be:

MOTHER TERESA CATHOLIC CHURCH



14



15

16 U.S. Senator Bill Hagerty takes “selfies” with students at the March for Life + Human Dignity event at Cathedral.

17 Mother Teresa Catholic Church is officially established as a parish by a decree of Bishop Spalding.

18 Father Juan Carlos Garcia celebrates his first Mass after being ordained a priest. He is currently the associate pastor at St. Rose of Lima parish in Murfreesboro.

19 Bishop Spalding welcomes a newborn baby into the Church through baptism at St. Henry Catholic Church.



18



19



Catholic Charities

SHOWS UP



Christmas Day 2020, as families throughout Middle Tennessee were opening gifts and getting ready to pile into cars for morning Mass, an intentional bomb detonated in Downtown Nashville. The effects of the physical damage to property, radiating blocks from the blast on Second Avenue North, were felt much farther as Nashvillians realized the compounding destruction to include the loss of livelihoods and ongoing trauma from the explosion.

Judy Orr, executive director of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Nashville, remembers, “I got up and had my coffee on Christmas Day, we saw the news reports ... I wondered if this was something we might be called upon to help with.” Keith King, community outreach coordinator for Catholic Charities, was tracking with the same thought and knew Catholic Charities was set for the job, “We were ready to go on Christmas Day.”

† **READY TO GO**

During the following days of the Octave of Christmas, Catholic Charities led the effort to begin the Christ-fueled work of assisting those impacted by the bomb. With a \$2 million grant from the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), an additional \$500,000 from the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee and \$50,000 from United Way of Greater Nashville, Catholic Charities spearheaded the task of providing aid to businesses and individuals after the unprecedented event of a bomb explosion.

Heather Baker, a local single mother of four children, is just one of those people for whom Catholic Charities showed up in the days and months following the Christmas Day bombing. Because of the damage to the restaurant that employed her, she quickly realized this meant loss of her income. Baker reflects, “To think about the impact and how vast it would be immediately was unbelievable. It affected a lot of people; the ripple effect was crazy.”

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Nashville specializes in managing the ripple effects of this sort of disaster for neighbors in Middle Tennessee. Baker was resourced through

Catholic Charities with months of rent, utilities and food boxes in the wake of the bombing. She adds, “The fact that Catholic Charities could just love me and my kids right where we were at without ever having met us and just extend that kind of grace is something that is incredibly powerful.”

That kind of powerful grace has enabled Catholic Charities to help 227 families (nearly 1,000 individuals total) affected by the Christmas Day bombing. They are still in the process of assisting more families to mend from and cope with the disaster over a year later.

Orr provides clarity about the mission, “We recognize the dignity of all people, and we serve our neighbors. It is as simple as that.” The only prerequisite Catholic Charities has for those seeking the hope it provides is having a basic human need. While leading the recovery effort from the Christmas Day bombing, Catholic Charities continued to provide aid to tornado victims, relief to those affected by the flooding in Middle Tennessee in March of 2021, help to refugees, job training, mental health outreach, adoption services and pandemic relief. The needs are many, and Catholic Charities answers the call.

† ANSWERING BASIC HUMAN NEEDS

Wendy Overlock, a beloved long-serving program coordinator of Catholic Charities' Loaves and Fishes program who recently retired, described a new stream of need for food in our communities especially because of the tornadoes of 2020 and the Covid-19 pandemic. She reported, "We're getting a dozen or more every day of people we've never seen before."

Because of a partnership this past year between Loaves and Fishes and the nonprofit World Central Kitchen, neighbors in Middle Tennessee were able to receive fresh, nutritious meals regularly, and local food service workers were employed to meet that need. Whitney Pastorek, the Nashville project lead for World Central Kitchen observed that the Covid pandemic alone resulted in "lots of people hungry, lots of restaurants shut down."

Holy Name Church in East Nashville and St. Frances Cabrini Church in Lebanon became service distribution sites for this essential program of providing food and employment. The beauty of our local parishes is that they have the eyes of Christ to see the faces of those in most need. Pastorek observed this key benefit in working with Catholic Charities and local parishes. "Their wealth of knowledge of how to help the community is really, really spectacular."

Serving more than 25,000 meals in 2020 alone, Catholic Charities was well positioned to respond to the storms of weather, waves of disease and the unexpected daily crosses set upon the people of Middle Tennessee throughout 2020 and into 2021.

† CATHOLIC CHARITIES: WHOLE PERSON MISSION

With laser focus on the works of mercy, Catholic Charities has been on a tireless mission to offer care to all those experiencing difficulty in our communities. Catholic Charities continues to offer Immigrant support, like that found at Casa Azafrán in South Nashville. In September of 2021, Catholic Charities began a coordinated effort with the U.S. State Department to re-settle Afghan families evacuated after the Taliban takeover of the country. Adam, an Afghan refugee, arrived with his family at the airport in Nashville in September 2021 into the open arms of Catholic Charities. With sober hope for help rebuilding a life for his family, Adam said, "I know the process takes time, and Catholic Charities is helping with that."

By the end of 2021, Catholic Charities has welcomed 335 Afghan refugees and, according to Orr, "Catholic Charities has agreed to increase our number of Afghan arrivals to 300 from the originally planned 150." Because of the success of Catholic





Charities in facilitating core services such as housing, food stamps, community contacts and other essential needs for refugees, it has become a leader in welcoming new neighbors to our Middle Tennessee community.

Catholic Charities also offers ongoing emergency support for those experiencing acute needs like utility shut-offs and food insecurity with its Basic Needs program. Through its Family Empowerment Program in Davidson County, Catholic Charities works to find long-term housing solutions for families with children. Although a large portion of Catholic Charities outreach this year has been because of the series of natural disasters and COVID-related setbacks, Catholic Charities aims at being a constant resource for people in all times of crisis and insecurity, in all 38 counties of our diocese.

This year, with a \$7.3 million dollar grant from the State of Tennessee, Catholic Charities began a new program aptly named Tennessee Serves Neighbors. This program is allowing Catholic Charities to expand services into more counties with a sustainable presence in the form of family resource centers. They are intended to provide social services, job training, mental health attention and general crisis relief. Tennessee Serves Neighbors will have a presence in local Catholic parishes such as St. William/San Guillermo in Bedford County, St. Paul the Apostle and St. Mark in Coffee County, St. John the Evangelist in Marshall County, St. Catherine in Maury County and Immaculate Conception in Montgomery County. The presence of local Catholic communities is important to the success of this new endeavor. Looking ahead, Orr is encouraged, "We know a lot of parishes have robust volunteer networks. We look forward to joining forces with parishes in these areas."

Just one month after opening the Maury County Family Resource Center in Columbia, Catholic Charities opened a second site in Tullahoma, Coffee County. "Coffee County like the rest of Middle Tennessee continues to grow, and Manchester grew substantially from the last census. With that growth comes added need, and you add a pandemic in there and it's even more," said Katy Riddle, Manchester Chamber of Commerce executive director. "Something like a Family Resource Center helps people be able to get back on their feet, helps with housing, and helps with work and life skills.

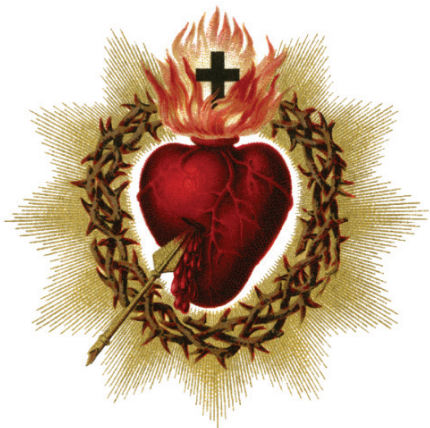
"That's not only a community development-type initiative, but also leads to workforce development. As we all know, everybody is looking for workers, so if this organization helps our community members with immediate needs that turn into a quality of life, that's going to add to the workforce, which is going to add to our economy," she said. "It's this whole cycle of help that we're getting in one organization."

Whether it's dire straits, disasters, disease or a heavy daily cross, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Nashville is here, showing up and delivering hope. ♦



GETTY IMAGES/JESSICA HOYE

Answering — the Call



The vocation to the permanent diaconate is a supernatural call that comes from God himself. It is an invitation for a man to become conformed to Christ the Servant in order to live out the corporal and spiritual works of mercy in a radical way through the ministries of the liturgy, the word and charity. The Diocese of Nashville is blessed with many outstanding permanent deacons that have left a legacy of Christ-like service. These men serve in parishes and other ministries across the diocese and play an important role in the life of our local Church. As we look to the future in a vibrant and faith-filled diocese, we hope that a new generation of men will rise up to answer God's call and continue the mission of serving His Church.

FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 STATISTICS

Seminarians

EDUCATED **26** SEMINARIANS
PROCESSED **10** APPLICATIONS

5 SEMINARIES

- PONTIFICAL NORTH AMERICAN COLLEGE, ROME, ITALY
- HOLY TRINITY SEMINARY IN IRVING, TEX.
- NOTRE DAME SEMINARY IN NEW ORLEANS, LA.
- ST. JOSEPH SEMINARY IN COVINGTON, LA.
- ST. MEINRAD SEMINARY, IND.

3 PASTORAL YEAR SEMINARIANS AT
OUR LADY OF THE LAKE CATHOLIC CHURCH

6 SEMINARY VISITS

Permanent Deacon Formation Program (PDFP)

EDUCATED **14** ASPIRANTS

7 ASPIRANTS STUDYING TOWARDS MASTERS OF
THEOLOGY AT ST. MEINRAD

PROCESSED **30** APPLICATIONS

In recent years, Bishop Spadling has helped to make that vision a reality by reestablishing the Permanent Deacon Formation Program (PDFP). Under the leadership of Father Austin Gilstrap, director of vocations and with the assistance of Mrs. Jerilyn Rost, the assistant director of the office of vocations, the new program officially began in January of 2019. The first class currently has 13 men. They are from 10 different parishes from across Middle Tennessee. Four of the men are bilingual in Spanish and one in Burmese. They truly represent a cross section of our growing and diverse diocese. They have now finished their third year of formation and are on track to be ordained in the Spring of 2023.

The formation program that the Diocese of Nashville uses is based on the model provided by the St. Meinrad Seminary Permanent Deacon Formation Program. The aspirants (as they are called in their first year) and candidates (as they are called in the second stage of the program) meet one weekend a month at the Catholic Pastoral Center during the academic year over the course of four years. These weekends include an intensive theological course such as Church History or Christology, communal prayer involving the Liturgy of the Hours and Eucharistic Adoration and a formation conference that focuses on some of the practical skills necessary for diaconal ministry. Each weekend's program begins



on Friday evening and ends on Sunday afternoon.

As even this brief overview suggests, it is a demanding and rigorous weekend. Even that, however, is only a portion of their formation. In addition to their theological instruction during the formation weekends, the men are also required to complete an additional 18 hours of academic credit through St. Meinrad's distance learning program in order to obtain a master's degree in Theology. Additionally, they meet regularly with a spiritual director and deacon mentor. This is all, of course, on top of their existing commitments to family, work, their home parish and all the other obligations of life. Needless to say, formation for the diaconate is no small commitment. It requires a man who is capable of making a great sacrifice, and that is just the kind of man that we need for such an important role in the Church.

Since its inauguration, the new PDFP program has continued to develop. Father Luke Wilgenbusch, associate director of vocations, and Deacon Hans Toecker, the director of clergy and pastoral support, now also assist with the program. Two classrooms and a chapel specifically dedicated to the Permanent Deacon Formation Program were added at the Catholic Pastoral Center. In addition to the Class of 2023, a new cohort started in the fall of 2021, bringing the total number of men in formation up to 24. With these updates, the Diocese is now capable of maintaining two classes of up to 20 men at one time. This means that we can expect the ordination of new permanent deacons for the diocese every two years for the foreseeable future. Especially as we look forward to the ordination in the Spring of 2023, it is exciting to see the dream of Bishop Spalding coming to fruition! ♦

THE MELCHIZEDEK PROJECT

VOCATION DISCERNMENT GROUPS

¡EN ESPAÑOL!

This year, we are excited to start offering a Spanish-language Melchizedek project to expand our vocations promotion in the Hispanic communities of the diocese. This initiative, based on the popular discernment book *To Save a Thousand Souls*, helps young men to ask those important questions as they begin to consider a calling to the priesthood. We have had several fruitful groups in English and are looking forward to this new addition. The meetings will be held the last Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at Iglesia Sagrado Corazón de Jesus in Nashville. ¿Dios te está llamando?



Meet Jesus in the desert

this Lent

STARTING ASH WEDNESDAY, Catholics enter the season of Lent, where we are called to fast, pray, give alms and prepare for the joyful celebration of Easter. Many of us, however, approach Lent simply as an uncomfortable time of reluctantly “giving up x” or “doing more y.” We just try to survive Lent until we can satiate our increasing hunger for dessert, Instagram, alcohol or the snooze button. Also, for the record, I never want meat as badly as I do on Fridays in Lent.

BY PETE BURAK

Things changed for me when I started asking Jesus to transform my understanding of this liturgical season. Immediately following his baptism, the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness, where he fasted and prayed for 40 days and 40 nights. It was a time of preparation and temptation before his earthly ministry began in earnest. Then, in one of those beautiful moments when Scripture both states the obvious and provides hope for all of us, Matthew 4:2 says, “... and afterward he was hungry.” While it’s consoling to know that Jesus had hunger pangs, I invite you to consider his time in the desert from a different perspective.

While fasting is extremely valuable, and intentional discomfort can discipline us as we grow in holiness, the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness not just to make him hungry, but also to demonstrate the power and necessity of solitude and silence. Without intentional

withdrawals from the distractions and noise of the world, we run the risk of missing the still small voice of God and remaining trapped in our old habits and desires. Solitude is not necessarily the same as isolation, but time alone with God, without noise (turn off your phone!), trains us to find ourselves

in him. Henri Nouwen, a Dutch priest and theologian of the 20th century, once wrote, “Solitude is the furnace of transformation ... solitude is not a private therapeutic place. Rather, it is the place of conversion, the place where the old self dies and the new self is born, the place where the emergence of the new man and new woman occurs.” I can think of no better description of Lent; striving to cast off the old self so a new, purified and resurrected self can emerge.

Ironically, Jesus’ time without food, water and companionship didn’t weaken him, but strengthened him. He left the desert more equipped for the mission ahead because his soul had feasted on undistracted union with the Father. Let’s eagerly meet the Lord in the desert this Lent, and remember Easter is not simply the finish line of Lent but the starting line of our new life in the resurrected Christ. ♦

THE 40 DAYS OF LENT

CETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

HISTORY OF LENT-WHAT DID FASTING USED TO LOOK LIKE?

■ The Lenten season, preparation for Easter, has been observed from the onset of the Church, although there have been inconsistencies with duration and practices. The Council of Nicea, 325 A.D., established Easter's fluid date as the Sunday following the first full moon of the vernal equinox. In 461 A.D., Pope St. Leo established the duration as 40 consecutive days before Easter. Pope Gregory the Great, in the sixth century, added the dispensing of ashes the preceding Wednesday (Ash Wednesday), making Lent 46 days. Sundays were considered feast days and not included in the count.

Initially, all forms of meat, fish and animal products were excluded for the entirety of Lent. People were allowed one meal per day, after 3 p.m. In the 1400s, that time was revised to noon. Eventually, a small snack was included to sustain energy. Over time, fish, meat and eventually dairy products were allowed. However, fasting was required all 40 days. It wasn't until 1966 that fast days were lessened to Ash Wednesday and Good Friday only.

WHY DO WE HAVE PENITENTIAL SEASONS?

■ Jesus gave the example of a penitential retreat, spending prayerful time in the desert preparing for his ministry, reflecting on God's will, and determining how he'd freely make that happen. Penitential seasons offer us this same opportunity: to withdraw from our routines and evaluate our spiritual progress or regression. We do this through reflection and repentance, which enable us to identify our weaknesses and make reparation to amend our sinful ways. Penitential seasons create time to reflect on our need to make God the focal point of our lives. The result can be spiritually rewarding.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT RULES FOR LENT?

■ All Catholics, ages 14 and older, are bound by the law of abstinence. Abstinence means refraining from the consumption of meat (land animals) on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent. Why Friday? To unite ourselves with Jesus' sacrifice, made for us on Good Friday.

All Catholics, ages 18-59, are to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Fasting is defined as eating one full, meatless meal on prescribed days. Bits of food can be taken at other traditional meal times though their combined total should not equal a full meal.

Penitential practices, like fasting and abstinence, are intended to refocus our thoughts and intentions toward God. Lent's 40 days include Ash Wednesday to Holy Thursday (the Lenten fast continues until Holy Saturday), not including Sundays. Sundays are optional but encouraged. For health reasons, the infirm, ill, and pregnant or nursing mothers are exempt.

Three other Lenten disciplines are prayer (daily conversation with the Lord), fasting (from behaviors which detract from our relationship with God), and almsgiving (sharing our resources, ensuring the basic needs of human dignity).

WHY PURPLE?

■ Colors powerfully convey unspoken messages and evoke emotions. Scriptural accounts share Jesus was robed in purple to mock his implied royalty as king of the Jews. The pain of his passion and crucifixion became associated with this color. Purple reminds us Lenten days are times of repentance and atonement, of acknowledging how our selfish desires continue to suppress and crucify the goodness of God today.

WHY DON'T WE SING THE GLORIA OR SAY ALLELUIA DURING LENT?

■ The *Gloria* is a joyful hymn of praise thanking God and recognizing Jesus as the Lamb of God. The *Alleluia* is another exclamation of praise. While we literally know Jesus has risen and set us free, during Lent, we focus expectant anticipation of these events to come.

Lent is a time to revisit Old Testament events leading to Christ's mission and the salvation of humanity. It's a time of facing the human struggles impeding our own resurrection. Refraining from joyous hymns of exultation maintains Lent's penitential mood.

WHY 40 DAYS?

■ The number 40 has ecclesial significance: Moses spent 40 days on Mt. Sinai before receiving the 10 Commandments; Jesus spent 40 days in prayer and fasting prior to beginning his ministry. So, too, we spend 40 days preparing to do God's work. ♦

OFF TO SCHOOL WE GO

HAND IN HAND OPTIONS PROVIDE CATHOLIC EDUCATION FOR MORE STUDENTS

BY JOANNE MAMENTA

For Mollie Burd Gavigan, giving her children an exceptional education where they would grow academically, spiritually and socially was deeply important. When her youngest child, Jeanne, was born with Down syndrome, she and her husband were faced with the difficult decision of where to send her to school.



A student at St. John Vianney School in Gallatin uses a multi-sensory approach to enhance writing and literacy skills.

At the time, the area's Catholic schools could not meet Jeanne's learning needs. "By high school, my mother was tenacious and wanted my sister to go to a Catholic high school," said Bill Gavigan, older brother of Jeanne. Mollie Gavigan made her case for Pope John Paul II Preparatory School to start a program for students with special needs. Inspired by the Gavigans' faith and perseverance, then Principal Hans Broekman and the board approved Hand in Hand Options in 2004, and Jeanne became one of the first students to enroll.

Initially, Hand in Hand Options was designed to serve students with intellectual and developmental disabilities; however, the mission has now expanded to include students with learning differences, such as dyslexia, written expression, executive functioning, ADHD and other diagnoses. The broadened mission directly aligns with the mission of the Church by recognizing and affirming the dignity of every person to meaningfully and fully participate in all aspects of the life of the Church and the community.

Support from the diocese led to the creation of the Exceptional Learners position, established two years ago by superintendent Dr. Rebecca Hammel. This position centralizes and oversees programs to better support students with varied learning needs.

"Our goal is to build a shared philosophy that we are *all* learners," said Kathy Boles, Executive Director of

Exceptional Learners. Boles coordinates professional development for educators and works closely with diocesan school leaders, counselors, learning specialists and classroom teachers to strengthen and enhance their knowledge of how students who need support learn best.

Boles serves as the Executive Director to the newly formed Hand in Hand Options Board of Trust made up of community and business leaders to share their expertise. "Promises were made and now promises are being fulfilled," said Bill Gavigan, who continues his family's legacy by serving on its board. Recently, this board developed a three-year strategic plan that focuses on raising awareness by fostering and supporting an inclusive community, by increasing resources and training for educators and families and by enhancing and expanding services to meet a range of students' learning needs.

Through Hand in Hands Options, diocesan schools answer the call of the Church to serve meaningfully and inclusively and to embrace an educational culture that is working to support the needs of all learners. ♦



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROGRAM, GET INVOLVED OR DONATE, VISIT DIOCESEOFNASHVILLE.COM/HAND-IN-HAND-OPTIONS-PROGRAM/.

Catholic Schools Innovate and Inspire with **STREAM**



In the past decade, STEM – which stands for science, technology, engineering and math – has become a buzzword in the education world in an effort to encourage an integrated approach to learning those subjects and to inspire careers in related fields.



The Catholic Schools in Nashville adopted STREAM, including Religion and Arts into the integration for a more balanced education.

“Religion is intentionally integrated into all instruction, for it is through the lens of our Catholic faith that our students will lead with ethics, integrity, and truth in the future.” said Dr. Rebecca Hammel, Diocese of Nashville superintendent of Catholic Schools.

With STREAM, Catholic schools in the diocese have led the way to innovation in the classrooms. St. Matthew School not only provides students with iPads and has interactive Smart Boards in place of white boards, but also they were the first Catholic school in the country to acquire 3D printers in 2017.

“It’s very important for us to surround our students with the very best possible resources and that doesn’t just mean stuff,” said Lori Bellante, Advancement Director at St. Matthew. “It means strategic plans and teachers, but technology has always been really important for us.”

St. Matthew School was awarded the ACE Innovations in STREAM Award from the Diocesan Catholic Schools Office in August 2021 and has been recognized as an Apple Distinguished School, a distinction given to 150 schools around the world.

At St. Matthew, students focus on technology and engineering in the Makerspace area and art and science in the STEAM lab. Students have access to Bluetooth microscopes, 3D printing, materials for building and more.

“It’s very important for us to surround our students with the very best possible resources and that doesn’t just mean stuff,”

- LORI BELLANTE





St. Cecilia Academy was the first private school in Nashville to have a robotics program at its inception six years ago. The LadyBots robotics team has since grown to have a varsity and junior varsity team, mentor other schools, host an annual state scrimmage and win the First Tech Challenge Tennessee State Championships in 2021. This year, SCA has also added an engineering and coding class, according to SCA science teacher Ashley George.

Several other schools in the diocese have focused on creating spaces and curriculum for their students based on STREAM in their strategic planning: Father Ryan High School, Pope John Paul II Preparatory School, St. John Vianney and St. Joseph School.

“We’re trying to create spaces, for during classes and after, where students can collaborate with one another and work on entrepreneurial projects,” said JPII Director of Innovation, Jennifer Dye. Their library was redesigned to include meeting rooms for collaboration, a makerspace, robotics playing field, a 3D printing workspace and more.

“Our kids are amazing,” Dye said. “I think as adults we have the problem that we’ve seen too much, almost, and the students have the ability to step in and think of innovative, unique solutions.” ♦



“Not only are the attitudes of teachers crucial for the success of Catholic education, but also the attitudes of Catholic parents. Parents must set themselves very definite priorities, such as the determination to have schools in which their children’s faith will be respected, fostered, and enriched; schools in which their children learn the value and beauty of the Church’s teaching.”



– ADDRESS OF POPE JOHN PAUL II TO THE BISHOPS OF CHICAGO, INDIANAPOLIS AND MILWAUKEE ON THEIR “AD LIMINA” VISIT, MAY 30, 1998

CATHOLIC EDUCATION CONTINUES TO CRESCENDO IN MIDDLE TENNESSEE

When we are baptized, an indelible mark is placed on our soul. The same happens during confirmation and for clergy during their ordination to holy orders. Indelible means that the mark is unable to be erased, removed or washed away. A similar experiential “mark” could be argued for Catholic education, especially in our diocese.

For more than 150 years, Catholic schools have shaped both Catholics and non-Catholics alike in Middle Tennessee. We have even had great saints, like St. Katherine Drexel, participate in the building up of our Catholic schools. Those of you who are blessed to be alumni of our fine institutions know the difference that Catholic schools have made in

your life. And that wondrous opportunity is about to extend to parishes in the center of the state.

St. Michael Academy is targeting August 2024 as its inaugural year as the 20th Catholic school in our diocese. With studies underway to determine the initial offering of grade levels, this regional academy will be unlike any school we have seen before. It will serve the families of five nearby parishes. Strategically located adjacent to the new Mother Teresa Catholic Church in Nolensville, the school will be just a few minutes from I-840. St. Michael Academy is just what our diocese needs as Middle Tennessee continues to see meteoric growth. ♦

Summary of the 2020 Annual Report

Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People



OUTREACH rendered to victim survivors and families, such as counseling, spiritual direction, or other services.

572 Newly identified victim survivors and families
1,886 Continued support for individuals identified in previous years



PROTECTION

Training Children 3,100,151
Training Adults 2,538,413
Background Checks 2,557,934



ALLEGATIONS

Current minors 22
Historical reports 4228
Total allegations 4250



COSTS

\$44,416,089 Safeguarding and Protection (12% increase over 2019)
\$311,980,666 Settlements, legal fees, outreach services, other expenses
\$356,396,755 Total



FOCUS ON SAFE ENVIRONMENT

During 2021, Jason Liuzzi, Safe Environment Coordinator and members of the Diocesan Safe Environment Committee focused on the revision of the materials and policies that support a safe environment for the children and vulnerable adults in the Diocese. With the support of the Diocesan Review Board, the diocese released updated Safe Environment policies and processes in February 2021 and Bishop Spalding promulgated the documents on February 11, 2021. That same month, the diocese was found to be in compliance with Safe Environment requirements set forth by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and the Charter for the Protection of Children and Youth in the USCCB’s triennial diocesan onsite audit process.

Following the promulgation of the revised policies and processes, Julie Perrey, Vice-Chancellor and Chief Mission Integration Officer and Jason Liuzzi put on a series of trainings for all pastors, site safe environment coordinators, principals, religious education directors, youth ministers and new teachers in our schools to ensure all existing policies were understood throughout the parishes and schools. A new step in the program is a process involving conducting on-site surveys of all parishes and schools to offer support in ensuring compliance with diocesan and USCCB standards. A total of 59 sites were visited throughout the diocese.

Throughout the year, 6,526 persons have had Safe Environment training and background checks in the diocese. This number comprises all clergy, religious and lay persons employed by the diocese, plus all volunteers who work with minors. ♦

Full report can be found here: www.usccb.org/offices/child-and-youth-protection/audits
 To report child abuse, contact civil authorities. To report abuse involving a member of the clergy, also contact your local victim assistance coordinator: www.usccb.org/committees/protection-children-young-people/how-report-abuse

HEALTH CARE AND
RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS



Villa Maria & Mary,
Queen of Angels ANSWER
THE CALL OF SERVICE



Despite another globally tumultuous year, Villa Maria Manor and Mary, Queen of Angels Assisted Living continue to advance their mission of faith-based care and community for the elderly in 2021.

Both facilities are located on the St. Mary Campus on White Bridge Road in Nashville. Villa Maria Manor, a 214-unit apartment building, opened first in 1980 for low-income seniors and operates as an independent living facility. Mary Queen of Angels opened in 2001 as an assisted living community and contains 98 units. Among its many different amenities is a memory care program.

As a ministry of the Diocese of Nashville, the facilities take care of folks from across the diocese like Father Joseph Breen, who celebrated his 60th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood in December, and Rosie Brunette, who rang in her 100th birthday in June.

Also that day at Mary, Queen of Angels, a plaque was unveiled in his honor commemorating his years of work and service to refugees, children and adults.

Prior to that, another leader with a servant's heart was remembered. Robert Fidler was recognized for his service at a ceremony on Nov. 19. Fidler spent 21 years as president of the Villa Maria Manor Board of Trustees.

Fidler worked for 46 years in the mortgage banking industry. His dedication to providing affordable housing for seniors led him to participate on other similar boards, including those for Mary, Queen of Angels, the Cloister at St. Henry (a neighborhood of duplex housing for active seniors behind St. Henry Church and School) and the West Meade Health Care Center.

Other boards that he has given time to include those for Catholic Charities, the diocese and St. Mary Villa Childcare Development Center.

A portrait of Fidler was unveiled at the gathering, in gratitude for his service and to mark the 40th anniversary of Villa Maria.

CARE DURING COVID

After the COVID-19 outbreak at the Gallatin Center for Rehabilitation and Healing in Gallatin, Tenn. in March of 2020, strict safety precautions were put into effect to protect residents.

Because of the community's increased vulnerability to the virus, outside visitors were not permitted; the dining hall was closed; and daily gatherings were canceled.

To combat any physical or emotional stress, staff developed walking programs and hallway exercises. They also made efforts to connect residents with family and friends by means of Zoom or FaceTime and outdoor visits.

Bright spots came along in the new year, beginning with vaccines. Residents of Villa Maria received their first dose on Jan. 10, 2021, and residents of Mary Queen of Angels were given their first dose on Jan. 27. Second doses were administered in February.

LEADERSHIP

The 2021 year also saw leadership changes and recognition of leadership.

Rick Borofski was welcomed to the team as the new CEO of Mary, Queen of Angels and Villa Maria Manor in January. Borofski previ-

ously worked as vice president of New Business Operations for Trinity Health. Prior to that, he worked as the chief operations officer for Raydian Properties, based in New Jersey. There he oversaw day-to-day operations of 21 senior living communities throughout four states.

David Glascoe previously held the position and retired in December 2020. He worked for the diocese for over 40 years in various roles, beginning with the diocese's refugee resettlement program. He then spent time working at St. Mary Villa Child Development Center on Heiman Street in Nashville before coming to Villa Maria.

Glascoe is also attributed as the founder of Mary, Queen of Angels. He perceived a need for more affordable assisted living care in the area. After many years of conversations with then-Bishop Edward Kmiec the project was approved. The facility was constructed on the diocesan-owned grounds that were also home to Villa Maria. It officially opened to residents in November 2001, and their motto is "Celebrate life every day".

The Cincinnati, Ohio native was honored for his service at a 41st anniversary celebration for Villa Maria on Nov. 30, 2021, joined by staff, residents, family and friends.

MOVING FORWARD

Fidler's self-portrait will hang in the newly renovated lobby of Villa Maria along with a statue of Mary. These additions are part of the renovations taking place at Villa Maria.

The renovations are a move to update residents' apartments. The changes include all new paint, floors, countertops, appliances and cabinets in the kitchens and light fixtures and lining in showers.

The *Tennessee Register* reported that the room renovations are to be completed by the summer of 2022. As of January 2022, 80 percent had been completed. Some minor updates to the common areas and building's exterior will also take place.

Mary, Queen of Angels will see similar renovations. Additional plans will break ground in July 2022 for housing for retired priests where the former St. Mary Villa stood.

Regardless of obstacles in the present or future, teams behind Villa Maria and Mary, Queen of Angels will continue to answer the call to help those in need. ♦

BUILDING TOMORROW'S LEGACY TODAY

To say that the Legacy Campaign is off to a remarkable start is an understatement. As of February 9, the silent phase of the campaign has concluded, and wave one parish teams are up and running. The campaign is closing in on \$30 million in combined cash and planned gifts toward the total goal of \$50 million. The effort has already met nearly 60 percent of its total goal, as wave two teams begin launching their campaigns locally.

"I am humbled by the outpouring of support we have witnessed from Catholics across the diocese in response to this historic campaign," says Bishop J. Mark Spalding. "The leadership of our pastors, parish chairs and volunteers—along with the generosity of the faithful—will impact the lives of those we serve for generations to come."

Throughout the campaign, which runs in parishes through October 2022, regular updates and impact stories will appear here in Catholic Awakenings, in The Tennessee Register and online at dioceseofnashville.com/legacy.

HERE'S WHAT SOME OF OUR WAVE ONE PASTORS ARE SAYING

“The Legacy Campaign not only helps the diocese, but also helps our parish grow in unity and commitment to our Lord. The Diocese of Nashville, and her various parishes, are the most important institutions in Middle Tennessee. We save souls. We save families. We save lives. Faith, hope and love are our weapons. This campaign will show everyone what we value above all else, now and well into the future.”

-FATHER MICHAEL FYE, ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH

“Jesus reminds us that only by looking outside ourselves and helping others do we really gain happiness. Tithing—or giving generously of our blessings—is one important way for us to reach out to others. Giving generously helps us and it helps others. That's what the Legacy Campaign is all about. As disciples of Christ, we come together to support the Church, knowing that it is more blessed to give than to receive.”

-FATHER JERRY STRANGE, CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

“In so many ways, the last year and a half has been a time of division and disunity across our country. A Legacy of Faith, Hope and Love is an opportunity for us to come together as one family of faith to provide for the future of our local Church. It's exciting to see so many people—here at St. Edward and across the region—unite behind this shared vision for our diocese and those we serve.”

-FATHER ANDREW BULSO, ST. EDWARD CATHOLIC CHURCH



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW DO THE LEGACY CAMPAIGN AND THE BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL DIFFER?

A Legacy of Faith, Hope and Love is an opportunity for Catholics across Middle Tennessee to come together to build up God's Church across our region, now and for many years to come. Funds raised through this one-time capital campaign will provide sustainable, long-term endowment funding for the priorities outlined in the case for support. Additionally, this campaign will strengthen parishes across the diocese by returning 25 percent of all funds raised at a particular parish back to that parish to address the needs and projects of their choosing. For more information, visit dioceseofnashville.com/legacy/.



GOAL \$50 MILLION
PLEDGE PERIOD 3 YEARS
FOCUS LONG-TERM NEEDS AND FUTURE GROWTH

The Bishop's Annual Appeal for Ministries is a yearly appeal that covers the ongoing operating expenses associated with the ministries and services of the Diocese of Nashville. As our local Catholic community continues to grow, so will the cost of providing these ministries and services. Through the Legacy Campaign we are establishing a solid foundation on which we can continue to build the Catholic Church in Middle Tennessee. Together, the appeal and the campaign will provide critical funding to ensure that the diocese can adequately address the needs of those served – not just for one or three years, but for generations to come. For more information, visit dioceseofnashville.com/appeal/.



GOAL \$3 MILLION
PLEDGE PERIOD ANNUAL
FOCUS IMMEDIATE NEEDS

Bishop's Annual Appeal for Ministries addresses today's needs, while the Legacy Campaign seeks to build up the Church for future generations. Together, the appeal and the campaign will provide critical funding to ensure the diocese can adequately address the needs of Middle Tennessee communities this year and for many years to come.

HOW CAN I MAKE A GIFT OR PLEDGE TO THE CAMPAIGN?

Once the campaign kicks off at your parish, you will receive an appeal packet from Bishop Spalding with more detailed information about campaign priorities and an invitation to participate with a gift or pledge. At that time, you will have the opportunity to make your pledge. More information will be provided as the campaign rolls out at your parish during one of the subsequent parish waves in 2022.

HOW CAN I HELP?

If you have already received your appeal letter, prayerfully discern your gift. Accept a call or meeting with one of our many wonderful campaign volunteers. If you received a pledge card and return envelope, please make your gift today. If you have questions, or would like to volunteer, please contact Ashley Linville, diocesan director of stewardship and development, at 615.645.9768 or ashley.linville@dioceseofnashville.org. And of course, pray for the success of the effort and for all those who are participating in it. Thank you!

Legacy Campaign **Wave Two Parishes, Spring 2022**

- ▶ Our Lady of the Lake, Hendersonville
- ▶ St. Martha, Ashland City
- ▶ St. Lawrence, Joelton
- ▶ St. John the Evangelist, Lewisburg
- ▶ Immaculate Conception, Pulaski
- ▶ St. Catherine, Columbia
- ▶ St. Henry, Nashville
- ▶ St. Vincent DePaul, Nashville
- ▶ St. Philip, Franklin
- ▶ Our Lady of Guadalupe, Nashville
- ▶ St. Pius X, Nashville
- ▶ St. Michael, Cedar Hill
- ▶ Our Lady of Lourdes, Springfield
- ▶ St. Francis of Assisi, Dover
- ▶ Sacred Heart, Lawrenceburg
- ▶ Sacred Heart, Loretto
- ▶ St. Anthony, Fayetteville
- ▶ St. Joseph, St. Joseph
- ▶ Holy Name, Nashville

Wave Three Parishes, Summer 2022

- ▶ St. Gregory, Smithville
- ▶ St. Thomas Aquinas, Cookeville
- ▶ St. Patrick, McEwen
- ▶ Christ the King, Nashville
- ▶ St. Ignatius of Antioch, Antioch
- ▶ Cathedral of the Incarnation, Nashville
- ▶ St. Mary of the Seven Sorrows, Nashville
- ▶ St. Joseph, Madison
- ▶ St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Tennessee Ridge
- ▶ St. William, Shelbyville
- ▶ St. Rose of Lima, Murfreesboro
- ▶ St. Luke, Smyrna
- ▶ Church of the Assumption, Nashville
- ▶ Sagrado Corazón de Jesús, Nashville
- ▶ Mother of Divine Mercy Coptic Community, Nashville
- ▶ St. Francis Cabrini, Lebanon
- ▶ St. Andrew, Sparta
- ▶ Holy Family, Lafayette
- ▶ Divine Savior, Celina
- ▶ Church of the Korean Martyrs, Nashville
- ▶ Good Shepherd, Decherd
- ▶ St. Margaret Mary, Alto
- ▶ St. Paul the Apostle, Tullahoma
- ▶ St. Catherine, McMinnville
- ▶ St. Mark, Manchester

A GATHERING PLACE



EVEN IN THE HEIGHT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, the Catholic Pastoral Center was a hub of activity over the last year as parishes, diocesan offices and various ministries conducted meetings, training, assemblies and more. With proper protocols in place, it served as a way of bringing back and reengaging the church and its people after months of safer-at-home orders being in place.

Highlights included several training and orientation sessions for teachers, retreats for engaged and married couples, deacons and students preparing for First Holy Communion and confirmation; catechist formation; St. Vincent de Paul Society and Knights of Columbus meetings; movie viewings; brown bag lunches; a flu shot clinic; musical events; national conferences; diocesan-wide liturgies and more.

The Catholic Pastoral Center “is a resource where all parishes and various communities can come to one space and meet and discuss and encourage each other,” said Bishop J. Mark Spalding in a spring 2021 interview with the *Tennessee Register*.

“It’s directly tied to the diocesan mission of ‘Living and Proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ, Welcoming All,’” said Brian Cooper, chancellor and chief operating officer for the diocese, in the same article.

The Catholic Pastoral Center, located at 2800 McGavock Pike, was purchased by the Diocese of Nashville in August 2014 for \$12.3 million from the

Fellowship at Two Rivers and moved into the building a year later.

Several diocesan offices and ministries were then consolidated into the common space, including the Chancery offices, the *Tennessee Register*, the Catholic Schools Office, the Sagrado Corazón Church and Catholic Charities, Diocese of Nashville.

The 226,000 square foot building has several spaces available for booking, including the Sagrado Corazón Church, which seats more than 3,000 people; the Ascension Auditorium, which seats about 600 people; the Bishop’s Hall, which seats 450 people; the St. Joseph Chapel, which seats about 150 people; and the Mater Dei Room, which seats about 100 people. Additionally, the Bishop’s Garden offers a place for outdoor gatherings.

All event booking requests must be submitted at least two weeks in advance. For more information, visit www.DioceseOfNashville.com or call (615) 383-6393. ♦

Sagrado Corazón de Jesus



Our Catholic Schools Office hosted the annual spelling bee with contenders from each of our schools.



Bishop Spalding celebrates Mass for the Youth 2000 Retreat.



The annual Chrism Mass is held each year. Mark your calendars for April 12, 2022.



St. Oscar Studio is outfitted for audio recordings that include podcasts and content for Nashville Catholic Radio.

From youth retreats to the celebrations of Día de los Muertos and the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe to quinceañeras to diocesan-wide liturgies and sacramental ceremonies, the Iglesia Sagrado Corazón de Jesus (Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus) at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 2800 McGavock Pike, Nashville, TN 37214, is a vibrant, active community that is home to several events throughout the year.

Widely serving the Hispanic Catholic Community of Middle Tennessee, Sagrado Corazón offers several ministries throughout the year for the Hispanic community in order to address the sacramental needs of its Spanish-speaking people. Such ministries include marriage classes, Night Worship Society, faith formation, liturgical ministry training, catechesis, choir, charismatic renewal, youth ministry and altar server training.

Additionally, from Saturday afternoon through Sunday, several Masses are celebrated for the Hispanic Ministry.

The staff of the Sagrado Corazón includes Director of Hispanic Ministry Father David Ramirez, Vicar Father Alejandro Godinez, Vicar Father Rodolfo Rivera, Director Assistant Anabell Trevino, Director of Religious Education Deacon Anselmo Ambriz and Assistant Director of Religious Education Liliana Woods.

Sagrado Corazón is open 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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- ▶ FACEBOOK @SAGRADOCORAZONNASHVILLE OR
- ▶ GO ONLINE AT WWW.IGLIASAGRADOCORAZON.COM.

FAITH FINDS NEW HOMES IN *Nolensville and Carthage*



AS MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROWS, the Diocese of Nashville is growing with it. The diocese has established two new churches, Mother Teresa Parish in fast-growing Nolensville and a new Catholic community in Carthage.

On Sunday, September 5, 2021, Father Anthony Stewart stood on the stage of the gymnasium of Nolensville Elementary School, which had been converted to a Catholic church sanctuary, and welcomed people “on this historic day” to the first Mass for the newly established Mother Teresa Church.

Among those in the school gymnasium for that first Sunday Mass were Dan and Tammy Bednarzyk. They have joined the 200 parishioners who have volunteered to help get the new parish up and running. “With the start of a new church, it’s easy to get involved. You get to meet all the people who are volunteers,” Dan said.

“We’ve made more friends in the last month and a half being involved with the church than we’ve made in years,” Tammy Bednarzyk said. “I think there’s a need in the area for a parish. I think it’s going to grow.”

When Jen and Russ Maass heard about the new parish in Nolensville, “We were super excited,” Jen said. “There’s an excitement among all the volunteers. Everyone wants to help out,” Russ added. “Everyone is excited to try something new, and this is a new, growing community.”

Mother Teresa Parish has gotten off to an ambitious start with plans for a host of ministries. “There’s an incredible amount of enthusiasm and willingness to work,” said Laura Fagin, Father Stewart’s administrative assistant. “It’s contagious.”

The parish has its eyes firmly set on the future. The diocese purchased property at 7668 Nolensville Road that will eventually be the site of the church and a new school, St. Michael Academy. “Our goal is a permanent location,” said Father Stewart.

In the more than two centuries since Smith County was founded, it has never been home to a Catholic church. But a group of interested Catholics, led by Glenmary Home Missioner Father Don Tranel, began the work to establish a parish there.

“They’re pumped. They’re excited. They can’t wait,” Father Tranel said of the group.

On June 24, 2021, Father Tranel celebrated a Mass at the Carthage United Methodist Church that was attended by 81 people, including Father John Hammond, vicar general of the Diocese of Nashville. It was the first publicly celebrated Mass ever in the county, Father Tranel said.

Father Hammond nearly came to tears thinking about that fact, he told the people gathered. “That’s amazing,” he said. “May we celebrate a million more.”

The small but energetic community took Father Hammond’s encouragement to heart and quickly



set out to find a permanent home. On Sunday, Nov. 21, 2021, with members of the community looking on, diocesan officials closed on the purchase of the New Level Church property in Carthage.

“It was wonderful,” said Father Tranel. “People are on fire.”

“It’s the kind of memory you savor, and it’s the kind of memory you’re going to use to sustain and draw strength from for a number of years,” he added. “It speaks of stability; it speaks of permanence to have your own place. Clearly, it’s going to enhance the visibility of the Catholic Church in the community.”

Before the community can move into its new home, the building needs some repairs and renovations to make it suitable for Catholic worship. Father Tranel hopes the church will be ready for the community to move into this spring in time to celebrate Easter.

Whether in the bustling, growing community of Nolensville, or in Carthage, a small corner of Middle Tennessee where the Church has never been, the Diocese of Nashville is growing and thriving, living and proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ, welcoming all. ♦



DIOCESE OF NASHVILLE

BY THE NUMBERS 2020-2021

Religious Brothers & Sisters	340
Lay Ministers	84
Elementary School Students	4,205
High School Students	1,670
Total Students in Religious Education	7,111
Infant Baptisms (ages 0-6)	1,476
Minor Baptisms (ages 7-17)	246
Adult Baptisms	81
First Communions	1,519
Confirmations	1,879
Catholic Marriages	273
Catholics in Middle Tennessee (estimate)	83,416
People Assisted through Diocesan Ministries	3,897,265

Putting the “PRO” in PROCLAIMING

EACH YEAR, the Tennessee Register and the Diocese of Nashville take part in the Catholic Media Association’s Catholic Press Awards, the Telly Awards and the Communicator Awards.

In the 2021 CPA Awards, the *Tennessee Register* took home honors for the Best Diocesan Newspaper; Best Writer of the Year; Best Story and Photo Package; Best Editorial on a Local Issue; Best Editorial on a National or International Issue; Best In-Depth News/Special Reporting; and Best News Writing One Shot – International Event.

The Diocese took home awards for the Best Use of Social Media; Social Media Professional of the Year: Bill Staley; Best Freestanding Presentation of Online Video – News; Best Use of Video on Social Media – Diocesan Communications; Best Freestanding Presentation of Online Video – Explainer; Best Social Media Campaign; Best Use of Social Media for Breaking News; and Best Use of Photos in Social Media.

Nashville Catholic Radio was honored in the Series-Radio category of the 2021 Gabriel Awards, also sponsored by Catholic Media Association.

The Diocese of Nashville also competed in the 42nd Annual Telly Awards in 2021, which honor excellence in video and television.

Awards were won by the diocese in the following categories: General: Schools/Colleges/Universities; General: Not-for-Profit; and General: News and Information.

Finally, the Diocese of Nashville also took home wins from the 2021 Communicator Awards, which recognize excellence, effectiveness and innovation across all areas of communication.

Awards were won in the following categories: Videography/Cinematography; General: Schools/Colleges/Universities; General: Non-Profit; Use of Visual Effects; Individual: Non-Profit; Individual: Viral; Individual: Virtual; Individual: Documentary; Individual: Crisis Communication; and Individual: Causes and Awareness.

Nashville Catholic Radio was also honored in the 2021 Gabriel Awards, sponsored by Catholic Media Association.

The *Tennessee Register*, the Diocese of Nashville and Nashville Catholic Radio all regularly post on social media.

Follow the *Tennessee Register* on **Facebook** @TennesseeRegister; on **Twitter** @TNRegister1; and on **Instagram** @tnregister.

Follow the Diocese of Nashville on **Facebook** @DioceseofNashville; and on **Twitter** and **Instagram** @dio_nash.

Follow Bishop J. Mark Spalding on **Twitter** and **Instagram** @bpspalding. Additionally, catch Bishop Spalding’s Catholic Minute spots during Nashville Predators (102.5 FM) and Tennessee Titans Radio (104.5 WGFX-FM) gameday podcasts.

Follow Nashville Catholic Radio on **Facebook** @NashvilleCatholicRadio, on **Twitter** @1005TheBridge, and on **Instagram** @nashvillecatholicradio. ♦



The Tennessee Register

Since 1937, the Tennessee Register has served as the voice of Catholic life throughout the diocese. At its inception, it told the story of Catholic communities throughout all of Tennessee until the Diocese of Memphis was established in 1971 and the Diocese of Knoxville was established in 1988. Now, an emphasis on local coverage brings forward the stories of churches, schools, and Catholics, covering the 38 counties of Middle Tennessee.

Published biweekly and mailed to 70 percent of households in the diocese, the Tennessee Register stays true to journalistic standards and ethics with the utmost professionalism. In the last two decades, the Tennessee Register has been named the top newspaper in its news category four times. And it has won multiple awards for editorials, photos, and stories in the Catholic Media Association's annual Catholic Press Awards.

Along with the print version published every other Friday, content is available online at tennesseeregister.com.



**DIOCESE OF
NASHVILLE**
OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation

The Diocese of Nashville's Office of Faith Formation serves the Middle Tennessee Catholic community as a catalyst for the intellectual and spiritual formation of parishioners and others. The team works to assist pastors in their mission of catechesis, to echo the teaching of Christ, to form disciples, and to equip people to evangelize.

Each year the Office of Faith Formation offers programs like Encountering Christ, Mysteries of the Kingdom, His Promise of Mercy, and marriage retreats, plus instructional content via Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram.

For youth and young adults, the Faith Formation team offers regular retreats for middle school and high school youth. The team also organizes groups to attend the National Catholic Youth Conference and the March for Life in Washington, D.C. For more information, visit dioceseofnashville.com/formation and soundscatholic.com.

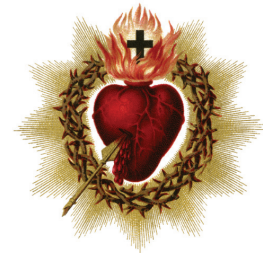


Nashville Catholic Radio

Nashville's only Catholic radio station can be heard daily at WBOU 100.5 FM, streamed online at nashvillecr.com and accessed via the Nashville Catholic Radio app available in the Apple App Store and Google Play.

Popular programs include *Belonging for Young Catholic Adults*, hosted by Zach Janson and Father Gervan Menezes, which aims to help young Catholics through the journey of finding their place in the faith. *Parenting Matters* encourages parents to be the primary and most important teachers of their children. *Classic We Believe* features conversation between Deacon Jim Walsh and Dr. Richard Shriver. *Around the Diocese*, hosted by Ron Fleitz, features conversations with ministry leaders across Middle Tennessee. *Faith in Business*, also hosted by Fleitz, invites guests from the business world to share how faith informs their professional life. *The Mountaintop*, hosted by Jim Crowe, highlights people who've encountered the presence of the Lord in not only astounding circumstances, but also the mundane moments of everyday life.

Nashville Catholic Radio (NCR) broadcasts weekday and weekend Mass. Listeners can tune in to hear Mass at 11 a.m. every Sunday. Syndicated Spanish language programming from EWTN is available 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. Monday through Friday. For a full program schedule visit nashvillecr.com/program-schedule.



Vocations

The Office of Vocations is a ministry that supports 20 seminarians preparing for the priesthood and dozens of aspirants and candidates for the permanent diaconate. Known as NashVocations, the program helps support the men as they discern through education and ordination. They serve in parishes throughout the diocese.

NashVocations is active on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube. To learn more, visit nashvocation.org or call 615.783.0782.



A Note of Thanks

AS RECENTLY ANNOUNCED, fiscal year 2021-2022 will be the final year with William “Bill” Whalen serving as the Diocese of Nashville’s chief financial officer. Bill will retire from the diocese in June to pursue a lifelong ambition of serving in an elected judgeship position. Bill has announced his candidacy for Sumner County General Sessions Judge. Bill enters the primary election on May 3, 2022, as a longtime resident of Hendersonville.

Bill joined the diocese in July 2011 and has served under both Bishop David R. Choby and Bishop J. Mark Spalding. His assistance was essential to a successful transition from one bishop to the next and to effective management of the diocese during the interim period with Msgr. Michael Johnston as diocesan administrator.

Bishop Spalding commented, “I am grateful for Bill’s financial leadership and expertise, especially his practical financial guidance over the years and his steady oversight of our diocesan corporations. I thank him for his dedication, loyalty, and leadership. And I wish him well with his new opportunity.”

“With both legal and financial prowess, Bill has been invaluable in helping the diocese and our

pastors and parishes grow and prosper over a decade of compelling service,” said Brian L. Cooper, chancellor and chief operating officer. Cooper continued, “Having worked side by side with Bill for the past five years, I have the greatest respect for everything that was accomplished during his tenure, including the purchase of the Catholic Pastoral Center, the sale of the 21st Avenue property, the revitalization and growth of our Catholic Community Installment & Loan (CCIL) savings institution, the COVID-related Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) support from the diocese that provided financial relief to parishes, and his expertise in many church and diocesan improvements too numerous to name.”

Bill commented, “I have greatly enjoyed working for the Church under both Bishops Choby and Spalding. I am grateful for the opportunity to be of service and proud of all that has been accomplished over the past 11 years.”

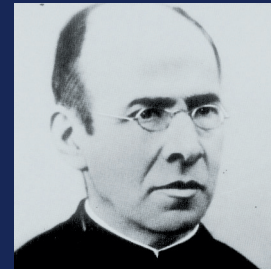
Cooper concluded, “During his time here and throughout his life, Bill has shown himself to be a man dedicated to his family, faith and, specifically, the Catholic Church. While he leaves big shoes to fill at the Diocese of Nashville, we are excited for him on this new endeavor.”

Congratulations and Fond Farewell!

The Diocese of Nashville ♦

ST. MANUEL MÍGUEZ GONZÁLEZ: Advocate for women

Feast Day: March 8



■ Early in his priesthood, Father Faustino Míguez was sent to Sanlúcar de Barrameda in Spain, where he encountered illiterate women who had been

marginalized because of their gender. Father Faustino decided to take action. He prayed, but he knew he had to do more, so in 1885 he established the Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess, a religious congregation to educate women. Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess, also called the Calasanzian Institute, emphasized the education and the promotion of girls and women with the intent of bettering their lives.

Born Manuel Míguez González in Spain in 1831, Manuel (who took the name Faustino when he was ordained a priest) is known for using his interests and passions – education and science – to advocate for the people he encountered. While he was well-known for his devotion to the education of women, he was also devoted to science and the natural remedies found around him. Early in his priesthood, Father Faustino began studying the natural healing properties in plants, and saw them as gifts from God that could help the sick. He would create natural medicines, often curing those who sought his guidance. He became known for his use of science and medicine in healing those who needed it most.

Father Faustino had a proactive, hands-on nature. Whether he was founding a new order for marginalized women or creating natural medicines for the sick, Manuel showed his ability to advocate for those around him, doing whatever was necessary to make a difference in their lives. St. Manuel Míguez González was canonized in October 2017 by Pope Francis. †



On behalf of the leadership of the Diocese of Nashville, I am pleased to share our 2020-2021 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 the 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.

Fiscal year (FY) 2021 provided the diocese, parishes, and schools with strong financial results. Every parish recovered to one degree or another from the prior year's COVID-19 shut-downs. For example, calendar year (CY) 2021 was up 12 percent compared to CY 2020. CY 2021 was even up 5 percent compared to pre-pandemic CY 2019. The diocese itself benefited from increased donations and reduced operating expenses, as some activity was scaled back because of COVID and lower attendance.

Our Catholic community supported the start of two new churches in FY 2021, Mother Teresa Catholic Church in Nolensville and St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church in Carthage. Those churches began holding Masses and administering the sacraments in summer 2021. In the past 10 years, the Catholic community has supported over \$50 million in new churches, expansions and other construction projects for prayer and ministry.

Bishop Spalding launched the Legacy Campaign to endow our continued support of vocations, Catholic education, parishes and ministry to those in need. The diocese contributed \$300,000 to ACE and, with its own endowed funds, ACE distributed almost \$500,000 to our diocesan schools for tuition assistance and other needs. The priests and lay retirement programs further improved in their respective funding levels: the lay retirement fund is at 115 percent and the priests' trust is at 150 percent. Parishes received excellent returns on deposits through CCIL. Below are some financial highlights.

Highlights from Fiscal Year 2020-2021 include the following:

- ▶ Total assets decreased by **\$0.44 million**
- ▶ Liabilities decreased by **\$5.18 million**
- ▶ Net assets (equity) increased by **\$4.7 million**
- ▶ Revenues increased by **\$3.6 million**
- ▶ Expenses increased by **\$1.5 million**

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



Sincerely,

William J. Whalen

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

Annual Report on Finances for Fiscal Year

JULY 1, 2020 TO JUNE 30, 2021

Diocese of Nashville

Highlights

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

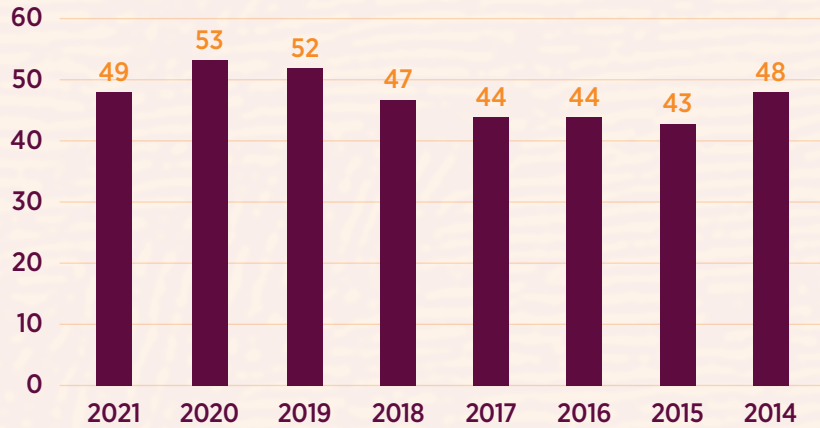
- ▶ Actual expenses were \$16,705,154 compared to budgeted expenses of \$16,072,396. The increase in expenses is primarily related to evangelization and marketing.
- ▶ Operating Net Income of \$81,515 was slightly better than budget and positive for four years in a row.
- ▶ Total Net Income was better than budget by \$2,195,747 through Nolensville donations.

BALANCE SHEET AS OF JUNE 30, 2021	FY2021	FY2020
Cash, Investments, Receivables (net)	\$20,256,893	\$22,902,167
Land, Buildings, Equipment (net)	\$32,098,902	\$31,813,025
Residual Interest in Trust	\$5,628,347	\$3,713,458
Total Assets	\$57,984,142	\$58,428,650
Liabilities short-term	\$2,202,616	\$1,786,974
Amounts Owed or Pledged ¹	\$7,298,061	\$12,892,193
Total Liabilities	\$9,500,677	\$14,679,167
Net Assets	\$2,985,775	\$958,609
Net Assets Designated	\$33,229,321	\$32,751,608
Net Assets Restricted	\$12,268,369	\$10,039,266
Total Net Assets	\$48,483,465	\$43,749,483
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$57,984,142	\$58,428,650

¹The Diocese fulfilled its pledge of \$4,800,000 to Pope John Paul II Preparatory School to contribute to its bond debt. The Diocese has a liquidity loan of \$7,298,061 from First Horizon Bank due October 30, 2025. The diocese has reserved monies to fund this commitment.

Financials

REGULAR MISSION SUPPORT OFFICE EMPLOYEE POSITIONS (FTE)



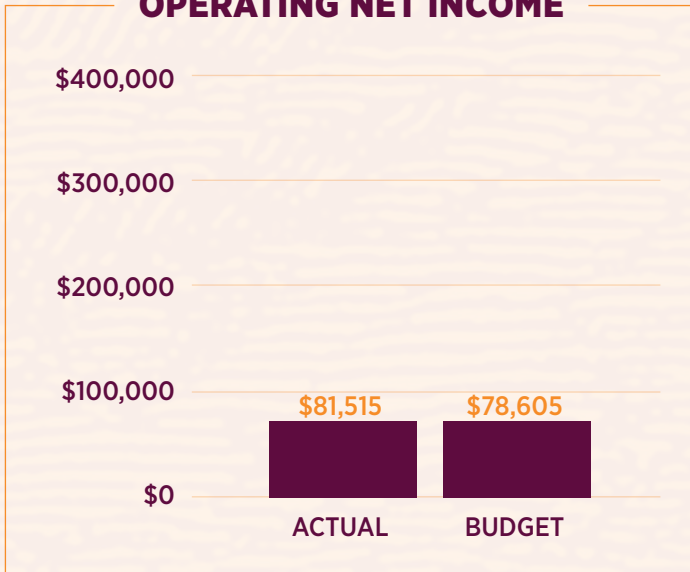
INCOME STATEMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

REVENUE	FY2021	FY2020
Assessments Revenue	\$6,056,668	\$6,257,356
Contributions, Fees, Grants	\$10,741,619	\$8,893,400
Investment Income	\$3,725,960	\$1,026,271
Change in Residual Value	\$914,889	\$(78,029)
Total Revenue	\$21,439,136	\$16,098,998

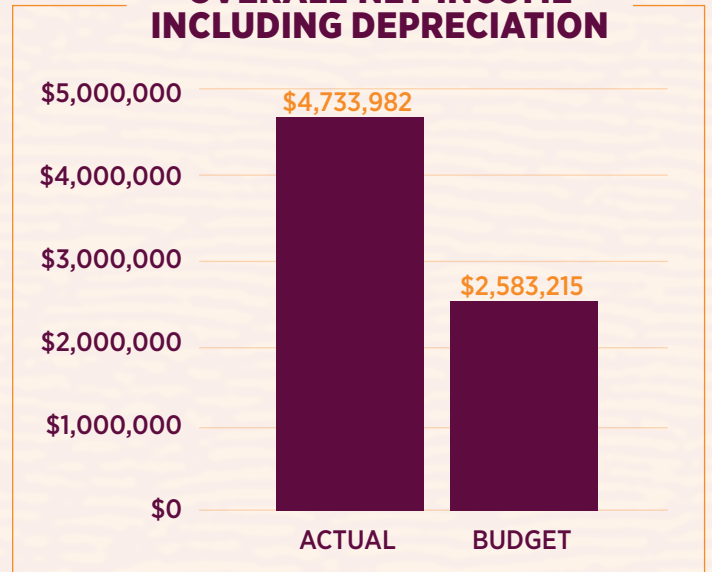
Assessable income from parishes continues as a stable source of revenues, primarily funding core financial operations and pensions. Contributions, Fees, and Grants (mostly the Bishop's Annual Appeal for Ministries) increased by \$1,848,219 from FY2020 to FY2021. Investment income was \$2,699,689 higher from FY2020 to FY2021. Residual values refer to trust funds of which the diocese is a beneficiary.

EXPENSES	FY2021	FY2020
Salaries & Benefits	\$5,819,891	\$5,512,236
Subsidies & Distributions	\$4,040,456	\$3,457,526
Professional Services	\$1,797,513	\$1,493,476
Operating Expenses	\$4,450,392	\$4,146,451
Depreciation	\$596,902	\$566,846
Total Expenses	\$16,705,154	\$15,176,535
Net Income	\$4,733,982	\$922,463

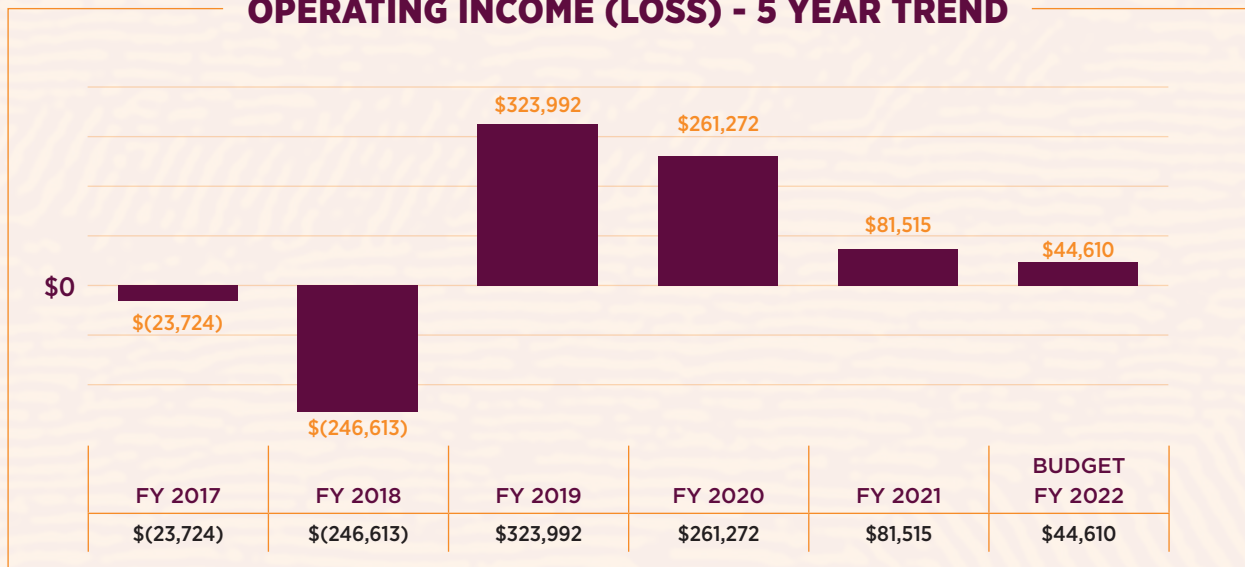
OPERATING NET INCOME



OVERALL NET INCOME INCLUDING DEPRECIATION



OPERATING INCOME (LOSS) - 5 YEAR TREND



The Diocese of Nashville annually publishes the financial results of operations. The audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, which covers the Administrative (Mission Support Office or Chancery) Office of the Diocese, is published on the diocese website (dioceseofnashville.com) in its entirety.

Governance Structure

DIOCESE OF NASHVILLE FINANCE COUNCIL

John Gromos, Chair
William Krueger, Vice Chair
Clark Baker
Marty Blair
Lisa Davis
Dwayne Dillard
David Glascoe
Sergio Ora
Angela Robinson
John Schneider
Ned Spitzer
Laura Thigpen

EX OFFICIO

Most Reverend J. Mark Spalding
Very Reverend Dexter S. Brewer
Very Reverend John J.H. Hammond
Brian L. Cooper, Chancellor and COO
Julie Perrey
William Whalen

LEGAL

L. Gino Marchetti, Jr.

COLLEGE OF CONSULTORS

Very Reverend Eric Fowlkes
Reverend John Sims Baker
Reverend Andrew Bulso
Reverend Patrick Kibby
Reverend Christiano Nunes de Silva
Reverend Daniel Steiner

2021-2022 PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL

Most Reverend J. Mark Spalding
Very Reverend Eric Fowlkes, Chair
Reverend John Sims Baker
Reverend Stephen Brett
Very Reverend Dexter S. Brewer
Reverend Andrew Bulso
Reverend Andrew Forsythe
Very Reverend John J.H. Hammond
Reverend Phillip Halladay
Reverend Thomas Kalam
Reverend Patrick Kibby
Reverend Christiano Nunes de Silva
Reverend Daniel Steiner

CORPORATION MEMBERS

Most Reverend J. Mark Spalding, Bishop
Very Reverend Dexter S. Brewer, Vicar General
Very Reverend John J.H. Hammond, Vicar General
Brian L. Cooper, Chancellor and Designee ♦





The Church knows that because of our weakness it is difficult to create silence in order to come before God and to acquire an awareness of our condition as creatures who depend on him, as sinners in need of his love. It is for this reason that in Lent she asks us to pray more faithfully, more intensely, and to prolong our meditation on the word of God.

St John Chrysostom urged: “Embellish your house with modesty and humility with the practice of prayer. Make your dwelling place shine with the light of justice; adorn its walls with good works, like a luster of pure gold, and replace walls and precious stones with faith and supernatural magnanimity, putting prayer above all other things, high up in the gables, to give the whole complex decorum.

“You will thus prepare a worthy dwelling place for the Lord, you will welcome him in a splendid palace. He will grant you to transform your soul into a temple of his presence”

(Homily 6 on Prayer: PG 64, 466).

Dear friends, on this Lenten journey let us be careful to accept Christ’s invitation to follow him more decisively and consistently, renewing the grace and commitments of our Baptism, to cast off the former person within us and put on Christ, in order to arrive at Easter renewed and able to say, with St Paul: “It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me” (Gal 2:20).

- POPE EMERITUS BENEDICT XVI

CATHOLIC AWAKENINGS

2800 McGavock Pike
Nashville, TN 37214-1402

CATHOLICAWAKENINGS.COM



BE A GOOD STEWARD
PLEASE RECYCLE

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ▶ **MARCH 6** Rite of Election
- ▶ **APRIL 9** Transitional Diaconate Ordination
- ▶ **APRIL 12** Chrism Mass
- ▶ **APRIL 27** Catholic Charities
Pathways to Possibilities
- ▶ **MAY 24** Seminarian Education
Dinner & Auction
- ▶ **MAY 28** Presbyteral Ordination
- ▶ **JUNE 18** Diocesan Eucharistic Procession
- ▶ **SEPTEMBER 15** Advancement of Catholic
Education (ACE) Dinner
- ▶ **OCTOBER 1** Holy Fire

For times and locations, visit www.dioceseofnashville.com

A Ministry of the



**DIOCESE OF
NASHVILLE**