

Catholic Standard

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Anchor's legacy

Jim Vance Media Program at Archbishop Carroll High School marks milestone

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Honoring Sister Thea

Street at Catholic University and panel discussion at Georgetown honors legacy of noted African American Catholic evangelist who is being considered for sainthood.

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SECOND NEWS FRONT

After fleeing Ukraine, student feels at home at DeMatha

By Mark Zimmermann
Catholic Standard

As musicians in the Advanced Percussion Ensemble of DeMatha Catholic High School gathered on stage for a recent concert at their Hyattsville, Maryland school, one of the performers – a new student there – didn't have time to get a tux like the other student musicians were wearing, so he donned a DeMatha blazer and khakis.

Before performing their music, Dr. Michael Gatti, the chairman of DeMatha's music department and the percussion instructor, introduced that student to the audience. He was Ivan Dmytriiev, 17, a Ukrainian refugee who had arrived in the United States with his 6-year-old little brother, Mykhailo, after a harrowing escape from his country just after Russia launched its invasion there. Ivan and his brother are living with their grandparents in Lanham, Olga D. Carlson and Ronald Carlson, and he started attending DeMatha in April.

In Ukraine, Ivan attended a music school and played the drums and xylophone. Before the DeMatha concert, he learned the piece of music that the ensemble would be performing, and he played the xylophone and cymbals in the performance.

"He got a huge ovation," Dr. Gatti said, remembering the audience's reaction after Ivan's introduction and his performance. After Ivan played that piece as part of the Percussion Ensemble, Dr. Gatti walked over to him, congratulating him with a fist-bump.

Interviewed on May 19 at DeMatha, Ivan said that concert was a fun experience for him. "I was happy. My band was very nice."

Sitting at a picnic table on a mild spring afternoon, the student wore a white DeMatha polo shirt and had a free period after taking a geometry test earlier that day. Nearby, displayed on the outside of DeMatha's main building were two banners noting the school's "Faith-Filled Gentlemen and Scholars" and its hallmarks of faith,



Ivan Dmytriiev, 17, a Ukrainian refugee, fled his country in late February after the Russian invasion, and after resettling in Lanham, Maryland at his grandparents' home with his younger brother, he has been attending DeMatha Catholic High School for the past month. (CS photo/Andrew Biraj)

community service, academics, arts and athletics. And displayed on the wall in between the banners was a large blue and yellow Ukrainian flag.

Speaking English in a calm voice, Ivan recounted his journey from Ukraine to Maryland.

He and his younger brother were living in Kyiv, Ukraine's capital, with their mother Anna, who had been a nurse. His parents are divorced, and his father Sergey lives in a village south of the capital, where he has a business. His older brother Alex just finished his master's degree two weeks before the war started.

On Feb. 24, the day of the invasion, Ivan's father came to Kyiv and took him and his younger brother to his village for safety. The next day, they decided to drive to the

border with Poland, about 630 kilometers away. About 100 kilometers from the border, traffic stopped. After sleeping the night in the car, and realizing they didn't have enough gas or food to wait there, they started walking when they were about 20 kilometers from the border.

Along the way, volunteers offered help to the fleeing refugees. "People who understood the situation helped," he said of the Ukrainians helping them. "...No matter what, they help each other. It really inspired me... and I want to do the same."

Carrying his backpack, Ivan said he just had "a couple of T-shirts, pants and some food." Sometimes he and his father carried Mykhailo on their shoulders, but he mostly walked beside them.

"My little brother is a real hero. I couldn't

imagine what he was thinking about," Ivan said. "I kept telling him, 'There's a little bit left, and we'll be fine. We'll go to bed and have a nice sleep.' He didn't even cry. He was brave."

At midnight on Feb. 27, Ivan crossed the border into Poland with his little brother.

When asked what his father said to the boys as he left them there, Ivan answered, "He said, 'Everything will be fine, and I will handle it.'" As he repeated his father's words, it was the only time in the interview when Ivan's voice broke slightly with emotion.

The next day, the boys' grandmother arrived in Poland to be with them and help them get to the United States. "My grandmother immediately came to Poland... We were all so lucky. She found people who gave us shelter and everything we needed," Ivan said.

He noted that his grandmother in Maryland had been watching the news about Ukraine, and she and his grandfather decided to do whatever they could to help the boys, and she initially found friends of friends to give them a place to stay in Poland.

"She's my grandmother, and I really love her," Ivan said. "I know she always loved me and was willing to help no matter what. She's the kind of person who thinks of others if they have some kind of problem."

The boys stayed in Poland about a week, as Ivan's passport was updated, and on March 10, the boys and their grandmother arrived at Dulles International Airport in the Washington area.

Since then, Ivan said he has been talking with his family members back in Ukraine every two to three days, usually with a video chat.

"Right now, everything seems quiet. They're in a safe place," he said.

His mother has been assisting fellow nurses and volunteering at hospitals there. His father opened up one of his houses for

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ON THE COVER

Dalon Tolson, a member of the class of 2023 at Archbishop Carroll High School in Washington, operates a camera in the school's Jim Vance Media Program. The program, named after the late longtime news anchor of NBC 4, recently held its first graduation ceremony for participating students. See related story, pages 11 and 12.

(CS photo/Andrew Biraj)

The smaller photo at lower right shows graduates celebrating after the May 14 commencement for the class of 2022 at The Catholic University of America. See story, page 14.

(CUA photo by Patrick Ryan)

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NEWS

Archdiocesan listening sessions for Synod wrap up

By Patricia Zapor
Senior Correspondent

The last of four Regional Synod Listening Sessions May 14 concluded the local public process for the 2021-2023 Synod with echoes of concerns raised elsewhere in The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington. Repeated themes included the need for a welcoming Church, with parishioners who better understand the Church's teachings in order to effectively evangelize, particularly to young people and those whose communities have long been marginalized in society and the Church.

Group after group among the 100 or so participants mentioned the need to be better at listening to each other and to provide the varied kinds of support necessary in parishes and communities that are diverse in age, race, culture and experience.

In his homily at the Synod's closing Mass, which followed the afternoon-long listening session, Cardinal Wilton Gregory touched on those themes as he focused on Christ's command to "love one another" and the challenges that poses. "None of us ever reaches the apex of Jesus' commandment," the cardinal said. "However, none of us can ever settle for a lesser expression of that commandment. It is in the struggle, it is in the attempt, it is in the effort that we reach sanctity."

The regional session for parishes in the District of Columbia also included representatives from a handful of Maryland parishes, several religious orders and Catholic high schools. It was held at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Southeast Washington. As at the previous regional listening sessions, the parish and community representatives were to report on the concerns raised in the local listening sessions. The delegates were spread around the room at tables with designated note-takers and reporters who brought the key points of table discussions to the larger gathering.

"Someone brought up the point that the shepherds need to know the sheep in order to guide the Church," one group's reporter said, after saying "we want to participate in the life of the parish. We want formation. We want accompaniment."

"So, we want to ask all our shepherds, at every level, are you truly listening to everybody and are you truly listening to the Holy Spirit?" she concluded.

Another group's reporter said: "at both the local parish level and the archdiocesan level, we need to look at this as an opportunity to prepare and promote emerging organizational leaders within the parish organization."

Several times, participants said the structure of listening sessions was greatly appreciated, because people too often feel as though nobody in the Church takes the time to hear their concerns.

Cardinal Gregory sat in with a couple of different discussion groups during the listening session.



At the May 14 final Regional Synod Listening Session, parish and community representatives discern key points they wish to raise during the session. (Catholic Standard photo by Andrew Biraj)



Cardinal Wilton Gregory participates in a discussion group during the May 14 final Regional Synod Listening Session held at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Southeast Washington. Participants were divided among small discussion groups to determine key points that were then shared with the larger gathering. The cardinal sat in with a couple of different discussion groups during the listening session and also celebrated a closing Mass. (Catholic Standard photo by Andrew Biraj)

Reporting for one of those tables, Carolina Herrera, a senior at Elizabeth Seton High School in

Bladensburg, Maryland, said a main topic for that group was how to bring people back to or into the Church.

"Sometimes people drift away. Some people are afraid of confrontation," she said. Herrera later admitted to being quite nervous at speaking for a table full of adults that included the cardinal. She was one of half dozen students representing Seton High and the Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart. Another dozen participants came from men's and women's religious orders.

Dr. Jeannine Marino, the archdiocesan Secretary for Pastoral Ministry and Social Concerns and one of two archdiocesan contacts for the global Synod, said she and her staff would begin working to take 1,000 individual surveys, 106 parish reports and the feedback from the regional sessions and compile a 10-page report to submit to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

In concluding the program with a summary of the listening sessions, she said a highlight was an appreciation for both listening to others and for "being heard."

"You felt that this process highlighted the diversity of our parishes and not just the ethnic diversity – the diversity of ages, of socioeconomic background, of liturgical traditions and practices. That was absolutely highlighted in the other three listening sessions," she said.

She referenced hearing multiple times "a concern for catechesis and the need for evangelization.... We need to invite people back. COVID was hard. There was a lot of loss during COVID – human loss, a sense of community -- and that we really need to take the next step in inviting people back."

Continued listening sessions, civil dialogue, "and that the Holy Spirit is calling us to accompaniment and encounter," also were frequently mentioned that day and in other sessions, Marino said.

One theme raised multiple times in the May 14 session was appreciation for the availability of the traditional Latin Mass in churches of the archdiocese and fear that the traditional Latin liturgy would become unavailable.

Pope Francis in a July 2021 decree, *Traditionis Custodes*, limited the use of the traditional Latin Mass and left it up to the heads of dioceses to establish local policies. Cardinal Gregory



Cardinal Gregory greets participants at the listening session. (Catholic Standard photo by Andrew Biraj)

has not yet announced any changes to the use of the traditional Mass in the Archdiocese – which is available at a handful of parishes.

In his homily, Cardinal Gregory said he had been asked recently by Confirmation candidates about the appropriate Christian response to perpetrators of great violence. The questions "came down to the issue of whether it was acceptable to hate those whose actions had brought such sorrow to the people of any community," he said.

The answer, he said, is that "no one ever lies outside of the love of Christ and His command to His disciples. It is a commandment with no exemptions," he said.

The consultative process was launched in the fall by Pope Francis to gain insights from the world's Catholics in preparation for a Synod of Bishops in 2023. In addition to local listening sessions, those who wished could participate through an online survey, which is still available.

The Synod's theme is "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission." The 10-page report from the Archdiocese to the USCCB will be part of 196 diocesan reports that the bishops' conference will summarize in a report for a continental gathering of North American and Central American dioceses. Ultimately, the reports of continental gatherings will go to the Vatican for the Synod of Bishops, to form the basis of the agenda for the October 2023 Synod.

NEWS

Welcome Plaza at Catholic University dedicated for dramatic ‘Angels Unawares’ sculpture of migrants and refugees

By Mark Zimmermann
Catholic Standard

A monumental work of art depicting migrants and refugees seeking a home has found a permanent home in Washington, D.C., as the Welcome Plaza at The Catholic University of America was blessed and dedicated as the setting of artist Timothy Schmalz’s dramatic “Angels Unawares” sculpture.

Washington Cardinal Wilton Gregory, Catholic University’s chancellor, blessed the plaza on April 22, with philanthropist and arts patron Jacqueline Mars pushing a button that initiated water flowing around the base of the sculpture, forming a reflecting pool. The dramatic sculpture depicts 140 diverse migrants and refugees from different countries and historical eras huddled together on a boat as if seeking a safe harbor, with the flowing water in the reflecting pool seeming to represent the tides carrying the boat’s occupants toward a new life.

“It’s beautiful, isn’t it?” said Mars, who made a gift of \$1.25 million for the plaza. Speaking in a ceremony before the blessing, she said, “...I believe that this statue so personifies exactly

what we should be doing, welcoming the stranger.”

The co-owner of Mars, the world’s largest candy company, said the sculpture reflected how the United States was founded by immigrants, and she said it was very meaningful to her that the refugees in the artwork included the Holy Family, shown on their flight into Egypt with Joseph holding carpentry tools and Mary cradling the baby Jesus in her arms.

Noting the sculpture and plaza’s location, surrounded by the Catholic University campus and with the nearby Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception forming a majestic backdrop, Mars said, “I chose to support Welcome Plaza because I felt this location was a place where the statue could speak to a variety of people: young and old, from this country and elsewhere.”

She pointed out that the basilica draws pilgrims and Catholic University attracts students from across the country and around the world.

“They (students) are forming their ideas about the world, what is meaningful to them, and what is right. To experience ‘Angels Unawares’ in person is an important lesson for



Before the April 22, 2022 dedication ceremony for Welcome Plaza, the setting for artist Timothy Schmalz’s “Angels Unawares” sculpture depicting migrants and refugees, people view the artwork. The plaza is located between Gibbons and O’Connell halls on the university’s campus, and visible in the background is the nearby Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. (Catholic Standard photo/Andrew Biraj)

all of us,” she said.

The 20-foot-long, 3.5-ton bronze sculpture is the second casting of that artwork by Schmalz, with the originally commissioned by the Vatican and placed in St. Peter’s Square, where it was unveiled by Pope Francis in September 2019 for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees. One year later, the second sculpture was blessed by then-Archbishop Gregory at Catholic University, before it traveled on a 9,700-mile tour across the country, and was displayed in Boston, New York, Atlanta, Miami, New Orleans, San Antonio, the city of Napa in California, Minneapolis and Chicago, before returning to its permanent location on the CUA campus.

Speaking about the journey of the life-sized sculpture of the migrants and refugees crowded on a boat, Catholic University president John Garvey joked, “Nineteen months later, the sculpture has finally arrived in port, and we have settled the matter of where to dock it.”

Noting its location next to Michigan Avenue, in an open space between Gibbons and O’Connell halls, Mark Ferguson, the dean of CUA’s School of Architecture and Planning, said, “It is a natural gateway to campus,” adding that the vista with view of the surrounding lawn, trees, university buildings and the basilica, offered a “green sanctuary” and “a place of contemplation and beauty.”

From that busy Washington street, a stone marker identifies Welcome Plaza and the

“Angels Unawares” sculpture, and includes the biblical quote from Hebrews 13:2 that inspired the work, “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.”

To reinforce that spiritual message of welcoming newcomers, large angel wings stretch skyward in the middle of the figures standing shoulder-to-shoulder on the boat.

In his opening prayer at the gathering, Archbishop Christophe Pierre – the Vatican’s apostolic nuncio to the United States – noted that these are “dramatic days, when so many of our brothers and sisters are forced from their homes” by war and domestic strife.

“Most of all, oh Lord, we ask you to send your holy angels to comfort the migrants and refugees, the marginalized and the despondent and those who care for them,” he prayed.

Also addressing guests was Schmalz, who said viewing it again brought him a flashback of the faces he used as models for the work. The Canadian artist said some, including African refugees, were live models who posed for him in his studio, while many of the historical figures were based on photos from the archives of Ellis Island.

The figures in the front of the sculpture include a Muslim woman fleeing Syria, a Jewish man holding suitcases while escaping Nazi Germany, a pregnant woman from Poland, and an Irish boy leaving home because



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NEWS

MCC launches website offering resources to assist pregnant women and mothers

Standard Staff report

The Maryland Catholic Conference (MCC) has created a website that provides access to resources and other helpful information for pregnant women, parenting women in need and those who seek to assist them.

Titled “Helping Hope Bloom,” the website – www.mdccatholic.org/hopeblooms – was launched May 24 by the MCC and includes a listing of resources statewide as well as practical ways that parishes and individuals can assist pregnant women and mothers.

The MCC is the public policy arm of the two Catholic archdioceses and one diocese that comprise the state – the Archdiocese of Baltimore; The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington; and the Diocese of Wilmington.

Among the resources made available to pregnant women and mothers are a listing of diaper banks throughout the state, where to get emergency food, Catholic health care and ob/gyn services, where to access housing, legal and other services, and pregnancy support centers. There is also a list of prayers, novenas and reflections in both Spanish and English.

“An unexpected pregnancy can be overwhelming, scary and lonely for women who don’t have a support network or many resources,” said Jenny Kraska, executive director of the Maryland Catholic Conference. “At the same time, so many of the faithful want to do more and don’t know where to start. Helping Hope Bloom not only provides suggestions, but organizations that people and parishes can support and partner with.”



The launch of the Helping Hope Bloom website comes just one month after Maryland lawmakers overrode Gov. Larry Hogan’s veto of a bill that greatly expands abortion access in the state.

The new law, which takes effect July 1, allows non-physicians to perform abortions, provides state funds to train non-physicians how to perform abortions, and requires expanded insurance coverage of abortion, with some exceptions, such as religious objections.

News briefs

San Francisco prelate says no Communion for Speaker Pelosi

San Francisco’s archbishop declared May 20 that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., is not “to be admitted” to Communion in that archdiocese unless and until she publicly repudiates “support for abortion ‘rights’” and goes to confession and receives absolution “for her cooperation in this evil.” Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone said he decided to make this declaration “after numerous attempts to speak with her to help her understand the grave evil she is perpetrating, the scandal she is causing and the danger to her own soul she is risking” as a Catholic who supports legalized abortion. Pelosi represents California’s 12th Congressional District, which is entirely within San Francisco. “Please know that I find no pleasure whatsoever in fulfilling my pastoral duty here,” Archbishop Cordileone said. “Speaker Pelosi remains our sister in Christ. Her advocacy for the care of the poor and vulnerable elicits my admiration. I assure you that my action here is purely pastoral, not political. I have been very clear in my words and actions about

(Read more at www.cathstan.org)

this.” The archbishop opened his 1,300-word letter by saying that Pope Francis “has been one of the world’s most vocal advocates of human dignity in every stage and condition of life.”

Buffalo bishop lays flowers, prays at shooting memorial

Bishop Michael Fisher of Buffalo, New York joined mourners outside a Tops grocery store where 10 people were killed and three others were injured in what law enforcement authorities said was a racially motivated crime. Placing flowers and a note remembering “the souls of our brothers and sisters lost to the acts of violence and racism” at a memorial at the store, Bishop Fisher paid his respects to the victims May 17. The bishop’s visit was called a “prayerful, peaceful way of being present” with others who had gathered at the site. Bishop Fisher talked with officials who were coordinating the investigation at the crime scene as investigators combed the store and surrounding area for evidence that could be linked to the suspect in the mass killing, 18-year-old Payton S. Gendron of Conklin, New York. All of those who died were Black.



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FAITH IN ACTION

Get ready to celebrate a month of huge Church feasts

By Msgr. John Enzler

We have a wonderful opportunity to draw closer to the Lord in four spectacular liturgies that we are about to celebrate in consecutive weeks. I have said before that Advent and Lent can be like retreats for us if we make an effort. I see these four upcoming liturgies the same way. They are a chance for us to better know who God is and how much he loves us.

The first is the Ascension (May 29), when Jesus returns to the Father in heaven after the Resurrection. As many of us remember, we used to celebrate Ascension Thursday 40 days after Easter, but most dioceses

have moved it to the seventh Sunday of Easter. This has a greater impact on us all as more people now participate in the Ascension liturgy.

My favorite part of the Ascension is the Lord's words before he goes back to his Father: Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age. (*Matthew 28: 19-20*)

Those words are also meant for us today. This is the call each of us is given at baptism, and this great celebration is an opportunity to think about how we can take the word of God we have



This composite photo shows a detail from Sulpician Father Peter W. Gray's artwork "Pentecost" in the chapel at the Theological College in Washington. (CNS composite; photos by Tyler Orsburn)

experienced and bring it to family, friends, and neighbors who long for the gifts and guidance that our Catholic faith provides us.

The following week is Pentecost, one of my very favorite feasts, when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the Church. We made Pentecost a big celebration when I was at Our Lady of Mercy. We rented a large tent, and for one Sunday of the year, we changed the Mass schedule to hold two particularly big Eucharists, celebrating with as many of us gathered as possible to enjoy the beautiful music and liturgy. We then enjoyed fellowship with breakfast after the early Mass and a picnic after the second Mass.

Pentecost celebrates not only the early Church but also us today receiving the very Spirit of God and the gifts the Spirit gives us: wisdom, understanding, knowledge, counsel, piety, fortitude, and fear of the Lord. Many of our young people recently received the sacrament of Confirmation, which "confirms" and strengthens in us those very same gifts that we initially received at Baptism. Let us think about those gifts and incorporate them into our lives with the

guidance of God through his Spirit.

I believe we live in the age of the Spirit. The Father created, Jesus saved, and the Lord then sent his Spirit. In the two thousand years since we have lived in that Spirit of God. I encourage all of us to also think about whether we pray enough to the Holy Spirit.

My sense is that many of us do not pray as much to the Spirit as we do the Father and the Son and that we can more consciously rely on the Spirit's guidance as we do our best every day to be the people God wants us to be. At this time of year, I also pray that graduates of all ages seek the Spirit's guidance in their next chapters and throughout their lives.

The next week we celebrate the Holy Spirit again but this time in union with the Father and the Son on Trinity Sunday. Quite honestly, the Trinity is a mystery that we cannot fully comprehend, but we should still reflect upon this mystery through the image of God who is Father, God who is Son, and God who is Spirit.

There are various analogies to try to help us understand how the one true God is made up of three different persons. One of the most famous is St. Patrick's reported use of the

shamrock – one plant with three clover leaves. These analogies are helpful, but they cannot do justice to the fact that our God has revealed himself in three persons.

The Trinity did not come about as a theological concept but out of the experience of the early Church. The Church believed that the Father created them, and through the Resurrection, it also came to believe that Jesus was truly the Son of God sent to save us. Then, as we see at Pentecost, the early Church experienced profound faith, courage and boldness as the Spirit touched their hearts and lives. Through that courage, ten of the first twelve apostles are believed to have died as martyrs. This same Spirit is present for each of us today.

We conclude this series of powerhouse liturgies with the great feast of Corpus Christi, which is Latin for "the Body of Christ." Let us not treat this as just another Sunday but rather as a sacred time to think about Jesus becoming present to us by giving us his

very being – his body, blood, soul, and divinity.

It is a miracle that we can physically receive the Creator of the universe into our bodies to become more like Jesus and live the fullness of our faith. Some parishes have processions with the Blessed Sacrament; some walk through neighborhoods to celebrate this great feast. Many countries around the world have huge processions. Here at home, we can at least slow down enough to realize that we probably take the great gift of Eucharist for granted, and to try to be more present to what is truly happening each time we receive the Lord.

These four great feasts celebrate some of the most important parts of our faith and our salvation, which makes these coming weeks an opportunity for us to draw closer to the Lord. They may bring an end to the Easter season, but they can also be a new beginning in our faith journey as we allow God's almighty presence to guide everything we do.

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(Msgr. Enzler is the president and CEO of Catholic Charities of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington.)

NEWS

CUA's outgoing president tells John Carroll Society that 'Catholic approach to scholarship' shaped his work

By Lynnea Mumola
Special to Standard

The outgoing president of The Catholic University of America said building and safeguarding Catholic intellectual life remained his primary focus as the 15th president of the national university of the Catholic Church. "Being president of CUA is the best job I've ever had in my life, and I enjoyed all my jobs," said John Garvey, who will be stepping down after 12 years of service at the end of June.

Speaking at the 35th Annual John Carroll Society Awards Dinner on April 29, Garvey described God as "the point of our academic light." He added, "Real theology has another origin – the One who loves wants to know His beloved better and better."

The university administrator and award-winning author said he relished each annual meeting with the school's board of trustees where he reported the number of Catholics hired throughout the year. He explained his primary role was ensuring the university aided students in getting to know and love God better.

During his tenure, Garvey maintained that

"a Catholic approach to scholarship enriches every school and discipline." To those ends he began his presidency hosting a series of intellectuals across academic fields lecturing on the importance of virtue – a course he continued over the years. In addition, during his time as president, Catholic University launched the Busch School of Business to incorporate Catholic social teaching into business training – and Garvey described the new school's emphasis of service over personal gain.

Earlier in a video message to participants, Cardinal Wilton Gregory, archbishop of The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington and chancellor of Catholic University, thanked Garvey with "deepest gratitude" for his efforts. "I have known his friendship as a man of faith, and as an educator of competence," Cardinal Gregory said. "I shall miss his wit and wisdom."

In her introduction of the keynote speaker, Elizabeth Meers, a John Carroll Society and Catholic University Board of Trustees member, wished Garvey well in Italian, as he prepares for a position at Catholic University's Rome campus following a brief sabbatical.

Garvey, an expert on constitutional law,

religious liberty and the First Amendment, previously served as the dean of Boston College Law School from 1999-2010. In 2008, he served as president of the Association of American Law Schools. Following graduation from Harvard Law School in 1974, Garvey held many jobs including at the law firm Morrison & Foerster in San Francisco, and teaching at Notre Dame, the University of Michigan and the University of Kentucky. From 1981-1984 he served as assistant to the Solicitor General of the United States.

Married to Jeanne Walter Garvey for 47 years and a parent of five children, Garvey is a past recipient of the John Carroll Society Medal – the highest honor of the professional society. For more than 70 years, the society has promoted spiritual, intellectual, and social fellowship among its members as well as provided the archdiocese with pro-bono health care and law service. After his talk, Garvey was presented with a framed print of Archbishop John Carroll, the organization's namesake and first Catholic bishop in the original 13 states.

Garvey was joined by more than 225

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John Garvey, the outgoing president of The Catholic University of America, speaks at the April 29 annual dinner of the John Carroll Society, which was held at the Four Seasons Hotel in Washington, D.C. (Photo by Christopher Newkumet)

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NEWS

Panel discussion praises Sister Thea Bowman for ‘challenging us to hunger and thirst for justice’

By Richard Szczepanowski
Catholic Standard

Just after naming the chapel in its Copley Hall after Servant of God Sister Thea Bowman on May 3, Georgetown University hosted a panel discussion on the legacy of the late woman religious who was a nationally known evangelist, teacher and advocate for greater engagement of African Americans in the Catholic Church.

“We gather not to just name something, honor someone, but to lift up Sister Thea and her life and her legacy,” said John Carr, co-director of the university’s Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life, and moderator the dialogue.

The discussion was part of Georgetown University’s Dahlgren Dialogues series, co-sponsored by the university’s Office of Mission & Ministry and the Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life.

Washington Cardinal Wilton Gregory, one of the panelists discussing the legacy of Sister Thea, said that despite the stresses and trauma caused by the George Floyd murder, racial unrest, the COVID pandemic and the war in Ukraine, “one of the things I would think Sister Thea would want us to remember – especially at this juncture in our history – is don’t lose heart.”

“Sister Thea would want us to remember that God is always in charge,” Cardinal Gregory said. “There are many reasons to dwell on what makes us downhearted. Sister Thea would say, ‘This cannot and must not overpower you. Get up and keep walking.’ She was a woman of consummate hope. We need people of hope to speak to our hearts.”

He recalled his first meeting with her in 1984 when he was serving as an auxiliary



Participants in the May 3, Georgetown University dialogue “Sister Thea Bowman: Faithful Life, Powerful Legacy, Continuing Lessons” are (from left to right) Sister of Notre Dame de Namur Patricia Chappell, Shannen Dee Williams, John Carr, Ogechi Akalegbere, and Cardinal Wilton Gregory. (Georgetown University photo/Rafael Suanes)

bishop of Chicago.

“I was just mesmerized. She was just full of life. I said to myself, ‘You can learn a lot from this woman.’ It was just a wonderful experience that first time,” the cardinal said. “She was a woman who understood who she was, and invited everyone else to make that discovery about themselves.”

Other panelists included Ogechi Akalegbere, the 2021 winner of the Cardinal Bernardin New Leadership Award from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development who is the Christian service coordinator at Connelly School of the Holy Child in Potomac,

Maryland; Sister Patricia Chappell, a Sister of Notre Dame de Namur and moderator of the leadership team for her order’s U.S. East-West Province who is the former president of the National Black Sisters’ Conference and the former executive director of Pax Christi USA; and Shannen Dee Williams, an associate professor of history at the University of Dayton who specializes in women’s, religious, and Black freedom movement history and who is the author of “Subversive Habits: Black Catholic Nuns in the Long African American Freedom Struggle.”

About 200 people attended the discussion in person at the university’s Dahlgren Chapel of the Sacred Heart, and more than 2,000 signed up to follow the livestreamed event via various social media platforms.

Sister Thea died in 1990 from bone cancer at the age of 52 and her cause for canonization was overwhelmingly supported by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops when it was opened in 2018. In 1989, she became the first black female to address a meeting of all the bishops of the United States.

Confined to a wheelchair and suffering greatly, Sister Thea urged the bishops to evangelize the African-American community and to welcome African-American participation in the Catholic Church.

Cardinal Gregory likened Sister Thea’s talk to the bishops to famous addresses given by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., President John F. Kennedy and others.

“There are great speeches – great moments – where people have lifted the spirits of the community and the nation,” the cardinal said. “We have to hold up examples like she is for the younger generation.” He said that viewing the speech is a requirement of archdiocesan

seminarians who must watch it in groups “so they can hear it together and see one another’s expression.”

In that address to the bishops, Sister Thea called herself “a pilgrim on the journey looking for home,” and she urged the bishops to “please help me to get home.”

“What does it mean to be Black and Catholic? It means that I come to my Church fully functioning,” she told the bishops. “I bring myself; my Black self, all that I am, all that I have, all that I hope to become. I bring my whole history, my traditions, my experience, my culture, my African-American song and dance and gesture and movement and teaching and preaching and healing and responsibility – as gifts to the Church.”

Akalegbere praised Sister Thea because “she mirrors who I aspire to be. I studied her, used her as a guide and prayed for her intercession.”

“Sister Thea gave me both hope and visibility, especially at a time when I felt invisible as a female, Black, Catholic and an immigrant – all the things that I am,” Akalegbere said. “I found solace in knowing she evolved into who she was.”

Sister Thea was born Bertha Bowman in Mississippi in 1937. Her father Theon was a doctor and her mother Mary Esther was a teacher. Her grandfather was a freed slave. Even though they were Methodists, Thea’s parents allowed her to convert to the Catholic faith when she was just nine years old. When she was 15, she entered the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, becoming the first and only African-American member of her order.

When she took her vows as a woman



Washington Cardinal Wilton Gregory blesses an image of Servant of God Sister Thea Bowman during a May 3, 2022 ecumenical prayer service at Georgetown University commemorating the renaming of a chapel there in her honor. See story on the Catholic Standard’s website at cathstan.org. (Georgetown University photo by Rafael Suanes)

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NEWS

Catholic University names street in honor of Sister Thea Bowman

By Richard Szczepanowski
Catholic Standard

Catholic University of America officials on April 29 dedicated and blessed a campus street named in honor of the late Sister Thea Bowman, a noted educator and evangelist who studied at CUA and whose cause for canonization was opened in 2018.

“During her life, Sister Thea was a shining example of religious life, and she worked for social justice, racial equality and harmony among all peoples, especially in the Catholic Church,” said Washington Cardinal Wilton Gregory who serves as chancellor of CUA and who blessed the new Sister Thea Bowman Drive. “We are pleased to dedicate this street in her honor as a reminder that her life’s work still continues in the Church and on this campus today.”

Sister Thea died in 1990 from bone cancer at the age of 52. When she was 15, she entered the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, becoming the first and only African-American member of her order. When she took her vows as a nun, she changed her name from Bertha Bowman to Mary Thea Bowman, and pursued studies at The Catholic University of America where she earned both a master’s and doctorate degree in English.

For more than 15 years, Sister Thea was an educator. She then began her ministry as an evangelist, traveling the United States to urge priests, bishops and her fellow Catholics to accept her and other African Americans as “fully black



Washington Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory and Mayor Muriel Bowser of the District of Columbia participate in the dedication and blessing of Sister Thea Bowman Drive at The Catholic University of America in Washington April 29, 2022. Sister Bowman, who died in 1990, is one of six Black Catholics who are candidates for sainthood. Her sainthood cause was opened in 2018 and she has the title “Servant of God.” (CNS photo/Tyler Orsburn)

and fully Catholic.”

In addition to her evangelization work, Sister Thea helped found the National Black Sisters Conference to provide support for African-American women in religious life. In 1987, she also helped produce “Lead Me, Guide Me: The African American Catholic Hymnal,” the first such hymnal for African-American Catholics.

“While she went home to God more than 30 years ago, the impact of Sister Thea Bowman’s life is still felt in our own time,” Cardinal Gregory said in blessing the street next to CUA’s Columbus School of Law. “By her words and example, she challenged everyone to follow the command of the Lord Jesus to

love God with all of our heart and our neighbors as ourselves.”

Among those attending the dedication ceremony was D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser, who called the late nun “an extraordinary woman of faith.”

Mayor Bowser, who grew up in and continues to attend nearby St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Washington’s Brookland neighborhood, said that whenever anyone sees the newly named street, “they will be inspired to do more and to be better... we should all celebrate the humanity in each other.”

The street dedication was recommended by CUA’s Sister Thea Bowman Committee, which was formed to further racial diversity

on the campus and the wider community.

“In recognition of Sister Thea’s contributions and lasting impact as a religious sister, as an educator and as the conscience of the Church, the university thought it important to honor her in a permanent and visible way by naming a street after her,” said Regina Jefferson, a professor of law at CUA’s Columbus School of Law and chairperson of the Sister Thea Bowman Committee.

“She (Sister Thea) encouraged people to communicate with one another so that they could better understand other cultures and races,” Jefferson said. “We hope that the Sister Thea Bowman Drive will serve not only as a visible tribute to Sister Thea, but also as a constant reminder to each of us to ... work together to make positive and meaningful change in our lives, our communities and the world.”

CUA provost Aaron Dominguez praised Sister Thea as “our righteous inspiration here at The Catholic University of America” and said “she continues to inspire and to intercede from heaven for change.”

“We celebrate Sister Thea by dedicating this road to her, a strong, Black Catholic woman who is in the process of navigating the path toward sainthood in the Catholic Church, and whose legacy continues to call us to walk a road of solidarity and unity as one human family,” Dominguez said. “We entrust to her our work to address racism and to embrace the richness that diversity of culture, race and ethnicity bring to our community.”

CUA senior Kelly Woodson

noted that “the displaying of street names reflects the identification and location of property. Many are aware that Black people were seen as property... Sister Thea Bowman, being a Black woman who was such an astounding figure in the Black Catholic community, fosters this notion that we shall never be seen as a thing, but the image and likeness of God’s love.”

“It is imperative that we look to individuals like Sister Thea Bowman to understand that our brothers and sisters – no matter race, creed, religion, ethnicity, etc. – are a part of our lives,” Woodson said. “The way that we treat one another is an indication of our love for one another and especially God Himself.”

During the dedication ceremony, a letter was read that was sent from the La Crosse, Wisconsin, motherhouse of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration to mark the occasion. The sisters said it was their hope that “when you move along Sister Thea Bowman Drive, you move with love and joy.”

“May the love and joy you bring here today by dedicating this street to Sister Thea spread to the next street and the next street and the next,” the sisters wrote in their letter. “May the blessing of the Lord be upon you and all who journey on this road and the path to justice.”

When he blessed the sign designating the newly named street, Cardinal Gregory prayed, “May we who honor her memory today with this blessing of Sister Thea Bowman Drive seek to honor her legacy by the way we live our lives.”

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religious, she changed her name to Mary Thea Bowman, and pursued studies at The Catholic University of America, where she earned a master’s degree and a doctorate degree in English. After completing her studies, Sister Thea served as a high school teacher and then college professor.

Williams said Sister Thea and other African-American women who broke racial barriers to enter religious life are “forgotten freedom fighters. They were pioneers who desegregated their orders and the schools, the hospitals, the parishes and other places where they ministered.”

“They broke barriers that we cannot even begin to imagine,” Williams said. “Sister Thea was not just a champion of racial justice, she also stood against sexism and all

forms of discrimination.”

After more than 15 years as an educator, Sister Thea joined the Diocese of Jackson, Mississippi, serving as a consultant for intercultural awareness. It was during this time that she began her evangelization work, traveling the United States to urge priests, bishops and her fellow Catholics to accept her and other African Americans as “fully Black and fully Catholic.”

In 1984, Sister Thea’s mother and father died and she herself was diagnosed with cancer. Despite her constant pain, she traveled throughout the country preaching the Gospel.

“I know that suffering gives us new perspectives and helps us clarify our real value. I know that suffering has helped me to clarify my relationships,” Sister Thea said of her cancer diagnosis. “Perhaps suffering stops us in our tracks

and forces us to confront what is real within ourselves and in our environment.”

Williams said, “We all have the obligation to courageously fight as she did. We cannot forget her suffering. She would tell us to be extremely courageous – not to be fearful. Even in her suffering she still fought.”

In addition to her evangelization work, Sister Thea helped found the National Black Sisters’ Conference to provide support for African-American women in religious life.

Sister Patricia Chappell said it was through the National Black Sisters’ Conference that she came to know Sister Thea.

She said that to continue the work of the late sister, “we have to change the paradigm. The paradigm has to shift and change, and we must change our behaviors and attitudes and look at our policies and

procedures.”

Those “policies and procedures,” Sister Chappell said, “keep discrimination alive.”

“Systemic racism has been embedded in every single one of our social systems, including the Catholic Church. It is the boot on the neck of the marginalized and oppressed Black and Brown communities,” she said. “We have to form transformational values that need to be the core of our structures and institutions.”

Sister Thea also helped produce in 1987 “Lead Me, Guide Me: The African American Catholic Hymnal,” the first such hymnal for African-American Catholics.

“This woman can help us understand what happened and what needs to happen,” Carr said. “She spent her too-short life teaching, preaching, evangelizing, singing and challenging us to hunger

and thirst for justice.”

Sister Thea died on March 30, 1990 in Mississippi. As she was dying, she said that all she wanted written on her tombstone were the words, “She tried.” She explained that “I want people to remember that I tried to love the Lord and that I tried to love them.”

“Sister Thea told the true truth and she called us to tell the true truth,” Williams said. “In this time of political and moral crises, I truly believe Sister Thea would call on us to tell the true truth.”

Akalegbere said how Sister Thea lived her faith is what drew others to join her efforts to fight racism and to work for justice.

“There is definitely a draw when someone loves God and lives their faith deeply. You can put faith into action and you can do that in a diverse way that leads to equity and justice,” she said.

GRADUATION

MAY 26, 2022

CATHOLIC STANDARD



Archbishop Carroll High School in Washington, D.C. this year will see the first graduates of its innovative media program named for the late news anchor Jim Vance. The program was launched and has been directed since its inception by Dr. Cherie Ward. The pioneer group of graduates, shown in their state-of-the-art media center, are (from left) Corbin Flaherty, Ijeoma Okere, Zenobia Bey-Braye, Dr. Ward, Dionna Duncan and Alaina Wheeler. (CS photo/Andrew Biraj)

Carroll graduates its first class of ‘Vance Scholars’

By Richard Szczepanowski
Catholic Standard

Archbishop Carroll High School in Washington, D.C. this year will graduate its first group of “Vance Scholars,” pioneer students who are the first to complete the high school’s innovative media program named for the late longtime NBC4 news anchor Jim Vance.

“Being part of the pioneer class of Vance Scholars, we started off at zero and went full circle,” said Ijeoma Okere, one of the first five Carroll seniors to complete the program. “We left our footprint of what it means to be a true Vance Scholar. We not only created memories, but footsteps. Those footsteps are filled with grit, perseverance and a lot of integrity.”

The students were honored at the school this spring during a “Simply the Best”

showcase of the work completed by the graduating seniors and other students enrolled in the program.

The program was launched in December 2018 when Carroll unveiled its new Jim Vance Media Program, introducing the four-year media studies course that teaches the principles, practices and techniques of journalism.

“Our students will learn to communicate across various (media) platforms,” Dr. Cherie Ward, director of the program, said at the time the program was announced. “They will learn responsible reporting and responsible messaging across the digital media.”

The program is named after Jim Vance, a veteran NBC Channel 4 news anchor in Washington who won 19 Emmy awards during his more than four-decade tenure at the station and who died in 2017 at the age of 75 after a brief battle with cancer. He was an

English teacher at a public school in his native Philadelphia before beginning his career in journalism in that city.

For many years prior to his death, Vance sponsored an annual scholarship at Archbishop Carroll High School, and offered support to Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian Parish’s Community Action Group program that provides outreach to families affected by drug and alcohol abuse. In 2012, Vance received the Archbishop Carroll High School Hall of Honor Award.

Archbishop Carroll High School is a Catholic, college preparatory, coeducational school that was founded in 1951 in the nation’s capital and is sponsored by The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington.

Students in the Jim Vance Media Program are called “Vance Scholars” and receive a four-year full-tuition scholarship to Archbishop Carroll High School. While in the program,

they must maintain a cumulative quarterly average of 3.0. The program is highly competitive, and only 20 incoming Carroll freshmen are accepted each year.

Vance Scholars learn about career opportunities available in the various media: print, broadcast, engineering, photojournalism and digital and social media. Over the course of their four years of education, they study sports journalism, public speaking, mass communication, fundamentals of print and broadcast journalism, digital media, photo journalism and other classes. They also participate in internships.

Noting that she had learned how to operate a camera and produce and direct a program “all before I was 18 years old,” graduating Vance Scholar Zenobia Bey-Braye said that “this program has given me in a matter of a few

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GRADUATION

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years so many opportunities and experiences that could have taken lifetimes.”

Larry Savoy, Archbishop Carroll’s president, praised the program as one that “helps students hone a craft or skill ... (and) gives them the opportunity to go off into the world and celebrate what they have learned.”

Okere, who in the fall will attend Case Western Reserve University in Ohio where she will study biology as part of a pre-med track, called her enrollment in the Vance media program “a dream come true.”

“One day after I complete my studies at Case Western Reserve and then medical school, I’ll look back on these years and know they were essential to my future success,” she said.

To better serve the students in the media program, the school built a 5,500-square-foot, state-of-the-art media center providing Vance Scholars with broadcast and recording studios, editing booths, suites, and master control rooms for students in the program.

In March 2020, less than a week before the nationwide COVID pandemic was declared, then-Archbishop Wilton Gregory blessed and cut the ribbon on Carroll’s Jim Vance Media Center.

“Here may they (students) discover the Lord Jesus who is the Truth and may they share that Truth through the technological advances that are available to them at this school,” then-Archbishop Gregory prayed in blessing the new center. He said the facility “is intended to help (the students) discover and perfect the skill of broadcasting the truth.”

For graduating Vance Scholar Alaina Wheeler, her participation in the program “taught me to keep persevering despite the stresses of how hard the work was sometimes.”

“I say ‘thank you’ for Carroll and the Jim Vance Media Center,” she said. “I just can’t believe what I’ve been able to do in the past four years. I am going to miss this program.”

Kathy Vance, widow of the late newsman, spoke at the showcase and thanked the pioneer cohort of graduates “for making new memories for us. I am humbled, honored and proud to salute the first graduating class of Vance Scholars.”



Senior Vance Scholars collaborate on a project in the media center. They are (from left) Zenobia Bey-Braye serving as technical director, Alaina Wheeler operating the chyron generator, Dionna Duncan monitoring the audio and Ijoma Okere serving as engineer. (CS photo/Andrew Biraj)

Vance’s daughter Amani praised the scholars as “young people who have proven themselves to be concerned citizens who are willing to get the job done.”

The Jim Vance Media Center and program were made possible through a \$5 million donation from Steven Newby, a retired stockbroker and a longtime benefactor of the school who is neither Catholic nor a Carroll alumnus. At that time, the donation was the largest gift in the school’s history.

Speaking to the graduating scholars at the spring showcase, Newby said that while he made money by investing it wisely, he has since decided “instead of investing in stocks and bonds, I am investing in each student (in the Vance media program). The students will pay dividends for decades – long after I am gone – but they will make this world a better place.”

He also urged the students to remember that “Jim Vance had character, and that is the most important thing you can have.”

“At the dedication of the Jim Vance Center (in March 2020), I was overwhelmed when I first looked at the giant painting of my father on the wall of the media center, but when I saw the artist so beautifully captured him down to the twinkle in his eyes, I thought what a great representation of my father,” Amani Vance told the students. “Little did I know that years later all of you would represent him just as well.”

Also addressing the graduating scholars was Doreen Gentzler, an NBC4 anchor who was a co-anchor with Vance for more than 25 years and was a personal friend as well.

“We are now in a time when people are doing good things just to put their picture

on social media,” she said. “Jim never did that. I loved him for that, and for many other reasons.”

She called the Vance Scholars “such an impressive group of young people.”

“We laid a lot of the groundwork for future classes,” said graduating Vance Scholar Corbin Flaherty. “The past four years have been unforgettable and this program has given me opportunities that are incredible and not once I could have imagined.”

Flaherty will attend Florida A&M University in the fall, where he will pursue a degree in business management.

His sentiments about the Vance media program were shared by fellow pioneer Vance Scholar Dionna Duncan, who in the fall will study computer sciences at North Carolina A&T State University.

“We set the standard” for future Vance Scholars, Duncan said. “My experiences with this program are something I will take with me for a lifetime.”

The Jim Vance Media Program was launched and has been directed since its inception by Dr. Ward. Newby called her “the ‘kingpin’ that makes all this happens. You already think she’s great, but she is really twice as great as you think.”

“It is hard to believe that four years have passed and we will have our first graduating class from the Jim Vance Media Program,” Dr. Ward said. “These students have done tremendous work and I am so very proud of them.” She called the “Simply the Best” showcase an opportunity “to celebrate all of the students and to honor and salute our graduating seniors.”

During the ceremony, each of the initial

Vance Scholar graduates was presented with an award:

Ijeoma Okere won a \$5,000 “Vance Family” scholarship.

Alaina Wheeler won a \$2,500 “Step Up to The Plate” scholarship.

Zenobia Bey-Braye won a \$1,500 “Most Evolutionary” scholarship.

Corbin Flaherty won a \$500 “First Graduating Class” book voucher.

Dionna Duncan won a \$500 “First Graduating Class” book voucher.

“No matter where you go, this program goes with you,” Bey-Braye said. “Life has been different ever since I began this program. Not only have I learned so much about this industry, but also a lot about myself.”



Senior Vance Scholar Alaina Wheeler addresses the April 23 Jim Vance Media Program video showcase and awards presentation. (CS photo/Andrew Biraj)



Senior Vance Scholar Corbin Flaherty works in the Jim Vance Media Center’s control room audio booth, setting audio levels. (CS photo/Andrew Biraj)

GRADUATION

Ukrainian archbishop addresses Notre Dame graduates, receives honorary degree

Catholic News Service

Ukrainians “have made the Bible come alive for the world,” Archbishop Borys Gudziak, head of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia, told graduates of the University of Notre Dame May 15.

“David withstands Goliath, the Way of the Cross has stations in Bucha and Borodianka, Mariupol and Sumy, Jesus suffers with his people,” said the prelate as the speaker for Notre Dame’s 177th commencement ceremony. “We had a Lent and Holy Week like no other. We pray that the Cross will again lead to the Resurrection, to the victory of life over death.”

Archbishop Gudziak, who also is the head of external relations for the worldwide Ukrainian Catholic Church, said the Indiana Catholic university “has offered a singular response to the Russian invasion and devastation of Ukraine.”

“My presence reflects your heartfelt solidarity. It is a sign of your capacity to love generously, to embrace, to serve and save the suffering, to bless the cursed and lift up the downtrodden and trampled,” he said.

The archbishop also was presented with an honorary degree, and when he received it and was introduced to the crowd, the more than 3,300 Notre Dame graduates rose and waved Ukrainian flags in a show of solidarity with a nation under siege.

“Make some noise! I’m incredibly moved by your hospitality and your singular solidarity,” he told the graduates. “I want to tell you, millions of Ukrainians will see you waving these flags today. They will be heartened by your prayer, your love and your commitment to truth. My hat is off to you dear graduates.”

He addressed why the world has been mesmerized by the courage, perseverance and deep love of the Ukrainian people as they are besieged by Russian invaders.

“Why? Because you and I see the heart of a people and a country, the humanity and strength of its leaders who reflect the posture and character of the whole nation,” he said. “A nation of down-to-earth heroes, plucky patriots, hardcore lovers, those that look into eternity overcoming their fears.

“Countless Ukrainians demonstrate the greatest love, for ‘no one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.’”

At the beginning of Russia’s war against Ukraine, Holy Cross Father John Jenkins, Notre Dame’s president, issued a forceful statement condemning it. Other university efforts to support Ukraine include weekly liturgies to pray for peace, a website to educate the university community and the wider community about the war, faculty panels and student conversations.

In addition, the “Word of Life” mosaic on the school’s Hesburgh Library was lit in Ukraine’s national colors of blue and yellow.

As he opened his address, Archbishop Gudziak noted that over the years he has had many connections to Notre Dame,



Graduates of the University of Notre Dame in Indiana wave Ukrainian flags during commencement May 15, 2022, in solidarity with the besieged nation. The graduates rose to their feet when Archbishop Borys Gudziak of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia was introduced as their commencement speaker. Notre Dame also bestowed an honorary degree on the archbishop. (CNS photo/Peter Ringenberg, courtesy University of Notre Dame)

including that Father Jenkins’s home parish was down the street from his family’s home in Syracuse, New York.

He also had a dream as a boy of “appearing in a Notre Dame arena,” playing football or basketball with the Fighting Irish. “My youthful ambition was actually quite far-fetched: to make it to the NBA,” he recalled.

“These dreams were dashed early, when I was cut from the high school team. God had different plans, and I’m grateful,” Archbishop Gudziak said. “No NBA, no sports stardom at Notre Dame. Yet childhood fantasies really never die.

“Today, I am here with you dear graduates. Thanks to you, I’ve made it to the House that Rockne Built and ... with your permission ... I am not going to waste this opportunity to try and complete a pass ... to you. I’m not kidding.”

He threw a football to the crowd. “I made it. We made it,” he said. “Touchdown Jesus!”

“The calling of the community of Our Lady’s university is indeed a high one,” Archbishop Gudziak told the graduates. “In fact, the founders understood it to be divine. To uphold the duty and honor of a Notre Dame diploma means to feel the pulse of the people on all continents, of immigrants at our southern border and refugees throughout the world, of those in our towns and cities who do not have equal opportunities, to feel the pulse of the unborn, the disabled, the sick and the aged. To feel their pulse and follow its call.”

“You have felt your neighbor’s heartbeat. Now check your own. You know where it is,” he said. “Let this be your everyday practice. ... Really know yourself for who you are and who you are meant to be. Because you do have a destiny. It’s eternal.”

“You have been prepared for life by this university,” he added, urging the graduates

“to live it well; to rejoice wholeheartedly; to give life’s challenges your full self; to relate and speak heart to heart; to live without fear with a vision of eternity.”

Two days before the commencement, Notre Dame announced that Father Jenkins and Archbishop Gudziak, as organizer and president of the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, signed an agreement to significantly expand the existing academic, religious and cultural partnerships between the two universities.

Through its Nanovic Institute for European Studies, Notre Dame has for many years hosted visiting scholars from the Ukrainian university on its Indiana campus and in turn has sent scholars to Lviv.

The expanded partnership, which will cost up to \$2 million in the first year, will begin in the upcoming 2022-23 academic year.

It will be modeled on similar partnerships Notre Dame has with other colleges and universities worldwide, such as giving cohorts of undergraduate and graduate students from Ukrainian Catholic University an opportunity to study at Notre Dame each semester and offering research grants for collaborations between the universities’ faculty and scholars.

Archbishop Gudziak founded Ukrainian Catholic University in 2002 as the first Catholic university established in territory of the former Soviet Union. He received the Notre Dame Award in 2019 as the leader of university.



Congratulations Blessed Sacrament’s Class of 2022!

(from bottom left) Addie Moore, Bemnet Amdemichael, Glory Gezaei, Mali Lattisaw, Grace Bruno, Helena Redpath, Bridget Hickey, Kate Dunn, Katherine Montgomery, Ireland Donahue, Charlotte Grimberg, Gabi Jorio, Jane Fitton, Claire Blume, Bridget Christin, Jackie Gimigliano, Abigail Leonard, Alexa Pagliaro, Hayden Lynett, Declan McCahan, Keegan Corbett, Grace Deerin, Liza Kavanaugh, Kieran Lucas, Carver Ossi, Brendan Erceg, TJ Corcoran, Anna Simal, Hadley Bennett, Emma Muñoz-Pogossian, Lucas Barthel, Nolan Johnson, Liam McAllister, Griffin Pardo, Nora Neill, Dakota Nagel, Robin Sechriest, Jack DiMaio, Alex Grabarz, Jack Moody, Danny Samura, Joey Finnegan, Mac Knight, Everett Eckart, Simon Akele. Not pictured: Tyne Guillory, Max Webster.

Blessed Sacrament School, 5841 Chevy Chase Parkway, NW, Washington, DC 20015

GRADUATION

Catholic University hosts first commencement held on the campus since before the pandemic

Special to the Standard

Cloudy skies did not dampen the enthusiasm of the nearly 1,500 graduates of The Catholic University of America and their families and friends who filled the university lawn on May 14, for the first commencement held on the Washington campus since 2019.

"I am so grateful that everyone gets to be together — outside — after all this class has been through," said parent Ann Turgeon, a parishioner of Holy Redeemer in Kensington, watching for her son Will, who was receiving his bachelor of arts degree in business management, as the graduates processed in. "I feel a lot of pride and thankfulness."

This also was the last commencement presided over by Catholic University President John Garvey, who steps down at the end of June after 12 years of leading the university. Keeping with his tradition of speaking about the virtues, his remarks focused on the virtue of wisdom.

Telling the graduates that "wisdom is a gift of the Holy Spirit," President Garvey offered them some



At the commencement of The Catholic University of America on May 14, 2022, Catholic University President John Garvey presents Sebastien Lai with an honorary degree for his father, Jimmy Lai. A Catholic and media executive, Jimmy Lai has been imprisoned in Hong Kong since April 2021 for his human rights advocacy. (CUA photo by Denny Henry)

last guidance. "Beauty and suffering will take us far, but we can't be wise without God's help. Ask the Holy Spirit to be your guide. Make time for prayer."

Dominican Father Thomas Joseph White, the

commencement speaker, challenged the graduates to consider what they will take with them from their Catholic University experience. "What should you go forth from here to be? What should you take forth from this place, whose motto is *Deus Mea Lux Est*, 'God is my light'?"

He told them, "The most important thing is to take seriously your own human dignity. Being a person is not only a blessing; it's also a great and terrible challenge, one that can meaningfully occupy our time, whatever we are doing in life, as a lawyer, an accountant, a parent, or a priest!"

The Dominican priest, who serves as rector of the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome, noted that St. Thomas Aquinas identifies three ways people are made in the image of God: by their autonomy, by their search for the truth, and in the image of the Holy Spirit "as beings of fire, that is to say, love and charity."

"Use your autonomy not for selfishness, but for selflessness," Father White told the graduates.

"You've just completed the experience of your life

search for the truth, sacrificial love, redemption, and hope. These ideas are at the core of your Catholic education. Take it forward with you and live it and you will have an interesting and beautiful life, no matter what happens to you," he said.

He also urged graduates in a world that is increasingly secular to "find the balance of that great Catholic 'both/and' that brings with it intellectual integrity and social healing."

Peter Spence, a politics major with minors in theology and philosophy from McLean, Virginia, who was among the graduates is looking to do just that. He said, "Catholic University is a place where so many academic fields come together in pursuit of the same thing, truth. The philosophy and theology that I learned at Catholic will...serve as the grounding that I need to pursue a successful career in business. I'm grateful to the school, professors, and administration for their dedication to the authentically Catholic mission of the college and their commitment to forming the spiritual and academic lives of their students."

Honorary degrees were awarded to Father White; John Cavadini, director of the McGrath Institute for Church Life at Notre Dame; Archbishop Borys Gudziak, metropolitan-archbishop of the Ukrainian Catholic

Archeparchy of Philadelphia; Jimmy Lai, media founder and Chinese human rights advocate; Mother Mary Assumpta Long, O.P., co-founder of the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist; and William Mumma, CEO and board chairman of the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty.

A poignant moment — and sustained applause — came when Sebastien Lai received the honorary degree on behalf of his father, Jimmy Lai, a prominent human rights advocate who is imprisoned in Hong Kong. Just days before commencement, Cardinal Joseph Zen, archbishop emeritus of Hong Kong, also was arrested (then released) by the authorities. Cardinal Zen baptized Jimmy in 1997.

Abigail Anger received the President's Award. The president of the Student Government Association this year, a resident minister, and an active leader and volunteer in many programs, Anger will spend the next two years in eastern Kentucky with the Teach for America program.

Just before the alma mater and benediction, President Garvey concluded his last commencement message as president, telling the graduates, "Congratulations all of you. It's been wonderful to be here with you."



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Class of 2022



Graduates of the Conway School of Nursing hold up their stethoscopes as their school's name is called during The Catholic University of America's 133rd Commencement on May 14, 2022. (CUA photo by Patrick Ryan)



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CONGRATULATES THE

CLASS OF 2022



ARCHBISHOP CARROLL HIGH SCHOOL
PRO DEO ET PATRIA
For God and Country



Class of 2022 members not pictured: Daimon Elian Borjas, Angelo Marcus Bowser, Samya Burroughs-Carney, Daniel Josiah Dennie, Izaak Izay Kirongozi, Cam'ron Lewis, Nia Ayanna Long, Cristofer Jose Quinde-Torres, Lizdeny Rose Quintana Perez, Lacey Rainey, Marcia Rector, Shon Reid, Elijah Micah Smith, Giovanni Aleksander Wearing, Christopher Lloyd Williams, Beni Saad Steven Zougrana

GRADUATION

DeMatha's 75th anniversary, and pandemic, marked eventful school experience for two seniors

By Mark Zimmermann
Catholic Standard

Keyvar Smith-Herold of the class of 2022 at DeMatha Catholic High School smiled as he explained the inspiration for his name, noting that his father Vincent Smith works as a locksmith.

"That's why 'Key' is in our names," he said, shedding light on the origin of his first name and that of his twin sister, Keydra, and also their older brother Keyden, a 2018 DeMatha graduate.

Smith-Herold was interviewed on the campus of the Hyattsville, Maryland Catholic high school for young men on the same morning as a fellow graduating senior there, Thomas Krukar.

For both Smith-Herold and Krukar, attending and graduating from DeMatha meant continuing a family tradition and also making their own mark during the school's 75th anniversary year. And like their classmates and fellow

students, their school experience coincided with more than two years of a worldwide pandemic.

FAMILY TRADITIONS

Krukar, 18, lives about an hour away from school in Chesapeake Beach, Maryland, and he and his family attend nearby St. Anthony's Parish in North Beach. He is the son of Maria and Stephen Krukar. His dad is a 1990 graduate of DeMatha, his older brother Alex graduated from there in 2019, his uncles Mark and Pete also graduated from the school, and his grandmother Patricia Krukar formerly was a longtime staff member there, working in its main office and library.

"It means a lot... When I went here, it felt like it was my turn to play my role in my family tradition," Krukar said.

He would also like to follow in his father's footsteps with his life's work. Stephen Krukar works as an agent for the Drug Enforcement

Administration, and after graduating from DeMatha, Thomas Krukar will be attending the University of Maryland at College Park and plans to major in criminal justice there.

"Everybody looks up to their dad growing up... My dad has always been somebody I admire, and he's definitely had a big influence on me wanting to get into law enforcement," the DeMatha senior said.

The younger Krukar is especially interested in possibly working for the FBI some day. He noted that these days, many people might be hesitant to enter law enforcement as a profession, but he added, "I feel a draw to it. We really need law enforcement. It's a necessary job for people to have... A lot of people forget, the real purpose of law enforcement is to help people and to protect innocent civilians."

MUSIC 'IN MY BLOOD'

While his name reflects his father's work, Keyvar Smith-Herold's interest in music has been inspired by his mother, Eldra Herold, an opera singer who once sang the National Anthem before a Washington Redskins football game and also sang at one of the inaugural balls for President Barack Obama. Now she sings in the choir at Sacred Heart Church in Bowie, the family's parish.

"I always heard classical music growing up," he said, adding, "Classical music has always been a part of my life, and it's in my blood."

At DeMatha, Smith-Herold played the clarinet in the school's Wind Ensemble and the saxophone in its Jazz Band. This fall, he will be attending the Oberlin Conservatory of Music in Ohio, seeking a bachelor's degree in clarinet performance.

"Going to Oberlin has been a dream of mine since freshman year, and I was fortunate enough to get a full-ride (scholarship). They have a phenomenal music



Keyvar Smith-Herold, at left, and Thomas Krukar, members of the class of 2022 at DeMatha Catholic High School in Hyattsville, pose together for a photo near the sculpture of a stag, the nickname for the school's sports teams. (CS photo/Andrew Biraj)

conservatory there," he said. Smith-Herold praised the music program at DeMatha, saying, "It is an outstanding program. We play very high-level music, and it's a challenge for everyone." He noted that the program is open to students of all skill levels, from experienced musicians to those learning a new instrument.

DeMatha's Wind Ensemble was named the top Catholic high school band in 18 out of 20 years by the National Catholic Bandmasters Association. DeMatha's music program includes five concert bands, three choruses, three percussion ensembles, three string orchestras, two jazz ensembles, a pep band and a gospel choir.

The student musician said

it's a special experience for the students in DeMatha's music program to put on a performance there. "It is not often you find a high school band as motivated and talented as DeMatha's (is)," and then "to hear the audience erupt in applause is a great culmination of the work you put in," he said.

In 2022, Smith-Herold earned the National Catholic Band Association Honors Jazz Band Award and the John Philip Sousa Band Award.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE

During his years at DeMatha, Thomas Krukar has made the Principal's List every semester and has served as treasurer of the National Honor

Society there. In addition to playing basketball and soccer as a freshman and sophomore, this year he served as the editor-in-chief of the DeMatha *Stagline*, the school's newspaper.

"When you're writing stories, you get to talk to a wide range of people... and you broaden your horizons," he said.

Krukar as a DeMatha student also volunteered at a homeless shelter in Prince Frederick, which he said was "an eye-opening... just seeing people who didn't have much, but were happy."

He added, "It's always good in any profession or walk of life to meet people from different backgrounds. It gives you a better understanding of the people

Continued on page 17



*Congratulations 8th Grade
on your graduation!*



GRADUATION

Continued from page 16

you're working with."

Smith-Herold, who volunteered at a food pantry in Laurel, said, "What I liked most about it (was) they served everyone, no matter who you are or how many people you had to feed, they made sure everyone is fed."

ANNIVERSARY YEAR

Both DeMatha seniors, who are among 165 young men in the school's class of 2022, said it meant a lot to them to be part of its 75th anniversary year.

With prayers, blessings and fist-bumps, students, faculty and staff members at DeMatha celebrated its diamond anniversary on Sept. 9, 2021 with a special Mass on the same date that the all-boys Catholic school sponsored by the Trinitarian order held its first classes exactly 75 years earlier in 1946. The school is named for the Trinitarian order's founder, St. John de Matha.

Trinitarian Father James Day, DeMatha's president and the main celebrant for the opening Mass for the 2021-2022 school year there, noted that due to the pandemic, it marked the first school-wide liturgy for students, faculty and staff since December 2019.

In his homily, the priest said when DeMatha held its first classes, 18 students assembled together in a room in what was then the monastery building, and they had fewer than five faculty members.

"Here we are 75 years later," he said, pointing out that DeMatha now has 800 students, more than 100 faculty and staff members, and five buildings.

The Trinitarians had established a monastery in Hyattsville in the early 1930s, selecting that area because of its proximity to The Catholic University of America. They originally planned DeMatha as a minor seminary for young men studying for their order, but after parents in that area asked them to open their school to boys in that community, they expanded the school's scope and it became a Catholic high school. Since its founding, more than 10,500 young men have graduated from DeMatha, and its graduates have excelled in many different professions, ranging from medicine and law to science and engineering, and some have made careers in business, the arts or professional sports, while others have become priests or educators.

During DeMatha's anniversary year, the school also broke ground on The Cross Center for Engineering, Arts and Robotics, a future building named for the cross of Christ, which is the symbol of the Trinitarian order.

Smith-Herold praised DeMatha for the impact that it has had on individual lives and on the community over the years. Reflecting on the school's anniversary, Krukar said, "Considering all the history DeMatha has had, being able to graduate in such a special year - we've had a tough journey this year because of COVID, we've had a tough four years - to be able to graduate in (the school's) 75th anniversary definitely makes it extra special."

SCHOOL DURING THE PANDEMIC

Krukar said that when the pandemic shutdown happened and the school pivoted

to online classes, it was difficult at first, but he added, "Last year, our junior year, we had really good teachers, passionate about what they were teaching, and it was really easy to pay attention and buy into the class."

For the student musicians, working remotely presented special challenges, since they couldn't rehearse and perform together during that time, Smith-Herold said. He noted how the members of the Wind Ensemble were sent their music via Google classroom, and the more than 40 student musicians then performed their individual parts of that piece of music, sometimes recording them at home in their bedrooms or kitchens with the air-conditioning turned down and other background noise eliminated. Then they transmitted their recorded pieces, which were edited together for online concerts via YouTube, with the panels showing the individual students performing "together" as an ensemble. With that method, they were able to post several online videos of DeMatha's Wind Ensemble performing a piece of music this past year.

"We were still able to make music," said Smith-Herold, who said the lesson they learned was, "No matter where we are, music will prevail."

THE DEMATHA EXPERIENCE

On the eve of their graduations, both DeMatha seniors said they appreciated their experience there.

"I feel like I've grown a lot spiritually and socially in my four years at DeMatha," Krukar said, adding that Mike Ptomey, the school's chair of theology, "had a profound impact on my spiritual life and the way I look at the world... I think a major lesson he's taught me is it's not important what you have, it's who you are."

Smith-Herold said that in addition to building up his appreciation for the arts, he also liked how DeMatha is a diverse community.

"The biggest thing is, DeMatha is a melting pot. We have people from all different cultures and all different backgrounds, and that's a huge representation of what the world is," said Smith-Herold, whose parents are from Jamaica and the Virgin Islands. "DeMatha has prepared me for interacting with all types of people."

TOGETHER AGAIN

About one month after DeMatha's opening Mass for its 75th anniversary last fall, the school's music students staged a concert featuring its vocal and instrumental groups, the first time in many months that they had performed together, due to the pandemic.

"It was kind of nerve-racking. It was so long since we had performed for anyone," Smith-Herold said. "When we first came back for rehearsing, we were not the same. We had a lot of work to do."

But they were together again, and the DeMatha student musicians received hearty applause from the audience of students, parents, alumni, teachers and staff.

"It was definitely a fulfilling experience," Smith-Herold said. "It really shows after all the struggles we went through, how we were able to come together again and make music and put smiles on people's faces again."

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GRADUATION

Ryken senior feels call 'to protect God's creation' for future generations

By Richard Szczepanowski
Catholic Standard

In his 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si'*: On Care for Our Common Home, Pope Francis said the faithful must “realize that their responsibility within creation, and their duty towards nature and the Creator, are an essential part of their faith.”

For St. Mary's Ryken High School's graduating senior Catherine Furtado, that realization began when she was a young student at St. Peter's School in Waldorf where she said, “I not only learned about the importance of reducing, reusing, and recycling, but also the greater importance of caring for God's creation.”

“From a young age, I have always been in awe of the beauty of the world around us,” she said. “As I have gotten older, I have become more aware of the harm that we are inflicting on the environment, and how it is a reflection of human behavior.”

Furtado, the daughter of Maribel and Frank Furtado and a parishioner at Our Lady Help of Christians Parish in Waldorf, said the zeal for environmental stewardship that she discovered in her Catholic elementary school and embraced as a young child continued and expanded when she arrived at Ryken.

St. Mary's Ryken High School in Leonardtown, Maryland is a Xaverian Brothers-sponsored coeducational high school. It is the only Catholic high school in the three Southern Maryland counties that comprise part of The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington.

“It wasn't until my freshman year of high school when I got involved with Ryken's

Maryland Earth Preservation Organization (MEPO) that I was able to finally put my environmental stewardship into action,” she said. She added that “just becoming more aware of the various environmental issues throughout the world has fueled my passion for environmental conservation and sustainability.”

During her time at Ryken, Furtado was able to attend a *Laudato Si'* workshop where she said she learned “more about the steps that the Catholic Church is taking to promote environmental conservation and sustainability.”

“Often, all that it takes to enact change is a passion. And, when you're surrounded by other passionate and supportive people, I feel that anything can be done,” she said.

At that workshop she was also able to share the environmental efforts in which she and her fellow MEPO members have been engaged because “one of the main things that I am most proud of with MEPO is the various ways that we have made an impact not only within our school community but also within the community surrounding us.”

Furtado, who is president of Ryken's MEPO group, has organized and implemented numerous programs, clean-ups and projects to raise awareness of environmental issues among her fellow students and to benefit the school campus and beyond.

“One of the regular activities that we did is pick up trash around our school parking lot, and you'd be surprised with how much we'd find,” she said. Assisted by Jonathan Smith, a math teacher at Ryken and the moderator of the school's MEPO chapter, Furtado said her group “was able to address

this issue with the administration and we were able to have garbage cans and recycling bins placed in our school parking lot.”

Currently, the group is hosting a book and media drive in which they are collecting used books and different forms of media and donating them to the Friends of St. Mary's County Library.

Outside the confines of the campus, Furtado and her fellow MEPO members are striving to follow Pope Francis's call in *Laudato Si'* to show “greater concern for nature and the poor.”

To that end, the group repurposed old T-shirts and hand sewed more than 30 face masks that were donated to the homeless through Ryken's Caritas Resource Center, a community outreach sponsored by the school's campus ministry.

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis notes that God is “present in the whole universe and in the smallest of creatures.” Furtado introduced her school to the “Wands for Wildlife” a program established by Appalachian Wildlife Refuge that collects used and sanitized mascara wands.

Based in North Carolina, Appalachian Wildlife Refuge provides care for injured and orphaned wild animals until they are ready to return to the wild. The collected mascara wands are small and delicate yet sturdy enough to treat wild animals. The wands are used in a variety of ways to care for and clean small animals.

“I remember hearing about this through social media, and I figured that we should start our drive to help support them. So, we went straight to work making collection boxes, creating promotional flyers, and telling all of our friends and family,” she said. “We would place collection boxes in different classrooms, students would donate their mascara wands, we would clean them, and then send them to the Appalachian Wildlife Refuge.”

The annual collection has netted more than 100 mascara wands that have been sent to the refuge.

The good work spearheaded by Furtado and her fellow MEPO members was recently honored with an honorable mention award by the St. Mary's County Sustainability Commission. The commission recognizes schools, restaurants, businesses, farms and other entities for their environmental stewardship and efforts to promote conservation and sustainability.

Environmental protection is important to Furtado, she said, because “God created this Earth for us to live on, and I firmly believe that we have a clear responsibility to protect and care for it. ...As a Catholic and a young person, I feel that I have an obligation to protect God's creation for not only me but for future generations in any way that I can.”

Outside her leading and participating in organized efforts to protect the environment, Furtado said she tried to live in a way that cares for the Earth.

“I have made an effort to make informed purchases – recyclable packaging, sustainable materials, etc. – and to reduce



Ryken senior Catherine Furtado

the number of ‘impulse’ purchases that I make,” she said. “I, of course, try to reuse and recycle as much as possible by using a reusable water bottle and donating old clothes.”

In the fall, Furtado will attend the University of Maryland at College Park on a Banneker/Key full scholarship as a member of the University Honors Program where she will major in kinesiology (the study of human movement and how it impacts health and well-being). While there, she said, “I plan to join UMD's Alternative Exchange, an environmental group that promotes sustainability ... and I also plan to complete the University Honors ‘Global Crises, Sustainable Futures’ thematic cluster.” That cluster focuses on ways that groups and individuals can address global crises.

Furtado said she is grateful for the “Xaverian charisms of simplicity and zeal that have been instilled in me throughout these four years” at St. Mary's Ryken.

“The charism of simplicity has helped with my approach to planning different club activities and drives. I used to think that to enact change, it needs to be a large-scale, elaborate plan. But in reality, all of the projects that we started have been rather simple,” she said. “Furthermore, the zeal that I'm surrounded by in Ryken's community has given me the enthusiasm to address environmental issues and become a more active environmental steward.”

She added that her Catholic faith “has provided a lot of comfort throughout my life” because “knowing that God has a perfect plan for me helps me get through times of difficulty.”

“I found that one of my favorite ways to serve God is through service. Whether that is through environmental stewardship with MEPO, sorting through baby clothes at the Catherine Foundation (a pregnancy resource center based in Waldorf), or being a member of my parish's youth leadership team, I firmly believe that one of the best ways to serve God is through serving others,” she said.



Ryken senior Catherine Furtado works on a face mask using a repurposed old T-shirt. The masks created by Furtado and her fellow students were donated to the homeless through Ryken's Caritas Resource Center, a community outreach sponsored by the school's campus ministry. (Photo courtesy Catherine Furtado)



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GRADUATION

As Washington School for Girls marks 25th anniversary, three graduating eighth graders reflect on its impact

By Catherine Buckler
Catholic Standard

Marking its 25th anniversary, the Washington School for Girls (WSG) is an all-girls, all-scholarship Catholic middle school in the Anacostia neighborhood of Washington, D.C. According to the school's website, its mission is to "ignite the joyful pursuit of learning and inspire faith-filled lives of purpose, leadership, and service."

Over the past five years, the school has raised more than \$20 million to continue subsidized tuition for its students, reached a 100% high school graduation rate, and hired two alumnae as full-time faculty members.

The school prides itself on the education it provides at no cost, as well as the long-lasting resources and community that follows its graduates as they enter high school and college.

The Washington School for Girls started as a shared vision from the National Council of Negro Women, the Society of the Holy Child Jesus and the Religious of Jesus and Mary. The outreach began as the Washington Middle School for Girls in 1997 with an after-school tutoring and enrichment program, and the next year it began offering a full-day program. Now the year-round academic program



Graduating eighth graders Monique Whitaker and Claire Green (standing) and Michaela Acquah (seated) said in interviews that although they are excited about starting high school in the fall, they know they will miss their friends and teachers at WSG. (CS photo/Andrew Biraj)

Continued on page 46

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GRADUATION

St. John's students reflect on school life during the COVID-19 pandemic

By Andrew Kurowski,
Class of 2022, St. John's College High School, Wash-
ington, D.C.

In the beginning of the pandemic, online learning felt very isolating. However, in that isolation I quickly discovered the strength of the St. John's community. Although we were not together physically, the SJC faculty and my fellow students were there for me in every other way. The community worked tirelessly to ensure no student was left behind. As peers, we kept in regular contact and teachers were always willing to talk after class or during office hours. Despite the challenges of online learning, our community stayed strong. This strength of the SJC community is what made me so excited to return for in-person learning for my senior year. On that first day the energy among the students was palpable. Friends embraced and the hallways buzzed with chatter, and in that moment we put the hardships of online learning behind us.

During my junior year I volunteered at Christ Church Community Center in Alexandria, Virginia, assisting marginalized communities whose circumstances were further impacted by COVID. In addition to helping behind the scenes at the center, I had ample opportunities to interact with the communities we served by delivering the



food directly to those in need. These interactions were eye-opening as I caught a small glimpse into the lives of those less fortunate than me. I also realized I needed to pay way more attention in my Spanish class.

(During his years at St. John's College High School, Kurowski was captain of St. John's varsity boys ice hockey team and was named as the 2022 Washington Post All-Met Ice Hockey Player of the Year, recognized as the best high school hockey player in Washington, Maryland and Virginia. At school, he served as a peer minister during his senior year and was a peer tutor through the National Honor Society. Kurowski took nine Advanced Placement classes at St. John's. For his scholar's project, he partnered with DC Street Hockey and the Washington Capitals to run a series of street hockey clinics for elementary school children in Alexandria, providing free sticks and ball to any children who attended, and he volunteers as a teacher in Sunday faith education classes at his church.)

By Olivia Baptiste,
Class of 2022, St. John's College High School, Wash-
ington, D.C.

Being a high school student during the pandemic was an eye-opening experience as what I love most about St. John's was put on hold. The families from the sports teams I joined, the passing smiles and waves in the hallways, and the convenience of popping into a teacher's classroom for a question were replaced with more difficult ways of obtaining the goal. Zoom and online learning were an acclimated taste, but the understanding of how unknown and hard this new territory was – not only for the

students, but also the teachers – made working together to get through that much more important. I gained a new appreciation for the teachers and faculty at St. John's, and when we returned to campus, those relationships continued to grow. Ultimately, I was frustrated we missed some events my junior year that could have served to unite our class even more, but the persistence, adaptive skills, and importance of relationships I learned during the pandemic was a valuable growing experience for me.



(At St. John's, Baptiste played on the varsity girls basketball team that won the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference championship. She also was a member of the school's varsity track and field team, and she won second place in the girls discus competition at the DC State Championship. Selected as a peer minister, she was also a representative in St. John's Student Government Association and was co-president of the Latin Club. Baptiste took nine AP classes at St. John's and received the AP Scholar with Distinction Award. As a junior, she received the school's Mathematics Medal of Excellence, and as a sophomore she received the Science Department Award and the Latin Award. Also at St. John's, she participated in the Female Athletes Club and the Black Student Union. For her scholar's project, she 3-D printed adaptive parts for manual wheelchairs.)

Congratulations,

Elizabeth Seton High School Class of 2022!



GRADUATION

Trinity nursing school graduates say pandemic confirmed their career choice

By Carol Zimmermann
Catholic News Service

The COVID-19 pandemic overshadowed much of the college experience for this year's graduating class, but nursing school graduates may have felt this more acutely.

The pandemic forced them to initially learn procedures online that are very much hands-on, and it also constantly reminded them about the necessity of the field they had chosen and its challenges.

Early in the pandemic, news reports portrayed nurses on the front lines suffering from exhaustion and burnout while caring for COVID-19 patients and also often being the only ones with these patients when they died.

As the pandemic continued, hospitals across the country reported nursing shortages, but conversely, nursing schools had an increased number of applicants.

The week before their graduation, six nursing school graduates from Trinity Washington University in the nation's capital spoke to Catholic News Service about their college experience during the pandemic and if they ever had second thoughts about their chosen profession.

While most of them acknowledged that it was harder to initially learn skills remotely, they said ultimately the pandemic confirmed and solidified their desire to be nurses.

Ebony McLeod, a 44-year-old graduate, said the COVID-19 pandemic "intrigued my calling even more."



Adonis Mokom, a recent nursing graduate from Trinity Washington University, said witnessing the pandemic strengthened her resolve to enter that profession. (CNS photo/Chaz Muth)

"Me becoming a nurse has been 17 years in the making, and so being able to live through a pandemic and learn how to have nursing skills through that made me want to become a nurse even more," she said, just hours before the university's May 12 pinning ceremony -- a traditional event for nursing graduates.

Similarly, Golden-Paula Eromose Emokpaire, who is 21, said the pandemic, which started during her first year of nursing studies, didn't change her career choice.



Ebony McLeod, a recent nursing graduate at Trinity Washington University in Washington, D.C., tends to a medical simulation mannequin during an activity in the school's simulation lab on May 12, 2022. (CNS photo/Chaz Muth)

"I didn't have any doubts," she said. "I knew since Day One I wanted to be a nurse."

The pandemic confirmed her decision because even when people were dying of COVID-19 -- the death rate now numbers 1 million deaths in the U.S. -- she saw that nurses were "doing their best to give their patients the best care ever" and providing the holistic care she wants to do.

This determination was not always shared by everyone in the group, all of whom are recipients of the university's Joanne and William Conway Scholarship program for high-achieving low-income students in the school's nursing program.

"In all honesty, I did have some doubts at some point in the pandemic," said Keely Romero, a 21-year-old graduate who said she hadn't had any experience in the medical profession and no one she knew -- outside of school -- was a nurse.

"For me, it was like trial by fire," she said, but as she learned more about what the job entailed and read about people doing this work, she became more interested and "wanted to be a part of that."

Melissa Rivas, 29, similarly noted the challenge saying: "Every day it was kind of like, I don't know if I can do this. And for me, it was like each week I need to just get through this week."

She said the other students in the program similarly related to this struggle, which was felt in online learning to working on the simulation mannequin that mimics various ailments and then working with patients during the students' hospital training sessions that started last spring.

Adonis Mokom, 23, said the online learning was hard to get used to because she is "not a virtual learner," but she held onto the feeling she had since she was a little girl

that she wanted to be a nurse.

"The pandemic actually made me realize that 'hey, I have strength in me,'" she said, adding that she also relied on support of friends and family.

She got through exams by coming up with better ways of studying and making about 100 index cards to quiz herself.

A bigger hurdle, she said, was during the first clinical, or hospital training, where she said many of the patients they saw on the first day were basically OK during the day and then a few hours later tested positive for COVID-19 so she and the other students had to be tested as well.

Mokom's longtime desire to go into nursing stems from seeing so many family members with chronic or long-term conditions that weren't identified early on.

Emokpaire likewise followed the nursing path because of what her friends and family members experienced in Nigeria, where she grew up. As she put it, people lost their lives

because of a health care system that "wasn't that great."

After moving to the U.S., her focus has shifted to racial disparities in health care where she hopes to make a difference.

Karina Nolasco, 22, also wants to reach out not just with medical skills. She said that studying for her nursing degree during the pandemic brought out a resiliency in her that she didn't think she had and which she also credits those around her for helping her through.

She similarly wants to help others however she can, something she already witnessed in a small scale during her hospital training when she felt she was "able to be a voice" for women, immigrants and Hispanics.

This group of students, graduating May 20, is part of 30 nursing graduates from Trinity this year.

At their pinning ceremony, Patricia McGuire, Trinity's president, told them: "You have chosen a career that will literally change the lives of so many people. We are very proud of you."

And for these six, their careers will start soon after they put away their caps and gowns with jobs starting this summer at local hospitals where they will work in intensive care units and surgical and cardiac care.

They are confident their work will continue if the pandemic wanes or continues or with any other changes.

As McLeod put it: "I wanted to become a nurse because I realized that no matter what is going on in the world, a nurse will always be needed. It doesn't matter if the economy is up, if the economy is down, who's in charge, who's not in charge. A nurse will always be needed."



Karina Nolasco, a recent nursing graduate from Trinity Washington University, said she wants to help others however she can. (CNS photo/Chaz Muth)



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GRADUATION

Don Bosco Cristo Rey offered students support and spurred their dreams

By Mark Zimmermann
Catholic Standard

As days were winding down before their graduation from Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School in Takoma Park, Maryland, two members of the class of 2022 there reflected on how that school community's support helped them weather the COVID-19 pandemic and also personal challenges they faced as students.

They also spoke about what they learned from the

example and hard work of their immigrant parents, and how the school fostered their dreams for the future as the first members of their families to go on to college.

Don Bosco Cristo Rey, a coeducational high school sponsored by The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington and the Salesians of Don Bosco, is part of the national Cristo Rey Network of schools, and it offers a rigorous college preparatory curriculum for minority students from families with limited

economic means. The school is known for its innovative Corporate Work Study Program, where students gain experience working at leading Washington-area businesses, organizations and institutions and help pay for most of their education costs. Since the school's first graduating class in 2011, 100 percent of Don Bosco Cristo Rey's graduates have gained college acceptances.

HILARY OROZCO

About two weeks before she would don her cap and

gown and join 105 Don Bosco Cristo Rey classmates at their June 2 graduation, Hilary Orozco sat outside her school on a mild spring morning and spoke about her educational and personal journey there.

"My freshman year here was a difficult time for me. Unfortunately, I was diagnosed with bone cancer," she said. "The teachers were very understanding, and I always felt welcomed by staff and classmates."

Orozco, 18, lives in Silver

Spring and is the daughter of Jorge Orozco and Ruth Lopez, both immigrants from Guatemala, and her younger brother Jason is a seventh grader at a neighborhood school.

The Don Bosco Cristo Rey senior said that she has been in remission from the cancer for two and one-half years, after undergoing chemotherapy and radiation treatments.

Describing the support she received from the school community during that challenging time, she

remembered a time when "my classmates all made cards for me. I would read them in the hospital. That gave me motivation."

Reflecting on her battle with cancer, she said, "That experience helped me appreciate life more, and the people around me."

During her years at the school, Orozco participated in the Debate Club, the Model U.N., was a student ambassador and was also in the Guitar Club there. She volunteered with A Wider Circle, a Silver Spring outreach that provides clothing, household supplies, toys and other items to people in need.

In March 2020 after the COVID-19 shutdown, all four of her family members got the virus, "but we all did fine and recovered quickly," she said.

As Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School pivoted to online learning, Orozco said that "staying engaged in Zoom meetings helped me.. (and) participating in classes helped me stay involved. The teachers did a great job with teaching. They understood our situation."

A special support to her during the pandemic and throughout her school years has been her cousin, Yari Orozco.

"Yari and I, we've grown up together, we're about one month apart," she said, noting that during the pandemic, it was difficult not having social interactions with other people, but she and her cousin supported each other, staying in contact with calls and text messages, and helping each other with homework. "It meant a lot to me," she said.

Asked what she learned from the pandemic, Orozco said, "Appreciating the things we had. Staying inside all the time isn't fun. I missed school a lot. I enjoyed being in the building and seeing my classmates and teachers."

Orozco, whose family attends Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Bethesda, said her faith definitely helped her during

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GRADUATION

Bishop McNamara senior Kow Simpson heading to Harvard

By Catherine Buckler
Catholic Standard

Kow Simpson, a member of the class of 2022 at Bishop McNamara High School in Forestville, Maryland, will be attending Harvard University this fall.

Heather Nadolny, the director of development and communications at Bishop McNamara, and Herman Frazier, Simpson's counselor at the school, listed a few of his accomplishments that got him into Harvard – he ran on McNamara's track team, played cornet in the wind ensemble, took advanced classes (his favorite is math), received a top 1 percent SAT score, and is in the top 5 percent of his grade.

"Kow is very humble, and it's not fake humble, he's literally really humble, he doesn't want to tell people things (about himself)," Frazier said.

In an interview, Simpson said he is excited to pursue a degree in biomedical engineering at Harvard.

"I actually looked forward to my math classes, which is really crazy to say, because the math classes I took were so challenging for me, but I liked the way I was able to learn to think through stuff and take notes and apply it, everything made sense more than other subjects did," Simpson said.

Simpson grew up in Maryland as the youngest of three siblings. His parents emigrated from Ghana to the United States.

He explained that his career decision was influenced by his enjoyment of math classes as well as his mother's encouragement for him to become a doctor. However, he is not letting any decisions tie him down right now – Simpson



Kow Simpson, a graduating senior at Bishop McNamara High School in Forestville, will be attending Harvard University this fall, where he plans to pursue a degree in biomedical engineering. (Photo courtesy of Bishop McNamara High School)

admits that plans may change as time passes and he gains experience.

"When I started applying to schools, I realized that I can really become who I want to be, so I don't have to go into college knowing exactly who I want to be when I come out," Simpson said. "Biomedical engineering, that's something I think is cool, but I'm down to change if I find something I'm really passionate about."

Harvard's decision envelope was the last one Simpson opened. He said the decisions came out in early April, but he decided to wait a couple of days to check on his status with the company of friends, "so if I had to cry, I wouldn't have to cry alone," Simpson said.

Simpson started with Honors Algebra II his freshman year at Bishop McNamara, then he took classes in Honors Geometry/Trigonometry, Honors Pre-Calculus, and finally AP Calculus.

Simpson hopes to bring one of his extracurricular interests, playing the cornet, to Harvard. The cornet is a shorter trumpet-like brass instrument. Simpson said he began playing the cornet when he was 6 years old, thanks to the Salvation Army.

"As I grew up and became better at my instrument, I was like, let me give back what I receive," Simpson said. He volunteered at the Prince George's County Salvation Army Corps throughout high school, helping out with their music program and Camp Happyland.

In his Common Application essay, Simpson went into detail about how his cornet playing improved one summer.

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GRADUATION

In bicentennial year, being ‘men for others’ took on special meaning for Gonzaga seniors

By Mark Zimmermann
Catholic Standard

To kick off the celebration of the bicentennial of Gonzaga College High School in the fall of 2021, its students assembled on the football field of the Washington, D.C. school, lining up to form the number 200. In the Jesuit high school for young men near the U.S. Capitol that has witnessed much history since its founding in 1821, the members of the class of 2022 likewise experienced a unique period of history, attending school through more than two years of a worldwide pandemic. In email interviews, three of Gonzaga’s graduating seniors reflected on their school experience and their hopes for the future.

CUTTING THE CAKE

At that bicentennial celebration, senior John Jerro of the class of 2022, the student government president, joined Jesuit Father Joseph Lingan, the school’s president, and fellow senior Andrew Schaefer, the student government vice president, in cutting a large cake as students watched from the football field’s bleachers.

Reflecting on the school’s anniversary, Jerro said, “Being a senior during Gonzaga’s bicentennial was a true blessing. Exactly 200 years after Gonzaga’s founding, I was invited to attend the 200th Birthday Heritage Walk to 917 F Street, N.W., which was the original location of Gonzaga. This was the moment when my role on campus sunk in. Amazing people have kept Gonzaga running and improving through world wars, pandemics, and other crises, and as a leader on campus, I took pride in ensuring that the next 200 would be bright. When I cut the bicentennial cake with Father Joseph Lingan, S.J., who has guided me throughout this year, and my good friend Andrew Schaefer, I felt proud of all the trials and tribulations that our school has overcome.”

Jerro added, “I am proud of Gonzaga’s ability to learn from mistakes of the past to create a more inclusive future. Recently, Gonzaga students conducted research at Georgetown University and discovered that Washington Seminary, Gonzaga’s former name, received donations from slave plantations. Being able to come to grips with the evils of our past to create a better future has made me take pride in Gonzaga’s ability to keep improving.”

In addition to being a four-year member of the Student Government Association at Gonzaga, Jerro participated in several dramatic productions there, including performing a monologue from *The Odd Couple*, participating in a virtual staging of *SpongeBob: The Musical*, and playing the narrator in *Into the Woods*. Jerro also wrote and directed a one-act play there. He also took part in the school’s rugby program, was a member of its retreat team, co-founded its Chess Club and was a member of its Native American Cultural Appreciation Club.

“The most rewarding part about my role on student government is simply being present on campus and seeing that everyone



On Sept. 8, 2021 as Gonzaga College High School in Washington kicked off its 200th anniversary, Jesuit Father Joseph Lingan, the school’s new president and a 1975 graduate of the school, cut a birthday cake for Gonzaga, joined by John Jerro of the class of 2022, the student government president, and Andrew Schaefer of the class of 2022, the student government vice president. (Photo courtesy of Gonzaga College High School)

is included,” he said. “As a member of sports teams, the plays, and many different clubs, I get to use my role as president to ensure that everyone feels accepted. I model this off of the portrayal of a universal Christianity and Jesus’s welcoming nature in Luke’s Gospel.”

Jerro also joined Gonzaga’s students in replicating a famous prank that earlier students had done in 1969, when before playing their archrival St. John’s in football, they were able to light the Washington Monument purple. This past November, Gonzaga students were able to use light filters to shine purple lights at the base of the monument, and they wore Dominik Pettey shirts to honor a Gonzaga student who died in 2014 and who was known for his faith and goodness.

Gonzaga encourages its students to be “Men for Others,” and Jerro participated in a week-long immersion experience at the Oscar Romero Center in Camden, New Jersey, to live out solidarity with the urban poor. “Service has been a pivotal part of my development as a human being,” he said. “I believe each person on this planet has inherent dignity, and I will be relentless in my pursuit of serving those who face struggles.”

Asked what it was like to be a student during the pandemic, Jerro, who is a member of St. Luke Parish in McLean, Virginia, said it was tough rarely seeing his friends and having to look at his computer screen all day instead of interacting with teachers and students. But he said it did give him the free time “to connect with God on a more personal level,” and he went biking with his siblings almost every day and also started to bike with friends. “Not only did I see God in my friends and siblings during

this time, but I also got closer with God’s creation,” he said.

The pandemic also coincided with a traumatic incident that hit close to home for students there. Jerro wrote that, “Gonzaga is a block away from the United States Capitol building, and when this government meeting place and symbol of our nation’s triumphs and failures was stormed, it rattled both the student body and the faculty alike. Isolated in a hybrid learning environment in which most students were locked in their rooms attending Zoom classes without the guidance of peers or professors seemed to make matters worse.”

Jerro and other student government leaders at Gonzaga then initiated a Zoom call, inviting all the students and faculty there to join breakout rooms and to discuss what it meant to be citizens in the capital of the United States.

This fall, Jerro plans to attend Dartmouth College and major in biological studies and/or film and media studies. The Gonzaga senior has had an interest in animals and nature since his childhood. “I hope to continue my passion for biology in college and conduct medical research or use my knowledge to enter the multidisciplinary field of nanotechnology,” he said.

Also since he was young, Jerro enjoyed making LEGO stop motion movies, and in high school in addition to writing and directing his own play, he acted in three short films. “I hope to find a way to pursue both interests in college. My dream is to either be a director or a researcher with a focus on curing diseases such as cancer,” he said.

Jerro said that at Gonzaga he learned “to do things for the greater glory of God.”

At the school, he initially wanted to be an athlete there, but he came to understand he had talent for the arts. “Accepting how God created me and practicing my passions for God’s greater glory will continue to be on the front of my mind as I enter the next chapter of my life,” he said.

‘A VAN FOR OTHERS’

At Gonzaga, Ian Balutis of the class of 2022 was an active student, playing on the varsity water polo team, participating in the Classics Club, and joining students in preparing and serving food to homeless men at soup kitchens. Then he experienced the support of classmates and their families, after having to spend almost his entire senior year in the hospital after being stricken with a serious illness.

In his email interview, Balutis noted, “After being completely paralyzed and placed in a medically induced coma, I now have full function of my upper body. I’ve actually been working out and learning about the wide world of living in a wheelchair. I am receiving ongoing treatment to try and regain function in my legs and improve core strength, but I know all progress takes time. My Gonzaga brothers helped me to understand this in the countless messages of support I received on my caring bridge website and in cards... There was once when I was allowed to see a mob of my friends who traveled from school (to the hospital), and we all had a picture together. It was the first time I had seen any of them since the one day of school I attended, and the fact that so many of them came gave me strength.”

Praising the support he received from the Gonzaga community, Balutis said, “At every turn, the boys on Eye Street would support and pray for my recovery. Their unrelenting compassion culminated in a GoFundMe (drive) to buy me a wheelchair accessible van, which quantifiably expressed how much they cared, and it really was astounding to see how many people I didn’t even know (many underclassmen) sent in their thoughts and prayers. We now call the car ‘a van for others.’”

Balutis said he was inspired by the care given him by the nurses at his hospital, many who attended James Madison University, and this fall he plans to study nursing at that university.

Reflecting on his school experience, Balutis said, “Gonzaga’s mantra of being a man for others is not just a thing they say, it’s a lifestyle that you live every day, and seeing how it can change a life for the better, I believe that is something profound I would like to carry with me in my life and teach to as many people that care to listen. I am not a religious individual, but regardless of what I believe, I know that it is powerful, and it is something that I am eternally grateful for.”

‘FOR THE GREATER GLORY OF GOD’

Another member of Gonzaga’s class of 2022, Peter Mildrew, reflected on the

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GRADUATION

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school's anniversary year and what its history meant to him.

"Gonzaga has gone through monumental changes and growth in its lifetime," he said, noting, for example, "the continuity of learning during the DC riots in the 60s, or the devastating and dehumanizing roots of slavery and injustice that serve as the backbone of our institution (as the Jesuits processed and used slaves to provide income and labor for the Washington Seminary's early foundation). Today's Gonzaga is not only a reflection of its history, but a reflection of progress as well."

Mildrew pointed out how "this year, our school put special emphasis on its history with slavery; in an ongoing research project directed by Ed Donnellan with aid from Georgetown University's Slavery Archive, students took part in uncovering documents that exposed the Jesuits' connection to slavery. Upon seeing the dedication by this group of students and Mr. Donnellan, I became spurred to respect and honor Gonzaga's history in my own way through my efforts outside of the classroom. Giving back to a community that has given so much to me is what honoring a legacy truly means."

The graduate of the Basilica School of St. Mary in Old Town, Alexandria led Gonzaga's annual Canned Food Drive for the Father McKenna Center's day shelter and food pantry serving homeless men and helped organize a student concert to raise funds for the center. At Gonzaga, Mildrew also served as a retreat team leader and was a cantor and altar server for school Masses. He participated in the crew team there, making good friends with teammates and learning "how concentrated effort can lead to great success." At the school, he also served as editor for its arts and literary magazine and the school newspaper and participated in the school's chamber choir and

was a pianist for its jazz ensemble.

"I've truly offered all of my gifts that God has granted me to a school and community that means so much to me," he said.

In the summer between his freshman and sophomore year, Mildrew joined about 20 other Gonzaga students in serving the rural poor in the Emmitsburg, Maryland area.

"What was especially important to me about this trip was the awareness that it brought to my attention the vast differences in the types of poverty that

exist," he said. "Every day, whether traveling on the Metro, or walking to school, or driving home, I encounter the face of urban homelessness; whether manifested in a panhandler, a tent community, or a mother and child roaming the sidewalks, I became accustomed to the notion that homelessness is by-and-large an urban issue. However, Emmitsburg changed my perspective drastically. I came face-to-face with the rural face of poverty and homelessness."

This fall, Mildrew will attend the University of Virginia, where he

plans to study linguistics and perhaps later pursue a dual degree in global commerce. After graduation, he is interested in perhaps combining those interests to help provide economic opportunities to impoverished communities that are limited by language barriers.

"Gonzaga has aided me in discovering how I can offer my whole person to the world around me," Mildrew said. "...In my future, I have one main goal that stems from my time at Gonzaga, (to) continue to offer everything I can to the greater glory of God."



At left is John Jerro, a member of the class of 2022 at Gonzaga College High School in Washington, D.C. At right is Peter Mildrew, another member of the class of 2022 at Gonzaga. (A photo was not available of Ian Balutis of Gonzaga's class of 2022)



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of 2022!**

*Be who you are and
be that well.*

— St. Francis de Sales

Learn more at www.visi.org

Catholic Ministry Uses Simple, Effective Methods to Supply Safe Water to Poor Communities

The idea of tapping an underground source to supply families with clean water is nothing new. Jesus Christ's encounter with the woman at the well is a case in point, and productive wells are mentioned in the Old Testament too.

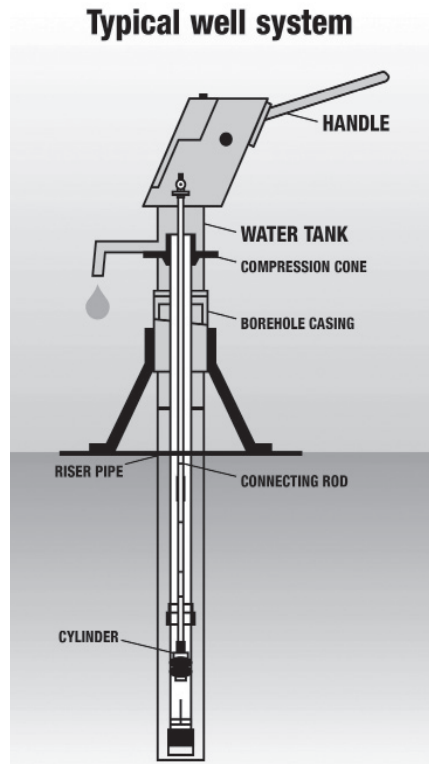
Much has changed since 30 A.D.; yet in the world's developing countries, water access is an ongoing struggle, and simple wells remain a primary source for survival.

"It may seem strange to those of us who simply turn a kitchen tap to get our water, but most families living in the developing countries of this world have a completely different perspective on water. They consider it very challenging to find, and they must typically rely on ground sources such as streams and ponds for what they need — sources that are also used by animals and are often filled with bacteria and parasites," explained Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach, a respected Catholic ministry working to solve water scarcity problems around the globe.

Cavnar is familiar with the value of quality wells because his ministry has funded the construction of many water systems around the world. (See related story on opposite page.)

"Our ministry partners in the field typically begin this work by ensuring the community will be involved and will play a role in the process," Cavnar said. "Only after this commitment has been made does the partner move on to the technical side of the job."

The next steps involve hiring a trusted, local drilling company and commissioning a hydrogeological survey to determine the best location for the well or water system. Once experts



have chosen a promising site, a huge rig is brought in to drill the well. Since some areas of the world suffer from regular droughts that can lower the water table, determining the depth of the well becomes a critical decision too.

"We've had to drill down 200 meters or more in some cases to ensure we reach a plentiful source of water," Cavnar explained.

After the well shaft is encased in a special tubing to preserve its strength and purity, pump tests are run to ensure that there is enough water for the community, and water quality is checked to make sure the water is safe for people and animals.

Once this work is done and additional

own lifetime, hopefully influencing our family and others we cherish," explained Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach, an official Catholic relief and development charity with a staff dedicated to such estate planning.

According to Cavnar, Cross Catholic Outreach has helped many Catholics establish these "legacy gifts" and expects them to play a significant role in future ministry missions.

"A will or trust can also reflect a person's special heart for a country or for an area of need. It can be used to



The well systems Cross Catholic Outreach installs in the field represent a life-transforming gift to families who have no other reliable source of water or who have been drawing their supply from contaminated ponds or rivers.

pumping equipment is installed (some water systems also include storage tanks or solar-powered pumping systems), it is time to involve the community again. A water committee is trained to make minor repairs on the water system, monitor the use of the new well and ensure it is maintained properly in the years ahead.

"The entire community buzzes with excitement on the day a new well is blessed and dedicated to God and turned over to the people to use," Cavnar said. "It is a deeply moving experience and we often share those stories with our donors because they were instrumental in making it happen. In fact, most of the U.S. Catholics who support this work will fund one water project after another

because they see the incredible impact these projects have on the lives of the poor."

Readers interested in supporting Cross Catholic Outreach's water program and other ministries to the poor can contribute through the brochure inserted in this issue or by sending a tax-deductible gift to Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC02039, PO Box 97168, Washington, DC 20090-7168. The ministry has a special need for partners willing to make gifts on a monthly basis. Use the inserted brochure to become a Mission Partner, or write "Monthly Mission Partner" on mailed checks to be contacted about setting up those arrangements.

Legacy Giving Provides Catholics With Unique Opportunity to Bless Others

If you are like many Catholics born in the 1950s or before, you have probably begun to think about the spiritual legacy your life and actions represent. What did we care about? What did we value? These are some of the things we hope will be remembered.

"For a growing number of Catholics, this introspection has led to the exploration of 'legacy giving' — the use of one's will, trust, life insurance or retirement policies to leave behind an echo of one's beliefs, deeds and values — a blessing of others that will reverberate beyond our

build houses for poor families or to build classrooms to educate children, for example," Cavnar said. "Others simply want to help the poorest of the poor and make their legacy gift for that purpose. It's their way of saying, 'As a Catholic, I value life and support works of mercy. I want my family to understand that calling and believe in it too.' And because legacy gifts can be quite large, they often achieve incredible things. A single one might build an entire school or fund the construction of hundreds of homes. It's producing an amazing impact and serves

as an incredible testament to the faith of the giver."

In addition to this service, Cross Catholic Outreach's staff can also support donors seeking to establish a charitable gift annuity, charitable remainder trust or special endowment. Financial planners can also obtain information to help those who seek professional counsel or have donor-advised funds.

To learn more about these services, the charity recommends readers visit its special online portal at CrossCatholicLegacy.org.

Cross Catholic Outreach Remains Committed to Addressing Water Scarcity and Its Impact on the Poor

Once a year, we set aside a special date to focus on the need for safe water in poor communities around the globe. It's called "World Water Day," and its intention is to bring about change; to help alleviate the suffering of families who currently rely on contaminated water sources to survive.

"To my way of thinking, Catholics should consider every day World Water Day, and the Church should always have the suffering of the poor on its mind," reflected Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach, a respected Catholic ministry working to end water scarcity hardships in developing countries around the world. "The challenges poor families face because of unsafe water are far too big to focus on just once a year."

Cavnar added that his intention is not to make this day a source of dread or guilt, but rather to make it an opportunity to celebrate the amazing work Catholics are doing to solve the water crisis in developing countries around the globe.

"I consider the water projects we do in partnership with the Church as triumphs and as a direct reflection of Christ's command to love one another. We should be excited by what our dedicated priests, religious sisters and Catholic ministries are accomplishing, and we should be inspired to help them continue that important work," he said. "I know that is how the American Catholics who contribute to Cross Catholic Outreach's projects feel about it. Once they hear about a specific need, they are eager to be a part of the solution."

While Cavnar's optimism is justified, he is also mindful of the challenges involved in addressing water scarcity. The projects his ministry undertakes are done in collaboration with strong in-country ministry partners that can organize local community leaders and oversee the technical aspects of the project.

"The bishops and priests we work with play a critical role in the process. They choose the location of the wells we help install, and they organize the drilling equipment and workers needed to lay any pipes necessary to deliver the water to community homes, schools or agricultural projects," Cavnar said. "It's a big job, but one we have accomplished successfully all over the



In developing countries, poor families often rely on contaminated streams and ponds for their water. They often travel for hours over rough terrain to reach these water sources and make multiple daily trips to collect what they need.

world, so our donors can be confident that when they fund a water system in a poor community, our efforts will produce impressive results."

In this past year, Cross Catholic Outreach has been working to fund 24 water and sanitation projects in 12 different developing countries. Some of the projects have been completed and others are still in progress, but together, they will eliminate the burden of water scarcity for more than 225,000 people.

"Our focus now is on expanding the scale of our effort, and to do that, we need to inspire more American Catholics to contribute to the cause," Cavnar said. "Many of the wells we install are simple and use a manual hand pump, so they are resilient and relatively inexpensive to build, but there are still costs involved, so we need donor support to fund the work. The more families who become involved in this mission of mercy, the more we can accomplish."

Cavnar also encouraged American Catholics to pray for their brothers and sisters in developing countries and for the clergy who serve them.

"Life is very hard in these poor communities, and poverty is often extreme. Families there are struggling to find water, and when they draw it from contaminated sources, they often get sick," he said. "Our goal is to end that suffering, but those efforts will take time. Until they are helped by one of our water projects, they will need our prayers for safety and health."



How to Help

To fund Cross Catholic Outreach's effort to help the poor worldwide, use the postage-paid brochure inserted in this newspaper, or mail your gift to Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC02039, PO Box 97168, Washington, DC 20090-7168. The brochure also includes instructions on becoming a Mission Partner and making a regular monthly donation to this cause.

If you identify an aid project, 100% of the donation will be restricted to be used for that specific project. However, if more is raised for the project than needed, funds will be redirected to other urgent needs in the ministry.



GRADUATION

Georgetown Visitation senior was a leader on her sports teams and serving others

By Mark Zimmermann
Catholic Standard

Wielding a stick, Betty Boatwright has starred in three sports for Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School, as a captain for the Cubs' field hockey, lacrosse and ice hockey teams.

The member of Visitation's class of 2022 has also been a leader off the playing fields and ice rinks, joining classmates in organizing a pandemic relief effort for health workers, and also earning the Girl Scout Gold Award, that group's highest honor, for a project encouraging online safety for teens.

After the COVID-19 shutdown and as the rising rates of the virus's spread impacted people's health and livelihoods, Boatwright was among a group of Visitation students who formed Cubs for Compassion, and they raised funds to buy gift cards to local restaurants for health



Betty Boatwright, a member of the class of 2022 at Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School in Washington, D.C. (Stone Photography)

care workers on the front lines of the pandemic.

"At that time, there wasn't an end in sight. Health care workers were working so hard... It was so stressful (for them)," she said, explaining that the effort was designed to support area restaurants, and also provide a "pick-me-

up" to the health workers and their families.

Later, the Cubs for Compassion raised more than \$700 selling homemade candles to purchase socks for homeless people. With those proceeds, the Bombas company provided 1,000 pairs of socks that were then distributed to Washington-area programs serving the homeless, including the Father McKenna Center, the CCNV Shelter, Georgetown Ministry and the Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen.

"We were just trying to find out different ways to help," said Boatwright, who noted that Cubs for Compassion recently donated backpacks to the Father McKenna Center's McKenna Academy, a six-month program that provides homeless men with education and life-skills training so they can find good jobs and stable housing.

For her Girl Scout Gold Project, Boatwright developed a website called Mind on Media addressing



Betty Boatwright, at right, competes in lacrosse for Georgetown Visitation in a game against the Potomac School. (Photo by Felicia Evans)

online safety and proper social media use for teens.

Boatwright, who had started on the project before the pandemic, said after that crisis hit, "the topic became more relevant, because kids were on the screen all day" as they had virtual classes amid their personal online and social media use.

An article on the Georgetown Visitation website about her Mind on Media project quoted Boatwright as saying that she chose that topic "because as the world starts to rely more and more on technology, I felt it was important to educate myself and my peers about the different uses, dangers and aspects of digital media."

The Visitation article noted that her Mind on Media website addresses topics related to teens' digital media use, like online messaging, physical and mental effects, online reputation and digital footprint, social media and digital privacy.

In an interview with the *Catholic Standard*, Boatwright noted that, "What you are putting online always stays there, so you need to make sure what you are putting online is the best reflection of yourself and doesn't hurt others."

Regarding social media, she said, "I learned what you're putting out or doing actively on social media with absorbing information... So you are expressing yourself while taking in what other people are sharing."

Boatwright, who is 17, is a member of Georgetown Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C. She is the

daughter of Mona and Wes Boatwright, and her younger sister Virginia, is graduating from Our Lady of Mercy School in Potomac and will be attending Connelly School of the Holy Child.

The Georgetown Visitation senior said she has especially appreciated the community spirit and traditions at her school, noting that as a freshman there, she appreciated how older students would greet younger students in the hallway.

Another aspect of Visitation life that she has appreciated is how prayer is woven throughout the school day there. Days begin with a morning prayer. "I think it's a really great start to the day," she said, adding that "during the day, different classes will start class with prayer. It gets you in the mindset to focus on the class."

As if on cue, as Boatwright was being interviewed at the school, a student's voice came over the intercom, praying, "My God, I give you this day." The student praying over the intercom encouraged her peers to "open your heart to God" and concluded her prayer with the motto of the Visitation Sisters who have sponsored the school since they founded it in 1799: "Live Jesus."

Boatwright was interviewed on May 11 just after finishing her AP Spanish exam, her last high school test at Georgetown Visitation, and before her lacrosse practice later that afternoon. As a Visitation student athlete, she played center in ice hockey, midfield in lacrosse and midfield in field hockey, a sport where she earned all-

league honors in Independent School League competition.

She said balancing her time between her studies, interactions with her fellow students, and her sports practices and games helped her learn time management. She used her free periods to do her school work, and added, "I would try to balance my time between getting to know my classmates and going to the library."

The Visitation senior said that when in-person classes resumed there during the pandemic, it meant a lot to her to say "hi" to fellow students in the hallway again, even if initially they were all wearing masks. Boatwright said she had missed seeing her friends and classmates at school, and one thing she learned after the pandemic separation was the importance of "just cherishing the time we have as a community together."

This fall, she will be attending Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia, where she might major in economics and minor in law, justice and society, and she will also play field hockey and lacrosse.

Boatwright said a key lesson she has learned as a student athlete is "never count yourself out when competing," and she pointed out that the day before, Visitation's lacrosse team had mounted a come-from-behind victory.

As for her future career, Boatwright said she has considered teaching. She added, "I think whatever I do, I want to see how I can help others through my occupation."

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 Vincent Dinh <i>The Heights School</i>	 Lina Garcia <i>The Academy of the Holy Cross</i>	 Samuel Goertner <i>Our Lady of Good Counsel High School</i>	 Lucas Liotta <i>Our Lady of Good Counsel High School</i>	 Kaylee Liriano <i>Richard Montgomery High School</i>	 Lillian Lora <i>The Academy of the Holy Cross</i>	
 Meghan Maurano <i>Our Lady of Good Counsel High School</i>	 Haset Melaku <i>St. John's College High School</i>	 Eliot Mendes <i>Wheaton High School</i>	 Nathan Negash <i>St. John's College High School</i>	 Christopher Pierre <i>Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School</i>	 Safira Pierre <i>Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School</i>	
 Annie Pierson <i>St. John's College High School</i>	 Diego Ramirez <i>St. John's College High School</i>	 Rachael Ramos <i>The Academy of the Holy Cross</i>	 Samuel Seleshi <i>Our Lady of Good Counsel High School</i>	 Olivia Solano <i>Rockville High School</i>	 Enzo Sosa <i>The Heights School</i>	

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GRADUATION

After St. Vincent Pallotti High School celebrates 100th anniversary, two seniors look to the future

By Mark Zimmermann
Catholic Standard

In 2021, St. Vincent Pallotti High School in Laurel, Maryland marked the 100th anniversary of its founding as the first coeducational Catholic high school in The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington. Originally established as St. Mildred's Academy, it opened in 1921 and was later renamed as Pallotti and then St. Vincent Pallotti High School in honor of the founder of the religious order that has sponsored the school since 1934, the Pallottine Missionary Sisters.

As Pallotti's centennial school year was drawing to a close in mid-May, the school's president and two members of its class of 2021 reflected on what continues to make that school special.

In the principal's office

Jeffrey Palumbo, St. Vincent Pallotti's president and principal, noted how the school with its small size provides a personal approach to learning. Pallotti has about 400 students, and on May 25, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception would be hosting the graduation ceremony for the 86 young men and women in its senior class.

"It's a special community because it is smaller, but we work harder to give all our kids the opportunities of a bigger high school with our academics, athletics and arts program," he said. "We do it in a smaller environment. Everyone knows each other, and the teachers know our kids. It makes for a nice community where everybody knows each other and looks out for each other."

Pallotti offers a broad range of classes, including many Advanced Placement courses, and the school has an Arts Academy. Its range of extracurricular activities includes more than 25 interscholastic sports teams. Reflecting the charitable spirit of its patron saint, the Catholic faith is central to school life there, through religion classes, liturgies, retreats and service programs. The school draws students from St. Mary of the Mills School across the street and from the Laurel area, and also from several surrounding counties and the District of Columbia.

Palumbo said the school's teachers were "amazing" during the COVID-19 pandemic, transitioning over the weekend when the initial shutdown began in March 2020, and then that fall providing parents the option of hybrid learning, with either in-person or online classes, and this past August, reopening to full in-person learning for students.


Pallotti's leader said teachers and students alike learned the importance of flexibility during that unprecedented time, and he said students saw how "there are people (here) who support them and have gone out of their way to give them the best high school experience." He added that experiencing those challenges may help students later "overcome obstacles in their lives and work through them and come out stronger on the other end."

A foundation for the future

Now at 6 feet and 2 inches tall and weighing 270 pounds, RJ Thornburg of St. Vincent Pallotti's class of 2022 competed in football, wrestling and baseball for the Panthers during his years there. The first months of the COVID-19 pandemic were a difficult time for him and affected his football playing in that shortened season, he said.


















Mia Gonzales Jackson and RJ Thornburg, two members of the class of 2022 at St. Vincent Pallotti High School in Laurel, stand together at the grotto to Mary outside the school. (CS photo/Andrew Biraj)



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 Brian Lizama DeMatha Catholic High School	 Cristian Maltez-Romero Archbishop Carroll High School	 Nicolas Méndoza-Bastidas Maret School	 Carlos Molina Archbishop Carroll High School	 Eric Orellana St. John's College High School	 Samuel Ramos St. Anselm's Abbey School	 Nahum Manzano-Larios St. John's College High School	 Diego Meléndez Gonzaga College High School
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Continued on page 34



GRADUATION

Archbishop Carroll High School celebrates Class of 2022 accomplishments

Special to the Standard

The Class of 2022 at Archbishop Carroll High School – a Catholic coeducational school in the District of Columbia sponsored by The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington – has earned a total of more than \$9 million in college scholarships as 100 percent of the class has gained admission into a two- or four-year college or university.

“Despite many challenges throughout the year, our graduating class of 80 seniors defied all odds receiving 481 college acceptances and over \$9 million in scholarships,” said Archbishop Carroll principal Élana Gilmore. “I am incredibly proud of our seniors for continuing our track record of excellence.”

That sentiment was echoed by school president Larry Savoy who said, “For 70 years, Archbishop Carroll has remained committed to cultivating a culture of pride through academic excellence. I congratulate the graduating Class of 2022 on their many accomplishments and welcome them into our growing legacy of distinguished alumni.”

Ester Ventura, Class of 2022 valedictorian, will attend the University of Maryland and has been admitted into their honors business program.

“Archbishop Carroll opened my eyes to a diverse and comfortable environment where I excelled,” Ventura said. “Even during the pandemic, I had the same connection with my teachers so I continued to grow academically, mentally and spiritually. I know

I am now prepared to better navigate and leave a mark on this world.”

Class of 2022 salutatorian Victoria Ruiz will be attending George Washington University on a full academic scholarship.

“Archbishop Carroll has prepared me for the real world. The different AP and honor courses I have taken have all prepared me for rigorous college courses,” Ruiz said.

This year also marks the first graduating class of Carroll’s Jim Vance Media Program.

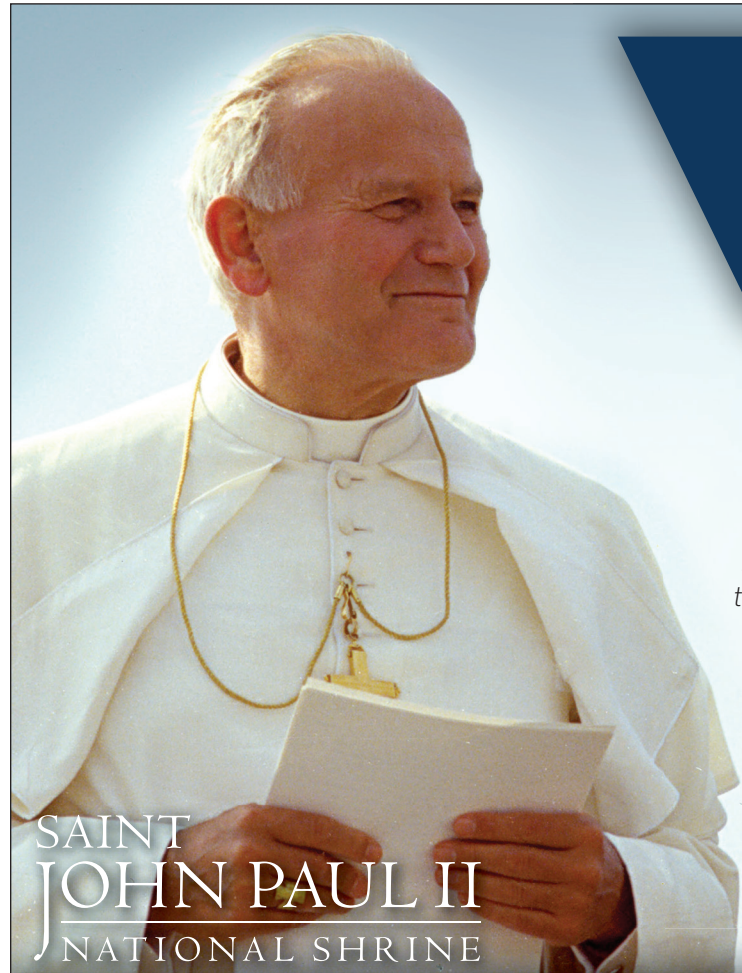
“After I complete my studies at Case Western Reserve and then medical school, I’ll look back on these years and know they were essential to my future success,” said senior Ijeoma Okere, one of the program’s inaugural graduates.

Among the colleges and universities to which Carroll seniors have been accepted are George Washington University, American University, University of Pennsylvania, Temple University, University of Maryland, Howard University, North Carolina A&T, Florida A&M University, University of Oklahoma, University of Kansas, Mount Saint Mary’s, Virginia Tech University, University of Pittsburgh and others.

Washington Cardinal Wilton Gregory will celebrate a Baccalaureate Mass on Wednesday, May 25 at the school. The school will host commencement exercises Thursday, May 26. The commencement speaker will be Richard Dyer, a member of Carroll’s Class of 1978 who is president and general manager of WUSA Channel 9.



Archbishop Carroll High School President Larry Savoy (center) congratulates Class of 2022 valedictorian Ester Ventura (left) and salutatorian Victoria Ruiz (right). (Archbishop Carroll photo)



SAINT
JOHN PAUL II
NATIONAL SHRINE

Congratulations CLASS OF 2022

*The staff of the Saint John Paul II
National Shrine is praying for you.*

“My dear young people, only Jesus knows what is in your hearts and your deepest desires. Only He, who has loved you to the end, can fulfill your aspirations. His are words of eternal life, words that give meaning to life. No one apart from Christ can give you true happiness. By following the example of Mary, you should know how to give Him your unconditional “yes”. There is no place in your lives for selfishness or laziness.

Now more than ever it is crucial that you be “watchers of the dawn”, the lookouts who announce the light of dawn and the new springtime of the Gospel of which the buds can already be seen. Humanity is in urgent need of the witness of free and courageous young people who dare to go against the tide and proclaim with vigor and enthusiasm their personal faith in God, Lord and Saviour.”

Joannes Paulus PP. II

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April 18, 2003



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Clarksburg HS



Christopher Ai
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Emma Antonetti
St. Andrew's
Episcopal School



Daniel Barrow
Our Lady of
Good Counsel



Daphney Budd
St. John's
College HS



Isabella Caban
Thomas
Wootton HS



Christian Campuzano
St. John's
College HS



Emma Chettupuzha
Pooleville HS



Blake Danley
Bishop
England HS



Bradley Dogbeh-Agbo
Urbana HS



Briana Dogbeh-Agbo
Urbana HS



Kathryn Dundee
Academy of
the Holy Cross



Luke Eloshway
Our Lady of
Good Counsel



Jack Essig
Our Lady of
Good Counsel



Saina Fernando
Academy of
the Holy Cross



Melania George
Clarksburg HS



Ethan Gitau
Our Lady of
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Timothy Hanson
Our Lady of
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Maria Harb
St. John's
College HS



Jackson Hickman
Pooleville HS



Aiden Himes
Seneca
Valley HS



Nicholas Kreiner
St. John's
Catholic Prep



Madison La Motteo
Our Lady of
Good Counsel



Zachary Laffey
St. John's
College HS



Anju Latimer
St. John's
Catholic Prep



Sophia Lozano
St. John's
Catholic Prep



Dana Narh
Academy of the
Holy Cross



Macey Newell
Quince
Orchard HS



Reese O'Halloran
Georgetown
Visitation



Gerardo Palacios
Pooleville HS



Katelyn Patti
Academy of the
Holy Cross



Quinlan Pauline
Our Lady of
Good Counsel



Ava Plummer
Our Lady of
Good Counsel



Mya Plummer
Our Lady of
Good Counsel



Cole Repos
Georgetown
Preparatory School



Caroline Riddle
Our Lady of
Good Counsel



Jake Rimorin
Georgetown
Preparatory School



Sara Robledo
St. John's
College HS



Ethan Rodriguez
Georgetown
Preparatory School



Reed Rutland
Our Lady of
Good Counsel



Lorenzo Salazar
Pooleville HS
Global Ecology



Constantine Salmon
St. John's
Catholic Prep



Dino Scaletti
DeMattha
Catholic HS



Lucia Sissi
Clarksburg HS



Kristie Soewandi
Our Lady of
Good Counsel



Max Tran
Clarksburg HS



Khai Truong
St. John's
Catholic Prep



Celia Watkins
Our Lady of
Good Counsel



Dylan Webster
Richard
Montgomery HS



Olivia Wight
Pooleville HS



Congratulations

CLASS OF 2022

GRADUATION

Continued from page 31

In December 2020, Thornburg said he resolved to make changes in his life.

"I started (working) hard in school and in the weight room, and it translated into better results on the field and in the classroom," he said, adding, "More importantly, I was a better person to be around. It goes back to discipline. It elevated me as a person."

The discipline that he learned there, he said, "didn't just help me in football. It gave me a foundation for life, to work hard at everything I do."

Thornburg added, "I feel here I really learned everything happens for a reason. I realized I've got to do what I can do to focus on my craft and control what I can control."

At the age of 5, he started playing football in a league, and at Pallotti, he played as a guard and center on the team's offensive line. In baseball, he played first and third base for the Panthers, and in wrestling, he

competed in the 285 lb. division, and as a freshman he squared off against wrestlers weighing 50 lbs. more than he did. "It got me stronger," he said.

As a Pallotti senior, he balanced his time between his classwork, those three sports, and getting ready for college. His classes included AP government, AP English and pre-calculus.

"I found a way to get it done. I set my mind to it," he said.

A Greenbelt resident, he is the son of Sonja Hughes and Jim Thornburg, and he graduated from St. Joseph's Regional Catholic School in Beltsville.

Thornburg said the school retreats at Pallotti helped him understand the importance of trusting in God.

"I'm confident whatever I do, He's got me on the right track, and He's got a plan for me," the Pallotti senior said.

This fall, Thornburg will attend Seton Hill University in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, where he hopes to study criminal justice or

business, and where he will play football. For his career, he is interested in one day becoming a federal agent, perhaps working as a U.S. marshal or for the FBI or CIA.

"There's no other bigger honor than that, serving your country," he said.

Reflecting on his years at Pallotti, Thornburg said, "This place has been special. It's not just the academics, the sports. It's the people, the friends I've made, the teachers, too."

Taking to heart the school's motto

Mia Gonzales Jackson, also a member of St. Vincent Pallotti's class of 2022, participated in the school's Arts Academy, playing flute in its Wind Ensemble.

"I started flute in the second grade... It (the flute) sounds pretty, I like it. I've enjoyed playing in the band since then," said the 17-year-old Laurel resident.

She added, "Music has definitely been an anchor in hard times, and it's definitely a good skill to have."

In 2015, doctors diagnosed that she had a brain tumor, and after treatments, she is in stable condition. "It's still there but not growing," she said, noting that after receiving chemotherapy, she developed neuropathy, damage to nerves that left her needing to use braces on her legs.

"I can't run or ride a bicycle anymore. I can still play the flute," she said.

Gonzales Jackson praised the support she has received from her high school's community during her years there.

"Pallotti students, staff and teachers have been an amazing support," she said, praising how caring and respectful they have been to her. "They know it's part of me, but it's not who I am."

The member of St. Nicholas Parish in Laurel said her Catholic faith has been a source of strength to her, not only through her health challenges, but also as she made the transition to high school and now as she prepares for college. Gonzales Jackson said she has also had to struggle with anxiety and depression.

"My faith has kept me going, (and) the community of faith, knowing I have the support of people and their prayers, definitely has kept me going," she said.

Gonzales Jackson smiled and added that along the way, she has learned and come to accept that "God has a plan, and it will happen in His time and not mine."

During the pandemic, she relied on the support of her close-knit family living in an apartment together, her mother Maria Gonzales-Jackson, her father Stephen Jackson, and her young sister Noelle.

"Having everyone close together, we butted heads, but we were there for each other. We talked about things," she said.

The Pallotti senior noted that one of the most difficult things for her during the pandemic was not being able to go to church in person.

"At the beginning of this school year, we had our first school Mass at Pallotti, and I was so overjoyed, because that was the first time since the pandemic I was able to attend Mass in person," she said. "Being able to celebrate the Eucharist and see other people together rather than just being at a computer screen was really a high moment."

During her years there, Gonzales Jackson helped plan school retreats, and she said it was meaningful to hear about other students' faith journeys and to get to know them on a deeper level.

Asked about it was like to be a student during St. Vincent Pallotti High School's 100th anniversary, she said, "I attended and helped plan the centennial celebration (in November 2021)... It was really special to be a part of that." She said the school's traditions, including class competitions like a volleyball game between students and teachers, have been a fun part of her experience there.

This fall, Gonzales Jackson will attend Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts, one of the elite Seven Sisters colleges for women in the northeastern United States. She's interested in studying religion there, and also wants to look into creative writing or psychology. "We'll see where music fits in at college," she said.

Gonzales Jackson said that in college and in life after that, her Pallotti experience will guide her along the way.

"Our motto as said by St. Vincent Pallotti is, 'Seek God and you will find God, seek God in all things, and you will find God in all things.' I think I will take that with me, seeking God in the challenges of college in the community at Mount Holyoke, and seeking God in the experiences and opportunities in the future."

Noting that she had earned all A's in her classes and had no more high school exams to take, the Pallotti senior smiled and said, "I'm all set!"

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The 2022 Lucinda L. Jasper Scholarships awarded

Special to the Standard

Willow Stone, a student at St. Elizabeth Catholic School in Rockville, Maryland has been awarded first place in The Lucinda L. Jasper Scholarship Competition. As first place winner, she was awarded a \$3,000 scholarship. She will attend Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School in Washington D.C. this fall.

Avery Fisher, a student at St. Elizabeth Catholic School in Rockville, Maryland, won second place. She was awarded a

\$2000 scholarship. She plans to attend the Academy of the Holy Cross, Kensington, Maryland this fall.

The Lucinda L. Jasper Scholarships were first awarded in 1993, named in memory of Lucinda L. Jasper, who taught in parochial schools more than 30 years and was a strong advocate of a Catholic education. The scholarships are awarded annually to graduates of Catholic grade schools in the Archdiocese of Washington D.C. who plan to attend a Catholic high school in the Archdiocese of Washington D.C.



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GRADUATION/CARE FOR CREATION

Cardinal Gregory encourages students to confront climate change in daily life and future careers

By Mark Zimmermann
Catholic Standard

Taking steps to confront climate change and personally and professionally work for environmental justice “is at the very foundation of what our faith calls us to do,” Washington Cardinal Wilton Gregory said at The Catholic University of America at the April 21 opening ceremony of a conference on Climate Change and the Future of Work.

“We live in a changing climate, and we have a moral obligation to respond thoughtfully and respectfully as Christ Himself would,” said Cardinal Gregory, who said that requires caring for one another as brothers and sisters and as neighbors, and working together “to care for our common home with dedicated vigilance.”

The conference, inspired by Pope Francis’s landmark 2015 encyclical “*Laudato Si’: On Care for Our Common Home*,” coincided with Earth Day, April 22, when students from that university and other colleges and universities would be gathering for panel discussions featuring speakers from government, industries, higher education and the nonprofit sector. The April 22 conference, which also was featuring an exposition fair and breakout sessions on environmental topics and professional opportunities, was described by organizers as a forum to engage students as they prepare to enter the professional world adapting to a changing climate.

“Part of our collective response is just what this conference is about – analyzing the many ways that we can professionally and personally work in collaboration to bring about environmental justice in every community,” the cardinal said.

Cardinal Gregory, who as the archbishop of Washington serves as Catholic University’s chancellor, noted that the conference was timely, and also happening at a challenging moment as the global coronavirus pandemic is in its third year, and as the world is rallying to support and pray for the suffering people of war-torn Ukraine.

The cardinal said Catholic social teaching and pro-life beliefs should spur people to respond to environmental crises like insufficient and polluted water and poor air quality.

He noted that nearly every industry has new and restructured professional roles for environmental sustainability commitments, and Catholic University and other institutions of higher education are providing new environmental areas of study.

“In the ever-expanding landscape of environmental work possibilities, women and men wanting to make a tangible difference in green industries can and should responsibly act to address environmental and other inequities in our society in a



Washington Cardinal Wilton Gregory addresses the April 21, 2022 opening of a conference on Climate Change and the Future of Work held at The Catholic University of America. (Catholic Standard photo by Andrew Biraj)

meaningful way – especially in marginalized communities,” he said.

Cardinal Gregory emphasized how environmental negligence and exploitation often impacts “the locations where the poor, the marginalized and people of color live.”

Pope Francis grounded his environmental justice encyclical *Laudato Si’* in Scripture and Catholic teaching, but addressed it to all people on Earth, the cardinal said, adding that as neighbors, people are called to care for one another and also to care for the planet they share.

The cardinal noted how The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington this past fall launched a *Laudato Si’* Action Plan containing “small and big ways for us to exercise stewardship over God’s creation,” just as the Archdiocese of Atlanta, which he previously led, had done with one of the first diocesan action plans that was inspired by the encyclical and also drew on the input of local experts.

“When it comes to environmental justice, we each have a critical, ongoing role to care for creation to ensure the Earth is protected for future generations,” he said.

Cardinal Gregory encouraged students as they consider the future of work and how they might fit in, to reflect on several key personal calls to action raised in *Laudato Si’*, including responding to the cry of the Earth, which he said can mean working to guarantee that all people have access to clean water.

The encyclical’s call to respond to the cry of the poor, he said, relates to defending human life in all its stages and all forms of life on Earth, and he said special attention should be paid to reaching out to vulnerable groups like indigenous communities, migrant children and human trafficking victims.

The cardinal said the issue of ecological

economics raised in the encyclical can be addressed when businesses and organizations support fair trade initiatives “so that workers are paid just wages and so consumer goods are made as environmentally friendly as possible.”

Another key recommendation of *Laudato Si’* he said, is adapting a simple lifestyle in our busy world, and he said in the workplace that might mean looking at professional options to limit waste.

Noting how Catholic University is a leader in ecological education, the cardinal said Pope Francis in *Laudato Si’* wants Catholic universities, parishes and schools to re-think and redesign educational programs “in the spirit of integral ecology. Our hope is that this will promote an ecological vocation in our young people, as well as teachers and leaders in education.”

In 2020, Catholic University adopted a five-year plan for creating a culture of sustainability, emphasizing Catholic social teaching on the environment, teaching students environmental best practices in careers like architecture and engineering, and expanding clean energy on the campus. The university now offers more than 150 courses related to sustainability across multiple programs. Catholic University has 2,700 solar panels and announced in March that it will be building the metropolitan Washington area’s largest urban solar array on the university’s campus, providing locally generated, renewable energy.

In his talk at the university, Cardinal Gregory also highlighted the encyclical’s concept of ecological spirituality.

“Pope Francis challenges us in *Laudato Si’* to recover a religious vision of God’s creation, encouraging greater contact with the natural world in a spirit of wonder, praise, joy and gratitude,” the cardinal said.

Washington’s archbishop said the

encyclical also emphasized community involvement and participatory action in preserving the environment.

“We are to care for creation at every level of our lives, including in our work,” the cardinal said, adding that means supporting public policies that honor God’s creation and fostering work cultures rooted in pro-life values and environmental justice.

Caring for Earth, our common home, means working in collaboration, he said.

“Pope Francis makes us aware in *Laudato Si’* that we are undeniably interconnected – neighbors dependent on our planet and one another with closeness and assistance to respond and care for our sisters and brothers,” the cardinal said, adding that reflects the Catholic social teaching principle of working for the common good.

Afterward, Holly Thompson, a Catholic University senior majoring in environmental studies, said in an email to the Catholic Standard that, “I thought that it was really great that the cardinal talked about how we all have the professional responsibility to use our careers to care for the Earth, because every industry is related to the environment.”

Thompson, who is treasurer of CUA’s Environmental Club and the founder of the school’s chapter of the American Conservation Coalition, said she appreciated what the cardinal said about the importance of environmental education.

“I took this to heart a year ago when I started a class at CUA that teaches students how to engage the campus community around environmental initiatives and projects,” she said, adding, “I have been working to promote the environment as a pro-life issue to CUA’s campus and its relation to environmental justice issues, so it was important to me that the cardinal mentioned that care for creation is a pro-life issue.”

Congratulations, St. John's Graduates!

The Class of 2022 collectively earned more than \$35,000,000 in scholarships.

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Maeve Graciela Ryan*†
Nicholas Lawrence Ryan*†
Farah Jahan Salam
Jessica Lourdes Sanchez-Rivera
Kenichi Matthew Chase Scheve
Christopher Hans
Thomas Schiedel
Brian Thomas Schneider*†
Garrett Ronald Schuppner*†

Ava Gabriela Schutter*
Alexis Ande Seiden*
Ian Naanlong Shaiyen
Anna Adele Shirvinski*†
Patrick Wells Showalter
Ricardo Silva
Nathaniel Thomas Silverman*
Marcus Mathew Simmons, Jr.
Kendel O'Neal Sims
Leo Raymond Sisti
Avery Joseph Smith
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Benjamin Russell Weis*
Kevin Patrick Whitty*
Franklin Roman Wilkinson*
Alejandro Scott Wissman*
Lillian Kathryn Wright
Jasper Chase Zabala*
Katherine Leigh Zalewski*
Benjamin Maximo Zelaya*

† De La Salle Scholar

* National Honor Society

GRADUATION

Holy Cross students bring music to retirement community on All-School Day of Service

By Catherine Buckler
Catholic Standard

The Academy of Holy Cross students' voices rang out from the Lang Hall auditorium as they sang a diverse selection of songs, ranging from Christmas standards to the Lizzie McGuire soundtrack, to an audience of senior citizens at The Village at Rockville, a continuing care retirement community in Maryland.

This was just one of several events held throughout the Washington area as part of the Kensington academy's All-School Day of Service on April 27, when close to 400 students were joined by faculty and staff at 29 sites doing various kinds of service. The community outreach program began in 2018 during Holy Cross's 150th anniversary year. This year the service activities also included Holy Cross students unloading food and serving at a food pantry, delivering Meals on Wheels to families, volunteering at a farm, assisting with administrative tasks at a crisis pregnancy center, cleaning up along the Anacostia River, helping load bikes for the Bikes for the World project, cleaning the grounds at a parish, and helping with planting and harvesting fruits and vegetables at the urban garden of the Capital Area Food Bank.

Ten Holy Cross seniors performed the concert for elderly residents and later assembled a "balloon arc" at The Village at Rockville.

The singers wore hot pink shirts with the design "Blessings on Blessings" for the retirees. The phrase is a reference to the Bible verse from 2 *Corinthians* 9:8-9, "They have freely distributed their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever."

Holy Cross seniors Anna DeMino, Mercy Asamoah, and Emilia Moberg are members of the Tri-M Music Honor Society at the academy. After the concert, they sat down to reflect on their morning of service.

"I think this is an amazing program for our school to have, we didn't have one last year since it was mainly virtual, but to actually go out into the community, it's like our one last hurrah as a senior class, because next week is our last week of school," DeMino said.

DeMino is a first-year student at Holy Cross, having transferred there after her junior year. "So this is like a fun outing for all of us to go and do service together, and I'm so lucky to see how much of an impact we can make on our community," she said. DeMino also serves as the historian for the school's chapter of the International Thespian Society.



Academy of the Holy Cross student Emilia Moberg speaks with a resident at The Village at Rockville during her school's service day on April 27, when the students performed musical selections for the senior citizens there.



Academy of the Holy Cross students from different school music groups joined together to perform a variety of songs at The Village at Rockville, a community for senior citizens, on April 27 during the academy's All-School Day of Service. The singers were accompanied by the school's music director, Laura Van Duzer. (Photos courtesy of the Academy of the Holy Cross)

Mercy Asamoah is a member of the Madrigal Singers and the Guitar and Ukulele Club at Holy Cross. During the singing portion, students took requests from the audience, including "On Eagles' Wings" and "Somewhere Over the Rainbow."

"Some of [the songs] were from our actual concert that we have tomorrow actually, so we just needed to perform that so we could get a little bit of practice and then just have a little bit of fun with the praise and worship songs," Asamoah said, referring to their school's Spring Concert.

Moberg, president of the academy's Tri-M Music Honor Society, said the day was meaningful to her because of the in-person event.

"My sophomore experience was much less fun than this [due to the pandemic], this is great because I've gotten to meet people and interact with them face-to-face, and I can see their faces light up when it's a song they requested," Moberg said.

Students sang while accompanied by Laura Van Duzer on piano. Van Duzer serves as the academy's Performing Arts Department chair, as well as a performing arts teacher. Eight of the 10 students in attendance today were members of Van Duzer's Madrigal Singers, with the remaining two belonging to the school's performing arts community.

"Watching people come alive and really respond to music that's meaningful to them, it's really great for the students to see because they are talented, but it's not just about shining a light upon themselves, it's about bringing joy to other people or sparking a memory," Van Duzer said.

Residents could be heard whistling and singing along to "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" and "Down in the Valley", according to Van Duzer.

"When you have Alzheimer's patients, for example, they will remember childhood songs long after they forget the names of their spouse and their children. You play a song from their childhood and they will sing it, they will dance it," Van Duzer said. "There's something about music that sticks in the memory in ways that I think are still mysterious."

Dementia is a general term for a group of symptoms that impair memory, whereas Alzheimer's disease is a specific type of dementia that affects the brain. Alzheimer's disease typically begins in the part of the brain that controls learning, as well as thinking and reasoning abilities.

According to the Mayo Clinic, research has shown

that music unlocks musical memories that are "relatively undamaged by the disease."

Isabel Bouchard is The Village's volunteer coordinator and Connected Living coordinator. She said the senior citizens in the audience that day live in the assisted living community or the Memory Care Unit. Like Van Duzer, Bouchard spoke about how helpful music can be for those suffering from memory loss.

"[Memory Care Unit] individuals are the ones living with dementia, and I think those guys were actually the ones that enjoyed the program the most...when all else fails, music is definitely that one thing that resonates with anyone, whether they recognize the song or not," Bouchard said.

Following their performance, students helped with cleaning and organization by sorting large Tupperware tubs full of miscellaneous holiday decorations from the Village's Easter celebration.

This, along with the balloon arc construction and sorting of individual bamboo cuttings, was all done to assist The Village's Volunteer Appreciation Celebration for adult volunteers who help there.



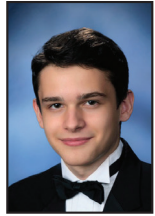
Holy Cross seniors Anna DeMino, Emilia Moberg and Mercy Asamoah pose together for a photograph. The three seniors expressed how important it was to share their talents as musicians with The Village at Rockville's elderly residents on the All-School Day of Service.



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University of Virginia



Maxwell Breton
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Clemson University



John Burke
 Washington, DC
Worcester Polytechnic Institute



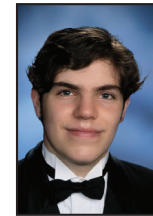
Ethan Chiao
 Kensington, MD
Purdue University



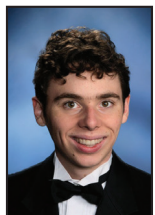
James Crowell
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Boston University



Nathan Demssie
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Columbia University



Hugo Filmer
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Purdue University



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Haverford College



Eamon Goff
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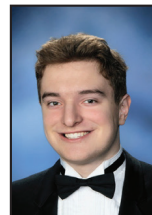
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 Washington, DC
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Simon Hoefling
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Hank Holley
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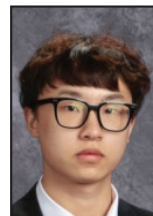
Alexander Jarboe
 Cheverly, MD
Loyola University Maryland



Luke Kalthorn
 Rockville, MD
Loyola University Maryland



Isaiah Lares
 New Carrollton, MD
Gettysburg College



Chris Li
 Silver Spring, MD
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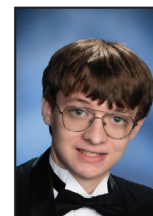
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Weston Muio
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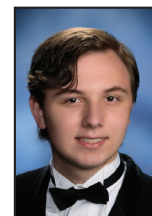
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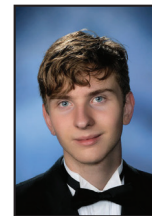
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West Virginia University



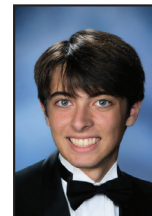
Joseph Painter
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University of Michigan



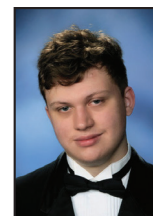
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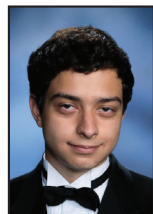
William Shea
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Ronan Welch
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Beniyam Zelalem
 Alexandria, VA
College of William & Mary



Patick Zorc
 Bethesda, MD
University of Colorado Boulder

***May Martin Firvida (picture unavailable)
 Washington, DC • *University of Pittsburgh*

GRADUATION

Continued from page 25

"I was really bad, I didn't really know what I was doing until I was 13," Simpson said. A mentor at the camp told Simpson they would tackle what was holding Simpson's playing back – his embouchure.

The embouchure is how a musician buzzes his or her lips to the mouthpiece of an instrument.

"It was literally one of the hardest things I've ever done, because it's like rewriting how I thought about my instrument before," Simpson said, adding that in his essay, "I applied it to how, in college, I can attack things head on, difficult problems...I think my essay reflected that I am able to not be afraid to change how I think and to constantly be out to better myself."

In Massachusetts, he aspires to continue playing the cornet, whether in the school marching band or with another Salvation Army unit.

Simpson was quick to respond when asked how his family had assisted him during the application process, crediting the help of his brother, Nana, and his mother.

Simpson's brother is 10 years older than he, and was the first person in their family to go to college, studying at the University of Maryland. Simpson said he would often email his brother materials to look over before submitting, such as the essays included in applications.

"We're first [generation]...we always look

up to him, because we act like he knows everything, and we put that pressure on him," Simpson said. "I kept sending stuff to him asking, 'Yo, Nana, is this good?'"

Simpson recalled his mother keeping the energy upbeat during a time of uncertainty after he submitted his applications in December.

"She thought I wasn't going to get into any schools for a while," Simpson said. "Then I got into UMD, so she was like 'Yay, we're going to UMD!'"

He remembers getting rejected from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, and his mom saying "Okay, we're still going to UMD!"

After that, he got into Harvard, and that was the end of it. Simpson turned down full-ride offers from Northwestern University, as well as acceptances from Brown, Duke, and Emory University/Oxford College. Simpson is the first student from Bishop McNamara to be accepted into Harvard since 2009.

Herman Frazier, his counselor, wrote Simpson's letter of recommendation.

"I wasn't surprised," Frazier said about Simpson's acceptance into the Ivy League school. Frazier said in his line of work, when observing students, he can spot the students who have the "Ivy League cache."

"Kow definitely exhibited the work habits, the characteristics, the personality for such a competitive academic environment," Frazier said. "So much so – he didn't mention this so I'm going to mention it – I recommended

him for a competitive internship."

Simpson participated in the Leadership Initiatives internship during the summer before his senior year. He was accepted into the Advanced Medicine and Public Health portion of the program. Simpson collaborated with public health experts from the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and the National Institutes of Health, and diagnosed a real patient from the Nagari Medical Clinic & Maternity Ward in Nigeria. Simpson explained how the virtual internship worked.

"It was really, really cool. The main objective was to create a plan to combat a certain type of disease, which they gave us in groups, to effectively combat and prevent it in Bauchi State, Nigeria," Simpson said. "When they actually brought people from Nigeria on the webinar, I was like, that's crazy, we're really helping them."

Simpson's team was assigned nutritional anemia, and they had to devise a strategy that encompassed marketing and financing to address the problem.

"We created a nice infographic that showed healthy ways to get all of your nutritional values in food was available to them on a budget," Simpson said. He was also taught how to suture, classes on persuasive writing, and public speaking.

Simpson prevailed despite the pandemic disrupting his high school experience, which saw him and his classmates miss in-person learning for almost one-half of

sophomore year and all of their junior year.

"Junior year, I was struggling so bad, that was the first year I got two Bs," he said.

Simpson found resources through the school's social media page on how to handle the demands of online school. That resulted in Simpson organizing his time, sometimes including naps between classes.

"I made a Google Doc[ument] with all my links, I set timers on my phone so that, at least for the class period I was able to lock in and then I would just fall asleep, wake up again when my alarm rings, and go to my next class," Simpson said. "I really had to do it class by class."

As far as Harvard next year, Simpson is excited for the change in scenery and plans to take advantage of what the area has to offer, although he is concerned about the winter.

"All the way in New England...I'm going to get one of the biggest coats ever," Simpson said, laughing.

For those who may be interested in applying to Harvard, Simpson has some advice on how to navigate high school.

"Try to find your passion, be genuine about it, try to help others, it's not a race, it's a process. If you can help someone go on with you, why leave them behind? Make lots of friends, try to help out, be serious about something, you can't just go through the motions in high school, I don't think that's making the best of your time," Simpson said.



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Joe Emmanuel Disanka Balumuene
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Maximilian Paul Beatty
Kwengo Benjamin
David Arthur Bierwirth Jr.
Patrick James Bowell
Joaquin Javier Bucheli
Matthew Thomas Byrne

Nathaniel Bralliar Callabresi
Michael Hunter Canady
Micah Stephen Chambers
Chun Yin Arthur Cheong
Michael Anthony Christov
Connor Joseph Combs
Thomas William Donald Daniels
Joseph Bernard Dauchess
Samuel Harrison DeSalle
Tomas Sebastian Diaz-Bonilla
Robert Francis Downey
John Michael Dujmovic
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Joshua Antonio Hauge
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George Lorenzo Marcolin
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Chinaedum Stanley Mmayie
Stephen James Moynihan
Sean Michael Murray

Luke Clewell Myers
Daniel Charl Stephanus Naudé
Dominic Alexander Navarro
Quang Thanh Nguyen
James Stuart North
Thomas James Nugent
Carson Emanuel Patrick
Pablo Percovich
Matthew Tyler Pimenta
Raphael Dean Prince
Maxwell Forbes Profaizer
Jack William Raymond
Daniel Luis Rojas
Diego Timothy Sarca
Peter Joseph Schindler

Tristen Noah Solozano
Joseph Emile Sypal
Charles Gabriel Syski
Aidom Michael Tadesse
Christian Anthony Talento
Patrick Edward Vassallo
Rafael Joseph Martinez Virador
John Patrick Wall
Seamus Andrew Walsh
Benjamin Patterson Wheat
Gabriel Antony Willard
Xavier Valdez Williams
Zane A. Wright
Terence Jermaine Wynn Jr.
Aiden James Young

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

The following list is representative of the wide variety of colleges and universities where Heights students have been accepted over the past several years: Ave Maria University ■ Baylor University ■ Boston College ■ Boston Conservatory at Berklee ■ Bowdoin College ■ Bucknell University ■ University of California at Berkeley ■ University of California, Los Angeles ■ Carnegie Mellon University (Carnegie Institute of Technology) ■ Case Western Reserve University ■ Catholic University of America ■ College of Charleston ■ University of Chicago ■ Christendom College ■ The Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina ■ Clemson University ■ Claremont McKenna College ■ Colby College ■ Colgate University ■ Columbia University ■ Cornell University ■ University of Dallas ■ Dartmouth College ■ Davidson College ■ Denison University ■ Dickinson College ■ Duke University ■ Emory University ■ Fordham University ■ George Mason University ■ The George Washington University ■ Georgetown University ■ Georgia Institute of Technology ■ Gettysburg College ■ Harvard University ■ Hillsdale College ■ University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign ■ Indiana University ■ James Madison University ■ Johns Hopkins University ■ The Juilliard School ■ Loyola University Maryland ■ Marymount University ■ University of Mary Washington ■ University of Maryland, College Park ■ Miami University, Oxford ■ University of Michigan ■ Mount St. Mary's University ■ University of Navarre ■ New York University ■ The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill ■ Northwestern University ■ University of Notre Dame ■ University of Pennsylvania ■ Pennsylvania State University, University Park ■ Pepperdine University ■ Princeton University ■ Providence College ■ Purdue University ■ Rice University ■ University of Southern California ■ Stanford University ■ St. Joseph's University ■ Texas A&M University ■ Tulane University ■ United States Coast Guard Academy ■ Vanderbilt University ■ University of Vermont ■ Villanova University ■ Virginia Military Institute ■ Virginia Tech ■ University of Virginia ■ Wake Forest University ■ Washington and Lee University ■ Wesleyan University ■ College of William and Mary

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| Thomas Allen | Justin Coates | | | Daniel Papp | Niamh Storch |
| Taylor Alvey | John Collins | | | Kaylen Perez | Michael Swann |
| Asya Anderson | Abigail Cosgrove | | | Christian Pesante | Nicholas Tallant |
| Therese Annulis | Brant Dees | | | Presley Pickeral | Madison Taylor |
| Lauren Aukard | Nicholas Deve | | | Gabrielle Pierpont | Alyssa Taylor-Axtell |
| Jonathan Baird | Amber Dewar | | | Matthew Pilkerton | Carley Tepel |
| Marie Balfour | Emily Dixon | | | Carine Pinkney | Londyn Thomas |
| Logan Barnes | Bryce Djossou | | | Jacob Pinkney | Destiny Towns |
| Jamie Elizabeth Bernardo | Campbell Earhart | Claire Geary | Milan Jones | Taylor Quade | Seth Tyson |
| Cora Bessette | Macy Ellis | Kaitlin Goudreau | Noah Jordan | Mckenzie Ramsey | Kacie Vallandingham |
| Emily Blackburn | Madison Ervin | Jacob Guerre | Ty Jubeck | William Richards | Arianna VanFosson |
| Malachi Briscoe | India Farrington | Cole Harkness | Emir Kendrick | Jenna Ring | Sarah Vavrus |
| Garrett Brodfuehrer | Jonathan Fatoki | Jack Harper | Jesse Kidd | Austin Russell | Haley Walker |
| John Brown | Nina Ferrero | Christopher Hasel | Catherine-Marie Kinslow | Scottie Sage | Yujie Wen |
| Nyla Brown | Kendall Flerlage | Avery Hill | Jefferson Kosich | Jordan Scarbrough | Laci Whiston |
| Patrick Bumbray | Shelby Floehr | Isabella Hill | Jeremy Kurutz | Ian Scott | Thomas White |
| Thomas Burgess | Kevin Ford | Timothy Holt | Kaitlyn Lamb | Brandon Sharrow | Caeden Wirth |
| Anderson Burke | Jaden Foreman | Thomas Howard | Madilyn Leahy | Sofia Sherman | Delayne Wood |
| Thomas Burroughs | Josiah Franklin | Abigail Hupp | Zachary Longmore | Jillian Silverstone | Isabelle Wood |
| Jordan Campbell | Catherine Furtado | Gina Jaffurs | Karley Lusby | Jett Sprague | Kristina Carmella Zarate |
| Kendrick Josel Carlos | Mary Gahagan | Alyssa Johnson | Rosalia Marks | Leo Sprague | Michael Zawacki |
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GRADUATION

Holy Child senior preparing to join Catholic University's theatre program

By Catherine Buckler
Catholic Standard

Grace Stephens, a member of the class of 2022 at Connelly School of the Holy Child in Potomac, Maryland is ready to stand in the spotlight and draw in some laughs. This fall she will attend The Catholic University of America and study for a bachelor's degree in fine arts in the university's Acting for Theatre, Film and Television program. While at Holy Child the last four years, Stephens was the director of the school's fall musical, *Little Women*, and is the chapter president of Best Buddies, a program that brings together teens and young adults with peers who have intellectual differences.

Stephens joined the Holy Child community in sixth grade, and her first role at the school was as an understudy for *The Lion King*. It was not until the pandemic, however, that Stephens realized how much performing meant to her.

"I kind of was just doing it as a hobby pre-COVID, I was still doing sports at the time, my freshman and sophomore year I was very into soccer, and that wasn't really my main focus, and then the pandemic happened," Stephens said. She enrolled in an online class hosted by Holy Child graduate Justine Verheul, and participated in an after-school program that was pioneered by Elsbeth Fager, a music teacher and Holy Child's director of Visual and Performing Arts.

Stephens credits these courses with giving her the confidence to go into performance. She said she took a "big risk" for herself during fall 2020, when she answered an open call email asking for actors in nearby schools to perform in Gonzaga College High School's virtual show.

"I was like, why not? I'm not doing anything now, but pre-COVID I don't think I would have ever taken that risk," Stephens said. That spring, she was in a Zoom production of *SpongeBob the Musical*. Stephens played the fry cook's friend, Sandy Cheeks, the karate-chopping squirrel from Texas.

"I had a big green setup in my room, with



Grace Stephens, second from left, performs in Connelly School of the Holy Child's production of "Bye Bye Birdie" when she was a 10th grader there. (Photo courtesy of Connelly School of the Holy Child)

big lights, so my room was mostly a studio with a bed in the corner," Stephens said.

Some characters Stephens would like to play in a future musical performance include Janis from *Mean Girls* and Penny in *Hairspray*.

At the moment, Stephens' dream job is to take on television.

"SNL (*Saturday Night Live*), I would love to do something like with improv or sketch comedy, because I grew up loving that show and loving the ideas of doing improv and writing skits," Stephens said. "It's a really nice mix of theatre and television." Kristen Wiig,

Aidy Bryant, and Melissa Villaseñor are some of Stephens's favorite *Saturday Night Live* cast members.

"I feel like comedy is where I feel like I am good and it's where I am the most comfortable, but I am also very open to trying a lot of different things," Stephens said.

Her interest in sketch comedy blossomed after a trip to Chicago to look at a colleges led Stephens to see a performance from The Second City, an improvisational comedy theater troupe. Notable alumni who have performed with The Second City include Gilda Radner and John Belushi, who both later became original cast members of *Saturday Night Live*.

Stephens was introduced to Catholic University's Benjamin T. Rome School of Music, Drama, and Art during the university's High School Drama Institute program, which was three weeks long during the summer.

"Through that I met a lot of people who were also just as interested in theatre as I was and made a lot of connections with the department there," Stephens said. "Through that program I was offered – typically you need to audition to get into the BFA program – but I was offered a spot because they'd seen me perform and they'd seen me work." She added that her mother is also a CUA graduate, and Stephens remembers attending Mass at the nearby Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception growing up.

Acting isn't Stephens's only passion – her sister, Rory, who is two years younger, inspired Stephens to become involved with Best Buddies. Best Buddies is a nonprofit aimed at establishing connections and creating

opportunities for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

"I have a younger sister who is a person with autism... That's also why I'm so interested in Best Buddies and service like that. How I interact with her is very much immersing myself into her world," Stephens said.

"I think that kind of spills over into theatre and being able to immerse myself into the world of the character and the story I'm telling."

Catholic education is important to Stephens. Growing up, she was a part of St. Raphael Parish in Rockville. Currently, Stephens is a member of Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Potomac, where she was confirmed in 2018.

"I've always grown up in this culture and so it's very familiar to me," Stephens said, adding that she felt Holy Child prepared her well for college, both in performance and academics.

"I absolutely feel like I've been supported, and nurtured, and helped my entire career here, with academics, with my personal growth, my mental health, I couldn't have asked for a better support system and group of people to grow up with," Stephens said.



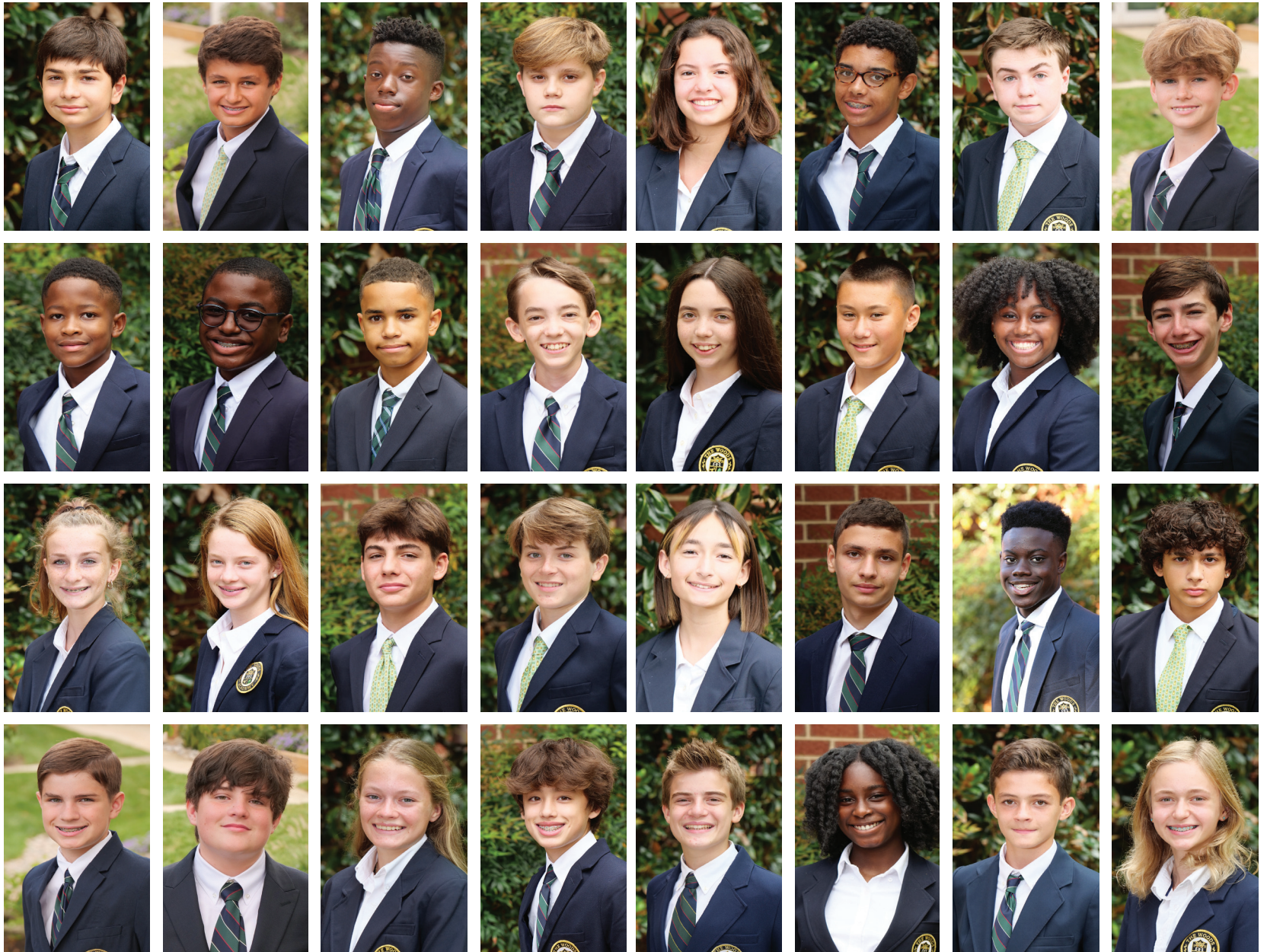
Grace Stephens, a member of the class of 2022 at Connelly School of the Holy Child in Potomac.



As a seventh grader at Connelly School of the Holy Child, Grace Stephens (at left) performed in the school's production of "James and the Giant Peach." (Photo courtesy of Connelly School of the Holy Child)

THE WOODS ACADEMY

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St. Anselm's Abbey School
St. John's College High School
The School Without Walls
Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart
The Potomac School
Georgetown Visitation
Preparatory School



GRADUATION

Continued from page 24

the pandemic. “Praying really helped us get through it, especially when other family members got sick, prayer helped us,” she said.

During her freshman year in the school’s Corporate Work Study Program, Orozco worked as a teacher’s assistant at St. Augustine Catholic School in Washington, helping the first and fifth grade teachers.

“What I learned from that was to have patience,” she said, adding that she enjoyed working with the children as they were engaged with their schoolwork.

The next year, she worked as an administrative assistant at Don Bosco Cristo Rey, which she said helped her get over her shyness. “It kept me on my feet. A lot of parents called. It helped me use my Spanish more,” she said.

Then as a junior during the pandemic, she worked virtually from home with United Way. This past semester, her corporate work experience has been at the Jones Day law firm in Washington, and assisting with various duties there has sharpened her communication skills, she said.

This fall, Orozco will be attending Georgetown University, where she hopes to study culture and politics, and she will be the first member of her family to attend college.

“For me, it makes my family very proud. My parents came here so my brother and I would receive a better education than they

received,” she said.

Her father works as a plumber, and her mother cleans houses, and Orozco said she is inspired by their example and encouragement.

Orozco said her father has always emphasized “that I need to learn as much as I can. My love for reading comes from him,” she said, adding that her mother “works extremely hard and puts us first before anything. She gets up at the crack of dawn to get things done.”

As for her future, Orozco said, “I want to go to law school and potentially become a civil rights attorney. People should have their rights, that motivates me to help others. I’m all about giving back to the community.”

And she’ll remember the sense of community at Don Bosco Cristo Rey and how students and staff know each other and care about each other, something she experienced during her cancer battle and the pandemic.

“Don Bosco Cristo Rey has a large emphasis on family, and Don Bosco Cristo Rey feels like family to me,” Orozco said.

JOANNA CAZARES

Another member of Don Bosco Cristo Rey’s class of 2022, Joanna Cazares, said the pandemic shutdown and the resulting isolation “was really rough for me... I kind of just had to rough it out. I knew things were going to get better.”

Cazares said she struggled during that



Hilary Orozco and Joanna Cazares of the class of 2022 at Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School in Takoma Park praised the support they received there in challenging times. (CS photo/Andrew Biraj)

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Jasmine Destry	Matteo Scano
Petar Dunn	Courtney Smith
Bryce Freeman	Eben Smith
Jalen Grandy	Michael Todero
Hana Hailu	Justus Tyree
John Tyler Majkowski	Kaleab Wubishet
Kai McKnight	

Continue to let your light shine!

time, feeling depression and anxiety, adding, “I felt disconnected from the world for a long time.”

She said that Rebekah Taravella, a member of the staff of the Corporate Work Study Program, offered her caring support. “I talked to her every day,” she said, noting that one thing they discussed was “how to come back to something that was put on pause for a really long time. She just let me know everything is going to work out, everything is going to be okay.”

A 17-year-old resident of Brentwood, Maryland, Cazares’s mother is Elva Lucero and her stepfather is Jaime Garcia, and she has a stepbrother and a younger sister. Both those parents are immigrants from Mexico. Their family attends Mass at St. James Church in Mount Rainier.

“My dad works in construction, and my mom is a janitor,” she said. “...I’ve learned from them how to make smart choices, they instilled that in me, (and) how to work hard” to pursue an education.

For Cazares, being the first in her family to go to college “means leading the way for my sister and the rest of my family members who want to go to college. It’s building a way for generational wealth for my family. It means a lot for me to go off to college and get off on the right foot.”

Cazares initially plans to attend Prince George’s Community College and study finance. “I want to go into investment banking,” she said, explaining that interest

was spurred by her Corporate Work Study experience during her senior year, when she worked with endowments in Georgetown University’s investments office, where she will have an internship this summer.

As a freshman and sophomore in that program, she worked as an administrative assistant in the office of Georgetown University’s president. As a junior during the COVID shutdown, she took part in a virtual program offered by Accenture, a professional services firm, where she and fellow students learned workplace skills. “I absolutely loved the Corporate Work Study Program. It was the highlight of the week. It made me feel like a grownup,” she said. “I started out as a 14-year-old going into a corporate setting.”

Working in Georgetown University’s investment office, “was like opening the door” for her, she said, making her want to pursue that as a career. “I learned so much about the field and the things that go into it... My plan is to go into a career where I can one day maybe start something to help the community with investments.”

Reflecting on her experiences at Don Bosco Cristo Rey, Cazares – who also ran track and participated in the Catholic Math League there – said she will especially remember the teachers who helped her along the way, like Mrs. Taravella.

“I’ll always know there’s somebody who cares for me. Everybody in school has one person they can go to,” she said.

GRADUATION

St. Anselm's senior travels to serve people in the Congo

By Richard Szczepanowski
Catholic Standard

For Walter Heiser, a graduating senior at St. Anselm's Abbey School in Washington, D.C., a recent trip to the Democratic Republic of the Congo gave him the opportunity to live out his faith and practice what he has learned at his school.

The visit to the Central African nation to work with a non-profit organization providing accessible health care in remote areas, Heiser said, was "a memorable service opportunity... (where) I exhibited love through my actions."

"I love rendering service to others in my community and in the world because I know that service is a form of love of neighbor, and that when I am in the service of my fellow man, I am in the service of my God," he said. "My St.

Anselm's education has reinforced the importance of serving others in my life."

St. Anselm's is a Benedictine-sponsored, all-boys school for students in the sixth through 12th grades. Heiser is the son of Marie-Stella Heiser and is a member of St. John Neumann Parish in Gaithersburg, Maryland. At his parish, he is active in St. Vincent de Paul Society, distributing food to the less fortunate.

An American of Congolese origin, Heiser said he felt called to serve there because "the people of the Congo are my brothers and sisters, and giving back to the people in need is the least that I can do to pay homage to my motherland."

While in the Congo, Heiser helped to paint a health care center, and gave a demonstration about environmental safety to children. One of the children

in the village touched his heart and Heiser helped that young man with his education.

Heiser recalled that one day in the village of Kinzau, he saw a young boy about 13 years old walking back from the school building by himself. Since it was the middle of the day, all the other children were at school.

"I asked him why he was not with the rest of his peers, and he said because he could not pay his last trimester's tuition," Heiser said. "I asked him how much it was, and he told me 6,000 Congolese Francs, which converts to a mere \$2 U.S. dollars. I had spare pocket change and decided to pay for the boy's tuition."

That experience not only changed the young boy's life, but Heiser's as well.

"I had a much-needed epiphany that revealed how valuable the little money we waste on mundane utilities here in the western world is to communities in rural, impoverished communities," he said. "I believe that everyone deserves to pursue their dreams, attain their goals, and live comfortably."

He said he wanted to make sure the young boy continued his schooling because "knowledge is power and sets us free. With a solid education, anyone can teach others the crucial values needed to improve the world."

When he returned to St. Anselm's, he shared his experiences with his fellow students.

"I explained to them how my perception on life shifted when I was in the midst of the rural villages as one American teenager. I explained the story of the schoolboy and how his tuition is something that here in the U.S.A. we take for granted," Heiser said.

He said that in addition to telling the students and faculty about the poverty he encountered in the Congo, he also made them aware of "the beauty of the country – the landscape, food and culture."

"I also made sure to emphasize that in the Congo even though they do not wield much material wealth, they have the wealth of



Walter Heiser, a graduating senior at St. Anselm's Abbey School in Northeast Washington, poses with children in the Congolese village of Kinzau. Heiser traveled to the Central African nation to help provide health care and education. (Photo courtesy of Walter Heiser)

humanity. They do not have much, but at least they have each other," he said, adding that he "reinforced the notion of loving our neighbor."

After the talk, Heiser said, "multiple students and faculty members approached me asking how they could contribute to the efforts in the Congo. It brought me great joy to see how eager they were willing to serve a people not of their own and of a distant land."

Among his favorite classes during his four years at St. Anselm's, Heiser includes Arabic language classes, Christian ethics, and African-

American literature. Outside of the classroom, he was a trumpeter in the Jazz Club, spirit director of the InterHouse Council, and a member of the Model UN, the history and chess club and the Arabic Honor Society. He was also a junior varsity member of the school's soccer, basketball, track and lacrosse teams. He recently completed his Eagle project to become an Eagle Scout.

In the fall, Heiser will attend New York University on a Liberal Studies Scholarship and Global Pathways Scholarship. He plans to eventually major in

international relations and public policy. He also has an eye toward establishing a non-profit organization to help people in the remote villages of the Congo.

Speaking of how his faith influences his life and his future career, Heiser said, "The second greatest commandment that God gives us is to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Service and charity are both forms of loving thy neighbor. I see all humans as equal no matter their ethnicity or socioeconomic status. We are one family under God."



Walter Heiser holds a baby at a health care clinic in a remote village in the Congo. The St. Anselm's graduating senior traveled to that nation to "give back to the people in need." (Photo courtesy of Walter Heiser)

GRADUATION

Stone Ridge seniors reflect on impact of school's Social Action Program

Hallie Stallings
Class of 2022

Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart, Bethesda

The Social Action Program at Stone Ridge has had a transformative impact on my life. Led by seniors Becky Felker, Sarah Joseph, and Anna Niepold, the Social Action Board (SASAB) plans bi-weekly service days throughout the year. On Social Action Wednesdays (the best days!), the Upper School engages in an educational, and fun, presentation and then goes out into our community to serve sites. The program builds on itself: freshmen stay on campus to learn the Pillars of Catholic Social Teaching from amazing seniors; sophomores visit many sites, and juniors and seniors establish lasting relationships at a single site.

This year, my site was I Support the Girls, a nonprofit that distributes feminine hygiene products and bras to folks in need. We even packed over 24,000 feminine hygiene products for Ukraine! Amid writing thank you notes to donors and counting tampons to be packed, I formed close friendships with my fellow volunteers and was inspired by the organization's commitment to treat



everyone with human dignity.

To finish off an incredible year of service, SASAB planned the first ever Social Action Symposium. Students first engaged in reflection with their site groups and then had the opportunity to sign up for rotations. These included registering to vote, exploring sustainability with the greenhouse, and listening to others students' experiences at their sites. I was given the opportunity to share my experience poll working and was so impressed with everyone's excitement and willingness to get involved! Overall, the day was a great success.

The Social Action Program is an embodiment of my favorite of Stone Ridge's goals, Goal III: "a social awareness which impels to action." From Progress Place with Ms. Key to Felker Feud to the Action Team, I am thankful for the many opportunities Stone Ridge provides for education and action. I am incredibly grateful to have been a part of such a wonderful program and will truly miss it when I graduate.

Lulu Schropp

Class of 2022

Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart, Bethesda

Freshman year, I visited the Father McKenna center as one of my rotations for Social Action. It was in the middle of their big construction project--which turned out amazing--and because of it, we were unable to physically help in any way. However, we listened to an employee at the Father McKenna Center speak at his 11 o'clock meeting. I took his words to heart. He encouraged us to take care of ourselves and to work on our faith. I did just that. Now, a few years later, I was able to go to the Father McKenna

Center for every social action day.

For me, visiting the Father McKenna Center for the first time happened at the perfect time in my life. As a freshman, I was not at all focused on my faith because I was overwhelmed by high school. The employee's words grounded me and helped me regain my focus on my faith. In the next couple of years after listening and absorbing his words, I joined Campus Ministry and began to do more volunteering outside of school. As a senior, I am co-leader of Campus Ministry and have continued my volunteer work with organizations other than the Father McKenna Center, while also keeping them close to my heart by running a couple of drives this year with the kindergarten class at Stone Ridge outside of the work I do with the McKenna Center on social action days. I was recently running a drive until May 13 of this year.

Without Stone Ridge, I would not have been able to form this relationship with the Father McKenna Center or gotten opportunities to hold leadership positions.

We are both very grateful for the experience and opportunities the Stone Ridge social action program has provided us. We look forward to continuing our work in college and beyond.



Continued from page 20

serves students at two campuses in Southeast Washington, including at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish,

Claire Green, Michaela Acquah, and Monique Whitaker are 8th graders about to graduate from the school. In recent interviews, they expressed mixed emotions – they're excited about high school, however, the feeling of friend groups becoming separated and missing teachers has been sinking in slowly.

Green has been a student there since the fifth grade. She said she appreciated the "sisterhood" among her peers and the small class sizes.

"You kind of know everybody, and in small classrooms, the teacher acknowledges you more," Green said. "It's a better environment for me, personally."

Green said she will miss her friends from the Washington School for Girls as she heads to Riverdale Baptist for high school in the fall.

"I'm also kind of happy, because I get to experience new things and learn new things about myself," Green said.

Green said the all-girls atmosphere at the Washington School for Girls has been beneficial to her learning environment – she feels more comfortable speaking to her needs as a young woman.

"You can talk about your personal issues (with them)," Green said.

As for what the future holds, Green is torn between a modeling career, or becoming a lawyer, or an engineer.

Michaela Acquah is set to start at Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Greenbelt, although she is hoping to transfer to Benjamin Banneker Academic High School in Washington, where she can reunite with some of her WSG friends.

Acquah, who has been a student at the Washington School for Girls since fourth grade, said her favorite subject is science.

"I always liked the space stuff, also chemistry, I like mixing chemicals and trying to memorize them," Acquah

said. She said she would like to pursue psychiatry when she's older, diagnosing people's mental illnesses and how she can alleviate their symptoms.

Like Green, Acquah has appreciated the liberties an all-girl student body offers – the pressure is off, she said.

"Since it's without the boys or anything, I could kind of just dress up like anything, I could have a bad hair day or something, and no one will really tell me, or they will, but eh, whatever," Acquah said, laughing.

Although she has some reservations about entering a co-ed environment, noting "there might be more harassment," Acquah is confident in her ability to thwart any unwanted comments.

Monique Whitaker is excited about her science class right now, as they are learning about phase change (when a matter changes from one state to another, such as a liquid to a solid).

"We're trying to do an experiment of freezing water because we're going to make ice cream," Whitaker said.

Science is important to Whitaker, who said she aspires to become a chemical engineer.

"I want to be an entrepreneur, I know that everything is chemicals," Whitaker said. For an eighth grade school project, she made skincare products. "I had to mix different ingredients together...I'm making body butter."

Whitaker said through the Washington School for Girls, she was able to "meet new people and really connect with" her classmates and teachers.

Fundraising is an important part of keeping the school completely subsidized. For the school's 25th anniversary, a gala was held on May 14 at Trinity Washington University campus. The event, which was filled with bright and shining cocktail attire, kicked off with WSG President Dr. Beth Reaves.

Throughout the night, videos were shown of faculty, students, and staff talking about the importance of the Washington School for Girls and highlighting the school's role as a vital resource serving families in D.C.'s Wards

Seven and Eight.

Speakers included alumna Amari McDuffie, who went on to work as an asthma educator and severe asthma coordinator at Impact DC Asthma Clinic. She holds an undergraduate degree from Penn State University and a master's in public health from George Washington University.

When asked to speak at the gala, McDuffie said she shed "an emotional tear, just because I was honored to be thought of. WSG holds such a special place in my heart. I've learned so much from this school, I like to credit them for the majority of my work."

McDuffie's accolades after WSG include recognition from former President Barack Obama going into her senior year at Benjamin Banneker Academy for her academics, despite being frequently hospitalized for her health.

"I got to meet him, I got to hug him, he was really nice, he gave me a shout out, he was very casual. It was like he knew a lot about me," McDuffie said.

In recent years, one of McDuffie's Penn State professors was a partner with a research program with the National Institutes of Health that awarded McDuffie a study abroad research trip.

"I was one of the seven students awarded and I was going to do research in Nepal for cardiovascular [disease], however because of COVID, it got delayed so I've just been doing some research at home, I'm still hoping and looking forward to going to Nepal," McDuffie said.

McDuffie said to any parents considering sending their daughters to the Washington School for Girls, that, "Definitely, without a doubt, I think you should send your children, not because I went here, but because of the support that it gave me. I'm able to look at other people in my communities like me and see if they went to this school, if they had the resources I had, the access that I had, the world would be a better place, especially D.C."

The gala raised \$1.2 million for the school, surpassing Dr. Reaves' initial goal of one million.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Stone Ridge students host Giving Day to support World Central Kitchen's relief efforts for Ukraine

By Catherine Buckler
Catholic Standard

Despite the rainy weather on April 7, Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart in Bethesda, Maryland hosted an enthusiastic school-wide giving day to benefit the relief efforts for the people of Ukraine being carried out by World Central Kitchen, an organization founded by renowned Spanish Chef José Andrés. According to the group's website, World Central Kitchen is "first to the frontlines providing meals in response to humanitarian, climate, and community crises."

WCK Giving Day at Stone Ridge included all students from the Lower School (grades one through four), Middle School (grades five through eight), and Upper School (grades nine through 12), as well as faculty and staff. The day was also a "Tag Day," in which participants with a donation of three dollars could wear blue and gold in support of Ukraine.

Wishing well

The Lower School had a 'wishing well' dubbed "Pennies for Ukraine" to raise money for World Central Kitchen. Third graders Tatum Larrabee and Vivian Lee helped lead

that effort.

"We were walking to recess, and me and Vivian were just thinking about things we could do to help people this Lent...we thought of how things are happening to Ukraine right now and we decided, well what's better than to organize something we could donate?" Larrabee said. Her mother, an attorney with the Air Line Pilots Association, inspired her budding philanthropy. "She could help get the money to the people of Ukraine who are going to other countries."

Initially, the two considered donating clothing, but after consulting with their teachers, they settled on the wishing well.

Lee said her family is part Ukrainian and donned a sunflower crown in her hair with blue and gold ribbons. The sunflower is Ukraine's national flower.

"[Today] went really well, we collected \$1,816 only in the cash we collected from the Lower School so far, still more coming," Vivian said. Outside the school, the two held signs directing their classmates to where they could drop off their donations.

"Our third-grade class helped make signs, so we advertised and showed people where to put the money," Larrabee said.



Students and staff members at Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart in Bethesda stop by a sale of baked goods and lemonade during the school's April 7 Giving Day that raised funds for World Central Kitchen's relief efforts for the people of Ukraine. (CS photo/Andrew Biraj)

The students expressed their excitement over the success of the event.

"My favorite moment was probably knowing I might be in the newspaper," Lee said. Larrabee added, "I liked also knowing we can help make a change for the world."

Making an impact

Senior Michaela O'Connor is the student body president at Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart. O'Connor assisted in the construction of the donation boxes and in spreading the word about Pennies for Ukraine to the Upper School.

"I announced it in assembly, and Katie (Katie Maurano, the student body vice president) and I sent out emails to the Upper School just reminding them to make sure they were bringing stuff in and to make sure we were really putting our best foot forward in helping out," O'Connor said.

Sacred Heart schools follow five goals, including Goal Three: a social awareness that motivates action and Goal Four: community building as a Christian value.

O'Connor believes the efforts of the day accurately reflected the school's third and fourth goals.

"Really coming together to show that we're supportive of the Ukrainian efforts and coming together as one group supporting one mission," O'Connor said. "These both tie in to those two goals, and I feel like it ties in to the mission of the Sacred Heart as a whole, really being aware of what is going on globally and making an impact locally."

Sixth and seventh grade students from Girl Scout troops #34120 and #34050 donated 15 percent of their cookie sales, adding \$740 to the day's total.

Bake Sale and Lemonade Stand

Rebecca Kring, Stone Ridge's Assistant Head of Middle School for Student Life, said a bake sale to collect money for World Central Kitchen was inspired by several eighth-grade students who wanted to help Ukraine. Students were asked to make one to two dozen baked goods.

"The plethora of baked goods that they showed up with this morning was really astounding, just the energy you could feel of students wanting to do something and to promote change and to be able to say we support World Central

Kitchen, which is an organization near and dear to our heart, and the work that they're doing to support refugees in Ukraine, in Poland, and in parts of Eastern Europe was really important to our students," Kring said.

Senbazuru

Rena Kobayashi is a sixth grader at Stone Ridge. She instructed her teachers and classmates on how to fold the *senbazuru* origami shape, and in about two weeks, 1,000 paper cranes were made.

Kobayashi said the idea came after her sister told her about the Ukraine's gesture to Japan after the island suffered the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami.

"My sister told me about what happened - well, I was still alive - in 2011...the earthquake in Japan happened and the Ukrainian people gave us a *senbazuru*, which is 1,000 cranes connected together with a string," Kobayashi said.

Lauren Winkler, a fifth- and sixth-grade religion teacher, said every middle school student was involved in forming the *senbazuru*.

"We used some of religion class to introduce the idea of solidarity



Stone Ridge third graders Tatum Larrabee (left) and Vivian Lee stand in front of their Pennies for Ukraine "wishing well" that raised money for World Central Kitchen's relief efforts for the people of Ukraine. Lee's flower crown features the Ukrainian national flower, the sunflower, as well as the national colors, blue and gold. (CS photo/Andrew Biraj)

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Stone Ridge School, continued from page 47

and how it's a Catholic social teaching principle, so we talked about solidarity and we learned about Ukraine, a little bit about the history of the Ukraine and Russia, and what's happening and how the Ukrainian people are suffering," Winkler said.

According to Winkler, the senbazuru idea was also borrowed from Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park, which commemorates the suffering that followed after an atomic bomb was deployed there in 1945.

"[The idea] came from the Peace Park in Hiroshima, after World War II, every year after that there's a holiday to celebrate the end of the war, or the bombing of Hiroshima and students all over Japan make these and send them to the Peace Park as a symbol and wish for continued peace in the world."

Rena and her sister Mao later presented the senbazuru during Mass at the Ukrainian National Shrine.

"At the end of the Mass, the priest talked a little bit in Ukrainian to his parishioners about the project, then in English introduced the girls, and then they carried - it was huge - a thousand cranes up to the front, and then they helped arrange it over

a small table at the front of the church," Winkler said.

After Mass, the girls were invited to the parish hall for coffee and donuts. This was emotional, Winkler added, because nearly everyone there was worried about loved ones remaining in Ukraine.

Middy rosary

During lunch, students and staff gathered to pray the rosary, led by Stone Ridge junior Emily Hammack. Since Russia invaded Ukraine, students have been praying the rosary for peace.

"We get together on Mondays and Thursdays to pray the rosary for peace around Ukraine, for that situation over there, it's open to everybody," Hammack said.

Hammack said she was inspired to pray the rosary after a teacher wanted to pray the rosary for the end of the pandemic.

"Since the beginning of all this, I felt like I wanted to do something, and I feel like for a normal person you can't do much, and when you think about it, prayer can be very powerful," Hammack said. "I thought for people who feel helpless, prayer would be a good option."

During their World Central Kitchen Giving



Stone Ridge students and faculty gather for a midday rosary to pray for peace in Ukraine. Junior Emily Hammack, seen in the yellow sweater, led the prayer. (CS photo/ Andrew Biraj)

Day, the Stone Ridge students, faculty and staff raised a total of \$6,146.

On June 9, Stone Ridge's commencement speaker will be Chef José Andrés, whose

daughter Lucia is a member of the class of 2022 there, and who has two other daughters who have graduated from the school, Inés in 2019 and Carlota in 2017.

Second News Front, continued from page 2

refugees to stay in and has been helping people in his village. And he said his older brother has also been volunteering, bringing food to elderly residents and participating in a neighborhood watch.

At the time of his interview, Ivan said he had been attending DeMatha for about three or four weeks and was in his junior year there, taking classes in algebra, geometry, Advanced Placement language, Christian ethics and an engineering course involving 3-D modeling. Mykhailo has been attending Catherine T. Reed Elementary School in Lanham.

"I'm really happy being here (at DeMatha)," Ivan said. "The teachers, they're very good and kind. They are people who want to talk, and teachers I want to learn from. They have an aura that makes me happy and (inspires me to) want to stay here more."

Ivan added, "When I came here, in a couple of days, I already had a lot of friends... I'm really happy I met them. They helped me emotionally to stay and be more

optimistic."

The teen, who is a member of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, said, "When everything was happening in Ukraine on the 24th of February I was actually praying and asking that everything would be fine."

Now he continues to pray for the safety of his family back home in Ukraine and to hope for a return to peace in that country.

"At night before I go to bed, I thank God for everything he's given me, for giving me the opportunity to leave and be in another country. I'm thankful I'm here in a safe place," he said.

The Ukrainian youth added that "being here and watching the news is hard... It's hard to think about studying and everything else because of the bad things happening there."

He noted how for hundreds of years, other countries, and now Russia, have tried to destroy Ukraine. After a century when the people of that country endured invasions, occupations, starvation and repression, Ukraine gained its independence in 1991.

"Through those years, the Ukrainian

people became stronger and braver. They won't surrender, and (they will) keep fighting to the end," Ivan said. "Our culture and language is part of us."

Freedom "is very important, because that's what our great-grandparents tried to have. Now that we have it, we want to defend it," he said.

As for the future, he hopes that the war will end, and Ukraine will remain free, and he will return to his country and have "children there, and make sure when they grow up, nothing will happen to them that happened to me."

He dreams of possibly becoming an actor some day, and bringing happiness to people and making them smile. The teen expressed admiration for Ukraine's president Volodymyr Zelensky, a former actor and comedian. "I really love him," he said. "A lot of people were thinking he would leave and wouldn't handle it. As we can see, he showed his bravery and showed that the Ukrainian people will never surrender, and (they will) finish what they started."

Reflecting on his experience at DeMatha

Catholic High School, Ivan said, "Right now, I can actually say coming here makes me feel free... I have an opportunity to become better, with the students and the teachers I have here."

Interviewed later in his music office, Dr. Gatti remembered how Ivan had joined DeMatha's Advanced Percussion Ensemble, and how the "guys took him immediately in as one of their own, the first day he showed up."

After handing Ivan sheet music for the piece that the ensemble would be performing in the concert, "he took it home and learned it on his own. He learned the thing, and he perfected it," the teacher said.

Dr. Gatti said Ivan is an inspiring young man, "to make it halfway around the world, and he is here with a smile on his face, and happy to be here."

The music department chairman praised DeMatha for its welcoming, accepting spirit. The attitude there, he said, is, "You're not a foreigner or stranger here."

And describing his department, Dr. Gatti said, "If you want to make music, come on in."

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NEWS



The massive sculpture "Angels Unawares" by artist Timothy Schmalz located at the new Welcome Plaza at The Catholic University of America campus depicts migrants and refugees from around the world and from different eras crowded onto a boat, including the Holy Family. (CNS photo/Tyler Orsburn)

Continued from page 4

of that country's potato famine. In the back of the sculpture, the figures include a Cherokee man with his hand clutching his face in sorrow as he is forced from his tribe's lands during the "Trail of Tears." The figures in the sculpture represent a range of ages, ethnic backgrounds and emotions. Most look forward, and some look back.

"I hope when people look at it, they will see themselves within it," said Schmalz.

Garvey in his remarks thanked an anonymous donor for bringing the sculpture to campus and also expressed gratitude to Mars and to the Francis and Kathleen Rooney Foundation for providing funding for the plaza.

Catholic University's president noted many factors cause people to leave their homes and become immigrants, including seeking safety, security and a fresh start, and some come to a new land against their will, like the enslaved people brought to America.

He added that today many are fleeing war and persecution, like the estimated five million Ukrainians who have fled their homeland in the past two months following Russia's brutal military invasion there.

Climate change also causes immigration, Garvey said, pointing to a Vatican estimate that "climate change displaced almost 25 million people in 2019. Floods, landslides, fires, droughts and hurricanes will cause further displacement in the

future."

Noting how President Franklin Roosevelt said America is a nation of immigrants, Garvey added, "It's only an accident of timing that explains why they're on the boat and we're on the shore. Our parents just chose a different time to set sail."

In his remarks at the ceremony, Cardinal Gregory noted how the Statue of Liberty, a gift from France, was dedicated in 1886 after money was raised in the United States for its platform.

"In many respects, this is a smaller but equally significant reminder of who we are as a people," said Cardinal Gregory, noting that the statue in New York Harbor and the sculpture on the Catholic University campus remind Americans of how they should be "a welcoming people, a people who open our arms to those who come as new neighbors, those who come seeking freedom, those who come seeking possibility."

The cardinal said the "Angels Unawares" sculpture "reminds us of who we are supposed to be when we are at our best."

The interfaith ceremony also included remarks by an Episcopal priest, a Muslim imam and a Jewish rabbi, who noted how welcoming strangers is a central tenet to their faiths.

Rev. Randolph Hollerith, an Episcopal priest who serves as the dean of Washington National Cathedral, said the sculpture "now takes its place among the other monuments in the nation's capital



Guests at an April 22, 2022 dedication ceremony gather around the new Welcome Plaza at The Catholic University of America with its reflecting pool surrounding the sculpture "Angels Unawares" by artist Timothy Schmalz. (Catholic Standard photo/Andrew Biraj)

which push us to reflect upon and uphold our highest ideals as people... My prayer tonight is that we never lose sight of these angels among us."

Imam Talib Shareef, the president and imam of Masjid Muhammad, The Nation's Mosque in Washington, noted the story of Abraham welcoming two guests who turned out to be angels.

The imam said the sculpture depicting immigrants reflected the diversity of America's people who "like in that boat have all contributed to the beauty and the strength of America, a nation of nations, a country made up of people from every land."

Also speaking was Rabbi Esther Lederman, the Union for Reform Judaism's director of congregational innovation, who pointed out that "36 times in the Torah and Hebrew Bible, the Jewish people are commanded, 'Do not harm a stranger, for you were once strangers in the land of Egypt.'" She added, "This theme of welcoming the stranger is the lifeblood of the Jewish people."

Reflecting on how she felt after viewing the "Angels Unawares" sculpture, Rabbi Lederman said, "I saw the faces of my grandparents, who did ride a boat from Europe to the new world."

Schmalz's other artwork in Washington include a bronze statue of Jesus depicted as a homeless man asleep on a park bench outside the headquarters of Catholic Charities, a sculpture of a homeless Jesus



Washington Cardinal Wilton Gregory blesses the Welcome Plaza, the setting for artist Timothy Schmalz's dramatic sculpture depicting migrants and refugees, "Angels Unawares." Standing with the cardinal at left is Father Charles Cortinovis, his priest secretary, and to his right is Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the apostolic nuncio to the United States, who offered an opening prayer at the event. (Catholic Standard photo/Andrew Biraj)

wrapped in a blanket seeking alms outside the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle, and a sculpture of Jesus as a poor, hungry man outside Holy Trinity's chapel in the Georgetown neighborhood.

In an interview, the artist said that the "Angels Unawares" in its Welcome Plaza setting offers an oasis in the nation's capital that celebrates the story of immigrants in America. And he noted that with this casting of the sculpture, the figures in the boat are able to be surrounded by water, which couldn't be done in St. Peter's Square.

Jacqueline Mars in her remarks at the ceremony said she "felt strongly

about the water element and that the statue should be floating as on a boat. When you think of all the immigrants and the images we see of many of them crossing at sea to escape, it just seemed appropriate to have that water element in the plaza, too."

Concluding her remarks, Mars said, "I truly hope 'Angels Unawares' will move people to a generosity of spirit toward immigrants. I find the statue very moving, and it really reminds me of what this country is about... It's such an important piece of art, and I'm very proud to have it as part of Catholic University. So, sail on little boat forever and spread your message."

NEWS

Continued from page 7

members and their guests at the annual event held in public for the first time since 2019. Due to restrictions from the Covid-19 pandemic, the awards dinner was cancelled in 2020 and held online in 2021. Also attending the dinner were two of last year's honorees, Msgr. John Enzler, the president and CEO of Catholic Charities in the archdiocese, and Dominican Sister Donna Markham, the president of Catholic Charities USA who was last year's keynote speaker.

This year's honorees included Dr. Mark Abbruzzese, an infectious disease specialist on the front lines during the coronavirus pandemic; Mary Gen Ledecy, mother of Olympic swimmer Katie Ledecy; and Jeffrey Paravano, the immediate past president of the John Carroll Society, who helped the society through the unique challenges and restrictions of the worldwide pandemic.

All the former presidents of the John Carroll Society were asked to stand for recognition at the dinner. "Every single president brings new gifts and new energy" to the society, said Msgr. Peter Vaghi, the society's chaplain for the past 35 years and the pastor of the Church of the Little Flower in Bethesda.

Later the society's most recent president, Paravano, who served from 2019-2021, received the John Carroll Society Medal for his work with the society and faithful witness to his faith. Paravano, a graduate of Georgetown University Law Center, is the D.C. managing partner at BakerHostetler, L.L.P. Additionally, he serves as chair of the board at Georgetown Preparatory School in North Bethesda, and as a board member at his alma mater, John Carroll University in the Cleveland area as well as the Catholic Business Network of Washington, D.C. Paravano founded the Jesuit Friends and Alumni Network of Washington D.C. which gathers alumni and friends of Jesuit institutions for food, fellowship and Ignatian spirituality. Paravano with his wife of 31 years, Kathleen Paravano, raised two children and are parishioners of the Church of the Little Flower.

Dr. Mark Abbruzzese, a member of the Catholic Charities Health Care Network since 1989 and former chair of the John Carroll Society's Rose Mass for health care workers, specialized in infectious diseases following graduation from The American University of the Caribbean and 18 months of service as a pediatric vaccine coordinator and administrator in the Dominican Republic. In addition to his private practice, he has provided clinical



Posing for a photo after the John Carroll Society's annual awards dinner on April 29, 2022 are, from left to right, Andrew Cook, the society's president; Dr. Mark Abbruzzese, an infectious disease specialist; Mary Gen Ledecy, mother of Olympic swimmer Katie Ledecy; Jeffrey Paravano, president of the John Carroll Society from 2019 to 2021; and Msgr. Peter Vaghi, the society's chaplain. At the dinner, Dr. Abbruzzese, Mary Gen Ledecy and Paravano received the John Carroll Society Medal, the highest honor of the professional society. (Photo by Christopher Newkumet)

services and consultation to Georgetown University Hospital, Sibley Memorial Hospital and Suburban Hospital especially assisting in caring for thousands during the HIV epidemic. An active member of the Infectious Disease Society of America, Dr. Abbruzzese most recently assisted local colleagues and patients during the Covid pandemic.

Later Dr. Abbruzzese told the *Catholic Standard* he was humbled to receive the John Carroll Society Medal, noting that some people are just wired for service and wanting to volunteer their time helping others. The society is "a way we can bring our faith together with what we are doing every day in our lives," said Dr. Abbruzzese, adding that no matter what work is being done, faith is at the core of all his efforts and can help in any situation such as the last two years of the Covid pandemic. "Faith makes it so you can endure," Dr. Abbruzzese added. "So many people are more deserving - I'm blessed."

Mary Gen Ledecy echoed those comments, remarking that her recognition was "really representative of everybody in this community who helped everyone else." The John Carroll Society honored Ledecy for being a "beacon of loving support, steadiness and humility" while raising two children including three-time Olympian swimmer, Katie Ledecy. Mary Gen and her husband Dave supported the family's home parish, the Church of the Little Flower, while also actively supporting their children's schools,

including Little Flower School, Gonzaga College High School in Washington, and Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart in Bethesda. Mary Gen Ledecy currently serves on the hospital board of Children's National Medical Center. She herself was a champion swimmer at the University of New Mexico and has also held administrator positions at the University of New Mexico Hospital and Georgetown University Hospital.

Mary Gen Ledecy dedicated her John Carroll Society Medal to "the real network of schools, and other parents and mothers" who raise children and to the "so many good things" taught in Catholic schools.

Her daughter Katie Ledecy who was unable to attend the dinner because of a swim meet, also praised the support she received from the local community in a video message presented at the dinner. The gold medalist described the many ups and downs of training for the Tokyo Olympics during a global pandemic and an additional year of training away from her family. "My faith sustained me. It kept me grounded and focused on what was important in life," Katie Ledecy said. She told participants that the Catholic education and caring she received from the D.C. faith community helped motivate her and provided offer life lessons on serving others, forming friendships, and living out her faith.

In his video message Cardinal Gregory praised all the award honorees "for their sacrifice and their time ... in caring for our neighbors with strong witness to

faith in the public square." The cardinal said he was "pleased to recognize the vital work of the John Carroll Society" and thanked the society "for all that you do, (and) your willingness to work on faith formation of your members as you put your faith into action."

In addition to the honors, the awards dinner helps raise funds for outreach to students in the form of an essay contest and a renewable scholarship to Archbishop Carroll High School in Washington. The current Agnes E. Vaghi and Joseph P. Vaghi Scholarship recipients at Archbishop Carroll are Paul Dyson, Franklin Ayissi-Etoh and Monique Clark.

Dyson, a member of the junior class at Archbishop Carroll, attended the event with his mother, Yolanda Strachn-Dyson. She said with the scholarship "all my prayers were answered."

Her son said the annual scholarship helps him receive an opportunity for a quality education, and it shows appreciation "for all my hard work these three years."

Dyson, who plays baseball at Archbishop Carroll, is also involved in the school's Men of Valor club and plans on studying mechanical engineering or sports journalism in college. Dyson attends Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Takoma Park and said "being Catholic is a privilege. I should not be taking it for granted." Dyson also advises fellow students to "not fool around - it will come back to haunt you." In his free time, Dyson plays basketball and gets together with his friends.

Larry Savoy, the president of

Archbishop Carroll High School, said the John Carroll Society scholarship offers another chance "to help another young person have an opportunity for education in the Catholic faith." The administrator said, "The scholarship takes the financial pressure off the family and allows the school to offer an education that prepares a student not just in this life but for the life after."

Each year the John Carroll Society holds an essay contest for all students attending Catholic high schools in the archdiocese. Elizabeth Kolesar, a junior at Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School in Washington, received first prize for her entry, "Young People and the Church" submitted with 336 other essays to the 2022 John Carroll Society Margaret Mary Missar High School Essay Competition.

Kolesar, a parishioner of Church of the Little Flower attended the dinner with her parents. She said she submitted an essay last year as part of her religion course at Visitation, but the paper was not selected. This year, she chose to enter once again and write about young people and the need for better education in the Catholic faith. In her essay she wrote, "... Catholics of all ages may believe that the Church must modify its beliefs in order to attract younger generations and gain the approval of modern-day society. However, rather than preaching societal norms, the Church must resolutely maintain its over 2,000 year-old message of truth. By doing so, it will attract young people who possess a deep, authentic love of Catholicism and who use their gifts for the good of the Church." Her complete essay and a list of winners will be posted to the society website at johncarrollsociety.org.

Kolesar said she finds religion interesting especially learning how the Church applies beliefs to real-world situations. Her favorite subject is chemistry which she plans to study in college. In addition to writing, Kolesar is a member of varsity crew, the chorus, and the Spanish Honor Society. In her free time, she likes to read and knit baby blankets for a pro-life pregnancy organization. "It's really important to know your faith and understand it," Kolesar said.

The president of the John Carroll Society, Andrew Cook noted the great turn-out for the evening as members gathered in-person for the first time since 2019. Cook said he was "privileged to honor a number of great Catholics and (be) treated to a wonderful speech." The 35th annual dinner "was a wonderful tribute to our awardees, our society and our faith," he said.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR AND MASS READINGS



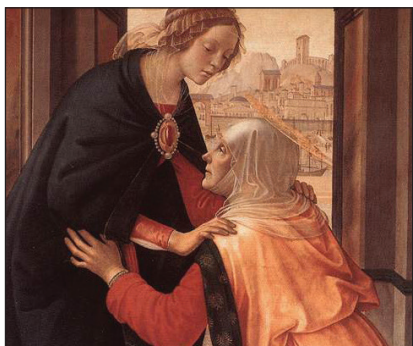
<p>May 29 The Ascension of the Lord</p> <p>Readings: Acts 1:1-11 Ephesians 1:17-23 or Hebrews 9:24-28; 10:19-23 Luke 24:46-53</p>	<p>May 30 Monday of the Seventh Week of Easter</p> <p>Readings: Acts 19:1-8 John 16:29-33</p>	<p>May 31 The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Zephaniah 3:14-18 or Romans 12:9-16 Luke 1:39-56</p>	<p>June 1 St. Justin, martyr</p> <p>Readings: Acts 20:28-38 John 17:11b-19</p>	<p>June 2 Thursday of the Seventh Week of Easter St. Marcellinus and St. Peter, martyrs</p> <p>Readings: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11 John 17:20-26</p>	<p>June 3 St. Charles Lwanga and companions, martyrs First Friday</p> <p>Readings Acts 25:13b-21 John 21:15-19</p>	<p>June 4 Saturday of the Seventh Week of Easter First Saturday</p> <p>Readings: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31 John 21:20-25</p>
<p>June 5 Pentecost Sunday</p> <p>Readings: Acts 2:1-11 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13 or Romans 8:8-17 John 20:19-23 or John 14:15-16, 23b-26</p>	<p>June 6 The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church</p> <p>Readings: Genesis 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14 John 19:25-34</p>	<p>June 7 Tuesday in Ordinary Time</p> <p>Readings: 1 Kings 17:7-16 Matthew 5:13-16</p>	<p>June 8 Wednesday in Ordinary Time</p> <p>Readings: 1 Kings 18:20-39 Matthew 5:17-19</p>	<p>June 9 Thursday in Ordinary Time St. Ephrem, deacon and Doctor of the Church</p> <p>Readings: 1 Kings 18:41-46 Matthew 5:20-26</p>	<p>June 10 Friday in Ordinary Time</p> <p>Readings: 1 Kings 19:9, 11-16 Matthew 5:27-32</p>	<p>June 11 St. Barnabas</p> <p>Readings: Acts 11:21-26; 13:1-3 Matthew 5:33-37</p>

The papal intention for the month of May: That all young people, called to live life to the fullest; may they see in Mary's life the way to listen, the depth of discernment, the courage that faith generates, and the dedication to service.

The Ascension of the Lord (May 29) is traditionally celebrated on the 40th day after Easter and commemorates the bodily ascension of Jesus into Heaven. This archdiocese and other Catholic provinces have moved the feast to the following Sunday.



The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (May 31) recalls how Mary, after the Annunciation, traveled to attend to her cousin Elizabeth who was expecting a son, St. John the Baptist. The feast was popular in local churches and extended to the Universal Church in the 14th century. A parish in Darnestown, Our Lady of the Visitation, is named after this feast.

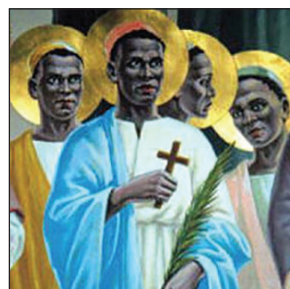


The papal intention for the month of June: That Christian families around the world may embody and experience unconditional love and advance in holiness in their daily lives.

St. Justin (June 1) was martyred in the second century under Marcus Aurelius. He was a layman and apologist who gave one of the earliest descriptions of how Mass was offered. He authored several theological works and is the patron of philosophers and apologists.



St. Marcellinus was a fourth-century presbyter and his companion **St. Peter** was an exorcist (June 2) when they were beheaded under Diocletian in about 303.



St. Charles Lwanga (June 3) and his 21 Ugandan companions were martyred between November, 1885 and January, 1887. More than 100 Christians, including Anglicans, were killed during that time. He is the patron saint of African Catholic Youth Action.



Pentecost (June 5) is celebrated 50 days after Easter

and recalls the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles. The Easter season concludes this day.

Mary, Mother of the Church (June 6) is a relatively new feast instituted by Pope Francis to be celebrated on the Monday after Pentecost and highlights that Mary takes motherly care of the pilgrim Church on Earth.



St. Ephrem (June 9) was a fourth century poet, teacher and defender of the faith who was born in Syria and spent his adult life opposing false doctrines. He was a deacon who wrote about the scriptures and is recognized as a Doctor of the Church.



St. Barnabas (June 11) was a Cypriot Jew who sold his property and followed the Apostles. He introduced the convert Paul to the apostles, was officially sent by the Jerusalem church to Antioch, was set apart with Paul by the Holy Spirit for a mission to Cyprus, attended the Council of Jerusalem and returned to Cyprus with Mark where he was martyred.



ARCHDIOCESE

Archdiocese honors priests marking anniversaries in 2022

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After a May 17 Mass at the Saint John Paul II National Shrine honoring priests of The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington marking milestone anniversaries in 2022, Washington Cardinal Wilton Gregory posed with the jubilee priests who concelebrated the Mass. From left to right are Msgr. Oliver McGready (60th), Father Thomas Morrow (40th), Father John Hurley (40th), Cardinal Gregory, Father Stephen Carter (40th), Father John Ming Ruan (25th), Father Raymond Fecteau (50th), Father Mark Hughes (40th), and Msgr. Joaquin Bazan (60th). (CS photo/Andrew Biraj)

Standard staff report

Washington Cardinal Wilton Gregory celebrated a Mass on May 17 at the Saint John Paul II National Shrine to honor 15 priests of The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington who are marking milestone anniversaries in 2022.

Archdiocesan priests marking their 60th anniversaries include Msgr. Joaquin Bazan (a retired parish priest), Msgr. Oliver McGready (retired and serving at St. Peter Parish

in Waldorf), and Father Henry Slevin (a retired missionary priest). Also recognized were two priests of the archdiocese who died within the past year who would have marked their 60th anniversaries, Msgr. Henry Otero and Father John Wintermyer.

Marking their 50th anniversaries as priests of the archdiocese are Father Raymond Fecteau (a retired parish priest who continues to serve as the chaplain to the Montgomery County and Maryland State Police and to the United States Secret Service), Father

Milton Jordan (a retired parish priest) and Father Raymond Wadas (a retired parish priest serving at Redemptoris Mater Seminary in Hyattsville).

Celebrating their 40th anniversaries are archdiocesan priests Father Stephen Carter, the pastor of Christ the King Parish in Silver Spring; Father Mark Hughes, the pastor of Holy Redeemer Parish in Kensington; Father John Hurley, a retired priest serving at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington; Father Thomas Morrow, a retired priest

serving at St. Raphael Parish in Rockville; and Father J. Michael Quill, a retired parish priest.

Archdiocesan priests celebrating their 25th anniversaries are retired priests Msgr. Patrick Dempsey and Father Michael Dolan; Father Daniel Leary, who is serving as a missionary priest and chaplain with the Sisters of Mary for the World Villages for Children outreach in Mexico; and Father John Ming Ruan, the administrator for the Our Lady of China Pastoral Mission in Rockville.

In his homily at the Mass for the jubilee priests, Father Hughes who is marking his 40th anniversary said, "We do God's work." Noting how priests devote their lives to proclaiming the Gospel, he said, "That's who we are, that's what we're about. It's the greatest work in the world."

This summer, the *Catholic Standard* newspaper and website will provide roundup coverage of those archdiocesan priests who in 2022 are marking milestone anniversaries of their ordinations to the priesthood.

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OBITUARIES

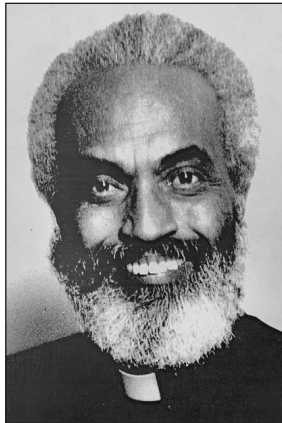
Father Robert Pittman, founder of Body of Christ Farm, dies at age 93

By Richard Szczepanowski
Catholic Standard

Father Robert Swann Pittman – a Washington, D.C. native who was a priest of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament for nearly 65 years and who for many years ministered at the Body of Christ Farm in Waldorf, Maryland – died April 24 in Richfield, Ohio. He was 93.

The son of Robert and Alice Pittman, the future priest was born June 22, 1928 and baptized at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Southeast Washington. He grew up in St. Peter's Parish in Waldorf.

Father Pittman entered the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament in Barre, Massachusetts, in 1950 and professed religious vows in 1953. He studied philosophy at the congregation's major seminary of St. Joseph in Cleveland, Ohio, and continued studies for his doctorate in theology, Greek and Latin and classical



Father Robert Pittman, a priest of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament who founded the Body of Christ Farm in Waldorf, is seen in this undated photo.

languages in Rome.

He was ordained a priest on July 13, 1958 in Rome. After his ordination, Father Pittman taught in seminaries in Maputo, Mozambique from 1959 to 1960, in Wareside, England from 1960 to 1964; and in Washington, D.C., from 1964 to 1980. In 1968, he

founded Black Leadership and Christ's Kingdom Society (B.L.A.C.K.S.), which provided outreach to disabled persons.

In 1981, he began his ministry at the Body of Christ Farm in Waldorf. The 106-acre farm, which he founded, invites disadvantaged, disabled and at-risk youth to work the farm and learn farming techniques. They also attend Bible study and Mass at the farm. As part of his work there, Father Pittman studied for a master's degree in agricultural education at the University of Maryland.

"His passion was founding the Black Leadership and Christ's Kingdom Society, teaching local children at the farm about the Eucharist and preparing them for their First Communion," noted a statement released by the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament in announcing Father Pittman's death. "He also instructed many people who frequented the farm about prayer in the presence

of the Blessed Sacrament and living the Eucharist to bring about justice and unity."

Outside of the Body of Christ Farm, Father Pittman provided pastoral assistance when needed to St. Michael's Parish in Baden, Maryland, St. Dominic's Mission in Aquasco, Maryland, St. Joseph's Parish in Pomfret, Maryland, and at other parishes in Charles and St. Mary's counties

Father Pittman ministered at The Body of Christ Farm until he suffered a stroke in 2017. He moved to Regina Health Center in Richfield, Ohio, where he lived until his death. He was preceded in death by his parents and three brothers.

A funeral Mass was offered April 28 in the Holy Family Chapel at Regina Health Center. A memorial Mass for Father Pittman was offered May 5 at noon at Our Lady Help of Christians Parish in Waldorf. Burial was private.

Deirdre McQuade, helped communicate bishops' pro-life message

Catholic News Service

Longtime pro-life advocate Deirdre McQuade, who for more than a decade shared perspectives of U.S. bishops' and the Catholic Church's teaching on the sanctity of life, died April 21 after a bout with metastatic breast cancer. She was 53.

From 2005 to 2018, the time she was assistant director for pro-life communications at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, McQuade was interviewed by various media and spoke at numerous events, offering views on palliative care, abortion and alternatives to physician-assisted suicide.

Friends recalled McQuade as someone whose strong faith helped her staunchly uphold the value of human dignity in her work.

"She was very serious about her faith and incorporating faith in life," said Dawn Eden Goldstein, an author and theologian, who

met McQuade in 2007 and became close friends with her over the years. Goldstein recalled McQuade as an advocate for a consistent ethic of life in both her professional and personal life and said her values were reflected when she chose Sister Thea Bowman, a candidate for sainthood who was the first

African American member of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, as her patron.

Yearslong friend Colin O'Brien described McQuade's rich sense of warmth, friendship and hospitality, which led to her "really being there for other people."

She left the bishops'

conference in 2018 to pursue her love of photography and establish her own company, Brightness of Water Productions.

McQuade was diagnosed with cancer in 2019. Survivors include her parents and a sister. A funeral Mass was celebrated May 3 at St. Jerome Church in Hyattsville.

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ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

St. Augustine Catholic School/Archdiocese of Washington

Full Time/Exempt/Salary

Hours: 8 hours (Hours may increase depending on job demands)

7:30a.m. to 3:30p.m. (School hours)

3:30p.m. to 6:00p.m. (After School programs)

The elementary/middle school Principal serves as the educational leader of the school. The applicant must be a practicing Catholic.

Requirements and skills

- Previous experience as a principal or a similar role
- Knowledge of school administrative processes and ADW policies
- Hands-on experience with education management systems
- Attention to detail
- Great presentation and communication skills
- Crisis management (demonstrate good decision making)
- Ability to coach and inspire
- A teaching license is preferred
- Degree in Education; Master's degree is a plus

For further information or to submit resumes please email:
skallen09@gmail.com

THE CATHEDRAL PARISH OF ST. MATTHEW THE APOSTLE

in Washington, DC seeks a
Social Justice Ministry Coordinator (full-time)

Requirements include:

- Bachelor's degree
- Demonstrated ability to work well with a diversity of people
- Understanding of and commitment to social teachings of the Catholic Church

A bilingual (English & Spanish) speaker/writer is strongly preferred. Familiarity with social services providers is highly desirable.

Read the full position description with instructions for applying at
www.stmatthewscathedral.org/SocialJustice

ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL PARISH IN SILVER SPRING

Is looking for a full-time Director of Religious Education. Qualifications include a:

- ✓ B.A. in theology/religious education or related field.
- ✓ Equivalent in education and experience.
- ✓ Applicants must be bilingual in English and Spanish.

Read the full position description with instructions to apply on our website www.stmichaelthearchangel.org/news/job-announcement-director-of-religious-education.



Job Opening at Our Lady of Mercy Church
9200 Kentsdale Drive, Potomac, MD

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

to Pastoral Associate of Liturgy and Music
Part time – 3 days a week (24 hours a week)

Please contact Jayne Traynor Rose at
jrose@olom.org for more information.



DIRECTOR OF THE HOLY MOUNTAIN FRANCISCAN RETREAT CENTER

Garrison, New York (Putnam County, West Point Area)

The Franciscan Friars of the Atonement is currently seeking a Director for the Holy Mountain Franciscan Retreat Center, based at Graymoor in Garrison, NY. The position is full-time.

The Director will provide overall creative vision and empowering leadership for the operations, promotion, and fundraising of the retreat center. He/she will direct and manage full-time and per diem staff. The Director will provide oversight and team leadership for the creation, development, and ongoing effectiveness of all programs and activities of the retreat center. Weekend availability is required.

The preferred candidate will:

- Be experienced in retreat management.
- Have knowledge of Franciscan spirituality and hospitality.
- Possess some education in Theology; degree preferred but experience may substitute.

This job description in no way implies that these are the only duties, including essential duties, to be performed by the employee occupying this position. This job description is not an employment contract, implied or otherwise. Franciscan Federation reserves the right to modify, interpret, or apply job description as necessary to meet the needs of the organization.

About the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement

The Franciscan Friars of the Atonement are a Roman Catholic religious community founded in 1898 by Servant of God Father Paul Wattson, S.A. Through their missions and ministries around the world, the Friars of the Atonement serve people of every race, religion and walk of life. They minister to the poor, the needy and the homeless; to people living with HIV; the elderly and sick; those in prison; and people seeking healing and recovery from alcoholism and chemical addictions. For more information about the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement, visit AtonementFriars.org. The Franciscan Friars of the Atonement is a registered 501(c)(3) organization.

What We Offer:

We believe in affording our team with the same level of service that we strive to deliver to our guests. We are committed to providing extensive training and educational support that allows our team members to achieve the very highest levels of professionalism and open the door to increased opportunities for future career growth. In addition, medical and dental insurance, health reimbursement account, 401(k) with match and paid time-off. Salary will be \$85-95K commensurate with experience.

We will be accepting rolling application until the position is filled.

We are more than just an equal opportunity employer and enthusiastically celebrate the powerful and profound diversity of our team.

Interested, qualified candidates may apply by forwarding a resume and cover letter to:
HR@AtonementFriars.org Please indicate "Dir Holy Mtn Retreat Ctr" in the subject line.

CHECK US OUT ONLINE!
...Classifieds, Articles, Parish and Schools News,
Cardinal's Column, Photo Galleries...
www.cathstan.org

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA



The Busch School of Business

PART TIME BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS FACULTY AT BUSCH SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AT CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

The Busch School of Business at The Catholic University of America is seeking an experienced business communicator to serve as part-time faculty to support our growing student body. To be a successful part-time lecturer, you must bring a passion for education, an in-depth knowledge of business writing, and an ardent desire to transfer the norms for communication in the corporate world to aspiring business professionals. You will be responsible for teaching the principles, strategies, and techniques of effective written, oral, and digital business communication. Both daytime and evening in-person classes available in our beautiful new building on the University's campus right by the Brookland/CUA red line Metro stop.

A successful candidate will have an MBA or master's degree or higher from an accredited institution in a business-related field. Relevant professional experience and a strong commitment to helping form faithful Catholic business leaders is desired. Prior college-level teaching experience is preferable.

Submit CV and cover letter to
Associate Dean of Faculty, Dr. Anthony Cannizzaro
at cannizzaro@cua.edu.

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Business Directory

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SENIOR CARE

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Job Announcement



ivcusa.org

Letter of application and resume should be submitted prior to June 30, 2022 to IVC Director, Mike Goggin at mgoggin@ivcusa.org

Please include the names and contact information for two references.

Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC) Washington DC/Metro Maryland Program Manager

IVC, a Jesuit-founded, national non-profit organization serving the needs of the poor through the service work of experienced people aged 50 or better, seeks a part-time Program Manager.

Successful candidate will have broad experience in:

- recruitment of new members
- support to current members
- promoting the IVC program
- working with diverse groups
- adult Catholic faith formation and Ignatian Spirituality

- This position is work-at-home with the ability to travel by own car.



JUNIOR ACCOUNTANT Garrison, New York (Putnam County, West Point Area)

The Franciscan Friars of the Atonement is currently seeking a Junior Accountant, based at Graymoor in Garrison, NY. The position is full-time, Monday-Friday.

We are seeking a Junior Accountant to provide assistance in the Finance Department while performing accounting, administrative and bookkeeping duties including Accounts Receivable and Accounts Payable.

Requirements:

- Associate Degree and 1-3 years of administrative and accounting experience.
- Computer literacy, good organizational and interpersonal skills.
- Highly motivated, detail oriented.
- Must be up to date with all vaccinations.
- Position must be on-site.

This job description in no way implies that these are the only duties, including essential duties, to be performed by the employee occupying this position. This job description is not an employment contract, implied or otherwise. Franciscan Federation reserves the right to modify, interpret, or apply job description as necessary to meet the needs of the organization.

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We will be accepting rolling application until the position is filled.

We are more than just an equal opportunity employer and enthusiastically celebrate the powerful and profound diversity of our team.

Interested, qualified candidates may apply by forwarding a resume and cover letter to: HR@AtonementFriars.org Please indicate "Junior Accountant" in the subject line.

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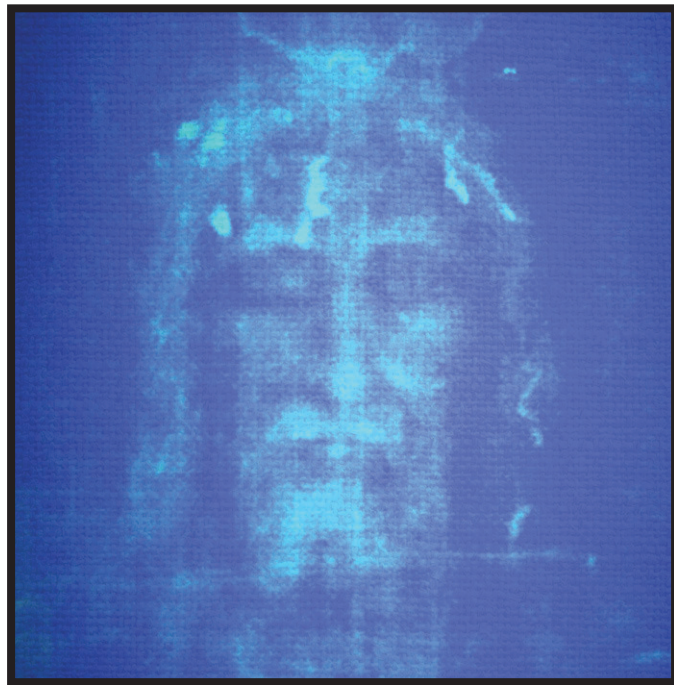
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Contact: **Barbara Clagett**
252-947-2813

WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?



Few artifacts in the world have stirred the imagination, provoked controversy, raised hypotheses — and for some, fortified faith — like the Shroud of Turin. The Shroud resides in the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Turin, Italy, as it has for over four centuries. Now, Museum of the Bible is excited to present a high-tech, innovative exhibition about the Shroud of Turin. Over the course of five exhibit sections and eight cutting-edge interactives, guests will learn about how the Shroud mirrors the Gospels, its history, and its impact on millions of people.

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