

Messenger

A quarterly publication by the Missouri Catholic Conference

MISSOURI
CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE



2019 ANNUAL ASSEMBLY | SAT., OCT. 5 | MO STATE CAPITOL

raising the **NEXT** **GENERATION** *OF catholic advocates*

WORSHIP. LEARN. CONNECT. ADVOCATE.

2019 ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

Join us at the Capitol!

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: DAVID BEREIT



David Bereit started and led the global 40 Days for Life movement through its first decade, building it into the largest grassroots pro-life mobilization in the world. Through its network of more than 2,000 local leaders and 750,000 volunteers in 816 cities across all 50 American states and 56 nations, 40 Days for Life has helped to save 15,256 children's lives, bring 186 workers out of the abortion industry, and close 99 abortion centers. David recently stepped away from his role as CEO of 40 Days for Life, and today he coaches and mentors ministry leaders and serves as strategic advisor to numerous high-impact ministry organizations. Along with his wife, Margaret, David is helping FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) develop its Love Life initiative, providing pro-life formation and marriage support for missionaries across America. David is a sought-after speaker, media spokesperson, and bestselling author. Most importantly, David is a Catholic Christian, husband, and father.

You are invited to the 2019 Annual Assembly!

We are delighted to extend an invitation to you to attend the 2019 Annual Assembly! The event will be held at the MO State Capitol on Saturday, Oct. 5.

This year, rather than breaking out into groups for morning workshops, the entire morning session will be held in the House Chamber, where all attendees of the Annual Assembly will gather to hear Catholic advocates who have championed for the common good in varying areas speak about their experiences advocating for poor, unborn, and under-served persons throughout their lives. We look forward to this opportunity to celebrate their achievements, and to encourage the next generation of Catholic advocates to follow in their footsteps. A Q&A session will follow.

You may choose to attend one of the six engaging afternoon workshops (descriptions below) and then join the Missouri Bishops for Mass at St. Peters following the conclusion of the workshops.

As always, this event is FREE and includes lunch. We encourage you to bring a friend (or two!) to enjoy the day with. For more details and to register, read the rest of the *Messenger* and visit the Annual Assembly 2019 page on our website, mocatholic.org.

Oct. 5 Event Schedule

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Registration (3rd Floor Rotunda)
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Opening Session & Keynote Address (House Chamber)
11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Morning Session (House Chamber)
12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	Lunch (3rd Floor Rotunda)
1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	Afternoon Workshops (Basement Hearing Rooms)
2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Mass (St. Peters)

Workshop Descriptions

Morning Session (11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.) House Chamber

Advocates in Action: Lifetime Catholic Advocates Share their Stories

These faithful Catholics have used their gifts in different ways throughout the course of their lives and careers. From the halls of the Capitol, to Catholic schools, prisons, and poverty-stricken communities, these leaders have fervently advocated for the common good and the most vulnerable among us. We are honored to hear their stories during this “TED talk” format as they encourage another generation to become a voice for the voiceless.

Sister Cecilia Ann Rezac, M.S., Director of Schools, Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau Sr. Cecilia Ann is a Marian Sister of the Diocese of Lincoln. Born and raised in Nebraska, she entered a religious community that focuses on education and health care. Throughout

her years of service, she has taught middle school students and served her community in areas of administration as the General Treasurer of the General Counsel, and by laboring in love as the General Superior from 2012-2018. Currently, she serves as the Director of Schools for the Springfield Catholic Schools System in Springfield, MO.

Mike Halterman, Former CEO, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph After graduate school, Halterman spent more than 40 years as an Executive at Catholic Charities of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Inc. in Kansas City and as a Hospital Administrator at Christian Hospital Northeast in St. Louis. Throughout his career and in his retirement, he has been very active in social justice activities at the national, state and local levels. He also served four years in the Air Force during the Vietnam War. He currently lives in O’Fallon and is a parishioner of Immaculate Conception in Dardenne.

Lois Thomas, Prison ministry, liaison Algoa Correctional Center, Diocese of Jefferson City Lois Thomas is a resident of Jefferson City who has been involved in prison ministry since 1996. She is a long-time corrections volunteer at the Algoa Correctional Center, where she attends Mass and coordinates a Legion of Mary Rosary prayer group. She is an active participant in the Residents Encounter Christ (REC) prison retreat program and has directed and served on numerous REC retreats at correctional centers throughout the state. She and her husband of 42 years, Donnie, have two grown children and twin granddaughters. The Thomases are parishioners of Immaculate Conception Church in Jefferson City.

Sam Lee, Campaign Life Missouri, pro-life lobbyist, Archdiocese of St. Louis Sam Lee is the director of Campaign Life Missouri, and has been a full-time pro-life lobbyist at the State Capitol for over 33 years. He and his wife, Gloria, live in Overland, MO, and have four children and four grandchildren. They are members of All Souls Parish in Overland, where Deacon Sam is assigned as a Permanent Deacon for the Archdiocese of St. Louis, with a dual assignment at the neighboring St. Jude Parish. Sam has been a champion for the unborn and their mothers throughout his decades-long career.

**Afternoon Workshops
Basement Hearing Rooms (1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.)**

Advocacy 101: Legislative Skills Have you wanted to contact your state representative or senator about an issue but were unsure where to start? This panel of experts will provide best practices and present real-life examples of effective (and not so effective) ways to lobby your state legislators. Come learn how to track the progress of legislation and how to utilize the legislative process to your advantage! **Presenters: Chris Till, Operations Manager, GovWatch, Jefferson City, MO; Jamey Murphy, Chief of Staff, Sen. Paul Wieland, St Louis, MO; Christine Brauner, Executive Assistant, Sen. Brian Williams, Jefferson City, MO**

Pro-Life Apologetics Are you uncomfortable discussing pro-life arguments against abortion? Do you fear that you will not adequately represent the pro-life perspective? In this seminar, you’ll learn how to effectively and confidently discuss abortion from a pro-life perspective using both biology and philosophy. **Presenter: Jacinta Florence, Students for Life, Wildwood, MO**

The Love of Christ Impels Us: Becoming an Anti-Racist Parish Since 2014 and the Ferguson uprising, the parishioners of College Church in St. Louis have been asking some hard questions about their role in racial inequality. How has it been ignored? How has it been supported? How has change been implemented? Anti-racism goes beyond simply avoiding racism, and is an effort to oppose and dismantle racism and to promote racial equity. For many reasons, including the USCCB’s recent pastoral letter against racism, College Church is working to become an anti-racist community. **Presenter: Katie Jansen Larson, Parish Administrator, St.**

At the Border: Immigration Realities Recent headlines have focused attention on the crisis at our southern border. We’ve read stories about a growing influx of immigrants, tragic stories of families being separated, and death following a desperate attempt to reach American soil. During this seminar, panelists present a picture of current day life at the border, talk about next steps in addressing immigration issues, and how people in Missouri can help. *Presenters: Amy Hirsch Diemer, Site Director Managing Attorney St. Francis Community Services, Catholic Legal Assistance Ministry, St. Louis, MO; Sr. Cathy Doherty, SSND, Pastoral Associate at Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. Louis, MO; Erin Hopfinger, MSW, Manager of Community Engagement Catholic Charities, St. Louis, MO*

Medical Interventions for Gender Dysphoria: Separating Science and Ideology People who identify as a gender that does not correspond to their biological sex frequently experience psychological distress and serious adverse health outcomes. Medical approaches have recently been developed that include pubertal suppression and cross-sex hormonal therapy directed toward inducing physical changes corresponding to an individual’s identified gender. This is accompanied by efforts to legislatively mandate societal acceptance and accommodation of patient gender preferences. During this seminar, the risks, purported benefits, ethical, theological and spiritual concerns and societal implications of this new, and still controversial treatment paradigm will be presented. *Presenters: Paul W. Hruz, MD PhD, Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Associate Professor of Cellular Biology and Physiology, Washington University, St. Louis, MO and Rev. Dylan Schrader, PhD, St. Brendan Parish, Mexico, MO*

Mercy, Justice and Worship, A Path for Young Disciples A Meditation on *Christus Vivit* (Christ is Alive!), Pope Francis’ Apostolic Exhortation issued on March 25, 2019 following the 2018 Synod of bishops on Young People held in Ireland. *Presenter: Most Reverend James V. Johnston, Bishop of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph*

Child Care (Ages 4-12)
Child care, along with activities, will be available during the Annual Assembly. If your child requires a nap, please bring a mat for him/her to sleep on. If your child is not potty trained, please provide diaper products. Please enroll your child(ren) on the registration form by September 23.

Youth Program (6th grade & up)
10 a.m. - 11 a.m. - Legislative Scavenger Hunt
The State Capitol contains a wealth of history about Missouri and the legislative process. What a perfect place for a scavenger hunt! Don’t miss this opportunity to have fun while learning about our state government. Prizes will be awarded.

11:15 a.m. - 12 p.m. - WWI Museum Tour and WWII Presentation A docent will guide us through the WWI museum on the first floor of the Captiol, then Bill McAnany, a WWII veteran and Pearl Harbor survivor, will give a short talk about his powerful form of advocacy: military service.

12:15 p.m. Lunch (FREE - 3rd floor Rotunda)

1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. - Mock Legislature (Senate Chamber) Join other youth from around Missouri in debating controversial bills that have been discussed in the Missouri General Assembly. Youth are asked to follow all rules and procedures that Missouri Representatives and Senators follow day-to-day in the Capitol.

Registration Form

- Three ways to register:
1. Register online at MOcatholic.org.
 2. Call 1-800-456-1679
 3. Mail this form to:
Missouri Catholic Conference, PO Box 1022,
Jefferson City, MO 65102

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Name(s): _____
Address: _____
City: _____ ZIP: _____
Telephone: _____
Parish & City: _____
Email: _____

[] My child (children) will attend child care.
Names & ages: (Ages 4-12)

[] My child (children) will attend youth activities.
Names & ages: (6th grade and up)

Total # in family attending: _____
Total # preferring vegetarian meal: _____
[] I am an individual with a disability & would like assistance
[] I would like to join MOCAN

Bus Transportation (\$10/person or couple, \$20/family)
St. Louis:
Cardinal Rigali Center [] North County [] Wentzville []
Kansas City: North KC [] Independence []

Add my name to a carpool list and call me if a carpool is available in my area. []

- Rank Your Top TWO Afternoon Workshop Selections**
- ___ Advocacy 101: Legislative Skills
 - ___ Pro-Life Apologetics
 - ___ The Love of Christ Impels Us: Becoming an Anti-Racist Parish
 - ___ At the Border: Immigration Realities
 - ___ Medical Interventions for Gender Dysphoria: Separating Science and Ideology
 - ___ Mercy, Justice and Worship, A Path for Young Disciples

Please cut and mail this registration form to the MCC to pre-register for the 2019 Annual Assembly! 



Missouri Catholic Advocacy Network

As Catholics, we are called to be active participants in forming public policy to promote the common good. One easy way to do that is to join the Missouri Catholic Advocacy Network (MOCAN) of the Missouri Catholic Conference, the official public policy agency of the Catholic Church in Missouri.

Acting together through MOCAN, Catholics work to advance the common good by protecting the unborn, assisting the poor, and promoting quality education for all school children. The Missouri Catholic Conference is nonpartisan, and does not support or oppose candidates. Rather, its focus is on issues and legislation important to Catholics. Through the years, the Missouri Catholic Conference (MCC) has had many successes, such as enacting a ban on partial birth abortions, expanding A+ Scholarships to include private school students, and raising the age of juvenile jurisdiction for young offenders. But the Conference is only effective if Catholics actively participate in MOCAN. Registration and participation in the network is free. Members receive regular email updates and alerts on pending issues and legislation. The Missouri Catholic Conference puts network members in touch with their legislators when key votes are pending.

Services for MOCAN members include:

- MCC Weekly Update: a weekly e-newsletter packed with the latest legislative and Catholic news
- Action Alerts: we'll notify you when we need you to contact your elected officials about pending legislation. (You can send the message we've drafted with one click, or add your own personal story.)
- Good News: a bimonthly newsletter that typically focuses on a legislative issue.
- Strict protection of your information, which will not be shared with any other organization.

At this time, Bishop McKnight is encouraging Catholics to join the Missouri Catholic Advocacy Network (MOCAN) to help grow the Catholic voice in the public square. Today you have an opportunity to join MOCAN. You can join by simply sending a text message that says **MOCAN** to the number **50457**, or by filling out the MOCAN Enrollment Form on this page. *Standard text messaging fees apply.*

You will receive a text message indicating your response was received. Please click the link in the text (at your convenience) to fill out your contact information. By providing this information, the MCC will be able to connect you with your specific legislators.



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Missouri Catholic Advocacy Network (MOCAN) Enrollment Form

please print legibly

Prefix: _____ Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Parish: _____

I am interested in the following issues:

___ **Respect for Life** (the unborn, pregnancy support, bioethics, end-of-life care and guidance, death penalty)

___ **Family Life** (marriage, adoption, family/work issues)

___ **Education** (Catholic, public and home school)

___ **Social Concerns** (poverty, health care, immigration, criminal justice)

___ **All of the above**

mail to: Missouri Catholic Conference P.O. Box 1022 Jefferson City, MO 65102

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To enroll by text message, send MOCAN to 50457.



MOCAN

Missouri Catholic Advocacy Network



**WORSHIP. LEARN.
CONNECT. ADVOCATE.**

Sign up for MOCAN and the 2019 Annual Assembly today! Feel free to send in both forms in the same envelope, or register online at mocatholic.org.