



Good News

July/August 2018

Bringing the Light of Christ to Missouri

2018 ANNUAL ASSEMBLY: SATURDAY, OCT. 6

FIVE YEARS OF POPE FRANCIS:
THE CHURCH AT THE
PERIPHERIES



HELIAS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, JEFFERSON CITY

Throughout his pontificate, Pope Francis has challenged all Catholics, whether part of the clergy or laity, to go out to the peripheries to bring the gospel to those in need. "The church is called to come out of herself and to go to the peripheries," he told the Cardinals before his election to the papacy, "not only geographically, but also the existential peripheries: the mystery of sin, of pain, of injustice, of ignorance and indifference to religion, of intellectual currents and of all misery."

Francis has led by example, carrying the gospel message with his very presence to prison yards, hospital neonatal units, the barrios of Central America, and to Lampedusa, an island in the Mediterranean that has become an entry point for migrants seeking a better life in Europe. Pope Francis has taken his pontificate to the most desolate and remote of places, where he calls us to go as living disciples.

The 2018 Missouri Catholic Conference Annual Assembly, held on Saturday, Oct. 6, will focus on the compelling theme of Pope Francis' years as head of the Church. Bishop Joseph Perry, the Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago, will offer the keynote address, speaking on the topic "Pope Francis Upon Five Years of his Pontificate". Bishop Perry is an engaging speaker and motivator who is expected to provide an inspiring introduction to the Assembly.

The Assembly will also feature ten stimulating seminars that will each highlight different ways Catholics are currently going to the peripheries, and will offer timely insights on how we as a Church can better follow Pope Francis' call. The seminars will address a variety of topics including human trafficking, immigration, pro-life, gender and sexual identity, the opioid crisis, and the work of Catholic Charities of Missouri.

Because of construction at the Missouri Capitol, **this year's event will be held at Helias Catholic High School in Jefferson City.** As always, **the event is FREE**, lunch will be provided for all attendees and buses are available at a nominal cost from St. Louis, Kansas City, and Springfield. The day ends with Mass, concelebrated by the Missouri bishops. Those who wish to attend are encouraged to pre-register by calling the MCC at 1-800-456-1679, visiting the MCC website at mccatholic.org, or by filling out the form in this *Good News*.

Workshop Descriptions

Campus Ministry: A Field Hospital for Young Adults

Of the people who leave the Catholic Church, 74 percent do so between the ages of 10 and 20. The future of the Catholic Church has no greater dependence than on the missionary work of reaching out to young adults on college campuses, as it is likely the last chance for the Church to reach them before they leave the faith for good. This workshop will describe the ways in which campus ministry can truly serve as the field hospital Pope Francis is calling for, and as a model for how parishes can do the same for adolescents and young adults.

Presenter: Troy Woytek, Director of Ministry, Catholic Student Center, Washington University, St. Louis, MO

Catholic Charities: Serving the Poor and Vulnerable in Missouri

The employees of Catholic Charities serve the poor and vulnerable in various capacities throughout the state of Missouri, helping those struggling with homelessness and addiction, as well as those facing an unexpected pregnancy or a natural disaster. Meet the leaders of the Catholic Charities organizations serving the four Missouri dioceses and hear directly from them about how they serve our fellow Missouri citizens who are living on the peripheries. *Presenters: Theresa Ruzicka, President of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, Chris Ice, CEO of Catholic Charities of Kansas City/St. Joseph; Maura Taylor, Executive Director of Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri; and Daniel Lester, Executive Director of Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri*

Protecting the Unborn: Legislative Victories

During a special session in the summer of 2017, Missouri lawmakers passed Senate Bill 5, a sweeping pro-life bill that put in place some of the most pro-life state laws in the country. The abortion lobby has so far been unsuccessful in challenging the new law in court. Come hear how Senate Bill 5, and other Missouri pro-life legislation, is saving lives and promoting programs that offer alternatives to abortion in Missouri, as well as prospects for pro-life bills in 2019. *Presenter: Deacon Sam Lee, Director of Campaign Life Missouri and Lobbyist, St. Louis, MO*

Growing in Awareness of Human Trafficking: Knowing is Power

Human trafficking is modern-day slavery, and exploits both children and adults. Learn more about human trafficking and its causes, who the victims and predators are, who is most at risk, the role social media plays in promoting this practice, and what you can do to help abolish it. This presentation will include firsthand experiences from a survivor who ministers to victims of prostitution, gender bias, and trafficking. *Presenters: Sister Jeanne Christensen, Sister of Mercy, Justice Advocate on Human Trafficking, Kansas City, MO and Kris Wade, a Survivor, Co-founder and Executive Director of the Justice Project, Kansas City, MO*

Immigration Law: Understanding a Complicated System

Immigration law is complicated to decipher on your own, so come hear the facts from a Missouri immigration judge who has been immersed in these issues for years in the courtroom. This workshop will outline basic immigration law and regulation, address what happens in Immigration Court and how cases are fought on appeal, and finally, answer questions about how people apply for immigration benefits outside of Immigration Court. *Presenter: The Honorable Justin Howard, Immigration Judge, U.S. Immigration Court, Kansas City, MO*

LGBTQIA: What's a Catholic to Say?

How do we welcome and accompany those who experience discord between their sexual and gender identity and stay true to Church teaching? Come and learn about Pope Francis' "Discipleship Roadmap" approach, and how it helps us reach this peripheral population. *Presenter: Ed Hogan, Academic Dean and Associate Professor of Systematic Theology at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, St. Louis, MO*

To Live or Die: A Jury Decides

Have you ever imagined the fear of being wrongly convicted of a capital crime? Or wondered what it would be like to serve on a jury in a death penalty case? This presentation brings together two individuals who have lived out these scenarios: Larry Hildebrand and Joe Amrine. Larry sat on the jury that convicted Joe of capital murder, though Joe would later be exonerated of the crime. Come hear their stories of regret, fear and redemption and learn why the death penalty is wrong for America. *Presenters: Joe Amrine, the 111th Person Exonerated Nationally from Death Row, Kansas City, MO, and Larry Hildebrand, Deacon, Diocese of Jefferson City, Jefferson City, MO*

The Opioid Crisis: A Catholic Response

Similar to national trends, Missouri finds itself in an "opioid crisis," as opioid use, misuse, and overdoses continue to climb. During this workshop, learn about the current state of the "opioid crisis," including its development, its effects on communities, and how Catholic moral teachings can be applied to the situation, as well as how the church and Catholic healthcare can contribute to finding a solution. *Presenter: Nicole Allcock, Pharm. D., BCPS, FASHP, former Director of Pharmacy for Southeast Hospital, Cape Girardeau, MO*

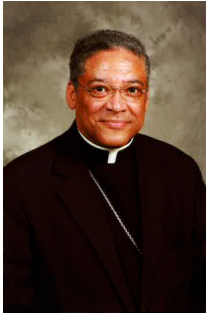
Pope Francis' Theology of Accompaniment: The Church Serving the Peripheries

In commemorating the Fifth Anniversary of the Pontificate of Pope Francis, we celebrate his vision of the Church who humbly serves those on the peripheries by accompaniment. The Church, modeling herself after the very example of Christ, goes out and accompanies all in their poverty and need with Christ's compassion, advocates their God-given dignity and serves them with Christ's love. Living the call to be the Catholic Church, as well as being faithful in the Lord's call for our advocacy and legislative efforts, is truly fulfilled as we put into practice Pope Francis' Theology of Accompaniment. *Presenter: Most Reverend Mark Rivituso, Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of St. Louis, St. Louis, MO*

Border Line: Our Catholic Commitment to Security, Mercy and Truth in Immigration Policy

Nothing has ignited more emotion than the recent practice of separating migrant families at the southern U.S. border. What does the Catholic Church teach about border security and the needs of migrants? What exactly is "asylum" and why do people risk everything to ask for it? What don't immigrants just enter our country legally? This workshop will dispel myths, explain Catholic social teaching and offer practical ideas for a moral response to immigration issues. *Presenters: Kristen Walentik, Bilingual immigration attorney, St. Francis Community Services, Catholic Legal Assistance Ministry and Karen Wallensak, Executive Director, St. Francis Community Services, St. Louis, MO*

Keynote Speaker



The 2018 Annual Assembly Keynote speaker is Bishop Joseph Perry of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Bishop Perry, originally a priest of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, was ordained a priest by the late Archbishop William Edward Cousins, May 24, 1975 at St. John Cathedral, Milwaukee. After an eighteen month

assignment as associate pastor of St. Nicholas Parish, Milwaukee, he was assigned to the Tribunal offices of the Archdiocese in December 1976 and was sent for graduate studies in canon law at The Catholic University of America, Washington D.C. His priestly ministry has been spent with ecclesiastical law and education working primarily in the church courts as an advocate, then as a judge in a court of appeals, and more. He served as the chaplain of the St. Thomas More Lawyers Society of Wisconsin, an association of Catholic lawyers and judges. Until his appointment as bishop, he was also an adjunct professor of canon law studies at Marquette University Law School. Bishop Perry is National Chaplain for the Knights of St. Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary and also Vice-President of the Board for the National Black Catholic Congress, Baltimore, Maryland.

On January 28, 2010, Cardinal Francis George appointed Bishop Perry Postulator for the Diocesan Phase of the Cause for Sanctity of Father Augustus Tolton, first priest of African descent in the United States who labored in the Diocese of Alton (now Springfield, Illinois) and the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Oct. 6 Event Schedule

9:00 am – 10:00 am	Registration (Commons)
10:00 am – 11:00 am	Opening session & Keynote Address (gym)
11:15 am – 12:15 pm	Morning workshops
12:15 am – 1:15 pm	Lunch (Commons)
1:15 pm – 2:15 pm	Afternoon workshops
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Closing session (gym)
3:15 pm – 4:15 pm	Mass (gym)

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)

Total # in family attending: _____

Total # preferring vegetarian meal: _____

I am an individual with a disability & would like assistance

I would like to join MOCAN

Please Rank Your Workshop Selections 1-4

___ Border Line: Our Catholic Commitment to Security, Mercy and Truth in Immigration Policy

___ Campus Ministry: A Field Hospital for Young Adults

___ Catholic Charities: Serving the Poor and Vulnerable in MO

___ Growing in Awareness of Human Trafficking: Knowing is Power

___ Immigration Law: Understanding a Complicated System

___ LGBTQIA: What's a Catholic to Say?

___ The Opioid Crisis: A Catholic Response

___ Pope Francis' Theology of Accompaniment: The Church Serving the Peripheries

___ Protecting the Unborn: Legislative Victories

___ To Live or Die: a Jury decides

Bus Transportation (\$10/person or couple, \$20/family)

St. Louis:

Cardinal Rigali Center North County Wentzville

Kansas City: North KC Independence

Springfield: Springfield Lebanon

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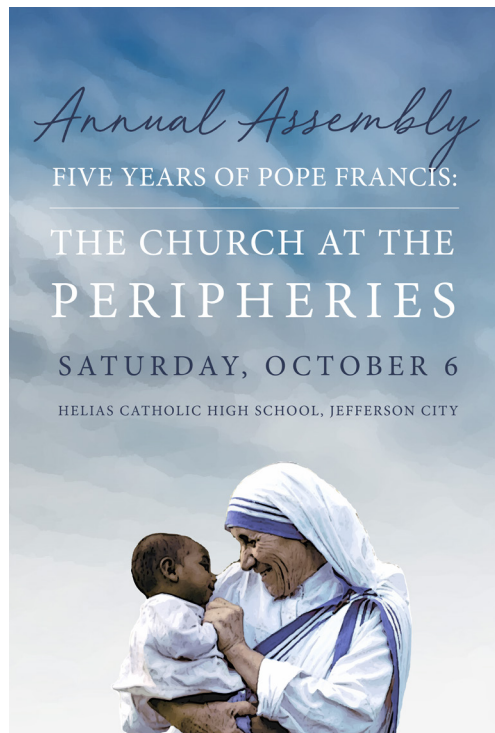
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Child Care (Ages 4-12)

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.

Voter Registration

Not yet registered to vote in Missouri? Take this important step at this year's Annual Assembly, which will offer voter registration at check-in and throughout the day.

Pre-register to receive a free devotional!

The first 400 registrants will receive a free devotional, titled *Faith and Family*, along with their registration packet at the Annual Assembly. Don't miss your chance to receive this pre-registration perk!

