



Good News

Bringing the Light of Christ to Missouri | Sept./Oct. 2022

2022 Virtual MCC Annual Assembly

The MCC is once again hosting its Annual Assembly in a virtual format. As we did the past two years, we have released a collection of episodes of MCC from the Capitol all at once for you to enjoy at your leisure. As Catholic teaching informs us, there is a broad spectrum of issues important to the Catholic faith. This spectrum is highlighted in the varying episodes of MCC from the Capitol; topics include faithful citizenship, consistent life ethic, immigration, the history of Catholic education, and biodiesel's impact on climate change. We are pleased to begin with a video message from Archbishop Rozanski of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, who reflects on these ideas and the call for us to engage in them.

"We have become increasingly divided today in our politics and it is tempting for us to walk away, but we must not run from these challenges."

ARCHBISHOP MITCHELL T. ROZANSKI,
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS



How to listen:

On your phone

- Open the camera app on your phone.
- Focus your screen on the QR code to scan it.
- Tap the pop-up notification to see the QR code details.
- Find MCC from the Capitol on your favorite streaming app.

On your computer

- Go to mocatholic.org to listen from the Annual Assembly webpage, located under News and Events.



*Scan here
to listen
now!*

We hope you enjoy this year's virtual MCC Annual Assembly! Find episode descriptions inside this *Good News*.

2022 Virtual MCC Annual Assembly



MCC From the Capitol Podcast

Episodes:



Faithful Citizenship

As Catholics, we are called to act as responsible citizens and participate, each in our own way, in political life to promote the common good. However, many find it difficult to engage in the political process, especially in these times of extreme partisanship. Bishop Shawn McKnight (Diocese of Jefferson City) joins us to discuss how Catholics can form their consciences in order to answer the Church's call to faithful citizenship.



Listen at mocatholic.org or via your favorite streaming app (Spotify, Apple, Google Podcasts, & more!)

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Consistent Life Ethic

Aimee Murphy, a Catholic, describes why she created Rehumanize International, a nonpartisan, secular organization dedicated to bringing an end to all aggressive violence against humans.

Immigration and The Church

Marie Kenyon, attorney and director of the Peace and Justice Commission for the Archdiocese of St. Louis, details her experience at the border and explains how Catholics are called to support immigrants and the law.

History of Catholic Education

Mike Hoey, former director of the Missouri Catholic Conference, explains the history of the Blaine Amendment in Missouri and how its anti-Catholic language kick-started the MCC's role in defending Catholic education at the capitol.

Biodiesel's Impact on Climate Change

Donnell Rehagen, CEO of Clean Fuels Alliance America, headquartered in Jefferson City, discusses the impact biodiesel fuel has on the environment, public health, and the state of Missouri.



Archdiocese of St. Louis:
Maureen Zink

Maureen Zink is the Executive Director of Birthright Counseling St. Louis. Maureen is a licensed counselor and has demonstrated a profound commitment to protecting life from conception until natural death.



Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph:
Fr. Emmanuel Lopez Garduño

Fr. Emmanuel is a hard-working priest who goes beyond his call as a priest to serve the communities of several parishes. He builds communities by engaging people and making sure that no one gets left behind in the faith.

2022 Citizen Recognition Awards

The MCC presents the Citizen Recognition Award to one Catholic citizen(s) from each diocese who has exemplified good citizenship in promoting Catholic values in the public policy arena and in their local communities and parishes. We are pleased to announce this year's recipients. Congratulations!



Diocese of Jefferson City:
Dean Dutoi

Dean Dutoi was president of the St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Peter Parish in Jefferson City from 2012-2022. Under his leadership, the St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVdP) served several individuals and families in the Jefferson City area.



Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau:
Bruce and Katherine Ritchie

Bruce and Katherine Ritchie run the Free Medical Clinic of the Ozarks in Hollister, MO, which provides services for low (and no-income) patients. Katherine and Bruce are the two primary people that keep the doors open.



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Questions? Contact us!

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mocatholic.org



Get involved! Join the Missouri
Catholic Advocacy Network.

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Bishops Issue Statement on Amendment 3

We, the Catholic Bishops of Missouri, issue this statement to express our concerns with Amendment 3, which would legalize the recreational use of marijuana in the state. We believe that marijuana legalization will negatively impact Missouri families, health outcomes, communities, and workers.

While some are focused on the increased state revenues that will be generated by a taxable marijuana industry, we are concerned with the social costs of increased marijuana usage. Although usage will be restricted to age 21 and older, legalization sends the message that marijuana is safe and socially acceptable. Many states that have legalized marijuana have the highest teen usage rates. We know that regular marijuana use has been connected to respiratory problems; mental health issues (including increased anxiety and suicidal thoughts); and learning, memory, and attention loss.

We are also concerned with how legalization could impact the state's workforce. In addition to impacting worker productivity and safety, increased marijuana use could hinder individuals' ability to find or keep meaningful employment, especially in jobs that require drug testing.

Pope Francis has said that reducing drug addiction "will not be achieved by the liberalization of drug use." Instead, we must address those underlying social and economic issues that can lead to substance abuse. For these reasons, we urge Catholics and all persons of good will to oppose Amendment 3.



+ Mitchell T. Rozanski
Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski
General Chairman
Archbishop of St. Louis



+ James V. Johnston, Jr.
Most Reverend James V. Johnston, Jr.
Vice Chairman
Bishop of Kansas City-St. Joseph



+ Shawn McKnight
Most Reverend W. Shawn McKnight
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+ Edward M. Rice
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