



# Good News

August 2015 Vol. 34 Issue 6

*Bringing the Light of Christ to Missouri.*

## 2015 ANNUAL ASSEMBLY: THE CHURCH IN THE MODERN WORLD



FIFTY YEARS AGO THE SECOND Vatican Council came to a close, ushering in an exciting era in which the Church would boldly engage the modern world on issues of concern to people throughout the globe. Fifty years later, what are the issues that call for the courageous witness of Catholics citizens?

The 2015 Annual Assembly of the Missouri Catholic Conference (MCC) will take up that question when Catholics from all corners of Missouri gather on Saturday, October 3 in Missouri's majestic State Capitol. You are invited to this free event.

A strong line-up of workshops will be offered covering a wide range of issues, including pro-life, education, Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*, race relations, poverty concerns, hospice

care and much more. Jefferson City Bishop John Gaydos will recall his days as a young priest in Rome when the Second Vatican Council concluded. See this *Good News* for a brief description of each of the workshops.

Father Robert Barron has been named an auxiliary bishop for the diocese of Los Angeles so he will not be available to deliver the keynote address at the upcoming MCC Annual Assembly. However, we have secured a new keynoter to address the assembly's theme.

Our keynote speaker will be Dr. Lawrence Feingold, a theologian who teaches at the Kenrick School of Theology in St. Louis. Dr. Feingold is steeped in the teachings of the Church, including Church documents issued during and since the Second Vatican Council. He holds a Doctorate in Sacred Theol-

ogy from the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross in Rome.

The MCC strongly recommends that you preregister for the Assembly so we can plan for the day's events, including the free lunch you will receive. You can do so by completing and mailing the registration form found in this *Good News*, or by calling us at 1-800-456-1679 or visiting the MCC on-line at [MOCatholic.org](http://MOCatholic.org).

Don't miss this year's assembly! We are confident you will find the keynote address and workshop presentations both challenging and informative. And, as in past years, our assembly will close with an inspiring Mass concelebrated by the bishops of Missouri.

See you Saturday, October 3!

# 2015 Annual Assembly Workshop Line-Up

## **Called to Stand on the Abortion Frontline**

There are many ways to fight for an end to abortion in our society. Kathy Forck, the presenter of this seminar, found her calling by praying and standing for the lives being snuffed out at the Columbia Planned Parenthood abortion clinic. Come hear "Stories from the Sidewalk" and about the lives that have been touched by this special ministry. Learn how God's mighty work is unleashed through the power of simple prayer while standing on a sidewalk.

*Presenter: Kathy Forck, National Program Advisor for the Sidewalk Advocates for Life; Campaign Director of the 40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil in Columbia, MO*

## **Catholic Campaign for Human Development: Our Church Working on the Margins of the Modern World**

The Fathers of the Second Vatican Council saw civic and political involvement as a vital responsibility for all people. Formed in 1969 by the U.S. Catholic Bishops, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) is the official domestic anti-poverty program of the Bishops of the United States. Come learn how CCHD is empowering low-income communities to participate fully in society; helping Catholics to stand in solidarity with the poor; and living out the vision of the Pastoral Constitution of the *Church in the Modern World*. Additionally, you will be introduced to the USCCB's resources on charity, justice and peacemaking.

*Presenter: Meg Olson, staff member, Advocacy Department, Catholic Charities of St. Louis and Diocesan Director for CCHD, Archdiocese of St. Louis, MO*

## **Death: Our Last Act of Worship**

Dying is part of the circle of life. This presentation will help the participant understand the difference between palliative care and hospice care. A variety of interactions with patients will be presented such as prayer using You-tube, pet therapy, music, art, hand and aroma therapies. Through a process of reflection, we will experience the meaning of redemptive suffering and how it is possible to attain it in our culture. Both presenter and attendees will have the opportunity to share stories about God's healing touch being manifested through compassionate, coordinated care.

*Presenter: Sr. Leonette Juengst, SSND, Chaplain, Alternative Hospice, St. Louis, MO*

## **Economic Justice: A Catholic Response to Poverty, Minimum Wage and Public Policy**

There is a growing movement in this country to raise the minimum wage for low-wage workers. What impact will this have on their lives and the overall economy? This seminar will provide data on poverty and welfare usage for working individuals in Missouri, with a focus on St. Louis,

Jefferson City, Columbia and Kansas City. Using statistics, the presentation will describe different policy solutions to address economic justice from the perspective of Catholic Social Teaching.

*Presenter: J.S. Onésimo (Ness) Sandoval, Associate Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO*

## **Ending the Death Penalty in Nebraska: A Lesson for Missouri**

In 2015 Nebraska became the first conservative state in over 40 years to end the death penalty. What challenges did abolitionists have to overcome to achieve this victory? What were the winning strategies that helped Nebraska become the 19th state to end capital punishment? Come hear Nebraska's success story and what Missouri can learn from this historic achievement.

*Presenter: Greg Schleppenbach, Executive Director, Nebraska Catholic Conference, Lincoln, NE*

## **Francis, Family and Philly: Recapping the World Meeting of Families**

This workshop, offered only days after Pope Francis' whirlwind visit to Philadelphia for the World Meeting of Families, will recap this historic event. In this presentation, Deacon Jim Russell will discuss the week-long World Meeting and the Papal Visit, as the Church prepares for the fast approaching Synod of Bishops to be held in October in Rome. Special focus will be on how the Church addresses the needs of families in an often family-hostile global culture.

*Presenter: Deacon Jim Russell, Family Life Coordinator, Archdiocese of St. Louis, MO*

## **How Do We Restore Ethics and Personal Integrity to Public Life?**

It seems like we see more and more media coverage about public officials' bad behavior. Has unethical behavior become commonplace among our Missouri legislators? Are we sending the wrong people to Jefferson City and Washington, or are there other underlying factors? Are there legislators working to fix these problems? In this workshop, we will hear from two former state legislators about money in politics, the impact of political campaigns, and many other factors that may be leading to the erosion of public trust. These experts have experienced the political arena firsthand and will help us understand what can be done to clean up the Missouri General Assembly and restore our faith in those we send to represent our interests.

*Presenters: John Lamping, former State Senator, District 24, St. Louis, MO and Ron Schieber, former State Representative, District 14, Kansas City, MO*

### **The Paramount Importance of Catholic Education**

The Second Vatican Council stressed the importance of Catholic schools in its Declaration on Christian Education (*Gravissimum Educationis*). This presentation will describe what the Council called for in October 1965 and what it means for Catholic education today. Also discussed will be research that shows the advantages of Catholic education and why, 50 years later, they are “still of vital importance.” The presentation will also address the future of Catholic education and the importance of school choice efforts.

*Presenter: Dr. Kurt Nelson, Superintendent of Catholic Education for the Archdiocese of St. Louis, MO*

### **Promoting Justice in Ending Racism**

Last year the eyes of the nation were focused on racial concerns in Ferguson, Missouri. One of the positive outcomes of that crisis was the creation of the Peace and Justice Commission of the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Dedicated to addressing societal issues, such as poverty, racial tension, and family breakdown, the recently appointed commission members are beginning their important work. Come learn about issues confronting the commission as they carry out their call to be on the forefront of promoting justice.

*Presenters: Members of the Peace and Justice Commission of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, MO*

### **Religious Liberty After Obergefell v Hodges: Where Do We Go From Here?**

The Catholic Church teaches that marriage is a union between one man and one woman. The U.S. Supreme Court’s recent decision re-defining marriage will have grave legal implications for religious institutions and individuals for years to come. What does this decision mean for people of faith individually and for religious universities, schools, charities and other public institutions going forward?

*Presenter: TBA*

### **The Role of the Family in Fostering Vocations**

A vocation is God’s call for us to serve him in a particular state or way of life. What are the best practices in fostering vocations in the family? What are common concerns or obstacles that families encounter? How do we respond to the Holy Father’s invitation to families to be an authentic domestic church that fosters the universal call to holiness and sound discernment of vocations. This seminar will provide key insights into these important questions.

*Presenter: Rev. Chris Martin, Vocation Director, Archdiocese of St. Louis, MO*

### **Setting the Record Straight: The Truth about Global Climate Change**

For decades there has been a concerted effort claiming that there is little or no scientific consensus about global warming. The Pope’s recent encyclical, on the other hand,

is based on sound scientific facts that have been the focus of intense peer review, and have been scrutinized by his Pontifical Academy of Sciences, an organization of some of the most highly respected scientists in the world. This presentation will focus on separating “fact from fiction” and will provide the scientific rationale as to why the Pope’s encyclical on climate should be believed and followed.

*Presenter: Dr. Jack Fishman, Professor, Department of Earth and Atmospheric Science and the Director of the Center for Environmental Sciences, St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO*

### **The Solemn Closing of Vatican Council II**

December 8th, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, this year will also mark the fiftieth anniversary of the solemn closing of the Second Vatican Council at St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome, Italy. Bishop John Gaydos was in his first semester of Theology at the North American College in Rome during the last session of this historic Council. He will share with you some of his remembrances and lasting impressions of those days.

*Presenter: Most Reverend John R. Gaydos, Bishop of the Diocese of Jefferson City, MO*

### **Together in Christ: Rediscovering the Lay Vocation through Vatican II**

Prior to the Second Vatican Council many Catholics had absorbed a very limiting and negative view of the lay vocation. Returning to the sources of scripture and tradition, the fathers of the Council rediscovered the unique vocation of the laity. Building on our common baptismal vocation the fathers called for a life of holiness lived in the midst of the world. Come learn how the secular nature of the lay vocation is intended to be the means of evangelization and transformation of all human culture.

*Presenter: Scott McKellar, Associate Director, Bishop Helmsing Institute, Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, MO*

### **We're All Inter-Connected: Understanding *Laudato Si'***

*Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis’ first encyclical, captured headlines around the globe because of its bold call to address climate change and other threats to human life on earth. Yet technical remedies alone will not solve our problems. This workshop will examine the moral and theological themes of the encyclical, especially the Holy Father’s insistence that we are all interconnected, that the poor merit our special attention and that we must care for our common home, Earth. The joyous response of St. Francis of Assisi to God’s creation will be discussed as one way to adopt a simpler and holier lifestyle.

*Presenter: Jim Kemna, Director of Religious Education, Diocese of Jefferson City, MO*



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# MCC ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

Saturday, October 3, 2015—Missouri State Capitol

## Youth Schedule—6th Grade and Up

### **10 a.m. - 11 a.m. - Senate Chamber**

#### **Youth Workshop: A Look Back in Time**

Have you ever wondered what life was like in the 1800s? With no cell phones or computers, what items were necessary in daily life? In this presentation, our visitor from the past will bring her suitcase of important items from a bygone era. Come listen to her stories of our cultural heritage.

*Presenter: Fern Ward, Member of the Cole County Historical Society, Jefferson City, MO*

### **11 a.m. - Noon**

#### **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.

### **12:15 p.m. Lunch (free)**

### **1:15 p.m. - 3 p.m. - Senate Chamber**

#### **Mock Legislature**

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 Missouri General Assembly.

## Adult Schedule

9:30 a.m.	Registration
10 a.m.	Keynote Speaker
11:15 a.m.	Morning Workshops
12:15 p.m.	Lunch (free)
1:15 p.m.	Afternoon Workshops
2:30 p.m.	Closing Session
3:15 p.m.	Closing Mass, Concelebrated by Missouri Bishops, St. Peter Church

### **Child Care (Ages 3-12)**

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 25.

### **Theology on Tap**

Join other young adults and MCC staff for post-assembly discussion of issues and food and drink at Prison Brews, a local microbrewery.

# MCC Annual Assembly Registration

Saturday, October 3, 2015—State Capitol, Jefferson City, MO

Three ways to register:

1. Register online at MOCatholic.org.
2. Call 1-800-456-1679.

3. Mail this form:

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

*PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY.*

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish & City: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Total # in family attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Total # preferring vegetarian  
meal: \_\_\_\_\_

## Child care

- ☐ My children will participate in  
child care. Names & ages: (3-12)  
Requested deadline Sept. 25

\_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ My children will attend the youth  
activities. Names & ages: (6th  
grade and up)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Bus Transportation \$10/person, \$20/family

St. Louis: TWO BUSES

1. General: Cardinal Rigali Center [ ☐ ]  
North County [ ☐ ] Wentzville [ ☐ ]

2. \*Young adult [ ☐ ]

\*This bus leaves Jeff City later.

Kansas City: North KC [ ☐ ]  
Independence [ ☐ ]

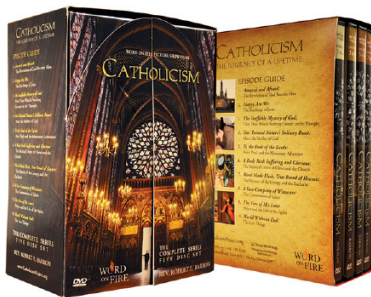
Springfield: Springfield [ ☐ ] Lebanon [ ☐ ]

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

## Disability

- ☐ I have a disability and would like  
assistance.

## Be Sure to Preregister for Fr. Robert Barron's Catholicism Series



A winner from each diocese  
will be drawn during the clos-  
ing session (4 winners total);  
must be present to win!

## Please rank your workshop selections (1-4):

\_\_\_ Called to Stand on the Abortion  
Frontline

\_\_\_ Catholic Campaign for Human  
Development: Our Church  
Working on the Margins of the  
Modern World

\_\_\_ Death: Our Last Act of Worship

\_\_\_ Economic Justice: A Catholic  
Response to Poverty, Minimum  
Wage and Public Policy

\_\_\_ Ending the Death Penalty in  
Nebraska: A Lesson for Missouri

\_\_\_ Francis, Family and Philly:  
Recapping the World Meeting of  
Families

\_\_\_ How Do We Restore Ethics and  
Personal Integrity to Public Life?

\_\_\_ The Paramount Importance of  
Catholic Education

\_\_\_ Promoting Justice in Ending Racism

\_\_\_ Religious Liberty After  
Obergefell v Hodges: Where Do  
We Go From Here?

\_\_\_ The Role of the Family in  
Fostering Vocations

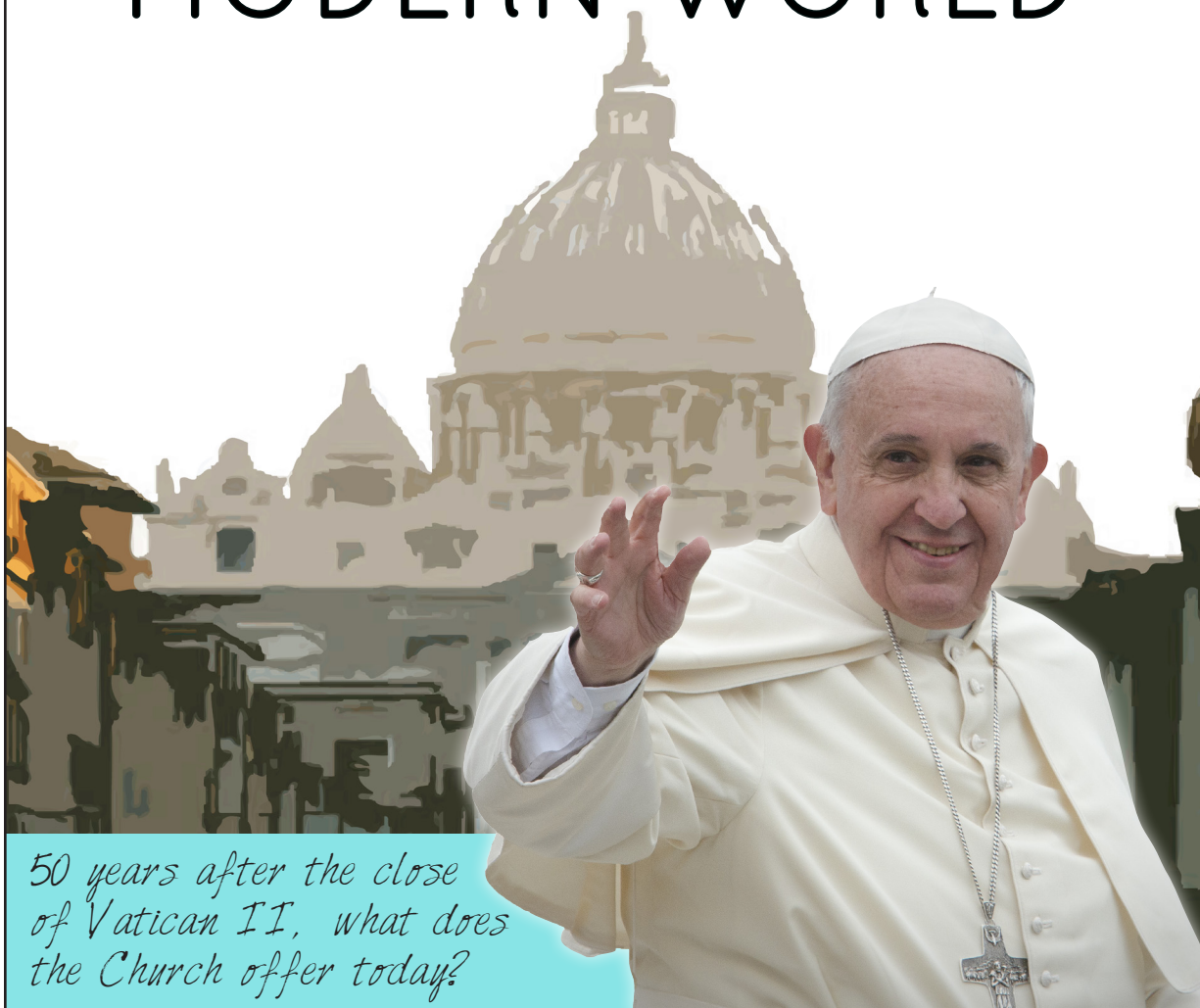
\_\_\_ Setting the Record Straight: The  
Truth about Global Climate  
Change

\_\_\_ The Solemn Closing of Vatican  
Council II

\_\_\_ Together in Christ: Rediscovering  
the Lay Vocation through Vatican II

\_\_\_ We're All Inter-Connected: Under-  
standing *Laudato Si'*

# THE CHURCH IN THE MODERN WORLD



*50 years after the close  
of Vatican II, what does  
the Church offer today?*

MISSOURI CATHOLIC CONFERENCE



## ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

SATURDAY OCT. 3    MISSOURI CAPITOL

Register @ [mocatholic.org](http://mocatholic.org) or call 1-800-456-1679