

Good News

Bringing the Light of Christ to Missouri | Nov/Dec 2018

2018 Midterm Election Results

The Missouri General Assembly will be very much the same as it was in 2018 after the recent midterm election. Republicans will continue to have veto-proof majorities in both the Missouri House and the Missouri Senate with 116 members and 24 members respectively, while Democrats will hold 47 House seats and 10 Senate seats. Elijah Haahr (R-Springfield) will serve as Speaker of the House, and Rob Vescovo (R-Arnold) will serve as Majority Floor leader for the upcoming session. On the Senate side, Dave Schatz (R-Washington) and Caleb Rowden (R-Columbia) will serve as President Pro-Tem and Floor Leader, respectively.

Statewide office holders also remain the same, since Democrat State Auditor Nicole Galloway was re-elected to her position, the only statewide office holder to appear on the ballot. Following the election of Josh Hawley to the U.S. Senate, Governor Mike Parson appointed State Treasurer Eric Schmitt to the position of State Attorney General. At the federal level, Democrats are poised to take over the U.S. House, claiming an additional 39 seats by present count, while Republicans stand to gain an additional two Senate seats, if current election results are confirmed and Republicans win a Mississippi Senate seat that is headed for a runoff election in December.

Ballot Measures

Ahead of the midterm elections, the Missouri Bishops issued two statements, one in support of the intent of Proposition B and one in opposition to Amendment 3. Missourians voted to pass Proposition B, while Amendment 3 did not pass.

Proposition B increases the Missouri minimum wage from \$7.85 to \$8.60 in 2019. Thereafter, the minimum wage will increase by \$0.85 per hour until it reaches \$12.00 per hour in 2023. After 2023, the minimum wage would be adjusted yearly based on the changes in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers. In their statement, the Bishops emphasized that they have seen the effect that unemployment, underemployment, and low wages have on their parishioners and on society at large. While the Bishops recognized that people of good will may disagree as to what minimum wage is appropriate for Missouri, they "support...the intent of this proposal, which seeks to raise the living standard of the working poor..."

Amendment 3, which would have amended the Missouri constitution to legalize medical marijuana and create a tax-funded stream of revenue for potentially unethical biomedical research, did not pass. Amendment 3 would have legalized medical marijuana for patients who have one of 10 qualifying conditions (or others with a

doctor's approval). The initiative imposed a 15 percent sales tax, which would have been used to fund a newly-created biomedical research institute tasked with developing cures for cancer and other diseases. There was no limitation on the types of research that could have been funded through the institute. Though the Bishops stated they were "sympathetic to those who seek relief from debilitating illness and express no position on the propriety of medical marijuana as a means of relieving suffering", they opposed the initiative because the funding stream created by the initiative would not have been subject to legislative appropriation or review, and could have been used for research involving the destruction and use of embryonic stem cells or aborted fetal remains.

Amendment 2, another medical marijuana measure, did pass. The bishops took no position on this amendment.

2018 Recipients of the Citizen Recognition Award Celebrated at MCC Annual Assembly

At the 2018 Annual Assembly, the Missouri Catholic Conference celebrated the winners of the Citizen Recognition Awards. Each year, the MCC recognizes a Catholic citizen, couple, or group from each of the four dioceses who strives toward the same goal, giving of themselves to better the lives of others. These award recipients exemplify good citizenship in promoting Catholic values in the public policy arena and in their local communities and parishes. Award recipients were invited to bring their family and friends to attend the MCC Annual Assembly at Helias Catholic High School in Jefferson City on Saturday, October 6, where they received their award, presented by a Missouri Catholic Bishop, during the closing session. Get to know the winners from each diocese in this *Good News*.

St. Louis: Joseph and Nancy Mueller



Joseph and Nancy Mueller reside in Webster Groves and are members of Mary, Queen of Peace Parish. Through their 58 years of marriage, the couple has remained very active in their parish and has embraced Catholicism in every aspect of their lives, including sending all four of their children through Catholic schools from their elementary to professional education. Joe has been a member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVDP) since he was in law school, serving as Vice President and then President

from 1993-1999. He and Nancy attended countless SVDP conferences and workshops in Latin and South America, Africa, the Caribbean, as well as Europe and North America. Nancy became a member of the SVDP in the early 1970's, when women first joined the Society. She has worked diligently as an active member ever since. For decades Nancy volunteered at the Soup Kitchens of St. Patrick's Center and Mother Teresa, where she still works every Tuesday. She has served as an example to others, including her grandchildren, whom she brings to the Soup Kitchens. For 25 years, Nancy collected parish casserole dishes each month, delivering them to the hungry and homeless among us, in whom she sees the face of Christ.

Kansas City/St. Joseph: Mary Ernstmann



Mary Ernstmann has spent many years promoting the sanctity of life as a prominent leader in Missouri Right to Life causes across the spectrum. Mary is a delegate for the Missouri Right to Life - Western Region (MRL- WR) on the state board. For over 20 years, she and her family have been involved in the national March for Life. She helps with organizing the annual pilgrimage to Washington, DC, regardless of the weather. She spends time volunteering at a home for pregnant teens and is involved with the Adopt-a-Baby project at

St. John Francis Regis Parish, where people 'adopt' and pray for an unborn child for the length of the pregnancy, after which a baby shower is given. Mary has long-served on the Social Services Council at her parish, where she and others have helped to galvanize parishioners around social justice matters such as a newly established immigrant and refugee ministries and English as Second Language (ESL) initiatives within her parish. She is a wonderful wife and mother and is a very prayerful person who seeks to come closer to Christ through Mary. She does this by hosting Totus Tuus, attending daily Mass, through Adoration, the Rosary, Bible Study, RCIA, participation in Militia

Immaculata, and the Sierra Club to promote vocations to the priesthood. Mary does all of this with hospitality and grace, “Welcoming all as Christ,” to paraphrase St. Benedict. Her manner inspires others to pitch in just a little bit more, prompting those sitting on the sidelines to want to get involved out of the sheer sense of joy they gain from working alongside her.

Jefferson City: Cheryl Hayes



Cheryl Hayes has been a lifelong Catholic and member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Edina, MO. During her 50 years of marriage, she has mothered three children, and is the proud grandmother of nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She attends mass regularly and has been involved in promoting the Catholic faith by her involvement in her parish, serving on different boards and committees, such as her role as the contact person for the St. Vincent de Paul Society, being a communion minister, taking up the gifts, seeing

that her family is in church and helps with different projects for the community such as the “Adopt a Child” project at Christmas, which helps families in need within in the community have something for Christmas. She is an excellent example of a devout Catholic woman, wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother. By her actions in the community, everyone she meets knows she is of the Catholic faith.

Springfield/Cape Girardeau: Teresa Giarratano



In Teresa Giarratano’s words, “If you don’t volunteer in any capacity, you miss out on all the miracles!” She has been experiencing these miracles as the director of the St. Peter the Apostle Parish Outreach House in Joplin since 2012. The Outreach House serves a hot noon meal for neighbors in need

on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and a hot breakfast on Sunday. Teresa serves to extend her faith, to be a good steward and to feel a sense of completion within herself. In the past two years, the Outreach House has collaborated with a local hospital to set up a satellite pantry in the Dialysis Unit of the hospital. The Outreach House provides food for 20 patients once a month. The organization strives to give those who come (both clients and volunteers) an opportunity to share the means of seeing one another as neighbors. Her parish members say that Teresa just can’t stop talking about how much this work means to her.

MCC Legislative Toolbox

The Missouri Catholic Conference (MCC) seeks to inform, educate, and mobilize citizens on the major issues confronting our state and nation. You can learn about the MCC’s legislative priorities at www.mocatholic.org and also access the legislative toolbox, a set of guides and graphics that can help you understand how the legislature functions and how you can get involved. You can take a look inside the toolbox here.

MISSOURI LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

Stay up to date on important legislative dates with this helpful calendar.

STATE & FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE LINKS

Find your state and federal legislators by using these directories, and also learn more about the legislative processes in Missouri and the federal government.

LEGISLATIVE GLOSSARY

Don’t worry, you’re not the only one who gets lost in legislative jargon. This glossary will help you learn legislative terms.

HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW

It’s probably been a few years since you’ve seen Schoolhouse Rock, so we’ve provided a graphic that explains the path a bill must take to become a law in Missouri.

COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR LEGISLATOR

Want to send a letter, make a phone call or meet in person with your legislature? Find out how in this guide.

MOCAN



By becoming a member of the MCC’s Catholic Advocacy Network (MOCAN), you’ll receive updates on MCC progress and involvement with legislation, and you’ll also be able to get involved yourself. If you receive our

MCC Weekly Update by email then you are a member of MOCAN. If you do not receive our emails, but would like to become a part of MOCAN, contact the MCC at (573) 635-7239 or mocatholic@mocatholic.org or text **MOCAN** to **50457**. By texting this number, you are opting in to receive text alerts from the MCC. This makes it even easier to respond to Action Alerts on the go!



PO Box 1022
Jefferson City, MO 65102-1022

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Missouri Catholic
Conference



@MOCatholic



mocatholic@mocatholic.org

MOCatholic.org

Phone: (573) 635-7239
Fax: (573) 635-7431

Board of Directors

Most Rev. Robert J. Carlson
General Chairman
Archbishop of St. Louis

Most Rev. James Johnston
Vice Chairman
Bishop of
Kansas City/St. Joseph

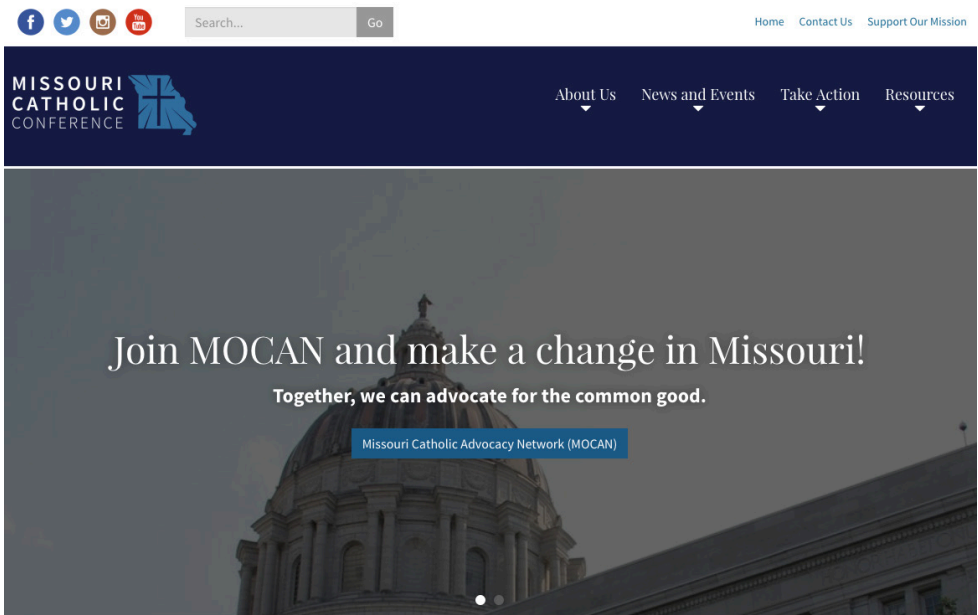
Most Rev. W. Shawn McKnight
Executive Chairman
Bishop of Jefferson City

Most Rev. Edward Rice
Bishop of
Springfield/Cape Girardeau

Most Rev. Mark Rivituso
Auxiliary Bishop of St. Louis

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Jefferson City, MO
Permit #42

Visit our redesigned website @ www.mocatholic.org!



In order to better serve Missouri Catholics the Missouri Catholic Conference launched its redesigned website in November. Now it's easier than ever to access resources, publications, Action Alerts and more. Head over to **mocatholic.org** to see what's new. Many thanks to catholicwebsite.com for this great rebuild!