

Good News



Bringing the Light of Christ to Missouri | September/October 2020

MCC from the Capitol: 2020 Virtual Annual Assembly

This year the Missouri Catholic Conference canceled its in-person Annual Assembly at the Capitol due to ongoing concerns with COVID-19. As an alternative, we are releasing several new episodes of our podcast, MCC from the Capitol.

Host and MCC Executive Director Tyler McClay sat down with speakers from across our state and nation to produce a collection of six great episodes focused on issues of interest and concern to Catholics. Though we're sad to miss our in-person event, we're excited to offer this alternative and hope to reach an even broader audience of Missouri Catholics.

We plan to continue releasing episodes of MCC from the Capitol on a semi-regular basis going forward. We hope you find these podcasts enlightening, challenging, and informative, and we encourage you to share your favorite episodes with family, friends, and fellow parish members. We'd love to hear your feedback on this project—please email us at mocatholic@mocatholic.org, or send us a message on Facebook with your comments.

Descriptions of each episode are on pages two and three of this *Good News*. To listen in to this great lineup of podcasts, which includes episodes on immigration, pro-life issues, religious liberty, and more, visit our website today and click on the **MCC from the Capitol** banner.



The Collection:

- *The Racialization of America: A Conversation about Race*
- *The Demographic Question: What to Expect When No One is Expecting*
- *Religious Liberty in the Age of COVID-19*
- *Preserving Catholic Education*
- *Welcoming the Stranger: An Introduction to Missouri's Immigrant Community*
- *Civilize It: A Call for Civility in an Era of Outrage*



1.

The Racialization of America: A Conversation about Race

The senseless death of George Floyd reveals that we still have much work to do in this country to extinguish racism. How can we address the racism of our past and the systemic racism that continues to exist in the present? Guests Joyce Jones, program director for racial harmony for the Archdiocese of St. Louis, and Jeff Schulenberg, facilitator of the social justice commission at Sacred Heart parish in Valley Park discuss the seminar they offer parishes called “The Racialization of America.”

The Demographic Question: What to Expect When No One is Expecting

For decades, we were warned of overpopulation and its attendant problems: food shortages, environmental damage, and mass deaths. However, statistics show that worldwide, birth rates have been steadily decreasing for the last 50 years. By mid-century, the world’s population is expected to begin to shrink. How did we get here, and what steps can be taken to reverse this trend? Jonathan V. Last, executive editor at The Bulwark and author of *What to Expect When No One’s Expecting, America’s Coming Demographic Disaster*, joins us to discuss the economic, cultural, and political effects of a shrinking population.

2.



3.

Religious Liberty in the Age of COVID-19

Vatican II proclaimed that religious liberty lays its foundation in the dignity of the human person, and that no one should be compelled to act in a manner that violates his or her conscience. But are their limits to this liberty that people of faith must accept for the common good? Bishop Mark Rivituso, Auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, and Tom Buckley, General Counsel for the Archdiocese, discuss the Church’s response to the recent government shutdowns due to the COVID pandemic.



4.

Preserving Catholic Education

Our parish schools play a critical role in helping to form our Catholic young people. Yet, challenges abound for parents who seek to provide a Catholic education for their children, especially when teaching and learning must be done remotely. Join Dr. Erin Vader, Superintendent for Catholic schools in the Diocese of Jefferson City, and Nicolette Gibson, Executive Director for the Missouri Council of American Private Education, as they discuss the challenges faced this year for educators and parents alike.

Welcoming the Stranger: An Introduction to Missouri's Immigrant Community

Pope Francis has made the plight of refugees, migrants, and immigrants a focus of his pontificate, speaking frequently about the need for people of faith to offer assistance to those fleeing war, persecution and economic desperation. In this podcast, we invite you to listen to the stories of recent immigrants to the U.S. from Mexico and Central America from the perspectives of Deacon Enrique Castro, director of Hispanic Ministry for the Diocese of Jefferson City, and Javier Orozco, executive director of Human Dignity and Intercultural Affairs for the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

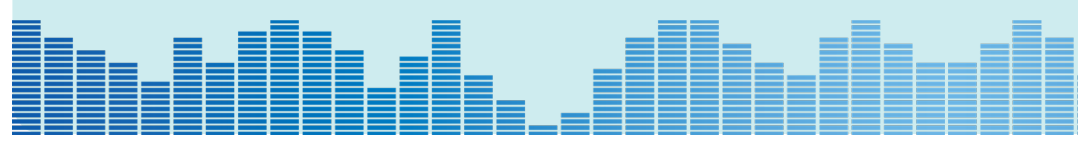
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6.

Civilize It: A Call for Civility in an Era of Outrage

Our political discourse has become increasingly rancorous and bitter. Spend any time on social media or watching the news, and it is apparent that we are living in an era of outrage. The U.S. bishops began a campaign last year to restore civility to our public and political discourse called *Civilize It: Dignity Beyond the Debate*. Join MCC staff members and recently-installed Archbishop of St. Louis Mitchell Rozanski as they discuss civility and how it can lead to more respectful dialogue as we enter the remaining weeks of the 2020 election season.





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So, what is a podcast?

Are you reading this issue of *Good News* and wondering, "What is a podcast?" We're here to explain. A podcast is essentially talk radio, but instead of a live show, it's recorded and available to download and listen to at your convenience. Podcasts usually have a theme or a specific topic, which each episode then focuses on. For example, our MCC from the Capitol podcast focuses on public policy issues important to Missouri Catholics.

Podcasts have become wildly popular over the last decade due to their convenience and relatability. If you search the web, you're likely to find a podcast on any topic you're interested in. There are many popular Catholic podcasts available for listening today, including Bishop Robert Barron's *Word on Fire*.

We hope you enjoy this new form of communication from the MCC. We'd love to know which topics you'd like us to discuss next. Send us an email at mocatholic@mocatholic.org or a message on Facebook with your suggestions!

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