

faith

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feature story

Nina and Steve opened their hearts to God's will with adoption of Matthew

feature story

Kevin and Bethany spread the Gospel through their music



Closing of the Jubilee Schools, Memphis

CLOSING OF THE JUBILEE SCHOOLS, MEMPHIS

BY KAREN PULFER FOCHT

As the month of May wound down, the halls of the Jubilee Catholic schools in Memphis became still. Their school year came to an end as it has for the last 20 years.

Only this time, when they reopen in the fall, they will not be Catholic schools. They will become charter schools.

Boxes of religious books sat near statues, waiting to be removed. Children picked up rosaries and prayer cards as they passed through the halls from tables that were filled with church materials, library books and other religious items that are no longer going to be allowed inside these schools.

The little hands of a child at Our Lady of Sorrows held a new cross and rosary tightly. She was so proud of her treasures.

A principal tears up while talking about the school's closing. She knows that her work is God's work and that it is important work.

A young child looks at a statue of Mary as she says her prayers for the last time with her classmates before heading to the car line on the last day of school.

Teenage Sudanese refugees giggle and whisper in their native language, quickly changing back to English when their teacher calls on them.

Students pass an armless Jesus that hangs in the hallways of Memphis Catholic with a plaque that reads "We Are His Arms In The World." The crucifix will be gone when they return.

In 1999 a multimillion-dollar donation from an anonymous group of donors allowed for the re-opening of the first Jubilee schools in hopes of educating some of the cities poorest children. The resurrection of several once closed Catholic inner city schools, was called a "Miracle in Memphis."

But now, for teachers and administrators who know what these schools mean in the lives of their students, that miracle seems to be vanishing before their eyes.

Due to financial shortfalls, the Catholic Diocese of Memphis closed their Jubilee schools at the end of the 2018-2019 school year. The endowment wasn't enough to sustain a school system serving approximately 1,500

mostly non-Catholic students, many of whom went to school paying little or no tuition.

Principal of Our Lady of Sorrows in Frayser, Connie Hegwood, says the parents of her students want their children to go to Catholic Schools. She knows many of them will no longer be able to afford to send them to the few (tuition charging) Catholic Schools that remain.

A lifelong educator once said of these children, "we educate them because we are Catholic, not because they are."

"We teach the children who need us," she said in 2011. "When we closed those schools, we left more than old buildings behind. We left children, and those children need us now more than ever."



Now those Catholic schools are closing a second time and many of those children still need the church. Many of them are still the poorest of the poor, many are refugees, many are unchurched, and many still go hungry, many long for moral boundaries, role models, messages of love and a spiritual connection.

Many of the Jubilee schools children will be going on to the charter schools that will be teaching in the same buildings. These children will still be offered an education, but they will no longer be allowed a holy atmosphere, allowed to pray in class, and the day-to-day spiritual formation that many parents were seeking in a Catholic education.

The schools which will convert to the charter, in addition to St. Michael, are St. Therese Little Flower Primary, De La Salle Elementary, St. Augustine Elementary, St. Patrick Elementary, St. John Elementary, Our Lady of Sorrows Elementary, St. Joseph Elementary, Resurrection Elementary and Memphis Catholic Middle and High School. More than 1,500 students attended those schools.

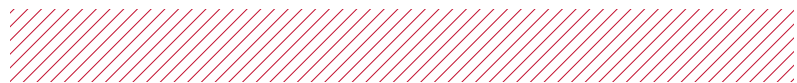
A statement from the diocese cites the rise of charter schools, the creation of six suburban public school districts and "the increasing financial challenges for our diocese and our Jubilee Catholic Schools."

The statement also makes clear that while the charter school network won't be affiliated with the diocese, it will "benefit from the strong academic foundation and values formed over the last two decades by the Jubilee Catholic Schools." †



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SANDRA GOLDSTEIN

Position: Human Resources Director, Catholic Diocese of Memphis

Years with Diocese as Employee: 19 years

Hometown: Bolivar, Tenn.

Family: Married to her husband, Erik, for 41 years. They have two sons who live in Memphis. Their youngest son is now in the Army National Guard stationed in Iraq.

Parish: Holy Rosary Catholic Church

Hobbies: Gardening and reading. Her favorite author is Sidney Sheldon.

Interesting Fact: Sandra is a registered nurse. She worked for St. Joseph’s Hospital in downtown Memphis for 30 years in nursing and human resources until 1998.



Sandra Goldstein began her career in nursing more than 40 years ago at St. Joseph’s Hospital, a Catholic hospital, which was located Memphis, Tenn., until 1998. Over time, her career developed into human resources; for her, this was a natural progression.

Her work combines two aspects that are important to her: her Catholic faith and the nonprofit mentality, which she says focuses on family and employees.

Today, Goldstein is the human resources director for the Catholic Diocese of Memphis, a position she’s held for 19 years. It’s a position where she’s found job satisfaction. The Human Resources Office handles employment for both

lay people and priests throughout the diocese, employment-based immigration, employee and retirement benefits and child and youth protection training.

“I like to interact with people and help them,” Goldstein said. “I appreciate the not-for-profit mentality. The diocese understands that family is very important and is concerned for its workers.”

One of six children, Goldstein was born in Bolivar, Tenn., but says that her family moved around a lot during her childhood. She moved to Memphis in 1965 and lived with her aunt and cousin, who were both Catholic. Goldstein grew up Baptist, but was drawn to the Catholic faith through her religious education at Sacred Heart Catholic High School.

“There was a sense of peacefulness and calm when I walked into a Catholic church,” Goldstein said. “There is a sense of reverence. I felt I learned the truth through my religious education in high school.”

Goldstein met her husband, Erik, shortly after at a spaghetti dinner and poker game. They’ve been married for 41 years and have two sons.

Goldstein wants diocesan employees to know that her door is always open for any employee concerns.

“Sometimes people just want someone to listen to them,” Goldstein said. “If any employees have a problem with benefits, we can help.”

To contact the Human Resources Department, please call 901.373.1200. †

LYNN OLESEN

Position: Human Resources Generalist, Catholic Diocese of Memphis

Years with Diocese as Employee: 3 years

Hometown: Racine, Wis.

Family: Married with two adult daughters who live in Memphis.

Parish: Queen of Peace Catholic Church, Olive Branch, Mississippi

Hobbies: Anything nature-oriented, fishing, hiking and photography.

Interesting Fact: Lynn worked as a special education teacher in Wisconsin for seven years. She loves cheese curds and frozen custard.

Our spiritual inheritance



“Let the children come to me.” – Mark 10:14

Guess who is in the God T-shirt with the gray hair and wrinkles! Yes, it’s me. I don’t actually own a God T-shirt, but I love that my granddaughter Caroline pictured me in one!

A few months ago, I did a stint of baby-sitting with three of my granddaughters while my daughter and son-in-law were out of town for a few days. Even though Anna (10), Caroline (8) and Marian (6) love each other dearly, on the first day I found myself telling them to “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” (Lk 6:31) For the next few mornings, thankfully, I woke up with different Bible quotes on my mind. The girls enjoyed when I shared them during breakfast. Many of the quotes had to do with “loving one another,” but I also taught them how to draw strength from the Lord by putting on the armor of God, as found in Ephesians 6. It was a wonderful way to share my faith with them.

One of the mornings as I walked the girls to school, Caroline asked me if I knew what “transubstantiation” meant. I turned the question back to her and she explained to me the definition of the real presence of Christ! Then, a few weeks later, my heart melted as she made her first Communion clothed in her beautiful white dress and veil. I was comforted to know she understood so much about our faith. In fact, she asked me,

“Why did God make you?” Then she proceeded to give me the Baltimore Catechism response, “God made me to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him in this world, and to be happy with Him forever in heaven.”

Therefore, it is my priority to get me and my family to heaven. I know the best inheritance I can leave them is a bank account full of the rich teachings of God. I am blessed that all six of my grandchildren are being raised in the Catholic faith. When possible, I verbalize the faith to them, but other times I prefer to show them how to live the Gospel. It is important to me to not only talk the talk, but to also walk the walk.

Reflect: The old saying goes that children are great imitators. Therefore, we need to teach the children in our lives about the love of God so we can avoid the risk of having the world teach them.

Pray: Lord, help us live our faith through knowing, loving, and serving You in this world in order to be happy with You forever in heaven. †

REFLECT AND PRAY



**BRENDA
KINDELAN**
*leads the
Memphis
Women’s Morning
of Spirituality,
gives talks,
goes to prison
(ministry), hunts
for bargains
and prays at
her kitchen table
with friends! She
married Juan
46 years ago.
They have four
daughters and six
grandchildren.*

SURRENDER



JUST A GUY IN THE PEW

You should see the looks I get when men ask me what it takes to change your life and how to begin to become the man God calls you to be. It's as if they just drank sour milk. At least some of the time that is what it looks like. Other times, it is a look of great sadness. You see the answer to that question is SURRENDER. And it is an answer most men don't want to hear.

There is a fear men feel in the thought of surrender. I felt it myself when Jesus came calling. This fear breeds into a sadness born of misconceptions of loss of things we deem irreplaceable. It is no different from the sadness the rich man felt when he could not do the one thing Jesus required of him for eternal life. He couldn't get past the fear of surrendering everything – and he went away sad. So many men in our society today are doing the same thing. They are choosing the false comforts of the world over the great rewards of truly surrendering to Christ.

One of the biggest fears I have learned from both my own experiences and my work with men's ministry is the loss of control true surrender would bring. I remember thinking that if I do this, then I'm not calling the shots anymore. Once I give control over, I'm a slave. I can't have fun anymore. I'll become the Jesus freak that nobody feels comfortable around. I'll have no say in my life any more and I'll be miserable. Those feelings are shared by many men that I have talked to, including myself. The thing is, it's a ridiculous fear! The idea that we are ever in control of our lives is nuts. Try holding your breathe for the rest of your life. You can't. God wants you to breathe, so you'll breathe. Our false perception of control is a detriment to us. It is where our feelings of worry, stress and anxiety come from. It breeds feelings of inadequacy and depression when things slip out of our control. Surrendering to God is a relief from this. When you willingly surrender control, everything is out of your hands and placed into God's. All that anxiety dissipates because you have trusted your life to the Lord and He rewards you with a peace most men have been longing for.

Another thing men fear about surrender is that we will lose our identity. We think that by signing our lives over to Christ we can't be who we are anymore. The funny thing is, most of us don't even know who we are in the first place. All we know is what the world tells

us we are. Think about it, everything you think you are has come from the opinions of the world and the people around you. John should like this, wear that, drive this, eat that, look like this, listen to that – and so on and so forth. We didn't come from the world, so why should we care if we lose the identity it gave us? There is only one person who knows our true identity and that is our Creator. When we surrender to Him, He can finally show us what most of us have been searching for all our lives: who we really are. He will reveal your unique gifts and show you your true purpose. There is no greater feeling in the world than finally knowing who you are and what you were born for.

The third and most common fear of surrender that I have heard and experienced is the loss of freedom. We tend to think that if I turn my will over to God that I will lose any freedom I have. This comes from a misunderstanding of freedom. Most men think that having a choice is freedom. We equate having free will with being free. Sure, we can make choices in just about anything in life. True freedom though is found in trusting God and His plan for you. Its about breaking free from the constraints of the world and the need to conform to it. It's about being different and finally being OK with it.

My brothers, the world needs great men now more than ever. Our churches are burning all over the world. The attacks on the Catholic Church and Christianity as a whole are becoming more and more commonplace. The morals of our society are ever declining and it is leaving our wives, our children and our neighbors in a place of grave danger. It is our responsibility as men to be the spiritual leaders and protectors of our Church and our families. God made men for moments just like these. He wants to give you the weapons you'll need for the battle. It is time to step into the breach. It is time to get into the fight. There's only one thing that's required: You have to surrender. †



JOHN EDWARDS

is a husband and father of three who attends Holy Rosary Parish.

His passion is men's ministry and he carries it out daily through his work at Cardinal Studios. John recently established Just a Guy in the Pew ministries, which consists of a podcast, inspirational videos, and reflections for men. He is also a member of the Holy Rosary Study Group, Fishers and Cursillo.

Our highest freedom: A LIFE OF VIRTUE

During July each year, Americans are thinking about freedom. We celebrate the independence of our United States from Britain on July 4 by watching fireworks and eating copious amounts of grilled meats. We might even watch a documentary or listen to a radio broadcast about our beloved Constitution and Bill of Rights, which came soon after the War for Independence. And, of course, many of us belt out the classic Independence Day ballad by Lee Greenwood: “And I’m proud to be an American, where at least I know I’m free. ...”

As we celebrate in these ways, it is important to remember that our Catholic faith has a rich and beautiful teaching about what it means to be free. We need to realize that our freedom doesn’t come from the nation of our birth, but from the content of our character. Freedom happens not because of our nation’s Constitution, but because of our habits.

Our faith teaches us, “The more one does what is good, the freer one becomes. There is no true freedom except in the service of what is good and just.” (CCC 1733) So, if we are to be truly free, we must develop these habits of freedom. We must cultivate a virtuous life. This is our highest, most important freedom: to lead a life of virtue, and to become more fully who God intends for each of us to be.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* makes this connection specific. In order to be free, we must master our desires and passions, which are usually errant because of our fall from grace. So, we are taught, “Progress in virtue, knowledge of the good, and asceticism enhance the mastery of the will over its acts.” (CCC 1734) See that? Progress in virtue is the first thing that allows our wills to fall into natural order under our intellects and under

FEATURE STORY



DEREK ROTT
is director of evangelization and discipleship at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Jackson, Tenn. His first book, entitled A Life of Conversion: Meeting Christ in the Gospels, will be available from Our Sunday Visitor Press in October 2019. His website is derekrotty.com.

God’s law. Having those things in right order is what allows us to be free.

As sin leads us astray in every way, it weakens us and lessens our freedom, too. “By deviating from the moral law, man violates his own freedom, becomes imprisoned within himself, disrupts neighborly fellowship and rebels against divine truth.” (CCC 1740) We’ve all heard it said:

“America is a free country, so I can do what I want.”

Well, the reality is that if what I want is contrary to God’s plan, I am not free at all. I am enslaved, even if I live in America. In a very real sense, Americans will be enslaved if they don’t cultivate virtue, serving the natural moral law and helping others to do the same.

We should recognize that our nation’s founding principles and our Constitution do, in fact, open up for us a greater possibility of following God’s moral law and growing in virtue. In that sense, the United States of America, more than many or most other countries, allows us to be free people. In the final analysis, however, we don’t need military defense and capable politicians to create and protect freedom so much as we need to build a culture of virtuous people. Then, we will be truly free. †



EDDIE MULLER,

founder and president of the Film Noir Foundation, recognized film critic, reviewer, author and host of Turner Classic Movies' "Noir Alley" continues to discuss biblical themes in *film noir* just ahead of the 10th annual TCM Film Festival in Hollywood, April 11-14.

SMW: Picking up the theme of pessimism following both world wars, is the element of God's redemption missing in *film noir*?

EM: I don't think any of the noir films, individually, reject the notion of Divine Providence. Take one of my favorite movies, *Nightmare Alley*.

SMW: A complete departure from Tyrone Power's previously heroic image.

EM: Right. Playing an ambitious "mentalist," Stan Carlisle, he gets rich with his "all-seeing" con man act. His wife [Colleen Gray], who's part of the act, rejects him when he starts "sounding all holy" and "acting like you're God." It's a cautionary tale about how easily charlatans can adopt the trappings of divinity to dupe gullible people. In the end, some people will think a divine hand orchestrates Stan's demise. It was definitely Daryl Zanuck who orchestrated Stan's redemption at the end of movie. He didn't want audiences to see Tyrone Power reduced to biting the heads off live chickens,

SEARCHING FOR GOD IN FILM NOIR

PART 2

AN INTERVIEW WITH EDDIE MULLER,
TCM'S 'CZAR OF NOIR'

which is how the story was supposed to end.

SMW: So Zanuck provided the redemption, not God.

EM: (Laughing), In a way.

SMW: What biblical themes are in *film noir*? For instance, I see Edmund O'Brien's character in *DOA* as inspired by Job, but a Job without God, who seeks his murderer without expecting any salvation in an afterlife.

EM: Tough one; I haven't studied the Bible in a few years. The relationship between Joe Morse [John Garfield] and his brother Leo [Thomas Gomez] in Abraham Polonsky's *Force of Evil* certainly has a Cain and Abel aspect to it, in that Joe's surrender to the dark side (he's a fixer for racketeers) leads directly to his brother's death, and an inspired ending suggesting a quest for spiritual redemption.

SMW: So there is a kind of biblical tension between good and evil in noir?

EM: Noir stories are almost always tales of temptation, with spectacular falls from grace – so it's pretty easy to relate them all to the tale of Adam and Eve. Noir fans are just as likely to argue the relative guilt of the men and women in these films as Bible scholars are to argue about whether it's Adam or Eve who's really responsible for getting them tossed out of Eden.

SMW: Would you consider Barton Keyes [Edward G. Robinson], the gruff, truth-seeking claims manager in *Double Indemnity*, and frequently beat-up detective Philip Marlowe

"NOIR FANS ARE JUST AS LIKELY TO ARGUE THE RELATIVE GUILT OF THE MEN AND WOMEN IN THESE FILMS AS BIBLE SCHOLARS ARE TO ARGUE ABOUT WHETHER IT'S ADAM OR EVE WHO'S REALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR GETTING THEM TOSSED OUT OF EDEN."

[Dick Powell] in *Murder My Sweet*, as Christ figures? Are there any other characters who might fit this role?

EM: I'm leery of answering. I've found that "Christ symbolism" is one of the most abused notions in film criticism.

SMW: If it is that common, there must be something to it.

EM: Well, it seems anytime characters stretch out their arms, they are assuming a "Christ-like pose," which leads to all sorts of wild interpretations of the character and the film. I've heard some theories about Marlowe as a Christ figure, which I don't really see, but I can honestly say this is the first I've heard it applied to Barton Keyes. Interesting. I'm going to think about that.

SMW: Would you describe the roles of women in most examples of *film noir* as femme fatales, plucky wives/girlfriends, heartless barflies or reformed criminals?

EM: OK, you hit my hot button. If I have one goal left to achieve in my role as "Czar of Noir," it's to correct this notion that women in noir are one-dimensional cartoons – either the evil femme fatale or the saintly (and boring) "good girl."

SMW: Hold on! I'm asking your opinion about the roles women take in noir.

EM: All right. But the most subversive thing in the noir movement may have been its depiction of women, specifically competent, professional, self-reliant working women, as not only the salvation of men, but of society as a whole. It's astounding to see how many of these women are in noir films.

SMW: Women of character, in other words.

EM: Yes, very much. They've just been overshadowed by their no-good sisters who don't want to work for a living, who'd rather manipulate men into doing the heavy lifting for them.

SMW: Who would you say exemplifies this role best?

WM: Watch any movie of the noir era starring Ella Raines – *Phantom Lady*, *Uncle Harry*, *The Suspect*, *The Web*, *Impact* – she is the embodiment of the smart, resourceful, self-possessed modern woman. Watch any movie produced by Joan Harrison, Alfred Hitchcock's protégé, especially *They Won't Believe Me*, then you'll see well-written roles for women – real women, not caricatures. †

FEATURE STORY



SEAN M. WRIGHT
an Emmy-nominated TV writer, is a master catechist for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and a member of the RCIA team at his parish, Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Santa Clarita, Calif. He responds to comments sent him at Locksley69@aol.com.



St. Brigid Parish

St. Brigid Parish was established in 1992 under the episcopate, of The Most Rev. Daniel Buechlein. A 12-acre parcel of land on Lowrance Road in southeast Shelby County was purchased. Rev. Michael Stewart was appointed as the first pastor. St. Mark United Methodist Church on Winchester graciously offered their sanctuary as a temporary place for the parishioners to celebrate two weekend Masses.

By October 1993, both a rectory and a multipurpose building had been constructed and the first Mass on the property took place. There were 44 founding families. This number increased to 79 families by the dedication of the new building in November 1993.

The congregation continued its growth and, in 2002, ground was broken for a new sanctuary. One year later, the new church was dedicated on Sept. 8, 2003. By that time, the rolls had increased to 200 families.

St. Brigid's church is a beautiful blend of modern and traditional. The pale beige walls and expansive, arched white ceiling give an airy feel to the sanctuary. Those aspects also seem to remove distraction and focus attention on the altar. Most impressive is the beautiful chapel, which is housed beyond the altar. It can be seen through the expansive, arched multi-paned window that is behind the altar. The tabernacle is the focal point of the chapel and can be viewed from the sanctuary.

On the wall to either side of the altar are statues of St. Patrick and St. Brigid. These were added in 2018. More traditionally, there are beautiful stained-glass windows on either side of the church. One side has windows representing the seven sacraments and the other has depictions representing the liturgical calendar. The church boasts a beautiful pipe organ that was acquired from Grace St. Luke's Church in Memphis. The windows in the chapel show the Twelve Apostles.

There are currently 575 families in this diverse parish. Besides the Caucasian population, the congregation includes sizeable Nigerian, Filipino and Latino representation, as well as Chinese and African-American parishioners.



Rev. J. Keith Stewart is the current pastor at St. Brigid. He summed up the characteristics of the parishioners by listing four aspects: "Ethnic diversity; generosity; cohesiveness; and an amazing music ministry, both historically and continuing to the present."

Father Stewart highlighted several of the many organizations within the parish. The Women's Guild provides hospitality and event planning. They work in conjunction with the Knights of Columbus Council. He also reiterated the strength of the music ministry and how much it is appreciated by parishioners.

Finally, he mentioned the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program, which is offered to children in grades PreK-6. It currently serves approximately 200 students.

Father Stewart enumerated several hopes and goals, such as: refurbishing Stewart Hall, which was named to honor Rev. Michael Stewart; updating the facility to accommodate up to 1,000 worshippers at Sunday Mass; and expanding charitable outreach. The latter would include enlarging the Social Service Ministry and the possibility of opening a St. Vincent de Paul Conference within the parish.

A relatively new event is held near the feast of St. Brigid. A fundraiser dinner is served and the event is hosted at Our Lady

of Perpetual Help. Ideas are already flowing regarding additions to this event for the upcoming years.

To sum up the parish, Father Stewart chose to use a quote attributed to St. Brigid: "I would like an abundance of peace. I would like full vessels of charity. I would like rich treasures of mercy. I would like cheerfulness to preside over all." Father Stewart added, "The parishioners embody those sentiments." †

PARISH HERITAGE

The Catholic heart of West Tennessee



BEVERLY PANGLE SCOTT

has published five books on matters of faith that are available on Amazon. A retired educator, she worked as a teacher and guidance counselor. She and her husband of 40+ years have two daughters.

NINA AND STEVE OPENED THEIR HEARTS TO GOD'S WILL

with adoption of Matthew



ON THE MORNING OF NOV. 17, 1990, A YOUNG WOMAN WALKED INTO BAPTIST HOSPITAL, EAST, TO GIVE BIRTH TO A BABY BOY.

She made one special request for the baby she was about to bring into the world. She wanted her child to grow up with many siblings and mentioned to hospital staff that she would like a large family to adopt the baby.

At the time, Steve and Nina Signaigo were the parents of five children between the ages of 8 and 15. Only eight months prior, they had been told by doctors that Nina could not birth additional children.

The young woman's request put into motion a series of events that the Signaigo family says strengthened their faith in God forever. In just a few short hours on that special day, a true gift from God was given to them. It's a gift they continue to receive everyday through their son, Matt, who they adopted hours after he was born almost 29 years ago.

Nina says that God intervened at a special time in their lives when they were open to accepting God's will. The experience opened their hearts and eyes to the miracles God gives them everyday.

"I know it's hard for people to believe a story like this," Nina said. "But, it really happened. It shows that we belong to God, He loves us and will take care of us."

NINA'S STORY

Nina desired to have a large family when she and Steve married in 1973. She grew up with many siblings and wanted her own children to have the same experience. Even though Steve and Nina had five children in 1990, Nina felt her family wasn't complete. She suffered several miscarriages and two ectopic pregnancies, which is when a fetus develops outside the uterus and in the fallopian tubes. After her last ectopic pregnancy, she

almost died in surgery. Doctors told her that she wouldn't be able to have more children. Nina was devastated by the news and struggled with pain and guilt for many years.

It wasn't until Nina attended a Cursillo retreat on Nov. 10, 1990, that she says she gave up her pain to Christ. Cursillo is a movement in the Catholic Church that prepares lay people to become effective ministry leaders. Nina connected with the women she met during the retreat. They had all experienced miscarriages and could relate to one another's pain. In fact, one of the women she met at the retreat assisted with her surgery when she had almost died.

Nina says that on the last day of the retreat, she closed her eyes and prayed. While in prayer, she had a powerful experience. She saw the Blessed Sacrament and heard the voice of Jesus speak to her.

"Jesus told me that He wouldn't forsake me, and at that moment, I finally felt at peace," Nina said. "I was a mess for years, but I knew at the end of Cursillo that I would be OK. After the experience, I gave my baby bed away. I wanted what God wanted, and if He didn't want to give me any more children, I was OK with that."

Seven days later, on Nov. 17, she spent the afternoon at the library with four of her children. Steve took their oldest son, Stephen, to a college football game at Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium in Memphis, Tenn. Later that day, Nina attended Saturday evening Mass at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church with her children. Before she went up to receive Communion, Nina's sister-in-law walked into the church and tapped her on her shoulder.

"I gasped when I saw her face in church," Nina said. "My sister-in-law isn't Catholic, and I knew if she was in my church trying to talk to me that something tragic had happened. I thought someone had died."

Fortunately, the news was good, but shocking. Nina's sister worked as a nurse at Baptist Hospital at the time and overheard co-workers talking about the young mother and her request for a family like the Signaigos to adopt her baby. Hospital employees were trying to contact Nina.

"Cell phones weren't around in 1990," she said. "The hospital had been trying to call me at home, but I had been out all day. My sister-in-law knew that if I wasn't at home on a Saturday evening that I would be in church. She told me that the mother of this child, who had just been born, had chosen me to be his mother."

Nina says that she was filled with joy when she learned that there was a baby in need of adoption, but she also knew that her husband would be hard to convince.

Previously, she talked with Steve about adopting another child, but she says he wasn't receptive to the idea.

"I knew there was no way Steve would go for this," Nina said. "Steve had told me that he was done having babies. He said, 'Nina, the Lord has blessed us with five children. We aren't having any more babies. I want to be a commercial pilot, and you want eight children. Sometimes, we don't get our dreams.'"

The hospital told Nina that she and Steve had to react quickly and commit to becoming the child's foster parents. Steve was still at the football game, so she went to her parents' house to tell them of the news and pray the Rosary until Steve arrived home later that evening.

"I said to God, 'You have to change his mind because I can't,'" Nina said. "I knew that I couldn't be the one to say yes because I knew Steve and I would disagree. It had to be Steve's decision. If this baby was truly from God and meant for us, then God would touch him. I had to believe that."

STEVE'S STORY

Around 8 p.m. the same evening, Steve and his son were headed home from the football game. Steve realized that he forgot his house keys and stopped at his cousin's house to call Nina.

Steve went into a dark bedroom to use his cousin's landline phone. He remembers he was irritated when he couldn't reach Nina at home. He called her parents' house and Nina answered the phone. He asked her why she was at her parents' home so late in the evening.

"She said to me, 'We're praying the Rosary,'" Steve said. "A baby was born today and they believe he's ours. He's a perfect baby boy and he's a gift from God."

Steve says that he was shocked at her reply.

"I couldn't believe what I was hearing," Steve said. "I told her, 'Well, that's great, but we already have five kids.' She was throwing all of this at me, and I was tired, hungry, had been out all day and just wanted to go home."

Nina told him that she had a number for the hospital he needed to call. She promised him that if he called the number, she would abide by any decision he made regarding the adoption of the baby.

"I didn't realize it at the time, but my wife had surrendered herself to God's will at that moment," Steve said. "I thought that I would call the number, say no and move on."

That's not what happened.

Steve sat down on the bed in the dark room and called the number. A woman answered the phone on the first ring and Steve introduced himself.

The woman replied, "I know. A baby has been born today and he is a gift from God for you."

Steve replied, "Ma'am, God's been good to me. I have five gifts already, thank you very much."

The woman said, "No sir, you don't understand what I said. I

“
She said to me, ‘We’re praying the Rosary. A baby was born today and they believe he’s ours. He’s a perfect baby boy and he’s a gift from God.’”



said there is a perfect baby here that is a gift from God to you. You need to pray about this.”

Steve was short-tempered and said, “Well, I’m pretty close to God right now. I’ve been to Cursillo. I used to go to church once a week and now I go everyday.”

The woman on the phone, whose name he still didn’t know, said, “You need to put down the phone and pray about this now.”

Steve says he put the phone receiver under his leg and started praying.

“I told God, ‘There is this lady here telling me that she has this baby who is a gift from you for me.’” Steve said. “You have to tell me something, God, because I’m not there, and I need to know something now.”

Steve says he immediately felt a hand push on his forehead. A dense, powerful feeling went from the top of his head down to his toes. All of a sudden, he was out of breath and filled with the Holy Spirit. He was alone in a dark room in the presence of the Holy

Spirit and he heard a voice say, “This is your son.”

“I started to cry,” Steve said. “I picked up the receiver and said to the woman on the phone, ‘This is my son.’ She said, ‘I knew you’d see it my way.’”

Steve thanked the woman and asked her to reveal her name.

She said, “Just call me Nurse Mary.”

When he returned home later that evening, he told Nina, “I said yes.” Nina responded, “I knew you would.”

The couple’s adoption attorney signed papers claiming them as foster parents of the little boy by midnight Sunday morning. Nina says the hospital gave her the baby’s footprints in ink to keep. The couple slept with his footprints between them that night.

BRINGING MATT HOME

Forty-eight hours later, a healthy baby boy was delivered to the Sign-ago home.

Both Steve and Nina say that he completed their family.

“The kids immediately doted on him,” Steve said. “It was like my wife had birthed him herself. The family was overcome with joy to have him with us.”

Steve wasn’t home the morning their new son came home. He was picking up his commercial pilot’s license. Nina says that two dreams came true for them that Monday morning.

The couple decided to name their son Matthew, which held significance for Steve.

One month before, Steve attended a Cursillo retreat. It was an emotional experience for him, and it deeply affected his outlook on his faith.

“I became committed to adoration and began to attend daily Mass,” Steve said. “I became more active in my church and took the opportunity to receive the body of Christ everyday.”

Steve’s Cursillo discussion group was named after St. Matthew.

**STORY
BY BETH
SIMKANIN**

**PHOTOGRAPHY
BY KAREN
PULFER FOCHT**

Six weeks later, Matthew was baptized at their church and several Dominican Sisters from St. Benedict at Auburndale, the school where their children attended, presented the couple with a special gift. It was a plaque with Matthew's name engraved on it. Below his name was the Hebrew meaning of Matthew, which is "Gift from God."

"We were stunned because we had no idea the significance of Matt's name and how it related to the nurse telling me that he was God's gift to me," Steve said.

Steve tried to call the woman who he knew as "Nurse Mary" again the week after Matt came home to thank her for encouraging him to adopt his son. After calling and the phone ringing repeatedly, Steve finally was answered. What he wasn't expecting was the very agitated charge nurse on the other end of the line who then said nobody named Mary works there and he had called her private office, which had been locked all week-end. The charge nurse in labor and delivery at the hospital told him that there wasn't a nurse named Mary who worked on the floor.

"I thought that I must have had a conversation with the Blessed Mother," Steve said. "I mean, who else could it have been? I didn't know how to explain the events that happened that day. It was truly a miracle from God."

Several weeks later, Steve and Nina discussed the events that happened leading up to Matt's adoption. Nina says the experience opened her heart to God's will.

"Once we processed everything, we realized a series of beautiful miracles occurred," Nina said.

"My heart and eyes became open to small miracles as a result of everything that happened. The Lord performs miracles everyday. It's up to us to be open to see and hear them. There are so many miracles that happen everyday, but hearts



“ He fit right into our family. I felt at peace because I knew that God wanted him for us. I love Matt's birth mother because without her, I wouldn't have him. I pray for her everyday. ”

and eyes aren't open to them.”

Nina says that she's forever grateful to Matt's birth mother for sharing her wishes of wanting a family like hers to the staff at the hospital the day Matt was born.

"As soon as Matt was placed in my arms, I knew he was mine," Nina said. "He fit right into our family. I felt at peace because I knew that God wanted him for us. I love Matt's birth mother because without her, I wouldn't have him. I pray for her everyday."

MATT'S STORY

Today, Matt is 28 and is active in the Catholic Church. He says that his parents encouraged him to be open to God's will in his life. In fact, it was little signs from God that led him to St. Michael Catholic Church in Memphis.

His parents have a holy water font by the door leading to the garage in their home. Matt noticed one day that the font is St. Michael. He noticed because it was like the St. Michael coin he has carried in his pocket for years.

Additionally, he was planning to get a St. Michael tattoo. It was shortly after noticing these little signs and actively looking for a new parish that he began attending weekly Mass at the church.

Now, he assists Father Ben Bradshaw, pastor at St. Michael Catholic Church in Memphis, with the audiovisual needs of the church and serves however he is needed during Mass.


"I feel like I'm more open to messages from God and the little miracles He performs around us," Matt said. "I grew up with my family being open to them and talking openly about them."

The Signaigos say that they are the recipients of God's gifts each day. They have 14 grandchildren and are blessed with God's abundant joy and love through their six children. †



You can hear Steve tell his story online at the following link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=PP4u11Y89oM





♪ Kevin and Bethany
spread the Gospel
through their music ♪

BY BETH SIMKANIN
PHOTOGRAPHY BY KAREN PULFER FOCHT

Kevin and Bethany Paige have been a part of music in Memphis, Tenn., for over two decades. From a 25-year run at Alfred's on Beale, a local nightclub located on Memphis' historic Beale Street, to 20 years of performing their annual "Christmas with the Paiges" concert, the couple are well-known for their spectacular talent and high-energy performances.

In addition to performing throughout Memphis, producing music for other music artists and releasing their own music albums internationally, the couple have been devoted to spreading the Gospel through music ministry over the past 20 years. It's a passion that's made a difference in both their professional and spiritual lives.

"It's such a blessing we get to live the same life," Bethany said. "We are blessed to have 20-plus years in music ministry."

The couple's devotion to their Catholic faith fueled their desire to serve God through music. It's a devotion that continues today as they serve as music directors for the Catholic Diocese of Memphis.



**FEATURE
STORY**

Finding the beauty in music

Kevin and Bethany were drawn to music from an early age. From the first moment they heard the music of Stevie Wonder and “Earth, Wind and Fire,” they knew a career in music was their true calling.

“I was drawn to the beauty and light in their music,” Kevin said. “They painted pictures with their music, and I was illuminated by the orchestration of their music. Their lyrics were happy and full of faith, even through their secular music.”

Kevin and Bethany performed musically throughout their childhood in the Memphis area. Kevin kept his desire to sing and play music separate from his Catholic faith. Bethany said her only religious influence growing up was her grandmother, who was Catholic.

Kevin achieved international success in pop music in the late 1980s and early 1990s with several music singles hitting Billboard’s Top 40 music chart, which led to him performing as an opening act for Debbie Gibson on tour.

In the mid-’90s, Kevin returned to Memphis to produce music for other artists. In addition, he began to

perform every weekend at Alfred’s on Beale. The couple met in 1998 and Bethany began working with Kevin producing music for Christian music artists; several years later, she joined him at Alfred’s.

A rediscovery of faith

Kevin and Bethany worked with many Protestant Christian musicians producing contemporary Christian music in the late 1990s. The couple said they were in awe of how the musicians evangelized through their music.

“The Christian artists we were working with were baring it all in their music and saying, ‘I love Jesus and He’s the reason for my music,’” Kevin said. “They gave witness to their faith and trust in Jesus through their lyrics.”

The couple spent many late nights discussing their faith and Christ’s influence in their lives with other musicians. They were inspired by other Christian musicians such as “DC Talk,” a Christian rap and rock trio who are one of contemporary Christian music’s highest-selling acts of all time. It was through working with Protestant Christian musicians that helped Kevin rediscover his Catholic faith. As a result, Bethany was

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"Bethany and I prayed that God would use us to spread the Gospel through music. I was fired up and filled with the Holy Spirit. I rediscovered my Catholic faith."



inspired to join the Catholic Church six months before the couple married.

"I wasn't able to defend my Catholic faith at the time," Kevin said. "I was frustrated with that, and so I began to read books on the Catholic faith and attend RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) classes with Bethany."

A passion for change

Kevin said that he was filled with the Holy Spirit from the experience, and, as a result, the couple were ready to make a change in their professional and spiritual lives.

"It was a profound experience for me, and it changed the course of my professional life," Kevin said. "Bethany and I prayed that God would use us to spread the Gospel through music. I was fired up and filled with the Holy Spirit. I rediscovered my Catholic faith."

The couple didn't know where their prayer and passion would lead them, but they vowed they would go where the Lord led them together.

"We wanted something more," Bethany said. "Singing 'Brick House' on the weekends wasn't going to cut it."

In 2000, the couple were approached to become music directors at Lindenwood Christian Church, a Protestant Christian church located in midtown Memphis. The church wanted the Paiges to bring contemporary Christian music to its Sunday worship service.

Kevin said the job offer came at a time when contemporary Christian music was very new to Memphis.

"We were torn because we were fired up about our Catholic faith," Bethany said. "It was a hard decision for us, and we faced a lot of criticism at the time after we took the job. It was a baptism by fire, but following God isn't always the easiest path."

The Paiges were music directors at Lindenwood for more than 15 years. They attended Mass at their home parish, the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. They continued their music ministry by providing music for both the Men's and Women's Morning of Spirituality retreats, annual, diocesan, faith-sharing movements that foster a deep love for the Catholic faith and encourage spiritual growth for men and women through prayer, music and the celebration of holy Mass, Eucharist and reconciliation. The couple released four music albums together. Kevin continued producing music for Christian music artists, including John Angotti, a Catholic, music missionary who travels throughout the world performing inspirational, Christian music.

Coming home

In 2015, the couple decided to leave Lindenwood and become music directors at The Church of the Incarnation, a Catholic Church in Collierville, Tenn., a suburb of Memphis.

"It was a big leap of faith to leave a church where we were established for 15 years, but we wanted to serve the Church," Kevin said. "Something had been going on in the Catholic community with the evolution of Men's and Women's Morning of Spirituality. Catholics across Memphis were celebrating their Catholic faith. We wanted to be a part of that."

Additionally, the couple left their regular weekend job at Alfred's, one they'd held for decades, sold their home in midtown, which housed a recording studio, and relocated to Collierville.

"We knew that we wouldn't just be singing during Mass," Kevin said. "We wanted to immerse ourselves in the community there. We challenged our comfort zone and went to celebrate our faith."

Kevin said the first time he walked into the church, he felt like he was coming home. There was a banner hanging in the church's narthex, which stated "Welcome Home." He said he thought that God was speaking to him at that moment. A week or so later, he walked by the same banner and noticed it just said, "Welcome." The banner's words hadn't changed, but he felt that it was a symbol he was at the right place.

"I felt our prayers had been answered, and I found comfort in that," Bethany said. "Faith fueled our decision, and we went where the Holy Spirit led us. God has created wonderful opportunities for us. We've hit road blocks along the way, but each time God has redirected us and things come out OK."

The Paiges provide music during four Masses every Saturday evening and Sunday morning. Kevin said that it's a Holy Spirit-driven moment each time he sings and plays music while parishioners are receiving the sacrament of the Eucharist.

"You are in the true presence of Christ," Kevin said. "You are connected in that moment with Christ and the Holy Spirit guides you in the music. You just don't show up and phone it in. The Holy Spirit doesn't allow that. I want to serve the moment musically in a reverent way each time."

Kevin and Bethany said that they rely on their faith in all aspects of their life, but their decision to rely on their faith musically has changed the direction of their professional and spiritual lives.

"There are two stages of music," Kevin said. "One is self-serving and it's led by the desire to get your next paycheck. The other is faith-leading. You put your music into God's hands and go where it leads. We are blessed to be where we are, and we hope to retire serving the Church." †

Upcoming Events for Kevin and Bethany Paige:

Collierville Independence Day Celebration, Cox Park, Collierville, Tenn.
Wednesday, July 3, 2019, 6 p.m. www.collierville.com

St. Ann Fall Fest, St. Ann Catholic Church Bartlett, Tenn.
Saturday, Oct. 19, 2019, tickets on sale at www.stannfallfest.org

faith
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Building up the body of Christ

Like most of the gifts of Christian life, *unity* must be opened with a small but sharp key: *humility*.

Catholics may agree on the main tenets of our faith, but we often have different ideas about how to live out our Christian mission in the parish, the school or the community. That is when it is vital to recall that we are one in the body of Christ, but we are all different members of that body. We cannot all be the head, the hand or the eye. True humility and respect for others are required to see that we have distinct gifts and are often called to unique roles in the Christian life.

The devil seeks to divide, and he is having a field day in our current culture, which has become so polarized. The Catholic community can seem like a haven from that discord, as members work together to achieve the goal of glorifying God by their lives.

I count myself fortunate to be part of a strong Catholic community that seems to live out its mission very naturally. For me, it is the little things that signify the unity of the Catholic community.

It could be the parish clean-up before Advent, working together to make sure the church campus looks its best as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ.

It could be the fish fries during Lent, when Catholics abstain from meat on Fridays as part of the penitential fast and enjoy the company of other parishioners while they do so.

It could be First Friday adoration, when parish

members join one another in worshipping Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.

It could be the weekly grouping of Cursillo members, who support one another and hold one another accountable on their Christian walk in the world.

It could be the meal train for a parishioner who is suffering from cancer – or for the young mother who just added a new baby to her growing family.

It could be the parish priest who – in addition to all of his other duties – happily attends the sporting events of his young parishioners to cheer on the families he shepherds.

It could be the mothers who gather weekly to pray for their parish school and all of those in it – teachers, students, staff and parents.

It could be the Eagle Scout whose project adds onto the parish playground or rebuilds bleachers for the school sports field.

All of these examples come from my home parish, and they all involve members of the body of Christ. We are so blessed to be part of this community where we can use our varied gifts – prayer, encouragement, leadership and service – to build up a Christian culture in this world.

This culture is truly a city on a hill, a beacon for others to see. Let us all continue to strive with humility to achieve the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. †

Are you listening?

Recently, I heard a fascinating talk by Julian Treasure claiming that we spend 60 percent of our communication time listening, but only retain 25% of what we hear. Even worse, how often during a walk in the park do most of the humans have earphones to block out the world of sound around them? Combine both of these instances, and listening as a means to understanding the needs of those in the world has disappeared, according to Treasure. Understanding requires conscious listening, of which many of us have lost that ability.

Treasure offers a few tricks to effective listening, but two that I appreciate are to create silence for a few minutes each day and to take boring, mundane sounds and make them interesting. For example, take the sound of a lawn mower and make it interesting. Treasure believes that effective listening creates a world of connection, understanding and peace. Being able to listen effectively can be most beneficial as we interact with each other and with God as found in the Scriptures.

Then Jesus said to them, "Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.' And suppose the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.

"So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

"Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

In the Scripture passage above, Jesus assures us that we have a Father in heaven who will always listen to



our prayers. The answer to our request may not be exactly for what we exactly ask, but the Holy Spirit will always be provided to help us find a solution. Jesus is also providing us with a model by which we should also answer the requests of others. The option of not listening should not be our course of action. When one makes a request of us, will we act like the person in the Scripture reading who tells his friend not to bother him, or will we be the person who will act when one asks?

Just by listening, each of us can create a better world. So the next time you walk through the mall with your earphones to block out the activities of individuals around you, maybe it would be better to open

up your ears and listen. †

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Regresando a casa

En 2015, la pareja decidió dejar Lindenwood y convertirse en directores de música en la Iglesia de la Encarnación, una iglesia católica en Collierville, Tennessee, un suburbio de Memphis.

“Fue un gran salto de fe dejar a una iglesia en la que estuvimos bien establecidos durante 15 años, pero queríamos servir a la Iglesia”, dijo Kevin. “Algo había estado sucediendo en la comunidad católica con la evolución de la Mañana de la Espiritualidad de Hombr

es y Mujeres. Los católicos de todo Memphis celebraban su fe católica. Queríamos ser parte de eso”. Además, la pareja dejó su trabajo habitual de fin de semana en Allreds on Beale, uno que habían mantenido durante décadas, vendió su casa en el centro de la ciudad, que albergaba un estudio de grabación, y se mudó a Collierville.

“Sabíamos que no solo estaríamos cantando durante la misa”, dijo Kevin. “Queríamos sumergirnos en la comunidad allí. Desafiarnos nuestra zona de confort y fuimos a celebrar nuestra fe”;

Kevin dijo que la primera vez que entró a la iglesia, sintió que iba a volver a casa. Había una pancarta colgada en el nártex de la iglesia, que decía lo que él pensaba que estaba hablando en ese momento. Aproximadamente una semana después, caminó por la misma pancarta y se dio cuenta de que solo decía “Bienvenido”. Las palabras de la pancarta no habían cambiado, pero sintió que era un símbolo que estaba en el lugar correcto.

“Sentí que nuestras oraciones habían sido contestadas, y encontré consuelo en eso”, dijo Bethany. “La fe alimentó nuestra decisión y fuimos a donde nos guió el Espíritu Santo. Dios ha creado maravillosas oportunidades para nosotros. Hemos encontrado barricadas el camino, pero cada vez que Dios nos redirige, las cosas salen bien”.

Los Paige brindan música durante cuatro misas todos los sábados por la noche y los domingos por la mañana. Kevin dijo que es un momento guiado por el Espíritu Santo cada vez que canta y toca música mientras los feligreses reciben el sacramento de la Eucaristía.

“Estás en la verdadera presencia de Cristo”, dijo Kevin. “Estas conectado en ese momento con Cristo y el Espíritu Santo te guía en la música. Simplemente no te presentas y lo llamas por teléfono. El Espíritu Santo no permite eso. Quiero servir el momento musicalmente de manera reverente cada vez”.

Kevin y Bethany dijeron que confían en su fe en todos los aspectos de su vida, pero su decisión de confiar en su fe musicalmente ha cambiado el rumbo de su vida profesional y espiritual.

“Hay dos etapas de la música”, dijo Kevin. “Uno es de autoservicio y está dirigido por el deseo de obtener su próximo cheque de pago. El otro es la fe que guía. Pones tu música en las manos de Dios y vas hacia donde te lleva. Tenemos la bendición de estar donde estamos y esperamos retirarnos al servicio de la Iglesia”.

“Bethany y

yo hablamos

para que

Dios nos

use para

difundir el

Evangélio a

traves de la

música. Fue

renovada

y llena del

Espíritu

Santo.

Redescubrí

mi fe

católica.”



Una pasión por el cambio

“No pude defender mi fe católica en ese momento”, dijo Kevin. “Me sentí frustrado con eso, así que comencé a leer libros sobre la fe católica y a asistir a las clases de RICA (Rito de Iniciación Cristiana de Adultos) con Bethany”.

Kevin dijo que esa experiencia lo llenó con el Espíritu Santo y, como resultado, la pareja estaba lista para cambiar sus vidas profesionales y espirituales.

“Fue una experiencia profunda para mí, y cambió el curso de mi vida profesional”, dijo Kevin. “Bethany y yo orábamos para que Dios nos use para difundir el Evangelio a través de la música. Fue renovado y lleno del Espíritu Santo. Redescubrí mi fe católica”.

La pareja no sabía a dónde llevaría su oración y su pasión, pero la pareja prometió que irían donde el Señor los guiara juntos.

“Queríamos algo más”, dijo Bethany. “Cantar ‘Brick House’ los fines de semana no suficiente”;

En 2000, la pareja fue invitada a convertirse en directores de música en la iglesia cristiana de Lindenwood, una iglesia cristiana protestante ubicada en el centro de Memphis. La iglesia quería que los Paiges trajeran música cristiana contemporánea a su servicio de adoración del domingo.

Kevin dijo que la oferta de trabajo llegó en un momento en que la música cristiana contemporánea era muy nueva para Memphis.

“Estábamos muy tristes porque estábamos entusiasmados con nuestra fe católica”, dijo Bethany. “Fue una decisión difícil para nosotros, y enfrentamos muchas críticas en el momento en que tomamos ese trabajo. Fue un bautismo con fuego, pero seguir a Dios no siempre es un camino más fácil”.

Los Paige fueron directores de música en Lindenwood por más de 15 años. Asistieron a misa en su parroquia, la Catedral de la Inmaculada Concepción. Continuaron su ministerio proporcionando música tanto para los retiros matutinos de Espiritualidad para Hombr

es como para el de las Mujeres, movimientos diocesanos anuales para compartir la fe que fomentan un profundo amor por la fe católica y alienan el crecimiento espiritual de hombr

es y mujeres a través de la oración, la música y la celebración de la santa misa, la eucaristía y la reconciliación. La pareja lanzó cuatro álbumes de música juntos. Kevin continuó produciendo música para artistas de la música cristiana, incluido John Angotti, un misionero católico que viaja por todo el mundo tocando música cristiana inspiradora.

Próximos eventos para Kevin y Bethany Paige:

Celebración del Día de la Independencia de Collierville,

Cox Park Collierville, Tenn., Miércoles 3 de julio de 2019

6 p.m. www.collierville.com

Festival de Otoño de St. Ann, Iglesia Católica de St. Ann

en Bartlett, Tenn., Sábado 19 de octubre de 2019

Entradas a la venta en www.stannfallfest.org



ARTÍCULO DE FONDO

BETH SIMKANIN

es una escritora independiente local. Con más de 17 años de experiencia en periodismo y relaciones públicas, ha trabajado en las industrias de materiales de construcción, medicina, publicaciones y servicios públicos. Ella es feligresa en la iglesia de Holy Spirit.

Encuentando la belleza en la música

Kevin y Bethany se sintieron atraídos por la música desde una edad temprana. Desde el primer momento que escucharon la música de Stevie Wonder y Earth, Wind and Fire, sabían que una carrera en la música era su verdadera vocación.

“Me atrajo la belleza y la luz en su música”, dijo Kevin. “Pintaron imágenes con su música, y me iluminó la orquestación de su música. Sus letras fueron felices y llenas de fe, incluso a través de su música secular”.

Kevin y Bethany actuaron musicalmente durante su infancia en el área de Memphis. Kevin mantuvo su deseo de cantar y tocar música separada de su fe católica. Bethany dijo que su única influencia religiosa al crecer fue su abuela, que era católica.

Kevin logró el éxito internacional en la música pop a finales de los años 80 y principios de los 90, con varios “singles” musicales que llegaron al “Top 40” de la lista de música de Billboard, lo que lo llevó a actuar como acto de apertura para la gira de Debbie Gibson.

A mediados de la década de 1990, Kevin regresó a Memphis para producir música para otros artistas musicales. Además, comenzó a actuar todos los fines de semana en Allreds on Beale. La pareja se conoció

en 1998 y Bethany comenzó a trabajar con Kevin produciendo música para artistas de música cristiana, y varios años más tarde, se unió a él en Allreds.

Un redescubrimiento de la fe

Kevin y Bethany trabajaron con muchos músicos cristianos protestantes que producían música cristiana contemporánea a finales de los años noventa. La pareja dijo que estaban asombrados de cómo los músicos evangelizaron a través de su música.

“Los artistas cristianos con los que trabajábamos lo mostraban todo en su música y decían: ‘Amo a Jesús y él es la razón de mi música’”, dijo Kevin. “Dieron testimonio de su fe y confianza en Jesús a través de sus letras”.

La pareja pasó muchas noches discutiendo su fe y fueron inspirados por otros músicos cristianos como DC Talk, un trío cristiano de rap y rock, que son uno de los actos más vendidos de la música cristiana contemporánea de todos los tiempos. Fue a través del trabajo con músicos cristianos protestantes que ayudó a Kevin a redescubrir su fe católica. Como resultado, Bethany se inspiró para unirse a la Iglesia Católica seis meses antes de que la pareja se casara.



Revin y Bethany Paige han sido parte de la música en Memphis, Tennessee, durante más de dos décadas. Desde el inicio de su carrera un club nocturno local ubicada en la histórica Beale Street de Memphis, hasta la presentación de su concerta anual "Christmas with the Paiges" por los últimos veinte años, la pareja es conocida por su talenta espectacular y sus actuaciones de gran energía.

Además de actuar en todo Memphis, producir música para otros artistas musicales y lanzar sus propios álbumes a nivel internacional, la pareja se ha dedicado a difundir el Evangelio a través del ministerio de la música durante los últimos 20 años. Es una pasión que ha marcado una diferencia tanto en su vida profesional como en la espiritual.

"Es una gran bendición haber vivido una vida como esta", dijo Bethany. "Tenemos la bendición de tener más de 20 años en el ministerio de música".

La devoción de la pareja a su fe católica alimentó su deseo de servir a Dios a través de la música. Es una devoción que continúa hoy en día, ya que sirven como directores de música para la Diócesis Católica de Memphis.



Kevin y Bethany
compañeros de evangelia
a través de su música

POR BETH SIMKANIN | FOTOGRAFÍA POR KAREN PULFER FOCHT

La parroquia de St. Brigid

La parroquia de St. Brigid fue establecida en 1922 bajo el obispado del Reverendísimo Daniel Buehlein. En aquella época se compró una parcela de doce acres de tierra en Lowrance Road en el sureste del condado de Shelby. El Padre Michael Stewart fue designado como el primer párroco. La Iglesia Metodista de St. Mark United en Winchester ofreció gentilmente su santuario como un lugar temporal para que los feligreses celebren dos Misas de fin de semana

En octubre de 1993, se había construido una rectoría y un edificio de usos múltiples y se llevó a cabo la primera misa en la propiedad. Hubo 44 familias fundadoras. Ese número aumentó a 79 familias durante la dedicación del nuevo edificio en noviembre de 1993. La congregación continuó su crecimiento y en 2002, se abrió el terreno para un nuevo santuario. Un año más tarde, la nueva iglesia se dedicó el 8 de septiembre de 2003. Para entonces, los inscritos habían aumentado a 200 familias.

La iglesia de St. Brigid es una hermosa mezcla de lo moderno y lo tradicional. Las paredes de color beige pálido y el amplio y arqueado techo blanco les dan una sensación de amplitud al santuario. Esos aspectos también parecen eliminar la distracción y centrar la atención en el altar. Lo más impresionante es la hermosa capilla, que se encuentra más allá del altar. Se puede ver a través de la amplia ventana de vidrio de múltiples arcos que se encuentra detrás del altar. El tabernáculo es el punto focal de la capilla y se puede ver desde el santuario.

En la pared a cada lado del altar están las estatuas de San Particio y Santa Brigida. Estos se agregaron en 2018. Más tradicionales son los hermosos vitrales a ambos lados de la iglesia. Un lado tiene ventanas que representan los siete sacramentos y el otro lado hay representaciones que representan el calendario litúrgico. La iglesia cuenta con un hermoso órgano de tubos que fue adquirido de la iglesia de Grace St. Luke en Memphis. Las ventanas de la capilla muestran a los doce apóstoles.

Actualmente hay 575 familias en esta parroquia diversa. Además de la población caucásica, la congregación incluye una importante representación nigeriana, filipina y latina, así como feligreses chinos y afroamericanos.



Un evento relativamente nuevo se lleva a cabo cerca de la Fiesta de Santa Brigida. Se sirve una cena para recaudar fondos y el evento se lleva a cabo en la parroquia de Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Ya están surgiendo ideas con respecto a las adiciones a este evento para los próximos años.

Para describir la parroquia, el Padre Stewart optó por usar una cita atribuida a Santa Brigida: "Quisiera una abundancia de paz. Quisiera buques llenos de caridad. Quisiera ricos tesoros de misericordia. Me gustaría que la alegría presidiera sobre todo". El Padre Stewart agregó: "Los feligreses encarnan esos sentimientos". †

El Padre Stewart enumeró varias esperanzas y metas. Estas incluyen: la restauración de Stewart Hall, que fue nombrada en honor al Padre Michael Stewart; actualizar las instalaciones para acomodar hasta 1,000 fieles en la misa del domingo; y la expansión de las actividades de beneficencia. Esto último incluiría la ampliación del Ministerio de Servicio Social y la posibilidad de abrir una Conferencia de San Vicente de Paul dentro de la parroquia.

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El Padre J. Keith Stewart es el actual párroco en St. Brigid. El resume las características de los feligreses enumerando cuatro aspectos: "Diversidad étnica; generosidad; cohesión y un ministerio de música increíble tanto históricamente como hasta el presente". El Padre Stewart destacó varias de las muchas organizaciones dentro de la parroquia. El Gremio de Mujeres ofrece hospitalidad y planificación de eventos. Trabajan en conjunto con el Consejo de Caballeros de Colón. También reiteró la fuerza del ministerio de música y cuánto es apreciado por los feligreses. Finalmente, mencionó el programa de Catequisis del Buen Pastor, que se ofrece a los niños en los grados pre kinder al séptimo grado. Actualmente atiende a aproximadamente 200 estudiantes.

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BEVERLY PANGLER SCOTT ha publicado cinco libros sobre asuntos de fe que están disponibles en Amazon. Ella es educadora jubilada, que trabajó como maestra y consejera. Ella y su esposo de más de 40 años tienen dos hijas.



El corazón del Católico del Oeste de Tennessee



Nuestra libertad más alta: UNA VIDA DE VIRTUD

Durante julio de cada año, los estadounidenses están pensando en la libertad. Celebramos la independencia de nuestros Estados Unidos de Gran Bretaña el 4 de julio observando los fuegos artificiales y comemos una abundante cantidad de carnes a la parrilla. Incluso podríamos ver un documental o escuchar una transmisión de radio sobre nuestra querida Constitución y la Carta de Derechos, que se produjo poco después de la Guerra de Independencia. Y, por supuesto, muchos de nosotros soltamos la clásica balada del Día de la Independencia de Lee Greenwood: "Y estoy orgulloso de ser un estadounidense, donde al menos sé que soy libre ..."

Al celebrar de esta manera, es importante recordar que nuestra fe católica tiene una enseñanza rica y hermosa sobre lo que significa ser libre. Debemos darnos cuenta de que nuestra libertad no proviene de la nación en que nacimos, sino del contenido de nuestro carácter. La libertad se da no por la Constitución de nuestra nación, sino por nuestros hábitos.

Nuestra fe nos enseña que: "En la medida en que el hombre hace más el bien, se va haciendo también más libre. No hay verdadera libertad sino en el servicio del bien y de la justicia". (CIC 1733) Entonces, si queremos ser verdaderamente libres, debemos desarrollar estos hábitos de libertad. Debemos cultivar una vida virtuosa. Esta es nuestra libertad más alta y más importante: llevar una vida de virtud y llegar a ser más plenamente lo que Dios pretende que cada uno de nosotros seamos.

El Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica hace esta conexión específica. Para ser libres, debemos dominar nuestros deseos y pasiones, que generalmente son errantes debido a nuestra caída de la gracia. Entonces, se nos enseña, "El progreso en la virtud, el conocimiento del bien, y la ascesis acrecientan el dominio de la voluntad sobre los propios actos". (CIC 1734) ¿Mira eso? El progreso en la virtud es lo primero que permite que nuestras



DEREK ROTTY

es Director de

Evangelización y

Discipulado en la

Iglesia Católica

de St. Mary en

Jackson, TN. Su

primer libro,

titulado "A Life

of Conversion:

Meeting Christ

in the Gospels",

está disponible

en Our Sunday

Visitor Press en

octubre de 2019.

Su sitio web

es

esderekrotty.com.

voluntades caigan en orden natural bajo nuestros intelectos y bajo la ley de Dios. Tener esas cosas en el orden correcto es lo que nos permite ser libres. A medida que el pecado nos desvía en todos los sentidos, también nos debilita y disminuye nuestra libertad. "Al apartarse de la ley moral, el hombre atenta contra su propia libertad, se encadena a sí mismo, rompe la fraternidad con sus semejantes y se rebela contra la verdad divina". (CIC 1740) Todos hemos oído decir que "Estados Unidos es un país libre, así que puedo hacer lo que quiero". Bueno, la realidad es que si lo que quiero es contrario al plan de Dios, no soy libre en absoluto, sino esclavizado. Incluso si vivo en Estados Unidos. En un sentido muy real, los estadounidenses serán esclavizados si no cultivan la virtud, cumplen la ley moral natural y ayudan a otros a hacer lo mismo.

En conclusión, debemos reconocer que los principios fundadores de nuestra nación y nuestra Constitución, de hecho, nos abren una mayor posibilidad de seguir la ley moral de Dios y crecer en virtud. En ese sentido, los Estados Unidos de América, más que muchos o la mayoría de los otros países, nos permiten ser personas libres. Sin embargo, en el análisis final, no necesitamos una defensa militar y políticos capaces para crear y proteger la libertad tanto como necesitamos construir una cultura de personas virtuosas. Entonces, seremos verdaderamente libres. †



Deberían ver las miradas que recibo cuando los hombres me preguntan qué se necesita para cambiar de vida y cómo comenzar a convertirse en el hombre que Dios les llama a ser. La expresión de sus caras es como si acabaran de beber leche agria. Al menos, parte del tiempo así es como se ven. Otras veces es una mirada de gran tristeza. La respuesta que doy a esa pregunta es RENDICIÓN. Y es una respuesta que la mayoría de los hombres no quieren escuchar.

Hay un miedo que los hombres sienten al pensar en rendirse. Yo mismo lo sentí cuando Jesús vino a llamarme. Este temor se convierte en una tristeza nacida de los conceptos erróneos de pérdida de cosas que consideramos irremplazables. No es diferente de la tristeza que el hombre rico sintió cuando no pudo hacer lo único que Jesús le exigió para la vida eterna. No pudo superar el miedo de rendirlo todo y se fue triste. Tantos hombres en nuestra sociedad hoy están haciendo lo mismo. Están eligiendo las falsas comodidades del mundo sobre las grandes recompensas de rendirse verdaderamente a Cristo. Uno de los mayores temores que he aprendido de mis propias experiencias y mi trabajo con el ministerio de los hombres es la pérdida de control que la verdadera entrega traería. Recuerdo que pensé que si hago esto, entonces ya no voy a ser quien mande. Una vez que le doy el control, soy un esclavo. Ya no puedo divertirme. Me convertiré en el monstruo de Jesús con el que nadie se sienta cómodo. Ya no tendré nada que decir en mi vida y seré miserable. Esos sentimientos son compartidos por muchos hombres con los que he hablado, incluyendo a mi mismo. ¡La cosa es que es un miedo ridículo! La idea de que alguna vez tenemos el control de nuestras vidas es una locura. Intenta contener la respiración por el resto de tu vida. ¡No puedes hacerlo! Dios quiere que respires para que respires. Nuestra falsa percepción de control es un deterioro para nosotros. Es de donde vienen nuestros sentimientos de preocupación, estrés y ansiedad. Genera sentimientos de insuficiencia y depresión cuando las cosas se salen de nuestro control. Rendirse a Dios es un alivio de esto. Cuando cede voluntariamente el control, todo está fuera de tus manos y se coloca en las de Dios. Toda esa ansiedad se disipa porque confiaste tu vida al Señor y él te recompensa con la paz que la mayoría de los hombres han anhelado. Otra cosa que los hombres temen de rendirse es que perderemos nuestra identidad. Pensamos que al ceder nuestras vidas a Cristo ya no podemos ser siendo quienes somos. Lo gracioso es que la mayoría de nosotros ni siquiera sabemos quiénes somos en primer lugar. Todo lo que sabemos es lo que el mundo nos dice que es lo que somos. Piénsalo, todo lo que crees que eres proviene de las opiniones del mundo y de las personas que te rodean. A Juan le debería gustar esto, llevar esto, conducir esto, comer eso, verse así, escuchar eso, y así sucesivamente. No somos del mundo, ¿por qué nos importa si perdemos la identidad que este nos dio? Solo hay una persona que conoce nuestra verdadera identidad y esa es nuestro Creador. Cuando nos rendimos a Él, finalmente puede mostrarnos a nosotros mismos lo que la mayoría de nosotros hemos estado buscando todas nuestras vidas, quiénes somos realmente. Él revelará tus dones únicos y te mostrará tu verdadero propósito. No hay mayor sentimiento en el mundo que finalmente saber quién eres y para qué naciste. El tercer y más común temor de rendición que he escuchado y experimentado es la pérdida de la libertad. Tendremos a pensar que si entrego mi voluntad a Dios, perderé toda la libertad que tengo. Esto viene de un malentendido de la libertad. La mayoría de los hombres piensan que tener una opción es la libertad. Nosotros equiparamos tener libre albedrío con ser libre. Claro, podemos tomar decisiones en libertad se encuentra en confiar en Dios y en su plan para ti. Se trata de liberarse de las limitaciones del mundo y la necesidad de ajustarse a él. Se trata de ser diferente y finalmente estar bien con eso. Hermanos míos, el mundo necesita grandes hombres ahora más que nunca. Nuestras iglesias se están quemando en todo el mundo. El ataque a la iglesia católica y al cristianismo en general se está volviendo cada vez más común. La moral de nuestra sociedad siempre está disminuyendo y está dejando a nuestras esposas, nuestros hijos y nuestros vecinos en un lugar de grave peligro. Como hombres, tenemos la responsabilidad de ser líderes espirituales y protectores de nuestra iglesia y nuestras familias. Dios hizo a los hombres para momentos como este. El quiere darte las armas que necesitarás para la batalla. Es hora de entrar en la brecha. Es hora de entrar en la lucha. Solo hay una cosa que se requiere. Tienes que rendirte. †

SOLO UN VARÓN EN EL BANCO



JOHN EDWARDS

es un esposo y padre de tres hijos que asiste a la parroquia de Holy Rosary. Su pasión es el ministerio de hombres y lo lleva a cabo diariamente a través de su trabajo en Cardinal Studios. John recientemente estableció el ministerio de Just a Guy in the Pew (Solo un varón en el banco), que consiste de un podcast, videos inspiradores y reflexiones para hombres. También es miembro del grupo de estudio de Holy Rosary, Fishers, y Curtillo.

Nuestra herencia espiritual



“Dejen que los niños vengan a mí” – Marcos 10:14

!A divina quién está en la camiseta que dice Dios, con pelo gris y arrugas! Sí, soy yo. En realidad no tengo una camiseta que diga Dios, pero me encanta que mi nieta Caroline me haya imaginado en una.

Hace unos meses cuidé a tres de mis nietas mientras mi hija y mi yerno salieron de viaje fuera de la ciudad por unos días. A pesar de que Anna (10), Caroline (8) y Marian (6) se quiere profundamente, el primer día me encontré diciéndoles que “hagan a los demás lo que usted quieren que hagan con ustedes” (Lucas 6: 31) Afortunadamente, en las mañanas siguientes me desperté con diferentes citas bíblicas en mi mente. Las niñas las disfrutaban cuando las compartían con ellas durante el desayuno. Muchas de las citas tenían que ver con “amarse unos a otros”, pero también les enseñé como obtener fuerzas del Señor al ponerse la Armadura de Dios que se encuentra en Efesios 6. Fue una manera maravillosa de compartir mi fe con ellas.

Una mañana, mientras caminaba con las niñas a la escuela, Caroline me preguntó si yo sabía lo que significaba “transubstanciación”. Le devolví la pregunta y ella me explicó la definición de la presencia real de Cristo. Unas semanas después, mi corazón se derretió cuando hizo su Primera Comunión, vestida con su hermoso vestido blanco y un velo. Me confortó saber que ella entendía mucho sobre nuestra fe. De hecho,

ella me preguntó: “¿Por qué Dios te hizo?”. Luego procedió a darme la respuesta del Catecismo de Baltimore: “Dios me hizo para conocerlo, amarlo y servirlo en este mundo y ser feliz con Él para siempre en el cielo.

Por lo tanto, es mi prioridad llevarme a mí y a mi familia al cielo. Sé que la mejor herencia que puedo dejarles es una cuenta bancaria llena de riquezas de Dios. Tengo la bendición de que todos mis 6 nietos están siendo educados en la fe católica. Cuando es posible, les verbalizo la fe, pero otras veces prefiero mostrarles cómo vivir el Evangelio. Es importante para mí no solo hablar de las cosas de Dios, sino también caminar siguiendo sus pasos.

Reflexiona: El viejo dicho dice que los niños son grandes imitadores. Por lo tanto, debemos enseñar a los niños en nuestras vidas sobre el amor de Dios para que podamos evitar el riesgo de que el mundo les enseñe.

Ora: Señor, ayúdanos a vivir nuestra fe a través de conocerte, amarte y servirte en este mundo para ser feliz contigo por siempre en el cielo. †



POR BRENDA KINDEHAN

REFLEXIONA Y ORA

CLAUSURA DE LAS ESCUELAS DE JUBILEO, MEMPHIS

POR KAREN PULFER FOCHT

quieren que sus hijos vayan a las escuelas católicas. Ella sabe que muchos de ellos ya no podrán enviarlos a las pocas Escuelas Católicas (que cobran colegiatura) que quedan. Ella cree que la presencia de las escuelas y la iglesia es muy importante para cada barrio al que sirven.

“A medida que los autos entran y salen de los vecindarios, la gente observa que allí hay una vida de integridad”, dice ella. Un educador de toda la vida dijo una vez sobre estos niños, “los educamos porque Nosotros somos católicos, no porque ellos lo sean”. Ella continuó explicando que muchas de las Escuelas de Jubileo servían Niños en situación de pobreza, niños hambrientos, víctimas de violencia, maltratados y de los barrios que los han estado manteniendo a un nivel más bajo. “Enseñamos a los niños que nos necesitan”, dijo en 2011. “Cuando cerramos Esta escuelas, dejamos más que edificios viejos atrás. Dejamos niños, y Esos niños nos necesitan ahora mas que nunca”;

Ahora esas escuelas católicas están cerrando por segunda vez y muchos de estos niños todavía necesitan la iglesia. Muchos de ellos siguen siendo los más pobres de los pobres, muchos son refugiados, muchos no tienen iglesia y muchos todavía pasan hambre, muchos anhelan fronteras morales, modelos a seguir, mensajes de amor y una conexión espiritual.

Muchos de los niños de las Escuelas Jubilee irán a las escuelas charter que enseñaran en los mismos edificios. A estos niños les seguirán ofreciendo una educación, pero ya no se les permitirá una atmósfera sagrada. Ni será permitido orar en clase, y la formación espiritual cotidiana que muchos de Los padres buscaban en una educación católica.



Las escuelas que se convertirán charter, además de San Miguel, son Primaria Florencia de Santa Teresa, Primaria De La Salle, Primaria San Agustín, Primaria San Patricio, Primaria San Juan, Primaria Nuestra Señora de Los Dolores, Primaria San Jose, Primaria Resurreccion y Secundaria y Preparatoria Memphis Catholic. Más de 1,500 alumnos asisten a esas escuelas. Una declaración de la diócesis cita el aumento de las escuelas charter, la creación de seis distritos de escuelas públicas suburbanas y “los crecientes desafíos financieros para nuestra diócesis y nuestras escuelas católicas de Jubileo”. También deja claro que si bien la red de escuelas charter no será afiliado a la diócesis, pero se “beneficiará de la solidez académica fundada y los valores formados en las últimas dos décadas por el las Escuelas Católicas de Jubileo”.

medida que el mes de mayo terminó, los pasillos de las escuelas católicas de Jubilee en Memphis se quedaron quietos. Su año escolar llegó a su fin, como lo ha hecho en los últimos 20 años.

Solo que esta vez, cuando vuelvan a abrir en el otoño, no serán escuelas católicas. Se convertirán en escuelas charter. Cajas de libros religiosos estaban sentados cerca de estatuas, esperando ser retirados. Los niños recogieron rosarios y tarjetas de oración mientras pasaban por los pasillos de las mesas que estaban llenas de materiales de la iglesia, libros de la biblioteca y otros artículos religiosos que ya no se permitirán dentro de estas escuelas. Las mantas de una niña en Nuestra Señora de los Dolores sostenían con fuerza una nueva cruz y un rosario. Estaba tan orgullosa de sus tesoros. Una directora

llora al hablar sobre el cierre de la escuela. Ella sabe que su trabajo es el trabajo de Dios y que es un trabajo importante. Una niña pequeña mira una estatua de María mientras dice sus oraciones por última vez con sus compañeros de clase antes de dirigirse a la fila de automóviles el último día de clases. Los refugiados sudaneses adolescentes se ríen y susurran en su idioma nativo, cambiando rápidamente a inglés cuando su maestro los llama. Los estudiantes pasan a un Jesús sin brazos colgado en los pasillos de Memphis Catholic con una placa que dice: “Somos sus brazos en el mundo”.

El crucifijo se habrá ido cuando regresen. En 1999, una donación multimillonaria por un grupo

ánimo de donantes permitió la reapertura de las primeras escuelas de Jubileo con la esperanza de educar a algunos de los niños más pobres de la ciudad. La resurrección de varias escuelas católicas del centro de la ciudad, una vez cerradas, se llamó “Millagro en Memphis”. Pero ahora, para los maestros y administradores que saben lo que estas escuelas significan en las vidas de sus estudiantes, ese millagro parece estar desapareciendo ante sus ojos.

Debido a la escasez financiera, la Diócesis Católica de Memphis cerró sus escuelas jubiliares al final del año escolar 2018-2019. La dotación no fue suficiente para sostener un sistema escolar que atiende a aproximadamente 1500, en su mayoría estudiantes no católicos, muchos de los cuales fueron a la escuela pagando poco o nada de colegiatura. La directora de Nuestra Señora de los Dolores en Frayser, Connie Hegwood, dice que los padres de sus estudiantes



Clausura de
las Escuelas
de Jubileo,
Memphis

WEST TENNESSEE
Faith

JULIO/AGOSTO 2019
WWW.CDOM.ORG



artículo
de fondo
Kevin y Bethany
comparten el
evangelio a través
de su música

artículo
de fondo
Nuestra libertad
mas alta: Una
vida de virtud