



T E N N E S S E E

REGISTER

JANUARY 24, 2020 | The Voice of Tennessee Catholic Life since 1937 | www.tennesseeregister.com

Catholic schools build reputation for quality education



ANDY TELLI

April Schroeder has home-schooled all of her eight children, who range in age from a junior in college to a pre-kindergarten student.

She had thought about enrolling them in a Catholic school, but it wasn't until her pastor, Father Stephen Gideon of St. John Vianney Church in Gallatin, approached her and her husband Rob last year to ask them to consider applying for the Welcome Grants offered by the Diocese of Nashville that she decided to give it a try for her five youngest children.

"I went through the motions of applying," Schroeder said. She thought, "We'll give it one year and see how it goes."

"It's the best thing I ever did," Schroeder said.

She ticked off the positive features of St. John Vianney School where her children are enrolled in the pre-kindergarten, first grade, third grade, fourth grade and seventh grades classes: the small class sizes, the quality of the teachers, the school's family atmosphere, the fact the Catholic faith is taught daily and students attend Mass once a week.

The academics at St. John Vianney have been challenging, Schroeder said, "but the payoff is great." She had some worries about how her children would do academically after transitioning into a school environment for the first time. "Not only have they kept up, they've done phenomenal."

Photo by Andy Telli

Catholic Schools Week will be celebrated Jan. 26-Feb. 1. St. John Vianney School in Gallatin, one of 19 Catholic schools in the Diocese of Nashville, will join Catholic schools across the country in the celebration. Caius Schroeder, a fourth grade student at St. John Vianney, practices on a new violin. The school has begun offering violin lessons for its students.

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Bishop's Annual Appeal passes goal, sets record for second year

ANDY TELLI

The 2019 Bishops Annual Appeal for Ministries has exceeded its goal of \$2.7 million, the second year in a row the Appeal has met the goal and set a record for the amount of money raised to help pay for a wide variety of ministries in the Diocese of Nashville.

"God is good," Diocesan Stewardship Director Ashley Linville said.

"There are so many generous people throughout this diocese who support

our ministries," Linville said. "I'm just amazed as I think about this year and all the people who have helped us reach goal: pastors, church staffs, parishioners. It's truly been a group effort."

"I know Bishop Spalding is grateful," Linville said of Bishop J. Mark Spalding.

"When he's around at different parishes, he's talking about (the Bishop's Annual Appeal) and the importance of it," Linville said. "He truly knows the money raised is going to ministry, is going to impact the lives of others. It's

a way for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus. It's how we can share with others directly and invest in the future of the Church and invest in others."

The diocese received \$2,712,175.70 in pledges and donations for the 2019 Appeal. The goal was \$2,700,411.09. In 2018, the Appeal received \$2.6 million in pledges and donations, exceeding the \$2.5 million goal.

"I think meeting the Appeal goal two years in a row when the goals were increased, it shows that our parishioners

connect with the ministries and want to join in to make a difference in the lives of others throughout Middle Tennessee," Linville said.

"It means that more lives can be touched, more people can be reached, more good news can be shared," he added.

Among the ministries supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal are: seminarian education to prepare the priests of the future, religious education and

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New justice center opens

The Bordeaux-North Community Justice Center held its grand opening on Monday, Jan. 20, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Located inside the McGruder Family Resource Center, which is managed by Catholic Charities of Tennessee, the justice center is focused on preventative, restorative and diversionary justice. Its goal is to "rehabilitate lives by using its power and resources to move the needle for marginalized people." The McGruder Center offers workforce development job training, entrepreneurial and financial literacy classes, a food pantry, material assistance, and more. Pictured left to right: Elder Cornelius A. Hill of Ephesians Primitive Baptist Church; Judge Rachel L. Bell, founder and presiding judge; State Sen. Brenda Gilmore; Judge Allegra Walker, and Alisha Haddock of Catholic Charities, director of the McGruder Family Resource Center.

Photo by Theresa Laurence

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Ryan to host forum on vaping

Father Ryan High School's Medical Advisory Committee will host a forum on the national outbreak of lung injuries associated with the use of e-cigarettes or vaping at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 30.

The Medical Advisory Committee was formed, in part, because of concern over the outbreak of lung injuries associated with vaping. Members of the committee, who come from a wide variety of medical specialties, all with exceptional reputations as practitioners and health advocates, will discuss the issue during the forum.

The forum will be held in the school's Center for the Arts and is open to the public.

Members of the Medical Advisory Committee are: Mike Cuffe, MD, MBA, President of Physician Service at HCA Healthcare; Robert J. Mangialardi, MD, Pulmonary and Critical

Care Physician at HCA Frist Clinic at Centennial Medical Center; Shindana Feagins, MD, Medical Director/Owner at Feagins Medical Group, PLLC; John Howington, MD, FACS, FCCP; Chief of Oncology Services, Chair of Thoracic Surgery at Saint Thomas Health, Medical Director and Co-Chair Oncology Service Line at Ascension; Robert F. Labadie, MD, PhD, MMHC, FACS, Robert H. Ossoff DMD, MD Endowed Directorship for Translational Research in Otolaryngology, Vice Chair, Chief Research Officer, Professor of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, and Professor of Biomedical Engineering at Vanderbilt University Medical Center; Mark Marsden, MD, Chief Medical Officer at Ascension/Saint Thomas Health; A. James Slandzicki, MD, Family Physician at Williamson Medical Group. †

Surviving Divorce to begin new session

The 12-week "Surviving Divorce" program will begin a new session at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 30, in Room 203 of Our Lady of the Lake Church in Hendersonville.

"Surviving Divorce" is a ministry designed to bring hope and healing to those who have experienced the pain and loneliness of a broken marriage. It features 12 video presentations that cover topics such as shock and grief, anger and forgiveness, money issues, dealing with children and a former spouse, and annulment and remarriage.

This program is for the newly separated and divorced and those still struggling with issues many years

later.

At each of the 12 weekly meetings, participants watch a DVD of experts discussing different aspects of divorce. After watching the DVD, facilitators lead the group through a discussion of the topic. The meetings are confidential.

The cost of the program for participants is \$22, which includes the Surviving Divorce Personal Guide and all program materials.

For more information, call Roseann at 615-406-5677, Cindy at 931-206-3654, or Elizabeth at 615-636-8074; email: catholicdivorceolol@gmail.com; or visit the website AscensionPress.com/Divorce. †

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