



ACUE honors major donors

Bishop Roger Foys and the Alliance for Catholic Urban Education (ACUE) Development Advisory Board hosted, Sept. 24, a major donor recognition reception at the Drees Pavilion, honoring the leadership donors and volunteers of the annual ACUE appeal. Mark Guilfoyle, chair, ACUE Development Board, was the master of ceremonies. The six diocesan ACUE schools are: Holy Cross Elementary School, Latonia; Holy Family School, Covington; Holy Trinity School, Bellevue; Prince of Peace Montessori, Covington; St. Anthony School, Taylor Mill; and St. Augustine School, Covington. A highlight at the celebration reception was the announcement of this year's recipients of the Faith, Hope and Inspiration Award: Stephen and Lois Rosenberger.



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First vows of two Missionaries of St. John Baptist

Bishop Roger Foys received, Sept. 21, at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Park Hills, the first profession of vows of Brothers Kavin Shannon and Jonas Houston. The two are seminarians studying for the priesthood with the Missionaries of St. John the Baptist (MSJB), a religious community of men. The MSJBs make four vows — obedience, chastity, poverty and stability. Also that day Bishop Foys elevated the Missionaries of St. John the Baptist from a private association to a public association of the lay faithful. (See related story on page 7). Pictured from left are: St. John the Baptist Father Shannon Collins, pastor; Our Lady of Lourdes Parish; St. John the Baptist Father Sean Kopczyński, parochial vicar; Our Lady of Lourdes Parish; Bishop Roger Foys; Brother Kavin and Brother Jonas.

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Bishop Foys elevates Missionaries of St. John the Baptist to a public association

Laura Keener
Editor

By order of decree Bishop Roger Foys has elevated the Missionaries of St. John the Baptist (MSJB) from a private association to a public association of the faithful.

"I congratulate the Missionaries of St. John the Baptist and wish them every blessing as they continue to grow their community," said Bishop Roger Foys. "Their ministry at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Park Hills is bearing rich fruit and we are blessed to have them ministering in our diocese."

Missionary Father Shannon Collins, pastor, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, said that the Missionaries of St. John the Baptist are a "religious community in formation," and that the elevation to a public association is one step toward the community's ultimate goal of becoming a diocesan religious institution.

"It's great to be a part of the diocese in a more formalized way and to be servants of the bishop and servants of the diocese in a more corporate, communal sense," said

Father Shannon. "It's a great gift to us that we can be a part of the Church militant in a more public manner."

The MSJB are the second public association of the faithful ministering in the Diocese of Covington. The Franciscan Daughters of Mary, Covington, is the other public association. (See box below for more information.) The MSJB began in 2015 as a private association of the faithful when Bishop Foys received the private vows of Father Shannon and Father Sean Kopczyński, parochial vicar. Both priests were members of the Fathers of Mercy.

"We do consider ourselves a branch of that family (Fathers of Mercy)," said Father Shannon. "We don't consider ourselves founders. We are carrying on a patrimony that that has already been given to the Church. We are just expanding it."

In order to elevate the community from a private association to a public association the community needed to demonstrate financial stability and growth of the community, Father Shannon said. The community has many dedicated supporters as demonstrated by the growth and care

of the parish. With the first profession of vows of two men, Sept. 21, the MSJB have grown in members. Current members include two priests, two professed brothers (that are seminarians studying for the priesthood) and one novice.

The MSJB help the diocese especially by ministering to the faithful who are attached to the liturgical celebrations of the extraordinary form of the Roman rite. The extraordinary form of the Roman rite is the Roman liturgy used prior to the reforms of 1970; most notably the Mass is celebrated in Latin. It is important to note that the MSJB and Our Lady of Lourdes Parish are in full communion with the Catholic Church and is under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Covington.

Additionally, the MSJB will, according to the decree, "lead parish missions and retreats, teach Catechism, assist in the education of young people in universities and seminaries, serve in foreign missions ..."

About the support the MSJB have received from Bishop Foys and the people of the diocese, Father Shannon said, "We've been very fortunate."



ROGER JOSEPH
BY THE GRACE OF GOD
AND THE FAVOR OF THE APOSTOLIC SEE
BISHOP OF COVINGTON

DECREE

Erecting the Missionaries of Saint John the Baptist as a Public Association of the Faithful

Desiring to provide more suitably for the souls entrusted to our care, and having considered carefully the spiritual and present needs of this Diocese of Covington, we have decided to erect a public association of the faithful to be named the Missionaries of Saint John the Baptist.

The primary purpose of this association is the sanctification of its members through the profession of the evangelical counsels. Furthermore, its members will work out their salvation by laboring as true missionaries of the Lord, serving in particular those attached to the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite and a more traditional expression of the Catholic faith, who so often are driven to the margins of ecclesial and civil life. In carrying out this mission, the Missionaries of Saint John the Baptist will lead parish missions and retreats, teach Catechism, assist in the education of young people in universities and seminaries, serve in foreign missions, and staff parishes that provide a spiritual home for Catholics who are attached to the same liturgy.

Whereas we have determined that this association would be useful to the faithful of the Diocese of Covington,

And whereas we have been assured that this association has sufficient resources to achieve its designated purposes,

Therefore, in order to provide more suitably for the care of souls, we hereby accept and approve the statutes of the Missionaries of Saint John the Baptist, contained in the document entitled Constitution of the Missionaries of St. John the Baptist, and, in accordance with canons 301,

302, and 312, we hereby establish and erect the Missionaries of Saint John the Baptist as a Clerical Public Association of the Christian Faithful for the spiritual and pastoral advantage of the faithful and for the purposes defined in its statutes.

In accordance with the norm of canon 313, juridic personality is granted by means of this decree to the Missionaries of Saint John the Baptist, with all the accompanying canonical rights and obligations.

This association has been established with the intention of becoming in the future a religious institute of diocesan right. Its members will consist of celibate men, clergy and laity, who may live as though they were religious until the association is established as a religious institute. The association is permitted to own temporal goods, including religious houses and a novitiate, to wear a specific religious habit, to have its own government as defined by its statutes and the 1983 Code of Canon Law, to profess private vows, and to have temporarily and perpetually professed members.

The association is subject to the authority of the Bishop of Covington according to the norm of law. He is to exercise vigilance to ensure, in particular, that the goods of the association are used properly, the integrity of faith and morals is preserved within the association, abuse does not creep into ecclesial discipline, and the exercise of the apostolate is ordered to the common good. In accordance with canon 397 § 1, the Bishop of Covington possesses the right of ordinary episcopal visitation in order to ensure that all the affairs of the association are conducted according to the norm of law and its proper statutes.

The approved statutes of the Missionaries of Saint John the Baptist cannot be amended without the approval of the competent ecclesiastical authority, namely, the Bishop of Covington. Anything to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Chancery of the Diocese of Covington on the fifth day of September in the two thousand nineteenth year of our Lord.

Roger Joseph
Most Reverend Roger J. Foys, D.D.
Bishop of Covington

Janice M. Schroeder
Mrs. Janice Schroeder
Chancellor

The Diocese of Covington is blessed with five institutions of religious women — one diocesan (Sisters of St. Joseph the Worker) and four papal (Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg, Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence, Congregation of the Passion of Jesus Christ, and Sisters of Notre Dame of Covington). The diocese is less familiar with private and public associations. There are two public associations of the faithful in the Diocese of Covington — the Franciscan Daughters of Mary and the Missionaries of St. John the Baptist.

According to Canon Law, Canon 298, associations of Christ's faithful are "distinct from institutes of consecrated life and societies of apostolic life. In these associations, Christ's faithful, whether clerics or laity, or clerics and laity together, strive with a common effort to foster a more perfect life, or to promote public worship or Christian teaching."

Communities pursuing diocesan or papal status often times begin as private associations. Change in status occurs by the desire and growth of the community and with the recognition of competent ecclesiastical authority.



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