

THE CATHOLIC MISCELLANY

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THE LIFE**
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THE MAGAZINE OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CHARLESTON

THE REAL PRESENCE

THE EUCHARIST AS REVELATORY

In our most recent reflection, we discussed the beauty of the Eucharist as a foretaste of heavenly communion. We mentioned that our experience of the Eucharist is an experience of the risen Lord and therefore points to the promise of our own bodily resurrection. So let's continue reflecting on this notion with an eye toward the everyday also.

The Eucharist, as an encounter with the whole and living Christ, is a revelation of God and his boundless love to us. This is manifested in the Eucharist as the representation of the sacrifice on Calvary and as a share in the divine life of communion. We also come to know ourselves better through this encounter.

But this self-knowledge is nothing like the self-centeredness that plagues our culture as us as individuals. It is precisely the opposite. It shows us that we only really know ourselves in relation to others. It particularly shows in relation to the infinite and absolute other, God. Christ teaches us that only by giving of ourselves do we come to realize our deepest calling and identity. This gift of self is on display in a clear and full way in the Eucharist.

Christ — in his incarnation, Paschal Mystery and all that he continues to do through the sacramental economy in the Church — continuously reveals humanity to itself. Jesus shows us how to truly be

BY DR. MIKE MARTOCCHIO
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Spotlight Books

The imaginations of literary giants rest easy on the shelves at Spotlight Books, a little shop owned by Bob and Jan Parmenter. It opened May 1 at the corner of Union and Virginia streets on Spartanburg's south side.

BY JOE REISTROFFER
 PHOTOS BY GRETCHEN BOEHLERT

These are not just any books. Many are vintage, rare and first editions. That distinctive, early old-book smell wafts through the shop — it's a delightful and warm welcome to visitors. The vintage books draw serious readers, but the Parmenters offer much more. They feature children's classics, inspirational Catholic and Christian fare. They carry old-time superhero comics and cards with inspirational quotes from St. Ignatius, Helen Keller and even Anne Kertz Sermon.

"I have a relationship with each book," Jan said.

So does Bob, who opened The Vault, where he keeps the collectibles.

"These are first edition books," Bob said.

"These are the Pulitzer Prize winners from a long time ago," Jan added. "And some of them are signed by the author."

Bob is particularly proud of *Free and Leaf*, signed by J.R.R. Tolkien. It combines two works — *Leaf by Niggle* and *On Fairy-Stories*, which Tolkien created in the 1940s. "It's been around the world, and it's finally come home," Bob said.

The Parmenters said they have spent 30 years collecting vintage and first-edition books. Now they want to share what they have found.

"We have all price levels. You can come in and pay five bucks and read C.S. Lewis," Jan said. "These are the books that every kid should read."

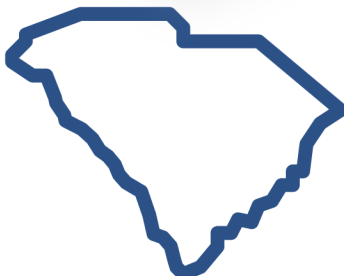
So are the *Brave Books* series by Trent Talbot. She described them as being "like comic books on faith. They deal with certain rules in life. It's really a very cool series — just a few words and a lot of pictures," something children need when they are just starting to read.

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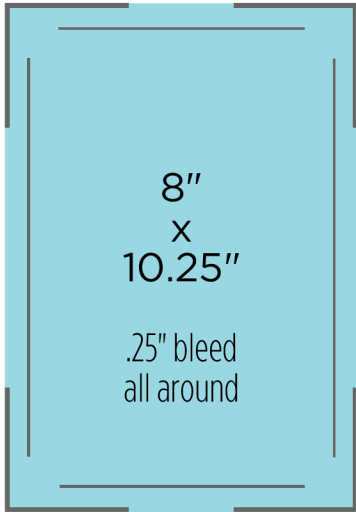
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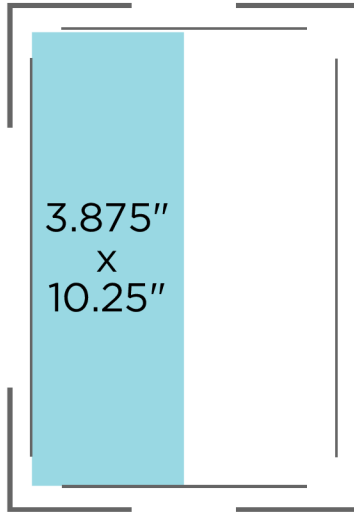
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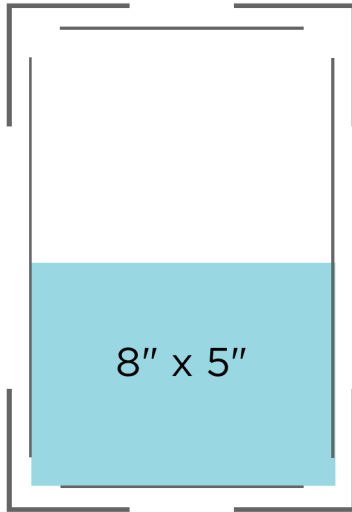
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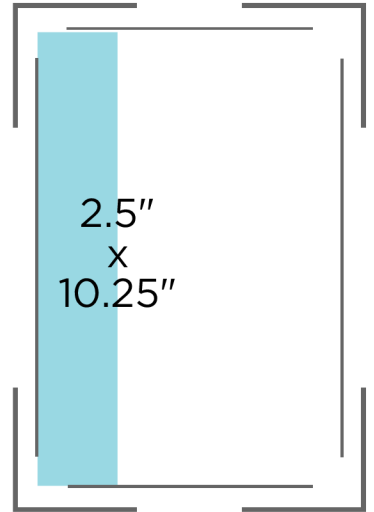
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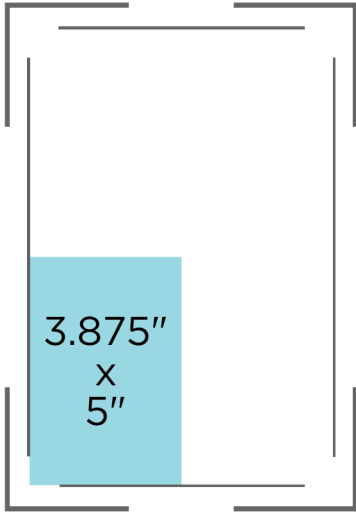
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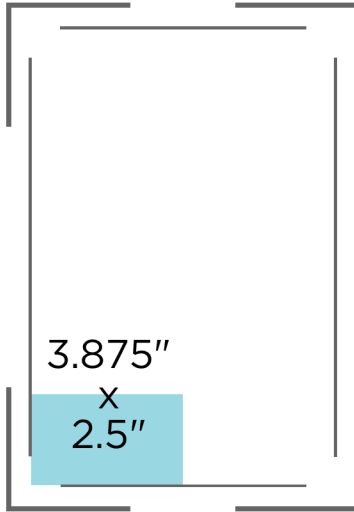
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