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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Volume 91 No. 28

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TODAYSCATHOLICNEWS.org

Saint Anne Victory Noll assisted living center open for business



Courtney Christensen

A new relationship between Saint Anne Communities and Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters in Huntington has allowed for a new assisted living facility to serve both the order and the Huntington community.

BY COURTNEY CHRISTENSEN

The newest Saint Anne Communities facility drew over 200 people from Huntington and many other surrounding areas for its grand opening July 20. Tours of the new building were available, followed by refreshments, entertainment and a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Steve Kimmel, executive director of the Chamber of Commerce of Huntington County, cut the ribbon, describing the new home as "an absolutely top-notch facility."

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, a strong proponent of the project, blessed the facility back in May while it was still under construction. He said it would be a "place of caring, faith and love," and talked about how the residents and staff would care for each other.

Kathy Retzios, the head of marketing and public relations for Saint Anne Communities, said the new facility serves two purposes: providing needed services to the Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters, and allowing the diocesan institution to expand its mission into Huntington County. "We're bringing our experience, and we're helping the sisters out;

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U.S. bishops call for protection for young migrants

BY RHINA GUIDOS

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The chairman of the migration committee of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops urged the Trump administration to "ensure permanent protection" for youth who were brought to the U.S. as minors without legal documentation.

Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Austin, Texas, reiterated the bishops' support for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, a 2012 policy under then-President Barack Obama that, while not providing legal



An immigration rally takes place April 18 outside the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington. The U.S. bishops' migration committee chairman, in a July 18 statement, urged President Donald Trump to "ensure permanent protection" for youth under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA.

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CNS photo/Tyler Orsburn

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Land O' Lakes statement on Catholic higher education turns 50

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN

WASHINGTON (CNS)— Not all Catholics are familiar with the Land O' Lakes statement, a document on Catholic higher education with a cool sounding name, but this landmark text needs no explanation for Catholic college and university leaders.

The document's official name is "Statement on the Nature of the Contemporary Catholic University," but its catchier title did not give it widespread acceptance. Ever since it was signed July 23, 1967, the text has been both revered and criticized.

Even conferences about the document, on its 50th anniversary, have different takes. Promotional material for an upcoming symposium co-sponsored by St. Louis University and the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities says the statement has not gone uncontested, adding: "Some consider it a revolutionary road map for Catholic education in the modern world; others have declared a half-century of devastation. Others designate it a mixed legacy."

This past January, the Cardinal Newman Society and the Institute of Catholic Culture sponsored a conference on the text that was described as a discussion of "the crisis in Catholic education under attack from the secularist agenda set forth 50 years ago by the disastrous Land O' Lakes Statement."

The document, which is still promoting such strong discussion, was put together by a group of two dozen Catholic college educators at a retreat center in Land O' Lakes, Wisconsin — hence the statement's name.

The group — invited by Holy Cross Father Theodore Hesburgh, then-president of the University of Notre Dame and Jesuit Father Paul Reinert, then-president of St. Louis University and what was the Jesuit Secondary Education Association — met to examine the role of Catholic colleges and universities in the modern world and, in the wake of the Second Vatican Council, to submit a paper to the Vatican's Congregation for Catholic Education.

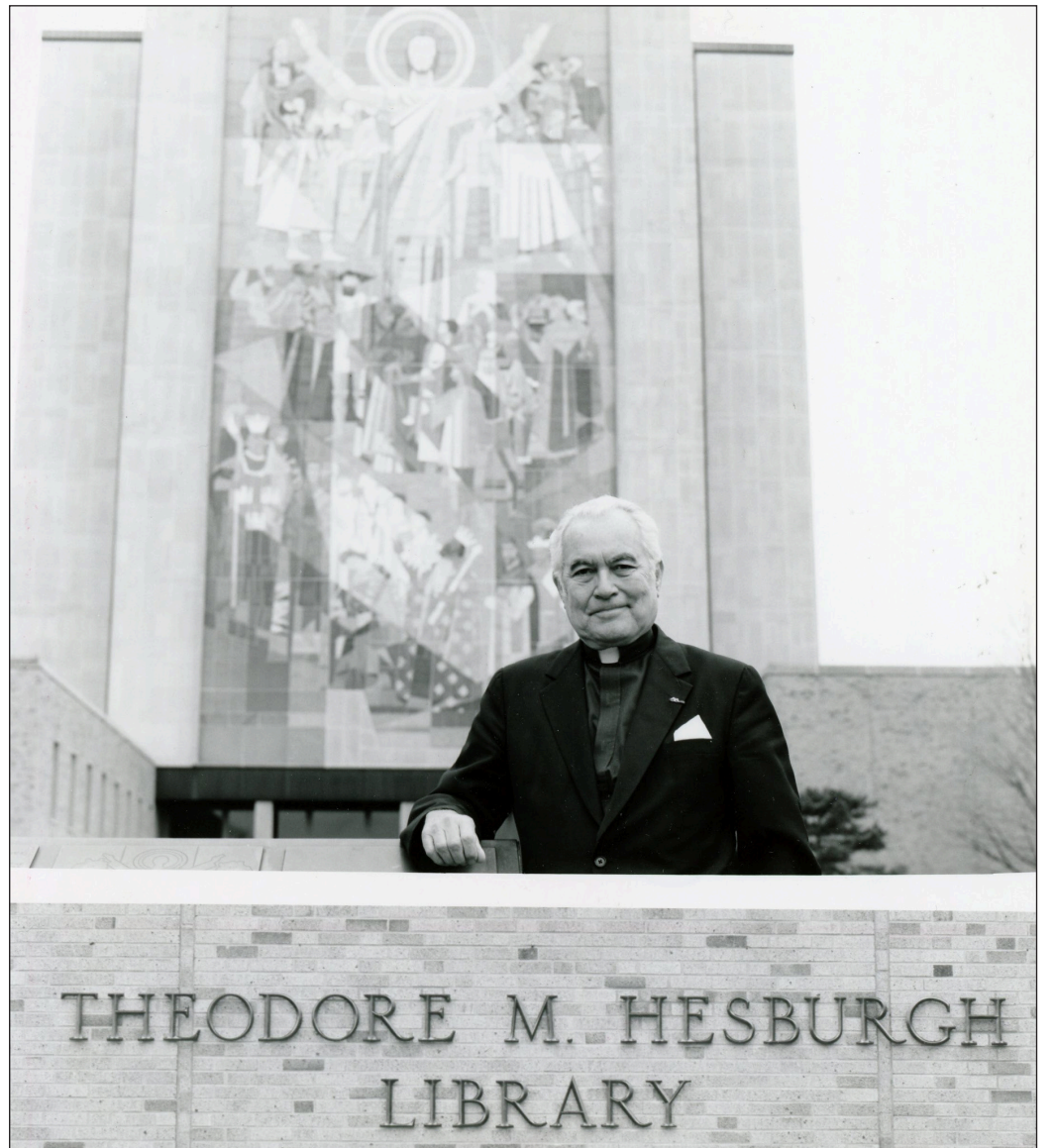
The group's members were primarily priests, including superiors from colleges' sponsoring religious communities, Catholic scholars and a bishop, all of whom belonged to the North American region of the International Federation of Catholic Universities.

Their statement said in part that Catholic universities must have institutional autonomy and academic freedom, along with their commitment to Catholic faith and life. It raised eyebrows at the time, and now, for its wording about university autonomy that some say has contributed to the secularization of many U.S. Catholic universities.

Critics have primarily focused on this sentence: "To perform its teaching and research functions effectively the Catholic university must have a true autonomy and academic freedom in the face of authority of whatever kind, lay or clerical, external to the academic community itself."

Leaders in Catholic higher education who spoke to Catholic News Service said the document should be judged on its entirety and by what it helped to promote — the success of Catholic colleges in today's academic environment.

Michael Galligan-Stierle, president and CEO of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, said the group that gathered at Land O' Lakes, "wasn't a bunch of



CNS file photo

Holy Cross Father Theodore Hesburgh, then-president of the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, is seen in this 1987 file photo. Father Hesburgh convened the group that produced the 1967 Land O' Lakes statement on Catholic higher education.

renegades or people who didn't love the church and didn't want Catholic education to advance."

He also said the document should be examined and compared to "Ex Corde Ecclesiae" ("From the Heart of the Church"), an apostolic constitution issued in 1990 by St. John Paul II that outlines the identity and mission of Catholic colleges and universities and provided universal norms to ensure colleges maintain these standards.

At its essence, Galligan-Stierle said the statement was meant to be "a way to strengthen our schools" to be competitive with other universities and provide options for students to want credible degrees.

The fruit of the document, he said, is in the success today of Catholic colleges and universities — where enrollment has doubled what it was when the document was written. Another testimony to what Catholic colleges are doing today, he said, are studies that show Catholic college graduates are often active lay leaders in their parish.

Marc Pugliese, assistant professor of theology and religion at St. Leo University near Tampa, Florida, said before the document was written, Catholic universities were already taking some of the steps it outlined, particularly in making their governing boards and theology staffs include more lay people.

He said one weakness of the document is that it says Catholic colleges and universities need to be a strong Catholic presence but it is

vague about what that means.

But the document itself acknowledged it wasn't covering all the bases. The text's preamble says it "does not pretend to present a full philosophy or description of the Catholic university. It is selectively and deliberately incomplete."

Holy Cross Father John Jenkins, the current president of Notre Dame, writing about the Land O' Lakes statement in an America magazine article posted online July 11, said that "despite the brevity of a document composed swiftly," the statement "presented a bold, hopeful vision informed by Vatican II."

"The document's limitations left questions to be addressed, but the vision in broad outline is one that makes truly serious Catholic research universities possible for our time," he added, stressing that Catholic leaders should acknowledge and correct the limitations of the text but also "continue to strive to realize its vision."

Jesuit Father Christopher Collins, St. Louis University's assistant to the president for mission and identity, said the tension that Catholic universities face today are not unlike those the Land O' Lakes writers considered.

In many ways, he said, today's Catholic universities are living out that call of Pope Francis, to be at the peripheries.

"It's messy and confusing, but it's exciting. It's good stuff," he said.

MIGRANTS

Continued from Page 1

status, gives recipients a temporary reprieve from deportation and employment authorization in the United States as long as they meet certain criteria.

During his campaign for president, Donald Trump said he would get rid of the program but later backtracked. It's unclear what will happen to the estimated 750,000 youth who signed up for the program.

"DACA youth are contributors to our economy, veterans of our military, academic standouts in our universities, and leaders in our parishes," said Bishop Vasquez in a July 18 statement. "These young people entered the U.S. as children and know America as their only home. The dignity of every human being, particularly that of our children

and youth, must be protected."

He urged the administration "to continue administering the DACA program and to publicly ensure that DACA youth are not priorities for deportation."

The bishops join other Catholic institutions worried about the group and urging protection. In May, more than 65 college presidents representing U.S. Catholic institutions asked for a meeting with the Secretary of Homeland Security to talk about immigration policy, particularly DACA, saying they worried about the future of their students. They cited incidents in which DACA recipients have been placed under immigration detention, including a case in which one of them was deported.

"Many of these students will leave our campuses for internships, summer programs and jobs. Our prayer is that they return," their letter said, but so far there have been no announcements of what the administration will or won't do

regarding the program.

In his statement, Bishop Vasquez said that since DACA is not a permanent solution, "I also call on Congress to work in an expeditious and bipartisan manner to find a legislative solution for DACA youth as soon as possible."

The country's Catholic bishops will continue efforts to find a humane and permanent resolution "that protects DACA youth," Bishop Vasquez wrote.

"Additionally, I note the moral urgency for comprehensive immigration reform that is just and compassionate. The bishops will advocate for these reforms, as we truly believe they will advance the common good," he said.



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Sunday, August 6: 10:30 a.m. — Mass, Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Huntington
Monday, August 7: 11:30 a.m. — Mass and Lunch with Catholic School Principals, Sacred Heart Church, Warsaw
Monday, August 7: 1 p.m. — Meeting with High School Principals, Sacred Heart Church, Warsaw
Tuesday, August 8: 11 a.m. — Meeting of Board of Directors of Catholic Community Foundation, Sacred Heart Rectory, Warsaw
Tuesday, August 8: 6 p.m. — Bocce Tournament Benefiting Redeemer Radio, Saint Joe Farm, Granger
Wednesday, August 9: 1:30 p.m. — Mass with Perpetual Vows of Sisters of Saint Francis, Saint Francis Convent, Mishawaka



Priest appointment

The Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, has made the following appointment:

Reverend David J. Scheidler, CSC, to Pastor, Sacred Heart Parish, University of Notre Dame, effective August 12, 2017.

Cardinal hopes church's history in Iraq will help its future

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — To understand the current situation in Iraq — the evolving and complex conflicts there, and the fear and resilience of its Christians — one has to understand its past, which is often ignored or unknown in the West, said a former papal representative to the country.

"History is itself a victory over ignorance, marginalization and intolerance; it is a call for respect and to not repeat the mistakes of the past," said Cardinal Fernando Filoni in his book, "The Church in Iraq."

The book is also "a testimonial" to the victims of "the Islamic terrorism of ISIS," he told the Christians and non-Christians he met when Pope Francis sent him as his personal representative to encounter and pray with these shaken communities that fled the Islamic State.

That brief visit in 2014 was a homecoming of sorts.

The Italian cardinal, now 71, lived in Iraq during a time of great tension and turmoil. St. John Paul II made him the apostolic nuncio — the pope's diplomatic representative — to Iraq and Jordan in January 2001. Several months later, after 9/11, the United States administration started building pressure against Iraq, pushing for military action.

St. John Paul firmly opposed military intervention and, despite the fact that he sent peace-seeking missions to Washington and Baghdad, the United States attacked.

"Not even the stern warning of the saint-pope could deter President George W. Bush from his purpose," the cardinal wrote. He said the day of the invasion,

The Church in Iraq

Fernando Cardinal Filoni

Translated by Edward Condon



March 19, 2003, became "a very sad day for Iraq and for the whole world."

The nunciature never shut down, not even during the airstrikes and occupation or the ensuing chaos of looting and revenge.

It was during his tenure there in Baghdad, which ended in 2006, that Cardinal Filoni went through the nunciature's archives, which housed "a rich history" of documentation and letters, detailing the history of the Vatican's diplomatic relations with Iraq and the establishment of an episcopal see in Baghdad in the 16th century.

"Naturally, this caught my eye," he said, and the idea for a book emerged there in the

wealth of material buried in an archive.

The book's chapters take a historical overview of the church's long presence in Mesopotamia, dating back to the time of St. Thomas the Apostle, and looks at how the expanding early Christian communities there evolved, faced internal divisions and challenges, and still shared their unique gifts.

Looking at the church's journey in the past also made him realize: "This is unknown to us. And so I thought, writing a book that traced, especially for us in the West, the birth, the evolution of this history up to present day could be ... of service to Christianity in the Middle East, particularly in Mesopotamia,

This is the cover of "The Church in Iraq" by Cardinal Fernando Filoni. "History is itself a victory over ignorance, marginalization and intolerance; it is a call for respect and to not repeat the mistakes of the past," said Cardinal Filoni in his book.

which is suffering because of expulsions, persecution or discrimination."

Published first in Italian in 2015, The Catholic University of America Press is releasing the English edition toward the end of July in the United States and in mid-August in the United Kingdom.

The cardinal spoke to Catholic News Service in Rome during an interview at the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, where he has served as prefect since 2011.

The book looks particularly at how minorities and the country as a whole suffered invasions, despots and Western hegemony, and yet tenaciously held on to its cultures and religious identities.

"In order to defend their identity within this great sea of Islam, Christians had to withdraw into themselves, keeping their own language, which dates back to the time of Jesus, that is, Aramaic," he said. While, over the centuries, the everyday spoken language developed into different dialects, the liturgy still maintained the original form of ancient Aramaic, he added.

Even though Christians held on to their traditions and culture, they were "truly open" and didn't ignore the world around them, learning and speaking Arabic, for example, he said.

This kind of everyday contact between Christians and their Muslim neighbors also led to a sharing of ideas, influence and mutual respect on the local level, Cardinal Filoni said.

For example, he recalled when he lived in Baghdad, he visited a church dedicated to Mary in a predominantly Muslim neighborhood.

"I was astounded by the fact that the walls of this church were dirty" with what looked like

handprints smudged everywhere, he said.

When he asked church members, "Why don't you clean this?" They said "No! Because these are the signs of the Muslim women who come to pray to Mary, mother of Jesus, and as a sign of their prayer, they leave an imprint of their hand."

Since Mary is revered by Muslims, he said many expectant mothers visit this church to pray to her for protection.

"This influence, for example of Mary, in people's daily lives" and similar devotions to prayer, fasting and charity, fostered closer relationships, mutual respect and understanding between Christians and Muslims, he said.

"A modern Iraq, full of history, of possibility and responsibility — not least because of its huge oil resources, which continue to be a source of discord, jealousy, envy, and oppression — should be defended, helped, and supported more than ever," the cardinal concludes in his book.

While the primary responsibility for allowing Muslim, Christian and other minorities to return to their country and help build its future belongs to Iraq's three largest communities — Shi'ites, Sunnis and Kurds — the rest of the world is also "in some way responsible for this crisis," he told CNS.

"We all have to assume responsibility to rebuild, which is very difficult, because once people emigrate, they very rarely go back," he said. "But if we can still preserve the coexistence of these even small communities (that remain), this will benefit peace, which is essential so that Christians don't keep leaving behind this ancient land so rich in culture, tradition and history."

Braxton: Justice, love must be 'written in our hearts' and actions

BY JEAN GONZALEZ

ORLANDO, Fla. (CNS) — In 1955 in Mississippi, a white woman lied and told her husband that Emmett Till, a black teen, flirted with her in the grocery store. In retaliation, her husband and another man kidnapped, beat, shot and lynched the youth.

His body was found three days after his murder and returned to his native Chicago. His mother had an open casket for the 14-year-old's funeral, where tens of thousands visited his body. Among them were an 11-year-old Edward Braxton, his brother, Lawrence, and his uncle, Ellis. They waited two hours in line to view the body.

"I peered into the glass coffin and beheld the terrifying remains of a vicious murder," said the now 73-year-old bishop of Belleville, Illinois. "He did not look like a human being. Emmett's mother was sitting in a chair, uncontrollable crying, saying, 'My baby. My baby. Why? Why did I send him down South?' I looked into her red-rimmed eyes, not knowing what to say."

Uncle Ellis repeatedly told his nephews, "I don't want you ever to forget this night." And Bishop Braxton never did. Emmett's killers were never convicted of murder. And when he visited the National Museum of African American History and Culture, he was transported to that day in 1955.

"For me personally, the most devastating experience in the history gallery was coming face-to-face with the original coffin of dear Emmett Till, which I had not seen in 60 years," Bishop Braxton said during his keynote address July 8 at the National Black Catholic Congress in Orlando, adding that "dear Emmett Till" was one of 3,446 African-Americans lynched between 1882 and 1968.

"I have never forgotten (my uncle's) words. I have never forgotten the unrecognizable bloated, totally mutilated face behind the glass in that coffin. ... Seeing that coffin again brought it back again," he said.

That was only one piece of history at the museum that registered great emotions for the bishop, who has written extensively on the racial divide in America from a theological and pastoral perspective.

Among his writings are two pastoral letters, "The Racial Divide in the United States: A Reflection for the World Day of Peace 2015" and "The Catholic Church and the Black Lives Matter Movement: The Racial Divide in the United States Revisited," issued in 2016.

In his congress address, he described how the National Museum of African American History and Culture museum is in eyeshot of the monument to George Washington and the

memorial to Thomas Jefferson, both of whom owned "enslaved free human beings." Not too far away are the Capitol and the White House, both built in part by "enslaved free human beings," as he put it.

The history presented at the museum is not pretty but so important, and he urged everyone to visit the museum, especially the lower levels.

"I realized 60 percent of the museum is actually underground and it is underground deliberately because the architect wanted to give you the feeling that you were ... maybe inside a slave ship crowded with very little room to move about," Bishop Braxton said.

"The images in the museum reminded me of what happened to free human beings as they crossed the Atlantic in the Middle Passage," he continued. "Human beings chained side by side on top of one another in unspeakable squalor, cramped in darkness. ... An estimated 2 million people lost their lives during the Middle Passage of this African holocaust."

In January, he wrote an essay on the museum titled "We, Too, Sing 'America': The Catholic Church and the Museum of African American History and Culture."

Although he recognized the museum as an outstanding achievement, Bishop Braxton in his remarks to the congress lamented the lack of references there to leading African-American Catholics such as Father Augustus Tolton, the Sisters of the Holy Family, Sister Henriette Delille, Father Pierre Toussaint, Mother Mary Lange, or Sister Thea Bowman at the museum. There are nearly 68 million Catholics in the United States, but only 2.9 million are black.

"These absences reminded me that African-American Catholics then and now were already invisible in the larger influential black church," Bishop Braxton said. "At the same time, African-Americans were and remain all but invisible in the larger influential and largely European-American Catholic Church."

The bishop told congress attendees they could all do something to know their own history and to be engaged in the community. They must exercise their rights to vote, participate in public life, run for public life, use resources that develop discussion about the racial divide, inspire young people to become involved.

"I give you these imperatives: Listen, learn, think, act and pray," he said. "African-American Catholics need to get into real conversations with others in the community about this history so we can grow by means of knowledge."

Before closing, Bishop Braxton brought up a theme that he has "raised for years, to no



CNS photo/Jean Gonzalez, Florida Catholic

Bishop Edward K. Braxton of Belleville, Illinois, addresses more than 2,000 delegates July 8 during the 12th National Black Catholic Congress in Orlando, Florida. The theme of the congress was drawn from words of the prophet Micah: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me: Act justly, love goodness and walk humbly."

avail" — that "people of color should no longer accept the designation of African-Americans as a minority. We are not a minority; we are Americans." Referencing the words of the poet Langston Hughes, "We, too, sing America."

"The word minority group is a term used to divide, not to unite," he said. "The God who is God has no color, has no race, has dimensionality. It is so important that we depict the universality of the mission of God, showing diversity of the city of the kingdom of God."

In his remarks, Bishop Braxton also spoke about the prophet Micah, known as the prophet of social justice, whose warnings and criticism of political corruption and urging of caring for the poor still ring true 2,700 years later. A passage by Micah provided the theme of the congress: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me: Act justly, love goodness and walk humbly."

The bishop said the prophet would not be satisfied with those words solely emblazoned on T-shirts, banners and bags.

"Micah would demand to see these words written in our hearts, in our daily actions when we leave Orlando and return to our dioceses, neighborhoods, parish communities and families," Bishop Braxton said.

In talks a day earlier, Bryan Stevenson, a public interest lawyer, and Tricia Bent-Goodley, a professor and director of the doctorate program at Howard University School of Social Work, separately spoke about black communities, and the justice system and black family life. Stevenson shared his work fighting mass incarceration, racial bias and poverty through



Provided by Deacon Mel Tardy

The recent 12th National Black Catholic Congress in Orlando, Florida, was attended by 15 people from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. In the back row are Wendy Summers; Brother Roy Smith, CSC; Sarah Randall; Cheryl Ashe; and Audrey Davis. In the front row are Metrice Smith, Rebecca Ruvaculpa, Naomi Randall, Tonya Jones, Annie Tardy, Deacon Mel Tardy, Francine Henley, Thomas Jenkins and James Summers. Not pictured is Notre Dame student Rosemary Agwunche.

the legal system. He founded the Equal Justice Initiative, which works to eliminate excessive sentencing, to exonerate innocent death-row inmates, and to challenge the abuse of the incarcerated and the mentally ill. Stevenson praised black Catholics for "raising their voice in support of social justice and all the commands of the Gospels."

In speaking about "The Black Family: Challenges and Opportunities," Bent-Goodley described the impact of mental health issues, community violence, and domestic violence on black families. She called on black Catholics to face these issues with both the power of prayer and the help of professionals.

She noted that too often, black families don't get the care and counseling they need; sometimes because of a lack of access and sometimes because of a reluctance to seek help.

Jean Gonzalez is on the staff of the Florida Catholic, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Miami and the dioceses of Orlando, Palm Beach and Venice.

Joyful Black Catholics Gather in Orlando

BY DEACON MEL TARDY

"Amazing!" "Great Congress!" "What a joy!"

Those were some of the comments expressed by 15 people from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend who attended the National Black Catholic Congress in Orlando, Florida, July 6-9, including Rosemary Agwunche, a Notre Dame student; Audrey Davis, Social Justice Ministries coordinator for the Diocese

of Fort Wayne-South Bend; Rebecca Ruvaculpa, ND Campus Ministry; Metrice Smith, St. Mary Parish and member of the Black Catholic Advisory Board; and James and Wendy Summers, St. Pius X Parish and BCAB members. Several St. Augustine parishioners also attended: Cheryl Ashe, BCAB member; Francine Henley; Thomas Jenkins; Tonya Jones; Sarah and Naomi Randall; Brother Roy Smith, CSC and BCAB member; and Annie and Deacon Mel Tardy, BCAB members.

The liturgies were very inspiring to witness and experience, with soulful music and row upon row of black clergy participating. Deacon Tardy served as deacon of the Word at each of the NBCC Masses, alongside the various bishops. He also served as the official diocesan delegate at the NBCC Pastoral Plan meetings. The plan, which is still drafting, aims to focus on addressing spirituality; racism and human dignity; evangelization, with an eye toward schools; vocations, and not just for clergy; youth and young adults; and leadership development.

The next National Black Catholic Congress will take place in July 2022 at a location to be determined.

Immediately following the congress, the annual Joint Conference of Black Catholic clergy, religious and seminarians was also held in Orlando July 9-13. Over 100 attended, including Brother Smith, CSC, Deacon Tardy and Annie. Speakers included Father Lawrence Lucas of New York and Sister Anita Baird of Chicago. During this Conference, Deacon Tardy served as homilist for the opening Mass and also was elected vice-president of the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus. Brother Smith is a former president of the caucus.

Pope approves new path to sainthood: heroic act of loving service

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis has approved a fourth pathway to possible sainthood — giving one's life in a heroic act of loving service to others.

In a new apostolic letter, the pope approved new norms allowing for candidates to be considered for sainthood because of the heroic way they freely risked their lives and died prematurely because of "an extreme act of charity."

The document, given "motu proprio" (on his own initiative) went into effect the same day as its publication July 11, with the title "Maiorem hac dilectionem," which comes from the Gospel according to St. John (15:13): "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."

Archbishop Marcello Bartolucci, secretary of the Vatican Congregation for Saints' Causes, said the addition is meant "to promote heroic Christian testimony, (that has been) up to now without a specific process, precisely because it did not completely fit within the case of martyrdom or heroic virtues."

For centuries, consideration for the sainthood process required that a Servant of God heroically lived a life of Christian virtues or had been martyred for the faith. The third, less common

way, is called an equivalent or equipollent canonization: when there is evidence of strong devotion among the faithful to a holy man or woman, the pope can waive a lengthy formal canonical investigation and can authorize their veneration as saints.

While these three roads to sainthood remain unchanged, they were not adequate "for interpreting all possible cases" of holiness, the archbishop wrote in the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, July 11.

According to the apostolic letter, any causes for beatification according to the new pathway of "offering of life" would have to meet the following criteria:

— Free and willing offer of one's life and a heroic acceptance, out of love, of a certain and early death; the heroic act of charity and the premature death are connected.

— Evidence of having lived out the Christian virtues — at least in an ordinary, and not necessarily heroic, way — before having offered one's life to others and until one's death.

— Evidence of a reputation for holiness, at least after death.

— A miracle attributed to the candidate's intercession is needed for beatification.

Archbishop Bartolucci wrote that the new norms arise from the sainthood congregation wanting to look into the question of whether men and women

who, "inspired by Christ's example, freely and willingly offered and sacrificed their life" for others "in a supreme act of charity, which was the direct cause of death," were worthy of beatification. For example, throughout history there have been Christians who willingly put themselves at risk and died of infection or disease because of aiding and serving others, he wrote.

Pope Francis approved the congregation carrying out an in-depth study of the new proposal in early 2014, the archbishop wrote. After extensive input, discussion and the work of experts, the cardinal and bishop members of the Congregation for Saints' Causes approved in 2016 "a new pathway for beatification of those who offered their lives with explicit and recognized Christian" reasons.

Archbishop Bartolucci wrote that the new provisions do nothing to alter church doctrine concerning Christian holiness leading to sainthood and the traditional procedure for beatification.

Rather, the addition offers an enrichment, he wrote, with "new horizons and opportunities for the edification of the people of God, who, in their saints, see the face of Christ, the presence of God in history and the exemplary implementation of the Gospel."

Catholic leaders mourn for victims of trafficking tragedy

SAN ANTONIO (CNS) — The "completely senseless deaths" of 10 people who died of heat exhaustion and suffocation they suffered from being held in a tractor-trailer "is an incomprehensible tragedy," said Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller of San Antonio. "There are no words to convey the sadness, despair and, yes, even anger we feel today," he said in a statement released late July 23. Earlier in the day, San Antonio law enforcement officials found eight bodies inside the trailer of an 18-wheeler sitting in the parking lot of a Walmart. The eight people who died were among 39 people packed in the trailer and suffering from extreme dehydration and heatstroke. At least 20 others rescued from the truck were in critical condition and transported to the hospital. Two later died, and by July 24 the death toll was at least 10. In a July 24 statement, the chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Migration said the nation's Catholic bishops joined their voices in mourning the loss of life and condemning the treatment of migrants, many of whom were from Mexico and Guatemala, in a suspected human trafficking operation. "The loss of lives is tragic and avoidable. We condemn this terrible human exploitation that occurred and continues to happen in our country," said Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Austin.

Pope, others pray as parents of Charlie Gard end legal struggle

MANCHESTER, England (CNS) — Pope Francis is praying for the parents of Charlie Gard after a U.S. doctor told them nothing could be done to help their son. Chris Gard and Connie Yates announced in London's High Court July 24 that they had ended their legal struggle to take their baby overseas for treatment after a U.S. neurologist, Dr. Michio Hirano, said he was no longer willing to offer Charlie experimental nucleoside therapy after he examined the results of a new MRI scan. Their decision means that the child, who suffers from encephalomyopathic mitochondrial DNA depletion syndrome, will receive only palliative care and most likely will die before his first birthday Aug. 4. Greg Burke, director of the Vatican press office, said in a July 24 statement that Pope Francis, who had taken a personal interest in the case, "is praying for Charlie and his parents and feels especially close to them at this time of immense suffering." He said: "The Holy Father asks that we join in prayer that they may find God's consolation and love." The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales also issued a statement July 24 in which they expressed their "deepest sympathy and compassion" for Charlie and his parents. "It is for Charlie, his parents and family that we all pray, hoping that they are able, as a family, to be given the support and the space to find peace in the days ahead," the statement said.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Reformed churches sign agreement adopting justification doctrine

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Signaling a turning point in ecumenical relations with the Catholic Church, the World Communion of Reformed Churches signed an agreement on a key issue that divided Catholics and Protestants for centuries. In an ecumenical ceremony July 5 in Wittenberg, Germany, the city where Martin Luther nailed his “95 Theses” that marked the beginning of the Reformation, the Reformed churches adopted the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification. The agreement, which explains how people are justified in God’s eyes and saved by Jesus Christ, was first signed in 1999 by Catholics and Lutherans. The World Methodist Council adopted the doctrine in 2006. The Reformed Churches represent an estimated 80 million Christians in Congregational, Presbyterian, Reformed, United, Uniting and Waldensian churches around the world. In a statement published July 4, the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity referred to the event “as another important milestone on the journey toward the full visible unity of Christians; not yet the end of the road, but a significant stage on the way.”

House members approve measure to repeal D.C. assisted suicide law

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The House Appropriations Committee voted July 13 in favor of an amendment to repeal the District of Columbia’s assisted suicide law. The day before the vote, New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan sent a letter to members of the committee urging them to “nullify the D.C. City Council’s deceptively named ‘Death with Dignity Act’ that legalizes the dangerous and unethical practice of doctor-assisted suicide.” The amendment to the fiscal year 2018 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations bill looks to repeal the assisted suicide law, which went into effect this past February. It was introduced by Rep. Andy Harris, R-Maryland, who told the committee there is “nothing dignified about suicide” in his opinion. Harris also called the act “bad policy” and said that “physicians were playing God” by prescribing lethal medications to terminally ill patients who want to end their lives. The legislation permits physicians in the District of Columbia to legally prescribe lethal drugs to patients who have been deemed mentally competent and who have received a terminal diagnosis of six months or less. In his July 12 letter to House Appropriations Committee members, Cardinal Dolan said the law was “seriously flawed” and said

Tennessee Mayan culture



CNS photo/Theresa Laurence, Tennessee Register

Catholics of Mayan ancestry attend Mass at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Cookeville, Tennessee, July 8. The Mass was part of a national Mayan conference held to help young people from Central America better understand their identity as Mayas by celebrating traditional music, culture and spirituality.

it “poses the greatest risks of abuse and coercion to those who are poor, elderly, disabled, members of a minority group, or without access to good medical care.”

Religious order welcomes gas pipeline opponents to pray at new ‘chapel’

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As chapels go, the simple structure on property owned by the Adorers of the Blood of Christ congregation in Columbia, Pennsylvania, is not much. It’s more of an arbor, really: four posts and several cross boards built near a cornfield on farmland the sisters lease. Several pew-like benches are arranged around it. Still, said the sisters, it stands as a symbol of resistance by people of faith to a planned natural gas pipeline called Atlantic Sunrise that developers want to build through miles of farmland and small towns of picturesque Lancaster County. The pipeline’s path takes it through a strip of land the congregation owns in the Harrisburg Diocese that includes farmland and the sisters contend that construction poses a danger to God’s

creation. They have declined repeated offers of compensation from Transco, the project’s developer, to allow an easement for it to be built. “This is something that we felt as a matter of conscience,” said Sister Sara Dwyer, coordinator of the congregation’s justice, peace and integrity of creation ministry. “We had to look at it more deeply and take a stronger stand.”

USCCB: Retain open internet ‘by strongest legal authority available’

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In comments delivered July 17 to the Federal Communications Commission, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops urged the FCC to use “the strongest legal authority available” to “retain open internet regulations.” The current regulations, adopted in 2015 by a Democratic-majority FCC, treat the internet as a utility. A prior FCC effort to regulate the internet as a communication service did not stand up to judicial scrutiny. The regulations are now under review by a Republican-led FCC. The concept of an open internet has long

been called “net neutrality,” in which internet service providers neither favor nor discriminate against internet users or websites. The USCCB is “concerned that the FCC is contemplating eliminating current regulations limiting the manner by which the companies controlling the infrastructure connect people to the internet,” said USCCB assistant general counsel Katherine Grincewich. “Without the current strong open internet regulations, including prohibitions on paid prioritization, the public has no effective recourse against internet service providers’ interference with accessibility to content,” Grincewich said.

Border bishop denounces hateful words, militarization of border

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Denouncing the “demonization of migrants,” hateful rhetoric, the militarization of the border and a system that divides families, Bishop Mark J. Seitz of El Paso, Texas, called on Catholics to heed the church’s teachings to welcome the migrant. In a July 18 pastoral letter “Sorrow

and Mourning Flee Away,” on migration and addressed to the “People of God in the Diocese of El Paso,” Bishop Seitz, who serves a border community near Mexico, said the country’s security cannot be used as a “pretext to build walls and shut the door to migrants and refugees. God did not create a world lacking room for all at the banquet of life,” he wrote. He said that while some might question his reflections, “I am not substituting politics for the teaching of the church,” but as a pastor, his “duty is to the Gospel of Jesus Christ,” he wrote. And the Gospel in the Old Testament is clear, he said: “You shall treat the alien who resides with you no differently than the natives born among you.” Bishop Seitz also criticized a system that “permits some to detain human beings for profit,” while eroding the country’s “historic commitment to the refugee and asylum seeker.” In the letter, he shared personal anecdotes. One involves a teenager named Aura he met at a sister parish in Honduras, who later decided to make the trip north to escape extreme poverty and violence. She was caught by immigration authorities and ended up in a detention center in El Paso, but not before experiencing “serious physical and psychological wounds.”

Dewane: Budget ‘moral document’; House bill puts poor in ‘real jeopardy’

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. House budget resolution “will place millions of poor and vulnerable people in real jeopardy” because it reduces deficits “through cuts for human needs” and by trying to slash taxes at the same time, said the chairman of the U.S. bishops’ domestic policy committee. “A nation’s budget is a moral document,” said Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Florida, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development. “Congress should choose a better path, one that honors those struggling in our country.” Bishop Dewane’s July 20 statement was issued in response to the budget resolution that was voted out of the House Budget Committee along party lines July 19. The nonbinding Republican measure is a 10-year budget blueprint that calls for \$621.5 billion in national defense spending, provides for \$511 billion in nondefense spending and ties cuts to a major overhaul of the U.S. tax code. It makes at least \$203 billion in cuts over a decade in Medicaid, food stamps, tax credits for the working poor and other programs that help low-income Americans. The bill also would change Medicare into a type of voucher program for future retirees.

St. John the Evangelist participates in Latino institute

NOTRE DAME — St. John the Evangelist Parish, Goshen participated in Latino Enrollment Institute held at the University of Notre Dame July 9-12. The LEI is one of the many initiatives sponsored by the Alliance for Catholic Education at Notre Dame: It works with and forms school leaders who wish to learn how to strategically recruit Latino children and families to Catholic schools, and how to make their schools more culturally responsive.

For information about LEI contact Manny Fernandez, program manager, at 574-631-9434.

Bishop Luers accepting nominations for Distinguished Knight Awards

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Luers High School is accepting nominations for the Distinguished Knight Awards. Two honors are bestowed following the Mass celebrated at Homecoming on Friday, Sept. 22.

An Outstanding Alumnus/Alumna Award honors a graduate who has contributed outstanding and distinguished service to his or her chosen profession and community. This individual lives out the mission of Bishop Luers High School in his or her everyday life and contributes outstanding dedication, support and service to Bishop Luers. The outstanding alumnus(a) also demonstrates an ongoing commitment to the Catholic Church and its principles. Alumni nominees must be at least five years from graduation from Bishop Luers. Staff alumni nominees must have served Bishop Luers for at least three years.

The Honorary Alumnus Award is open to friends, faculty, former faculty, staff and benefactors who have lived out the spirit and mission of Bishop Luers High School through leadership and action. This individual will have contributed outstanding dedication, support and service to Bishop Luers and to his or her community. He or she demonstrates commitment to the Catholic Church and its principles.

Nomination forms are online at bishoplurers.org under "Alumni" or contact Melissa Hire at 260-456-1261, Ext. 3040, or email mhire@bishoplurers.org.

National Religious Retirement Office distributes \$25 million to support elderly religious

WASHINGTON — In June, the National Religious Retirement Office distributed \$25 million to 390 religious communities across

AROUND THE DIOCESE

New leadership for Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ



Provided by the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ

From left, Sister Joetta Huelsmann and Sister Margaret Anne Henss, councilors, Sister Judith Diltz, provincial, and Sister Michele Dvorak, councilor, were installed as the Poor Handmaids Provincial Leadership Team of the American Province on Sunday, July 9.

They were elected at the conclusion of the congregation's governance meeting, Provincial Chapter, in April at Donaldson. This Provincial Leadership Team will guide the congregation to accomplish the focus and calls set forth at the PHJC Chapter earlier this year and will govern and spiritually lead the American Province of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ Congregation until 2021.

the United States. The funding is provided by donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious collection. The annual, parish-based appeal is held in most U.S. Catholic parishes each December and benefits more than 32,000 elderly Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests. The most recent collection raised nearly \$30.7 million, marking the second year in a row that contributions exceeded \$30 million.

"We are overwhelmed by the generous support for senior religious and their communities," said Presentation Sister Stephanie Still, NRRO executive director. "We are equally moved by our donors' ongoing gratitude for the ministry of religious, past and present."

The funding disbursed the week of June 19 is known as Direct Care Assistance and represents the majority of financial assistance distributed by the NRRO. Religious communities combine this assistance with their own income and savings to help meet such day-to-day expenses. Additional funding will be allocated through other NRRO programs in the coming months.

Catholic bishops of the U.S. launched the Retirement Fund for Religious in 1988 to address the significant lack of retirement funding among the nation's religious communities. Traditionally, women and men religious served for small stipends that did not include retirement benefits. Today, many religious communities lack adequate retirement savings.

Despite ongoing generosity to the annual appeal, hundreds of religious communities struggle to provide for older members. U.S. bishops voted to renew the collection, which was previously set to end this year.

Retrovaille announced

INDIANAPOLIS — Retrouvaille is a global program that helps couples who experience frustration, anger or loneliness in their marriage. Some couples experience coldness, while others experience conflict and arguments in their relationship. Most don't know how to change the situation. Tens of thousands of couples experiencing marital difficulty at all levels, including disillusionment and deep misery, have found help through Retrouvaille, which means to "rediscover" or find again. To learn about the program or to register for the Aug. 11 - 13 weekend in Indianapolis, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com or www.retrovaille.org; email RetrouIndy@gmail.com or call 317-489-6811.

Correction

In the July 2 issue of *Today's Catholic*, an incorrect last name for the parents of Capuchin friar Jerome Johnson appeared. His parents are Mariella and the late Raymond Johnson of Huntington. We regret the error.

Catholic Charities fundraising event: Tincaps vs. Cougars



Joe Romie

Supporters of the diocesan Catholic Charities organization enjoyed a Fort Wayne Tincaps baseball game against the Kane County Cougars on Saturday evening, July 22, at Parkview Field in downtown Fort Wayne. At right, Father Tom Shoemaker, pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Parish, throws out one of the ceremonial first pitches before the game with Jake "the Diamond Dog" watching nearby.

Catholic evangelization in a digital world

The message remains, but mediums must change

USCCB communications restructuring shifts focus from print to digital

BY CHAZ MUTH

The chief communications officer for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Department of Communications announced earlier in May a restructuring that will shift the focus of its operation from a traditional print structure to a digital model.

"It's an exercise in enculturation," said James Rogers, USCCB chief communications officer. "If you're going to evangelize, you need to reach people where they are."

The communications department was built when print and newspapers were the dominant force in media. The landscape has been dramatically transitioning in recent years to a digital platform, where information is frequently sought and shared in real time, Rogers told Catholic News Service May 8.

Though print content will continue to be generated, more resources will be directed toward visual media, digital content and social media dissemination, Rogers said.

The restructuring involves the elimination of 12 jobs and the

creation of 10 new positions.

Employees whose jobs were eliminated will be considered for the newly created positions if they have the required skills to do the work, Rogers said.

Planning for the restructuring began in 2014 with the commission of two different studies from independent communications consulting groups.

The consultants were charged with examining the department's operation and recommending how to best reach the USCCB's targeted audiences.

The only area not directly impacted by the communications restructuring was Catholic News Service, which will retain its current staff and remain editorially independent of the USCCB.

"A part of the review was to look at the position of Catholic News Service within, for the lack of a better word, the space of the dialogue that takes place," Rogers said. "Catholic News Service is very well-respected. When we did the survey of clients and customers, we found its position of trust is on par with, or higher than that of any other Catholic news outlet that you could compare CNS to."

"The reason you are not seeing change, in terms of the core structure of Catholic News Service, is because of the tremendous content creation capacity that is there," he said. "It's a well-respected, well-known brand."

The challenge for CNS is that

"people tie it to channels and since it was born as a print wire service," they don't necessarily associate it with the digital content it produces, such as video, its multimedia offerings, or its social media endeavors in breaking Catholic news, Rogers said.

"So, we're making changes to the marketing structure of CNS," he said, "because the content is there. The key is raising the awareness among those who would be interested in that content."

In addition to retooling how the communications department markets CNS, the reorganization also will build a dedicated digital team and provide episcopal resources to help bishops throughout the U.S. share national and international news of the church to their audiences.

The marketing team is being renamed Marketing and Episcopal Resources with specialists who will focus on web development, digital media, graphic design, marketing, sales, distribution and content coordination.

The creative services team also will develop multimedia content using elements of graphics, video and writing.

Outside vendors and freelancers will be brought in for ongoing opinion research, as well as creative and content development, so that the USCCB can stay in tune with how the world is receiving its information,

Rogers said.

Calling the restructuring a "repurposing of resources and not a retrenchment," Rogers acknowledged some displaced employees will not meet the requirements for the newly created positions and will ultimately lose their employment at the USCCB.

The independent consultants called their study a "clean-slate" approach, requiring the USCCB to look at the challenges it faces, develop the best structure to meet those challenges, "and that work was done without regard for the current structure within communications at the (USCCB)," he said. "It was based on positions and not people."

It was done that way to make sure the leadership was focused on the outcome and concentrated on where the communications efforts needed to be, Rogers said

Quebec cardinal to Catholic media: Strength of the message is God

St. John's experience with Jesus "transforms him into a great communicator," said Quebec Cardinal Gerald Lacroix, and he told Catholic media professionals from around the world that the same kind of experience drives their work.

"The strength, the vigor is ...

in the seed, in the Word of God," he told hundreds of participants in the Catholic Media Conference and the Signis World Congress June 21.

In a special Mass at the Cathedral-Basilica of Notre Dame of Quebec, the cardinal moved smoothly among Spanish, English and French, asking participants from the Americas, Asia, Africa, Australia and Europe to pardon his hoarse voice.

Referring to one of the Mass readings, he said St. John "shares a vibrant expression of his faith." He noted that, at the time, there was "no Facebook account yet, no tweets ... no internet ... and yet the Gospel spread all over the world."

Of course, he told the media professionals, they should continue to try to use the professional tools and to make themselves the best they could be.

But he repeated, "We do not forget that the power, the strength, the life is in the seed, the Word of God."

The Signis World Congress met June 19-22 in Quebec, drawing members of the international association of Catholic communicators.

The Catholic Media Conference met June 20-23 for members of the Catholic Press Association of the United States and Canada.

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'TV Mass Sister' completes 25 years of ministry to homebound

BY VINCE LABARBERA

"Every Sunday, I had the joy of electronically stepping into the sacred space of sick rooms in hospitals, nursing homes, living rooms and prison cells to bring the celebration of the Eucharist to so many dedicated Catholics and others who treasured this prayer of the church so very much," said Sister Agnes Marie Regan, OSF, earlier this month. "Though I couldn't see their faces, I knew they were present there with us as the Word and Eucharist were celebrated with them and for them."

On July 2, Sister Agnes completed 25 years of ministry in both Fort Wayne and South Bend as a vital part of the weekly TV Mass telecasts at both ends of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. In a letter recently submitted to Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, Sister Agnes requested she be allowed to step down from her responsibilities as master of ceremonies for the TV Mass in South Bend to allow her more time to devote to the 16 Secular Franciscan Fraternities in Indiana for which she serves as spiritual assistant.

"What an honor and a joy it was to begin serving the diocese's TV Mass ministry in 1992 with the late Msgr. Edward Hession in Fort Wayne and then with Msgr. Bernard Galic in South Bend in 2000," she continued.

"I was always fascinated and humbled by the sense that the 'viewing' parish extends outward 85-90 miles. In the TV studio (in South Bend and at the University of Saint Francis Chapel, Fort Wayne) all one sees are a wonderful group of faithful 'parishioners' who join us for Mass. But the ever-present little red light on the camera is a symbol of the thousands of persons who have joined us for Mass ever since its beginnings by the late Bishop John M. D'Arcy in 1986."

"The joy of knowing how much the TV Mass meant to people made me want to continue doing it, because it was helping Catholics and non-Catholics receive this most important prayer in their personal spaces," related Sister Agnes.

She said two ladies approached her one evening at the Hacienda Mexican Restaurant in South Bend and asked, "Are you the sister we think you are?" Sister Agnes answered, "That depends on who you think I am." "You're on TV, aren't you?" both exclaimed. The ladies shared that they were non-Catholic but watched every Sunday morning because they loved the service.

"It's always very appreciated when people approach, introduce themselves and say how much the TV Mass means to them. I've



Provided by of Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration

Prior to a telecast, Sister Agnes Marie Regan, OSF, explains the rubrics of how the live TV Mass is celebrated to "parishioners" present at the WNDU-TV studio in South Bend.

heard 'thank you' in the food court at Macy's in Chicago, from fellow passengers on the South Shore train and in the food aisles at Walmart and Kroger," she said. People also ask: "Aren't you the TV sister?" "Will you be back in South Bend for the TV Mass tomorrow?" and "How do I know you?" The list goes on, she said. "Some of my Franciscan sisters say, 'We can't take you anywhere.'"

"Many folks, who are not confined because of illness or other reasons, have indicated they like attending Mass in their respective parish but also watch the televised Mass so they can enjoy a second reflection on the readings. Others have mentioned they've learned the value of the TV Mass the first time they were ill and could not attend Mass in their home parish," Sister Agnes emphasized. "And when a Michiana winter has the rest of the world snowed in, our TV Mass team always feels it's a sacred honor to brave icy roads and snow to get to WNDU-TV to provide Mass for all those unable to get to their parish churches."

"We have witnessed baptisms, blessings before surgeries, young priests in the first months of ordained priesthood as well as senior priests in the last days of their ministry to the church, but still dedicated and wanting to share the gift of their priesthood until the very last," she said. "Technically, we have about 28 minutes and 30 seconds of air time to complete the Mass, so we've learned how to 'stretch' when celebrants finish too early or 'punt' when the flow of prayer exceeds that limit." She once had to interrupt a young priest who, with 30 seconds of time left, only was at the "Lamb of God." She whispered to him, "Give them the final blessing." He replied, "But the Mass is not finished." Sister Agnes again stressed, "Give them the final blessing - now!" He did, and when the studio lights were turned off she said, "Now, finish the Mass."



Vince LaBarbera

Sister Agnes Marie Regan, OSF, has served the diocesan TV Mass in both Fort Wayne and South Bend for 25 years.

Born in Chicago, raised in Huntington - where she graduated from Huntington Catholic High School - young Mary Agnes entered the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration in Mishawaka in September 1960 despite early aspirations of becoming a United Nations interpreter, an interior decorator, a sociologist and a veterinarian. Sister Agnes said, "Four different communities of sisters were working on me through prayer: The Sisters of St. Francis, School Sisters of Notre Dame, Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters and a Sister of St. Joseph, a friend of my mother. Everybody knew my vocation but me," she quipped.

She holds bachelor's degrees in education and theology from the University of Saint Francis and the University of Notre Dame, respectively, and a master's degree in religious studies from Calumet University, Calumet City. Her 57-year religious career includes teaching junior high, twice working as a school principal, serving the motherhouse in liturgy and music, and assisting the diocese in the Tribunal, as director of worship and as a pastoral associate at St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend.

Father Ramenaden celebrates 50 years as a monk



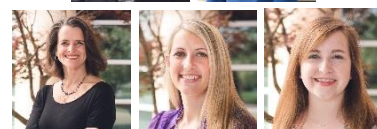
Provided by Mary Arend

Father Bernard Ramenaden, OSB, stands at the altar of St. Gaspar del Bufalo Church, Rome City, where he has served as pastor for the last nine years. Originally from Sri Lanka, Father Ramenaden is celebrating the 50th anniversary of his profession as a Benedictine Monk this year. With much gratitude and heartfelt joy, the community celebrated this special occasion in July with a hog roast and chicken luncheon held in his honor.

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'What a Catholic university is all about'

University of Saint Francis projects will promote the 'dual Catholic priorities of faith and reason'

BY JODI MARLIN

The University of Saint Francis took a powerful step toward further defining its mission and calling on July 24, by launching dual and simultaneous construction projects: a standalone chapel and an addition to and renovation of Achatz Hall of Science.

The \$22.7 million Faith & Reason Capital Campaign broke ground at 9:30 a.m., when dignitaries from the university and the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, city of Fort Wayne, Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, project construction partners and others gathered at the Spring Street campus for remarks and a formal ceremony.

USF's board of trustees gave the initial go-ahead for the Faith & Reason Capital Campaign on April 25 of this year, the 75th anniversary of the educational institution's move from Lafayette, Indiana, to Fort Wayne.

"Preparing leaders for the world's complex challenges demands new and flexible capacity," the project website explains. "Additionally, teaching strategies, scientific research and technology are constantly changing. With the construction of a new chapel and the expansion and renovation of the science building, the project intends to enhance its core strengths of faith and reason." Both are at the heart of the university, several of the day's speakers mentioned, which prompted the name of the effort.

At the beginning of the ceremony, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades blessed both nearby construction sites with holy water. In his remarks he referenced the appropriateness of the campaign's name, and said the new chapel and improved and expanded science facility would "bear witness to the harmonious assimilation of one into the other."

The current university chapel is a small facility located in a former half-gymnasium in Trinity



Photos by Joe Romie

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, center, joins several Sisters of St. Francis and University of Saint Francis partners and dignitaries in turning over shovels of dirt during a ceremonial groundbreaking for two construction projects that will begin immediately on the campus of the Fort Wayne school.



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, accompanied by Father David Meinzen, campus chaplain for USF, sprinkles with holy water the site near Mirror Lake where a new campus chapel will be built and Achatz Hall of Science will be renovated.

Hall, an administrative building that also houses the school's cafeteria and is conveniently located in a heavily trafficked part of campus. The new St. Francis Chapel will be a freestanding,

7,000-square-foot structure that seats about 250 — triple the capacity of the current chapel, according to university president Sister M. Elise Kriss — and provides easy access for all mem-

bers of the campus community to the celebration of the Eucharist, prayer and reflection. The larger space will eliminate the frequent problem of students standing at the back during Masses and is also expected to ease constraints involved with taping the weekly Fort Wayne-area televised Mass from the location.

Among the chapel's architectural distinctions will be a cupola that "lets shine the light of Christ in all directions," as Sister Kriss noted, and is visible from nearby Spring Street. The look of the interior will be directed by an experienced sacred space designer and will include a separate adoration space and a choir loft. Its location in the same part of campus as Trinity Hall, and in direct line of sight of the front doors and atrium of Achatz hall, "was chosen to be visible and accessible to students as they walk to and from class," she said. "The beauty of the chapel speaks of the attraction of God himself. The splendor helps to draw us into his presence."

The chapel's emblematic presence along Mirror Lake will also lie in direct line of site of what will soon be the new main entrance of Achatz hall, whose

expansion and modernization will further strengthen the university's already high-quality and in-demand science and health care programs.

Built in 1968, Achatz hall has been modified multiple times to keep up with the changing demands of science education. The latest expansion and renovation will significantly modernize the building and highlight the university's high-quality and in-demand science and health care programs. Phase 1 of the construction is an addition extending toward the chapel that will be lined with windows to facilitate the view; that phase is expected to be completed at the end of 2018. Once Phase 1 is complete, renovation of the existing space will begin. This phase is expected to continue through 2020. By that time, the university will have 12 laboratories, including biotech, microbiology, anatomy and physiology, computer, organic and chemistry, customized to the specialized needs of today's science-related technology and pedagogy.

Achatz Hall of Science will include other student-friendly features like a green roof, second-floor outdoor balcony and study spaces in the first and second-floor atrium that have a view of the chapel, Mirror Lake and other campus buildings.

The impact of the projects "will significantly transform our campus environment," said Sister Kriss, and "be a visible sign to students and our community that USF is ready to prepare them for their vocation." Fundraising for the campaign will continue throughout the construction timeframe.

Special guests and participants at the groundbreaking included Sister Angela Mellady, provincial superior of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration; members of the USF campus community and its board of trustees, including chairman Bill Niezer; Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry; donors to the project; and members of the Chapel Planning Committee.



The new St. Francis Chapel, depicted in the architectural rendering at left, will include an entrance/exit on each of its four sides. Plans for renovations and additions to Achatz Hall of Science, above, include glass-enclosed atriums and study areas that offer broad vistas of Mirror Lake and much of the University of Saint Francis campus.



Financial Report 2016

Dear Friends in Christ:

Once again, we are publishing an accounting of the financial operations of the diocese for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2016. As we have done in past years, we have also included a consolidated financial report of our high schools and parishes. This is done in the spirit of accountability and transparency.

For the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2016, our total gain was \$100,802 (from our audited financial statements). This is only for the central operations of the diocese. It does not include the activity of the parishes, schools or missions in the diocese. Investments lost 2 percent versus a budgeted amount of 5 percent. A detailed breakdown of our financial picture can be found inside.

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph G. Ryan, Chief Financial Officer

DIOCESAN FINANCE COUNCIL

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Most Rev. Kevin C. Rhoades | Mr. Michael Hammes |
| Msgr. Robert Schulte | Ms. Linda Teeters |
| Deacon James Fitzpatrick | Mr. Christopher Murphy |
| Mr. Thomas Skiba | Mr. Joseph Ryan |
| Mr. Jerry Kearns | Mr. Timothy Dolezal |
| Sister Jane Marie Klein, OSF | Ms. Meg Distler |
| Mr. Jerry Hammes | Mr. Bob Doelling |
| Mr. George Witwer | Mr. Tom Schuerman |



DIOCESE OF
FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND

2016 Diocese of Fort Wayne

Statement of revenues, budgets and expenses

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

	Unrestricted Operational	Designated	Temporarily Restricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total Funds
Parish Quotas and Assessments	\$2,346,695	\$0	\$0	0	\$2,346,695
Donations and Bequests	949,966	707,359	199,613	0	\$1,856,938
Investment Income	625,709	354,166	45,100	0	\$1,024,975
Unrealized Investment Gain/(Loss)	(1,477,650)	(708,076)	(39,191)	0	(\$2,224,917)
Fund Raising - Bishop's Appeal	3,268,157	1,897,000	0	0	\$5,165,157
Insurance Premiums	18,914,391	0	316,240	0	\$19,230,631
Interest - Loans	507,033	0	0	0	\$507,033
Collections	279,765	0	0	0	\$279,765
Advertising	166,401	1,810	0	0	\$168,211
Subscriptions	3,675	0	0	0	\$3,675
Sale of Merchandise	446,260	4,285	0	0	\$450,545
Fees/Rentals/Workshops	551,994	169,628	26,570	0	\$748,192
Miscellaneous	75,143	0	0	0	\$75,143
Change in Value - Beneficial Trust Interest	0	0	(9,195)	0	(\$9,195)
Gain - Sale of Building	1,200	0	0	0	\$1,200
Net Assets Released from Restriction	3,956,148	(3,451,880)	(481,567)	(22,701)	\$0
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	\$30,614,887	(\$1,025,708)	\$57,570	(\$22,701)	\$29,624,048

EXPENSES

Ministry Services	\$2,922,271	\$0	\$0	0	\$2,922,271
Educational Services	4,764,064	0	0	0	\$4,764,064
Communications	1,137,943	0	0	0	\$1,137,943
Fund Raising - Bishop's Appeal	414,261	0	0	0	\$414,261
Other Services	16,009,746	0	0	0	\$16,009,746
Administrative	4,274,961	0	0	0	\$4,274,961
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$29,523,246	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$29,523,246
Change in Net Assets	\$1,091,641	(\$1,025,708)	\$57,570	(\$22,701)	\$100,802
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$(1,247,490)	\$12,475,053	\$3,109,635	\$3,978,937	\$18,316,135
Net Assets at End of Year	\$(155,849)	\$11,449,345	\$3,167,205	\$3,956,236	\$18,416,937

GROUPS RECEIVING GRANTS FROM THE BISHOP'S APPEAL

St. Vincent de Paul Society,
Fort Wayne and South Bend
Vincent Village
Women's Care Center
Christ Child Society,
Fort Wayne and South Bend
Matthew 25
St. Augustine Soup Kitchen
St. Mary's Soup Kitchen
Little Flower Food Panty

Chiara Home
Franciscan Center
Sister Maura Brannick Health Center
Catholic Charities
COPOSH (Homeless Center, SB)
Logan Center
St. Martin's Health Clinic
Hannah's House
Life Athletes
Dismas House of South Bend

PARISHES RECEIVING GRANTS FROM THE BISHOP'S APPEAL

Holy Cross, South Bend
St. Catherine, Nix Settlement
St. Patrick, South Bend
Queen of Angels, Fort Wayne
St. Monica, Mishawaka
St. Joseph, Fort Wayne

St. Anthony de Padua, South Bend
St. John the Baptist, South Bend
St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne
Queen of Peace, Mishawaka
St. Adalbert, South Bend

CENTRAL DEPARTMENTS

Tribunal
General Administration
Parish Assistance
Personnel
Diocesan Services Agency
Data Processing
US Catholic Conference/Indiana Catholic Conference
Missions
Archbishop Noll Catholic Center
Miscellaneous Properties
Hispanic Ministry
Accounting
Bishop's Appeal
Bishop's Office
Safe Environment
Archivist
Today's Catholic
Office of Catholic Communications
Ecumenical
Family Life/Pro-Life
TV Mass
Property Management
Office of Vocations
Hispanic Permanent Diaconate
Office of Worship/Music Ministry
Special Ministries
Permanent Diaconate
Hospital Ministry
Ministry of Education
Religious Education Office
Seminar Education/Priest Formation
Continuing Ed/Priests
Catholic Charities
Catholic Charities Property - South Bend
International Priests Assigned to Parishes
Youth Ministry
Development Office
Cathedral Museum
Planned Giving

South Bend Financial Report

Expenses for the year ended June 30, 2016

EXPENSES	BUDGETED EXPENSES
378,381	321,728
724,032	674,248
32,889	52,680
336,225	297,254
58,506	56,487
136,694	157,279
126,715	124,283
18,127	18,123
456,636	433,530
184,463	202,011
148,528	152,002
125,166	119,127
295,056	288,994
91,209	78,238
55,867	54,914
36,439	43,706
820,537	752,394
190,892	157,681
1,343	1,065
274,435	298,881
151,566	155,472
96,641	96,013
40,833	48,646
45,526	63,010
147,640	154,384
416,717	429,742
2,191	3,910
101,468	94,788
488,691	513,548
144,725	200,855
1,121,419	1,154,437
132,108	108,050
425,000	425,000
12,963	12,043
25,993	20,000
84,870	86,141
78,462	85,246
10,002	5,748
15,692	33,082
8,034,647	7,974,740

DIOCESAN HIGH SCHOOLS

INCOME

Tuition/Fees	20,830,672
* Diocesan Assistance	1,207,000
Other Grants/Scholarships	489,320
Fund Raising	1,826,803
Athletic/Other	4,262,057
TOTAL INCOME	28,615,852

EXPENSES

Administrative	
Cost of Employee	4,085,673
Other Administrative	5,128,464
Total Administrative	9,214,137

Instructional	
Cost of Employee-Teaching	10,264,180
Academic Department-Cost	122,4133
Other Expense-Teaching	378,468
Cost of Employee-Supportive	1,290,784
Other Expense-Supportive	444,802
Total Instructional	12,500,647

Operational	
Cost of Employee	1,265,193
Other Expense-Operational	2,110,749
Total Operational	3,375,942

Miscellaneous	
Capital/Miscellaneous	0
Other Miscellaneous	3,740,112
Total Miscellaneous	3,740,112

TOTAL EXPENSES	28,830,838
SURPLUS/(LOSS)	(214,986)

* Diocesan Assistance	
Bishop Dwenger High School	383,917
Bishop Luers High School	225,968
Saint Joseph High School	334,252
Marian High School	262,863
Total	1,207,000

82 DIOCESAN PARISHES

INCOME

Church Income	63,709,048
School Income	45,362,305
TOTAL INCOME	109,071,353

EXPENSES

Church Expense	40,104,805
School Expense	57,901,748
TOTAL EXPENSE	98,006,553

SURPLUS	11,064,800
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LEGACY OF FAITH ENDOWMENTS

	Contributions	Distributions	06/30/16 Balance
1st Source – Hispanic	\$ 100,000		\$ 134,731
Priest Retirement	\$ 955,400		\$ 1,257,777
High Schools	\$ 955,400		\$ 1,257,777
Catholic Charities	\$ 1,908,800	(867,500)	\$ 1,778,540
Religious Education	\$ 1,908,800	(662,480)	\$ 1,924,001
Hispanic Ministry	\$ 955,400	(182,175)	\$ 1,047,787
Elementary Schools	\$19,118,745	(8,437,049)	\$16,995,632
Total	\$25,902,545	(10,149,204)	\$24,401,356

Serving Christ through responsible stewardship

DIOCESAN AUDIT

The diocese is audited every year by Leonard J. Andorfer & Company, a certified public accounting firm, and, as in the past, no exceptions were noted. This means that the diocesan books, records and accounting policies are conducted in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. This audit, along with the management letter, is presented not only to the Audit Committee, but to the entire Diocesan Finance Council; and the Council is given time alone with the auditor, without the presence of diocesan officials, to be sure that they were given full access to all appropriate financial records.

For the past several years, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has required that the Diocesan Finance Council sign a report indicating the following: 1) That the council has met quarterly; 2) That the audit and the management letter have been reviewed; 3) That the budget has been reviewed. This report and certification must then be sent to the Metropolitan Archbishop of the Province, which, in this case, is the Archbishop of Indianapolis. We require similar reporting from our parishes to the diocese.

PARISHES

It is also important that there be accountability and transparency in parishes. According to Canon Law, every parish must have a Parish Finance Council. We have a retired accountant who does a financial review of every parish every two years; in addition, every parish is audited at the time of a pastoral change. During the past nine years, we have sent this financial report, done by our auditor, to each member of the Parish Finance Council. This enables the review to be discussed at a regular meeting. As indicated above, controls have now been established similar to the accountability of each diocese.

It is important to understand how the Annual Bishop's Appeal has sustained the parishes. It was the hope of our lay leadership prior to the institution of the appeal that the parishes would benefit. This has become a reality. The appeal has increased the incentive of parishes to seek funds. During the 30 years since the appeal began, our parishes have engaged in major capital fund drives. In the last 30 years, fund drives for parishes have brought in over \$170,021,794 for new buildings and renovations approved by the Diocesan Finance Council. This includes parish initiatives linked to the Legacy of Faith. Also, over \$195,470,970, which would have been paid to the diocese under the previous system, now remains in the parishes. In addition, \$6.0 million from the appeal has been given in grants to parishes in need. The 30th Annual Bishop's Appeal attained \$6,869,097.

TWINNING PARISHES

A number of parishes have agreed to twin with certain targeted parishes to help them provide a full Catholic education. From January 1999 thru May 2017, a total of \$2,922,224 has been received by 16 parishes. This is true Christian stewardship; and most of the parishes making these contributions do it as part of their parish stewardship effort. These parishes give a proportionate gift to other parishes in need. This twinning program has saved several parish schools.

Sacraments



Schools



Youth Ministry



Jail Ministry



HIGH SCHOOLS

Over \$84 million has been raised for building projects in our four high schools. The four high schools continue to flourish; but not without challenges. The Annual Bishop's Appeal gives \$1.7 million to the high schools every year, which has created a sense of stability. Next year, tuition will increase by \$200- \$400 in our high schools. Our high schools are audited every year by an independent CPA firm. Each high school has presented a balanced budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017. Two high schools have debts to the diocese and are paying on those debts.

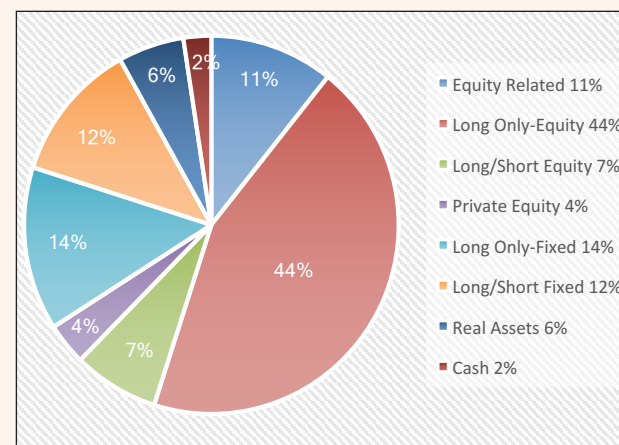
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF NORTHEAST INDIANA

Both the Development Office and the Business Office helped put in place the Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana, which enables parishes, high schools and other diocesan institutions to raise funds for an ongoing endowment. Currently, there are 143 endowments in the Catholic Community Foundation. Talk to your pastor or school board about establishing an endowment for your parish and/or parish school. To establish an endowment and experience endowment growth involves planned giving – bequests, annuities, remainder trusts, as well as gifts and other creative ways by which you can make contributions. Funds placed in this trust will remain there and grow, and the interest realized will continue to fund the designated purpose for years to come. These are gifts that keep on giving. Those who contribute will determine the area where these funds are to be restricted. Regular annual reports and semi-annual newsletters are sent to the donors. The Catholic Community Foundation contains \$42,401,441 as of June 30, 2016.

INVESTMENTS

Diocesan investments are overseen by Slocum & Associates of St. Paul, Minn. Investments are placed carefully so as to avoid excessive risk. We have a very diversified portfolio, fully in keeping with Catholic moral teaching. Slocum & Associates meet with our Investment Committee on a quarterly basis. In the fiscal year in question here, investments lost 2 percent. The current asset allocation is detailed in the pie chart below.

Current asset allocation



Learn more about the work of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend
 Visit diocesefwsb.org/ministries

Back To School 2017

Catholic Schools:
Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.



Marian, Saint Joseph high school teachers explore science, religion Innovation at Notre Dame seminar helps students grasp interface of two subject areas

BY WILLIAM SCHMITT

Several teachers from Marian High School in Mishawaka and Saint Joseph High School in South Bend recently participated in the Science and Religion Seminars, an initiative of the University of Notre Dame's McGrath Institute for Church Life.

A team of four educators from Marian and a separate group from Saint Joseph attended an introductory seminar and a follow-up conference, respectively, exploring the interface of science and religion on the Notre Dame campus in June.

Marian principal Dr. Mark Kirzeder, along with faculty members Mary Ann Hinora, Lauren Meyers and Eduardo Siguenza, represented the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend at the weeklong Foundation seminar. Because faculty members from Marian and Saint Joseph had participated in that program previously, the schools selected teachers for a follow-up, the in-depth Capstone Seminar.

In lectures and workshops, the representatives worked with leading researchers – including Brother Guy Consolmagno, SJ, director of the Vatican Observatory – and other educators selected for the introductory sessions from 25 Catholic high schools across the nation. They collaborated on innovative plans to explore with students the dialogue connecting science and religion courses.



Provided by the University of Notre Dame

Besides hearing from scholars in religion and the sciences, teachers from high schools around the country who participated in this year's Science and Religion Initiative Foundations Seminars gathered to design innovative lesson plans that will help students see the interface between subjects they might have thought had nothing in common.

"When our high schools excel at exploring that interface, students take two giant steps forward," said Jay Martin, co-director of the initiative, along with Patricia Bellm at Notre Dame's nationally known institute serving church apostolates. "The students gain theological insights

grounded in reason, plus scientific knowledge that boosts them toward faith-filled lives, as well as tomorrow's careers."

The initiative assists schools in expanding the coordination among teachers and principals. Selected from about 120 Catholic schools that applied for this

summer's Foundations Seminar, the Marian team, led by Kirzeder, joined with other participants to better understand the coherent pursuit of truth that spans different high school subjects, the leaders of the initiative said.

Twin sessions of the Foundations Seminar, one held

on the Notre Dame campus and one in New Orleans, prepared educators to return to their schools this fall as advocates among their colleagues, ready to implement new lesson plans.

"Our resources help to produce effective plans that nourish the Catholic imagination and allow science and religion teachers alike to feel comfortable in their own skin," said the McGrath Institute's Bellm.

Participants from Marian and Saint Joseph heard experts in biology, chemistry, physics and theology shed new light on the compatibility of modern science and the Catholic faith.

The Capstone Seminar allowed teachers from the two schools and other alumni of the Science and Religion Initiative to focus on issues in quantum physics.

"Our school is incredibly blessed to have teachers who view what they do in their classrooms as a vocation, and not just a job," said Kirzeder. "Their commitment of time and energy in attending this seminar truly illustrates how they are striving to serve the Church by working toward an authentic integration of science and religion."

The McGrath Institute is now accepting Catholic high schools' applications for the 2018 Foundations Seminars, as well as inquiries about Capstone Seminars and Institute Days. Go to <http://icl.nd.edu/seminar2018> for information.

Family ties and opportunities bring new principal to Fort Wayne

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

Zachary Coyle, newly appointed principal at St. John the Baptist Catholic School in New Haven, noted that family ties are what first directed him toward the Fort Wayne area. "It's a great time in my life and my family's, as we take on this new opportunity and relocate here from Baltimore, Maryland, where I grew up and was recently serving as a school principal in the Baltimore archdiocese. We love Fort Wayne and are truly blessed to live here now, where almost all of our extended family lives," he said.

Coyle brings solid credentials to his new position at St. John the Baptist. He attended Saint Joseph University in Philadelphia, earned his master's in secondary education at Towson University in Maryland and his master's in educational leadership from Loyola University in Baltimore. He was a member of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps and a full-time teacher at Kolbe Cathedral High School in Bridgeport, Connecticut. He later taught at Maryvale Preparatory School, a Catholic girls' school founded by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. His first administrative role was at Sacred Heart Glyndon, his family's home parish in the Baltimore area, where he says he was proud to serve as principal for three years.

"Direct teaching offers tremendous joy and I loved leading my own classes. I do miss that work," he confided. "However, over time, I discerned God calling me to school leadership, to try to help grow the faith and achievement of an entire school, and I



ZACHARY COYLE

find great joy in that calling."

Core attributes that Coyle brings to the principal's position include a strong faith, which leads him to prayer and turning to God in all things. He believes skill in strategic planning will help him involve the entire community to collaboratively decide the future of the school, and that skillful communication and organization will strengthen the educational process. Finally, he believes accountability in carrying out St. John the Baptist School's mission of helping each student become a lifelong learner, live a Christ-centered, Catholic way of life and achieve academic success is a core function of his administrative role and that of leaders in general.

"Our mission is powerful and joyful!" he added.

Nick Bobay appointed principal of St. Therese

BY BARB SIEMINSKI

If new St. Therese principal Nick Bobay ever had any doubt that his teaching belonged in a Catholic school, it disappeared in 2013 when he temporarily left the Catholic school system to teach in Fort Wayne Community Schools.

"After graduating IPFW with a degree in music technology, I was immediately hired by Sweetwater Sound," said the Bishop Dwenger High School graduate, who also possesses a teaching degree from Indiana Wesleyan and is currently finishing his master's degree in educational leadership at IPFW.

"I soon began searching for something more rewarding than sales and in 2013, Sandra Guffey, who was principal when I attended St. Vincent de Paul elementary school as a student, hired me as a music teacher there. I had been baptized and married there as well, by Msgr. John Kuzmich. Then, in my third year of teaching I briefly left the Catholic school system to teach at North Side High School in Fort Wayne, and immediately found myself missing the Christ-centered approach to education that I had grown up with my entire life. God was definitely calling me back."

Bobay applied for and was accepted at St. Therese for a position teaching computers and



NICK BOBAY

technology.

"Chuck Grimm hired me, and toward the end of that year we started talking about the possibility of me taking on assistant principal responsibilities," Bobay said.

Last August, Grimm's cancer became worse. He passed away and left Jeanette Donovan in his place and Bobay as assistant principal. He worked under Jeanette's leadership for the entire year, but then St. Therese experienced another huge loss: Donovan passed away with just two weeks left in the school year. Bobay took over for the rest of the year, and after immense prayer, contemplation and a

conversation with the priest, he came to the conclusion that this is truly what God was calling him to do.

"There is something really special about St. Therese School, which is a combination of the amazing, resilient staff and student body," he said. "I am truly honored and humbled to assume this responsibility, and I hope to make my mentors Chuck and Jeanette proud."

Bobay and his wife, Noelle, are the proud parents of a 1½-year-old daughter, Harper Willow. An active musician in the Fort Wayne music scene, Bobay plays with the Todd Harrold Band, which performs at northeast Indiana and Indianapolis shows. He has also played organ and drums in various churches part-time and as a substitute.

Some of his duties as principal include overseeing all the operations of the school and ensuring student and staff success on all levels, said Bobay, whose life has been guided by Proverbs 19:20, "Listen to advice, accept correction, to be the wiser in the time to come."

"Another philosophy that has had some real guidance for me comes from entrepreneur, author and philanthropist Tony Robbins, who noted, 'Life is a gift, and it offers us the privilege, opportunity and responsibility to give something back by becoming more.'"

Queen of Angels School welcomes new principal

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

Queen of Angels Catholic School, located on Fort Wayne's near northwest side, will welcome a new principal when classes begin on Aug. 9.

Michelle Brandle is a seasoned educator who began her career as a middle school social studies and religion teacher in the Diocese of Evansville. She received a secondary education degree in social studies in 2004 after studying at Ball State University and University of Southern Indiana. She received her master of education degree in 2009 and then continued on with Indiana Wesleyan to complete a principal licensure program in 2011. A Marion native, she has extended family in the area and said, "I am looking forward to being closer to my northern Indiana family."

Brandle is a seasoned administrator as well. Her first principal appointment was at St. Gerard Catholic School in Lima,



MICHELLE BRANDLE

Ohio. From there she served as principal at Precious Blood Catholic School in Jasper, and most recently at St. Raphael the Archangel Catholic School in Louisville, Kentucky.

She brings a wealth of knowledge and understanding to her

new position at Queen of Angels.

"In my experiences as principal, I have learned many important lessons and recognized the gifts that God has given me," Brandle said. "I believe the most important attributes of a Catholic School principal are staying focused on the most important mission of Catholic education and always being open to the Holy Spirit working in every person." She continued, "I have learned the importance of communication and building relationships with all stakeholders including students, staff members, parents, parishioners and others."

"Queen of Angels School has a long tradition of excellence in Catholic education and I am very excited about all of the opportunities to continue serving our students in the future," she added. "I feel I have been given the gifts to nurture a loving, Christ-centered environment in which students can be successful."

B	BDHS Events	Fall
Aug. 16	Back to School Night @ 7pm	
Sept. 11	Homecoming Week	
Sept. 30	Hall of Fame @ 6pm	
Oct. 19	Diamond Dinner @ 6pm	
Nov. 4	Purse Bingo @ 5:30pm	
Nov. 22	Grandparents' Day @ 9:45am	
Mark Your Calendars!		

Veldman steps in at Holy Family

BY JENNIFER MILLER

"Being family" at Holy Family School, South Bend, is very important to newly appointed interim principal Jennifer Veldman, both personally and professionally. She and her family have been a part of the parish for as long as she can remember. Her husband attended the school, and they choose to send their children to Holy Family. So she feels it is an honor to have been selected as interim principal and to have the opportunity to serve the school she has long called home.

As a mother, parishioner and educator, she knows well the needs of families at Holy Family. As an educator and administrator, she has the background and experience to serve them. She values trust and a good rapport with the parents as vital to the life of the family, and she believes in "getting to know the students individually, where they are coming from, as well as listening to the parents as they support and guide the children."

Born and raised on the West Side of South Bend, Veldman is proud of the diverse culture and heritage of the area. "Many people don't realize and celebrate the culture present here," she explained. She herself attended St. John the Baptist School and Washington High School. Her parents modeled the call to serve others, she noted, and have always been active Catholics in the parish.

After graduating from Indiana University South Bend with a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a kindergarten endorsement, Veldman taught kindergarten for nine years at Kennedy Primary Academy, wanting to serve the West Side community. In 2012 she transitioned to teaching within the Catholic schools, working at Christ the King, St. John the Baptist and Holy Family schools. At Holy Family she served on the school board, oversaw yearly testing and developed curricula to meet the Indiana State College and Career Readiness standards. Continually growing and learning, Veldman most recently earned her master's degree in education and her administrative certificate from Bethel College.

For her, answering the call to serve in Catholic education is unique. "We support and promote a positive relationship and deepen existing relationships with Christ and his teachings," she said. "We get to bring our faith to the forefront in all areas, from academics to discipline. We can share that!" she shared excitedly.

"She has done an outstanding job at our school working on organizing our curriculum," said



JENNIFER VELDMAN

Father Glenn Kohrman, pastor of Holy Family Parish. "She really seems to love Holy Family, and the transition from vice principal to principal should make our transition at Holy Family a very smooth one."

With excitement for the upcoming school year, Veldman said she, too, hopes to continue the smooth transition from last year and build on the strengths displayed by the previous administration.

"I hope to strive for a strong sense of team, and to continue to create a positive environment which encompasses everyone involved," she said. "In the curriculum, we will continue to collect and teach with differentiated data driven instruction to truly meet the needs of our students."

Beginning this upcoming school year, Andy Adams will serve as the principal of St. Mary of the Assumption School in Avilla.

"I am happy beyond words to introduce myself as the new principal of St. Mary Catholic School. ... I feel honored and privileged to be part of the Fort Wayne-South Bend diocese," he said.

Adams considers his new job as principal of St. Mary to be a service role and a way to give to the school community.

"I am very thankful to have the opportunity to (be) part of this family, bring my experiences to St. Mary Catholic School and to lead through service," he said.

He describes his leadership strategy as "collaborative" and "decentered." He enjoys leading in an environment that values teamwork and he very much

Education is vocation for principal Karen Salvador

BY JENNIFER MILLER

Listening to the Holy Spirit call her "home," Karen Salvador is grateful to be once again working in her childhood parish.

"I grew up at St. Monica Parish and graduated eighth grade from St. Monica School, where I was the only girl in my class (with 13 boys) for sixth-eighth grades," she recalled. "This is a homecoming of sorts for me. I get to be a part of all three campuses: St. Bavo, St. Joseph and St. Monica."

Mishawaka Catholic School educates students from all three nearby parishes. Due to medical situations of the previous principal, Salvador will be the interim principal for the 2017-18 school year.

Originally from Mishawaka, Salvador's own Catholic school education grew from the vibrant faith community of St. Monica Parish. Attending DePauw University, she earned a B.A. in English literature and returned to her home to teach third grade at St. Bavo Parish.

"When the three schools in Mishawaka consolidated, I did not move forward with Mishawaka Catholic. My mother's cancer had returned, and I took time to care for her until my husband's job became insecure."

She then felt called to further her studies in educational leadership and studied with the Alliance for Catholic Education Program at the University of Notre Dame, earning her M.A. in education. She also earned her principal license from Indiana



KAREN SALVADOR

Wesleyan University.

Since 2011 Salvador has worked for the South Bend Community School Corporation, where she was trained as a curriculum coach and instructional leader; she also worked as a Title I and Title II coach.

"I spent time in the classroom modeling best practices for teachers, planned and facilitated weekly professional development opportunities for teachers at the building and district level and was instrumental in raising the performance of our bottom 25 percent in ELA. Ultimately, contributing to our school's improvement from an "F" school to that of a "C" school. I loved leading and seeing the difference quality teaching and learning can make."

Salvador adjusted her job slightly, becoming a student advocate for SBCSC; but she felt the Holy Spirit calling her to return to serve in Catholic education.

She remembered, "While I believe that I was doing the

Lord's work daily by serving the students in my building, there was still something missing. I was missing the opportunities to share the Lord's word and his teachings." Since graduating ACE, I always thought of education as my vocation, and I feel the need to return to being a Catholic educator, specifically a Catholic instructional leader. I truly believe it is my responsibility as a member of the church to prepare young people to make God known, loved and served. It is my passion."

Her supervisor spoke similar words. "From my first interview with Karen, I knew I wanted her on our Mishawaka Catholic School team," Father Jacob Meyer, pastor of St. Monica Parish and executive pastor of Mishawaka Catholic School, reflected. "She is fun, energetic, intelligent and an 'all-in' personality. With her taking the reins this year I am excited about what the school year holds. It may be the middle of July but I can't wait for school to start again so that I can see how this all unfolds. I am most excited about Karen's professional experience and passion, which will keep Mishawaka Catholic moving with the great momentum that we have experienced in these past years."

Looking toward the upcoming school year, as she answers the call to return home, Salvador said: "I am looking forward to continuing our mission this year of building disciples of Jesus Christ through faith formation, academic excellence and service to others."

Andy Adams to serve at St. Mary School

BY CLAIRE KENNEY



ANDY ADAMS

sees the importance of gaining the perspectives of others.

Growing up, Adams attended Queen of Angels School in Fort Wayne. He went on to attend North Side High School and then

the University of Saint Francis.

Later, he returned to school to earn advanced degrees. Over the past several years he has completed his Ed.S. and Ed.D. in educational leadership through Indiana University's School of Education, while working in the Fort Wayne area. He said he chose the program because of its focus on collaborative-based and team-centered leadership. He is currently working on his dissertation, which concentrates on safety as it relates to children and educational environments. Adams also received his administrative license through Indiana University.

During his career, Adams worked for 11 years in East Allen County Schools and four years in North Adams Community Schools.

Heading into 2017-18 school year, Adams plans to concentrate on working to form students comprehensively. For him, it is important that students have

quality experiences to support well-rounded growth.

"The goal throughout my career has been to be a child advocate and to support growth: spiritually, emotionally, behaviorally, (and) academically," he explained. "To this end, I will work incessantly to ensure children have the best possible experiences while in attendance at St. Mary Catholic School."

Though the school year has yet to officially start, Adams has already experienced firsthand the close-knit and supportive nature of St. Mary.

"St. Mary's has been one of the most welcoming communities that I've ever been a part of," he said. "Everyone has been so kind during my transition."

Classes at St. Mary officially begin on Aug. 8. Adams will welcome the staff back for a retreat on Aug. 3.

Joe Miller to lead at St. Adalbert

BY JENNIFER MILLER

Although not Latino by birth, Joseph Miller's heart has always been called to be with the Latino community. Thus, his preparation and background for his new position as principal of St. Adalbert School came not only from his academic studies and degrees, but also from being present and coming to know the many Latino families he now will serve.

"Our goal is to help students grow in self-confidence. Every student here is gifted in unique ways. We will be successful if we help each student to realize they are gifted, to grow those gifts and to share them for the benefit of all. There is a wonderfully talented and dedicated faculty in place at St. Adalbert, who believe in these kids and will continue to build them up," Miller said of his new leadership position.

Born and raised in South Bend, his heart for service was fostered at an early age by his parents. Miller's father cared for the church as a deacon while his mother served in numerous capacities, from sewing altar cloths to teaching at Catholic schools.

After earning a degree in communication from IUSB Miller spent a year in volunteer service with the Midtown Center in Chicago, helping underprivileged children learn. His heart for education and Latino culture blossomed when he next joined the ACE program with the University of Notre Dame serving in Brownsville, Texas, and earning an MAT degree in education. This led him to learn Spanish and theology for an M.Div. from the University of Notre Dame as a seminarian with the Congregation of Holy Cross, where he studied in Costa Rica, Peru, Mexico and Chile. His experience in Peru, in the neighborhood of Canto Grande, was most formative and spoke to his heart.

Miller there heard about the preferential option for the poor, lived in a concrete way, and felt the Holy Spirit calling him. This way of making God known, loved and served, the motto of the Congregation of Holy Cross, spoke to his heart. Upon returning to the United States he worked at Saint Joseph High School as a language teacher and football coach, and developed a new program called Latino Outreach Initiative.

While teaching, he came to know many of the St. Adalbert families, some who were first-generation graduates. At the same time, then-Bishop John M. D'Arcy began to emphasize the importance of reaching out to welcome and serve the rapidly growing Latino population with-



JOE MILLER

in the diocese. Miller responded to this call by building relationships with current and future St. Joe students in the local Latino community — particularly from St. Adalbert. Many of those relationships continue to this day and are at the heart of his approach to school leadership.

After marriage and beginning a family, Miller discerned a call to move from teaching to administration. For the past three years, he has served a diverse population of students as principal of Holy Family School, where he was the first layperson and first male principal.

For the upcoming school year at St. Adalbert, where he will be the first Spanish-speaking principal of the 99-percent Latino student population, Miller reflected: "I hope that our school can be a place where all students find confidence and hope that they are good, known and loved."

"Joe has demonstrated a great devotion to the Latino community here at St. Adalbert/St. Casimir over the years. First as a graduate student in theology at the University of Notre Dame, coming over to our parochial school and translating for parent-teacher conferences, and then as a Spanish teacher at Saint Joseph High School, his alma mater, recruiting and advocating for our Spanish-speaking families and ensuring their enrollment by driving a bus from St. Adalbert's to Saint Joseph High School each morning," said Father Paul Ybarra, CSC, pastor of St. Adalbert and St. Casimir Parish. "Joe is an outstanding educator and minister in our church; we are fortunate to have him."

Miller shared: "I am eager to continue to as a Catholic school principal because the mission of the Catholic school is so important and consistent with my own mission in life ... To share and attempt to live the good news."

St. John the Baptist, South Bend, welcomes Leon Baker

BY JENNIFER MILLER

"This is not a job — it is a calling," explained Leon Baker, newly appointed principal of St. John the Baptist School, South Bend.

Retired from his first career as a commissioned officer in the United States Army and about to retire from his second career in education, Baker felt called by the Holy Spirit to serve the students of St. John the Baptist.

Originally from Oregon, Baker studied in a military preparatory school and then at West Point United States Military Academy, where he earned his bachelor's degree in science. With a passion for learning he continued his studies at the University of Virginia, earning a master's degree in English language and literature.

Baker then taught at numerous military and private schools — wherever his military duties took him — for over 20 years. He always enjoyed and appreciated a classical understanding of education during his time in the classroom and incorporated the arts and music into his lessons, understanding that the liberal arts education teaches to the whole person.

"Everything is connected in our learning; there are not just separate dots of math or science. Our center is Christ," he explained. "Find the true, the beautiful and the good and you find God somewhere there."

After Baker retired from the



LEON BAKER

Army in 1993, he longed to continue sharing his passion of English and education but was accustomed to military-style schools. Howe Military Academy in Howe had an opening for an English master and department chairman, so Baker and his wife made a home in LaGrange County and at a Catholic parish there.

He taught in both in the private and public sectors for 23 years, most recently at St. Thomas the Apostle School in Elkhart, until he heard about the position at St. John the Baptist.

Father Glenn Kohrman, pastor of St. John the Baptist and Holy Family, said, "Our search committee was really impressed with Mr. Baker. He seemed to have a passionate Catholic faith and a

great love for the kids and a real sense of helping them discover a real sense of the true, the good and the beautiful."

"Father Glenn has the Holy Spirit's phone number," Baker said. "I prayed about it... if you are quiet, you can hear the Holy Spirit speaking. I thought, 'maybe I can make a difference.' The Holy Spirit called me here."

He is excited about the new opportunity. "We are working in conjunction with the diocese to eventually run St. John with the Catholic classical education model. We look forward to the classes being completely integrated: God is operative in all of that — they are not just English and math classes.

"Catholic education here allows us to serve the souls of my students and faculty," he said. "God gave us reason and the ability to fulfill the commandments. Look at Brother Andre: He used every talent that God gave him, and he served God."

Baker also shared that he has five children and nine grandchildren, and he tells every parent and adult that he loves his students as he loves his own children.

In the upcoming school year he hopes to "help capture the moments in time of learning... perhaps with an opportunity to teach and assist my teachers in finding the freedom to vary instruction student to student. At the end of the day, the Holy Spirit is in charge, I am not."

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Christ Child Society embarks on second year of successful preschool program

BY COURTNEY CHRISTENSEN

"The Little Engine that Could," "Good Night Moon," "The Cat in the Hat;" bedtime stories that many people either grew up reading or read to their own children. The stories were part of childhood, but they were also crucial for reading development and literacy skills. For the second year in a row, children in the Fort Wayne area have a new opportunity to develop these skills.

Members of the Christ Child Society of Fort Wayne, along with the Christ Child Society national office, saw a need in the Fort Wayne community to develop literacy skills in preschool children. The organization originally operated a tutoring program for elementary-age children at three Catholic schools in the area, but members felt like they could make an even bigger impact with a new program that worked only with preschoolers.

"They're never too small to introduce to reading," Pat Spoltman, president of the Christ Child Society of Fort Wayne, said.

Spoltman helped encourage the idea of working with preschoolers, which led to the creation of the Reading Rangers Program. This coincided with "Challenging Poverty, One Child at a Time," a national program that encouraged local chapters to start the own programs that were most needed in their own communities.

The founder of the Christ Child Society, Mary Virginia Merrick, said that "Nothing is ever too much to do for a child." Through the Reading Rangers Program, women in the Christ Child Society are giving children a chance to improve their foundational literacy skills. Studies have shown how much reading readiness impacts a child's entire future.

Reading Rangers, headed by Barb Niezer, Lori Neumann and Dee Dee Dahm, began during the 2016-17 school year at St. Joseph School. It was so successful that the group plans to add a second school for the 2017-18 school year.

"We decided to approach St. Joe school because that was one place where we had tutored," Spoltman said. "It was a place where Bishop Rhoades was asking Christ Child to really make a difference, as they were trying to get their school up off the ground for the population served."

On the second Thursday of each month from September to May, women from the Christ Child Society go to St. Joe to read to the children in groups of four or five. They also discuss the stories, do crafts that go along with the story and give the children a copy of their own to take home. The goal is not only to expose



Lori Neumann, left, reads to preschool students at St. Joseph Catholic School on Brooklyn Avenue in Fort Wayne. The Reading Rangers program began at the school in 2016 and works to help preschoolers with reading readiness.

these children to more books, but also to give them a chance to stock their home library and work on reading with their parents at home. Volunteers sent a letter home with each child, explaining to the parents what the child read and talked about that day. Letters are written in both Spanish and English.

"As we would walk through the door, the kids would just grab a hand," Marlene Offerle said of last school year's Reading Rangers program. Offerle was heavily involved in the program this past school year and is part of the push to expand the program further.

In many families below the poverty line, children do not have any books at home.

"The concept of not having a book in your home was just foreign to us," Spoltman said. "It was pretty neat to see them get their book each month.

"It's gone over very well," she continued. "One of the children, one of the little boys, just

couldn't believe he was actually going to get a copy of the book to take home. It's those things that really just get you."

Right now, Spoltman estimates that 30-35 women are on the Reading Rangers committee. She said some have backgrounds in teaching and are especially helpful in picking the books for the school year. The group has the funding for these books and wants to continue to expand to more schools as volunteer power allows.

"It's a great program and I think it's something that will help children appreciate books and appreciate that they can then learn to read those books," Offerle said. "It's a program to help children just enjoy reading and it'll help in their literacy. I think that's so important, especially when we have so many children in our school who are bilingual."

The group has already selected the nine books for the 2017-18 school year and is excited



Photos provided by Christ Child Society

to add a second school to the program, an announcement that will be made closer to the start of the school year. The second school will read the same books, but will meet on alternate days and weeks from St. Joe to allow other committee members the chance to volunteer. Many of the volunteers are parents and grandparents themselves and enjoy working with the children as much as the children enjoy having them.

"It was really kind of exciting," Offerle said. "The kids loved it

and I think the women enjoyed it as much as the kids did.

"It's watching children grow. It's watching them expand from the beginning of the school year into much more confidence and much more self-assurance. It's watching ... the excitement of the children. When you see it in action, that's when you know it was a good thing to pursue," Spoltman said. "Sometimes you just see it in their face, it's not even anything verbal, but you can see those wheels spinning and going, 'Wow, this is great!'"

Something About Mary

By Michael Soper, author of *Xavier Wakes* | from Amazon.com

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Called to be critics, rebels and saints

The following is the commencement address given by Msgr. Michael Heintz at the graduation ceremony of Marian High School, Mishawaka, his alma mater, on June 2.

High school commencement addresses are notoriously and almost universally dreadful. Filled with platitudes and trite sentiment, they're largely useless exercises in false praise, empty clichés and pious twaddle. My goal tonight is first and foremost to avoid all of that. I want to speak to you as graduates of my alma mater, and now yours, directly and honestly.

The facts I lay out to you are these. First, the culture we live in is corrosive, and thus damaging to us and to our relationships; but you don't have to buy in. You can become a critic and a rebel. Second, life is not fair, period; but you can have a good life anyway. And third, as you look to your future, keep in mind the words of a 19th-century French novelist: "the only real sadness, the only real failure, the only great tragedy in life, is not to become a saint."

The culture we live in is toxic, and thus corrosive. Watch the news for more than three minutes — and it matters not which channel or website: CNN or Fox, Breitbart or Michael Moore — and your soul will be damaged by its coarseness and distorted by its subtle dishonesties. It offers little that is enlightening or uplifting. Further, technology, which has no doubt enhanced our life in a number of ways, has at the same time impaired the way we think, radically lim-

ited our capacity to remember anything and skewed the way we look at and relate to others. Violence and pornography (and I am convinced one is as bad as the other), which mark so much of contemporary media, are corrupting, not liberating or even harmless, influences on us. The images that fill our screens have deeply impaired the way we see one another, and social scientists are beginning to take note how these influences lead to any number of dysfunctions in marriages and other relationships.

The myth — and it is pure myth — that guides our contemporary culture is that the ideal life is one without any restraints. Boundaries, limits, rules and the moral and social norms that codify them are considered a burden and an arbitrary impingement on personal freedom and expression. In the culture we inhabit, the goal or end of all our striving is nothing more than the removal of all limits so as to maximize personal comfort and pleasure. Plato would have called this hedonism, and really there is nothing noble or beautiful about it. As a matter of the historical record, hedonists are serially miserable people, always blaming others for being in their way, for foiling their plans and impeding their happiness; or alternately they use other people, leaving in their wake a trail of wounded, damaged and broken relationships.

Now, we are all part of this culture, and we can't simply extricate ourselves from it. We all live and breathe in it. But we don't have to buy into it.

My advice to each of you is to



THE HUMAN CONDITION

MSGR. MICHAEL HEINTZ

become a critic and a rebel. And push back. Don't believe everything Anderson Cooper or Bill O'Reilly tells you. In fact, question all the prevailing orthodoxies of our culture; learn instead to listen to different voices. Don't buy into the agenda that Hollywood, Wall Street or ESPN peddles about what's important in life. None of them has your best interest in mind: That is a fact. They're actually all in the business of making money off of you. So listen instead to those whose love and care for you are genuine, especially when they're telling you something you really don't want to hear (perhaps like your parents or the church); that subtle rebellion inside you is more often than not an indication that they might actually have something important to say.

Formed by the rugged and foolish individualism that is part and parcel of a fallen culture, we tend to avoid asking for help, we eschew looking to others and we're resistant to the acquired wisdom that is not dependent on our immediate experience (which, by the way, is called tradition). But be wary: Don't take advice from individuals whose personal life is a train

HEINTZ, page 21

Who speaks for Charlie Gard?

A seriously ill 11-month-old child in Great Britain has garnered the attention of President Donald Trump and Pope Francis and sparked an international debate.

Charlie Gard is unresponsive and totally dependent due to a severe genetic defect that compromises his brain cells' metabolism. His parents want to sustain his life and transfer him to an American hospital for a highly experimental treatment — one that has benefited children with a similar, but far less serious, condition.

But the hospital caring for Charlie wants to remove the ventilator keeping him alive and provide only palliative care while he dies. British courts have sided with the hospital, though the parents have raised the funds for treatment and ask only to be allowed to transfer Charlie from this hospital's care.

What does Catholic teaching have to say about a case like this?

First, our moral tradition distinguishes between ordinary and extraordinary means (or proportionate and disproportionate means). We must assess the expected benefits of treatment in light of the risk, suffering, cost and other burdens they may impose on the patient.

We are morally obliged to accept treatment that offers benefit without entailing greater burdens. Catholic tradition does not teach a "vitalism," insisting that everything possible must always be done to prolong life.



A MORE HUMAN SOCIETY

RICHARD DOERFLINGER

Second, if a treatment is extraordinary, it is morally optional, not forbidden. Pope Francis could hardly have offered his own hospital in Rome for care of Charlie if such care were against Catholic teaching.

Third, such judgments must respect the inherent dignity of each human person. The church rejects discriminatory judgments that the very life of a person is useless or a burden due to physical or mental impairments.

In 2004, speaking of patients with very severe brain damage, St. John Paul II said that "even our brothers and sisters who find themselves in the clinical condition of a 'vegetative state' retain their human dignity in all its fullness. ... The value of a man's life cannot be made subordinate to any judgment of its quality expressed by other men."

The hospital and the judge in Charlie's case seem to have made such "quality of life" judgments. The hospital cited his cognitive state to argue that "this situation is not a tolerable one to leave a child in."

The judge agreed, saying that

SOCIETY, page 21

The most precious pearl



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Matthew 13:44-52

The First Book of Kings is the source of this weekend's first reading. As might be supposed, the two books of Kings deal heavily with the kings of unified Israel: Saul, David and Solomon. But while these two books concentrate on these three kings, the books, in fact, are not political histories.

The authors of these inspired books were not interested in politics, except when politics furnished some religious consideration or another. For them, religion was the most important

consideration in life: the Hebrew religion, by which God related to the people and they to God. Nothing else made any difference in the long run.

David and Solomon were almost magical figures in the ancient Hebrew mind. David was the king who confirmed his own, and the nation's, covenant with God. Solomon, who continued his father's religious policy, was regarded as the wisest of men.

Under David and Solomon, at least in the estimate of the Hebrews themselves, the unified kingdom of Israel had status among the nations of the ancient Middle East.

In this weekend's reading Solomon realized that, despite his own intelligence and access to power, God was supreme. Solomon asked God not for power or wealth, but for the wisdom to govern well. Again, to emphasize the place of religion, governing well meant bringing the people to God, and God to them.

St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans furnishes the second

reading. The reading begins with a verse long a favorite source of consolation for Christians: "We know that God makes all things work together for the good of those who love him." Paul wrote this epistle in part to encourage the Christian Romans as they faced the scorn of the culture of the time, and indeed as they faced increasing pressure from the political authorities.

The verses in this reading call for strong faith and for commitment to the fact that earthly life is not the be-all and end-all for humans.

For its last reading, the church offers a reading from St. Matthew's Gospel. The reading contains three short parables. These parables belong uniquely to Matthew.

Key to understanding the message is in noting the eagerness of the pearl merchant to possess the truly precious pearl. He sells everything in order to buy it.

The Gospel presents the kingdom, and life with God, as this extraordinarily valuable pearl. If

we are wise, we will put everything else aside and seek the pearl that is the kingdom.

"Put everything else aside" is the operative phrase. We must invest every part of ourselves in our quest for God. We must "sell everything," so to speak, to be true disciples.

The reading further reminds us that saints, as well as sinners, are people the world and of the kingdom of God on earth. God, and only God, will balance the picture.

Reflection

This Liturgy of the Word confronts us directly with the fact that our kingdom is not of this world, just as Jesus insisted before Pilate that the redeemer's kingdom was not of this world. As followers of Jesus, as part of the mystical body of Christ, we are in the same situation.

Necessarily revealed is that this world is not enduring. Only the wise see that the enduring kingdom is God's spiritual kingdom: but surrounded by the glit-

ter of worldly success and profit, it is easy to forget that these "rewards" one day will vanish — no exceptions. When we devote our lives totally to God, we simply are facing facts.

What we build on earthly gain is inevitably built on shifting, lifeless sand. This is the blunt fact. God's kingdom will not pass away. It is the most precious pearl, worth everything in our lives and hearts.

READINGS

Sunday: 1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12 Ps 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-130 Rom 8:28-30 Mt 13:44-52

Monday: Ex 32:15-24, 30-34 Ps 106:19-23 Mt 13:31-35

Tuesday: Ex 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28 Ps 103:6-13 Mt 13:36-43

Wednesday: Ex 34:29-35 Ps 99:5-7, 9 Mt 13:44-46

Thursday: Ex 40:16-21, 34-38 Ps 84:3-6, 8-11 Mt 13:47-53

Friday: Lv 23:1, 4-11 15-16, 27, 34b-37 Ps 81:3-6, 10-11 Mt 13:54-58

Saturday: Lv 25:1, 8-17 Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8 Mt 14:1-12

HEINTZ

Continued from Page 20

wreck. How can someone who is a hot mess be in any position to offer you real insight or guidance about life?

The network of relationships, friendships and fellowships that we forge in life can make or break us. The people we choose as our friends either help us on the way to heaven or speed our course on the highway to hell. There are no neutral friendships. But we are innately social beings, and we do need each other. Desperately. As the great GK Chesterton once wrote, "We men and women are all in the same boat, upon a stormy sea. We owe to each other a terrible and tragic loyalty."

So be a rebel and push back. Focus on the good, the true and the beautiful. How? Take long

walks, alone; read poetry; take the South Shore up to the Art Institute in Chicago; learn to take art and literature seriously, but not yourself. Read — and re-read — the Gospels; take a long bike ride on a country road; listen to music you've never listened to before; spend an afternoon, an entire afternoon, in the park without any electronic device; go to a daily Mass when you're not obligated, but just because you want to. Volunteer three hours a week at a local charity, since as Flannery O'Connor observed, God is encountered not only as truth, but also — and remember this when you're struggling intellectually with the faith — as charity; and learn to appreciate silence. Don't constantly tweet or post; put the darn phone down and spend more time experiencing life instead of describing it digitally. Build relationships that demand something from you — that's what real friendships do, and so make you a better person — and strive to bring out the best in others. Resist the pressure to make your own comfort, your own prestige or your own sense of power (these are the trinity of contemporary culture) the aim of your life. You will discover that a life lived outward, towards others and not focused inward on yourself, is truly liberating. Love, real love, is what makes us free.

Second, life does not come to us with a satisfaction guarantee. In other words, life is not fair, period. There will be things that you experience or even suffer (and this may be old news to you already) that are simply unjust

and unfair, things beyond your control to manage or contain, things that make you question the goodness of God and the goodness of others. Sometimes these evils are the product of other peoples' malice. Often, the evils we experience seem to have little or no rational explanation — they're just circumstantial. We inhabit a warped cosmos where good things happen to wicked people and bad things happen to good and decent people. Good and evil seem to move about indiscriminately, without any calculus or rationality; it doesn't seem to make any sense.

Now, one response to this — understandable in some ways — is cynicism. But this rapidly morphs into anger, resentment and bitterness. You can choose to live your days literally mad as hell at God, at other people or at the world's unfairness. But this anger only enslaves you and destroys you from within; such rage is ultimately demonic, self-defeating and draws us into

*"The saints
are those
remarkable men
and women
who have learned
how to love and
who are thus truly free."*

the very flow of the world's disorder. Anger makes us less free. We all know people who seem to be consumed by an inner rage, folks who are angry almost all the time; is this any way to live? And where does it get them?

One of my heroes is St. Augustine, who did not suffer fools, or evils, gladly. He was a shrewd observer of human affairs. Noting that good people and wicked people alike suffer evils and also enjoy goods, he pointed out that the difference between the wicked and the righteous is not in what they experience or suffer, but in how they handle it. The wicked respond to life's unfairness by becoming bitter and resentful. The righteous experience life's unfairness too, but do not allow themselves to be distorted and destroyed by the evils they suffer, and as such they experience a freedom that the wicked, in their bitterness, simply cannot enjoy. Living in dark times, when the power of the enemy seemed to have a terrifying advantage, Gandalf had to remind Frodo, lamenting his circumstances and wishing he didn't have to deal with the task handed to him, "so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us."

So do not live in anger or in fear. Resist being drawn into the darkness. Nothing happens apart from the Providence of God. Thank God for the blessings you receive, and ask him for the fortitude and patience to deal with life's unfairness — and there

will be plenty of it — so that it doesn't destroy your soul. We will each encounter all kinds of obstacles and hardships in life, but the fact of the matter is that none of these, as dreadful as they may be, can block our way to holiness or harm our friendship with God; the martyrs are living (and dying) proof of this. The only obstacles to holiness are self-imposed.

Finally, strive to become a saint. Holiness, freedom and love are all inextricably woven together in the fabric of a life, and while I suspect that most of you would acknowledge your desire for freedom and for love, holiness tends to sound a bit less appealing. Saints seem plastic and boring; we never quite imagine them having much fun.

But the saints are those remarkable men and women who have learned how to love and who are thus truly free. The saints are life's real adventurers. No longer enslaved to their own desires and to their own willfulness, they are unconquered victors, the true freedom fighters, the real rebels and insurgents in a world that is out of whack and seems to be spinning more so all the time. They have learned that prayer — personal and liturgical — is an act of defiance against the world's darkness, a way of rebelling against all that is hateful and ugly, and an act of allegiance to the "capital-L" Love that Dante said moves the sun and the other stars. The love the saints share cuts against the grain of a warped world turned in on itself and undermines the Enemy whose negative energy derives from fear, spite and envy.

Because they are willing to let go of themselves, of their own obsessions, of their own ambitions, of their own innate but quite fallen desire to promote and assert themselves, the saints have discovered what life's really all about. They have learned how to love. They have realized that every gift is intended to be given away, paid forward so to speak, and that in making a gift of themselves and their life to others, they receive far more than if God, the world and everyone else simply catered to their own immediate ambitions and desires. In the economy of grace, if we love, we always receive more than we ever give. And as a result of learning to put themselves aside, the saints experience a freedom that many folks in our world have barely even tasted.

If you want real freedom, learn how to love. That's what holiness looks like: not a plastic figurine or a pious picture, but love and freedom in action. So learn how to love; discover true freedom; and become a saint.

Msgr. Michael Heintz is on the faculty at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg, Md.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for July 30, 2017

Matthew 13:44-52

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A: gathering riches. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

KINGDOM	HEAVEN	TREASURE
JOY	SELLS	THAT FIELD
MERCHANT	GREAT	A NET
FISH	EVERY KIND	ASHORE
THE AGE	ANGELS	SEPARATE
RIGHTEOUS	THROW THEM	FURNACE
TEETH	ANSWERED	SCRIBE

FINDING GOOD

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D L E I F T A H T E I E
T L A G N A N A A S G V
H T O M N I A T H F H E
R H D E C A N R U F T R
O E T R E A S U R E E Y
W A O E H S W H J J O K
T G H C E D E M O J U I
H E R J K T R I O R S N
E E N E V A E H G O E D
M B K I N G D O M R D H

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SOCIETY

Continued from Page 20

in light of Charlie's diminished brain function, "How can he be any better off than he is now?" This approach has grave implications for people with intellectual disabilities.

Fourth, because judgments about burden and benefit have an inescapably subjective or personal dimension, we have to ask: "Who decides?" Catholic documents say the patient is the primary decision-maker; then loved ones who can speak for the patient; then doctors. These documents seldom mention judges.

This is the decisive point. In a situation with many uncertainties, but a consensus that Charlie's parents love him and want the best for him, their right to make decisions for their child should prevail.

And here British law stumbles. When doctors and parents disagree, British judges simply make their own independent judgment as to what is in the child's best interests. In American law, parents' right to make decisions for their children is strongly affirmed, to be overridden only in cases of abuse or

clear evidence of harm — which is not the situation here.

The American tradition reflects Catholic teaching. When they are not acting against the demands of human dignity, parents are the best advocates for their children's rights. The courts should step back and let Charlie live, for as long as he will live, in the embrace of the family that loves him.

Richard Doerflinger is associate director of the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. To learn how to write to Congress on this issue visit www.nchla.org; more on the bishops' pro-life activities can be found at www.usccb.org.

HELP WANTED: Share Foundation Camp Program Director

Job Description: Share Foundation is seeking a person to take over the camp program at Sharing Meadows.

Responsibilities: Responsibilities include recruiting and scheduling staff for each camp; recruiting, inviting and scheduling campers for each camp session; organizing paperwork; establishing themes; planning menus, craft projects and activities for each camp session; purchasing food and supplies and keeping an inventory; conducting orientation and training for camp staff; and evaluating each camp session. The position will also include marketing the camp building for rental to outside groups, scheduling rental contracts and seeing that renter's needs are met.

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P. O. Box 400
Rolling Prairie, IN 46371
EOE



Bishop celebrates Mass at Elkhart County 4-H Fair



Joe Raymond

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades speaks to nearly 400 worshippers during a celebration of Mass at the Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds Sunday, July 23, in Goshen. The second-largest county fair in the country has offered a Catholic Mass on the first Sunday of fair week since the early 1990s.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

WHAT'S HAPPENING carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send announcements at least two weeks prior to the event. View more Catholic events and submit new ones at www.diocesefwsb.org/bulletin. Events that require an admission charge or payment to participate will receive one free listing. For additional listings of that event, please call the Today's Catholic advertising sales staff at 260-399-1449 to purchase space.

Bishop Luers Show Choir Camp offered
FORT WAYNE — Bishop Luers High School will offer a show choir camp for children in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade from 9-11:30 a.m. Aug. 1-4. A Friday family performance will be at 11 a.m. followed by a picnic lunch. Cost is \$50 and includes a T-shirt. Visit www.bishopluers.org for information.

Running on a prayer 5K
ROME CITY — The second annual Running on a Prayer 5k run/walk will be Saturday, Aug. 5, at 9 a.m. on the grounds of the Our Lady, Mother of Mercy Center, 2730 E. Northport Rd. The race will feature a mixed terrain, and all participants receive race number, hydration stations on course and post race refreshment.

Bishop Rhoades to make visit
ALBION — Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will visit Blessed Sacrament Parish on Saturday, Aug. 26, for the 4 p.m. vigil Mass, followed by a parish dinner. Guests should RSVP to blessedsacramentc@gmail.com by Sunday, Aug 20.

Portziuncola Indulgence Day and Franciscan Festival
FORT WAYNE — A Franciscan festival will be Wednesday, Aug. 2, from 4-7:30 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Church, 4500 Fairfield Ave. Gain a plenary indulgence and enjoy food, games, music, vendors and confessions throughout the event. Mass offered at 4 and 6 p.m. For information contact the Confraternity of Penitents at 260-739-6882.

Sacred music concert in thanksgiving
ANGOLA — St. Anthony Church, 700 W. Maumee St., will have a sacred music concert from Karli Forte and Emily Thompson Sunday, July 30, at 2:30 p.m. They will perform music from 14th century Italian to Bernstein. A free-will donation will follow 20 percent given back to the parish.

A Catholic Tour of St. Joseph Cemetery
MISHAWAKA — St. Joseph Church will sponsor "A Catholic Tour of St. Joseph Cemetery" at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 5. The tour, led by Pete De Keever, will explain the cemetery's history and visit 13 prominent graves. St. Joseph Cemetery is located at the southeast corner of Liberty

Drive and Jefferson Blvd. The tour will last one hour, and there is no cost to participate. In case of rain, Aug. 12 will be the alternate date.

Spaghetti dinner planned
SOUTH BEND — The Knights of Columbus Council 5570, 5202 Linden Ave., will have a spaghetti dinner Thursday, Aug. 10, from 4-6 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$2.50 for children 5-12.

Holy Smokes
NEW HAVEN — A men's cigar benefit featuring keynote speaker Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, will be Wednesday, Aug. 30, at 6:30 p.m. in the Tippmann Pavillion. Limited tickets are \$125 and include drinks, cigars and heavy hors d'oeuvres. Reserve space online at www.amothershop-efw.org. Proceeds will benefit A Mother's Hope.

Parishioner, St. Aloysius






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NOW HIRING

St. Jude Parish, Fort Wayne, is currently searching for a new director of religious education (DRE). The DRE responsibilities include coordinating and directing our elementary religious education program, sacramental preparation coordinating, and other various evangelization and education opportunities. The position is currently a full-time position. St. Jude could also be interested in dividing the responsibilities of the position to suit part-time employees as well.

Candidates looking for either full-time or part-time employment should send resumes to Fr. Jake Runyon at jrunyon@stjudefw.org.



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REST IN PEACE

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| <p>Bremen
Dorene R. Cope, 85, St. Dominic</p> <p>Culver
M. Jerry Buchman, 89, St. Mary of the Lake</p> <p>Decatur
Loretta R. Rumschlag, 83, St. Mary of the Assumption</p> <p>Christina V. Atienzo, 79, St. Mary of the Assumption</p> <p>Fort Wayne
Jerome Relue, 71, St. Charles Borromeo</p> <p>Adam Michael Sizen, 84, St. Charles Borromeo</p> <p>Antonio Vasquez, Jr., 52, St. Joseph</p> <p>Timothy A. England, 58, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton</p> <p>Richard Millhouse, 90, St. Therese</p> <p>Frederick A. Beckman, 94, St. Peter</p> <p>Noel R. Wells, 83, St. Vincent de Paul</p> | <p>Donald E. Bodeker, 84, Queen of Angels</p> <p>Erich J. Kennerk, 45, St. John the Baptist</p> <p>Karen Elizabeth Leffers, 54, St. Vincent de Paul</p> <p>Charlene Miller, 92, St. Charles Borromeo</p> <p>Helen B. Juricak, 90, Most Precious Blood</p> <p>F. Michael Brugger, 75, Our Lady of Good Hope</p> <p>David A. and Patricia A. Ferguson, Guerin Chapel, Catholic Cemetery</p> <p>Mishawaka
Dorothy Ann Harder, 83, St. Joseph</p> <p>John E. Michels, 75, St. Joseph</p> <p>Notre Dame
Henry Bernhardt Froning, Jr., 92, Our Lady of Holy Cross Chapel</p> <p>Hilda C. Farrell, 101, Sanctuary of St. Paul</p> <p>Sister M. Rose Bernard, CSC, 90, Church of Loretto</p> | <p>Joan Christopher Crovello, 76, Basilica of the Sacred Heart</p> <p>Pierceton
Marvin L. Hartley, 81, St. Francis Xavier</p> <p>Plymouth
Dr. John M. Bottorff, Sr., 94, St. Michael</p> <p>South Bend
Francesca Macri, 77, Our Lady of Hungary</p> <p>Anna B. Whitesel, 71, Holy Family</p> <p>Earl A. Kubale, 95, St. Matthew Cathedral</p> <p>Norman M. Matuszak, 75, St. John the Baptist</p> <p>Rosemary Christine Shafer, 89, Corpus Christi</p> <p>Wabash
Verna Fredenberger, 91, St. Bernard</p> <p>Yoder
John A. Horne, 85, St. Aloysius</p> |
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Father Daniel Scheidt named Legatus National Chaplain of the Year

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne, was the scene recently of the Legatus organization's celebration of its chaplain, Father Daniel Scheidt, and his recently received National Chaplain of the Year award. The chapter was recognized earlier in the year when it won a membership growth award at the Legatus National Summit in Naples, Florida; but local recognition of Father Scheidt's distinction, with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades in attendance, occurred at a Legatus dinner meeting Tues., July 18, at the parish's Msgr. Kuzmich Life Center.

Legatus is an international organization of practicing Catholic laymen and laywomen, composed of CEOs, presidents and managing partners and their spouses, from the business community and professional enterprises. According to local president Diana Parent, the Fort Wayne chapter has 40 members from the surrounding area, who represent companies that boast at least \$6-1/2 million dollars in annual sales and have 50 or more employees. These business leaders serve as ambassadors of Christ in the marketplace, she said, pointing out that 23,200 area employees are under Legatus members' influence and guidance.

The Legatus prayer verbalizes its mission: "We continue to pray for Your gracious Spirit to work through us as we take Christ into the marketplace, that we would be faithful in proclaiming the Good News of Jesus and being His light to our world. We also humbly ask you to strengthen and grow Legatus so that we may faithfully carry out our mis-



Joe Romie

Father Dan Scheidt, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish and chaplain of the Fort Wayne Legatus chapter, is honored at the start of a dinner meeting of the chapter at the St. Vincent de Paul Parish Msgr. Kuzmich Life Center on July 18. Chapter president Diana Parent stands at right, while Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, left, prays a blessing on a surprise gift from the chapter to Father Scheidt, which he holds: new vestments that depict the logo of Legatus.

sion to study, live and spread the Catholic faith in our business, professional and personal lives for Your glory."

Father Scheidt, pastor at St. Vincent de Paul, serves as chaplain of Legatus, a position to which he was appointed by Bishop Rhoades in 2013 when the chapter was first chartered. The role of chaplain is that of spiritual leader and a person who, through his witness, calls the members to a deeper experience of and commitment to Christ and his church.

The priest was admittedly pleased at news of the award, but commented; "Receiving the honor of being National Chaplain of the Year for Legatus was as moving as it was surprising. ...

The honor is not so much mine as it is a tribute to our Fort Wayne chapter's constant commitment to grow and deepen the networks of friendship that can unite the Catholic business leaders of our area. Our membership, like every gift of Christ, has multiplied."

Bishop Rhoades offered several thoughts at the recognition ceremony. "I'm happy to see how Legatus has grown so quickly," he said, attributing that growth in large part to its chaplain's inspirational leadership. Though Father Scheidt is pastor of one of the largest parishes in the diocese, the bishop said he knew he could effectively serve in this ministry as well.

Addressing the audience, the bishop said the Legatus organi-

zation "needs a priest who leads you, who preaches God's word; and Father Scheidt was the first priest I thought of" for the position. Then he blessed and presented to him a new chasuble and stole emblazoned with the Legatus symbol, a gift from the chapter.

Legatus Regional Director Nancy Haskell, who nominated Father Scheidt for the recognition, outlined a chaplain's duties for the organization. These include offering Mass and confession for its members as well as providing ongoing spiritual guidance. Father Scheidt fulfills these duties and more, she said. "In addition to reverently providing the sacraments at every Legatus event, he deliv-

ers thoughtful homilies relevant to the Legatus mission and its members. These homilies and his closing remarks serve to tie the entire event experience together as he challenges the members to deepen their faith and their commitment to study, live and spread the faith. Father Dan's deep care for the members is truly evident in his work as a Legatus chaplain, and his dedication to this role has enriched the lives and strengthened the faith of many."

Nearly the entire chapter was on hand for the special celebration and presentation of the gift chasuble and stole. Membership chairman and former Legatus president Deacon Jim Fitzpatrick called Father Scheidt "a man of prayer who leads mostly by example, and has an ability to take everyday situations in life and make them relevant." Businessman and St. Vincent parishioner Steve Grashoff said, "He really helps to lead us."

Diana Parent addressed her remarks directly to Father Scheidt: "You always touch our souls."

Father Scheidt spoke to the whole of those in attendance during the evening, expressing his reciprocal affection for the Fort Wayne Legatus chapter.

"When I was in the seminary and considered Christ's words in Matthew 19:29, that whoever leaves 'houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life,' I never realized I could experience so fully in my life as a priest the 'hundredfold' of blessings the Lord promises. Being chaplain of Legatus is for me Christ's gift of the 'hundredfold,'" he said.

VICTORY

Continued from Page 1

the sisters are also opening it up to the community, so all the benefits that are given to them, residents from the community receive as well," she said.

The Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters decided in 2014 that they needed to find a partner to help with their health care, as the ages of many of them ranged from 80 to 101 years old. According to current president of the order, Sister Mary Jo Nelson, they began negotiations with Saint Anne Communities in 2015 to create the partnership they have today.

"We've never been in the health care business, but we have certainly attended to people and ministered with people who were very vulnerable, oppressed ... so I think there's a spirit, there's a connection in spirit," Sister Nelson said of their common goals.

"One way to describe partnership is creating something together that neither can do alone," she said in her speech during the ribbon-cutting ceremony. The Victory Noll sisters were no longer able to handle their own health care, a service that Saint Anne now provides. In return, the sisters help Saint Anne minister to the Huntington community by providing space for the new building.

"Saint Anne's has really focused on a couple of very simple things over the years: taking care of people, treating people with dignity, respect and the love and care that they deserve as elders," David Deffenbaugh, chief operating officer of Saint Anne said. "We are so excited to be able to do that on a broader scale."

The new building consists of 60 new rooms, 40 of which are studio apartments. Each floor has its own dining room, spa room and laundry room where residents can do their own laundry or get assistance if needed. The facility contains a fitness center that provides occupational, physical and speech therapy

for residents and community members with a doctor's script.

This new building is connected to the original building that the sisters operated, forming a courtyard that the residents can use at any time. Additionally, the original chapel and cafeteria will be used by residents. Pastoral care is available and Mass is celebrated daily.

"We fit our roles into your lifestyle, not you into ours," Retzios said. "This is a place where people actually live. They're doing activities; they're coming and going. This facility is unique because we have the beautiful grounds, so if we get somebody that's a little more active — this is a resort setting."

Over the last couple of weeks the first residents, all of whom are Victory Noll sisters, have moved into the new facility. As of July 20, a total of 14 sisters

were living there, leaving 26 open beds for anyone in the Huntington community.

"God has blessed us with gifts to share with a partner in Saint Anne Communities, so that together we can begin a new ministry, a new service, for the city of Huntington," Sister Nelson said in her remarks.

Sister Valeria Foltz, 97, a new resident of Saint Anne Victory Noll, is still sewing. She had towels, pillows, aprons and many other items for sale at the event to raise money for the activity fund at the community. She selected a room that is both close to the chapel and overlooks the St. Joseph building, where she used to live. "So far I love it, because it's like fairyland: You go down the hall, the lights all go on," Sister Foltz said about the new facility and the automatic lights in the hallway. "I love my room because I've got a recliner and a bed, and they let me have my sewing machine in there."

The sisters look forward to this new community allowing their work to continue into the future.

"It means that our work will go on, that even though we've lost many sisters. The new facility will train new teachers, new catechists, and that work will go on," Sister Millicent Peaslee, another new resident, said.

"It's a step into the future, and the future is our collaboration with a whole network of people, not just trying to do whatever we do on our own," Sister Nelson said. "This is a step toward opening our campus. We have the Victory Noll Center, and now this is another group, another entity here. They can really serve a variety of people, a variety of needs, in a beautiful space."

Sister Nelson hopes that this is only the beginning of opening up and developing the Victory Noll Center. The sisters recently sold a portion of their land to ACRES Land Trust, which will help develop it into walking paths that anyone in the facility can use — while still preserving the forests and fields.

More photos are available at www.todayscatholic.org

