

INTRODUCING A BRAND NEW

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

e x p e r i e n c e

www.todayscatholic.org



'Go ... and preach the Gospel'

If necessary, use a device

BY STEPHANIE A. PATKA

Everyone has a role in the new evangelization, because we all have been given different charisms and gifts to share with the world. In the Office of Communications here at the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, the role that we play in the new evangelization is simple: to lead with beauty and to tell the Catholic story.

If *Today's Catholic* is telling the story, we have to consider how people will actually listen to it. Looking at the world around us, it is impossible to ignore how modern technology impacts the ability to listen to the Catholic story.

There will always be those who prefer to see that story in print, in a newspaper they can hold while they sip their morning coffee. For others, the story comes in bite- (or byte-) sized pieces, next to pictures of friends in a social media feed. Some may prefer to have notifications of updates appear through an app on their smartphone or tablet; still others would rather search through headlines on a website for the articles that interest them the most.

The way our culture consumes news is evolving. We are evolving with it.

The evolution of *Today's Catholic* is a change in our business model to address the financial priorities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, as well as to reach a much larger audience. In our current model, over 43,000 newspapers are being printed and mailed every week, for free. Moving forward, we are not eliminating the print version of *Today's Catholic*, but rather providing the print newspaper for a yearly subscription price of \$20. All *Today's Catholic* digital products will remain free and fully accessible to anyone, in or out of our diocese. As a side note, if you know of anyone for whom the \$20 subscription is a financial hardship, we are happy to work with them to provide a subscription at no charge.

Regardless of how a person wants to seek out local Catholic content, the news will be there for them in the style that they prefer, without compromising the truth, joy and beauty of the Gospel contained in each story.

While cost was a factor that entered into the decision to change the business model, *Today's Catholic* remains an important outreach and evangelization tool. Since January of 1926, when then-Bishop John F. Noll started writing articles that he inserted in copies of *Our Sunday Visitor*, those living in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend were able to find, in written word, a Catholic voice that provided guidance, inspiration and an invitation to draw close to God in communion with his body, the church.

Over the years, *Today's Catholic* changed its form in order to remain relevant to those readers and to expand its reach to those who were not

reading the paper, as well as those who may have fallen away from the church. The name changed from *Our Sunday Visitor* to *The Harmonizer* in 1972, and finally *Today's Catholic* in 1986. A website began in 1998, and in 2015 *Today's Catholic* began to share articles through social media. Yet, the mission of the newspaper to evangelize through telling the Catholic story remained the same.

While we are introducing new ways to receive the information found in *Today's Catholic*, and some things may look very different, *Today's Catholic* remains the voice of

Meet the all ways to experience Today's Catholic

PRINT EDITION



The newspaper that the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has printed and mailed locally since 1926 will not change. Subscriptions to it are available for \$20 per year. You will find a subscription envelope enclosed in this week's print edition of *Today's Catholic*. Bulk subscriptions are available to any parish, business, organization, ministry or individual who may wish to distribute multiple copies of *Today's Catholic*. For bulk subscriptions, simply email circulation@diocesefwsb.org. **Complimentary copies will cease on Oct. 1, 2017.**

DIGITAL EDITION/ePAPER



The digital edition, or "ePaper," as we like to call it, is available free to anyone across the globe. Each week you will receive an email with top headlines, upcoming events and featured columnists. For those who like the layout of the print paper but still want to go digital, an interactive edition of the newspaper will be accessible through each weekly email as well. Subscription forms for the digital edition can be found at www.todayscatholic.org/subscribe.

WEBSITE



Our completely redesigned website at www.todayscatholic.org enables visitors to access more articles, photos and columns than ever before. We will post articles that highlight our Catholic faith, lived in the world. Make sure to also check out the comprehensive events calendar of Catholic happenings all across the diocese.

SOCIAL MEDIA



Today's Catholic now has a Facebook page that will post daily articles and updates. If you want to stay connected with the rest of the diocese, we have that covered too. The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend also operates social media pages including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades even has his own Facebook page!

APP



Available on Google Play and the Apple Store, the *Today's Catholic* app provides easy access to all the content found on the website and more. You can set up notifications for local and global stories, notifications on Bishop Rhoades' schedule and information regarding events you won't want to miss. The app will also allow you to find parish Mass times, access daily prayers and read each day's readings. It's a great way to grow spiritually while staying current with the latest Catholic news.

Today's Catholic is updating, improving and expanding these communication tools so that we can reach more people of our diocese, especially our young people who are so engaged in the new media. Both print and digital versions of Today's Catholic are necessary today to reach our people.

— Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and the best local Catholic resource to stay up-to-date on news from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

We invite you to join us in this exciting time in the history of the diocese, when we have the capacity to reach more people than was ever possible before. Subscribe to the print edition or the digital version, or both. Download the app and join the conversation on social media. We can't wait to meet you, wherever you decide to hang out with *Today's Catholic*.

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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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New archbishop of Indianapolis calls faithful to be 'bridges of unity'

BY SEAN GALLAGHER

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — July 28 was a day of joy for Catholics across central and southern Indiana, as Archbishop Charles C. Thompson was installed as the seventh archbishop of Indianapolis during a festive Mass celebrated in Sts. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis.

But ties of the archdiocese to the broader church and world during the installation were unmistakable.

A French archbishop who serves as Pope Francis' representative in the United States presided over the start of the liturgy. Leaders of diverse Christian traditions and other faith communities in central and southern Indiana, as well as civic leaders, greeted Archbishop Thompson during the Mass. And participating in it were scores of clergy and other faithful from the Archdiocese of Louisville, Kentucky, and Indiana's Diocese of Evansville, two local churches that Archbishop Thompson has

THOMPSON, page 3



CNS photo/Sean Gallagher, The Criterion

Archbishop Christoph Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States, center, and Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin of Newark, New Jersey, applaud after Indianapolis Archbishop Charles C. Thompson sits for the first time in the cathedra of Sts. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis during the July 28 Mass in which he was installed as the seventh archbishop of Indianapolis.

Catholicism's earliest years in America

Smithsonian exhibit is open in Washington

Page 2

Catholic Charities

Second in a series about its long-term community solutions

Page 8

Elkhart County 4-H Fair Mass

Initiative by fair board member marks 25th anniversary

Page 13

Serving others in retirement

Couple delivers meals to the homebound, together

Page 15

Feast days honor Blessed Mother

Queenship of Mary, Aug. 22; Assumption of Mary, Aug. 15

Page 20

Jim Huth named Bishop Luers principal

FORT WAYNE — Jim Huth, a graduate of Bishop Luers High School, was recently named the new principal of the Fort Wayne high school. The announcement was made in a statement issued the week of July 24 by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.

"I am very grateful that Mr. Jim Huth, assistant principal at Bishop Luers High School, has accepted the appointment as the new principal. Jim brings many strengths to this leadership role," the bishop said. "Besides his expertise and competency in secondary education, Jim has a great commitment to Bishop Luers High School and a strong dedication and zeal for the mission of Catholic education. He possesses a great rapport with the faculty, staff, and students, as well as with parents, alumni and friends of the Bishop Luers community. I look forward to working with Jim in the years ahead to promote and serve this



JIM HUTH

wonderful high school of our diocese."

Huth, Bishop Luers Class of 1981, has been the assistant principal since 2014 under former principal Tiffany Albertson. Albertson was principal from 2007-17 and recently accepted a position at Bishop Dwenger High

School.

"I am thrilled and feel remarkably blessed for the opportunity to lead Bishop Luers High School and the families we serve," Huth said. "I look forward to continuing to work with the faculty and students at Bishop Luers and to continuing our mission to educate the

whole child, spiritually, academically and socially while serving God and others."

Before Huth was vice principal at Bishop Luers, he was the school's athletic director from 2012-14. From 2007-12, he was the inaugural leader of Imagine

Master Academy and Imagine School, located on Broadway in Fort Wayne. He served as assistant principal of Columbia City High School in Columbia City from 1999-2007 and taught earth science, integrated science and advanced topic research from 1988-99, also at Columbia City.

Huth holds a master of secondary administration and supervision degree from Indiana University. He also has a bachelor of science in secondary education from IU. He brings expertise in school performance improvement, professional learning, community development and the ability to work with stakeholders in challenging situations.

A member of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, Huth serves on the board of the Fort Wayne Sport Club Youth Board. He is a parishioner of St. Mary Mother of God Church in Fort Wayne.

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New Smithsonian exhibit explores diversity of religion in early America

BY CAROLYN MACKENZIE

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Smithsonian National Museum of American History's new exhibition, "Religion in Early America," celebrates the free exercise of religion and the religious diversity that define American faith life.

The exhibit features artifacts from Christianity, Judaism, Islam and other major world religions. Peter Manseau, the museum's Lilly Endowment curator of American religious history, is the author of several books and curator of the new exhibit.

"We can't really think about the role of religion in America today without wondering about how it all began," Manseau told Catholic News Service.

The exhibit, which opened June 28, displays artifacts and stories of American religious life from the 1630s to the 1840s. Reflecting the many Christian denominations that made up early America, it also features noteworthy items of Jewish, Islamic, Mormon, Native American and other faith traditions. Visitors from diverse backgrounds will likely find their own religious beliefs represented in the objects.

"The real power is seeing all of these together, and recognizing that these are all part of the same American story," Manseau said.

Some of the exhibit's biggest draws are the Jefferson Bible, the George Washington Inaugural Bible, Archbishop John Carroll's chalice and paten and a church bell forged by Paul Revere. Manseau explained that the Jefferson Bible is an edition of the New Testament that Thomas Jefferson edited himself, removing certain passages while including others.

"He wanted to create a story of the life and teachings of Jesus that was in line with his understanding of the Enlightenment, with his desire to lead a reason-led life," Manseau said. "So he went through several copies of the New Testament with a penknife in hand and cut out those parts that he agreed with, and glued them together into a new book that he called 'The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth.'"

Other noteworthy objects include the Communion cup of Gov. John Winthrop of Massachusetts, a Torah scroll damaged in 1776 during the British occupation of Manhattan, a 19th-century Arabic manuscript and an iron cross made by the first English Catholics in Maryland. Pope Francis used this cross at his papal Mass in Washington in 2015.

"According to tradition, it was made by the first English Catholics who came to America on the Ark and the Dove in 1634," Manseau said. "When they needed a cross



CNS photo/Chaz Muth

A visitor at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History in Washington looks at items in the exhibit "Religion in Early America" July 26. The exhibit will be on display until June 3, 2018.

to use in their public worship, they took iron ballast beams and had a blacksmith pound them together into a new iron cross that they used."

Manseau penned the book "Objects of Devotion: Religion in Early America," which presents images of some of the exhibit's artifacts and tells stories of religious movements and figures in American history.

The exhibit and book both highlight the influence of the Carroll family on Catholicism in America. Charles Carroll, the only Catholic signer of the Declaration of Independence, became a senator in the newly formed government. His cousin, Archbishop Carroll of Baltimore, became the first bishop in the United States, founded Georgetown University in Washington and worked to create other schools and religious communities.

Manseau pointed out a chalice on display that belonged to Archbishop Carroll, explaining that such chalices were designed to be taken apart and disguised as a bell when placed on the side of a saddle. Such disguise was helpful to priests at a time when Catholicism was often met with disdain.

"We try to tell the full story of early Catholic experience in America, and we don't shy away from this early bigotry against Catholics," Manseau said as he described the purpose of such saddle chalices.

"And so we tell stories like that, but also stories of early Catholic triumphs, such as the building of the Baltimore basilica, again through the leadership of Bishop John Carroll," Manseau said.

Though many of the Catholic artifacts come from the mid-Atlantic, the exhibit does not organize its items based on religion. Rather, "Religion in Early America" is arranged by region, an approach that displays how America's beliefs are diverse in location as well as in content.

"Rather than presenting this story chronologically, we decided that presenting it regionally would be the best way to show that there was diversity in every part of early America," Manseau said. "So we have exhibit cases on New England, the mid-Atlantic and the South. In each of those regions there were a number of different religious traditions that were trying to establish themselves to be a part of the public square, and we wanted to show that that happened across time."

The exhibit does not so much strive to paint a depiction of the everyday early American's religious life as it emphasizes the diversity characteristic of the United States since the earliest settlers arrived.

"I think that the main takeaway that people have when they come into 'Religion in Early America' is that the religious traditions that were present here were far more diverse than many suspect, and that the practical implication of this diversity really was religious freedom," Manseau said.

Editor's Note: The "Religion in Early America" exhibit runs until June 3, 2018. It can be viewed online at americanhistory.si.edu/religion-in-early-america.

Catholic groups ask Congress to reject 'discriminatory' RAISE Act

BY RHINA GUIDOS

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Calling a proposed piece of legislation "discriminatory," the head of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Migration called on the president and Congress to reject a bill that seeks to drastically cut legal

immigration levels in half over a decade and which also would greatly limit the ability of citizens and legal residents to bring family into the U.S.

Other Catholic groups also called for an end to the legislation.

"Had this discriminatory legislation been in place generations ago, many of the very people who built and defended this nation

would have been excluded," said Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Austin, Texas, chair of the bishops' migration committee.

In a news release late Aug. 2, he criticized the RAISE Act introduced earlier in the day by Republican Sens. Tom Cotton of Arkansas, and David Perdue of Georgia.

In addition to cutting legal

immigration, the Reforming American Immigration for a Strong Economy Act would create a system of legal immigration different from the current one that favors family ties. Instead, it would move toward a system under which points

RAISE, page 4

THOMPSON

Continued from Page 1

called home. These included many of Archbishop Thompson's family and friends.

This outreach to include more people in an ever-widening circle of faith, hope and love was reflected in Archbishop Thompson's homily in which he explored what he called the "Catholic both/and" as a "conviction" that contributes to his vision of his pastoral leadership of the Catholic Church in central and southern Indiana.

"Far too often, we are being confronted with an either/or mentality," Archbishop Thompson said. "We must dare to counter the growing polarization, division and radical individualism that breed fear, distrust, hatred, indifference, prejudice, selfishness, despair, violence and radical ideology.

"Our role as people of faith — I especially hold myself accountable as bishop — is to be willing to stand in the breach of the divide, drawing people back from the ledges of extremism in self-indulgence and self-righteousness by serving as bridges of unity, ambassadors of hope and instruments of peace."

At the beginning of the installation Mass, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States, quoting Pope Francis, encouraged Archbishop Thompson to reach out broadly to people in need through his leadership of the archdiocese.

"As you minister to the priests, clergy and laity being entrusted to your pastoral care and reach out to the community beyond, especially the poor and marginalized, may you keep ever in your heart the sentiments you yourself heard expressed by our Holy Father, Pope Francis, during his homily on the Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul," said Archbishop Pierre.

"The Lord answers our prayers," he said, quoting the pope. "He is faithful to the love

we have professed for him and he stands beside us at times of trial."

After Archbishop Pierre read from the pope's letter of appointment for Archbishop Thompson, he showed it to the congregation, and Archbishop Thompson expressed his acceptance.

Archbishop Pierre then placed on Archbishop Thompson's shoulders a pallium blessed by the pope. A pallium is a woolen band that symbolizes an archbishop's pastoral care of his faithful and his communion with the pope.

The nuncio walked with Archbishop Thompson to the cathedra, the seat in the cathedral reserved for the archbishop. The chair symbolizes a bishop's duty as the principal teacher of the faith in his diocese.

Archbishop Thompson sat in the cathedra and was presented with his pastoral staff, or crosier, which the priests of the archdiocese had given to him along with a pectoral cross and episcopal ring during evening prayer the night before at the cathedral.

The moment was the culmination of the installation of the seventh archbishop of Indianapolis. It was met with extended applause from the congregation. At 56, Archbishop Thompson is the youngest U.S. archbishop.

Archbishop Thompson then greeted a group representing priests, deacons, men and women religious, married couples, youths, young adults, people with special needs, Catholic schools, catechesis and the intercultural community.

Steven and Pauline Lancaster, members of St. Joseph Parish in Shelbyville, recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary and represented married couples in the archdiocese.

"It's very humbling," Pauline told *The Criterion*, the archdiocesan newspaper. "We were surprised when we were asked, but very excited and honored that we would get to do this."

She added that a married couple greeting the archbishop during his installation was a sign of their mutual support for each other, and a way for "young people just starting out to see

that there is such a thing as a long-term commitment, and that people are truly happy being together for that length of time."

Archbishop Thompson also met leaders of other Christian communities and other faith traditions in central and southern Indiana, as well as civic leaders, including Indianapolis Mayor Joseph Hogsett and Chief Justice Loretta Rush of the Indiana Supreme Court.

In his homily, Archbishop Thompson described a broad, person-centered panorama for this work.

"Amid structures, policies and programs, we must not lose sight of the person," he said. "Nothing of humanity and creation must escape our focus, engagement and outreach."

Archbishop Thompson also reminded his listeners that one person in particular spurs this work and is its goal.

"Our task is not so much to resolve the world's problems as to lead persons and peoples to personal encounter with the person of Jesus Christ, savior of the world," he said. "We ourselves must first, however, if we are to be credible and effective, be engaged in such a personal encounter with him."

Finding strength for the Catholic Church's diverse ministries through prayer, Archbishop Thompson said, allows the faithful to see Christ in all they serve.

"We must leave no one behind, especially being attentive to the unborn, the poor, the young, the elderly, the migrant, the immigrant, the refugee, the sick, the dying, the addicted, the abused, the disenfranchised, the lonely, the hopeless, the imprisoned and all who suffer," he said. "We must be concerned about the well-being of each and every person as well as creation itself if we are to be truly Christ-centered."

"What we do or fail to do for the least of his brothers and sisters, our brothers and sisters, we do or fail to do for Jesus Christ. It is simple, I'm the first to admit it, but it's a place to start — the Catholic both/and."

Sean Gallagher is a reporter at The Criterion.

Divine Mercy Funeral Home raises crosses



Photo by Courtney Christensen

Matt Auriti and Joe Lengacher, with Schenkel Construction, remove the wrapping of the largest of three crosses placed on top of Divine Mercy Funeral Home in Fort Wayne Aug. 3. The crosses are gold-flaked and represent the Holy Trinity. The ceremony was similar to the rite of "topping out," or placing the final beam at a construction site, and marked the next phase of construction for the funeral home, due to be completed Nov. 1. More photos online at www.todayscatholic.org.



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Sunday, August 13: 1 p.m. — Mass for 100th Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima, National Blue Army Shrine, Washington, New Jersey

Monday, August 14: 10 a.m. — Meeting of the Bishop's Cabinet, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne

Tuesday, August 15: 7 p.m. — Mass, St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr Church, South Bend

Saturday, August 19: 1 p.m. — Mass with Blessing of the Sick, St. Felix Friary, Huntington

Sunday, August 20: 11 a.m. — Mass, Our Lady of Hungary Church, South Bend

Friday, August 25: 5:15 p.m. — Mass, Basilica of the Sacred Heart, University of Notre Dame

Saturday, August 26: 4 p.m. — Mass, Blessed Sacrament Church, Albion



Report abuse

It remains important for our church to protect children and young persons from the evils of abuse. To abuse a child is a sin. The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend remains committed to upholding and following its guidelines, policies and procedures that were implemented for the Protection of Children and Young People. These can be reviewed on the diocese's website, www.diocesefwsb.org under "Safe Environment."

If you have reason to believe that a child may be a victim of child abuse or neglect, Indiana law requires that you report this to civil authorities. If you or someone you know was abused as a child or young person by an adult, you are encouraged to notify appropriate civil authorities of that abuse. In addition, if the alleged abuser is or was a priest or deacon of the Catholic Church, you are encouraged to contact Mary Glowaski, victim assistance coordinator, 260-399-1458, email: mglowaski@diocesefwsb.org, or Rev. Msgr. Robert Schulte, vicar general of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, at P.O. Box 390, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 46801, or at 260-399-1419, email: mraatz@diocesefwsb.org. The diocese is committed to helping prevent the abuse or neglect of children and young people and to assist those who claim to have suffered harm as a result of such abuse.

Permanece importante para nuestra iglesia proteger a los niños y jóvenes adultos de los actos maléficos del abuso. Abusar a un niño es pecado. La Diócesis de Fort Wayne-South Bend permanece comprometida en mantener y seguir sus directrices, pólizas y procedimientos que fueron implementados para la Protección de Niños/as y Personas Jóvenes. Esto se puede observar en la página cibernética de la diócesis, www.diocesefwsb.org bajo la sección de Ambiente Seguro, or "Safe Environment."

Si usted cree que un niño puede ser víctima de abuso o negligencia, la ley de Indiana requiere que usted reporte esto a las autoridades civiles. Si usted o alguien que usted conoce fue abusado, ya sea niño o persona joven, por un adulto, lo animamos a que notifique las autoridades civiles apropiadas de ese abuso. También, si el alegado abusador es o fue un sacerdote o diacono de la Iglesia Católica, lo animamos contactar a Mary Glowaski, coordinadora de Asistencia de Víctimas, 260-399-1458, correo electrónico: mglowaski@diocesefwsb.org, o al Rev. Msgr. Robert Schulte, vicario general de la Diócesis de Fort Wayne-South Bend, al P.O. Box 390, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 46801, o al 260-399-1419, correo electrónico: mraatz@diocesefwsb.org. La diócesis esta comprometida en ayudar a prevenir el abuso o negligencia de niños y personas jóvenes y dar asistencia a aquellos quienes reclaman haber sufrido daño como resultado de tal abuso.

Mass for the sick and rosary with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

A Mass for the Sick will be celebrated at the St. Felix Retreat Center, 1280 Hitzfield St., Huntington, on Saturday, Aug. 19.

The celebrant will be Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. A rosary will begin at 12:30 p.m., and the Mass at 1 p.m. Refreshments will follow the Mass. St. Felix is a handicapped-accessible facility.

RAISE

Continued from Page 2

would be awarded for a person's ability to speak English, level of education, age, "high-paying job offers, past achievements, and entrepreneurial initiative," according to a White House statement praising the proposal.

Other limitations proposed by the RAISE Act would permanently cap the number of refugees allowed safe passage, "thereby denying our country the necessary flexibility to respond to humanitarian crisis," said Bishop Vasquez.

"As a church, we believe the stronger the bonds of family, the greater a person's chance of succeeding in life. The RAISE Act imposes a definition of family that would weaken those bonds," he said.

Kevin Appleby, senior director of international migration policy at the Center for Migration Studies of New York, said the bill "is a nonstarter from a Catholic perspective, as it weakens the family unit and favors the rich over the poor. It also is part of a larger strategy by the administration to reduce the ethnic diversity of the immigrant population in this nation."

The proposed bill was largely criticized and caused an uproar shortly after the president's televised support early Aug. 2, saying it would reduce poverty, increase wages and save taxpayer money and adding that many current legal immigrants are "low-skilled" and many receive welfare benefits.

Later in the day, senior White House adviser Stephen Miller further added to the controversy

over the bill after he seemed dismissive during a news briefing of the Statue of Liberty's "The New Colossus" poem and the line "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free," and in defending the bill's ability-to-speak-English requirement.

Even some of the president's fellow Republicans, including South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, who said he has supported "merit-based" immigration, said he would not support the bill.

Bishop Vasquez said the bill would be detrimental to families and negates contributions of past immigrants to the U.S., and he called on Congress and the administration instead "to work together in a bipartisan fashion to enact into law comprehensive immigration reform."

"I believe that such reform must recognize the many contributions that immigrants of all backgrounds have made to our nation, and must protect the lives and dignity of all, including the most vulnerable," said Bishop Vasquez.

Christopher G. Kerr, executive director of the Ohio-based Ignatian Solidarity Network, a national social justice education and advocacy organization, said from a faith perspective, it's hard to back the RAISE Act if you reflect on the words of the pope, who called on Americans during his 2015 apostolic visit "to not turn their backs on their neighbors."

But the RAISE Act does just that by creating "obstacles to family unity for immigrant families and block access to safety for tens of thousands of refugees," he said.

USCCB president urges Trump to quickly act to ease contraceptive mandate

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has called on President Donald Trump to ease the "onerous" contraceptive mandate of the Department of Health and Human Services under the Affordable Care Act because it violates religious freedom.

Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston said in an op-ed piece in *The Hill* Aug. 3 that the mandate, which requires most employer-offered health insurance programs to cover contraceptive and abortion-inducing drugs and devices, "has tested this country's commitment to a healthy pluralism."

Citing Trump's pledge to ease the mandate during a White House signing ceremony May 4 for an executive order promoting free speech and religious liberty, Cardinal DiNardo lamented that after three months no steps have yet been taken to erase the HHS mandate for organizations that object to it for faith reasons.

Religious charities, schools and pro-life advocacy organizations, the cardinal wrote, could face millions of dollars in fines from the federal government for not complying with the mandate.

"The president's promises were not just in his speeches," Cardinal

DiNardo said. "The text of the executive order itself directs the secretary of Health and Human Services to 'consider issuing amended regulations, consistent with applicable law, to address conscience-based objections to the preventive-care mandate.'

"Yet the onerous regulations that are still on the books have not been amended," he said.

Cardinal DiNardo called on Trump to act so "that the government (might) give us the space to fully participate in American life."

"Religious freedom is a fundamental right, not a political football. Freedom belongs to us by human nature, not by government dictate.

A government that serves its citizens is one that respects the right to religious freedom," the cardinal added.

The column follows recent failed efforts by Congress to pass a law to repeal the Affordable Care Act. It also comes two months after the May 31 leak of a draft rule from HHS exempting religious groups from the contraceptive mandate. The draft was welcomed at the time by church officials and attorneys representing the Little Sisters of the Poor, one of the groups that challenged the mandate in the courts.

The 125-page document remains under review by the White House Office of Management and Budget. It details objections to the Affordable Care Act's requirement that employers cover contraceptives in their employee health plans despite their moral objections to such coverage.

It would leave in place the religious accommodation created by President Barack Obama's administration for nonprofit religious entities such as church-run colleges and social service agencies that are morally opposed to contraceptive coverage and can file a form or notify HHS that they will not provide it. The draft rule also would broaden this exemption to cover employers with religious or moral objections to providing coverage for some abortifacients. The new rule also makes it clear that insurers may issue separate policies to women whose employers are exempt from the mandate.

The HHS mandate has undergone numerous legal challenges from religious organizations including the Little Sisters of the Poor and Priests for Life. A combined lawsuit, *Zubik v. Burwell*, made its way to the U.S. Supreme Court, where the justices in May 2016 unanimously returned the case to the lower courts with instructions to determine if contraceptive insurance coverage could be obtained by employees through their insurance companies without directly involving religious employers who object to paying for such coverage.

The 125-page document remains under review by the White House Office of Management and Budget.

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Children engage with 'The Maker' at Holy Family VBS

BY MICHELLE DONAGHEY

"When you find something that works as well as this, you keep it," said parishioner Linda Lagodney. She was speaking about The Maker Fun Factory summer vacation Bible school, a weeklong Our Sunday Visitor VBS program that Holy Family Parish has used for over 10 years.

This summer The Maker Fun Factory helped around 40 kids at Holy Family, as well as student and adult volunteers, connect to their faith through six fun, fast stations of around 20 minutes each. The stations helped kids to gear up for the day's adventure through singing, songs, stories, movies and inventive types of fun that were high-energy and memorable — all relating to the single Bible point that was reinforced at every station.

On weekday mornings for five days, around 30 children, three adult volunteers and others — including high school students — were in attendance, having come together not only to learn, but to have fun.

"Some families like the program so much, they change their vacation plans around it," Lagodney noted.

At the start of the week students were divided into "teams" with memorable, fun names that included the Crabs, Bees, Termites, Birds and Whales. Each team consisted of mixed age groups from first to fourth graders, which helped them interact and learn from each other.

During the sessions each group rotated through the stations, which were located in different rooms and led by volunteers.

The Sound Wave Play and Sing station was where kids could learn the lyrics to part of the song of the day — which at the end of the week came together as a whole song. Everyone sang and danced to the song, which reinforced the Bible points of the week.

The second station, Bible Adventures, is where all five senses were used to experience stories from the Bible. One experience at this station placed the children at the Garden of Gethsemane walking to Calvary along with Jesus, who was depicted in costume by one of the students in each group.

Crazy Crafts helped them to make surprising and authentic faith discoveries using science. One day, participants decorated and raced wind-up Transformers-like cars that they then got to keep. The purpose of this activity was to emphasize that God's love is never-ending, a point that was taken from Psalm 89:2: "Your steadfast love is forever." "I hope it helps transform



Photos by Michelle Donaghey

Madelyn Heying shows off a themed cross from The Maker Fun Factory VBS program that took place in July at Holy Family Parish in South Bend.



Dancing, singing and having a great time were all part of the VBS program at Holy Family Parish.



Summer VBS students at Holy Family Parish included, from left, Genesis Ruiz, Riana Rarick and Evelyn Bishop, who prepare to race their wind-up cars.

kids into hands-on inventors, who discover and know they are lovingly crafted by God," said one of the student volunteers.

The last station had all groups coming together for a snack, which not only connected them as a community but also helped them to connect and recall the Bible verse of the day. One day the snack was a graham cracker spread with whipped topping, which was decorated with chocolate chips in the form of a cross, helping the kids to remember God's love and his gift to us

— his son. At this station they also stood up, danced and sang songs together, and talked about what they had learned during the day.

"I had one little girl whose mother told me that she (her daughter) was singing the song in the shower," said Lagodney. She believes the songs are ones that adults enjoy as well.

Students enjoy the program so much that they don't want to stop coming, even when they are past the fourth grade. "We have former students who come back as counselors, leaders and volunteers for the program," she added.

In fact, two of the older, former student volunteers reflected for a moment while watching two now-high school freshman volunteer leaders teach the children a song. They recalled how one of them used to attend, and was very high-energy as a child — and how they never thought that same person would later come back and become one of the counselors.

"The program is so inviting to kids. They are learning so much and remembering what they learn. They are connecting to their faith to the Lord, which is a great feeling," said Lagodney. "Kids helping other kids know or learn about the Lord is actually the best thing about this."

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Ethical questions surface as scientists advance gene-editing work

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic observers and others are raising ethical questions about the work of an international team of scientists who report that they were able to edit the DNA in human embryos to correct a health disorder. The questions focus on two concerns: the creation of human embryos for scientific experimentation and then destruction, and the still-unknown effect that changing DNA will have on future generations because the changes could become a permanent part of a family's genetic line. The success reported by the scientists in work funded by the Oregon Health and Science University worries observers, who said that it could lead to the development of "designer babies" with traits that make them seem superior. "Now we're specifically manufacturing human embryos solely for the purpose of doing lethal experiments on them. I think the public needs to be well aware of that and hopefully horrified by that reality," said Gregory Schlessenbach, associate director of the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington. "Certainly there should be concerns about genetically modifying human beings in a way that we don't really know what effect that will have to subsequent generations," he told Catholic News Service.

Knights of Columbus planning to replace traditional uniform

PHOENIX (CNS) — The Knights of Columbus, long associated with swords, capes and chapeaus, will be going through a significant uniform change. The traditional regalia worn by fourth-degree Knights will be replaced, announced Supreme Knight Carl Anderson Aug. 1 during the international fraternal organization's 135th annual Supreme Convention in St. Louis, which was livestreamed on EWTN. Throughout the years, the regalia of the Knights' fourth degree, known as the patriotic degree, has gone through changes, Anderson said, noting that when this degree was first established, the uniform included white ties, top hats and tails. In place of a tuxedo with a black bow tie, members will be wearing a blue blazer, an official Knights of Columbus tie and a beret, all with the fourth-degree emblem on them, along with a white shirt and dark gray slacks. There was no mention if the swords would remain part of the uniform. "The board of directors has decided that the time is right for a modernization of the fourth-degree uniform,"

Constituent Assembly will 'mortgage' Venezuela's future, Vatican says



CNS photo/Ueslei Marcelino, Reuters

A demonstrator is detained July 27 during a strike called to protest Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro's government in Caracas. In a strongly worded statement, the Vatican called on the Venezuelan government to respect the will of the people and the nation's current constitution, urging Maduro "to suspend ongoing initiatives such as the new Constituent Assembly, which, rather than fostering reconciliation and peace, encourages a climate of tension and confrontation and mortgages the future." Elections for seats on the assembly were held July 30 amid massive protests and international outcry. Maduro's push for the assembly, comprised mainly of his supporters and designed to rewrite the nation's constitution, has led to violent demonstrations in which more than 100 people have died.

Anderson said. "On a limited basis, assemblies may choose to continue using the traditional cape and chapeau for color corps at public events and honor guards in liturgical processions. However, the preferred dress for the fourth degree, including color corps and honor guards, is the new uniform of jacket and beret."

Notre Dame great Parseghian a supporter of school's Catholic faith

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) — Though not a Catholic himself, legendary University of Notre Dame football coach Ara Parseghian had a notable respect for the school's Catholic faith as well as the Fighting Irish's gridiron tradition. "There was always an underlying spirituality to whatever happened at Notre Dame," Parseghian told the *National Catholic Register* in 2013. "That was one of the main reasons I enjoyed being there so much." Parseghian died Aug. 2 at age 94. He led the Irish in the

1960s and 1970s to a 95-17-4 record and national titles in 1966 and 1973. He posted winning seasons in all 11 years, which included five major bowl game wins with the Catholic university in South Bend, Indiana. An afternoon Mass to celebrate the life of Parseghian was celebrated Aug. 6, the feast of the Transfiguration, at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at the University of Notre Dame, with the university's president, Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins, as the main celebrant. Following Mass, family members and former players and colleagues of the late coach spoke at a memorial celebration at Purcell Pavilion at the Joyce Center.

Friar's remains exhumed, relics collected ahead of beatification Mass

DETROIT (CNS) — The remains of Father Solanus Casey were exhumed Aug. 1 as part of the canonical process that precedes the saintly Capuchin Franciscan friar's beatification Mass in

November. The purpose of the exhumation, according to the Capuchin Province of St. Joseph and the Archdiocese of Detroit, was to both officially identify the body and to collect relics that will be used to venerate Father Casey after he is beatified Nov. 18. Detroit Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron presided over the private exhumation service, which was limited to a handful of individuals, including three medical professionals who were on hand to examine the remains and report on the condition of the body. "Presiding at the process for opening the tomb of Father Solanus and confirming the identity of his earthly remains was a time of significant personal prayer for me," Archbishop Vigneron said afterward. "I especially give the Lord Jesus thanks for the gift of Father's service to our community, above all to the least among us, and for his example of loving our neighbor with nothing less than the sacrificial charity of Christ himself. "This day is a clear milestone on our path to Nov. 18 and Father Solanus' beatification at the Mass to be offered in Ford Field," he said. The stadium in downtown Detroit will be configured

to accommodate 60,000 people for the ceremony.

Knights to send \$2 million to restore Christian town in Iraq

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In 2014, the Islamic State removed hundreds of families of religious minorities from their homes in Karamdes, a mostly Christian town on the Ninevah Plain in Iraq. Just over two years later, the town, also known as Karemlash, was liberated. The Knights of Columbus will raise \$2 million to assist these families in returning to their homes, according to Knights CEO Carl Anderson, who announced their pledge at the Knights' 135th annual Supreme Convention being held Aug. 1-3 in St. Louis. "The terrorists desecrated churches and graves and looted and destroyed homes," Anderson said in his annual report, which was livestreamed from the convention. "Now we will ensure that hundreds of Christian families driven from their homes can return to these two locations and help to ensure a pluralistic future for Iraq." The Knights are following the example of the Hungarian government, whose new spending bill allowed for \$2 million to be sent to the Archdiocese of Irbil in Iraq, assisting with the rebuilding of a Christian community near Mosul, Iraq.

After repeal fails, 'task remains' to reform health care

WASHINGTON (CNS) — After the Senate Republicans failed to get enough votes to pass a "skinny" repeal to remove parts of the Affordable Care Act in the early hours of July 28, the U.S. Catholic Church's lead spokesman on the issue said the "task of reforming the health care system still remains." The nation's system under the Affordable Care Act "is not financially sustainable" and "lacks full Hyde protections and conscience rights," said Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Florida, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development. It also "is inaccessible to many immigrants," he said in a statement. "Inaction will result in harm for too many people," Bishop Dewane added. The failed repeal bill was a pared-down version of earlier bills. It would have repealed both the individual mandate that says all Americans must buy health insurance or pay a penalty and the requirement all large employers offer health insurance to their workers. It would have expanded health savings accounts, delayed a tax on medical devices and increased funding for community health centers by defunding Planned Parenthood by \$400 million.

Fifth president of Holy Cross College appointed

NOTRE DAME — On July 31, upon the recommendation of the Board of Trustees, corporate members, Holy Cross College Inc., unanimously voted to appoint Father David Tyson, CSC, the fifth president of Holy Cross College for a term of five years.

"I am honored by the Brothers' confidence in me," Father Tyson said. "It has been a blessing to be a part of the Holy Cross College family for the past four months, and I am grateful for this opportunity to continue building its future."

Father Tyson was named interim president of the college by the Board of Trustees in April 2017.

"Father Tyson's life-long passion for Catholic education and his keen understanding of the mission of the college make him an ideal leader to help Holy Cross College flourish," David Bender, chairman of the Holy Cross College Board of Trustees, said. "We have every confidence that he will serve the college skillfully and faithfully."

Prior to becoming president of Holy Cross College, Father Tyson was the St. André Bessette director of nonprofit professional development at Mendoza College, University of Notre Dame. A member of the Notre Dame class of 1970, Father Tyson served as executive assistant to Father Theodore Hesburgh, CSC, when he was president of Notre Dame, and later as vice president for student affairs. In 1990, he became president of the University of Portland, and served until 2003, when he was elected provincial superior of what was then called the Indiana Province of Holy Cross.

"On behalf of the Brothers of Holy Cross and of the corporate members of Holy Cross College, I extend hearty congratulations to Father David Tyson upon his appointment as president of Holy Cross College," Brother Chester Freel, CSC, provincial superior of the Midwest Province, and president of the corporate members, said. "The college is most fortunate to have someone of Father Tyson's proven skills and knowledge leading the college into an even brighter future educating the minds and hearts of its students."

A formal inauguration event is planned for the fall. Details will be announced as they become available.

Forever Learning offers fall schedule

SOUTH BEND — Michiana's Forever Learning Institute is offering senior adults over 110 classes this fall on topics like health and fitness, creative arts, music, history, literature and technology.

Classes are held at the main campus in the Parish Center of St. Therese Little Flower Catholic Church, as well as the Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley; and new this semester, on

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Fort Wayne Scouts earn first place



Provided by John LaMaster

Boy Scout Troop 451, chartered by St. Jude Catholic Church, Fort Wayne, earned first place at the Inaugural Little Turtle Cup Competition at Camp Chief Little Turtle in July. Eighteen troops participated in the weeklong competition, which was styled after the "Amazing Race." From left are Andrew Zink, Ben Krebs, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader Miles Fedders, Senior Patrol Leader David LaMaster and Charlie Reddinger. Scout troops from the parishes of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. Vincent de Paul and St. Charles Borromeo, all of Fort Wayne, also competed in the event.

Mondays at Southfield Village.

Registration for all classes will be held Aug. 29, 30 and 31. All course offerings are online at www.foreverlearninginstitute.org. Students may register for classes online, by mail, or in person at the Forever Learning Institute, 54191 Ironwood Road, South Bend. Classes will begin Monday, Sept. 11.

Franciscan Center receives \$10,000 grant

FORT WAYNE — The Franciscan Center announces a grant award of \$10,000 from the St. Joseph Community Health Foundation to support its St. Joseph Medicine Cabinet Program.

"This funding allows us to continue to serve those who come to us in need of nonfood items, including toiletry, hygiene, baby, health and wellness, and cleaning supplies," explained Tony Ley, executive director. "This support from the St. Joseph Community Health Foundation will help us keep the Medicine Cabinet open for months to come, and we are grateful for their trust in our program."

Contact the Franciscan Center at 260-744-3977; checks can be sent to 1015 E. Maple Grove Ave.,

Fort Wayne, 46806; or visit www.thefranciscancenter.org to make an online donation.

The Franciscan Center, founded in 1989, is a local nonprofit serving the impoverished in the Fort Wayne community through its food bank, medicine cabinet and sack lunch programs. Last year it served 74,000 families through three relief programs. The center also operates the Franciscan Center Family Thrift Store at 925 E. Coliseum Blvd. Contact the Franciscan Center at 260-744-3977 for information or visit www.thefranciscancenter.org.

Matthew Taylor earns Eagle Scout rank

SOUTH BEND — Incoming Saint Joseph High School senior Matthew Taylor has earned the Eagle Scout award. Eagle Scout is the highest rank a Boy Scout can achieve.

"I built seven birdhouses and a raised flower bed for Hannah and Friends, as well as repainting the fence for their horses," said Taylor, about the service project



MATTHEW TAYLOR

he conceived of to benefit his community. "The raised flower bed was built so that it is wheelchair accessible. I did my Eagle project for Hannah and Friends Neighborhood because I volunteer there, and I believe that it's a great organization: I'd love to do anything I can to help with the wonderful work that they do."

He joined Cub Scout Pack 451 in second grade because he loved camping with his dad, and decided Boy Scouts would be a great fit for someone with that interest.

"When I reached the end of Cub Scouts in fifth grade, I moved on to join Troop 572, officially becoming a Boy Scout. I moved up the ranks throughout middle school, which was also when I attended National Youth Leadership Training — a weeklong camp dedicated to teaching Scouts how to become strong leaders. Last summer I went on to (join) the staff at NYLT, putting my leadership skills into practice. Also last summer, I planned and executed my Eagle Scout project. After completing all the requirements and achieving 32 merit badges, I was ready to receive the rank of Eagle Scout," recalled Taylor.

Scouting has had a big influence on his life. It taught him how to survive in the wilderness and how to perform first aid. Most importantly, it has taught him how to be a strong leader. "I have had several memorable moments. Thanks to Scouting, I've had the opportunity to go rock climbing, kayak through raging rapids, zip line through the treetops and explore dark caves. Not to mention, I've made many friends through Scouting who have made these moments even more memorable."

Reception for new principal



Provided by Andrea Kever

The school and parish community of St. John the Baptist, New Haven, welcomed their new principal, Zachary Coyle, on Monday, July 24, with an ice cream social. The meet-and-greet was planned by the St. John the Baptist School Board. Parents, students, staff and others exercised the opportunity to introduce themselves, while enjoying approximately 350 cups of ice cream.

Alleviating short-term crises to get at long-term obstacles

Catholic Charities' place in the philanthropic community

BY GLORIA WHITCRAFT

Editor's Note: This is the second in a series of articles about Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and its role as the social-service arm of the Catholic Church.

Many Catholic Charities clients come to the organization facing some short-term crisis to meet basic needs such as adequate food, clothing or shelter. The organization refers to this initial intervention as Phase 1 Services (see the Service Pyramid), which typically last less than one year.

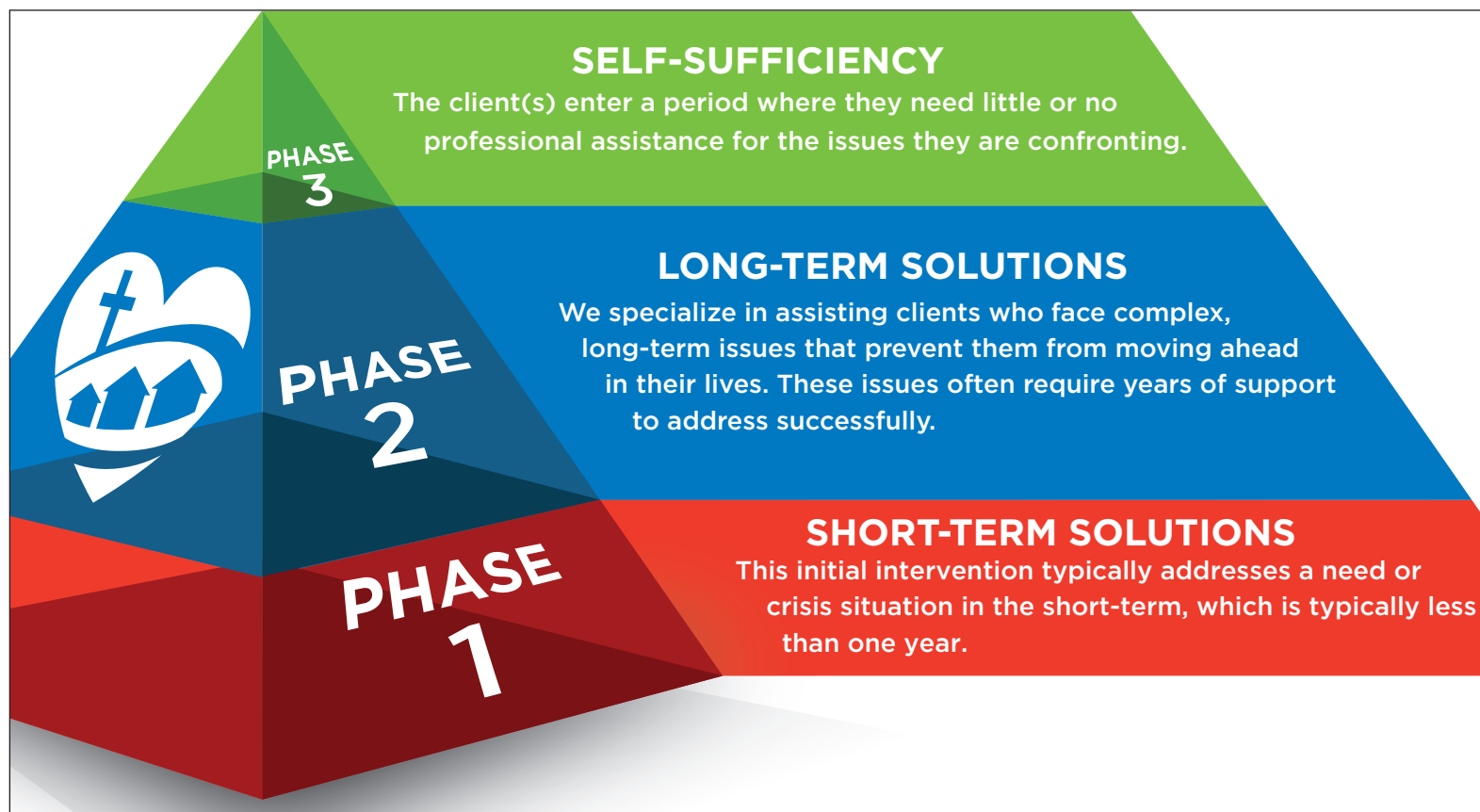
However, the real focus of Catholic Charities' work is why someone comes to us under such circumstances. Those unmet basic needs are often symptomatic of more complex, long-term issues that prevent them from moving ahead in their lives. These secondary interventions are described as Phase 2 Services, which often require years of professional support to address successfully.

Failure to confront long-term issues can have dire social and personal consequences. Consider an area Hispanic mother, who will be referred to as Ana. About six months into her pregnancy, she discovered there was a strong chance her child would be stillborn without proper medical intervention. Ana, who speaks very little English, needed medical translation services so she could ask questions and closely follow the doctor's advice.

This is why Catholic Charities created the Hispanic Health Advocate program; to serve those within the diocese who need Spanish translation services in vital areas such as health care and education. Ana and her family are one of 119 families served last year. All of them fell within the Indiana Poverty Guidelines of "low income/poor."

Funded in part by a grant from the St. Joseph Community Health Foundation, HHA is a Phase 2 service, providing long-term support to those lacking proficiency in English. A translator with specialized training in medical and dental terminology accompanies the client to the doctor's office and interprets the entire conversation between the health care provider and the client.

In 2016, Catholic Charities performed 349 visits and related services for medical, dental or school-related appointments. And the demand is growing. If the current trend continues, the number of clients and visits will double this year. Clients usually learn about the program through word of mouth, while some clin-



Provided by Catholic Charities

The Catholic Charities Service Pyramid consists of three phases. Phase 1 — Short-Term Solutions: This initial intervention typically addresses a need or crisis situation, which typically lasts less than one year. In Phase 2 — Long-Term Solutions, Catholic Charities specializes in assisting clients who face complex, long-term issues that prevent them from moving ahead in their lives. In Phase 3 — Self-Sufficiency, the client(s) enter a period in which they need little or no professional assistance for the issues they are confronting.

ics provide pamphlets containing information about the program.

So many of the vulnerable in local communities are forgotten after the food and clothing are dispensed. It is the Catholic mission to address the long-term issues they face so they can live up to their God-given potential. This is one more way Catholic Charities strengthens families and alleviates poverty.

Ana's story

Ana (whose name has been changed to maintain privacy) has some difficulty with English. This is especially the case with medical vocabulary. So when she scheduled a doctor's appointment, another Spanish-speaking friend recommended that she contact the Hispanic Health Advocate at Catholic Charities. Ana was greatly relieved, and requested that our translator accompany her to the appointment.

There she and her husband received joyous news — they would once again be parents.

After this initial visit, the Catholic Charities advocate continued to provide interpreting services at Ana's scheduled checkups. She also convinced Ana to enroll in a Safe Slumber class at a local hospital, where she was educated in techniques to avoid sudden infant death syndrome.

Everything was going well for Ana until her six-month prenatal visit.

"Sometimes clients face really scary situations," said HHA Manager Jessica Hanna. "And they might never even know it,



Provided by Catholic Charities

Thanks to Catholic Charities' translation services, Ana discovered she had a high-risk pregnancy and was able to safeguard her unborn son with proper medical care.

without the help of a medical translator."

Ana was told that the latest ultrasound revealed that her baby's amniotic fluid was below average and that the baby was measuring small. The doctor said that if the trend continued, the baby would have to be delivered early to minimize the risk of a stillbirth. The doctor also cautioned Ana that if she felt any contractions or noticed little fetal movement, she should go to the hospital immediately.

"I was constantly worried for my baby," said Ana. "I had so many questions and I just felt scared."

With their child at only 24 weeks' gestation, Ana and her husband were very upset to learn of her high-risk pregnancy. They understandably leaned even

more on Catholic Charities' interpreting services for all of Ana's biweekly ultrasounds and monitoring of the baby's heart rate.

"Naturally, we encourage clients like Ana to take ENL (English as a New Language) classes," said Jessica. "But until they become more proficient in the language, we are there for them."

With consistent monitoring of mom and baby, Ana was able to make it to 38 weeks. It was then that the doctor decided to induce her. She gave birth to a 4-pound, 6-ounce boy and, although he was small for his gestational age, he was delivered without complications and was very healthy and alert.

"I'm so grateful because all my questions were answered by the doctor. I could ask whatever

I wanted." Ana said. "I can't imagine going through that [pregnancy] alone and not being able to understand what was happening."

Ana and her family are very thankful for the Hispanic Health Advocacy program. They were also greatly relieved that they were able to express all their concerns, and in the end, have the outcome everyone was praying for.

"I am so happy I had Catholic Charities to help me and my family," said Ana. "I don't think these are just services. I think this is the church being the church."

Gloria Whitcraft is CEO of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF FATIMA APPARITIONS

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady to three shepherd children at Fatima, Portugal. The Blessed Mother appeared once each month to the children from May 13 until Oct. 13, 1917.

August 13, 1917

The fourth apparition: The children are kidnapped

As Aug. 13 approached, the story of the apparitions had reached the anti-religious secular press. While this ensured that the whole country knew about Fatima, it also meant that many biased and negative reports were circulating. The children, Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta, were kidnapped on the morning of the 13th by the mayor of Vila Nova de Ourem, Arturo Santos. They were interrogated about the secret; but despite his threats and promises of money, they refused to divulge it. In the afternoon, they were moved to the local prison and threatened with death, but determined that they would die rather than reveal the secret.

On Aug. 19, Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta were together at a place called Valinhos, near Fatima, late in the afternoon, when they again saw Mary, who spoke to Lucia: "Go again to the Cova da Iria on the 13th of each month and continue to say the rosary every day." Mary also said she would perform a miracle so all would believe, and that if they had not been kidnapped it would have been even greater.

Looking very sad, Mary then said: "Pray, pray

very much, and make sacrifices for sinners; for many souls go to hell, because there are none to sacrifice themselves and pray for them." With that she rose into the air and moved toward the east before disappearing.

By now the children had thoroughly absorbed Mary's plea for prayer and penance, and did everything they could to answer it. They prayed for hours while lying prostrate on the ground, and went as long as they could without drinking in the burning heat of the Portuguese summer. They also went without food as a sacrifice for sinners to save them from hell, the vision of which had so profoundly affected them. They even knotted some pieces of old rope around their waists as a form of mortification, not removing them day or night.

The story of Fatima has been provided by the World Apostolate of Fatima, U.S.A., Our Lady's Blue Army.



Look for Today's Catholic coverage of the message of Fatima and local and international anniversary celebrations now through October.
www.diocesefwsb.org/fatima

In MY diocese

St. Stanislaus Kostka, New Carlisle

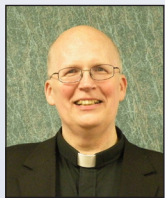
St. Joseph County

'All we need is Christ': the farmers' parish

BY MOLLY WYNEN

"People come here for the small community and the truth," said Father Paul McCarthy about St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish. Father McCarthy has been the pastor at the small farm-town parish since 2007, but its history goes all the way back to 1884. Father Valentine Czyzewski, who at the time was the pastor of St. Hedwig Parish in South Bend, established St. Stanislaus Kostka for the many Polish farmers in the New Carlisle and Terre Coupe area. At the time, the nearest Catholic churches for those worshippers were St. Hedwig and St. Joseph, which proved to be too far away for those settled further away from the St. Joseph River. Many of the 300 currently registered families are descendants of the first parishioners and live on nearby farms.

The church building that stands today on Tulip Road was completed in 1906, after nearly three years of labor. Progress moved slowly, as most of the work was completed by dedicated parishioners and materials had to be brought in from as far away as Plymouth via horse-drawn wagons. The building has stood the test of time, although it has undergone many renovations over the past 111 years. Most recently, modern light fixtures were installed in the ceiling, thanks to donations and help from parishioners.



FATHER
PAUL MCCARTHY



Photos by Gary Kowalski

Above the altar in the sanctuary of St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, New Carlisle, is an image of the parish's namesake. Below it, from left in the semi-circle, St. Jan Kanty, St. Rosalia, St. Stanislaus Kostka, St. Jadwiga and St. Tomaz are depicted.

the ceiling above the altar is a portrayal of the teaching Christ, encircled by symbols of each of the four Gospels as well as many bricks or stones. Father McCarthy said this image embodies the parish.

"They are the living stones that build up the church. Each one is very important, although they are of different shapes and sizes, because they fit together to build up the church." Although the teaching Christ is revered at St. Stanislaus Kostka, there is no school at the parish. An eight-classroom school building is used for religious education for students in grades K-8. The campus also includes a large hall that is frequently used for receptions and banquets on various occasions.

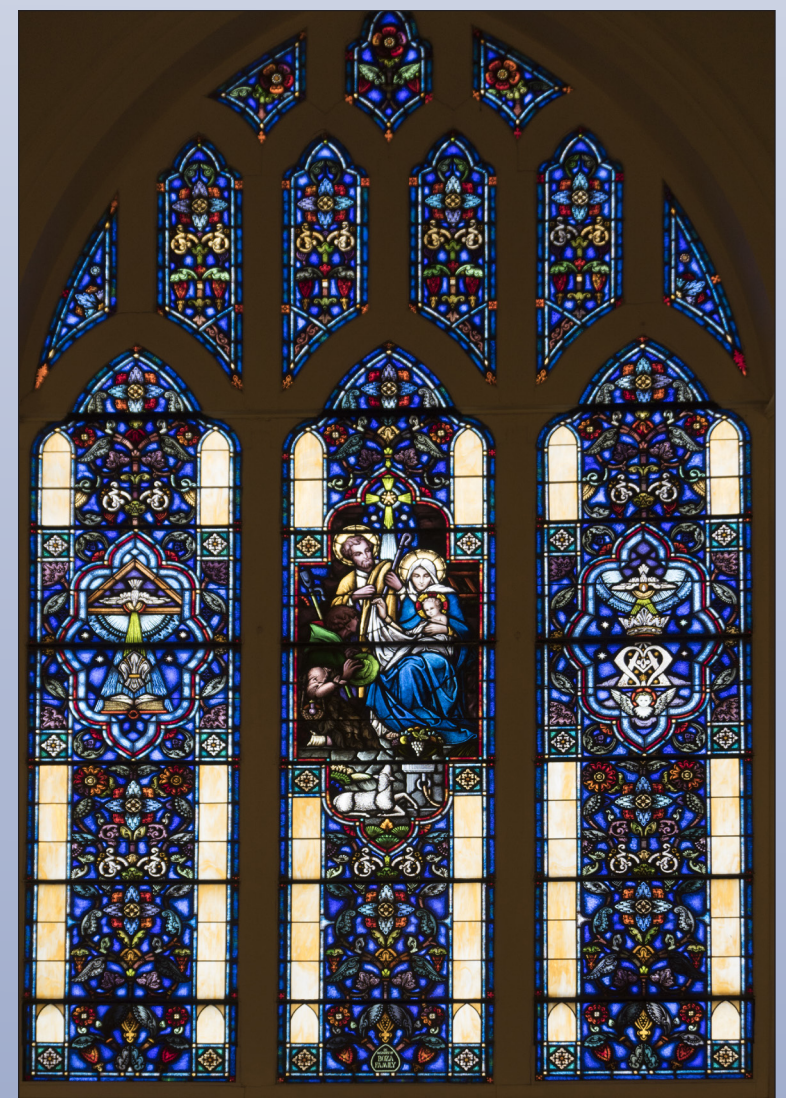
The reach of the parish extends far beyond the three buildings on Tulip Road. "When the people call Father, he is there," said Sue Gadacz, a long-time parishioner.

Father McCarthy also began

a ministry for residents of the nearby nursing homes, Hamilton Grove and Miller's Merry Manor. Before, there was no way for many in the nursing homes to attend Mass. Now both locations are on his weekly schedule.

Gadacz is an active member of the church's rosary-making society. Members gather together twice a month to string beads. Thanks to this group, over 18,000 rosaries have been donated all around the world. Most often, someone will request rosaries for their mission trip: Right now, the group is working on rosaries that will travel to Haiti.

Looking to the future, Father McCarthy hopes to keep things simple. "All we need is Christ," he reflected. There are already many opportunities for faith and fellowship in place at the parish, including daily Mass, a holy hour on Thursdays and events such as the annual chicken dinner and garage sale.



Among other images of beauty to be found at St. Stanislaus Kostka Church in New Carlisle is this stained glass window of the Holy Family.



St. Stanislaus Kostka

55756 Tulip Rd.
New Carlisle, IN 46552
574-654-3781

Mass Times:
Sunday: 8, 10 a.m.
Saturday: 4 p.m.
Holy Day: as scheduled
Weekday: 8 a.m.

Reconciliation:
Sat. 3-3:45 p.m.; Thurs. 5:30-6:30 p.m. or by appointment.

Adoration: Th 4-8 p.m.

The church has also added a unique baptismal font that doubles as an ambry, and a sanctuary lamp that was dedicated to the memory of Father McCarthy's late mother. One of the most striking elements in St. Stanislaus Kostka Church is the stained glass artwork that was added in 1947. Every piece was placed with intention, creating images that depict core values of the church. Father McCarthy enjoys describing the intricacies of the symbolism within the glass.

The right wall of windows illustrates the Incarnation, while the left wall depicts the glorious mysteries of the rosary. On

In MY diocese

Our Lady of Hungary, South Bend

St. Joseph County

A century-old parish and committed community

BY CLAIRE KENNEY

Located in South Bend, Our Lady of Hungary Church and school have a long-standing history and community.

Just last year the parish, founded in 1916, celebrated its 100th anniversary. It began as a mission church and was originally named St. Stephen's Parish. The church that stands today was dedicated in 1949. Its stone façade is one of its remarkable attributes, and so is the stained glass tower window design in remembrance of those who served our country in World War I. The parish school, which was founded in the late 1920s and originally staffed by the Daughters of Charity, continues to form students in faith today.

Many Our Lady of Hungary parishioners consider the community to be simultaneously diverse and tight-knit. They pay particular attention to how they can integrate their individual backgrounds to grow together.



FATHER KEVIN BAUMAN

Ultimately, this recognition of backgrounds serves as a channel to allow parishioners to "bring the message of the Holy Gospel to everyone in our parish and community" as described in their mission statement.

Parish pastor Father Kevin Bauman, who attended Our Lady of Hungary grade school growing up, has worked to cultivate a sense of appreciation between people within the parish.

"I love how Father Kevin is so welcoming," parishioner Brenda Misener said. "He embraces what Jesus asks of us."

Misener came to Our Lady of Hungary in 2011 when Father Bauman, having just transferred from Misener's previous parish, asked her to help bring awareness of those of Hispanic descent represented within the community. Since then, the parish has added a Sunday afternoon Spanish Mass, an extensive Our Lady of Guadalupe feast day celebration and eucharistic adoration in Spanish, which is, as of this year, held outdoors in the summer. Additionally, for two years Misener staffed the parish office for extended hours so that

parishioners would have access to a bilingual administrative assistant.

Currently Misener, who says that her nearly 30-mile drive to Our Lady of Hungary is well worth it, remains very much committed to the parish community.

"I am involved in Christ Renews His Parish and teach confirmation classes to teenagers," Misener said.

Like Father Bauman, parishioner Therese Hedges also attended Our Lady of Hungary School. In fact, the two were in the same graduating grade school class. Hedges thinks that it is surreal the Father Bauman is now leading the parish that she has been at her entire life, and she is thrilled to be reunited with her former classmate.

"I could not have imagined through the years that it has come to this ..." she explained.

Father Bauman's leadership has had an influence on Hedges' life, as well as the lives of other parishioners.

"We are very happy to have him," Hedges said. "He's a good shepherd — he's our leader. He's taking care of his flock."

And Hedges is not the only lifetime parish member.



Our Lady of Hungary

829 W. Calvert St.
South Bend, IN 46613

574-287-1700

www.ourladyofhungary.com

Mass Times:

Sunday: 10 a.m.;

1:30 and 7 p.m. (Spanish)

Saturday: 8 a.m.; 5 p.m.

Holy Day: 10 a.m.; 5:30 p.m.;

5:30 p.m. (Vigil)

Weekday: T-F 8 a.m.

Reconciliation: T 7 p.m.; 6 p.m. (Spanish)

Saturday 3:45-4:30 p.m. and by appt.

Eighty-three-year-old Shirley Sommers was baptized in the parish. Later, in 1955, she and her husband were married in the church, and all three of her children and four of her great-grandchildren have attended the school.

Sommers praised the many priests who have been assigned to the parish throughout her time there.

"We've been blessed with good priests all these years and I've been at this parish since I was born — since 1934," she said.

Our Lady of Hungary offers daily confession between 7:45 a.m.- 8 a.m. before the weekday morning Mass. In the summer, a Wednesday-evening Mass is very much cherished by the community.

"I love it because, in the summer, we are not here a lot (on the weekends) and so on Wednesdays we head over and get our Father Kevin fix," Hedges said speaking of her regular attendance at this Wednesday Mass with her mother.

Truly, Our Lady of Hungary is a welcoming environment that provides all with opportunities to grow in faith.

Our Lady of Hungary — a melting pot

There is no question that culture brings diversity, but can it bring unity? In the case of Our Lady of Hungary Parish and School, the answer is, "Absolutely."

The parish works together to see to it that segmented cultures within the larger parish family come together to build community. "Our Lady of Hungary strives to underscore the two predominate cultures — the American culture of mostly Eastern European roots and the Hispanic culture of mostly Mexican roots," Father Kevin Bauman said.

Father Bauman has served the parish in his current leadership role for over five years. During this time, he has witnessed the work of the par-



Provided by Our Lady of Hungary

The interior of the Our Lady of Hungary Church rivals any parish on the south side of the city.

OUR LADY

Continued from Page 11

ish to unify people of varied backgrounds. One of the ways the community works to do so is through an annual parish festival. "The Our Lady of Hungary Parish Festival is the longest-running event hosted by the faith community," Father Bauman explained.

The festival, which occurs each summer, embraces diversity by incorporating activities from the widely represented cultures in the parish.

"The parish festival showcases the foods, drinks, art, and music of our families," he said. "We offer a full menu of authentic Hungarian and Eastern European foods, an equally wide smorgasbord of Hispanic foods, live music, games for adults and children, raffles, a Mass featuring the Michiana Polish Singers, and a ton of interesting activities for all age groups."

The festival is just one of many opportunities for members to cultivate appreciation for the community's melting-pot aspect. Various forms of prayer organized by the parish also serve as a unifying activity.

"We find common ground in the Mass; particular devotions, especially those directed to our Blessed Mother; festivals; dances; and other gatherings," Father Bauman said.

Our Lady of Hungary School has a paralleled approach to unity.

"Our school, which celebrates 90 years of service, also

serves as a crossroads to Anglo, Hispanic and African-American students," he said.

The very roots of the community were founded on unity, he added, and the community worked to see that immigrants were welcomed and found a place to worship. "Our church and school remain in direct service to the immigrant poor, on which our founding was made over 100 years ago."

Longtime parishioner Mary Schaar is of Austrian and Hungarian descent. Schaar and her family came to the United States seeking refuge during the Hungarian Revolution in the early 1950s, and are survivors of the persecutions linked to concentration camps during World War II.

Today, she remains very active in Our Lady of Hungary parish. She has experienced firsthand the welcoming nature of events organized by the faith community.

"The Our Lady of Hungary Parish Festival, at its heart, is a celebration of the immigrant. Our parish family has always been one that stands proudly with open arms and the love of our namesake, the Blessed Virgin Mother," Schaar said.

Gabriel Vargas serves as the church choir director. A Latina, she also finds the members of the community to be open to varied cultures.

"We strive to ensure that each Mass we provide is an accurate representation of the music, culture and Catholicism thriving in Mexico today," she said. "Because of this, all of our families have come to find a warm and welcoming home here at Our Lady of Hungary that is



Provided by Our Lady of Hungary

At the Our Lady of Hungary annual parish festival each July, all the South Bend parish's ethnic groups — most dominantly Mexican and Hungarian — make room for each other to provide the traditional food, music and games. Above are the volunteer staff of a chicharrones stand at this year's event.

representative of their respective home nation. We see the love of Christ in action in many as they all freely give their time and efforts to support one another regardless of nationality or primary language."



Children enjoy carnival rides at the festival.

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Fair board member's dream turns 25

BY DENISE FEDOROW

On a beautiful Sunday morning, July 23, as the 8 a.m. outdoor Mass at the Elkhart County 4-H Fair began, hot air balloons rose over the infield behind the congregation. Attendance was strong at the anniversary Mass, and the woman who started it, Elkhart County 4-H Fair Board member Peggy Miller, was emotional.

For 25 years, Catholics involved in the Elkhart County 4-H Fair have enjoyed celebrating Mass on the fairgrounds early in the 10-day fair week. This year, coinciding with the anniversary, the celebrant for the liturgy was Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. As Miller rode up in a golf cart next to chairs set out for the Mass and saw him at the altar, she got teary-eyed. Bishop Rhoades greeted the congregation, acknowledging, "I understand this is the 25th year and the first time a bishop has ever been here." He spoke about how at this time last year he was at World Youth Day in Poland: The processional song of that fair week morning, "Blessed be the Merciful," brought back many of those memories, he told those gathered.

"It's great to be with you and what a great Gospel for an outdoor Mass," he continued during the homily, referring to the Gospel, which focused on the



Joseph Raymond

Following the July 23 Elkhart County 4-H Fair Mass, Bert and Elaine Egging assist Peggy Miller on her way to meet the celebrant, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. This year marked the 25th annual celebration of the Mass at the fairgrounds during fair week, a tradition that began at Miller's behest.

third parable of the wheat and the weeds.

"We shouldn't reject sinners; we're all sinners," he said. "We should pray for them and help them get on the right path. Our temptation is to judge, but as Pope Francis is teaching us, we need to bring people back."

Miller, a member of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Goshen, was president of the Elkhart County 4-H Fair Board in 1991-92. There had been a Protestant worship service at the nationally recognized county fair for many

years, and fair board presidents were encouraged to attend. She did, but got to thinking: "There were a lot of Catholic kids in the barns; the sound people were Catholic; so maybe we could have a Catholic Mass here as well."

She talked to her parish priest, asked around about who might be interested in attending at the available 8 a.m. time slot — and got it in motion. She said she knew if there was going to be a Mass at the fairgrounds they'd want more than those who sleep overnight on the fair-

grounds to attend. Everyone she spoke with was encouraging that yes, others would come. The following summer, in 1992, Mass was celebrated during the fair for the first time.

Back then, she didn't think of it as evangelization — just a way to provide for a need.

Miller talked about her reaction when she arrived for the 25th anniversary Mass.

"To see such a great crowd, and the bishop — thank God it wasn't raining. It was overwhelming, at first, to think it has been going on for 25 years. Who would've thought?"

Bert Egging, also a fair board member and parishioner at St. Dominic Parish in Bremen, has helped to coordinate the Mass over the years. He said the idea to have the bishop come started several years ago: In the hope it could happen in 2017, he approached Father Tony Steinacker, who served the parish of St. John the Evangelist in Goshen for several years until this summer.

Several of this year's attendees were asked what it has meant to them to have Mass at the fair for 25 years. Egging said simply, "Joy — the joy of the Mass itself, and the joy of seeing all the people attending Mass together from the different churches," he explained.

Bill Kercher, a St. John the Evangelist parishioner, said, "I think it shows the presence of

the Catholic community within the diocese and its strong presence within the Christian community. With the history of the Mass (here) of 25 years, it's grown. I think it's a good thing for Goshen and the community."

The Houin family from St. Dominic shared that July 23 was the first time they attended a fair Mass. The boys, Matthew and Marcus, were excited about meeting the bishop. Father Charlie said he and his wife wanted to give the boys the different experience of attending an outdoor Mass. He said that as farmers there's always a strong tie between their faith life and farming, and Mass at a 4-H fair is a way to show that solidarity between the professional and religious environment.

Miller, Egging and Egging's wife took the bishop on a tour of the fairgrounds following the Mass. Bishop Rhoades was impressed with the fair. "I had no idea it was so big," he said. He expressed that it would be great to have his family from Pennsylvania come visit during fair week next year.

Bishop Rhoades thanked everyone involved with coordinating the Mass and also thanked them for the invitation. God willing, he said, the celebration of the Mass will continue at the Elkhart County 4-H Fair grounds for another 25 years or more.

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F Faith Journeys

Nature, neighbors make manifest God's care in Donaldson

BY DENISE FEDOROW

A group of residents at Maria Center in Donaldson gathers daily for communal meals, often talking and sharing about the community they are happy to call home. On one sunny evening in June, the topic of conversation among a group of about a dozen of the men and women was the return

of fellow resident Ken Jamsa from an eagle-watching trip to Peru.

"How many did you see?" they wanted to know. Jamsa reported he saw 19 eagles, and shared a bit of the experience as they ate dinner.

Activities like local eagle watching are among the reasons residents say they enjoy each other's company and the Maria Center. They also attend local

musical performances and have lecturers and guest speakers come in.

But more than the activities, most residents of the center cite the atmosphere and the religious sisters as reasons why they enjoy their environment.

The sisters belong to the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, an order that will celebrate 150 years this year.

"I just love the sisters," said



Denise Fedorow

Seniors living at the Maria Center in Donaldson have a view of serene Lake Gilbraith. Along the lakeside path is a large Stations of the Cross.

Beryl Green. "My daughter went to Ancilla College, so I was familiar with them."

Phyllis Barnes and Lola Schroeder also love the Christian values and the social aspect that's provided by living at the Maria Center.

Green and Doris Feiser said that the statues above the altar in the center's chapel were originally at a gravesite of a woman whose husband was upset at the thought of her in the ground. He moved her remains to a mausoleum and donated the statues to the chapel. One of the sisters designed the stained-glass windows, they said.

"Everything in the chapel has a story and means something," Feiser pointed out. They shared that once the balcony was uti-

lized by the sisters who were ill but it is no longer in use.

The residents, both Catholic and non-Catholic, express their individuality by decorating their apartment doors and placing small decorative items outside their door as one would do at a private home.

The grounds at Donaldson include a lake, a large Stations of the Cross along a lakeside path, a labyrinth by the retreat center, and quiet areas for spiritual contemplation.

"This is a wonderful place — knowing you're surrounded by beautiful people who've done a lot of great things in the world," one resident said.

"We're like one big family — the sisters and the residents," said Pauline Preston.



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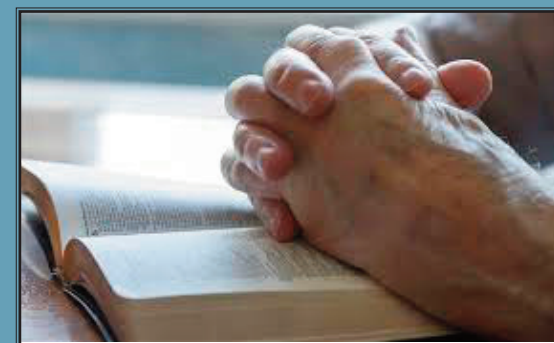
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Senior couple provides hot meals, in motion

BY VINCE LABARBERA

The words “Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds” have long been associated with the American mail carrier. But they also could apply to Paul and Theresa Gannon, and many other volunteers whose “mail” is meals to seniors and homebound residents in the Fort Wayne area.

The Gannons have been members of St. Therese Parish for 47 years, and are volunteers by nature. Both are extraordinary ministers of holy Communion: She serves at Mass and he takes Communion to nearby Kingston Residence monthly for those viewing the diocesan Sunday televised Mass. Theresa also volunteers at Kingston, assisting with a monthly birthday party. In addition, Paul serves the St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Therese.

In addition to all the work they do at their home parish, the Gannons are also volunteers with Homebound Meals Inc., Fort Wayne, delivering hot, nutritional meals weekly to clients who, due to age, illness or disability, cannot provide adequate meals for themselves.

“When I got ready to retire from Parkview IT six years ago, I thought about what I might want to do to avoid becoming a couch potato,” said Paul. After seeing an HBM ad in the newspaper, he called and eventually rode along on a route with another driver to see if he would like it.

He did enjoy it, so he drove the route by himself for about six months before asking his wife, Theresa, if she would like to accompany him.

Usually, he drives and she takes the meals to each client. The Gannons currently make their deliveries before noon to about 12 individuals — driving nearly 20 miles — and usually briefly visit with each person as well. “Often, we’re the only ones people see each week. Sometimes you get very close to a few individuals,” said Theresa. “They get to know



Photos by Vince LaBarbera

Theresa Gannon delivers a hot lunch to a resident on her and her husband Paul's Homebound Meals route in Fort Wayne.

our names and even the names of our family, and we get to know them.” The couple has switched roles on occasion, once when Paul broke his wrist and couldn't drive. He still goes by himself occasionally, when they're babysitting a grandchild.

If someone is not home, the resident places a cooler near the door to contain the meal. “If no one answers the door we're provided with phone numbers for the resident, a relative or neighbor nearby to call — as well as for the Homebound Meals downtown office,” said Paul.

HBM, a member of the



Paul and Theresa Gannon have been delivering hot lunches from Homebound Meals and visiting with clients in the Fort Wayne area for more than six years.

Meals on Wheels Association of America, does not receive government funding but depends upon financial and volunteer support.

“The name Meals on Wheels often is used generically to refer to home-delivered meals programs, not all of which are actually named ‘Meals on Wheels,’” explained Theresa.

According to HBM's website, Meals on Wheels originated in Great Britain during the Blitz in World War II, when many people lost their homes and therefore the ability to cook their own food. The Women's Volunteer Service for Civil Defense, (WVS, later WRVS), provided food for them. The name “Meals on Wheels” derived from the WVS's related activity of bringing meals to servicemen. The concept of delivering meals to those unable to prepare their own evolved into the modern programs.

The Gannons explained that drivers pick up two coolers: one with hot food and one with cold. A clipboard is provided, giving directions to clients' homes. There are no more than 12 clients on each route. Currently, the Gannons are visiting seven residences. The time required to run a route rarely is more than an hour and a half, they said. “If you use the coolers, they have to be returned to the pickup location,” said Paul, “so we use our own.” Volunteers drive their own vehicle, usually just once a week.

“Homebound Meals is a good program, and something worthwhile that can be done by volunteers without spending taxpayer dollars,” said Paul. “But it is a commitment,” he added, “and not something we can shirk on a Thursday because we don't feel like going.”

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Human formation and becoming a bridge

One of the titles for a pope that I have always found interesting is "Pontifex Maximus." This title is translated to "the greatest bridge-builder." I, of course, have never seen any images of Pope Francis (or any pope, for that matter) in work pants and a T-shirt physically building any bridges; and yet, the title remains.

The bridges that are built by our spiritual fathers are, of course, not something physical, but spiritual. And in order for priests to build spiritual bridges, and become spiritual bridges themselves, they must have human formation. In fact, in his apostolic exhortation "Pastores Dabo Vobis" or "I Will Give you Shepherds," Pope St. John Paul II is very clear about the need for human formation and what, exactly, it is that it accomplishes. He notes in paragraph 43 that all of priestly formation is without foundation if human formation is lacking. Why is this?

He goes on to say in paragraph 43, "It is necessary that, following the example of Jesus who 'knew what was in humanity,' the priest should be able to know the depths of the human heart, to perceive difficulties and problems, to make meeting and dialogue easy, to create trust and cooperation, to express serene and objective judgments." So it becomes clear to those in formation for the priesthood that human formation is essential to becoming a bridge between God and man, and that without the qualities that foster that sort of

relationship, priestly ministry is difficult.

I have always found it interesting that in the Catholic faith we often move from the human to the divine. In fact, the divinization of the human person, as we are constantly made perfect as our heavenly father, is something that can be seen all throughout the faith. I think of the prayer the priest or deacon prays while mingling the water and wine at the altar: "By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity."

For millennia, humans have been reaching out to the divine; but the only way that we could actually come into communion with him is by God becoming man. In this way, Christ is really the Pontifex Maximus of the whole of eternity and the only one who has ever moved from divine to human; but he did so that we might move from human to divine. I could think of countless examples, like the bread and wine (human things) becoming the source and summit of the faith, the God-man himself, human love being strengthened and stretched into an image of the divine love, etc. So for the everyday Catholic, this idea of movement from human to divine should not be strange, but naturally understandable.

This reality is applicable to the human person in regard to growth in the faith. In order to be a good Christian, we must

be a good human. For as St. Irenaeus exclaimed, "the glory of God is man fully alive." Therefore, we must start our lives in the faith by becoming better humans, by growing in relationship with others, by learning the depths of the heart, by making dialogue easy, by knowing and understanding problems, etc.



THE STRANGE AND JOYFUL LIFE

MARK HELLINGER

However, human formation is not an end in itself. It is the foundation of a well-formed priest and a well-formed Christian. Jesus did not become human to keep us in our sin; rather, he became human to bring us out of sin. Therefore, for the priest and for the Christian, we must become human so as to draw ourselves and others toward God. Without this understanding, human formation really has no clear point. There would be no movement toward God, and that would not make any sense.

Because sin makes us less human, the priest and the Christian have an essential role as witnesses to the culture of what being human actually looks like. Therefore, we must

HELLINGER page 17

Making suicide routine

You would not know it from the national secular news, but a lot is happening on the contentious issue of physician-assisted suicide.

One remarkable fact is that no state has passed a law allowing the practice this year, although laws allowing it went into effect in California and Colorado last year. Such proposals have stalled or been defeated outright in 23 states whose sessions are over for the year. In New York, a state targeted by the advocacy group Compassion & Choices, a bill approved in committee last year could not get that far in 2017.

This agenda has lost some momentum nationally. In states that have legalized assisted suicide, however, the trend is toward making the practice more hidden from public view and even routine.

A case in point is our most populous state, California. Its End of Life Options Act, which took effect in June 2016, requires the state to report every summer on the past year's cases. The first official report was issued on June 27, 2017, covering lethal prescriptions written in the last six months of 2016.

Observers were interested to see this report.

Annual reports from Oregon and Washington, where assisted suicide has been legal for a longer time, have shown some disturbing facts: Ninety-six percent of the patients never get a psychological evaluation before receiving lethal drugs; the drugs have had complications and sometimes failed; usually no physician or other health profes-



A MORE HUMAN SOCIETY

RICHARD DOERFLINGER

sional is present at the time of death to assess competency or the possibility of coercion.

In these states, relatively few patients say they are taking their lives due to untreatable pain or fear of future pain; about half say they have become a "burden" on family or caregivers (a statement that psychologists recognize as a red flag suggesting clinical depression).

So what are the initial findings on these important matters, in a state with almost 10 times the population of Oregon?

California's answer: It's none of your business.

The state's brief and superficial report contains only demographic breakdowns. In the second half of 2016, 191 people received lethal prescriptions; 111 used the drugs to take their lives. Of the other 80 people, 21 died without taking the drugs and the fate of the other 59 is unknown. Most patients taking the drugs were seniors (median age of 73), most were female and most had only governmental health insurance (Medicare and/or the state Medicaid program). And so on.

But the report is silent on what actually happened in these cases.

SOCIETY, page 17

We need not — and should not — rely solely on ourselves



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Matt. 14:22-33

The First Book of Kings is the source of this weekend's first reading. The two books of Kings highlight the kings of the united kingdom of Israel — Saul, David and Solomon — but neither book is a political history. Both books are religious works. The chief purpose of these writings is to call the people to be loyal to God.

Thus, along with the kings, and often more emphatically and extensively than the kings, these books mention prophets, who spoke for God.

For example, this weekend's

reading centers on Elijah, the prophet. Elijah tries to hear God, believing that God will speak to him but looking for God in all the wrong places. Elijah expects to hear the almighty in raging storms and in natural upheavals.

Such are not the media through which God communicates. At last, Elijah hears a tiny whispering sound. It is the voice of God.

Several lessons are in this reading. First, God communicates with humanity in ways that they can perceive.

Second, in communicating with humans, God does not always meet their expectations. Elijah looked for God in great outbursts of nature, in the storm and in the earthquake, because Elijah believed that God is supreme over nature — as indeed God is.

As the New Testament would eventually and specifically teach, God's ways are not human ways. Not acting in human ways, God appears in places, events and forms that are least expected, such as in tiny whispering

sounds in the middle of storms and earth tremors.

St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans furnishes the second reading again this weekend.

In this reading, Paul verifies his own status as an apostle and his own truthfulness. He had to identify himself. He faced imposters. His writings made clear the fact that some disputed Paul, questioning his vocation as an apostle.

He also mourned that many of his kin do not accept God. Despite the fact that some walked away from the Gospel, however, Paul insisted that he would remain true to his calling as a Christian and as an apostle. He urged the Romans also to be faithful.

For its last reading this weekend, the church turns to St. Matthew's Gospel.

In this story, the Lord literally walked across water to reach the boat from which the apostles were fishing. Peter impulsively leaped from the boat, attempting to meet Jesus. Indeed, Jesus had invited Peter to come forward.

As often happened, Peter's initial impulsiveness gave way to uncertainty and doubt. When these feelings took hold, Peter's own ability to walk on the water failed. He began to sink. Jesus, not at all outdone by Peter's lack of faith, pulled Peter from the water, rescuing Peter from death.

Reflection

It is a truism today that God's ways are not our ways. Of course they are not. We are limited. Our perceptions are blurred. Selfishness and fear lead us astray.

Life cannot be measured just by earthly standards. It must be measured by its totality — in other words, with attention given the fact of eternity.

Jesus is the Son of God. He walked on water. He is the source of life. He is the only security. He alone gives eternal life.

The greatest practical lesson to learn from these reading is that, in fact, we are only human. Our outlook is not necessarily

on target. Our wishes are not always pure. We may love the Lord, and we may attempt to be with the Lord, but at times we try to find happiness by relying upon ourselves. We try to walk on water. But we always will fall into the water, as did Peter.

We need God's strength. First of all, we must humbly realize who and what we are.

READINGS

Sunday: 1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a Ps 85:9-14 Rom 9:1-5 Mt 14:22-33

Monday: Dt 10:12-22 Ps 147:12-15, 19-20 Mt 17:22-27

Tuesday: Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab Ps 45:10-12, 16 1 Cor 15:20-27 Lk 1:39-56

Wednesday: Dt 34:1-12 Ps 66:1-3a, 5, 8, 16-17 Mt 18:15-20

Thursday: Jos 3:7-10a, 11, 13-17 Ps 114:1-6 Mt 18:21-19:1

Friday: Jos 24:1-13 Ps 136:1-3, 16-18, 21-22, 24 Mt 19:3-12

Saturday: Jos 24:14-29 Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 11 Mt 19:13-15

The value of work

All of us are liable to complain of our work. We grumble at the hardness of our work, at its monotony and dullness, at the lack of time to rest and relax. We moan about how weary we feel. And we wish that we were wealthy enough to be free of work. But just imagine what perpetual leisure actually means. In your mind let me give you a large house in which to live, filled with comfortable furniture. In this house, you only need to nod at a servant and you will be brought dish upon dish of the most delicious food. Outside there is a garden filled with trees and shrubs, which bear sweet-smelling flowers. For a few hours, for a few days perhaps, you would enjoy being in such a place. But soon you would feel bored and restless. Your bones would become still for lack of exercise. Your stomach would swell with all that food. Your head would ache for lack of anything to stimulate the mind. Your mansion in which work was impossible would seem like a prison. God has designed us to labor for our bread; only in toil can our minds and bodies find contentment.

— St. John Chrysostom

Someone I know works for an extremely wealthy family. In fact, the parents in this family have made so much money from materially successful careers that neither them nor their children will ever have to work again. They live in a mansion. They have gardeners, maids, personal assistants, a driver, a nanny. The leisure time available to them is incredible. They take vacations all over the world. The children have every gadget, toy, lesson, object, outfit, equipment and article of clothing they could ever want or dream of wanting.

And yet, in their home, there is extreme emptiness and unhappiness. It's a third marriage for one of the spouses. An assistant often wakes and takes the chil-

dren to school while the mother sleeps, and she interacts with the children only infrequently. The father is distracted with potential business ventures; the mother with social events. The latter is angry most of the time, berating the help for any little turn of events not to her liking. The hired help takes the kids to their sports events. The children are not required to do any chores, are restless and often troubled.

Money can't buy happiness, your grandmother probably told you. And she is right.

"You have made us for Yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find rest in Thee," St. Augustine said. We cannot find satisfaction in leisure, or in things, as the example above demonstrates.

There is nothing wrong with being successful, even wildly successful; but we must remember our lives' value does not rest on that earthly success. Even in the greatest material success we cannot find meaning, for as the catechism many of us memorized as children explains, our purpose (and only happiness will come from that purpose) is to "know, love, and serve God in this world, so we can be happy with Him in the next."

My aim in sharing the above family example is not to unduly criticize that family, whose lifestyle might, sadly, be something we ourselves might choose, given our fallen human nature, if we found ourselves in similar wildly materially successful circumstances. It is also not to imply that all wealthy people will experience emptiness. Rather, my aim is to point out that idleness and wealth will never fulfill our needs and the purpose for which we were made. Those things will never make us happy. Our salvation is often worked out through labor and the daily grind, with its challenges and demands. Through daily labor our character has multiple opportunities to develop. It is easy to think that if only we didn't have to work,



EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

Theresa A. Thomas

our troubles would be over; that is simply not true; we need to work for our own happiness and fulfillment.

Ask most older married couples about the happiest times in their lives. Often they will describe a time early in their marriages when they scraped by and cut coupons, when their monetary supply was low but they were full of vigor, life, love and days packed with hard work.

Most of us do not live in either extreme of great wealth or great poverty. Most of us have a moderate degree of comfort as well as a good amount of stress. We may become frazzled and strung out, trying to figure out how to pay for this month's bills or the next kid in college. We yearn for just an hour when the last bit of laundry is finally folded and the kitchen is clean and we can put our feet up.

St. John Chrysostom reminds us that our daily duties, whether we labor in a career and occupation outside the home or the full-time work within it, are essential for our development as human beings. A body of leisure is weak. Only the athlete is strong. Training develops muscle. There is no other way. And so it is with the spirit.

We would do well, as the fourth-century saint reminds us, to recognize the value of our work and to approach it with acceptance, organization, diligence, patience and most of all a happy spirit, dedicating it to God.

Theresa Thomas is the wife of David and mother of nine children.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for August 13, 2017

Matthew 14:22-33

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Nineteenth Sunday, Cycle A: a night on the stormy sea. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

DISCIPLES	DISMISSED	CROWDS
WENT UP	MOUNTAIN	TO PRAY
ALONE	WALKING	A GHOST
AFRAID	LORD	COMMAND
STRONG	WIND	FRIGHTENED
SINK	SAVE ME	HIS HAND
CAUGHT	LITTLE FAITH	DOUBT

FEAR ON THE SEA

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

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SOCIETY

Continued from Page 16

To be sure, doctors had to submit compliance forms with this information; the state simply chose not to release it. And death certificates must cite the patient's underlying illness, not the lethal overdose, as cause of death, to ensure "confidentiality" (that is, no independent investigation).

But Compassion & Choices is happy to fill the information gap. Having helped write the law allowing such inadequate official reports, the organization declares that the law is "working remarkably well." Everyone involved in the process is pleased, or pleasantly dead.

How does Compassion & Choices know this? Well, this special interest group was deeply

involved in "educating" doctors on the law, connecting patients with those willing to give them lethal overdoses and guiding families through the process.

Imagine a state where Planned Parenthood is allowed to take over the obstetrics profession, periodically assuring everyone that there are no problems with the abortion industry and no one else is allowed to question that.

This is what we now have in California for vulnerable, seriously ill patients. Nothing to see here, ladies and gentlemen, just move along.

If we do so, it will be our own fault.

Richard Doerflinger is associate director of the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. More on the bishops' pro-life activities can be found at www.usccb.org.prolife.

HELLINGER

Continued from Page 16

learn to affirm that which is good, true and beautiful, and reject that which makes us less human and so is not good, not true. This is the real goal of human formation: that we become so formed that we are comfortable meeting people

where they are, and that we know how to and can gently draw them out of sin and into a deep and close relationship with Jesus Christ, who is the redeemer of humanity. In this way, our human formation truly becomes a bridge and not an obstacle to the relationship of humanity with divinity.

Mark Hellinger is currently discerning the priesthood at Simon Brute College seminary and Marian University in Indianapolis.



John Berchmans

Saint of the Week

1599-1621

The patron saint of altar servers, John wanted to be a priest from boyhood, when he might serve at five Masses a day in his native Flanders, now in Belgium. This son of a shoemaker began priestly studies with the Jesuits at 17. Drawn to simple devotions like praying before a crucifix and saying the rosary, he rose to the top of his class and was sent to the Jesuit college in Rome. He finished philosophy studies early, and won a debate with another college. But the day after his victory he fell ill and died at just 22, already known for his holiness in everyday living.

NOW HIRING • NOW HIRING • NOW HIRING • NOW HIRING



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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- Should have a very strong knowledge of liturgy
- Leads liturgy committee and music and choir committees

For a more detailed job description please visit <http://www.stjudefw.org/church/music-director>

Receiving applications through August 17
Email resume: jrunyon@stjudefw.org
or mail to St. Jude, attention Father Jacob Runyon

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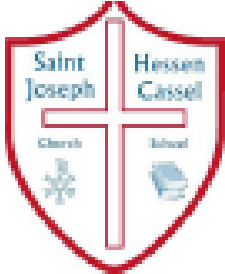
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-St. Catherine of Siena

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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.

Golf outing planned

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Luers High School will have a golf outing Saturday, Aug. 19, at Brookwood Golf Course. Registrations will be accepted through Wednesday, Aug. 16. Cost, which includes green fees, golf cart, range balls, six drink tickets and food, is \$75 per person or \$60 for those under 21. Register online at www.bishopluers.org. Call Melissa Hire at 260-456-1261, Ext. 3040, or email mhire@bishopluers.org. Proceeds benefit tuition assistance.

Exhibition: Rembrandt's religious prints

NOTRE DAME — The Snite Museum of Art on the campus of the University of Notre Dame presents "Rembrandt's Religious Prints: The Feddersen Collection" an exhibition of 70 prints exploring the historical, theological, and artistic impulses of the Dutch 17th-century. The exhibition is on view Sept. 3 through Nov. 26. Admission is free and the museum is open to the public. For details or to arrange a tour, visit sniteartmuseum.nd.edu.

Catholic divorced/separated support group to meet

FORT WAYNE — St. Charles Borromeo announces the return of the DVD series for men and women who have suffered from divorce, "The Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide." The first session will be Wednesday, Sept. 13, in the community room from 7-9 p.m. for the topic "Getting Your Bearings." Call the parish office for information at 260-482-2186.

Queenship of Mary festival planned

MISHAWAKA — Queen of Peace Parish will have a Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary festival on Saturday, Aug. 26, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with many events. The weekend will end with a Mass at 10:30 a.m. with Bishop Rhoades, on Sunday, Aug. 27, followed by a lunch served by the Knights of Columbus and their spouses. Admission to the festival is free but there is a charge for lunch. For information, visit www.queenofpeace.cc/93

13th day pilgrimage for Fatima
ELKHART — The World Apostolate of Fatima Fort Wayne-South Bend Division will celebrate the 13th Day Parish Pilgrimage on Sunday, Aug. 13, with a 6 p.m. Mass at St. Thomas the Apostle, Elkhart, with Father Bob Garrow. This is part of a 6-month celebration of the 100th anniversary of the apparitions at Fatima. For more information contact Carol at 260-

REST IN PEACE

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Auburn
Pauline Wilmot, 97, Immaculate Conception | Virginia M. Chevillot, 73, Most Precious Blood | Brett M. Ensor, 27, Basilica/Sacred Heart |
| Donald C. Saurbeck, 93, Immaculate Conception | James A. Ringswald, 93, St. Jude | Ara Parseghian, 94, Basilica of the Sacred Heart |
| Columbia City
Nancy L. Hinen, 79, St. Paul of the Cross | Joyce Carol Firestine, 88, St. Therese | Plymouth
Frances M. Houin, 91, St. Michael |
| Edna M. DeKoninck, 91, St. Paul of the Cross | Goshen
Jacqueline DeBoni, 55, St. John the Evangelist | South Bend
King R. Giloth-David, 76, St. Augustine |
| Decatur
Janice E. Fleming, 48, St. Mary/Assumption | Granger
Linda Gallivan, 59, St. Pius X | Dolores R. Flory, 87, The Sanctuary at St. Paul's |
| Mary C. Hain, 97, St. Mary/Assumption | Todd A. Graham, M.D., 56, St. Pius X | Siegfried J. Martin, 83, Christ the King |
| Isabel Costello, 73, St. Mary/Assumption | Mishawaka
Susan M. Freitag, 67, St. Monica | Bum Joo Kim, M.D., 79, Christ the King |
| Elkhart
Rocco Balzano, 59, St. Vincent de Paul | Joshua Richardson, 19, St. Joseph | Thomas F. Burzynski, 81, St. Adalbert |
| Fort Wayne
Mary R. Paine, 96, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton | Marian Stoeckinger, 87, St. Joseph | Donald L. Walkowiak, 88, St. John the Baptist |
| F. Michael Brugger, Our Lady of Good Hope | Marjorie Van De Wiele, 93, St. Bavo | Philip Egyhazi, 54, Holy Family |
| James A. Smith, 91, Cathedral of the Immac. Conception | North Manchester
Sammy S. Snyder, 76, St. Robert Bellarmine | Evelyn D. Nowicki, 89, St. Anthony de Padua |
| Trevor E. Frye, 72, St. Jude | Notre Dame
Fred A Kanouse, 80, St. Joseph Chapel, Holy Cross | Warsaw
Henry Sierk, 72, Sacred Heart |
| Mary T. Newman, 80, St. Vincent de Paul | Nancy M. Siarkowski, 87, Basilica/Sacred Heart | Katherine Podsiadly, 97, Sacred Heart |
| James R. Shields, 93, St. Vincent de Paul | Sister M. Jane Frances, CSC, 87, Church of Our Lady of Loretto | Yoder
Linda L. Burke, 77, St. Aloysius |

437-1202 or find more events at www.fatimafwsb.org.

St. Felix to host Mass for the sick
HUNTINGTON — The Praying with Father Solanus Organization will be hosting a Mass for the Sick at the St. Felix

Retreat Center, 1280 Hitzfield St., on Saturday, Aug. 19. The celebrant will be Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. A rosary will begin at 12:30 p.m., and Mass at 1 p.m. Refreshments will follow after the Mass. St. Felix is a handicapped-accessible facility.

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.

Fatima prayer and rosary
FORT WAYNE — Prayer and a rosary honoring the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima will take place on the 13th of every month through October from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Mary's Glen, 2514 Reynolds St. Reading of the Fatima apparition and message of the day will be shared.



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Oratory named at Saint Anne Home, Randallia

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

Saint Anne Home and Retirement Center, located on Randallia Drive, has set the standard for high-quality health care in Fort Wayne since 1967. On July 26, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades offered a celebratory Mass in recognition of the facility's 50th anniversary and named its chapel an oratory, or special place of prayer.

The Mass was concelebrated by Father Jack Overmyer, chaplain at Saint Anne; Father Tony Steinacker; and three priests in residence, Father John Pfister, Father Larry Tippmann and Father Adam Schmitt. Assisting were Deacon Jim Fitzpatrick, Deacon Thomas Zehr and Deacon Patrick Hake.

Bishop Rhoades noted that the date for the anniversary celebration was carefully chosen. "Today the church celebrates the feast of Sts. Joachim and Anne. We rejoice as we celebrate the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the grandparents of Jesus," he said to his listeners, many of whom were grandparents themselves. "This is the feast day of Saint Anne's Home, so happy feast day to all of you, the residents and staff.

"The name Anne is a Hebrew name which means 'God has given grace,'" he continued. "Through St. Anne, God has given his grace to the world, since St. Anne was the mother of the woman who was full of grace, the Virgin Mary. And it was through her that the Son of God was born and brought God's grace into the world. Here at Saint Anne's Home, we honor the woman in whom God has given grace, St. Anne, the mother of Mary.

"We shouldn't forget the other saint whom the church honors today, St. Joachim," said the bishop. "That is why today, I am naming this chapel the Oratory of Saints Joachim and Anne. In this way we remember Mary's

father, along with her mother. It was in the home of her parents, Joachim and Anne, that Mary was born and grew up. From her parents, Mary learned her Jewish faith and she learned to love God. She learned from Joachim and Anne to listen to the Lord and to follow his will. In the home, Mary was surrounded by the love and faith of her parents. This prepared her for her vocation to be the mother of the word made flesh. Of course, Mary was also prepared by her Immaculate Conception."

Bishop Rhoades continued: "God has given grace. Today we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of Saint Anne's Home ... and we remember the many graces of the past 50 years.

"In some parts of the world, the feast of Sts. Joachim and Anne is celebrated on Grandparents' Day. This is a good day to remember and pray for our grandparents, living and deceased, he suggested, because



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and staff of Saint Anne Home pose on the grounds of Saint Anne, next to a statue of the Blessed Mother, following a 50th anniversary Mass and the naming of its chapel as an oratory.

grandparents can have such a beautiful role in the family.

"How important grandparents are for family life, for passing on the faith to their children and grandchildren," he pointed out. He then addressed the assembly.

"I want to thank all of you who shared your faith with your children, grandchildren and perhaps also great-grandchildren. We are so blessed in the church by our elderly brothers and sisters who transmit to us the experience

and wisdom of their lives. We must always honor and support with great affection our elderly brothers and sisters, which is why Bishop Pursley established Saint Anne's Home."

Resident priest Father Pfister expressed pleasure over his residence at Saint Anne's. "It's a very friendly atmosphere ... and the food is good," he said after Mass. He also enjoys the opportunity to participate in daily Mass in the chapel.

Another resident, Dorothy Overholt, agreed: "They do a wonderful job here," she said. Although raised in the Baptist faith, she enjoys attending Mass as well. And Father Tippmann summed up the sentiments by saying, "We're part of a family."

Originally constructed as a nursing care facility, Saint Anne Randallia Place now has 161 nursing home beds and 95 apartments on its campus. "The need transitioned over time," Kathy Retzios, head of marketing and public relations, said. All stages on the continuum of care are offered, she pointed out: Independent living, assisted living, skilled care, memory care, adult day care and transitional care are all available. A 3,500-square-foot rehabilitation facility and 16 rehabilitation suites serve those needing short-term stays.

In 2015, Saint Anne Home became Saint Anne Home and Retirement Communities with the addition of a second location, Saint Anne Grace Pointe on Noll Avenue. Grace Pointe also offers assisted living suites, for a total of 35 beds in all. A third facility recently opened in Huntington.

The future appears bright for Saint Anne Communities. Retzios noted: "The challenges of the past are not the challenges of the future ... the landscape has changed. However, the mission and commitment to provide the highest quality of care with love and concern for each individual has not."



Saint Anne residents attend Mass on the occasion of the home and retirement center's 50th anniversary.

Photos by John Martin

Celebrating Mary's role in our salvation

August Marian feasts honor the Holy Mother

BY CHRISTOPHER LUSHIS

August is the month traditionally dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. To increase devotion and reliance on Our Lady, the church provides special opportunities in the upcoming weeks to honor Mary and reflect upon her profound influence within daily life.

The Assumption

On Aug. 15, the church celebrates the Assumption, a holy day of obligation, which recalls

the culmination of Our Lady's earthly life and her subsequent entrance into heaven, body and soul. This feast is held in high honor because it highlights Mary's participation in Christ's death and resurrection and prefigures the fullness of eternal life to come for all the faithful.

Mary's Assumption also reveals her detachment from earthly concerns and provides encouragement for those suffering or struggling in everyday life. From Our Lady, the church learns to let go of burdensome worries and entrust everything to the care of the Heavenly

Father. This mystery reveals a fundamental aspect of His love – those who throw themselves into His arms and trust in Him completely will be received with mercy and carried up to heaven.

While belief in the Assumption of Mary has existed since the early centuries of Christianity, it became official church teaching in 1950 when Pope Pius XII declared it an infallible dogma and essential principle of the Catholic faith.

The Queenship of Mary

Following the Assumption,

the church will celebrate another great feast of Our Lady, the memorial of the Queenship of Mary. Observed on Aug. 22, this occasion recalls the Blessed Mother's being crowned queen of Heaven and Earth as she now reigns with her son in everlasting splendor. Biblically, the teaching of Mary's queenship has its roots in the Book of Revelation, which depicts a cosmic struggle between good and evil with eternal consequences. In honoring and revering Mary as queen, the church acknowledges her as the most perfect model and intercessor in the

battle against Satan, sin and death.

While the Queenship of Mary is not a holy day of obligation, it is an opportunity to spend time meditating on Our Lady's maternal protection and heavenly triumph. The octave connecting these two great Marian feasts, especially during this centennial year of Our Lady of Fatima, is also a perfect time to pray the rosary, to reflect upon the mysteries of the Assumption and the Coronation, and to ask for Mary's intercession to live virtuously and courageously in the midst of a broken world.

The image shows the interior of St. Peter's Basilica, looking down the nave towards the altar. Two prominent rays of light stream down from the dome's oculus, illuminating the central aisle. The architecture is highly detailed, with Latin inscriptions on the arches: "NI CAE ORVM TV ES PE IVS" and "A FIDES MYNDO". The altar area is brightly lit, and a crowd of people is visible in the foreground.

Some things should never change.
(But some things should.)

TODAY'S CATHOLIC