

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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TODAYSCATHOLIC.org



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St. John the Baptist School: small school, big spirit

BY JILL A. BOUGHTON



Joe Raymond

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades shows off a book he received from students after Mass at St. John's the Baptist School during his visit Friday, Sept. 1, in South Bend.

"I am very happy to be here," Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades told the students of St. John the Baptist School in South Bend. Even though there are 39 Catholic grade schools in our diocese, the bishop chose St. John the Baptist for his first school visit of the new academic year. "I know you are a small school," he told the 66 students in pre-K through eighth grade, "but you Spartans are big in spirit and enthusiasm."

The day began with Mass. Led by a student choir, bishop noted how well the entire congregation sang. Student lectors and servers also ably assisted him, Father Glenn Kohrman, pastor, and Father David Violi, parochial vicar.

In his homily, Bishop Rhoades zeroed in on one line from the epistle: "This is the will of God: your holiness. (1 Thessalonians 4:3) That sentence encapsulates what's distinctive about a Catholic school

ST. JOHN, page 8

USCCB denounces decision to end DACA, strongly urges Congress to find legislative solution

WASHINGTON— The president and vice president, along with chairmen of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, have issued a statement denouncing the Trump administration's termination of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program after six months.

The following statement from USCCB President Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, along with USCCB Vice President Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, Bishop Joe S. Vásquez of Austin, chairman of the Committee on Migration, and Bishop Joseph J. Tyson of Yakima, chairman of the Subcommittee on Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees, and Travelers says the "cancellation of the DACA program is reprehensible."

Over 780,000 youth received protection from the DACA program since its inception by the Department of Homeland Security in 2012. DACA provided no legal status or government benefits but did provide recipients with temporary employment authorization to work in the United States and reprieve from deportation.

The statement reads:

"The cancellation of the DACA program is reprehensible. It causes unnecessary fear for DACA youth and their families. These youth entered the U.S. as minors and often know America as their only home. The Catholic Church has long watched with pride and admiration as DACA youth live out their daily lives with hope and a determination to flourish and

contribute to society: continuing to work and provide for their families, continuing to serve in the military, and continuing to receive an education. Now, after months of anxiety and fear about their futures, these brave young people face deportation. This decision is unacceptable and does not reflect who we are as Americans.

"The Church has recognized and proclaimed the need to welcome young people: 'Whoever welcomes one of these children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me' (Mark 9:37). Today, our nation has done the opposite of how Scripture calls us to respond. It is a step back from the progress that we need to make as a country. Today's

actions represent a heartbreaking moment in our history that shows the absence of mercy and good will, and a short-sighted vision for the future. DACA youth are woven into the fabric of our country and of our Church, and are, by every social and human measure, American youth.

"We strongly urge Congress to act and immediately resume work toward a legislative solution. We pledge our support to work on finding an expeditious means of protection for DACA youth.

As people of faith, we say to DACA youth – regardless of your immigration status, you are children of God and welcome in the Catholic Church. The Catholic Church supports you and will advocate for you."

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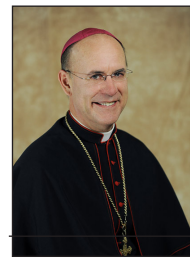
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Students invited to be 'radicals'

IN TRUTH
AND
CHARITY

BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

The following is the homily delivered by Bishop Rhoades at the Mass of the Holy Spirit for the beginning of the academic year at the University of Saint Francis on August 30th.

As you begin this new academic year, I invite you to reflect on the amazing words of Jesus in today's Gospel: "you are the salt of the earth" and "you are the light of the world." I call these words amazing because they were addressed by Jesus to a crowd of peasants on a hill in Galilee, a people and a place considered of little or no importance in the Roman Empire. Imagine the reaction of these people to this description of them as the salt of the earth and the light of the world. These words are also meant for you and me.

We are to be the salt of the earth. Salt gives flavor and it can be used to preserve food. Jesus is telling us that we are to bring flavor and preserve goodness in the world, like salt does to food.

Jesus tells us we are the light of the world. In the Jewish tradition, Israel was to be a light to the nations. Christians are to fulfill this role by living the teachings of Jesus in such a way that the darkness of sin is overcome by the light of Christ, by His love. Others and the world are impacted by the way we live our lives. When we fail to be light, the world suffers. When we are light, when we imitate Christ's love, mercy, and generosity, the world becomes a better and brighter place. The Kingdom of God is advanced.

Students of the University of Saint Francis, don't listen to those who say you can't make a difference in the world. Listen instead to the words of the One who is Truth itself, the One who says to you: "You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world."

Just think of the impact of this university in our city, our county, and beyond if we live what we pray in the Prayer of Saint Francis: "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy."

The Prayer of Saint Francis kind of summarizes the Christian life, how disciples of Jesus are to live and act in this world. This is how we become the salt of the earth and the light of the world. We reject hatred in all its forms, including the poison of racism, by sowing love. We reach out to those who are hurting. We offer forgiveness to those who offend us. We bring the joy of the Gospel to those who are mired in sadness. Do you ever think how radical this is, how radical it is to really live the Christian life? It's a radical choice. I'm inviting you to be radicals.

What does the word "radical" mean? It comes from the Latin word "radix," which means root. Jesus was a radical — He got deep down to the root and heart of things. Here's a suggestion for your reading this year: I invite you this year to choose one of the four Gospels and read it from beginning to end, maybe a few paragraphs a day and read it with fresh eyes. What will you find?



Nick Stump

Bishop Rhoades gives University of Saint Francis students their first spiritual homework assignment of the academic year.

You'll find that Jesus was a radical and His life and teachings are a radical invitation to live life differently.

We can live superficially and not deeply, not down to the roots and core of things. And what happens? We get bored and our lives become mediocre. That's not what Jesus wants. He wants us to have life and to live life to the full. He wants us to be truly happy. But if we live life with other purposes, just to be comfortable or to have material pleasures, or so that we are popular and liked by other people, our lives become superficial. Jesus is calling us to something much greater. He doesn't call us to mediocrity. He calls us to live life on a higher plane. That's the life of the Gospel. That's how we become the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

You are called to be salt and light right here and now in your lives at this university, not just later after graduation. Think about the way you live, how you spend your time, how you use the gifts and talents God has given you, how you serve God and others. This isn't a time to be selfish. When we're selfish, we're not happy. In fact, selfishness makes us miserable. Living the Gospel draws us out of ourselves, to live life with purpose, to find real joy, the joy that Jesus Christ offers us. He said: "I came that you might have life and have it to the full."

I love the athletic images that St. Paul sometimes uses in his letters. In ancient Corinth, the Isthmian games were played every two years. They were modeled on the Olympics and were quite popular. St. Paul mentions two sports from the Isthmian games in our first reading today: track and boxing. Paul applies these sports to the Christian life. It is a race and a boxing match.

St. Paul tells us to "run so as to win." I imagine we have some track-and-field athletes here. When you are in a race, you run so as to win. But you won't win if you're not in good shape, if you haven't practiced and trained well. You won't win if you haven't disciplined your body and your muscles are weak. Paul also makes the point that he doesn't run aimlessly. A runner in a race doesn't just run any which way. He or she runs on course, heading the best and fastest way to the finish line.

St. Paul also makes a reference to boxing. I don't know if you have a boxing team here at the University of Saint Francis. St. Paul tells the Corinthians that he's not shadow-boxing. In other words, he's not faking it.

Shadow boxing is when a boxer is just going through the motions, flailing the air. That's fake boxing.

The point of these analogies is that we need to be disciplined in our Christian lives. We are to be focused on winning the race. This involves sacrifice. Jesus teaches clearly that His followers must take up their cross and follow Him. I hope you all will strive for excellence in your classes this year. I hope all you who are athletes will strive to be the best players you can be and work for victory in your competitions. Of course, you have to work hard to achieve excellence in academics, sports and other pursuits. But I invite you today to think about striving for excellence in your spiritual lives, in your lives of discipleship. What do we call an excellent disciple? A saint!

I think sometimes we Christians can be too lackadaisical about our faith, kind of aimless in our spiritual lives. We're called to run the race, and not aimlessly. We need good training, spiritual exercises. We shouldn't be fake shadow boxers. While here, I know you'll be busy with classes and other activities, the education of your minds and bodies. But don't forget the education of your souls, your spiritual life, your life in Christ. You'll be spending a lot of time in classrooms. I invite you to spend some time in the classroom of silence to listen to the Master Teacher. That's prayer.

Don't settle for mediocrity in anything, least of all your lives of faith. You're called to holiness, to become saints. Take time for prayer and for reading the Scriptures. If you're Catholic, be faithful to Mass, go to confession, pray the rosary. Actually, even if you're not Catholic, you can pray the rosary. And if you're searching and want to learn more about Catholicism, I invite you to attend the RCIA through campus ministry here.

We all need to get in shape for the race, the race to the most important finish line, heaven. St. Paul writes about how winners in the popular races in Corinth sacrificed a lot to win a crown that is perishable. If they won the race, they were crowned with laurel or other flowered leaves. Paul says that in the race we run as Christians, the crown of victory is imperishable. It's eternal life!

May the Lord bless you and your work and endeavors this year! Remember to run so as to win an imperishable crown. When you do, you will truly be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

New Florida bishop 'exemplifies' heart of the Holy Cross order

BY JEAN GONZALEZ

ORLANDO, Fla. (CNS) — As the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee's sixth bishop lay prostrate on the floor of the Pensacola Bay Center, one thing in particular distinguished the episcopal candidate.

His pink socks.

The choice seemed fitting for newly ordained Bishop William A. Wack because the socks would match the amaranth (a reddish pink tone) zucchetto he would wear as bishop. But it was also a fitting choice for the Holy Cross father known for his smiling face and jovial, fun-loving nature. As Father Robert L. Epping, superior general of the Holy Cross congregation, put it, the smiling priest is known to be "a bit of jokester."

"These are not the usual descriptives for a bishop, but these are the words you see on his face, and, for those of us who know him, they are the words that make him an effective priest and attractive shepherd," Father Epping said. "We also know a more serious side. He loves people, he loves Jesus, he forgets about himself, he reaches out to bring joy, he serves with gladness not just with duty. ... When Pope Francis compared his lexicon for bishops with Father Bill's credentials, he found a perfect fit."

Thousands gathered to witness the Aug. 22 episcopal ordination of the Pensacola-Tallahassee prelate who wishes to be referred to as "Bishop Bill." Along with local priests and deacons and 95 members of Bishop Wack's family, 18 bishops attended the celebration, including Florida's five other bishops, its one auxiliary bishop, one archbishop and two retired Florida bishops.

Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski of Miami served as co-consecrator with Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Austin, Texas, and Bishop Daniel R. Jenky, of Peoria, Illinois, who also is a member of the Holy Cross congregation.

"In your ministry as bishop, you are called to be a father and a brother to all, especially to your co-workers, the priests and the deacons," Archbishop Wenski said in his homily. "But also be especially attentive to the poor, the weak, the immigrants and the stranger; those who are victims of today's disposable culture and of the globalization of indifference."

Bishop Wack comes to the Pensacola-Tallahassee Diocese after serving 23 years in the priesthood. His last eight years were spent at St. Ignatius the Martyr Parish in Austin. There he was known for his work with the poor, the large Mexican community of the parish and his



Congregation of Holy Cross USA

Bishop William A. Wack, CSC, is pictured after his episcopal ordination for the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee.

presence on the radio and on YouTube, in which he guided discussions on Scripture and church teachings.

One of those videos includes the Faith of the Fathers video series, in which he shared the social media stage with his associate pastor and fellow Holy Cross priest Father Dennis Strach. In one particular video about the Holy Cross congregation, the two shared a comfortable camaraderie as they take turns talking about the philosophy, history and personal significance of their beloved religious community whose motto is:

"Hail the cross; our only hope."

"We try through preaching, through our schools, through our missionary activity, with lay people with ordained with sisters and brothers, all of us are trying to go around the world to tell people and remind even ourselves that in the cross actually is our hope," the future bishop said of the international congregation founded in France and headquartered in Indiana.

Father Strach attended the ordination of his friend and mentor. In an interview prior to the event, he was asked how Bishop Wack reflects the charism of the order.

"(Bishop) Bill exemplifies the heart of the order: family, hope and joy," said Father Strach, who celebrated his first anniversary as a priest in April. "I'm sure he is going to foster community. That is part of who he is. Community and the family of the Holy Cross are important to

him. I think Holy Cross is in his blood."

Father Strach described Bishop Wack as a regular guy and a hard worker who eats macaroni and cheese and has an occasional cigar. As an administrator, he described Father Wack as someone who is not interested in formalities but is eager to understand what a person is experiencing. The young priest related how in the three-month transition period between appointment and ordination, Bishop Wack would call parishes in the Florida diocese to introduce himself to the pastors.

"He would call up and say, 'Hi. Can I speak to the pastor, please?' and a lot of times the person on the other line would say, 'He's not available. Can I take a message?' And he would say, 'Oh, well, this is Father Bill. I'm going to be the new bishop and I wanted to introduce myself.' And then on the other line you could hear, 'Oh! It's the new bishop!' They would be all excited," Father Strach said with a laugh.

"That's the kind of person he is. He does want to be known as Bishop Bill. He's is not disrespectful to the tradition, but he is a person of the people. He is approachable and he wants to listen."

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



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Sunday, September 10: 10:30 a.m. — Mass, St. Patrick Church, Walkerton

Monday, September 11: 10 a.m. — Meeting of the Bishop's Cabinet, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne

Monday, September 11: 2 p.m. — Meeting of the Northeast Indiana Congregation Action Network Clergy Summit, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Cathedral Hall, Fort Wayne

Tuesday, September 12: 12 p.m. — Blessing of the Local Knights of Columbus Agent's Office, Fort Wayne

Wednesday, September 13: 2 p.m. Meeting of Board of Catholic Relief Services U.S. Operations Committee, Baltimore

Thursday, September 14: 8 a.m. Meeting of Board of Catholic Relief Services, Baltimore

Friday, September 15: 10:30 a.m. — Mass and Pastoral Visit, Lebanon Catholic School, Lebanon, Pennsylvania

Saturday, September 16: 10 a.m. — Diaconate Ordination for Congregation of Holy Cross, Moreau Seminary, University of Notre Dame

Pope, Orthodox patriarch issue joint plea for care of creation

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Together with the head of the Orthodox Church, Pope Francis urged people to be respectful and responsible toward creation while being aware of how disrupted ecosystems impact the poor.

To mark the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation Sept. 1, the pope said he and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople "prepared a message together."

Although the text was not published immediately, Pope Francis told people at his general audience Aug. 30 that the message would be an invitation to all people "to adopt a respectful and responsible approach toward creation."

"Furthermore," he said, "we appeal to those who hold an influential role to listen to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor, who suffer more because of ecological imbalances."

Pope Francis instituted the

world day of prayer for the Catholic Church in 2015, joining with the ecumenical patriarchate, who has observed the Sept. 1 day of prayer since 1989.

The annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, Pope Francis said when he instituted it, is to be a time for individuals and communities to "reaffirm their personal vocation to be stewards of creation, to thank God for the wonderful handiwork which he has entrusted to our care, and to implore his help for the protection of creation as well as his pardon for the sins committed against the world in which we live."

If Christians are to make their special contribution to safeguarding creation, they must rediscover the spiritual foundations of their approach to what exists on earth, beginning with an acknowledgment that "the life of the spirit is not dissociated from the body or from nature," but lived in communion with all worldly realities, he had said.



CNS/Paul Haring

Pope Francis embraces Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople during an ecumenical prayer service with religious leaders in 2016 at the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi, Italy. Together with the head of the Orthodox Church, Pope Francis urged people to be respectful and responsible toward creation while being aware of how disrupted ecosystems impact the poor.

Path to peace: Pope's visit aims to help Colombians take next steps

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis had promised to visit Colombia once a peace accord was in place, but his visit Sept. 6-10 is less about congratulations than about consolidation. "He comes to take the first step with us," said the bishops of Colombia in a document designed to prepare people for the pope's visit.

In the Gospel of St. John, the apostle Peter is the first to enter the empty tomb after Jesus' resurrection, the bishops wrote. In a similar way, St. Peter's successor, the pope, will visit Colombia, which they described as "a terrible tomb" that "has been crushed with armed conflict, drug trafficking, insecurity and inequality."

Looking at Pope Francis' previous visits to places trying to overcome civil strife, violence and division — the Holy Land, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Central African Republic — it is clear Pope Francis recognizes that making and keeping peace require courage and sacrifice.

The people of Colombia are right to celebrate the 2016 peace accord that came after the suffering of 52 years of civil war. Pope Francis obviously will praise that accomplishment, but he also will urge them to "take the first step" toward reconciliation, the theme of the visit.

After a conflict in which at least 220,000 people died and more than 6 million people were uprooted from their homes, it won't be



The official logo for Pope Francis' upcoming trip to Colombia in September with the theme "Let's Take the First Step."

easy. A small rebel group that was not part of the 2016 accord still exists, and the country faces a host of complicated processes for reintegrating former combatants into society and compensating victims of the conflict.

"Peace is a work of justice," Pope Francis said during a Mass in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, in 2015. It is "not a justice proclaimed, imagined, planned, but rather a justice put into practice, lived out."

The first step has to be to let go of festering anger and resentment, the pope has said. But he knows that is not easy.

Celebrating Mass in South Korea in 2014, Pope Francis told Catholics: "Jesus asks us to

believe that forgiveness is the door which leads to reconciliation. In telling us to forgive our brothers unreservedly, he is asking us to do something utterly radical, but he also gives us the grace to do it."

"What appears, from a human perspective, to be impossible, impractical and even at times repugnant, he makes possible and fruitful through the infinite power of his cross," the pope told the South Koreans at the "Mass for Peace and Reconciliation."

In striving for peace or trying to shore up the foundations of peace, every person has a part to play, the pope has insisted each time he has visited a community recovering from the horror of war.

And, looking at the need for forgiveness, the pope emphasizes it is not only about a willingness to forgive one's enemies. It's about taking responsibility for any way that one contributed to the tensions, even remotely, and asking forgiveness.

At a Marian shrine in Sri Lanka in 2015, Pope Francis prayed with families that had suffered during the country's 25-year civil war. He offered words of consolation and of hope for the future, urging prayers "for the grace to make reparation for our sins and for all the evil which this land has known."

"It is not easy to do this," the pope told them. "Yet only when we come to understand, in the light of the Cross, the evil we are capable of, and have even been a part of, can we experience true remorse and true repentance. Only then can we receive the grace to approach one another in true contrition, offering and seeking true forgiveness."

Another step is one Pope Francis has urged all over the

world, but especially in countries yearning for peace: making a serious commitment to listen to one another and respond to the needs of those whose dignity has been crushed by poverty, discrimination or exclusion from political and social life.

"In order to successfully oppose the barbarity of those who would make of every difference the occasion and pretext for further unspeakable violence," he said in Sarajevo, "we need to recognize the fundamental values of human communities, values in the name of which we can and must cooperate, build and dialogue, pardon and grow; this will allow different voices to unite in creating a melody of sublime nobility and beauty, instead of the fanatical cries of hatred."

Recognizing "physical and spiritual suffering, pain and grief" war brings, Pope Francis tells people they can start with prayer and small gestures.

Visiting the Central African Republic, surrounded by U.N. peacekeepers in what, unfortunately, turned out to be a lull in the fighting, the pope told people to thank God for "the acts of solidarity and generosity which he inspires in us, for the joy and love with which he fills our families and our communities, despite the suffering and violence we sometimes experience, and our fears for the future."

"Let us thank him for his gift of courage, which inspires us to forge bonds of friendship, to dialogue with those who are different than ourselves, to forgive those who have wronged us, and to work to build a more just and fraternal society in which no one is abandoned," he told them.

As the people of Colombia work to overcome five decades of conflict and build a stable peace, Pope Francis wants to be with them and offer his support as they rally the courage needed to take the next step.

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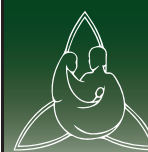
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Work against fear, hatred, pope tells South Korean religious leaders

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The day before North Korea detonated what it said was a hydrogen bomb, Pope Francis urged religious leaders from South Korea to dedicate their words and actions to building peace and harmony.

“We are called to be heralds of peace, proclaiming and embodying a nonviolent style, a style of peace, with words clearly different from the narrative of fear and with gestures opposed to the rhetoric of hatred,” the pope said Sept. 2.

The 20 leaders on pilgrimage to Rome included Catholics, Protestants, Buddhists, Confucians and followers of Cheondoism and several native Korean religions.

Pope Francis told them progress on the path to peace is made “not just by raising our voices but by rolling up our sleeves, to sow the hope of a future in which humanity becomes more human, a future which heeds the cry of so many who reject war and implore greater harmony between individuals and communities,



North Koreans watch a news report of an intermediate-range ballistic missile launch on a big screen at Pyongyang station in Pyongyang, North Korea, Aug. 30.

CNS photo/Kyodo via Reuters

between peoples and states.” Religious leaders, he said, should initiate and support programs dedicated to promoting the common good, which includes respect for the sanctity of human life and human rights, including religious freedom and freedom of expression.

The role of interreligious dialogue, Pope Francis said, “is precious and pleasing to God” because it, too, promotes the common good through “contacts, encounters and cooperation.”

“The world is looking to us,” the pope told the religious leaders. “It looks to us for answers and a shared commitment to various issues: the sacred dignity of the human person, the hunger and poverty which still afflict too many peoples, the rejection of violence, in particular that violence which profanes the name of God and desecrates religion, the corruption that gives rise to injustice, moral decay, and the crisis of the family, of the economy and, not least of all, the crisis of hope.”

Pope offers prayers for victims of flooding in Texas, Louisiana

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis offered his prayers for the people of Texas and Louisiana struggling to cope with the devastating impact of Hurricane Harvey and he praised all those engaged in rescuing and caring for the thousands of people forced out of their homes.

In a message to Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, Pope Francis asked that his “spiritual closeness and pastoral concern” be relayed to all those affected by the hurricane and flooding.

The message was sent by Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, and released by the Vatican Aug. 31.

“Deeply moved by the tragic loss of life and the immense material devastation that this



CNS photo/Jonathan Bachman, Reuters

Rescue personnel assist a disabled woman as she waits to be airlifted Aug. 31 after being rescued from her home flooded by Tropical Storm Harvey in Rose City, Texas.

natural catastrophe has left in its wake, he prays for the victims and their families, and for all those engaged in the vital work of relief, recovery and rebuilding,” Cardinal Parolin said.

Pope Francis, he said, “trusts that the immense and immediate needs of so many individuals

and communities will continue to inspire a vast outpouring of solidarity and mutual aid in the best traditions of the nation.”

EMERGENCY COLLECTION

A special collection will be taken up in all parishes of the diocese on the weekend of Sept. 16-17 for the victims of the devastating hurricane and floods in southeast Texas and Louisiana.

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11:00 am-4:00 pm
Children’s Games & Inflatables, Food Tent

4:30 pm-6:30 pm
Festival Picnic, Silent Auction in the PAC

6:00 pm-7:30 pm
Talent Show in the Big Tent, Raffle Winners

8:00 pm-11:00 pm
Live music by Soul 35 in the Big Tent

Picnic Dinner
4:30 pm-6:30 pm
Shigs In Pit BBQ

Cash Raffle
Winners drawn 7:30 pm
\$10,000 in PRIZES!

Photo Booth!

Beer Tent
3:00 pm-10:00 pm

In new book, pope upholds traditional marriage, need to help sinners

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — By virtue of its very definition, marriage can only be between a man and a woman, Pope Francis said in a new book-length interview. “We cannot change it. This is the nature of things,” not just in the church, but in human history, he said in a series of interviews with Dominique Wolton, a 70-year-old French sociologist and expert in media and political communication. Published in French, the 417-page book, “Politique et Societe” (“Politics and Society”) was to be released Sept. 6. Catholic News Service obtained an advance copy, and excerpts appeared online. When it comes to the true nature of marriage as well as gender, there is “critical confusion at the moment,” the pope said. When asked about marriage for same-sex couples, the pope said, “Let’s call this ‘civil unions.’ We do not joke around with truth.” Teaching children that they can choose their gender, he said, also plays a part in fostering such mistakes about the truth or facts of nature. The pope said he wondered whether these new ideas about gender and marriage were somehow based on a fear of differences, and he encouraged researchers to study the subject.

Cardinal Murphy-O’Connor, ecumenical leader, dies at 85

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — English Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O’Connor, a longtime leader in Catholic-Anglican relations and former archbishop of Westminster, died Sept. 1 at the age of 85. Cardinal Vincent Nichols of Westminster issued a statement saying his predecessor “died peacefully this afternoon, surrounded by his family and friends.” Cardinal Murphy O’Connor had been hospitalized in mid-August. Early Sept. 1, the Westminster diocese tweeted a link to a letter from Cardinal Murphy-O’Connor, which said, “At this time, the words I pray every night are never far from my thoughts: ‘Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit.’” He asked Cardinal Nichols to tell the people of the diocese “I am at peace and have no fear of what is to come.” Cardinal Murphy-O’Connor was once described by *The Tablet*, a Catholic weekly, as “everyone’s favorite bishop: human, genial, collaborative, imposing.”

Pope offers prayers for victims of flooding in Texas, Louisiana

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis offered his prayers for the people of Texas and Louisiana struggling to cope with the dev-

NEWS BRIEFS

Pope to bring message of peace to Columbia



CNS photo/Luis Eduardo Noriega, EPA

A man works on a mosaic of Pope Francis on a wall outside Hogar San Jose children’s home in Medellin, Colombia. The pope will visit the home Sept. 9 during his five-day visit to Colombia.

astating impact of Hurricane Harvey and he praised all those engaged in rescuing and caring for the thousands of people forced out of their homes. In a message to Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, Pope Francis asked that his “spiritual closeness and pastoral concern” be relayed to all those affected by the hurricane and flooding. The message was sent by Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, and released by the Vatican Aug. 31. “Deeply moved by the tragic loss of life and the immense material devastation that this natural catastrophe has left in its wake, he prays for the victims and their families, and for all those engaged in the vital work of relief, recovery and rebuilding,” Cardinal Parolin said.

Bishops’ annual Labor Day statement scores ‘excessive inequality’

WASHINGTON (CNS) — “Excessive inequality” threatens cooperation among all people in society “and the social pact it supports,” said Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Florida, in the U.S. bishops’ annual Labor Day statement. In the message, Bishop Dewane cited the words of Pope Francis, who told factory workers in Genoa, Italy, “The entire social pact is built around work. This is the core of the problem. Because when you do

not work, or you work badly, you work little or you work too much, it is democracy that enters into crisis, and the entire social pact.” Dated Sept. 4, the federal Labor Day holiday, the statement was released Aug. 30. Bishop Dewane, chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, pointed to a “twisted understanding of labor and laborers” that fosters deepening inequality. In Genoa, the pope “acknowledges that ‘merit’ is ‘a beautiful word,’” Bishop Dewane said, “but the modern world can often use it ‘ideologically,’ which makes it ‘distorted and perverted’ when it is used for ‘ethically legitimizing inequality.’”

Brownsville Diocese offers support for hurricane victims

BROWNSVILLE, Texas (CNS) — The Rio Grande Valley was in the “cone” of possible impact from Hurricane Harvey and residents had prepared for heavy winds and rain. Schools and businesses had even closed in anticipation, but the valley was bypassed by the storm’s destructive path. “If the Rio Grande Valley was spared the major impact of Hurricane Harvey, it is so that we can more help those most affected,” said the Bishop Daniel E. Flores of Brownsville. “The Rio Grande Valley in the past has

often received the help of others in times of dire distress; we are called to offer our assistance in that same spirit to others.” In response to Harvey, Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley, with the assistance of local TV station Telemundo 40, set up several sites to receive donations of water, dry goods, diapers, canned foods and other items. The donations were delivered to distribution centers in the most affected areas. “We have to be generous and grateful that we ourselves here in the valley were spared in this disaster,” said Sister Norma Pimentel of the Missionaries of Jesus and executive director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley. “We are in solidarity with the many people who are hurt in Texas.”

Ottawa hospital disaster team ready with spiritual care

OTTAWA, Ontario (CNS) — Whether it’s a train crash, a building collapse or a pandemic, Ottawa Hospital is ready to provide spiritual help through a team of volunteers for those affected. The hospital says its Emergency Spiritual Care Assistance Team is the first of its kind in North America. Its recently published guide has been requested by more than 25 other hospitals in Canada and the United States, said Maronite Father Nicolas

El-Kada, team leader and the hospital’s clinical pastoral education coordinator. Father El-Kada said research shows that for each medical casualty in a disaster or emergency, there are anywhere from four to 500 “psycho-social spiritual casualties who need spiritual support. A disaster is always chaotic,” said Father El-Kada, adding that training can help people respond to “high-demand” challenges. “Everyone is screaming for help. How are you going to deal with it? A crowd of people might all be in need of support for medical, psychological, social and/or spiritual needs,” he said.

St. Rose of Lima grew as a ‘lily among thorns,’ pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Like other great women in the Catholic Church’s past, St. Rose of Lima dedicated her life to marginalized people and gained eternal life through prayer and penance, Pope Francis said. In a letter marking the 400th anniversary of the Peruvian saint’s death, the pope praised St. Rose’s love for all creation, which can be seen in her “frequently inviting animals, flowers, plants and every living being to praise the Creator. The most glorious St. Rose of Lima, who grew as a lily among thorns became friends with the Lord from childhood to the point that from a young age she consecrated her virginity to him and began to cultivate virtues,” he said. Pope Francis addressed his letter to Ecuadoran Cardinal Raul Eduardo Vela, retired archbishop of Quito, who was the pope’s special envoy to the celebrations Aug. 30 in Peru. Cardinal Vela read the letter to thousands of pilgrims attending the anniversary celebrations in the Peruvian capital’s main square.

Pope to focus on values needed for peace, Colombian archbishop says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis will help Colombians celebrate the official end of the country’s 52-year civil war by urging the country to cultivate true peace, said Archbishop Jose Octavio Ruiz Arenas, a Colombian who serves as secretary of the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization. Archbishop Ruiz, who had been archbishop of Villavicencio, will accompany Pope Francis on his visit to Colombia Sept. 6-10, including to Villavicencio, where the focus will be on reconciliation with God, among Colombians and with the environment. Pope Francis will celebrate a prayer service for national reconciliation in the city Sept. 8; about 6,000 people have been invited said Greg Burke, director of the Vatican press office.

Local rivals work together to fight hunger

SOUTH BEND — Long-time rivals, Saint Joseph High School and Marian High School came together to support the St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Joseph County's annual Hunger Bowl.

Now in its 6th year, the Hunger Bowl is a one-day food drive where students from Saint Joseph High School and Marian High School bring in food and monetary donations to benefit the St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Joseph County's food pantry. The school with the largest cumulative donation per student is awarded the annual Hunger Bowl trophy during halftime of the Saint Joseph versus Marian football game.

The Hunger Bowl has provided more than 14 tons of non-perishable food items for the St. Vincent de Paul Society's Client Choice Food Pantry over the last five years. These food donations have helped serve the more than 50,000 residents of St. Joseph County who utilize the society's food pantry each year.

Center for Spirituality to host endowed lecture series on Pope Francis

NOTRE DAME — Saint Mary's College Center for Spirituality will offer a fall lecture series titled, "The Francis Effect: His Impact on Church and World."

Daniel P. Horan, OFM, assistant professor of systemic theology,

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Piercetown Days parade fun



Provided by St. Francis Xavier

St. Francis Xavier Parish in Piercetown had a wonderful time participating in the annual Piercetown Days parade. This year's theme was Disney, and members of the parish dressed up as Snow White and the Seven-(plus) Dwarfs.

Catholic Theological Union will speak on "Pope Francis and all God's creatures: A challenge for the global church," on Tuesday Sept. 12, at 7 p.m. in Carroll Auditorium, Madeleva Hall.

William T. Cavanaugh, professor of Catholic Studies, DePaul University will speak on "Projects of the heart: Pope Francis and microeconomics," on Monday Oct. 9, at 7 p.m. in Vander Venet Theatre, Student Center.

Susan K. Wood, SCL, professor of theology, Marquette University will speak on "Pope Francis, dialogue and ecumenism" on Thursday, Nov. 2, at 7 p.m. in Vander Venet Theatre, Student Center.

The lectures are free and open to the public.

Masses interpreted on second Sundays

A Mass interpreted for the deaf and hard of hearing will be held on Sunday, Sept. 10, at 11:30 a.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. An interpreter from DeafLink, a service of The League for the Blind and Disabled Inc., will provide American Sign Language.

A Mass interpreted for the deaf and hard of hearing will be held on Sunday, Sept. 10, at 11:30 a.m. at St. Matthew Cathedral, 1701 Miami St. South Bend. An interpreter from Community Services All Deaf will provide American Sign Language.

The Cathedral parishes and the Secretariat for Evangelization offer these monthly Masses on the second Sunday of the month at 11:30 a.m. and encourage people to extend the invitation to family and friends who are deaf.

Hoping amid adversity and relying on God: Deb Wagner

BY BARB SIEMINSKI

Deb Wagner uses an electric wheelchair, crutches and a walker. A member of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Fort Wayne, she recalls how several times when she was younger, her physical restrictions made others feel uncomfortable.

"At that time people with disabilities were not thought of as contributing members of society," she said. "Fear of the unknown is quite the catalyst for ignorance. I have always believed that the trials placed before me would enhance the relationship I have with God. While I believe I was called to religious life, God placed me in front of the communities and people he wanted for reasons I may never know. That's okay, because I have faith that I was acting as God's servant."

"Today, Mass is a deeply personal time for God and me," she added. "Each time I humbly hope that it is one step closer to my eternal life with God."

Wagner feels fortunate to



Barb Sieminski

Deb Wagner pays for her groceries with the help of her assistance dog, Ellen, who stands on her hind legs and gives Kroger clerk Taylor Rozier a coin purse handed to her by Wagner. After Rozier takes the money, she puts the change in the purse and Ellen rises back up on her hind legs to gently take it and return it to Wagner.

have been gainfully employed all her life. She is a Commerce Center coordinator at Do it Best Corp. and has been with the company for 18 years this past April. After college, she worked as a drug-and-alcohol counselor for 18 months because the employer believed the coping skills for addiction recovery were the same as coping with a disability. She also worked part-time as a counselor and part-time in sales and marketing.

"I really enjoy marketing, and my counselor intuition comes in handy almost daily," said Wagner. She cited three thrilling moments in her life as her pilgrimage to the Holy Land, traveling alone to meet a pen pal who lives in Trinidad and a student hospital chaplaincy.

"The common thread I see in these three events was that circumstances put me together with people who were strangers in some sense, which required that I be vulnerable with and rely only on God to change me as he

Small school, big spirit



Photos by Joe Raymond

Bishop Kevin Rhoades talks with third/fourth grade teacher Diane Kreager after the Mass at St. John the Baptist School during his pastoral visit Friday, Sept. 1, in South Bend.

ST. JOHN

Continued from Page 1

where you pray together, worship God at Mass, learn about Jesus' love for you and about how to live as His friends, how to live the Gospel, and how to become saints."

At the end of Mass Father Kohrman asked the students, "Why do we pursue perfection?" They called back, "To achieve excellence!"

"And what happens when we achieve excellence?" Everyone knew the answer: "We glorify God!"

Since Sept. 1 was the 60th anniversary of the opening of St. John the Baptist School, students went from the church to the cafeteria for cake.

Leon Baker, the school's new principal, asked if there were any changes in the lunch room. One observant student noticed that an icon had replaced a non-functioning thermostat. The principal pointed out other religious art on the walls, including an icon where the Trinity seem to be sitting around a lunch table. He encouraged junior high students to research details about the art.

Many paintings have been rescued from a former convent at the parish that is now being used as a residence for nine Franciscan Friars Minor, who mow the parish's 10 acres and interact comfortably with St. John students. Hanging the pictures in the school hallways is a practical way to help students pursue beauty and faith as well as goodness and truth.

Baker told the students that human artists work in honor of God and the beautiful world he created. Whereas truth and goodness may seem abstract, we can experience beauty with our senses.

On visits to every classroom, Bishop Rhoades posed for pictures, asked students what they were learning, especially in religion, and invited them to ask him

questions. He asked the "smart class" of kindergartners and pre-kindergartners to introduce him to their teacher, Joann Johnson.

Classes of seven-12 students, many combining grade levels, facilitate active learning at St. John the Baptist. As Bishop pointed out to Joany Zielinski's fifth graders, "You're learning so much! You can't hide behind anyone in this class." The diverse student body responded enthusiastically to Bishop Rhoades' questions.

With the recent feast of the martyrdom of John the Baptist, many classes told the bishop they've been studying their patron saint. He joked with Diane Kreager's third and fourth graders about eating locusts and honey for lunch. Genevieve Nield's class of sixth graders, who have been learning about creation, aptly answered Bishop's question, "What did God create the world out of?" with "Out of nothing!" Shannon Jones' seventh and eighth graders told him they have begun studying the virtues.

Several students were curious about the Bishop's zucchetto and crosier. One wanted to know how many buttons were on his cassock (33, for the years of Christ's life). One drew a chuckle when she asked, "What made you want to be Pope?"

Another asked, "Do you have a limo, or a bullet-proof car?" When he told one student he was a priest for 21 years before being named a bishop, they whistled. "That's a long time!" Bishop pointed out that being a priest is a lifetime vocation, not a job one does until he gets tired of it.

At the end of every classroom visit, Bishop Rhoades invited the students to join him in praying one of the prayers they've been learning. Rylan Jacobsen was bold enough to recite the Prayer of St. Francis. Three members of that third and fourth grade class were also proud to tell him they were baptized last year. That confirmed what Bishop said at Mass about the value of a Catholic education.

"Of course you study and learn a lot of lessons. The most important is how to become a saint."



Bishop Rhoades delivers the homily at a school Mass at St. John the Baptist, South Bend, on Sept. 1.

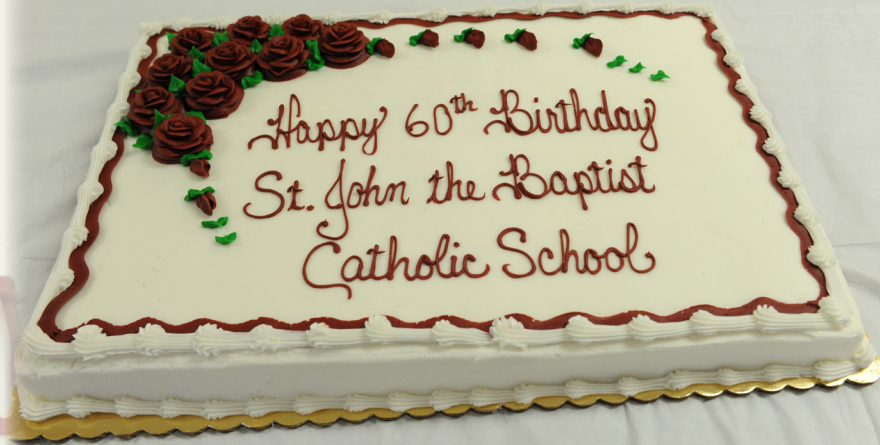


Kindergartner Francisco Bernal Aguilar was joined at his table by a special guest during a school visit by Bishop Kevin Rhoades.

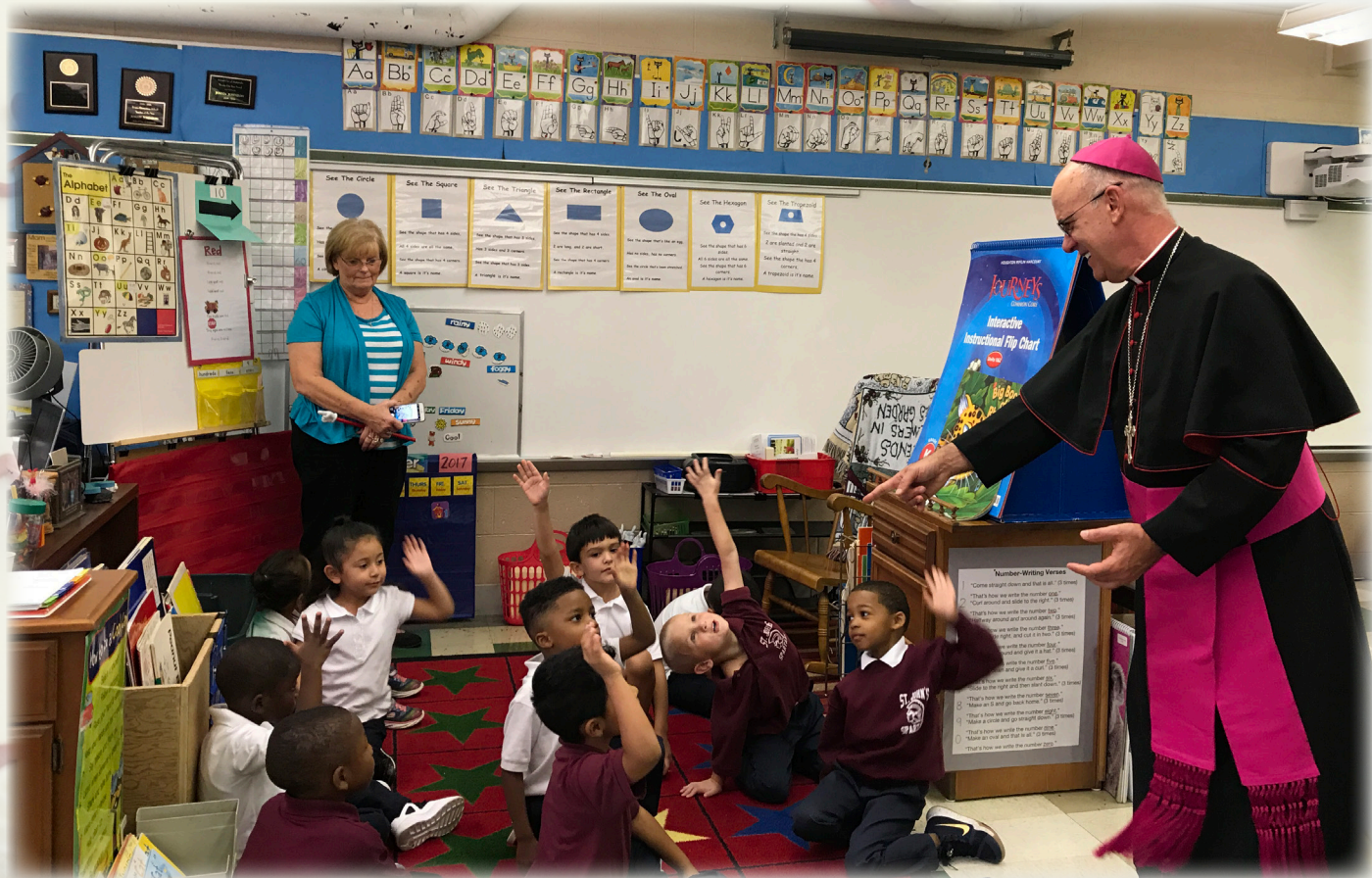
More photos are available online at www.todayscatholic.org



it: St. John the Baptist



Cake celebrating the school's 60th birthday was served after Mass.



The bishop visits one of the classrooms at St. John the Baptist School.



during a



Father Glenn Kohrman, Bishop Rhoades and Principal Leon Baker stand in front of the school.

St. John the Baptist School

3616 St. Johns Way,
South Bend, IN 46628
574-232-9849

Principal: Leon "Butch" Baker
majlbbaker@stjohnsb.com
School Secretary: AnnMarie Ferris
office@stjohnsb.com

90 students/grades pre-K-8

'Let the children come to me'

Parishes offer children's eucharistic adoration

BY MARIAM SCHMITZ

In the Gospel of St. Matthew, one finds the story of Jesus beckoning children to come to him. He says, "Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" (Mt 19:14). This scripture passage is serving as the foundation for a growing children's eucharistic adoration movement within the Fort Wayne-South Bend diocese. According to Father Daniel Whelan, parochial vicar at Fort Wayne's Our Lady of Good Hope Parish and chaplain at St. Joseph Hospital, encouraging children to adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is a vital part of spiritual development. "Teaching them how to be before the Lord and training them at an earlier stage of their life is only going to help them develop their prayer life as the years progress," he said.

At least three parishes within the diocese are now offering times for children to have that experience. Each has its own format.

Father Whelan helped establish a special adoration hour for the religious education program at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Fort Wayne. Offered twice during the school year, it includes songs, incense, scripture, prayerful silence and some teaching time. Students are allowed to move around occasionally, and are not stuck in their seats: To that end, Father Whelan incorporates short moments of laying prostrate before the Lord. "I want them to use all aspects of their body: We are body and spirit. So I want them out of their pews and around me in the sanctuary."

He also processes through the aisles holding the monstrance with a humeral veil, inviting the children to touch the vestment as he passes. Director of religious education Kelsey Spoltman said, "Students really found that to be a very powerful moment, as they watched Jesus process toward them."

St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne, is another parish that offers adoration for students in its grade school and religious education program. There is a time for families to attend adoration together with their small children as well.

Debbie Blackburn is the parish's director of religious education, and said there really is no organized format for the adoration time other than the prayers at the beginning and end. "It's just an hour when families can come to adore the Blessed Sacrament and not have to worry about interrupting, or feeling like their children are too loud," she said. The children can read books, draw, and pray silently or out loud. "Some adults say it's noisy with all the kids in there. For me, I can see Jesus in those children. Seeing those children take part in



Provided by Dorothy Schuerman

Children attend a eucharistic adoration hour on July 17 at St. Vincent de Paul Church, Fort Wayne.



Provided by St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish

By setting aside special times for eucharistic adoration by children, Father Daniel Whelan hopes to lay the foundations of a rich prayer life as adults.

worshiping him is very spiritually moving," Blackburn continued.

That sentiment is echoed by Mary McLaughlin, a teacher at Fort Wayne's Most Precious Blood School. McLaughlin established an adoration elective class for students in sixth through eighth grade. She said a special moment for her is when students choose to kneel before the monstrance. "There's some children that go up five, six, seven times. Every time they do that, I can't help but smile. It's so powerful and moving. Sometimes I've cried when I see them go up there." The adoration time begins with the lighting of a candle and the sharing of prayer intentions, before students take a seat and choose their own way to adore Jesus. This can include writing in their prayer journals, reading their Bibles, kneeling in front of the altar or just sitting in the presence of the Lord. At the end, they stand in a circle around the monstrance and sing Matt Maher's "Lord, I Need You."

"This is different than what I know of adult adoration," McLaughlin said. "There's more movement, more being free."

When St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parishioner Maria Victoria discovered the peace and grace of adoration, she wanted to share it with her children. "Why not start eucharistic adoration when they're young?" she asked herself. "By the time they're in high school and college, they're distracted. The world is pulling them in so many different directions. This is just not one of the things they're going to go for automatically, unless it's been instilled in them while they're young."

She reserved one hour of the parish's weekly eucharistic adoration time just for families. "I wanted a safe spot where moms could nurse, or if a little one should cry, who cares? We're all moms. The kids could color or eat Cheerios, or if they needed to walk around to get the wiggles out, they could." Victoria also said it has proven to be a much-needed respite for parents. "We need that quiet time to just sit before him and give it all to him."

Amber Miller attends the children's adoration hour at St. Elizabeth, and noticed that older adults seem to enjoy coming too. "They kind of miss the noise and they get to hear the kids and see them interact with Jesus." Her 8-year-old daughter Elainna Miller says when she goes to adoration she "talks to Jesus and prays an Our Father and Hail Mary."

Father Whelan encourages parents to bring their children to adoration even if their parish doesn't have a special time set aside: "If it's just a few minutes with your kids, you're making a lasting impression. They're seeing what is important in life: that is, to adore the Lord and live for the Lord."

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.

September 13, 1917

The fifth apparition: Mary promises a miracle

On Sept. 13, very large crowds began to converge on Fatima from all directions. Around noon the children, Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta arrived. After the customary flash of light, they saw Mary on the Holm oak tree. She spoke to Lucia: "Continue to pray the rosary in order to obtain the end of the war. In October Our Lord will come, as well as Our Lady of Dolours and Our Lady of Carmel. St. Joseph will appear with the Child Jesus to bless the world. God is pleased with your sacrifices. He does not want you to sleep with the rope on, but only to wear it during the daytime."

Lucia then began to put forward the petitions for cures, to be told: "Yes, I will cure some, but not others. In October I will perform a miracle so that all may believe." Then Our Lady began to rise, as usual, and disappeared.

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

The World Apostolate of Fatima
Fort Wayne-South Bend will
celebrate a 13th-day parish pilgrimage
Wednesday, Sept. 13 at
Sacred Heart Church, Warsaw.
Events will begin at 6 p.m. and
include a Mass, exposition, rosary,
Fatima prayers, Consecration to the
Immaculate Heart of Mary
and Benediction.

Celebrant: Father Philip DeVolder

Speaker: Father Daniel Whelan

All are welcome.

What we do and how we do it

“Can I talk to you?” she asked, this daughter of mine, on an evening after a particularly stressful and exhausting day for me. It was late. I had just plopped myself down on the sofa with a short, mindless article to read. I was hoping to wind down. A busy next day loomed. I was tired.

Thankfully, that time, I rallied.

“Sure,” I said, mustering up a smile, plumping up the sofa pillow next to me and motioning her to come in.

I had caught myself. I’d been tempted to sigh deeply. I had been tempted to say, “Come on. It’s 10:30 at night. Don’t spring anything big on me.” Or, “Can we do this in the morning? I’m tired.” But I didn’t. Thank goodness, because my daughter needed to talk about something important right then. Putting off the conversation would not have been a good idea. When I think of how close I came to appearing put-upon that moment she asked if she could talk to me, I cringe. I would have denied a perfect bonding, learning and teaching moment had I given in to my first inclination. All I can say is it was grace in that moment. And as for now, I’m trying to train myself to make that welcoming disposition a habit.

I remember working in a nursing home many years ago when I was just in high school. I volunteered once a week to paint the elderly ladies’ nails if they so wished. Room by room I would go, with emery boards, some nail-soaking solution and bowls, offering just a few selections of

nail polish colors — clear, pink and a bold red. I wanted to make it around to as many ladies as I could.

In the residents’ rooms there would often be photographs of their families, a deceased spouse as a young person, parents of theirs long gone, children who sometimes did and sometimes didn’t visit. Residents would point to these photos and want to talk. I had a job to do and sometimes I felt impatient because the residents missed my point of being there. They talked slowly, or one idea of theirs meandered into a seemingly other unrelated rambling one and I hadn’t even gotten to their nails yet. This was my first real experience of learning to listen with an interested and open ear, which of course, was really more important anyway.

Frequently, a resident would ask me to fetch a medicine bottle from the window sill, or ask for help in calling a nurse, or to be adjusted in their wheelchairs or helped up to standing positions. I couldn’t administer medication, of course, and I wasn’t supposed to move anyone out of a wheelchair, so I would get assistance at the desk. Most of the personnel who worked at the nursing home were friendly and kind, but occasionally workers coming in to “assist” were abrupt or condescending to residents. They seemingly felt put-upon by requests. The workers did the tasks requested of them, but not in a way that was patient and kind. I would watch the elderly faces sink when they were answered curtly or their requests



EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

THERESA A. THOMAS

responded to in a condescending way. The older people clearly felt like burdens in those circumstances.

St. John Chrysostom lived in the fourth century, but his advice is as relevant and good now as it was then. He said:

“Helping a person in need is good in itself. But the degree of goodness is hugely affected by the attitude with which it is done. If you show resentment because you are helping the person out of a reluctant sense of duty, then the person may receive your help, but may feel awkward and embarrassed. This is because he will feel beholden to you. If, on the other hand, you help the person in a spirit of joy, then the help will be received joyfully. The person will feel neither demeaned nor humiliated by your help, but rather will feel glad to have caused you pleasure by receiving your help. And joy is the appropriate attitude with which to help others, because acts of generosity are a source of blessing to the giver as well as the receiver. Indeed, the receiver may only derive a material blessing, but the giver derives a spiritual blessing. If

THOMAS, page 13

A Mass confusion

In professional Catholic circles, a tired joke that still makes the rounds goes like this:

Q: What’s the difference between a liturgist and a terrorist?

A: You can negotiate with a terrorist.

Most Catholics never use the word “liturgist” in everyday conversation, and may never have even knowingly met a liturgist; but the average Mass-going Catholic can be as opinionated as any liturgist: The music is too contemporary, too old-fashioned, too boring, too hip. The priest should celebrate with his back to the people. We should all gather around the altar and hold hands. More Latin! No Latin! The preaching is too long. Too short. There’s no bells. There’s too many bells. Altar girls, oh my! Communion in the hand, oh no!

Liturgy is “the summit and center of Christian worship,” as one Vatican document described it. And whether or not all of us would use these words, we instinctively get its meaning because it is central to how we most publicly express our faith week in and week out.

The Mass is when most of us have contact with the church. It is how we come to celebrate together Christ’s great gift to us: his body and blood. It is understandable that we all have opinions about it.

Liturgists, of course, have more opinions, because they have made a study of it, know its history and work with all of its elements to create something that will become a means by which we can more clearly and



AMID THE FRAY

GREG ERLANDSON

reverently experience that “summit and center.” Of course, they don’t agree either.

What got me thinking about all of this is a nearby parish, where a kind of Balkanization of the Sunday liturgies has taken place.

One Mass is considered the folk Mass, with a well-trained musical group (yes, two guitars are part of the ensemble) that tilts toward more or less contemporary music.

Another Mass comes closer to what in my childhood would have been called a high Mass. A greater likelihood of incense, and also a well-trained choir that from the loft behind us sings more traditional hymns and occasional chant.

Other Masses on the same Sunday include a music-free, early morning Mass and a robustly diverse Nigerian Mass with exotic rhythms and vivid colors.

I’ve found that many people have strong opinions about which liturgy is best. I have also observed some fascinating demographics. There’s a bit more gray hair at the “folk Mass,” and a lot of young families at the

ERLANDSON, page 13

Jesus speaks about confronting someone who is doing wrong



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Matthew 18:15-20

For the first reading this weekend, the church gives us a passage from the ancient Book of Ezekiel.

Ezekiel’s name in Hebrew was, in effect, a prayer: “May God make (him) strong.” It was fitting since, as the prophet himself said in complaint, his calling to be a prophet put him at odds with so many people.

For God’s people, times were hard. The Babylonian Empire, at the time one of the Middle East’s most powerful states, had destroyed much and killed many. Then the Babylonians

took back to Babylon many survivors of the invasion.

In Babylon, these exiles, or their descendants, would languish for four generations.

Ezekiel saw this disaster not as a direct punishment from God, pressed down upon the people in a fury of revenge for their sinfulness, but as the result of the people’s sin.

Although the prophet was harsh in this respect, he also consoled the people that a better day would come — if they returned to God. If they obeyed God, then God would protect them.

No matter the people’s disobedience, Ezekiel wrote, God would never forsake them or desert them in the face of peril.

St. Paul’s Epistle to the Romans is the source of the second reading. It continues the pattern for these weekends of the summer, so many of which have presented readings from Romans.

A highly educated, sophisticated and wealthy Jew, fully versed in the teachings of Judaism, Paul knew the

Commandments well. While he saw a special vocation in his outreach to gentiles, he knew that God had acted through Hebrew agents in the past. The Commandments were from God, given to Moses, for example.

Paul set the Commandments in context. People should obey God because they love God. People should treat others well, according to the Commandments, because they love others. This urging echoed the teaching of Jesus.

For its last reading, the church this weekend offers a passage from the Gospel of Matthew. Jesus told the disciples to admonish anyone among them who somehow is at fault.

The Lord gives a progression of steps. First, a Christian should call a wayward brother or sister to task. This step failing, the Christian should seek the aid of others in calling the wayward to task. Finally, this step also failing, the disciple should go to the church.

If the wayward will not reform, the church should dismiss the wayward.

The reading reminds us of the teachings of the church regarding how to read the Gospels. We should remember that the Gospels were not written at the time of Jesus, but rather years later. By the time Matthew was written, the church had formed.

Being a follower of Jesus is serious matter. The church, representing Christ, has the right to judge a member’s behavior, even a member’s sincerity. Christ is in the assembly of disciples. The church is not simply a convenient, occasional gathering of people of like minds or good intentions.

Reflection

For weeks we have heard advice about being good disciples. We hear advice again this weekend about discipleship.

Ezekiel gives us a clear message. All humans are inclined to sin. Bad results follow when we forget God. Searching for excuses, we blame others or some unwelcomed coincidence, saying that we are helpless in the face of temptation or did not under-

stand the seriousness of our sin.

We are responsible for what we do. We are weak. We are myopic. We are afraid. Even so, if we ask, God will strengthen us.

God speaks and acts through the church, so, the church acts with God’s authority. It guides us and it warns us. Frank and straightforward, it reminds us that we must love God above all else.

READINGS

Sunday: Ez 33:7-9 Ps 95:1-2, 6-9 Rom 13:8-10 Mt 18:15-20

Monday: Col 1:24 — 23 Ps 62:6-7, 9 Lk 6:6-11

Tuesday: Col 2:6-15 Ps 145:1-2, 8-11 Lk 6:12-19

Wednesday: Col 3:1-11 Ps 145:2-3, 10-13 Lk 6:20-26

Thursday: Nm 21:4b-9 Ps 78:1b-2, 34-38 Phil 2:6-11 Jn 3:13-17

Friday: 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14 Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 11 Jn 19:25-27

Saturday: 1 Tm 1:15-17 Ps 113:1-7 Lk 6:43-49

The 'expendable children'

Couples who struggle to get pregnant are turning with greater frequency to the in vitro fertilization industry for assistance. In some cases, they can end up feeling they are "too pregnant" when twins, triplets or quads arise. This occurs from the practice of implanting more than one embryo at a time to improve pregnancy success rates.

A multiplet pregnancy can involve significant risk, both for the children in utero and for the mother. Because of these risks, the pregnant mother will sometimes be advised to opt for a "selective reduction," where potassium chloride is injected into one or two of the growing babies, to cause their hearts to seize, followed by death and the gradual re-absorption of their bodies during the remainder of the pregnancy. This can allow the one or more remaining brothers or sisters to grow more safely and avoid further complications during the pregnancy.

Given the incredible effort expended by the couple to become pregnant in the first place, these lethal practices often draw gasps of disbelief from others.

A *New York Times Magazine* article from 2011 chronicled the saga of a woman who selectively reduced her pregnancy from twins to a single. Even though she tried to not think too much about the two ultrasound shadows within her, she was forthright about her justification for doing it: "If I had conceived these twins naturally, I wouldn't have reduced this pregnancy, because you feel like if there's a natural order, then you don't want to disturb it. But we created this child in such an artificial manner — in a test tube, choosing an egg donor, having the embryo placed in me — and somehow, making a decision about how many to carry seemed to be just another choice. The pregnancy was all so consumerish to begin with, and this became yet another thing we could control."

Her devastatingly honest appraisal of IVF and the way it devalues the lives of children offers an important opportunity for reflection. When we take it upon ourselves to manufacture new human life in test tubes, it

indeed becomes another "thing we can control," an object for our own willful manipulation, another means to realize our own goals. This "command and control mentality" over procreation sets up a glide path for us to begin treating our own offspring like raw material, even tempting us to exercise an absolute, death-dealing dominion over them.

As they are produced in the laboratory and transferred to the womb, our children can become an abstraction, mere pawns to be played in the end game of seeking what we want.

This attitude of seeing our offspring as expendable is becoming more widely accepted not only among IVF customers, but also among biomedical researchers themselves. In August, a highly troubling report was published describing the first successful editing of DNA in human embryos. The experiments were carried out in the laboratory of Shoukhrat Mitalipov at the Oregon Health and Science University and involved the generation of many dozens of embryos by IVF. The experiments utilized a new and highly precise DNA-editing technology called CRISPR-Cas9 to fix a defective, disease-causing gene that some of the embryos carried. While research into understanding and eliminating serious diseases is certainly good and praiseworthy as a goal, the techniques we employ as we pursue good research goals need to be good as well. Doing evil that good may accrue, is, after all, still doing evil.

These research experiments performed on human embryos at OHSU were morally objectionable on a number of counts. If such genetically modified embryos had been allowed to grow up, there may well have been unintended effects from modifying their genes, unanticipated defects that they and future generations would bear. The problems and risks associated with this kind of "germ-line therapy" raise such serious concerns as to make it doubtful it should ever be attempted in humans. Even more distressing from the moral point of view is the fact that very young humans were treated not as ends, but as mere means to



FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

achieve particular investigative goals. They were created in laboratory glassware, experimented upon, their genes were tinkered with and they were killed and dispatched as research fodder into biohazard waste containers.

The purported darkness of medieval times was never as dark as the remarkable ethical blackness that is descending upon contemporary "enlightened" man as he exploits and destroys his own offspring.

Vigilance and care are required when dealing with vulnerable research subjects, and human embryos are among the most vulnerable of God's creatures, entrusted to us as our children — and therefore calling for stringent measures to ensure their protection and safeguard their human dignity.

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as the director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org

ERLANDSON

Continued from Page 12

"high Mass." Not what the advocates of liturgical changes 50 years ago would have predicted.

At first, I found all these opinions a bit off-putting. In 2017, do we really need to have the "My Mass is better than your Mass" argument?

But as I've grown accustomed to the different styles, I go back to a favorite meditation: God

loves diversity. He created this absurdly diverse world, from the microscopic to the planetary, and we — the summit of his creation, created in his image and likeness — are wildly diverse as well. So the idea of one parish having multiple liturgical styles might just be the plan.

The Nigerians helped me see this. For a people far from their homeland, what a blessing it must be to have the powerful familiarity of a liturgy drenched in their music, their language and their culture.

The real trick we still struggle

to master is how to have our opinions while appreciating our differences and seeing Christ in the other. The starting place, of course, is the Eucharist. With organ, guitar, drums or silence, it is our unity with the Lord that should be the pulse we quicken to.

Greg Erlandson, director and editor-in-chief of Catholic News Service, can be reached at gerlandson@catholicnews.com.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for September 10, 2017

Matthew 8:15-20

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A: a lesson on sins and forgiveness. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

SINS	AGAINST YOU	FAULT
ALONE	LISTENS	OR TWO
ALONG	WITNESSES	REFUSES
THE CHURCH	GENTILE	TAX COLLECTOR
I SAY TO YOU	WHATEVER	BIND
EARTH	BOUND	LOOSE
AGREE	FATHER	GATHERED

JUSTICE

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

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THOMAS

Continued from Page 12

you give gladly, even if it is only a small thing, it will seem like a fortune. If you give resentfully, even if it is substantial, it will seem like a pittance."

These words challenge me a lot, as I am smack in the middle of raising nine kids. Obviously, children living in the house have immediate and varied needs, and legitimate requests, that require a positive attitude and deftness in shifting from thought to thought and to decision-making. But grown-up kids also offer opportunity as a mom to grow in virtue. While four of my children are totally up and out of the nest, for example, that doesn't mean someone doesn't call and need a listening ear, or some information or advice at a moment's notice. With parents, it's not just scheduling, cleaning, housework and driving that are the biggest challenges. We can plan for those things. Mostly, it's the little interruptions that give us the most opportunity to do, as Mother Teresa suggested, "small things with great love" and a happy spirit.

Practice makes habits, and good habits are hard and a lot of work. But I think this habit of learning not just to do good, but do good with love, is worth the work and practice it takes. I often tell my children if they

can't respond to one another with kindness in conversations that come up in normal, active family life, which have multiple personalities, desires and senses of humor, that they should remove themselves from the room and pull themselves together. Maybe go to the bathroom, I say, and splash cold water on their faces, take a deep breath and emerge only when they've obtained perspective and patience. Actually, that's not a bad thing for us all to practice. We should all get used to serving one another willfully, spontaneously and joyfully.

The bottom line is this: In dealing with our spouses, children, neighbors, distant family, in-laws and friends, it is a good policy to remember that it's not just what we do, but how we do it.

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

WAGNER

Continued from Page 7

saw fit.”

Some of Wagner’s milestone awards include Most Improved Athlete in girls track at Bishop Luers High School, where she participated in both shot put and discus from her wheelchair – a trend-setting move for IHSAA sports back then. She completed a Dale Carnegie course, served as Ms. Wheelchair Indiana (1990-91), and at the Ms. Wheelchair America pageant she won the National Achievement Award when she was voted Woman Most Likely to Succeed despite her disability.

She cannot recollect ever feeling anger toward God because of her disability. Neither can her parents, she said: In fact, they remembered quite the opposite.

“They said I was often criticized by authority figures as being too happy with my life,” said Wagner, who is a public speaker and freelance writer for *Today’s Catholic*. “I always seemed to have hope amid adversity and I believe that to be the key to survival and happiness.”

Wagner does not walk her path alone. She has two assistance dogs – Scarlet, a golden retriever who is retired and Ellen, a black Labrador retriever who is



Barb Sieminski

Deb Wagner and Ellen share the love after a hard day grocery shopping.

almost 3 years old and accompanies Wagner nearly everywhere in her blue “Working Service Dog” vest. At Mass, Wagner sits in her wheelchair at the end of a row while Ellen lies quietly in the pew.

At the grocery, when Wagner pays for her items, she hands Ellen her coin purse from her wheelchair. Ellen will rise up to the counter to pay the clerk, with the purse in her mouth. Then she will drop down to the floor until she sees the change purse being held over the counter again by the clerk, with Wagner’s change

in it. She’ll rise up, gently take the purse in her mouth, drop back down and walk to Wagner, handing it to her. Ellen also responds to 30 other commands.

In her spare time, Wagner swims, reads, travels, creates crafts and wants to continue her five years of therapeutic riding lessons when she locates a barn closer to her home.

Finally, her secret to a joyful life, according to Wagner, is found in Philippians 4:13: “I can do all things through Christ, who gives me strength.”

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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.todayscatholic.org/event. 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.

Catholic divorced/separated support group to meet

FORT WAYNE — St. Charles Borromeo announces the return of the DVD series to 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.

What is Sacred Music?

ELKHART — On Wednesday, Sept. 20, following the 5:30 p.m. Mass at St. Vincent de Paul, 1108 S. Main St., parish organist Brad Todorovich will speak about the Catholic Church's objective criteria that makes music appropriate for the liturgy. This educational event is part of St. Vincent's new "Sacred Music Series."

St. Vincent de Paul 5K run/walk for Haiti

ELKHART — St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 1108 S. Main St., will host a 5K run/walk for Haiti Saturday, Sept. 23, from 9 a.m. to noon. Entry fee of \$25 includes race shirt while supplies last, music, food and beverages post race. Chip timing provided by T&H Timing. Register at <https://runsignup.com/Race/IN/Elkhart/StVincent5KRunWalkforHaiti>. All proceeds go directly to help the sister parish of St. Peter in Baint, Haiti.

St. John the Baptist plans parish festival

FORT WAYNE — St. John the Baptist Parish, 4500 Fairfield Ave., will have a festival Saturday, Sept. 23, from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Family time is through 4 p.m. and includes large inflatables, games for children, a silent auction, raffle

and a talent show. The picnic is from 4:30-6:30 p.m. and features Shigs In Pit BBQ catering. Live music featuring local band, Soul 35, performs from 8-11 p.m. Food and beer tents also available. If interested in performing in the talent show contact Anne Therese Stephens at atsihm@yahoo.com to register.

Bishop Luers Class of 1967 plans 50th reunion

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Luers High School, 333 E. Paulding Rd., will offer a class of 1967 reunion Saturday, Sept. 30, with Mass at 5 p.m. in the new chapel, 6 p.m. tour of the school, social hour and heavy hors d'oeuvres that also includes wine, beer and a cash bar in the new media center. Tickets are \$50 per person. For additional information please contact Ann Heiny at 260-341-7719. If interested in golfing on Saturday at Coyote Creek, email geraldhoff@hotmail.com.

Parish mission concert starring Daniel Oberreuter

ARCOLA — Daniel Oberreuter, lead singer of the Catholic rock band The Thirsting, will offer a parish mission concert at St. Patrick Church, 12305 Arcola Rd., on Sunday, Sept. 24, at 7 p.m. Oberreuter will share his

personal testimony and a powerful message of the rosary, the Eucharist and the Catholic church through his music. Visit his website www.comehold-myson.com. Tickets are being sold to all parishes. Tickets are \$10 per person. Contact Kam Schaefer at 260-625-3930 or Nancy Beyhan at 260-625-5199 for tickets or more information.

Marian High School alumni tailgate/homecoming

MISHAWAKA — Join other alumni on Friday, Sept. 29, from 5:30-7 p.m. for an evening of fun, food, football and fellowship on the patio inside the stadium gates, 1311 South Logan St. Admission to the game through the north ticket booth is also required. The cost is \$5 for adults and teens; children in eighth grade and under are free. All ICCL sport teams from our feeder schools are welcome. Come cheer the Knights to victory as they take on the New Prairie Cougars at 7 p.m. RSVP by Sept. 27 to rsvp@marianhs.org or call the development office at 574-258-7676.

New Mass time at St. Matthew Cathedral

SOUTH BEND — Starting Sunday, Sept. 10, a 4:30 p.m. Mass on Sunday evenings will be offered at the cathedral.

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<p>Elkhart Joanne Boling, 87, St. Thomas the Apostle</p> <p>Fort Wayne Leo Stroncsek, 83, St. John the Baptist</p> <p>Daniel E. Boyle, 84, St. Joseph Hessen Cassel</p> <p>Tara L. Waltke, 80, St. Therese</p> <p>Diane F. Ward, 64, St. Vincent de Paul</p> <p>Arlene H. Mack, 94, St. Joseph Hessen Cassel</p> <p>Robert A. Minick, 77, St. Peter</p> <p>Eufemia Garay, 68, St. Vincent de Paul</p> <p>Sara J. Moeller, 54, St. Jude</p> <p>Diane Raypole, 63, Our Lady of Good Hope</p>	<p>Granger Richard Dornbos, 87, St. Pius X</p> <p>Mishawaka Nancy Jean Henthorn, 73, St. Monica</p> <p>Kassandra Thornton, 23, Queen of Peace</p> <p>Notre Dame Rosemary M. Foley, 89, Basilica/Sacred Heart</p> <p>Rev. Donald P. McNeill, CSC, 81, Basilica of the Sacred Heart</p> <p>Sister M. Jean Barbara, CSC, 78, Church of Our Lady of Loretto</p> <p>Richard S. Brosk, 94, Our Lady of Holy Cross Chapel</p> <p>South Bend Rosemary Huber-Sergeant, 98, Holy Family</p>	<p>Antoinette R. Harding, 78, St. Matthew Cathedral</p> <p>Jane N. Woltman, 91, St. Hedwig</p> <p>Ervin J. Schoen, 86, Holy Cross</p> <p>Alton J. Backs, M.D., 91, Holy Cross</p> <p>Richard M. Ballin, Jr., 57, Our Lady of Hungary</p> <p>Geraldine E. Coughlin, 89, Christ the King</p> <p>Karen A. Saverine, 74, St. Therese, Little Flower</p> <p>Syracuse Shirley Haggenjos, 82, St. Martin de Porres</p> <p>Wabash LeRoy G. Fierstos, Jr. 74, St. Bernard</p>
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Beyond being a veteran: How one man's continued service has transformed lives

BY MOLLY GETTINGER

Matted grass and dirt: This was Julius' home. His companions? The bugs that crawled beside him. His possessions? A scooter used to get around and whatever clothes he managed to hang on to. With no protection from the elements, battling addiction, this was Julius' life.

Previously enlisted in the military, putting his life at risk to fight for our country, Julius now found his life in a different sort of peril: unable to find the support he needed to cope with his challenges. Julius had spent some time in the homeless shelter, but he was kicked out after falling in the shower. He was considered too much of a liability to be helped, and he was left to remain on the streets.

That is, until Gunny showed up.

When Gunny learned Julius was living behind Lakeside Golf Club and Bowling Center in Fort Wayne, he immediately picked him up, scooter and all, and took him to Shepherd's House, a long-term, residential/transitional housing center for alcohol and chemically addicted men. Julius became a resident of Shepherd's House, where he remained for a year, leaving with his life completely transformed.

Julius is just one of the lives Gunny has impacted.

You see, Gunny — Jim Zuber is his real name, although hardly anybody calls him that — is a combat veteran himself, joining the Marines in October 1966. Gunny served in Vietnam from 1967-1968. He was stationed on a hill about 15 miles southwest



Molly Gettinger

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades thanks Jim "Gunny" Zuber in a meeting on Aug. 30.

of Da Nang Air Base, and it was their mission to protect the base. It was en route to a village near there that Zuber was injured in an attack on his platoon. He was awarded the Purple Heart.

Upon returning home, Gunny worked for The Kroger Co. for nearly 35 years, retiring in 2006.

Sitting still, however, is not exactly Gunny's style. Gunny connected with his childhood friend, Lonnie Cox, who also served in Vietnam. Lonnie and his wife, Barb, are the founders of Shepherd's House. Gunny decided to start volunteering there a few hours a week.

Gunny's part-time volunteer job quickly became a more than

full-time volunteer position, and he served Shepherd's House for 12 years.

Gunny shared, "The reality of being a veteran kind of enters in to my life. I want to help. I've been through the mill, and I can relate."

Gunny is "is not really a big talker." Barb, on the other hand, had plenty of stories to share of all the ways Gunny had changed people's lives.

She shared that, once in a while, a resident of Shepherd's House isn't open to participating in the requirements of residency, and they have to make the hard decision to ask someone to leave. Such was the case with Evan,

who had been taking drugs and was refusing to stop. Barb shared, "Gunny called me into the back room and said, 'Barb, we should give him one more shot. I believe God wants us to give him one more shot.' So, we did." That "one more shot" changed Evan's life: Eight years later, Evan is alive and well, excelling now with his own business in Indianapolis.

There are numerous stories like this. With a rock-solid faith in the power of God to transform lives (and with holy water at the ready in his office) Gunny was a strong believer in every man who walked through the Shepherd's House doors.

Gunny would never expect any sort of recognition for his 12 years of 60+ hours-a-week service to Shepherd's House. He's just not that kind of guy.

His friends and fellow Shepherd's House staff, on the other hand, are all too grateful for the impact Gunny has made, and they were not about to let that go unnoticed. And neither was Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.

That's why, on Wednesday, Aug. 30, Gunny found himself, surrounded by his wife, Jane, and other Shepherd's House staff, meeting with Bishop Rhoades, who wanted to personally thank Gunny both for his service as a Marine in Vietnam and for his service to other veterans at Shepherd's House.

Gunny said, "This is a great honor. Something I've never done before. I've met bishops, but never one-on-one. And I was born Catholic, and I've been married 49 years."

And as for his nickname? "Well," Lonnie explained, "Jim is very well-respected by the guys. In the Marine Corps, one of the strongest guys is the gunnery sergeant. He has to be one of the toughest, but he's also there when you need him. So the guys decided to call Jim 'Gunny.'"

So, what will Gunny be doing in his retirement? Well, his passion for helping men rebuild their lives hasn't left, so he's actually staying on the board at the Shepherd's House. Although, in his free time, he is looking forward to relaxing and enjoying his pontoon boat on the lake. You deserved it, Gunny. Thank you for your service.

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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