



TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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Provided by the Congregation of Holy Cross

The Congregation of Holy Cross, Notre Dame, saw three men profess their final vows on Friday, Sept. 15, and be ordained to the Sacred Order of the Diaconate on Saturday, Sept. 16. Above, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrates the ordination Mass with, from left, Deacon Timothy Weed, CSC, Deacon Brendan McAleer, CSC, and Deacon Christopher Brennan, CSC.

New multifaith group hopes to resolve social justice issues in region

BY MARIAM SCHMITZ

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has partnered with a newly formed ecumenical faith-based group that hopes to identify and resolve social justice issues in the region. Those issues include immigration inclusion, economic dignity and ending mass criminalization.

The Northeast Indiana Congregation Action Network shared its vision by hosting a Clergy Summit on Sept. 11 at Fort Wayne's Cathedral Center Hall. About 60 people from a variety of faith traditions and not-for-profit organizations traveled from around the state to hear more about NE-ICAN's mission and to share their experiences.

A similar organization has

been successful in Indianapolis, and representatives are now serving as mentors for NE-ICAN. The Indianapolis Congregation Action Network's recent successes include advocating for a 2013 state immigration reform bill that eventually led to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, as well as improving the city's mass transit system to better serve those without vehicles and redirecting money marked for Marion County Jail expansion into programs that address the root causes of incarceration and crime.

IndyCAN Executive Director Shoshanna Spector noted these victories are the fruits of a united grassroots effort that is now just beginning in Northeast Indiana: "It's not going to happen in city hall. It's not going to happen

in the statehouse. It's going to happen when ordinary people in coffee shops and church basements talk to each other about the things that matter most and then decide what the vision is for the state."

The Clergy Summit included a series of speakers and time for small group discussion. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades addressed the crowd and noted the potential power of this multifaith venture. "We are united in our conviction that every man and woman has dignity as created in God's image and likeness. Every person, whether in jail, an undocumented immigrant, an unemployed person, disabled mentally or physically, every person has an incomparable and inalienable dignity from God Himself," he said. "Structures in society which

erode or reject this dignity need to be changed. Our community organizing is meant to uphold this dignity when it is threatened."

Rev. Clarence Moore, an IndyCAN board member, noted that this venture is also similar to the Federal Emergency Management Agency bringing help to flood victims in the South. "We're on the brink of creating a faith FEMA that can respond to the floodwaters of injustice."

Huberto Vazquez, from Fort Wayne's St. Patrick Parish, shared his experiences as an immigrant. He began his talk by saying, "I'm going to speak in the name of my brother and sister immigrants: their experiences, their pains, their sufferings, but above all, their fears of the future in this

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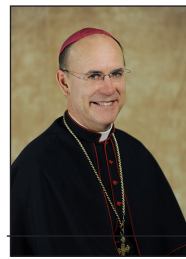
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Love Your Neighbor: Share the Journey



IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

Pope Francis will be launching a global campaign in support of immigrants and refugees on September 27th. The Holy Father is inviting all of us to show our love and concern for the over 65 million men, women, and children in the world who have had to leave their homes to flee from war, persecution, and poverty. This two-year campaign is called "Share the Journey." I encourage all our parishes and schools to join in this campaign sponsored by Caritas Internationalis (the Catholic Church's global charitable network) and supported in the United States by the USCCB Migration and Refugee Services, Catholic Relief Services, and Catholic Charities USA. Information and materials about the campaign can be found on the websites www.sharejourney.org and www.loveyourneighbor.us.

The first thing we can all do in loving support of our brothers and sisters who are migrants and refugees is pray for them. This is the first request the refugees I have met here and overseas often make. So many are believers who trust in the Lord and His providence. Of course, action is also needed. Here in our diocese, through our Catholic Charities, we have resettled many refugees from Burma and other countries. Your support of Catholic Charities helps us to "welcome the stranger," as Jesus Himself calls us to do.

As a member of the Board of Directors of Catholic Relief Services, I have learned a great deal about the CRS programs for refugees in various places throughout the world. Right now, CRS is providing food aid to over 500,000 refugees in South Sudan and helping to restore jobs, provide clean water, and promote conflict resolution there. Nearly a million South Sudanese now live in Uganda where CRS and its partners provide shelter support, construct water systems, and distribute hygiene supplies and tools.

Another example of the work of Catholic Relief Services on behalf of refugees is helping those displaced by the crises in Syria and Iraq. Working with Caritas and other local partners, CRS has helped more than 1.4 million Syrians across the Middle East and Europe. Besides food and shelter, CRS has been involved in providing children's education, medical assistance, and legal help. In Iraq, CRS has been working closely with Caritas Iraq to support 250,000 people uprooted and devastated by the conflict. Many of those displaced in Iraq are our Christian brothers and sisters. Having helped those who had to flee their homes and villages, CRS is also now providing assistance to those who are returning, seeking to rebuild their lives. CRS and Caritas are helping them upgrade their war-damaged homes and rebuild their communities.

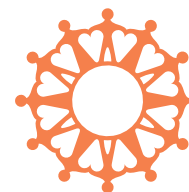
These are just a few examples of the work of CRS in assisting refugees in a few areas of the world. With over 65 million displaced



Join Pope Francis and Caritas to come together
with migrants and refugees around the world
on 27th September 2017.

"The future is made of you, it is made of encounters"

POPE FRANCIS



Share the
Journey
#sharejourney

journey.caritas.org

people in the world, the need is great. Clearly, the root causes of this displacement need to be addressed: war and conflict; persecution; and poverty. Natural disasters are also a cause of displacement.

Pope Francis is calling us to build a greater culture of support for migrants and refugees around the world. He has brought attention to this crisis in his own outreach to migrants and refugees, including his visits to refugee camps. I have met refugee families from Central America who have come here not only to escape extreme poverty, but to escape gang violence, particularly to protect their children from the pressure of gangs. In some cases, people have received death threats if they do not participate in drug trafficking.

I hope that the Share the Journey campaign will be an opportunity to study and grow in knowledge of Catholic teaching on migration. First and foremost, the Church upholds respect for the life and dignity of every migrant and refugee as its core principle. While the Church recognizes the right of every sovereign nation to control its bor-

ders in order to promote the common good, it also recognizes the right of people to migrate in order to survive and to live in dignity and safety. Refugees should not be left to languish in camps or left homeless. The Church also recognizes the right of people not to migrate, the right to live in dignity in their own countries. Unfortunately, this latter right is trampled upon when there is war, persecution, or extreme poverty. Those who flee these situations should be protected by the global community.

I pray that we will have the compassion to walk in solidarity with our immigrant and refugee brothers and sisters through our prayers, our advocacy, and our charitable help through Catholic Charities and Catholic Relief Services. May the Share the Journey campaign create a greater culture of support for migrants and refugees in communities around the world!

Find out more at
www.sharejourney.org
www.loveyourneighbor.us

Judicial group launches digital ads opposing 'religious litmus test'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Washington-based Judicial Crisis Network Sept. 15 launched a 10-day digital ad campaign objecting to a U.S. Democratic senator grilling a Catholic judicial nominee Sept. 6 about what impact her faith would have on her interpretation of the law.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-California, spurred outrage about possible religious tests for judicial appointees with the questions she put to Amy Coney Barrett, nominee for a seat on the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

The Judicial Crisis Network, a group that describes itself as dedicated to strengthening liberty and justice in America, called Feinstein's grilling of the nominee "disgusting and repulsive." The ad, under the headline "Catholics Need Not Apply," is appearing on YouTube and Twitter and also can be viewed at <https://judicialnetwork.com/multimedia>.

"This is going to be known as 'Feinstein's Folly.' Her line of questioning reeked of 'No Catholics Need Apply,' while ignoring Professor Barrett's stellar qualifications, experience and fierce commitment to defending the Constitution," said Carrie Severino, the network's chief counsel and policy director.

"Feinstein was fundamentally at odds with our constitutional commitment to religious freedom, not to mention politically tone-deaf," she said in a statement. "More than one out of every five Americans is Catholic, and that includes a growing Latino population. A nominee's faith should have nothing to do

with his or her qualifications to be a federal judge. Period."

Reaction from Catholic leaders to the Senate hearing for Barrett was swift, with a leading archbishop calling the Senate hearing "deeply disappointing."

In the hearing, Feinstein not only referred to Barrett's speeches in the committee hearing, but also to a 1998 article by Barrett, a law professor at the University of Notre Dame, about the role of Catholic judges in death penalty cases.

Feinstein did not question Barrett about capital punishment cases, but rather the upholding of *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 Supreme Court ruling that made abortion legal.

"When you read your speeches, the conclusion one draws is that the dogma lives loudly within you. And — that's of concern when you come to big issues that large numbers of people have fought for for years in this country."

Barrett addressed this issue early in the hearing, answering a question from Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, by saying: "It is never appropriate for a judge to apply their personal convictions, whether it derives from faith or personal conviction."

Richard Garnett, also a University of Notre Dame law professor, said Feinstein's line of questioning seemed to say "because you're a Catholic, you can't be believed."

Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Ad Hoc Committee on Religious Liberty, said the hearing was "deeply disappointing" since

a number of senators failed to "simply consider the professional achievements of a nominee for the federal judiciary" and instead "challenged her fitness to serve due to her Catholic faith."

In a broadcast on SiriusXM's "The Catholic Channel," New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan decried that "this wonderful woman (Barrett) with impeccable legal credentials who has been nominated by the president of the United States for (a) federal judgeship, was submitted to insulting remarks about her faith."

In a transcript of his remarks released Sept. 13, the cardinal quoted Feinstein as saying, "You seem to live dogma. Dogma is in your life, so therefore you shouldn't be a judge."

He also quoted Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Illinois, telling Barrett: "I understand you are an Orthodox Catholic." That remark, Cardinal Dolan said, "is kind of redundant when you think about it. You'd like to think every Catholic is orthodox. Like that should disqualify her from office. This is nasty. This is bigoted. And this is, I would maintain, unconstitutional."

He added: "What if there was a Jewish candidate for the bench, which there are. ... There are great ones. And a judge said, 'Would you allow your Jewish belief to guide you if there were a question about the state of Israel that would come before your court?' There would be an outrage, and I would be part of the outrage, leading it to defend the rights of the Jewish community."

Davis also said NE-ICAN will remain nonpartisan but still involved in political life. "The church has a responsibility to shape and guide the moral compass of our society, and we do that through engaging in political and public life."

Theresa Driscoll is a parishioner at Fort Wayne's St. Joseph Parish and a member of NE-ICAN's steering committee. She said, "We're about changing the culture, changing the way people look at things, changing the narrative." Reflecting upon the Clergy Summit, Father Tom Shoemaker, pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Fort Wayne and a fellow steering committee member, said: "It's been a great opportunity to get together with people of other faith traditions and backgrounds to talk about issues we need to see through the eyes of faith."

NE-ICAN has events planned for the rest of the year and into next year as it continues to grow, listen, lead and stand in solidarity with those affected by societal structures that wound human dignity.



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Sunday, September 24: 11 a.m. — Mass at Cursillo Weekend, St. Felix Catholic Center, Huntington
 Monday, September 25: 6 p.m. — Meeting of Diocesan Review Board, Holiday Inn Express, Warsaw
 Tuesday, September 26: 6 p.m. — Mass for Christ Child Society, St. John the Baptist Church, New Haven
 Thursday, September 28: 10 a.m. — Tour of Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne, with St. Matthew School 7th Graders
 Friday, September 29: 7 p.m. — Bishop Dwenger vs. Bishop Luers Football Game, Zollner Field, Fort Wayne
 Saturday, September 30: 11:30 a.m. — Mass for Diocesan Encuentro, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Warsaw
 Saturday, September 30: 5:30 p.m. — Charity Fest for St. Vincent de Paul Society, University of Saint Francis Performing Arts Center, Fort Wayne

Announcement regarding a special collection for Hurricane Irma victims

This past week, Hurricane Irma devastated significant parts of the Southeastern United States and many islands in the Caribbean. While emergency outreach was immediate, the road to recovery and the rebuilding of communities will be long, and additional support will be needed.

The dioceses of the United States will be taking up an emergency collection for those impacted by Hurricane Irma. In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, that collection will be taken the weekend of September 23-24 or September 30-October 1. These funds will be used to support humanitarian aid, assistance with long-term efforts to restore communities, and for the pastoral and reconstruction needs of the Church in the affected areas.

This collection comes on the heels of the emergency collection for Hurricane Harvey. It is unusual for us to have special collections so close to each other; however, the damages have been so great that many need our help. The Lord calls us to reach out to our suffering brothers and sisters with our prayers and our material help.

I am grateful for your understanding and support.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
 The Most Rev. Kevin C. Rhoades,
 Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend

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country." He then discussed three specific incidents involving immigrants in Indiana, two of which led to the separation of families.

The Clergy Summit concluded with a moment of commitment in which Cannon Terri Bays of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Indiana asked everyone to consider formally joining the effort — and if feeling called to join, to come forward to light a votive candle from a larger candle and bring it back to their tables as a symbol of bringing light into darkness.

The next steps for NE-ICAN include training more leaders to help guide the effort, and creating multifaith clergy caucuses in St. Joseph, Allen and Elkhart counties. Then, reaching out to community members to see what social justice issues concern them, via listening sessions, will likely take place.

Audrey Davis, Social Justice Ministries coordinator for the diocese, noted that through these listening sessions, NE-ICAN



Father Tom Shoemaker and Sister Jacinta Krecek, OSF, participate in a demonstration of their willingness to help identify and solve social justice issues in northeast Indiana.

hopes to "create moments of encounter which then creates this radical sense of commonality and community so people can say 'let's go stand with each other and let's act prophetically together in the public sphere.'"

FATIMA
 100th Anniversary

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will celebrate the **Closing Mass of Our Lady of Fatima Centennial Year** at St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend Friday, Oct. 13., at 6 p.m. All are welcome.

Bannon remarks revive anti-Catholic, anti-immigrant views

BY ROBERT P. LOCKWOOD

FORT WAYNE (CNS) — When former White House strategist Steve Bannon criticized the Catholic Church and the U.S. bishops for their views on immigration, he resurrected widespread 19th-century anti-Catholic nativist charges against the church and immigrants to the United States.

In an interview Sept. 10 on the CBS-TV program "60 Minutes," Bannon said that the bishops of the United States had "an economic interest in illegal immigration" as "they need illegal aliens to fill the pews."

Bannon, a Catholic, was responding to the bishops' defense of young people, called "Dreamers," and support for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, known as DACA, that protected them from arbitrary deportation.

DACA is currently under legislative review and the bishops' concern is that it will be abandoned.

Bannon's complaint of a political and economic ulterior motive for the U.S. Catholic Church's traditional support of immigrants is one the most persistent anti-Catholic legends of American politics.

The charge has been that Catholic immigrants represent an unthinking electorate that will vote in lockstep according to the dictates of the pope and the hierarchy. The pope and the U.S. bishops will control this massive Catholic electorate and will wield their power to undermine



CNS photo/Jim Lo Scalzo, EPA

Former White House strategist Steve Bannon is pictured in a late January photo. In an interview Sept. 10 on the CBS-TV program "60 Minutes," Bannon claimed the U.S. bishops have had "an economic interest in illegal immigration" as "they need illegal aliens to fill the pews."

American democracy for their own benefit.

That argument was made a hundred times over in American history. Thomas Jefferson and John Adams waged political warfare over the Naturalization Act of 1798 aimed at limiting newly arrived European "aliens" from voting.

Rising on a tide of anti-immigrant fears, Lyman Beecher, father of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" author Harriet Beecher Stowe,

published "The Plea for the West" in 1836. He argued that Catholic immigration was a papal conspiracy to take over the Mississippi Valley.

The inventor of the wireless, Samuel F. B. Morse, claimed in 1835 that European Catholic royalty were flooding America with immigrants who would soon coalesce as an army under the pope's direction.

The pre-Civil War, anti-Catholic nativist movement reached

a crescendo with the Know-Nothing party that was built on the fear of a Catholic takeover of America through domination of the ballot box.

A centerpiece of the Know-Nothing movement was the call to deny Irish immigrant Catholics access to the ballot box by requiring a minimum of 25 years residency before citizenship was granted. Other Know-Nothing proposals included anti-papal test acts before taking political office. Catholics would be specifically required to reject foreign — papal — influence.

After the Civil War, the nativist fear was that Catholic immigrant voters egged on by their bishops would force state subsidies for parochial schools to undermine the public school system.

In the midst of passing convent inspection laws and other anti-Catholic, anti-immigrant nuisance legislation, numerous states would enact so-called Blaine amendments to their state constitutions to prevent state subsidies to Catholic schools no matter how "powerful" the Catholic immigrant voting bloc became. Such 19th-century Blaine amendments remain in place today in 37 state constitutions.

The American Protective Association — while conjuring up fears of an armed Catholic uprising — argued in the late 19th century through the early 20th century for restrictions on

Catholic immigration and for the closing of Catholic schools as un-American entities brainwashing the young.

The "goo-goo" movement of political reform in the late 19th century and early 20th century, aimed at breaking the power of urban political machines, was often a thinly disguised attack on the power of the Catholic immigrant city voters allegedly controlled by local priests and bishops.

Bannon's critique of the Catholic Church and its support of immigrants is nothing new in the American experience. Yet at no point has it ever been shown that the church has economically benefited from its position on immigration or used its position politically.

In fact, the U.S. bishops have made a point of not interfering in any way in the voting process. When the Trump administration announced earlier this year that it would move to lift restrictions on the political involvement of churches, the bishops were quick to point out that the Catholic Church in the United States has never been involved in such activities and would continue such a policy in the future no matter the legal status.

Robert Lockwood is a columnist for *Our Sunday Visitor*, a national Catholic newsweekly based in Huntington, Indiana. He is the former president of OSV.

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Salesian priest recounts harrowing tale of his capture, liberation

BY JUNNO AROCHO ESTEVES

ROME (CNS) — Salesian Father Tom Uzhunnalil was sitting in a room in an unknown location — one of several he had been relocated to during his 18-month imprisonment — when he received some unexpected news.

“Those who kept me came to where I slept (and said), ‘I bring you good news. We are sending you home. If you need to go to the bathroom, go. Take a shower, but quickly!’” Father Uzhunnalil told reporters Sept. 16 at the Salesian headquarters in Rome.

The Salesian priest from India was kidnapped March 4, 2016, from a home for the aged and disabled run by the Missionaries of Charity in Aden, Yemen. On that day, four Missionaries of Charity and 12 others were murdered in the attack by uniformed gunmen.

Seeing a group of Missionaries of Charity sisters seated at the news conference in Rome, Father Uzhunnalil expressed his condolences. However, the memory of the four sisters' martyrdom still proved too difficult to bear.

Silence filled the room as the Salesian priest covered his eyes, tears streaming down his face while doing his utmost to hold back emotions that he thought he could contain.

“I thank God Almighty for this day, for keeping me safe, healthy, clear minded; my emotions were in control until now,” he said after regaining his composure.

“I don't want to speak too much about the sisters because I get too emotional,” he said.

Although reports following his kidnapping suggested the attack was carried out by the so-called Islamic State, Father Uzhunnalil said his captors never identified themselves.

Knowing very little Arabic, Father Uzhunnalil said he spoke to the militants with the few words he knew: “Ana hindiin” (“I am Indian”). To this day, the Indian priest still wonders why he was the only one spared in the slaughter.

“Why they did not kill me, why they didn't tie my hands, I don't know,” he said. “Perhaps they wanted some ransom or whatever it is. I only believe that maybe God had put that into their heads when I said, ‘I am Indian,’ and they made me sit there while they killed the others, the sisters.”

After leaving him in the trunk of the car, the militants ransacked the chapel, taking the tabernacle, wrapping it with the altar linen and placing it near the kidnapped priest. With his hands unbound, Father Uzhunnalil carefully moved the



CNS/EPA

Salesian Father Tom Uzhunnalil, who was kidnapped in Yemen, disembarks a plane after he was freed and arrived in Muscat, Oman, Sept. 12. Father Uzhunnalil was abducted during an attack on a charity care home in March 2016 and imprisoned for 18 months.

linen and found “four or five small hosts,” which he kept to celebrate the Eucharist the first few days of his capture.

After his short supply ran out, he said, he continued reciting the Mass prayers when alone despite not having bread and wine.

“I peacefully was able to say my Eucharist all from memory, although bread and wine wasn't available. But I prayed to God to give me those items spiritually,” Father Uzhunnalil said.

He spent most of his days praying for the pope, his bishop, his Salesian brothers, and “certainly those sisters, all those persons whom God had called” on the day of his abduction.

Father Uzhunnalil said he found consolation in the words of a hymn, “One day at a time, sweet Jesus.”

“Just give me the strength to do every day what I have to do. Yesterday's gone, sweet Jesus, and tomorrow may never be mine. Lord, help me today, show me the way, one day at a time,” he would sing to himself in the solitude of his room.

On Sept. 11, Father Uzhunnalil was given the news of his liberation. After traveling for hours blindfolded, the priest, along with two of his captors, waited in the car.

Several hours later, his captors told him “some arrangements weren't done” and they headed back.

Not understanding the church's teaching on the Holy Trinity and the “unity of God in three persons,” Father Uzhunnalil recalled, one of his captors said, “You might have prayed to the third God, now you must pray to the second God so tomorrow can go well.”

Returning to his cell, he slept briefly but was rustled out of bed in the middle of the night Sept. 12 and taken on the same

long ride, his head once again covered. He was then moved to another vehicle where a person pulled up his picture on a cell phone and asked the priest, “Is this you?”

After confirming his identity, the driver drove for more than a day through the desert and told him: “Now you are free, now you are safe.”

Father Uzhunnalil was then taken to the Omani capital of Muscat, where he received medical treatment, fresh clothes and a shaving kit.

While he knows few details about arrangements for his release, Father Uzhunnalil expressed his gratitude to those who helped secure his liberation, including Sultan Qaboos bin Said al Said of Oman, the government authorities of India and the Vatican, including Pope Francis, whom he met the day after his release.

As Pope Francis entered the room Sept. 13, the Salesian knelt before him and kissed his feet. Visibly moved by the gesture, the pope helped him up and kissed his hands.

Before blessing Father Uzhunnalil, the pope embraced him and said he would continue to pray for him as he had done during his imprisonment.

“In that meeting, the pope kissed my hand. I never deserved it,” he said. “I'm only grateful to God for his blessings, I'm sure he prayed much for me.”

Even his captors, Father Uzhunnalil said, knew of the pope's efforts and inadvertently gave him a reason to hope.

“One of the captors told me, ‘The pope has said you will be freed soon, but nothing is happening still.’ From that, I knew that the whole world was there, the whole church was there, the world was worried for me. So, I am grateful,” he said.



DIOCESE OF
FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND

RED MASS

SOUTH BEND

Monday, October 2nd

5:15 PM

Basilica of the Sacred Heart
University of Notre Dame

FORT WAYNE

Tuesday, October 3rd

5:30 PM

Cathedral of the
Immaculate Conception

The tradition of the Red Mass dates back hundreds of years to Europe, and is a way to offer prayers for those working in legal professions, in particular for God to grant them the grace to serve society with integrity.

All are welcome!

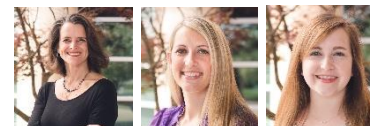


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Trump begins talks with Democrats about congressional help for DACA

WASHINGTON (CNS) — After campaigning on a promise that he'd get rid of a program that helps a group of young migrants without documents remain in the country, President Donald Trump is working with Democrats to find a way to help the young migrants stay. Late Sept. 13, the two top Democrats in Congress, Rep. Nancy Pelosi of California, the minority leader in the House of Representatives, and Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York, the minority leader in the Senate, said they met with the president to hash out a deal to help the approximately 800,000 youth who have benefited from the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA. On Sept. 5, U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced that the program, which began under then-President Barack Obama in 2012, would end under the Trump administration. DACA provides a work permit and temporary reprieve from deportation for youth brought to the U.S. as children without legal permission, if they meet certain criteria. Sessions said the program was "unilateral executive amnesty," and said its beneficiaries had taken away jobs from "hundreds of thousands of Americans." The Department of Homeland Security, which administers the program, said on its website immediately after the announcement that current recipients can continue working until their permits, which last two years, expire. Those with DACA work permits that expire between Sept. 5 and March 5, 2018, are eligible to renew them, the website says, but they won't be able to renew after that two-year extension.

London cardinal calls Tube incident 'another cowardly attack'

LONDON (CNS) — Cardinal Vincent Nichols of Westminster described the attempted bombing of a rush hour Tube train in London as "yet another cowardly attack" and said he was praying for the 22 people being treated for burns and other injuries. The device detonated Sept. 15 on a London Underground train but failed to explode as intended. It nevertheless shot a "wall of fire" through carriages, injuring passengers, including a 10-year-old boy. No one was killed. Cardinal Nichols later issued a statement to express his horror at the fifth terrorist attack in the U.K. this year. "I am dismayed at yet another cowardly attack on innocent people, including young children, as they were commuting to work and school this morning," said Cardinal Nichols, president of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.

NEWS BRIEFS

Refugees struggle for basic needs



CNS photo/Danish Siddiqui, Reuters

Refugees from Myanmar jostle to receive food distributed by local organizations in Teknaf, Bangladesh, after crossing the Bangladesh-Myanmar border Sept. 7. Bangladesh is bracing for a massive humanitarian crisis because of a lack of food, sanitation, medicines and even basic housing following the exodus of as many as 350,000 Rohingya Muslims who are fleeing violence in which at least 1,000 were killed in just two weeks.

Vatican diplomat recalled from U.S. during child-porn investigation

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A member of the Vatican diplomatic corps serving in Washington has been recalled to the Vatican where he is involved in a criminal investigation involving child pornography, the Vatican said. The Vatican press office said Sept. 15 that it was notified Aug. 21 by the U.S. State Department "of a possible violation of laws relating to child pornography images by a member of the diplomatic corps of the Holy See accredited to Washington. The Holy See, following the practice of sovereign states, recalled the priest in question, who is currently in Vatican City," the press office said. The Associated Press reported that the State Department confirmed it had asked the Vatican to lift the official's diplomatic immunity. It said that request was denied. The 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, signed by most nations of the world, including the United States and the Holy See, stipulates that diplomatic personnel "shall not be liable to any form of arrest or detention" in the host country. The host country may, however, ask the sending country to waive immunity or the sending country, in this case, the Vatican, may choose to recall the diplomat and

proceed with a criminal investigation and possible prosecution of its own. The president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops called the allegations against the Vatican diplomat "a serious issue" and referred to the bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. "We hope the Holy See will be forthcoming with more details," said Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, conference president. "While we don't know all the facts, consistent with our charter, we reaffirm that when such allegations occur, an immediate, thorough, and transparent investigation should begin in cooperation with law enforcement, and immediate steps be taken to protect children. The protection of children and young people is our most sacred responsibility."

Mary was a 'courageous woman' up to the end, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Mary was a courageous woman who stood by Jesus even when the crowds turned against him and even though she knew he would face a tragic death, Pope Francis said. "At the very end, she is there, standing, looking at her son" on the cross. "Maybe she heard comments: 'Look, there is the mother of one of the three delinquents.' But she remains. Silent. She is the mother, she does not deny her

son," the pope said Sept. 15 in his homily during a morning Mass in the chapel of the Domus Sanctae Marthae. Commemorating the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, the pope reflected on the day's Gospel reading from St. John which recounted Jesus' final moments on the cross. Mary, the pope said, had heard Simeon's prophecy that a sword would pierce her heart and knew that her son would one day give his life for humanity. Yet she followed Jesus the whole time, which is why "we say that Mary is the first disciple," the pope said.

Central American migrants pitch in with Mexican earthquake recovery

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — Central American migrants traveling through Mexico routinely stay at a Catholic-run shelter in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. But guests at the Brothers of the Road Shelter have been pitching in with relief efforts ever since a magnitude 8.1 earthquake struck the region Sept. 7. "As defenders of human rights, we ask people to understand and help our migrants," Crosier Brother Jose Filiberto Velasquez Florencio, the shelter coordinator, said in article published the Archdiocese of Mexico City publication *Desde la Fe*. "Now they are returning this support to the Mexican people, those of the isthmus, all

the people that need their help." The earthquake struck just before midnight Sept. 7 with an epicenter of the coast of Chiapas state. It caused buildings to sway in faraway Mexico City, but did not do major damage there. It did, however, destroy homes and building across the southern states of Oaxaca and Chiapas and claimed the lives of 96 people. Caritas chapters organized collections across Mexico to help with the homeless in the country's southern states.

Philippine priest, kidnapped in May, freed

MANILA, Philippines (CNS) — A senior Philippine priest taken hostage by Islamic State-inspired militants in the southern city of Marawi has been freed after almost four months of captivity. Father Teresito Soganub, vicar general of the Prelature of Marawi, told a news conference in Manila that he was doing as well as could be expected following his ordeal, reported ucanews.com. "I am physically strong and sound," Father Soganub said at Camp Aguinaldo, the national military headquarters. He asked Filipinos to pray for other remaining hostages before military doctors whisked him off for a medical checkup. A local Maute terror group linked to Islamic State captured Father Soganub and other church workers at Marawi cathedral May 23, the first day of fighting in the Islamic city. As well as taking around 30 people from the cathedral offices, they also tore down and desecrated icons and other sacred images and tried to set fire to the building.

Catholic college leaders reach out to DACA students

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic college leaders who have protested the Trump administration's plan to do away with the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, known as DACA, also have heightened their resolve to do more for DACA students and have expressed cautious belief that federal legislation to give these students more permanent help could be at hand. "Maybe this is the moment" where something will happen, said Donna Carroll, president of Dominican University just outside of Chicago, the day after President Donald Trump discussed a potential DACA deal at the White House Sept. 13 with House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-California, and Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer, D-New York. The private discussion was downplayed by Trump on Twitter, who said: "No deal was made last night on DACA," about the meeting with Democrat leaders but just a day later he confirmed something could be in the works, telling reporters: "We're working on a plan for DACA."

USF announces fall lecture series

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis Department of Philosophy and Theology has announced the lineup of speakers for its 2017-18 Fall Lecture Series. On Sept. 13 the first of the series, "Fake News and the Fathers of Suspicion: Learning from Freud, Marx and Evagrius," by Dr. Adam DeVille, has already taken place. Other topics, times and locations are as follows.

Oct. 11 — "The Message of Fatima: Then and Now," by Sister Jacinta Krecek; Brookside Ballroom, 7 p.m.

Nov. 12 — "Miracles and Belief," by Dr. Earl Kumfer; Brookside Ballroom, 3 p.m.

Dec. 10 — "Incarnate Wisdom Scripture," by Sr. Felicity Dorsett; North Campus Auditorium, 3 p.m.

All lectures are open to the public and free to attend. For more information visit philosophy.usf.edu.

Marian High School in Top 10 Indiana schools for college-ready graduates

MISHAWAKA — Marian High School is among the elite in preparing students for college, with 96 percent of graduating seniors ready for college-level coursework, according to a report issued by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education. This makes Marian tied for fourth in the state and the only local high school in the Top Ten.

According to Principal Mark Kirzeder, the school has a 100 percent graduation rate. Earning dual credit for college during high school is a key metric in ensuring success at the college level, and 83 percent of the Marian class of 2017 earned three or more college credits; 72 percent of these received over 15 college credits.

Marian students have unparalleled opportunities in the realm of science. Under the direction of Department Chairman Ken Andrzejewski, Marian science scholars achieved tremendous honors in 2016-17:

1. Six of fourteen students in the state selected to present their science research at the Indiana Junior Science and Humanities Symposium were from Marian, two of whom advanced to the National Symposium, finishing with a second place and an honorable mention.

2. Ten Marian students advanced from the Northern Indiana Regional Science Fair to the Hoosier State Science Fair.

3. Sixteen students were enrolled in the Advanced Science Research course and eight in the Independent Study program.

4. The Indiana Academy of Science awarded 11 grants to Marian students who applied based on their individual research.

5. One student was selected to represent the state of Indiana

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Relic of St. Teresa of Kolkata venerated



Scott Warden

Father William Sullivan, pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in New Haven, calls attention to a reliquary containing a first-class relic of St. Teresa of Kolkata during a prayer service held on her feast day, Sept. 5, at the parish. One prayer service took place during school hours, for the children, and another in the evening for parishioners and the public.

in the Stockholm Junior Water Prize competition.

6. For three of the past five years, Marian has won first place in state at the Indiana Junior Academy of Science competition.

7. Thirty-Five Marian students over the past 27 years have been selected to compete at the International Science Fair.

Parents, faculty, staff and administration are dedicated to fulfilling the mission of Marian High School and living out the school's motto of "Learn. Serve. Lead."

Salon-style concert to spotlight sacred art from The Saint John's Bible

NOTRE DAME — A musical performance featuring the illuminated images of a handwritten Bible will be held at the University of Notre Dame on Sept. 24 at 2 p.m. Sacred art from The Saint John's Bible will be projected on a large screen in Leighton Concert Hall at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center during a unique vocal and instrumental concert that draws the

audience into a meditation on Holy Scripture.

"Illuminating the Incarnation: A Musical Meditation on The Saint John's Bible" will feature a 10-voice schola, two violinists and a keyboardist. Additionally, dance and Scriptural proclamations will accompany the display of illustrations from the Bible. Concert attendees will sit onstage with the performers to mimic salon-style concerts of the 19th century where musicians played for their audiences in living rooms.

The event will begin with a short presentation on the history and production of The Saint John's Bible.

The seven volumes of The Saint John's Bible Heritage Edition will be on display at the performing arts center for attendees to view. Calligrapher Donald Jackson, who spoke at Notre Dame in October, collaborated with Benedictine monks at Saint John's Abbey and University in Collegeville, Minnesota and numerous scribes and artists to produce the manuscript.

Tickets cost \$5 and can be purchased at performingarts.nd.edu.

Seating is limited to preserve the intimate setting for the concert. Contact Brett Robinson, director of communications, McGrath Institute for Church Life, 574-631-6109, brobins6@nd.edu.

Fort Wayne-area black Catholics: The church is looking for you

FORT WAYNE — *When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."* — Mt 9:36-38

As the Catholic church continues its journey of faith, growing closer to God and community in the Fort Wayne area, all races, genders and ethnicities should be included. To that end, the Black Catholic Advisory Board is making a call to black Catholics in the Fort Wayne area. Black Catholics and other parishioners who may know black Catholics who have ceased attending the Catholic church, are asked to contact Metrice Smith at 260-705-0338 or metricem-abs@frontier.com. The Office of Evangelization thanks everyone for their time and consideration in assisting the Black Catholic Advisory Board with reaching out to more black Catholics in the Fort Wayne area.

The mission of the Black Catholic Advisory Board is as follows: "To help guide the diocese to seek and propose ways to effectively meet pastoral, social and cultural needs relative to Catholics of African descent; and to strive for the evangelization of our faith communities, the unchurched and the broader Church in order to promote unity, pride and understanding in the Church and Community."

St. Adalbert hosts fundraising event



Jennifer Miller

St. Adalbert Parish and School, South Bend, hosted a fundraising meal and performance Sept. 8. The "folklorico" dancers are students from St. Adalbert and Holy Family School. Pictured with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, center, are Pastor Paul Ybarra, CSC, right, and the students' dance teacher.

COLLEGE & CAREERS

Catholic on campus: lifelines for students

BY NICK STUMP

For students going to college for the first time, or returning to college, stress can set in very quickly. There's a lot to think about: projects to plan, schedules to maintain, tests to study for and a plethora of other worries.

Surrounded by new people who have different backgrounds and charged with some serious multitasking, it's easy for the faith to slip away. Not only that, but college is a time when everything a student knows and believes will be put to the test, both academically and spiritually.

Many college students find themselves falling prey to the rhetoric and temptations that come with the college experience; but there are resources for students who want to keep their faith alive and well. The most prominent of them is a lifeline



Nick Stump

Finding a secluded place on campus to pray is the most rudimentary way to stay connected to one's faith while away at college.

for those treading the rough waters of uncertainty; an oxygen mask when it feels like there is no room to breathe. It's called the Newman Center.

The Newman Center is a Catholic resource designed to connect college students to their faith. It is a place to unite a community, to allow Catholic students and those who are curious to learn about the Catholic faith in an environment outside of the classroom; and to identify and strengthen core values when they may be at their weakest.

Jennifer Kopecky is the coordinator of Young Adult and Campus Ministry in the Fort Wayne area, serving the diocese for almost a year. She shared what students at local college campuses told her when they were asked about the importance of a campus ministry. One student described Catholic resources on campus as the safety tether

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Being on guardian angel duty: a career where faith is vital

BY NICK STUMP

Not everyone can work for their church or diocese. As a result, it can be difficult for many people to find ways to prioritize their faith at work, especially when they're just starting out in the workforce. Some find a little time for God in their breaks; others put their faith on hold while they trudge through another stressful day at their job, perhaps saving some time afterward for prayer and meditation. Then there are NICU nurses.

Kim Wickersham is a registered nurse in the NICU at Dupont Hospital, Fort Wayne. NICU stands for Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, where babies go if they have medical complications or were born very prematurely. Newborns can stay in the NICU for days, weeks or perhaps longer, depending on their condition.

NICU babies are often very small, fragile and sick. It takes a lot of patience and care to handle these most delicate of patients. Wickersham is one of several nurses who care for these tiny infants until they are healthy enough to take home.

"When dealing with sick babies, you really have no choice but to prioritize faith," she said. "Every time I step into work, the life of a baby is in my hands. I would be a fool to not use my faith and the power of prayer to

channel God into every consoling word I say to parents and every healing touch I give to their child."

Wickersham shared her journey from college to her career. Obtaining her first job offer before she had even graduated, she accepted it without thinking twice about the decision. However, by the end of her studies the appeal of nursing had started to fade. Hoping that getting into the field would change her mind, she started on a surgical unit — the place where she was recommended to start as a new nurse. She made every patient feel important, and her confidence rose with her skills; but something was missing. She did not find enjoyment in her work and wondered if she had made a huge mistake.

She decided to search for a new job, hoping that working on a pediatric unit instead of a surgical unit would be the answer to her prayers. After making a few calls, she was hired by a unit that cross-trains between pediatrics and NICU. There was a shortage of nurses in the NICU, so she went to train there first.

"I was absolutely terrified to work in the NICU," Wickersham recalled. "I knew nothing about NICU. We learned practically nothing about that specific population in school, and I had only walked through a unit once. But I was willing to try anything to get out of my current job and not waste my entire college education."



Photo provided by Kim Wickersham

Kim Wickersham holds her latest patient, who is almost ready to go home. Finding an environment where her faith and career interest intersect was important to the NICU nurse, and she feels she has found it.

Once she started working in the NICU, the thoughts of joining a pediatric unit dissipated. She had found her calling. But that calling is anything but easy. There are new challenges every day, mountains of stress and intense performance pressures. Lives hang in the balance, and she and her coworkers are sometimes the last line of defense for the preemie babies.

"Every day before I go in, I pray that it will be a good shift," Wickersham said. "I pray that my co-workers and I can act as guardian angels to the precious newborns that are entrusted to our care. Every delivery I go to, I pray that the baby comes out vigorous. Every code I've been a part of, I pray that the baby gets their heart rate back. Every baby we lose, I pray for its soul and for the grieving parents. Is it difficult? Of course. But God is good, and I will continue to do my best. And it will be worth it."

For NICU nurses like Wickersham, faith will always be an integral part of their careers. Practically her entire workday, from the moment she walks in to the moment she steps out, is filled with prayers for those she is serving — those whose lives she is in charge of protecting. She may not have liked where she started, but the doubt is gone now that she has discerned her vocation — a process that leads to glorifying God in one's work.

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to his spaceship, as he explored unknown territory; another saw them as the foundation to navigate the social movements and pressures on college campuses.

"Most students stand up before they fully know what they stand for," Kopecky remarked. "By not having this lifeline or core value system, these movements often promote students to stand up just because those around them are doing so or because someone told them to."

College students are often pressured to support what they believe in, or worse — what someone else wants them to believe in. Campus ministry is there to guide them through those situations and to encourage them to stand for what is right and just.

There will be conflicts to face, no doubt. And unfortunately, not every student is very receptive to maintaining or continuing to develop their Catholic faith. For them, the best thing to do is pray.

Additionally, not every school has a campus ministry, or perhaps any faith resources immediately available. But there are options for those students as well.

One of the first things students should do when looking to attend a college is research the surrounding area. If the college is away from home, finding out where the grocery store, gas station and definitely the coffee shop are located is a crucial part of transitioning to a new area. The same can be said for looking up the location of the nearest parish, and should be included



Provided by Mastodon Catholic

Father Dennis Di Benedetto celebrates an outdoor Mass at Friends Pavilion on the campus of Indiana University-Purdue University, Fort Wayne, Thursday, Sept. 14.

in the research process.

Even if the school does have faith resources on campus, finding a local parish is still crucial. Kopecky stressed how important it is to get to the sacraments, as a college student. Or, if the student wishes to take smaller steps, Kopecky recommends he or she check out campus social media feeds; there is usually at least a small Catholic community represented on them somewhere.

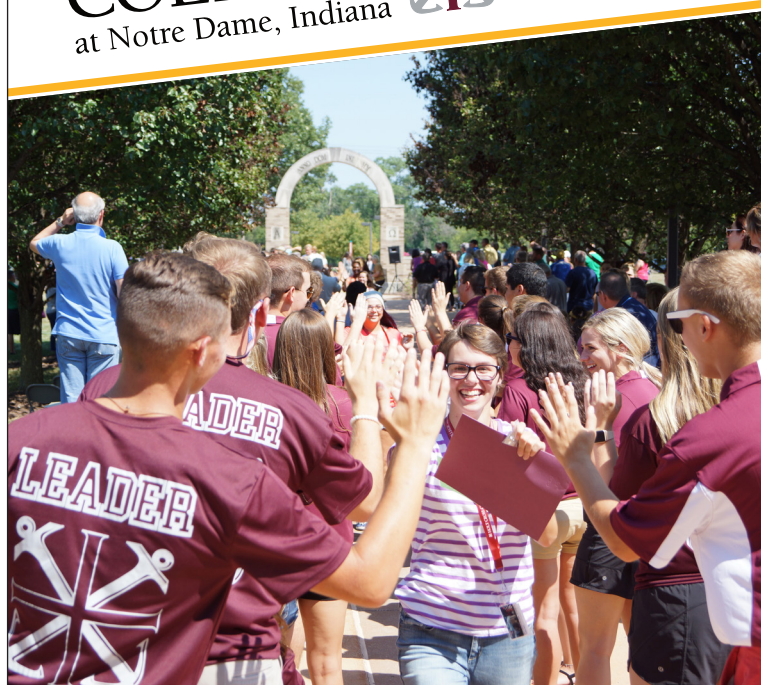
There's also a resource available called Newman Connections. Newman Connections is a non-profit organization dedicated to support campus Catholics across the nation. It has web and social media resources for outreach and community connection purposes;

and anyone can access what Newman Connections offers and be part of a national, online Catholic community. It can also help individuals or groups who are interested in setting up a Newman Center at their school. The diocese where the school is located may be able to help as well.

As students begin to trudge through the thick of the academic semester, they will have a lot on their plates. To them, Kopecky offers advice: "Pray as much as you can, in silence and in large or small amounts of time — offer up your suffering. Do good, it's simple. Be the face of Christ."

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Reflecting on a gentle embrace

BY ALLISON M. KINCAID

A pilgrimage. A journey to a sacred place. A journey of prayer, renewal and discovery. All of this and more were present throughout The Holy Spirits Pilgrimage on the Bourbon Trail that I went on recently with Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and Verso Ministries, in Kentucky. I decided to go on the pilgrimage for several reasons, but my main motivation was to deepen my relationship with God. What better way to do that than to travel with other young adults, meet new people and visit sacred places? I knew I couldn't pass up this opportunity.

There were multiple memorable moments along the journey — from the monk's compline to the Bourbon Trail. However, the most impactful time for me was our morning with Brother Gregory.

Saturday morning, we spent time at the Abbey of Gesthemani. We met with one of the monks, Brother Gregory, who led us to Thomas Merton's hermitage. We had a morning full of Brother Gregory's stories, hiking on the beautiful grounds of the abbey and delicious fudge made by the monks. Brother Gregory shared stories from his life and his journey to the monastery. He talked about Merton and the monastic life in general and why people are drawn to it: the simplicity, the work, and the prayers to name a few reasons.

However, something Brother Gregory said, more in passing than anything, was that the monastic life offers stability. Yes, it's probably one of the more obvious reasons why a person would want this lifestyle, but what Brother Gregory said about it truly resonated in my heart. In 2016, my life was uprooted and thrown into chaos. It became a state of constant flux.

Now, in 2017, my life has been busy but I've found something I was missing in 2016: stability. I've found a support system and my friends, my church, the weekly activities I participated in, and my prayer life are becoming consistent. I



During the Holy Spirits Pilgrimage on the Bourbon Trail, some of the young adult pilgrims and Brother Gregory return from a hermitage.

still travel frequently but I have a place to come back to that feels safe, supportive and stable.

That morning with Brother Gregory made me realize how truly blessed I am and I spent the rest of the trip praising God for all the work he has done in my life.

And then I realized something even more profound: I've been too hard on myself. I've been pushing myself to find that "thing" in my spiritual life — in all areas of my life — that moment when it all just clicks and I'm completely fine and joyful in the Lord and in my faith. But no matter what I've done, no matter how much I've prayed, no matter how many sacraments I partake in and no matter who I've talked to, I've still felt like I am missing something. Truthfully, this was my real motivation for this pilgrimage: to continue to push myself to find that moment. But that morning with Brother Gregory made me realize that I need to give myself a break.

I realized I don't need to find that moment. I've already made tremendous progress in such a short time. And I need to not only continue to thank God, but also take a deep breath and relax in his arms.

Once I realized the stability I've gained and all the progress I've accomplished, a great sense of peace washed over me. For the rest of the trip, I was able to be still and to be in the moment at the same time. I was

able to enjoy the distilleries, the bonfire, and the Cathedral of the Assumption with quiet amazement and a refreshed spirit. When I returned home Sunday evening, I didn't feel physically, emotionally, mentally, and/or spiritually exhausted as on previous travel. I felt renewed and ready to face the world with a sense of stillness and peace I haven't felt in a long time.

During the weeks that have passed since the pilgrimage, I've held on to this peace. My anxieties have calmed down considerably. My mindfulness of God and his presence in my life has increased steadily. My prayers have turned outward to those who are a part of my daily life and for those who I wish to be. I've started to create a "pilgrimage site" in my own heart — a sacred space filled with peace, love and mercy — and I've developed an awareness of the Holy Spirit, who fills my soul and my life.

No, I didn't have life-changing revelations. I didn't become filled with the fire of the Holy Spirit. I didn't even feel a "change of heart." What was bestowed on and within me during this pilgrimage was stillness, peace, and awareness and appreciation of God working in my life. No, it wasn't a jolt of lightening but a long, gentle embrace of his love.

Interested in a pilgrimage next year? Visit <http://www.diocesefwsb.org/>

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Catholic Charities' place in the philanthropic community

Providing local, Catholic solutions to complex human problems

BY GLORIA WHITCRAFT

Editor's Note: This is the third 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 ask, what sets Catholic Charities apart from other philanthropic organizations in our community? This is the question addressed in this series.

First, it is important to know that Catholic Charities is guided by Catholic social teaching, which instructs it to view those it serves in their full humanity — that is, as people who have both great needs and great potential. As a result, Catholic Charities strives to be a model of God's love and mercy, offering true compassion to those in need while empowering them physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually to live as full a life as their capabilities will allow.

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

However, the real focus of its work is why someone comes to Catholic Charities 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 one of the organization's local clients, Earl Meeks. (See his story nearby.) He had checked himself into the Rescue Mission to get sober. Often, though, without job placement and job coaching, people like Meeks flounder and remain unemployable.

Fortunately for Meeks, Catholic Charities offers SCSEP for job placement and related support services. SCSEP stands for Senior Community Service Employment Program and it's the nation's longest-running program to help low-income, unemployed individuals, aged 55 and over, to find work.

Funded by a Catholic-friendly grant from the U.S. Department of Labor and operated in cooperation with Senior Service America Inc., SCSEP subsidizes employment for low-income seniors through jobs — up to 20 hours a week at minimum wage — with nonprofit organizations and governmental entities. (Please note that grants, direct or indirect, are only accepted by Catholic Charities if, and only if, they do not require the organization to in any way to compromise Catholic beliefs.)

Participants are able to gain valuable work experience and have the opportunity to learn new skills. The goal of the program is for the men and women who participate to gain permanent, unsubsidized employment that helps them maintain their independence.

SCSEP is a Phase 2 service, providing long-term support for older clients who need assistance returning to the work force. In 2016, Catholic Charities assisted 115 SCSEP clients, while to date 313 employers have hired SCSEP participants.

So many of the vulnerable in local communities are forgotten after the food and clothing are dispensed. It is Catholic



Earl Meeks is a participant in the Catholic Charities SCSEP program, which helps seniors 55 and older find employment. Provided by Catholic Charities

Charities' mission to address the long-term issues they face, however, so they can live up to their God-given potential. This is one more way Catholic Charities strengthens families and alleviates poverty.

Earl's Story

"I've had it. I can't do this anymore."

Those were Earl Meeks' words to his daughter the night he decided to quit drinking.

For years, Meeks had been a functional alcoholic. He would work during the day and drink at night. Then came two great traumas that would plunge him deeper into his alcoholism — the loss of his brother-in-law and his beloved wife.

"Those [events] put me in a very dark place," he said. "And drinking only made it worse."

Originally from a small town in Tennessee, Meeks had lived for 29 years in Bluffton, where he was a factory worker. Then, when he hit bottom in 2014, he checked himself in at the Fort

Wayne Rescue Mission, where he was determined to beat his addiction. There he took refuge in Christ and the companionship of fellow recovering alcoholics.

Removing himself completely from his home and a circle of friends was a godsend. The structure and support of the Rescue Mission took his life in a new direction. Meeks' immersion in the Bible seven days a week, along with the company and encouragement of fellow Christians, set him on the course to sobriety.

After making considerable progress, his case manager at the Rescue Mission decided he would be the perfect candidate for the Catholic Charities Senior Community Service Employment Program.

SCSEP is the nation's longest-running program to help low-income, unemployed individuals, aged 55 and over, find work.

Participants receive instruction on healthy aging and job training opportunities that provide no-cost staff assistance to local nonprofit, government and faith-based agencies. The ultimate

goal of SCSEP is for participants to find employment.

"We often receive referrals from agencies such as the Rescue Mission," said SCSEP program manager Jennifer Zamaites. "SCSEP is perfect for people like Earl, who are transforming their lives. Employment often plays a major part in their success."

Jennifer first assessed Meeks' situation and then, based on his personal needs and employment interests, helped him in creating an Individual Employment Plan so he could achieve his goals. The SCSEP team searched their list of host agencies and then last July placed him at Treasure House, a secondhand store run by the Rescue Mission. Meeks works in the warehouse, assisting the staff with newly donated items. And thanks to SCSEP he is also living in his own apartment, arranged through the Fort Wayne Housing Authority.

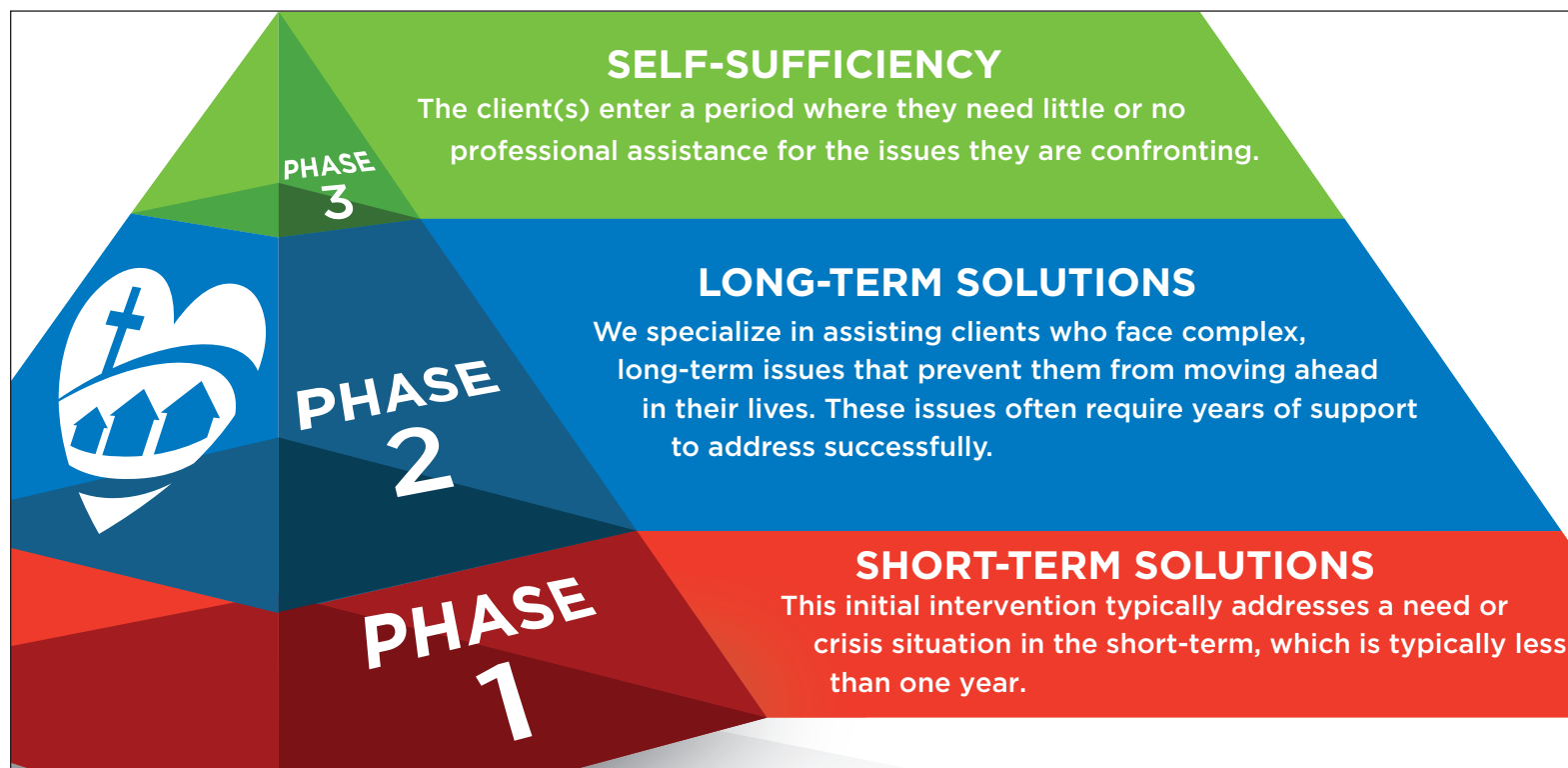
"I have witnessed an amazing change in Earl," said Zamaites. "He has become more self-confident and can view the road ahead with hope. He displays an unwavering commitment to living a fulfilling and healthy life."

SCSEP has and will continue to offer ongoing support for Meeks through resource and referral services, job coaching, job clubs and job readiness activities such as resume updating, mock interviews and job search assistance.

Meeks' future is looking up. When he is not working, he volunteers at the Rescue Mission, helping others like himself. He also attends church regularly and hopes to graduate from his GED program this spring.

"I can never repay what I owe these people," said Meeks, reflecting on the assistance he has received from Rescue Mission and SCSEP. "They have been such a tremendous blessing to me."

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



Beloved sons and daughters

The evangelist St. Luke, in his account of the Gospel that bears his name, makes a point of noting that, in the midst of his intensely active ministry, Jesus frequently withdrew to deserted places to pray (Lk 5:16). In these moments, Jesus was never less alone than when alone.

We must imagine that in such moments he enjoyed a profound, rich and fruitful intimacy and communion with his father, a communion that sustained him in his activity. What we must not imagine is that this intimacy and communion are remote from us or inaccessible to us. For in our baptism, by the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus has imparted to us a share in his filial relation to the Father; we become sons and daughters in the beloved Son. What Jesus is by nature, we become by grace. This is what St. Paul means by telling us that we are “in Christ” — we share his “sonship” because he has extended it to us by his Spirit.

By this grace, we are invited and drawn into the eternal conversation of love between the Father and the Son. Our relationship to God, like the very life of the three divine persons, is not static but dynamic. Father, Son and Holy Spirit exist eternally in a mutual exchange of knowing and loving (some theologians have called this “perichoresis”); we are created to share in that dynamic life. Theologians have called this our supernatural destiny, because it lies beyond

(“super”) our capacities (what is natural to us) to attain; it is a pure gift (which is what grace means). By baptism we receive the Holy Spirit, who enables us to recognize Jesus as Lord (like St. Peter at Caesarea Philippi). It is Christ himself who, in his human nature, is the way to the Father (as he teaches in John 14).

In the midst of all our intense activity — some of it imposed on us, much of it self-generated — we are invited to withdraw into solitude and enter into that intimacy of the divine Father and Son: to receive the Father’s love and to return it. We can do this in small snippets during our day or perhaps occasionally in a more structured way. The old-fashioned Holy Hour, preached frequently by the Venerable Fulton J. Sheen, is a practice of devoting an hour of prayer and meditation in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament (whether in the tabernacle or exposed). Not everyone, however, given their obligations in life, can do so. We should nevertheless from time to time call something of a “time out” from the zaniness of our day and perhaps try to give 10 or 15 minutes to God in silence (in an empty room in the house; on the front porch); snatching a few moments of solitude and recognize that we can, at any given moment, still ourselves and enter into that eternal conversation of love between the Father and Son. And as such moments of intimacy and communion with the Father



THE HUMAN CONDITION

MSGR. MICHAEL HEINTZ

sustained Jesus in his intense activities, we too draw our strength from communion with God in Christ.

The fullest expression of that return of the Father’s love was witnessed on Calvary and is made present every time the holy sacrifice of the Mass is offered: The Son returns that love by making a gift of himself to the Father. Yet we are not mere bystanders. We are capacitated to offer ourselves as well. By the grace of the Holy Spirit, by whose action we were configured to Christ in baptism and whose epiclesis draws us into the one perfect sacrifice of Christ, we can offer ourselves too, through Jesus and with him and in him. Every Sunday, indeed every single day. In the sacrament of the altar we witness that love; we taste that love; we are conformed to that love.

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

Lead with beauty: evangelization and the solar eclipse

The rain fell heavy on a Monday morning in Des Moines, Iowa. Bleary-eyed travelers noticed, and plotted alternative routes over eggs and potatoes at the Embassy Suites.

A white-haired man wearing a Saturn shirt had heard it would be clearer in Columbia, Missouri, than Kansas City, Missouri, and decided to attempt the added hour of travel for a better view of the Great American Eclipse.

“If we can’t make it there in time,” he said, “our ship is sunk.”

Preparations had begun with such precision: a map to consult, checklists and charts. Did you want 2 minutes and 34 seconds of totality in Grand Island, Nebraska, or 2 minutes and 38 seconds in St. Joseph, Missouri?

It felt like a menu, like an Amazon Prime level of control: Order and arrive.

Armchair research continued in that satisfying blend of novel and familiar: cities to consider and amenities to compare with the same pick-and-click power. Make your reservation, guarantee your fun.

Then came the packing: coolers filled to the brim, pristine eclipse goggles tucked into glove compartments, tripods and telescopes collapsed in trunks.

But after months of careful planning, the one factor we could not control — the weather — forced many Midwesterners



TWENTY SOMETHING

CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

into last-minute recalculations. Amid our anxious Googling, more than one of us uttered a prayer for a break in the clouds.

My husband and I chose Lathrop, a tiny town in north-west Missouri, as our destination, and after two hours of construction delays, inching down I-35 and two panicked stops for a selfie stick, we arrived with 20 minutes to spare and parked beside a cornfield that fell squarely in the path of totality.

The clouds obscured part of the view, revealing more of a crescent than a ring, but we still rejoiced in the sight. The sudden and complete darkening was a thrill in itself. The air cooled, and the crickets began chirping their lullaby.

Before long we were back on the road, participating in another national act of solidarity: the Great American Traffic Jam. What would have normally taken six hours nearly doubled in length: an endless row of

CAPECCHI, page 13

The Lord’s ways are different from our own



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Matthew 20:1-16a

The last section of the Book of Isaiah provides this weekend with its first reading.

Virtually none of the prophets of ancient Israel wrote when times were good, or at least when the prophets perceived the times to be good. Certainly, the author of the section of the Book of Isaiah, from which this weekend’s reading comes, hardly regarded the times to be good.

An added dimension to the story of the unhappy plight then being endured by God’s people is that when they returned from Babylon, where they and their

ancestors had been in exile for four generations, they found not relief, but want. Having greeted the fact that their exile was over with great rejoicing, convinced that God had provided for them and had rescued them, they instead found misery and despair awaiting them.

It is easy to imagine their anger. They were furious with God. For generations, they had trusted that God would come to their aid. This prophet had to restore their trust in God. In this reading, Isaiah warns the people not to put their trust in scoundrels. The prophet tells the people to call upon God, the source of true strength, regardless of fleeting appearances to the contrary.

For this weekend’s second reading, the church offers a passage from the Epistle to the Philippians.

The Apostle Paul, in this epistle’s soaring language, proclaims the divinity of Christ, the Savior, the Son of God. Paul continues to explain the intimate, inseparable link between the Lord and true disciples.

Come what may on earth, a disciple will never die if that disciple is constant in loving God and following Christ in obedience to God.

St. Matthew’s Gospel provides the last reading, a parable. This parable is set within the context of everyday life in Palestine at the time of Jesus.

Agriculture was the pursuit of most. Life was hard. Poverty was epidemic. Gainful employment was at a premium. Men looking for work, and income, came to village centers each morning, making themselves available for work. Persons with projects came to these places and hired these men.

It was a buyer’s market. No labor statutes or requirements for any minimum wage restrained employers in their pursuit of profit. Still, at least for Jews, certain expectations of fairness prevailed. A “denarius” was a typical day’s wage.

Jesus used the term “vineyard,” in this reading, which immediately brought to his listeners’ minds Old Testament references to Israel as God’s

vineyard. So from the beginning, the story had a theological and moral quality.

God owned and cared for the vineyard. He set the rules and hired the men. He therefore provides them with survival itself.

Two powerful lessons emerge. The first is that God is enormously generous. The second is that God’s ways are not necessarily our ways, a reality we seldom remember.

Reflection

For some weeks, the church, through these weekend readings, has been calling us to follow Christ. Wisely, in this process, the church recognizes that some of us hesitate not because we do not want to be with the Lord, but because we bear the burden of guilt or doubt. We think that our self-created distance from God is too great to bridge.

Emphatically, in these readings, the church reassures us of the unlimited mercy of God. God is the source of life. He lavishly offers it to us.

Whatever our sin, if we

repent, even at a late hour, God’s loving forgiveness awaits us.

Ultimately, however, we must choose to be with God in order to be disciples. No one is dragged, kicking and screaming, into heaven. Discipleship requires faith. Paul’s words call us to faith with the reminder that without God all is folly, all is impermanent, and all is death.

God alone offers life.

READINGS

Sunday: Is 55; 6-9 Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18 Phil 1:20c-24, 27a Mt 20:1-16a
Monday: Ezr 1:1-6 Ps 126:1-6 Lk 8:16-18
Tuesday: Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20 Ps 122:1-5 Lk 8:19-21
Wednesday: Ezr 9:5-9 (Ps) Tb 13:2, 3-4, 7-8 Lk 9:1-6
Thursday: Hg 1:1-8 Ps 149:1-6, 9 Lk 9:7-9
Friday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 Ps 138:1-5 Jn 1:47-51
Saturday: Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a (Ps) Jer 31:10-13 Lk 9:43b-45

'Man of God' —

Priest's emails make case for the self-sacrificial love of Godly relationships

BY CHRIS LUSHIS

The challenges young men and women face in building relationships today seem increasingly daunting. Technological developments, even those meant to increase personal connectivity, tend to have the opposite overall effect when it comes to matters of the heart and fostering true unity between individuals. Perhaps this is most apparent on college campuses, where young men and women for the first time experience freedom and responsibilities in a new way that is wholly their own. Without proper guidance and direction, these young adults become susceptible to the temptations and pitfalls of a sexualized world that values personal satisfaction over relational cooperation and self-sacrificial love.

It is for this reason that Holy Cross Priest Father Terrence Ehrman sought to write a book offering assistance to young people who are in the midst of these struggles. Recently published by Catholic Answers Press, "Man of God: Lessons for Young Men about Life, Sex, Friendship, Vocation, and Loving with the Heart of Christ" seeks to offer a pathway towards happiness and fulfillment by looking to Jesus, Mary and the saints as models for developing holy, healthy and life-giving relationships.

Written as a series of emails from a priest to a recent college graduate seeking advice and guidance regarding his relationships, the book presents an ongoing and engaging conversation on contemporary issues that range from struggles with pornography and masturbation to questions about courtship and cohabitation.

Following the liturgical calendar, each correspondence focuses on a particular feast day or life of a saint to reveal how other men and women have demonstrated love and experienced fulfillment through a complete giving of themselves to others. In this way, the narrative story offers spiritual direction and wisdom for practical living.

Father Ehrman, who serves as the assistant director for life sciences research and outreach at the University of Notre Dame, as well as chaplain for the Center of Ethics and Culture shared, "The idea for the book is rooted in Christian anthropology, which asks, "Who are we, as creatures,

in relationship to God the creator? What is our relationship to ourselves, to other another and to the natural world?"

"That is what this particular book explores. We are men and women; therefore, what does that mean and how do we live this life? This book is a tool not only for the person who wants to grow in holiness, but also for the one who will hand on how to be holy. It is not only forming the one who needs to be transformed, but also the mentor — the father, the uncle, the priest — who can hand on what it means not only how to live a moral life, but how to live a Catholic life as a follower of Christ."

One challenge Father Ehrman sought to overcome was how to present traditional Catholic doctrine in an engaging style.

"I wanted to do more than just describe church teaching — there are many books which already do that — but to describe this content in a more narrative way. There is a personal, relational dimension, which is something I hope draws people in. Ultimately that is what this is about: looking at how we form robust relationships. The Trinity is relational, and we are made in the image and likeness of God,

therefore, how should we live out that relationality and interact with others?"

Experiences of Father Ehrman's own life helped shape the nature and structure of his book. He explains: "The main character in the book is a young man named Joseph, who stands in for every man. He is a fictional character, yet he is an amalgamation of real experiences that I



Provided by Father Terrence Ehrman, CSC
Holy Cross Priest Father Terrence Ehrman serves as assistant director for life sciences research and outreach at the University of Notre Dame and chaplain for the Center of Ethics and Culture.

have witnessed or heard about. The theme of "heart speaking to heart" also runs throughout the book, beginning in the first chapter with a focus on the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the patron of the Congregation of Holy Cross. Additionally, each chapter draws upon Scripture and incorporates the importance and necessity of the remaining connected to the sacraments as a means of overcoming temptation and achieving true freedom. "Additionally, I have always been drawn to and connected with the saints. Writing these chapters and seeking to integrate their lives into the story helped deepen my devotion and learn even more about them.

"One of the more unique and one of my favorite chapters," Father Ehrman shared, "is on St. John Damascene. He was a figure responding to the iconoclast heresy, which viewed images as idols.

"The Council of Nicaea confirmed that we could venerate sacred images. In seeking to go from pornography to iconography or hagiography (the study of the saints), the chapter is placed in December, during the time of Advent. This is because pornography is an anti-Advent. Advent means "arrival" (of Christ), however, with pornography, you never arrive, you remain in your imagination, which leads to distortion, false worship, idolatry."

The overall goal of the book is to transform hearts and minds of young men to become responsible, courageous leaders and to help them form holy and uplifting friendships. "It is a very positive book," Father Ehrman shared. "It's a very hope-filled book; people that are steeped and immersed in the sinful patterns of pornography and masturbation can be in a dark world and wonder "how do I get out of it?" It explores how you grow in freedom, respond to grace and live responsibly." Father Ehrman also stressed that although the main character in the story is a recent college graduate, the book would be useful for high school students as well. "To be able to talk in a frank, yet discreet way about lust, pornography, masturbation, premarital sex, cohabitation, all the things people are doing, I think this would be good for all Catholic high schools across the country and for those in marriage prep, since once you get married these struggles don't stop — it's not a single man's monopoly. It would also be good for seminarians, priests and religious who struggle with this, not only for their own growth in holiness, but also as future shepherds to be able to discuss in parishes and men's groups.

"There are also many women who have read this, because it's not just a man's struggle; it takes two to dance. Women benefit

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for September 24, 2017

Matthew 20:1-16a

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A: unhappy workers in the vineyard. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

HEAVEN	WENT OUT	TO HIRE
VINEYARD	USUAL	DAILY WAGE
STANDING	IDLE	AGAIN
AT NOON	FOUND	ALL DAY
THE LAST	FIRST	RECEIVED
GRUMBLED	EQUAL	BURDEN
FRIEND	ENVIIOUS	GENEROUS

HIRED

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

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CAPECCHI, from page 12

Minnesota license plates in gridlock. A group of college-aged men in one car rolled down their windows and tossed grapes to a car of young women, hungrier for the entertainment than the fruit.

Waiting in line to use the restrooms at a Casey's General Store, travelers swapped weary smiles. Somehow, we were meeting the traffic, like the clouds, with optimism; it was all part of the experience. It called to mind a G.K. Chesterton quote: "An adventure is only an inconvenience rightly considered. An inconvenience is only an adventure wrongly considered."

The miracle was not just the eclipse, but its impact — that millions stopped to look up. These days we tend to run low on wonder. This filled us up again.

The older I get, the more clearly I see that life can echo the

mysteries of the rosary: joyful, sorrowful, glorious and luminous. Every now and then, we pack them all into a single day or even an hour. Like Mary, we are called to respond with gratitude and trust, to offer our own fiat.

In classical tradition, truth, beauty and goodness are upheld as transcendentals. The Catholic Church recognizes how closely they are intertwined, one pointing to another.

As we aim to evangelize, we do well to lead with beauty, remembering the seekers who journeyed so far Aug. 21. Our church has a beauty like no other: cathedrals, sacred art, the liturgical year and a way of sacramental living available to all.

They will travel hundreds of miles for seconds of awe.

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn., and editor of SisterStory.org.

because it provides info about the psyche of the man, but also because it gives thought to what they will choose to do before marriage in regard to the hookup culture."

In summarizing the key questions of his book, Father Ehrman asked, "How do we hand on what it means to be a man of God? There has been a great

uncoupling of that dimension in our world. Men are very absent; there is an abdication of parenthood. For men searching for mentor figures, who do they turn to? Who are the ones who exemplify responsible fatherhood, who teach how to grow up, to live righteously?" He emphatically responded, "It is not in media, it is in the saints!"

New principal thrilled to be at St. Thomas the Apostle

BY JILL A. BOUGHTON

The first task Christopher Adamo always sets for himself, as an educator, is learning all his students' names within two weeks. This year, as the new principal at St. Thomas the Apostle School in Elkhart, he promised himself would learn all 240 names by Friday, Sept. 15 — with a little help from the 2016-17 yearbook. The feat is even more impressive because Adamo began the year as a social studies teacher at Penn High School, where he had 180 names to learn.

Adamo, wife Erin and 18-month-old daughter Eveline live in Granger, but he grew up in Osceola and went through religious education classes at St. Joseph Parish, Mishawaka. Except for two years at Holy Cross College, Notre Dame, he's usually attended and worked in public schools; but he's thrilled now to be in a setting where he can help every student grow in mind, body and spirit.

After earning a bachelor's degree in history at Ball State University, Adamo got his teaching license and master's degree in education and curriculum at Bethel College. He is currently working on his Ph.D. in educational leadership at Purdue, where much of his course work is done online. He taught junior



Provided by Christopher Adamo
New principal Christopher Adamo has received a warm welcome at St. Thomas the Apostle School, Elkhart.

high and high school in the Penn-Harris-Madison system for 10 years, and in his spare time he's interested in "everything under the sun." That includes hockey, snowboarding and cooking — especially spaghetti sauce, reflecting his Italian background.

Although he wanted a career in educational administration, that didn't seem to be happening. Late this summer Adamo expressed his frustration to Father Chris Lapp, who encour-

aged him to keep praying on it. Before he even finished filling out the application for the position of principal at St. Thomas, Father Jason Freiburger called him in for an interview. The job offer came the day before he was supposed to start teaching at Penn, but Adamo's integrity wouldn't let him leave them in the lurch, so he didn't begin at St. Thomas until Aug. 31.

"I'm very excited to be in this new role. Clearly God has a hand in everything we do, even if we can't see it at the time," testifies Adamo, who's now 35. "The older I get, the more clearly I can see God's invisible hand looking out for me. This path was laid out for me before I was born, and everything is part of God's good plan."

Adamo calls St. Thomas a "great school, where we are blessed with fine technology and other resources. There's a strong PTO and sense of community. Families are very involved in supporting their students." Many of the current students in preschool through eighth grade are second- and third-generation. "It's great hearing stories about how things used to be. Maybe we'll be able to repeat something from the past, a program or the theme for a social event."

Besides building positive, meaningful relationships among present students and staff, the new principal would like every-

one in Elkhart County to know about St. Thomas and consider sending their children there. He hopes to visit preschools and hold school open houses, and a new Twitter account is spearheading a stronger online presence for the school. Under the hashtag #STSExcellence, parents and teachers can showcase the wonderful things their students are doing.

Adamo plans to maintain the

strong academic program and high standard that has been set. He'd like to see St. Thomas not only maintain its "A" rating but also be recognized as a Blue Ribbon school, which is both excellent and Christ-centered.

Students can go to any school to "do things;" but only in a school like St. Thomas can they grow as compassionate advocates for their faith.

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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.

Knights plan Sunday breakfast

FORT WAYNE — St. Gaspar del Bufalo Council No. 11043 will be serving breakfast on Sunday, Sept. 24, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Most Precious Blood gymnasium, 1515 Barthold St. Cost is \$8 for adults, \$4 for children 6-12, and \$20 per family. Proceeds will benefit Most Precious Blood and Queen of Angels schools. For information, visit www.kofc11043.org.

Huntington Catholics in Action chili dinner and auction

HUNTINGTON — Catholics in Action will have a chili dinner and auction Saturday, Sept. 23, from 5-8 p.m., at the Knights of Columbus Council 1014, 2817 Theater Ave., for the combined Huntington County Youth Groups

future retreats, faith-based resources, and costs. Live auction will be at 7 p.m. Items to be auctioned can be viewed at ness-bros.com. Chili with toppings along with hot dogs, peanut butter sandwiches and homemade cinnamon rolls will be offered. The K of C Bar will also be open. Musical Guest will be Hannah Schaefer, a friend of the youth group and Inspirational pop singer/songwriter from Columbia City. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$5 for children 10 and under, 2 and under are free.

St. Louis Besancon plans fall fest
MONROEVILLE — St. Louis Parish will have a fall fest Saturday, Sept. 30, from 7-11 p.m. in St. Louis Besancon Hall, 15535 East Lincoln Hwy.

Tickets are \$30 per ticket; \$55 per couple. Live entertainment by Hubie Ashcraft Band; beer and Margarita sales; Mexican Fare.

World Apostolate of Fatima First Saturday Mass and breakfast celebration

FORT WAYNE — The World Apostolate of Fatima First Saturday Mass and breakfast celebration will be Saturday, Oct. 7, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 1122 S. Clinton St. Confessions begin at 7:30 a.m., followed by a rosary, First Saturday Meditations and Mass at 9 a.m. Mass celebrant is Father Glenn Kohrman, pastor at Holy Family and St. John the Baptist, South Bend. Guest speaker is Father Dan Scheidt, pastor at St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne. After Mass there will be a Marian procession to breakfast at the Grand Wayne Center with guest speaker Father Dan

REST IN PEACE

Ege

Christopher W. Hackman, 62, Immaculate Conception

Richard T. Wiley, 89, St. Mary Mother of God
Frank A. Palermo, Our Lady of Good Hope

Plymouth

Aloysius Wojcik, 84, St. Michael

Fort Wayne

Mark R. Roberts, 65, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Huntington

Jim Eugene Godfroy, 78, St. Mary

South Bend

Stewart Michael Herczeg, 56, St. Patrick

James J. Glaser, 78, St. Vincent de Paul

New Haven

Patrick Metzler, 86, St. John the Baptist

Robert L. Kozmer, 87, St. Matthew Cathedral

Andrew Alder, 83, St. Joseph

Robert E. Martin, 41, St. John the Baptist

Carl B. Montgomery, 82, St. Matthew Cathedral

Mark Edmund Dulcet, 62, St. Jude

Notre Dame

Sister M. Mercia, CSC, 93, Church of Our Lady of Loretto

David J. Pilger, Jr., 56, St. Joseph

Elaine S. Walkowiak, 84, St. John the Baptist

Wabash

Charles Hall 75, St. Bernard

Scheidt. Breakfast reservations are adults \$15, children \$5 and children under 5 free. For information visit www.FatimaFWSB.org or call 260-437-1202.

National Life Chain

DECATUR — Life Chain will be Sunday, Oct. 1, from 2-3:30 p.m. at St. Mary of the Assumption Church, 5th and Monroe St., and is a peaceful, prayerful public witness of pro-life Americans praying for our nation, for people in crisis situations and for an end to abortion. Signs will be provided. Life

Chain goes on rain or shine. Water, lawn chairs, umbrellas and strollers are welcome. Refreshments provided following the Life Chain event in the St. Mary's Parish Hall on 5th Street. Call 260-223-2128 for information.

Celebrate the centennial of Fatima at Queen of Peace

MISHAWAKA — Queen of Peace Parish, 4508 Vistula Rd., will offer all-day adoration Thursday, Oct. 12, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sign up online at www.queenof-peace.cc, click the Signup Genius box on the right. Confessions will be heard beginning at 5 p.m. Adoration will conclude with an hour of Praise and Worship at 6 p.m. in the church. Mass at 7 p.m. will be followed by a candlelight rosary procession and benediction.

Jonah fish fry planned

MISHAWAKA — The Lions Club is hosting a Jonah Fish Fry Friday, Sept. 29, from 3-7 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus hall, 114 W. 1st St. Pre-sale tickets are \$9 for adults and \$5 for children. Tickets at the door are \$1 more. Tickets can be purchased from any Mishawaka Lions Club member or online at shop.mishawakalions.org. Contact 574-220-2362 for information.



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Other opportunities with Catholic Charities:
Mission Advancement Coordinator in Fort Wayne
Contact Karen: kmorthorst@ccfwsb.org | 260/422-5625

Visit www.todayscatholic.org for a full calendar of events.



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Please contact Kimberley Mendez, kimberleykm@gmail.com or Kathy Girres, 574-936-4935, kgirres@comcast.net for more information.



Annual Bishop's Appeal — Realizing the hopes and dreams of refugees

BY MICHELLE DONAGHEY

As the theme of this year's Annual Bishop's Appeal video reminds us, Catholics across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend — regardless of ethnicity, age, gender, income level or condition — constitute "One Body in Christ." One of the ways that unity is demonstrated is by providing for the needs of refugees and accompanying them in their difficult journey toward a new life.

Although charity and compassion for refugees is something every parish and individual can exercise, it's one of the primary missions of Catholic Charities as well.

Nyein Chan, 52, has been in the United States for 30 years since arriving as a refugee. He has big hopes that many more refugees would be able to come to the U.S. — a country where they can express their faith more openly and be part of a Catholic community of faith — free of fear and oppression.

"I like to say that I owe a debt of gratitude to Catholic Charities and the entire community for enabling me to start new life beyond the bonds of oppression," Chan said.



Provided by Nyein Chan

Catholic Charities resettlement director Nyein Chan returned in 2006 to the area he had fled 30 years prior, to visit a Burmese refugee camp in Thailand.

He wishes that all people would have the right to live fearlessly in a place they call home. "Every family has rights to stay together. Many refugee families left behind family members and loved ones when they fled from persecution. I wish they will be reunited one day." Chan knows the Annual Bishop's Appeal will help support Catholic Charities' work of welcoming and adopting refugee families, being their friends, teaching them English, helping their children with homework and taking them around to become

familiar with the community. Teaching and mentoring them about American history and ethics would be wonderful as well, in his opinion.

Chan's journey almost three decades ago was a long and unbelievable one that many people in the United States wouldn't imagine in their wildest nightmares.

Labeled an "Internally Displaced Person," he was forced to flee from his country because of fear of persecution by an oppressive military government. His long journey to the United

States first took him to a jungle at the Thai-Burma border, where he spent two years of his life.

That extended, nightmarish jungle experience was only the start of his long and arduous journey to freedom. "A few years later I found myself in the prisons."

Chan was then detained at two different prisons and two detention centers in Thailand for being an undocumented immigrant.

Finally, after all the years of problems and red tape, he was granted refugee status by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Thailand. "I was very thankful," he said.

Chan arrived in the United States by plane, which was arranged by International Organization of Migration. He was happy, but it was bitter-sweet day. "I left behind rest of my family; my parents, three brothers and two sisters.

"It is still hard for me to be being away from my family — all are still remaining in my country," he said, except for one of his brothers who has been resettled to Canada.

At the time he left Thailand, Chan did not have a job. "I was a college student," he said, adding that he wished to continue

his studies after his resettlement in the United States. He studied business administration, has a degree, has taken some courses in leadership and is now finishing his graduate studies in Organizational Leadership and supervision at Purdue University. "Hopefully I will be finished next year," he said.

Luckily, when Chan first arrived in the U.S. he knew some English — which helped him in his transition to living in a new country and to his studies.

Two of the hardest adjustments were the cultural adjustment and language barrier. Despite both, he was able to find a job and was working in a trailer factory before the month was out.

"They (Catholic Charities) found me a job two weeks after my arrival," he said, happily adding that "they have helped me since the beginning until now, in so many ways, to grow my life in the U.S."

Chan now works for Catholic Charities as the resettlement director. He has been with the organization since July 2000.

His hopes and dreams for the future are that his daughter grows in a fear-free country. "I hope that will continue always," he said.



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