

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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TODAYSCATHOLIC.org

Father David Tyson, CSC, inaugurated president of Holy Cross College



Lizzet Aleman

The new president of Holy Cross College, Father David Tyson, CSC, addresses the audience during his installation ceremony Oct. 6. Father Tyson, who will serve for a period of five years, is the fifth president of the educational institution.

NOTRE DAME – Father David Theodore Tyson, CSC, was installed as the fifth president of Holy Cross College on Oct. 6, amid festivities that extended into a two-day schedule that included his investiture ceremony, social events with students and faculty and a Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.

On Thursday, Oct. 5, Father Tyson hosted a presidential picnic on behalf of students. At 7 p.m., the 2017 Delta Epsilon Sigma academic honors society induction took place in Driscoll Auditorium. Friday's events began with the Mass, celebrated at 10 a.m. in the St. Joseph Chapel on the campus of Holy Cross College.

During the inauguration Mass, Bishop Rhoades took the opportunity to both pray for the success of the mission on which Father Tyson was to embark, and to express joy over it.

"I have known Father Tyson since I came to the diocese almost eight years ago, and we worked closely together when he served as the provincial superior of the

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Trump administration expands exemptions on contraceptive mandate

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Trump administration Oct. 6 issued interim rules expanding the exemption to the contraceptive mandate for religious employers, such as the Little Sisters of the Poor, who object on moral grounds to covering contraceptive and abortion-inducing drugs and devices in their employee health insurance.

Leaders of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops praised the action as "a return to common sense, long-standing federal practice and peaceful coexistence between church and state."

The contraceptive mandate was put in place by the Department of Health and Human Services under the Affordable Care Act.

While providing an exemption

for religious employers, the new rules maintain the existing federal contraceptive mandate for most employers.

President Donald Trump had pledged to lift the mandate burden placed on religious employers during a White House signing ceremony May 4 for an executive order promoting free speech and religious liberty, but Catholic leaders and the heads of a number of Catholic entities had criticized the administration for a lack of action on that pledge in the months that followed.

From the outset, churches were exempt from the mandate, but not religious employers. The Obama administration had put in place a religious accommodation for nonprofit religious entities such as church-run colleges and social service agencies morally opposed to contraceptive cover-

age that required them to file a form or notify HHS that they will not provide it. Many Catholic employers still objected to having to fill out the form.

The HHS mandate has undergone numerous legal challenges from religious organizations, including the Little Sisters of the Poor and Priests for Life.

A combined lawsuit, *Zubik v. Burwell*, made its way to the U.S. Supreme Court, where the justices in May 2016 unanimously returned the case to the lower courts with instructions to determine if contraceptive insurance coverage could be obtained by employees through their insurance companies without directly involving religious employers who object to paying for such coverage.

Senior Health and Human Services officials who spoke

to reporters Oct. 5 on the HHS rule on the condition of anonymity said that the exemption to the contraceptive mandate would apply to all the groups that had sued against it. Groups suing the mandate all the way to the Supreme Court include the Little Sisters of the Poor, the Archdiocese of Washington, the Diocese of Pittsburgh, Eternal Word Television Network and some Catholic and other Christian universities.

In reaction immediately after the 150-page interim ruling was issued, religious groups that had opposed the mandate were pleased with the administration's action.

An Oct. 6 statement by Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of

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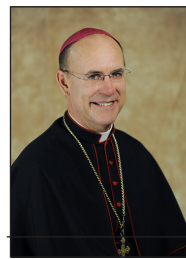
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The Gospel of Life is the Gospel of Mercy



IN TRUTH
AND
CHARITY

BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

Bishop Rhoades delivered the following homily during Mass at the Afternoon of Prayerful Remembrance and Intercession on October 8th at the University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne:

October is Respect Life Month. It is a time to renew our commitment to the Gospel of Life and our deep respect for the gift of human life, from conception to natural death. It is important during this month to remember, as we do this afternoon, the impact of abortion on women who have had abortions, the mothers and fathers, the grandparents, and all who have been affected by the sin of abortion. We gather this afternoon, not only to remember, but to intercede and pray for those impacted and harmed by abortion. The Gospel of Life is the Gospel of mercy and love, and so we pray for all who are suffering from the wounds of abortion.

Pope St. John Paul II wrote a great encyclical on the value and inviolability of human life. It is entitled *The Gospel of Life*, ("Evangelium Vitae"). In his beautiful reflections on the dignity of human life, St. John Paul II communicated a special word to women who have had an abortion. He said the following:

"The Church is aware of the many factors which may have influenced your decision, and she does not doubt that in many cases it was a painful and even shattering decision. The wound in your heart may not yet have healed. Certainly what happened was and remains terribly wrong. But do not give in to discouragement and do not lose hope. Try rather to understand what happened and face it honestly. If you have not already done so, give yourselves over with humility and trust to repentance. The Father of mercies is ready to give you His forgiveness and His peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. You will come to understand that nothing is definitively lost and you will also be able to ask forgiveness from your child, who is now living in the Lord. With the friendly and expert help and advice of other people, and as a result of your own painful experience, you can be among the most eloquent defenders of everyone's right to life. Through your commitment to life, whether by accepting the birth of other children or by welcoming and caring for those most in need of someone to be close to them, you will become promoters of a new way of looking at human life." There are many women who have had abortions, repented, and are now strong defenders of the right to life.

St. John Paul's words can also be extended to those who have been involved in abortion, for example, men who assisted women or pressured them to procure an abortion. Or the woman's parents, the grandparents of the unborn child, who may have done the same, assisting or pressuring their daughter to have an abortion. Or those who did not help a woman in crisis to choose life for her unborn child. There are many wounds being

**GOD'S MERCY
IS BIGGER THAN
ANY MISTAKE
THAT YOU'VE MADE.**



carried by these mothers, fathers, grandparents, and others. These wounds may not yet have healed, as Pope John Paul stated. I say to anyone here who is suffering from these wounds what John Paul said, "do not give in to discouragement and do not lose hope." Entrust yourselves to the Father of mercies and to Jesus, our merciful Savior. And know that the Church, the house of mercy, does not reject you. We shouldn't, and we can't, if we are true to our mission of love and mercy.

In the second reading today, St. Paul wrote to the Philippians: "Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." Anxiety and fear, provoked by guilt, is not uncommon in the minds and hearts of those wounded by abortion. Healing is needed, the healing that comes from forgiveness, the forgiveness received in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

I know women and others who have gone to confession and been absolved, but still live with anxiety and shame over the past sin of abortion. They may even believe that God has forgiven them, but they can't forgive themselves. Help is needed. God's healing love and mercy is sometimes blocked by a person's inability to accept that they committed such a sin. The problem in these situations is a lack of humility, the admission that yes, 'I did a terrible thing, but God is greater than me'.

If we think that we are only valuable because of our virtues, we will never love ourselves and forgive ourselves. One's pride needs to be uprooted by the recognition that 'yes, I am a sinner and God still loves me. I am still precious to Him'. We are frail and needy sons and daughters of God who can

fall, who do fall, but God rescues us. His grace is more powerful than our sins. We are more precious in His sight than we can imagine. He loves us, despite our weaknesses and failings. Our self-worth should not be dependent on our being perfect. None of us is perfect, and when we sin, even gravely, we must truthfully and humbly approach the Lord like the prodigal son and admit that we have sinned, that we are unworthy to be called His sons and daughters, and allow the Father of mercies to embrace us with His tender love and to restore us to life. Only then will we experience peace in our souls, the peace of God, which St. Paul says "surpasses all understanding."

The Church's post-abortion healing ministry, Project Rachel, is a vital part of our pro-life apostolate. As I said, the Gospel of Life is also the Gospel of Mercy. As life is a beautiful gift from God, so is His mercy. In the Diary of St. Faustina, we read these words of Jesus to Sister Faustina: "The greater the misery of a soul, the greater its right to My mercy." Jesus told her repeatedly: "I am love and mercy itself." The Church has a great duty to help women who have had abortions and others to believe in God's merciful love and to be enveloped in God's mercy. People wounded by sin, and that's all of us, need the courage to allow ourselves to be loved by God. As Catholics, we have the wonderful opportunity to encounter God's mercy in the sacraments.

As we continue with this Mass, let us remember in our prayers all who suffer post-abortion pain. Let us pray for the healing of their hearts, that they will not give in to discouragement or lose hope, but that they will receive and experience the Lord's love and mercy, forgive themselves, and become, as St. John Paul II said, "eloquent defenders of everyone's right to life."

TYSON, from page 1

Indiana, now U.S., Congregation of Holy Cross," he began. "To the board of trustees, I think you made an excellent choice. I not only wish to congratulate Father Tyson, but to congratulate all of you today as you move forward together under the leadership of your new president.

"Lord, give success to the work of our hands," Bishop Rhoades continued. "In praying this psalm today, what is the success we pray for? Of course, we pray for the success of Father Tyson as president and we pray for the success of Holy Cross College. But what kind of success? And how will it be measured? There are many ways to define success when we are dealing with institutions of higher learning. One can measure success by graduation rates, for example, or by admissions and enrollment, or by finances and endowment growth. ... But the success that is most important and which I pray for today is related to mission ... the reason Holy Cross College was founded, its reason for being, its purpose.

"The mission of every college



Provided by Holy Cross College

**FATHER DAVID TYSON
PRESIDENT OF HOLY CROSS
COLLEGE**

and university is to educate," the bishop elucidated, adding that, "Authentic education, therefore, is about the search for truth."

"I pray, Father Tyson, that the Lord will give success to the work of your hands as president of Holy Cross College, success in leading this community in fidelity to its great mission and in securing the

means needed to accomplish its holy mission," he concluded.

As St. Joseph, the patron saint of the Catholic Church, watched over and protected Jesus and Mary, Bishop Rhoades asked that he watch over and protect the church, and specifically Father Tyson, as he leads Holy Cross College not only as its president, but as its spiritual father.

An installation ceremony took place in the Pfeil Recreation Center following the Mass. The public then had the opportunity to meet Father Tyson at a reception on the O'Connor Commons. To conclude the inaugural events, Father Tyson invited students to attend a ball on the O'Connor Commons after dinner.

Father Tyson, a 1970 graduate of the University of Notre Dame with a bachelor's degree in sociology, earned his Master of Theology from Notre Dame in 1974, and a doctorate in higher education administration from Indiana University Bloomington in 1980. Father Tyson took his final vows in 1974 and was ordained at Sacred Heart Basilica at Notre Dame in 1975.



**Public schedule
of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades**

Sunday, October 15: 11:30 a.m. — Wedding Anniversary Mass, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne

Monday, October 16: 5:30 p.m. — Meeting of Board of Catholic Cemetery Association, Divine Mercy Funeral Home, Fort Wayne

Wednesday, October 18: 9 a.m. — Meeting of Institute Committee of Our Sunday Visitor, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne

Thursday, October 19: 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, St. Joseph Church, South Bend

Immediately prior to coming to Holy Cross College, Father Tyson served as director of non-profit professional development at the University of Notre Dame Mendoza College of Business. He has had a long, distinguished career in education as a professor, administrator and president, as well as provincial superior of the Indiana Province of Holy Cross.

Father Tyson was named interim president of Holy Cross College on April 7. At that time, David

Bender, chairman of the Holy Cross College board of trustees, said in a news release: "Father Tyson's life-long passion for Catholic education and his keen understanding of the mission of the college make him an ideal leader to help Holy Cross College flourish. We have every confidence that he will serve the college skillfully and faithfully." Father Tyson was formally elected the fifth president of the college in a unanimous vote of the board of trustees on July 31.

Las Vegas Catholic churches, schools respond with prayers

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Students at St. Viator Parish School in Las Vegas began school Oct. 2 — hours after the mass shooting in that city — by praying the rosary together in the school gym.

The school is just three miles east of the Las Vegas Strip, the location of most of the city's largest hotels and casinos, and the site of the Oct. 1 mass shooting at a musical festival that left 59 people dead, including the shooter, and wounded more than 500.

"Many of our students' family members work in the hotels on the Strip, so obviously there was a lot of concern when we started hearing of the horrible events that were occurring on Sunday evening," said Viatorian Brother Rob Robertson, school counselor.

A few students had attended the Route 91 Harvest festival, the outdoor country music concert barraged by gunfire from a shooter on the 32nd floor of the adjacent Mandalay Bay casino resort hotel. A fourth-grade student who attended the concert told his classmates his guardian angel had been watching over him that night.

Several parents who had been at the concert decided to keep their children at home the next morning, saying they needed to help their children process the event as a family.

One mother who had been at the concert brought her sons in to school late the next day "understandably shaken by what could have been" and by the horrible scene she witnessed right in front of her, Brother Robertson told Catholic News Service in an



CNS photo/Lucy Nicholson, Reuters

People mourn during an interfaith memorial service Oct. 2 in Las Vegas for victims of a shooting spree directed at an outdoor country music festival late Oct. 1. A gunman perched in a room on the 32nd floor of a casino hotel unleashed a shower of bullets on the festival below, killing 59 people and wounding more than 500.

Oct. 3 email.

"It was soon very obvious as a parish that we needed to respond to our parishioners who needed a comforting moment of solace," he said, noting that the young adults in the parish organized a candlelight Taize prayer service Oct. 2 attended by several hundred people.

At the prayer service, people approached the cross at the front of the altar and knelt down for private prayers. One of the couples that came forward was still

wearing their wristbands from the concert.

At St. Anne Church in Las Vegas, three miles north of the Las Vegas Strip, many of the parishioners know someone who went to the concert — a niece, a friend or a neighbor — said Msgr. Gregory Gordon, pastor.

The priest told CNS Oct. 3 that no parishioners lost their lives at the concert, but some were injured and all came back terrified.

He has been to the local hos-

pital to administer the anointing of the sick to some of the concert's wounded, and said he is on call and would immediately go again if needed.

For now, the city which has so often been a partying atmosphere, remains somber, the priest said. Billboard messages thank people for their generosity and ask for prayers instead of highlighting upcoming shows.

Msgr. Gordon said the packed interfaith prayer service Oct. 2 at Guardian Angels Cathedral, coincidentally on the feast of the Guardian Angels, included many prayers for peace.

He said he had never heard the song "Let There Be Peace on Earth" sung as loudly as it was that night.

It was as if it were "coming from the hearts of everyone," he said.

Masses and prayer services have been taking place across the city since the shooting.

"For its reputation as 'Sin City,' Las Vegas is a very religious, compassionate and helpful city," said Brother Robertson, noting this has been proven by the thousands of people who lined up to give blood and the money raised to help families affected.

He said his parish, like many others, has been collecting items — especially restaurant gift cards — to be donated to the local hospitals to give to the family members who have flown into the city from all over the country to be with their wounded family members.

Kim Sennes, a parishioner at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Summerlin, Nevada, about 10 miles away from the Las Vegas Strip, said her parish has also

been involved in collecting items and celebrated a Mass Oct. 3, praying for healing and peace in the wake of the shootings.

She said they are reacting to the tragedy with no information about "what was in this guy's head," referring to 64-year-old shooter Stephen Paddock. The community has been supporting and caring for victims and their families and has contributed to multiple GoFundMe accounts to help pay for burials.

She said at the daily Masses at her parish, especially the day after the shooting, so many people's eyes were swollen from crying.

"You realize how vulnerable you are" when something like this happens, she told CNS Oct. 4, especially in an area where there are so many outdoor gatherings like the Oct. 1 country music festival. A "sense of numbness" still hangs in the region days after the shooting and the common expression from everyone is: "I'm so sad."

Sennes, who is 72 and has lived in the Las Vegas area for almost 40 years, has three daughters in the area and six grandchildren. She told one of her daughters, who felt very affected by the massacre — comparing it to how she felt after the Sept. 11 attacks — that instead of letting it bring her down she should "become a strong advocate for changing things" such as supporting gun control measures.

The other action is continued prayer, said Brother Robertson. "We are praying for a world where light will overcome darkness. That is what our Lord promises us, and we cannot give in to the evil that visits us here



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Eliminating any difference between sexes 'is not right,' pope says

BY JUNNO AROCHO ESTEVES

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While societies must find a way to overcome the subjugation of women, pretending there are no differences between men and women or even using technology to change a person's sex is not the answer, Pope Francis said.

Using science "to radically eliminate any difference between the sexes, and, as a result, the covenant between man and woman, is not right," the pope said Oct. 5, opening the Pontifical Academy for Life's general assembly.

"The biological and psychological manipulation of sexual difference, which biomedical technology now presents as a simple matter of personal choice — which it is not — risks eliminating the source of energy that nourishes the covenant between man and woman and makes it creative and fruitful," the pope said.

Pope Francis offered several reflections for the academy's consideration of humanity's relationship with technology, particularly in a culture he described as egocentric and "obsessively centered on the sovereignty of man — as a species and as individuals — in relation to all of reality."

"This approach is not harmless: It forms a person who is

always looking at himself in the mirror, who can't look others, or the world, in the eye," the pope said. "This approach has negative consequences for all one's affections and relationships in life."

Although real scientific and technological progress should "inspire more humane policies," the pope said that men, women and children today suffer "with bitterness and sorrow from the false promises of technological materialism."

Relationships are essential, he said, noting that God entrusted "creation and history to the covenant between man and woman," which is seen especially in marriage and the transmission of new life.

But the partnership between men and women goes beyond individual families, he said. "It is an invitation to become responsible for the world, in culture and politics, in the world of work and in the economy, and in the church as well."

Meeting new challenges "is not simply about equal opportunity or mutual recognition," he said. "Man and woman are called on not only to speak about love, but to speak to each other, with love, about what they must do to ensure that our lives together can be lived in the light of God's love for every creature."

"Speak to each other, ally

with each other, because neither man nor woman can shoulder this responsibility without the other," he said.

And, in a culture where some people consider the transmission of new life "a degradation of woman or a threat to societal well-being," he said, the church is called to affirm new life "as a gift."

"Generating life gives us new life," he said, it "makes us richer."

Compassion for children and the elderly is also crucial, the pope said, because there are "areas of the soul and of human sensitivity that demand to be heard and acknowledged, guarded and appreciated, by individuals and by the community."

Pope Francis thanked the members of the Pontifical Academy for Life for their commitment to defending the "responsible accompaniment of human life from conception and throughout its years to its natural end" and engaging in dialogue with people and scholars with different views to "bring a more authentic wisdom about life to the attention of all peoples."

"Open and fruitful dialogue can and must be established with the many who are seeking the true meaning of life," the pope said.

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Students, Catholic Charities mobilize to aid storm victims

BY AMY WISE TAYLOR

CHARLESTON, S.C. (CNS) — In a demonstration of what charity is all about, students in the Diocese of Charleston — like people across the nation — are trying to help victims of the three massive hurricanes that unleashed their fury on the U.S. mainland and islands in the Caribbean.

One after the other, in a span of about three weeks, hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria wreaked havoc with destructive tornadoes, floods and winds so strong they bent and twisted an iron cross outside a Jesuit school in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Debbie Wilfong, principal of St. Andrew School in Myrtle Beach, said a group of fifth-grade girls, “upon their own initiative,” met with her to get permission for a bake sale. They set a date, created posters to advertise the event and assigned jobs to all the fifth-graders.

They even tapped Father Roger Morgan, administrator of the school’s parish, for baking duties, which he accepted.

St. Andrew’s volleyball team also joined the outreach, deciding to donate all proceeds from their weekly bake sales to hurricane victims.

Wilfong praised the students “for being altruistic, and being examples of service beyond self,” adding that the kids also made cards for children in the disaster areas.

Other schools are participating in the “Student to Student” campaign run by the National Catholic Educational Association — <http://ncea.org/sts>. Some of those schools in the Charleston Diocese include St. Peter in Columbia, Divine Redeemer in Hanahan, and St. Gregory the Great in Bluffton.



CNS photo/Jonathan Drake, Reuters

A severely damaged school in St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands is seen in an aerial view taken Sept. 21 in the aftermath from Hurricane Maria

The NCEA will distribute 100 percent of funds collected to dioceses in affected areas for their school communities, said Kathy Preston, principal of St. Peter, in an interview with *The Catholic Miscellany*, Charleston’s diocesan newspaper.

One of the most popular ways for schools to raise money is to let students ditch their uniforms for a day, in exchange for cash.

St. Mary’s Student Council in Greenville sponsored a casual dress day and collected more than \$900. Students at St. John Neumann in Columbia paid \$1 for each nonuniform item they wanted to wear and raised \$1,800.

At Prince of Peace in Taylors, students created and sold T-shirts plus held a dress-down day. Meanwhile, at Holy Trinity in Longs, a collection was held at Mass and students were plan-

ning a car wash for Oct. 14.

Schoolchildren also were praying for everyone, and sending letters and cards.

“Students are expressing their concern and letting the children (in storm areas) know they are praying for them,” said Patti Lanthier, principal of St. Paul the Apostle in Spartanburg.

Chris Trott, principal of St. Gregory, said they also were writing to the seminarians based in Houston.

In addition to students’ support, Catholic Charities workers from South Carolina were in South Florida from Sept. 25 to Oct. 6 to aid in the recovery pro-

cess for communities ravaged by Hurricane Irma.

In response to an SOS from Catholic Charities USA in South Florida, the agency deployed Kelly Kaminski, director of disaster services; Brantli Senn, disaster program manager; and disaster case managers Brittany Soward and Sherry Starrs.

“The disaster recovery team in South Carolina is probably one of the best in the country,” said Deacon Dan Powers, executive director for the agency in the Diocese of Charleston. “Kelly Kaminski leads a great team that has been working on recovery since the 2015 floods and Hurricane Matthew in 2016, so they have a lot of experience.”

When Kaminski spoke to *The Catholic Miscellany*, she and her colleagues were assisting Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Palm Beach, which covers five counties in South Florida.

They spent the first several days collaborating on a strategic plan to help local victims. Then, Kaminski said, the workers held five community events to help determine what residents needed. Translators who spoke Spanish and Creole were on hand to assist the area’s diverse population, which includes a large number of Hispanic and Haitian residents.

“We conducted more than 200 assessments and discovered that the largest unmet needs were basic needs including food and water,” Kaminski said. “There also were some people with intermediate needs such as rent and utility assistance, and

temporary housing for the displaced.”

She said Palm Beach County was the hardest hit in the area, and most of the people they are assisting live inland or in rural areas, where many were affected by heavy rains but do not have flood insurance.

Before they left for home, the South Carolina workers helped assess residents’ needs, distributed food and water, and assisted people with scheduling appointments for further assistance during a Catholic Charities-sponsored community outreach events at four parishes in the cities of Fort Pierce, Pahokee and Belle Glade, Florida.

According to Kaminski, Irma’s effect on Florida was by far the largest disaster the team has been involved with. As of Oct. 3, 93,000 people had registered claims with the Federal Emergency Management Agency in Palm Beach County alone, and nearly 2 million people had registered with FEMA statewide.

Kaminski added that she likely would head back to Florida within a week of returning home Oct. 6 to continue the relief efforts. She said Catholic Charities also planned to assist thousands of Puerto Rican victims of Hurricane Maria, who are expected to start arriving in Florida in the near future.

Christina Lee Knauss contributed to this story. Taylor and Knauss are reporters at The Catholic Miscellany, newspaper of the Diocese of Charleston.

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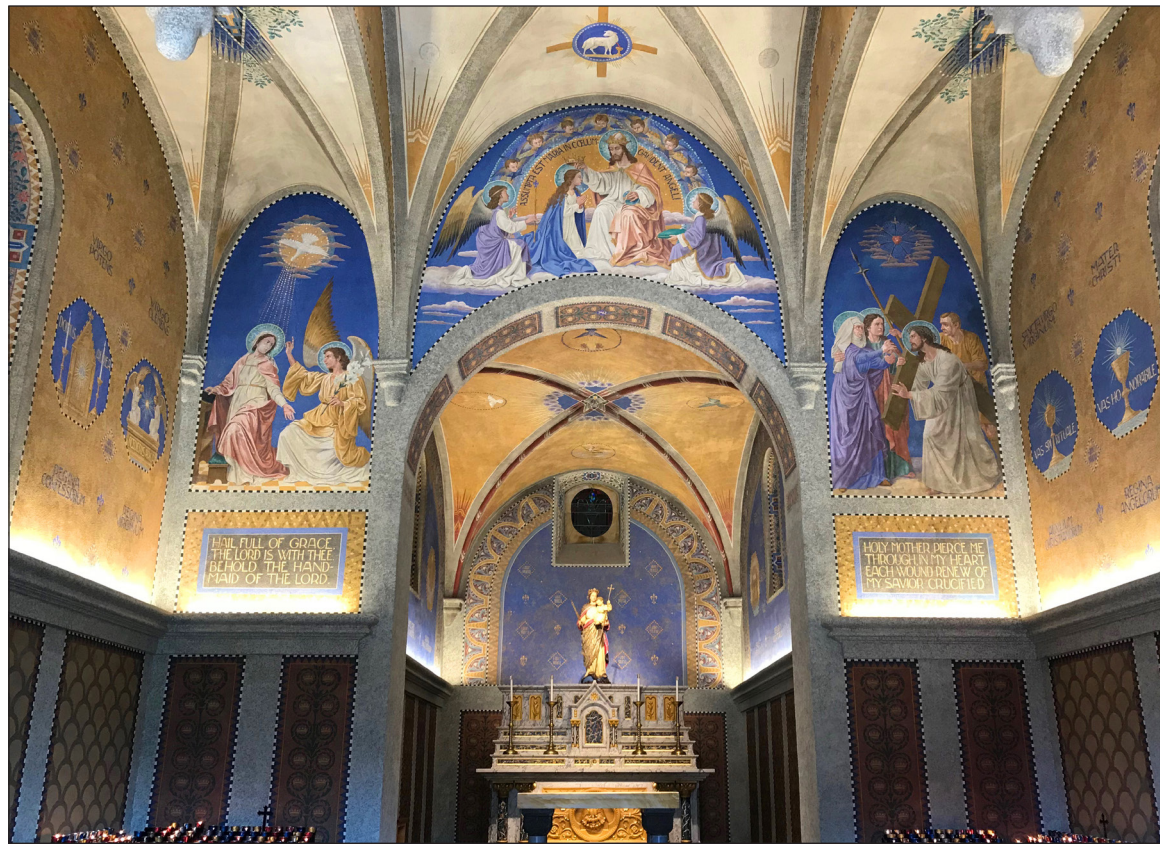
Bishop Vasquez urges U.S. to help solve expanding Rohingya crisis

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Migration called on the federal government to work with the Myanmar government and the international community to solve the crisis affecting the persecuted Rohingya people. Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Austin, Texas, said in written testimony to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs Oct. 5 that the situation affecting the largely Muslim Rohingya population in Myanmar deserve "safe, humane and voluntary durable solutions" as they struggle amid violence that has caused them to flee their homeland. More than 500,000 Rohingya have fled Myanmar's Rakhine state to Bangladesh since Aug. 25, after government forces began retaliating after attacks on security check posts by militants from the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army. The conflict has resulted in more than 1,000 Rohingya deaths, dozens of houses burned and countless women being raped. Bishop Vasquez offered several recommendations to the House committee, including steps to stabilize the situation in Rakhine state and Bangladesh, provide protection and humanitarian assistance for the displaced Rohingya, resettlement of Rohingya in other countries as necessary, and work for long-term peace while addressing the root causes for the displacement of people from Myanmar, also known as Burma.

'Love Saves Lives' theme for 2018 March for Life marking Roe decision

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The theme for the 45th annual March for Life will be "Love Saves Lives: Life Is the Loving, Empowering and Self-Sacrificial Option." The March for Life Education and Defense Fund announced the theme for the 2018 rally and march at a briefing on Capitol Hill Oct. 3 with Jeanne Mancini, president of the March for Life organization and other pro-life leaders in Washington. She moderated a panel discussion on "how the pro-life movement continues to empower women" with Susan Gallucci, executive director of the Northwest Center, which offers a range of services to pregnant women and new mothers; Chuck Donovan, president of Charlotte Lozier Institute, the research and education institute of the Susan B. Anthony List; and Alison Howard Centofante, director of alliance relations at Alliance Defending Freedom, a nonprofit legal group that supports pro-life, religious freedom and other issues. The March for Life will take place Jan. 19, which

Monte Cassino Shrine restored



CNS photo/Katie Rutter

The interior of Monte Cassino Shrine in St. Meinrad, Ind., is seen Oct. 1 after two years of restoration efforts. The small sandstone shrine, named after the famous Italian monastery founded by St. Benedict, has a history nearly as long as the nearby Benedictine-run St. Meinrad Archabbey, dating back to 1870. The 24-by-50-foot chapel was visited by hundreds of pilgrims Oct. 1 as the first Mass was celebrated following the restoration project.

is a Friday and comes ahead of the Jan. 22 anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 ruling in *Roe v. Wade*.

U.S. House passes bill to ban abortion after 20 weeks of gestation

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. House Oct. 3 passed the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, which bans abortions after 20 weeks of gestation, about the time doctors have determined that an unborn child can feel pain. Introduced by Rep. Trent Franks, R-Arizona, it would punish doctors who perform an abortion after 20 weeks, except in cases of rape, incest or if the life of the mother is threatened. Physicians could face up to five years in prison. Women seeking abortions would not be penalized under the bill. In a statement Oct. 2, the Trump administration said it strongly supported the bill, H.R. 36, and "applauded the House of Representatives for continuing its efforts to secure critical pro-life protections." President Donald Trump said he would sign the measure if it reached his desk.

The Senate still must schedule consideration of the bill but that seemed unlikely. Senate Whip John Cornyn, a Texas Republican, told reporters, "That's not a near-term priority." In a Sept. 29 letter to House members, Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, urged passage of the bill, calling it "common-sense reform."

Glendon to receive 2018 Evangelium Vitae Medal from Notre Dame center

NOTRE DAME, Ind. (CNS) — Mary Ann Glendon, a Harvard professor of law and former U.S. ambassador, has been named the 2018 recipient of the Evangelium Vitae Medal bestowed by the University of Notre Dame's Center for Ethics and Culture. The recipient is announced annually on Respect Life Sunday, which this year was Oct. 1. The award, comprised of a specially commissioned medal and \$10,000 prize, will be presented at a Mass and banquet April 28 at Notre Dame.

Named for St. John Paul II's 1995 encyclical on life issues, the Notre Dame Evangelium Vitae Medal is a lifetime achievement award given to "heroes of the pro-life movement." It honors individuals whose efforts have served "to proclaim the Gospel of human life by steadfastly affirming and defending its sanctity from its earliest stages. Glendon is one of the most extraordinary figures in academia and the global public square," said O. Carter Snead, director of the Center for Ethics and Culture, adding that she "personifies" what is at "the heart of the Evangelium Vitae Medal."

Child Martyrs of Tlaxcala recalled for their devotion to faith

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — Blessed Cristobal was about 12 or 13 when he confronted his father in 1527 over drinking "pulque," an alcoholic beverage made from fermented sap of agave plant. He poured out the pulque in the family home and told his father, a cacique (local leader) called Acxtecatl, to give up idolatry. His father, according to an account

from the Diocese of Tlaxcala, Mexico, locked Blessed Cristobal in his room and repeatedly beat him. The youth, lying on his death bed, told his father, "Oh father, do not think that I am angry because I am very joyous. Know that you have honored me in a way much more than all your lands and titles." Acxtecatl attacked his son again, killing him, but also making Blessed Cristobal one of the first martyrs in Mexico and the New World. Blessed Cristobal, along with two other indigenous Tlaxcalteca youths, Blessed Antonio and Blessed Juan, will be canonized Oct. 15 at the Vatican. The latter two were 12 or 13 at the time of their deaths in 1529. The trio, known as the Child Martyrs of Tlaxcala, were among the early converts to Christianity in Mexico. They are considered the first martyrs in the Americas, "protomartires," because they were killed for their faith and will be canonized for that reason.

Anti-nuclear coalition wins Nobel Peace Prize

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Emphasizing the hope for a nuclear-free world, the Nobel committee announced its decision to award the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. The organization, also known by the acronym ICAN, was commended for its work in drawing attention "to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons," the committee said, announcing the prize Oct. 6. "It is the firm conviction of the Norwegian Nobel committee that ICAN, more than anyone else, has in the past year given the efforts to achieve a world without nuclear weapons a new direction and new vigor," it said. Launched in 2007, the organization is a coalition of nongovernmental organizations in 101 countries aimed at promoting global nuclear disarmament. The Nobel committee honored ICAN for its efforts to achieve a prohibition of nuclear weapons under international law through the U.N. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Vatican uses ecologically friendly cleansers on outdoor art

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Roughly half of the Vatican's 110 acres is devoted to gardens, and a major project is underway to keep them as "green" as possible. It's not about watering the plants, although that was a big concern this year with a drought in Italy. The Vatican Museums and the Vatican City governor's office — which includes the gardeners — are involved in a five-year project to develop ecologically friendly cleaning agents and techniques to clean, restore and maintain the 570 works of art on display outside. Those works include fountains, statues and stone plaques. The project involves art experts and biologists.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Students collect goods for hurricane victims



Provided by Kurt Homan

Students at St. Joseph Hessen Cassel School, Fort Wayne, recently collected school supplies that will be delivered to their counterparts in Catholic schools in Florida that were affected by Hurricane Irma.

Football player's kicks contribute to curing cancer

BY CLAIRE KENNEY

Sometimes there's no question that something's the right thing to do.

When Bishop Luers High School senior Peyton Howe saw a presentation for Kick-It, a worldwide program that raises money for cancer research, while at Kohl's training camp for kickers, punters and long snappers over the summer, he had no reservations that volunteering to participate was the right thing to do.

"During the presentation he turned to my husband and silently indicated that he was going to volunteer for Kick-It," Peyton's mother, Becky Howe, explained.

The Fort Wayne student had always admired professional football players who support childhood cancer research, and he quickly recognized that Kick-It provided an option for him to do the same.

"I always thought highly of the NFL's philanthropic initiatives for finding a cure for cancer, in particular childhood cancer," Peyton said. "So when I saw the opportunity to volunteer for Kick-It, I got excited."

Kick-It raises funds for child cancer research through pledges made for its volunteers' successful field goal and point-after attempts. Supporters pledge to give a certain amount per point made during game time from these types of kicks. The organization was inspired by Quinn



John Martin

Bishop Luers High School placekicker Peyton Howe goes for the point after — and earns money for cancer research — during a game against rival Bishop Dwenger High School Sept. 29.

Clarke, a child who, during his second battle with cancer, coordinated a kickball game as a fundraiser for cancer research.

Peyton's participation in Kick-It has been associated with adjectives synonymous with terms like "role model." Though touched by the recognition, he believes that his participation in Kick-It is simply a duty that cannot be dismissed. It is a belief that has not wavered since he turned to his father four months ago with evident eagerness to get involved.

"Peyton does not think of himself as a leader," Becky said.

KICKS, page 8

Statue of St. Francis installed



Mollie Shutt

A new statue of St. Francis of Assisi stands prominently in front of the University of Saint Francis Robert Goldstine Performing Arts Center in downtown Fort Wayne. Placed the morning of Oct. 3, the work is a replica of the statue designed by the late Sufi Ahmad, former USF art professor and sculptor, which sits in front of Brookside Mansion on the main campus of the university.

CharityFest raises money for St. Vincent de Paul Society



Provided by Tim Fagan

The St. Vincent de Paul Society in Fort Wayne organized its annual CharityFest Sept. 30 at The University of St. Francis Robert Goldstein Performing Arts Center. A live auction, silent auction Pumpkin Patch gift card sale, cookie sale, jewelry sale, 50/50 raffle, dinner and dancing were enjoyed by the guests. All CharityFest funds directly support the St. Vincent de Paul Society charitable programs.

Deacon professes final vows with Third Order Franciscans

BY EMILY DIEHM

Be still and know that I am God (Ps 46:11).

Be still. Sitting in Deacon Jim Kitchens's office, surrounded by pictures of him and his wife, their children, grandchildren and a beautiful cross that was recently gifted to him, this is easy for a guest to do. Deacon Kitchens emits an air of contentment and peacefulness that stays with a person.

During a recent conversation, squeezed in after Mass but before the work day officially started, Deacon Kitchens reflected on his recent profession of faith to the secular Third Order of Franciscans. However, even in his busy office, a calmness was present.

Sharing stories about his love for his family and the great joy he feels from his weekends spent with his grandchildren in Indianapolis, Deacon Kitchens talked about attending their cross-county meets and his frequent Skype conversations with another grandson in Sweden. He has found a way to obtain a balance between home and career.

To date he has baptized 332 babies, and each of their names are written in his journal. He shared about times he was called to sit and pray with and for people as they passed, and mentioned the complete happiness he felt during each of the 35 weddings he has officiated.

"I have felt God's hand in so many aspects in my life. I encourage all to find a way to



Trisha Trout

Deacon Jim Kitchens, right, recently professed his final vows with the Third Order Franciscans, professing to live a life devoted to Christ, imitating him and following in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi.

connect their heart to God in all they do. Doing so will make their life richer and their decisions better."

Although many topics and situations were discussed, Deacon Kitchens's message was clear: Slow down. Embrace quiet time,

pray often and enjoy the blessings God has given.

"I think young people, all people really, need to take a moment and be still," he said. "Turn off the cell phones, step away from the noise and enjoy and marvel at the beauty that God has cre-

ated for us to see every day. God is always present. In everything."

In 2006, Deacon Kitchens was finishing up his masters of theology degree at the University of Notre Dame. It was a busy time for him, as he was simultaneously completing the diaconate program.

"There was a lot going on at that time in my life," he said. "I remember one day sitting in class and observing how these two deacons always seemed to be at ease. They were happy. Peaceful. I wanted that."

The two men he referred to are Deacon Bill Gallagher and Deacon Jim Fuchs. They shared with Deacon Kitchens that they both were members of the Third Order Franciscans. An official order within the Catholic Church, the Secular Franciscan fraternity was established early in the 13th century by St. Francis of Assisi.

Deacon Kitchens was intrigued. He wanted to learn more, and did. On Sept. 17 of this year he made his public commitment to live as a Secular Franciscan.

"In these fraternities the brothers and sisters, who are led by the Holy Spirit, strive for ongoing change. We pray that we always will strive to turn away from sin and to be faithful to the Gospel," said Kitchens. "We ask for God's grace in helping one another in this a journey to become closer to Christ. I want to follow in the footsteps of St. Francis. I strive for joyful simplicity in my daily life."

For Deacon Kitchens, the

process of becoming a professed Secular Franciscan involved a commitment of four years of formation. This included a monthly formation meeting, coupled with prayer and study. There is heavy emphasis on prayer.

"Formation is divided into three stages: an orientation stage, an inquiry stage and a candidacy stage," he explained.

The orientation stage is a time for determining a person's interest, eligibility and disposition to enter into the rest of the process. To be eligible, a person must be in good standing with the Catholic Church.

The inquiry stage is a time of learning about the Franciscan charism and history. It is an important time of discernment, designed to determine if the inquirer has a vocation to the order. If a vocation is discerned, both by the individual and the local fraternity, the inquirer is received into the order.

"Normally the bishop does this, but this year Father Dave (Voors) presided. Our ceremony included five new inductees."

The new Secular Franciscans have prayerfully chosen to live a simple, God-centered life. Their dedication and message is clear. Leading by example, Deacon Kitchens is teaching, urging, others just be still.

"I believe that we should not let our possessions own us," said Kitchens. "I will instead live a life devoted to Christ, imitating him and following in the footsteps of St. Francis."

KICKS, from page 7

"He just said that he'd do something."

But certainly the humility that shines through Peyton's outlook on his involvement with Kick-It is, in fact, a significant leadership quality. It's also what provides further evidence of Peyton's heroism.

Becky describes her son as an "every-day-kind-of-a hero;" "not a grand-gesture-kind-of-guy;" and as "someone who grinds away at the hard things in life, makes no excuses, and says 'yes' when he feels called by God to do so."

Bishop Luers' football program has been very involved in Peyton's efforts. So far the varsity football team has visited Lutheran Children's Hospital in Fort Wayne twice as part of the Kick-It project.

"My teammates are very supportive and totally willing to help," Peyton said. "The whole school really has been supportive."

He and his teammates are driven by the fact that their field goal and point-after attempts could quite literally save a child's life.

"I love knowing that my team



Provided by Becky Peyton

Peyton Howe and his fellow captains of the Bishop Luers High School varsity football team pose before visiting children at Lutheran Children's Hospital. From left are Peyton Howe, Tyreon Hambright, Mitch Gigli and Rees Zay.

and I could potentially be doing more than just scoring touchdowns," he said. "The game means more to us now because points are more than points. It's the possibility of saving lives."

Peyton, who is also a Knight for Life and Sodalitas leader, said that his Catholic education played a role in his initiative to participate in Kick-It.

"My Catholic education influ-

enced me to give back because, in the Catholic faith, we learn that giving back is how we can glorify God," he explained. "I would like to glorify God to the best of my abilities and I felt this

(Kick-It) would be a great way to do that."

There's been another major influence on Peyton's willingness to give back: the active role models right in his home.

"My husband Rob is a man of action," Becky said. "I believe that his example of doing has had an impact on Peyton developing a can-do attitude. We have together tried to instill in Peyton a sense of courage regarding speaking out and standing strong for what he believes is right."

Additionally, cancer has hit close to home. The Howes have lost five relatives to cancer and one of Peyton's uncles is currently battling the disease.

"(Peyton) knows what it feels like to lose someone close to him," Becky said.

To the children he's helping, Peyton says "stay strong," as "there are people out there who truly care ... even if you don't know their names."

So far Peyton he has raised nearly \$6,000 for Kick-It. For more information on the program and to support Peyton's efforts, visit www.kick-it.org/champ/2017/08/kick-it-with-peyton.

Archbishop celebrates Holy Cross School language program

BY MOLLY GETTINGER

When one imagines the daily tasks of an archbishop in the Catholic Church, turning his head like a penguin, bending it like a giraffe or raising his shoulders like a lion probably does not come to mind.

Yet that is exactly what the Most Reverend José H. Gomez, Archbishop of Los Angeles, found himself doing on Tuesday, Oct. 3, surrounded by eager prekindergarten and kindergarten students at Holy Cross School, South Bend, as he read “De la cabeza a los pies” (“From Head to Toe”) by Eric Carle.

The purpose of Archbishop Gomez’s visit to the school was to celebrate its dual-language immersion track. Students who opt into the program begin with a 90/10 Spanish-to-English ratio and will be fluent in both languages by the time they complete elementary school. For those who prefer a traditional track, the school also continues to offer the usual English-dominant education.

The dual-language immersion track is in its inaugural year, with prekindergarten and kindergarten classes participating. Each year, the program will be implemented in a higher grade as students move up.

The program is the result of a collaboration with the University of Notre Dame’s Alliance for Catholic Education and Institute for Latino Studies.

Archbishop Gomez can relate to learning another language at the elementary level. As a young boy born in Monterrey, Mexico, in 1951, his mother insisted he learn English. “And I wasn’t too happy about that. I didn’t want to spend more time going to school,” he remembered.

He did as his mother asked, and now Archbishop Gomez is now proficient in English. He says he learned two things along the way. First and foremost, mothers are always right. Second, knowing multiple languages is an incredible blessing to be used in the world.

Now vice-president of the United States Council of Catholic Bishops, Archbishop Gomez also shepherds the largest diocese in the country, in which offers Mass in 42 languages. The Archdiocese of Los Angeles is also a pioneer in bringing dual-language immersion programs, like that offered by Holy Cross School, to the Catholic School system. The archdiocese currently has six dual-language programs in its schools: five are Spanish-English programs and one is a Spanish-Mandarin program. Archbishop Gomez was proud to share the news that 14 more schools are also preparing to launch dual-language programs.

“I think the opportunity to teach languages is a great invi-



Archbishop José H. Gomez of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles displays a gift given to him by the students of Holy Cross School, South Bend, at a Mass celebrated at the parish Oct. 3. Archbishop Gomez traveled to the school to support and celebrate its new dual-language immersion program. Pictured concelebrating the Mass is Father Richard Warner, CSC, left. Father Vincent Cuppola, pastor of the parish, is at right.

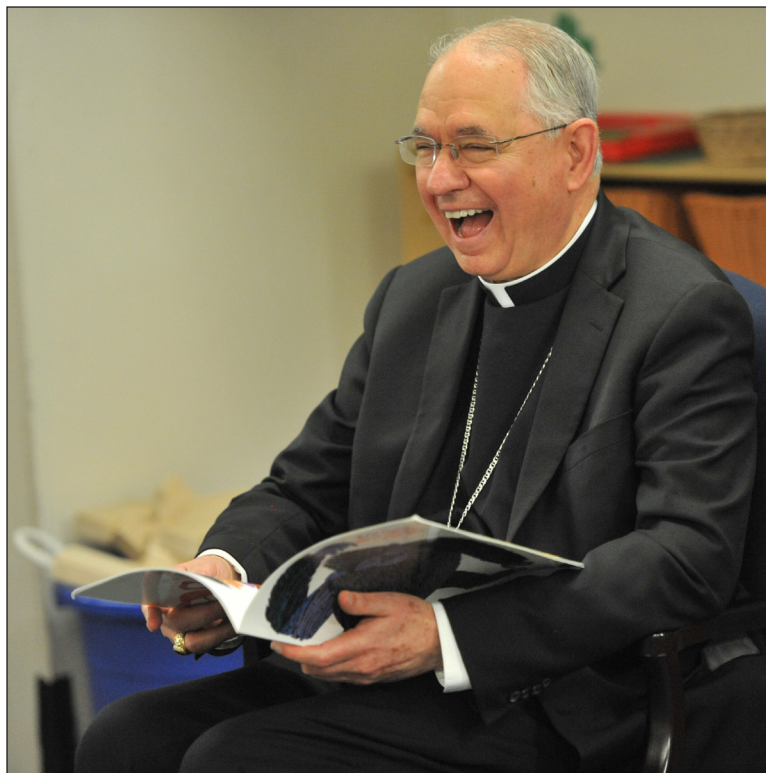
Photos by Joe Raymond

“He loves you and will always be there for you,” he continued. “Never forget that.”

Following Mass, the school presented Archbishop Gomez with a T-shirt reading “Yo (amo) las escuelas católicas” [“I (love) Catholic Schools”]. The staff and students also gave him English and Spanish copies of “De la cabeza a los pies,” (“From Head to Toe”) by Eric Carle, to read to the young budding bilinguals.

His visit then took him to both the dual-language and traditional track students in pre-kindergarten and kindergarten, who they sang for him a trilingual song in English, Spanish and sign language. The students asked questions, particularly about Archbishop Gomez’s pectoral cross, and they smothered him in hugs before he left.

For more information about the Holy Cross School dual-language immersion program visit www.holycrosscrusaders.org.



Archbishop Gomez reads in Spanish to prekindergarten and kindergarten students at Holy Cross School, South Bend, Oct. 3. The archbishop visited the school to support and celebrate its new dual-language immersion program, the first of its kind in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.



The archbishop addresses the students and staff during Mass.

tation because we are helping each other understand our cultures and how to work together,” the archbishop shared. “We are all from different cultures: This is the reality of our country.”

It was “an amazing honor” that Archbishop Gomez would take time to come visit Holy Cross School, said Principal Angela Budzinski.

Archbishop Gomez began his visit with Mass. “It is very important for all folks to understand God is with each one of us all the time... He gave us the gift of life and is with us every second of it,” he said.

More photos are available with this story at www.todayscatholic.org



Prekindergarten and kindergarten students sing a song in Spanish for Archbishop José H. Gomez, of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, at Holy Cross School in South Bend Oct. 3.



Red Masses bring to those who work

Legal profession gathers amid secular trends

BY WILLIAM SCHMITT

Lawyers, judges, law professors, political scientists and students who gathered Oct. 2 for the South Bend-area's annual Red Mass heard Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades urge them to follow the Holy Spirit despite different, secular directions taken recently in government.

He said preparing for the Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit, which traditionally seeks God's blessings upon those in the legal professions, prompted him to respond to controversial remarks made on Capitol Hill in September. He also invited the Red Mass participants to receive enlightenment as witnesses for Christ amid today's civic controversies, referring to remarks U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein made at a Sept. 6 hearing on the nomination of Notre Dame Law School Professor Amy Coney Barrett to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals.

America seeks to uphold rights of conscience, and Catholics must continue to stand up for the rule of law and for just laws respecting fundamental human rights, Bishop Rhoades said. His comments came as he and his concelebrants, wearing red vestments symbolic of the Holy Spirit, focused attention on everyone's constant need for the Spirit's gifts.

"What would our nation be like if it was deprived of lawmakers, judges and others who act from consciences and characters inspired and shaped by faith — those who, for example, worked to abolish slavery and to promote civil rights?" he asked. He pointed to America's founders and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. as examples of powerful influence grounded in faith.

Bishop Rhoades said Catholics with civic and legal duties must be able to embody their values while respecting the rule of law.

St. Thomas More, who is honored at every Red Mass as the patron of lawyers, politicians and statesmanship in general, modeled a well-formed Christian conscience in his love for country and service to just laws, Bishop Rhoades pointed out.

Ultimately, St. Thomas More was beheaded in 1535 when his conscience could not allow him to recognize King Henry VIII's violations of God's law in which the monarch made himself head of the Church of England.

More took a stand reflecting his openness to the Holy Spirit's gifts of wisdom and fortitude, Bishop Rhoades pointed out.



Photos by Bob List

The Basilica of the Sacred Heart, on the campus of the University of Notre Dame, was the location of this year's South Bend-area Red Mass for those in the legal profession, which was celebrated Oct. 2 by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.

"Because of this, I would say that dogma really lived loudly within St. Thomas More — so loudly that he became a martyr."

With More personifying the blessings and responsibilities of pursuing liberty and justice through the legal profession, as encouraged in the Red Mass, the Bishop praised the recent establishment of the St. Thomas More Society of South Bend. The group, whose counterpart in Fort Wayne has existed for several years, describes itself as a private association of the Christian faithful supporting each other and affiliated with the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Following the Red Mass, the recently formed St. Thomas More Society hosted a lecture by professor Stephen Smith, a Notre Dame graduate who now serves as dean of the faculty and a

professor of English at Hillsdale College.

Smith called More an exemplar of the kind of "leading citizen" whose outstanding qualities yielded many years of distinguished service and impact on the England of his time, including blessings for More's family, the law and the church, as well as the nation.

Today's society must nurture a critical Mass of "leading citizens" characterized by trustworthiness, steadfastness and "greatness of soul" if it is to enjoy a "renaissance." Without such citizens, Smith said, a society risks declining into meanness and even tyranny.

"The leading citizen needs to see everything as coming from our tender, loving Father." The preparation needed for such a perspective, according to Smith, must embrace a comprehensive education comprising philosophy, history, law, theology and art.

But such a truly "liberal" education, able to liberate people for a pursuit of the good, must be accompanied by other factors to be nurtured by society, Smith said. Those factors include formation in virtue; training for wise deliberation amid complex circumstances; a sense of integrity that avoids compartmentalization of thoughts, words and deeds; a study of tyranny and how the misuse of laws can lead to it; and a willingness to suffer personally for the greater good.

Also, as if to further affirm the Red Mass tradition, invoking the Holy Spirit for an ongoing impact on a whole profession and on posterity, Smith added another factor. He said true, enduring friendships were important to sustain St. Thomas More as a leading citizen. Such friendship is crucial today too, he suggested, noting that a society's best leaders deserve the strong support of others.



Worshippers greet Bishop Rhoades following the Red Mass liturgy at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

Together lawmakers, work for justice

Red Mass invokes gifts of the Holy Spirit

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

The Red Mass, a Mass celebrated annually in the Catholic Church for judges, lawyers, law school professors, law students and government officials, took place Tuesday, Oct. 3, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in downtown Fort Wayne. The Mass, celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and attended by scores of legal professionals, requested guidance from the Holy Spirit for all those seeking justice and offered the opportunity to reflect on the God-given power and responsibility of those in that profession.

Originating in Europe during the Middle Ages, the Red Mass gained its name from the red vestments traditionally worn as a symbol of the tongues of fire, or the Holy Spirit, that descended on the apostles at Pentecost. Its focus is on the leadership roles of those present and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, i.e., wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord, which are customarily invoked upon them.

Bishop Rhoades spoke, during his homily, about the recent questioning of Amy Barrett Coney by the Senate Judiciary Committee, saying, "At this Red Mass, we are asking the Holy Spirit to bestow His gifts upon you who serve as lawyers, judges, law professors, law students and civic officials. If our prayer is answered, you know what is going to happen?" He answered that question by saying, "Dogma will live loudly within you! Your faith ... will be real and authentic, inspiring you to serve the common good, justice, human life and dignity and peace. It will inspire you to be generous, to care for the weak and the poor and to protect the vulnerable."

He also reminded his audience of the great saint and jurist St. Thomas More, who refused in conscience to take the Oath of Supremacy, which required recognizing the king of England as head of the church. "Thomas More had a well-formed Christian conscience ... he would not take an oath in violation of God's law, even though it meant imprisonment and death. He died, as he said at the scaffold, as 'the king's loyal servant, but God's servant first.' He not only had the Holy Spirit's gift of wisdom, but also the Holy Spirit's gift of fortitude or courage. Because of this, I would say that dogma really lived loudly within St.



Photos by John Martin

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrates a Mass for those in the legal profession Oct. 3 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne.

Thomas More, so loudly that he became a martyr. When faith is alive in our hearts, when dogma lives loudly within us, when we are open to the Holy Spirit's gifts, we possess the wisdom and courage to act morally and truthfully according to a well-formed conscience."

Bishop Rhoades referred once again to Barrett. "In her wonderful speech to the graduates of the Notre Dame School of Law in 2006, Professor Barrett expressed her hope that they would be a different kind of lawyer in the Notre Dame tradition. She explained that this means that they would see their legal career as a means to an end, that being the building of the kingdom of God. It is astonishing to me that some critics found these words objectionable," he said. Professor Barrett was encouraging the graduates to live their lives according to their ultimate end by reminding them that their fundamental purpose in life is to know, love and serve God.

Following Mass, attendees enjoyed dinner at the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center, where attorney Robert Muise, co-founder of the American Freedom Law Center in Ann Arbor, Michigan, was the keynote speaker. Muise, an expert in constitutional law dedicated to defending religious liberty, the freedom of speech and the right to life in state and federal trial and appellate courts



Speaking to attendees on the subject of reproductive rights, Attorney Robert Muise of the American Freedom Law Center addresses an audience of legal professionals at the Archbishop Noll Center in Fort Wayne following the Red Mass.

across the country, brought his considerable expertise to bear on his remarks.

Muise's address, "Reproductive Rights, a Pro-Life Perspective," followed closely on Bishop Rhoades' observations at Mass about rights and responsibilities. Muise outlined the genesis of the "right" to abortion as it evolved in four case studies, *Griswold v. Connecticut* (1965), *Eisenstadt v. Baird* (1972), *Roe v. Wade* (1973) and *Doe v. Bolton* (1973).

In the *Griswold* case, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled that the state of Texas' ban on contraception violated a married couple's right to marital privacy. In *Eisenstadt v. Baird*, the court further ruled that unmarried couples may also possess contraception. In *Roe v. Wade*, the court famously affirmed the legality of a woman's right to have an abortion if contraception failed. In order to preserve the health of the mother, abortion was allowed during the entire term of her pregnancy, leaving states only the right to set some conditions on second- and third-trimester abortions. The court also declared that a fetus is not a "person" and therefore not afforded the protection of the 14th Amendment of the U. S. Constitution. In a companion case issued the same year, the Supreme Court ruled in *Doe v. Bolton* that all factors — physical, emotional, psychological, familial and the woman's age may be considered in determining whether an abortion is necessary for the mother's "health."

Muise referred to Pope Paul VI's prophesies in his encyclical "Humanae Vitae," issued in 1968. The pope predicted that the widespread use of contraception would lead to conjugal infidelity and the lowering of morality, especially sexual morality. And the increase in divorces, abortion, out-of-wedlock pregnancies and venereal diseases seem to bear out his words. He predicted that men would lose respect for women and see them only as objects of pleasure. He also said that widespread acceptance of contraception would place dangerous power in the hands of public authorities and family-planning programs in many Third World countries is testimony to that. Finally, Pope Paul VI believed that contraception would lead people to believe they had total control over their own bodies, which has led to the production of test-tube babies, sterilization and euthanasia.

In MY diocese

Our Lady of Good Hope

Allen County

Parish's dedication to the Blessed Mother yields fruit

BY JEANNIE EWING

The life of devout and dynamic Catholics is varied and vast. Most have at least two things in common, however: a strong faith foundation from their families of origin, and a parish community teeming with people and priests who directly affect their spiritual growth. At Our Lady of Good Hope Catholic Church in Fort Wayne, the priests and parishioners agree that it's the family life that makes it a thriving parish.

"We have a great family feel to our parish, and the commitment level of our members who want to grow in their faith is inspiring," said Father Mark Gurtner, who has served as both parochial vicar and is currently the pastor of Our Lady of Good Hope, for a combined 10 years of service. "The biggest strength of our parish is the number of people who attend Sunday Mass and daily Mass. They are always



FATHER
MARK GURTNER



Debi Schoedel

Years ago, when Father David Voors was pastor of Our Lady of Good Hope, he consecrated the parish to the Blessed Mother. Now the community is reaping the fruits of this dedication, including faith-filled children's, teen and young adult ministries.

packed. The daily Masses frequently have over 100 people in attendance, which is a great blessing."

Father Daniel Whelan, parochial vicar since March at Our Lady of Good Hope, agreed. "I think the greatest asset of the parish is the number of young families. Of course, there are the blessings of the older parishioners and their wisdom. But you get the whole gamut at Our Lady, especially the number of young people striving to grow in their faith."

To a visitor, the Masses might seem distracting, given the intermittent coos, cries and yelps from the littlest Catholics in attendance. But the witness of the families who bring all their kids to Mass faithfully, week after week, is hard to ignore. "To me, babies are like our little pray-ers," offered Father Whelan. "It's like hearing them sing to God, which is a welcomed and refreshing aspect of being a part of this parish."

Father Whelan accedes that parents should, of course, remove their children from the sanctuary if the noise decibel is too loud or if the behavior is inappropriate. But it should be temporary, he believes. "The



Our Lady of Good Hope

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Mass Times:

Saturday: 4:30 p.m.

Sunday: 8:30, 10:30 a.m.

Holy Day: Consult bulletin

Weekday: T, Th, F 9 a.m.

Adoration: T 9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Reconciliation: Saturday 3:30-4:15 p.m.; and by appointment

cry room should only be used when absolutely necessary. It shouldn't be a de facto place to immediately go to spend the entire Mass."

OUR LADY, page 14



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In MY diocese

St. Vincent de Paul

Allen County

A consistent commitment to grow in the spiritual life

BY LAUREN CAGGIANO

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church has experienced significant growth in recent years, in its spiritual life particularly, and the church community is bullish on the future.



FATHER DANIEL SCHEIDT

Located on the northwest side for Fort Wayne, St. Vincent is a parish of approximately 3,200 families. Father Daniel Scheidt has presided as pastor since the summer of 2013. What he calls “a parish of doers,” St. Vincent is an active and dynamic parish.

Parish history

The roots of the parish run deep, a point which Father Scheidt does not take lightly. French Catholics migrated to this area in the 1830s. At that time, there was no diocese and few priests. Yet the early parishioners took their faith seriously. From the outset, Mass was said in local Catholic homes. As the numbers grew, the first church was built in 1846 and the first pastor named in 1843, according to parish records.

Father Benoit is remembered as the founder of St. Vincent parish. It's reported that he traveled in a 100-mile radius of St. Vincent to serve the spiritual needs of the Miami Indians and French immigrants alike. He built St. Augustine church in the inner city, which is now known as the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Father Benoit laid a firm



Provided by St. Vincent de Paul Parish

The church has grown in physical space over the years, from a small wooden building to the sprawling campus that it occupies today.

foundation for both the spiritual and physical growth of the parish. By 1900 the church had 70 members. It more than doubled by 1946, with about 200 souls. By 1974, the parish served more than 5,400 people. Today, more than 10,600 people call St. Vincent their parish home.

Sometimes the parish dedicates its resources to local causes, and other times it thinks and acts more globally. For example, a medical mission trip to Honduras is a humanitarian effort sponsored by the church. Pastoral Associate Dorothy Schuerman said that mostly recently, in November 2016, about 10 people — alongside a doctor — made the trip to bring medical and dental care to

people of church's sister parish there. St. Vincent parishioners helped raise funds to offset the cost of the trip.

Whether it's tending to the needs of the faithful in their own parish or one thousands of miles away, St. Vincent is about showing God's love to all people — from all walks of life and faith backgrounds.

St. Vincent's today and tomorrow

Society may have changed since the 19th century, but Father Scheidt said it all goes back to one longstanding priority: “This parish has had a consistent commitment to grow in

the spiritual life,” he said.

It's also multifaceted, which means it serves a wide variety of interests and spiritual needs. About half of the parish tithing goes toward ministries and other parish organizations and activities, he said.

He cited the parish's vibrant chapter of the St. Vincent de Paul Society as one example of its dedication to the work of the Holy Spirit. The organization assists the needy within parish boundaries, regardless of religious affiliation. Members respond with home visits to those who call for help with food, household items or clothing, and work with the township trustee in assisting with basic needs. They tend to the needs of the vulnerable population who may require lodging or food on an emergency basis, and also assist with other special projects

throughout the year.

Christ Renews His Parish has been another successful means to reach people on a deeper level, he said. CRHP is a spiritual renewal process that has been alive at the parish since 1986. Semi-annual weekend retreats, held in the spring and fall, provide opportunities to experience personal conversion and Christian community in a casual, friendly atmosphere. In his words, “it creates a network of friends who grow together in Christ.” What's especially noteworthy is the fact that children of the first group of retreat attendees are now getting involved, which means there's a multigenerational cohort of faithful.

CRHP has done some great things for the parish, he said, because many vocations and programs have grown from that initial community. Many parishioners are answering the call to married life — St. Vincent clergy preside over about 50 weddings a year. There are currently 10 seminarians who originated from the parish, and he said an additional four men and women are currently in formation for religious life.

According to Father Scheidt, the parish has done a masterful job in fostering growth of young people discerning vocations from the Lord. In the same vein, he said he takes pride in the success of the school, religious education program and teen ministries. Current school enrollment is at 750 students, which makes it among the largest schools in the diocese.

While these vocations represent the future of the parish, other efforts focus on maintaining the current health of the flock. For example, the Called and Gifted program engages about 700 parishioners, accord-

ST. VINCENT, page 14

St. Vincent de Paul

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Mass Times:

Saturday: 8 a.m., 5 p.m.
Sunday: 7:15, 9, 11 a.m.; 6 p.m.;
(12:45 p.m. Oct-April)
Holy Day: see website
Weekday: M-Th 6:30, 8 a.m.;
F 8 a.m., 5:30 p.m.
Reconciliation: Sat. 8:45-9:45
a.m.; W 4:30 p.m. to last penitent



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OUR LADY, from page 12

David Zehr, whose family joined Our Lady of Good Hope in 1998, added, "I try to make a point to tell a young parent (mother or father) after Mass, whose kids are screaming and squirming, that there's grace there." He feels that the sound and movement of young children is "the renewal of the Church." It cultivates a strong sense, he added, that the young ones are "the next great Catholics."

Zehr, who serves as pastoral associate and RCIA director, believes this strong foundation of the domestic church first began years ago when then-pastor Father David Voors consecrated the parish to the Blessed Mother, asking her intercession that the parish would include couples with small children and foster a pro-life atmosphere. "He made it a point to pray for the renewal of the church, and now it's happening. We are seeing the fruits of this prayer," Zehr said. "We have seen Father Mark take up this beautiful cause, and we know that Father Daniel is very pro-family too."

Father Whelan feels this pro-life and pro-family culture at Our Lady of Good Hope results in the deeper understanding that children are blessings. "Even if a family only has one child, it's an incredible blessing," he elucidated. As a result, the parish is benefiting from the fruits of the hard work parents are doing to instill the faith in their children's hearts. There are several ministries that serve the littlest members all the way through their young adult years. "In addition to junior high and

high school, we have a youth ministry for younger children, which is pretty unique," said Father Gurtner. "We also have a very active young adult ministry called the Frassati Society, named after Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, who shared his Catholic faith with all of his friends."

The Frassati Society is open to young adults throughout the diocese, not just limited to members at Our Lady of Good Hope. As stated on the website fortwaynefrassati.org, "sainthood – Heaven – is worth the fight. We know from experience that we can't do this alone. And so, we journey together. We encourage each other. Grow with each other. And, God willing, we'll be saints for eternity." The group's ongoing activities included monthly eucharistic adoration, with an opportunity for young people to go to confession and hear a talk for further reflection.

Monica Bodien, co-founder of the Frassati Society, said, "We have found that the Eucharist has been the most popular desire for the young adults at our parish. This is why we have been centering all our events around the Eucharist."

It's the sacramental focus at the parish that makes it great, Zehr strongly believes. "The Eucharist is the focal point here. The last couple of priests, including Father Mark, have really helped us to understand more clearly the Real Presence." The parish has always been family-oriented, prayerful and intimate, according to Zehr. "The priests here have always preached about the need to go to confession and instituted weekly adoration on Tuesdays," he iter-

ated.

As an example of a typical Saturday night during Ordinary Time in the liturgical calendar, Zehr shared, "I was making announcements and before Mass, Father Mark came up to an elderly woman and her son and anointed them because of health difficulties. While that was going on, Father Daniel was in the confessional, and then we celebrated Mass." He says the sacraments were "very vivid and clear" that night, which isn't unusual.

The Mass is also integral to the students at the new parish school, only in its second year. Father Gurtner explained, "We started it because I had a number of parents who approached me about the consideration of starting a parish-based school. It turned into a three-year discernment process of planning and preparation." The school is based on a classical educational model, which incorporates the faith into every subject area. The goal is to inspire students toward wisdom and virtue. Central to their spiritual growth is attending Mass four days a week; an additional day is spent in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

According to both Father Gurtner and Zehr, Our Lady of Good Hope is a parish full of generous and genuine members. "It's the best aspect of being pastor here," said Father Gurtner. Zehr concluded, "I can't really overemphasize the kindness of the people in our parish."



Provided by St. Vincent de Paul Parish

St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne, has produced many vocations in recent years, a blessing that Father Daniel Scheidt attributes to the parish's pastoral care.

ST. VINCENT, from page 13

ing to Schuerman. This ministry has been well-received and helps people discern and exercise their gifts. In the Called and Gifted discernment process, participants learn that every lay Christian has been given a unique and deeply personal call to work with the Lord. Discerning one's call provides a new perspective on life and can help to be more fulfilled in one's work, volunteer activities at St. Vincent's and personal relationships. Workshops are held periodically at the parish.

Speaking of gifts, the Career Ministry helps people make the most of their current skills while providing tools and resources necessary to acquire additional ones. It's a monthly program held at the parish and is dedicated to providing coaching, networking and educational resources so that all job seekers feel enabled and empowered to successfully find and secure a job. This is an all-volunteer effort, in partnership with the Associated Churches of Fort Wayne and Allen County, and is supported by parishioners and community members. The ministry has been fruitful, with

many success stories, and that momentum is continuing.

The Career Ministry is a shining example of what can happen when people give of their time and resources to others. "St. Vincent's is very generous in offering the gifts it receives as a whole," Father Scheidt said.

The giving nature of the parish calls to mind the church's call for Catholics to show charity toward others. "All of these initiatives are ultimately an extension of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy," the pastor said.

Calling the parish "vibrant" and "spiritually mature," Father Scheidt said he has high hopes for its future. He said the next big priority is construction of an adoration chapel. He realizes this is no small undertaking, and that's why he's calling on the support of the local Catholic community. In particular, he said, helping to build a perpetual adoration chapel at St. Vincent would allow it to become a refuge of prayer at all hours for smaller area churches, as well as for all of those connected in any way to Parkview Regional Medical Center or Dupont Hospital.

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WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

St. Anthony School finds a mission in Ugandan students

BY JENNIFER MILLER

Amsgiving, prayer and fasting are at the heart of living the Christian life, and all three elements are alive in the heart of the students of St. Anthony de Padua School, South Bend.

Two years ago, the students, teachers and staff of St. Anthony learned about three young children living outside of Kampala, Uganda, who had no living family due to the AIDS epidemic and were forced to work or beg for money or food to survive. They were the same age as the St. Anthony students, but were without the basic needs that many of the students were accustomed to.

A relationship between the two groups of students came about through a Franciscan University student named Edward Wamala.

Living on the streets in a dusty hovel with her siblings, a 12-year-old girl, Joan, met Wamala, who as on his way home after adoration in the capital of Kampala. He remembered, "Looking at all the kids begging in the streets, I thought, 'Why can't these kids just go back to their villages and plant crops and leave the city!'" But that night I thought, 'Maybe you need to hear the story of one of these kids.'"

That conviction turned into a 10-mile walk alongside Andrew, a young boy whose father had died of HIV and whose mother had run away in fear to Sudan, leaving Andrew and his two sisters to live alone in a filthy, canvas tent with no mattress.

The story affected Wamala. Begging friends for help, he started plans to build an orphanage in Kampala.

As he worked, he recalled his own childhood and upbringing. His time with the Lord in prayer at adoration opened his heart to discerning a call to serve them. "Growing up in Uganda, I often heard the family story of my birth," Wamala explained. "My mother was young and unmarried, considered a disgrace in our devout Catholic family. Living in poverty, my family couldn't afford a hospital birth, so my mother was taken to the barn next to the house and that is where I was born — surrounded by goats.

"In school the kids would laugh at me, and I was ashamed on my birth story. But after being baptized in the Holy Spirit when I was 12, I felt Jesus saying, 'You share the same bed with me!' What looked like poverty now had a new meaning." Wamala felt called by the Holy Spirit to help these three chil-



Photos provided by St. Anthony de Padua School

Edward Wamala, a Ugandan studying at Franciscan University, was moved to build an orphanage for children in his home country. Students at St. Anthony School, South Bend, have embraced his mission as their own and raised funds for the completion of the orphanage and for uniforms for the students.

dren and went home to ask his mother if she would take them in, after discovering they had no living relatives.

"Currently Andrew, Margaret and Joan are staying with my mother. I thank God for her open heart to have taken on my little ones," he explained.

For the last four years Wamala has been studying theology and hospitality at Franciscan University of Steubenville, working every summer and sending money home to Uganda to his mother and the three children. His dream, however, was to build the orphans a home where they could be loved and cared for, as well as a school so they might receive an education and an opportunity for their future.

At Franciscan University, he met the daughter of an educator at St. Anthony School, second-grade teacher Betsy Williams. She heard his story and felt moved to ask him to speak with her students. He came that spring and shared with the entire school the sad realities of the children's life, the hope of building them a new home and the difference that faith makes. Wamala spoke with great inspiration and reminded the students how God loves children in a special way and that prayer, even the smallest Hail Mary, makes a difference. The children felt convicted to practice the Christian life they were taught.

With their pennies and dollars saved from allowances, birthdays or work, the students gave Wamala over \$6,000 for the orphanage. They also offered small sacrifices and prayers for their fellow children. Some



The chance meeting of Joan, a little girl in Uganda, and Edward Wamala, changed both their lives.

of these included: "We helped with yard work and sweeping." "I pray that all children can have a family and are loved." "Piggybank." "I made the beds and took out the trash." "God bless you!" "I helped my Mom wash the walls and the cupboards." "This \$5 is from my chores." An older student, Katie, donated \$100, which she won in a Final Four bracket.

Now graduated, Wamala hopes to complete construction of the orphanage building. This

Another work of mercy by the St. Anthony students was to share their uniforms with the orphans. "Hundreds of uniforms were sent to the children via the suitcases of the Franciscan kids who went to build this summer. We updated our uniform code at St. Anthony's, so students donated uniforms that were no longer being used. It is special to know that lots of children in Uganda, who our students are corresponding with, are wearing St. Anthony's shirts," Williams explained.

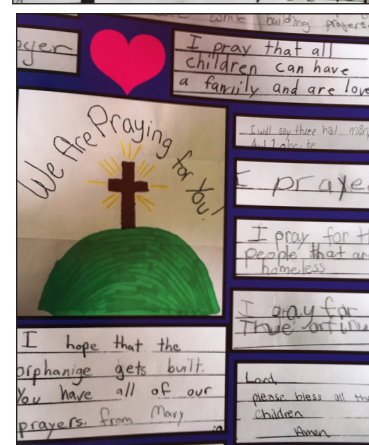
This year, the first-grade through eighth-grade students are pen pals with the children at Birembo Primary School, which is near the orphanage. Through this fun, educational opportunity, the children are taught about the universal love of God and the nature of the church, as well as reality of being one body of Christ.

Williams shared, "It is really touching and uplifting to see the letters that the children are exchanging. Their lives are so very different from one another, but they share a common language of loving and caring for one another. Through letters, they pass along information about their families, classes they are studying, and offer prayers back and forth. The children from Africa talk about their goats and chickens, while the children from St. Anthony's tell about their cats and dogs. The latest bundle of letters was met with great excitement."

Principal Karen Bogol reflected, "We are so blessed to be participating in the cultural exchange between St. Anthony de Padua School and the Birembo Primary School in Uganda. The children of both schools continue to experience a special connection with one another through their letters and pictures. The work of Eddie, Mrs. Williams and all of those involved is a true testament to the universality and beautiful influence of God's love."

The emphasis implicitly indicates that all children are important, loved and valued. Their sacrifice, their pennies and their prayers truly make a difference. On World Mission Sunday, this is exactly what the Holy Childhood Association, promulgated by the Pontifical Mission Society desires; that children help other children.

A third-grader, Raha, said of getting to know the children from Uganda, "It is really fun and I've learned they do things different than us. We have different experiences. But, we're the same because Jesus loves us all and we're all part of the same family. We're all children of God."



Notes from a book that the St. Anthony students and staff made for the children in the orphanage. It is a compilation of many of their prayer intentions, of what they offered up, gave or sacrificed for their friends.

past summer, he and friends from Franciscan University continued to make bricks out of clay mud and build the children's home. The money to finish the construction came directly from St. Anthony students and staff. As of this fall, the orphanage is nearly complete.

Some takeaways from Tolkien

I have to confess, with some embarrassment, that one of my human deficiencies is that while I read quite a lot, I am not much of a fiction reader. So, one of the goals I had set for myself this past summer was to sit down and read Tolkien's "Lord of the Rings." While I am familiar with snippets from the movies, I must confess I had never read the book(s). But among the seminarians with whom I live and work it is a very well-loved read, and this is an instance where they served as role models and an inspiration to me.

I will say, it was an easy and most pleasant experience. I had several "conversation partners" during the summer — friends who had read the books already — and so I was blessed with many insights from their reading that enriched my own. In fact, it was such a pleasure I picked up and read "The Hobbit" when I completed the trilogy.

There are any number of books on the sacramentality and symbolism in Tolkien's Middle-earth, and my own observations neither do justice to the work nor exhaust the innumerable insights one can glean from reading these magnificent books. What I offer is a few musings on elements of our life as believers that were brought to greater relief (in some cases, quite beautifully) by my experience of reading them:

Evil is insidious; yet, grace is even more subtle. Any of us who has tried to live the life of faith and virtue knows how wily the evil one can be. In addition to the feebleness owing to our own

mortal condition and the allurements in the world around us, the enemy is quite cunning and will do his best to use our own strengths against us, dealing in half-truths, false assumptions or inferences we draw, all the while keeping us oblivious to his presence and work. Although grace is even more subtle, God, in his providence, can make use even of our own foolishness and weakness, to our advantage and the salvation of the world. I was struck in these books that what to the reader (and the characters) signaled disaster and defeat became the very means of victory. In short, God will work to save us in ways we often cannot perceive directly, and more often than not in spite of ourselves.

We need each other; boy, do we need each other. The very title of one of the volumes invokes the notion of fellowship; in the language of the New Testament that would be "koinonia" or "communio," one of the earliest designations of the community that is created not primarily by our choice, but by Christ in and through his sacrificial love. We can bristle against one another, misunderstand one another, take each other for granted, but in the end, life in the church is the only way we can make it. When we seek to make it on our own, when we separate ourselves from fellowship, we impede our own progress. Period. Over-romanticized notions of individualism and achievement dominate in our culture, but despite the inherent challenges ("where two or three are gathered, there'll usually be



THE HUMAN CONDITION

MSGR. MICHAEL HEINTZ

a problem"), the alternative is much worse. Fidelity — to our friends, our spouse, our fellow-parishioners — is essential if we are to make it. The fellowship that is forged among the new friends of Middle-earth — a bond that cut across races and nations — is an essential element of the story. Despite initial (and at times, recurring) mistrust, misapprehension and failure, the bonds that are forged while sharing a noble task deepen and in fact sustain the characters throughout. Samwise Gamgee, Mr. Frodo's right-hand man, so to speak, is at once Peter (he's terribly impetuous, even as he looks out for his friend), beloved disciple, and Simon of Cyrene, at one point carrying Frodo to his appointed end. These are books worth reading with friends and talking about with friends: I suspect such friendship will only be deepened by the shared venture, a fellowship of sorts, forged by shared reading.

God's providence is real, but more often than not, unknown to us. Near the end of "The Hobbit," when Bilbo's adventure there and back again had come to an end, he expresses surprise

HEINTZ, page 17

An education for kindness

Like many, I enjoyed watching the video clips of Prince George starting school. I am taken, though, with the choice of school by his parents, one that departs from prior royal practices and entails a longer drive. You see, the school was chosen for its primary focus on kindness encoded in its most important rule: "Be kind."

That choice seems to echo with many parents in the U.S. In a report titled "The Children We Mean to Raise" by the Making Caring Common project at Harvard University, 96 percent of parents surveyed indicate that the moral character of their children is very important or essential.

Yet the good news seems to break down here, as three out of four students believe that "my parents are prouder if I get good grades in my classes than if I'm a caring community member." Manifested in actions, the message that achievements matter most is borne out by more than 50 percent of high school students admitting to academic cheating and a view of the "real world" that "successful people do what they have to do to win, even if others consider it cheating."

What a disconnect! Did we as parents send a message for compassion but leave it at that? Or did we embrace a different priority that could not escape detection by our children?

As parents in a highly competitive culture, it is natural to want to do everything possible within our power, from Baby Einstein videos to special lessons, so that



OUR GLOBAL FAMILY

CAROLYN WOO

our children are not left behind. At the same time, most parents I know do not want to trade character for achievements, blunt the exercise of compassion for self-improvement, or encourage cruel behavior as a price for success.

It is likely that lost in the daily grind is the mindfulness that continuously prompts the need for kindness, calls out and reinforces the daily examples within family life, models the behavior that puts compassion into action and seeks out opportunities for children to serve in their communities. Mobile devices and other forms of entertainment hijack our children's time for reading, particularly nonfiction, which research has shown can cultivate empathy and broaden our ability to put ourselves in the shoes of others.

We could also encourage our children to participate in something out of their areas of strength not to compete or win, but just for the fun of it. Busy lives also squeeze out interactions with others, including relatives, neighbors and folks from the community.

Such engagements are the grist that build relationships

WOO, page 17

Am I ready to share in the riches the Lord has prepared?



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time Matthew 22:1-14

The first part of the Book of Isaiah provides this weekend's first reading at Mass. Understanding the cultural, social, political and economic context surrounding the composition of biblical texts always helps to capture their meaning.

As a general rule, times were not good for the chosen people. Aside from bursts of prosperity and peace under David and Solomon, they usually had to cope with war, invasion and want, or worse.

Also, usually, the prophets saw little in which they could

truly rejoice. Invariably the prophets wrote that human sin, not divine revenge or divine indifference to human distress, was the cause of trouble in the world. So, frequently, the prophets counseled the people always to be true to God.

This writing was actually written when times were not all that bad, but dark clouds lay on the horizon. The people were lukewarm in honoring God. Isaiah loudly protested that the sluggishness in religious devotion would be their downfall.

Isaiah also insists that if the people are faithful to God, all will be right. Peace and security will reign. Prosperity will prevail. The holy city of Jerusalem, God's city and the royal capital, will be seen throughout the world as the center of a great nation.

The second reading is from the Epistle to the Philippians. On several occasions recorded in Acts or in the Pauline epistles, Paul was imprisoned, having been arrested for preaching against the establishment or simply for disturbing the peace. This passage from Philippians

was written while Paul was in prison.

Being jailed, humiliated and abused was Paul's plight. Nevertheless, he says that his faith in God never wavers. His commitment to proclaiming the Gospel always leads him. Nothing else matters to him, not even his comfort or personal well-being. God gave Christ to the world. Paul must extend this gift far and wide.

St. Matthew's Gospel furnishes the last reading. The reading is a parable, with three parts.

In the first part, a "king," who represents God, invites familiar and privileged guests to a wedding banquet for his son. These people reject the invitation. The king invites other guests. Again, the invitation is ignored. Then, in the second part, the king invites outcasts and strangers to the feast. They come.

However, in the third part, the king sees a guest at the banquet improperly dressed. He orders this guest to be removed.

The king's servants represent the prophets. The prospective guests who spurn the invitation

represent the people of Israel. The outcasts and strangers represent the aliens and the sinful.

The message is that that God's mercy extends to everyone. Even so, God drags no one into the kingdom of heaven. Sinners must reform to be worthy of heaven.

Reflection

These readings call us to several basic facts. The first is that God never fails in mercy. He does not disown the promise spoken long ago through the prophets and then finally by Christ, to guide people to everlasting life by revealing to them the laws of righteousness and by strengthening their resolve to be righteous.

The second fact is simple and constant throughout history. Humans just cannot accept it. The fact is that humans sin. The sin of Adam and Eve always weakens humans. Their nature is distorted. They are myopic. They exaggerate their own powers, therefore discounting their need for God.

Conversion requires a frank

realization of who and what humans are. We are sinful, but God loves us.

In this realization, humans come to the same conviction that drove St. Paul to proclaim the Lord in spite of all. Nothing matters other than to be with God. There is no life apart from God. Everything other than life with God is fickle and impermanent, empty and useless.

READINGS

Sunday: Is 25:6-10a Ps 23:1-6 Phil 4:12-14, 19-20 Mt 22:1-14

Monday: Rom 1:1-7 Ps 98:1-4 Lk 11:29-32

Tuesday: Rom 1:16-25 Ps 19:2-5 Lk 11:37-41

Wednesday: 2 Tm 4:10-17b Ps 145:10-13, 17-18 Lk 10:1-9

Thursday: Rom 3:21-30 Ps 130:1-6 Lk 11:47-54

Friday: Rom 4:1-8 Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11 Lk 12:1-7

Saturday: Rom 4:13, 16-18 Ps 105:6-9, 42-43 Lk 12:8-12

The hollow man

What savagery lies in the breast of man? Two recent television epics ask us to contemplate this question. The first is Ken Burns and Lynn Novick's magnificent documentary, "The Vietnam War."

The other epic is the massacre in Las Vegas. A lone gunman used his hotel room as a sniper's nest, ambushing 22,000 concertgoers. In about 10 minutes of automatic weapons fire, he killed at least 58 people and injured more than 500 others. And in a final act of cowardice, the murderer took his own life, leaving the survivors and us, the spectators, to ponder his mute brutality.

The massacre pushed everything else off the airwaves. It was the worst (for now) mass killing in modern U.S. history, and we all felt a part of it thanks to countless cellphone videos of the pandemonium that took place.

The problem with what is now becoming America's seasonal ritual of human slaughter by terrorists and madmen is that we have transformed it into spectacle. The news anchors hurry out on private jets so they can be filmed standing outside of whatever architecture the killer chose as his prop. The obligatory stories tell of victims whose lives have been cut short and the heroes who made all the difference. Politicians wring their hands.

Journalistic sidebars list all the other recent mass killings,

and we find ourselves surprised by what we had forgotten: Virginia Tech or the Aurora, Colorado, theater slaughter. The public square transformed into a killing field once again.

And the dead? The dead are so often our young. In a gay nightclub or a college campus, at a country music concert or a Colorado high school. Our killers slaughter our future, seeking to hurt us by hurting our most vulnerable.

Having watched hundreds of TV crime dramas, we expect some neat explanation at the end of the reel about why the killer did what he did: He was an Islamic terrorist, a right-wing paranoid, a schizophrenic hearing voices or a lonely psychopath.

We may soon learn what led Stephen Paddock to do what he did that terrible Sunday night in Las Vegas, but for now what we know of him seems so unspeakably ordinary.

Here was a man living the dream, or at least the dream as packaged and promoted relentlessly in our consumer culture. Paddock was apparently a millionaire, an accountant, a real estate investor, a high-rolling gambler that the casinos doted on. He was comfortably retired at 64. He collected guns. Gun shop owners said he passed their "smell test," which of course raises questions about the test.

Yet as the layers are peeled back, the dream becomes darker: We glimpse a man with little in the way of human connections.



AMID THE FREY

GREG ERLANDSON

An absent criminal father, distant relations with his brothers. Divorced twice. No children.

His was a rootless lifestyle. An ex-neighbor described his home decor as that of a college freshman: bare walls, a dining chair, a bed and two recliners. Another neighbor said "it was like living next to nothing."

He had no strong religious or political beliefs, one brother said, as if that made the crime more mysterious because he wasn't the sort of fanatic we've grown accustomed to.

St. John Paul II wrote: "Man cannot live without love. He remains a being that is incomprehensible for himself, his life is senseless, if love is not revealed to him."

A man untethered from family or God, a man whose value was the sum of what he bought and what he spent, is the most frightening being of all: a hollow man. And evil entered in.

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

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for October 15, 2017

Matthew 22:1-14

Following is a word search based on the Gospel for the 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A: a lesson about being prepared for the call. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

JESUS	WEDDING	HIS SON
READY	BUSINESS	MISTREATED
ENRAGED	TROOPS	DESTROYED
MURDERERS	BURNED	WORTHY
STREETS	FOUND	GUESTS
A MAN	FRIEND	BIND
DARKNESS	TEETH	MANY

GUESTS

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G N I D D E W C H D D J
L U F O U N D W D E E O
W R E A D Y O C C S T M
K E D S L R J H U T A M
Y N A M T S O S O R E U
D R J H I S S O N O R R
D A Y T E E T H D Y T D
E G A N N N R R N E S E
N E N I A K O L E D I R
R D S A M R O L I E M E
U U T K A A P A R L T R
B I N D M D S F F M B S
    
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WOO, from page 16

and bonds that develop affection between people. When children are on the receiving end, they learn kindness and generosity in the most profound and enduring way.

There is nothing wrong with helping our kids excel and advance. But we must watch out for the ways by which we elevate this responsibility beyond its rightful proportions.

With good intention, we can render our kids' performance, which is often insidiously yoked to rankings and ratings, the sin-

gular family priority that pushes out time for each other, for friends, for decompression, for fun and for worship.

Resulting in destructive personal and group dynamics, performance can become the currency by which children calibrate their worth or think they need to earn love from their parents.

For Thomas's Battersea School, its approach to forming kindness (and incidentally, strong academic performance) is "Enjoyment, Learning and Achievement," through a curriculum that includes art, music, ballet, French, drama and physical education. Perhaps parents can

exhale now and read a self-help book to recover fun as a way to cultivate kind and able children!

Carolyn Woo is distinguished president's fellow for global development at Purdue University and served as the CEO and president of Catholic Relief Services from 2012 to 2016.

HEINTZ, from page 16

to Gandalf the Wizard at the realities he had experienced that had been sung of long before in lore. "You really don't suppose," Gandalf admonishes Bilbo, "that all your adventures and escapes were managed by mere luck, just for your sole benefit?" As Catholics, we recognize that God is able to make use of our freedom in the service of his plan, and while so many things may to us appear fluky or happenstance, nothing happens apart

from the will of God. Each of us, as the wizard tells Mr. Baggins, is "only quite a little fellow in a wide world after all." What benefits us in this overarching providence is never solely or merely for us. We are part of a larger organism comprised of bodies and souls that St. Paul calls Christ's body, growing by grace to full stature.

As I concluded the "Return of the King" I felt as though I was saying farewell to friends. From late May to late July, many of these characters had become my companions, and I savored the

final pages. Being something of a sentimentalist at heart, I read through teary eyes Gandalf's words to the members of the fellowship as their venture together drew to an end: "Well, here at last, dear friends, on the shores of the Sea comes the end of our fellowship in Middle-earth. Go in peace. I will not say do not weep: for not all tears are an evil." Good to know.

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

Saint of the Week



Teresa of Avila

1515-1582
Feast October 15

In Castilian Spain, Teresa was born to a wealthy family and educated in an Augustinian convent. Eschewing marriage, she entered the Carmelites in 1536. She began to practice contemplative prayer during a long illness, and grew dissatisfied with the bigness and worldly distractions of her convent. After a "second conversion" in 1555, she founded the reform-minded Discalced Carmelites and wrote several books. For her contribution to mystical theology and Christian spirituality, Teresa was named a doctor of the church in 1970.

'The Mountain Between Us'

BY JOSEPH MCALEER

NEW YORK (CNS) — The proverbial call of the wild sounds more like a roar in "The Mountain Between Us" (Fox), a trapped-in-the-wilderness survival drama based on the 2011 novel by Charles Martin.

At an Idaho airport, Alex Martin (Kate Winslet) is desperate. The high-strung photojournalist is getting married in New York the next day, but her flight has been canceled due to an approaching storm.

She bumps into dashing surgeon Ben Bass (Idris Elba), who's in the same predicament. He's not heading to the altar, but scheduled to perform life-saving surgery.

Alex decides to charter a propeller plane to Denver, where a flight connection to New York awaits. Ben has misgivings about the bumbling pilot, Walter (Beau Bridges), but decides to throw caution to the wind and share the ride. Bad move.

With storm clouds looming, the trio sets off, joined by Walter's dog. There's barely time to admire the gorgeous mountain scenery before Walter has a stroke and the plane goes down,

crashing on a remote snowy peak.

Walter is killed, but the passengers — and pooch — survive. Alex is badly injured, but lucky for her Ben is just fine and can heal her wounds.

The outlook is bleak. It's freezing and they're in the middle of nowhere, with no food, water, or cellphone service, and as Walter never filed a flight plan, no one knows they are missing.

Ben prefers to stay put inside the airplane wreckage and wait for rescue. Alex insists their only hope is to make their way down the mountain in search of civilization.

And so they set off, dog in tow, battling Mother Nature and Father Time. Weeks pass, and the two strangers get to know each other very well indeed — especially when the predictable romantic sparks fly.

Director Hany Abu-Assad does his best with a screenplay by Chris Weitz and J. Mills Goodloe that is more talky than tense, and often borders on the preposterous. But the stunning outdoor cinematography is a welcome distraction, and, mercifully (spoiler alert!), they don't eat the dog.



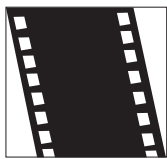
CNS photo/Fox

Kate Winslet and Idris Elba star in a scene from the movie "The Mountain Between Us." The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults.

The film contains a scary airplane crash, moments of peril, a nongraphic sex scene and two profane oaths. The Catholic News

Service classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cau-

tioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.



MOVIE CAPSULES

NEW YORK (CNS) — Following are capsule reviews by the Office for Film & Broadcasting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"Battle of the Sexes" (Fox Searchlight)

The early 1970s in all its revanchist sexism, double-knit-fabric garishness and choking cigarette smoke is the setting of the coming-of-age story for women's tennis, as Billie Jean King (Emma Stone) takes on Bobby Riggs (Steve Carell) in the famed 1973 exhibition match in Houston's Astrodome. This lightly fictionalized version of history is ultimately more about King than the past-his-prime Riggs, but the script by Simon Beaufoy, as directed by Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris, takes pains to show each character's harsh isolation and crippling doubts. References to aberrant sexuality and fleeting profanities. Catholic News Service classification, L -- limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling. Motion Picture Association of America rating, PG-13.

"Flatliners" (Columbia)

Interested in studying the physiology of death and the possibility of an afterlife, a medical student (Ellen Page) convinces a couple of her peers (James Norton

and Kiersey Clemons) to stop her heart temporarily, then quickly revive her. When she returns with enhanced skills, others (including Nina Dobrev) decide to give mortality a spin, despite the disapproval of the wisest member (Diego Luna) of the protagonist's circle of friends. Even he fails to foresee the eerie things that soon begin happening to the revived, however, all of them in some way connected to dark secrets from the past. Director Niels Arden Oplev's tepid thriller, a sequel of sorts to the eponymous 1990 film, has a basically sound moral outlook as far as forgiveness and honesty about past misdeeds are concerned. But a couple of liaisons among the future physicians are not at all what the doctor ordered. Fleeting gory violence, semi-graphic casual sex, partial nudity, mature themes including abortion, about a half-dozen uses of profanity, at least one rough and several crude terms. The Catholic News Service classification is L -- limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13.

"Til Death Do Us Part" (Novus)

A deep dive into the shallow end of the melodrama pool with predictable results. An improbable plot centered on a faked death is carried as a badge of honor. The film's moral viewpoint may be in the right place, but the plot construction from director-screenwriter Chris Stokes

is too ludicrous to make the story in any way relatable to anyone. A wife (Annie Ilonzeh) fakes her own death in a car crash to escape an abusive husband, and takes on a new identity and job in hopes he won't find her. Physical violence, fleeting rough language and profanities. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13.

"American Made" (Universal)

Wild fact-based story of a TWA pilot (Tom Cruise) recruited by a CIA operative (Domhnall Gleeson) in the early 1980s to fly guns to the U.S.-backed contra forces fighting the Sandinista government in Nicaragua. Diverted from this mission by the chance to smuggle cocaine for the leaders of the nascent Medellin drug cartel (Alejandro Edda and Mauricio Mejia), he develops an elaborate scheme to supply the weapons to the gangsters and the narcotics to the guerrillas — who, it turns out, would rather get rich than fight. The immense wealth he amasses as a result delights his loyal wife (Sarah Wright Olsen) but draws the suspicion of local (Jesse Plemons) and national (E. Roger Mitchell) law enforcement officials. Director Doug Liman and writer Gary Spinelli revel in the improbability of their tale and the law-flouting skills of their protagonist. But after further complications set in, they try to have it both ways where the white powder is concerned, condemning government hypocrisy

while letting the flyboy off the hook. Add to this ambivalence their explicit portrayal of the passionate nature of the central pair's bond and the constant vulgarity that marks the script, and the result is a free-for-all that makes apt fun for few. Strong sexual content, including graphic scenes of marital lovemaking, a glimpse of full nudity and implied aberrant behavior, some stylized combat and other violence, a drug theme, several uses of profanity, pervasive rough and much crude language. The Catholic News Service classification is L -- limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"The Lego Ninjago Movie" (Warner Bros.)

A few flashes of wit relieve the noisy tedium of this martial arts-themed animated adventure. With his home town constantly under attack by his villainous father (voice of Justin Theroux), a schoolboy (voice of Dave Franco) leads a double life by battling bad Dad, disguised as a ninja warrior. He does so as part of a team of fighters trained by his wise and virtuous uncle (voice of Jackie Chan). As directed by Charlie Bean, Paul Fisher and Bob Logan — the latter two also co-writers, along with four others — the attempt to blend a children's feature and an action movie proves awkward, resulting in a forgettable series of explosions and other disturbances that drown out such themes as the

possibility of personal conversion and the value of family reconciliation. Additionally, some vague mumbo-jumbo about humans harnessing the power of the elements is not for the easily confused. Perilous situations, a bit of mild scatological humor, a couple of mature references. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG.

"A Question of Faith" (Pure Flix)

Sober religious drama in which a minister (Richard T. Jones) grapples with a tragedy involving his young son (Caleb T. Thomas) that shakes his fundamental beliefs. As he gradually discovers that the mishap has linked his family's fate with those of several strangers, including a restaurant owner (Jaci Velasquez), her daughter (Karen Valero) and a cash-strapped contractor (C. Thomas Howell), the clergyman benefits from the steady support and guidance of his wise wife (Kim Fields). Director Kevan Otto leavens the sometimes tearful proceedings with upbeat gospel music. Though the plot of his film, as written by Ty Manns, is farfetched in some of its details, audiences will appreciate its showcasing of a strong marriage, as well as its emphasis on forgiveness and interracial harmony. Mature themes. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG.

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.

Pancake breakfast

PLYMOUTH — The Knights of Columbus will host a pancake breakfast Sunday, Oct. 15, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 901 E. Jefferson St. Breakfasts are hosted on the third Sunday of every month. Proceeds go to local charities and fundraisers in Marshall County. Tickets are \$5 adults, \$2 children 10 and under. Regular and blueberry pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, French toast and beverages.

Day of Reflection

MISHAWAKA — A day of reflection will be held at St. Francis Convent, 1515 W. Dragoon, Wednesday, Oct. 18, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The theme for the day is "Poetry as Prayer." Bring a Bible. The cost of the day is \$20 and includes lunch.

Register with Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at 574-259-5427.

St. Joseph School Pumpkin Festival

GARRETT — St. Joseph Catholic School in Garrett will host a Pumpkin Festival on Sunday, Oct. 15, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the school gym, 300 W. Houston St. Events include a children's carnival with hockey, shuffleboard, pop toss, cake walk and book walk, Plinko, Tic Tac Toe, Ring Around the Pumpkins, football toss and more. A home-made chicken and noodle dinner will be served in the lunchroom in Bennett Hall for \$10. Children's meals are \$5. Carryout and drive-up service will be offered. A hot dog meal for children will also be available. The Home and School Association raffle will offer tickets for \$1

each or 6 for \$5. Contestants need not be present to win. Unlimited game wristbands will be available for \$10. Individual game tickets cost 25 cents each. Come dressed in a costume and get a \$1 discount off a wristband. For more information call 260-357-5137 or visit www.stjosephgarrett.org.

Fall harvest luncheon and card party

FORT WAYNE — Queen of Angels will have a fall harvest luncheon and card party Friday, Oct. 20, from noon to 4 p.m. Join the 50+ group in the Msgr. Faber Activities Center, 1600 W. State Blvd., to play cards or just come to socialize. Doors open at 11 a.m. Cost is \$8 per person. Attendance and table prizes. Call Barb at 260-483-4353 for information.

REST IN PEACE

Auburn

Rudy Schalow, 78, Immaculate Conception

Elkhart

Sharon Cobb, 75, St. Vincent de Paul

Fort Wayne

Mary Kay Doepker, 73, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Marilyn Kay Evans, 77, St. Jude

James Hall, 85, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Joseph Robert Sturm, 56, St. John the Baptist

Granger

Robert G. Lardon, 98, St. Pius X

Huntington

Kathleen M. Prus, 87, St. Mary

Sr. Rose A. Trudell, 89, OLVM, Archbishop Noll Chapel

Mishawaka

Pauline Savadori, 97, St. Bavo

James Meier, Sr., 78, Queen of Peace

Notre Dame

Brother Richard Gilman, CSC, 74, St. Joseph Chapel

James V. Gibbons, 87, Basilica of the Sacred Heart

South Bend

Loretta A. Rogers, 78, Holy Family

Maria Viramontes de Valdez, 62, St. Casimir

Mildred Powell, 97, St. Anthony de Padua

Warsaw

Heather Ross, 45, Sacred Heart

Ed Proietti, 93, Sacred Heart

Worldwide Marriage Encounter parish-based weekend Oct. 20-22

BLUFFTON — Worldwide Marriage Encounter of Northern Indiana will be hosting a "Parish-Based" weekend at St. Joseph Parish, 1300 N. Main St. Luncheon and dinner are provided. After the events are over for the day, you return to your home to sleep in your own bed. Visit wwme-ni.org or wwme.org to apply or learn more. Contact Greg or Jen Richard, 260-422-0803.

Joy Mart II craft show

SOUTH BEND — Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish will have a Joy Mart craft show Saturday, Oct. 21, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 63568 Old U.S. 31 South. About 25 vendors with all homemade crafts. Luncheon and bake sale too, including tailgate goodies.

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-St. Catherine of Siena



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

Fort Wayne rapid response network launched to fight unjust treatment of immigrants

BY NICK STUMP

Sunday, Oct. 8, at 2 p.m., people gathered together on the lawn at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Fort Wayne. There was a podium, an information table and a poster covered by a shroud of red tissue paper. Only a few chairs were available for a few people who needed them the most: Everyone else stood.

As the news conference began, it became clear why everyone was standing: In fact, the crowd was asked to stand even closer together to demonstrate that nobody should stand alone. That is what the Fort Wayne Solidarity Network is about: standing together in solidarity.

After a collaborative effort to provide information about the Fort Wayne Solidarity Network, two individuals gave testimonies about what they have experienced since the Trump administration announced the rescission of the promises and protections contained in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, known as DACA, and why they feel the Solidarity Network is important. Among them was the pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Fort Wayne, Father Evaristo Olivera, and Lorenza Torrez, who shared with the crowd the deep significance felt by families who perform the sign of the cross every time their children leave the house.

"They do it because they are not sure if they will be able to return to their children at night," Torrez told the crowd. "They (run a) risk because they need to provide for their families, (so they) drive to work without driver's licenses, to work without Social Security numbers. They are at risk. That's why we are here, to join the committee with Audrey so that the people don't have to be afraid." Audrey Davis is the head of social justice ministries for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

This fear, and the desire of people like Davis, Torrez and



Photos by Nick Stump

Audrey Davis of the Office of Evangelization, Social Justice Ministries, addresses the Fort Wayne crowd as the Rapid Response Hotline is officially launched.



Theresa Driscoll provides an opening statement at the Fort Wayne Solidarity Network conference.



Lorenza Torrez shares her testimony with the crowd, and resolves to fight for others so that they won't feel afraid following the rescission of DACA.

the other volunteers to alleviate it, is what ultimately gave way to the creation of the Rapid Response Hotline, a 24-hour bilingual life preserver for those who feel threatened by police or Immigration and Customs Enforcement and need help. After calling the number, the closest team of trained volunteers will at the person's location "hopefully within five minutes," said Davis. They will document the incident, provide support for families and connect them to other resources.

When the veil of red tissue paper was removed, the phone number for the hotline — 317-759-9474 — was revealed. Cards were handed out with the contact information as well, and Davis asked everyone present to spread the information to anyone who could use it. With that, the Solidarity Network's hotline was launched.

"With this step we look forward to becoming one step closer to building a northeast Indiana culture of encounter and inclusion," Davis said.

The "moral observers," which is what Davis called the trained volunteers, will also track patterns over time that "could lead to real policy change." She noted that stories of the impact law enforcement abuse and ICE raids have on families could raise awareness and contribute to change. In addition to responding to the hotline, volunteers hold vigils at local jails, ICE and congressional offices in support of victims and push for an end to the persecution of people of color.

Of the 800,000 young people who were stripped of their DACA status, 11,000 are Hoosiers and many of them live in Fort Wayne. At a time when their futures are uncertain, when they may be treated unfairly or not in accordance with the law, the Fort Wayne Solidarity Network intends to be there for them. The group will fight for them legally and spiritually, and will push for a policy that recognizes all families as sacred units.

CONTRACEPTIVES, from page 1

Galveston-Houston, USCCB president, and Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, chairman of the USCCB's Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, said the new rule "corrects an anomalous failure by federal regulators that should never have occurred and should never be repeated."

The church leaders also said the decision to provide the religious and moral exemption to the HHS mandate recognizes that faith-based and mission-driven organizations and those who run them "have deeply held religious and moral beliefs that the law must respect."

Cardinal DiNardo and Bishop Lori said the decision was "good news for all Americans," noting that a "government mandate that coerces people to make an impossible choice between obeying their consciences and obeying the call to serve the poor is harmful not only to Catholics but to the common good."

Michael Warsaw, chairman of the board and CEO of the EWTN Global Catholic Network, said the television network's legal team would be "carefully considering the exemptions announced today and the impact this may have on our legal challenge to the mandate, but we are optimistic that this news will prove to

be a step toward victory for the fundamental freedoms of many Americans."

Mark Rienzi, senior counsel at Becket, told reporters in a telephone news conference an hour after the rule was released that it is a "common sense and balanced rule and a great step forward for religious liberty."

He said the rule "carves out a narrow exemption" and keeps the contraceptive mandate in place for those without moral or religious objections to it.

He noted that it does not provide immediate relief for those groups who had challenged it, such as the Little Sisters of the Poor, which Becket represents.

They will "still need relief in courts," he said, but was confident now that it would happen.

"We've traveled a long way," he added, of the multiple challenges to the contraceptive mandate in recent years, which he described as an "unnecessary culture war fight."

Rienzi noted that the HHS rule could have eliminated the contraceptive mandate completely, but it did not do so. He also said the new rule is open for comments for a 90-day period and will likely face legal challenges, which already began in a lawsuit filed Oct. 6 by the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of members of the

ACLU and Service Employee International Union-United Health Care Workers West who say they are at risk of losing their contraception coverage because of where they work or attend school.

In the lawsuit, the ACLU said the interim rules violate the establishment clause regarding religion in the First Amendment and the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment in the Constitution "by authorizing and promoting religiously motivated and other discrimination against women seeking reproductive health care."

Julie Asher contributed to this story.