

# TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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50¢

TODAYSCATHOLIC.org



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**Honoring Our Lady of Fatima at the closing Mass of the centennial anniversary of her apparitions were Genna Renbarger, James Reidy and Gloria Rengarger, from left, portraying Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta, the children who received her messages. The Mass took place at St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend.**

## Celebrating the 100th anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima

BY JENNIFER MILLER

One hundred years ago, on Oct. 13, 1917, Mary appeared for the final time to three shepherd children in the countryside of Fatima, Portugal. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades recalled this day with a special Mass exactly 100 years later at St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend, after which he offered a plenary indulgence to the prepared faithful who were present.

Also hosted by the World Apostolate of Fatima and Our Sunday Visitor, the Mass marked the end of the year of the centennial of the apparitions.

A Marian procession began the liturgy, with men carrying the traditional image of Our Lady of Fatima, dressed in light blue lights. Next, three young children dressed as Lucia Santos, St. Jacinta Marto and St. Francisco Marto — Genna Renbarger, Gloria Renbarger and James Reidy, respectively — walked with rosaries in hand. Their presence reminded the faithful of the reality of the apparitions, and their appropriate, beautiful costumes of simple brown cloth were also a reminder of the particular age and place that Our Lady visited. She chose a small, remote, poor part of the world to share her special message.

Members of the Knights of Columbus and Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre followed the children. Marian High School and Saint Joseph High School formed a combination choir to offer songs in praise of Mary's visit and God's mercy, and people

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## Long-term recovery ahead for California communities hit hard by wildfires

SANTA ROSA, Calif. (CNS) — The Diocese of Santa Rosa "has been hit hard" and "is in an ongoing state of uncertainty" because of Northern California wildfires that began the night of Oct. 8, said Bishop Robert F. Vasa.

Fanned by warm winds, the fires devastated a vast swath of North California's wine country and forced 20,000 to evacuate. They left at least 31 people dead, and hundreds of others were missing. News reports said that 21 fires spanned 300 square miles and that as of late Oct. 12, most were zero percent contained.

In Southern California, a destructive wildfire broke out in the Anaheim Hills. By Oct. 12, it was 65 percent contained. However, fire weather warnings remained in effect for Los Angeles, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. "Santa Rosa is extremely



CNS photo/John G. Mabanglo, EPA

**Residents embrace near the remains of destroyed homes Oct. 9 after wildfires in Santa Rosa, Calif. A series of deadly Northern California wildfires has killed at least 17 people, destroyed more than 2,000 buildings, including a section of Cardinal Newman High School in Santa Rosa.**

smoky with the sun a mere red ball," the bishop said in an Oct. 10 statement.

A CNN report noted how fast-moving the fires are, saying they "torched 20,000 acres in 12 hours." Local civic authorities said factors that contributed to the rapid spread of the flames included dry conditions, high-speed winds and lots of vegetation.

In an Oct. 13 telegram to two California archbishops, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, conveyed Pope Francis' "heartfelt solidarity and his prayers" for all affected by the disaster, especially those mourning the loss of loved ones and residents "who fear for the lives of those still missing. The car-

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# Silver anniversary: Making the catechism shine in the 21st century

BY JUNNO AROCHO ESTEVES

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As the church marks the 25th anniversary of the publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, promoting it as a means of teaching the truth about faith remains a challenge and a priority.

Since its publication in 1992, the catechism has been translated into 50 languages, including Swahili, Japanese and Gaelic, and it is also available in Braille, video and digital editions.

Nevertheless, in today's digital age, when people have limitless access to information with the click of a mouse or the swipe of an app, opinions and even "fake news" can either inform or misinform Catholics on the principles of the Catholic faith.

"Society is changing in a very massive way, and it's much more difficult to reach people," especially in the digital age, Katharina Karl, professor of pastoral theology and religious education at the Philosophical-Theological University in Muenster, Germany, told Catholic News Service Oct. 11.

This ongoing challenge was what prompted the Catholic Church a quarter of a century ago to create a go-to reference that synthesized church teaching and serve as a guide for the faithful.

The idea of a compendium of Catholic doctrine was one of the fruits of the 1985 Synod of Bishops, marking the 20th anniversary of the conclusion of the Second Vatican Council.

After requests from participants for a point of reference "for the catechisms or compendiums that are prepared in various regions," St. John Paul II accepted their proposal, "considering it as fully responding to a real need, both of the universal church and of the particular churches."

"The presentation of doctrine must be biblical and liturgical. It must be sound doctrine suited to the present life of Christians," St. John Paul wrote in his Apostolic Constitution "Fidei Depositum" ("The Deposit of Faith") Oct. 11, 1992.

Entrusting this task to 12 cardinals and bishops, St. John Paul chose Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the future Pope Benedict XVI, to lead the commission responsible for the drafting of the catechism.

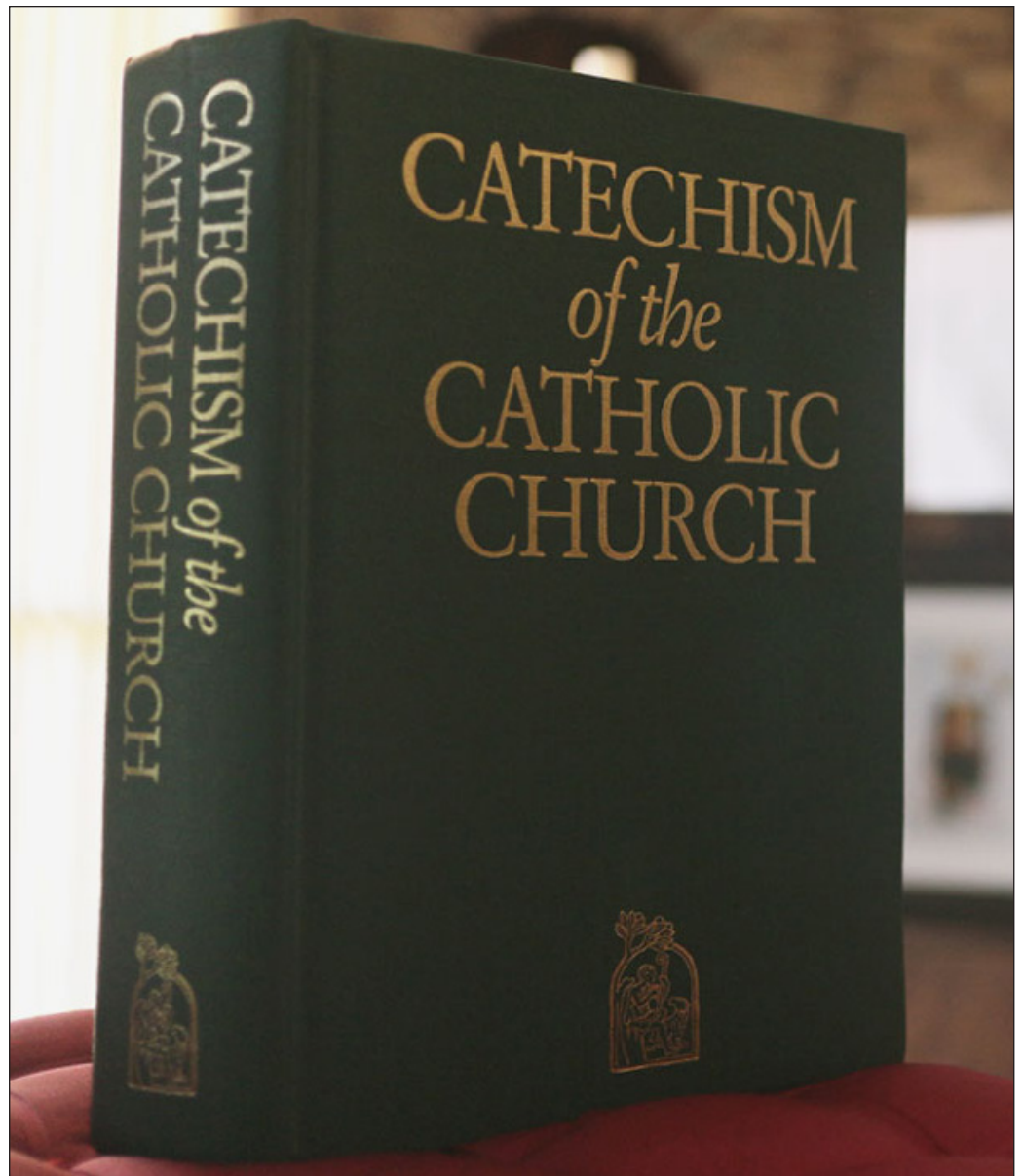
While the need for a text that clearly explained the church's teachings was welcomed, some criticized it for being too static or dogmatic and not in line with the spirit of the Second Vatican Council.

"It was said that the catechism failed to take into account the theological developments of the last century, particularly exegetical developments; it was not ecumenical; it was not dialogical" as it made affirmations as established beyond dispute, Cardinal Ratzinger said Oct. 9, 2002, during an address commemorating the catechism's 10th anniversary.

The future Pope Benedict responded to those opinions by seeking to explain "what a catechism is and what is its specific literary genre," as well as its proper purpose and doctrinal relevance.

The catechism is "a proclamation of faith," of witness, for the teaching of the faith, he said. It presents a "given that precedes us," but whose doctrinal formulation develops in the church, he said.

After his papal election, Pope Benedict continued to urge Catholics to use the Catechism of the Catholic Church as a handbook to rediscover the truths of faith and a deeper knowledge of church teaching.



File photo

**Promulgated 25 years ago, the Catechism of the Catholic Church is not only an important tool for believers to understand the faith, but also provides concrete answers to new challenges, Pope Francis recently stated.**

"Read the Catechism of the Catholic Church and rediscover the beauty of being Christian, of being church, of living as part of the great 'we' that Jesus formed around him to evangelize the world," Pope Benedict said in 2012.

In his speech marking the 25th anniversary of the Catechism of the Catholic Church Oct. 11, Pope Francis said the catechism is not only an important tool for believers to understand the faith, but also provides concrete answers to new challenges.

Just as the challenges people face evolve, so does the Christian response since "the word of God cannot be preserved in mothballs as if it were an old blanket to protect against insects," he said.

In fact, "the word of God is a dynamic reality that is always living, that progresses and grows, because it is stretched toward a fulfillment that men and women cannot stop," Pope Francis said.

Austrian Cardinal Christoph Schonborn of Vienna, who served with then-Cardinal Ratzinger as co-editor of the catechism, told Vatican Radio Oct. 12 that while the development of church teaching evolves over time, the church and the Gospel don't change.

"We must change. This catechism is only 25 years old. The previous one — the Council of Trent — lasted 400 years. Therefore, I hope this catechism is at the beginning of its work for the church," Cardinal Schonborn said.

Despite the catechism's accessibility and continuing development, "there is still a lot to do," Karl told Catholic News Service.

In her Oct. 11 talk, Karl emphasized the need for Catholics to have a formed conscience — rooted in the teachings of the catechism — that will allow for a "dialogue with God."

"The catechesis today needs to create a space for people to enter into dialogue with themselves in the first place. It's something they need to be taught in such a way that in the end it may become a dialogue with God," she said.

Expanding on her speech, Karl told CNS that before catechizing, the church should embark on a "pre-journey with people" and reach out to them, given that, in today's digital world, many people no longer socialize face-to-face or "go to catechism classes automatically."

The use of Twitter by one group of Catholics from around the world who use the social network to pray together is one of many examples of how the church can use social media to engage people and "bring the catechism to them," she noted.

"I think the sign of the times is to be creative," Karl told CNS.

"The church is already going toward that path, but I think it's a chance to enter the digital world not as something foreign to us but as something native to our times," she said.

**FATIMA, from page 1**

from around the area, representing numerous parishes, packed the cathedral. A sense of gratitude, anticipation and solemnity filled the holy space: Some of those present had prepared for weeks for the special day.

Deacon Brian Miller acknowledged the significance of what transpired a century ago when he said, "This was the first public miracle since the Resurrection itself that was foretold and spoken of in advance, confirming the gravity and importance of the message of Our Lady of Fatima. The children were afraid that people would not believe them, because they were children. But Our Lady explained that this miracle would let all people know that the apparitions, and thus her messages, were real."

In his homily, Bishop Rhoades focused on the intercessory role that Mary has and continues to play in human history. "It is through Mary that God opened for us the fountain of salvation for all time in the Incarnation of his Son," he said, and later continued, "Mary has always been

the help of Christians. One hundred years ago, she appeared to the shepherd children

at Fatima not only to help them to become saints, but to help us and all the world. She came to warn us about the evils threatening humanity, to issue an urgent call to conversion and penance. Mary gave the children a message of peace and hope at a time when the world was engulfed by war. She plays a pivotal role in the great struggle between good and evil, between her Son and his disciples and Satan and his followers. Mary, the great accomplice in her Son's work of redemption, is our help, the help of Christians, in this battle. At Fatima, she assured us of the final victory when she said: "In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph."

He emphasized, "Probably Our Lady's most heartfelt plea on Oct. 13 was this, and Lucia said that when making this plea Our Lady looked very sad: 'Do not offend the Lord our God anymore, because he is already so much offended.' Mary knows the price that God's love paid for our sins — the death of her Son on the cross. We can recognize the face of Our Lady of Sorrows at this October apparition."

The bishop continued, offering this advice: "But I wish to give one very concrete suggestion: to pray the rosary every day. Many of you may already do so. Our Lady of Fatima is Our Lady of the Rosary. She asked for the daily prayer of the rosary for peace in all six of her apparitions to the children of Fatima. ... So, as we finish this centen-



Bob List

**Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus lead a procession around St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend Oct. 13 following Mass, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Marian apparitions in Fatima, Portugal.**



Joe Romie

**Above, Father Glenn Kohrman raises the chalice during Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, where several centennial activities took place leading up to the anniversary of the Oct. 13 Miracle of the Sun — including the annual World Apostolate of Fatima breakfast, at which Father Daniel Scheidt, right, spoke about the Top Ten "Extra Secrets" of Fatima.**

nial observance, I invite you to discover or rediscover the beauty and power of the rosary, a gift of Our Lady as a true compendium of the Gospels, to help us in the spiritual battles we face today."

Trusting in Mary's intercession, remembering that her Immaculate Heart will triumph, the faithful prayed the Jubilee Pray of Consecration after Mass, as well as the Fatima Prayers during an hour of eucharistic adoration and benediction after Mass.

Mary Daily Korson of Mishawaka, who came with her husband, Ray, and young son, said of the Mass, "It was wonderful to gather with so many people in our diocese to commemorate the apparition of Our

Lady at Fatima and prayerfully reflect on her message, which is still so pertinent today. We have recently returned to the daily praying of the rosary in our family, so it was so good to hear our bishop's encouragement in this practice. Growing up, I had a certain fascination with Our Lady of Fatima. That she had appeared less than 100 years before, in the same century that I was learning of it, and to children my age, made the faith and her motherhood more real to me. Through the years I've kept an affection for Our Lady and her image at Fatima, so it was extra important and special to me to participate in a celebration of the 100th anniversary."



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

- Sunday, October 22: 11 a.m.— Wedding Anniversary Mass, St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend
- Monday, October 23: 7 p.m. — Talk on a Catholic Bishop's Reflection on the Reformation, Trinity Lutheran Church, Elkhart
- Wednesday, October 25, 8:15 a.m. — Mass, St. Therese Little Flower Church, South Bend
- Wednesday, October 25: 9 a.m. — Talk to Camino de Santiago Class, St. Therese Little Flower Church Parish Center and Forever Learning Institute, South Bend
- Wednesday, October 25: 12 p.m. — Redeemer Radio Sharathon, South Bend
- Thursday, October 26: 10:30 a.m. — All Schools Mass, Fort Wayne Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne
- Friday, October 27: 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, St. Joseph Church, Lagrange
- Saturday, October 28: 10 a.m. — Confirmation Mass, St. Jude Church, Fort Wayne



Joe Romie



**All Souls Day Mass with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades**  
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Anniversary Mass takes place in Fort Wayne —

# The secret to 60 years of marriage

BY NICK STUMP

At a special Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Oct. 15 for married couples celebrating their 25th, 50th or 60th anniversary, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades expressed thanks and prayed for the witness of God's love and fidelity in their unions. Seventeen of the couples present were celebrating their 25th anniversary, 19 were observing their 50th anniversary, and 11 had achieved 60 years of marriage.

Paul and Karen Helmkamp fall into the last category. The Helmkampes are parishioners of St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne, and this year marks the 60th anniversary of their marriage. The marital journey of the Helmkampes goes beyond simply getting through the highs and lows of married life, though, as any married couple can attest, getting through all the highs and lows is no small or insignificant feat.

Karen told of her early years, when she met her husband-to-be. She did not start out Catholic, but some time after meeting Paul, she decided to convert. It made her wedding day even more beautiful, she said, when she had her first Holy Communion that very same day.

From that point on, it was clear that faith would always be central in the lives of the Helmkampes. When asked why it was so important for couples to keep the Catholic faith, Karen was quick to share her thoughts.

"It is important (for couples) to have something to hold on to," she said. "To see you through the good times and the bad times."

Ultimately, it was their faith that kept Paul and Karen

Helmkamp happily married all these years. When times were tough, they prayed that things would improve. When times were good, they prayed in thanksgiving. In both cases, faith got them both through, like a powerful adhesive that glued them together no matter what tried to pull them apart. Their reliance on prayer became visible in the mindset they carried throughout their lives.

"We grew up in a time where if something was wrong, you fixed it," Karen explained. "So many people nowadays just throw it away instead."

The mentality to repair and move on was and still is essential for the Helmkampes, as they try to maintain a strong marriage. Combining that with their faith seems to be a very effective recipe for success. With 60 years of marriage under their belts, it is hard to downplay their achievement.

For couples, new and old, looking to take on the rest of their lives together, there are lessons to be learned from the Helmkampes. Without doubt, they could give a plethora of advice on what to do and what not to do. After being married for so long, the stories start to stack up: some funny, some touching, some of disastrous hardships and some of small gestures that meant the world. But there is one piece of advice, in particular, that Karen found most important: Couples need to share their faith.

"They should go to the same church, as a couple," she said. "They should go to the same Mass, too, with the children so that they can see their parents doing it and grow up modeling them."

She added that she and her husband followed this principle

as much as humanly possible, taking their children even when they were just babies. Going to separate Masses was as unviable an option to them as skipping Mass altogether. But it paid off in a big way, and she expressed how proud she was of all her children for keeping their spirituality alive and strong as they found their paths to success in the world.

There will always be bad times to accompany the good ones. The key to dealing with them, Karen said, is to have something to hold on to. The Helmkampes have a steadfast promise to never give up on one another. They have each other. Most importantly, they have their faith. So, it comes as no surprise they have been together for so long.

A second anniversary Mass for couples will be celebrated Sunday, Oct. 22, at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend.

**Couples pray during a Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, in honor of those observing their 25th, 50th and 60th wedding anniversaries.**



Mollie Shutt

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# Christian life is a love story with God, pope says at canonization

BY JUNNO AROCHO ESTEVES

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Like the Catholic Church's newest saints, Christians are called to live their faith as a love story with God, who wants a relationship that is "more than that of devoted subjects with their king," Pope Francis said.

Without a loving relationship with God, Christian life can become empty and "an impossible ethic, a collection of rules and laws to obey for no good reason," the pope said during Mass Oct. 15 in St. Peter's Square.

"This is the danger: a Christian life that becomes routine, content with 'normality,' without drive or enthusiasm, and with a short memory," he said during the Mass.

At the beginning of the Mass, Pope Francis proclaimed 35 new saints, including: the "Martyrs of Natal," Brazil, a group of 30 priests, laymen, women and children who were killed in 1645 during a wave of anti-Catholic persecution; and the "Child Martyrs of Tlaxcala," three children who were among Mexico's first native converts and were killed for refusing to renounce the faith.

Tapestries hung from the facade of St. Peter's Basilica bearing images of the martyrs as well as pictures of Sts. Angelo da Aciri, an Italian Capuchin priest known for his defense of the poor, and Faustino Miguez, a Spanish priest who started an advanced school for girls at a time when such education was



Liliana Ayala Leonel from the Archdiocese of Tijuana, Mexico, wears a shirt with an image of the "Child Martyrs of Tlaxcala," Mexico, before the canonization Mass of new saints celebrated by Pope Francis in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Oct. 15. The pope canonized groups of martyrs from Mexico and Brazil, an Italian Capuchin priest and a Spanish priest.

CNS/Paul Haring

limited almost exclusively to boys.

An estimated 35,000 pilgrims — many of them from the new saints' countries of origin — attended the Mass, the Vatican said Oct. 15.

In his homily, Pope Francis reflected on the day's Gospel reading from St. Matthew in which Jesus recounts the parable

of the wedding feast.

Noting Jesus' emphasis on the wedding guests, the pope said that God "wants us, he goes out to seek us and he invites us" to celebrate with him.

"For him, it is not enough that we should do our duty and obey his laws," Pope Francis said. "He desires a true communion of life with us, a relation-

ship based on dialogue, trust and forgiveness."

However, he continued, Jesus also warns that "the invitation can be refused" as it was by those who "made light" of the invitation or were too caught up in their own affairs to consider attending the banquet.

"This is how love grows cold, not out of malice but out of preference for what is our own: our security, our self-affirmation, our comfort," the pope said.

Despite constant rejection and indifference, God does not cancel the wedding feast but continues to invite Christians to overcome "the whims of our peevish and lazy selves" and to imitate the church's new saints who, he said, not only said yes to God's invitation, but wore "the wedding garment" of God's love.

"The saints who were canonized today, and especially the many martyrs, point the way," Pope Francis said. "The robe they wore daily was the love of Jesus, that 'mad' love that loved us to the end and offered his forgiveness and his robe to those who crucified him."

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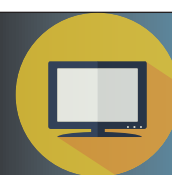
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# NEWS BRIEFS

## Victims of Las Vegas shooting remembered at funeral Masses, vigils

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Immediate makeshift memorials in Las Vegas to the 58 victims killed during the Oct. 1 outdoor country music concert are being replaced by memorial services, vigils and Catholic funerals at the victims' hometowns across the country and in Canada. Many of the services are taking place in California since 33 of the victims, more than half of those killed at the Route 91 Harvest Festival, were from the Golden State. Bakersfield, California, two hours north of Los Angeles, was home to three victims of the shooting. A memorial service was held there Oct. 6 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church for Jack Beaton, a 54-year-old father of two who worked with a roofing company. More than 800 people attended the service where Beaton was remembered as a fun-loving friend, a hard worker, a kindhearted neighbor and a devoted husband and father of an 18-year-old daughter and 20-year-old son. He and his wife, Laurie, attended the concert to celebrate their 23rd wedding anniversary. He died in her arms after putting his body on top of hers to protect her. "I knew every day that he would protect me and take care of me and love me unconditionally, and what he did is no surprise to me," Laurie Beaton told The Associated Press before the service, adding: "He is my hero."

## Catholic schools in Miami find room for Puerto Rican students

MIAMI (CNS) — Catholic schools in the Miami Archdiocese are accepting students and enrollment inquiries from Puerto Rican families displaced to Florida after the devastating impact of Hurricane Maria. An informal survey conducted in early October by the Miami Archdiocesan Office of Catholic Schools indicated that some 50 students from Puerto Rico — including two from the U.S. Virgin Islands — had already been placed in Catholic elementary and secondary schools within the archdiocese and more enrollments are expected in the coming months. "They are still in the process of arriving since flights out of Puerto Rico are difficult to get and very expensive. We expect to receive more students in the coming weeks," said Hope Sadowski, coordinator of foreign students and administrative executive assistant in the Office of Catholic Schools in Miami. Sadowski said the Miami Archdiocese is asking the schools to keep a tally of the Puerto Rican enrollments and to do everything they can to facilitate the emergency enrollments wherever possible. She said Catholic schools are working with the families on an individual basis to determine

## Have courage, pope tells churches facing persecution



CNS/L'Osservatore Romano

Pope Francis celebrates Mass during the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Vatican Congregation for Eastern Churches Oct. 12 at St. Mary Major Basilica in Rome. During the Mass, the pope told leaders of Eastern Catholic churches that no matter how much suffering Christians face in the world, God never forgets those who trust in and serve him. The courage to "knock at the door" of God's heart and "the courage of faith (are) needed when you pray — to have faith that the Lord is listening," the pope told patriarchs, metropolitans, bishops, priests and lay members of the Eastern churches during his homily. The special Mass of thanksgiving marked the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Congregation for Eastern Churches, an office that supports the Eastern Catholic churches, and the Pontifical Oriental Institute, which offers advanced degrees in Eastern Christian liturgy.

financial arrangements and in some cases may offer a waiver or partial waiver of tuition fees in the short term.

## Catholic group will accept Scouts' decision to allow girls to join

IRVING, Texas (CNS) — The leaders of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting, which has its headquarters in the Dallas suburb of Irving, said they "accept and work with the new membership policy of the Boy Scouts of America" to admit girls. "We were informed this morning" of the policy change, said an Oct. 11 statement by George Sparks, the national chairman of the group, and the committee's national chaplain, Father Kevin Smith, a priest of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, New York. "Once we have had more time to review the policy and a chance to consult our national member-

ship, we will be able to comment further about how this new policy will reflect changes in the makeup of Catholic-chartered units," they said. The Boy Scouts currently have 2.3 million members, less than half than the 5 million they reached in the 1970s, at the peak of the post-World War II baby boom. The vote to accept girls as members was unanimous, according to a spokeswoman for the Boy Scouts.

## Sessions' memo praised for reaffirming laws protecting religious liberty

WASHINGTON (CNS) — U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions' memo on religious freedom issued for all federal agencies and departments to follow "helpfully reaffirms that the law protects the freedom of faith-based organizations to conduct their operations in accordance with their religious

mission," a U.S. archbishop said. The guidance "helpfully reaffirms that the law protects the freedom of faith-based organizations to conduct their operations in accordance with their religious mission," said Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty. His Oct. 12 statement addressed Sessions' memo of Oct. 6 that identifies 20 "high-level principles," as it terms it, "that administrative agencies and executive departments can put to practical use to ensure the religious freedoms of Americans are lawfully protected." The principles say, for example, that "religious employers are entitled to employ only persons whose beliefs and conduct are consistent with the employers' religious precepts, and that "religious organizations are entitled to compete on equal footing for financial assistance used to support government programs."

## Death penalty is 'contrary to the Gospel,' pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The death penalty, no matter how it is carried out, "is, in itself, contrary to the Gospel," Pope Francis said. Marking the 25th anniversary of the Catechism of the Catholic Church at the Vatican Oct. 11, Pope Francis said the catechism's discussion of the death penalty, already formally amended by St. John Paul II, needs to be even more explicitly against capital punishment. Capital punishment, he said, "heavily wounds human dignity" and is an "inhuman measure." "It is, in itself, contrary to the Gospel, because a decision is voluntarily made to suppress a human life, which is always sacred in the eyes of the Creator and of whom, in the last analysis, only God can be the true judge and guarantor," the pope said. The death penalty, he said, not only extinguishes a human life, it extinguishes the possibility that the person, recognizing his or her errors, will request forgiveness and begin a new life.

## U.S. bishop concerned about impact of Trump's health care order on poor

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A part of President Donald Trump's Oct. 13 executive order on health care that would end subsidies to health insurance companies aimed at helping individuals with low to modest incomes is of "grave concern," a U.S. bishop said. "The Affordable Care Act is by no means perfect," said Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Florida, but he warned that attempts to improve it "must not use people's health care as leverage or as a bargaining chip. To do so would be to strike at the heart of human dignity and the fundamental right to health care. The poor and vulnerable will bear the brunt of such an approach," he said in an Oct. 14 statement. Bishop Dewane, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, said the USCCB "will closely monitor the implementation and impacts of this executive order by the relevant administrative agencies." He said flexible options for people to obtain health coverage are important strategies but he also cautioned that "great care must be taken to avoid risk of additional harm to those who now receive health care coverage through exchanges formed under the Affordable Care Act."

## St. Jude Parish mission begins Sunday

SOUTH BEND — St. Jude extends an invitation to all to participate in its "Say 'Yes' my Lord!" parish mission Oct. 22-25, starting at 7 p.m. each night. The experience will be an opportunity to renew one's Catholic faith.

The service each evening will consist of a Scripture reading, message and reflection, and singing and praying together. It promises to be a grace-filled happening and an opportunity to experience in a special way the wonderful and incredible presence and love of God. The topics for the mission are: Sunday, "God's Plan of Salvation and our Response;" Monday, "Who is Jesus for Us?;" Tuesday, "Sin, Reconciliation and Healing;" and Wednesday, "Our Mission to Share in the Work of Jesus and the Church." A Mass will be celebrated on the last day, followed by light refreshments. Child care will be available.

The church is located at 19704 Johnson Road, South Bend. For more information contact Heather DeLucenay at [faith@stjudeparish.net](mailto:faith@stjudeparish.net).

## Lecture series continues

FORT WAYNE — The faculty of the department of philosophy and theology at the University of Saint Francis will offer the next lecture in the 2017-18 fall lecture series.

Dr. Earl Kumfer, professor emeritus, will give the lecture, "Miracles and Belief," on Sunday, Nov. 12, at 3 p.m. on the campus of the University of Saint Francis, Brookside Ballroom, 2701 Spring St.

Why believe? Do arguments, testimony or experience ground belief? Do miracles prove anything? These are some of the questions whose answers will be discussed during the evening.

Dr. Earl Kumfer will also revisit the Resurrection narratives to better grasp what happened at Pentecost.

For additional information, contact Angie Springer at 260-399-7700 x8100 or [aspringer@sf.edu](mailto:aspringer@sf.edu) or visit the website at <http://philosophy.sf.edu/lecture-series/>.

The public is welcome and admission is free.

## Sisters of Providence to host 'Grieving Gracefully ... Into a Future Full of Hope'

TERRE HAUTE — With more than four decades of experience in ministry, walking with people who are grieving or have grieved, Sister of Providence Connie Kramer believes grieving in today's world can be difficult.

"Grieving is really a lifelong activity for persons, since we are always in the process of changing and moving on in our lives," she said.

# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## School recycles caps to create benches



Provided by Lois Widner

It takes 500 pounds of recycled milk-style container caps to create one bench, and kindergarten classes at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, Fort Wayne, have collected plastic caps of all sizes for five benches — almost two years' worth of work. School parent Doug Stronczek has engraved one of the Ten Commandments into each bench, and after finishing benches for the remaining commandment the students and staff plan to work towards creating similar reminders of each of the Stations of the Cross and the Beatitudes.

## Knights Soccer Challenge champions



Provided by Ryan Grill

The Knights of Columbus Councils No. 5521 (South Bend) and No. 8617 (Mishawaka) hosted the Northeast Regional Soccer Challenge Championship on Oct. 7 at Fathers' Field, Queen of Peace Parish, Mishawaka. Nine young players won their respective divisions and qualified to compete in the Indiana Knights of Columbus State Soccer Challenge Championship Oct. 29 in Greenwood. The regional champions are, in the front row from left: Samantha Amantecatl, Age 9 Girls; Elizabeth Anglin, Age 10 Girls; Amelia Hakes, Age 11 Girls; Jessica Dibley, Age 13 Girls; Nero Chavez, Age 13 Boys; Drew Jank, Age 12 Boys; Chase Collins, Age 11 Boys; Aydan Grill, Age 10 Boys; and Jesus Martinez, Age 9 Boys. In the back row are Gil Martin, District Deputy 11; Ryan Grill, Council No. 5521 soccer chairman; and Richard Burmeister, District Deputy 10.

Because of that, she hopes people of all faith traditions will participate in the upcoming one-day retreat, "Grieving Gracefully ... Into a Future Full of Hope," scheduled for 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., on Saturday, Nov. 4, in the Providence Hall Community Room at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, located 10 minutes northwest of Terre Haute.

During the retreat, basic grief information will be shared and participants will receive suggestions for working with their own grief issues, methods to complete an emotional relationship that has ended, and ideas on how to support another person who is grieving.

The retreat will take place in a group setting, where hope and healing await for those willing to share their sacred grief journey. A primary focus will be on understanding and embracing the process of grief.

"The process of grieving is quicker if you participate in some group activity with other persons who are going through the same process," Sister Connie said. "That is why the retreat is so important."

Cost to attend is \$45, which includes lunch. Register online at [Events.SistersofProvidence.org](http://Events.SistersofProvidence.org) or by calling 812-535-2952 or emailing [jfrost@spsmw.org](mailto:jfrost@spsmw.org). The registration deadline is Oct. 30.

## Bishop Luers students to honor veterans, welcome Capt. Guy Gruters

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Luers High School will be celebrating Veteran's Day Thursday, Nov. 9, at 1:30 p.m. with the school's Sodalitas service groups, who will create care packages with handwritten letters to be delivered to homeless veterans and veteran patients at the Veterans Affairs Hospital's Fort Wayne campus.

Former USAF Capt. Guy D. Gruters will be the keynote speaker and conclude the day's events. Captain Gruters was a prisoner of war for five years during the Vietnam War and speaks about his relationship with God. His book, "Locked Up With God," details that relationship.

The high school extends an invitation to all to attend, especially those who are active duty and retired servicemembers of the United States military. If you are a veteran of the armed forces and would like to attend and/or participate with the day's events, please contact Jordan Miller at [jmiller@bishopluer.org](mailto:jmiller@bishopluer.org) for further information.

# ALL-SCHOOLS MASS CALL

BY JENNIFER MILLER

**W**ith a children's choir singing and a hand bell choir playing the Litany of Saints, Purcell Pavilion at the University of Notre Dame witnessed a small foretaste of heaven Oct. 10 as Catholic schools from the western part of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend gathered together to worship and to celebrate Mass. Superintendent Marsha Jordan captured the feeling in the building when she said in her welcome address, "It is a great joy to join together to celebrate the sacrifice of the holy Mass."

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated the Mass, and was joined by concelebrating priests from the Catholic schools in attendance. The students were visibly excited to see their priests, and waved as they recognized them processing in.

Bishop Rhoades reminded the faithful at the start of Mass that "God calls us to become saints, to walk the vocation of holiness, to live with God forever in heaven. This is where we hope to go someday." His words verbalized a vision of holiness that sat in first several rows in front of the altar: the fourth-grade students sitting together, each dressed as their favorite saint. From a Polish bishop, St. Adalbert, to Mary, Queen of Heaven, on the basketball court floor it was easy to distinguish how each had followed the custom and culture of their saint's country and period and tried to discern the will of God in the saint's life. Row after row of fourth-graders smiled as Bishop Rhoades spoke especially to them during his homily.

"A saint is fundamentally a friend of Jesus, a disciple of Jesus," he said. "A friend of Jesus also loves him, serves him and prays to him. A true friend of Jesus loves our neighbor, especially in the poor and suffering and those in need." He thanked the children for "all the help for the people in need with natural disasters, the hurricanes and earthquakes," through their prayers and sacrificial almsgiving, and emphasized: "If we are friends of Jesus, we do two things. We serve him, like Martha in the Gospel, and we pray to him, like Mary. A faithful, loyal friend of Jesus talks and listens to him. They pray to him. Every day."

"The saints had the gift of piety," he continued. "This is why we have Catholic schools, to learn to become friends with Jesus — to become saints."

He then visited with several individual fourth-grade students, attempting to guess which saint they were dressed as. He briefly interviewed Sts. Patrick and Kateri Tekawitha from St. Matthew School, St. Nicholas from Christ the King, St. Joan of Arc from St. Pius X and St. Thomas the Apostle from St. Anthony of Padua.

Bishop Rhoades also explained how, during Jesus' earthly life, he had friends too. He described the Twelve Apostles as "really good friends of Jesus," noting that there was one friend who betrayed him and three who were "really close, like best friends of Jesus; Peter, James and John." "He also had friends beyond the Apostles, women friends, like Mary and Martha. They often invited Jesus to stay over at their house in Bethany, which was not far from Jerusalem. He really enjoyed being at their house. He could relax and enjoy himself. Do you invite your friends over?" he asked. "Jesus is your best friend, and it is good for us to invite him to our home, into our hearts. This is what happens when we pray. We are inviting Jesus into our lives."

Although a large endeavor, the annual All-School Mass served once again as a spiritual and visual reminder of the work of Catholic schools in teaching and guiding each student toward God, of the larger whole to which each person and school belongs, and of the beauty that blesses the journey to him.



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades addresses the All-Schools Mass at the Purcell Pavilion at the Joyce Center Tuesday Oct. 10, 2017 in South Bend.



Marsha Jordan, superintendent of schools addresses those present at the All-Schools Mass at Purcell Pavilion.



The children's choir offered the music for the liturgy.



# LS CHILDREN TO HOLINESS



Photos by Joe Raymond



Cory Bellinger from Holy Cross School, South Bend, is dressed as St. Nick.



The procession begins at the All-Schools Mass, celebrated at Purcell Pavilion.



Priests from the schools represented at the Mass concelebrated the Oct. 10 liturgy in South Bend.

# MedCon: managing life concerns with a biblical perspective

BY DEB WAGNER

**M**edCon, the annual one-day, Fort Wayne-area conference on Catholicism and health care hosted by the Fort Wayne Jerome Lejeune Catholic Medical Guild, took place Oct. 14 at Parkview Mirro Center for Research and Innovation. The theme of this year's conference was "Time for Change" and featured keynote speaker Marcus Grodi. Topics included Catholic ethics, beginning-of-life issues, end-of-life issues, job burnout and political issues related to health care.

Grodi hosts "The Journey Home," a weekly live television program, and "Deep in Scripture," a weekly live radio program, both on EWTN. He is the author of "Thoughts for the Journey Home," "What Must I Do to be Saved?," the novels "How Firm a Foundation" and "Pillar and Bulwark." He also served as both the editor and author of "Journeys Home" and "Journeys Home II." He spoke on his personal faith journey and used the Beatitudes in St. Matthew's Gospel to broach the topic of continual conversion as a keynote presentation.

Through a Lutheran-flavored foundation, Grodi went to college and then worked as an engineer for six years. He attended seminary and became an evangelical protestant minister for 20 years, before being received into the Catholic Church in 1992. He believes, he said, that faith is a trajectory that begins with a nominal, childlike understanding and moves to an awakening in Christ and eventually an understanding of the fullness of Catholicism. He added that we experience continual conversion throughout life, and that that "Catholicism gives us boundaries within which we have great freedom to earn the status of 'well done, my good and faithful servant.'"

The Beatitudes are also stepping stones, or a staircase, to conversion. St. Gregory of Nyssa (A.D. 335-386) said, "When one climbs up by a ladder, he sets foot on the first step, and from there he goes on to the one above. Again, the second step carries the climber up to the third, and this to the following, and hence to the next. Thus, the person that always goes up ascends from where he is to the step above, until he reaches the top of his ascent. Now, why do I begin like this? It seems to me that the Beatitudes are arranged in order like so many steps, so as to facilitate the ascent from one to the other. For if man's mind is ascended to the first Beatitude, he will accept what follows as a necessary result of thought, even though the next clause seems to say something new beyond what had been said in the first." Grodi then provided an explanation of the meaning of each Beatitude,



Photos by Joe Romie

**Local medical professionals gather for a photo with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades on the steps of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in downtown Fort Wayne following the annual White Mass, which was the culmination of a conference for Catholic health care professionals on Oct. 14.**



**Marcus Grodi, left, and Dr. Christopher Stroud present to local health care professionals and others the story of Stroud's conversion to the Catholic faith, in a format similar to the television show "The Journey Home" on EWTN, which Grodi hosts. The talk was part of an Oct. 14 conference in Fort Wayne for medical, health care and other professionals. At right, Father Royce Gregerson talks about transforming a culture of death into a culture of life at the one-day Catholic conference.**

what the reward was for obedience to the Beatitude and what the crisis was for choosing not to adhere to it.

Several in attendance remarked that Grodi's explanation was like "a mini-catechism class." An individual in another group of medical personnel said, "He explained what I never took time to learn for myself, but always wanted to know." Grodi concluded his keynote with prayerful steps to reconciliation, which included showing gratitude for the gifts God has provided, as well as remorse, humility and love; relinquishing the right to justice; desiring puri-

ty of heart; accepting whatever rejection may come as a result of your actions and accepting, without retaliation, ridicule for your faith in Christ.

After Grodi's presentation, Father Royce Gregerson, chaplain for the Fort Wayne Jerome Lejeune Catholic Medical Guild, took the stage to speak to attendees about transforming a culture of death into a culture of life. He described the following challenges to a robust culture of life: threats to the family as the cornerstone of society, threats to the dignity of the elderly, the unborn, a child-friendly society and an authentically human



approach to sexuality; and the challenges and opportunities for today's youth. He suggested always looking at a person within the context of a family, because the authentic good of any individual person is tied to the good of their family whereas medicine, civil society and even pastoral care can tend to work on an individualistic level. He encouraged caring for the elderly in ways that recognize their membership in a family, by making younger family members responsible for the care of their elders. He said technology has also played havoc on the family unit as manifested in cyberbully-

ing, the loss of an authentically human approach to sexuality, lack of sleep, loss of face-to-face interaction and a decline in participation in physical activities. Father Gregerson said there are opportunities for improvement, though, through inoculating them from such dangers by having serious conversations with young people and practicing "great adherence to new progressive orthodoxies about sexuality and the meaning of life."

The afternoon sessions began with a mock "Journey Home" session between Grodi and Christopher Stroud, M.D., about Dr. Stroud's journey and conversion from a child of poverty, and the mentors who guided him through his years as a doubting Thomas to who he is today, a Catholic who tries to incorporate his faith into his medical practice every day. Stroud spoke to the faithfulness of his wife to stand by him in his spiritual journey, which led him from prescribing artificial contraception to use of Creighton Model FertilityCare System / NaProTechnology.

There were other breakout sessions throughout the day for attendees to learn about politics, relaxation and end-of-life decisions. During breaks between sessions, attendees visited vendors to purchase books, discuss life insurance and pick up prayer cards. The day concluded with a White Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Lectors and gift bearers who were physicians exercised their ministries at the Mass. Alluding to them and to the other health care workers who were present, Bishop Rhoades said in his homily, "Their profession is a vocation, a special calling. It is a witness to Christ the physician, who, as we see in the Gospels, went about doing good and healing the sick, who showed great love for the sick and the suffering."

"You who serve in health care are called to be the living image of Christ and of his church in serving the sick and the suffering. This, of course, includes your fidelity to the teachings of the church on the life and dignity of the human person. As St. John Paul II taught: 'Your profession calls you to be guardians and servants of human life.' Yours is a lofty calling, to serve as ministers of life, to witness to Christ in your healing profession. We thank you for your witness, for the long hours you work in caring for the sick and the dying, and for the sacrifices you make in doing so. Yours is a vocation of love. You are instruments of God's compassion and love for the sick and suffering. We pray that the Lord will bless you in your noble vocation, a path of holiness for you, a way to love Christ in the person of the sick and the suffering."

# Longtime bass violinist retires from St. Vincent de Paul

BY CAROLINE DEWEY

**M**argaret Freiburger was born in 1926 in Kendallville. She converted from the Lutheran faith to Catholicism in 1949, and both she and her husband, Ken Freiburger, joined St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne, in 1970. Immediately, Margaret took on roles in music ministries, specifically the choir and playing the bass violin. She had been involved with other choirs and had played viola and bass at St. Peter Church just prior to joining St. Vincent.

Margaret served as a volunteer bass player with St. Vincent de Paul for just over 47 years, retiring herself at the end of September. The St. Vincent musician's group was her longest-running, continuous musical group out of the more than 14 area groups with which she sang

and played over the years. St. Vincent was also her favorite, she said.

She started playing guitar at the age of 9, and playing the bass violin in high school. Margaret learned to dominate more than 10 different band and orchestra instruments, including the bassoon and Hawaiian guitar. The bass violin she plays today is 72 years old, received as a gift from her father in her senior year of high school.

She wrote notes on a staff for over 15 band and orchestra instruments and for hundreds of pieces of music and has taught at least four people the bass violin. She has played in 14 different professional, semiprofessional and volunteer groups, sang on the radio and recorded a record while at St. Peter Church.

Along with raising five children, Margaret was a World War II-era stateside government worker. There is a Victory Brick

in the National WWII Museum in New Orleans honoring her and her husband for their civilian government service and for their many years of assisting veterans, even beyond World War II.

While at St. Vincent, Margaret was both a choir member and a musician at the Saturday night contemporary Mass, while working full-time and playing clubs with a dance band back in the 1970s for several years.

Margaret turned 91 in September. She will always love music, she said, and will continue membership at St. Vincent. She is active with seniors at the parish, with the local American Legion, with other musicians and with a group of co-worker retirees from the government. She plans to continue playing her bass and several other instruments at performances and informal "porch jam sessions" with the Freiburger family musicians.



Provided by Caroline Dewey

St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne, parishioner Margaret Freiburger retired herself and her bass violin in September from decades of Saturday night worship instrumentation. The 91-year-old has been a musician for 72 years.

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Rod Dreher is senior editor at *The American Conservative*. His commentary has been published in *The Wall Street Journal*, *Commentary*, *the Weekly Standard*, *Beliefnet*, and *Real Simple*, among other publications. In addition to New York Times bestseller *The Benedict Option*, has also written two other books, *The Little Way of Ruthie Leming* and *Crunchy Cons*.

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For more information, visit our websites or contact Prof. Muñoz: vmunoz@nd.edu

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## A different type of storm

For over 20 years I had the pleasure of taking care of a particular gentleman. He had a severe cardiomyopathy, which means that his main pumping chamber, the left ventricle, had become weak, and his heart could no longer pump blood as vigorously as it should.

One of the most dreaded complications of a cardiomyopathy is a sudden, fatal arrhythmia. To prevent these deaths, we commonly implant a device called an Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator. The ICD will detect these arrhythmias and automatically shock the heart back to normal rhythm. These devices save many lives every year. Now, back to my story.

This particular man did indeed have an ICD implanted. He went years without using it, but one day he suddenly became very dizzy and got a painful shock across his chest. His wife called 911. In the ambulance on the way to the Emergency Department he received three more painful cardioversions. I have had many patients describe this experience as if they were kicked in the chest by a mule.

On arrival to the Emergency Department, it was not long before his heart rhythm deteriorated again into ventricular tachycardia, or what we call VT. Once again, he was shocked. I was paged, and as I walked in I heard this large man scream in pain as he received yet another shock. I arrived at the bedside, he grabbed my hand and looked straight into my eyes and said to me, "You have to stop these shocks!"

I asked his nurse to get me a magnet right away. She had no idea why, or for that matter, what I was talking about; so let's just say I could have been a little more eloquent as I told her to go find the doughnut magnet "stat," or find someone who could!

A long several minutes went by as the Emergency Department personnel frantically searched the area for a magnet. In the meantime my poor patient nearly broke my hand, squeezing it with such great force as he realized the dizziness he was feeling once again was a signal that his heart was back into VT. And yes, he got shocked once more as I stood at the bedside helplessly. Finally a large, blue doughnut-shaped magnet arrived, and I immediately placed it directly over the ICD encasement under his left collar bone. The magnet blinds the ICD software from detecting arrhythmias and therefore stops the shocks. In the meantime, I was administering a very powerful antiarrhythmic medicine intravenously to suppress further recurrence of the ventricular tachycardia. His runs of VT became shorter and shorter until we had given enough medicine to suppress his arrhythmia.

He finally stabilized, and we found the right combination of oral medications so he could be released back home. Despite a very aggressive regimen of multiple medications to suppress his ventricular tachycardia, he experienced VT on multiple occasions over the next few years.

When you have uncontrolled, recurrent ventricular tachycardia it is called VT storm. My team

## THE CATHOLIC DOCTOR IS IN

DR. DAVID KAMINSKAS

of electrophysiologists (specially trained cardiologists that are electricians of the heart) even did a high-risk procedure call a VT ablation on this man, and it failed to prevent the VT episodes. He eventually developed Post Traumatic Stress Disorder from always waiting nervously for the next shock to occur.

After years of these presentations his heart had greatly deteriorated, and he developed end-stage, congestive heart failure. He was now spending more time in the hospital than at home. One evening, as he lay in the hospital during one of his many admissions, he had his nurse call me to the bedside so he and his wife could discuss end-of-life issues. He told me he had had enough and wanted to know if I would agree to turn his ICD off so the next time he had VT he could die.

Catholic scholars agree that such decisions to end disproportionately burdensome procedures are ethical, especially as in this case when someone has reached end-stage heart disease and death is imminent.

He was a good Christian man and was ready to embrace death. God was merciful. That same

DOCTOR, page 13

## A response to suffering

Many years ago, I attended a conference where physicians and others discussed care for dying patients. One speaker asked audience members how they would prefer to die: To pass away after long illness, with time to prepare for death and make peace with loved ones, or to have a heart attack and die instantly on the golf course.

Most doctors seemed to vote for dying instantly. Maybe a few did so because golf was mentioned. The more ominous prospect is that they knew how badly their own profession helps people deal with dying.

There have been improvements since then. But our country still has an aging population, a growing prevalence of noncommunicable diseases like cancer and heart disease and a medical profession that is proficient in "high-tech" treatments but uncertain how to care for those we cannot cure. Developing nations have the opposite problem: A culture that appreciates the value of simply "being with" the sick, but little access to medical care or effective pain medications.

These are some of the things I heard this month at the annual assembly of the Pontifical Academy for Life, an advisory body that is now part of the Vatican's Dicastery for the Laity, the Family and Life. The good news is that an international campaign is underway to promote "palliative care" for all patients with incurable illness who need it.

Palliative care improves the quality of life for patients with



## A MORE HUMAN SOCIETY

RICHARD DOERFLINGER

life-threatening illness and their families. The World Health Organization says it "affirms life and regards dying as a normal process," and "intends neither to hasten nor postpone death." It affirms patients' dignity, helping them live as comfortably as possible for as long as they live. It is a "biopsychosocial" model of care, a big word for addressing physical, psychological, interpersonal and spiritual suffering.

Through its PAL-LIFE project, the Academy for Life is helping to advance such care ([www.academiavita.org](http://www.academiavita.org)). It has helped develop two "Religions of the World" charters by which religious leaders can commit themselves to improving palliative care for older people and for children.

The project has researched the state of palliative care and the church's role in it worldwide. It has encouraged demonstration projects in some of the poorest nations to show how trained volunteers can help medical professionals expand access to care. And it has urged medical associations and policymakers to include palliative care in efforts for universal health care.

DOERFLINGER, page 13

## We owe God our praise and our service



## THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

### Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time Matthew 22:15-21

The second part of the Book of Isaiah provides this weekend's first reading. The context is a very bad time for God's people. The two Hebrew kingdoms no longer existed, both having been victims of a military onslaught from neighboring, and very strong, Babylonia.

The invasions swept away the structures of the two kingdoms. Their dynasties were eradicated. They lost their independence. Many people died. Survivors were at the mercy of the invaders. Victorious invad-

ers took many of the survivors to Babylon, the capital of the empire, where the Hebrews were kept not exactly as hostages, but their lives were miserable.

Times eventually changed, however. The Babylonians themselves fell before the intrusion of a powerful neighbor, Persia. Cyrus, the Persian king, had no interest in the exiles from the once Hebrew kingdoms, so he allowed them to return home. For the exiles, it was a day of unequalled joy.

A most novel turn of phrase was the prophet's depiction of King Cyrus as an instrument of God. It was a novelty since Cyrus was a pagan. He was not in any sense a son of Abraham. He had no knowledge of, or regard for, the God of Israel. His ancestors had never followed Moses across the Sinai Peninsula in the Exodus. Yet, God used Cyrus to accomplish the divine will. The divine will was responsible for the survival, and return to peace and security, of the children of Abraham.

This weekend's second reading is from the First Epistle to

the Thessalonians. Thessalonica was a Greek city on the Greek mainland of the Balkans. It is one of the few New Testament cities still existing as an important center, site of the modern Greek city of Saloniki.

The epistle comes from Paul, along with his disciples Silvanus and Timothy. Paul had to reassure, encourage and strengthen Thessalonica's Christian community, which was trying to exist in the midst of a hostile, pagan culture. He also had to assert his own credentials. Paul insisted that he was a most devout believer in the message of the Lord Jesus. He was an Apostle, specially chosen by Christ. So, his authority came from the Lord.

St. Matthew's Gospel provides the last reading. It is one of the best-known passages in the New Testament.

Again and again, this text is used to defend the principle of separation of church and state, almost as if to say the reading declares that two reservoirs of authority exist on earth, equal but distinct, one the state, the other God. This is not the

Gospel's message.

Jesus was presented with a text. Detractors thought that they could trick the Lord. If the Lord spoke against paying taxes, then the Roman law would be violated. The Romans were unforgiving, and he would be doomed. If Jesus approved paying taxes, then the Lord would endorse the hated Roman conquest and occupation.

Jesus fell into neither trap. He bluntly stated that the spiritual, God's law, is the supreme. Consider first and last the kingdom of God.

## Reflection

Sadly, this magnificent lesson from Matthew's Gospel often is distorted into considering the separation of church and state in the modern context, arguing that God is on one side, civil authority on the other.

Reigning supreme over everything is the Gospel. Even civil authority must submit to God's law and revelation. Civil power must serve divine law and order. Church-state relations and dif-

ferences, of course, are real, with serious implications. Surely the state deserves respect, but "render to God the things of God." Everything is subject to God. First, last and always, God alone deserves homage.

The image on the coin was important. It bore Caesar's profile, making it contemptible for Jews.

Give the emperor the detested, filthy coin. Give God true devotion.

## 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 105L6-9, 42-43 Lk 12:8-12

# When is it a sin to make a referral?

During World War II, if a contractor had been asked to construct a building knowing that it would serve as a gas chamber in Auschwitz, it goes without saying that he ought not agree to do it. By laying the foundation and supervising the plumbing, electrical and duct work, he would be contributing to, or enabling, the subsequent commission of atrocities against prisoners in the concentration camp.

But significant concerns would also arise if he were to reply: "I'm sorry, I have a moral objection to building this structure, but let me put in a call to a colleague who is a contractor, and he will do it for you." By placing the call, he would still be a part of the causal chain leading to the building of the facility, and to the subsequent evils that would be carried out in it. By making a referral to engage someone else's services for something immoral, we can still be involved in, and responsible for, the commission of grave evils.

Among medical professionals, situations can likewise arise in which they may be tempted to make a referral for an immoral procedure, supposing that because they are not doing the procedure themselves, they are now morally "in the clear."

For example, a pharmacist who lives and works in a state or jurisdiction where physician-assisted suicide has been legalized may be asked to fill a prescription for suicide pills. By declining to fill that prescription, he or she avoids immediately cooperating with a customer's immoral decision to commit suicide. But it would still raise moral concerns if the pharmacist said to the customer: "Let me pass this prescription to my co-worker, because, although I cannot fill it, he can help you out." The first pharmacist remains a contributor in the chain of events leading up to the carrying out

of the evil act, and he would be cooperating in evil by making the referral to his co-worker.

A "referral," in moral terms, is when the person who refuses to do the immoral procedure himself or herself directs the requesting person to another individual or institution because the other individual or institution is known or believed to be willing to provide the immoral procedure in question. The decision to offer the referral indicates that the one doing it is choosing, at least implicitly, to help the requester carry out the evil act, and such implicit willing of evil acts can never be morally acceptable.

Making a referral can also convey a sense of tacit acceptance and approval of that evil, and therefore the referring provider can also become guilty of wrongdoing by giving scandal. Someone who gives scandal helps to form the immoral will of another. In fact, the term "scandal" in theology refers to any action, word or deed that leads another to sin.

Of course, a pharmacist could simply decline to fill a suicide pill prescription. He may have to pay the consequences for his refusal, but it certainly would be a valid and courageous option for him to give witness to the injustice of assisted suicide laws. But that may not be the only way to approach the situation. A conscientious pharmacist could also say to the customer, "There may be other pharmacies around here that can assist you," or even, "there may be others working at this pharmacy who can assist you," and leave it at that. This would not be a referral, but a simple statement regarding commonly available public knowledge. The pharmacist could then return the prescription to the customer, rather than passing it to a co-worker, and the customer would then have to initiate a new "causal chain" or series of choices as he or she seeks to obtain the immoral



## MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

medications, looking around and inquiring about who might fill the prescription. This removes the original pharmacist from the causal chain, avoids making a referral to a colleague, and diminishes or eliminates responsibility for any subsequent evils that the customer may end up committing.

Regrettably, pharmacists and other health care professionals today are coming under increasing fire from the culture around them as they are being told, as part of their job description, that they have to ignore their well-formed consciences and fill prescriptions for suicide pills, the abortion pill or contraception. Yet a double standard is clearly at work, for if the prescription were for something a pharmacist knew would be used as a date-rape drug to take advantage of a woman at a party, everyone would declare the pharmacist to be a moral hero for refusing.

To sum up, then, a great deal of care, vigilance and determination is needed not only for us to avoid committing certain evils, but also to avoid making a referral for those evils to be carried out by others.

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

that suffering exists "in order to unleash love in the human person, that unselfish gift of one's 'I' on behalf of other people, especially those who suffer" (St. John Paul II, "Salvifici Doloris," No. 29). When we show compassion for the seriously ill and alleviate their physical, emotional and spiritual pain, we build a culture of life.

The second Saturday of October was World Hospice and Palliative Care Day. It's a good time to thank our church for its efforts, and to ask how we can be of help in our families, local communities and churches.

**Richard Doerflinger** worked for 36 years in the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. He writes from Washington state.

### DOCTOR, from page 12

night he went into VT, fell asleep and breathed his last.

There is a plaque on a wall in my house given to my wife by a close friend during a particularly difficult family crisis. It reads: "Sometimes the Lord calms the storm. Sometimes he lets the storm rage and calms his child." This Lord's child had been calmed.

**Dr. David Kaminskas** is a board certified cardiologist and member of The Dr. Jerome Lejeune Catholic Medical Guild of Northeast Indiana, [www.fortwaynecma.com](http://www.fortwaynecma.com).

### DOERFLINGER, from page 12

Proponents of assisted suicide routinely use stories of suffering during terminal illness to drive their agenda. Exploiting people's fears, they claim killing the patient can be the only way to end suffering.

They don't mention that assisted suicide passes on the suffering to loved ones — and to other vulnerable patients, when they realize that society sees their very existence as a problem with a quick solution. Nor do proponents mention that accepting assisted suicide undermines society's commitment to the hard work of improving care. When we allay fear and help patients live with dignity, we oppose a culture of death.

Beyond the assisted suicide debate, our church recognizes

## SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for October 22, 2017

1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b/ Matthew 22:15-21

Following is a word search based on the Second and Gospel readings for the 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

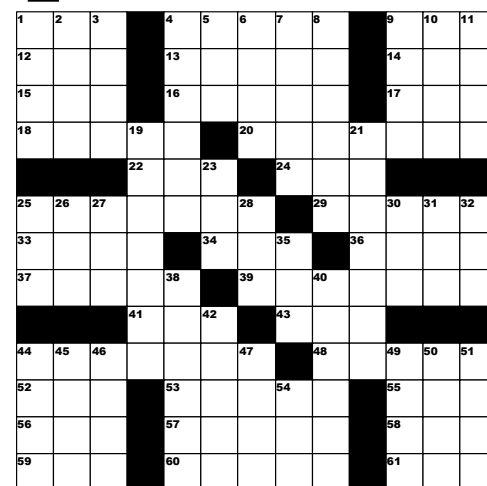
- |         |            |           |
|---------|------------|-----------|
| PAUL    | SILVANUS   | TIMOTHY   |
| CHURCH  | LORD JESUS | FAITH     |
| CHOSEN  | GOSPEL     | POWER     |
| PLOTTED | DISCIPLES  | HERODIANS |
| TEACHER | ACCORDANCE | TRUTH     |
| TELL US | LAWFUL     | TO PAY    |
| MALICE  | HYPOCRITES | CAESAR    |

### LABOR

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

## The CrossWord

October 22 and 29, 2017



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**Sunday readings:** Is 45:1, 4-6; 1Thes 1:1-5b; Mt 22:15-21 and Ex 22:20-26, 1Thes 1:5c-10; Mt 22:34-40

### ACROSS

- 1 Alternative (abbr.)
- 4 Desert plants
- 9 Charged particle
- 12 Luau dish
- 13 City in Ohio
- 14 North by west
- 15 Annoy
- 16 Old wounds
- 17 Corn core
- 18 Farewell
- 20 First Gospel in Bible
- 22 Owed to Caesar
- 24 Chop down
- 25 Heavenly choir

- 29 Rodents
- 33 Colors cloth
- 34 No room here
- 36 Dregs of wine
- 37 Nativity \_\_\_\_\_
- 39 "Jacob, my \_\_\_\_\_"
- 41 Hatchet
- 43 Bitty
- 44 Lumberjack does
- 48 Muslim religion
- 52 Pope \_\_\_\_\_ the Great
- 53 "By \_\_\_\_\_ he destroyed our death"
- 55 Monotheism, belief in \_\_\_\_\_ God
- 56 Sin

- 57 "The Jungle" author Sinclair \_\_\_\_\_
- 58 Adam and Eve did to apple
- 59 Chinese cooking pan
- 60 Sulks
- 61 Fishermen use

### DOWN

- 1 Western Samoa capital
- 2 "I am the \_\_\_\_\_"
- 3 Carved Polynesian statue
- 4 Relaxed
- 5 American Kennel Club (abbr.)
- 6 Force into
- 7 Five books of Moses
- 8 Part in front of ankle
- 9 Part of a foot
- 10 Double-reed instrument
- 11 Northwest by west
- 19 Everlasting
- 21 Dozens
- 23 Last Pius pope
- 25 Advertisements
- 26 Big Apple (abbr.)
- 27 "To the right!"
- 28 Central nervous system
- 30 Galilee ocean
- 31 \_\_\_\_\_ Commandments
- 32 Supersonic transport
- 35 \_\_\_\_\_ Testament
- 38 Moses' journey book
- 40 God does over earth
- 42 "Land of \_\_\_\_\_"
- 44 David did to Goliath
- 45 Air (prefix)
- 46 "Your \_\_\_\_\_ of faith"
- 47 Building lot
- 49 Make this without interest
- 50 Wager
- 51 Get together
- 54 Today

# Catholic cemeteries bury the poor and forgotten

BY MARK PATTISON

WASHINGTON (CNS) — It is not as if anyone has organized a parade or a public relations campaign to say so, but Catholic cemeteries around the country have, do and will bury the indigent and those whose bodies have gone unclaimed.

"It's a way to help those in need. A program to help the poor," said Stephen Bittner of the Cincinnati Catholic Cemetery Society and president of the Catholic Cemetery Conference, the Illinois-based nationwide association for diocesan Catholic cemetery organizations.

The national association, on Nov. 1, will sponsor "Cemetery Sunday," in advance of All Souls Day, which is Nov. 2. The day's activities will include discussions with interested Catholics about the burial of indigents as well as other services Catholic cemeteries provide.

Burial of the poor "is a very common experience across the United States, and many dioceses have many services, and provide the services in a different way," said Roman Szabelski, who oversees matters for the 45 Catholic cemeteries in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Szabelski was at the Catholic Cemetery Conference's national convocation in Nevada in September, where these and other initiatives were discussed.

Parishes in some dioceses — he mentioned Cincinnati as one of them — take up collections to defray the costs of indigent burials, particularly if the parish has its own cemetery. Many Catholic cemeteries, according to Szabelski, often include a line item in their budgets for indigent burials.

Cemeteries also have been known to conduct burials of unborn children at no cost as part of their ministry, said Rita Coffman, associate executive director of the Catholic Cemetery Conference.

"Sometimes they (Catholic cemeteries) have agreements with the civil authorities, which is what we have," Szabelski told Catholic News Service in a telephone interview.

"About three years ago, Chicago, like usual, had a story in the news that the county morgue was backed up with bodies. It was horrific, the sheriff made a big stink about it," he said.

"We stepped up. 'You say you have 300 bodies. We have the capacity do the burials.' 'We can't bury them in a Catholic cemetery,' but that (argument)



Francie Hogan

The Catholic Cemetery in Fort Wayne offers a peaceful and serene place to lay one's loved ones to rest.

didn't make much sense," Szabelski added. "We provided the services for three years."

The Chicago Catholic cemeteries have stepped in on other occasions as well.

The coroner's office in Cook County, Illinois, which includes Chicago, "moved away from another contractor where they were stacking up the bodies, and

family members couldn't find their loved ones," Szabelski said. "They pressed us (to conduct the burials). They paid us one-third of the going price."

He cited the Burr Oak Cemetery scandal of 2009-10 as another instance where the Catholic Church stepped in to help.

"Burr Oak Cemetery (outside

Chicago) was accused of disinterring, scattering the remains of people, doing double burials (in the same plot). It brought headlines, international headlines, at that time," he told CNS. "The story ends with the state of Illinois and the Cook County sheriff asking me to come in and calm the storm and bring some record-keeping to see what was

disturbed and what was not. There was new legislation not only in the state but across the states, and federal legislation of cemeteries, to make sure we were doing things properly."

"We never say 'free'" to avoid stigmatizing the next of kin of an indigent decedent, Bittner said. "But it is a service we provide."

The practice is not reserved solely for Catholics, he added. "When that person's body arrives, there are prayers said for the burial, even if the priest or minister is unavailable. We go into all faiths. We service all Christians who come to us in need. So if there isn't a priest or a minister to arrive that day, we make sure we have prayers of dignity."

"In many cities, if you die indigent and have no family, you become a ward of the city. Those types of people who die that way are going to be cremated and going to be put into a common space that the county pays to provide," Bittner said. "In some cases, you have limited information on who those people are," despite being "in a country of such wealth."

Even in a more mobile and ultra-connected society, things can happen.

"You have so many who die homeless, without family," Bittner said, "if we don't go there to claim the body." There have even been circumstances, he added, where someone will call to say, "I haven't heard from my brother for months," only to find out that that person died alone in that apartment, there was no one around and the city took ownership of the deceased, and there was no one to call. It's rare to see but you can see how that can happen in today's world," even in families that can afford a burial.

Another consequence of a mobile society is that family burial plots purchased well in advance for children don't get used because those children, once grown, have moved far from home and established a family, career and life elsewhere.

"We can put them in our inventory to be used" by others if the family wishes to donate them, Bittner said. "But you really want the special effect, donate it to the parish where you're going to be buried from. Tell Father Bob or Father Bill, and what Father Bob or Father Bill are going to do — if they know someone who is indigent and there is a death in the family — they're going to have that ready."

**Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will celebrate the  
All Souls Day Mass**

**Thursday, Nov. 2 • Noon to 1 p.m. at Catholic Cemetery, 3500 Lake Ave., Fort Wayne**

# 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](http://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.

**'Dancing the Night Away'**  
**PLYMOUTH** — The Knights of Columbus will have a "Dancing the Night Away Oldies but Goodies and More," event Saturday, Oct. 21, at the Knights hall, 901 East Jefferson St., from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$10 for couples. Music and dancing with a live DJ. Food available for purchase will include pulled pork sandwiches, hot dogs, sloppy joe sandwiches, chips, desserts, beverages and root beer floats.

**Daniel Oberreuter concert**  
**WATERLOO** — A concert featuring Daniel Oberreuter from "The Thirsting," will be on Sunday, Oct. 22, from 7 p.m. to midnight at St. Michael Church, 1098 County Rd. 39. No tickets necessary, freewill offering. This concert is being sponsored by the Youth Group of St. Michael's as a gift to all who attend.

**Bishop Rhoades to reflect on Reformation**  
**ELKHART** — In the spirit of friendship and a better understanding of the beliefs and traditions that are still common to both the Lutheran and Catholic faiths, Trinity Lutheran Church, 30888 C.R. 6, will welcome Bishop Rhoades at 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 23, to deliver a lecture titled "A Catholic Bishop's Reflection on the Reformation." His 45-minute presentation will be followed by a question-and-answer session.

**World Youth Day informational nights at Bishop Dwenger and Marian high schools**  
**FORT WAYNE/MISHAWAKA** — The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is organizing a pilgrimage to Panama for World Youth Day in 2019, Jan. 19th through

the 28th. Join Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades on this epic journey to pray with the Holy Father, Pope Francis, and a couple million brothers and sisters in Christ. Attend the information night at Bishop Dwenger High School, 1300 E Washington Center Rd., Tuesday, Oct. 24, at 6:30 p.m. or attend the information night at Marian High School, 1311 S Logan St., Wednesday, Oct. 25, at 6:30 p.m. For more information on the pilgrimage visit [www.diocesefwsb.org/wyd](http://www.diocesefwsb.org/wyd).

**St. Joseph Hessen Cassel fall rummage sale**  
**FORT WAYNE** — St. Joseph Hessen Cassel School, 11521 US Highway 27 S, will host a rummage sale Thursday, Oct. 26 from 6-8 p.m.; Friday, Oct. 27 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 28 from 8 a.m. to noon with a \$3 bag sale.

**Saint Joseph High School to host eighth-grade visit day**  
**SOUTH BEND** — Eighth-graders are invited to experience a Saint Joseph High School day on Friday, Oct. 26, where guests will follow a typical freshman schedule. Contact Sue Ushela at 574-233-6137 or email [sushela@saintjoehigh.com](mailto:sushela@saintjoehigh.com).

**Bishop Rhoades talks to Camino de Santiago class**  
**SOUTH BEND** — Bishop Kevin Rhoades will share his inspiration about pilgrimages on Wednesday, Oct. 25, at 9 a.m., as part of a pilgrimage class at the Forever Learning Institute located at Little Flower Parish Center, 54191 Ironwood Rd. Contact [flischool@foreverlearninginstitute.org](mailto:flischool@foreverlearninginstitute.org) or 574-282-1901.

## The CrossWord

October 22 and 29, 2017

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

## REST IN PEACE

**Angola**  
 Rita S. Adomaitis, 97,  
 St. Anthony of Padua

**Arcola**  
 John J. Christoff, 72,  
 St. Patrick

**Donaldson**  
 Sr. Agatha Niebrugge,  
 89, PHJC, Ancilla  
 Domini Chapel

**Fort Wayne**  
 James Robert Brainerd,  
 76, Most Precious  
 Blood

Sharon Rose Walden,  
 St. Vincent de Paul  
  
 Dr. Charles A. Wilson,  
 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Richard E. Roy, 91,  
 St. Vincent de Paul  
  
 Sharon Rose Walden,  
 St. Vincent de Paul  
  
 Ortencia VanHorn, 74,  
 St. Jude

**Granger**  
 Thomas J. Mango II,  
 M.D., 52, St. Pius X

Margaret Mary Swain,  
 90, St. Pius X

**Notre Dame**  
 Margaret F. Hiler, 97,  
 Basilica of the Sacred  
 Heart

**South Bend**  
 Peggy J. Hanson, 74,  
 St. Joseph

Barbara Harris, 78,  
 Our Lady of Hungary  
  
 Theresa Lodyga, 88,  
 St. Adalbert

James J. Smuda, 84,  
 St. John the Baptist

Ronald B. Bailey, 76,  
 St. Casimir

**Wabash**  
 Anthony Shanabarger,  
 25, St. Bernard

For a full calendar of events and to share yours  
 Visit [www.todayscatholic.org/event](http://www.todayscatholic.org/event)



Please join us as we celebrate the Blessing and Official Opening of the Divine Mercy Funeral Home, beginning with...

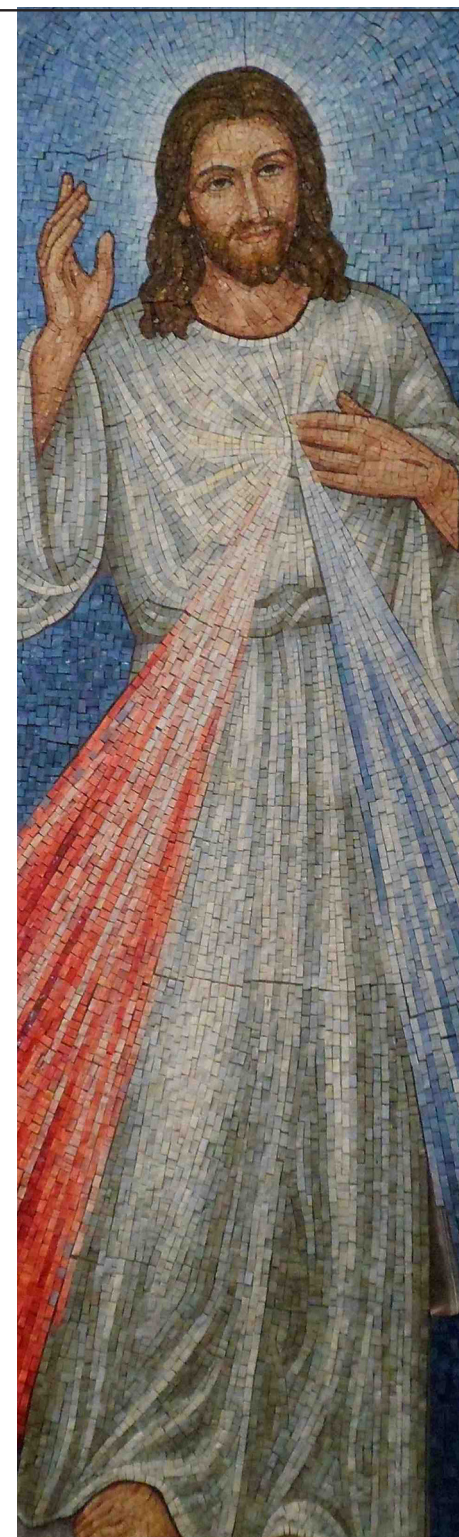
**All Soul's Day Mass**  
**Thursday, November 2, Noon**  
 The Catholic Cemetery's Outdoor Altar  
 Officiated by The Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades,  
 Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

**Divine Mercy Funeral Home**  
**Blessing and Official Opening**  
**Thursday, November 2**  
 Following the All Soul's Day Mass.

**Public Open House**  
**Saturday, November 4, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.**  
 Join us for a public Open House to celebrate the opening of the Divine Mercy Funeral Home. Tours will be conducted throughout the day and a small memento will be offered to attendees while supplies last. All are welcome.

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[www.divinemercyfuneralhome.org](http://www.divinemercyfuneralhome.org)



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**FIRES, from page 1**

dinal added the pontiff sent his blessing to all and offered encouragement to local civil authorities and emergency personnel assisting fire victims.

The message was sent to San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone, in Northern California, and Los Angeles Archbishop José H. Gomez, in Southern California.

In a statement Oct. 12, the chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' domestic policy committee called for prayer for all impacted by the fires. "Today we ask for the intercession of Almighty God as wildfires rage in Northern California," said Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Florida, quoting from Verse 10, from Isaiah 41. "Do not fear: I am with you; do not be anxious. I am your God."

"As brave men and women respond to these disasters, battling the fires and helping people to safety, we call upon God for improved weather, for the blessing of rain and favorable winds, to assist them," the bishop said. "We pray that those who are missing or are still in harm's way will be found and protected. May God grant eternal rest to those who have died, and bring them into glory with him forever."

He also prayed "for generosity, care, and concern from neighbors and surrounding com-

munities for those who are grieving and displaced."

Bishop Dewane acknowledged that the natural disasters and other calamities the nation has endured as of late have left many feeling weary, but "we know that God cannot be outdone in generosity and charity." He prayed God would provide all "with new wellsprings of love" to help those "hurting so deeply today."

In Santa Rosa, Bishop Vasa reported that most of the parishes in the diocese were fine but that a Catholic high school and elementary school that share a campus suffered serious damage. Early reports indicated that "a significant portion" of the high school had been destroyed.

After Cardinal Newman High School officials were able to assess the damage, they reported that the news was better than first thought and that most of the high school's facilities, including the chapel and retreat center, were "unscathed."

However, they verified that the library, the main office building and portable buildings that housed several classrooms were lost. Another classroom building suffered roof damage and some of its windows were blown out. Of the athletic facilities, the school's baseball infield and dugouts were damaged.

The diocesan chancery also was "in the heart of a severely fire damaged part of the city but fortunately was entirely spared,"



CNS photo/California Highway Patrol via Reuters

**A wildfire is seen near Atlas Road in Napa, Calif., Oct. 9.**

Bishop Vasa said in his statement, but it was being used as an evacuation center and would remain closed to diocesan staff "for the unforeseeable future."

"So I am currently working from my car and trying to visit a few of the evacuation centers," the bishop said.

"In the city, they estimate that 1,500 homes and businesses have been lost," he continued. "I have met numerous folks who are in shelters and who have no home to which to return. The sense of great helplessness is palpable."

"That helplessness extends to the caregivers who know that short term solutions are necessary but also severely inadequate to meet the long-term needs."

The six-county Diocese of Santa Rosa includes four of the counties hit hard by the fires — Sonoma, Napa, Lake and Mendocino counties. Bishop Vasa called on all Catholics of the dio-

cese to help their brothers and sisters who "have been severely impacted by the devastating fires and are in immediate need of your prayers. Please do not hesitate to offer your help through ongoing prayer, donations, and emotional support."

"You may even be inspired to offer your home to a family who has lost everything. Simply imagine yourself and your family going through what many are experiencing now in reality, and act accordingly," he advised.

Bishop Vasa said he would try to send occasional updates to the people of the diocese. "I appreciate the outpouring of concern and especially prayers. When people ask how they can help, I answer that I really do not know. I do know that prayers are the greatest source of solace and help."

"My heart and prayers go out to all this displaced by the fire, especially those who have

lost their homes," he said. "I am extremely grateful to all the caregivers who have reached out so generously to your brothers and sisters in need."

He added: "We all need to recognize that this is a long-term recovery and we are not yet done with the active fires. There is always need for ardent, consistent and devout prayers. I know that we can all count on you for this as well."

In a letter to the Cardinal Newman High School community, church officials said that until further notice, all students, families and staff "are to stay away from the campus as it is in the evacuation zone and the site is not safe."

School officials were working on a way to hold classes in another location, suggesting they might come up with a "hybrid" solution, offering some classes online. They invited families from the high school and St. Rose Elementary School to an evening meeting Oct. 12 on the "state of the schools" to share information and "how we plan to go forward."

"We continue to pray for our families and our community who have suffered during this time, especially those who have lost their homes, business and have been displaced due to evacuation," the letter said. "May God's grace give you peace in this challenging time."

# We're headed to World Youth Day Let's Go!

**Come to an Info Night!**

**Fort Wayne**

**Tues Oct 24, 6:30pm at Bishop Dwenger HS**

**South Bend**

**Wed Oct 25, 6:30pm at Marian HS**

1.19.19 - 1.28.19

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