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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Volume 92 No. 6

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TODAYSCATHOLIC.org

Mishawaka Catholic celebrates Feast of Presentation of the Lord



Derby Photography

School children begin Mass with lit candles at St. Monica Church, Mishawaka, on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, which is also known as Candlemas. The feast is celebrated 40 days after Christmas, on Feb. 2.

BY WILLIAM SCHMITT

Messages about sharing and spreading Christ's light filled the day at Mishawaka Catholic School on Feb. 2, when Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades capped Catholic Schools Week by visiting its three campuses at three parishes.

Bishop began his visit at St. Monica Church and Mishawaka Catholic's middle school campus, where students of all grades were gathered. To celebrate the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, the students held candles of varied shapes and sizes in preparation for the Mass. Bishop Rhoades blessed the candles; then he, the altar servers and numerous other young people processed along a city sidewalk and into St. Monica Church to celebrate Mass. A light-bearing procession is traditional for the feast, which recalls the infant Jesus' arrival in the temple in Jerusalem and the recognition that the Savior had come to His people.

In his homily to the approximately 250 students, plus parents

MISHAWAKA, page 8

Bishop invites all to join Diocesan Heritage Pilgrimage

FORT WAYNE — Everyone comes from somewhere: Dioceses have tales of origin, too. In the early 1800s the forces and historical realities that eventually led to the founding of Catholic churches in what is now the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend converged in northern Kentucky and southern Indiana, and a three-day journey through the area plans to explore some of those places of relevance.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades invites all Catholics within the diocese to join him Friday, July 20, through Sunday, July 22, on a bus trip to explore the roots of this diocese in the region. The route of the Diocesan Heritage Pilgrimage will help travelers consider and come to understand the beginnings of the Catholic Church in the entire Midwest.

In April 1808, the only diocese in the United States, the Diocese of Baltimore, was split into four more: Philadelphia, Boston, New York City and Bardstown, Kentucky. The Diocese of Bardstown was to include the area of no fewer than 10 modern states: These included Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Tennessee, Michigan and Illinois. It was the first inland diocese west of the Allegheny Mountains, and Benedict Joseph Flaget, a French missionary who had served in Indiana, Baltimore and Cuba for over 15 years, was tapped to be its first bishop.

The Diocesan Heritage Pilgrimage will stop at the following historic locations:

PILGRIMAGE, page 4



Provided by Verso Ministries

St. Meinrad Archabbey is one of the stops on the Diocesan Heritage Pilgrimage, taking place in July.

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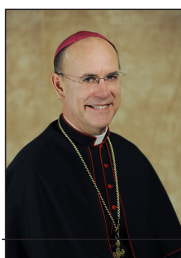
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Lenten Message of Bishop Rhoades



IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

As we begin the 40 days of Lent, I invite you to meditate on Jesus' parable of the publican and the Pharisee, contained in the Gospel of Luke (chapter 18, verses 9-14). It teaches us the true spirit of prayer and the humility, repentance and interior conversion that are at the heart of the observance of Lent. We can make all kinds of resolutions for Lent, but if we lack the humility and honesty of the publican, our Lenten prayers and works will be fruitless.

What was the problem with the prayer of the Pharisee? After all, he did good things. He fasted and tithed. That took real effort. He observed many precepts of the Lord. But all that was exterior. Where was his heart? It was proud, even arrogant. When he prayed, he didn't thank God; he praised himself. And he had this sense of superiority over "other men," whom he describes as "extortioners, unjust, adulterers," or even, for example, referring to the other one there in the temple, "like this tax collector." He had contempt for others. The Pharisee held himself to be just, but in fact he wasn't: He neglected the most important commandment: love of God and neighbor.

When the Pharisee spoke to God, he was really praying to himself. He stood in the temple with head unbowed; he didn't feel the need to prostrate himself before the majesty of God. He felt secure and proud, like he was the master of the temple. He prayed with arrogance and hypocrisy so his prayer wasn't fruitful. In fact, it wasn't authentic prayer. His heart had lost its way.

Reflecting on the Pharisee, Pope Francis said something that's good for us to reflect on regarding our own prayer and the upcoming season of Lent: "in life, whoever believes himself to be just and criticizes others and despises them is corrupt and a hypocrite. Pride compromises every good deed, empties prayer, and creates distance from God and from others." The Holy Father says that the prayer of the proud does not reach God's heart, but the humility of the poor opens it wide.

Let's now consider the prayer of the humble publican or tax collector. The publican was no saint. In fact, he was pretty bad. He was collecting taxes for a foreign empire and became rich by cheating people. He stole from his own people. That's why the Jewish people considered publicans to be traitors, unclean and sinful. They really did terrible things. So imagine the people who heard this parable of Jesus in which the good guy was the publican and the Pharisee was the bad guy.

What makes the publican the good guy and a model of prayer for us? He wasn't egotistical like the Pharisee. His great virtue, maybe his only virtue, was humility. He prayed with a humble and contrite heart, a heart that the psalmist says, "God will not spurn." The publican had a lot to be humble about. He committed serious sins. But he was sorry and repentant. With



James Tissot, via Wikimedia Commons

The parable of the publican and the Pharisee

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and despised others:

"Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.'

But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!'

I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

— Luke 18:9-14

true humility, he prostrated himself before God and prayed from his heart not a lot of words like the Pharisee, but a few words full of depth and truth: "God, be merciful to me, a sinner." God heard and approved this prayer of the publican because it came from a humble and contrite heart. The publican was probably the very kind of person the Pharisee believed him to be: greedy and dishonest, and maybe he had other vices. But the publican admitted his guilt and begged God for mercy.

St. Thomas Aquinas taught that "the sinner is justified by God moving him to righteousness." This happens when a person is humble and opens his or her heart to this grace. St. Basil the Great gives us this advice, in the light of this parable: "Never place yourself above anyone, not even great sinners. Humility often saves a sinner who has committed many ter-

rible transgressions." Now God is the God of all, including of the Pharisee, but He is the Savior of the humble and contrite. The publican left the temple justified; the Pharisee did not.

During Lent, let us think about our lives, including our prayer life, in light of the Parable of the publican and the Pharisee. If we see some of the Pharisee in ourselves, let us ask God to help us to get rid of it, to conquer our pride. Fundamentally, it means recognizing in truth that we need God and we need His mercy because we are sinners. It is good to pray often in the words of the publican: "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!"

May the humble Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Mother of Mercy, help us to pray always with humble hearts and to be sincere in our repentance during this holy season of Lent!

Soup dinner and no dessert? Valentine's Day Ash Wednesday-style

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Many people looking at their February calendars are doing a double-take, with Ash Wednesday falling on Feb. 14, Valentine's Day.

The two days, steeped in tradition, don't have too much in common beyond their religious roots. Valentine's Day, named after St. Valentine, a third-century martyr, is all about romance, with its emphasis on cards, candy, flowers and nice dinners. Ash Wednesday takes a more somber tone as the start of 40 days of prayer, fasting and almsgiving of Lent.

Ash Wednesday also is one of two days, along with Good Friday, that are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholic adults — meaning no eating meat and eating only one full meal and two smaller meals. In other words, it is not a day for consuming candy hearts, chocolate cakes or fancy steak dinners.

And for those who wonder if Catholic bishops might grant a dispensation from the day's fasting requirements, as they sometimes have with the no-meat rule when St. Patrick's Day falls on a Friday in Lent, they should probably think again.

Bishop Robert J. Baker of Birmingham, Alabama, told Catholics in his diocese in a Jan. 29 statement that "some have wondered whether a dispensation for the standard laws of fast and abstinence would be granted" for Feb. 14.

"A dispensation will not be given," he wrote, stressing that this decision was "out of respect for the importance of Ash Wednesday in the lives of so many — including our non-Catholic brethren — and the way this custom underlines the importance of the Lenten season at its outset."

He suggested Catholics celebrate Valentine's Day on another "non-penitential day," maybe even Feb. 13 — which is Mardi Gras.

"The good Lord, who suffered so much out of love for us, will surely reward our fidelity and sacrifice," he added.

A Jan. 26 statement by the Archdiocese of Chicago similarly suggested celebrating Valentine's Day on Mardi Gras: "a traditionally festive time before beginning our Lenten observance."

"Catholics throughout the world recognize Ash Wednesday as the solemn beginning of a period of prayerful reflection and penance, as is evident by the

large number of churchgoers on this day," the statement said, stressing that the day's "obligation of fast and abstinence must naturally be the priority in the Catholic community."

Joseph Zwilling, communications director for the Archdiocese of New York, told Catholic News Service that New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan did not give any dispensation for Catholics for Valentine's Day and pointed out that St. Patrick is the patron saint of the archdiocese, which puts the celebration of that day "into a different category."

He also noted that the last time Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day overlapped, in 1945, the Detroit Tigers won the World Series.

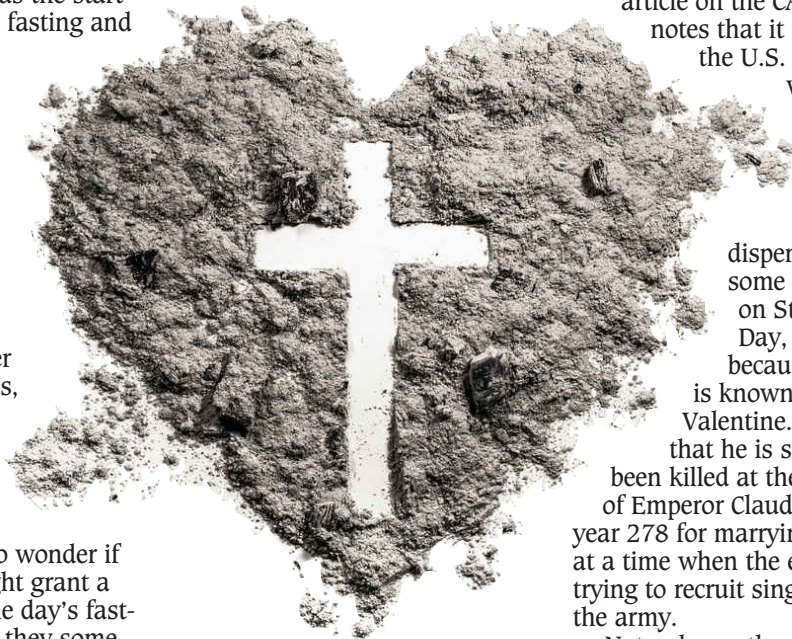
Researchers at the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, or CARA, based at Georgetown University, point out that the two days will overlap again in 2024 and 2029 and that in 2096, Ash Wednesday will occur on Leap Day — Feb. 29 for the first time in the Church's history.

Despite the rarity of this year's Ash Wednesday date, an article on the CARA website notes that it is unlikely the U.S. bishops would give an Ash


Wednesday dispensation as some of them have on St. Patrick's Day, mainly because not much is known about St. Valentine. It points out that he is said to have been killed at the command of Emperor Claudius in the year 278 for marrying Christians at a time when the emperor was trying to recruit single men for the army.

Not only are there few details of the saint, there are also mixed accounts of possibly three different martyrs named Valentine that share a Feb. 14 feast day. The confusion and lack of details led the Church to remove the liturgical feast of St. Valentine from the general Church calendar in the late 1960s.

Instead, Sts. Cyril and Methodius, brothers known as the "Apostles of the Slavs" for their work in spreading



Similarly, the Archdiocese of Detroit was not giving a pass. Ned McGrath, archdiocesan director of communications, told the *Detroit Free Press*: "I have no reason to doubt the ability of my fellow Catholics to multitask, honoring their commitment to the Church's liturgical calendar and, if they so choose, to observe Valentine's Day and April Fools' Day," (which coincidentally falls on Easter this year).



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Sunday, February 11: 10:30 a.m. — TV Mass, South Bend
Sunday, February 11: 2 p.m. — Rite of Election, St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend
Monday, February 12: 6 p.m. — Catholic Legislator Dinner, Ruth's Chris Steakhouse, Indianapolis
Tuesday, February 13: 7 a.m. — Servus Omnium Lecture and Breakfast, University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne
Wednesday, February 14: 9 a.m. — Mass and Pastoral Visit, Marian High School, Mishawaka
Thursday, February 15: 5:30 p.m. — Annual Scholarship Dinner for Ave Maria University, Ave Maria, Florida
Friday, February 16: Board Meeting, Ave Maria University, Ave Maria, Florida

the Gospel throughout Eastern Europe in the ninth century, have the Feb. 14 feast day spot on the Church calendar, although this year their day is superseded by Ash Wednesday.

These brothers — who developed an alphabet and translated the Bible and other works in a Slavic language — have just as much to say about love on a day when that is celebrated because of their emphasis on communication, which is so key to relationships, said Father Leo Patalinghug, who has a cooking show on the Eternal Word Television Network called "Savoring our Faith."

The priest, who knows a thing or two about making a good Lenten meal, and also writes and talks about couples keeping their relationships strong by celebrating with good meals once a month, sees no conflict in the Ash Wednesday, Valentine's Day overlap. Instead, he views it as a great teaching moment.

In between cooking segments Jan. 31 for his television program, the Baltimore priest, who is part of a community of consecrated life called *Voluntas Dei*,

told CNS that the overlap was a "special providence of God" because it can offer a deeper sense of what love really means — which at times requires sacrifice.

"Love is not just sweets and chocolates," said the priest, who wrote the 2012 cookbook: "Spicing Up Married Life," which includes recipes, prayers and conversation topics. "You can have chocolate cake anytime," he added.

As he sees it, the bigger lesson is to think about "going without and where that will lead you."

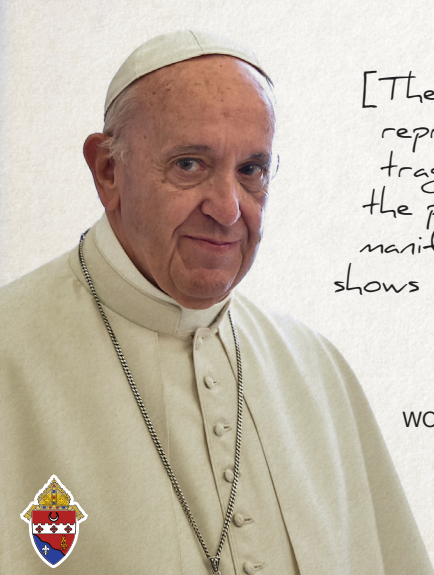
"So often people treat love like fast food when love — and all things of God — take time," he added.

He said this Valentine's Day couples have the "perfect day to start Lent and to have that discussion of what love means." And, they can also have a modest meal that is delicious.

Overall, it's "absolutely a win-win," he noted because couples can have a "Lent-appropriate menu" essentially infused with the day's reminder "to know humbly we are from dust."

Sunday, February 11

WORLD DAY OF THE SICK



[The Cross] does not represent a hopeless tragedy, but rather the place where Jesus manifests his glory and shows his love to the end.

POPE FRANCIS
WORLD DAY OF THE SICK
MESSAGE 2018

It's been too long...

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DIocese OF FORT WAYNE SOUTH BEND

Dialogue dilemma: Vatican's China overture sparks controversy

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Vatican efforts to honor those who suffer and die for their faith while trying to negotiate with oppressive regimes to expand religious freedom have been fraught with criticism and real pain for more than 50 years.

For example, whether Vatican diplomatic efforts during the Cold War helped ensure the survival of the Catholic Church behind the Iron Curtain or amounted to appeasing evil is still a subject of scholarly debate.

But, unfortunately, the topic is not just a matter of history.

A similar tension is being played out in China, where the Vatican is engaged in dialogue with the communist government in an attempt to move, however slowly, toward a situation in which all the Catholic bishops would be in full communion with Rome and all Catholics would recognize each other as members of the same Church.

But some people who have given up their freedom to remain faithful to the pope and some who have observed the resulting suffering see the Vatican's dialogue with the Chinese govern-

ment as a betrayal.

One of the loudest critics of the Vatican's current engagement with the Chinese government is Cardinal Joseph Zen Ze-kiun, retired archbishop of Hong Kong.

In a blog posted on his Facebook page Jan. 29, he asked rhetorically, "Is it not good to try to find mutual ground to bridge the decades-long divide between the Vatican and China?" And then he responded, "But can there be anything really 'mutual' with a totalitarian regime? Either you surrender or you accept persecution, but remaining faithful to yourself."

While Cardinal Zen acknowledged that some Catholics who have cooperated with the government-approved Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association did so "not by their own free will, but under heavy pressure," he also said others are "willing renegades" who, in effect, are in schism.

For decades, the communist government has insisted on naming bishops for Chinese dioceses; for the Catholic Church, that is the prerogative of the pope, since unity with the pope is the guarantee of unity with the Church.

But the Vatican's current policy not only involves dialogue

with the Chinese government to find agreement on the appointment of bishops and pry open even some tiny space for religious freedom, it also is focused on healing relations among Chinese Catholics.

The importance of uniting Chinese Catholics was explained by now-retired Pope Benedict XVI in his 2007 letter to Catholics in China.

The division created by cooperating or refusing to cooperate with the patriotic association, Pope Benedict wrote, "is a situation primarily dependent on factors external to the church, but it has seriously conditioned her progress, giving rise also to suspicions, mutual accusations and recriminations, and it continues to be a weakness in the church that causes concern."

It is in building a "communion of love that the church appears as 'sacrament,' as the 'sign and instrument of intimate union with God and of the unity of the human race,'" Pope Benedict wrote. "Avoiding judgments and mutual condemnations" is the only way to promote unity in a situation where individuals, particularly bishops, must decide the extent to which they can cooperate with the

government for the good of their communities.

Criticism of the Vatican's Cold War outreach to Soviet-bloc nations was focused on Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, seen as the project's chief architect. A full-time Vatican diplomat for decades, he served as Vatican secretary of state from 1979 to 1990.

In a similar way, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the current secretary of state, is at the center of discussion over the current attempt to dialogue with the Chinese government.

In his Jan. 29 Facebook post, Cardinal Zen seemed to imply that Pope Francis was not fully informed of Cardinal Parolin's activities and approach. The Vatican press office swiftly issued a denial.

Cardinal Parolin himself responded in an interview published Jan. 31 with the Italian newspaper *La Stampa* and its Vatican Insider website.

"In China, perhaps more than elsewhere, Catholics have been able to preserve, despite many difficulties and sufferings, the authentic deposit of faith, keeping firmly the bond of hierarchical communion between the bishops and the successor of

Peter as a visible guarantee of faith itself," the cardinal said. "In fact, communion between the bishop of Rome and all Catholic bishops touches the heart of the church's unity: It is not a private matter between the pope and the Chinese bishops or between the Apostolic See and civil authorities."

But in China, he said, the unity of the Church also is threatened by judgments Chinese Catholics make about each other based on the level of their acceptance of government involvement in the life of the community.

Cardinal Parolin said the Vatican wants to overcome the "perennial conflict between opposing principles and structures" by "finding realistic pastoral solutions that allow Catholics to live their faith and to continue together the work of evangelization in the specific Chinese context."

"The hope is that, when God wills it, we won't have to speak of 'legitimate' and 'illegitimate' bishops, 'clandestine' and 'official' bishops in the church in China," he said, but the focus will be on all Chinese Catholics "learning the language of collaboration and communion again."

PILGRIMAGE, from page 1

Basilica of St. Joseph Proto-Cathedral in Bardstown, Kentucky: This is the first cathedral west of the Allegheny mountains. When it was built in the early 1800s, the church was adorned with artwork sent by the king of France and even Pope Leo XII.

Cathedral of the Assumption in Louisville, Kentucky: Only about three decades later, the see of the Diocese of Bardstown was moved to Louisville, the population of which was exploding. The cathedral is the third oldest Catholic cathedral in the United

States in continuous use.

Saint Meinrad Archabbey in Saint Meinrad, Indiana: This Benedictine monastery was founded in 1854 by monks sent from Switzerland to serve the pastoral needs of German-speaking Catholics in southern Indiana. Nowadays the monastery houses about 85 monks of the Benedictine order. They adhere to the maxim "ora et labora" ("prayer and work"), emphasize hospitality, and pray several times daily.

Basilica of St. Francis Xavier in Vincennes, Indiana: Founded by Jesuit missionaries in 1734, this is the oldest Catholic parish

in Indiana. The current church was built in 1826 and served as the Cathedral of the Diocese of Vincennes from 1834 until 1898, when the see of the diocese was moved to the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods in Terre Haute, Indiana: Home to the Shrine of St. Mother Theodore Guerin, foundress of the Sisters of Providence and Indiana's first saint. Mother Guerin arrived from France in 1840 and founded Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, Indiana's first university for women, in 1848.

From cathedrals decorated by the kings of France to the homes of religious life at Saint Meinrad and Saint Mary of the Woods, join Bishop Rhoades and fellow Catholics from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and discover where it all began. Participants will celebrate daily Mass, pray with the monks and enjoy tours at most of the locations.

The pilgrimage will depart from both Fort Wayne and South Bend on Friday morning. Travelers will return Sunday evening. Space is limited to 100 participants.

Register before April 15 and receive the early-bird rate of \$423. The pilgrimage package includes preparation and follow-up materials; a pilgrimage guide; tickets and donations for included activities at St. Joseph Proto-Cathedral, Cathedral of the Assumption, Louisville Archdiocesan History Center, Saint Meinrad Archabbey,



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St. Joseph Proto-Cathedral in Bardstown, Kentucky.

Basilica of St. Francis Xavier and Saint Mary-of-the-Woods; motor coach transportation;

some gratuities; and most meals. Visit <http://www.diocesefwsb.org/heritagepilgrimage> for details.

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Dr. Andrew J. Mullally, MD

Abortion regulation bill passes Senate, moves to House

INDIANAPOLIS — A bill to enhance Indiana's informed consent law for abortion has passed the Senate and now moves to the House for further consideration, as the Indiana General Assembly reaches its halfway point in the 2018 session.

The Indiana Catholic Conference, the state's public policy arm for the Catholic Church in Indiana, supports the bill.

Glenn Tebbe, executive director of the ICC, said Senate Bill 340 strengthens Indiana's law by updating its requirements for abortion centers, their inspection and reporting. "The state's compelling interest in public health and safety and the health of the mother clearly justifies these changes and regulations regarding abortion facilities and reporting," he said.

Senate Bill 340, which passed the Senate 38-11, makes various changes to the abortion law concerning license applications and inspections of abortion facilities, including the reporting of abortion complications to the Indiana State Department of Health. The bill is authored by Sen. Travis Holdman, R-Markle; Sen. Liz Brown, R-Fort Wayne, and Sen. Mike Young, R-Indianapolis.

Brown said the bill keeps Indiana current with health care progression. Brown raised concerns about women who obtain "black box" drugs over the internet and the drugs' associated risks. Senate Bill 340 would allow the state to track the complications from these drugs. "Black box" drugs are prescription drugs that carry the strictest

labeling by the Food and Drug Administration due to reasonable evidence associated with potential serious hazards of its use.

"Unfortunately, as we have seen with the opioid crisis in the state, a lot of the drugs are coming in through China and illegal ways through the internet," said Brown. "We cannot affect that in this bill, but at least we can make sure the citizens in this state are protected and that they have the knowledge that they need to make an informed decision."

Holdman said, "Another very important piece of this is providing information to the pregnant mother with regard to Indiana's Safe Haven Law, and let her know there is one other option available to them if they wish to relinquish that child for adoption."

Young said abortion facilities would have to comply with FDA guidelines. Young added that records would be kept documenting that the risks were communicated by the physician to the mother. The number of prior terminated pregnancies and the gestational age of the fetus at the time of the chemical abortion would also be reported.

The manufacturers of non-surgical abortion drugs provide instructions to be read prior to taking the drugs. "We want to make sure the patient got it, they understood it, and there is a record of that in her file," said Young.

Sue Swayze, of Indiana Right to Life, supports the plan and said some think taking pills is

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BRIGID CURTIS AYER

easier than having a surgical abortion. "The pills are actually harsher and have more side effects on a woman's body, and could potentially lead to dangerous complications," said Swayze. By using the pills to induce abortion, Swayze says women are going to have some unfortunate complications and need medical help, because research shows the complications are four times higher than surgical abortions.

Christina Francis, a board-certified OB-GYN who practices in Fort Wayne, said the current complication rates for abortion are "all over the board" due to a lack of consistent reporting. "In order to allow women to make a truly informed choice, we must have accurate information to give them," said Francis. "Unfortunately, many abortion providers report a complication rate of zero or nearly zero because many of them do not see their complications. Many women present to a local emergency room, and their complications are not tied back to their abortion. The next woman going to that abortion provider is not being presented with the true risk of complications."

Francis said that medication

abortions account for 30 percent of all abortions, and that number is increasing. "Anyone who cares about women's health and autonomy should support this bill," said Francis. "It does not infringe upon their rights. It guarantees that they get accurate information so that they can make an informed choice." Francis serves as president of the American Association of Pro-life Obstetricians and Gynecologists, an organization representing over 5,000 women's health care facilities nationally.

Lynne Bunch, a registered nurse, and Vice President of Patient Services for Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky, said Senate Bill 340 is not about enhancing patient safety nor does it address the driving force behind the need for abortion, which is unintended pregnancy. She says the bill is about limiting access to safe and legal abortion through the

unnecessary reporting and punitive action on providers.

Senate Bill 340 will be sponsored in the House by Reps. Peggy Mayfield, R-Martinsville; Timothy Wesco, R-Osceola, Ronald Bacon, R-Chandler.

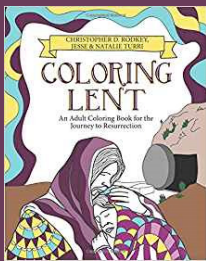
Correction

In the Jan. 28 edition of *Today's Catholic*, the incorrect photo ran above the name "Sen. Michael Bohacek" in the article, "Nutrition eligibility plan for reformed drug felons passes Senate." The correct photo appears here. We apologize for the error.



SEN. MICHAEL BOHACEK

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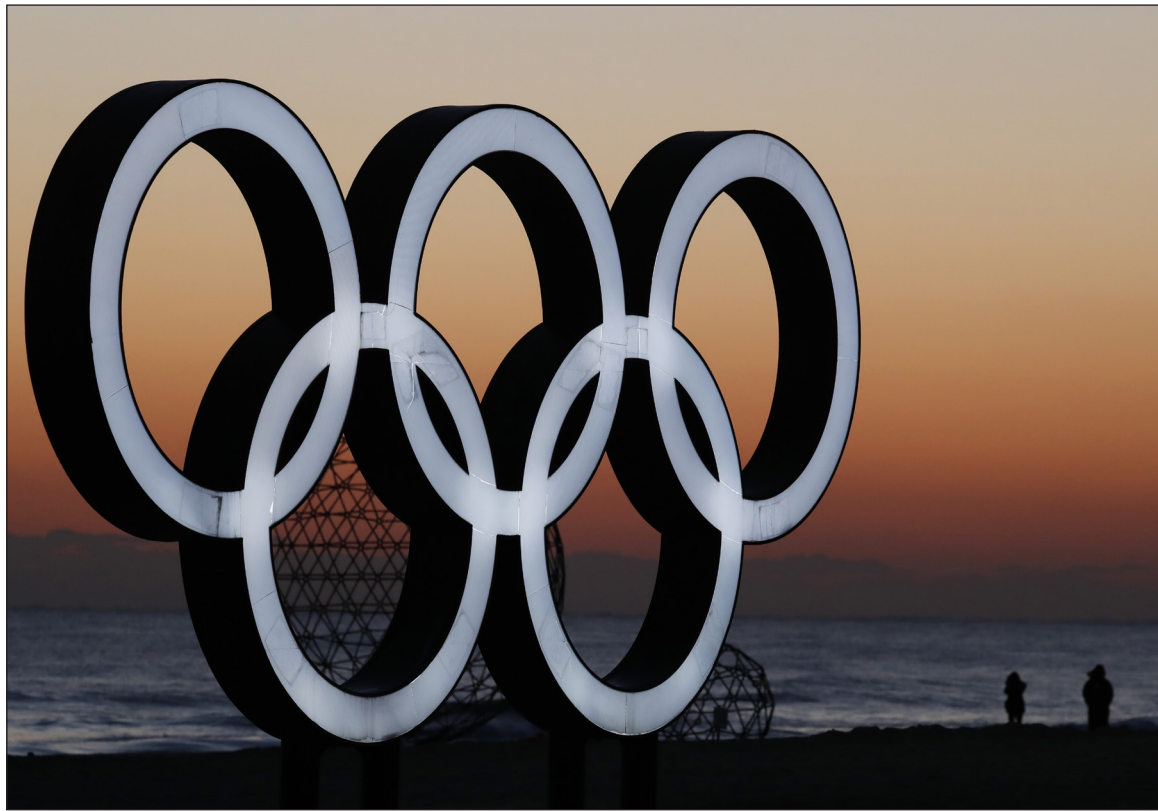
Pope supports pro-life movement, sets day of prayer for peace in Africa

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — With so many direct attacks on human life, from abortion to war, Pope Francis said he is worried that so few people are involved in pro-life activities. Reciting the Angelus prayer at the Vatican Feb. 4, Pope Francis marked Italy's Pro-Life Sunday and also called for a day of prayer and fasting for peace Feb. 23, with special prayers for Congo and South Sudan. Some 20,000 people gathered in St. Peter's Square for the Angelus. Many of them carried the pro-life movement's green balloons with the message, "Yes to life." Thanking all the "different church realities that promote and support life in many ways," Pope Francis said he was surprised there were not more people involved. "This worries me," the pope said. "There aren't many who fight on behalf of life in a world where, every day, more weapons are made; where, every day, more laws against life are passed; where, every day, this throwaway culture expands, throwing away what isn't useful, what is bothersome" to too many people.

Trump immigration plan's impact on family 'deeply troubling,' says bishop

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The chairman of the U.S. bishops' migration committee said Jan. 30 that the Catholic bishops welcomed the Trump administration's proposal to give "Dreamers" a path to citizenship, but at the same time, they are "deeply troubled" about the plan's "impact on family unity." On Jan. 26, the White House released a proposal offering a path to citizenship for approximately 1.8 million of the so-called Dreamers and asking for a \$25 billion investment in a border wall and other security measures. The plan also calls for an end to the diversity visa program, popularly known as the "visa lottery," and also a program

South Korean bishop hopes Winter Olympics are steppingstone to peace



CNS photo/Jeon Heon-Kyun, EPA

The sun rises Jan. 30 over the rings of the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics on a beach in Gangneung, South Korea. A South Korean bishop wants the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics to be a steppingstone for achieving peace in the region, ucanews.com has reported. Bishop Peter Lee Ki-heon, president of the Korean bishops' Committee for the Reconciliation of the Korean People, released a statement hoping "the Olympics, feast of peace, will be a turning point to reduce the uneasiness and to settle peace on the peninsula." North Korea is sending a large team of athletes and a performing-arts company to the Olympics, which start Feb. 9.

that grants visa preferences to relatives of U.S. citizens or residents. The administration said its focus for immigration policy is to keep the "nuclear family" intact. "We welcome the administration's proposal to include a path to citizenship for Dreamers. However, the proposed cuts to family immigration and elimina-

tion of protections to unaccompanied children are deeply troubling," said Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Austin, Texas, who is chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Migration. He made the comments in a statement released ahead of President Donald Trump's State of the Union speech.

Pro-life leaders decry Senate failure to pass 20-week abortion ban

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York decried the Senate's failure to pass the Pain-Capable Unborn

Child Protection Act, which would have banned abortions after 20 weeks of gestation, and called on senators to "rethink" their stance on late-term abortions. The cardinal, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, called the vote "appalling" in a statement released late Jan. 29. "The Senate's rejection of this common-sense legislation is radically out of step with most Americans," the statement added. Although the bill received 51 votes, under Senate rules it needed 60 votes to end debate and move to a final vote. Three Democrats joined 48 Republicans in supporting the measure. The final vote was 51-46.

Update: Strains increase between Venezuelan church leaders, president

BARQUISIMETO, Venezuela (CNS) — The strenuous relationship between the Venezuelan regime and local church leaders deteriorated further in January, with President Nicolas Maduro calling two bishops "devils in a cassock." During his comments to the pro-government National Constituent Assembly Jan. 15, Maduro also ordered the attorney general to investigate the bishops for hate crimes. "One of those two called us a 'plague,'" Maduro said. "It will be seen whether this constitutes a real hate crime that aims to create fighting between Venezuelans." Maduro referred to comments made by the Bishop Victor Basabe of San Felipe and Archbishop Antonio Lopez Castillo of Barquisimeto. On Jan. 14, during the annual procession of the Divine Shepherdess, which attracts millions in the western city of Barquisimeto, both bishops spoke out against corruption, which they said has contributed to the country's spiraling economic crisis. According to local outlet noticiasbarquisimeto.com, Bishop Basabe told the crowd that Venezuelans who have left the country "will never be foreigners" and that when they return they will all "have the task of reconstructing our country so that the plague that today devastates us becomes part of the past."

Going for God: Vatican invited to Olympic opening ceremony

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — For the first time, the International Olympic Committee has invited a Vatican delegation not only to take part in the opening ceremony of the Winter Games, but also to attend its general meeting as an official observer.

The delegation was to be led by Msgr. Melchor Sanchez de Toca Alameda, undersecretary of the Pontifical Council for Culture

and head of its "Culture and Sport" section.

The Vatican delegation was invited to attend the opening ceremony at the Olympic Stadium in Pyeongchang, South Korea, Feb. 9 as well as the Olympic committee's annual session Feb. 5-7 where voting members meet to discuss major issues in the world of sports, reported the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, Feb. 2.

A Vatican delegation attended the opening of the Summer

Olympics in 2016 in Rio de Janeiro, but this was the first time a Vatican delegation was also invited to attend an annual session of the Olympic committee.

Msgr. Sanchez, a former modern pentathlete, told the Vatican newspaper he would present Thomas Bach, president of the IOC, and all Korean Olympic athletes with the official yellow and white jerseys worn by members of the Vatican's running club "Athletica Vaticana," which —

like its other sports teams — is made up of employees of Vatican City State and the Holy See.

Athletes from both North Korea and South Korea were to walk together during the opening ceremony and were to carry the Korean "Unification Flag" — a flag designed to represent all of Korea when athletes from the North and South participate as one team in sporting events.

Nearly two dozen North Korean athletes received permission from the IOC to compete in

the Winter Games, which take place Feb. 9-25. While athletes will compete for their respective countries, there will be a unified Korean team at the Olympics for the first time as players from both North and South Korea make up a team in women's ice hockey.

Catholic Scouting program offered

SOUTH BEND — “Footsteps of the Saints” will be offered on Friday, Feb. 23, from 5:30-7:15 p.m. at St. Matthew Cathedral Parish, South Bend. Mass will be followed by dinner and a lesson and activity on Blessed Carlos Rodriguez.

This religious activity, offered by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting, encourages youth to learn about the words, deeds and devotion to prayer of the holy men and women who have shaped Catholicism in America. In the Church calendar for the United States, some have the rank of “saint” and are venerated by the universal Church. Some have the rank of “blessed” and are venerated by the local Church. Most of them lived and worked in North America in what is now the United States. Others never set foot in America; however, they had an impact on the Catholic American landscape. All of them sought to follow Jesus, and the goal of the activity is to share their lives so that young people might be inspired to follow them on the path to holiness.

The event is open to all Scouts and non-Scouts, boys and girls, in grades K-12, although it is primarily geared toward elementary school. Siblings of Scouts are also welcome. Class A uniforms or nice clothes for Mass should be worn, participants should bring crayons or markers, and dinner will be available for purchase.

Pre-register and designate the number of meals at <https://goo.gl/forms/HPRNoMiqyeH1udQA2>, or by contacting Janice Martin at 260-399-1411 or jmartin@diocese-fwsb.org.

Chaperones needed for Catholic Youth Summer Camp

HOWE — Catholic Youth Summer Camp, an overnight adventure for fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade Catholic youth in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, is in need of volunteer adult staff ages 18 and older to serve as counselors, senior chaperones, nurses, musicians and craft leaders for the June 24-29 camp. Junior counselors ages 16-17 are also needed.

During the camp, which is set on a lake at Camp Lutherwald in Howe, the youth will enjoy nature, engage in fun and meaningful activities such as archery, swimming, fishing, canoeing, an obstacle course, crafts and hiking. They participate in daily Mass, experience Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, have the opportunity to experience the Lord's love in the sacrament of reconciliation and learn to pray the rosary more deeply. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will celebrate Mass with the campers and staff on June 26.

Anyone passionate about their Catholic faith, who wants to share a week of camp life with

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Saint Joseph High School Diaper Dash



Hayley Fuller

Students and faculty at Saint Joseph High School, South Bend, create a human chain extending from the school to the Women's Care Center to deliver more than 20,000 diapers collected during a January Diaper Drive. The effort was part of an annual competition with Marian High School in which each holds a diaper collection event. This year Saint Joseph decided to mix it up a little by adding the component of a diaper train for delivery.

Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion

FORT WAYNE — The Rite of Election of Catechumens and the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates are being celebrated this week in the cathedrals of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. The rites will take place in St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend, at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 11, and in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in downtown Fort Wayne at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 18.

Catechumens are those unbaptized individuals who will be entering the Catholic Church by receiving all the sacraments

of initiation — baptism, confirmation and the holy Eucharist — at the Easter Vigil on the night of March 31. Candidates are those who are already baptized and will complete their initiation or enter into full communion with the Catholic Church the same night.

The catechumens and candidates come from parishes throughout the diocese. During the liturgy, each catechumen and candidate, as well as his or her godparent or sponsor, will be presented for recognition to Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. Altogether,

several hundred catechumens and candidates — along with their godparents, sponsors, families and guests — are expected to attend the liturgies.

The catechumens inscribe their names within the “Book of the Elect,” which will be presented for Bishop Rhoades to sign in an event called the Enrollment of Names. After participating in the Rite of Election, the catechumens will be referred to as the “elect” because they will have been officially declared ready to receive the Easter sacraments this year.

a small group of young campers, is encouraged to apply. Safe Environment certification will be required. Lodging, food and a camp T-shirt will be provided. Training sessions will be scheduled.

The deadline for applications is Monday, April 30. For an application contact Dave and Jan Torma, 901 Wheatly Drive, South Bend, IN 46614: fisherofmendjt@msn.com; 574-291-3381 or 574-707-3381.

Lindenwood offers Lenten day retreat

DONALDSON — Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center offers a Lenten day retreat led by Father Jerry Schweitzer on Monday, March 19 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. EDT.

The topic centers around John the Baptist. Who was John the Baptist, as shown in biblical literature and historical tradition? What was his impact on Jesus and the community of his time, as well as the current time?

Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. The cost is \$35 per person, which includes lunch and refreshments. Mass will be celebrated by Father Schweitzer.

For more information visit Lindenwood.org, or call (574) 935-1780. A part of The Center at Donaldson, Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center is a ministry of The Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ.

Holy Cross College students recognized

NOTRE DAME — Holy Cross College is pleased to announce that Ashley Adamczyk and Colin Crawford have been recognized in the 2018 Delta Epsilon Sigma Honor Society Writing Competition.

Adamczyk, a communications major, submitted an entry to the short fiction category titled “Sweet Surprise,” and received an honorable mention for her work. “I submitted this piece simply because I love writing,” said Adamczyk. “In doing so, I stepped outside of my comfort zone because I usually keep my creative writing to myself. So, I am very honored to have received this recognition.” Adamczyk was inducted into DES in 2017.

Receiving first place in scholarly research, history major Crawford's paper “Drinking and Devotion in Colonial Virginia” was originally written for a class taught by associate professor of history, Dr. Angel Cortes. Crawford, inducted to DES in 2016, is also the student president of Holy Cross College's Delta Epsilon Sigma chapter. “I am so honored and humbled to have been selected for this award,” said Crawford. “I thank Delta Epsilon Sigma, the selection panel, and Dr. Cortes for this opportunity.” For his efforts, Crawford received a \$500 cash prize and will have his work peer-reviewed and published in the *Delta Epsilon Journal*.

MISHAWAKA CATHOLIC SCHOOL —



Photos by Derby Photography

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, assisted by Father Jacob Meyer, executive pastor of Mishawaka Catholic School and pastor of St. Monica Parish, sprinkles student's candles with holy water before processing to the church for Mass on the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, or Candlemas, Feb. 2.



The procession leaves the St. Monica campus of the school, heading towards the church.



Discussing the presentation of the child Jesus in the temple, Bishop Rhoades points out a stained-glass window at St. Monica Church that depicts the joyful event.



The bishop expressed gratitude during the Mass to all three Mishawaka parishes for supporting Catholic Education. From left are Father Chris Lapp, pastor of St. Joseph; Father Jacob Meyer, pastor of St. Monica and executive pastor of Mishawaka Catholic School; Father Peter Pacini, CSC, pastor of St. Bavo; Bishop Rhoades; Karen Salvador, principal of Mishawaka Catholic; and Beth Whitfield, vice principal.

MISHAWAKA, from page 1

and others, who briefly had held lit candles in their pews, Bishop Rhoades drew connections between the feast and Catholics' responsibility to share the good news of Christ.

"All these candles represent Jesus as the light of the world," he said. Referencing Catholic Schools Week, observed Jan. 28-Feb. 3, he told the young people "Christ is the light" in Catholic schools: "Your teachers are called to reflect the light of Christ, to help you know Christ," he added.

"Mishawaka Catholic School should be a light in the community of Mishawaka," he continued, so people will see the students around town and remark, "that boy, that girl, is a disciple of Jesus." He reminded the students that bringing Christ to others requires reaching out to the poor and bringing compassion and joy to those in need.

He offered an example of outreach drawn from the day's Gospel reading and illustrated in one of the stained-glass windows of St. Monica — a window representing the fourth joyful mystery of the rosary.

Two faith-filled, elderly people were in the temple when Mary and Joseph brought their baby before God. Simeon received wisdom from the Holy Spirit to see that the infant was the long-awaited consolation of Israel; he had prayed to live until he could see the Messiah. Anna, a prophetess, gave thanks to God upon seeing Jesus.

The bishop asked the young people what message could be drawn from God placing these elderly people at the Presentation. He offered an answer: "We should have great love and respect for the elderly," such as grandparents and great-grandparents who possess the wisdom of a lifetime. He recalled his own childhood, when he learned a great deal from his grandmother. "She taught me so much about the Catholic faith, I probably never would have become a priest if it hadn't been for my grandmother," he said. "So love your grandparents, and learn about their lives."

There were more messages for those at the Mass, and also greetings and thanks for the concelebrants: Father Jacob Meyer, pastor of St. Monica and executive pastor of Mishawaka Catholic School; Father Christopher Lapp, pastor of St. Joseph Parish; and

Father Peter Pacini, CSC, pastor of St. Bavo Parish. Third- through fifth-graders study at the St. Joseph campus of the school, while St. Bavo provides the campus for kindergartners through second-graders, as well as preschoolers.

Bishop Rhoades had a special message for the eighth-graders, to whom he had administered the sacrament of confirmation in 2017.

"Thank you for your letters," he told them. "I really enjoyed reading them and hearing about your experiences of confirmation a few months ago. Sometimes I get letters before confirmation, but I don't think I've ever gotten letters after. I can tell from reading your letters that you're living by the Spirit, or at least trying to live by the Spirit, that you received in confirmation."

For those in the pews, there were words of praise and love for Mishawaka Catholic, which adopted its current, multicampus form in 2011: "I'm so grateful to the parishioners of St. Monica, St. Joseph and St. Bavo" for supporting Catholic education, he said — calling it "such an important part of your parish mission."

Following Mass the bishop visited a few classrooms at the St. Monica campus, where he could see the

— three campuses, one shared Spirit



...ing toward the church.



The St. Joseph campus of Mishawaka Catholic, top, serves students in grades three through five; the St. Monica campus, bottom left, serves students in grades six through eight; and the St. Bavo campus, bottom right, serves preschoolers and students in kindergarten through second grade.

school's "buddy" program in action; older students working with younger students.

For example, eighth-graders who received confirmation were paired with second-graders preparing to receive the sacraments of reconciliation and first holy Communion. The "buddies" are teamed for the whole year, meeting face-to-face only occasionally; but the sense of support and responsibility is credited with nurturing strengths in both parties.

After meeting with the three pastors, principal Karen Salvador and vice principal Beth Whitfield, Bishop toured the other two campuses. He visited classrooms and larger spaces, where he talked with students and teachers, watched events of both learning and recreation and learned more about the school as a whole. At the St. Joseph campus, he joined a lively group in the gym as they cheered for their favorites in a contest based on toppling plastic cups with the air from deflating balloons.

Principal Salvador reported later, in a smaller, quieter setting, that Mishawaka Catholic had received a grade of "A" in the fall from the Indiana Department of Education in the 2016-17 round of School Accountability Grades. The bishop welcomed that news.

"It's really an exciting time," Salvador said, noting that the school is attracting new students. She credited her team of teachers for Mishawaka Catholic's growing success.

Father Meyer said the school's multicampus structure offers benefits.

"These kids are meeting kids from other parishes," he said. They experience the broader Catholic community of Mishawaka, and their transitions through different campuses and teachers prepare them for high school and college. Meanwhile, they have a sense of belonging in their school. Students join various teams, and they pay no athletic fee, thanks to a school fundraising tradition, he pointed out.

The advantages extend into students' spiritual growth over time, Father Meyer added. "They experience the liturgical traditions of three different communities," seeing that parishes' Masses can have different styles and music. At the same time, pastors celebrating the student Mass for their campus can focus their homilies on a narrower age group to reach students where they are.

"They slowly get to learn how to pray," Father Meyer continued. In addition to Mass at each campus, students in each age grouping experience eucharistic

adoration and, when the time is right, reconciliation. Periods of adoration at first are briefer and more formally guided, but the length of time grows and the structured prayers decrease, leaving more time for silence with the Lord. Adoration and confession opportunities arise monthly on each campus, he said, and sixth- through eighth-graders are comfortable with a full Holy Hour.

At the St. Bavo campus, Bishop Rhoades greeted a lunchroom full of second-graders. A girl told him they were preparing for their first reconciliation. "Do you know the act of contrition already?" the bishop asked. The students answered with a resounding, "Yes!" and proceeded into a robust recitation from memory.

"Wow, you really know that well," said the bishop. "Your teachers are good that they taught you that long prayer. You're learning your faith very well this year."

He entered a reading class and talked with second-graders about books they had chosen. When asked to read a book aloud, one student — a member of St. Joseph Parish — presented a page perfectly. "He's a very good reader," the bishop told a teacher. Walking over to the St. Joseph pastor, Father Lapp, he added, "I've got you another lector."

Planning a Catholic wedding? Processes and considerations

In the Catholic Church, marriage is a sacrament for baptized Christians. As such, the preparations involve several requirements and additional considerations beyond those encouraged within non-Catholic denominations.

For those getting married in the Catholic Church, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops says, the high point of the wedding day is the wedding liturgy, where bride and groom become husband and wife in the lifelong covenant of marriage. Thoughtful, prayerful planning and participation in the Catholic wedding ceremony will bring many blessings to married life.

Pope Francis has given advice to engaged couples about weddings. In his address to engaged couples in Rome, Feb. 14, 2014, he said:

"Make [your wedding] a real celebration — because marriage is a celebration — a Christian celebration, not a worldly feast! ... What happened in Cana 2,000 years ago, happens today at every wedding celebration: that which makes your wedding full and profoundly true will be the presence of the Lord who reveals himself and gives his grace. It is his presence that offers the 'good wine,' he is the secret to full joy, that which truly warms the heart.

"It is good that your wedding be simple and make what is truly important stand out. Some are more concerned with the exterior details, with the banquet, the photographs, the clothes, the flowers ... These are important for a celebration, but only if they point to the real reason for your joy: the Lord's blessing on your love."

Aspects of the wedding that couples should consider well ahead of their wedding include:

The Mass or ceremony

Sometimes one of the engaged persons is Catholic while the other is not. For a Catholic to marry a baptized non-Catholic, permission first must be obtained from the bishop, via the vicar general. Then, a decision on whether to have a nuptial Mass must be made in consultation with the pastor or priest involved in the planning process. It is sometimes the case that it would be better to highlight the unity of the couple rather than the differences; and in this case, if the couple had a Mass, the non-Catholic partner would not be able to receive the holy Eucharist (and it is also likely that most of the non-Catholic's family would not be Catholic). Therefore, it is sometimes sensible for these couples to have the marriage rites outside of Mass, in a Catholic wedding ceremony. If the situation involves a Catholic marrying a non-baptized person, a special

dispensation is needed from the diocese and it is not possible to celebrate a nuptial Mass.

If one of the partners is not Catholic and wants to marry in his or her church, then to ensure validity in this situation, the diocese, through the bishop's authority, must give permission for the Catholic's marriage to a non-Catholic, and a dispensation for them to marry in a non-Catholic ceremony. For any such marriage questions, couples should consult the pastor.

Timing of the wedding

At a minimum, parishes tend to require that a wedding be scheduled at least six months in advance, thereby allowing time to go over all necessary preparations with the couple. That said, it would be wise for the couple to contact the parish as soon as possible once they know they will be getting married, because ensuring the church is available on your preferred wedding date should come before booking (and making a deposit on) a reception site.

There are seasonal considerations as well. While Catholics are allowed to marry during Advent and Lent, they are not necessarily the best opportunities for overly festive liturgical celebrations. Particularly in Lent, the decorations and music during liturgies should correspond to the more austere nature of the season, which is characterized by penitence and restraint in preparation for the Sacred Triduum. For example, except for certain high feast days in Lent, the altar is not allowed to have floral decoration. Moderate floral decoration is prescribed for Advent as well.

Location

The norm in canon law is that marriages should take place in a church. The church is the house of God and the proper place where the eucharistic liturgy is celebrated with the Christian community. It is not the practice in this diocese to grant outdoor exceptions.

Details within the Mass or ceremony

A wedding is a sacred event, and the music must reflect this fact. Secular music does not belong before, during, or after the rite within the sacred place of the church. Favorite secular or popular songs of the couple belong at the reception or at another time during the wedding festivities that is not associated with the liturgy itself.

Rings are usually exchanged during a nuptial Mass or wedding ceremony because, as proclaimed by the bride and groom within the actual marriage rite,

the rings symbolize "love and fidelity." Gold bands call to mind permanence, purity and beauty within the sacramental union. Moreover, they are given from one spouse to another, attesting to the total gift of self in matrimony.

Notably, there is one popular wedding tradition that has been done away within the Catholic Church. Beyond the fact that they are not part of the marriage rites, "unity candles" are inappropriate for wedding Masses because they draw the connection and focus away from the true source and symbol of unity, the Holy Eucharist, from which the sacrament of marriage flows. The vows and the declaration of consent, coupled with the sacramentals that are the rings, are what publicly and powerfully convey the real union of the spouses in a Catholic wedding. The "unity candle" distracts from this reality. Also, lighting an extra candle that gets blown out at the end of Mass is not an appropriate symbol of covenantal permanence.

Regarding the wedding party, it is preferable to have Catholic witnesses; however, strictly speaking, the witnesses' function is primarily to attest that the marriage was celebrated. Therefore, they need not be Catholic.

The authorized witness who officiates the liturgy must be a priest or deacon. Parishes may allow outside priests to officiate. However, couples should speak to the parish priest about such things. Also, for any liturgical event, a priest brought in from outside the diocese must officially register with the diocese prior to the event.

It is a longstanding tradition to give a gift to the priest or deacon who celebrates a wedding or another sacrament (such as a baptism). However, the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has no prescribed fee, and there is no obligation to give any amount. The priest or deacon may keep any gift given to him personally. Checks made out to the parish would go to the church. For wedding liturgies, it is also commonplace to provide some sort of stipend for musicians such as the organist, cantor or conductor (and sometimes for a choir, if one is specially assembled for the event). These rates vary from parish to parish, so please inquire to learn what the practice is at your church.

A lector at a Mass should be a person in full communion with the Catholic Church, a person who is serious about the practice of their faith, and a person who is willing to undergo appropriate preparation for the role. Proclaiming the Scriptures or reading the intercessions is not a role a non-Catholic can

take in the Mass, unless the diocesan bishop specifically grants an extraordinary exception to a non-Catholic Christian. However, if the marriage rites are taking place outside Mass, then there would not be any problem with a baptized non-Catholic doing the readings.

Children may participate in a nuptial Mass or wedding ceremony as members of the bridal party (bridesmaid, groomsman, flower girl, ring bearer). Also, if a child is of the appropriate age, is a practicing Catholic and has received the appropriate training, he or she could proclaim a Scripture reading during Mass. Another option is to act as a gift bearer.

After the wedding: marital relations

The Church teaches that every act of sexual love must remain open to the possibility of new life. This is because God has designed sex with both a love-giving and a life-giving purpose, and when couples choose to engage in sex, they must accept the act as God designed it. The only time that the Church approves of artificial birth control is when a woman has been raped, and the possibility exists of preventing the sperm from fertilizing an egg. In this situation, because the woman did not freely choose to engage in sex, she has the right to defend herself from a possible pregnancy. However, if fertilization has already occurred, nothing may be done to prevent the implantation of the newly conceived life in the woman's womb, or to otherwise disrupt the pregnancy. In addition, sometimes a physician prescribes artificial hormones such as those in the "Pill," not for the purpose of birth control but to treat or correct an underlying condition in the woman. When used for the purpose of restoring the proper functioning of the body, the Church

approves of the use of these artificial hormones.

The Church also approves of methods of natural family planning, which teach couples to observe and interpret the naturally occurring signs of fertility in a woman's body. The presence or absence of these signs allow couples to identify the days when conception is most likely should they desire to achieve a pregnancy, or to refrain from sexual relations on those days when conception is possible should they desire to avoid a pregnancy. International studies have confirmed that when used to avoid pregnancy, NFP can have an effectiveness rate of 98-99 percent.

Couples marrying in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend are required to attend a daylong Conference for Engaged Couples, which includes an overview of natural family planning. While it is not required, engaged couples are strongly encouraged to take a complete natural family planning class series, which is offered in either English or Spanish throughout the diocese. For a complete schedule of diocesan NFP classes, go to www.diocesefwsb.org/Natural-Family-Planning. Also listed on this website is the contact information for other organizations that offer natural family planning classes in this diocese.

Other recommended resources on these issues include the website of the U.S. Bishops' Natural Family Planning Program, which contains explanations of the Church teachings, can be accessed at www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/marriage-and-family/natural-family-planning/catholic-teaching/index.cfm. The For Your Marriage website also features many helpful articles and testimonies on topics related to responsible parenthood and natural family planning, and can be found at www.foryourmarriage.org/?s=family+planning.

Information provided by the Office of Worship.

Couple's marriage strengthened through journey to the US

BY DENISE FEDOROW

Felipe Garcia and Maria Morales (Garcia) and their children are originally from Mexico City, Mexico. Like so many immigrants from all over the world, they came to the U.S. seeking a better life. They found not only that better life, but also a deeper relationship with the Lord through their struggles to get here; they also found it through their new home parish, St. John the Evangelist in Goshen.

Morales was 19 and Garcia 24 when they met through his sister and began dating. Two years later they were married, and children soon followed: Laura, now 40; Jose de Jesus, deceased soon after birth; Jasmine, 36; Araceli, 34; Naomi, 32; and Yareli, 26.

Garcia first came to the U.S. in 1997 and started working in a local factory. A year later Morales joined him, and a year after that their children joined them both. The couple shared that they always attended Mass together before coming to the U.S., but they weren't involved in their church. They were married in the Catholic Church, but their last names aren't the same because Mexican tradition calls for wives to continue to use and be known by their maiden names.

Garcia said one of the first things he did when he arrived was to look for a Catholic church. He said it was "one way to give thanks to the Lord for everything — for everything (I had) to pass through to get here."

Morales agreed. "The only way to keep your faith strong is through the Church, and through the Church to give thanks for coming to the U.S."

It was most difficult for the couple to be separated from one another for that year, and then for the parents to be separated from their children.

Morales said, "This is a situation where you have to trust God more than anything. You have to know that if you trust in Him and things are not OK now, our hope in Jesus is that they will be better."

Their oldest daughter, Laura, who was present for a *Today's Catholic* interview and interpreted, said she was 19 at the time her mother left for the U.S. — but Yareli was only 5 or 6. She said the older children tried to be strong.

"We knew how difficult it was for them — more than it was for us — so we didn't want them to worry about us," Laura said. "We were feeling that God was sending people to watch over us."

When asked how they kept their 41-year marriage strong, Morales replied that marriages may have problems: but being in the Church helps. They also said that they always seemed to find people who would remind them to continue attending church and maintaining their relationship with the Lord. "We consider them like angels. God is using people to show the only way to keep strong through hard times is to stay close to Him," Morales said.

Garcia said the marriage commitment is a promise, and remembering that promise helps keep him strong in good times and bad. "I always feel God provides the strength to keep (us) together," he said.

When the couple first started attending St. John the Evangelist in the late '90s, it offered no



Denise Fedorow

St. John the Evangelist parishioners Felipe Garcia and Maria Morales have maintained a strong marriage for 41 years by depending on their faith in God.

Spanish Mass. The only Spanish Mass in the area was celebrated at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Milford. They didn't attend there, though, because St. John was closer. Then, Deacon Ricardo Medina was assigned to the parish to assist with the growing Hispanic congregation and the celebration of the Mass in Spanish.

Morales recalls that only one lady, Dora Espinoza, sang during the Mass; so, Morales sat next to her and they sang a cappella. Herlinda Zepeda joined them, and Deacon Medina suggested they start a Spanish choir. He found a few instruments and told them someone needed to be responsible for the instruments. No one stepped forward, so Garcia said that he would. The first Spanish Choir at St. John now existed. There were only the 3-4 musician/choristers at first, and the number continued

to vary for years as some would come and then drop out.

The couple also assisted Deacon Medina when he celebrated baptisms and weddings, and they grew to be close friends with him. Garcia also became a proclaimer.

Retreats grow their faith

Both Morales and Garcia began attending diocesan retreats, first becoming involved with Christ Renews His Parish. A few years ago, they attended a Levántate (Arise) small group. When it ended, the members of group said they ready for something else.

Morales said they thought, "Now what?" They were looking for more," said Laura.

The couple found some charismatic retreats to attend but

said the group formed during Arise wanted to stay together and continue on their faith journeys together. "They are still looking for something to feed their souls," Morales said.

Garcia and Morales went on a couples' retreat in Chicago this past September, which they found very helpful.

"It helped us to find out how to live our marriage the way God intended and it gave us the tools for testing ourselves and see where we need help," Morales shared. They are still involved with Levántate around in Goshen in nearby Catholic churches.

Garcia said he feels the good things in his life are such a blessing, and that one way God uses His people is through their talents. One of his talents is music so he feels through that music and singing in the choir he can give thanks for everything.

The couple offers this advice for staying strong in the faith. Morales said to offer work and prayers to Him and He will provide for you. "Stay close, look for retreats and everything the Church provides and keep going because otherwise you'll be far from Him. Stay close and He'll provide the answers."

Garcia said to remember the commandment that attending Mass is an obligation. "Do it to give thanks for everything you have. It's very important. I tell people, 'Don't forget to take time for serving the Lord — it's the only way to give thanks for all the blessings we have.'"

Laura laughed and added, "Even though we're grown he still calls to check if we went to Mass or not."

Redesigned USCCB website promotes, supports marriage

WASHINGTON — National Marriage Week USA and World Marriage Day are opportunities "to focus on building a culture of life and love that begins with supporting and promoting marriage and the family," wrote Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, OFM Cap., chairman of the Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, in a letter to his brother bishops in December.

Feb. 7-14 marks the annual celebration of National Marriage Week USA. World Marriage Day is celebrated annually on the second Sunday of February. This year, World Marriage Day is Sunday, Feb. 11, coinciding with the World Day of the Sick.

The USCCB offers resources for the promotion and defense of marriage as a lifelong union of one man and one woman through its websites ForYourMarriage.org (ForTuMatrimonio.org) and MarriageUniqueForAReason.org.

An extensive redesign project has been completed of the For Your Marriage website. The new site continues to offer valuable articles, resources and materials that touch on every stage of premarital and married life. The rich content is complemented by a new, more responsive design that will likely attract and engage a wider audience.

Starting Feb. 7, a daily virtual marriage retreat for couples was also made available on the ForYourMarriage.org website and via the For Your Marriage social media channels on Facebook and Twitter. The seven-day retreat will focus on the theme "Marriage: School of Life and Love."

In addition, a rosary for engaged and married couples and for families in need of healing will be livestreamed from the chapel at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, D.C., via the USCCB Facebook page and Twitter feed on Friday, Feb. 9, at 3 p.m. EST.



Finding beauty

Recently, I stopped to chat with a young mother — who shall remain nameless — after Mass. We talked briefly about this and that, but not without a few self-deprecating remarks on her part about her appearance. She wasn't happy with the weight she has gained in her current pregnancy so far, and implied she doesn't look her best. Doesn't look her best? Why, she absolutely radiated! I was so surprised when she mentioned that because I had just been thinking how beautiful she looked.

They say that sometimes mothers and grandmothers (and other perceptive people) can tell a woman is pregnant before they are told she is, because she emits an aura around her — part beauty, part fullness (hormones?), part wonder, part something having to do with the awe and adventure of carrying life. As her baby grows, the mother's body becomes different too. The nutrients she is careful to consume for her child help her as well. You can visibly notice something more lovely and light about an expectant mother. If her countenance is sweet (as was the young mother whom I referenced) then her beauty doubles. I hadn't even noticed my young acquaintance's burgeoning belly under her heavy winter coat, but I had sensed something different about her.

A woman sacrifices her body literally, to nourish and grow a person who will have a body that lasts about a hundred years, if he's lucky, and a soul that will live forever. A mother is a temple

of sorts for the human spirit; her progeny, society's next generation. It's awe-inspiring if you think about it.

When this young mother I spoke briefly with in church confided her insecurity to me, I could only say, "But you are beautiful!" And I meant it. But I did not fully finish the thought and I would like to do that now.

Sweetheart, your face is full of hope, of expectation, of gentle light. Soon your arms will be as well. Don't apologize. No benefactor, not the greatest philanthropist on earth, could come close to giving the gift you are about to give your husband, your family, and in another way, to the world.

I see the smile on your husband's face as his strong arms cradle your toddler. He loves you. He laid his life down for you and these children. That is what is real. That is what is beautiful.

The way you tend to your children and husband, the home that you make, the patience you offer your family, the meals you prepare, your daily simple gift of self, make you more valuable than the most precious gem. And more beautiful.

Let the world fade away in your mind, for its expectations of false glimmer and demands of what you should look like. No photo shopped model can compete with the sweetness of spirit, the glow you have of goodness and softness in this harsh temporary place. No model could touch the natural beauty you emit by accepting life and welcoming sweetly a little human being into your home.



EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

HERESA A. THOMAS

It is true, after your babe is born, even after much dedication and work, you will never attain the pre-pregnancy body again. It may be fit, and you should work towards that because that's important; however, it will be different. But it gave life.

You are beautiful. You are loved. Those imposters in this media-drenched world who are trying to tell you to be different and who are trying themselves to capture an elusive attractiveness in the wrong place, ignore them. You, in your countenance, in your soul, and in your body... you are carrying beauty itself. You don't need to find beauty.

It's already in you.

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

Truly empowering women?

The biggest news at the Golden Globes this year was not which television series won the most honors. It was Oprah Winfrey's speech, saying of the "brutally powerful men" in Hollywood who have sexually harassed and abused women: "Their time is up!"

It is easy to be cynical about Hollywood. And surely some who wore black to the ceremony, declaring solidarity with women victimized by the likes of producer Harvey Weinstein, knew what was going on and looked the other way for years — until condemning sexual harassment became the fashionable issue of the day.

But we can all agree that such harassment and abuse must be opposed. The important questions are why it has become common, and what to do about it. On that score, both Hollywood and leading secular feminist groups have much to answer for. Both have endorsed the idea of sex as a game, a form of self-serving recreation. Some men have decided that if it's a game, they want to make sure they are the winners.

The deeper question is not whether men or women should be more "empowered" in their relationships, but whether love between man and woman is about exerting power over another person at all. And if the diagnosis is wrong about that, the treatment will be only cosmetic — or something far worse.

In the category of "far worse" is a proposal moving forward in my home state of Washington. Allegedly as a way of empowering women, the legislature would



A MORE HUMAN SOCIETY

RICHARD DOERFLINGER

demand that health plans in the state that cover childbirth must include "substantially equivalent coverage" for abortion.

Common sense suggests that this doesn't attack discrimination against women — it attacks the conscience of any woman or man who sees a difference between a live baby and a dead one.

In fact, most major health insurers are happy to cover abortion — for the simple and callous reason that it is cheaper for them than a live birth, as the latter generally makes them cover health care for a new dependent.

Moreover, low-income women already have complete abortion coverage through the state's Medicaid program. And even women who have abortion coverage often pay cash for an abortion, as they do not want this procedure listed on any document others may see.

A woman already has a hard time finding a health plan that will not make her pay for other women's abortions. Now the state would make it illegal to sell her such a plan.

Who is helped by such coercive mandates? Not women wanting to make their own

DOERFLINGER, page 13

Jesus manifests the healing love God has for us



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Mark 1:40-45

The first reading for this weekend comes from the Book of Leviticus. In sequence, Leviticus is the fourth book in modern translations of the Bible. As such, it is part of the Pentateuch. The Pentateuch includes the five books of the Bible attributed to Moses. These five books are the Torah.

The Pentateuch forms the fundamental law, and philosophy, of Judaism, both in current understandings and in ancient practices as well.

In this reading, God speaks to Moses and to Aaron, the brother

of Moses. The topic is leprosy. Today it is not known whether these references to leprosy in the Scriptures referred to Hansen's disease, or to some other illness. Regardless of the exact scientific nature of what the ancients called leprosy, however, the problem was chronic and severe.

An entire social system developed around the disease. Victims were outcasts. They totally were shunned, so most often they virtually had to forage, or steal, food and search for any shelter they could find.

Ancient Jews would never blame God for the fact of such a serious malady. God was regarded as good, loving, and merciful. The ancient Hebrews saw human sin as ultimately the cause of all earthly misery.

St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians, this weekend's second reading, includes the great apostle's counsel that Christians should do everything with the intention of glorifying God.

He admonished the Christians of Corinth never to offend either Jew or Gentile. Paul urges that the Christians follow his exam-

ple, because Paul says that he imitates Christ.

The reading, therefore, sets Christ as the example and insists that believers must follow the example of the Lord in their lives.

For its last reading, the Church gives us a passage from the Gospel of Mark. In this reading, a leper approaches Jesus, pleading for a cure. Jesus cured the man, the Lord being "moved with pity," according to Mark.

This cure came when Jesus touched the man. (As an aside, but nevertheless instructive, symbolic touching is very important in the liturgy. Touch creates contact and enables transference. In ordinations, the ordaining bishop lays his hands upon the candidates to be ordained bishop, priest or deacon. At weddings, the bride and bridegroom hold each other's hands.)

Jesus transmitted the healing power of God to the man through this touch. Then, Jesus spoke the miraculous words of healing.

The Lord ordered the man to go to the priests. The man had

been exiled from the community because of his illness. If the priests saw that he was free of disease, they would re-admit him to society.

The reading closes by noting that great crowds pursued Jesus.

Reflection

Strong in the reading from Mark is the image of desperation on the part of the leper. It is no wonder. While modern scientists debate exactly what the Bible means by "leprosy," this is clear: It was an awful disease, and people avoided to the extreme anyone suffering from it. It brought utter isolation and want. In the minds of the ancient Hebrew people, it somehow resulted from sin.

Mark recalls that Jesus, moved by pity, cured the man. He accepted the man who had been completely banished from society.

An interesting sidebar in these miracle narratives from Mark's Gospel is that people so yearn for Jesus. Several weeks ago, a paralytic so wanted to find Jesus that

others let him through the very roof of the house where Jesus was. When Jesus withdrew into the desert to pray, the Apostles spontaneously followed, unwilling to be without the Lord. This reading says people came to Jesus from everywhere.

These reports all reveal something very basic and true. Jesus alone is the source of life and peace, and, blessedly, Jesus lovingly imparts life and peace.

READINGS

Sunday: Lv 13:1-2, 44-46 Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11 1 Cor 10:31—11:1 Mk 1:40-45

Monday: Jas 1:1-11 Ps 119:67-68, 71-72, 75-76 Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday: Jas 1:12-18 Ps 94:12-15, 18-19 Mk 8:14-21

Wednesday: Ash Wednesday Jl 2:12-18 Ps 51:3-6a, 12-14, 17 2

Cor 5:20—6:2 Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday: Dt 30:15-20 Ps 1:1-4, 6 Lk 9:22-25

Friday: Is 58:1-9a Ps 51:3-6a, 18-19 Mt 9:14-15

Saturday: Is 58:9b-14 Ps 86:1-6 Lk 5:27-32

Lenten listening: What do you hear?

There is an ongoing debate in our home on how well my husband can hear. He doesn't always catch the conversation, particularly so in noisy venues. Sometimes I will loudly convey a message from the bottom of the stairs to his office upstairs. (I guess that would be yelling, but it is such an unattractive image!)

Almost always, David will work hard to get the message: In a crowd, he will cup one ear and lean toward the speaker; at home he will come into the room where I am; and frequently he asks for repetitions.

One day watching Dave, it hit me that Lent is a time to practice our hearing. For many of us, our spiritual listening skills are probably not much better than my husband's physical hearing. There is so much noise around us: news and messages demanding our attention, music through earbuds to facilitate our escape to some other world that we would rather be in, and background TV that is on everywhere.

Lent is a gift from the Church for us to tune into what God is trying to tell us.

When I was young, I associated Lent with a much deserved "scold" with all the readings and homilies pointing out our faults and follies. It filled me with dread and unshakeable weariness of my own imperfections and vanities.

In time, my thinking evolved

and now I approach Lent as a time of warning — much like signs that spell out "Danger," "Do Not Trespass," "Dead End," "Slow," "Mind the Gap" or "Exit." All these messages are meant to alert us, calling for needed behavior before we get into deep trouble.

The prodigal son found great mercy and a much better life when he returned to his father. But he had to take note, acknowledge his mistakes and reverse direction. Lent invites us to do the same.

The ultimate goal of Lenten exercises is not to avoid punishment, but to end up in that kingdom in which the prodigal son made his home. Yes, Lent reminds us of our faults, but it does not end there. Such examination helps us get out of the ruts that prevent us from living our full potential as children of God: gifted, loved and made in His image.

Lent probes our ways that can be small, suffocating and foolish in light of the real prize. It speaks with a certain urgency to not waste time, to not waste our lives. Most precious for me, Lent offers hope in that my repentance does not all depend on me, but on God's grace that is there for our asking. Lent invites us to ask.

Learning from my husband, perhaps the first step in listening to God is to say, "I can't hear." The second step is to assert and



OUR GLOBAL FAMILY

CAROLYN WOO

affirm our desire to hear, and to actively place ourselves in the presence of God.

For these 40 days of Lent, we can hang a "reserve" sign on certain moments of the day so we can listen to God through Scripture, the needs of another person and our hearts.

One of my Lenten practices is to keep a journal of my reflections from the daily readings and meditations: They seldom exceed five sentences. During the Easter triduum, I review these and somehow the act feels like a conversation.

Look, we are all a bit lost. But Jesus reassured us in John 10:27, "My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me." Lent is that time to turn our ears, minds and hearts to the shepherd's beckoning.

Carolyn Woo is the 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.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for February 11, 2018

Mark 1:40-45

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B: a leper's cure. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

MAKE ME TOUCHED SEE THAT SHOW MOSES ENTER PLACES	CLEAN LEFT HIM TELL TO THE PRIEST SPREAD A TOWN PEOPLE	HIS HAND WARNING BUT GO OFFER JESUS OUTSIDE EVERYWHERE
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A TOUCH

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

Waltzing on ice: on crisis and community

When it came time to interview prospective sailors for his expedition across Antarctica, Ernest Shackleton had clear-cut criteria. He had to pick the right men for his journey to the bottom of the world, a news-making attempt to be the first to cross the continent via the coldest place on Earth: the South Pole.

It was 1914, the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration, and the famed British explorer had received hundreds of applications. In interviews, recalled one applicant, Shackleton "asked me if my teeth were good, if I suffered from varicose veins, if I had a good temper and if I could sing."

This final question surprised the young man, and Shackleton clarified: "Oh, I don't mean any [opera singer Enrico] Caruso stuff, but I suppose you can shout a bit with the boys?"

Singing and what it screened for in shorthand — the ability to fraternize and maintain high spirits — would prove even more vital than the long underwear, Burberry coats and finnesko boots they would pack. It would be just as imperative as the food they meticulously prepared, including a "composition cake" the explorer formulated with a

chemist, a precursor to today's energy bars.

Shackleton knew this. He had just turned 40, and the advent of middle age made him antsy. It was etched on his face: a prominent lower lip and restless blue eyes framed by black hair. He was poring over maps, seeking a bold adventure to make him young again.

The Endurance set sail for Antarctica on Dec. 5, 1914, and the 28 men aboard soon encountered unusually heavy ice, traveling more than 1,000 miles from the remote island of South Georgia, the gateway to the Antarctic Circle. Then one ominous January day, the wooden ship became trapped in pack ice. It groaned under the pressure of millions of tons of ice.

Eventually the ship sunk, stranding the men on the ice and beginning the long wait — what one sailor described as a "white, interminable prison."

Shackleton was vigilant in his effort to keep up morale, veiling his private worry. He visited every tent after dinner to recite poetry or play cards. He led sing-alongs and waltzed on ice. He greenlighted an "Antarctic Derby," with dog races and cigarette wagers. He ordered everyone to cut one another's hair,

stepping up for the first shearing and causing fits of laughter as amateur barbers vied to produce the most hideous cut. As the months dragged on, he made a point to celebrate holidays with extra food and hot drinks.

Finally, the men boarded their life boats and made their way to the nearest island, the uninhabited Elephant Island. They arrived on April 15, 1916 — 16 months after they'd last touched land.

Still, a smaller band had to press on in search of civilization, beginning an improbable 800-mile journey back to South Georgia Island in a 22-foot open boat. They endured the roughest waters, somehow surviving a hurricane that sunk a 500-ton steamer in the vicinity.

Shackleton returned every shipmate back to England — frostbitten and weary, but alive.

For all our modern-day creature comforts, each of us will experience our own sense of abandonment, our own long Lent — be it a family crisis, a medical crisis, a financial crisis or a spiritual one.

But like Jesus in the desert, we will not be alone: "He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him" (Mark 1:13).

We will emerge stronger and



TWENTY SOMETHING

CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

wiser, able to appreciate life's little pleasures anew.

The opportunity in crisis is to lead like Shackleton, to knit people together on the coldest days, to waltz on ice. That's how you all make it home together.

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

DOERFLINGER, from page 12

decisions about health care. In effect, the mostly male legislature is patting them on the head and saying, "There, there, don't you worry your pretty little head about big decisions like this. We know what you need."

As pro-life feminists have long known, the person who most benefits from readily available abortion is the irresponsible man. Once upon a time, men whose partners became pregnant were expected to offer marriage. Now many men think the height of honor is to offer to pay for an abortion.

If the woman refuses, that is her choice — and her problem. With mandatory "free" abortion coverage, he need not even make that gesture. The state has provided, and he can abandon the woman without further ado.

And people wonder why the late Hugh Hefner's foundation has been so willing to donate to pro-abortion groups.

If mandates like this are approved, we cannot say of predatory males that "their time is up." Their time has arrived — all wrapped up in the guise of "empowering" their victims.

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

Luncheons spotlight strengths of Catholic schools

BY JENNIFER MILLER

Quality Dining Inc. hosted the annual You Can Lend a Hand Luncheons in Fort Wayne on Jan. 29 and South Bend on Feb. 1, during Catholic Schools Week. Twenty Fort Wayne-area and 22 South Bend-area educators were recognized during the luncheons with Light of Learning Awards for their faith and commitment to Catholic education.

"The Light of Learning Award expresses the ultimate goal of Catholic education, that we bring the light of Christ to every student, and each student will learn the importance of prayer, liturgy and service in their daily lives," Marsha Jordan, superintendent of Catholic schools, explained. The Catholic schools of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend serve 13,637 students at 43 schools.

The awards highlighted inspirational teachers — one per school — and administrators who were nominated by fellow educators and community members, including parents. They enjoyed the event with co-workers, family members and parish leaders and also were honored at the luncheon by handmade posters that highlighted their professional work and their school's use of the You Can Lend a Hand program donations.

Dan Fitzpatrick, CEO of Quality Dining, thanked the educators. "We are grateful for what you do. Thank you for being that person that other people would inspire to be, and for your outstanding vocation as teachers." He then introduced a video on scholarship granting organizations, which offer scholarships to families considering Catholic schools but who do not qualify for the School Choice Program.

Begun in 2009 and expanded in 2011 with the Choice Bill, the Scholarship Granting Organization of Northeast Indiana provides students in diocesan schools with financial assistance scholarships.

SGOs are a gift both to the donor and the recipient. A private individual or business can contribute unrestricted funds directly to an SGO or earmark their gift to a particular diocesan school; in return, they receive 50 percent Indiana state tax rebate and their gift might be eligible for a federal government income tax deduction of up to 30 percent. A \$1,000 donation could end up costing a donor only \$200, after tax savings.

Calling SGOs a "powerful game changer for our schools," Fitzpatrick praised the program. Over \$4.3 million have already been shared with families in need, "making Catholic education accessible to everyone."

Two exceptional philanthropic



Joe Romie

Light of Learning winners recognized at the You Can Lend a Hand luncheon Jan. 29 in Fort Wayne were, in the front row, from left, teachers Cassandra Wagley, Amy Mohoney, Tara Walulik, Joy Ruich and Melissa Wagner; Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades; teachers Monica Smith, Elise Bohl, Lara Fairchild, Rachel Nelson and Andrea Buday; and Superintendent Marsha Jordan. In the back row are teachers Drew Heiniger and Sarah Farrar; Associate Superintendent Amy Johns; teachers Catrina O'Shaughnessey, Amy Freiburger and Amy Johnson; Administrative Award recipient Cheryl Klinker; teachers Krystal Laipple, Ashley Wetzell, Kurt Homan, Megan Jordan, Angela Benner and Tracey Jacquay; and Secretary for Catholic Education Carl Loesch.



Jade Birch

Teachers recognized with the Light of Learning Award at the You Can Lend a Hand luncheon Feb. 1 in South Bend are pictured above, with leaders of the diocesan Secretariat for Education. The teachers honored were, in no particular order, Lesleigh Mannell, Carolyn Simmons, Mark Kirzeder, Blanca Alvarado, Joany Zielinski, Cheryl Meyer, Sarah Scheuer, Barbara Echard, Patricia Wilsey, Nichole O'Hara, Linda Shorter, Rhonda Szymanski, Rebekah Randall, Emily Johnson, Allison Howard, Ashley Armendariz, Matthew Serge, William Flesh, Kelly Imus, Thomas Heminger, Nina Binger, Kris Hanes, Gina Hite and Theresa Lolmaugh.

couples, John and Katie Anthony, South Bend, and Pat and Steve Spoltman, Fort Wayne, also were honored at the luncheon. They were awarded the Msgr. J. William Lester Award for their dedicated commitment to the community and Catholic schools. Named for the priest, former superintendent and dedicated supporter of Catholic education in the diocese, "who wisely recognized the need for two Catholic high schools on either side of the diocese, remarking that each would strengthen the other, Msgr. Lester loved everything about our Catholic schools and always provided great wisdom to administrators, teachers, parents and other priests," Jordan recalled.

The event highlighted 36 years of You Can Lend a Hand supporting area Catholic schools to the tune of over \$10.2 million. The funds are raised by students who sell \$3 coupon books that offer discounts at Quality Dining restaurants and local, family venues. Chuck Freeby, the event's emcee in South Bend, highlighted the use of the YCLH

program funds, from technology in the classroom to special field trips, playgrounds, emergency repairs, teacher salaries and even general funds.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades addressed those in attendance at the luncheons, speaking of his regular visits to the schools and noting that faith is evident in so many classes, not just in theology courses. "I am very proud of our Catholic schools and, as you know, I am a firm believer in the importance of the mission of Catholic education."

He highlighted three key elements at the heart of the mission of Catholic education, goodness, truth and beauty. "These elements go back to the Greek philosophers and are central to the Catholic intellectual tradition. They are among what are the 'transcendentals,' in that they are timeless and universal attributes of being. They reflect the divine origin of all things and the unity of all truth and reality in God."

Focusing a moment on each attribute, Bishop Rhoades quoted

Bishop Robert Barron of the Diocese of Los Angeles, reminding all of their vital presence in Catholic history. "Christians cared, not only for their own, but they cared indiscriminately for anyone who was in need. It was their goodness, it was the radicality of the Christian life that got the attention of the world."

He then connected beauty, truth and goodness to the present audience, "We see this throughout the history of the Church, people inspired by the goodness of Christians, by saints like Francis of Assisi and perhaps the greatest evangelist of the 20th century, St. Mother Teresa of Kolkata. The goodness of our Catholic school educators, their love for their students, has the greatest evangelizing power."

"I see every Catholic school as a school of evangelization. And how does it evangelize? Through truth, goodness and beauty! That's what we are about. We all need to step up our game if we are going to evangelize young people today. We need to introduce them to

great Catholic thinkers and truly engage their questions and not be afraid of their questions. We should engage our students with the arguments for the existence of God. We should engage them with the ultimate questions dealing with life and human existence, questions that point to God. We should help them to embrace the great Catholic intellectual tradition. We want our students to experience the beauty of the Catholic faith in our schools through all these ways: music, art, poetry, the liturgy, the Bible, the saints, and the greatest of all, the Paschal Mystery of Jesus."

Lastly, he reminded the faithful of what is most important, the souls of their students. "And we're serving the ultimate happiness of those whom we teach and serve, their eternal life with the One who is Truth, Goodness, and Beauty, eternal life with the saints in glory. I can't think of a better mission and vocation. Thank you for all you do to support this great mission!"

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.

Valentine's Day square dance

NEW HAVEN — The St. Louis HASA will host a Valentine's Day square dance on Saturday, Feb. 10, at St. Louis Besancon Parish Hall, 15535 Lincoln Highway East. Doors will open at 7:30 p.m. and dancing will be from 8-11 p.m. Tickets are \$10 per person. Cost includes a drink and snacks with additional drinks available to purchase. There is no carry-in of food or drink allowed. Music will be provided by Bill Werling and Breakaway. All proceeds benefit the St. Louis Home and School Association.

Prayer gathering

SOUTH BEND — A prayer gathering will take place in the sanctuary of St. Jude Parish, 19704 Johnson Rd., from 7-8:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month beginning Feb. 12. Begin the evening of prayer with the 5:30 p.m. Mass followed by light refreshments in the narthex. For information call Dave and Jan Torma at 574-291-3381 or Patrick and Carol Miller at 574-273-4429.

Looking for a Fish Fry?

Download the **Today's Catholic App** for easy access to the calendar with local events and fish fries across the diocese.



Download on **Google Play** or in the **App Store**
Visit www.todayscatholic.org.

REST IN PEACE

Auburn

Robert Stine, 87, Immaculate Conception

Donaldson

Sr. Jeanne Koehler, PHJC, 100, Catherine Kasper Home

Fort Wayne

Jerry F. Angel, 85, Queen of Angels

Antonine V. Hilaire, 80, St. Charles Borromeo

Patricia L. Meyer, 92, St. Therese

Margaret Jehl, 87, St. Jude

Mathew David Miller, 27, St. Peter

Granger

John A. Lewis, 89, St. Pius X

New Haven

Donald Dewaelsche, 84, St. John the Baptist

Notre Dame

Leonia Angela Stackowick, 93, Schubert Chapel at Holy Cross Village

South Bend

Anthony Joseph Eddy, 25, St. Therese, Little Flower

Geraldine A. Burns, 92, St. Patrick

Julie A. Mancuso, 58, Holy Family

William F. Burke, 84, St. Jude

Maureen Mary Bonne, 47, St. Jude

Jeanne F. Trytko, 91, Sanctuary at St. Paul's

John F. McNarney, 81, St. Joseph

Eugene S. Jurek, 87, Holy Family

Submit obituaries to mweber@diocesefwsb.org

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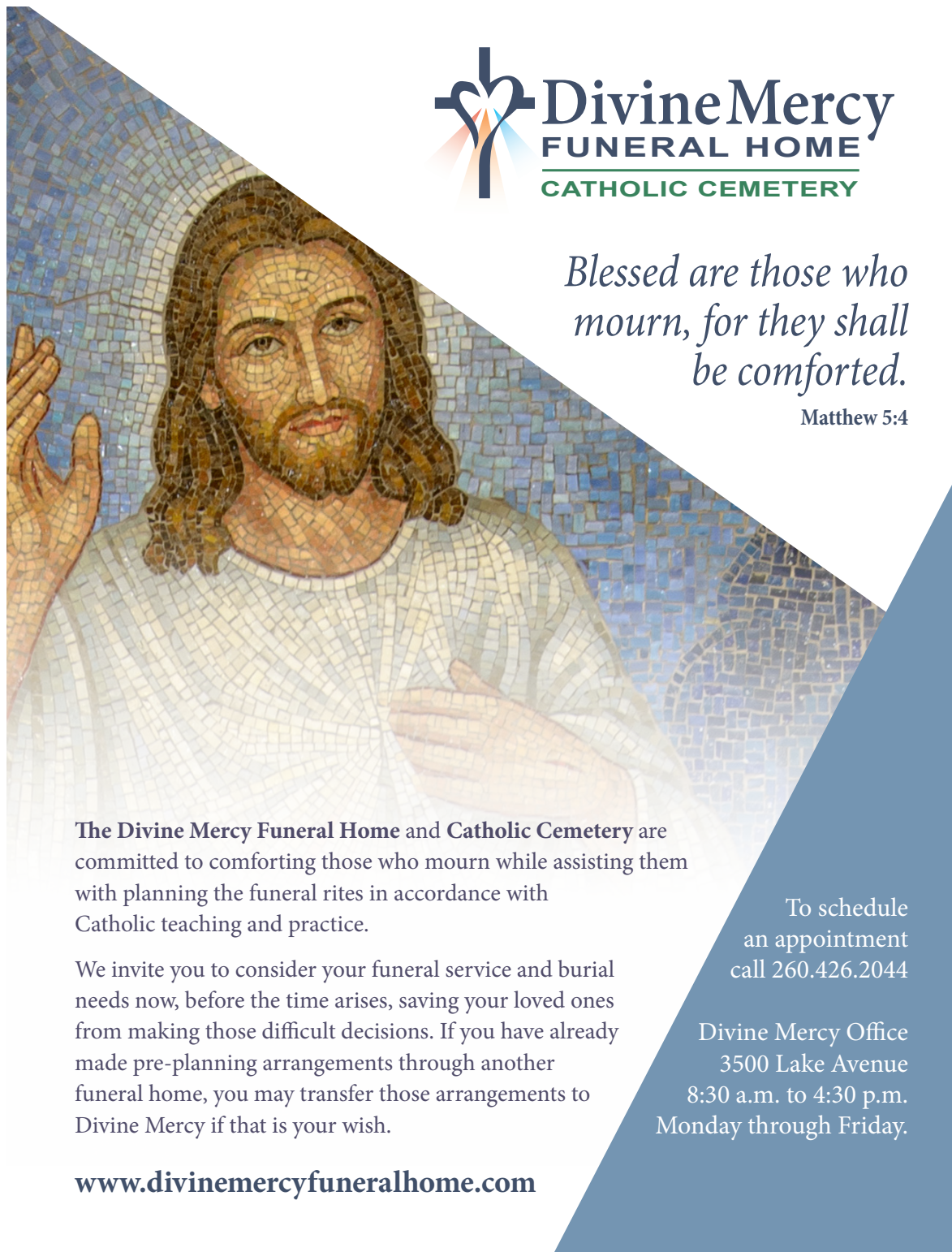
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Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Matthew 5:4



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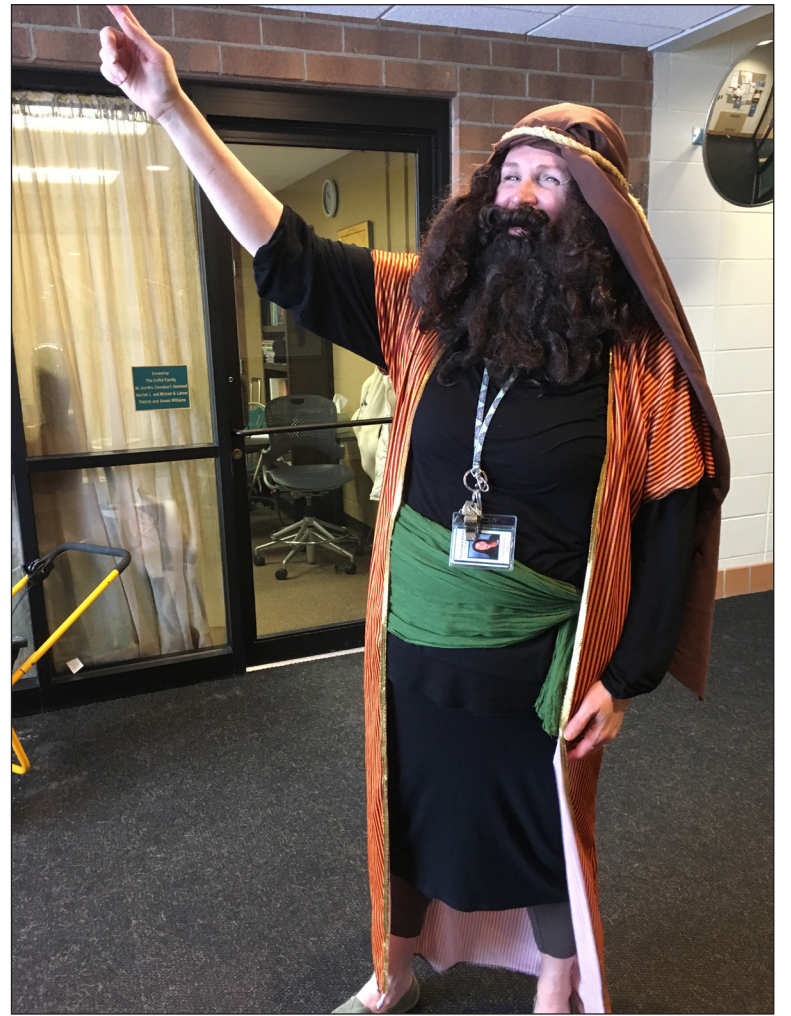
Divine Mercy Office
3500 Lake Avenue
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday.

Catholic Schools Week across the diocese



Provided by Tim Johnson

The Bishop Luers High School Show Choir entertained the students of St. Joseph School, Fort Wayne, as part of Catholic Schools Week activities Jan. 30. After the showcase, show choir members answered questions and talked about their activities. Many Bishop Luers students are former students of St. Joseph School.



Provided by Kim Mauch

Character Day took place at St. Pius X School, Granger, during Catholic Schools Week. Everyone from Alexander Hamilton to Moses showed up.



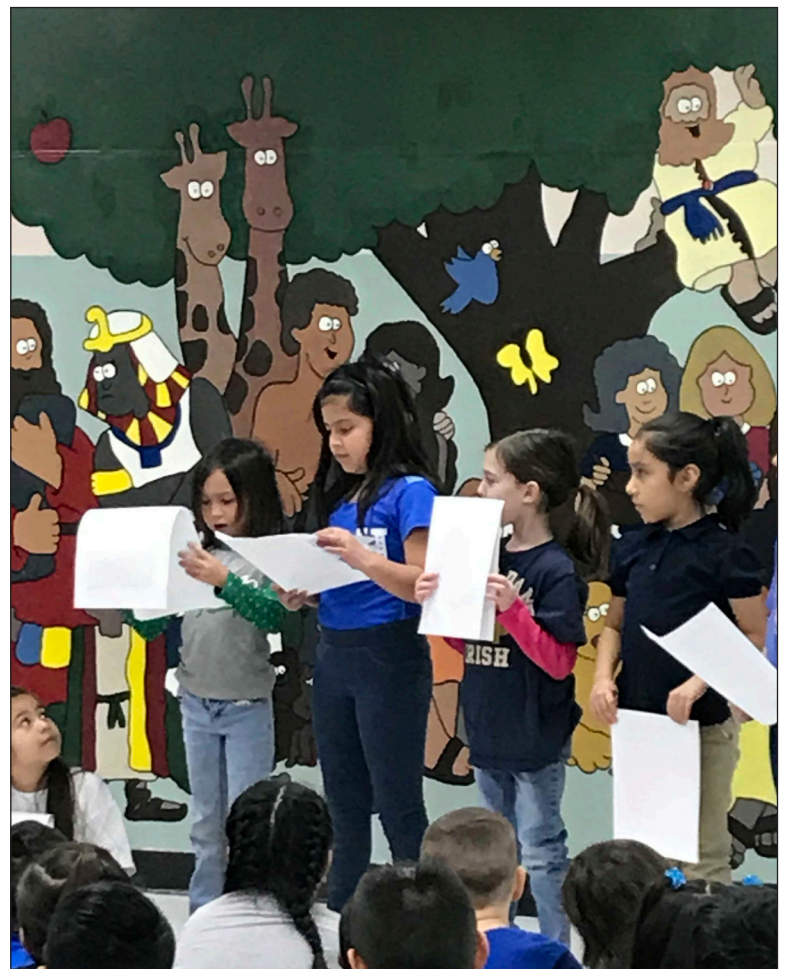
Provided by Bea Royal

On Feb. 1, St. John the Baptist School, Fort Wayne, celebrated vocations by asking students to dress up as they feel God might be calling them. Students and teachers also gathered in the gym to pray for priests and seminarians of the diocese as well as all those in religious life. The rosary was led by the eighth grade.



Provided by Jennifer Veldman

In South Bend, Holy Family School held a dress-up day in which students and teachers dressed as their favorite storybook characters, and several local celebrities visited the classrooms to read aloud to students. Other activities included observing National Backwards Day and hosting grandparents.



Provided by Mattie Willerton

St. John the Evangelist School, Goshen, started Catholic Schools Week with a proclamation from Mayor Jeremy Stutsman at a morning prayer service. Then, first-graders shared why they love their school. Among the reasons were, "I love my school because my teachers help us to dream big and not give up," and "I like when we go to Church, because I love getting a Mass part!"