

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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God's mercy is waiting

**On Wednesday, Feb. 28 from 6-8 p.m.,
every parish in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-
South Bend will offer confessions.**

God's mercy is abundant and available to all. **The Light is On for You** is a national initiative to practicing and inactive Catholics alike, who are encouraged to seek Him and receive the graces of the sacrament this Lent.

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DIOCESE OF
FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND

Florida school shooting an act of 'horrifying evil,' says Miami archbishop

MIAMI (CNS) —Miami Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski urged community members to come together "to support one another in this time of grief" after a shooting rampage Feb. 14 at a Broward County high school left at least 17 people dead and at least 14 injured.

"With God's help, we can remain strong and resolute to resist evil in all its manifestations," the archbishop said in a statement. "May God heal the brokenhearted and comfort the sorrowing as we once again face as a nation another act of sense-

less violence and horrifying evil."

In a late-night telegram to Archbishop Wenski, Pope Francis assured "all those affected by this devastating attack of his spiritual closeness."

"With the hope that such senseless acts of violence may cease," he invoked "divine blessings of peace and strength" on the South Florida community.

Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, called for prayer and healing. He urged all unite their "prayers and sacrifices for the

healing and consolation" of those affected by the violence in South Florida and for a society "with fewer tragedies caused by senseless gun violence."

Law enforcement officials identified the shooting suspect as 19-year-old Nikolas Cruz, who had been expelled for disciplinary reasons from the school where he opened fire — Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland.

On the afternoon of Feb. 14, Cruz allegedly went on the shooting rampage shortly before school was to let out for the day. He was apprehended about an hour after

shots were reported at the school. He is being held without bond on 17 counts of first-degree premeditated murder in the attack.

The suspect carried an AR-15 rifle and had "countless magazines," Broward County Sheriff Scott Israel said. He also told reporters that of the 17 fatalities, "12 people died in the school, two were killed outside the school, one died on the street and another two died at the hospital." Several others were transported to the hospital. Details about the

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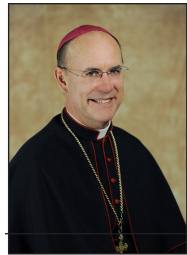
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Rite of Election 2018



IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

The following is Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades' homily during liturgies at St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend, Feb. 11, and the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, Feb. 18, which included the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion.

I wish to extend a warm welcome to all our catechumens and your godparents, and to all the candidates for entrance into full communion in the Catholic Church and your sponsors. Catechumens, this is such an important time in your lives as you prepare to receive the gift of new life in Christ. It is such an important time for those entering the Catholic Church, as your Christian journey has brought you to the fullness of the Christian faith in the Church Christ founded and built on the foundation of the apostles. Welcome to all of you, and welcome to this Cathedral!

Jesus said in the Gospel we just heard: "I came into the world as light, so that everyone who believes in me might not remain in darkness." Jesus was sent by the Father into a fallen world. He is the shining light that dispels the darkness of sin. Jesus invites all people to believe in Him and receive the gift of eternal life, which the Father offers through Him. Those who believe and receive this gift, Jesus once said, "will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Jesus' presence in the world provokes people to respond. Those who respond positively, Jesus says, "will not remain in darkness." But a negative response is possible. Regarding such a person, Jesus says: "I do not condemn him, for I did not come to condemn the world but to save the world." Jesus' work is to save, and He does not damn anyone. Rather, people can condemn themselves by their own actions and their failure to receive God's word. They can choose the darkness, rather than the light.

Dear catechumens and candidates, you are here today because you have responded positively to Jesus' invitation. You have chosen the light of Christ and you will make an act of faith in Him at the Easter Vigil. At the beginning of the Easter Vigil, the church will be dark. The priest will light the Easter fire outside and carry the light of Christ, the Paschal candle, into the church where the light will be passed to all the people. The church will then be bathed in light. It is a dramatic symbol of the reality that will take place at the Easter Vigil – yes, the light of the Resurrection of Jesus which is celebrated, but also the light of His life that you will receive in the sacraments of initiation.

Some people may ask you, "why are you becoming Catholic?" I love to hear from our catechumens and candidates their stories about coming to believe in the Catholic faith. Every person walks their unique journey, but often, there are similar reasons.

I recently read a book entitled "Why I Am Catholic (and You Should Be Too)" – quite a provocative title! It's written by a young adult who considered himself, like many millennials, "spiritual, but not religious." Then, as a mechanical engineering student at Florida State University, he began a passion-



Joe Romie

As Deacon Jim Kitchens looks on, Bishop Rhoades signs the Book of the Elect from one of the parishes in the Fort Wayne area, after the names of the parish's catechumens are announced at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Feb. 18.

ate search for truth. To his great surprise, that search for truth led him to the Catholic Church. In his book, this young man, Brandon Vogt, wrote about how surprised his friends and family were at his conversion. Some were very confused. In some situations, friends and family can even be upset or angry. Brandon writes: "Choosing to be Catholic is provocative. It's countercultural." He writes that the reason he became Catholic was the same reason that G.K. Chesterton gave, almost a century ago, when asked why he had become Catholic. In 1922, Chesterton stunned the world by announcing his conversion to the Catholic Church. And this is how Chesterton began his essay on why he became Catholic: "The difficulty of explaining why I am a Catholic is that there are ten thousand reasons all amounting to one reason: that Catholicism is true." Notice it wasn't because Catholicism made him feel better or because of his family's heritage, though these can be factors. The best reason to accept any belief is because it's true. But being true, it is also good and beautiful.

Truth, goodness, and beauty are what the Greek philosophers called the transcendentals. Brandon Vogt, G.K. Chesterton, and so many other converts came to the Catholic faith because they discovered a convergence of truth, goodness, and beauty in the Catholic Church. Our catechumens and candidates, in their path of life somehow became attracted to the Catholic faith. Was it truth? Was it goodness? Was it beauty? Perhaps one of the transcendentals stands out in your faith journey, or two of them, or all three.

Becoming Catholic is a revolutionary and radical move. Yes, you are all radicals and revolutionaries! Why do I say this? I often say in talks to our young people at Confirmations that being real Catholics, authentic disciples of Jesus, is radical and revolutionary because the Gospel is radical and revolutionary, especially in our culture today. Here's what Brandon Vogt says about this: "Catholicism is the only true rebellion left. It's not rebellious to get drunk, criticize institutions, pursue sex and money, or come out as an atheist. Everyone's doing that. Those are all mainstream. They're easy and

expected. They may sometimes require a slight bit of courage, but really, everyone is following those paths, swimming along with the current. What's truly radical is to consider a Church that billions of people have embraced throughout history but millions of people today dismiss as... outdated." He says that "maybe the Catholic Church looks so backward because everyone else is facing the wrong direction. ... Choosing to be Catholic is emphatically a countercultural move."

I hope and pray, dear catechumens and candidates, that you will continue to discover the truth, goodness, and beauty of the Catholic faith. I promise you that in the Catholic Church you will find the fulfillment of the deepest desires of your hearts as you open yourselves to the gifts of God's grace.

My advice to you today is that you continue to pursue truth by studying and pondering the great mysteries of our faith; that you pursue a life of goodness and virtue, especially through works of mercy and love, seeking holiness, following the beautiful example of Mary and the saints; and that you seek beauty. Beauty stirs the soul. Yes, there's the beauty of Catholic art and music and literature. But there's also the beauty of spiritual truths that touch us. They aren't just nice things. They are powerful and can overwhelm us in a good way. The beauty of the liturgy and the sacraments. The beautiful lives of the saints. The beauty of the Word of God in Scripture. And the most beautiful event of all: the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Our ultimate happiness is in Him, the One who is Truth, Goodness, and Beauty. He is the light that illumines the darkness. In Him, we find happiness and eternal life.

My prayer for all of you is the prayer that St. Paul prayed for the Ephesians in the second reading that we heard in this liturgy: May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, that rooted and grounded in love, you may have strength to comprehend with all the holy ones what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God!

Business and faith work together for society, says ethics expert

BY WILLIAM SCHMITT

"It's really important not to give in to the pressures to keep religion out of business," said Andrew Abela, Ph.D., provost at The Catholic University of America, as he explored faith and the corporate world in his *Servus Omnium* lecture Feb. 13. The lecture is a signature event hosted annually by the University of Saint Francis in downtown Fort Wayne.

Christ's loving presence in every circumstance of life means "all of our work, everything we do," should help build up society, Abela said, speaking as a scholar of business ethics and co-editor of "A Catechism for Business." He applied Catholic social teaching as a guide for business decisions made not merely to capture wealth, but to optimize the good for oneself and all stakeholders.

Such an approach is impossible without faith and Christ's grace because original sin yields self-centered decisions. Social norms push us "to keep religion at arm's length." But "religion is the source of morality," he said, so we must uphold its influence in the workplace, while respecting legal considerations and avoiding unjust discrimination. The goal is to foster better employers, employees, products and services.

"You're not pressuring anybody. You're just arguing for the freedom to be the best person you can be, and for everyone on the planet. Loving God makes them the best person they can be." Noting that "modern ethics has no way to justify morality" without an appeal to faith in God, Abela cautioned against the often-heard stance that proved unsuccessful in the U.S. Supreme Court's 2014 deliberations in *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby Stores*, regarding employer mandates in health care reform.

Before the justices decided in favor of Hobby Lobby in that religious liberty case, lawyers arguing against the employer claimed business exists solely to maximize profits. "That's completely absurd," Abela said, noting the employer-mandate advocates were "telling business not to have a social conscience."

Abela's lecture was part of an annual USF series named for the Latin phrase, "*Servus Omnium*," or "servant of all," taken from a letter in which St. Francis of Assisi wrote, "Being the servant of all, I am bound to serve all and to administer the balm-bearing words of my Lord."

The USF lecture series draws hundreds of people every year, including leaders from the diocese and the region, as well as the university and its founders, the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, who promote the school's Franciscan values.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades



Stephanie A. Patka

Dr. Andrew Abela, provost at The Catholic University of America, addresses University of Saint Francis, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, and local community and business leaders Feb. 13 at the USF *Servus Omnium* lecture. Abela spoke on the arguments for incorporating Catholic social teaching into business practices.

opened the 7 a.m. event with a prayer invoking God's blessings on The Catholic University of America and the University of Saint Francis "in their noble mission as institutions born from the heart of the Church."

Abela praised the doctrines of Catholic social teaching as a source of wisdom he discovered during and after his pre-academic career in executive posts in marketing and management consulting. He left the corporate world to earn a Ph.D. in marketing and ethics and later joined The Catholic University of America.

He said Catholic social teaching, relevant to all walks of life, teaches that businesses should offer products and services that advance beauty, truth and goodness. Also, businesses should do everything possible to pay employees a just wage, supporting a decent life for the employee's family, above the subsistence level. He acknowledged that the exigencies of the marketplace may not always

make this an easy goal, but one avenue is to give employees development opportunities that raise their skills and productivity to result in a higher wage.

Catholic social teaching also supports the acquisition of private property but requires that it be used to support one's family and the broader society, Abela said. That accountability includes charitable use of one's wealth, as well as investments that bear good fruit, including higher employment.

Citing human nature's imperfection and reliance on trust in Christ's grace, Abela said business decision-makers will face differing prospects of success. But the key is to persevere toward the goals of Catholic social teaching with a people-centered, rather than profit-centered, approach to business. This pursuit can result in earthly success, as well as a deepening relationship with Christ in all circumstances.

"Doing good and doing well tend to go together," he said.



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Monday, February 26: 5:15 p.m. — Mass and Lecture, Moreau Seminary, University of Notre Dame
 Wednesday, February 28: 6 p.m. — "The Light is on for You"
 Thursday, March 1: 7 p.m. — Closing Mass of Parish Mission, St. John Bosco Church, Churubusco



Priest appointments

The Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, has made the following appointments:

Reverend Robert Garrow, to Pastor of St. Anthony de Padua Parish, South Bend, effective March 1, 2018.

Reverend David Ruppert, to Administrator of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Decatur, effective March 1, 2018.

Reverend Jonathan Norton, to temporary Priest Chaplain of Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne, effective March 1, 2018

Rice Bowl asks Catholics to 'Share the Journey'

BALTIMORE — As Pope Francis asks that Catholics around the world "Share the Journey" with migrants and refugees, Catholic Relief Services' Rice Bowl offers those in the United States a way to encounter Lent, to encounter the causes of migration and displacement and to learn about the challenges faced by families around the world in their dioceses, parishes and homes.

CRS Rice Bowl, the agency's flagship Lenten program, now in its fifth decade, began again on Ash Wednesday — Feb. 14 — giving Catholics throughout the country an opportunity to encounter the stories of people in need around the world.

"From CRS' work in more than 100 countries, we know that people do not want to leave their homes, that they do so because they feel they have no other choice," said Joan Rosenhauer, executive vice president of Church Engagement. "Lenten sacrifices contributed through CRS Rice Bowl help give them that choice by providing sustenance and livelihoods in communities around the world."

Started as an ecumenical effort in the diocese of Allentown, Pennsylvania, in 1975, CRS Rice Bowl soon spread across the country as it called on Catholics to perform a simple act of Lenten sacrifice — substitute a low-cost meatless meal for more expensive dining once a week during Lent and put the money saved in a cardboard rice bowl.

Funds collected in the rice bowls, which are turned in at the end of Lent, are distributed both around the world and in local communities to combat hunger. But the goal is to go beyond col-



lecting money and spur discussions — both in churches and around family dinner tables — about the meaning of Lent and the daily reality that people living in poverty face.

"We see CRS Rice Bowl as much more than a fund-raising opportunity," said Rosenhauer. "It is an opportunity for Catholics in America to encounter what Lent means, what poverty means, what resilience means, what hope means."

"We want families to participate together so they can experience the joyous feeling of solidarity that comes from generosity and sacrifice," she said. "We know from years of experience that CRS Rice Bowl can be life-changing."

"CRS Rice Bowl does far more than feed people," said Rosenhauer. "It also helps develop agriculture so that families and communities can support themselves. As we heed the request of Pope Francis and 'Share the Journey,' we know that the best way you can help a migrant is to make sure that she doesn't have to leave home in the first place. That's what CRS Rice Bowl can help accomplish."

Encounter Lent through CRS Rice Bowl

We are called to love our

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shooter's motive were still being pieced together.

Thousands of mourners remembered the victims at a candlelight vigil held near the high school the evening of Feb. 15. Still others attended a prayer service at Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church in Parkland.

Earlier in the day Broward County Superintendent Robert Runcie called the school shooting "a horrific situation. It is a horrible day for us." Florida Gov. Rick Scott said, "This is just absolutely pure evil."

Pope Francis was "deeply saddened to learn of the tragic shooting," Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state said in telegram he sent to Archbishop Wenski on behalf of the pope. "He prays that Almighty God may grant eternal rest to the dead and healing and consolation to the wounded and those who grieve."

"We are deeply saddened by the shootings in Broward County, Florida, and by the needless and tragic loss of life," Cardinal DiNardo said in his statement. "May the mercy of God comfort the grieving families and sustain the wounded in their healing."

"Catholics and many other Christians have begun the journey of Lent today," he said. "I encourage us to unite our prayers and sacrifices for the healing and consolation of all those who have been affected by violence in these last weeks and for a conversion of heart, that our communities and nation will be marked by peace. I pray also for unity in seeking to build toward a society with fewer tragedies caused by senseless gun violence."

Archbishop Wenski added in his statement: "This Ash Wednesday, we begin our Lenten Season that calls us to penance and conversion. With God's help, we can remain strong and reso-



Students mourn during a candlelight prayer vigil Feb. 15 for the victims of a mass shooting at nearby Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla. At least 17 people were killed in the Feb. 14 shooting. The suspect, 19-year-old former student Nikolas Cruz, is in custody.

CNS photo/Carlos Garcia Rawlins, Reuters

lute to resist evil in all its manifestations."

Via Twitter, various U.S. bishops offered condolences and urged for something to be done to stop the violence.

"We must prevent those who are mentally ill from access to deadly firearms," said Boston Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley. "We can and must do better for each other by coming together as a society with the resolve to stop this senseless violence."

News reports said the suspect had been in treatment for depression but had stopped seeking help.

Bishop Richard J. Malone of Buffalo, New York, via Twitter reminded others of St. John Paul II's warning 25 years ago that Western society is becoming a "culture of death."

"Sadly, he was right. Can we join together and reverse this?"

he asked.

U.S. President Donald Trump via television Feb. 15 urged children who feel "lost, alone, confused or even scared" to seek help.

Various reports said the suspected shooter had recently lost his mother and was living with a friend's family while dealing with depression.

Trump also expressed condolences to families whose children died in the massacre.

"To every parent, teacher and child who is hurting so badly, we are here for you, whatever you need, whatever we can do, to

ease your pain. We are all joined together as one American family and your suffering is our burden also," Trump said. "No child, no teacher should ever be in danger in an American school. No parent should ever have to fear for their sons and daughters when they kiss them goodbye in the morning."

Amid the outpouring of sympathy and calls for gun control and other action to stop mass shootings was a statement from the Sisters of Mercy. The community said its members were united in prayer and expressed grief, sympathy and love for

"the victims, the families and the witnesses whose sense of safety in their schools has been irrevocably broken." "However, we acknowledge that our prayer alone is not enough. Our faith and mercy tradition call us to unceasingly decry the industries, systems and culture that enable this terrible hate and violence," the sisters said in a statement.

They questioned how the more than 300 school shootings reported since Sandy Hook in 2012 could occur "when the entire country was outraged" following that horrific massacre in Connecticut.

"When will this stop?" they asked. "We will raise our individual and collective voices to speak out against legislation, the gun lobby, industry and organizations that promote and perpetuate a culture of hate and violence."

In Pennsylvania, Greensburg Bishop Edward C. Malesic said: "Prayers are powerful, and prayers are a necessary part of any Christian response to evil. But we have to start taking action to stop this carnage."

"Pray to God that in addition to helping the victims and their families heal from this unimaginable tragedy, that He burn in your heart the courage to stand up and combat this problem," he continued, "whether it is by advocating for better mental health services, working to help end bullying in our schools, responding to the needs of boys and young men so they don't see a gun massacre as a solution to their problems, working to promote respect for life, and, yes, advocating for common sense gun laws."



CNS photo/Jim Davis for the Flor

Marcos and Luz Gonzalez pray alongside their daughters, Sabrina and Laura, far right, Feb. 15 at Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church in Parkland, Fla. The family and others were attending a prayer service for victims of the mass shooting Feb. 14 at nearby Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

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Sex education 'opt-in' bill receives hearing in House committee

A bill to establish the state's sex education program as an "opt-in" rather than an "opt-out" program received a lengthy hearing in the House Education Committee on Feb. 15. The bill is expected to pass the panel before the end of February. The plan passed the Senate on Jan. 30 by a vote of 37-12. The Indiana Catholic Conference supports the bill.

Sen. Dennis Kruse, R-Auburn, author of Senate Bill 65, said the bill would require schools to make the curriculum on human sexuality available to the public and the parents. The school would have to get the parent's written consent for a student to participate in the course.

"If you have to get permission to take a child on a field trip to a museum, then I think it's more important to get permission to teach a class about human sexuality than it is to get permission to go to a museum," said Kruse. "I think asking for parental permission for this reason is merited."

Glenn Tebbe, executive director for the Indiana Catholic Conference, testified in support of the proposed legislation and said, "God entrusts children to parents. Parents have the responsibility to

form and provide an integral education for their children.

"Parents have a particular responsibility in the area of sexual education," he added. "Children should be taught the meaning of sexuality and it is important that they learn to appreciate the human and moral values connected with it," said Tebbe. "Parents have an obligation to inquire about the methods used for sexual education in order to verify that such an important and delicate topic is dealt with properly," he said. "Senate Bill 65 enables parents to fulfill their responsibilities in the development of their children as responsible and moral adults."

Monica Boyer, founder and president of Indiana Liberty Coalition, a pro-life, pro-family group located in northern Indiana, rose in support of the bill. Boyer said her organization was contacted by a grandparent in Marshall County, who said a school showed students a 30-minute YouTube video promoting same-sex attraction as normal, and that one's gender identity can be chosen, as part of sex education. Parents were not notified in advance.

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BRIGID CURTIS AYER

Rhonda Miller, education chair of the Indiana Liberty Coalition, shared some of the human sexuality curriculum being taught in schools across Indiana. She referenced a flyer called "Making a Difference" which offers abstinence curriculum. However, the "abstinence" education lists explicit sexual activities as "abstinence."

Other materials used in Indiana schools offer explicit definitions of sex acts. A pamphlet, "Making Proud Choices," teaches students how use contraception and offers students games and methods for doing so. Miller said some sex-education handbooks being used suggest students "role play sexual encounters." For these reasons, Miller urged lawmakers to pass Senate Bill 65 to "give parents a voice."

Micah Clark, director of the

American Family Association of Indiana, a pro-family organization based in Indianapolis, said in the 27 years he's been an advocate for families, he's received dozens of calls from parents about schools delivering material of a sexual nature which conflicted with their values without their knowledge or consent. "This is nothing more than a 'parents right to know' bill. They have a right to know about material being presented on this sensitive topic beforehand," said Clark.

Reps. Vernon Smith, D-Gary, and Sheila Klinker, D-Lafayette, former educators who serve on the House Education Committee, raised concerns about the "opt-in," saying they preferred the "opt-out" method. Smith said he felt the bill would hurt more students than it would help, and worried about children in sexual abuse situations.

Current law allows parents to request an "opt-out" of sex education. Parents may request the sex-education curriculum be provided to them, and have their child removed from the class. Indiana law also does not specify what may or may not be covered in sex-education classes,

and there is no requirement to alert parents that such material will be taught. The Indiana Department of Education officials said most schools do inform parents. The IDOE has not taken a position on Senate Bill 65.

Dr. Mary McAteer, a board-certified pediatrician representing the Indiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, testified in opposition to the bill. She had concerns about the written consent portion. McAteer said while the academy agrees that parent should be fully informed, she called the "opt-in" burdensome for families who are in "chaotic circumstances."

Members of various public-school groups, including the Indiana State Teachers Association, opposed the bill, saying they think the "opt-out" methods that are practiced in current law are working.

On Feb. 15 the House panel decided to hold the bill for a least another week to allow further discussion and possible amendments.

For more information on the legislative efforts of the Indiana Catholic Conference, go to www.indianacc.org.

Protect the poor and vulnerable by opposing predatory payday loans

The following is a statement signed by the Catholic bishops of Indiana and other faith leaders in Indiana.

We oppose Indiana House Bill 1319, which opens doors for lending practices that are unjust and which take unfair advantage of people in desperate circumstances. Together, we call on the Indiana Senate to reject this bill and find ways to establish more just legislation that protects the poor and vulnerable among us.

Across our religious traditions, we believe that economic life is intended to be a means through which God's purposes of security and flourishing for all people and creation are to be served. When this does not occur, the Church cannot remain silent. We are called to address injustice and to seek changes in economic life in light of the biblically-grounded imperative of a sufficient, sustainable livelihood for all.

Indiana House Bill 1319, which, among other things, allows for annual interest rates on some loans of 222 percent, violates our common commitment to justice and protecting those most vulnerable. Rates of more than 72 percent are considered felony loansharking in current Indiana law. Sometimes called "payday loans," such loans would make it likely that a person who borrows up to

\$1,500 to cover utilities or other day-to-day expenses (as is the case for most folks who seek such loans) will be required to pay thousands more in interest than the amount of the original short-term loan. Those who use payday loans are often lower income persons and families whose paychecks are just short of covering the month's expenses and quickly become entrapped in a web of interest and debt.

Lending practices that, intentionally or unintentionally, take unfair advantage of one's desperate circumstances are unjust. Taking advantage of the financial distress of vulnerable people and communities has a long history. Unscrupulous and exploitative banking has existed from the usury condemned in the Bible. The State's purpose and duty is to protect and facilitate the common good. The weakest members of society should be helped to defend themselves against usury.

We appeal to conscience and what is just and right. Taking advantage of someone and exploiting them is wrong. Although it may be legal, it does not remove one's obligation to do what is just. Extending the payday lending practice does not benefit the person, and it is contrary to providing for the common good, to helping persons and our society flourish. We ask the legislature to defeat this bill.

Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

Most Reverend Charles C. Thompson, Archbishop, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Indianapolis

Most Reverend Donald J. Hying, Bishop, Diocese of Gary

Most Reverend Bishop Siegel, Bishop, Diocese of Evansville

Most Reverend Timothy L. Doherty, Bishop, Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana

Rev. Chad R. Abbott, Designated Conference Minister, Indiana-Kentucky Conference, United Church of Christ

The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis

Rev. Soozie Whitten Ford, Executive Minister, American Baptist Churches of Indiana and Kentucky

Rev. Joan C. Friesen, Executive Minister, American Baptist Churches of Greater Indianapolis

Rev. Dr. William O. Gaffken, Bishop, Indiana-Kentucky Synod, ELCA

Rev. Richard L. Spleth, Regional Minister, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Indiana

Rev. Taylor Alan Thames, Executive Minister, Whitewater Valley Presbytery, Presbyterian Church (USA)

The Rev. Dr. Julius C. Trimble, Bishop, Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church

CRS, from page 3

neighbor. But, like the scholar in the Scripture passage, a person may wonder, "Who is my neighbor?" This Lent, CRS Rice Bowl — Catholic Relief Services' Lenten faith-in-action program — is answering that question.

Reflections on how an encounter with a neighbor — as a companion on life's journey — can be transformative. Prayers, fasting and alms can support those worldwide who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities.

Join nearly 14,000 faith communities in 180 dioceses around the U.S. in prayer, fasting and almsgiving this Lent. This effort will serve those most in need around the world, while forming families and faith communities in global solidarity. Take action to build the culture of encounter as missionary disciples with Catholic Relief Services this Lent.

Through prayer, one encounters Christ, present in the faces of every member of the human family, so often still walking that long road to Calvary.

Through fasting, one encounters his own obstacles — those things about themselves that prevent them from loving God and neighbor.

Through almsgiving, one encounters brothers and sisters around the world, asking what he can give up so that others might have life to the fullest.

Through CRS Rice Bowl, stories can be heard of those

in need worldwide, and Lenten prayers, fasting and gifts devoted to change the lives of the poor. Each day of Lent, individuals are invited to use the Lenten calendar — included with every CRS Rice Bowl — to guide their Lenten almsgiving. These daily almsgiving activities — for example, give 25 cents for every faucet found in the home —

help families reflect on the realities of our brothers and sisters around the world and how they can be in solidarity during the Lenten season.

How are donations used?

Driven by faith, CRS is committed to help those in need no matter where they may live. In that spirit, 75 percent gifts support CRS programs around the world. Some examples include:

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Microfinance projects to support small businesses

Mother and child projects that offer health and nutrition services

Education projects to provide resources and training

Twenty-five percent of donations go to hunger and poverty alleviation efforts in within the contributing diocese.



Catholics urged to appeal to Congress to pass DACA bill now

BY JULIE ASHER

WASHINGTON (CNS) — By day's end Feb. 15, members of the U.S. Senate had rejected four immigration proposals, leaving it unclear how lawmakers will address overall immigration reform and keep the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program in place.

Late that afternoon, Archbishop John C. Wester of Santa Fe, New Mexico, issued an urgent alert to Catholics in his archdiocese to raise their voices "to support the 'Dreamers'" and contact their senators and representatives to vote for a bipartisan measure to preserve the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, which is set to expire March 5.

"Time is running out for them," he said in a statement. "Congress must pass bipartisan legislation that would provide urgently needed relief for Dreamers."

Needing 60 votes for Senate passage, a bipartisan measure that included a path to citizenship for an estimated 1.8 million Dreamers — those eligible for DACA — and \$25 billion for a border wall failed by six votes. The final vote was 54-45. A bill the Trump administration was supporting was defeated 39 to 60. Two other bills also failed.

The U.S. House was pressing on with its own bill, which by mid-day Feb. 16 was not yet up for a floor vote. Described as "hard line" by opponents, it includes keeping DACA in place,

funding a border wall, ending the Diversity Immigrant Visa program, limiting family-based visas, requiring employers to verify job applicants' immigration status and withholding federal grants from so-called "sanctuary" cities.

"As Catholics, we believe the dignity of every human being, particularly that of our immigrant and refugee children and youth, must be protected," Archbishop Wester said in his statement. "The sanctity of families must be upheld. The Catholic bishops have long supported undocumented youth brought to the United States by their parents, known as Dreamers, and continue to do so."

Other Catholic leaders decried lawmakers' failure to provide protections for DACA recipients.

Dominican Sister Donna Markham, president and CEO of Catholic Charities USA, called it "deeply heartbreaking."

"While thankful for the bipartisan majority support for protecting DACA youth, it is unconscionable that nearly 800,000 will continue to live in fear and uncertainty," she said Feb. 15.

"As it has for more than 100 years, Catholic Charities will continue to stand with and advocate on behalf of migrants and others in need. Not because they are migrants but because they are children of God," she said.

Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins, president of the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, echoed that disappointment, saying: "These young women and men have done

nothing wrong and have known life only in the United States. The Dreamers who are enrolled at Notre Dame are also poised to make lasting contributions to the United States.

"We pray that our leaders will end the cruel uncertainty for these talented and dedicated young people who have so much to offer our nation," he said. "Regardless, Notre Dame will continue to support them financially, maintain their enrollment, provide expert legal assistance should that become necessary and do everything it can to support them."

Even if the legislation seems to be stalling, some like Kevin Appleby, senior director of international migration policy at the Center for Migration Studies of New York, still see hope.

"This is a setback, but the game is not over," he told Catholic News Service Feb. 16. "The silver lining is that the president's framework was roundly rejected, which could clear a path for a narrower bill that provides citizenship to undocumented youth without decimating the family immigration system. The U.S. bishops and the Catholic community can take the lead moving forward by continuing to highlight the moral necessity of offering protection to these young people."

Since September, when President Donald Trump announced he was ending the Obama-era program and told Congress to come up with a legislative fix, the U.S. Catholic bishops individually and as a

body have been urging Congress to protect DACA.

Since 2012, DACA has allowed some individuals brought as minors to the United States by their parents without legal permission to receive a renewable two-year period of protection from deportation and to be eligible for a work permit. As of 2017, approximately 800,000 individuals had DACA status.

Since Trump rescinded the program, many immigration advocates have urged members of Congress to pass the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act, or DREAM Act, which has long been proposed. The bill is what gives DACA recipients the "Dreamer" name.

In Arizona in late January, Bishop Edward J. Weisenburger of Tucson and his predecessor, now-retired Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas, urged passage of a "clean" bill, like the DREAM Act, to preserve DACA. Their commentary was posted on the diocesan Facebook page.

"While all would agree that reasonable border protection is needed and while clearly countries have a right to protect their borders, it is wrong to barter the lives of these young people by making their protection contingent on a wall or stringent border protection that is unreasonable and a waste of taxpayer's money. Congress should pass the DREAM Act as a stand-alone bill," they said.

"We are at a moment in our nation's history that could define who we are as a people. Traditional American values of fairness and compassion are in

conflict," they wrote. "This is a situation that is a moral test for our society; we must not fail."

In a Feb. 2 letter to Arkansas' senators and representatives in Congress, Little Rock Bishop Anthony B. Taylor called for grass-roots bipartisan support for "a just and humane solution for the Dreamers whose fate is in your hands." He, too, urged they pass a narrowly focused bill to save DACA.

"If enough members of Congress commit to focusing on a narrowly-tailored bipartisan solution, DACA-only legislation is possible (to) provide urgently needed relief for Dreamers," he wrote. "They and their families who have worked hard and made valuable contributions to our country deserve certainty and compassion. Dreamers should not be used as a political bargaining chip for other legislative proposals."

In a Feb. 2 op-ed in the *Daily News*, Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio of Brooklyn, New York, struck the same tone, predicting that if Congress tied the fate of these young people to a broader immigration reform measure backed by Trump, it would be "a recipe for getting nothing done, at least in the short term."

"There are times that our elected leaders must act because it is the right thing to do as human beings. This is one of those times," he said. "If the Dreamers are left unprotected, it will leave a stain on our nation's character for years to come. If we pursue justice and welcome them as full Americans, it would be one of our finest hours."

Rhina Guidos contributed to this story.

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Catechumens, candidates celebrate their journey into the Catholic faith

BY KATIE MURRAY

The Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion of catechumens and candidates, respectively, was celebrated at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, on Feb. 18, where the catechumens and candidates voiced their desire to join Christ and His Church.

Catechumens, those who are unbaptized, are now preparing to receive all of the sacraments of initiation – baptism, confirmation, and the holy Eucharist – at the Easter Vigil Mass on the night of March 31.

Candidates, those who are already baptized, are preparing to complete their initiation. They will renew their baptismal vows and will then receive the sacraments of Communion and confirmation.

Coming from parishes throughout the diocese, the catechumens and candidates were joined by their godparents or sponsors and presented for recognition to Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. The catechumens'



Photos by Joe Romie

During a prayer from the Rite of the Call to Continuing Conversion, sponsors place their hands on the shoulders of their candidates.

names were presented in the "Book of Elect" in a part of the rite called the Enrollment of Names, after which they became known as "the Elect." Between now and the Easter Vigil Masses, they will undergo at their parishes the final, intense preparation for the reception of the sacraments of initiation.

In his homily, Bishop Rhoades spoke of the Gospel reading in which Jesus said, "I



The joy of the congregation is expressed with a round of applause after the catechumens transition to be members of the Elect.

"will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

came into the world as light, so that everyone who believes in me might not remain in darkness." Looking out over the congregation, he went on to remind everyone of how "Jesus was sent by the Father into a fallen world. He is the shining light that dispels the darkness of sin. Jesus invites all people to believe in Him and receive the gift of eternal life, which the Father offers through Him. Those who believe and receive this gift, Jesus once said,

He went on to speak of how the presence of Jesus provokes two different responses in people, some being negative resulting in choosing darkness over a positive response that results in walking in the light of Jesus Himself. He also addressed an important question that the catechumens and candidates may have already, or will be, asked: "Why are you becoming Catholic?"

Aaron Schoon, a catechu-

men of St. Paul of the Cross in Columbia City, said that he chose Catholicism after spending many years with his Catholic wife and bringing up their five children in the faith. But the biggest influence for him to become Catholic was, "After growing up Protestant, seeing the Catholic perspective on many things that [I] grew up to believe as heresy."

Megan Heimann, a candidate from the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne, said she chose to complete her initiation into the Church because of "the heritage, tradition and like the Bishop said during his homily, there's truth to it. There's something sacred in Catholicism that I haven't found in any other church."

Also from the University of Saint Francis, candidate Abigail Truex said she wanted to fully embrace the Catholic faith because of her father. "When he would talk to me about it, it just made sense." Truex went on to say that the biggest influence for her was the people within it. "They've helped to get me where I am today."

Bishop Rhoades touched on some of their motivations in his homily, by saying, "My advice to you today is that you continue to pursue truth by studying and pondering the great mysteries of our faith; that you pursue a life of goodness and virtue, especially through works of mercy and love, seeking holiness, following the beautiful example of Mary and the saints; and that you seek beauty. Beauty stirs the soul. Yes, there's the beauty of Catholic art and music and literature. But there's also the beauty of spiritual truths that touch us."



During the Rite of Election, catechumens and their godparents stand as the catechumens' names are announced to Bishop Rhoades and the congregation.

A new beginning for Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana

BY MARIAM SCHMITZ

The Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana has been a steady presence in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend since its inception as a 501(c)(3) corporation in 1994, but it recently underwent changes that are expected to bear even more fruit for the diocese, its ministries, parishes and schools.

The foundation's goal is stewardship, through the establishment of endowment funds that help provide for the donor's chosen Catholic charity within the diocese for years to come. Over the past 24 years, it has grown from about \$250,000 in assets to approximately \$50 million. The



MIKE SHADE

leadership of a board of directors that has included Bishop John M. D'Arcy, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, diocesan Chief Financial Officer Joseph Ryan and Msgr. Robert Schulte, as well as a board of advisors, guided the foundation as it grew and flourished.

Not complacent with past success, in 2016, at the suggestion of the foundation's board of advisors, Bishop Rhoades authorized a subcommittee to explore changes in the foundation's structure that would promote even more dramatic results. Revisions were discussed and new bylaws were approved by Bishop in August that provide for an expanded board of directors to help lead the foundation, without the need for a board of advisors, and the addition of a chief executive officer position. The new board consists of clergy and lay people from across the diocese.

Retired corporate lawyer and

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
OF NORTHEAST INDIANA

longtime St. Matthew Cathedral parishioner Paul Schoenle serves as board president. He said the board wanted a CEO who would make the foundation "stand on its own two feet and promote this wonderful concept to the people within the diocese." After interviewing more than two dozen individuals, it was decided that senior bank executive Michael Shade fit the bill, so Shade was hired as the foundation's first CEO.

Shade has attended Fort Wayne's St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish for more than 20 years.

He has decades of experience working with trusts and managing departments, in addition to earning his Master of Business Administration degree and becoming a chartered financial analyst. He said that upon seeing the CEO job requirements, he felt the position would "work well with his background" and "hoped he could assist the foundation transition well." He began working for the foundation on Dec. 1.

Schoenle commented: "We are extremely pleased with Mike's performance so far. I think we're

moving in the right direction. We only have two months operating (with Mike as CEO), and we have already received several significant contributions to establish funds that benefit the diocese."

Bishop Rhoades is pleased with the new direction. "The endowment funds in the Catholic Community Foundation are very important for the financial future of the parishes and schools of our diocese," he said recently. "I am very grateful to all who have donated for these endowments and to all who include the Church's endowments in their estate planning. These donations and bequests demonstrate the faith and charity of our people, who wish to help the Church in the present and the future to fulfill its holy mission. I am happy that the efforts of the foundation will now increase because of the

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Nuns withdraw from ministry in Mexican city wracked by violence

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — An order of nuns has withdrawn from an especially violent city after the parents and sister of one of the women religious were kidnapped and killed. The Diocese of Chilpancingo-Chilapa, where two priests were murdered Feb. 5, said in a statement that the nuns from the "Comunidad Guadalupana" (Guadalupe Community) had withdrawn because of a lack of security, leaving a school it operated in the city of Chilapa without staff. Schools in Chilapa had suspended classes from September to December because of the insecurity, the statement said. The nuns' withdrawal from Chilapa is but the latest hardship for the Diocese of Chilpancingo-Chilapa, which serves parts of southern state of Guerrero, where the heroin trade has exploded in recent years. At least six priests have been murdered there since 2009. Two priests, Fathers Germain Muniz García and Ivan Anorve Jaime, were shot dead as they drove back from Candlemas celebrations with four other passengers, three of whom were injured.

Chaldean archbishop: Time to be 'honest' in dialogue with Muslims

WASHINGTON (CNS) — If Christians in the Middle East are going to be "honest" with their Muslim dialogue partners, said Chaldean Archbishop Bashar Warda of Erbil, Iraq, Muslims will have to acknowledge that the persecution of Christians in the region did not start with the Islamic State's rise to power in 2014. "We experienced this not for the last four years, but 1,400 years," Archbishop Warda said during a Feb. 15 speech at Georgetown University in Washington, sponsored by the Religious Freedom Research Project of the university's Berkley Center for Religion, Peace & World Affairs. Christians are partly to blame, too, in the dialogue, according to Archbishop Warda. "We did not push back against the recurring periods of terrorism that inflicted cruel pain upon our ancestors," he said. He added that Christianity also needs to return to a "pre-Constantine vision" of the Church, recalling Jesus' words shortly before His

NEWS BRIEFS

Lenten observance dedicated to shooting victims, their families



CNS photo/Tom Tracy

Parishioners of Mary Help of Christians Church in Parkland, Fla., pray during an outdoor Stations of the Cross service Feb. 16 dedicated to the victims and survivors of the deadly mass shooting at nearby Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. At least 17 people were killed when 19-year-old former student Nikolas Cruz stormed the school with an AR-15 semi-atomic style weapon. At least one member of the suburban parish northwest of Fort Lauderdale — 14-year-old freshman Gina Montalto, who had attended Mary Help of Christians Elementary School — was among the deceased.

crucifixion: "My kingdom is not of this world." Given the scope of the Islamic State's campaign to erase Christians and all non-Muslims from the territories it had controlled prior to a counter-offensive that decimated its ranks and holdings, "there is nothing left but to speak plainly," he said. "When there is nothing left to lose, it is very liberating."

Catholics urged to affirm beauty, 'liberating truth' of 'Humanae Vitae'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The "liberating truth" of Blessed Paul VI's encyclical "Humanae Vitae" is as relevant today 50 years after its promulgation, and maybe even more so, said Denver Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila in his new pastoral, "The Splendor of Love." "The 50th anniversary of 'Humanae Vitae' is an occasion to celebrate the gift of Blessed Paul VI's teaching and an opportunity to renew our commitment to sharing this liberating truth with a world that is increasingly confused about sexuality," Archbishop Aquila wrote. He said he wrote the pastoral "to affirm the great beauty of the church's consistent teaching through the centuries on married love, a love that is so desperately needed today." "Humanae Vitae" ("Of Human Life") reaffirmed the Church's teaching against the use of artificial birth control and contraceptive sterilization. Promulgated July 25, 1968, the encyclical was Blessed Paul's last. "He prophetically defended the integrity of married love and warned us against the danger of reducing sexuality to a source of pleasure alone," Archbishop Aquila wrote. "Married love reflects the love of Christ, the love which caused him to become human to save us and to give his life for his church. Married love, 'from the beginning' is also by nature fruitful, bringing new life into the world so we can participate in the gift of God's own creation."

Vatican denies report Pope Benedict has degenerative disease

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican denied that retired Pope Benedict XVI has a degenerative neurological disease or paralyzing condition after his brother, 94-year-old Msgr. Georg Ratzinger, told a magazine that Pope Benedict had a debilitating disease. In an interview published Feb. 13 in the German weekly entertainment magazine, *Neue Post*, Msgr. Ratzinger said Pope Benedict suffered from a nerve disease that was slowly paralyzing him. "The greatest concern is that the paralysis could eventually reach his heart and then everything could end quickly," Msgr. Ratzinger was quoted as saying. "I pray every day to ask God for the grace of a good death, at a good moment, for my brother and me. We both have this great wish," he added. Although news about the interview also was published on the German edition of the Vatican News website, the Holy See press office said in a statement Feb. 15 that "the alleged news reports of a paralyzing or degenerative illness are false."

Islamic State has landed in lawless Somalia, bishop says

NAIROBI, Kenya (CNS) — As it loses its grip in the Middle East, the Islamic State is finding a foothold in Somalia, said a bishop who oversees the Catholic Church in the troubled country. The insurgent group — linked to mass killings, abductions and beheadings in Iraq and Syria, where it is facing defeat — see Somalia as a suitable base due to its lawlessness, Bishop Giorgio Bertin, apostolic administrator of Mogadishu, Somalia. "I think they have chosen Somalia because there is no central authority. The country also represents a good possibility for them to continue their search for an Islamic state or, at least, they can continue their ideology without many obstacles," Bishop Bertin told Catholic News Service. Somalia has experienced chaos since 1991, when warlords overthrew President Mohammed Siad Barre. The conflict remains one of Africa's longest civil wars.

CCF, from page 7

hiring of a full-time CEO and the strengthening of the responsibilities of the board of directors."

There are many possible avenues to consider when setting up an account. Donors can choose to contribute to any of the approximately 150 endowments that have already been established. This includes the St. John Paul II Fund for Seminarian Education, various Catholic schools and parishes as well as other diocesan

activities that are consistent with the Catholic faith. Another option would be to create a new endowment fund either by oneself or with a group. The fund could be named in honor of a loved one, a priest or religious, a family member, or a specific ministry within a parish. It also could be a one-time gift, or there could be multiple contributions.

The interest and income generated from the endowment are what is used to fulfill the donor's wishes. According to Schoenle,

"portfolio investments are in harmony with the social teaching of the Church. We have professional investors who manage where the money is invested and the board reviews their policy as to where they put those investments. There are certain companies and stock portfolios that we would not be in favor of and so we want to make sure we're putting money into activities or funds that agree with the Catholic faith."

The foundation's biggest opportunity for growth comes

from estate planning. According to Shade, "assisting individuals in their desire to support the spiritual, educational and charitable ministries of the Catholic Church with current gifts or through the estate planning process is a primary focus of the foundation." Shade can also assist with the appropriate language to include when leaving a bequest to the foundation.

As the foundation continues to grow, Shade said his goals include establishing an endow-

ment at each parish, getting a website up and running, and ultimately growing the foundation as much as possible. He said he has been in contact with other Catholic community foundations to get additional development ideas.

For more information on the foundation or to establish an endowment fund, contact Michael Shade at 260-422-4611, ext. 3348, or email him at mshade@diocesefwsb.org.

St. Joseph, Bluffton, plans parish mission

BLUFFTON — “Families: Living Stones of the Church” will be the theme of a parish mission at St. Joseph Parish, taking place Sunday through Thursday, March 4-8.

On March 4, Father Steve Colchin will celebrate Mass at 10 a.m., followed by brunch. Beginning at 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday evenings, an invited guest will speak and refreshments will follow. The guests will be: March 5, Father Daniel Scheidt; March 6, Lisa and/or Frederick Everett; March 7, Father Jonathan Norton, with confessions at approximately 8 p.m.; and March 8, Steve Higgins, director of youth ministry.

There is no cost to attend. For more information, visit www.stjosephchurchbluffton.org. The parish is located at 1300 N. Main St. in Bluffton.

Selfie video campaign to commemorate ‘Humanae Vitae’

SOUTH BEND — To celebrate the 50th anniversary of Pope Paul VI’s prophetic encyclical “Humanae Vitae,” this summer, the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is inviting couples to submit 30-second horizontal selfie videos in response to the question: “How has ‘Humanae Vitae’ made a difference in your marriage?”

Videos should start with the first names of the spouses and must be submitted by Easter Sunday to the following Dropbox account: <https://tinyurl.com/hvvideos>. Selfie videos will be posted on the Office of

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Catholic Legislator Dinner



Sean Gallagher

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades is pictured with legislators from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend who attended a Catholic Legislator Dinner in Indianapolis Feb. 12. The annual gathering is organized by the Indiana Catholic Conference, and affords the opportunity for the bishops and legislators to engage in discussion. From left are Rep. Phil GiaQuinta, Fort Wayne; Sen. Joe Zakas, Granger; Sen. Liz Brown, Fort Wayne; Sen. Blake Doriot, Syracuse; Bishop Rhoades; Rep. Bob Morris, Fort Wayne; his wife, Erin Morris; Rep. Dennis Zent, Angola; and Sen. Andy Zay, Huntington.

Family and Pro-Life Facebook page leading up to the 50th anniversary of “Humanae Vitae” in July. An assortment will be used in a longer promotional video later on.

Direct questions to Lisa Everett, director of Marriage, Family and Pro-Life Ministry, at levertt@diocesefwsb.org.

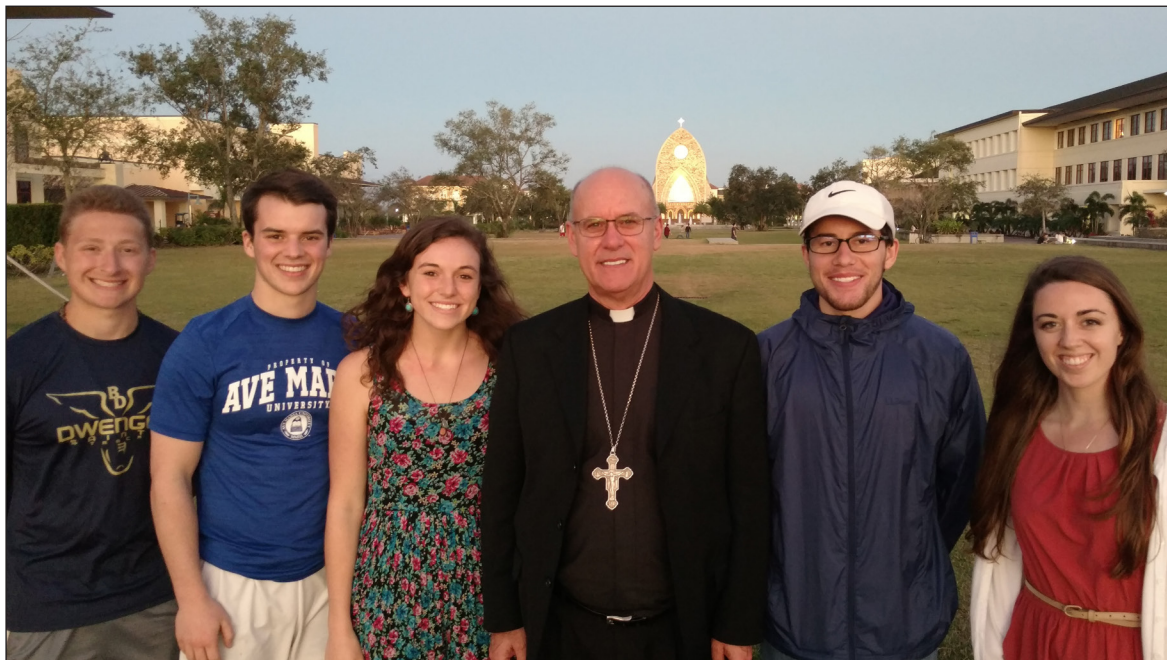
National Call-in Day for ‘Dreamers’ Feb. 26

WASHINGTON — Late last week, the Senate failed to achieve the 60 votes needed to move forward with debate on legislation to provide relief to “Dreamers.” Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops president, Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, USCCB vice president, and Bishop Joe S. Vásquez of Austin, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Migration, together issued a statement and call to action.

“We are announcing a National Catholic Call-In Day to Protect Dreamers. This coming weekend, we will be asking the faithful across the nation to call their members of Congress on Monday, Feb. 26, (and ask them) to protect Dreamers from deportation, to provide them a path to citizenship, and to avoid any damage to existing protections for families and unaccompanied minors in the process.”

Dial 855-589-5698 to reach the Capitol switchboard, then press 1 to connect to the individual senators. Once you are connected to your senator, ask the person on the phone to deliver your message. Then redial the number and press 2 to connect to your representative.

Bishop meets with Ave Maria students from the diocese



Provided by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades met and enjoyed dinner with students from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend who attend Ave Maria University, Florida, while attending a board of trustees meeting there Feb. 16. The students are, from left, Dan Berg, freshman from St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne; Colin Stroud, a prospective Ave Maria student and senior at Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne; Corinne Zay, junior from SS. Peter and Paul Parish, Huntington; Patrick Sullivan, sophomore from Sacred Heart Parish, Warsaw; and Allison Kelty, senior from St. Jude Parish, Fort Wayne.

Ash Wednesday observed



Provided by Jill Hamblin

Father James Shafer, St. Joseph Parish, Garrett, imparts ashes to the children of St. Joseph School during a Mass on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14. Across the diocese, Catholics entered into the season of Lent by seeking the traditional symbol of repentance and penance.

No separation between family, faith and work for retiree

BY HONORA KENNEY

This past month, John Stackowicz of Granger retired from his post as general agent of the John Stackowicz Insurance Agency through the Knights of Columbus. Though his 45-year tenure with the Knights of Columbus will be celebrated with a gathering of family and friends later this spring, Stackowicz's career started from less festive origins.

In 1973, Stackowicz was a long-haired, 19-year-old working as a Jewel-Osco stock boy in the Chicago suburb of his upbringing, Deerfield, Illinois. He had dreams of marrying his college sweetheart, Millie, whom he had met at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. But with only two years of college under his belt, he felt ill-prepared for the financial demands of marriage and family life.

Stackowicz cut his hair, invited his father to lunch and prepared for one of the most important sales pitches of his life: asking his father for a job.

He left the lunch meeting that day a successful salesman: He had acquired a new position, the seeds for what would become a life-changing career; and even had a free meal. (His father picked up the lunch tab.) In the next few weeks, he would begin working as a field agent in the Chicago insurance industry.

Stackowicz's father, Joe — currently a 96-year-old resident of South Bend and an avid supporter of the University of Notre Dame women's basketball team — was serving as the general agent at a Northern Illinois Knights of Columbus insurance agency at the time, and he quickly took his son under his wing.

"My dad's job was to find qualified full-time agents, to train them, and motivate them to become successful," John explained. "I knew that I was kind of born for management, because as soon as I started, [my dad] would have me train every

one of his agents. So in a sense, I was like his assistant."

Soon after, John found himself ranked the No. 1 agent in Illinois. After maintaining that ranking for 11 years, he was offered a promotion that would enable him to follow in his father's footsteps and become a general agent. A position had opened in Northern Indiana and he accepted it, moving his young family to South Bend in 1984 and starting the John Stackowicz Knights of Columbus Insurance Agency.

John credits his father and his hasty immersion into the Knights of Columbus not only with his early discovery of his



JOHN STACKOWICZ

lying' — which you're not supposed to say to the head guy! And then he looked at me and said, 'Oh my gosh, I forgot you've been around so long!'"

The trip included a stop at John's favorite Marian apparition site, Fatima, which aligns with the Knights of Columbus' larger goal to incorporate Catholic sites into the award trip location rotation ever few years — an approach which has influenced the couple's independent travels, too.

"Whenever we travel, we always try seeing as many churches and cathedrals as possible. When we went to Croatia, we were at St. Blaise the

traveling — both globally and locally. "There are so many beautiful churches here in our diocese. One thing my wife and I decided we're going to do is, every Sunday — maybe three Sundays a month — we're going to go throughout the diocese and we're going to try to get to Mass on a Sunday in every church. Even here in South Bend I haven't seen hardly any of them. And we went to a Mass recently at St. Patrick's — how beautiful is that?"

The Mass was for the wedding of a family friend and fellow Knight Andrew Weiss, who currently works for the John Stackowicz agency. "John has been a mentor and a fatherlike figure to me both in my career with the Knights of Columbus and on a personal level," Weiss said. "He's taught me how to be a better leader, and he's helped me grow as a man."

Now that John is retired, he'll continue to serve as a role model for young people. With five children and 11 grandchildren, the opportunities for mentorship are frequent. He says he'll especially enjoy watching his third child, Phillip, tackle a new job: working as the general agent in the post he left, an appointment that was made by the Knights of Columbus based on Phillip's merit and independent of John's feedback.

As he passes along the family tradition of working for the Knights of Columbus that his own father began, John is looking forward to recommitting to fitness and joining St. Pius X pastor Msgr. William Schooler at the gym, spending time with family and continued travel. In April, he and Millie will fly to Ireland and Scotland for one last awards trip with fellow Knights and their wives, who have become the couple's lifelong friends.



Through his work with Knights of Columbus insurance, general agent John Stackowicz and his wife, Millie, have been able to travel to many foreign sites, including, left, the Great Wall of China; and right, the Coliseum in Croatia.



Provided by John Stackowicz

professional talents, but also with the Catholic faith he maintains today. "When I started I was 19 years old, and 19-year-olds these days get away from the Catholic faith, I think," he said. "It probably would have happened to me, but I decided to go for the Knights of Columbus job, which was a shock to my dad. In my position now, I probably never would hire a 19-year-old unmarried kid that had long hair. But my dad did."

He also credits the Knights of

Columbus with helping him discover another lifelong passion: travel. "When you're hired by the Knights of Columbus, the head guy always makes a statement like, 'We're going to show you the world,'" John explained. They mean it literally: Every year, successful agents are invited to participate in an awards trip. In his first year with the agency, having never travelled outside the United States before, John and his wife visited Portugal and Spain. The next year, they traveled to Rome and met Pope Paul VI.

"I've been basically all over," he said, reflecting on his career. "All over Europe, to Hawaii I think 12 times, to Mexico probably five times, on numerous Caribbean cruises, all through the Knights of Columbus. So, when they say they're going to show you the world ..."

Forty years into John's career, the trips even went back to where his world travel began. "On the 40th anniversary of me working for the Knights of Columbus, they went back to Portugal and Spain," he said. "When our head of the company, Thomas Smith, the chief insurance officer, was announcing where the trip was, he said, 'We're going to take you to some place where you've never been before.' And I had to interrupt him and say, 'Actually you're

week before the blessing of the throats. We've been to St. Peter's Basilica. We always make sure we go to Mass once or twice on these trips."

He even made it to Mass during a trip to Tanzania, where he successfully climbed Mount Kilimanjaro.

Now that John is retired, he and his wife plan to continue



John Stackowicz is pictured on top of Mt. Kilimanjaro.

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Livestreamed ASL Mass aids inclusivity

BY BARB SIEMINSKI

The Deaf and Hard of Hearing ministry of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend strives to facilitate the practice of the Catholic faith by those who may be left out most when physically attending Mass, due to their hearing loss.

According to Mary Glowaski, special assistant to Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades for pastoral concerns, a welcome option for deaf worshippers was created in January: a weekly ASL-broadcast Mass livestreamed on Facebook by Father Mike Depcik, OSFS of Holy Innocents Church in Roseville, Michigan. The Mass can be viewed live, or as a replay anytime after the date it is streamed.

At the moment, Glowaski said, the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend does not have its own priest who speaks the language of the deaf. "Although we offer a signed Mass once a month at both ends of the diocese, these broadcast Masses are an opportunity for the deaf congregation to enjoy and benefit from a (weekly) Mass with Father Mike Depcik.

"One of the challenges we have is connecting with those who are deaf or hearing-impaired throughout our diocese. As a result, it has been hard to determine how we can best serve those who are hearing-impaired or deaf," Glowaski continued. "Most importantly, we are not benefitting from the abundant and unique gifts of (deaf) Catholics who want to be integral members in our parish communities. These services, I hope, will be a reconnection to Mass for those who have not been coming to our parishes; and they will be encouraged to connect with us."

Signed Masses are offered on the second Sunday of each month at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend, at 11 a.m., and at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne at 11:30 a.m.



Provided by Father Depcik

Sunday Masses celebrated by Father Mike Depcik, OSFS, of Holy Innocents Church, Roseville, Mich., are available for viewing by deaf Catholics on Facebook.

"Our ministry partners with these two parishes in providing the interpreter," Glowaski said. "Our office also prepares the worship aid for the interpreters which consists of all the songs, prayers and responses, and readings for the day. We hope to partner with other parishes to provide an interpreter so that more deaf members of the Catholic community can attend Mass.

"An important person is Allison Sturm, who works in the Office of Evangelization and Discipleship and is a partner with me in this ministry, as well as in the Ministry for the Disabled in our diocese. Allison facilitates the signed Masses at both ends of our diocese each month, which means she prepares the worship aids and communicates with the interpreters

who serve us."

Under the Ministry for People with Disabilities, the diocese also works with a grassroots ministry called Building Inclusive Parishes, or BIP.

The ministry is comprised of individuals from various parishes who have a loved one with special needs to help pastors, parish staffs and parishioners create welcoming faith communities for all. One core member who was hearing-impaired was instrumental in getting the Loop System, which connects an individual's hearing device with the sound system, installed at her parish, Our Lady of Good Hope in Fort Wayne. In the past year, three more parishes have or are planning to install the loop, according to Glowaski.

The diocese's connection to Father Depcik began in the fall of 2014, when he came to the diocese to offer a day of reflection. Along with five lay people, two seminarians and Bishop Rhoades were present, Glowaski said.

"These two seminarians took classes at Gallaudet University the summer of 2015 to learn sign language, (but) neither had formal education in ASL beyond that," she noted.

In October 2015, Father Depcik concelebrated a Mass with Bishop Rhoades and offered two workshops in Fort Wayne as part of Zeal Missionary Discipleship Summit. Also, Glowaski said, Father Depcik was willing to come down every few months to hear confessions and celebrate Mass.

Initially, four or five deaf Catholics, sometimes accompanied by a family member, attended; but two members moved out of state and another stopped coming.

"At that point, we decided to put it on hold because we did not think it was fair to have Father

Mike travel down from Detroit for one person," Glowaski said. "He assured us that he would come back again if our community was built up."

What has been the reaction to the new option, the livestreamed ASL Mass?

"Many of the comments left by viewers on Facebook were mostly words of gratitude," Father Depcik noted. "A good example would be a lady from Florida who wrote, 'I stayed home today with a cold and watched your Mass. It touched me through and through and brought tears to my eyes. This is just wonderful – no words can express it.'" He admitted that he was moved by the number of people viewing the livestreamed Masses; some have more than 1,000 views.

Donald Dunten of Churubusco tried the livestreamed Mass and pronounced it excellent.

"Father Mike signed the Mass very well and I understood him clearly," said Dunten, who is vice-president of the Northeast Indiana Deaf Awareness Council.

Father Depcik cautions, however, that because it is a new project, glitches and mistakes could occur. He requests everyone's patience for the work in progress.

For the last 10 years Father Depcik has had his own website: www.frmd.org. "In the past I did vlogs on various topics, which included weekly homilies, Marian apparitions, lives of saints, and questions on the Catholic faith," he said. "I became too busy, so I now focus on the homilies only."

Father Depcik's livestream ASL Mass can be viewed at www.facebook.com/deafmass.

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Dr. Andrew J. Mullally, MD

America magazine's survey of women in the Church

Last month, *America* magazine published a fascinating survey regarding the attitudes of women in the Church. They were kind enough to publish a few of my reactions to the study, but I would like, in this article, to offer a fuller response to their findings.

One of the most disturbing conclusions from the survey is that women are increasingly disengaging from the life of the Church. The *America* editors themselves observed that this does not bode well for evangelization, for women have traditionally played a crucial role in the passing on of the faith. I couldn't agree more. Hans Urs von Balthasar famously opined that Jesus' own faith and sense of identity (at the level of His human nature) was awakened by the smile of His mother and by her relaying of the story of Israel. I have always taken this as emblematic of the indispensable contribution of mothers to the religious formation of their children. That said, I am equally concerned about the massive attrition of men from the practice of the faith, for study after study have indicated that the fidelity of fathers and grandfathers has a disproportionately significant impact on the faith-development of children, both male and female.

A second finding of the study is that women feel the Church should do more to welcome unmarried parents, the divorced, the widowed and singles. Once again, I strongly concur. I'm a

great devotee of the Catholic Action model that was so prevalent in the period prior to Vatican II but which has largely fallen into desuetude in the last 40 or 50 years. In line with Catholic Action instincts, we ought to gather people of similar backgrounds, experiences, and formation and teach them the method of "see, judge, and act." So yes, parishes could bring together single mothers, widows, etc., and invite them to look at their lives in light of the Gospel and to determine, on that basis, what ought to be done. It is indeed true that, too often, parish life revolves almost exclusively around the concerns and interests of married people and their families. This can and should change.

A third conclusion of the survey I will admit I find a bit puzzling. Only 18 percent of the women questioned feel that they are "very much involved in decision-making." Now I fully understand that, given the hierarchical structure of the Church, the final call in most matters belongs to the pastor or the bishop; nevertheless, in my experience in two major archdioceses, Chicago and Los Angeles, women are rather massively involved in the process of decision-making. Parish staffs and leadership teams are predominantly female, and increasingly, chancery offices and pastoral centers have ample female representation. And this is not simply my subjective impression. I distinctly recall a study by the theologian Catharine LaCugna,



WORD ON FIRE

BISHOP ROBERT BARRON

which appeared 25 years ago in the pages of *America*. She reported that 80 percent of religious education instructors and sponsors for the catechumenate are women; that 75 percent of Bible study leaders and participants are female; that 80 percent of those who join prayer groups are women; and that 70 percent of those who are active in parish renewal programs are female. I can't help but speculate that those numbers have only increased in the last quarter century. And mind you, I enthusiastically applaud this development, which has only enriched the life of the Church.

An intriguing finding of the survey is that most Catholic women consider the care for the poor and the Eucharist as the two most essential elements of Catholic life. Well, Pope Benedict XVI said that the Church has three essential tasks: it worships God, it evangelizes, and it cares for the poor. So my first response to this statistical finding is, "two out of three ain't bad." The Eucharist is

BARRON, page 13

'He Ain't Heavy ...': the death of my same-sex attracted brother

"I don't believe in hell. If there is a hell, it can't be any worse than my life here." These were the most striking words from my 55-year-old, same-sex-attracted brother Mark in the last two-plus weeks of his life. He died Feb. 27 from throat cancer. I wanted to remember him here and witness to the abyss of God's mercy.

It started in May 2016 with a diagnosis, then treatment in August, and two hospitalizations in January 2017 that included a heart attack and a lack of response to treatment. When my wife and I saw him on Feb. 10, 2017, he was exploring hospice. This began the whirlwind of two and a half weeks of reconnecting and parting with my brother.

Hell: a homeless heart

Mark remembered many more ugly and painful memories from childhood than I did; that shook the foundations of my world. He felt profoundly unloved, and was bullied at home and in school. He was assaulted as an adult for his sexual orientation. He struggled with bouts of deep depression and would want to die. He disconnected from our family for decades; he had a "Homeless Heart" (from a song on his iPod).

He had a way of remembering things that kept his wounds open. In his hell, he did not know that Jesus experienced deep, excruciating pain when he said, "I am grieved unto death,"



THE ULTIMATE CHALLENGE

DAVE McCLOW

or "My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?" I share some of Mark's pain here, because he disliked when people minimized it with clichés, and because I think it made his life more remarkable.

Responding to hell

Early in our conversations, when he talked about hell, I responded, "I believe there is a hell, but I don't think you're going there. God doesn't send anyone to hell! (CCC 1033) God is love, and He can't do anything but love you. Because of your free will, He will honor your rejection. He understands if you are angry at Him, that you have been hurt. But God does not send people to hell — they must request it." I continued, "When you die, you will step into love — the love you have never known and always longed for." He nodded in thoughtful approval, a light in the darkness.

McCLOW, page 13

God has provided for us through His Son



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Second Sunday of Lent Mark 9:2-10

The Book of Genesis is the source of this weekend's first reading. Often, Genesis is associated with its creation narratives. But much else is included in Genesis.

A major figure is Abraham. Historians and biblical scholars agree that Abraham actually lived, long ago. He was not a myth or the product of imagination.

Historically, Jews have regarded Abraham as the first of their race. In a theological sense, Christians see Abraham as the first of their race, since Christianity flows from the revelation initially given by God

to the ancient Hebrews.

This weekend's reading is very familiar. Abraham leads his beloved son, Isaac, to the top of a high mountain, there to kill him as a sacrifice to God. As is well-known, God intervenes and orders that Isaac be spared.

The story has several lessons. One lesson, usually overlooked, is the repudiation of human sacrifice by none other than God. Beyond this detail, this reference shows that paganism in any form is a human invention.

God illumined the people, rescued the people, by drawing them away from paganism and leading them to the truth. Abraham was God's instrument. Abraham's faith made him worthy of being God's instrument.

For Christians, Isaac symbolizes Jesus, since Jesus was the victim of the ignorance and viciousness of humans, of pagan humans. Jesus lived, however.

St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans furnishes the second reading. This reading simply says that if the power of God,

and the light of God, are with us, nothing can prevail against us.

The Gospel of Mark provides the last reading. It is the story of the Transfiguration.

Jesus takes Peter, James and John to the summit of a high mountain. There, in an overwhelming, stupendous, even terrifying appearance, Jesus is transfigured, visible to the Apostles as the Son of God.

Light is everywhere. In the Old Testament, God is associated with light. Indeed, we associate darkness with danger and the unknown. Light is from God, as are security, strength, genuine awareness, and perception.

Mountaintops were the places on earth nearest to heaven. In a hopeful, awkward attempt to come as close as possible to God, humans went to the tops of mountains. Indeed, the temple in Jerusalem was at the summit of Mount Zion. Jesus was crucified on a hilltop. He ascended from a hilltop.

In this reading, Jesus appears in the reality of divinity. In this divinity is eternal life itself. God never dies. God never

changes. Nothing daunts God. Nothing threatens God. These notions about God pertained in the hearts and minds of Jews contemporary with God as they do for us in modern times and in modern theology.

The presence of Moses and Elijah is important. Their places on either side of the Lord indicate that Jesus stands in the historic train of God's communication with, and salvation of, God's people, a process in salvation history in which Moses and Elijah were vitally important.

Reflection

The novelty of Lent has ended. Now, the Church leads us in earnest into this period to prepare for Holy Week and Easter.

Its message is simple. God is everything. We humans are utterly limited, and we can never overcome our limitations. We can never escape our human limitations, but God provides for us just as God long ago provided for Abraham, whose faith was

unflinching. By the same token, faith is indispensable in our search for, and path to, God.

God is in Jesus. Jesus is Lord. This is the great message of the Transfiguration given us this weekend in Mark's Gospel. It was Paul's declaration to the Christian Romans.

It is simple. If we have Jesus, we have God. We lack nothing. Thus, the Church calls us in Lent to meet Jesus.

READINGS

Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18 Ps 116:10, 15-19 Rom 8:31b-34 Mk 9:2-10
Monday: Dn 9:4b-10 Ps 79:8-9, 11-13 Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20 Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23 Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20 Ps 31:5-6, 14-16 Mt 20:17-28

Thursday: 1Jer 17:5-10 Ps 1:1-4, 6 Lk 16:19-31

Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a Ps 105:16-21 Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20 Ps 103:1-4, 9-12 Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Sorting through 'solutions' to the HIV/AIDS pandemic

Each year, human immunodeficiency virus infects about 50,000 people in the United States and more than 2 million worldwide. Reducing the number of infections with this virus, which causes AIDS, is a high priority for public health officials. Some strategies to reach this goal, however, raise significant moral concerns.

These concerns arise when experts seek to reduce infection rates by assuming that men and women lack the freedom to change their sexual behaviors or exercise self-control; when they fail to acknowledge that self-restraint is possible and morally required, especially in the face of life-threatening disease.

One strategy for trying to control the pandemic includes "pre-exposure prophylaxis," or PrEP, which involves an uninfected person taking a daily dose of the drug Truvada, an anti-retroviral medication. When someone takes the Truvada pill each day, and is later exposed to HIV through sex or injectable drug use, it can reduce the likelihood that the virus will establish a permanent infection by more than 92 percent. While the drug can have side effects, it is generally well-tolerated.

Many activists in the gay movement have argued that PrEP should be widely available and promoted, though other activists strongly disagree. AIDS Healthcare Foundation founder Michael Weinstein has stressed, for example, that there are likely to be compliance issues. When someone is required to take a regimen of drugs every day in order to be protected, he argues, it is reasonable to expect that some will fail to do so. A 2014 article in "The Advocate," a gay news outlet, notes that, "When asked why so few people have started PrEP, experts give plenty of reasons — cost, worries about long-term effects, and lack of awareness about the regimen itself among both doctors and patients are chief among them. But one top rea-

son is the stigma of using PrEP. Weinstein's name and the name of his organization, AHF, have become synonymous with the stigma surrounding PrEP use. In an April Associated Press article, Weinstein declared that PrEP is 'a party drug,' giving license to gay and bisexual men to have casual, anonymous sex. He's called it a 'public health disaster in the making,' as his oft-repeated argument is that the most at-risk people will not adhere to taking a pill each day."

These compliance concerns have led some researchers and clinicians to look into the possibility of one-time "disco dosing," where an individual would take the medication, in a high dose, prior to each anticipated "risky weekend."

There are other problems with PrEP as well. Some researchers have noted that once people start on the drug, their risk compensation changes, meaning they engage in more sex with "non-primary partners." Even if PrEP reduces rates of HIV infection, as studies have suggested, the incidence of other sexually transmitted diseases may rise due to risk-compensation behaviors. PrEP can provide a false sense of security and encourage the lowering of inhibitions.

These kinds of approaches directed towards certain "at-risk populations" clearly raise concerns about sanctioning or supporting immoral behaviors. Medical professionals have raised objections of conscience when it comes to prescribing PrEP to HIV-negative men who indicate they are, or will be, sexually active with other men. They may raise similar objections to providing prescriptions for "disco dosing." Writing such prescriptions means cooperating in, or facilitating, the evil actions of others.

Is pre-exposure prophylaxis always illicit? Not necessarily. For example, if a medical professional were to prescribe Truvada to the wife of a man who was infected through premarital or extramarital sexual activity, it



FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

would be for the purposes of protecting the wife from infection during marital relations, and would not involve the problem of promoting or facilitating unethical sexual behaviors.

STDs constitute a serious danger in an age where sexual behaviors are becoming ever more indiscriminate. STD outbreaks and pandemics often have their origins in unchaste behaviors and morally disordered forms of sexuality. The Centers for Disease Control notes that "men who have sex with men remain the group most heavily affected by HIV in the United States. CDC estimates that men who have sex with men represent approximately 4 percent of the male population in the United States, but male-to-male sex accounted for more than three-fourths (78 percent) of new HIV infections among men and nearly two-thirds (63 percent) of all new infections in 2010."

We should not be supporting or facilitating behaviors involving multiple sexual partners. These sexual practices, in the final analysis, are not only immoral in themselves, but also reckless and clearly contributory to the spread of STDs.

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

basis. The Fathers of Vatican II wanted "full, conscious, and active" participation in the liturgy. This survey confirms what a thousand other surveys over the past five decades have indicated, namely, that we are a long, long way from realizing that conciliar aspiration.

I must say that what both surprised and heartened me the most was the discovery that fully 90 percent of the women surveyed say that they have not experienced sexism in the Catholic Church. Obviously, any type of sexism at any time is bad, but I wonder whether any other organization could put up numbers as good as these. Would 90 percent of women

in the corporate world, in Hollywood, in government, or in education say that they never experienced sexism? I sincerely doubt it. I think that these numbers indicate that, though we still have a lot to do to address the problems of sexism and misogyny in the Church, we have indeed made a good deal of progress.

Bishop Robert Barron is an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and the founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for February 25, 2018

Mark 9:2-10

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Second Sunday of Lent, Cycle B: a glorious preparation for a trial ahead. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

PETER	JAMES	LED THEM UP
MOUNTAIN	DAZZLING	WHITE
BLEACH	MOSES	RABBI
IT IS GOOD	THREE	WHAT TO SAY
CLOUD	VOICE	SUDDENLY
AROUND	ANYONE	DOWN
SON OF MAN	RISEN	THE DEAD

LISTEN NOW

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

McCLOW, from, page 12

From ugly to beautiful

Ironically, I think because Mark had seen so much ugliness in his life, he had a strong sense of and attraction to beauty. A rehabber at heart, he could make the ugliest houses beautiful. God is a "rehabber" too, bringing good out of evil. So, Mark had unknowingly lived out a deep Catholic spirituality, making the world more beautiful.

Making death beautiful

Death is ugly. But it was also awe-inspiring to stand at the boundary between life and death with Mark. We talked about his life, about the end, about his regrets. I was able to put my hand on his heart, to hold his hand and cradle his head. And even when he could not talk, I challenged him to forgive himself and others. I read him a note of apology from my mom. He would respond with groans and would calm down when I told him to be at peace.

The hour of mercy

On the Friday before Mark died, the hospice doctor thought he could go that afternoon or within 48 hours. So, I asked St. Faustina to intercede and let Mark die during the Hour of Mercy, as a sign to me. Friday turned into Monday, with us waiting at the foot of the cross. I left for a lunch break at 2 p.m. Just before 3 p.m., the nurse

called me back, saying Mark was on his last breaths. When I arrived, he had just breathed his last; exactly at 3 p.m. he had stepped into love. I sobbed at his side. He was gone, and I couldn't believe the time. I urged him to go toward God's love. It had been an absolute whirlwind, an agony in the garden, with deep joy, too.

But God was not finished. Songs have come into my life at particular times to capture the moment and bring a message of love. After perusing Mark's iPod that day, I hit play and heard Queen Latifah's "Mercy, Mercy, Mercy!" I felt God was showering His mercy on Mark from above, and Queen Latifah from below. I had surrounded him in mercy because — I can't resist — "He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother."

Not really the end

We dressed him for cremation in a flannel shirt, cargo pants, and an old pair of work boots. After all, he was a rehabber. Now that he has stepped into love, I believe he has a new job from his place in purgatory and heaven, this time rehabbing hearts, making the ugly beautiful. I sense his presence and blessing and often call on him to help with a hurting client. Please join me in letting his new-found love "spill over" into our lives (Benedict XVI) to heal broken hearts. Please pray for him and to him.

Dave McCLOW, M.Div., is a counselor with the Pastoral Solutions Institute Tele-Counseling Services. Read more at CatholicExchange.com.

BARRON, from, page 12

indeed the central act of worship, the "source and summit of the Christian life," and serving the poor is the moral commitment that flows most directly from rightly ordered worship. However, I must say that I do worry that the women surveyed didn't seem to put evangelization on an equal footing, especially now when so many are drifting into the ranks of the "nones." I also remark a certain cognitive dissonance. On the one hand, large numbers of women say that the Eucharist is central to one's identity as a Catholic, and yet 75 percent of women stay away from the Mass on a regular

Captain of Olympic hockey team played for Catholic schools

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Brian Gionta, captain of the U.S. men's Olympic ice hockey team, competed in the 2006 Winter Games and played on three NHL teams, but his skating roots go back to his Catholic high school and college teams.

Before playing with travel teams in high school, Gionta was on the hockey team at Aquinas Institute, a Catholic middle school and high school in Rochester, New York. In college, he played for the Boston College Eagles and was the team captain in 2000-01, when the team won the national championship.

Now, as the Olympic team captain, he carries a torch of sorts as the 25th former Boston College player to have a spot on the U.S. men's Olympic team and the second player from the Jesuit-run school to be named the team's captain.

"We are thrilled for Brian to represent the maroon and gold in this year's Winter Olympics," said Jerry York, Boston College men's ice hockey head coach. "Brian has always been a leader I point to when I think of someone who embodies the Boston College hockey program. He will be a terrific captain for Team USA in their quest for gold."

Gionta's role will not just be



CNS photo/David W Cerny, Reuters

Brian and Harvest Gionta are seen with their daughter Leah Feb. 10 at the Olympic hockey training facility in Gangneung, South Korea. Brian Gionta is a Catholic from Rochester, N.Y., who is captain on the U.S. men's hockey team competing in the 2018 Winter Olympics. His skating roots go back to his Catholic high school and college teams: Gionta was on the hockey team at Aquinas Institute, a Catholic middle school and high school in Rochester, New York.

on the ice, but as a team leader with experience. At 39, the New York father of three is the oldest U.S. athlete at the 2018 Winter Games.

"I'm not that old," he joked with an NBC reporter at Pyeongchang.

Gionta has played for the New Jersey Devils and was on the team in 2003 when it won the Stanley Cup. He has also played, and was captain for, the Montreal Canadiens and Buffalo Sabres. Most recently, he described himself as semi-retired

playing on the practice squad for an American Hockey League Club, the Rochester Americans. This enabled him to sign on with the Olympic team since the NHL, for the first time in 20 years, chose not to send players to the 2018 Winter Olympics amid

disputes between the league and the International Olympic Committee.

That move to not send NHL players has plenty of fans hoping for a "Miracle on Ice" reboot when Team USA amateur hockey players won the gold against the favored Soviet Union's team in 1980.

Since that dramatic victory, the U.S. hockey team has won silver in 2002 and 2010.

In this year's games, Team USA's men's hockey team lost its first match Feb. 14 against Slovenia 3-2 in overtime.

The team had two preliminary matches before qualifying rounds. Team USA beat Slovakia 2-1 Feb. 16 in Pyeongchang and lost to Russian athletes Feb. 17.

In 2002, when Gionta was signing autographs at a parish festival, the *Catholic Courier*, diocesan newspaper of Rochester, caught up with the local, rising star.

Gionta, who attended Our Mother of Sorrows Parish in Rochester when he was growing up, told the newspaper that he just enjoyed playing hockey.

"I don't do it for the recognition. I just do it because I love it, and to have fun. I work hard and never take it for granted. I don't throw it in anybody's face. There are a lot of people in the world who aren't as fortunate," he said.

Lent: Giving up, doing extra, or both, aren't one size fits all

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — People often talk about giving up something for Lent such as candy, soda or more recently, social media, while some commit to doing something extra including praying more, reading spiritual works or helping others.

And, it turns out, many do both.

This reporter conducted an unofficial poll Feb. 12 on Twitter where 57 percent of respondents said they planned to do something extra and 43 percent said they would give something up for Lent. But without the added option to do both, a few Twitter respondents commented that their true choice was a combination of the two practices for Lent's 40 days.

"Since both is in the nature of the Catholic (Church) I strive for one of each," wrote Susan Timoney, secretary for pastoral ministry in the Washington archdiocese.

Father Mario Amore, associate pastor at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Farmington, Michigan, said the two ways to observe Lent really go hand in hand.

"We should be going beyond ourselves out of love to lend a helping hand, be an encouragement or assist others with the necessities of life. We should



also be going out of our way to fast from something that we really like," he said in an email.

The priest said that by fasting, the "physical craving or longing for a certain food might give us just a small glimpse of our longing for God, and even more, God's longing for us."

Paulist Sister Theresa Aletheia Noble, who is an editor for Pauline Books and Media in Boston and also attends school part time at Boston College, similarly is a fan of giving up and doing something extra during Lent.

"People may not like to hear this, but I think Lent is a good time to do both," she said.

The religious sister said when people give something up, it often leaves either time or an emotional void should be filled with something positive.

"For example, if I give up social media, I might also plan

to use the extra time to read a spiritual book during the Lenten season," she told Catholic News Service.

But she also said she doesn't just randomly pick something to do or go without.

"I always bring my ideas to the Lord in prayer and ask him to guide me in my Lenten practices to ensure that they center on God and not on my personal plans for self-improvement," she said.

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano of Bridgeport, Connecticut, asked his Twitter followers what they were giving up for Lent or doing as a spiritual work. He also asked if there was a way they could do both.

In another tweet, he said he had decided not to choose between the two practices this Lent but to do both "in the hope that the Lord, in his mercy, will grant me an ever greater per-

sonal renewal of faith, hope and charity."

For his combined Lenten effort, he said he was going to give up one hour of his day for increased prayer, beyond his normal prayer routine, which he said "will be hard to maintain but long overdue. To spend the hour with the Lord is a spiritual work beyond price."

For those who choose one practice or the other, the choice is often thought through and not just made arbitrarily.

Tom Breen, a parishioner at St. James Parish in Manchester, Connecticut, who works in the communications office at the University of Connecticut, said he prefers to give something up for Lent because as he put it: "There are a lot of things that clutter up my life and make it hard to have the kind of focus that's desirable for a Christian."

He responded to CNS through Twitter — before Lent started — and pointed out the irony that he was giving up Twitter for Lent. He said he typically checks the social media platform "probably two dozen times a day" noting that it sometimes comes in handy for work but is "mostly a distraction."

He said reading Twitter can prompt "extremely uncharitable thoughts" so he hopes that giving it up can create more time and room "for serious thought

and genuine reflection" and maybe make him realize at the end of the 40 days that he didn't need it so much after all.

Sister Theresa said she planned to give up social media in some form during Lent, noting that "it's a good idea to give up anything that has begun to take over our lives and draw us away from the Lord."

Another option, she said, is not to give up social media completely but to "participate in a more limited manner, or to post more spiritual and uplifting things."

Others, like Mary Jean Duran from Lafayette, California, are more on board with doing something extra for Lent, provided it is done with others, in the culture of "encounter" that Pope Francis often mentions.

Duran, a parishioner at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception in Walnut Creek, who volunteers with adult faith formation and the monthly doughnuts ministry, said she plans to pray more during Lent.

"But what makes prayers like the rosary and stations even more authentic for me," she said in an email, "is praying them in church, with my parish community, including that one guy that always manages to irritate, yet here we are, offering up our prayers together. Powerful."

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.

Our Lady of Hungary fish fry
SOUTH BEND — The Our Lady of Hungary Holy Name Society is planning a fish fry on Friday, Feb. 23, from 4-6:30 p.m. in the school gym, 735 W. Calvert St. Tickets are \$10 adults, \$5 children 6-12 and children under 6 free. Tickets at the door. Carry-out available.

Knights of Columbus fish fry
FORT WAYNE — Our Lady of Good Hope Parish will host a fish fry Friday, Feb. 23 from 4:30-7:30 p.m. in the gym, 7215 St. Joe Rd. Featuring Alaskan Pollock by Dan's of Huntington. Carry out available. Tickets are \$9 for adults, \$5 for children 6-10 and families \$31.

St. Vincent Scout fish fry
FORT WAYNE — A fish fry will be held Friday, Feb. 23 from 5 to 8 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul School, 1720 E. Wallen Rd. Tickets are \$10.

Fish fry at St. Paul's Chapel
FREMONT — A fish fry sponsored by the Boosters Club at St. Paul's Chapel, 8780 E 700 N, will be held Friday, Feb. 23, from 5-7 p.m. Tickets are \$8.

Women's Ministry's Retreat: 'All In: Why Belonging to the Catholic Church Matters'
ELKHART — Editor of *Catechist Magazine*, Pat Gohn will be the retreat master for the annual women's retreat from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul School gym, 1108 S. Main

St. The cost of the retreat is \$30 with scholarships available. Visit www.beitdone.org for details.

Our Lady of Hungary plans trivia night
SOUTH BEND — The Our Lady of Hungary Alumni Association is having a trivia night on Saturday, Feb. 24 in the school gym, 735 W. Calvert St. Doors open at 6 p.m. Game starts at 7 p.m. \$100 per table of 10. Bring your own snacks for sharing with your table. No carry-in beverages, cash bar available. Reserve a table at 574-360-2378 or tj5452@aol.com. Order online at www.foreverabulldog.org/trivia.htm

Knights host breakfast at Queen of Angels
FORT WAYNE — St. Gaspar del Bufalo Council No. 11043 will be serving a breakfast in the Activities Center, 1500 W. State Blvd., from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$4 for children 6-12, and \$20 per family. \$5 carryout packs will also be available. Proceeds will benefit the parish school.

Notre Dame Football Smoker
FORT WAYNE — A Notre Dame Football Smoker at St. Joseph Hessen-Cassel, 11521 Old Decatur Rd., will be Sunday, Feb. 25, from 12:30-5:30 p.m. in the school gymnasium. Senior Notre Dame football players will be in attendance. This is a stag-only event; must be 21. Pre-sale tickets are \$20 at Nine Mile Restaurant. Admission is \$25 at the door.

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.



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REST IN PEACE

Arcola

Barbara C. Gruettert, 84, St. Patrick

Fort Wayne

Timothy Wayne Carboni, 66, St. Jude

Ronald Hensing, 65, Queen of Angels

Mildred C. Vought, 92, St. Charles Borromeo

Mary Christine Rawlins, 63, St. John the Baptist

Richard Dean Gladieux, 64, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Janis Faye Stetzel, 61, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Nancy A. Steffens, 90, St. Vincent de Paul

Anthony Wisniewski, Jr., 83, St. Jude

Granger

Becky Ann Szabo, D.D.S., 57, St. Pius X

Mishawaka

Francis Tomasik, 74, Queen of Peace

David Spalding, M.D., 80, St. Monica

New Haven

Rick Edward Shanayda, 60, St. John the Baptist

James D. Pemberton, 84, St. John the Baptist

Notre Dame

Joseph Brendan Conboy, 90, Holy Cross Village

Plymouth

William M. Adams, 66, St. Michael

South Bend

Josephine K. Block, 94, Our Lady of Hungary

Eleanore DeGraff, 83, St. Anthony de Padua

Judith A. Hatfield, 82, St. Matthew Cathedral

Lary L. Ambler, 72, Corpus Christi

Samuel L. Totten, 69, Holy Family

Warsaw

Nelle R. Heiman, 95, Sacred Heart

Wabash

Bernard A. Muzzillo, 87, St. Bernard

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Sacraments, science and art: Bishop visits Marian High School

BY HONORA KENNEY

It was an early Wednesday morning at Marian High School in Mishawaka, and a handful of students and faculty could be found pacing the lobby at the school's front entrance. The group was awaiting a very special guest: Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, who was traveling from Fort Wayne to celebrate Ash Wednesday Mass and conduct an annual pastoral visit with students and staff.

"This is an event that our students look forward to each year, because they get the chance to experience the love of Christ from the shepherd of our diocese on a very personal basis," Principal Mark Kirzeder said.

"Meeting him is an experience every time," said Makaila Ranges, senior class president, as she awaited him in the lobby with senior Grace Dennis, student body president, and junior Jorge Campos. "He'll come and he'll actually remember people from eighth grade when he confirmed them," she said.

What unfolded after the bishop's arrival was a vibrant celebration of Catholic sacramentality and examples of its relationship with art, academics, saints, service, and young adult formation. Bishop distributed ashes, confirmed two Marian students into the Catholic Church, witnessed the revealing of the names of the graduating class's valedictorian and salutatorian, visited an earth science classroom to discuss "Laudato Si," and even ate his one permissible meal of the obligatory fasting day with members of student council — all within the span of the school day.

With confirmation candidates Jillian Baker and Aubreigh Morgan in the front row with their sponsors, the student body and staff heard Mass readings that included Joel's evocation from God for the faithful to "even now, return to [Him] with your whole heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning" (Joel 2:12), a line to which the bishop referred in his homily.

"How do we do this 'with all our heart?'" he challenged the students. "Is such a return to God possible, a real conversion of our thoughts and feelings, our choices and actions?"

Before revealing the answer, he reminded them that "Lent is a battle. The enemy is sin, and that enemy is within us. What we do for Lent — prayer, fasting, and almsgiving — those are our weapons."

Everyone is a sinner fighting this battle, Bishop explained. He recounted how Pope Francis said "I am a sinner," when asked to describe himself to a reporter. "In coming forward to receive ashes today, this is what we also are admitting and saying: 'I am a sinner,'" Bishop explained.

"The return to the Lord 'with

all our hearts' is possible for sinners," he explained, but it cannot be effected merely through our human efforts. "It is not possible if we just rely on a power that resides in our hearts, but it is possible with a power that springs from God's own heart. That power is what we call 'mercy.'"

Our human actions can work in concert with God's mercy to promote our hearts' conversions, he continued. "Our Lenten penances, our acts of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, are concrete ways for us to return to the Lord with all our hearts, allowing Him to transform, renew and convert our hearts."

As Christians embark on this Lenten journey, Bishop Rhoades recommended they repent individually, but also that they embrace fellowship. "The whole community is called to return to the Lord. This dimension of community is an essential part of our Christian faith and life," he said. In addition to community, he encouraged the congregation to draw upon Mary and upon the communion of saints.

Bishop ended the homily by meditating on two saints in particular: St. Teresa of Kolkata and St. Maximillian Kolbe, the confirmation saints of Morgan and Baker, respectively.

"Aubreigh chose as her confirmation saint one of my favorites, St. Teresa of Kolkata, whom I met several times," he said. Bishop Rhoades celebrated Mass with the Missionaries of Charity several times in Rome as a young priest, and he never knew when Mother Teresa might attend. "When I would see her when I'd start Mass, I would think, 'Oh my goodness, how do you preach a homily to Mother Teresa?'"

He also spoke of attending the canonization of Maximillian Kolbe, and connected both saints to the call to love, which he identified as the heart of the Christian life.

After administering the sacrament of confirmation to both students, the bishop also imparted ashes then celebrated the Liturgy of the Eucharist. He ended Mass with a blessing and compliments for the choir, after a moving performance of "De Profundis" featuring soloist Chase Eggeman. "I would like to give a special thanks to what I think must be one of the best choirs in the whole diocese," Bishop said. "Really, I think you should go on tour. I'd like to go with you! I wouldn't sing, but it would be fantastic."

At the conclusion of the Mass, Kirzeder announced the names of salutatorian Katherine Henry and valedictorian Alyssa Grzesiowski, who each had the opportunity to take photographs with Bishop before he began his next portion of the itinerary: viewing student artwork.

As he was led through the halls by four students, he



Aubreigh Morgan is sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at Marian High School, Mishawaka, on Feb. 14. Bishop also conferred the sacrament of confirmation on Marian student Jillian Baker as part of his pastoral visit to the school.



Principal Mark Kirzeder imparts ashes during Mass.



Kitty Gunty presents the Bishop with a painting by former student Sara Holderbaum, which was dedicated to him.



Bishop Rhoades takes questions from students in a biology class.

Photos by Derby Photography

stopped to peer at each painting and ask about the artists and their creative processes. One student had produced a portrait of her mother on her wedding day, with the stained-glass windows of St. Bavo in Mishawaka illuminated behind her smiling face. Another student's work reflected a passion for veganism.

"Would you say it's more natural talent or learned artistic skill?" Bishop asked at one point. The students concluded that their art reflected a combination of the two. They praised their teacher, Kathryn Gunty, under whose direction Marian won 99 awards in the community's 95th annual Scholastic Art and Writing Competition — a number highly disproportionate

for a school of Marian's size.

Studying the work of another student, which referenced a verse from Corinthians, Bishop asked, "Do you think he has a vocation to the priesthood?"

According to Baker, Catholic spirituality at Marian is strong. When asked how she decided to enter the Catholic Church, she cited the student body:

"When I received first Communion, I just started balling. The experience and the Eucharist there, and all of my friends with me — it was so amazing," she said. "My friends here showed me the Catholic faith. I was baptized Catholic when I was younger, but not raised Catholic. But then coming to Marian and having friends

here — everyone has inspired me with their faith. I joined campus ministry and it's been great."

Next month, Bishop travels to Ethiopia for a trip with Catholic Relief Services, an organization for which he serves as a board member. He takes with him prayers from students like Baker, and this year will also travel with a collection of blue and green handmade rosaries from a group of Marian students.

"Our students are eager to follow [Bishop] on social media as he makes his upcoming trip," Kirzeder said. "This is a great opportunity for our students to learn more about the country and the work that CRS is doing there."