

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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Men encouraged to trust God wholeheartedly

BY CHRISTOPHER LUSHIS



Christopher Lushis

Taking the stage at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades welcomes participants to the eighth annual Rekindle the Fire Diocesan Men's Conference on Feb. 24. Participants enjoyed fellowship; talks by the bishop, Dom Quaglia Jr. and Joe Farris; celebrated Mass; and had an opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation.

"What are you looking for? Do you want to be well? Do you love me?" These questions, first posed by Jesus in the Gospels, were presented anew to more than 900 men gathered at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, for the annual Rekindle the Fire Diocesan Men's Conference on Saturday, Feb. 24.

With passion and fraternal affection, speaker Joe Farris emphasized the theme of the retreat — becoming "Fully Alive" — by imploring the men of the diocese "to imagine being given the freedom to leave behind the wounds you've been carrying, to give everything you have to Jesus, to start over and begin anew with the Lord, loving Him with your whole being."

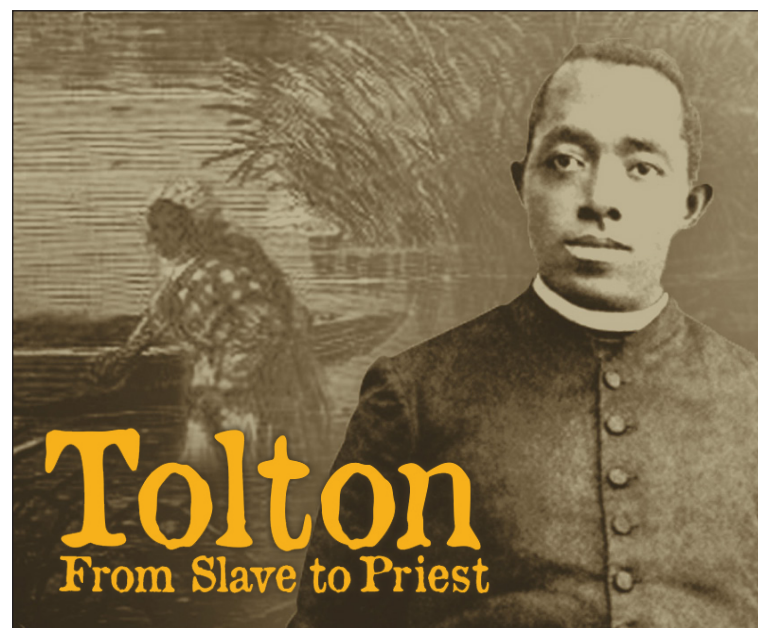
Farris' emphasis on finding healing through repentance and conversion was echoed by fellow speaker Dom Quaglia Jr., filling in for scheduled presenter Christopher West, who unable to attend due to illness. Quaglia emphasized, "We are called to loving relationship with God. However, we are offered counterfeit versions of love all the

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New live drama on first African-American priest coming to diocese

FORT WAYNE — The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has announced upcoming performance dates for "Tolton: From Slave to Priest," a live, theatrical one-man drama performed by actor Jim Coleman and directed by Leonardo Defilippis of Saint Luke Productions. Public performances will take place on Tuesday, April 24, at 7 p.m. at Saint Joseph High School, South Bend, and Thursday, April 26, at 7 p.m. at Bishop Luers High School, Fort Wayne.

"Tolton: From Slave to Priest" is a powerful story based on the life of Father Augustus Tolton, the first African-American priest. This compelling true story of courage, forgiveness and reconciliation resonates



deeply with modern American audiences. Bishop Joseph Perry of Chicago, postulator for Father Tolton's canonization cause, is calling "Tolton" a production that will "inspire a new era of peace, hope and forgiveness in America."

Admission will be \$5 for individuals and \$20 for families of four or more. The production runs 75 minutes and is suitable for middle school-age children and up. Tickets can be purchased online at www.diocesefwsb.org/tolton or by calling 260-399-1448.

Augustus Tolton was born a slave on a Missouri farm in

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**TOLTON, from page 1**

1854. His mother risked everything to reach freedom in Illinois with her three small children, escaping across the Mississippi River by night in a boat that she rowed herself. After settling in the town of Quincy, Illinois, the family continued to experience hardships and persecution. As a child, "Young Gus," as he was called, was sent away from the local Catholic school because of the color of his skin.

Despite segregation in the Church, Tolton felt a deep vocation to become a Catholic priest. He applied for seminary. The response? "We're not ready for a colored priest." Tolton did not give up and was finally ordained in Rome. Upon his return to Illinois, he worked tirelessly to serve people of all races, especially the former slaves who flocked to Chicago.

Father Tolton saw the Catholic Church as the answer to the discrimination and rejection that he experienced in his own life. "It was the priests of the Church who taught me to pray and to forgive my persecutors," he said. "We should welcome all people into the Church, not send them away."

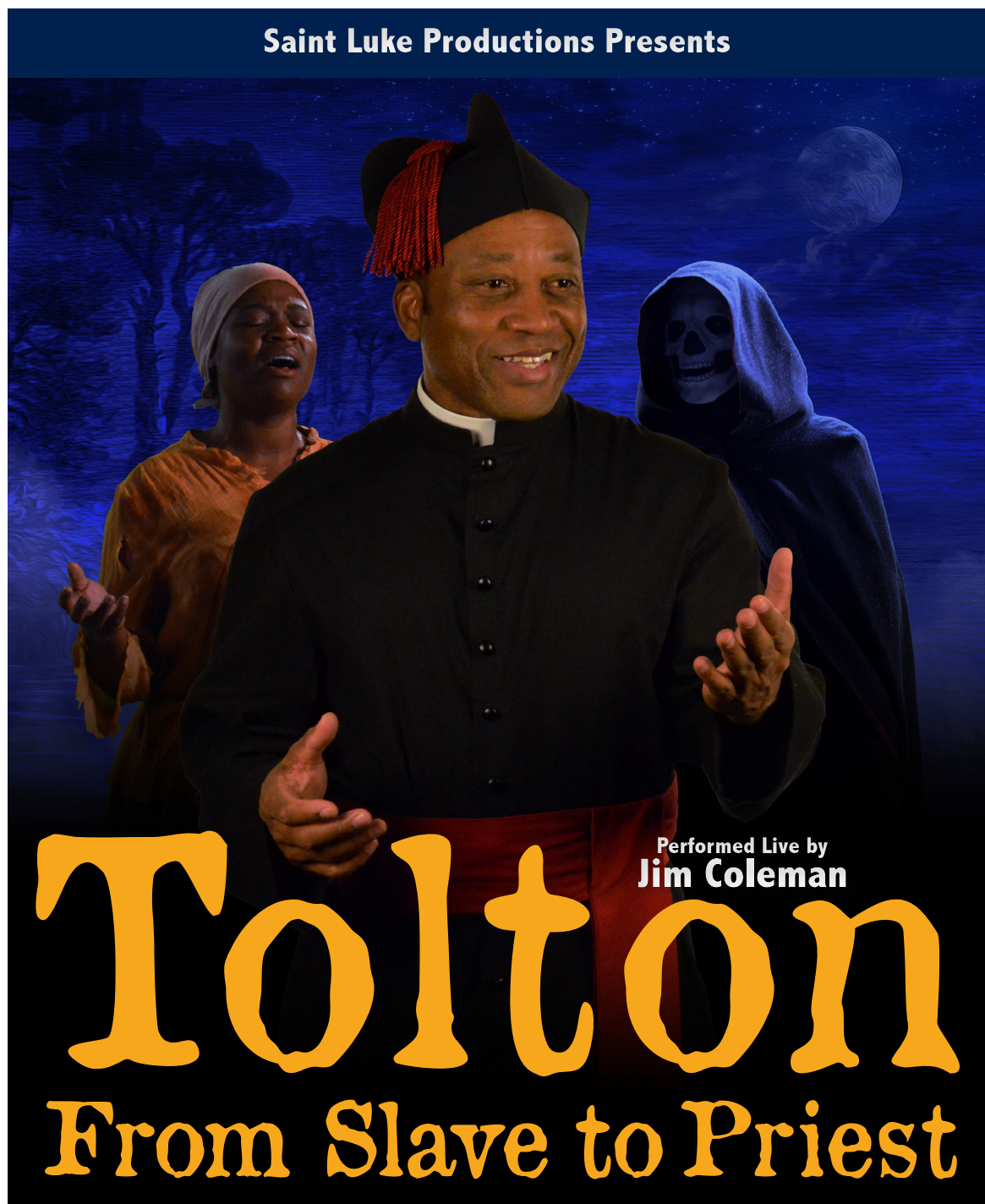
At the young age of 43, Father Tolton collapsed from heat exhaustion on the streets of Chicago and died a few hours later. His cause for sainthood is moving forward, and more and more people are beginning to recognize the humble perseverance, determination and compassion of this extraordinary man.

Volunteers will be needed for each show, including those who would be willing to assist with setup and teardown for each performance. All volunteers, including those who are able to provide meals and lodging for the actor and stage manager, should contact Stephanie Patka at spatka@diocesefwsb.org or by phone at 260-399-1448.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.diocesefwsb.org/tolton or by calling 260-399-1448.

To learn more about Father Augustus Tolton's cause for canonization, visit www.toltoncanonization.org.

Saint Luke Productions Presents



Performed Live by
Jim Coleman

Tolton

From Slave to Priest

Tuesday, April 24

7:00pm

Saint Joseph High School

South Bend, IN

Thursday, April 26

7:00pm

Bishop Luers High School

Fort Wayne, IN

Admission: \$5 Individuals \$20 Family of 4 or more | *Suitable for Ages 10 & Up*
Information: (260) 399-1448 | info@diocesefwsb.org

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Saint Luke
PRODUCTIONS



CNS/Paul Haring

Rare snow at the Vatican

Father David Fons from the Diocese of Lansing and Father Tyler Tenbarger from the Diocese of Evansville throw snowballs at each other in St. Peter's Square during a rare snowfall at the Vatican Feb. 26.

RTF, from page 3

time, since the enemy has a plan to steal, kill and destroy us. Too often we struggle with one simple thing, the same fault which caused the fall of Adam and Eve; our problem is that we do not trust. While the Lord calls us beyond our comfort zones, He also promises to be with us every step of the way and to provide for all our needs. Return to the Lord, let Him prove to you His faithfulness, take the leap to trust in Him!"

The focus on reconciliation led to more than 500 men receiving the sacrament throughout the day, due also to the encouragement of Father Jacob Meyer and Father Ben Muhlenkamp, who served as masters of ceremonies for the event. Nearly 20 priests were in attendance to hear the confessions.

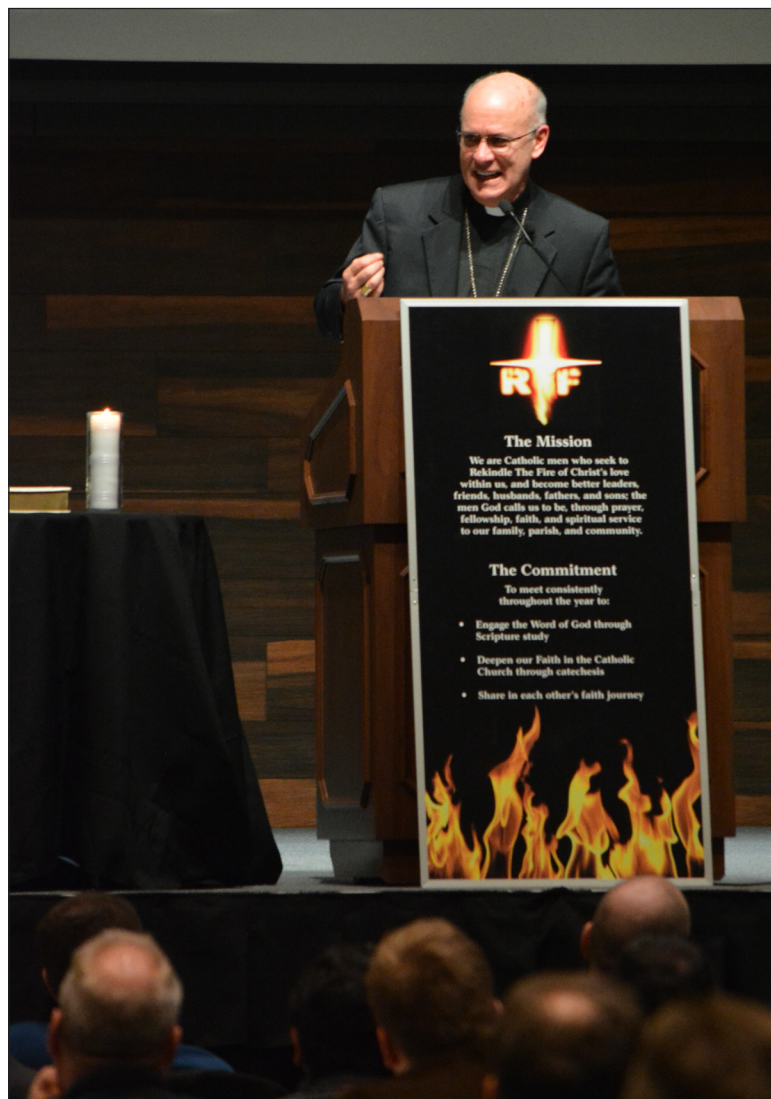
Since becoming "Fully Alive" members of the Church also requires a sincere and devoted focus on the Eucharist, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades then presented a thorough treatment on the sacrifice of the Mass and its importance for becoming transformed in Christ.

He exclaimed: "The Eucharist is the heart of the Church. It's good to think about and discover or re-discover what we do and say at Holy Mass, to mine the riches of this great mystery of our faith, and to grow in our understanding of the great gift God has given us in the Holy Eucharist. The Second Vatican Council encouraged the faithful to take part in the Eucharistic liturgy not 'as strangers or silent spectators,' but as participants 'in the sacred action, conscious of what they are doing, actively and devoutly.' We are called to participate in Mass interiorly as well as exteriorly, to enter into the mystery with body, mind, heart, and soul, thus allowing the Eucharist to form us as disciples of Jesus, to educate us in love, Christ's self-giving love in the Paschal Mystery."

In addition to his study of the Mass, which provided revealing insights of both historical and liturgical significance, Bishop Rhoades engaged the crowd in a question-and-answer session, responding to inquiries on the sacramental life, church teachings and how to defend the faith in an increasingly secular climate.

Following the talks, Bishop Rhoades celebrated Mass and remarked on the struggles endured by Christ's disciples. He shared: "My brothers, this season of Lent is a time when we are called to walk with Christ along the way of the cross, to Mount Calvary, the path to glory. Yes, it can be steep and difficult at times, but with St. Paul we walk this path with the conviction that if God is for us, who can be against us? We walk this path knowing that nothing and no one can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, Our Lord!"

The effects of the conference



Photos by Christopher Lushis

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades delivers a presentation at the eighth annual Rekindle the Fire Diocesan Men's Conference Feb. 24 in Fort Wayne. In his talk, he reviewed and explained the terminology, meaning and symbolism utilized in the various parts of the Mass.



David Napierkowski asks a question of the bishop during a Q&A session.

on those who attended were evident in their remarks. David Maugel, a member of St. John the Evangelist, Goshen, said that the conference served as "a great reminder of what our role is as men in the Catholic Church; of what I need to be doing as a husband and a father." He added, "It has inspired me to start saying the rosary again on a daily basis and gotten me excited again about Christ and the fact that He is there no matter what and walks beside you in all aspects of your life."

Michael Tarala, also a parish-

ioner of St. John the Evangelist, expressed his appreciation for the conference and for Quaglia's talk in particular. "He emphasized how our world throws so many things at us that make us avoid suffering and sacrifice in an effort to stay comfortable. He stressed the importance of being uncomfortable and the graces that come from such discomfort," Tarala shared. "We, as men, struggle immensely with trust. Therefore, we must put our trust in the Lord and believe that by doing so He will transform our lives."



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Sunday-Saturday, March 4-10: Catholic Relief Services Visit to Ethiopia



CNS

The Rev. Billy Graham and St. John Paul II are seen at the Vatican in 1990. Graham, best known for his televised evangelism broadcasts, died Feb. 21 at his home in North Carolina at age 99. When Graham visited Pope John Paul II in Rome, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades served as the seminarian MC for him at a special prayer service at the North American College. Bishop Rhoades recalled Rev. Graham's admiration for Pope John Paul II, which he shared with the seminarians at the prayer service.

Rev. Graham recalled for deep faith, his invitation to all to know Christ

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Rev. Billy Graham was "a preacher of God's word not only in his sermons, but also in the very life he lived," said Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"Today, we pray for the soul of the Rev. Billy Graham to the Lord he so dearly loved and offer our condolences to his family," the cardinal said in a statement about the Feb. 21 death of the world-famous Baptist preacher.

"His faith and integrity invited countless thousands around the world into a closer relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God for the ministry of Billy Graham," Cardinal DiNardo said.

An outpouring of statements paid tribute to the man who was easily the most famous evangelist of the 20th century. Born in Charlotte, North Carolina, Rev. Graham died at his home in Montreat, North Carolina, at age 99.

He had suffered from Parkinson's disease for many years, although he continued to lead crusades until 2005, when he held his last one in New York.

In recent years, he also suffered from cancer, pneumonia and other ailments.

He preached the Gospel in person to more people than any other evangelist in history. He reached at least 210 million not only through his personal appearances but also through his radio and television ministries.

A Catholic bishop in North Carolina — and a fellow Charlotte native — said Rev. Graham "gave us an inspiring example of a life lived in total dedication to Jesus Christ and his Gospel."

"Through his ministry, he taught the world that Jesus is the way and the truth and the life. May the Father of mercies now receive Dr. Graham into his loving embrace. The condolences and prayers of the Catholic Church are with the Graham family at this time," said Bishop Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte.

In neighboring Tennessee, Knoxville Bishop Richard F. Stika recalled meeting Rev. Graham in 1999 during his visit to St. Louis as he was preparing for one of

With growing activism on gun violence, will lawmakers act?

BY DENNIS SADOWSKI

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Determination and resolve, mixed with frustration and anger, are guiding a new round of resolute activism to reshape federal gun laws.

The drive is fueled largely by high school students who survived yet another mass school shooting, this one Feb. 14 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Seventeen people, including 14 students, died in the assault that a former student armed with a semi-automatic rifle carried out, according to police. He was said to have shown signs of mental illness.

The incident left a country wondering how such incidents could happen again and again and again.

The number of mass shooting incidents across the country in recent years is alarming. This year 34 mass shootings, resulting in 60 deaths and 144 injuries, have been recorded by the online site Gun Violence Archive. The Feb. 14 incident was the most serious by far.

The site defines a mass shooting as any incident in which four or more people were killed or injured.

The data reveals 346 mass shootings in all of 2017; 383 in 2016; 333 in 2015; and 271 in 2014.

In response to the Parkland incident, students nationwide walked out of classrooms Feb. 21 to call on lawmakers to adopt stricter gun laws, boost school security and fund what they see as a woefully inadequate mental health care system.

A walkout of sorts also was undertaken in the Archdiocese of Miami, in which Parkland is located. High school students were given the opportunity to gather on athletic fields on their campuses for 15 minutes of reflection about their response to the violence.

"We were able to have our kids participate in the spirit of it," Miami Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski told Catholic News Service.

The question remains: How will elected officials respond to the student demands?

At the White House in Washington, President Donald Trump held "listening sessions" with Parkland high school students, parents and teachers, among others, in an effort to formulate a response to mass shootings. Attendees included victims of the 1999 shooting at Columbine High School in a Denver suburb and the 2012 shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut.

At least one policymaker, Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Florida, seemed willing to consider some changes in gun laws.

Facing an angry audience of students and parents during a CNN-sponsored town hall meeting in Sunrise, Florida, Feb. 21, Rubio conceded that steps could be taken to reduce gun violence. An ardent gun rights backer, Rubio, who is Catholic, said he would support raising the age at which people can buy rifles, was open to reconsidering the size of gun magazines and disagreed with Trump's proposal to arm teachers.

He stopped short of supporting a ban on assault weapons, like the kind used in the Parkland attack, saying that such a ban existed from 1994 to 2004 and proved ineffective because gun manufacturers and owners found ways to slightly change a weapon to make it meet the requirements of the law.

Another Republican, Sen. Patrick Toomey of Pennsylvania, has said in the aftermath of Parkland he was looking to reintroduce legislation that would expand background checks of gun buyers. Similar earlier efforts by Toomey, who also is Catholic, have failed under National Rifle Association resistance.

Toomey spokesman Sam Fisher told CNS in an email that the senator "is committed to improving the federal background check system, and continues to reach out to senators on both sides of the aisle to see where progress can be made on the issue."

"He is also open to new legislation establishing stricter penalties for people who steal or illegally possess firearms, specifically those who provide false information during the background check process," Fisher said.

The NRA has borne the students' wrath. Across the country young people have challenged lawmakers to choose between protecting students or standing with the NRA. The young sudden political activists have called for the defeat at the polls of any candidate who fails to act to ban assault-style weapons.

The students have pointed to the millions of dollars the NRA spends on political activities, including contributions to candidates' campaigns. Since 1998 the NRA has spent \$203.2 million on political activities, according to data cited by Politifact.

Despite the pressure from the young people and family members of gun-violence victims, Wayne LaPierre, executive vice president of the NRA, doubled down on the organization's stance that it would not accept any limits on gun ownership.

Addressing the Conservative Political Action Conference annual meeting outside Washington Feb. 22, LaPierre decried efforts to ban guns of any sort, lashing out at what he called political elites who want to "eliminate our



CNS/Jonathan Ernst, Reuters

Samuel Zeif, a student and survivor of the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., cries after his remarks to U.S. President Donald Trump during a Feb. 21 listening session at the White House. Zeif's best friend was one of the 17 people killed when 19-year-old former student Nikolas Cruz allegedly stormed the Parkland school Feb. 14 with an AR-15 semi-automatic style weapon.

firearms freedoms and eradicate all the individual freedoms."

"They hate the NRA, they hate the Second Amendment, they hate individual freedom," he said.

That's hardly the case in the eyes of gun-control advocates, who see assault-style weapons in private hands as a threat to human life.

Archbishop Wenski welcomed the student activism.

"It's a good harbinger for the future that our future citizens will be actively engaged in the political process," he told CNS on Feb. 22.

Echoing the long-standing position of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Archbishop Wenski said "reasonable" gun control was necessary to prevent firearms from getting into the wrong hands.

"The church has been engaged on this issue of gun control for a good amount of time," he said. "We supported the assault weapons ban in 1994 and various statements and letters to (Capitol) Hill when various types of gun legislation were proposed. We generally came out in support of reasonable regulation of firearms.

"The church's position is clear on this. Our position doesn't win us many friends among the NRA," the archbishop said, suggesting, "I think we will continue to be engaged on this issue."

He also called for improved funding of mental health services, which he said had been "broken for a long time" and questioned the arming of classroom teachers.

"If somebody who has mur-

der in his heart, including self-murder, I don't think a teacher should be put in that position. ... There's been a rising saying of 'suicide by cop' and people provoke that because they know cops have guns. Now we're going to venture into suicide by teacher. That is not a viable option."

Meanwhile, the U.S. Supreme Court on Feb. 20 declined to hear a constitutional challenge to a California law requiring a 10-day

waiting period for gun purchases. The decision, vehemently opposed by Justice Clarence Thomas in a 14-page opinion, follows a pattern of the court in recent years shying away from the national debate on gun control.

The court last considered gun cases in 2008 and 2010, when justices ruled that individuals have a right to own a gun for self-defense in their homes.

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Bill to recognize fetus as person in homicides clears House panel

INDIANAPOLIS — A bill to recognize the fetus as a person in cases of homicide cleared the House Courts and Criminal Code Committee by a unanimous vote Feb. 21. The Indiana Catholic Conference supports the proposal.

Senate Bill 203, authored by Sen. Aaron Freeman, R-Indianapolis, would allow a prosecutor to seek additional penalties against a defendant for crimes resulting in the loss of a fetus.

If a fetus, at any stage of development, is killed during the crimes of murder; voluntary or involuntary manslaughter; or feticide, the perpetrator may incur additional penalties. The legislation does not apply to a lawfully performed abortion. Under the bill, a perpetrator who commits a felony that causes the termination of a pregnancy could receive an additional sentence of six to 20 years. Current law provides

increased penalties for death of a fetus only if the fetus has reached viability.

Glenn Tebbe, executive director of the Indiana Catholic Conference, testified in support of the bill. "All life is a gift from God. All human life has dignity, and is sacred, because each human being is created in the image and likeness of God," said Tebbe. "The Indiana Catholic Conference appreciates that this bill recognizes that life of the unborn child is recognized from the beginning, and values him or her as it does the mother."

Freeman said the bill originated from his constituent, Jennifer Lee, who came to him with a "tragic story." He explained Lee's daughter, Brittany McNew, was "in the wrong place at the wrong time in the city of Indianapolis and was the victim of a drive-by shooting — a senseless act of violence." He said, "to com-

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BRIGID CURTIS AYER

pound the problem and make it worse, her daughter was pregnant at the time. The prosecutor could not bring a second homicide charge in that case," said Freeman.

Current law allows a six-to-20-year enhancement if you kill a woman who happens to be pregnant. However, the fetus is only recognized at the stage of viability, which Indiana statutes defines at 24 weeks gestational age.

"The bill does two things," said Freeman. "It gives the prosecutor a tool, that if the person knowingly or intentionally knew that a woman was pregnant and killed that woman, the defendant would be eligible for a second homicide charge." He added that it changes the law to prosecute a defendant for a second homicide charge of a fetus at any stage of development, rather than at viability.

The Indianapolis lawmaker said that the language in the

bill is not new. "In 2004, the Unborn Victims of Violence Act from Congress allow[ed] for this, so we are not setting any kind of new precedent," said Freeman. "Twenty-three other states already have this language of a fetus at any stage of development." He also assured the committee that he was not trying to do some "backdoor abortion bill." When working with Legislative Services Agency to draft the legislation, he wanted to make it "very clear" that the bill would have nothing to do with a woman's right to an abortion. "It doesn't have anything to do with a woman's choice to take her own pregnancy. This is about a third actor, a third person who would kill a woman [who was pregnant]. That's what this bill targets," said Freeman.

Lee testified in support of the bill. Lee's daughter was visiting a house at nine in the morning when someone drove by and shot 12 times into the back on the home, with one of the bullets striking her. Lee said, "They got a call that their daughter was being rushed to the hospital." Their daughter needed immediate surgery. She said that following the surgery, the doctor said, "They didn't just lose one life, but lost two." And they believed the last heartbeat they heard was

that of the baby. Lee said, "The EMT said Brittany's last words were, 'Please don't let me lose my baby.' I made promise that I would seek justice for my daughter and her baby." Lee said they discovered that after the police made the arrest, they could only charge the person with aggravated battery for the death of their grandchild.

"I know this bill won't go into effect for my grandbaby, but it will stand strong for the next man or woman who commits a senseless act against these unborn babies," said Lee. "It should not matter if Brittany was 6 weeks pregnant, 6 months pregnant, or their grandchild was 6 years old," she said. "Just because these babies are not old enough to live outside of the womb does not mean they are not already loved."

Parvonay Stover, government affairs director of the Indiana Attorney General's office, expressed support. "We absolutely support this bill and giving prosecutors the tools to combat this horrific act."

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

GRAHAM, from page 3

his famous crusades to be held there. That same year, then-Msgr. Stika, a priest of the St. Louis archdiocese, was archdiocesan coordinator for the visit of St. John Paul II to St. Louis.

"I found him to be a very authentic and humble preacher of the Gospel," Bishop Stika said of the preacher. "During his meeting with then-Archbishop Justin Rigali (of St. Louis), Dr. Graham expressed his immense admiration and respect for Pope John Paul II. Dr. Graham is sorely missed in our nation today and as in so many ways we as a nation have lost our moral bearing. May he now rest in peace."

Cardinal Rigali, now retired and residing in the Diocese of Knoxville, said he remembers the Rev. Graham from that same meeting in St. Louis.

"When I heard the news this morning about the death of Dr. Billy Graham, it brought back memories of the encounter I had with him some years ago in St. Louis with Bishop Stika," he said in a statement. "Something that stands out in the life and ministry of Dr. Graham is this wonderful admiration and love that he had for the person of Jesus Christ. He was always speaking about Christ and always speaking about who he is. He is the Son of God and we are destined to eternal life together with him."

The cardinal remarked that it was encouraging to see how much attention the media was giving to Rev. Graham and "reflecting on his long life." The prelate added: "He has brought the message of Jesus to so many people and I am impressed by his personal piety, by his personal zeal and by his love for our Savior Jesus Christ."

New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan recalled that when he

was growing up in the 1950s and 1960s, "it was hard not to notice and be impressed by the Rev. Billy Graham."

"There was no question that the Dolans were a Catholic family, firm in our faith, but in our household, there was always respect and admiration for Billy Graham and the work he was doing to bring people to God," Cardinal Dolan said. "Whether it was one of his famous crusades, radio programs, television specials, or meeting and counseling the presidents, Billy Graham seemed to be everywhere, always with the same message: Jesus is your Savior, and wants you to be happy with him forever."

He said his admiration "only grew" as he studied "our nation's religious past. (I) came to appreciate even more the tremendous role he played in the American evangelical movement."

The chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs said that "in a particular way, Catholics feel the loss of one of the greatest pastors of our time."

"His ecumenical approach in ministry helped to forge bonds of friendship and understanding between Catholics and Protestants. He reminded us that what we had in common in Christ was greater than what divided us," said Bishop Joseph C. Bambera of Scranton, Pennsylvania.

"Headlines today will describe Billy Graham as the preacher to millions and the adviser of presidents but first and foremost, he was a man of deep Christian faith," the bishop added.

"Committed to the Gospel, his personal witness and preaching of Jesus Christ touched the hearts of Americans spanning many generations."

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Observing Lent as a couple? Try a team approach

BY JULIE ASHER

The 40 days of Lent can seem like a long time, especially if one is giving up a favorite food or video game. It's helpful to have a friend to keep a person going. He or she can encourage, challenge and pick us up if we falter. And if that friend happens to be a spouse, so much the better.

This year, consider approaching Lent as a team. That doesn't mean you have to give up — or do — the same things as your spouse, although that's a possibility. It does mean sharing Lenten resolution(s) and asking for each other's prayers and active support. People often find that they're much more likely to keep their resolutions when they hold themselves accountable to another person. Knowing that someone walks with us, even if it's not exactly the same path, can be a great comfort and motivator.

If you're thinking about Lenten resolutions, consider the traditional practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving (works of charity). Here are some ideas to get started.

Prayer is the foundation of Christian life. Lent is an excellent time to evaluate one's prayer life and, if necessary, make improvements. Have I been faithful to prayer each day? Have I used Scripture, spiritual books and other resources to deepen my prayer? Do I try to listen as well as speak? A few suggestions:

Set aside a time for prayer each day and invite your spouse to do the same. It can be the same time, or different times depending on your schedules. If you're parents, take turns looking after the kids so that each of you can have quiet time.

Watch a video reflection on

the day's Scripture readings. Exchange an insight or two with your spouse.

If you'd like to try to pray together but need help to get started, read "How to Pray with Your Spouse: Four Simple Steps" and "Who Me, Pray?... With Her?" Also check out "Ten Pointers for Prayer" at www.foryourmarriage.org.

Participate in the sacrament of reconciliation. Most parishes have added times for confession during Lent.

Dip into a spiritual classic, for example, "Introduction to the Devout Life" by St. Francis de Sales, or the autobiographies of St. Thérèse of Lisieux and St. Teresa of Avila.

Fasting can take various forms. Giving up a favorite food or drink is a tangible reminder of a commitment to draw closer to Christ. Or we can fast from a nonproductive behavior or attitude.

Some ideas: Participate in your parish's weekly soup supper, or serve a simple supper in your home once or twice each week.

Give up a video game, TV program or social networking site. Use the time to do some spiritual reading, visit an elderly relative, or help your children learn a new skill.

"Fast" from negative comments, put-downs and sarcastic remarks to and about your spouse. Apologize for slip-ups.

Many parishes offer extra opportunities for works of charity and service during Lent. Consider making a commitment that will last beyond the Lenten season. Here are some suggestions:

Take out the household budget and review the charitable contributions. Do you need to increase them or change the allocations to the various charitable organizations?



Do you volunteer at the parish or in the community? If so, discuss how you can support each other. If you're not already a volunteer, prayerfully discern whether you are called to some kind of service.

Simplify your life. Clean out a drawer, closet, or other storage area each day during Lent and give unneeded but usable clothes and household items to charitable organizations.

Reprinted from www.foryourmarriage.org, a resource of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Nearly 50,000 baptisms registered in China in 2017, says Vatican

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Catholic Church in China registered 48,556 baptisms in 2017, reflecting the vitality and missionary strength of the Catholic communities there, according to a report by Fides, the news agency of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

The figures likely are incomplete, however, given the difficulty of procuring data from Catholic communities in the rural parts of China, the report said.

But the numbers still "reflect the vitality and the missionary dynamism of a community that fully lives faith," said the organization conducting the annual survey: the Faith Institute for Cultural Studies, a church-run organization based in Shijiazhuang. Fides republished the organization's findings Feb.

15.

The province of Hebei — which consistently has the highest number of baptisms each year of all the Chinese provinces — topped the list again with 11,899 baptisms, the report said. The Archdiocese of Beijing registered 1,099 baptisms, while the Diocese of Ningxia had 128 new Catholics baptized. China's northwest autonomous region of Xinjiang, where the majority of the population is Muslim, registered 66 baptisms. The Qinghai province had 54 baptisms, and isolated communities such as Hainan Island in southern China and Tibet had 38 and 11 baptisms, respectively.

"In spite of the encouraging figures and the great missionary commitment in local communities throughout China, we must

always feel called to a renewed missionary commitment," said the Faith Institute for Cultural Studies.

"Evangelization in China is a long and difficult path to carry out," it said. The organization also pointed out that its data represented "an invitation and a call because we must strengthen our faith and always go forward on our journey toward Christ."

The organization encouraged all the Catholic communities of China to maintain and continually improve upon their archives and parish registers so that a more complete set of data can be collected in the future. It concluded by saying that its data is a means "to see the growth of the church and the work of evangelization accomplished by Christ."



CNS/Reuters

The Catholic Church in China registered 48,556 baptisms in 2017, according to a report by Fides, the news agency of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples. In this Dec. 24, 2006, file photo, a man is baptized during a Christmas Eve Mass on the outskirts of Xining in northwestern China's Qinghai province.

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Dr. Andrew J. Mullally, MD

Court blocks Trump administration's effort to end DACA in March

BY RHINA GUIDOS

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Supreme Court has dealt a blow to the Trump administration's effort to end a program in March that protects young adults brought to the U.S. without legal permission as minors.

On Feb. 26, the court declined to hear and rule on whether the administration has the right to shut down the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA program.

In September, President Donald Trump announced his administration was ending the program, giving lawmakers until March 5 to find a legislative solution to protect the young adults benefiting from DACA.

Two federal judges have blocked the Trump administration's efforts to end the program, ruling the government must continue to accept renewal applications for DACA. In turn, the administration asked the Supreme Court to hear and rule on one of those decisions, from a judge in California, in an effort to bypass the process of an appeal going through the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals based in San Francisco.

That means the March 5 deadline is essentially no longer of any significance, and those benefiting from DACA can keep applying to renew permits that protect them from deportation and allow them to have a work permit and other documents — as long as they meet certain criteria.

In a brief, unsigned comment, the court said it expected the Court of Appeals "will proceed expeditiously to decide this case."

The decision was announced the day the U.S. Conference Catholic Bishops called for a "National Call-in Day for the Protection of Dreamers," encour-



CNS photo/Shannon Stapleton, Reuters

Activists and recipients of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA program, march up Broadway in New York City Feb. 15 during the start of their "Walk to Stay Home," a five-day, 250-mile walk from New York to Washington to demand that Congress pass a clean DREAM Act to save the program.

aging Catholics to call their representatives in Congress to urge support for the young adults called "Dreamers."

The name comes from the DREAM Act — the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act. The legislative proposal has explored allowing qualifying youth conditional residency and down the line permanent residency, but it has been repeatedly defeated in Congress.

The court's decision may delay the end of the DACA program, started in 2012 by President Barack Obama via executive order, but immigrant advocates continued to urge action to provide the youth with permanent relief.

"Although the Supreme Court decision buys Congress time to address the situation of undocumented youth, it should not give them an excuse to delay action," said Kevin Appleby,

senior director of international migration policy for the Center for Migration Studies in New York. "These young people remain at risk and deserve permanent protection and a chance to plan their futures. Catholic advocates should continue to push Congress and the president to grant them a path to citizenship."

Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, in a statement and via Twitter, warned Feb. 26 that the high court's decision "does not change anything."

"It is long past time for mem-

bers of Congress to take their responsibilities seriously — seriously enough that they are willing to act with courage to negotiate and seek compromises and resist the temptation to keep using this issue for their political advantage," he said. "People's lives and families' futures hang in the balance."

Without legislative protection, "these young people will lose their permission to work in this country and face deportation. This is wrong and it is up to Congress to make it right," he said.

California's Catholic bishops sent a letter to their state's congressional delegation.

"Listen to these voices of reason this coming week. (The Dreamers) are valuable members of our neighborhoods, our workplaces and our families," the bishops said. "They contribute to the common good and should be part of our common future as a nation."

Other bishops throughout the country, too, voiced their support for the youth during the call-in day.

In an opinion piece for *The New York Times* titled "If You're a Patriot and a Christian, You Should Support the Dream Act," Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin of Newark, New Jersey, wrote that "the Gospel of Jesus Christ calls on us to welcome and protect the stranger. This should not be hard to do when the stranger is young, blameless and working hard to make this country a better place."

On Feb. 27, the PICO National Network, a faith-based community organization based in California, has helped coordinate the "Catholic Day of Action with Dreamers" along with Faith in Public Life and a coalition of Catholic social justice organizations based in Washington. At least one Catholic prelate, Bishop John Stowe of Lexington, Kentucky, said he would participate.

"The groups are demanding a new policy which protects Dreamers while not harming their families and communities," the groups said in a Feb. 26 statement.

Rome Colosseum bathed in red in honor of modern martyrs

ROME (CNS) — Rome's Colosseum, long a symbol of the persecution of early Christians, was bathed in red light late Feb. 24 as a reminder of and a prayer for the thousands of Christians being persecuted for their faith today. The family of Asia Bibi, a Christian woman sentenced to death under Pakistan's highly criticized anti-blasphemy laws, and Rebecca Bitrus, a Nigerian Christian who was held in captiv-

ity for two years by Boko Haram terrorists, told their stories before the red lights were shined on the Colosseum. Bitrus and Bibi's husband and daughter had met earlier in the day with Pope Francis at the Vatican. They were accompanied by leaders of Aid to the Church in Need, a Catholic foundation that has a long history of assisting persecuted Christians. Alessandro Monteduro, director of the Italian section of Aid to the Church, said the 40-minute meeting with Pope Francis was "extraordinary," particularly because the entire encounter took place in an atmosphere of prayer by the pope and by his guests.

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Iraqi Catholic leaders urge Christians: Remain steadfast in Lent

AMMAN, Jordan (CNS) — Iraqi Catholic leaders are urging Christians to remain steadfast in this Lenten season as they encounter challenges of the so-called Islamic State's legacy in their historic lands. In a Lenten pastoral letter, Chaldean Catholic Patriarch Louis Sako of Baghdad urged Iraqi Christians to pursue unity with other Christians at this sacred time with "open hearts." "Many Christians today live in a crisis of faith and intellect because of the circumstances of war, instability, migration and the dominance of social media on the details of their daily lives," he wrote in the letter, released Feb. 21. Many Chaldean Catholics lost their homes, properties and other possessions as they fled the so-called Islamic State militants in the summer of 2014. Many are destitute, still living in camps for the internally displaced or sheltering abroad. "However, these challenges should not discourage their determination and dissuade them from renewing their faith and deepening it, to witness of the Lord and his church," the patriarch said, calling on Christians to "increase within themselves strength, confidence and enthusiasm."

Mideast Christian leaders shut Church of Holy Sepulcher to protest taxes

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Protesting several recent actions they described as a "systematic campaign ... against the churches and the Christian community in the Holy Land," the heads of Christian churches announced Feb. 25 they were closing of the doors of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher for an undisclosed period of time. Bewildered pilgrims milled around the square in front of the church as Greek Orthodox Patriarch Theophilos III — flanked by Franciscan Father Francesco Patton, custos of the Holy Land, and Armenian Patriarch Nourhan Manougian — read a short statement to the press. At the same time, the only two people allowed to close the doors — the Muslim custodian of the key, Adeb Jawad Joudeh Al Hussein, and Muslim door keeper Wajeh Nuseibeh — closed and locked the doors. "This systematic and unprecedented attack against Christians in the Holy Land severely violates the most basic ... and sovereign rights, trampling on the delicate fabric of relations between the Christian community and the authorities for decades," the heads of churches said in their statement. The church leaders were protesting the Jerusalem municipality's intention to impose property

St. Francis art exhibit opens at National Gallery



CNS photo/courtesy National Gallery of Art

This 15th-century miniature on vellum by Cosme Tura titled "Saint Francis Receiving the Stigmata" is part of the "Heavenly Earth: Images of Saint Francis at La Verna" exhibit at the National Gallery of Art in Washington. St. Francis of Assisi's reception of the stigmata, the wounds of Christ, at La Verna in Italy and its depiction by artists beginning in the 15th century is the focus of the National Gallery of Art exhibit, which includes 30 pieces of Franciscan art centered on the miraculous 13th-century event. The exhibit opened Feb. 25.

taxes on church property, such as hotels and convention centers, not used for worship purposes. The proposal to levy taxes on some properties would run contrary to the unofficial historical tax-exempt status the churches have enjoyed for centuries. In addition, the church leaders said they oppose a bill in the Israeli parliament that would limit the ability to sell church-owned land to private owners. The bill, whose vote was postponed following the protest, would be specifically detrimental to the Greek Orthodox Church, which owns large tracts of land in central Jerusalem upon which many private homes are built; many of those 99-year-old building rental contracts will soon

expire. The church already has sold some of the land to private owners, and homeowners whose apartments are on the land worry about losing their homes.

Euthanasia in hospices 'a serious error,' says Vancouver archbishop

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (CNS) — Archbishop J. Michael Miller of Vancouver said the British Columbia provincial government must stop attempts to force hospices and care homes to provide euthanasia. Provincial health authorities are "making a serious error" in trying to coerce caregivers — "committed to mak-

ing the final stages of life for the elderly, sick, and suffering meaningful and dignified" — into supporting assisted suicide, the archbishop said in a Feb. 22 statement. "Assisted suicide stands in stark contrast" to the care that hospices offer, and none should be compelled to provide it, he said. More than 2,000 Canadians have died of assisted suicide since the practice was made legal in June 2016. Archbishop Miller said that points to a dire need for better end-of-life care, not increased access to a lethal injection. "If the elderly, sick, and suffering in our population feel that euthanasia is their best option, it means we as a society and as individuals are letting them down," he wrote.

Decision to stop Texas execution called 'example of restorative justice'

AUSTIN Texas (CNS) — The Catholic bishops of Texas praised Gov. Greg Abbott for stopping the execution of death-row inmate Thomas Whitaker shortly before he was to be put to death Feb. 22. Whitaker will now serve life in prison without the possibility of parole. "We offer prayers of thanksgiving that Thomas Whitaker was granted clemency and mercy has been shown," the bishops said in a Feb. 22 statement. They called Abbott's decision "an example of restorative justice." Whitaker, now 38, was found guilty and sentenced to death for plotting the December 2003 shooting deaths of his mother, Patricia, and his 19-year-old brother, Kevin, in their suburban Houston home. His father, Kent, was shot in the chest but survived. He has long asked for clemency for his son. "We believe this case suggests a spirit of restorative justice, and we pray all may reflect on how Texans would be better served by a criminal justice system which embraces restorative justice," they said. "We pray the Whitaker family may also experience healing and ongoing reconciliation in their lives."

Artists can help people discover beauty of God's love, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis implored artists to "make the deep beauty of God's love visible" and to create and protect areas of beauty in the world's teeming cities. Meeting a group of musicians, actors, poets, painters, dancers, sculptors and architects Feb. 24, Pope Francis urged them to help people "discover the beauty of being loved by God and bear witness to it in attention shown to others, especially those who are excluded, wounded and rejected in our societies." The artists are part of a movement called "Diakonia of Beauty," created in 2012 to restore a relationship in which the Catholic Church relies on artists to share the Gospel and in which the artists seek to learn from and serve the Church. "You are asked to work without letting yourself be dominated by the search for vain glory or easy popularity, and even less by personal profit alone," the pope told the group, which is particularly active in France. Too often today, the pope said, people think technology holds the key for understanding the meaning of life. But beauty is a much better path to understanding, he said, urging the artists to create and safeguard "an oasis of beauty," especially "in our cities, which are too often filled with cement and lacking soul."

Students help others through VING project

SOUTH BEND — Saint Joseph High School espouses the belief that God calls, and His children answer by discovering their gifts, reaching higher, building family and serving with joy.

English teacher Lauren Kloser challenged her students to reach higher and serve with joy by participating in the VING project, a national movement sparking the next generation of givers. Backed by an anonymous family in Chicago that believes in the spirit of giving, teens have an opportunity to give an individual in need an encouraging boost by surprising them with \$1,000. To nominate an individual, the high school student must create a short video. The nominee must be in need and the age of 18 or older.

Saint Joseph High School students Carmen Nunez, Emily Shetterly and Clare Jachim all submitted videos selected to share \$1,000 with the person in need.

Emily and Clare nominated a staff member at St. Joseph Grade School for their video. Carmen nominated a fellow St. Joseph High School student.

Carmen chose Emmalizabeth Obregon because she knew of her struggles and wanted to portray as much as she could about her friend's awesome personality.

"This project has opened my eyes to more opportunities to help others. The opportunities are always there, I just have to take them. I really hope I can impact others' lives in this way all the time," she said. "In the future, it probably won't attract as much attention as this project, but I hope to impact the person's life positively. I also hope that helping others can be the focus in my career. This project has also helped me realize that having real relationships is important because you have to be close to someone to know their problems and to help them."

Emmalizabeth said she feels honored that Carmen chose her for the project. She has been accepted to Indiana Wesleyan University and plans to use the money for college.

For more about the VING project visit <https://vingproject.org/>.

Saint Anne Communities to move health care program

FORT WAYNE — Saint Anne Communities announced last week that its senior living program will be moved to two different locations. The program is currently operated at the Grace Pointe campus, 5610 Noll Ave., Fort Wayne, but will be moved to the Randallia Place campus, 1900 Randallia Dr., Fort Wayne, and the Victory Noll campus, 25 Victory Noll Dr., Huntington. The move is expected to be completed by April 30. Saint Anne Communities will continue to maintain the Grace Pointe property.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Leadership recognized at Avilla school



Provided by Sara Lake

Principal Andrew Adams of St. Mary of the Assumption School, Avilla, and members of the school's seventh-grade class presented the eighth-grade students with special gold-fleece jackets in appreciation of their leadership this school year, after Mass on Feb. 16. The students, pictured, were honored for leading by good example.

"It is important to us that the choices and preferences of our residents are considered and honored," stated COO David Deffenbaugh. "During this transition, we pledge to maintain our resident-focused approach to ensure successful, safe and timely transfer of our residents to their new homes. It has been our pleasure to serve the residents, families and local community at Grace Pointe. We look forward to continuing our mission of service to seniors at the Randallia and Victory Noll locations."

Lenten concert

NOTRE DAME — The Basilica of the Sacred Heart will host a Lenten concert on March 3 featuring the music of Gabriel Fauré, a French composer who lived from 1845-1924.

The Notre Dame Basilica Choirs will perform "Requiem," Op. 84 and "Cantique de Jean Racine," Op. 11. Choirs represented will include the Notre Dame Basilica Schola, Notre Dame Folk Choir, Notre Dame Liturgical Choir, Notre Dame Women's Liturgical Choir and Festival Orchestra.

Admission is free and open to the public. The Basilica of the Sacred Heart is located on the University of Notre Dame campus.

Healing ministry to visit diocesan parishes

SOUTH BEND — Father Richard McAlear, OMI, an internationally known speaker and minister of healing, will celebrate Masses for Healing at two different parishes in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend during March.

Father McAlear will visit St. Thérèse, Little Flower Church, 54191 Ironwood Rd., South Bend, the weekend of March 17-19, and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, 10700 Aboite Center Rd., Fort Wayne on Thursday, March 22.

A native of Boston, Father McAlear became involved with the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in 1972. At a Charismatic prayer meeting, he was asked to offer his blessing for a woman suffering from a serious illness. When the woman was healed, McAlear was shocked and intimidated. Gradually, he began to see and accept that he had a calling to teach others about God's love and compassion.

Though he has worked as a teacher, organized outreach programs for the poor and served as vocation director for his order, the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, in 1976, he entered the healing ministry full time.

At St. Thérèse, Father McAlear will speak at the 5:30 p.m. Mass on March 17 and at the 8, 9:30, and 11:30 a.m. and 8 p.m. Masses on March 18. He will also offer a talk, "How God Heals Us," at 6 p.m. on March 18.

On March 19 at Little Flower there will be opportunities to receive the sacrament of reconciliation beginning at 6 p.m. At 7 p.m. Father McAlear will concelebrate a Mass for Healing with Father Terrence M. Coonan Jr., pastor at St. Thérèse. After the liturgy, Father McAlear will offer blessings to individuals who come forward for prayer. There will be also be eucharistic exposition and additional prayer.

At the March 22 event at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, reconciliation will be available at 5:15 p.m., with the Mass for Healing beginning at 6 p.m. Father David Voors, pastor at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, will concelebrate. Following the liturgy, Father McAlear will give a blessing to any individuals who wish to come forward. Confessions, anointing, eucharistic exposition and prayers will also be offered.

The events of Father McAlear's visit are open to all.

Education for Ministry 'Introduction to Ecclesiology'

FORT WAYNE — The Education for Ministry Program began in 1991 and is the foundational catechetical training program for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. This program gives Catholic schoolteachers in kindergarten through grade eight the doctrinal background to prepare students for living a life in Christ as they grow and mature. Parish directors of religious education, catechists, those involved in parish ministry, parents and the laity are also highly encouraged to complete basic certification in the Education for Ministry program to grow in a deeper knowledge and love of the Catholic faith.

This unit of the Education for Ministry Certification Program will walk through and explain the doctrines present in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds. Particular attention will be given to the Trinitarian and Christological doctrines of the Catholic Church. Class will be held on Thursday evenings, March 22 and April 12, 19 and 26. To register, visit www.diocesefwsb.org/Education-for-Ministry-Program. Registration closes on Wednesday, March 14, or at the first 40 registered participants.

For more information, contact Janice Martin at jmartin@diocesefwsb.org or call 260-399-1411.

Indiana Four Star Schools announced

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana Department of Education announced Feb. 23 the 2016-17 Four Star Schools. The Four Star Schools designation is designed by the department to recognize great schools in Indiana.

"Receiving designation as a Four Star School signifies a pursuit of academic excellence among students, educators, and the administration," said Dr. Jennifer McCormick, Indiana superintendent of public instruction. "I am honored to recognize these Four Star Schools for their hard work and dedication in preparing their students for a bright and prosperous future."

The Four Star School Award has been in existence for 30 years. To receive Four Star designation, a school must receive an "A" on the state's A-F accountability system, have excellent ISTEP pass rates, carry an overall high graduation rate (if applicable), and show success in closing achievement gaps. A total of 238 schools received the award.

Recognized schools in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend are: Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne; Christ the King School, South Bend; Queen of Peace School, Mishawaka; St. Bernard School, Wabash; Saint Joseph High School, South Bend; St. Joseph School, Garrett; St. Joseph School, South Bend; St. Pius X School, Granger.

'Confession made me feel closer to God'

BY EMILY DIEHM

Second-grade students around the diocese have been preparing for, or have recently received, their first sacrament of reconciliation.

"Reconciliation is incredibly special," said Allie Selking, a second-grade teacher at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, Fort Wayne. "Kids and parents are excited. You can see the students beaming when they walk away from the priest. I am always so proud of them for making such a huge step in their faith."

On Nov. 14, Angela (Gia) Allen, a second-grader at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, stepped in the confessional to acknowledge her sins through this sacrament for the first time in her life.

"I was really, really scared, but excited," said Gia. "I knew what I wanted to say, but saying it was hard. I was so nervous. Everyone in my family has done it, I'm the last one. It's a big deal."

Gia is the youngest of Tracy and Amy Allen's seven children, all of whom have attended Catholic schools. Samantha, Grace, Anthony, Joseph, Katherine, Peter and Gia range in age from 21 to 7 years old.

"My oldest daughter, Samantha, received the sacrament of first reconciliation in 2003," said Amy. "Fifteen years later, it never gets old. With Gia being the last of our kids to have received this sacrament for their first time, it is a little bittersweet."

Preparing students for this moment is not taken lightly. For months leading up to entering the confessional, Gia's class had been learning about the different kinds of sins, along with absolution, penance and what an examination of conscience was. Students were also given both home and in-school activities that focused on the sacrament



Photos by Emily Diehm

Gia Allen, a second-grader at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, Fort Wayne, remembers the penance that was assigned to her at her first reconciliation. "I had to say an Angel of God. I didn't stop smiling the entire time I was kneeling. I felt so awesome!"

and self-reflection.

"We spend a lot of time breaking down and practicing the act of contrition," said Selking. "I think it's important that students learn what it really means."

St. Elizabeth students were also prepared by working with the parish clergy. Deacon Thomas Zehr talked to students about absolution and how their sins are forgiven. Pastor Dave Voors showed students around the confessional and answered any questions they had. Father Voors wanted to make sure everyone was comfortable with

him, a priest. He also wanted them to know the purpose of everything in the confessional.

Students asked Father Voors questions about what the night was going to be like, if priests can tell anyone their sins and examples of what their penance might be.

"I wanted to know if the priest would remember what I told him," said Allen. "He told me to imagine that I was talking to God when I was in there and that I didn't have to worry."

Worrying was only one of the feelings Gia felt before confessing.

"I could tell that Gia was nervous," said Joe, a sixth-grader. "It was in her eyes. She looked terrified."

However, on Nov. 14, a Tuesday night, Gia took a deep breath and a seat in front of a priest. Looking down at her hands, she began to name and take responsibility for her sins.

Ten minutes later, she walked out of the confessional and was greeted by her family.

"I looked around and saw everyone in my family there. Tony, my older brother, gave me a huge smile and it made me feel so good. Confession made me closer to God. I can be a better person with this sacrament."

That night, Joe said Gia looked like she was relieved and that he could tell she was proud of herself. He added that he was proud of her too.

"I did it, and it was awesome!" said Gia.

All the preparation had led her to the very moment that she knelt to say her penance. Gia, along with her classmates, had made the first step in a lifelong journey of a newfound freedom, joy, healing and grace through God.

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"I know that God forgives all my sins," said Gia. "I just have to ask Him and pray to Him. That's so cool!"

Holy Cross School celebrates Black History Month

BY CLARE ROACH

Holy Cross School in South Bend values the richness of its diverse community and has a tradition of celebrating black history in February. This year, however, the teachers at Holy Cross reached out to the school, parish and local community to re-envision how to integrate Black History Month more robustly into the life of the school.

On Sunday, Feb. 4, a committee of teachers, administrators, pastoral staff, parents and community partners offered up ideas, local contacts and prayers. Devising a plan to leverage assets in the community, the participants' goal was to help students understand the many ways African-Americans have contributed to the vitality of their nation and their Church.

In addition to the black history topics teachers traditionally integrate into their everyday instruction, Holy Cross School welcomed artists, entrepreneurs, culinary experts and people of faith to help celebrate this important month set aside for learning, celebrating and elevating the contributions of black Americans.

Chloe Dukes, of the Notre Dame Center for Arts and Culture and an alumna of Holy Cross School, visited the second-, third- and fourth-grade classrooms to introduce students to various African-American artists and art forms throughout history and in modern times. After Dukes' presentation, students created their own art pieces based on the work of Lorna Simpson. In addition, Anthony Douglas of Teacher's Credit Union and Dr. Paul McLoed, D.D.S., visited the early elementary classrooms to talk about their experiences making a difference in their community.

On Thursday, Feb. 22, students, teachers and administrators celebrated a spirited Mass in the African-American tradition, with Deacon Mel Tardy of St. Augustine Parish preaching. The Mass began with an introduction to St. Martin de Porres, during which those present asked for his intercession, in Spanish:

"San Martín de Porres, ruega por nosotros," which the students had been practicing all month. The liturgy was accompanied by the school choir, which sang numerous African-American spirituals, and concluded with a hymn sung by visiting vocalist Pamela Harris, a friend of Holy Cross School and a member of neighboring Greater Holy Temple Church of God in Christ. A parish family present at the liturgy was so moved by the Mass that it offered to purchase an icon of Father Augustus Tolton for the school.



Photos provided by Clare Roach

Deacon Mel Tardy preaches the homily at an all-school Mass celebrated in the African-American tradition Feb. 22 at Holy Cross School, South Bend, in honor of Black History Month.



Eighth-grader Rayna Brooks proclaims one of the readings at Mass.



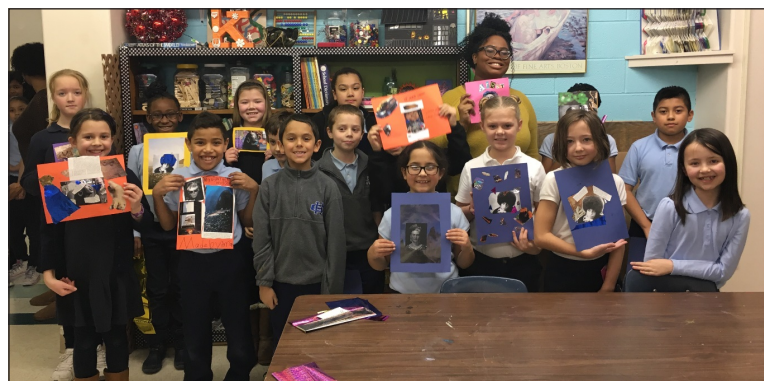
Pamela Harris lends her vocal talents in praise.

Later that day Wendy Summers, a member of St. Pius X Parish and the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend Black Advisory Council, visited with Holy Cross middle school students, inviting them to get to know a variety of black saints and holy men and women. Summers' presentation included stories about Sts. Felicity and Perpetua, Charles Lwanga and Josephine Bakita, as well as several Americans on the road to sainthood, like Father Tolton and Mother Mary Lange.

The month of celebration will conclude with a meal for the entire school community prepared by Calvin Metts, sous-chef at the Morris Inn at

the University of Notre Dame, which will invite students to consider the great contributions of African-Americans to the culinary landscape of the United States.

Angela Budzinski, principal at Holy Cross School, said, "Holy Cross has long been enriched by our school's incredible diversity. This month we've helped our students not only learn about black history, but to see, taste and hear for themselves the many ways our school is strengthened by our very own African-American community. We are so blessed to have such great supporters who jumped at every chance to help us engage with our students on this important topic."



Chloe Dukes of the University of Notre Dame Center for Arts and Culture introduced students to the work of African-American artists. She is pictured with third-graders who attempted to imitate the style of Lorna Simpson.

Drive collects 350 books



Provided by Lisa Kochanowski / Denise Wager

Saint Joseph High School senior Abby Wager held a book drive this winter that collected 350 books, which were delivered to children at the Center for the Homeless and three South Bend Title 1 schools that are the most in need. The idea developed from a small reading and writing program she offers at the Center for the Homeless every Monday night with seven to nine elementary school children. Abby is pictured at Madison School, where she and a few classmates went to every classroom and allowed each child to pick out a book.

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Forming attitudes of athletes

When I was about 13, I had a bad temper — so bad that I quit playing golf.

When I played poorly (which was most of the time), I would throw clubs and say things I was not allowed to say at home. It made the game unpleasant for my playing partners and an occasion of sin for me.

I have found myself reflecting on my misspent youth while watching the Winter Olympics this month. A lot of the athletes on the American team are teenagers not much older than I was when I was flinging clubs around the golf course.

Red Gerard, Vincent Zhou, Chloe Kim and Tess Johnson are 17 years old. Karen Chen and Nathan Chen (no relation) are 18.

Every four years, the performance demands on Olympic athletes seem to increase. Five different types of quadruple jumps for a skater. Two 1440s in the halfpipe for a snowboarder. Speed records in luge. (Is that really a sport?)

Teenagers like the ones in Pyeongchang have spent most of their lives practicing to compete at this level. I am impressed by how well they do. But they're young and flexible and crazy. In a way, we almost expect it.

The thing I have been more interested in is their performance after their events. The years of preparation they have put in — and a year is a long time when you're young — could result in a

big disappointment.

It all comes down to just a couple minutes on ice (ice!) or bumpy snow. One blink or twitch, one bad patch, and it could be all over. For many of them, it is. For most of them, there will be no medal and no other opportunity for one.

I don't think I have ever played for stakes that high in anything I have done.

But here is the other thing. These teenagers perform in an environment where someone is filming their every move and facial expression. It has to be worst for the figure skaters. Skiers and snowboarders get to wear helmets, so you can only read their body language.

But for all of them, we fully expect that they'll give nothing away, however badly things go. That they'll smile for the winner. That right away, with no time to recover their poise, they will give a gracious interview when approached; no excuses, no complaints about the judges.

We have a right to expect our Olympic athletes to behave better than I used to. They are representing America, after all. But their entire Olympic career is like a years-long high-wire act.

They are constantly under such pressure that it's hard to imagine how they keep it together, especially in failure.

There's a big difference between being a good athlete and being a good sport, but there is some overlap between the two. These young people, even



JOHN GARVEY

INTELLECT AND VIRTUE

the successful ones, have faced adversity and failure on their way to the top.

As a result, they have had to practice all the skills required of an Olympic athlete, including public relations and good sportsmanship. The day they flop on the biggest stage of their lives, they don't have to summon up a graceful interview performance for the first time.

This is how we form good habits in real life as well. It's a lot easier to do the right thing, to be patient, to tell the truth, to exhibit courage, to resist temptation, if we are used to doing it day in and day out.

And when a big test comes, we'll be more ready.

John Garvey is the president of The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. The Catholic University website is www.cua.edu.

'I sold them life': learning from the Angel of The Gap

Little did he know what a noble purpose awaited him when Don Ritchie settled into a house on Old South Head Road back in 1964. The former Navy seaman and retired salesman was eager to soak in the stunning view with his wife: an ocean cliff at Watsons Bay in Eastern Sydney known as The Gap.

But just as the vista attracts tourists from across the globe, it also lures in desperate souls looking to end their lives with a jump, claiming an average of 50 suicides a year.

The first time Don spotted someone on the ledge — a mere 50 yards away, visible through his living-room window — there was no question whether he would step in.

He would do so again and again for half a century: quietly approach the cliff, palms facing up, and gently ask, "Is there something I could do to help you?"

Some had laid their shoes and wallets on the rocks, poised to leap. Others had left farewell letters.

He offered them tea, a personal invitation for breakfast in his home across the street. He physically removed some people from the cliff, once lying on his stomach to reach out. But it was his smile that coaxed them, his



CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

TWENTY SOMETHING

listening ear.

Most of the time it worked. Officials say he spared some 150 lives. His family believes the number could be 500.

One morning Don looked out his bedroom window and saw a woman sitting on the cliff's edge. "I quickly got dressed and went over," he told the Associated Press. "She had already put her handbag and shoes outside the fence, which is pretty common. I said to her, 'Why don't you come over and have a cup of tea?'" She obliged. A few months later, she returned with a bottle of French champagne.

The thank-you gifts poured in unexpectedly, sometimes a decade later. Christmas cards. Letters. A painting of an angel and brilliant sunrays with the message, "An angel who walks among us."

Indeed, Don came to be known as the Angel of The Gap,

CAPECCI, page 13

Jesus is the sign of the power and wisdom of God



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Third Sunday of Lent John 2:13-25

The Book of Exodus is the source of the first biblical reading this weekend. In Hebrew history, the Exodus virtually was unsurpassed as an event of great significance, unless perhaps this distinction goes to creation itself. In the Exodus, the Hebrew people, enslaved and dreadfully mistreated in Egypt, escaped. Eventually, they found their new homeland.

None of this good fortune happened because of luck or human strategy. Rather, God's power led the Hebrews to a successful escape from Egypt. Moses, their leader in this endeavor, was chosen by God for the task.

As the flight was underway, Moses received from God and then gave to the people what long has been called the Ten Commandments. These familiar commandments formed the essential requisites for the relationship between God and the Hebrew people. By observing these commandments, the people fulfill their obligations under the Covenant. It was as if the commandments were a legal contract, solemnly binding both parties.

St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians goes to the heart of the Christian message. Christianity preaches Christ. In this reading, Paul asserts that Jesus is the key to salvation. So, the Apostle declares, he preaches, "Christ crucified." It is a "stumbling block for the Jews, and an absurdity for the Gentiles." The Jews, suffering under Roman oppression and enduring so much, were inclined to regard Jesus as an imposter and blasphemer. Others, "gentiles," would have seen Jesus as a convicted felon, found guilty by the jurisprudence of Rome that proclaimed its wisdom and perfect justice.

For its Gospel reading, the Church this weekend furnishes us with St. John's Gospel.

This weekend's reading is one of the most familiar sections of the New Testament. It recalls the moment when Jesus, shortly before Passover, entered the temple precincts and saw a brisk traffic in the things needed for ritual sacrifice. Furious, the Lord drove the merchants away.

He then hinted that the temple would fall, in itself a virtual blasphemy for many who witnessed this event, and then made the astonishing announcement that He would rebuild the colossal structure in three days, although it had taken many people many years to build the temple in the first place.

The Gospel reading sets the stage for Good Friday, when the accusers of Jesus would refer to the Lord's prediction that the temple would fall, claiming that Jesus was a blasphemer and a troublemaker. The Lord's prediction regarding the rebuilding of the temple in three days looked ahead to the Resurrection.

The reading establishes Jesus as God's voice and God's agent. In particular, He is outdone at

the exploitation of religious sincerity. Good people followed their traditions in praising God. The merchants used this sincerity for their own commercial benefit.

The people who earnestly wished to honor God were being used. They were innocent prey for the selfish greed of the money-changers.

This reading also reveals much about the bystanders. Many failed fully to grasp the Lord's identity. Others followed Him.

Reflection

Lent reminds us of our humanity. Despite all the differences in lifestyles and scientific knowledge, nothing essentially makes us different from the people who were contemporaries of Jesus. We, as were they, are humans, subject to human limitations.

Being human has its bright side. We congratulate ourselves, for example, on the brilliant design of spaceships, but, on the dark side, like the accusers of Jesus, we fail fully to see reality.

We have witnessed the 2018 Olympics. But no glory, no

human success, dismisses the fact of human limitation.

Limited by our nature, we still sin. Lenten discipline calls us more sharply to focus, better to see sin in its reality.

God never deserts us, even in our folly. God gave us Jesus, our Savior and example. He alone is our sure model.

READINGS

Sunday: Ex 20:1-17 Ps 19:8-11 1 Cor 1:22-25 Jn 2:13-25

Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15b Pss 42:2-3; 43:3-4 Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43 Ps 25:4bc-5ab, 6-7bc, 8-9 Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9 Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20 Mt 5:17-19

Thursday: Jer 7:23-28 Ps 95:1-2, 6-9 Lk 11:14-23

Friday: Hos 14:2-10 Ps 81:6c-11b, 14, 17 Mk 12:28-34

Saturday: Hos 6:1-6 Ps 51:3-4, 18-21b Lk 18:9-14

Life-giving sacrifice in Lent

I would bet that when Msgr. Robert Coll began an interdenominational drive against world hunger in Allentown, Pennsylvania, in 1975, he had no idea he was becoming an important part of the history of Catholic Relief Services.

In our 75 years, CRS has had many defining and important moments. The beginning of what is now the CRS Rice Bowl is certainly one of them.

By all accounts — including the testimony of his career — Msgr. Coll was appalled by the fact that millions of people around the world go hungry every day. How to bring home the reality of hunger to people in a well-fed part of a well-fed country?

The way he put it in a 1976 People magazine story on Rice Bowl was that he wanted his parishioners and other churchgoers to be “hungry enough to hurt,” so they would know what “five hundred million of our fellow human beings feel like seven days a week.”

To do that, members of Catholic, Protestant and Jewish congregations in Allentown got a cardboard box called a Rice Bowl. Every week, they would eat what Msgr. Coll called an inexpensive “sacrificial meal” — a version of the only meal millions of the world’s hungry would have each day.

The money saved by not eating a more expensive meal went into the Rice Bowl, collections that would support combatting hunger — both around the world via CRS and locally in the Allentown diocese.

Even more important to Msgr. Coll, the few moments of hunger participants felt after their “sacrificial meal” would give them an inkling of what those millions around the world were feeling every minute of every day.

Though Msgr. Coll’s Operation Rice Bowl had ecumenical roots, it flourished in the Catholic Church, perhaps because from its beginning it was tied to Lent, linking that season’s sometimes abstract notion of sacrifice with the concrete issue of hunger.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops noticed what was going on in Allentown, and plans were soon afoot to make Rice Bowl a national campaign — launching it at the Church’s 41st Eucharistic Congress in Philadelphia in August 1976.

Rice Bowl, which fit the conference theme — The Hungers of the Human Family — perfectly, made its debut on the same day that Mother Teresa led the Congress in a prayerful and symbolic bread-breaking ceremony.

Mother Teresa had come to Philadelphia from India, then a main focus of those concerned about world hunger. There was an undeniable enriching relationship between her breaking of the eucharistic bread and the Rice Bowl Lenten meals that had been a topic earlier that day.

As Maureen McCullough, now CRS regional director for New England and the Mid Atlantic, then working for one of the sponsors of the Congress, put it, “It reminded all that we are called to break open our hearts and lives to the needs of others and respond in real and tangible ways. Four decades later, I believe CRS Rice Bowl does just that for all who participate.”

The CRS program in St. Teresa’s home — Kolkata — received some of the first funds collected in Rice Bowls. Jim DeHarpporte arrived there as CRS’ zonal director in June 1975 and was told about a delegation from Allentown that had recently visited; \$25,000 was coming his way.

DeHarpporte used the money for a feeding program for infants, often already born underweight, then limited to breast feeding long after they needed supplementary food — about 6 months — simply because their mothers couldn’t afford it.

An Indian doctor and an Australian nun who were working in a poor neighborhood in Kolkata had come up with a plan of roasting wheat and adding lentils — known as dal — to provide needed nutrition.

“The funds provided by the Rice Bowl grant were used to



GUEST COMMENTARY

JOAN ROSENHAUER

purchase the wheat and dal,” DeHarpporte reports, noting that CRS also provided U.S. Government donated milk powder to add to the nutritional value of the supplemental feeding.

Today, CRS Rice Bowl involves millions of Catholics of all ages every year. It has raised more than \$250 million over the decades. The international-local split remains, 75 percent going to CRS to combat hunger overseas, 25 percent remaining with the local diocese to confront that issue at home.

Msgr. Coll eventually spent years working for CRS and helped set up an interfaith feeding program to combat famine in Ethiopia in the 1980s. CRS continues to administer the descendent of that program, which feeds millions in Ethiopia every year.

DeHarpporte, who still works for CRS as regional manager on the west coast, says that the feeding program that first Rice Bowl collection funded in Calcutta led to the founding of the Child in Need Institute, now internationally recognized in the field of infant malnutrition.

The nickels, dimes and quarters that Msgr. Coll first collected in cardboard Rice Bowls in Allentown created a legacy that reverberates in the history of CRS, of the Church in the United States, and among the hungry around the world.

Joan Rosenhauer is Executive Vice President, U.S. Operations at Catholic Relief Services.

Column provided courtesy of *Our Sunday Visitor*.

ferent people about all sorts of things,” his youngest daughter said after his 2012 death at age 86.

Don also had recognized his training for the cliff-side ministry, saying, “I was a salesman for most of my life, and I sold them life.”

He could draw them in and calm them down. He listened without judgment, his eyes that matched the sea piercing through bifocals.

Don lives on today, reminding us of our Christian call to prop up neighbors in need. We never know who is struggling, slogging through a long winter, desperate for Easter. A text or

an Instagram “like” might lend cheer, but sometimes our physical presence is the only way. We must walk up to the gap, palms up, and ask, “Is there something I could do to help you?”

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

CAPECCHI from, page 12

but he shrugged off the praise. Patrolling The Gap was his duty, a matter of fact, and he considered himself the beneficiary. “I’m 85 and even at my age, it has broadened my horizons with all the wonderful people I have met,” he once told a reporter. “It’s important for troubled people to know that there are complete strangers out there like myself who are willing and able to help them get through that dark time and come out on the other side.”

From his time in the Navy during World War II to his years selling scales and bacon cutters, he had “learned to talk to all dif-

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for March 4, 2018

John 2:13-25

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for Third Sunday of Lent, Cycle B: Jesus’ zeal for the House of God. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

PASSOVER	WENT UP	JERUSALEM
HE FOUND	SHEEP	DOVES
WHIP	CORDS	DROVE
TEMPLE	MONEY	CHANGERS
WHO SOLD	OUT OF HERE	MARKET
CONSUME ME	SHOW US	DESTROY
THREE DAYS	HIS BODY	SPOKEN

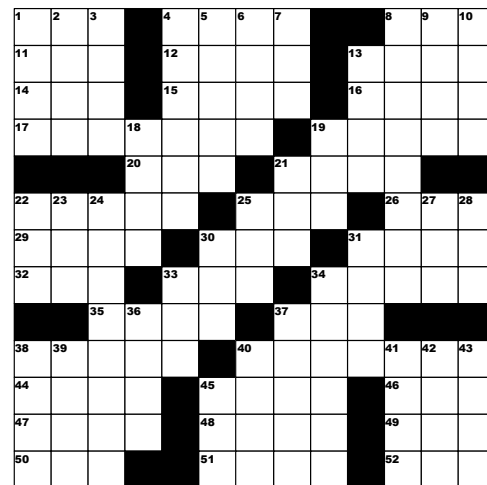
GET OUT

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

March 4 and 11, 2018



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Sunday readings: Ex 20:1-17; 1Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25 and 2Chron 36:14-16, 19-23; Eph 2:4-10 and Jn 3:14-21

ACROSS

- 1 School group
- 4 ___ of Life
- 8 Adam did to apple
- 11 Abrade
- 12 Tints
- 13 Graven image
- 14 Recede
- 15 ___ of Wight
- 16 Floor covers
- 17 Honor them
- 19 Bear ___ witness
- 20 Cunning
- 21 Lease
- 22 Soaked
- 25 Baby eating apparel
- 26 Time period
- 29 Keep afloat

- 30 Where Cain was exiled
- 31 Falter
- 32 Sin
- 33 ___ Commandments
- 34 City manager
- 35 Melt
- 37 Noah's middle son
- 38 Detest
- 40 Run before
- 44 ___ of Siloam
- 45 Peter did, on water
- 46 Terminal abbr.
- 47 Lazily
- 48 Lotion ingredient
- 49 Jack of Clubs in certain card games
- 50 Sailor's yes

- 51 Skin sore
 - 52 Her
- DOWN**
- 1 Preparation (abbr.)
 - 2 Brass
 - 3 To reduce (abbr.)
 - 4 Weakly
 - 5 Corroded
 - 6 Snaky fish
 - 7 Vane direction
 - 8 Thou shalt not commit ___
 - 9 Clothes
 - 10 Otherwise
 - 13 Persia
 - 18 See
 - 19 Valentine month
 - 21 Free of
 - 22 Compass point
 - 23 ___ Father, who art...
 - 24 Ship side window
 - 25 ___ fire
 - 27 Brazil capital
 - 28 Easter month
 - 30 ___ Testament
 - 31 Not wild
 - 33 Sticky, black substance
 - 34 Grocery
 - 36 Keep ___ the Sabbath
 - 37 Do to your father and mother
 - 38 Capital of Western Samoa
 - 39 ___ of Christ
 - 40 Syllables used in songs (2 wds.)
 - 41 Representatives
 - 42 Mormon state
 - 43 Don't use God's in vain
 - 45 Symbol of James the Less

Answer Key can be found on page 15

'Paul' film producer: 'Real important to tell the story of God's mercy'

BY MARK PATTISON

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Every story has a message within. So does every movie — and every biblically based movie as well.

With the new movie "Paul, Apostle of Christ," Eric Groth, one of the film's executive producers, said, "It was real important to tell the story of God's mercy."

"His message of love and life and mercy is so important for us today," Groth said to an invitation-only audience of about 60 at a Feb. 15 advance screening of the film at the St. John Paul II National Shrine in Washington.

Groth is head of ODB Productions; he said the initials stand for "Outside Da Box." The company has made, by his estimate, about 250 short films for Catholic religious education programs, and a series of 15 shorts based on each of the 15 sections of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

"All I wanted to do (in college) was play baseball. Then the Lord moved my heart," Groth said. In addition to the film shorts, he also produced "Full of Grace," about Jesus' mother, Mary, helping repair the fractures that developed in the early Church. It was written and directed by Andrew Hyatt, who had the same two jobs on "Paul, Apostle



CNS photo/Sony Pictures

Jim Caviezel as Luke and James Faulkner as Paul are seen in the film "Paul, Apostle of Christ." "His message of love and life and mercy is so important for us today," said Eric Groth, one of the executive producers of the new movie. He spoke to an invitation-only audience of about 60 at a Feb. 15 advance screening of the film at St. John Paul II National Shrine in Washington.

of Christ."

Groth called "Full of Grace" "a feature film that wasn't supposed to be a feature film," but one that led to "Paul" being made.

The big name in "Paul" is Jim Caviezel, who played Jesus in Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" in 2004 and portrays St.

Luke here. "We wanted to use, in a good way, his star. He's a star, but he's not the leading man," Groth said. For those who think Caviezel is playing Paul, Groth replied, "Jim's playing Luke. Come find out about Luke, too."

Paul is played by James Faulkner, who portrayed Randyll Tarly on HBO's "Game of

Thrones," Lord Sinderby on PBS' "Downton Abbey," and Pope Sixtus IV on Starz' period drama "Da Vinci's Demons." Faulkner also has read each of Paul's letters in the New Testament in a series to be released by the American Bible Society.

"Paul, Apostle of Christ" is rated PG-13 for disturbing

images and violent content, virtually all of it Roman violence against Christians, although one group of Christians decides to act in a highly un-Christian way in response to the dictums against their sect by Roman Emperor Nero.

Groth declared "Paul" "OK for middle school and up," adding some of the imagery in it could have been worse. "We flipped the room when they (a group of condemned Christians) were going out into the lions" so that the lions and the carnage are never seen, Groth said.

He gave credit to Sony Pictures for its willingness to go out on a limb with the movie. "They stretched partnering with a Catholic organization, they stretched in the idea, they stretched in the screening schedule," which had started a few months before its March 23 premiere, Groth said. A constant comment he said he had received from preview audiences was that the film was "imbued with Scripture without it having been read to them."

"Paul, Apostle of Christ" is set to open March 23 on more than 2,000 screens in the United States, and will simultaneously open in at least 15 other countries, with deals still in the process to more than double that number, he added.

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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.

Catholic Business Network Breakfast
FORT WAYNE — The First Friday breakfast will be on Friday, March 2, at the St. Mother Theodore Guerin Chapel, 1122 S. Clinton St. Sponsored by Those Catholic Men, this month's guest speaker is Jacob Laskowski, who will be speaking on "Millennials: who they are and how to reach them."

Las Vegas Night
SOUTH BEND — Holy Family Church Ushers Club, 56405 Mayflower Road, will be holding a Las Vegas Night. Saturday, March 3, from 6-11 p.m. in the Parish Center. Tickets are \$8 in advance at the rectory and \$10 at the door. Ticket includes sandwiches, beverages and a chance in \$1000 drawing. Lic#145991

St. Vincent de Paul Knights host breakfast
FORT WAYNE — St. Vincent Knights of Columbus, 1502 E. Wallen Rd., are hosting a breakfast to benefit both the Women's Care Center and A Mother's Hope on Sunday, March 4, from 8-11 a.m. A free will offering will be accepted with proceeds helping support Right to Life organizations.

St. John the Baptist fish fry
NEW HAVEN — St. John the Baptist Holy Name Society will have a fish fry Friday, March 2, from 4-7 p.m. at the community center, 943 East Powers St. Tickets are \$9 with a choice of four sides.

Corpus Christi Lenten fish fry
SOUTH BEND — Corpus Christi Parish will have a fish fry Friday, March 2, from 4-7 p.m. in the school gym, 2817 Corpus Christi Dr. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$4 for children 6-12 and free for children under 6. Carryout available at the door.

Queen of Angels Lenten fish fry
FORT WAYNE — Queen of Angels Parish, 1600 West State Blvd., will have a Lenten fish fry on Friday, March 2, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. in the Activities Center, 1600 W. State Blvd. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$4 for children ages 6-10 and children under 5 free. Carryout also available.

St. Aloysius fish fry
YODER — St. Aloysius Parish will have a fish fry Friday, March 2 from 4:30-7:30 p.m. in the activity center, 14607 Bluffton Rd. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 6-11 and children 5 and under free. Carryout available.

St. Joseph Knights of Columbus fish fry
FORT WAYNE — The Knights of Columbus Council 14299 will host a fish fry held at St. Joseph Parish, corner of Brooklyn and Hale Ave., Friday, March 2, from 5-8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$6 for children 5-11 and free for children under 5. Fish by Dan's Fish Fry.

Women's Morning of Reflection
COLUMBIA CITY — A Women's Morning of Reflection will be on Saturday, March 10, at St. Catherine Church, 9989 State Road 9, from 8-11 a.m. Mass will be followed by breakfast in the church hall. Talks on St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. Call Linda Bustamante at 260-344-3112.

The CrossWord

Msrch 4 and 11, 2018



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 Lawrence Leon,
 82, Immaculate
 Conception

Decatur
 James K. Teeter,
 70, St. Mary of the
 Assumption

Fort Wayne
 Mary Ann Koons, 72,
 Our Lady of Good Hope

Helen E. Choka,
 89, Cathedral of
 the Immaculate
 Conception

F. Joan Johnson,
 87, Cathedral of
 the Immaculate
 Conception

Jean M. Halliwill, 88,
 St. Henry

Mary Louise Kumfer,
 Most Precious Blood

Jeanette B. Zbacnik,
 Most Precious Blood

Huntington
 Barbara Bartrom, 86,
 St. Mary

Sister Rosanne Palmer,
 OLVM, 102, Noll
 Memorial Chapel

Mishawaka
 Mary Lou Morin, 91,
 St. Monica

Adeline Bauters, 95,
 St. Bavo

Notre Dame
 Sister Marissa Loring,
 CSC, 88, Church of Our
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Emily Marie Conway,
 85, Basilica of the
 Sacred Heart

Pierceton
 Max L. Lotz, 66, St.
 Francis Xavier

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 Holy Family.

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 Holy Family

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Unusual statue remains popular at Cathedral Museum

BY MARIAM SCHMITZ

A statue of the scourged Christ is on display at Fort Wayne's Cathedral Museum, which offers visitors a chance to see the wounds He endured for the salvation of all people in graphic, yet beautiful detail. A visit to see the statue could be the perfect companion to one's Lenten journey, as all are invited to pause and meditate upon the passion of Jesus Christ during this season.

The plaster statue stands about 5 feet tall and was made in 1932 by the John P. Daleiden Company in Chicago. At one time, there were six "Jesus Scourged" statues on display at various parishes throughout the diocese, as well as at St. Felix Monastery in Huntington. The one on display at the museum came from Fort Wayne's Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. It has been at the museum for about 20 years and is one of its prime attractions.

According to the museum director, Father Philip Widmann, "I have heard mothers tell their kids, 'this is what Jesus suffered for you.'" Father Widmann also said that museum visitors from other Christian faiths seem to be especially drawn to the statue,



Nate Proulx

A stunning statue titled "Jesus Scourged" is on display at Cathedral Museum, Fort Wayne.

because they are more accustomed to seeing a plain cross, without the corpus.

The statue's striking depic-

tion of Christ's wounds caused it to be removed from public display at the cathedral during the Korean War. In 1951, the



diocese received a letter from the Supreme Congregation of the Holy Office that stated, "the statue should not be exposed publicly" and asked for all six statues within the diocese to be removed. Father Widmann said that since violence was all too real at the time, the statue was a sad reminder of loved ones who were losing their lives overseas.

The statue at the cathedral went into storage and was eventually moved back out for display in the cathedral's crypt. It now rests in the museum. A crown of thorns was added to the head, and a whip now lies on the base. There is a kneeling bench, or "Prie Dieu," French for "Pray God," in front of the statue, for anyone to kneel and offer their prayers as they take in what is in front of them. The

bench once belonged to Msgr. Charles J. Feltes, a former vicar-general of the diocese, and was made by the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, a religious community whose motherhouse is in Donaldson. Fort Wayne resident Barbara Jackson McGuire donated the bench to the museum.

Father Widmann recently said of the statue, "When you see the body and its wounds, it says a lot more."

All are welcome to visit the statue at Cathedral Museum, located in the lower level of the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center, 915 S. Clinton St., Fort Wayne. Admission and parking are free. It is open Tuesdays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. or anytime by appointment. Call 260-422-4611 for more information.

Pope to young people: Take the World Youth Day challenge

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — It's time to break free from fear, fake online personas and looking at the world through a digital screen display, Pope Francis told young people.

"Do not allow the spark of youth to be extinguished in the darkness of a closed room in which the only window to the outside world is a computer and smartphone," the pope told youths in his annual message for local celebrations of World Youth Day.

"Open wide the doors of your life! May your time and space be filled with meaningful relationships, real people with whom to share your authentic and concrete experiences of daily life," he said in the message, published Feb. 22 at the Vatican.

In preparation for the next international celebration of World Youth Day — which will be held in Panama Jan. 22-27 — many dioceses will have their own celebrations Palm Sunday, March 25.

The Panama gathering will focus on Mary's response to the angel Gabriel's announcement that God had chosen her to bear the child Jesus: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." The 2018 theme chosen by Pope Francis is the angel's reassurance, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor

with God."

Many young people today are afraid — afraid of never being accepted, of finding a good job and even of their real selves, the pope said in his message.

"Today, there are many young people who feel the need to be different from who they really are, in an attempt to adapt to an often artificial and unattainable standard," he wrote. "They continuously 'photo-shop' their images, hiding behind masks and false identities, almost becoming fake selves."

This sense of inadequacy is the root of many uncertainties and even obsessions, such as "receiving as many 'likes' as possible" on social media, he added.

No one is exempt from doubt or fear, which even can be seen in the Bible in the lives of Mary, Moses, Abraham, the apostles and many others, he said. In fact, he added, the biggest obstacle to faith in God is often fear, not skepticism.

The only way forward is to face one's fears head on, identify them clearly and come to terms with them, he said, "so as not to find yourself wasting time and energy by being gripped by empty and faceless ghosts."

People have to act, which requires faith in God and His grace, otherwise fear and doubt will make people "become inward-looking and closed off to defend ourselves from every-



CNS photo/Bob Roller

Young people wave Panamanian flags after Pope Francis celebrated the World Youth Day closing Mass in 2016 at the Field of Mercy in Krakow, Poland.

thing and everyone, and we will remain paralyzed," he said.

The pope told young people to look for God in prayerful silence and the sacraments so they could draw on the needed courage, wisdom and grace, and to turn to members of the Church for encouragement and support.

God is always there to help everybody, he said. He does not ask people to present a stellar resume of their lives, "full of merits and successes."

Receiving God's grace will not mean life's problems will disappear, he said, "but it does have the power to transform our life deeply."

"The unknown that tomorrow holds for us is not a dark threat we need to overcome, but a favorable time given to us for living out the uniqueness of our personal vocation, and for sharing it with our brothers and sisters in the church and in the world," he said.

Being with others on life's journey is always key, he said, because it helps unlock one's own gifts, inspires dreams and opens new horizons.

"Never lose the enthusiasm of enjoying others' company and friendship, as well as the pleasure of dreaming together, of walking together," he said.

That is why it is so important young people break out of the "darkness of closed room" and the virtual world so as to experience meaningful relationships with real people, he said.

Pope Francis called on adults in the Catholic Church to have courage, too, and give young people "important responsibilities."

"Young people need to know that someone truly believes in you," he said. "Please know that the pope has confidence in you, that the church has confidence in you! For your part, have confidence in the church!"

"In the sacred Scriptures the expression 'do not be afraid' is repeated 365 times with different variations, as if to tell us that the Lord wants us to be free from fear, every day of the year," he said.

The Catholic Church's annual gathering of World Youth Day "is for the courageous! Not for young people who are searching only for comfort and who withdraw whenever difficulties arise," the pope said. "Do you accept the challenge?"

