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# TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Volume 92 No. 11

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TODAYSCATHOLIC.org

## Bishop Rhoades reflects on CRS trip to Ethiopia

Each year, as a member of the Board of Directors of Catholic Relief Services, I have the opportunity to visit CRS projects in different parts of the world. Last week, I traveled to Ethiopia with Sean Callahan, the president and CEO of CRS, and a small group of CRS officials and benefactors. It was my first visit to Africa.

Ethiopia, Africa's oldest independent country and second most populous nation, is unique in many ways. It was never colonized, though it was occupied for five years by Italy under the dictatorship of Mussolini. Its Rift Valley is known as the cradle of humanity due to the discovery of bones and fossils of the earliest human ancestors. While in Addis Ababa, the capital city, we got to visit the National Museum and see the skeletal remains of the famous 3.5 million-year-old "Lucy" and of other hominid species, as well as early stone tools used by ancient human ancestors.

Ethiopia, located in the Horn of Africa, is home to over 80 ethnic groups. Its fascinating history includes the tradition, firmly held by Ethiopian Orthodox Christians, that its early kingdoms go back to King Solomon of Israel who, according to that tradition, had a son with the Queen of Sheba. His name was Menelik I, Ethiopia's first emperor. The Solomonic dynasty lasted until the end of the reign of Emperor Haile Selassie in 1974.

It was very interesting to learn about the history of Christianity in the region. Though some claim that it began with the baptism of the Ethiopian official by the deacon Philip, as recounted in the Acts of the Apostles, it is certain that Christianity was brought to the region, the kingdom of Aksum, by St. Frumentius in the early 4th century. After the Council of Chalcedon in 451 A.D., the Church in Ethiopia, along with the Church in Alexandria, split from



Provided by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

**Children pose with Bishop Rhoades on the first day of a Catholic Relief Services trip to visit its projects and programs in Ethiopia. CRS works with local Catholic churches and bishops in the country to provide humanitarian aid, assist with agricultural projects and carry out a range of social programs.**

*Though the Catholic Church in Ethiopia is small in numbers, approximately 600,000 members (less than 1 percent of the population), it is a huge presence in terms of its many schools, social development projects and charitable works.*

the Church of Rome due to their adherence to the Monophysite heresy condemned at Chalcedon. The Ethiopian Orthodox Church is the largest religious body in

Church in Ethiopia can be traced back to St. Frumentius, however, since the Ethiopian Church separated from Rome after the Council of Chalcedon, it was not until the

19th century that the Catholic Church became present again in Ethiopia, thanks to the missionary efforts of St. Giustino de Jacobis. He was an Italian Vincentian priest who became Vicar Apostolic of Abyssinia, the

chies, 8 apostolic vicariates, and 1 apostolic prefecture).

CRS works closely with the local Catholic churches and bishops in several of the nine regional states of Ethiopia, as well as in the two chartered cities, Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa. Though the Catholic Church in Ethiopia is small in numbers, approximately 600,000 members (less than 1 percent of the population), it is a huge presence in terms of its many schools, social development projects and charitable works. The Ethiopian Catholic Church has two liturgical traditions: the Eastern Ge-ez Rite (the same rite as the Ethiopian Orthodox Church) in the northern part of the country, and the Latin Rite in the southern part.

Ethiopia today, making up 44 percent of the population, followed by Islam at 34 percent.

The presence of the Catholic

first Catholic Bishop in Ethiopia in modern times. Today, Ethiopia has 13 territorial divisions led by bishops (1 archdiocese, 3 epar-

**ETHIOPIA, page 2**

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**ETHIOPIA, from page 1**

Catholic Relief Services has been present and active in Ethiopia for 60 years. After the devastating famines in 1983-1985 in which over 1 million people died and millions of others suffered, CRS undertook the largest relief operation in its history, the Joint Relief Partnership, an ecumenical effort delivering food that has saved millions of Ethiopian lives. Today, CRS continues to provide emergency food supplies in Ethiopia. CRS leads the Joint Emergency Operation Plan (JEOP), coordinating with the Ethiopian government and various NGOs the distribution of food from USAID.

CRS has many other programs and projects in Ethiopia besides emergency food distribution. These include food security activities, family livelihood projects, agricultural projects, support for internally displaced people, a girls' empowerment project and very important water and sanitation activities. CRS is very active in Ethiopia, since it is a very poor country where the majority of people live on less than \$2 per day. More than 80 percent of the labor force is in agriculture, although urbanization is increasing in Ethiopia. There is growing frustration among young people at the lack of employment opportunities, even for those who graduate from universities.

John Shumlansky, the CRS Country Representative in Ethiopia, was our guide and host during our week-long visit. On March 5th, John accompanied Sean Callahan and I to a meeting with the U.S. Ambassador to Ethiopia, John Raynor. Ambassador Raynor expressed his gratitude for the excellent work of CRS and we expressed gratitude to him for the assistance of USAID. Ambassador Raynor shared with us about the difficult political situation in Ethiopia at this time, as he also was awaiting the visit of the U.S. Secretary of State in a few days. The prime minister of Ethiopia submitted his resignation the previous week and the government had declared a state of emergency. Because of strikes protesting the state of emergency, our itinerary for the week had to be changed. Two main areas we were scheduled to visit, Dire Dawa and Meki, were now blocked by the protest strikes.

After meeting with the ambassador, we joined the rest of our group at the main office of CRS in Addis Ababa. We were welcomed by the staff and had an opportunity to receive an overview of the work of CRS in Ethiopia.

Prevented from traveling to Dire Dawa that afternoon, we remained in Addis Ababa and visited the compound of the Missionaries of Charity. The sisters there have several buildings where they care for and house about 650 very sick and destitute men, women and children. There are separate sections for people



Photos provided by  
Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

**Above is a thatched-roof family dwelling visited by Bishop Rhoades in rural Amhara state. Below, Bishop Rhoades stands at St. George Church at Lalibela, Ethiopia. The Catholic Relief Services team viewed the process of food distribution to the poor in the northern city, and visited the famous rock-hewn churches from the 12th and 13th centuries, which prominently feature iconography.**



with different diseases, including tuberculosis, AIDS, skin diseases and cancer. These people are truly the poorest of the poor and, if it were not for the Missionaries of Charity, most of them would probably simply die in the slums and on the streets. Volunteer doctors, nurses, and aides, together with the sisters, provide loving care for the sick and dying. CRS provides all the food for the residents. We were blessed to celebrate Holy Mass in the chapel of the Missionaries of Charity on our first full day in Ethiopia.

On March 6th, we flew to the city of Mekele in the northernmost state of Tigray (not on our original schedule) and visited there with the workers at the CRS warehouses of USAID emergency food supplies. The warehouses were filled with large bags of wheat and yellow split peas and boxes of containers of vegetable oil that would be distributed at sites throughout northern Ethiopia. The JEOP program has saved many lives during the severe droughts of these past two years. In 2016, this USAID-funded operation, administered by CRS, provided food aid monthly to 2.8 million people and, in 2017, monthly to 1.8 million people.

We visited two CRS water projects in the Tigray region on March 6th. At the first, we saw the terraces built along the hills to better keep the rainwater and prevent soil erosion, and saw water diversion by the building of canals to help irrigate more land. At the second site, we saw





**Emergency food supplies provided by CRS have saved millions of lives in Ethiopia and continue to sustain a large portion of the population. CRS also leads a local and international coalition that distributes food provided by USAID.**

similar water management with a newly-built reservoir that now supports hundreds of people of the area with water for several months a year.

Only about 15 percent of Ethiopian land is arable, yet over 80 people of the Ethiopian people are subsistence farmers. These CRS projects help prevent the soil erosion caused by deforestation and periodic torrential rains. The capturing of water is important in the face of severe droughts. CRS has donated several drilling rigs to the Ethiopian Catholic Church to tap deep, essential groundwater on a wider scale.

It is important to note that CRS does not work alone in these projects. Besides collaboration with various partners, CRS always works in tandem with the local Catholic church and with the local people. In the above-mentioned water projects, the local people organize with the help of CRS, and are assisted in carrying out and maintaining the projects. CRS helps to build the capacity of the local communities so that the programs continue and become self-sustaining.

After visiting the water projects, we spent two hours with the social development staff of the Eparchy (diocese) of Adigrat. The Eparch, Bishop Tesfaleassie Medhim, and his staff hosted us for a delicious vegetarian dinner at the diocesan center next to the beautiful Cathedral of Our Savior in Adigrat. Ethiopian Catholics and Orthodox abstain from meat and dairy products throughout each of the 50 days of their Lenten fast.

On March 7th, we drove from Adigrat back to Mekele and celebrated Mass at the chapel

of a Salesian school. We then flew back to Addis Abada and visited with the Archbishop, Cardinal Berhaneyesus Demerew Souraphiel, the head of the Ethiopian Catholic Church. The Cardinal shared with us the challenges of the country's poverty and his deep gratitude for the work of CRS. He also shared with us about the building of the new (and first and only) Catholic university in Ethiopia. It opened a few years ago in Addis Ababa, but much work still needs to be done to establish more educational programs and expand the campus.

On March 8th, we flew again to the north to Lalibela in the regional state of Amhara. This was also not part of our original itinerary. We drove 45 kilometers from Lalibela through the mountainous region, on mostly unpaved roads, to visit one of the food distribution sites of JEOP in Kulmesk. Since we had already toured a warehouse in Mekele, I was happy to get to observe the food distribution process. At Kulmesk, we observed the organized distribution of the food. Hundreds of people waited to receive their food allotment as determined by need. Elderly people and pregnant and nursing mothers awaited their allotment in a shady area constructed at the site. Over 1,500 beneficiaries were served at the Kulmesk site on the day we visited. CRS oversees and monitors the 253 JEOP distribution sites in Ethiopia. This CRS-led and USAID-funded JEOP consortium serves as the pipeline for about 33 percent of the emergency-affected population of Ethiopia.

On the drive back to Lalibela, we stopped to see some of

the huts of the families of the region. Poor families live together in one-room huts, even sometimes sharing the room with livestock. In many, there is just one bed and children sleep on the floor. There is no electricity.

The next morning, before flying back to Addis Ababa, we visited the famous rock-hewn churches in Lalibela, an unexpected and welcome addition to our itinerary. It was amazing to see these 12th-13th century churches, with their unique architectural features and iconography. It was impressive to see the devotion of the local people praying at these churches and at other places we visited. We learned about the devotion of the Ethiopian Christians to their Old Testament roots, not only traced to King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba, but also to the Ark of the Covenant. The Ethiopian Orthodox believe that the original Ark of the Covenant was brought to Ethiopia by Emperor Menelik I and is now kept in Saint Mary's Church in Aksum. Every Ethiopian Orthodox church has a "tabot" in the center, a wooden box containing a replica of the Tablets of the Law given to Moses. The tabot is kept in the Holy of Holies in the center of the church, like in the ancient temple of Jerusalem, and is veiled by curtains.

One of the areas that was on the original schedule was Meki, where the Bishop's Secretariat works on several projects with CRS, including an impressive girls' empowerment program that helps mostly rural girls to more fully reach their potential through education, leadership and decision-making. Since we were unable to visit Meki, the Apostolic Vicar of Meki,



## Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Sunday, March 18: 10:30 a.m. — Confirmation Mass, St. Dominic Church, Bremen  
 Monday, March 19: 9 a.m. — Mass and Pastoral Visit, Saint Joseph High School, South Bend  
 Monday, March 19: 6:30 p.m. — Vespers with Knights of Columbus and Franciscan Friars Minor, Our Lady of Hungary Parish, South Bend  
 Tuesday, March 20: 6 p.m. — Meeting of Diocesan Review Board, Holiday Inn Express, Warsaw  
 Wednesday, March 21: 11 a.m. — Mass for Christ Child Society, St. Joseph Chapel, Holy Cross Village, Notre Dame  
 Wednesday, March 21: 3 p.m. — Meeting of Our Sunday Visitor Institute Committee, Hilton Hotel, Fort Wayne  
 Wednesday, March 21: 6:30 p.m. — Vespers and Dinner with Board Members of Our Sunday Visitor, St. Andrew Church, Fort Wayne  
 Thursday, March 22: 8:30 a.m. — Meeting of Board of Directors of Our Sunday Visitor, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne  
 Thursday, March 22: 4 p.m. — Meeting of Board of Directors of Catholic Charities, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne  
 Friday, March 23: 7 p.m. — Stations of the Cross, St. Mary, Mother of God Church, Fort Wayne  
 Saturday, March 24: 10 a.m. — Confirmation Mass, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, Fort Wayne



**A man prays at the rock church in Lalibela. Ethiopian Christians trace their religious roots to King Solomon, the Queen of Sheba and the Ark of the Covenant.**

Bishop Abraham Desta, and the Diocesan Director of the Secretariat, Father Gobeze Yilma, came to Addis Ababa on March 10th to meet and have lunch with us. They were accompanied by three of the young women who participate in the girls' empowerment program. They shared with us the positive impact of this joint program of CRS and the Meki Vicariate on their lives and futures. Later that day, we celebrated our final Mass in Ethiopia with Bishop Abraham at a chapel of a guest house of the Meki Vicariate in Addis Ababa before our flight home that night.

Though we and CRS were thanked many times throughout the week, I also felt much

gratitude for the kindness and hospitality of our Ethiopian and CRS hosts. Throughout the trip, I experienced the wonderful friendliness of the Ethiopian people and was often moved by their beautiful expressions of faith. Though there is extreme poverty and much suffering in Ethiopia, and some fears due to the present political insecurity, there is also a joy, a hope and a resilience that has no natural explanation. The only explanation I can think of is the deeply rooted Christian faith, the nearly 2,000-year adherence to the suffering and crucified Lord who is risen from the dead!

**MORE PHOTOS OF ETHIOPIA, page 20**

# Bishops urge action on conscience protection for health care workers

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The chairmen of the U.S. bishops' pro-life and religious freedom committees have asked U.S. Catholics to contact members of Congress and urge them to enact the Conscience Protection Act as part of the funding bill for fiscal year 2018.

Congress faces a March 23 deadline to approve an omnibus appropriations measure that likely would fund the government through the fiscal year ending Sept. 30. Lawmakers will consider whether to include the Conscience Protection Act of 2017 in the bill.

"Increasing and fierce attacks on conscience rights regarding abortion cry out for an immediate remedy," said Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, chairman of the bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, and Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, chairman of the Committee for Religious Liberty.

In a joint statement March 6, they urged Catholics to flood Congress with emails and calls asking for enactment of the measure and "to pray for this outcome." They expected Congress to take action the week of March 12.

Catholics were encouraged to reach their members of Congress in one of two ways: calling the U.S. Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and asking to be con-

nected with their representative or senator; or sending them an email message via the Human Life Action website — <http://bit.ly/2lHt7vu>.

"Nurses and other health care providers and institutions are being forced to choose between participating in abortions or leaving health care altogether," Cardinal Dolan and Archbishop Kurtz said in their statement. "Churches and pro-life Americans are being forced to provide coverage for elective abortions — including late-term abortions — in their health care plans."

The Weldon Amendment, included in the annual appropriation for the Department of Health and Human Services since 2005, already allows health care providers as well as insurance plans to refuse to provide abortions, pay for them or refer women to abortion clinics.

The Conscience Protection Act is aimed at protecting individual physicians, nurses or other health care professionals who refuse to assist in abortions when asked to do so by their employers. It takes the core policy of Weldon — protecting those who decline to perform, pay for, refer for, or provide coverage for abortion — and writes it into permanent law.

"Opponents and supporters of abortion should be able to agree that no one should be forced to

participate in abortion," Cardinal Dolan and Archbishop Kurtz said. "Congress must remedy this problem by enacting the Conscience Protection Act now as part of the fiscal year 2018 funding bill."

The measure was introduced in the House by Rep. Diane Black, R-Tennessee, and Rep. Jeff Fortenberry, R-Nebraska, and in the Senate by Sen. James Lankford, R-Oklahoma. The House passed an omnibus appropriations bill for fiscal year 2018 that includes the language of the Conscience Protection Act but the Senate didn't pass an appropriations bill.

In January, the civil rights office of the federal Department of Health and Human Services put in place new policies to protect conscience rights and religious freedom," a move that won praise from Cardinal Dolan and Archbishop Kurtz.

But they also said a legislative solution was needed.

"Conscience protection should not be subject to political whims, however. Permanent legislative relief is essential," they said in a Jan. 19 statement. They urged action on the Conscience Protection Act to give victims of discrimination "the ability to defend their rights in court."

"No one should be forced to violate their deeply held convictions about the sanctity of human life," they said.

# Pope encourages dialogue with government leaders to help migrants

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Liberating the poor, the oppressed and the persecuted is an integral part of what God wants his Church to do, Pope Francis said.

"In order to set free those who today are oppressed, rejected and enslaved," Catholics must promote dialogue with government leaders, "a dialogue that takes into account people's actual experiences, sufferings and aspirations, in order to remind everyone once more of his or her responsibilities," he told Catholic leaders working on refugee and migration issues.

That dialogue is key to help develop "much-needed new ways for the international community to respond with foresight to these phenomena typical our time," he said March 8.

The pope's comments came in his address to participants in the plenary council of the International Catholic Migration Commission, which was meeting in Rome.

Pope Francis praised the commission's work over the past 67 years, noting how it also offers expert assistance to bishops' conferences and dioceses to respond to local and national challenges.

"It is my hope that this work will continue to inspire local churches to do all they can for persons forced to leave their home countries and who, all too often, become victims of dishonesty, violence and abuse of every sort," he said.

"Today, as in the past, liberating the poor, the oppressed and the persecuted is an integral part of the mission entrusted by God to the church," he said, and everything the Church does to offer pastoral care to "our migrant and refugee brothers and sisters" bears important witness to the whole world.

"Together, we must encourage countries to coordinate more suitable and effective responses to the challenges posed by issues of migration; and we can do this on the basis of the essential

principles of the church's social teaching," he added.

Opening the plenary assembly of the International Catholic Migration Commission March 6 in Rome, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Pope Francis' top collaborator, said the Catholic Church and Catholic agencies that work with migrants and refugees around the world are called to educate, advocate and seek alternative host countries in the face of a growing "refusal to welcome" newcomers.

He decried how "the most economically advanced" nations, especially those who "undeniably owe a great deal of their development to migrants," are now trying to close their borders.

At a time when migrants and refugees are fleeing increasingly "terrible experiences" and encountering violence and abuse on their journeys, Catholics feel a particular responsibility to welcome the stranger, he said.

Pope Francis, he said, encourages Catholics to move away from "attitudes of defensiveness and fear, indifference and marginalization — all typical of a throwaway culture — toward attitudes based on a culture of encounter, the only culture capable of building a better, more just and fraternal world."

The cardinal urged Catholic agencies and bishops' conferences to provide fact-based information that will help "dispel many unfounded prejudices and fears regarding the reception of foreigners. Without ignoring the many commitments that such welcome requires, you will also help promote a balanced and positive perception of migration."

Anna Rowlands, professor of Catholic social thought and practice at Durham University in England, told the conference that Catholic social teaching — which has included teaching about migration since the late 1800s — is about promoting the common good "as a practice, not just a theory."

A primary resource for theological reflection on migration,

**MIGRANTS, page 7**



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# Bill to restore access to professional licenses for 'Dreamers' passes House, awaits Senate approval

INDIANAPOLIS — A bill to restore the ability of "Dreamers" to obtain professional licenses in Indiana passed the House March 5 by a vote of 88-8. The Senate is expected to concur on the bill before the Indiana General Assembly adjourns on March 14. The Indiana Catholic Conference supports the proposal.

The Indiana Professional Licensing Agency, the rulemaking body for professional licensing, began making changes to its professional licensing forms in August to conform with a law passed in 2011 by the Indiana General Assembly which created the problem for "Dreamers."

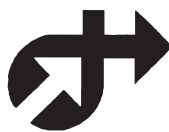
Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, commonly referred to as DACA, established a temporary immigration policy that allows some individuals who entered the country as minors to receive a renewable, two-year period of deferred action from deportation. It also provides eligibility for a work permit. DACA recipients are often called "Dreamers."

Rep. Ed Clere, R-New Albany, said he had been looking for a couple of weeks to find a home for his amendment to fix the professional licensing problem negatively impacting DACA participants in Indiana, and was pleased to learn Senate Bill 419 could be used as a vehicle to add the DACA language.

Clere's amendment restores an avenue to attain professional licensing in Indiana for DACA recipients. Clere said the problem for DACA recipients stems from a 2011 bill passed by the Indiana General Assembly which predated DACA. Clere said that, for whatever reason, the Indiana Professional Licensing Agency did not deny licenses to DACA recipients from the inception of DACA, in 2012, until late last year. In August of 2017, the agency started changing the application forms of all licensed professions and completed that process by Nov. 2017. "During the that time, from 2012 until late last year, countless DACA recipients received professional licenses and or many others have completed education and training or are currently enrolled with the expectation of receiving a license, now they are ineligible whether it's for a new license or a renewal," said Clere.

Clere said he became aware of the situation when he heard of a young woman who completed a two-year training program to become a cosmetologist but was denied a license when she applied. "Now that she cannot work as a cosmetologist, her work options are limited and not too attractive." Clere said, "If this problem isn't fixed, DACA participants who currently hold

## INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE



BRIGID CURTIS AYER

a license will not be able to get a renewal and this is devastating to individuals and harmful to employers who will lose a cosmetologist, a plumber, or an engineer or a nurse to name a few. Indiana has boxed out these young people, this is an opportunity to fix that."

In its original form, Senate Bill 419, authored by Sen. Blake Doriot, R-Syracuse, clarifies that Indiana is the licensing authority for various professions rather than local municipalities. Local units of government may require additional permits, but not require additional licensing. While the original bill did not address DACA recipients, it made a suitable home for Clere's amendment to fix their inability to get professional licensing.

Gov. Eric Holcomb, weighed in on the proposal to restore professional licensing to DACA recipients issuing a statement on Feb. 27, saying, "Ultimately,

Congress needs to clarify federal immigration law regarding DACA. But, until they act, Indiana state law should allow DACA recipients to skill up and work here in Indiana. While Indiana's Professional Licensing Agency acted appropriately and in line with what our current laws require, I am encouraged to see there is legislative intent to fix this."

Current Indiana law allows DACA recipients to work legally in Indiana but keeps them from working in an area that requires a professional licensing, which Clere says relegates them, in many cases, to low-wage jobs.

Glenn Tebbe, executive director of the ICC, who testified in support of the amendment to restore licensure said, "We want to thank Rep. Clere who took the initiative to add this important provision to help 'Dreamers' gain access to professional licensing or to renew them. We not only think it will be in the best interest of the individuals, but it really will be benefitting all Hoosiers by allowing these people to take care of their families and contribute to the common good."

In addition to the ICC, several organizations testified in support of the proposal including the Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council; the Indianapolis and the Indiana

Chamber of Commerce; and the Indiana Institute for Working Families.

Tebbe said since the bill was amended in the House, it will be returned to the Senate for approval. Tebbe said he is hopeful the Senate will concur with the House changes during the final week of the legislative session. If the Senate concurs, the bill will become law. If the Senate fails to approve the DACA fix bill, DACA recipients will be stuck without access to professional licenses in Indiana.

To get an update on legislative action on the ICC priority bills, go to the ICC webpage at [www.indianacc.org](http://www.indianacc.org).

**For more information** on the legislative efforts of the Indiana Catholic Conference, go to [www.indianacc.org](http://www.indianacc.org).

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# Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ community in Donaldson anticipates foundress' canonization

BY CLAIRE KENNEY

On March 6, the Vatican announced that Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ foundress, Blessed Mother Mary Catherine Kasper, (or Maria Katharina, as she is known in German) will be recognized as a saint.

Born in Dernbach, Germany, young Catherine Kasper's trademark was putting others first; she was always ready and willing to serve those in need. She established the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ in 1851.

Today the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ has a presence in Brazil, England, Germany, India, Kenya, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nigeria and the United States. In the U.S., the order's motherhouse is located in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in Donaldson, just outside Plymouth.

Sister Judith Diltz serves as the U.S. provincial for the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ's North American province.

"As a province, I think we are especially inspired by Catherine Kasper because we are so aware that the American sisters held a special place in her heart," Sister Diltz said. "She always wanted to come visit here, but her health and other matters always prevented that."

Though Mother Kasper was not able to travel to the U.S., the North American province does have a pair of her shoes at the



Provided by the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ

**Pope Francis has announced plans to canonize Blessed Mother Mary Catherine Kasper, foundress of the order of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ.**

Donaldson motherhouse. The shoes serve as a reminder to the sisters of her submission to God's will.

"We smile and say that the

closest Catherine came to (the) U.S. is that we have her shoes — very simple, well-worn, interchangeable on her feet to equalize wear," she said. "Her shoes

represent for us how she walked God's ways always with simplicity and trust."

In a reflection during a Mass the day after Pope Francis announced Mother Kasper's canonization, Sister Judith Diltz spoke of her humility.

"This is a woman who from heaven would ... if she could, demur and defer the title saint to someone else," she said. "... that she accepts it only as the will of God. What better test is there for deserving the title? She is (a) living demonstration of Jesus' admonition for anyone who wishes to be first, they shall be the last of all and the servant of all — and models that to us."

Sister Diltz' favorite attribute of Mother Kasper's was her great trust in God's plan, she said, and fellow PHJC sister, Sister Conrad Kirchhoff, said her favorite aspect of Mother Kasper is similar.

"Catherine's feet were on the ground, but her heart was with God always," Sister Kirchhoff explained.

Located on the property of the motherhouse in Donaldson, the sisters' Catherine Kasper Life Center is an independent living and licensed nursing home. Caring for the elderly is one of the sisters' many ministries. Others include education, child care, social work and parish outreach.

While a specific date for the canonization has not yet been announced, the Poor Handmaids

of Jesus Christ are making plans for how they will celebrate it, both in the U.S. and abroad, in Rome, where the formal canonization will take place.

"... certainly, a number of us sisters will attend the canonization in Rome along with others in our spiritual family, coworkers, family members, (and) friends," Sister Diltz said. "We know many will want to visit Dernbach, Germany, Catherine's home village, too ... And we'll mark the canonization with (a) special celebration here in the U.S.A. for those who won't be traveling."

The announcement of Blessed Mother Kasper's canonization comes during another celebration for the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ.

"We are currently in the midst of celebrating 150 years of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ's presence in the United States this year," Sister Diltz explained. "We are having special Eucharists, prayer services, panel presentations, exhibits and talks to mark this 150th anniversary — so this provides us with an extra-special reason to celebrate even more."

Blessed Mother Kasper is one of 13 individuals that Pope Francis recently recognized as a saint. She will be canonized alongside the likes of Blessed Francesco Spinelli, founder of the institute of the Adorers of the Blessed Sacrament, and Blessed Vincenzo Romano, an Italian diocesan priest.

# Miracles attributed to Pope Paul VI, Romero clear way for sainthood

BY CAROL GLATZ

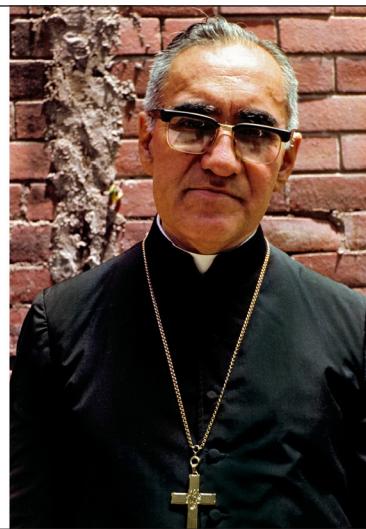
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis has cleared the way for the canonizations of Blesseds Paul VI and Oscar Romero.

At a meeting March 6 with Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, Pope Francis signed decrees for the causes of 13 men and women — among them a pope, an archbishop, two young laywomen and a number of priests and nuns.

He recognized a miracle attributed to Blessed Paul, who, according to Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, will be declared a saint in late October at the end of the Synod of Bishops on youth and discernment. Blessed Paul, who was born Giovanni Battista Montini, was pope from 1963 to 1978.

Pope Francis also formally signed the decree recognizing the miracle needed to advance the sainthood cause of Archbishop Romero of San Salvador, martyr.

El Salvador's ambassador to the Holy See, Manuel Roberto Lopez, told Catholic News Service March 7



CNS photos/files/Octavio Duran

**Pope Francis has cleared the way for the canonizations of Blesseds Paul VI, Oscar Romero and three others, including Mother Maria Katharina Kasper, founder of the religious congregation the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ (see above). Blesseds Paul VI and Oscar Romero are pictured in undated combination photos.**

that the news of the pope's approval "took us by surprise."

"They told us before that the process was going well and that all we needed was the approval of the miracle, and it turns out the pope approved it yesterday," he said.

Lopez told CNS that he was happy that Blessed Oscar Romero's canonization was imminent and that his holiness was recognized alongside one of his earliest supporters.

"To see that he will be canon-

ized along with (Blessed) Paul VI, who was a great friend of Archbishop Romero and supported his work, is a great blessing," Lopez said.

The Vatican did not announce a date for Blessed Romero's canonization.

The pope also recognized the miracles needed for the canonization of: Father Francesco Spinelli of Italy, founder of the Sisters Adorers of the Blessed Sacrament; Father Vincenzo Romano of Italy; and Mother Maria Katharina Kasper, founder of the religious congregation the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ.

He recognized the miracle needed for the beatification of Maria Felicia Guggiari Echeverria, a Discalced Carmelite from Paraguay whom Pope Francis has upheld as a model for the youth of Paraguay. Affectionately called "Chiquitunga," she died from an unexpected illness in 1959 at the age of 34 before she could make her final vows.

The pope also recognized the martyrdom of a 16-year-old laywoman from Slovakia. Anna

Kolesarova, who lived from 1928 to 1944 in the eastern town of Pavlovce, was murdered during Slovakia's occupation by the Soviet army in World War II after refusing sexual favors to a Russian soldier.

In causes just beginning their way toward sainthood, the pope signed decrees recognizing the heroic virtues of Polish Redemptorist Father Bernard Lubienski, who entered the congregation in England and then returned to Poland to re-found the Redemptorists there in the 20th century, and Sandra Sabattini, a young Italian lay woman who was active in helping the poor with the Pope John XXIII Community. She was hit by a car and died in 1984 at the age of 22.

The pope also recognized the heroic virtues of Antonio Pietro Cortinovis of the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin (1885-1984) and three Italian women — two who founded religious orders and a laywoman who founded a lay fraternity.

*Junno Arocho Esteves in Rome also contributed to this story.*

## U.S. Catholics surveyed on perception of Christian persecution worldwide

NEW YORK (CNS) — Four in 10 U.S. Catholics say that half or more of religiously based attacks around the world are directed at Christians and believe Christian persecution is “extremely severe” in North Korea, Iran, Iraq, Syria and Pakistan. At the same time, when asked to rank their concerns about global issues, U.S. Catholics put Christian persecution last as the issue they are most concerned about. At the top of the list of global concerns for the largest majority were human trafficking (86 percent) and poverty (also 86 percent). Next were climate change (74 percent) and the refugee crisis (also 74 percent). Then came Christian persecution; 69 percent said it was a top concern. U.S. Catholics were asked for their views on global Christian persecution in a national survey conducted by the pontifical foundation Aid to the Church in Need — USA, based in New York, and McLaughlin & Associates, a national survey research company. According to Aid to the Church in Need — USA, the survey aimed to measure how aware U.S. Catholics are of Christian persecution around the world; the countries and regions where they consider Christians the most severely persecuted; and specific measures and policies they want the U.S. and other Western governments to pursue to combat it.

## Irish bishops call abortion referendum proposal ‘shocking’

DUBLIN (CNS) — Ireland's Catholic bishops have described as “shocking” a government proposal to hold a referendum on whether the constitutional right to life of unborn children should be removed. The government announced March 8 plans to hold a referendum on the constitutional article, which guarantees the equal right to life of the child with due regard to the life of the mother. The poll is expected

## Immigrant advocate to receive Laetare Medal



CNS photo/Barbara Johnston, courtesy University of Notre Dame

Sister Norma Pimentel, executive director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley in Texas and a longtime advocate for immigrants and refugees, will receive the University of Notre Dame's 2018 Laetare Medal at the school's graduation ceremony May 20. She was instrumental in organizing local response to the 2014 surge of Central Americans seeking asylum in the United States and established the Humanitarian Respite Center in McAllen, Texas, providing newly arrived immigrants with food, clothing, water and a place to rest. In 2015 Pope Francis personally thanked Sister Pimentel for her work; that same year she was named one of *Our Sunday Visitor's* 2015 Catholics of the Year and won a nomination for “Texan of the Year.” A member of the Missionaries of Jesus, Sister Pimentel is pictured in a Feb. 19 photo.

to be held in May. If the article is deleted, the government has announced plans to permit abortion on demand up to 12 weeks' gestation and up to birth where there is claimed to be a risk to the life of the mother. In a statement, the Irish bishops' conference said removing the constitutional protection “would leave unborn children at the mercy of whatever permissive abortion laws might be introduced in Ireland in the

future.” It described the proposals as “a shocking step” and described the plan as “a manifest injustice to the unborn.”

## Hispanic Catholics seen as the emerging ‘voice, conscience’ of Church

PHOENIX (CNS) — Hispanic Catholics are being called “to

wouldn't be afraid,” she said. Abstractions — just giving statistics, even statistics demonstrating how migration benefits nations — will not help people overcome their fear, she said. They need to hear the voices of the refugees and get to know them.

“Despite all of these challenges,” Batchelor said, by working together, “we can have a collective response that works, but only if we collectively believe it.”

Michele Klein Solomon, director of the Global Compact for Migration of the U.N. International Organization for Migration, said the “single greatest challenge” facing those who assist migrants is “the demonization of migrants and refugees,

be the ecclesial voice and conscience of the Church in the U.S.,” said Hosffman Ospino, a leading expert on the intersection of Catholicism and Latino culture. “When the Hispanic Catholic community speaks, the Church speaks,” he told participants in Phoenix for the Southwestern Regional Encuentro. The Colombian-born Ospino, the final keynote speaker at the gathering, is an associate professor of theol-

ogy and religious education at Boston College. He is a member of the leadership team for the U.S. Catholic Church's Fifth National Encuentro, or “V Encuentro,” to be held Sept. 20-23 in Grapevine, Texas. Leading up to the national Encuentro has been a four-year process of reflection and action that included parish- and diocesan-level Encuentros. Regional Encuentros will be going on around the country through June. The Feb. 23-25 regional in Phoenix drew about 480 delegates from 10 Catholic dioceses in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, which are in the U.S. Church's episcopal Region XIII. The delegates reviewed the diocesan reports and discussed recommendations for consideration in Grapevine in September. Ospino spoke only in Spanish; there was simultaneous translation of his remarks. His topic was “Bearing Fruit,” on the beneficial effects of the integration of Spanish-speaking Catholics into American Church life.

## Don't hold grudges; forgiveness comes from forgiving others, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christians must let go of resentments and forgive those who have wronged them so that they may experience God's forgiveness, Pope Francis. This can be particularly difficult when “we carry with us a list of things that have been done to us,” the pope said in his homily March 6 at morning Mass in the Domus Sanctae Marthae. “God's forgiveness is felt strongly within us as long as we forgive others. And this isn't easy because grudges make a nest in our heart and there is always that bitterness,” he said. The pope reflected on the day's first reading from the prophet Daniel in which Azariah, one of three young men condemned to death in a fiery furnace, courageously prays for deliverance from God. “Do not let us be put to shame, but deal with us in your kindness and great mercy. Deliver us by your wonders, and bring glory to your name, O Lord,” Azariah prayed.

## MIGRANTS, from page 4

she said, is the Bible, which is “a book of migration stories,” stories about the forced or voluntary movement of peoples and of migration as a call from God or a sign of sinful human activity.

In promoting a conversation about migration, particularly in countries where there is increasing hostility toward migrants and refugees, she said, one needs to talk not only about the needs of the people arriving, but also about the disorientation currently experienced by citizens of countries that traditionally welcomed migrants.

In the teaching of Pope Francis, Rowlands said, respon-

sibility for the failure to welcome migrants and refugees does not lie with political leaders alone, but with civil society and all its members who have lost the sense of responsibility for each other that makes a society truly civil.

Carol Batchelor, director of the Division of International Protection for the United Nations refugee agency, told the conference there are 66 million refugees or forcibly displaced persons in the world today — “the highest number ever” — and that a refugee child's average wait for resettlement is now 17 years, “their entire childhood.”

Faced with such figures and with hyperbolic rhetoric about who those refugees are, “Who

and this discourse that is so damaging: blaming individuals, labeling individuals as criminals, as threats, as terrorists, as coming to society to try to take social services, to take jobs.”

The truth is, she said, that some 258 million people are living outside their homelands, which is just 3.4 percent of the global population; most of them are not in need of special assistance or protection and they overwhelmingly migrated through safe and legal channels.

The anti-immigrant sentiment has been felt very concretely by organizations traditionally involved in resettlement, including the International Catholic Migration Commission, which for

decades helped migrants and refugees move to better lives in the United States or Latin America or Europe.

Walter Brill, the organization's director of operations, said that through its office in Istanbul, the ICMC was resettling about 7,000 people in the United States each year. “Unfortunately, this has come almost to a standstill” under the Trump administration, even while millions of Syrians remain displaced.

From October through the end of February, the commission managed to resettle only about 100 people, he said.

“It is not enough to complain; we have to appeal to other states to do more,” he said.

# At Notre Dame, Bishop Barron discusses challenges, strategies for cultivating faith among youth

BY CHRISTOPHER LUSHIS

Pope Francis' recently issued World Youth Day message calls attention to the upcoming Synod of Bishops on "Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment," and focuses on the reassuring words spoken at the Annunciation: "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God." Indeed, the uncertainty Our Lady felt regarding God's invitation and plan for her life is shared by many young people in the Church today. For this reason, from March 5-7 the McGrath Institute for Church Life sought to address the topic of building "Cultures of Formation," by inviting renowned leaders and professionals in Catholic ministry to share their experiences, research and hopes for the future.

Dr. John Cavadini, director for the McGrath Institute for Church Life, encouraged participants to consider how, as a Church, "we create ecclesial cultures that are strategically designed in such a way that young people are formed in what is most beautiful, most grand, most appealing, and at the same time most necessary." He indicated that this must go beyond relying solely upon youth or young adult ministry programming, but to look also to the natural cultures of formation, to "the family, the liturgy, the school, the parish-based works of mercy. We have to be more intentional to think of all of these precisely as cultures of formation in which our young people will be formed more easily into adult Catholics thirsting for a life of everyday holiness."

The Most Rev. Robert Barron, Auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles and founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries, offered the opening night keynote address,

titled "Looking for the Nones," which focused on key reasons young people tend to drift away from God and the Church and become impeded in their vocational search. Drawing upon research from sociologist Christian Smith, Bishop Barron stated, "Many speak of 'my truth' or 'your truth,' but would be uncomfortable with any talk of 'the truth.' Such a view precludes real responsibility; in the measure that I cannot or will not decide, I can remain permanently uncommitted. In the religious context this is debilitating and it leads to irresponsibility in the highest and most important things. Every saint makes a judgment and takes a stand. Every catechist and evangelist needs to have a passionate response for their belief in God."

He further expressed that, "Former Catholics are distinct in that more of them report that none of their close friends is at all religious. However, religion thrives through friendship; Thomas Aquinas believed religious conversation was of the highest value." He continued, "Others see religious faith as illogical or unscientific. Healing the rift between science and religion may be our most important task, our Catholic scientists and medical professionals need to start talking to our young people! Additionally, in our Catholic schools, we have often downplayed an intellectual articulation of the faith which has left students blocked by intellectual conundrums. If young people can handle Shakespeare, Einstein, and Virgil, why in the world couldn't they handle Aquinas, Augustine and Chesterton?"

Regarding the fundamental question at hand of vocational discernment, Bishop Barron remarked: "The Word of God is exceptionally hard to hear, espe-



Photos by Matt Cashore/University of Notre Dame

**The Most Rev. Robert Barron, Auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles and founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries, gives the keynote address at a conference called "Cultures of Formation: Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment," which took place March 5-7 at the University of Notre Dame.**

cially for the young. We need elders, those who know how to hear the voice of God in the radical contingency of the world, in the narrative of the Bible, in the definitive teaching of the Church, in the beauty of the saints. We need an army of Eli's to rise up who know how to hear and interpret the Word of God and help our young people discern that voice, so they can learn to live in the space of God's drama for their lives."

Katherine Angulo, associate director of Youth Ministry for the Archdiocese of Atlanta, further reflected upon the necessity of reaching young people early in their faith journey and facilitating encounters that are heartfelt and authentic. She stated that, "catechesis and evangelization do not just take place in a classroom, they involve relationships — which requires learn-

ing what healthy relationships look like — as well as engaging in service, experiencing mercy and hearing about the value of the cross that Jesus invites us to carry and follow after Him." She also highlighted the importance of introducing students to others their own age who take the faith seriously by arranging trips to the National Catholic Youth Conference, Steubenville Conferences, Notre Dame Vision and others.

Leonard DeLorenzo, Ph.D., director of Notre Dame Vision, additionally emphasized the responsibility of both the Church community and the individual in arriving at the ability to healthily discern a vocation. "The point of discernment would seem to be to take the responsibility for being someone; it is a declaration of 'I am,' as Mary was "the handmaid of the Lord," he stated.

He expressed that arriving at this decision "to say 'yes' with your voice and with your life requires accompaniment" in an environment that promotes "cultivating the freedom necessary for that 'yes' and building up the courage to say it and mean it and live it, and to do our part to make it so."

Nicholas Carr, a technology and culture writer and previous finalist of the Pulitzer Prize, offered the featured lecture on Tuesday evening. His talk, titled "Our Smartphones, Ourselves," offered scientific and statistical data to convey the dangers significant reliance on technology can have on cultural, catechetical and intellectual development. He stated, "Smartphones pull concentration away from face-to-face relationships and steal the opportunity to be alone with our own thoughts, sucking cognitive resources from our minds." This stunts the ability to learn, create and obtain new skills. He also emphasized the obligation families have to "be refuges from technology" where young people can learn the communication and life skills that "technology will never teach."

After his presentation, Vickie Lortie, youth ministry coordinator at St. Jude Parish, Fort Wayne, shared her experience of witnessing the powerful role liturgy can also play in lives of young people. She indicated that when dilemmas arise and technology fails to provide answers, she has often seen her students turn to eucharistic adoration to find silence, direction and renewal. "A lot of our high school teens say that's what they do; they know that's the answer and where to go when the going gets tough."

The conference included 515 participants, among them 23 bishops, and concluded with Mass at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart celebrated by Bishop Bill Wack, CSC, of the Diocese of Tallahassee-Pensacola. A video replay of Bishop Barron's speech may be accessed on his public Facebook page. Many of the other conference speeches will be made available online.



**Students, faculty and visitors attended "Cultures of Formation: Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment," at the University of Notre Dame, to reflect on the relationship between young people and the Catholic Church.**

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Pope Francis appears for the first time on the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican in this March 13, 2013, file photo

CNS/Paul Haring

## FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PONTIFICATE OF POPE FRANCIS

### Five years a pope: Francis' focus has been on outreach

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio was elected pope just a few days after telling the College of Cardinals that the Catholic Church faced a clear choice between being a Church that “goes out” or a Church focused on its internal affairs.

After the cardinal from Buenos Aires, Argentina, was elected March 13, 2013, and chose the name Francis, he made “go out,” “periphery” and “throw-away culture” standard phrases in the papal vocabulary.

Catholics have a wide variety of opinions about how Pope Francis is exercising the papal ministry, and many of his comments — both in informal news conferences and in formal documents — have stirred controversy. But, as he wrote in “*Evangelii Gaudium*,” the apostolic exhortation laying out the vision for his pontificate: “I prefer a church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security.”

But there are two areas of internal Church affairs that he recognized needed immediate attention: the reform of the Roman Curia and the full protection of children and vulnerable adults from clerical sexual abuse.

The organizational reform of the Curia has been taking place in stages, but Pope Francis has insisted that the real reform is a matter of changing hearts and embracing service.

On the issue of abuse, nine months into his

pontificate, Pope Francis established the Pontifical Commission for Child Protection to advise him on better ways to prevent clerical sexual abuse and to ensure pastoral care for the survivors.

While Pope Francis has emphatically proclaimed “zero tolerance” for abusers and recently said covering up abuse “is itself an abuse,” as his fifth anniversary approached serious questions arose about how he handled accusations that Chilean Bishop Juan Barros, who was a priest at the time, covered up allegations of abuse against his mentor.

The new scandal threatened to undermine the widespread popularity of Pope Francis and his efforts to set the Catholic Church on a new course.

For Pope Francis, that new course involves evangelization first of all.

“Evangelizing presupposes a desire in the church to come out of herself,” he had told the cardinals just days before the conclave that elected him. “The church is called to come out of herself and to go to the peripheries, not only geographically, but also the existential peripheries: the mystery of sin, of pain, of injustice, of ignorance and indifference to religion, of intellectual currents and of all misery.”

Mercy is the first thing the Catholic Church is called to bring to those peripheries, he says.

Although in 2013 he told reporters he would not be traveling as much as his predecessors, Pope Francis has continued their practice of literally “going out,” making 22 trips outside of Italy and visiting 32 nations.

But he also regularly visits the peripheries of Rome, both its poor suburbs and its hospitals, rehabilitation centers, prisons and facilities for migrants and refugees.

His desire to reach out has inspired innovations that were noteworthy at the beginning of the papacy, but now seem to be a natural part of a pope's day. For example, after beginning with Vatican gardeners and garbage collectors, the pope continues to invite a small group of Catholics to join him most weekday mornings for Mass in the chapel of his residence.

The residence, the *Domus Sanctae Marthae*, is a guesthouse built by St. John Paul II with the intention of providing decent housing for cardinals when they would enter a conclave to elect a new pope. Pope Francis decided after the 2013 conclave to stay there and not move into the more-isolated papal apartments in the Apostolic Palace.

On Holy Thursday each year, he has celebrated Mass at a prison, care facility or refugee center and washed the feet of patients, inmates or immigrants, both men and women, Catholics and members of other faiths. He also ordered the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments to clarify that the feet of both women and men can be washed at the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper.

During the 2015-16 Year of Mercy, he made a visit one Friday a month to people in particular need, including those at a school for the blind, a neonatal intensive care unit, a community of recovering alcoholics, a children's group home and a community for women rescued from traffickers who forced them into prostitution. Once the Year of Mercy ended, the pope continued the visits, although not always every month.

In September 2015 as waves of migrants and refugees were struggling and dying to reach Europe, Pope

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# WE LOVE YOU, I

**FRANCIS, from page 9**

Francis asked every parish and religious community in Europe to consider offering hospitality to one family. The Vatican offered apartments and support to a family from Syria and a family from Eritrea. Then, seven months later, Pope Francis visited a refugee center on the island of Lesbos, Greece, and brought 12 refugees back to Rome on the plane with him.

Less than three months into his pontificate, he began denouncing the “throwaway culture” as one where money and power were the ultimate values and anything or anyone that did not advance money or power were disposable: “Human life, the person are no longer seen as primary values to be respected and protected, especially if they are poor or disabled, if they are not yet useful — like an unborn child — or are no longer useful — like an old person,” the pope said at a general audience.

In the first three years of his papacy, he published three major documents: “Evangelii Gaudium” (The Joy of the Gospel); “Laudato Si’, on Care for Our Common Home,” on the environment; and “Amoris Laetitia’ (The Joy of Love), on Love in the Family,” his reflections on the discussions of the Synod of Bishops in 2014 and 2015.

People skeptical about the scientific proof that human activity is contributing to climate change objected to parts of “Laudato Si’,” but the criticism was muted compared to reactions to Pope Francis’ document on the family, especially regarding ministry to divorced and civilly remarried Catholics and the possibility that, under some conditions, some of those Catholics could return to the sacraments.

The strongest criticism came from U.S. Cardinal Raymond L. Burke and three other cardinals, who sent to the pope and then publicly released in November 2016 a formal, critical set of questions, known as “dubia,” insisting that allowing those Catholics to receive the sacraments amounted to changing



CNS/Paul Haring

**Pope Francis blesses a prisoner as he visits the Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility in Philadelphia in this Sept. 27, 2015, file photo. In Washington the pope visited the White House and made history as the first pope to address Congress; in New York he spoke at the United Nations and visited ground zero; in Philadelphia he led the World Meeting of Families.**

fundamental Church teaching about marriage, sexuality and the nature of the sacraments.

Pope Francis has not responded to the cardinals, two of whom have since died. But in December, the Vatican posted on its website the guidelines for interpreting “Amoris Laetitia” developed by a group of Argentine bishops, as well as Pope Francis’ letter to them describing the guidelines as “authentic magisterium.”

The guidelines by bishops in the Buenos Aires region said the path of discernment proposed by Pope Francis for divorced and civilly remarried couples “does not necessarily end in the sacraments” but, in some situations, after a thorough process of

discernment, the pope’s exhortation “opens the possibility” to reception of the sacraments.

In the document and throughout his pontificate, Pope Francis has emphasized God’s mercy and the power of the sacraments to spur conversion and nourish Christians as they try to progress in holiness.

Like all popes, Pope Francis frequently urges Catholics to go to confession, telling them it is not a “torture chamber.” And he repeatedly gives priests blunt advice about being welcoming and merciful to those who approach the confessional.

Like St. John Paul did each Lent, Pope Francis hears confessions in St. Peter’s Basilica. But, he surprised even his closest

aides beginning in 2014 when, instead of going to the confessional to welcome the first penitent, he turned and went to confession himself.

He also has surprised people by being completely honest about his age. In April 2017, when he was

**Pope Francis embraces Vinicio Riva, who is afflicted with neurofibromatosis, during his general audience in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican in this Nov. 6, 2013, file photo. This image was widely seen throughout the world and much discussed.**



**POPE FRANCIS**  
The First Five Years



**2013**

**March 13**  
First Jesuit and first Latin American elected pope



**April 13**  
Appoints Council of Cardinals to advise him on church governance, reorganization of Roman Curia



**July 8**  
Travels to Lampedusa, Italy, praying for immigrants and those who lost lives trying to cross Mediterranean Sea



**July 22-29**  
First foreign trip: World Youth Day in Brazil

**July 7**  
Meets with six survivors of clerical sexual abuse, reiterates message of zero tolerance, accountability and continued commitment to prevention



**Dec. 2**  
Joins interfaith leaders, signs Declaration Against Slavery



**2015**  
**May 24**  
Signs encyclical “Laudato Si’, on Care for Our Common Home”



**2016**  
**April 8**  
Releases “Amoris Laetitia,” apostolic exhortation on marriage and family life



**Sept. 4**  
Canonizes Blessed Teresa of Kolkata



# PAPA FRANCISCO!

still 80 years old, he told Italian young people that while they are preparing for the future, "at my age we are preparing to go." The young people present objected loudly. "No?" the pope responded, "Who can guarantee life? No one."

From the beginning of his papacy, Pope Francis has expressed love and admiration for retired Pope Benedict XVI. Returning from South Korea in 2014, he said Pope Benedict's honest, "yet also humble and courageous" gesture of resigning cleared a path for later popes to do the same.

"You can ask me: 'What if one day you don't feel prepared to go on?'" he told the reporters traveling with him. "I would do the same, I would do the same! I will pray hard over it, but I would do the same thing. He (Pope Benedict) opened a door which is institutional, not exceptional."



CNS/Paul Haring

Rain falls as Pope Francis speaks during the World Youth Day welcome ceremony on Copacabana beach in Rio de Janeiro in this July 25, 2013, file photo. The pope hasn't been afraid to brave the elements during his numerous outdoor events.



CNS/Claudio Peri, EPA



CNS



CNS photo

Pope Francis celebrated his first Mass in the U.S. during a 2015 visit. Here, he travels down Constitution Avenue in Washington, D.C., and gives a thumbs-up to those gathered along the route.



**Nov. 24**  
Releases "Evangelii Gaudium," ("The Joy of the Gospel"), apostolic exhortation on proclamation of Gospel in today's world



**2014**

**Feb. 22**  
Creates his first cardinals, tapping 19 churchmen from 12 countries



**March 28**  
Breaks with protocol during Lenten penance service; before hearing confessions, he goes to confession



**April 27**  
Canonizes Blessed John Paul II and John XXIII



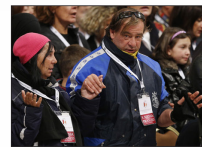
**2017**  
**April 26**  
Delivers TED Talk via video on "The Future You"



**Oct. 26**  
Holds live satellite link-up with crew aboard International Space Station



**Nov. 19**  
Celebrates Mass for first World Day of the Poor, hosts Vatican lunch for people assisted by Catholic Charities



**2018**

**Jan. 18**  
Convalidates marriage of two flight-crew members on plane during Chile visit



# Wonder and wit: Five years of Pope Francis' unique turns of phrase

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A native-Spanish speaker who grew up with Italian-speaking relatives in Argentina, Pope Francis has a striking way with words.

Bringing a background in literary themes and devices with him to the papacy five years ago, the pope has shown himself to be a master of metaphor and allegory.

His cross-cultural and eclectic knowledge of literature and cinema has supplied him with numerous visual elements that he mixes and matches with a religious message, creating such compound concoctions as “the babysitter church” to describe a parish that doesn’t encourage active evangelizers but only worries about keeping parishioners inside, out of trouble.

“Armchair Catholics,” meanwhile, don’t let the Holy Spirit lead their lives. They would rather stay put, safely reciting a “cold morality” without letting the Spirit push them out of the house to bring Jesus to others.

The Ignatian spirituality that formed him as a Jesuit also comes through many of his turns of phrase. Just as a Jesuit seeks to use all five senses to find and experience God, the pope does not hesitate to use language that involves sight, sound, taste, touch and smell.

And so, he urges the world’s priests to be “shepherds living with the smell of sheep” by living with and among the people in order to share Christ with them, and he tells his cardinals that all Catholic elders need to share with the young their insight and wisdom, which become like “fine wine that tastes better with age.”

No chorus is as wonderful as the squeaks, squeals and banter of children, he once said before baptizing 32 babies in the Sistine Chapel, assuring the parents that the commotion and chaos of new life was not only welcome, but wonderful.

The pope’s visual vocabulary dips into the everyday with sayings and scenarios from daily routines: like sin being more than a stain; it is a rebellious act against God that requires more than just a trip “to the laundromat and have it cleaned.” Even country living holds some lessons. He once told parishioners to bother their priests like a calf would pester its mother for milk. Always knock “on their door, on their heart so that they give you the milk of doctrine, the milk of grace and the milk of guidance.”

Food and drink hold numerous lessons. For example, to convey the corrosive atmosphere a bitter, angry priest can bring to his community, the pope said such priests make one think, “This



CNS photo/Paul Haring

**Argentina’s flag is seen as Pope Francis arrives to lead his general audience in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican in this April 3, 2013, file photo. Pope Francis, a native of Argentina, is the first pope from the Americas.**

man drinks vinegar for breakfast. Then, for lunch, pickled vegetables. And, in the evening, a nice glass of lemon juice.”

Christians must not be boastful and shallow like a special sweet his Italian grandmother would prepare for Fat Tuesday, he has said. Explaining how it is made from a very thin strip of pastry, the crunchy dessert bloats and swells in a pan of hot oil. They are called “bugie” or “little lies,” he said, because “they seem big, but they have nothing inside, there’s no truth, no substance.”

Pope Francis’ frequent focus on the evils of living a hypocritical or superficial life has meant employing descriptions such as showy as peacocks, frivolous as an over-primped star and fleeting as soap bubbles. “A soap bubble is beautiful! It has so many colors! But it lasts one second and then what?”

To explain the kind of “terrible anxiety” that results from a life of vanity built on lies and fantasy, the pope said, “It’s like those people who put on too much makeup and then they’re afraid of getting rained on and all the makeup running down their face.”

Pope Francis does not shy away from the gory or gross, calling money — when it becomes an idol — the “devil’s dung” and saying the lives of the corrupt are “varnished putrefaction” because, like whitewashed tombs, they appear beautiful on the outside, but inside they are full of dead bones.

For the pope, who sees Christ as a “true physician of bodies and souls,” there is no shortage of medical metaphors.

Of the most well-known, the pope pines for “the church as a field hospital after battle. It is

useless to ask a seriously injured person if he has high cholesterol and about the level of his blood sugars! You have to heal his wounds.”

Speaking elsewhere about people who have done evil and know it, Pope Francis said, they live “with a constant itch, with hives that don’t leave them in peace.”

The consequence of pride or vanity, he warned on another occasion, “is like an osteoporosis of the soul: The bones seem good from the outside, but on the inside they are all ruined.”

Another medical problem afflicting souls diagnosed by Pope Francis is “spiritual Alzheimer’s,” a condition that renders some people incapable of remembering God’s love and mercy for them and, therefore, unable to show mercy to others.

If people were to get a “spiritual electrocardiogram,” he once asked, would it be flatlined because the heart is hardened, unmoved and emotionless or would it be pulsating with the prompting and prods of the Holy Spirit?

And whether people recognize it or not, God is their true father, he has said. “First of all, he gave us his DNA, that is, he made us his children; he created us in his image, in his image and likeness, like him.”

Meeting with cardinals and the heads of Vatican offices for an annual Christmas greeting, the pope explained the reform of the Roman Curia as more than just a face-lift to rejuvenate or beautify an aging body, but a process of deep, personal conversion.

Sometimes, he said the next Christmas, reform “is like cleaning an Egyptian Sphinx with a toothbrush.”

## A small sampler of Pope Francis quotes

*In his formal documents, many speeches and unscripted morning homilies the past five years, Pope Francis has given the Church plenty of “food for thought” on many issues of great importance.*

### On communication:

“Communication has the power to build bridges, to enable encounter and inclusion, and thus to enrich society. How beautiful it is when people select their words and actions with care, in the effort to avoid misunderstandings, to heal wounded memories and to build peace and harmony.”

— *Message for World Communications Day 2016*

### On creation:

“We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth; our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters.”

— *“Laudato Si’, On Care for Our Common Home,” May 24, 2015*

### On economics:

“Let us say ‘no’ to an economy of exclusion and inequality, where money rules, rather than service. That economy kills. That economy excludes. That economy destroys Mother Earth.”

— *World Meeting of Popular Movements, July 9, 2015*

### On faith:

“Please do not water down your faith in Jesus Christ. We dilute fruit drinks — orange, apple or banana juice — but please do not drink a diluted form of faith. Faith is whole and entire, not something that you water down. It is faith in Jesus. It is faith in the son of God made man, who loved me and who died for me.”

— *World Youth Day, July 25, 2013*

### On the family:

“No family drops down from heaven perfectly formed; families need constantly to grow and mature in the ability to love. ... May we never lose heart because of our limitations or ever stop seeking that fullness of love and communion which God holds out before us.”

— *“Amoris Laetitia,” April 8, 2016*

### On life:

“Human life is sacred and inviolable. Every civil right rests on the recognition of the first and fundamental right, that of life, which is not subordinate to any condition, be it quantitative, economic or, least of all, ideological.”

— *Speech to the Italian pro-life movement, April 11, 2014*

### On mercy:

“Mercy: the bridge that connects God and humanity, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness.”

— *“Misericordiae Vultus,” April 11, 2015*

### On religious freedom:

“It is incomprehensible and alarming that, still today, discrimination and restrictions of rights continue for the single fact that one belongs to and publicly professes an unwavering faith. It is unacceptable that real persecution is actually sustained for reasons of religious affiliation! Wars as well! This distorts reason, attacks peace and humiliates human dignity.”

— *Speech, June 20, 2014*

### On Satan:

“The devil exists even in the 21st century and we shouldn’t be naive. ... We have to learn from the Gospel how to fight” against him.

— *Homily, April 11, 2014*

### On vocations:

“A vocation is a fruit that ripens in a well-cultivated field of mutual love that becomes mutual service, in the context of an authentic ecclesial life. No vocation is born of itself or lives for itself. A vocation flows from the heart of God and blossoms in the good soil of faithful people, in the experience of fraternal love.”

— *World Day of Prayer for Vocations, 2014*

### On young people in the Church:

“I want you to make yourselves heard in your dioceses. I want the noise to go out. I want the church to go out onto the streets. I want us to resist everything worldly, everything static, everything comfortable, everything to do with clericalism, everything that might make us closed in on ourselves.”

— *World Youth Day, July 25, 2013*

# PUERI CANTORES 2018

## Young singers lift their voices in worship at St. Pius X



Participants of Pueri Cantores sing during a special Mass celebrated March 7.



Paul French, director of music at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Chicago, conducts the large choir consisting of voices from across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.



Msgr. William Schooler, pastor of St. Pius X Parish, directs his homily to the Pueri Cantores members.



The students learned various styles of music for their liturgical participation.



Photos by Derby Photography

Dozens of young singers from parishes and schools in the diocese are brought together each year for a Mass designed to showcase their talent for music ministry. The location of the Mass changes, and this year was celebrated at St. Pius X Parish in Granger.

# Fish fries feed the faithful in Lent



Jennifer Miller

A delicious platter of "Jonah" fish is served at a Christ the King Parish fish fry in South Bend. One hundred percent of the proceeds from the Christ the King fish fries go to a sister parish in Bangladesh.



Denise Fedorow

St. John the Evangelist parent Rosnery Cruz is served fish and scalloped potatoes by, from left, Blake Doriot and Mike Hein at St. John the Evangelist Parish, Goshen. The Knights of Columbus Lenten fish fries are popular with parishioners and area residents alike, who've been known to call it "the best fish fry around."



Jennifer Miller

English-, Spanish- and Polish-speaking volunteers work together to prepare carry-out fish dinners meals in either the American style, with coleslaw, or the Polish style, with noodles and sauerkraut.



Joe Romie

Fish comes out of a fryer at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne. The Boy Scout Troop hosted by the parish has run weekly Lenten fish fries for 41 consecutive years.



Michelle Donaghey

Ladies from St. Dominic Parish in Bremen worked to cut and plate homemade desserts that are included in the fish fry ticket price along with a beverage and sides. The parish fish fries started years ago after St. Isidore Hall was built, to help fund the building project, and have become a tradition.



Joe Romie

The fish fries at Our Lady of Good Hope Parish, Fort Wayne, had a take-out option for customers and a special station to assemble them. The dinner is run by the Knights of Our Lady and serves fish fried by Dan's Fish Fry Service, Huntington.

# Serving Christ through a camera lens: 'Jerry' Kessens

BY RON BUSCH

Writers and photographers come from various backgrounds and walks of life. But it's hard to match the adventurous background of Gerald "Jerry" Kessens.

Kessens retired on April 1, 1987, after a career spanning 32 years of active service in the U.S. Navy. Most of that time was spent working as a photographer in still, motion picture and aerial photography, processing and printing and camera repair. Well-traveled, within his first five years of naval service he had been to all seven continents. He photographed dignitaries — presidents and vice presidents of the United States, kings and queens, and top military personnel — and the everyday person; activities aboard carriers, heavy cruisers, destroyers and a submarine; and he had flown in numerous types of military aircraft, including a Goodyear blimp.

Kessens' upbringing in a devout Catholic family in Fort Wayne served him well through the years of Navy service. He came from a family of eight, having two brothers and three sisters. One brother, Thomas, is still living, as well as a sister, Miriam. Miriam is a School Sister of Notre Dame.

Kessens' father worked at General Electric, as did Jerry for a time. But Jerry also had an early interest in the Lord's work. Between grade school and high school, he even spent a half year at Our Lady of the Lake Seminary in Wawasee, although he confessed that this early training toward becoming a priest "just didn't seem right." His father passed away the same year that Jerry graduated from high school, in 1955, and his mother sought work outside the home. Eventually she accepted a job as secretary of St. Peter Church, Fort Wayne, where she spent 18 years.

Kessens had previously considered military service but was unsure about the timing, given the passing of his father. His mother encouraged him to follow his dreams, and he enlisted in the Navy in 1955. He entered as a high school airman recruit, which allowed him to become a photographer. His interest in photography stemmed from experiences in seventh and eighth grades, as well as membership in Central Catholic's camera club, where he did photos for the school newspaper and yearbook. Developing his skills with for the U.S. Navy fulfilled a dream.

Early assignments included three tours of duty with the Air/Antarctic Development Squadron, and six tours, totaling 10 seasons, with "Operation Deep Freeze" — a mission to shoot aerial photographs of the



Photos provided by Jerry Kessens

## Gerald 'Jerry' Kessens as a young photographer for the U.S. Navy.

Antarctic continent from which maps of the desolate region could be made. An LC130 airplane fitted with skis instead of wheels crossed the continent for this purpose, and also carried supplies to a home base of the National Science Foundation on the continent. One mountainous area the young photographer mapped includes what was named "Kessens Peak" in his honor.

On Christmas Eve 1960, Kessens was a passenger on a one-engine DeHavilland Otter plane. Its mission was to resupply a New Zealand field party and to do reconnaissance photography. In a bad-weather landing the plane's engine blew a push rod, pouring oil over the windshield. The plane came to a stop dangerously close to an icy crevice, and rested atop a second crevice. During a break in the weather the next day, all crew members were safely rescued.

Kessens also served as a Navy air crewman, load master and photographer during the Vietnam War era, flying on C117s and other aircraft.

During his assigned missions in remote areas, Kessens remembered, base Catholic chaplains were not always present; but their availability from time to time kept him grounded in the faith. While stationed in New Orleans, which had no Catholic chaplain, between 1962 and 1965, Kessens served as lector for Masses and became a member of the Holy Name Society. In 1979-80, Father J. William Hines installed him as a eucharistic minister at the Atsugi, Japan, Naval Air Facility, and in the early '80s, while attached to Fight Squadron 31 aboard the USS Kennedy, Kessens met and shook hands with Pope St. John

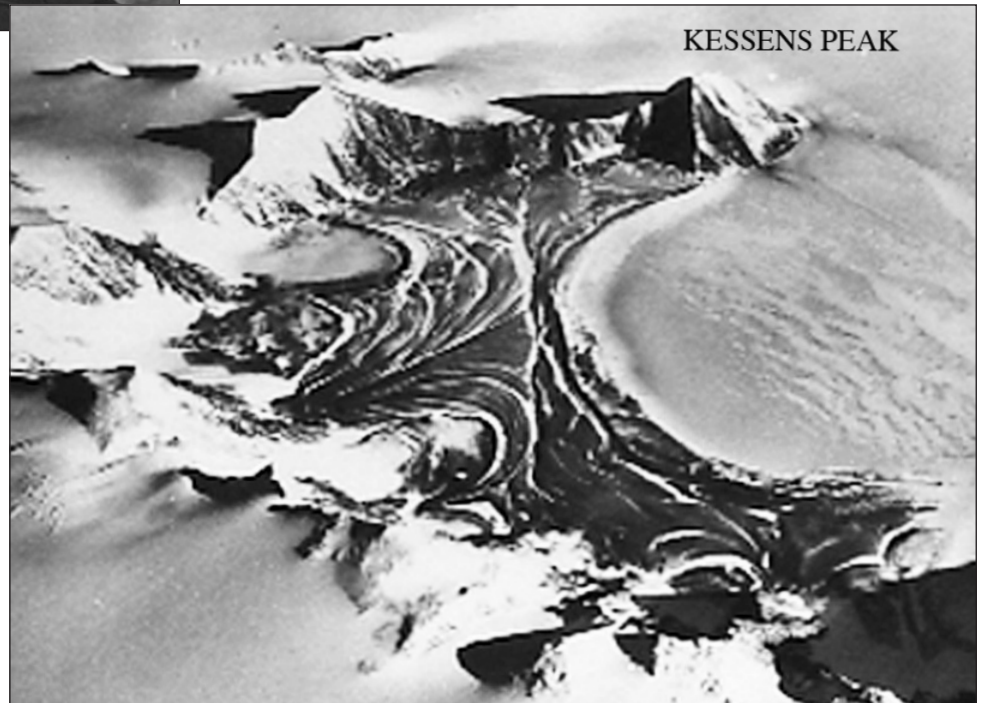
sandwiched between two different years at the Fort Henry National Monument and Historic Shrine; but over the course of his many travels and assignments he attended 14 different universities and colleges, eventually earning a bachelor's degree from the Regent's College at New York State University. Part of his education had taken place the University of Southern California, as the Navy had a program that sent 12 enlisted photographers a year to school for motion picture / TV director direction and motion picture production.

After Fort Henry, Kessens spent 10 years at the Dayton Aviation Historical Park, run by the National Park Service. It is the fourth location of the Wright Brother's bicycle shop, where they did research and development of early aviation. During this time, he still enjoyed shooting photos, and continues to do

so to this day by working with *Today's Catholic* whenever he might be needed.

He remains single, although he came close to marriage on a couple occasions. With a "first love" of photography, Kessens has literally seen the world through his camera lens. He is also currently active as a church usher, board member and president of his neighborhood association, volunteer cameraman for Allen County Public Library's Access TV, and has membership in two model train clubs.

As a product of parents who lived the faith by example, a sister who became a Catholic nun and the influence of Msgr. John A. Bapst at St. Peter Parish, he feels he has lived a "blessed life" — even though there's still more adventure to be had, experienced behind the camera that still hangs so comfortably around his neck and near his heart.



John Martin

Kessens photographs a Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, last year.

## 'Make noise!': Pope Francis at five years

Finishing off his first international trip as pope at the 2013 World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro, Pope Francis looked to the young people present and in his native Spanish beckoned, "Hagan lio!" which has been translated as "Make some noise" and "Make a mess."

Some prominent Catholics balked at his comments at the time, saying that the last thing young people need is a faith that is ambiguous or imprudent. That criticism certainly didn't quiet the pope, as he has returned to this expression several times in the past five years — and it's one that we, as millennials, intuitively understand.

Two years after his March 2013 surprise election, we were both invited to speak on a panel examining Pope Francis' papacy. Elise spoke about the debate that was beginning to emerge over the clarity of his message, and Chris spoke about how a generation defined by contradictions has embraced this pope because he has put the countercultural message of the Gospel front and center though bold actions and gestures that have bolstered credibility to the message he preaches.

Pope Francis' invocation to "Make a mess" or to shake things up is largely reflective of the colorful and accessible language he uses so frequently. While critics charge that he is theologically imprecise, we believe the pope's language expresses closeness to the people of God — like a shepherd who smells like his sheep.

His call to make a mess is intuitive for those of us who find little resonance with current

political parties uninterested in coming together for the common good, economic systems that are consumer-driven and transaction-based, and communities or parishes that are self-referential and detached from the real needs of those around us.

His image of the Church as a field hospital — made messy by its blood, sweat and tears, and one that tends to visible wounds with compassion — is an image of a Church that is compelling and one we want to be a part of, because we know it's one that responds to real-life experiences rather than remote or abstract ideas.

Young people want to be the first responders in this type of Church. One look at the faces of the March for Life in Washington reveals tens of thousands of children, teens and emerging adults, committed to helping both mothers and their unborn children in the United States.

One can call to mind the young adults who commit to long-term service after graduating from college every year, 20-somethings who live in some of the poorest communities in the world. Or one can think of the young men and women demanding solutions to the scourge of gun violence in their schools. This is impressive and miraculous, for a generation or two of young Catholics and their peers who have lived through the mess of a culture laden with divorce and family breakdown, terrorist attacks and mass shootings, and painful scandals within their own Church.

Young Catholics know the mess. They know carnage. And



ELISE ITALIANO AND CHRISTOPHER WHITE

so when a pope who understands that mess asks them to show up, they do.

In his 2016 apostolic exhortation "Amoris Laetitia," Pope Francis writes: "I sincerely believe that Jesus wants a church attentive to the goodness that the Holy Spirit sows in the midst of human weakness, a mother who, while clearly expressing her objective teaching, 'always does what good she can, even if in the process, her shoes get soiled by the mud of the street.'"

That image of a mother in the street fighting to save her children is one that we believe has made our peers outside of the Church willing to give the Church a second look — and on the five-year anniversary of his election, we're grateful for a Holy Father who not only understands that, but one who has invited us to join him in the muck of it all.

Elise Italiano is the founding executive director of the The Given Institute. Christopher White is national correspondent for Crux.

## Doggone it, kids are great

My wife and I have taken to watching the population boom of dogs in commercials. Have you noticed they are everywhere? Dogs are the new children, but better groomed.

Pet food sales in the United States top \$28 billion a year, more than the U.S. government spends on non-military foreign aid to the rest of the world.

Dogs are not just being trotted out to sell bags of Pedigree or Iams. Increasingly, dogs are making appearances in ads selling other products, from cars to psoriasis drugs. They are guaranteed to inspire the warm and fuzzy feeling that marketers want associated with their products.

That advertising is going to the dogs tracks with our experience of families, young couples and singles. Talk around the water cooler is as likely to be about pets as kids. Folks are spending a fortune on anti-anxiety drugs for their animals, for hip replacements and kennels, for doggie play groups and for pet therapy. All totaled, Americans spend more than \$65 billion on Fido and Fluffy.

Lots of baby boomer grandparents-in-waiting can tell you about their offspring who may be delaying pregnancy (and marriage), but who like the pitter-patter of little feet around the house. Vacations home to visit mom and dad now include elaborate arrangements for the housing of the pets at kennels, or they are brought along on the trip because they suffer from separation anxiety.

Often referred to as "the kids,"



AMID THE FRAY

GREG ERLANDSON

pets now have their own greeting card lines. Check it out this coming Mother's Day. My favorite: "You make me want to be a better cat." Surely a sentiment no cat has ever felt.

So amid this allergen-saturated love fest with our furry friends, let me, as a parent and perhaps-someday-grandparent, make the case for kids.

— Ignore all the bogus statistics about how much children cost. Those astronomical numbers are meant to scare you sterile, but they have no connection to reality. The truth is: It works out, whether it's braces, first car or college. It just takes patience, faith and a little ingenuity.

— Pets are cute, but children are fascinating. Mine are all barreling toward full adulthood, and I find them even more interesting now than when they were learning how to throw a football or master a math problem or discussing Harry Potter. I want to hear their thoughts on life and love and what's showing at the Cineplex, and of course share mine.

— Kids help us to grow in love. They are designed to inspire our most protective feelings at birth, but that is just the

ERLANDSON, page 17

## Through His death and resurrection, Jesus establishes God's New Covenant



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

### Fifth Sunday of Lent John 12:20-33

The Book of Jeremiah provides this weekend's first reading. A common theme runs through all the written prophecies of ancient Israel, namely that despite human sinfulness and treachery, God always is merciful. He always forgives. He never forsakes the people.

Jeremiah constantly wrote with this theme in his mind. He had no doubt. The people had gravely sinned, and consequently they had brought chaos and misery into their lives. Thus it is with humans. God, however, saves sinners from their plight.

This weekend's reading speaks of a New Covenant. The people's sins had severely rebuked the old covenant, given to the people through Moses, and then to David and his dynasty, but God would offer a new way to life, peace and joy.

The Epistle to the Hebrews supplies the second reading. This epistle is rich in Jewish symbolism. It abundantly proclaims the most profound of Jewish beliefs, that God will never fail in mercy and forgiveness if the people reform. This reading underscores the role of Jesus, the Son of God, in the divine plan to redeem the lost. His suffering on the cross affirmed and verified perfect obedience to the Father. The Lord made possible eternal salvation for all who obey.

St. John's Gospel supplies the last reading. Greeks who were visiting Jerusalem sought Jesus. They approached Philip, an apostle. Philip went to Andrew, another of the Twelve.

An interesting incidental was that contact with Jesus is

initiated through the Apostles. It shows that in the Early Church, when this Gospel was written, the Apostles were very, very important because they literally had known the Lord. They were the Lord's special students, chosen to represent the Lord. Since they personally had been chosen, they acted and spoke with the very authority of Jesus.

Jesus placed a dark cloud over this reading. He predicted the crucifixion but implied that Calvary would result in life for all. To illustrate, Jesus spoke of a grain of wheat, lifeless and tiny; but, the Lord notes that from this small piece of nature, the mustard seed, new life springs. Finally, Jesus says that no gift is as total as the giving of a person's life.

The Gospel reveals the intimacy between Jesus and God the Father, and between the Lord and His disciples. This intimacy with the disciples necessarily requires their absolute will to follow the Lord regardless of the cost, which may be very high. Discipleship may not be easy.

### Reflection

Next weekend the Church will celebrate Palm Sunday, or Passion Sunday. In two weeks, the Church will call us to mark this year's Holy Week with its magnificent, expressive liturgy of the Triduum.

Two consoling lessons emerge from this weekend's Gospel reading. The Lord Jesus and God the Father are perfectly and inseparably one. So, Jesus prays to the Father and is answered. Jesus is the supreme channel for the outpouring of divine everlasting love. The self-sacrifice of Jesus on Calvary is the sublime act of God's love.

God's love is never restricted or limited. In the first verse of this Gospel reading, Greeks wished to see Jesus. New life awaits all who simply turn to the Lord. The Lord declares that the Father will bless true disciples, true servants of Jesus. The Lord is the perfect teacher. He is the bearer of Redemption.

The key to bonding with God is wholeheartedly to turn to the Lord. Obedience is a vitally

important part of each of the lessons this weekend. Jeremiah called the people to obey God. Hebrews and Mark extoll the obedience of Christ.

Such unqualified obedience is demanding, to say the least, but nothing else will suffice.

In obedience is genuine acknowledgement of God, a statement of reality, of who we are, and of who God is.

### READINGS

**Sunday:** Jer 31:31-34 Ps 51:3-4, 12-15 Heb 5:7-9 Jn 12:20-33

**Monday:** 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16 Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29 Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22 Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a

**Tuesday:** Nm 21:4-9 Ps 102:2-3, 16-21 Jn 8:21-30

**Wednesday:** Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95 (Ps) Dn 3:52-56 Jn 8:31-42

**Thursday:** Gn 17:3-9 Ps 105:4-9 Jn 8:51-59

**Friday:** Jer 20:10-13 Ps 18:2-7 Jn 10:31-42

**Saturday:** Ez 37:21-28 (Ps) Jer 31:10-13 Jn 11:45-56



# For love of life

In 1991, I met a 64-year-old gentleman who had very severe coronary artery blockage. He successfully underwent quintuple bypass surgery and then came to see me on a very regular basis. This is his story — the story of a man who loved life and fought till his last breath.

For the immediate years after his bypass surgery his health remained good, but in 1995 he had a transient ischemic attack manifested by confusion and difficulty with speech. We found him to have a high-grade left carotid blockage. The carotid is one of the main arteries that supplies blood to the brain. He underwent a carotid endarterectomy by the same surgical team at Lutheran Hospital that had done his bypasses. An endarterectomy is basically a reaming out of the severe blockage in an artery. He fully recovered without any permanent neurologic impairment.

A period of stability followed, but in 1999 he showed up in my office complaining of chest pain; a coronary angiogram showed a new, severe blockage. He underwent a technically difficult coronary angioplasty to open this partially blocked artery. He then became angina-free and continued to live an active life.

In 2002, he presented with severe hypertension. I had him on just about every class of medicine available for uncontrolled blood pressure, yet I could not control it. We discovered that he had bilateral renal artery stenosis, or blockage in the arteries to both kidneys. This can be the cause of refractory hypertension, and therefore he underwent stenting of both renal arteries successfully. Another period of stability followed, and I continued to enjoy seeing him in the office. He always came with his lovely, supportive wife. He began to write short progress notes outlining how he had done since his last visit.

After a few years, he expanded his typed progress note to include either a joke at the end or an insightful comment about the state of mankind. He was a deep thinker. Some of these comments were quite profound, others just plain old funny. As I would read the note either laughing or smiling, his wife would invariably roll her eyes, pretending to be embarrassed. I could see the love in her eyes as she gazed at her sometimes-cantankerous husband.

In 2005 he came back to see

me with very limiting angina. This was just not acceptable to him. He had too many things to accomplish yet in his life. My team performed another cardiac catheterization on him, and it was very bad news. He had developed diffuse disease of not only his native coronary arteries but also of his five bypasses. There were not any more interventions we could offer. We maximized his medicines, but he still had chest pain even with minimal activity. I offered him a trial of an alternative treatment called external counter pulsation therapy.

This was a treatment not embraced by most cardiologists in this country, but after reading several favorable studies I convinced my partners to invest in this technology. Subjects are fitted with special pants that have air-inflatable circumferential compartments that inflate and deflate with each heart beat in a

specially timed manner. They push blood back to the heart during diastole, when the heart is resting between pumping, and it is theorized that small vessels called collaterals build to supply better blood supply to the heart muscle and thereby reduce the angina usually manifested by chest pain. These treatments took one

hour each day for seven straight weeks. His effort to endure 35 treatments paid off: He had remarkable improvement.

He enjoyed more years of stability, but in 2009 he came to the hospital short of breath and we diagnosed him with congestive heart failure. His heart had steadily deteriorated and he had developed a weak left ventricle, which is called an ischemic cardiomyopathy. We then placed an implantable cardioverter defibrillator and a biventricular pacemaker to try to prolong his life, which it did.

Over the next seven years I saw him more frequently than any patient I have ever taken care of. I was constantly adjusting his medicines to keep him out of heart failure and out of the hospital.

In 2016, during a time I was on vacation, he was in dire straits. His ejection fraction had fallen to 15 percent and he was in kidney failure. He was now 88 years old, and he was told by my partners there was little more that could be done. They consulted the Advanced Heart Failure team and he saw one of my favorite partners, Dr. Mark Jones. Even though

## THE CATHOLIC DOCTOR IS IN

DR. DAVID KAMINSKAS

by usual standards he was really too old to be offered this, Dr. Jones told him he might be able to buy some more time if he was put on a continuous intravenous drip of medicine to help his cardiac output. This medicine is usually only used in the hospital. In much younger patients who we are trying to keep alive until we can give them a heart transplant, we sometime will use this in a continuous drip, even as an outpatient.

When I returned from vacation I heard he had been discharged home on this constant infusion. I thought he might survive a few weeks, or at best a few more months. When I saw him the next time in the office, he told me he felt great. I could not believe the response he was having. I also thought it was quite unusual for a man of his advanced age to even want to try this, and I just had to ask what motivated him to keep going.

Knowing him as I did, I was expecting some profound intellectual answer. He told me he wanted to live because when he died, it was all over. I asked him if he had any faith. He told me he “did not believe in all that stuff.” He said an afterlife made no sense and was not logical. I shared with him that I was a believer and a Catholic. I told him I was sure that Jesus was the Son of God and that our earthly existence was just a sliver of eternity. We agreed to disagree that day and parted with our doctor-patient relationship intact.

This man celebrated life for the next 18 months, even though he was quite limited in his activities. He and his wife became experts at managing his continuous intravenous infusion and set the record for the longest functioning PIC line without an infection that I have ever seen. Our frequent office visits continued, as did his typed progress notes. We continued to spar about the existence of an afterlife, but I could not detect a change in his philosophy. I finally received a call that he had suddenly died at home at age 89.

Over the years, I had prayed for this unique man. Sometimes I would say a quick Hail Mary as I walked out of the room. I will miss him. I also have hope that we will meet again.

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

*Over the years, I had prayed for this unique man. Sometimes I would say a quick Hail Mary as I walked out of the room. I will miss him. I also have hope that we will meet again.*

## SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for March 18, 2018

John 12-20-33

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Fifth Sunday of Lent, Cycle B: as Jesus' earthly ministry is drawing to a close. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

WORSHIP	PHILIP	TO SEE JESUS
HOUR	GLORIFIED	WHEAT
FALLS	AND DIES	PRODUCES
SERVES ME	FOLLOW	SERVANT
HONOR	TROUBLED	A VOICE
HEARD	ANGEL	JUDGMENT
WORLD	LIFTED UP	DEATH

### TO SEE JESUS

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

### ERLANDSON, from page 16

beginning. Through them we learn how to sacrifice ourselves for others.

We learn to up our game — giving them examples of discipline and forgiveness. We learn humility, for they expose our weaknesses and shortcomings as well. They teach us that love is not zero sum, but grows exponentially.

— Children teach us about empathy. They say no parent is happier than his saddest child, and it's true. To see a child suffer — whether from a skinned knee, a breakup or a business failure — is to share that suffering with

them. And that is love, too.

— And for all you actuaries out there, the truth is that kids live longer than dogs and cats. God willing, we get to walk through the rest of our lives with them, which is what makes families so amazing (and occasionally maddening).

Pets are nice, but what all of us grandparents-in-waiting want to say is that children are God's wonderful gift. And it is a gift that keeps on giving.

**Greg Erlandson**, director and editor-in-chief of Catholic News Service, can be reached at [gerlandson@catholicnews.com](mailto:gerlandson@catholicnews.com).

## Saint of the Week



### Cyril of Jerusalem

c. 315-386  
 Feast March 18

Cyril lived when the Arian heresy was roiling Christianity. Raised and educated in Jerusalem, he was ordained by St. Maximus and succeeded him as bishop of Jerusalem around 350. His episcopate lasted until his death, but he spent 16 years in exile, turned out by emperors influenced by the Arian bishop of Caesarea who claimed ecclesiastical jurisdiction over Jerusalem. The Council of Antioch sent St. Gregory of Nyssa to investigate Cyril and his diocese. He reported that Jerusalem was rife with factionalism and Arianism, but that Cyril was orthodox. He is famous for his extant “Catechetical Instructions,” some of which consist almost entirely of carefully interwoven scriptural passages. Pope Leo XIII named him a doctor of the Church in 1882.

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# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## Married couples' retreat planned

MISHAWAKA — Married couples who would like to deepen their relationship with each other and with Christ may register for "An Encounter with the Beloved," a diocesan retreat for married couples given by Frederick and Lisa Everett.

The retreat will take place the weekend of April 28-29 at Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center in Donaldson. The price of the retreat is \$195 per couple and includes overnight

accommodations and all meals. For more details or to register, go to [www.lindenwood.org](http://www.lindenwood.org) and click on "Retreats and Programs" and "Attend One of Our Programs," or contact Lisa Everett at [leverett@diocesefwsb.org](mailto:leverett@diocesefwsb.org).

## Right to Life Essay contest

SOUTH BEND — Each year St. Joseph County Right to Life sponsors a teen essay contest, to cultivate pro-life leadership at a young age by encouraging students to articulate pro-life truth

with compassion. The contest is judged in two divisions: seventh and eighth grades, and ninth-12th grades. One girl and one boy winner are selected from each division, and all winners are honored with a cash prize at the St. Joseph County Right to Life Respect Life Prayer Dinner. For contest information visit <https://www.prolifemichiana.org/essay-contest>.

## USF theology camp for high school students

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis will offer a theology summer camp for current high school students, titled "Beauty Will Save the World!" July 8-12 on the USF main campus, 2701 Spring St., Fort Wayne. The camp is aimed at students who desire deeper study of and hands-on activities connected to the various ways beauty reveals God in the world.

The fee for the Beauty Will Save The World summer camp is dramatically reduced this year, thanks to the generous support of the Lilly Endowment's program of Theology Institutes for High School Students. The fee is an all-inclusive \$99 and includes room and board, supplies, activities and transportation. Because of this extraordinary value, the camp is limited to the first 25 students who register.

More information is available at <http://philosophy.sf.edu/summer-institute>.

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 \*Winner will be notified in May and will receive a \$100 gift certificate to the bookstore.

## Belonging

### "Creating a Sense of Belonging" Building Inclusive Parishes (BIP)

Tuesday, March 20th  
 Most Precious Blood Church

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING?

**WHAT'S HAPPENING** carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send announcements at least two weeks prior to the event. View more Catholic events and submit new ones at [www.todayscatholic.org/event](http://www.todayscatholic.org/event). Events that require an admission charge or payment to participate will receive one free listing. For additional listings of that event, please call the Today's Catholic advertising sales staff at 260-399-1449 to purchase space.

**St. Joseph of Roanoke plans fish fry**  
**ROANOKE** — St. Joseph Catholic Church will have a fish fry Friday March 16, from 5-7:30 p.m. at the American Legion. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 5-12 and free for children 4 and under. Dine-in or carry out.

**St. John the Baptist plans fish fry**  
**FORT WAYNE** — St. John the Baptist Parish, 4500 Fairfield Ave., will have a fish fry prepared by Dan's Fish, with sides catered by Hall's Restaurants, Friday, March 16, from 5-8 p.m. Drive-through available in the Pasadena cul-de-sac. Adults \$10, children 12 and under \$5.

**Grand garage sale**  
**FORT WAYNE** — St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School will host a garage sale on Saturday, March 17, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the school gymnasium, 10650 Aboite Center Rd. Plenty of items to choose from — toys, furniture, electronics, home decor, big screen TV, jewelry, clothing and more. The popular bag sale starts at 12:15 p.m. Proceeds go towards the eighth-grade class trip.

**St. Patrick's Day celebration**  
**SOUTH BEND** — St. Patrick Parish, 308 S. Scott St., will have a "St. Patrick's Day Celebration" beginning with a Mass at 9 a.m. followed by free coffee and donuts in their Parish Center on Saturday, March 17. After the nearby 11 a.m. downtown Irish

themed St. Patrick's Day Parade, St. Patrick will host a traditional St. Patrick's Day celebration in the Parish Center from noon to 4 p.m. Free live Irish music and dance. The featured meal will be the traditional Irish corned beef and cabbage, but there will also be offerings of chicken, potato soup, soda bread, desserts, and children's food. Prices range from \$12 to \$4. There will be an Irish beer pub and will feature the Caledonia Band.

**St. Patrick, Lagro, plans concert**  
**LAGRO** — The Wabash High School Symphonic Voices and Debonairs will perform in concert at St. Patrick Oratory, 950 W. Main St., Saturday, March 17, at 2 p.m. Refreshments will be offered. A free will offering will be taken.

**Feast of St. Joseph Mass and spaghetti dinner**  
**FORT WAYNE** — St. Joseph Parish, 1337 US-27 South, will celebrate the feast day of its patron saint with a Mass celebrated by Father Kummer at 5 p.m., immediately followed by a spaghetti dinner in the school hall. Dinner will be sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, Council 12379.

**Career ministry at St. Vincent de Paul**  
**FORT WAYNE** — John Taylor will be sharing ways to execute a networking strategy Monday, March 19, at 7 p.m. at St. Vincent's Spiritual Center rooms

A&B, 1720 E. Wallen Rd. Dress is casual; anyone is welcome. Bring a copy of your resume. One-on-one coaching begins at 6:15 p.m.

**Marian High School auction - Lucky Knight**  
**MISHAWAKA** — The annual Auction will be Saturday, March 17, at Marian High School. "Lucky Knight" opens with a 5:30 p.m. Mass in the Sisters of St. Francis Convent Chapel celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. Cocktail hour opens at 6 p.m., dinner and auction at 7 p.m.

## REST IN PEACE

<b>Auburn</b> David L. Blevins, 57, Immaculate Conception	Maurice J. O'Morrow, 85, St. Charles Borromeo	<b>South Bend</b> William J. Jaroszewski, 81, Holy Cross
<b>Ege</b> Gerogia C. Schenher, 76, Immaculate Conception	Elaine M. Stephens, 84, St. Jude	Leonard J. Loebach, 51, Christ the King
<b>Fort Wayne</b> Mary Alice Steinacker, 84, St. John the Baptist	<b>Mishawaka</b> Marjorie Nellans, 90, St. Joseph	Pauline B. Koszyk, 92, Holy Family
	<b>Notre Dame</b> Henrietta M. Wolak, 98, Sacred Heart Chapel	Marceline T. Kopczyński, 87, Holy Family

### Looking for a Fish Fry?

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



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Photos provided by David Snyder

Catholic Relief Services representatives, donors and board members are greeted with a traditional Ethiopian coffee ceremony at the agency's office in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, March 5. The group was on hand to visit CRS projects across the country.

For complete gallery of Bishop Rhoades' photos visit [www.todayscatholic.org](http://www.todayscatholic.org)

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### 2018 SUMMER CAMPS & PROGRAMS

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1 x per week for five weeks  
Contact: Diane Rice, [thexcourt@gmail.com](mailto:thexcourt@gmail.com)

#### BASKETBALL CAMP

For incoming boys and girls grades K-8  
July 9 - 13  
Contact: Matt Kostoff, [mkostoff@bishopdwenger.com](mailto:mkostoff@bishopdwenger.com)

#### BASKETBALL BOY'S LEAGUE

For incoming grades 6 - 9  
June: 8 game session  
Information meeting on May 30 @ 6:00 pm

#### CHEERLEADING CAMP

For incoming girls grades K-5  
July 23 - 27  
Contact: Amy Gonzagowski, (260) 496-4700

#### SQUAD STUNT & CHEER CAMP

For incoming girls grades 6-8; squads only  
July 23 - 27  
Contact: Amy Gonzagowski, (260) 496-4700

#### DANCE TEAM CAMP

For incoming boys and girls grades K-8  
June 25 - 29  
Contact: Karin Bouza, [KMBouza@gmail.com](mailto:KMBouza@gmail.com)

#### FOOTBALL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT CAMP

For incoming boys grades 6-9  
July 17 & 18  
Contact: Jason Garrett, (260) 496-4736

#### FOOTBALL TEAM CAMP

For incoming boys grades 10 - 12  
July 16 - 19  
Contact: Jason Garrett, (260) 496-4736

#### GYMNASTICS CAMP

For incoming girls grades K-8  
June 13 & 15 or June 26 & 28  
[www.summitgymnastics.com](http://www.summitgymnastics.com)

#### SOCCER CAMP

For incoming girls grades 9-12  
June 11 - 15  
Contact: Jeff Killion, [killion\\_family@yahoo.com](mailto:killion_family@yahoo.com)

#### For incoming boys and girls grades 7 - 9

June 4 - 6  
Contact: Carl-Philip Dorissant, [cdorissant@gmail.com](mailto:cdorissant@gmail.com)

#### SUMMER CONDITIONING

All BD athletes grades 9-12  
June 4 - July 20  
Contact: Jason Garrett, (260) 496-4736

#### TENNIS DRILL & MATCH PLAY

For incoming boys and girls grades 9 - 12  
Drill Session & Match Play: June 4 - 7  
Contact Tim Koehl, [tkoehl@bishopdwenger.com](mailto:tkoehl@bishopdwenger.com)

#### VOLLEYBALL CAMP

For incoming girls and boys grades 5-9  
June 11 - 14  
Contact: [dwengervolleyball@gmail.com](mailto:dwengervolleyball@gmail.com)

#### WRESTLING CAMP

For incoming boys grades 5-12  
June 19 - 21  
Contact: John Tone, [jtone@bishopdwenger.com](mailto:jtone@bishopdwenger.com)

#### DRIVER'S EDUCATION

Session I: May 30 - June 12  
Session II: June 18 - 29  
Contact: Shannon Pierson, (260) 496-4700

Additional information and registration forms are available at [bishopdwenger.com/camps](http://bishopdwenger.com/camps)  
Please check the website regularly for updates.

[www.bishopdwenger.com/camps](http://www.bishopdwenger.com/camps)



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades says Mass at the Don Bosco center in Mekelle, Ethiopia, March 6, on the way back to Addis Ababa.



The group visits a large CRS water catchment project site in Salam Genet, Ethiopia, March 6. The site uses terraces to trap runoff rainwater and channel into a large cistern, pictured here. The water flows to taps just below this cistern and can be used for both agriculture and drinking, serving 400 families in this arid region of Tigray.