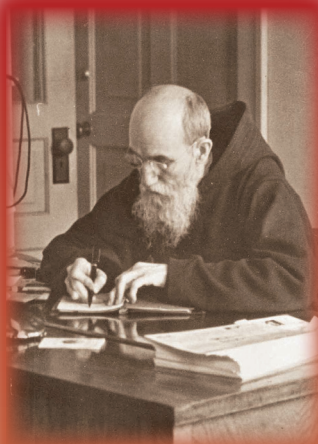


TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Volume 92 No. 14

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TODAYSCATHOLIC.org



Extraordinary permission granted to diocese

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Basketball team takes NCAA title

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Church celebrates 'the great blessing of the light of Christ'



Jerry Kessens

Father Tyrell Alles, OSB, St. Peter Parish, Fort Wayne, blesses the new fire at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday to begin the service of light. Across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend 165 catechumens were baptized on Holy Saturday, and 184 candidates were also brought into full communion with the Catholic Church.

Easter shows the power of love, which renews the world, pope says

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Easter makes it clear that in the life of Jesus, but also in the lives of modern men and women, “death, solitude and fear” do not have the last word, Pope Francis said before giving his Easter blessing.

“The words heard by the women at the tomb are also addressed to us: ‘Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen,’” the pope said as he prepared April 1 to give his Easter blessing “urbi et orbi” (to the city and the world).

“By the power of God’s love,” Jesus’ victory over death “dispels wickedness, washes faults away, restores innocence to the

fallen and joy to mourners, drives out hatred, fosters concord and brings down the mighty,” the pope said, quoting the formal Easter proclamation.

Standing on the central balcony of St. Peter’s Basilica after having celebrated a morning Mass in the square, Pope Francis focused on how Jesus foretold His death and resurrection using the image of the grain of wheat, which bears no fruit unless it is put into the ground.

“This is precisely what happened: Jesus, the grain of wheat sowed by God in the furrows of the earth, died, killed by the sin of the world,” the pope said. “He remained two days in the tomb; but his death contained God’s

love in all its power, released and made manifest on the third day, the day we celebrate today: the Easter of Christ the Lord.”

After a stormy Holy Saturday with rain beating down throughout the night, Easter morning dawned bright and sunny at the Vatican, highlighting the thousands of flowers, trees and bushes donated by flower growers in the Netherlands.

The garden created on the steps of St. Peter’s Square included 20,000 tulips in yellow, red, pink, white and orange. Some 13,500 daffodils and more than 3,500 roses also were part of the scene, but the flower-growers association drew special attention to close to 1,000 cymbidium,

also known as boat orchids. The orchids closest to the altar were green, the color of hope. Others were yellow, speckled with red, reminiscent of drops of Christ’s blood, according to the news release from the flower growers.

Pope Francis gave a brief homily during the Mass, speaking without a prepared text about how God’s actions throughout history to save His people have been acts that surprised them, touched their hearts and prompted them to rush to share the news with others.

“The women who had gone to anoint the Lord’s body found themselves before a surprise”

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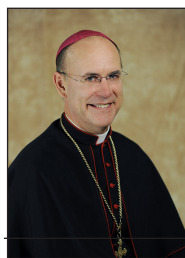
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'Alleluia!' — God Be Praised!



IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

The following is the homily of Bishop Rhoades at the Easter Vigil on March 31 in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne:

We began this Easter Vigil in darkness with the blessing of the Easter fire, followed by the lighting of the Paschal candle. We processed into the cathedral and the light from the Paschal candle spread as our candles, one by one, were lit. We celebrate tonight that the great blessing of the light of Christ, and His victory over sin and death has come upon the darkness of the world. When the whole cathedral was illumined by the light of our candles, we heard the deacon chant the Exsultet, the hymn of victory on this feast of Christ's Resurrection from the dead.

The readings of this Vigil began with the very first page of the Bible: the story of the creation of the universe. This was followed by other readings in which we heard of God's work throughout the history of salvation. In the reading from Exodus, we heard of God's intervention to save His people from slavery and the passage of the Israelites through the Red Sea. God is the Redeemer of His people, their Savior. In the ancient Passover, by God's intervention, His people escaped from the power of the evil Pharaoh and his armies. After passing through the Red Sea, on reaching the further shore, they sang in the Canticle that we also sang tonight: "I will sing to the Lord, for he is gloriously triumphant; horse and chariot he has cast into the sea."

On this holy night, we celebrate what the ancient Passover foreshadowed: the real "Passover" of God through our midst in the earthly life of His Son, the Word of God made man. The real Exodus is the one by which Jesus "passed over" from this world to the Father. The real Passover is the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection. And so Easter is also our Passover, our passage through Christ from sin to grace, from the



CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz

The risen Christ is depicted in a stained-glass window at St. Aloysius Church in Great Neck, N.Y.

darkness of ignorance to the light of faith, and from death to life.

The Risen Christ, ever present in the Church, leads us not towards the waters of the Red Sea, but towards the waters of Baptism. In the waters of Baptism are engulfed not visible enemies like Pharaoh's army, but invisible enemies, the dark forces and demonic powers of sin. Our catechumens, the elect, will emerge tonight from the baptismal water freed from these destructive powers, born anew in the Savior's Resurrection, in order to enter with Him into the Promised Land, the Kingdom of God. They will die and rise again in Baptism in order to celebrate in the Eucharist the death and resurrection of our Savior.

The newly baptized and those previously baptized who are entering into full communion in Christ's Church will be anointed with the sacred chrism in Confirmation. They will be strengthened by the Holy Spirit to live the reality of their baptism into Christ. They will be anointed and sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit which will empower them to live

as His faithful disciples in the world.

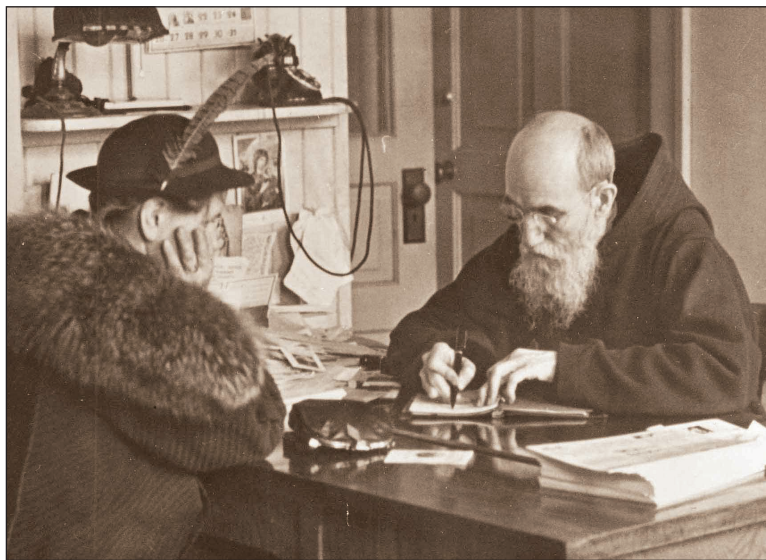
The newly baptized will then be nourished by the new manna, the true bread from heaven, at the banquet of the Eucharist. By receiving and absorbing the Bread of Life, they and all of us become what we receive: the Body of Christ. The crucified and risen Lord comes to live in us, giving us the grace to live our lives "in Him," loving God and one another as He has loved us.

I pray that the Lord will bless all of you and your loved ones with the joy of Easter. Jesus said that He came into the world that we might have life and have it to the full. He prayed that His joy would be ours and that our joy might be complete. Easter is the feast of life and joy, the feast of Christ's Resurrection. It is also "our" feast, the Church's feast, because of our sacramental union with the death and resurrection of Christ. The Lord gives us a share in His risen life and promises eternal life to those who live "in Him," who love Him and follow Him. And so at Easter, we sing with great joy and gratitude: "Alleluia" ("may God be praised!")

Feast day of Blessed Solanus Casey to be observed in diocese

FORT WAYNE — At Masses in South Bend and Fort Wayne on March 26 and 27 at which the sacred Chrism was blessed and priests of the diocese renewed their promises of ordination, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades made a special announcement regarding another priest who had lived part of his life in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend: the recently beatified Father Solanus Casey.

"At last year's Chrism Mass, I held up as an example for our priests the American priest and martyr, Blessed Stanley Rother. This year, I hold up to our priests the example of another American priest who was



beatified just four months ago, Capuchin Father Solanus Casey," Bishop Rhoades told those in attendance.

"Most of you probably know that Father Solanus Casey lived in our diocese for 10 years, near the end of his life, from 1946 to 1956 at St. Felix Friary in Huntington. During those years, many of the faithful of our diocese were touched by his humble ministry, by his wise counsel and his example of trust in God. In January, I wrote to the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship for permission to celebrate his feast day as an optional memo-

SOLANUS CASEY, page 3



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Sunday, April 8: 10:30 a.m. — Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Warsaw
 Monday, April 9: 7:45 a.m. — Pastoral Visit to Bishop Luers High School, Fort Wayne, with Mass at 12:45 p.m.
 Tuesday, April 10: 12 p.m. — Annual Bishop's Appeal Wrap-Up Meeting, Holiday Inn Express, Warsaw
 Wednesday, April 11: 10:30 a.m. — Visit of Bishop Dwenger High School Seniors to Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne
 Wednesday, April 11: 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, Most Precious Blood Church, Fort Wayne
 Thursday, April 12: 2 p.m. — Blessing of Offices of Ampro Fleet Systems, Fort Wayne
 Friday, April 13: 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, St. John the Baptist Church, Fort Wayne
 Saturday, April 14: 10 a.m. — Confirmation Mass, St. Vincent de Paul Church, Fort Wayne

SOLANUS CASEY, from page 2

rial in our diocese.

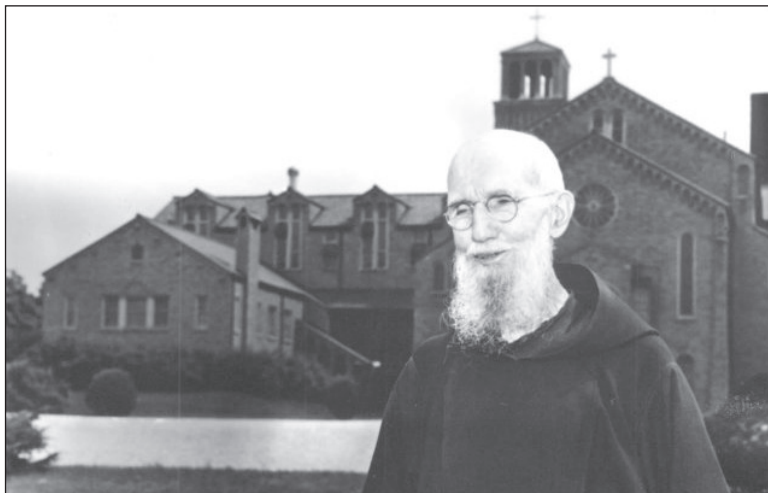
Shortly before Holy Week began, the good news that the request had been granted was received.

"Here in our diocese, perhaps the only diocese in the United States besides the archdiocese of Detroit, we will be able to celebrate the memorial of Blessed Solanus on July 30," the bishop announced at the Chrism Masses.

Despite being a simplex priest, or one that is not allowed to preach homilies or hear confessions, Father Solanus was an effective priest because he was a man of deep prayer and devotion, who was dedicated to the people he served, and loved by them, the bishop explained.

"He was renowned for his holiness and many miracles of healing. The Spirit of the Lord was upon Father Solanus as he brought glad tidings to so many who were poor, who were hurting, who were in spiritual or material need. This holy priest said: 'I have two loves, the sick and the poor.' Every priest should have these two loves: the sick and the poor!"

In 1954, Father Solanus celebrated the 50th anniversary of his priestly ordination at St. Mary Church in Huntington.



Father Solanus Casey stands before St. Felix Friary in Huntington in this 1954 photo.

During his residence at the St. Felix Friary, a strong devotion to him developed throughout the diocese, and particularly in the communities surrounding Huntington. He was known to visit the homes of the sick and the dying, and he often celebrated Mass and delivered talks for the Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters in Huntington.

During that time, he became known throughout the area as "The Holy Priest." Local Catholic families have recounted that dozens of people would often wait in line to seek his counsel at St. Felix Friary, and many

tell details of miracles owing to his intercession. In addition, visitors traveled to the diocese from other states to see Father Solanus. Sometimes busloads would arrive from major cities such as Chicago, Detroit and New York.

"Blessed Solanus Casey is an example for all of us of the Church's preferential option for the poor and the suffering," Bishop Rhoades proclaimed at the Chrism Masses.

"Father Solanus Casey intercede for us, for our priests, and for all the faithful of our diocese!"



Priest appointment

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

Reverend James Fenstermaker, CSC, to Pastor of Holy Cross Parish, South Bend, effective April 15, 2018.

Report abuse

It remains important for our Church to protect children and young persons from the evils of abuse. To abuse a child is a sin. The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend remains committed to upholding and following its guidelines, policies and procedures that were implemented for the protection of children and young people. These can be reviewed on the diocese's website, www.diocesefwsb.org, under "Safe Environment."

If you have reason to believe that a child may be a victim of child abuse or neglect, Indiana law requires that you report this to civil authorities. If you or someone you know was abused as a child or young person by an adult, you are encouraged to notify appropriate civil authorities of that abuse. In addition, if the alleged abuser is or was a priest or deacon of the Catholic Church, you are encouraged to contact Mary Glowaski, victim assistance coordinator, at 260-399-1458; or mglowaski@diocesefwsb.org; or Msgr. Robert Schulte, vicar general of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, at P.O. Box 390, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 46801, 260-399-1419; or mraatz@fw.diocesefwsb.org. The diocese is committed to helping prevent the abuse or neglect of children and young people and to assist those who claim to have suffered harm as a result of such abuse.

Es importante para nuestra Iglesia proteger a los niños y jóvenes de los males del abuso. Abusar a un niño es pecado. La Diócesis de Fort Wayne-South Bend se compromete a mantener y seguir las reglas, pólizas y procedimientos que fueron implementados para la protección de niños/niñas y personas jóvenes. Estos pueden leerse en la página web de la diócesis, www.diocesefwsb.org, bajo la sección "Ambiente Seguro," o "Safe Environment."

Si usted tiene motivo de creer que un niño(a) es víctima de abuso o negligencia, la ley de Indiana requiere que usted reporte esto a las autoridades civiles. Si usted o alguien que usted conoce fue abusado, ya sea niño o persona joven, por un adulto, se le recomienda notificar a las autoridades civiles apropiadas de ese abuso. También, si el alegado abusador es o fue un sacerdote o diácono de la Iglesia Católica, le se le insta a comunicarse con Mary Glowaski, coordinadora de ayuda para víctimas, al 260-399-1458 o mglowaski@diocesefwsb.org; o con el Monseñor Robert Schulte, vicario general de la Diócesis de Fort Wayne-South Bend, al P.O. Box 390, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 46801; 260-399-1419; o mraatz@fw.diocesefwsb.org. La diócesis se compromete a ayudar a prevenir el abuso o negligencia de niños y personas jóvenes y dar ayuda a quienes reclaman haber sufrido daño como el resultado de tal abuso.

Easter reflections

BY KATHY O'CONNELL,
 CO-FOUNDER, THE HEALING
 VOICES MAGAZINE,
 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

I often place myself in Jesus' position, as he was betrayed by a loved one, carried His Cross, even fell three times on His journey leading Him to a crucial death. It saddens me over and over to know our Jesus endured such pain, and endured it all for us.

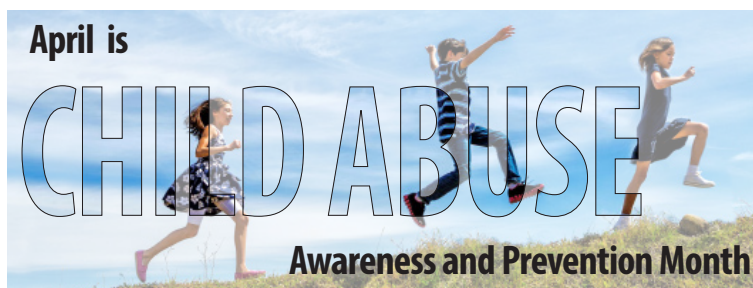
I imagine how He felt shamed and betrayed, and how He felt as His own mother wept for Him as she helplessly watched them crucify her own Son. Then you have the Simon and Veronica and the other women who joined in to help Jesus, one way or another.

Yes, we all know the story. Year after year, we listen to it and join Jesus in His walk to die. Yet, how often do we really listen in our minds and hearts? How often do we take the time to

wonder who we would be if we were one of His disciples? Would we stop to help, or betray Him due to our own fear?

Every year of my life I've heard this story, due to my Catholic upbringing. Often, as a child and adult, it has brought tears to my eyes. Jesus, an innocent man, humbled Himself. Without holding back, He suffered His pain for our sins.

I am a survivor of child sexual abuse in my own family and in the Church, which is the place I went to often to pray to God and to open my ears and heart, hoping to hear Him answering me. I carried my cross as an innocent child, never seeking out help in fear of many things. However, today, many years later, I still am carrying the same cross. The difference now is I have help. I have my Simons and my Veronicas, who are there guiding me on my journey to my someday-resurrection from this harm



done to me. Yes, I continue to fall, but, with the help of these good Samaritans, I trust enough to let them lift me back up.

I felt the betrayal of those who should have cared for me and loved me. I am aware of the wonderful people God has put with me now on this journey. And I'm grateful. So very grateful. Unlike Jesus, who forgives easily and endured His pain quietly and continued to be humble, I find myself always wanting to give up, feeling too tired to continue on, and still feeling hurt and angry toward those who betrayed me.

I feel fear and shame and confusion, and I question often when and if my resurrection will ever take place. I can relate to Jesus: feeling betrayed and pain and fear by of those I knew well and trusted. I just am amazed how He carried on and, in the end, triumphed and rose with new life, joy and love.

My journey isn't easy. I believe all of us are given difficult journeys to live. Yet, one thing we can be sure of, is through our darkness, our trials and tribulations, Jesus has never and will never abandon us.

Our faith in Him can continue to bring us hope. With hope, strength, courage and especially help from our good Samaritans, who remain with us carrying these crosses, we can trust that our resurrection, like Jesus' resurrection, will come.

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Call to prayer

Join the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in dedicating Friday, April 13, to prayer and sacrifice for this intention: "We pray that God may grant those affected by abuse in any way the courage to tell their story and seek healing." More about the call to prayer is available at usccb.org/pray.

Jesus does not give up on anyone, pope tells prisoners

BY CINDY WOODEN

ROME (CNS) — Before washing the feet of 12 prisoners, Pope Francis told them and hundreds of inmates to remember that Jesus constantly stands before them with love, ready to cleanse their sins and forgive them.

"Jesus takes a risk on each of us. Know this: Jesus is called Jesus, not Pontius Pilate. Jesus does not know how to wash His hands of us; He only knows how to take a risk on us," the pope said March 29 during his homily at Rome's Regina Coeli prison.

Pope Francis celebrated the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper at the prison and washed the feet of a dozen inmates. Four were Italian; two were from the Philippines; two were from Morocco; and one each from Moldova, Colombia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone, the Vatican press office said. Eight of the 12 were Catholic; two were Muslim; one was Orthodox; and one was Buddhist.

In his brief homily before the foot-washing ritual, Pope Francis explained to the prisoners that in Jesus' day, the job of washing feet was the task of a

slave. "There wasn't asphalt or cobblestones, there was dust and people's feet got dirty," so before they went into a house, the slaves would wash the person's feet.

The Gospel recounts Jesus washing the feet of His own disciples "to give us an example of how we must serve one another," the pope said.

Another time, he said, Jesus explained to His disciples that kings want to be served.

"Think of the kings and emperors back then, so many were cruel, they insisted on being served by slaves," the pope said.

But Jesus told His followers: "Among you, it must not be like this. The one who rules must serve," the pope explained.

"Jesus overturns the historic and cultural attitudes of His age — and of today, too," Pope Francis told the inmates. Jesus says that "the one who rules, in order to be a good boss, must serve. I often think — not of people today because they still are alive and can change their lives, so we cannot judge them — but think of history. If many kings, emperors, heads of state had understood this teach-

ing of Jesus, instead of ruling, being cruel, killing people, if they would have done this, how many wars would not have been fought?"

In His earthly life and still today, the pope said, Jesus goes to "people who are thrown away by society, at least for a while," and He says to them, "You are important to me," and Jesus comes to serve us."

"The sign that Jesus serves us today in Regina Coeli is that He wanted to choose 12 of you today for the washing of the feet," the pope said.

"I am a sinner like you, but I represent Jesus today. I am His ambassador," the pope said. "When I kneel before each of you, think, 'Jesus took a risk on this man, a sinner, to come to me and tell me He loves me.' This is service. This is Jesus. He never abandons us. He never tires of forgiving us. He loves us so much."

The pope celebrated the Mass of the Lord's Supper in the rotunda of the prison, a small central area formed from the intersection of various wings of the jail.

The prison is designed to house just over 600 inmates,

but currently houses more than 900 men. Some 65 percent of the inmates are non-Italians, Vatican News reported.

At the end of the Mass, a prisoner publicly thanked Pope Francis for his visit and said the inmates would try to do, at least symbolically, what he recommended at his general audience at the Vatican the day before: celebrate Easter by splashing water on their eyes to look at the world with fresh eyes.

The 81-year-old pope responded by confiding in the prisoners that, like many people his age, he is developing cataracts and will have an operation next year to fix them.

But, he said, as life goes on and people get busy or make mistakes, they can develop "cataracts of the soul" that prevent them from seeing the world with the hope that is born of Jesus' resurrection.

"Never tire of renewing your gaze, of having that cataract operation on your soul every day," the pope told the prisoners.

He also insisted that jail time must be a time to prepare a person to return to society and live as good citizens and that the penalties for crime must be

"open to hope."

"There is no just penalty that is not open to hope," Pope Francis said. "That is why the death penalty is neither Christian nor human."

Pope Francis began his visit in the prison infirmary, meeting with prisoners there. After the Mass he was scheduled to visit the prison's Section VIII, a protected area of the facility for inmates convicted of sexual crimes and other inmates who could be in danger in the general population.

The prison is less than two miles from the Vatican and is no stranger to hosting a pope celebrating Mass. St. John XXIII visited in 1958, Blessed Paul VI in 1964 and St. John Paul II went in 2000.

The Mass on March 29 marked the fourth time Pope Francis celebrated the Holy Thursday Mass in a detention facility. In 2013, for his first Holy Thursday as pope, he celebrated in a juvenile detention facility. In 2015 he presided over the Mass and foot-washing ritual at Rebibbia, Rome's main prison, and in 2017 he went to a prison in Paliano, some 45 miles from Rome.

To honor Rev. King, 'deepen' commitment to work for justice, bishops urge

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Fifty years after the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination, "we need to ask ourselves if we are doing all we can to build the culture of love, respect and peace to which the Gospel calls us," the U.S. bishops' Administrative Committee said March 28.

On April 4, 1968, James Earl Ray gunned down the civil rights leader as he stood on the balcony of his hotel room in Memphis, Tennessee. Rev. King, a Baptist minister, was 39.

In reflecting on Rev. King's life and work, "what are we being asked to do for the sake of our brother or sister who still suffers under the weight of racism?" the committee said in a statement. "Where could God use our efforts to help change the hearts of those who harbor racist thoughts or engage in racist actions?"

This 50th anniversary "gives us an important moment to

draw inspiration from the way in which Dr. King remained undeterred in his principle of nonviolent resistance, even in the face of years of ridicule, threats and violence for the cause of justice," the committee said.

As the most prominent civil rights activist of his time, Rev. King fought for all races and against a system that promoted racism and racial divide. He is well-known for advocating non-violence and civil disobedience to bring about change. He was inspired by his Christian beliefs and the nonviolent activism of Mahatma Gandhi.

In its statement, the Administrative Committee recalled that Rev. King went to Memphis to support underpaid and exploited African-American sanitation workers.

"(He) arrived on a plane that was under a bomb threat. He felt God had called him to solidarity with his brothers and sisters in



CNS photo/Abbie Rowe, National Parks Service/JFK Presidential Library and Museum handout via Reuters

Robert F. Kennedy, center, poses with the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., at Kennedy's right, and other civil rights leaders in the Rose Garden of the White House in 1963. Fifty years after Rev. King's assassination, "we need to ask ourselves if we are doing all we can to build the culture of love, respect and peace to which the Gospel calls us," the U.S. bishops' Administrative Committee said March 28.

need," the committee said. "In his final speech on the night before he died, Dr. King openly referenced the many threats against him, and made clear that he would love a long life. But more important to him, he said, was his desire to simply do the will of God."

"Our faith urges us to be courageous, to risk something of ourselves, in defending the dignity of our neighbor who is

made in the image of God," the committee continued. "Pope Francis reminds us often that we must never sit on the sidelines in the face of great evil or extreme need, even when danger surrounds us."

Quoting Chapter 15, Verse 13, of St. John's Gospel, the committee said: No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."

The best way to honor Rev.

King "and preserve his legacy," it added, is "by boldly asking God — today and always — to deepen our own commitment to follow his will wherever it leads in the cause of promoting justice."

Rev. King's assassination sparked a wave of rioting and other civil disturbances in cities across the country. Known as the Holy Week Uprising, it lasted from April 6 to April 14, which was Easter that year.



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Salvadoran: Blessed Romero, family friend, used visits to escape horrors

BY JO TUCKMAN

SANTA TECLA, El Salvador (CNS) — Leonor Chacon remembers every emotion she felt March 24, 1980, as if it were yesterday.

It started, she recalls, with the happiness that always accompanied the expectation that Archbishop Oscar Romero of San Salvador would be coming to eat with her family in the small city of Santa Tecla, just west of the Salvadoran capital.

Later there was her disappointment when her husband returned home with the news that the archbishop could not make it because he was committed to celebrating Mass that evening in the chapel of the cancer hospital next to where he lived.

And then there was the call informing her he had been shot while celebrating that Mass.

"I ran to the room where my husband was and we cried together," recalled Chacon, now 80. "It was a very great pain."

Today, El Salvador eagerly awaits the canonization of the archbishop who began his pastoral life as a conservative priest known for his charity work and spent his final years accused of being a communist agitator for defiantly speaking out against the death squads and political repression.

But while Chacon celebrates the attention focused on Blessed Romero's message of peace, for her he was also a dear friend, who treated her little family restaurant and home behind it as a refuge from the horror.

Taking a break from making pastries she sells in glass jars on the counter of the restaurant, Chacon let the anecdotes flow.

She recalled the way he would ask to be told jokes, as well as his belly laughs from the sofa when the family would clown about. She smiled fondly at the memory of the time he spent



CNS photo/Jo Tuckman

Leonor Chacon stands outside the small family restaurant in Santa Tecla, El Salvador, that she has turned into a shrine to Blessed Oscar Romero. The soon-to-be saint used to treat the place as a refuge from the growing tension of his pastoral life.

hours sitting with her father, watching telenovelas, and at his voracious appetite for her refried beans.

"He used to say that he came here to disconnect and rest," she said. "He would say it was like going to the house of Martha and Mary of Bethany."

Chacon first met Blessed Romero on her wedding day in 1963. Her fiancé, Raul, had told her about the priest who had taken him in to live in his parish in the nearby town of San Miguel when he became an orphan at the age of 7, so she wrote to ask him if he would marry them. Blessed Romero married them and stayed for the small banquet

the family threw for the newlyweds, then he whisked them off to a hotel for their wedding night, paying the bill himself.

From then on, Blessed Romero began regularly dropping by for lunch on his way to and from the capital, developing individual relationships with many of the family members, including

her sister, Elvira, who became his secretary.

Chacon said he preferred not to talk about politics when he visited and would brush off concerns for his safety, as he did the last time she saw him, March 8, 1980. He dismissed the idea that he should be traveling with someone, saying he did not want

to put anybody else in danger.

Like many in El Salvador, Chacon said the archbishop wrote his own death sentence in the homily he gave the day before his murder, in which he ordered soldiers to "stop the repression."

"He knew they were going to kill him, but he wasn't afraid," she said. "He was smiling a lot the last time he came here."

Chacon told of the children and old people crying as thousands filed passed his coffin as it lay for five days in the San Salvador basilica. She also described how that grief then turned to fear on the very day of his funeral in the cathedral, when snipers fired on the mourners. Dozens died, many in the stampede to escape. Listening to the funeral on the radio in her home, she said the transmission cut out soon after the gunfire and screams began.

A few months later, rumors circulated that anybody found with photographs of the archbishop would be killed. Her husband, who died in 2002, wanted to burn their photos, but she refused. Instead she wrapped them in cloth and put them at the bottom of a chest.

Now she has hung those same photographs proudly on the wall in a kind of shrine she proudly shows to anybody who visits.

"He used to say that there are more people who love me than hate me, and it's still true" she said. "The people who come here get all emotional."

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Rusty Staub, Catholic baseball star for 23 seasons, dies at 73

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (CNS) — Rusty Staub, 73, the New Orleans-born Catholic baseball star who was a fan favorite in a well-traveled, 23-season career, died March 29 in West Palm Beach following a heart attack. Born Daniel Joseph Staub in 1944, he became the second player after Ty Cobb to belt a major-league home run both before his 20th birthday and after his 40th birthday. He also became the first player to collect 500 base hits for four different teams: the Houston Astros, the Montreal Expos, the Detroit Tigers and the New York Mets. Staub, who honed his game at Jesuit High School in New Orleans, endeared himself to fans of Montreal's expansion team by learning French. He became known as "Le Grand Orange" for his unmistakable shock of red hair. After retiring from baseball following the 1985 season, Staub established the Rusty Staub Foundation, which collaborated with Catholic Charities in supporting emergency food pantries. Before leaving the game, Staub opened two restaurants in New York that bore his name. Staub also established the New York Police and Fire Widows' and Children's Benefit Fund, which has raised millions of dollars for the families of first responders killed in the line of duty. The fund redoubled its efforts following the 9/11 terror attacks that struck New York City in 2001.

CRS official sees new life in northern Iraq but says challenges remain

AMMAN, Jordan (CNS) — A top official with Catholic Relief Services, visiting northern Iraq, said new life is evident for those who suffered the injustices and atrocities of the Islamic State invasion of their ancestral lands but some grave challenges remain. "I see the hope of the Resurrection, while still the experience of the Cross is the reality for many people," William O'Keefe of Catholic Relief Services told Catholic News Service by phone from Irbil, Iraq. "Yezidis in Sinjar have no security. Christians in the mixed areas have insufficient security. There are political problems. Sunnis in central Iraq experience tribal insecurity issues," said O'Keefe, vice president of government relations and advocacy for CRS, the U.S. bishops' international humanitarian aid organization based in Baltimore. "There are also people who haven't returned to their villages or who are not able to return, and that is a serious problem that will fill my prayers," he told Catholic News Service March 29, ahead of the Easter holiday. "And yet there are signs of life. People I spoke with six months ago see a lot of process and evi-

Salvadoran priest assassinated during Holy Week



CNS photo/Rhina Guidos

Pallbearers travel through a massive crowd April 1 with the coffin carrying Father Walter Vasquez Jimenez to Holy Trinity Church in Lototique, El Salvador. Salvadoran Catholic officials were shaken and expressed outrage and sadness after the assassination of the 36-year-old priest during Holy Week — shortly after renewing his vows — in what some suspect may be a gang killing. Authorities said Father Vasquez was traveling with parishioners to officiate a Holy Thursday Mass in San Miguel when their car was stopped by an armed group wearing masks. The other passengers were set free after their belongings were taken, but Father Vasquez was abducted, shot and left to die. Father Vasquez worked for the Diocese of Santiago de Maria in the eastern part of El Salvador.

dence of shop openings, cars, and all that is good," O'Keefe said. "But there needs to be more economic activity to feel like there is momentum."

Catholic Benefits Association wins suit filed in 2014 against HHS mandate

CASTLE ROCK, Colo. (CNS) — A federal judge has ruled in favor of the Catholic Benefits Association and issued declaratory relief and a permanent injunction against a mandate requiring employers to provide coverage for contraception and abortifacients, even if they are opposed to such coverage on moral grounds. U.S. District Court Judge David Russell's ruling also eliminated \$6.9 billion in fines that have accumulated against members of the association, based in Castle Rock. "This is the tremendous win," CEO Douglas G. Wilson said in a March 28 statement. "The first freedom in the Bill of Rights is the First Amendment right to freedom of religion. The court

has rightly ruled that employers should not be forced to violate their beliefs and cover morally problematic elective and often low-cost choices that individuals may wish to make." The CBA represents more than 1,000 Catholic health care providers and was the largest single plaintiff challenging the mandate. It filed two federal lawsuits in 2014 on behalf of its members. Russell ruled that his decision is permanent. The court's injunction binds not only the current administration but future administrations, protecting CBA members from any other regulation in the future that tries to use the "women's preventive services mandate" to force CBA members to violate their conscience.

Catholic leaders concerned about low refugee resettlement

WASHINGTON — On March 26, Bishop Joe Vásquez of Austin, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Migration, sent a letter to the Department of Homeland Security

and the State Department, urging dialogue on the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program.

Halfway through this fiscal year, the U.S. federal government has welcomed approximately 9,600 refugees, fewer than 25 percent of the refugees allowed for this year by the 2018 Presidential Determination. For Fiscal Year 2018, the Presidential Determination was set at 45,000 refugees, marking the lowest number since the Refugee Act of 1980 was created.

In part of the letter, Bishop Vásquez explained, "The current level of refugee arrivals leaves thousands of vulnerable people in harm's way and searching for protection." He continued, "Most often they are at-risk women and children who are too vulnerable to remain in the region and/or in situations too dangerous for them to wait in the host country until the conflict at home has ended." Bishop Vásquez further stated, "As Christians, our concerns for refugees is integral to our life of faith." He concluded, "In this spirit, we urge the Administration to renew a bipartisan commitment to resettlement for refugees, including religious minorities."

The full letter to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security can be found at <https://justice-forimmigrants.org>. Additionally, over 1,600 Catholic organizations, women and men religious and lay leaders, also voiced their concern over the state of the USRAP.

Vatican: Claim that pope denied hell's existence is unreliable

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican said comments attributed to Pope Francis denying the existence of hell are a product of an Italian journalist's "reconstruction" of the pope's remarks and not a faithful transcript of the pope's real words. Eugenio Scalfari, a co-founder and former editor of *La Repubblica*, an Italian daily, said Pope Francis — with whom he has had several telephone conversations and face-to-face meetings — invited him to his residence March 27. During their conversation, Scalfari, 93, an avowed atheist, claims the pope said that while the souls of repentant sinners "receive the forgiveness of God and go among the line of souls who contemplate him, the souls of those who are unrepentant, and thus cannot be forgiven, disappear. Hell does not exist, the disappearance of sinful souls exists," Scalfari claims the pope said in the interview, published March 29. The Italian journalist has explained on more than one occasion that he does not take notes or record his conversations with the pope; he re-creates them afterward from memory, including the material he puts in quotation marks.

Knights give more than \$1 million to Iraqi, Syrian Christians for Easter

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (CNS) — As part of its ongoing support of persecuted Christians in the Middle East, the Knights of Columbus committed more than \$1 million to Iraqi and Syrian Christians for Easter. Announced during Holy Week, the support includes \$800,000 in new financial assistance and \$250,000 as part of its ongoing commitment to rebuilding an Iraqi Christian town. The funds will help with food, clothing, shelter and education for Christians targeted by Islamic State militants. "As we recall the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus, it is particularly timely for us to remember and support our brothers and sisters in Christ who have, in places like Iraq and Syria, endured so much persecution for their faith," said Knights of Columbus CEO Carl Anderson in a March 27 statement. "Having faced suffering and even death at the hands of ISIS, we hope that our assistance will help these communities to rise up again and rebuild for the future," he added.

Diocesan retreat for married couples

MISHAWAKA — Join Frederick and Lisa Everett for “An Encounter with the Beloved,” a diocesan retreat for married couples, on the weekend of April 28-29 at Lindenwood Retreat Center in Donaldson.

Amid the many demands of family life, work and community, married couples need to retreat from time to time in order to refocus on their primary relationships with their spouse and with the Lord. “An Encounter with the Beloved” will help them look at where they have been, where they are now and where the Lord is leading them to go.

The cost of the retreat is \$195 per couple, and includes overnight accommodations and all meals. For more details or to register visit “Retreats and Programs” at www.lindenwood.org, or contact Lisa Everett at leverett@diocese-fwsb.org.

USF spring lecture series wraps up with two events

FORT WAYNE — The Department of Philosophy and Theology and the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Saint Francis invite the public to the final two free events of the Philosophy/Theology Spring Lecture Series. An interdisciplinary panel will discuss “Karl Marx at 200: Who Cares?” on Sunday, April 15, at 3 p.m., and Dr. Vincent Wargo, assistant professor of philosophy, will give a lecture, “An Introduction to Social Ontology,” on Tuesday, April 24, at 7 p.m.

Both events will take place on the downtown campus of the University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne’s Historic Woman’s Club, 826 Ewing Street, Fort Wayne. Attendees may use the Wayne Street entrance to the Woman’s Club for easier access to the third floor.

The interdisciplinary panel features a German historian, Dr. Barry Jackisch; Catholic economist Dr. Douglas Meador; and Catholic professors of philosophy and theology Dr. Lance Richey and Dr. Adam DeVille. Wargo’s lecture will ask of those present, “Have you ever considered how real or what type of reality is our social life together?”

For additional information contact Angie Springer at 260-399-7700, ext. 8100, or aspringer@sf.edu, or visit the website at <http://philosophy.sf.edu/lecture-series/>.

All are welcome and admission is free.

Bishop Wack, presenter at Holy Cross Associates conference

NOTRE DAME — “Competency to See, Courage to Act: A Conferen-

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Youth re-enact the passion of Christ



John Martin

Continuing an annual practice, the sixth-grade students of St. Vincent de Paul School in Fort Wayne perform the Way of the Cross for fellow students and visitors on Good Friday, March 30. Above, Willy Reith carries His cross on the road to Calvary. Fellow students and visitors played the roles of Jews and onlookers during the interactive experience.

ce in Discipleship for Our Times” will be presented Saturday, April 14, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Holy Cross College Auditorium, Notre Dame. All are welcome.

The keynote speaker will be Bishop William Wack, CSC, originally from Christ the King Parish in South Bend. Bishop Wack, now the ordinary of the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, will speak at 1 p.m. about the roles for lay women and men in today’s Church. Sister Brenda Cousins, CSC, will speak at 9:15 a.m. on “Discipleship: Bringing Light to a Dark World.” Other speakers are also scheduled.

The special Saturday event is free and open to the public. The optional lunch is \$15. Registration and details are online at <http://holycrossassociates.org/>. For more information email csternberg@brothersofholycross.com, call 760-610-9373 or write MHCA, c/o Brother Carl Sternberg, 776 Columba Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556.

Woo announced as Saint Mary’s College commencement speaker

NOTRE DAME — Carolyn Woo, the former CEO of Catholic Relief Services, will deliver the commencement address to the Saint Mary’s College Class of 2018.

Woo will receive the college’s highest honor, an honorary doctor of humanities degree, at the ceremony on Saturday, May 19.

Born and raised in Hong Kong, Woo was educated by the Maryknoll Sisters of Ossining, and immigrated to the United States to attend Purdue University, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in economics with highest distinction and honors, a Master of Science in industrial administration with recognition as a Krannert Scholar, and her doctoral degree.

She joined Purdue as an assistant professor in 1981, became a full professor in 1991, and directed the Professional Master’s Programs in the Krannert School of Management from 1993-95 and also served as associate executive vice president for academic affairs at Purdue University. From 1997-2011, Woo served as Martin J. Gillen Dean of the University of Notre Dame’s Mendoza College of Business. She served as CEO of Catholic Relief Services from 2012-16.

“Carolyn Woo embodies the spirit we strive to instill in our students: She is a woman of action,” Saint Mary’s President Jan Cervelli said. “Her career is a testament to the power of leadership that serves the greater good.”

Saint Mary’s College also will present an honorary degree to acclaimed peace activist Sister Margaret “Peggy” O’Neill, SC. Beginning in 1986, Sister Peggy served in the Diocese of San Salvador, assisting refugees during El Salvador’s civil war. In

2006, she established El Centro Arte Para la Paz, an educational and cultural center that promotes peace through the arts and spiritual reflection in Suchitoto, El Salvador, on the grounds of the historic Santa Imelda School and Convent.

As a theology professor, Sister Peggy taught at Iona College in New Rochelle, New York, for 25 years, as well as through Augsburg College’s Center for Global Education in El Salvador. She is currently a faculty member of Santa Clara University’s Casa de la Solidaridad in El Salvador.

Sister Peggy’s numerous honors include the 2008 Peacemaker Award of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace and the 2008 Ciudadana Ilustre Award, which recognized her work on behalf of social and cultural development in El Salvador.

“Sister Peggy O’Neill enriches the lives of those around her with her buoyant spirit and unflagging commitment to service,” President Cervelli said. “Her accompaniment of people in need serves as a shining light through darkness.”

Elcesser wins national award

INDIANAPOLIS — John Elcesser, executive director of the Indiana Non-Public Education Association, was recognized with the Leonard F. DeFiore Parental Choice Advocate Award at the National Catholic Educational Association Convention on April 2.

“This award honors a person or organization that has demonstrated outstanding leadership in promoting full and fair parental choice in education,” according to the INPEA. “The right to choose the schools they believe best serve their children is a rallying cry for parents of modest means who, he argues, have a legitimate claim to public support.”

The organization points out that, “As a school choice advocate, Elcesser brings the unique lens of having served both as a private school leader and a public policy advocate.” In Indiana, he “was a leader in the coalition that successfully passed tax-credit scholarship and voucher legislation.”

The award was presented in conjunction with NCEA’s 2018 Convention & Expo in Cincinnati, Ohio, at a special awards banquet. The NCEA Convention & Expo is the largest, private-education association gathering in the country. Participants come from many avenues of Catholic school education, including elementary and secondary school teachers, superintendents, principals, presidents and board members. The event features more than 230 professional development sessions, carefully prepared liturgies, networking events and an expo hall showcasing the latest educational products, services and technology, as well as new publications.

THE EASTER

GOOD FRIDAY

HOLY THURSDAY



Father Lourdino Fernandes, pastor of St. Rose Parish, Monroeville, washes the feet of parishioners during Holy Thursday Mass.

Jerry Kessens



Father Fernando Jimenez washes the foot of Michelle Donaghey while fellow parishioner Jeannie Parker looks on during Holy Thursday Mass at St. Dominic Church, Bremen.

Monica Gettinger



During a Good Friday service at St. Pius X Parish, parishioners venerate the parish's main crucifix.



Sally Flask is moved at Holy Thursday Mass March 29, as her feet are washed by Father Eric Burgener, parochial vicar at St. Pius X Parish, Granger.

Derby Photography



Worshippers at the Good Friday service at St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Fort Wayne, come forward to venerate the parish's main crucifix, which usually hangs on the back wall of the sanctuary.

Joe E...

R TRIDUUM

THE EASTER VIGIL



Derby Photography

ate the cross of Christ.



Jerry Kessens

Father Tyrell Alles, pastor of St. Peter Parish, Fort Wayne, lights the Paschal candle from the new fire at the Easter Vigil Mass.



Monica Gettinger

Jesus dies on the cross for the sins of mankind during a Via Crucis at St. Dominic Parish. "Perdona a tu pueblo, Señor, perdona tu pueblo, perdónale, Señor," ("Forgive your people, Lord") rose the chorus.

Romie
arish,

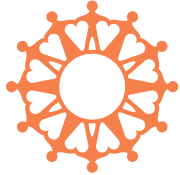


Cindy Klepper

With assistance from Luke Scheiber, left, Father Stephen Colchin uses the Paschal candle to bless the baptismal water during the Easter Vigil at St. Mary Church, Huntington, on Saturday, March 31.

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Alone on a journey of hope

BY DEB WAGNER

Ecuador is small country with few job opportunities. Food and clothing are hard to come by without any money. Citizens rely on each other, within their neighborhoods, in a way that has been lost in American culture today. Many Ecuadorians are hungry and poor, and occasionally they will risk their lives — and their dignity — for a better life.

One such Ecuadorian woman lives in the Fort Wayne area. She spent her first 20 years growing up in Ecuador, then was granted a scholarship to study at a university in Mexico. By then she was the mother to a baby girl.

After studying for a year, and with few job prospects once she returned to Ecuador, she made the heart-wrenching decision to leave her infant daughter in hopes of a better life in the United States. Her goal was to earn money she could send home to her family to care for her daughter, who is now 17 years old.

It costs between \$13,000 and \$15,000, and a great deal of time-consuming paperwork, however, to go through Immigration to become a United States citizen — money she did not have. So after much thought and planning, she boarded the plane from Ecuador to Mexico — legally, because of her student visa — but then looked north.

From Mexico, she then made several attempts, during an 11-day journey, to swim the Rio Grande River and cross the border into the United States. She constantly feared being raped, killed or deported until she reached Indiana, where she felt safe. Food was in short supply during the trip, she said. She ate maybe one tortilla per day, and drank some water. But without the student visa, the trip would have been much longer and even harder: probably three or four months, she estimated, and would have entailed hiding out on barges traveling between Ecuador and Mexico.

Beginning a new life in the U.S., she now contributes to her parish in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. She gave birth to two more children in the United States, and the older son attends Catholic school. She cleans houses and does small jobs for others so that she can pay her bills and send money back to Ecuador for her daughter.

She hears people say that immigrants are taking jobs from citizens of the United States. She believes immigrants do those jobs no one else wants.

She still fears deportation back to Ecuador: not only for herself but for her sons, who know nothing about survival in her country. But, she said, “You have to lose something to gain something.”

Because she came here illegally, she has not been able to return to her homeland to see her daughter. She talks to her, though, and sees photos of her through social media. Her parents died a few years ago, and she could not attend their funerals.

In the United States, some Americans speak of being in low-paying jobs or not having the job they would prefer. A small percentage are unemployed. Jobs are far scarcer in Ecuador, she elaborated, and poverty much more extensive.

If a woman does not have a cup of sugar, for example, she is expected to go without, or knock on the door of a neighbor. Even if the neighbor does have enough to feed her own family, it is customary that she would give sugar to the neighbor who was at the door. However kind, this Ecuadorian mother wanted more for her daughter.

She lost her parents, physical proximity to her daughter, her friends and her native culture. She is quick to offer, however, that Americans can help immigrants by helping them learn the cultural differences, and telling them where to get necessary food and clothing since they do not qualify for assistance programs subsidized by the government.

CANstruction feeds the hungry

BY EMILY DIEHM

Glenbrook Mall in Fort Wayne will host Community Harvest Food Bank's annual CANstruction contest on April 20-29. Focusing on the theme “Decades,” 12 area schools will build structures made from unopened cans of food that will later be donated to the Community Harvest Food Bank.

The categories of Best Meal, Best Use of Labels, Structural Ingenuity, People's Choice, First Honorable Mention and Jurors' Favorite will be awarded a \$1,000 check that can be used for the following year's build. Winning teams may also be eligible to compete nationally. Awards are also represented in the categories of second Honorable



Photos by Emily Diehm

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School CANstruction team members, from left, Bella Gerardot, Jose Solis, Paolo Raloz, Macy Moser and Arturo Wisbrun-Rodriguez move part of their cans to a prebuild location. St. Elizabeth “prebuilds” their entry in Glenbrook Mall’s annual CANstruction contest, which benefits the Community Harvest Food Bank.



Seventh-graders Keaton Ueber, Arturo Wisbrun-Rodriguez and Jose Solis work together during the prebuild to create the wall that will eventually display Wayne Gretzky’s number in the CANstruction competition. This team worked for over a week after school. “We want to feel really prepared on build day,” said team member Abby Spoltman.

Mention and Most Cans in Structure, but a cash prize does not accompany them.

“It’s our way to help the community, as well as build and work on teamwork skills among our students and staff,” said Jodi Jump, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton teacher and Canstruction adviser. “Everybody wins.”

Last year, the local CANstruction contest brought in enough food to serve 61,359 people. This result is due to the time and effort offered by volunteers who want to help ease Fort Wayne’s hunger problem. Their hearts are as big as the structures they create.

“I think it’s important that our school community, and everyone, recognize that there is hunger in our city and that we all need to do what we can to help,” said Jump.

According to Jump, about four months of effort goes into this one day of competition.

“There have been years where we’ve built a test structure in the aisle of grocery store to make

sure cans stack and that the colors are perfect,” said Jump. “I’m sure that people thought we were crazy, but it’s all for a good cause.”

One concern team leaders had while transporting cans from local stores to the school for practice was bottoming out their vehicles. The cars were overloaded, carrying hundreds of pounds each trip.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton CANstruction advisers Deb Brough, Emily Tomlinson, and Kristin Spoltman have made nine trips each to local grocery stores to pick up supplies. They have unloaded and reloaded the same cans twice.

Brainstorming for the CANstruction build begins when the year’s theme is announced. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton’s CANstruction advisers and team members collectively decided on what to create and how. This year, working with their assigned theme, the 90s, their structure will consist of Sonic the Hedgehog, a pager, Michael Jordan’s basketball number, the

cell phone, the gold Olympic rings, Elmo, a Nintendo logo, the AOL web address, Wayne Gretzky’s number 99, and a cross. The cross represents the 1998 merger of St. Joseph and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton schools.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton’s build consists of 4,108 cans.

Five years ago, Brough and Jump’s eighth-grade classes were volunteering at the Community Harvest Food Bank when Jump was approached with the idea to enter the contest. At the time they accepted the challenge, but did not know what they were in for and had never heard of the competition.

“Through trial and error, we have sorted out the wrinkles, learned from our experiences, and are ready for the challenges of our next build,” said Jump. “The students anxiously await the results of the community vote.”

The school and parish are asking everyone to get involved and to vote. There are two ways to do so: Individuals may bring in their own cans to place in designated bins in front of their favorite structure, or voting is also open online. Voters can purchase 1 vote for \$1. The team that collects the most cans, after combing onsite donations and online votes wins people choice.

As the only school in the diocese participating in this event, Spoltman encourages everyone to “come out and vote for St. Elizabeth.”

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School’s CANstruction team will begin their build on April 20. Voting opens the morning of April 21 and judging will also take place then. Voting is open to the public and will close April 29.

“It makes sense that our Catholic community is involved in something like this,” said CANstruction team member, seventh-grader Remmigton Miller. “We are helping feed the hungry, a mission God calls us all to do.”

The inspiration of Servant of God Augustus Tolton

BY JILL A. BOUGHTON

He probably never set foot in Indiana during his short life, but Servant of God Augustus Tolton has long inspired Catholics in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, especially those who cherish their African-American heritage.

Born into slavery in 1854 Missouri, as a young boy "Gus" escaped across the Mississippi River with his mother and two siblings. Although he felt called to the priesthood and received encouragement in his studies from several priests, no American seminary would consider enrolling a black man; he had to travel to Rome to pursue ordination. He became a priest in 1886, expecting to minister in Africa. Instead the Church sent him back to Quincy, Illinois, where he faced intense persecution. Eventually he founded St. Monica Parish in Chicago, and later died of heat exhaustion at the age of 43.

Speaking at St. Augustine Church, South Bend, in February 2014, Chicago Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Perry, postulator for the cause of recognizing Father Tolton as a saint, said, "This is the story of a man who overcame great odds. He is an icon of perseverance and charity, and he paved the way for future generations of Catholics of African descent." Despite a snowstorm that developed that day, many people came out to hear Bishop Perry, generating enthusiasm for the legacy of Father Tolton.

Father Tolton was arguably the first African-American priest in the United States, notwithstanding the fair-skinned Healy brothers — James, who became a bishop, and Patrick, the first president of Georgetown University, who passed as white despite being born to a slave woman. Father Tolton inspired the founding of the Tolton Society at St. Augustine Parish, South Bend, in 1972. As long-



Provided by Deacon Mel Tardy

The Tolton Society of St. Augustine Parish, South Bend, hosted an overnight pilgrimage to Servant of God Father Augustus Tolton's gravesite in Quincy, Illinois, in spring 2017.

time member Francine Henley pointed out, that was before one could learn more about the priest by just Googling "Tolton."

"You had to depend on word of mouth. But you know, black folks are historians! The elders kept those stories alive. This man, he had some faith. I'd like to have faith like that."

Although the original members, including Charlotte Huddleston, Ida Howard and King Richard Giloth-David, have passed to their reward within the last few years, the Tolton Society is still going strong, meeting at 12:30 p.m. the first Sunday of every month. Its membership has always been biracial, but the group has maintained its original objective: fostering a strong African-American awareness and spirituality in the Catholic Church and the wider community. Some of the means for doing that have included purchasing calendars featuring Afrocentric images for all parishioners, hanging photos of black Catholic bishops in the church entranceway to inspire the youth, funding parishioners' attendance at National Black Catholic Congresses, and instituting the Tolton Awards, which are

announced at the parish picnic every year.

After their 1998 wedding, Mel Tardy and his wife, Annie, joined the society and helped bolster its budget with a Mardi Gras dinner and silent auction. This provided the funds to do more youth outreach: summer movie nights, teen socials, trips to Amish Acres and the 4-H Fair and college scholarships for graduating seniors. Deacon Tardy and Annie have been tirelessly supportive of the many ministries of St. Augustine Parish ever since; these now include a full-fledged youth ministry.

Besides Huddleston, past Tolton Society presidents have included Nora Batteast, Pat Dempse and Deacon Tardy. Annie has led the society for the past four years. She stepped in when

membership was so low they were considering disbanding; but, she observed, "When our society rediscovered our namesake, Father Tolton, it gave us new life. I would love to see an African-American saint in my lifetime."

The society's support of Father Tolton's cause fulfills a key objective of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend's Black Catholic Advisory Board Strategic Plan for Evangelization and Pastoral Care, which was promulgated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades in March 2015 to "create diocesan awareness and devotions of Black saints and candidates to sainthood." Although the focus is on Father Tolton, there are four other African-Americans on the path to possible canonization: Venerable Henriette Delille,

Servant of God Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange, Venerable Pierre Toussaint and Servant of God Julia Greeley.

One of the reasons Father Tolton faced opposition in Quincy is that white Catholics came in droves to hear him preach. Wendy Summers of the Black Catholic Advisory Board said Catholics of every race should learn about Father Tolton. "[This] is Catholic history, not just black history. It is the history of all of our faith."

After Bishop Perry's visit, the Tolton Society organized two pilgrimages. The first, in May 2016, brought 43 parishioners from St. Augustine, St. Pius X and the Basilica of the Sacred Heart parishes to Chicago. The second was an overnight trip in which 28 pilgrims from the diocese traveled to Brush Creek, Missouri, where Tolton was born, and to Quincy, Illinois, where he is buried. They are planning a third pilgrimage.

Father Tolton's cause can be promoted through praying and offering Masses, contributing financially and interceding for the miracles necessary for that cause to advance.

As Bishop Perry pointed out, "In the end, the pope does not make saints; they come from the people. What Rome needs to see is that the people want Tolton to be declared a saint."

A one-man show about Servant of God Augustus Tolton's life, "From Slave to Priest," will be performed in the diocese on April 24 and 26. For more information and tickets, see www.diocesefwsb.org/tolton.

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Food for thought on helpless seniors

On March 11, *The Washington Post* reported on efforts to expand the “right to die” in Oregon and elsewhere.

The state has passed legislation to study changing its law on “advance directives,” by which people can decide on future care in case they lose cognitive powers. A key supporter of this effort is Bill Harris, whose wife Nora recently died of Alzheimer’s disease. He is angry that caregivers spoon-fed his wife until two days before she died, despite her advance instruction to the contrary.

Harris sued the health facility and lost. The court noted that Nora kept opening her mouth to receive food even when she was unable to do much else. Harris said this should have been dismissed as a “reflexive” action.

The group End of Life Washington, as well, has distributed instructions on how people can demand in advance that they be starved to death if they develop dementia.

Stephen Drake, of the disability rights group Not Dead Yet, sees this trend as troubling. “It really is a big game changer in the number of people whose lives can be ended when they’re in vulnerable situations,” he said.

It’s troubling indeed, in three ways.

First, advance directive laws have generally not assumed that such documents can substitute for decisions made in the here and now. They generally allow a directive refusing treatment to be overridden by the patient at any time and in any state of mind by

destroying the directive or speaking or acting otherwise.

This is a wise policy. Many able-bodied people say they would “rather be dead” than live with a severe disability or chronic illness. Many who develop disabilities later in life say they were suicidal at first, feeling they had lost the life they were accustomed to — but after a period of adjustment, with loving support they found value in the life they now had.

Thus, when the President’s Council on Bioethics published its 2005 study “Taking Care,” it asked: When I am able-bodied, do I have the right to discriminate against the person with disabilities I will become? The sensible answer is no.

Second, many laws allow for advance directions on artificially assisted feeding such as by nasogastric tube — but they insist this does not apply to oral feeding. Oregon’s law is of this kind. The campaign to define tube feeding as optional “treatment” relied heavily on the argument that it is not like oral feeding, a form of basic care that we all need as infants and may need again as we age.

Now “right to die” supporters are jettisoning the distinction that got them that far. This is not an ethical argument but a “bait-and-switch” marketing ploy.

Third, if we can starve our demented seniors to death, why not finish them off more quickly?

Canada has begun to answer this question. Its law allows euthanasia when “natural death has become reasonably foreseen-



A MORE HUMAN SOCIETY

RICHARD DOERFLINGER

able.” The leading physicians group in British Columbia recently declared that this includes patients whose only “terminal” condition is that they are no longer getting food.

In Oregon, too, the law allowing assisted suicide for people expected to die in six months is being interpreted to include people who could live a long time with treatment but will die soon without treatment. If oral feeding is “treatment,” we are all terminal, thus eligible for assisted suicide once we are denied food.

The U.S. assisted-suicide movement has ridiculed slippery-slope arguments, saying we will never follow the Netherlands in approving assisted suicide for people who only have dementia. It seems we are almost there now.

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

By faith we live in the Lord

Over the years, I return time and again to my favorite Scripture quotes. Let’s unpack them together and see what the Lord has in store for us today.

Don’t think that the Feast of the Resurrection is a seasonal celebration. St. Paul said, “Rejoice always and in all circumstances! Give thanks to the Lord, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thes 5:16).

Because Jesus rose from the dead, “We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song,” says St. Augustine.

The call to joy is intended to last from here to eternity. You may not feel joyous every day, but with the help of God you can learn to cope better with life; improving day by day. To begin the process, start taking Jesus at His word.

“Look at the birds in the sky; they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not more important than they?” (Mt 6:26).

Yes, of course you are! Trust the Lord and listen to His advice. Put your ego aside and become childlike. Literally, “Look at the birds in the sky.” They live in the present moment. They are unself-conscious and seemingly carefree. Use nature to remind you of your supernatural calling; namely, to love God with your whole heart.

Bring the Lord with you wher-

GUEST COMMENTARY

FATHER JOHN CATOIR, JCD

ever you go. Be a blessing for everyone you meet. Accept God’s love with gladness, and always remember: You and God are intimately united.

“I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in me and me in him, is the one who bears much fruit; for without me you can do nothing” (Jn 15:1-5).

Since the life of God blissful and beatified, your life will be bathed in His light. There is a kind of spiritual osmosis that is taking place all time.

“In him we live and move and have our being” (Acts 17:28).

In the state of nature, we live with aches and pains, having good days and bad, but by faith we live in the Lord. We have become a new creation. Can’t you feel it? Yes, you can! Put aside all doubt, the truth will set you free.

On the cross Jesus said, “It is consummated.” Mission accomplished! He came to earth that your joy may be complete. Do you ever doubt it, or wonder if He accomplished this miracle for you, in your corner of the

CATOIR, page 13

Faith, not sight, is what matters



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Second Sunday of Easter John 20:19-31

As almost always in the Easter season, the Acts of the Apostles furnishes the Liturgy of the Word with its first reading.

Acts claims to be, and scholars assume it indeed to be, the work of the evangelist who wrote St. Luke’s Gospel. Acts, therefore, may properly be seen as a continuation of the story presented in Luke’s Gospel. Luke’s Gospel closes with the Ascension of Jesus. Acts then begins at this point.

As it progresses, Acts traces for some years the development of the infant Church, describing

the plight of its first members. In so doing, it provides a fascinating insight into the formation of the Church’s structure, as well as a powerful lesson in the basic beliefs that so compelled absolute loyalty and devotion from the early Christians whom Acts praises.

It also gives great examples of unqualified selfishness, the idea that might makes right, human ignorance and treachery.

In this weekend’s reading, Acts presents the first members of the Church as being “of one heart and one mind.” Love for, and adherence to the Lord, were supreme for them.

Central in the story were the Apostles, the Lord’s special followers and students, whom Jesus commissioned to continue the work of salvation. The Apostles literally had seen the Risen Lord, so the first Christians revered them.

Love for others, in the model of Jesus, was more than a platitude. The early Christians assisted the poor. Indeed, so much so, they sold their property or even their houses to obtain

funds to assist the needy.

St. John’s First Epistle supplies the second reading, defining what being a Christian means.

Each believer must give himself fully in love to God, through trust and faith in Jesus. Because of this commitment, and because of the Lord’s redeeming acts, in Christ, each Christian is a child of God. This term means much more than merely earthly creation. It means eternal life. Baptism in water symbolizes this absolute commitment.

The Gospel reading for this weekend is from St. John’s Gospel. It is a Resurrection narrative, a story with which most Christians are quite familiar. Recall the dismay among the followers of Jesus when they found the empty tomb? Where had the body of the Lord been taken?

This reading answers the question. The body of the Lord has been taken nowhere. Jesus lives! The encounter with the doubting, demanding Thomas affirms this glorious fact.

Resurrection from the dead

is stunning in itself, but Jesus further acts as God by conferring the very power of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles. He grants them the authority of forgiving sins, a divine privilege as sins affront God. He sends them to the four corners of the world to bring redemption to all humankind.

Passing through locked doors as if doors were thin air, Jesus greeted the Apostles with “Peace be with you.” Jesus makes clear that peace only is in God. The living Lord is the sole source of peace.

Reflection

This weekend, the Church calls its people to have faith and to rejoice. The resurrection, and redemption in Jesus, should not refer simply to an event in history, but to living realities for us to experience here and now.

It is time for us to find consolation and strength in Jesus, who was crucified, risen and is living still.

We observe Divine Mercy Sunday on this date. In and through Jesus, the merciful Son

of God, Divine Mercy is with us here and now.

While sin and human limitation present obstacles, often considerable, in our progress toward God, the Lord left us the Apostles; and through them and the Church they assisted in forming, we find forgiveness and the light to see the way to follow Jesus. We find hope, peace and life.

READINGS

Sunday: Acts 4:32-35 Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 1 Jn 5:1-6 Jn 20:19-31

Monday: Is 7:10-14; 8-10 Ps 40:7-11 Heb 10:4-10 Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37 Ps 93:1-2, 5 Jn 3:7b-15

Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26 Ps 34:2-9 Jn 3:16-21

Thursday: Acts 5:27-33 Ps 34:2, 9, 17-20 Jn 3:31-36

Friday: Acts 5:34-42 Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 Jn 6:1-15

Saturday: Acts 6:1-7 Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 Jn 6:16-21

A reflection on heaven

Every person in the world who has ever been created not only has individual physical, emotional and psychological features, but also has a unique soul. Have you ever thought about dying and going to heaven, and realized that you will take your personality with you? There aren't just a bunch of boring, same-personality duds in heaven, you know.

In heaven there will be pondering, educated thinkers (St. Augustine), simple sweet contemplatives ("Jesus does not demand great actions from us, but simply surrender and gratitude" — St. Thérèse, the Little Flower). There will be elegant, energetic wonder women who were stewards of great wealth and position while on earth (St. Margaret of Scotland), and generous, gentle, humble souls like St. Francis of Assisi. There will be saints who stood out famously, like St. Patrick of Ireland, who was captured by pirates, drove out snakes and explained the Trinity using a shamrock; and there will be saints less in the forefront, but equally strong and courageous, like St. Maximilian Kolbe, who quietly stepped forward to offer his life in exchange for a young father who had been chosen for death by the Nazis.

So many people. So many personalities. We will hang out with all of them in heaven. In heaven there will be a great diversity of souls and there is room for every one of us.

There will even be non-Church-declared saints in heaven. You know the ones I'm talking about: anyone in heaven is a saint, so let's think about those in our circles — in our family, or in our circle of friends. What of those who equally struggled

through hardship in faith to obtain the crown of glory, but are lesser known or known only to God? After purgatory and necessary purgation, we will meet others who have chosen God and His will too. People from our childhood who were dear to us, those we only knew in passing. We will all be there. With the same personalities we have here on earth. Cool, right?

Have you ever been indescribably attracted to someone without really knowing why? This person might look ordinary to anyone else, have common talents, but has cultivated virtue and possesses a strong, shining soul that attracts. All souls will have that natural attraction in heaven, and we will all be gazing not at one another but together toward God, and see Him in His great glory and goodness; which is totally incomprehensible and indescribable here, but will literally blow our minds.

Author, teacher, writer and philosopher Dr. Peter Kreeft has said, "Everything smaller than heaven bores us because only heaven is bigger than our hearts."

God is the perfection of everything good, true and beautiful that we have loved here. The physical and personality traits that attract us to a particular human being here are but a mere shadow of the full perfection God possesses. Those traits are completely and more fully His traits.

We are all saints in the making. But we are not blasé, cookie-cutter people. I suspect that there will be not just joy but laughter in heaven. Laughter that spills from relationship, and jokes. No misunderstanding there, all wounds healed, all intentions perfected. And the same people



EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

Theresa A. Thomas

we are attached to and had relationships on earth with, we will be attached to and have relationships with in heaven, only in a deeper and perfect way.

It's good to think about heaven, that destination we all desire, the ultimate place where we will finally know the mysteries of the world and meet our Creator face to face. It is there that our unique and individual souls will each be small instruments participating in the greatest symphony of all, the Communion of Saints glorifying God for eternity. We will still be "us" in heaven, and so will everyone else we love.

God's love for us is so individual, that He would have sent His only Son just for us, if we were the only one who needed salvation. He knows us like no one else. He knows our struggles, our joys, our regrets, our temptations, our yearnings. He made us unique, different from every other human being. He made us. He made US.

Keep plodding on through life, toward heaven. And know that God loves you, in your uniqueness, in body, mind and soul. Heaven is just around the corner. Let's help each other keep the faith, so we will have a joyous reunion (or first meeting) there!

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

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for April 8, 2018
John 20:19-31

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for Divine Mercy Sunday, Cycle B: the events of the first Easter evening. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

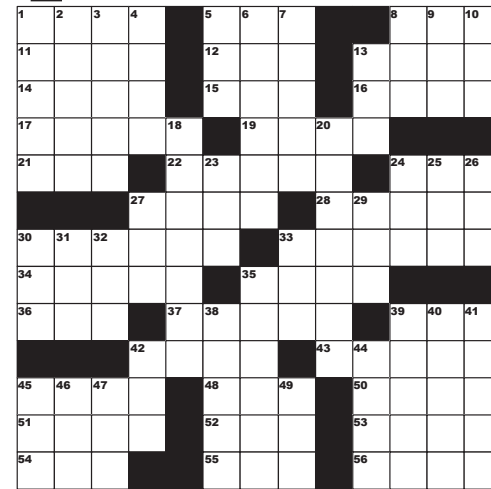
EVENING SHOWED FATHER SINS TWELVE NAILS NOT SEEN	THAT DAY HANDS BREATHED FORGIVEN HAVE SEEN BELIEVE OTHER SIGNS	JESUS CAME LORD SPIRIT THOMAS UNLESS MY GOD BOOK
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AT EVENING TIME

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

The Cross Word

April 1
and 8, 2018



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Readings: Acts 10:34, 37-43; Col 3:1-4; Jn 20:1-9 and Acts 4:32-35 1Jn 5:1-6 Jn 20:19-31

ACROSS

- 1 Captain (abbr.)
- 5 **Rosary month**
- 8 Negative
- 11 Like a wing
- 12 Expert
- 13 Dr. Jekyll & Mr. ___
- 14 **Come out of grave**
- 15 Strike lightly
- 16 Economics (abbr.)
- 17 Shoe ties
- 19 **Doors locked for ___**
- 21 **Starts Lent**
- 22 **He spoke at Cornelius' house**
- 24 Epoch

27 Easter flower

- 28 Law
- 30 Expose as false
- 33 Coat part
- 34 **Alpha and ___**
- 35 **Christmas carol**
- 36 Cow's chow
- 37 **See 4 Down**
- 39 Liberal (abbr.)
- 42 Voucher for small debt
- 43 **It was removed from tomb**
- 45 Open
- 48 Card game
- 50 Come up against
- 51 ___ Spirit

- 52 Garden tool
- 53 **He persecuted Christians**
- 54 Popeye's yes
- 55 Dynamite
- 56 **Eve's garden**

DOWN

- 1 Feminine of "Charles"
- 2 False name
- 3 **Greek for Easter**
- 4 **Word for the Cross**
- 5 Choose
- 6 Foxy
- 7 Pith helmet
- 8 New York City
- 9 Hoopla
- 10 Japanese money
- 13 Possessive pronoun
- 18 Leafy green
- 20 Dull
- 23 Moose relative
- 24 East northeast
- 25 **Priest title**
- 26 **Jesus ___ & drank**
- 27 Drag
- 29 Snake fish
- 30 Doctor (slang)
- 31 Flightless bird
- 32 Pillow place
- 33 Distress call
- 35 Idea
- 38 **Sit at God's ___ hand**
- 39 Rounded
- 40 Harden
- 41 Make wager (2 wds.)
- 42 **The poor do, to God**
- 44 Japanese name for "seed"
- 45 Word of surprise
- 46 **Sentiment at seeing Jesus raised**
- 47 **Monk brew**
- 49 **Peter did with fish**

CATOIR, from page 12

world? Jesuit priest, philosopher, paleontologist and geologist Pierre Teilhard de Chardin never doubted. He used these words to express his joy:

"It is done. The Fire has penetrated the earth ... All things individually and collectively are penetrated and flooded by Divine energy. Jesus is the connecting link in the unity of the cosmos."

"Let the hearts of those, who seek the Lord, rejoice!" (1Chron 16:10).

Faith hears the voice of love speaking, dwelling within one's heart, pervading and permeating one's whole being.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life" (Jn 3:16).

Father John Catoir is founder and president of St. Jude Media Ministry and former president of two national Catholic press associations.

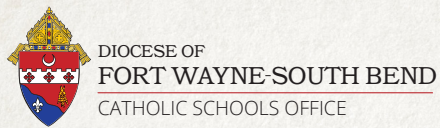
Saint of the Week



Casilda

11th Century
Feast April 9

Born in central Spain, Casilda was the daughter of the emir of Toledo. Though a Muslim, she had a reputation for being kind to Christian prisoners. After she became sick, she went on a pilgrimage to the shrine of San Vicenzo de Briviesca, which was famous for its healing waters. She was cured and became a Christian, embarking on a life of solitude and penance in a cell near the shrine. Her name eventually was added to the shrine's name, and she reputedly lived to the age of 100. In 1750 her remains were transferred to a new shrine.



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Irish win second NCAA women's basketball title 17 years to the day

Ogunbowale last-second 3-pointer lifts Irish to 61-58 win

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COLUMBUS, Ohio — For the second time in program history, the University of Notre Dame women's basketball team is your NCAA National Champions. The No. 1-seeded Irish (35-3) completed the second-largest comeback in Final Four history to defeat the No. 1-seeded Bulldogs (37-2) 61-58. Arike Ogunbowale hit a three with 0.1 remaining to clinch the title for the Irish. It was 17 years ago to the date that Notre Dame won its first NCAA Championship.

Jessica Shepard and Ogunbowale led the Irish all the way back after trailing by 15 halfway through the third quarter. The Irish finished the third quarter on a 16-1 run to tie the game at 41.

In the fourth quarter, the Irish erased a five-point deficit with under two minutes remaining. A Marina Mabrey three and Jackie Young jumper tied the game at 58 with 45 seconds left.

After a defensive stand and forced turnover, the Irish had the ball with 3.0 seconds left. Ogunbowale received the ball

and took a dribble towards the corner before hoisting the game-winning shot.

The opening quarter saw runs from both teams and the Irish started it off by scoring the first six points. Notre Dame was active defensively, garnering four early steals, while all five starters got on the scoreboard to jump out to a 10-4 advantage at the first media timeout at the 4:15 mark. However, Mississippi State ended the quarter on a 13-4 scoring spree to take a 17-14 lead.

Notre Dame's offense struggled to find its rhythm in the second quarter, receiving its lone points from a Shepard old-fashioned three-point play. Yet, the defense kept the Irish within reach, limiting MSU to 13 points to trail just 30-17 at the half.

Mississippi State's Victoria Vivians would hit a three-pointer at the 6:41 mark as the Irish then faced its largest deficit of the game, down 40-25. Yet, once again, Notre Dame fought back in this Final Four, ending the quarter on an impressive 16-1 run, keeping the Bulldogs off the scoreboard for the final 4:27.

In the final quarter, neither

team could separate themselves by more than four points for almost the entire period. Roshunda Johnson hit a three with 1:58 remaining to give Mississippi State a 58-53 lead. Mabrey responded for the Irish with a three on the ensuing possession. After an Irish stop, Young hit a jumper to tie the game at 58 with under a minute to go.

The Irish got another defensive stand following the game-tying bucket and were poised for the final shot. After both teams exchanged turnovers, the Irish had an in-bound opportunity in front of their bench with seconds remaining. Young passed it in to Ogunbowale running to her right and Ogunbowale put up the shot to win the championship for the Irish.

Ogunbowale finished the game with 18 points and was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player following the game.

Follow along with all the postgame action on twitter at [Twitter.com/ndwbb](https://twitter.com/ndwbb).

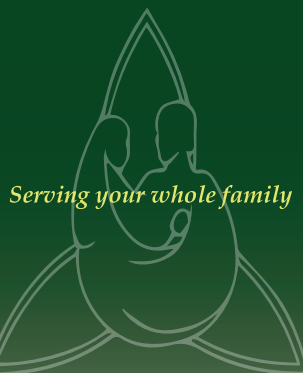


CNS photo/Matt Cashore, courtesy University of Notre Dame

Members of the University of Notre Dame women's basketball team celebrate after defeating Mississippi State 61-58 April 1 in the championship game of the Final Four of the NCAA Tournament in Columbus, Ohio. It was the second time Notre Dame's women have won the title.

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Divine Mercy Holy Hour

FORT WAYNE — Join Father Daniel Whelan on Sunday, April 8, at Our Lady of Good Hope Church, 7215 Saint Joe Rd., for a Divine Mercy Holy Hour, Confession, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and Benediction. At 2 p.m. Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament will take place during which time confessions will be heard. At 3 p.m. Recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet will occur and at 3:30 p.m. Benediction will be followed by confessions if needed.

Red Cross plans blood drive

ANGOLA — St. Anthony Church will host a Red Cross blood drive scheduled on a bi-monthly basis. Plan to donate Monday, April 9, from noon to 6 p.m. at the church, 700 W. Maumee St.

"Tea Time Out" for homeschoolers

FORT WAYNE — A "Tea Time Out" for parent-teachers and their children will be Thursday, April 12, from 9-11 a.m. in the St. Vincent de Paul Life Center, 1502 E Wallen Rd. Hostesses will provide a variation of teas, paper products and some games to play. Bring some kind of tea and a treat or snack to share. Feel free to bring your favorite games too. Contact Lisa at 260-637-1285 or lcwinde@frontier.com with any questions.

Youth Ministry: Disciples' Night of Formation

FORT WAYNE — A Youth Ministry Night of Formation at St. Jude Church, 2130 Pemberton

Dr. will be Thursday, April 12, and include guest speaker Cathie Cicchiello. Mass at 6 p.m. will be followed by dinner and a presentation. Adoration and night prayer will conclude the evening at 8 p.m. Visit <https://www.fwsbym.com> for details.

Spaghetti supper for Hannah's House rescheduled

MISHAWAKA — The fifth annual spaghetti supper has been rescheduled to Friday, April 13, from 5-7 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Clubhouse, 114 W. First St., sponsored by Council 1878. Tickets are adults \$8, children 5-12, \$5 and under 5 free. All proceeds go to Hannah's House / Bridge of Hope for care of pregnant moms and their babies. Tickets already purchased will be honored.

Zenith Awakening

SOUTH BEND — A retreat hosted by college-age young adults for college-age young adults will be Friday, April 13, at St. Therese, Little Flower Church, 54191 N. Ironwood Rd. The retreat is a Holy Spirit filled weekend to connect to new friendships in the area and grow closer to God wherever you are in your life. The retreat consists of talks, laughter, small groups, discussions and an opportunity to have an encounter with Christ through prayer, fellowship, and fun. Cost is \$25. Visit www.eventbrite.com/e/zenith-awakening-participant-application-tickets-40173949364?aff=es2 for details.

The CrossWord

April 1 and 8, 2018

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REST IN PEACE

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Elkhart

Mary Llidia Marques, 97, St. Thomas the Apostle

Fort Wayne

Pamela A. Boschet, 60, Most Precious Blood

Mildred G. Hall, 84, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Carole A. Schneider, 81, St. Jude

Patrick E. Blackburn, St. Jude

Velma B. Buchan, 86, St. Jude

Ruby Hernandez, Our Lady of Good Hope

Robert L. Leitel, 91, Our Lady of Good Hope

Lois Joan Beeber, 87, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Granger

Wallace S. Gartee, 84, St. Pius X

Plymouth

Becky J. Houin, 67, St. Michael

South Bend

Elizabeth Gillen, 94, St. Joseph

Milton H. Corona, 88, St. Therese, Little Flower

Virginia Dworecki, 94, St. Anthony de Padua

William Ernest Hock, 85, St. Therese, Little Flower

Aidan A. Short, 17, Holy Cross

Submit obituaries to mweber@diocesefwsb.org

For a full calendar of events and to share yours Visit www.todayscatholic.org/event



Monte Freeze

Bob Jesch

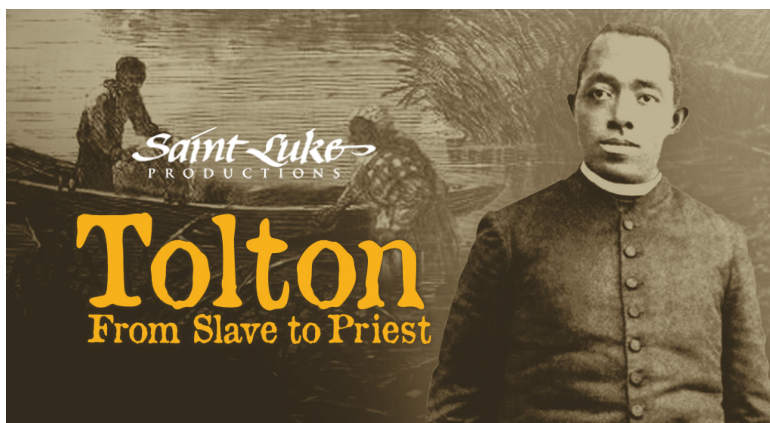
Service to others is their calling.

Divine Mercy Funeral Home is honored to introduce our Funeral Directors, Bob Jesch and Monte Freeze. But for many in the Fort Wayne community, Bob and Monte need no introduction.

Bob is a Bishop Dwenger graduate and former hockey coach who has served as a Funeral Director for over 35 years. Originally from South Bend, Monte has served as a Funeral Director for over 20 years in Fort Wayne, where he lives with his wife of 17 years and two sons. Bob and Monte are well known

and respected for their experience, compassion, and dedication to the families they serve. Their patience and understanding puts families at ease. Just when they need it most.

We invite you to call Bob or Monte at 260.426.2044 for an appointment or visit the office at 3500 Lake Ave., 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.



SOUTH BEND

Tuesday, April 24 | 7 p.m.
Saint Joseph High School

FORT WAYNE

Thursday, April 26 | 7 p.m.
Bishop Luers High School

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

More information and tickets: diocesefwsb.org/tolton

260.426.2044 | 3500 Lake Avenue | www.divinemercuryfuneralhome.com

Chrism Mass celebrated at cathedrals



Joe Romie

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades breathes over the vessel that contains the Sacred Chrism at the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception March 27. The oil of the Sacred Chrism will be used for anointing in the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and holy orders.



Jennifer Kedik

About half of the priests of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend renew their promises of ordination at the Chrism Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend, March 26.

HOLY FATHER, from page 1

when they reached the empty tomb, he said. "God's announcements are always a surprise, because our God is a God of surprises."

That surprise caused the women to rush back to the other disciples to share the news, he said, just like the shepherds rushed when they heard the angels announce Jesus' birth and like Peter and John ran to tell others when they found the teacher and master they had been seeking.

"Those people left what they were doing; housewives left their potatoes in the pan — they would find them burned later — but what is important is to go, run to see the surprise" that was announced, Pope Francis said.

On Easter, he said, Christians should ask themselves if they have hearts open to being surprised by God and if they feel a need to rush to share with others the good news of God's saving acts.

After the Mass and after greeting each of the cardinals and many of the bishops and monsignors present near the altar, Pope Francis climbed into the popemobile for a quick trip around St. Peter's Square and part of the way down the main

boulevard leading to the square. He then went up to the balcony to give his formal Easter blessing.

In his remarks to the tens of thousands of people in St. Peter's Square, Pope Francis insisted Jesus' power over death continues today and can bring peace to the world's most serious situations of conflict, including in Syria, the Holy Land, Yemen, Congo, South Sudan, Ukraine, the Korean peninsula and Venezuela.

"We Christians believe and know that Christ's resurrection is the true hope of the world, the hope that does not disappoint," the pope said. "It is the power of that love which humbles itself and gives itself to the very end, and thus truly renews the world."

In all the "furrows of our history, marked by so many acts of injustice and violence," he said, the power of the Resurrection and the acts it inspires in believers "bears fruits of hope and dignity where there are deprivation and exclusion, hunger and unemployment, where there are migrants and refugees — so often rejected by today's culture of waste — and victims of the drug trade, human trafficking and contemporary forms of slavery."

Pope Francis included special prayers for "those children who, as a result of wars and hunger, grow up without hope, lacking education and health care; and to those elderly persons who are cast off by a selfish culture that ostracizes those who are not 'productive.'"



CNS photos/Paul Haring

During the Easter Vigil liturgy, Pope Francis baptized eight adults, including a catechumen from Nigeria. John Ogah became a hero last year in Centocelle, a neighborhood on the outskirts of Rome: The 31-year-old stopped a machete-wielding thief who had just robbed the grocery store where Ogah was begging outside. Once the police arrived, Ogah left because he did not have legal permission to be in Italy. Police tracked him down to thank him and ended up helping him get his Italian residency permit. Capt. Nunzio Carbone, the officer in charge, was Ogah's godfather and sponsor at the papal liturgy.

Pope Francis uses incense to reverence an image of the risen Jesus as he celebrates Easter Mass in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican on April 1.