



TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Volume 92 No. 35

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Students encouraged to be friends of Jesus at All-Schools Mass



Nate Proulx

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades concludes a prayer to St. Michael the Archangel near the end of the Fort Wayne All-Schools Mass Oct. 17 at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum. Fourth-grade students from area Catholic elementary schools dressed as saints of the Church for the Mass, and the bishop asked those representing St. Michael the Archangel to join him on stage for the prayer.

BY BETHANY BEEBE

On the feast day of St. Ignatius of Antioch, and wearing the red vestments of a Mass celebrated for a martyr, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades gave attendees of the annual All-Schools Mass in Fort Wayne a preview of All Saints Day, with more than a little help from the Catholic elementary students.

The Oct. 17 Mass was cel-

ebrated in Expo Centers II and III of the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, and schools from the eastern side of the diocese participated.

Bishop Rhoades' homily colorfully made the day's Scripture readings relevant for the young worshippers. The readings recounted Jesus' calling of Peter, Andrew, James and John to their discipleship. Pointing out that one-third of the original Twelve were fishermen, the bishop said

everyone has a call to be fishers of men, just like the disciples.

The word "disciple," Bishop Rhoades said, translates to "student" in Greek, which means everyone is called to be a student and friend of Jesus. "Jesus is saying to all of us, 'Come follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.'"

He lifted up St. Ignatius as an example of one who lived fully for Christ. St. Ignatius had succeeded St. Peter as the bishop

of Antioch after Peter went to Rome, and he was martyred because he refused to worship Roman gods as was demanded by the emperor.

Bishop Rhoades said St. Ignatius had a special love for people who were suffering. He called on the students to do the same, saying they ought to have "special love, care and compas-

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Cremated loved ones laid to rest during committal service

BY KEVIN KILBANE

Family members hugged each other, heard words of hope and comfort, and then laid to rest 10 loved ones whose cremated bodies had never been buried.

About 30 people gathered on a partly sunny afternoon Oct. 17 for a free committal service offered by Divine Mercy Funeral Home and Catholic Cemetery, 3500 Lake Ave. in Fort Wayne.

"I'm just grateful to be here,"

an older woman, who brought a loved one's cremated body to the service, said afterward. Another woman also expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to bury her cremated loved one.

This was the first time Divine Mercy Funeral Home and Catholic Cemetery have offered free committal for cremated bodies, said Casey Miller, funeral home and cemetery executive director. The funeral home and cemetery both are owned by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

"It started with a conversation with staff here," Miller said of the idea for the service. "We knew there are cremated bodies out there that had not been buried in consecrated ground."

The Catholic Church believes a deceased person's body should be present for his or her funeral Mass, Miller said. The Church also believes a person's cremated body should be buried in a Catholic cemetery, either in the ground or in a mausoleum crypt, and not scattered or divided.

Some participants in the

Divine Mercy committal service said financial hardship or a family situation led to the delay in burying their loved one's cremated body, said Karen Lonergan, director of preplanning services. In some cases, enough time also had passed that the family didn't know what burial options still may be available to them, Lonergan added.

To accommodate families who wanted to participate in the

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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Official newspaper of the
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend
P.O. Box 11169
Fort Wayne, IN 46856

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Published weekly except the Sunday after Christmas and every other week from the second Sunday of June through the third Sunday of September by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, 915 S. Clinton St., P.O. Box 390, Fort Wayne, IN 46801. Periodicals postage paid at Fort Wayne, IN, and additional mailing office.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Today's Catholic, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN 46856-1169 or email: circulation@diocesefwsb.org

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News deadline is 10 days prior to publication date. Advertising deadline is nine days before publication date.

Today's Catholic may be reached at :

Today's Catholic,
P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN
46856-1169; or email:
editor@diocesefwsb.org

(ISSN 0891-1533)
(USPS 403630)

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**Bishops, sisters discuss declining numbers of US women religious**

BY DAN STOCKMAN

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (CNS) — The precipitous decline in the number of women in religious life and what it means to the Church has people thinking about how to prepare for the future.

Their actions stem from data gathered by the National Religious Retirement Office at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops that projects an estimated 300 women's religious institutes will likely phase out of existence in the next decade.

The estimate is fueled by the fact that the overall number of women religious has declined by 75 percent since 1965 with no change in the trend expected.

Bishops, women religious, canon lawyers and others discussed the future of religious life in a two-day workshop Sept. 25-26 in Oakbrook, Illinois, outside of Chicago.

The workshop, "Fidelity to the Journey: Together in Communion," was sponsored by the Resource Center for Religious Institutes under a grant from the GHR Foundation.

Mercy Sister Sharon Euart, the resource center's executive director, said participants agreed not to invite the press to the workshop to allow for frank and open discussion but to release a report afterward. About 50 people attended the gathering, including Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin of Newark, New Jersey, chairman of the bishops' Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations. It was the first national gathering among bishops and women religious to discuss diminishing vocations.

"It was not only important, but also timely to connect the experience of these leaders and their communities to diocesan bishops in a way that contributes to the bishops' understanding of the experience of diminishment — not a notion we are comfortable with, yet it is a shared reality — and its impact not only



CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz, Long Island Catholic

Women religious pray during a Mass honoring religious jubilarians Oct. 7 at St. Agnes Cathedral in Rockville Centre, N.Y. Bishops, women religious, canon lawyers and others met Sept. 25-26 outside Chicago to help diocesan leaders understand the precipitous decline in numbers of women in religious life and what that means to the Church.

on the religious institute and its members, but also on the local church," Sister Euart said in a statement.

The number of women religious in the United States has declined from a peak of 181,421 in 1965 to 47,160 in 2016, National Religious Retirement Office statistics show. About 77 percent of women religious are older than 70.

As many as 300 of the 420 religious institutes in the United States are in their last decades of existence because of aging membership and declining vocations, officials said.

Despite the trend, participants said they came away inspired.

"There really was a presence of the Spirit in the room. You could experience it from the time the sessions began," Sister Euart said in an interview. "The openness of each person was truly the work of the Spirit. It was a great opportunity to share with one another and recognize how far we've

come in working together."

Sister Carol Zinn, a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Philadelphia and executive director of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, said part of the awe and wonder of the event was the mutual recognition of how the transformation of religious life is changing the entire Church.

"It's not just about a religious congregation that's selling its motherhouse. It's about more than that," Sister Zinn said. "You wouldn't expect this topic to be so life-giving."

Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, said the grief and loss are real, but so is the peace many congregations have found in the process.

"It was a very healthy conversation, a true dialogue, grounding in our deep respect for women and men religious and the contributions they've made," Archbishop Kurtz said. "I came away inspired and encouraged."

Cardinal Tobin also said he was moved by the peace sisters have found in planning for the fulfillment of their mission.

"There's a sadness at the realization that the death of a congregation often means the disappearance of a particular charism in the church ... but there is a great serenity among the women," he told Global Sisters Report.

The cardinal said it reminded him of the prayer of Simeon when the infant Jesus was presented in the Temple: "Lord, let your servant go in peace, because my eyes have seen your salvation."

Sister Zinn said the peace comes when a people realize completion is part of the paschal mystery of dying and rising, which is at the core of Christian belief.

"We had a really good conversation about how do we come to an end with the same kind of joy and commitment and passion as we came into at our beginning," she said. "If we can't do that, there's something missing there."

The term "diminishment" is often used to describe the declining numbers of religious, but many prefer "transition" or "transformation," arguing religious life is changing, not disappearing, and while the numbers may be diminishing, religious life itself is as vibrant and vital as ever.

The workshop addressed topics such as planning, care of members and use of resources, governance issues, and what it all means for local churches and dioceses. The report said the event ended with a discussion of how to continue the dialogue and replicate the experience in other areas. Participants felt the event deepened the communion between bishops and religious leaders, the report said.

Dan Stockman is national correspondent for Global Sisters Report. Contributing to this story was Zita Ballinger Fletcher in Washington.

Response to sexual abuse crisis tops agenda for USCCB fall meeting

DENNIS SADOWSKI

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The firestorm surrounding the clergy sex abuse crisis and the way some bishops handled allegations of abuse against priests will be an important part of the agenda of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' fall general assembly.

The bishops have had to deal with seemingly endless revelations of allegations of abusive clergy since June, most of which referred to long-past incidents. New reports from media outlets also were expected as the Nov. 12-14 assembly in Baltimore approaches.

Bishops nationwide also are facing new challenges as

several state attorneys general have opened investigations into the handling of abuse allegations. The investigations follow the release of a Pennsylvania grand jury report in August that linked more than 300 priests and Church workers to abuse claims and identified more than 1,000 victims over a 70-year period dating from 1947.

The USCCB has not directly addressed the investigations and has not offered any indication that it will advise bishops on how to respond.

Beyond the discussions of clergy sexual abuse and any further actions, the bishops were expected to vote on a new pastoral letter on racism, though the agenda for the meeting has not

been finalized.

Security, always tight during the twice-a-year assemblies, is expected to be stricter than usual to prevent access to the Marriott Waterfront Hotel meeting site by protesters upset with the way the bishops have handled reports of abuse by clergy.

In preparing for the fall assembly, the bishops' Administrative Committee Sept. 19 outlined actions to address the abuse crisis, including approving the establishment of a third-party confidential reporting system for claims of any abuse by bishops.

Committee members instructed the bishops' Committee on Canonical Affairs and 2 Governance to develop proposals

for policies addressing restrictions on bishops who were removed or resigned because of allegations of abuse of minors or adults.

The Administrative Committee also initiated the process of developing a code of conduct for bishops regarding sexual misconduct with a minor or adult or "negligence in the exercise of his office related to such cases."

The Administrative Committee consists of the officers, chairmen and regional representatives of the USCCB. The committee, which meets in March and September, is the highest authority of the USCCB outside of the

Report: Immigrant aid agencies urge end to family separation policies

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A report from two leading faith-based agencies serving immigrants entering the United States from Mexico and Central America called on the federal government to end a policy of separating children from their families and help families comply with immigration law.

The report details the collaboration in July between the U.S. bishops' Office of Migration and Refugee Services and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service to assist more than 1,200 families to reunite after children were separated from adults under the U.S. Department of Justice's "zero tolerance" policy.

The policy caused a crisis at the border in the spring and summer months this year as federal agents jailed adults crossing into the U.S. and placed the children who had accompanied them in detention centers, largely in Texas, Arizona and California.

The faith-based agencies mobilized in July to assist the departments of Homeland Security and Health and Human Services reunify separated families and provide shelter, food, clothing, counseling and case management.

Dozens of Catholic Charities and Lutheran social service agencies throughout the country also were involved in the reunification effort.

Titled "Serving Separated and Reunited Families: Lessons Learned and the Way Forward to Promote Family Unity," the report outlines the agencies' response and offered a series of recommendations to the federal government, the U.S. Congress, foreign governments and non-governmental organizations to better serve families traveling north to the U.S.

It said that while little is known about how the forced separation of children and adults will affect young people, initial reports from service providers "indicate that families are experiencing symptoms of trauma, including separation anxiety."

It also suggested alternatives to detention for asylum-seeking families, especially those who pose no threat to the country.

"Such alternatives are often preferable as they avoid inflicting unnecessary and long-lasting trauma on children and families. Additionally, detaining families that do not present a flight or safety risk is an unnecessary use of limited (Department of Homeland Security) resources," the report said.

Leaders of both organizations welcomed the report.

"I am proud of the response of USCCB/MRS, LIRS and our Catholic and Lutheran partners around country, including my brother bishops, to be able to work with the administration to provide support to those vul-



CNS photo/David Maung, EPA

Clergy from different denominations pray at the front gate of the Otay Mesa Detention Center in San Diego during an early June rally in support of immigrant families that had been separated at the U.S.-Mexico border. A report from two leading faith-based agencies serving immigrants entering the United States from Mexico and Central America called on the federal government to end a policy of separating children from their families and help families comply with immigration law.

nerable families," Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Austin, Texas, chairman of the bishops' Committee on Migration, said in a statement accompanying the Oct. 17 release of the report.

"I believe the recommendations made are important and should be seriously considered in order to avoid pain and suffering in the future caused by the separation of families," he said.

In a separate statement, Kay Bellor, vice president of programs for LIRS, praised the agencies for stepping up quickly to aid families.

"As we have been for decades, communities of faith were there, poised and ready, to love and serve our neighbors in need," Bellor said. "It is our deep hope that the lessons learned from this time in our history will prevent the cruel separation of children from their parents from happening again."

As of Sept. 27, nearly 2,300 families had been reunited, according to the report. Some of the reunited families remained in detention facilities, some were reunited in their countries of origin, and some were released to allow them to travel to families and friends throughout the U.S.

The report showed that the flow of immigrants from Mexico had eased, but that refugees from Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador shot upward in 2017 and 2018. It cited the growing

violence from criminal gang and illegal drug networks in the three countries as reasons cited by immigrants for seeking to enter the U.S.

MRS and LIRS also called for:

— Better coordination and data collection on immigrants throughout the government to allow for improved tracking of family reunification.

— The release of families during "normal but extended business hours" from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. to allow families to be safely transported.

— Reinstating family case management that had been discontinued in 2017 after just 18 months of operation in what originally was a five-year pilot program.

— Improved training for care providers.

— Expanding programs that address the causes of migration.

— Increased coordination among aid agencies to better serve separated families.

MRS and LIRS also encouraged the U.S. government to "commit to immigration policies that are humane and uphold each individual's human dignity. Such policies should also ensure compliance with immigration requirements and be fair to the U.S. taxpayer."

Editor's Note: The full report can be accessed online at www.justice-forimmigrants.org.



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Sunday, October 28: 10:30 a.m. — Knights of Columbus Founders' Day Prayer and Blessing Ceremony, Catholic Cemetery, Fort Wayne

Sunday, October 28: 3 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, St. Jude Church, Fort Wayne

Thursday, November 1: 5:15 p.m. — Mass for Fall Conference of Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture, Basilica of the Sacred Heart, University of Notre Dame

Friday, November 2: 11 a.m. — Mass, Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration Convent Cemetery, Mishawaka

Saturday, November 3: 10 a.m. — Confirmation Mass, St. Mary of the Annunciation Church, Bristol



Priest appointment

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

Reverend Mark Enemali to Parochial Vicar, St. John the Baptist Parish, New Haven, effective Oct. 22, 2018.



Dear Faithful of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend,

In the wake of two powerful hurricanes in recent weeks, Hurricane Florence and Hurricane Michael, many people face the long process of recovery. Please remember to offer prayers in our parishes for those who have died or been injured and for their families.

The USCCB has asked that dioceses take up a special Emergency Collection for 2018 Natural Disasters to assist in the rebuilding and long-term recovery efforts in areas suffering from these hurricanes and any other natural disasters that may yet occur this year. I ask that all parishes take up this Emergency Collection at all Masses on the weekend of October 27-28. The funds collected will be used to support the relief and recovery efforts of Catholic Charities USA, Catholic Relief Services, and Catholic churches in the affected areas.

Thank you for your cooperation in this expression of love and solidarity for our brothers and sisters in need. May God bless you!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Kevin C. Rhoades

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

March for Life in January will emphasize 'pro-life is pro-science'

BY KURT JENSEN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Next year's March for Life plans to fortify its pro-life message with science that proves life begins at conception and with a specific focus on stem-cell research.

"Unique From Day One: Pro-Life Is Pro-Science" is the theme announced Oct. 18 by Jeanne Mancini, president of the March for Life Education and Defense Fund. The annual march is scheduled for Jan. 18 to mark the anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision, which legalized abortion nationwide.

"Our DNA is present at the moment of fertilization," Mancini said at the Capitol Hill announcement. "Sadly, society tries to ignore or block these facts. When President Obama was asked, 'When does life begin?' he replied that was above his pay grade."

She was referring to Barack Obama when he was running for president and was asked in 2008 during a Dallas forum with evangelical pastor Rick Warren: "When does a baby get human rights?" Obama replied, "Whether you're looking at it from a theological perspective or a scientific perspective, answering that question with specificity ... is above my pay grade."

"Science should always be at the service of life, not the reverse," Mancini said. She called for the passage of H.R. 2918, known as the Patients First Act, sponsored by Republican Rep. Jim Banks of Indiana. The bill would require the Department of Health and Human Services to support research on adult stem cells, not those taken from aborted babies.

On Sept. 24, HHS announced that it had terminated a contract between the Food and Drug Administration and Advanced Bioscience Resources



Inc., which has supplied fetal tissue from abortions occurring at or after nine weeks of pregnancy. At the same time, the agency announced an audit of all federally funded research related to fetal tissue. But pro-life leaders plan to pressure HHS to end more than \$100 million in funding for research involving fetal tissue.

"The mission of March for Life is to protect the baby in its earliest stages," Mancini added. "It's so important to have a foundation of human dignity for any kind of research."

By the time an unborn infant reaches 18 to 20 weeks, "the science is very clear that you can perceive pain by that point in time," said David Prentice, research director for the Charlotte Lozier Institute, the research arm of Susan B. Anthony List. "These individuals do not need to be destroyed for healing."

Prentice said adult stem cells "from many different sources — umbilical cord blood, the liver" would be a suitable replacement.

"Science speaks the truth because it illuminates the truth," said Dr. Grazie Pozo Christie, a radiologist and a policy adviser for The Catholic Association, who played the sound of a fetal heartbeat at five weeks of gestation. Abortion "was sold to us as

a scientific advance, maybe the ultimate scientific advance," she said.

But science has subsequently "opened our eyes, it has opened our ears," she said. And the term for fetuses sometimes used in 1973, "a ball of cells," she described as "a terrible perversion of medicine."

Activist David Daleiden's undercover videos from Planned Parenthood clinics have made him a hero to the pro-life movement and have gotten him in

substantial legal trouble in California, where the videos were taken.

He and his Center for Medical Progress are defending against 15 state felony charges for conspiracy and invasion of privacy. The charges were originally filed March 28, 2017, by California Attorney General Xavier Becerra. On June 21 of that year a Superior Court judge dismissed 14 of the 15 charges "with leave to amend," meaning they could be refiled. They were refiled June

30, 2017.

Also on Oct. 4 of this year, a federal judge refused to lift an injunction banning the release of videos taken at a National Abortion Federation meeting.

Nonetheless, Daleiden, after complaining about "jack-booted thugs" who raided his home and office when he was first prosecuted, played excerpts of the videos in which organs from aborted fetuses appear to be discussed as if they were commodities for sale.

"It shows a level of objectification beyond the original objectification of abortion," he said. "The body parts are only useful for Planned Parenthood to sell."

Mancini also announced that next year's rally speakers would include Ben Shapiro, editor in chief of *The Daily Wire*, and Abby Johnson, the former abortion clinic worker who founded *And Then There Were None*.

This year's rally included a video hookup of President Donald Trump speaking from the White House with students from the University of Mary in North Dakota, but political speakers for 2019 won't be announced for a few more weeks.

USCCB, from page 2

full body of bishops when they meet for their fall and spring general assemblies.

A USCCB spokesman said Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, conference president, was unavailable to discuss specific plans for the assembly because he and other conference leaders were in Rome attending the Synod of Bishops on young people, faith and vocational discernment. The synod was to conclude Oct. 28.

Francesco Cesareo, chairman of the National Review Board, also declined to discuss the issue, saying in an Oct. 16 email to Catholic News Service that board members were continuing to draft recommendations that would be delivered to the bishops during the assembly.

In August, Cesareo told Catholic News Service that the bishops "have to put their trust in lay leadership and allow that lay leadership to develop the processes and oversight when these kinds of allegations occur, particularly holding bishops accountable."

The all-lay National Review Board, established by the bishops in 2002, oversees compliance by dioceses with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. It has no role in oversight of bishops.

Bishop Christopher J. Coyne of Burlington, Vermont, chairman of the bishops' Committee on Communications, told Catholic News Service Oct. 19 that the bishops must "continue to press forward" in explaining how well the charter "is working and con-



CNS photo/Bob Roller

Bishop Robert J. Baker of Birmingham, Ala., prays with other prelates during the 2017 fall general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore.

tinues to work"

"It important that we as a conference have made incredible strides in protecting children to the point that one of the safest places for children to participate is the Catholic community in the United States," he said.

"But that message is not getting out there. Many people still believe that the abuse of children and the cover-up by Church authorities is an ongoing issue and that the bishops haven't done enough to address the issue. That's contrary to the evidence in contrast to the number

of reported abuses since 2002," Bishop Coyne said.

"We have to continually say the charter is working and doing its job."

Bishop Coyne also told CNS he would recommend that dioceses voluntarily open their clergy personnel files — including those of bishops — to investigators.

"We all do it and it's done," he said.

Meanwhile, work on the pastoral letter addressing racism was nearing its conclusion.

Bishop Sheldon J. Fabre of Houma-Thibodaux, Louisiana, chairman of the bishop's Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism, has shepherded the final stages of work on the document since May when he stepped in for Bishop George V. Murry of Youngstown, Ohio, who resigned to undergo treatment for acute leukemia.

The proposed statement, "Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love — A Pastoral Letter Against Racism," says that "despite many promising strides made in our country, the ugly cancer of racism still infects our nation."

"Racist acts are sinful because they violate justice. They reveal a failure to acknowledge the human dignity of the persons offended, to recognize them as the neighbors Christ calls us to love," the proposed pastoral letter says.

The document examines the history of racism in the U.S. While acknowledging many other groups in the county have endured racism and discrimination in the past, it focuses on three groups: African-Americans, Hispanics and Native Americans.

Without a doubt: Pope shares his thinking on key synod themes

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Having some doubts is definitely better than having no doubts at all, Pope Francis told a group of seminarians.

As the Synod of Bishops on “young people, the faith and vocational discernment” was continuing at the Vatican, the pope tackled some of the synod’s key questions when he met Oct. 13 with seminarians from the Lombardy region of northern Italy.

Doubt came first.

A young man named Daniele from the Diocese of Mantova told Pope Francis that while his year of preparation before beginning seminary studies is mostly one of joy, “sometimes, behind this enthusiasm, there hide seeds of doubt and struggle with the idea of following Jesus through the priesthood in today’s society.”

Pope Francis has attended most of the general sessions of the synod and, according to the Vatican press office, had requested the floor at least twice to give his input during the “open discussion” that ends each evening. The Vatican did not, however, say what the pope said.

But his talk to the Lombardy seminarians gives an indication of his approach to the topic of vocational discernment; his long question-and-answer session with them included both long-standing ideas and new insights that may have been motivated by listening at the synod to bishops, priests, religious and laypeople, including 34 observers under the age of 30.

Daniele, the seminarian, had referred to doubt as a cross. The pope said it may be, but it is a fruitful cross.

“I don’t trust people who never doubt,” the pope said. “Doubt puts us in crisis. Doubt makes us ask ourselves, ‘Is this good or not?’”



CNS photo/Vatican Media

A participant attends Pope Francis’ meeting with seminarians from Italy’s Lombardy region at the Vatican on Oct. 13.

Of course, Pope Francis said, too much doubt is not healthy, but if there’s some doubt and it makes a Christian stop and ask, “Does this come from God or not? Is this positive or not?” then it is actually a motivation for discernment.

The concrete step to take when doubt comes along, he said, is “dialogue. Dialogue with the one who accompanies you. Dialogue with your superior.

Dialogue with your classmates. But open dialogue, sincere dialogue, about concrete things. And, especially, dialogue with the Lord: ‘Lord, what are you trying to tell me with what I’m feeling, with this desolation or this doubt?’”

Another big theme at the synod that was echoed in the question of a seminarian had to do with evangelization in a time of increased secularization.

While some of the synod members seemed to view secularization as a huge obstacle for the Church, Father Arturo Sosa, superior general of the Jesuits, asked synod members to try to think — discern — what God is trying to tell the Church through secularization. Perhaps, he said, part of it has to do with challenging people to make a clear choice to be a Christian, rather than belonging to the Church just because their parents and grandparents did.

But Pope Francis took a slightly different tack with the seminarians. “You say, ‘this increasingly secularized world,’ but I say, which world was more secularized: ours or that of Jesus?”

While some Christians may be tempted to throw up their hands faced with such a challenge, Jesus’ mandate to Christians today is the same as it was then, the pope said: “Go out,” get close to people and share the good news.

A seminary staff member from

Cremona asked Pope Francis for suggestions on how those in charge of formation can prepare young men to be ministers in a Church that is a “field hospital” and how they can help the young prudently try new things to bring God’s love and mercy to people.

First of all, the pope said, get them moving because “a priest who is not on the move thinks of stupid things, says stupid things and does stupid things.”

“But it’s risky,” Pope Francis said he could hear his audience thinking.

While someone may slip while on the move, making mistakes teaches humility, he said, even admitting that he has prayed for God to “toss a banana peel” in the path of a certain priest to help the man be humbler.

Everything in life involves a process, the pope reminded the group of seminarians and seminary staff members. “Babies aren’t born adults; it’s all a process of becoming, a process of maturation or corruption,” of growing in virtue or growing in vice.

To help young people mature in their faith and commitment to the Gospel, look to how Jesus was with His disciples, the pope said.

Jesus “knew how to tolerate mistakes” and did not give up even when Peter denied Him or the other disciples ran away, the pope said. “Jesus placed His bet on time, on the development of the disciples.”

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Bishops call for better religious education, preparation for mission

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Improved religious education and a stronger sense of belonging to a community were some of the topics touched upon as the Synod of Bishops moved into its final round of speeches. Accepting Pope Francis' invitation for bishops to be bold at the synod, Auxiliary Bishop Thomas Dowd of Montreal told the assembly Oct. 16, "If I was pope — I know I'm not, but if I was — I'd write an encyclical on four basic questions" all human beings ask in one way or another. The four, he said, are: "Who is God? If God is good, why is there evil in the world? If God is good but there is evil in the world and God is doing something about it, how can we be part of it?" The 48-year-old Canadian bishop told synod members that his own religious education in Catholic schools and parishes was "an abysmal failure," an education that "just gave us pieces and no overall picture." The Church needs to renew its religious education programs, he said, and should start by trying to respond to the four questions, which "haunt the heart of every person, religious or not." Swiss Cardinal Kurt Koch, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, also acknowledged the "critical situation of the transmission of the faith today" and insisted the best way to combat it is by being better examples for young people and encouraging them to be examples for their peers.

Young migrants bring vitality, need support, synod members say

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Helping young migrants hold fast to their cultural and religious identity, especially in situations where they are a minority, was a recurring topic at the Synod of Bishops. Blessed Sacrament Father Robert Stark, director of the Office for Social Ministry for the Diocese of Honolulu and regional coordinator for the Vatican's Migrant and Refugees Section, offered synod members very practical advice for assisting young people on the move. First, he said Oct. 16, Church workers must listen to young people thinking about leaving their homelands and inform them of the dangers. Second, the Church should offer food, shelter and safety to young people in transit. And, when they arrive at their destination, the young should be helped with legal assistance and language classes. "At each phase of their journey, young migrants pass through different dioceses but — from beginning to end — they can be in the same loving, caring church," Father Stark told the synod. Archbishop Ilario

Migrant caravan continues northward



CNS photo/Luis Echeverria, Reuters

Honduran Nery Maldonado, right, chats with other migrants as they wait in line Oct. 17 to enter a shelter in Guatemala City. Maldonado and the other migrants are part of a caravan trying to reach the U.S. Maldonado says he lost his feet while riding the freight train called "The Beast" three years ago in Mexico. The caravan encountered violence at the Mexican border late over the weekend.

Antoniazzi of Tunis, representing the North African bishops' conference, told the synod that many of the dioceses of Libya, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco are thriving today because of the young African Catholics who come to their countries for university studies or while awaiting an opportunity to migrate to Europe.

Pope says he's open to visiting North Korea

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis, at a meeting with South Korean President Moon Jae-in, said he is willing to visit North Korea. North Korean leader Kim Jong-un had asked Moon to tell the pope of the invitation. According to Yonhap, the Korean news agency, Moon's press secretary told reporters the pope said he would accept "if an (official) invitation arrives and I can go." Meeting the South Korean president Oct. 18, the pope praised Moon's efforts to promote peace in the Korean

peninsula. "Move forward without stopping. Do not be afraid," the pope told Moon according to Yonhap. In a statement released after the meeting, the Vatican said Pope Francis and Moon discussed the Church's role in promoting "dialogue and reconciliation between Koreans. Strong appreciation was expressed for the common commitment to fostering all useful initiatives to overcome the tensions that still exist in the Korean Peninsula, in order to usher in a new season of peace and development," the Vatican said.

All six dioceses in Illinois sued over clergy sexual abuse allegations

CHICAGO (CNS) — Attorney Jeff Anderson, who has represented clergy abuse victims nationwide, filed a lawsuit Oct. 18 in Chicago against all six Catholic dioceses in Illinois and the Illinois Catholic Conference for what he

described as an ongoing effort to cover up clergy sexual abuse. The lawsuit wants the state's dioceses to release all their records on abusive priests.

Anderson filed the suit along with three others who said they were sexually abused by priests. The lawsuit does not seek damages and only claims instances of abuse against children in three of the Illinois dioceses — Rockford, Peoria and Springfield — but according to Anderson, all the dioceses have had a role in covering up clergy sexual abuse. The claims of abuse cited date from the early 1970s through the late 1990s.

All the dioceses issued statements in response to the lawsuit, including the Diocese of Peoria, where diocesan officials said they had not had the opportunity to review all the details of the lawsuit but wished to clarify some of Anderson's statements, particularly that Peoria Bishop Daniel R. Jenky had ignored some claims made about allegations of abuse by diocesan

priests. The Archdiocese of Chicago's statement said officials had not reviewed the lawsuit in full but that the diocese has taken significant steps to address clergy sex abuse and had posted the names of priests who have been credibly accused of this on its website.

Indifference, hatred are the first steps to murder, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Hurling insults and being indifferent to other people's lives are the first steps along the winding path that leads to killing them, at least figuratively, Pope Francis said. By warning that "whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment," Jesus equates hatred with murder, the pope said Oct. 17 during his weekly general audience. "Indifference kills. It's like telling someone, 'You're dead to me,' because you've killed them in your heart. Not loving is the first step to killing; and not killing is the first step to loving," he told thousands of pilgrims in St. Peter's Square. Continuing his series of talks on the Ten Commandments, the pope reflected on Christ's explanation of the Fifth Commandment, "Thou shall not kill."

Justice Department opens investigation into abuse claims in Pennsylvania

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — The Archdiocese of Philadelphia has received a subpoena as part of a federal grand jury investigating allegations of child sexual abuse and a cover-up of such claims, Church officials confirmed Oct. 18. The subpoena "requires the production of certain documents," said Ken Gavin, archdiocesan spokesperson, and the archdiocese "will cooperate with the United States Department of Justice in this matter." The same day, the Diocese of Harrisburg released a statement saying it "will cooperate fully with this inquiry, just as it has with the Office of Attorney General's investigation," which resulted in the release last summer of a statewide grand jury report on allegations of sex abuse by priests and other Church workers. Among other diocesan reaction, the Allentown diocese said it, too, would fully cooperate. News reports by the Associated Press say the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District, based in Philadelphia and led by William M. McSwain, had recently begun serving subpoenas in the new statewide probe. The Catholic Church in Pennsylvania consists of eight dioceses: the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and the dioceses of Allentown, Altoona-Johnstown, Erie, Greensburg, Harrisburg, Pittsburgh and Scranton.

'To love is to will the good of the other'

Couples blessed at jubilee Mass

BY JOSHUA SCHIPPER

Couples celebrating their 25th, 50th and 60th wedding anniversaries were recognized at a wedding jubilee Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades on Sunday, Oct. 21, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. Dozens of couples filled the pews to receive a blessing from the bishop for fulfilling their calling to marriage and for God's love and grace to continue flowing in their lives.

Following the Gospel reading, Bishop Rhoades preached about the true meaning of marriage. He congratulated the couples, calling them "witnesses to all of us of God's love and fidelity." Then, he asked them to recall their wedding day.

"On that day, you freely accepted your vocation to follow Christ and serve the kingdom of God in the married state. You placed your trust in God, not knowing the future or how your lives together would unfold. But you stepped out in faith," he said. "The Lord has been with you through the years with His grace, helping you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, to persevere with love."

Contrasting two different types of love, he said romantic love is "subjective." "But there is another side of love that I imagine you have learned through the years. We can call it the objective aspect of love," he said, stressing that objective is "absolutely essential in a marriage no matter how strong or weak your emo-



Joshua Schipper

Couples hold hands as Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades asks for the Lord's blessing on those married for 25, 50 or 60 years during an anniversary Mass Oct. 22 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne.

tions and desires may be."

He compared objective love to the Italian phrase, "ti voglio bene," which means "I wish you good" or "I want what is good for you."

"This Italian expression gets at the deeper, objective aspect of love because authentic love is more than good feelings and emotion, more than romance ..." he said. "True love is looking outward toward one's beloved and seeking what is best for that person."

Bishop Rhoades drew a parallel between this kind of love and St. Thomas Aquinas' definition of love, found in the Catechism of the Catholic Church: "To love

is to will the good of the other."

"So, it's more than having powerful feelings for another person. It's about being committed to them and their good." He used the example of a husband and wife in a Christian marriage, noting that they "unite themselves to [the] common aim of helping each other grow in holiness and deepening their own union and raising children."

Marriage, he continued, "includes sacrificing one's own preferences and desires. It includes serving one each other." Calling to mind the Gospel reading, he quoted Mark 10:43: "... whoever wishes to be the first among you will be your servant."



Jodi Marlin

Having described objective love in detail, Bishop Rhoades directly compared subjective and objective love. "In most marriages," he said, "those earlier romantic and subjective feelings will fade. But their love hopefully will not diminish, but grow." He said that "true love is not merely about one's experience of good feelings in a marriage, but the commitment to seek what is best for the other person, even when those feelings are not there."

St. John Paul II gave insight to this sacrificial type of love, he noted. "He wrote that married love is much more than attraction and desire ... It is two people who give themselves to each

other. It involves surrendering oneself to the other. In self-giving love, men and women recognize in a profound way that their life is not their own." The bishop said the pope's ideas on love are "counter-cultural — limiting one's own freedom and committing oneself to someone else in this radical way." However, "from a Christian perspective, life is not about doing whatever I want. It is about fulfilling my relationships with God and with the people God has placed in my life. This is how we will really find fulfillment in our life, not in self-getting, but in self-giving!"

All marriages have challenges, he acknowledged, emphasizing the importance of forgiveness and apologies.

"Isn't this the way God loves us? Despite our many sins and failures, God remains committed to us. He looks at us patiently and mercifully. He loves us even when we do things that hurt our relationship with Him ... we see this radical divine love most powerfully in the Holy Eucharist," where "Jesus gives Himself to us, His very Body and Blood."

"He receives us as we are, with all our weaknesses. This is what the sacrament of marriage is about: giving and receiving. Every husband and wife is called to see the other as a gift, a gift from God. And to love the other as he or she is, with all the imperfections. This is how God loves us."

"May God bless our anniversary couples today and every day," he concluded. "May He continue to bestow upon them His love and grace! And may the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph intercede for them always!"

Medical professionals urged to show Christ's mercy in their work

BY KEVIN KILBANE

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades told health care professionals they are called to be "instruments of God's healing love" and "witnesses to the sanctity of life" during a White Mass celebrated Oct. 18 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne.

"In all you say and do, you are to affirm the life and dignity of your patients, including the tiny infants in the womb of their mothers as well as the frail, elderly patients approaching the end of their earthly life," Bishop Rhoades said during his homily. "And you do so by recognizing that every one of your patients, including the disagreeable ones, is a child of God, destined to share the glory and joy of the Creator."

Most of the approximately 75 physicians and health care



Kevin Kilbane

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades greets worshippers after a White Mass for health care professionals celebrated Oct. 18 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne.

professionals who attended the White Mass also gathered afterward for a dinner at nearby St. Mary, Mother of God Church, where guest speaker Dr. Brandon P. Brown discussed "Caring for the Least Among Us: Fetal Medicine."

The Mass and dinner were organized by the Dr. Jerome Lejeune Catholic Medical Guild of Northeast Indiana. A White Mass and dinner for health care professionals also took place in the South Bend area Sept. 26 at St. Pius X Church in Granger.

The goal of a White Mass is to inspire physicians and all health care professionals to imitate Jesus Christ, said Dr. Andrew Mullally, a Dr. Jerome Lejeune Catholic Medical Guild member and the Indiana state director of the Catholic Medical Association.

"Catholics have a unique perspective on health care matters," said Mullally, whose indepen-

dent Credo Family Medicine practice is located in Fort Wayne.

That includes more than just concern for people at the beginning and ends of their lives, he said. It also involves areas such as social justice, including caring for people in jail and those with disabilities.

This year, the Fort Wayne White Mass took place on the feast day of St. Luke the Evangelist, who was a physician as well as a disciple of Jesus and a friend of St. Paul, Bishop Rhoades reminded worshippers during his homily.

"We invoke his intercession today for all of you who are part of the health care profession," he said, noting St. Luke is the patron saint of physicians and surgeons.

St. Luke also was the author of two books of the Bible: the

Patients, families urged to learn more about palliative, hospice care

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — Palliative and hospice care “address the needs of the whole person, which is the foundation of Catholic health care,” said Sister Carol Keehan, a Daughter of Charity, who is president and CEO of the Catholic Health Association, based in St. Louis.

She made the comments in an Oct. 8 news release issued jointly by CHA and the Supportive Care Coalition in Hillsboro, Oregon, to mark World Hospice and Palliative Care Day on Oct. 13.

The two organizations are encouraging the public to learn more about the benefits of palliative care to relieve suffering for chronic and life-limiting conditions and about the role of hospice care at the end of life.

They also highlighted the need for greater access to and awareness of palliative care and hospice services in the United States.

While the availability of palliative and hospice care services is growing in the U.S., many patients do not have access to such services and those who do often lack an understanding of how they can benefit from this type of care, the two groups said.

“Patients diagnosed with a serious illness, such as cancer, often face daunting treatment options,” Sister Keehan said. “And while modern medicine is helping prolong life, surgeries and drugs are only part of the healing process. Often as our patients’ physical condition becomes the primary focus, the care for their emotional and spiritual well-being is shortchanged or overlooked.”



A woman sits at the bedside of her mother in 2016 at de Greeff Hospice house in St. Louis. This special house, the only one of its kind in St. Louis, serves terminally ill individuals.

Palliative medicine provides supportive care for people living with serious illness by focusing on relieving their physical pain as well as their emotional and spiritual distress. It “is appropriate at any age and at any stage in a serious illness and can be provided alongside curative treatment,” they said.

Such care involves a team of doctors, nurses, social workers, chaplains and others working with the patient and family members.

Similar to palliative care, hospice care focuses on keeping a patient comfortable and pain-free, both physically, emotionally and spiritually. This care

making ‘what matters to you’ a more important question than ‘what’s the matter with you,’” said Denise Hess, executive director of the Supportive Care Coalition.

Hess’ group is a coalition of Catholic health ministries that believe “palliative care is a hallmark of Catholic health care through which God’s healing love is revealed.” The group’s website is <https://supportivecarecoalition.org>.

Together, CHA and the Supportive Care Coalition are advocating for access to high quality palliative care for all who need it and developing resources and tools to improve palliative care programs and increase awareness of its benefits.

Three resources designed for patients and their families can be found on the CHA website, <http://www.chausa.org/palliative-care>:

— “Expressing Your Health Care Wishes,” which includes FAQs about advance directives.

— “Caring Even When We Cannot Cure,” which explains the differences between palliative and hospice care.

— “Caring for People at the End of Life,” which explains the Catholic Church’s teaching about end-of-life decisions.

CHA said the resources are written from the perspective of Catholic tradition “but can be used by people of any religious tradition.”

“is typically provided to patients who are near the end of their lives,” they said.

“We have a long way to go in

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Marian Knights hit the streets for service day

BY DENISE FEDOROW

Students at Marian High School, Mishawaka, couldn't be found in their classrooms on Oct. 17 because instead of opening their books, they were learning about serving the way Christ calls His children to do: by volunteering for the benefit of others on the fifth annual Knights Service Day.

The students, along with parents and school staff members, served about 50 different organizations in Elkhart and St. Joseph counties, including ADEC; Real Services; St. Augustine Soup Kitchen; Hubbard Hill and St. Paul nursing homes; Hannah's House; the St. Vincent de Paul Society; The Center for the Homeless; Our Lady of the Road; La Casa de Amistad; and others.

Chris Grossnickle, development associate at Marian, explained how the service day began. Five years ago, as the faculty and staff began planning events for the 50th anniversary of Marian High School, they realized there weren't many student-focused events. She said the Knights Service Day was a chance "to have the kids go outside the Marian family."

At first, they concentrated on Catholic organizations like St. Augustine Soup Kitchen, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Catholic Worker House and Marian's partner schools, but then expanded. Grossnickle said when discussion about the service day began, participants were told to develop a pedagogy, or "a curriculum behind what we were doing — and that's been our driving force ever since. I love that piece of it. We discussed, 'Who do we want to affect? Who does Christ want us to affect?' He tells us the imprisoned, the poor, the hungry, the children, the homeless, (and) the elderly, and we look at those criteria for our service organizations."

The program is run through the school's Theology Department, whose faculty talks to the stu-



Photos provided by Alicia Redinger

Marian High School students volunteered at ADEC, a nonprofit organization that works with intellectually and physically developmental disabled children and adults. Many of the clients create arts and crafts that they can then sell. The students did a variety of work while at ADEC during Knights Service Day on Oct. 17.

dents and explains the difference between direct service — working directly with a person — and indirect service like yardwork or organizing, which might not be as immediately gratifying but are equally important.

Rewarding experiences

Cadence Szajko, the daughter of Eric and Michelle Szajko and a parishioner at Queen of Peace, Mishawaka, shared her impressions from the service experience. She worked with



The work the students did at Unity Gardens during the day of service is an example of "indirect service," and the students are taught this type of service is equally important, as it allows the nonprofit organizations to use its resources directly for clients.

Real Services, going out to a homebound woman's home to clean up her yard, rake leaves and trim bushes. In the past she has gone to elementary schools to help kindergartners read.

The service day "gives us a good sense of how many people need help, and they love having people out to help them. It gives everyone a sense of how privileged we are, and how underprivileged others are — and that little things make a big difference."

Aside from the service day, Cadence volunteers at church and at Pet Refuge.

Junior Graham Harding, the son of Gene and Lori and member of College Park Missionary Church in Mishawaka, volunteered at Cultivate Culinary, which has a food rescue program: It reclaims food from events and restaurants and repackages it for the homeless and underprivileged.

Graham said he felt it was important for Marian to have a service day because, "It helps define who we are. We're a family here and giving back to the community helps announce that. It's the kind of thing Marian does."

In addition to helping others, Graham it was fun to be able to work alongside fellow students whom he might not otherwise get to know very well.

Bella Ravotta, the daughter of Steve and Colleen, is a senior at Marian. Her family attends St. Joseph Parish. Bella has participated in the Knights Service Day for four years: This year she worked at ADEC, a nonprofit agency for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, helping with arts and crafts and holding hands with a client. She said ADEC's clients were excited to have the Marian students there; she was told one person there has asked every single day since last year when the Marian students were coming back.

During her freshman year, Bella recalled that she raked leaves at someone's house. The appreciation she received "really made an impact on me."

Bella helps with Special Olympics and coaches outside of her service through Marian. She said the Knights Service Day "teaches us we are here for a reason; we're here to serve others. That's what we're called to do as Catholics and that's part of our mission. ... I'm thankful Marian gave me the opportunity to explore other ways to serve and taught me to pursue volunteerism."

The first year of the project, Grossnickle heard that Marian choir members were singing at Hubbard Hill nursing home and as they were leaving, a nurse asked if they could sing for a man who was dying and whose family was gathered around him. The choir members sang "Amazing Grace" while the man's sobbing wife held her husband. The adult daughter of the man told them, "Thank you for singing my dad to heaven."

'Learn. Serve. Lead.'

Marian's slogan is "Learn. Serve. Lead." and they feel the Knights Service Day fits that slogan. Development Director Alicia Redinger said "it's all rolled into our mission."

The school has attempted to connect classes to the service organizations, like having the choir sing at nursing homes or the foods class prepare food to bring to those staying at the Ronald McDonald House.

Grossnickle added that they try to give the students a varied experience during their Marian career and encourage them to be open to God's call.

"We hope by the time they have four years of service they see the needs in the community, where their work is valued and why it's important to do what God asks of us," Redinger said. "We hope it instills a lifelong servant's heart."



The students help repackage and repurpose prepared food that would have been discarded if not for the food rescue program at Cultivate Culinary. The food is repackaged into individual meals and delivered to organizations or individuals helping the homeless, the elderly and the homebound.

Reading Rangers Program receives national recognition

BY JEANNIE EWING

The National Christ Child Society professes a simple, but powerful slogan: "Nothing is ever too much to do for a child." For Fort Wayne chapter members and Reading Rangers volunteers Lori Neumann and Dianne Bezdon, it means responding to the needs of our local community by being the hands and feet of Jesus.

"Mary Virginia Merrick founded this entire society on the spirituality that Christ is in each of these children," Neumann explained. "You're seeing Jesus in each child, reaching out to them. So when we read to these kids, we are imagining that we are serving Jesus personally."

The Reading Rangers Program is a local initiative born from a need expressed by the National Christ Child Society to increase literacy in young children. Now in its third year, Reading Rangers has expanded from one school, St. Joseph School on Brooklyn Avenue in Fort Wayne, to two, with Most Precious Blood School, also in Fort Wayne. Its format is simple: Christ Child Society volunteers travel to the preschool classes of each school once per month to read fun books to small children.

Each school offers a different routine for these special days each month. The Christ Child Society volunteers join the classes for opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance at St. Joseph to begin the day, then break into groups with three or four children for each adult. Following the recitation of a book, the kids access a canvas bag from the volunteer to discover what relevant craft or activity they will also be doing together.

An added treat is that the children take home a copy of each month's book to keep at home, which includes a letter to their parents on ways to incorporate discussion questions that will increase reading comprehension and expand their vocabu-



From left, Lori Neumann, Christ Child Society Fort Wayne chapter literacy co-chairman, Dianne Bezdon, chapter president, and Beth Barrett, National Christ Child Society vice president, appear after being honored with the Red Wagon Award at the organization's national convention this fall.

Provided by Tina Bailey

lary. Finally, the class reconvenes for a skit or performance to tie key concepts of the book together and to encourage young students to love reading.

Neumann added, "We're careful when we choose the books. We want them to be age-appropriate but also fit the needs of language." Both schools were identified as having a specific need for this unique program, and the kids are already demonstrating impressive literacy improvements. "Even within the first four months of the school year, I can see their improve-

ment of language skills," Bezdon elaborated.

Even more than giving of their time to these children, the volunteers receive the joy of building a special relationship with the preschoolers. Each child "lights up" when seeing his or her "grandma," as they affectionately call the reading volunteers, explains Neumann. There are bright smiles exchanged, because for some children, the books they are given are the only ones they've ever owned. They are receiving a special gift in the form of love, time and a book to

keep. "They know we're there because we love them," Bezdon shared.

Both Neumann and Bezdon feel that their participation in the Reading Rangers program has positively influenced their own Catholic faith, as well. For Neumann, it's a way to put what she believes as a Catholic into an important and valuable work of mercy. "As you get older," she reflected, "you lost your contact with childlike innocence, and volunteering for this program reconnects me to my faith by making everything come alive

through the eyes of a child again."

Bezdon concurred, adding, "My faith has been made stronger by seeing the love in the eyes of the children we serve. I thank God for bringing us to these children."

It's evident that what the Fort Wayne chapter of the Christ Child Society is doing with the Reading Rangers Program reflects the values of the society, as well as of the individuals who volunteer.

Every two years, the National Christ Child Society holds a large convention in which each of the 44 chapters nationwide are invited to attend. During the convention, one chapter's outstanding program is recognized with an accolade called the Red Wagon Award, which includes a \$1,000 grant. This year the recipient was the Fort Wayne Reading Rangers Program. Neumann shares that their grant money will go toward the purchase of more books for the kids they serve.

Because of its expansion and success, the Reading Rangers Program is seeking volunteers who feel a call to share their time with young children in need of a positive adult role model. The only requirement is to first become a member of the Fort Wayne chapter of the Christ Child Society. The commitment level is minimum, Neumann and Bezdon said. Volunteer readers typically spend about one-and-a-half hours per month reading to students. Current members are eager to mentor new volunteers, as well.

"We are open to guests who are interested in learning more about our society. You can also shadow our reading volunteers before making a commitment," Bezdon added.

For more information on the Christ Child Society and specifically the Reading Rangers Program, visit christchildfw.org or contact either Deb Schmieman or Becky Kawiecki at debnbeck@gmail.com.

WHITE MASS, from page 7

Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles, he noted

The two Bible books St. Luke wrote share a strong theme of Jesus as the merciful Savior and of the need for merciful love, the bishop said. They include stories of the healing of people by Jesus and the Apostles.

"Of course," the bishop said, "Luke emphasizes that the physical healings accomplished by Jesus all point to the healing of the soul — Christ healing us from the disease of sin, from the devil and from death. It is God's mercy that heals us, that frees us from the corruption of sin and death."

Bishop Rhoades said that when he thinks of the health

care professions, he thinks of two works of mercy: visiting the sick to care for their illnesses and to help them heal, and comforting the afflicted to assist patients in recovery and to improve their well-being.

"I thank you for living your Catholic faith in your profession by being instruments of Christ's merciful love in your work," he said.

After dinner, Brown discussed the many advances in technology and how that has



changed the practice of fetal medicine.

Brown is an assistant professor of radiology and imaging sciences at the Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis. He is a founding member of the Fetal Center at Riley Children's Health hospital in Indianapolis and has taught in the departments of philosophy and medical humanities and health

studies at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.

Imaging technology now allows doctors to see life from the earliest moments of a pregnancy, Brown said. Doctors also can use new technology to try to treat a baby's health problems while the child still is in the womb, or to prepare for surgery or treatment immediately after birth.

At the same time, Brown emphasized, doctors and health care professionals must ensure new technology serves them and patient care rather than allowing themselves to become servants of new technology.

Smith dinner's tone lighthearted, but abuse crisis not ignored in remarks

BY BETH GRIFFIN

NEW YORK (CNS) — In the current toxic environment where political rivals describe each other as “evil” and “enemies,” it is imperative to remember that in America, “our political opponents are not evil, they are just our opponents,” according to Ambassador Nikki R. Haley.

The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations was the keynote speaker at the 73rd annual dinner of the Alfred E. Smith Memorial Foundation Oct. 18 at the New York Hilton.

Haley distinguished the heated rhetoric from the “true evil” she has witnessed in South Sudan, Syria and North Korea since she arrived at the United Nations in 2016.

The Al Smith dinner honors the memory of the former governor of New York, who was the first Catholic nominated by a major political party to run for president of the United States. Proceeds from the \$3,000-a-plate event help needy children in the greater New York area. The foundation distributed \$3.4 million in grants after last year's dinner.

The event drew 700 guests to the traditionally festive gathering of political, religious and philanthropic New Yorkers. Among those sharing the three-tiered dais were New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, Sen. Chuck Schumer, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and Jeff Glor, anchor of the “CBS Evening News.”

Comedian Jim Gaffigan was the dinner's master of ceremonies. He poked fun at the presumed wealth of the guests, whom he described as a “distinguished diverse group of rich, super-rich and Michael Bloomberg.”

Bloomberg, the billionaire former three-term mayor of New York, also was seated on the dais. Gaffigan said wearing a white bow tie and tails and looking at the sea of diners in formal attire made him feel “like I'm in an ugly episode of Downton Abbey.”

He introduced Haley as “the next president of the United States,” in a nod to widespread speculation that the Oct. 9 announcement she will leave her U.N. post at the end of the year signifies her intention to run for the presidency. Haley, the Republican former governor of South Carolina, has denied that she will challenge President Donald Trump in 2020.

She made light of the unexpected news of her departure. Haley said she asked Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, the event's host, if there was anything she could do to boost attendance at the dinner. “He said, ‘Why don't you resign as



CNS photos/Gregory A. Shemitz

New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley and her husband, Michael Haley, right, react to a joke delivered by comedian and master of ceremonies Jim Gaffigan during the 73rd annual Alfred E. Smith Memorial Foundation Dinner in New York City Oct. 18. Nikki Haley was the charity gala's keynote speaker.

U.S. ambassador?” she said.

Haley joked that as a member of Trump's Cabinet, “it's a thrill to be out to dinner without being harassed.”

She said Trump, who spoke at the 2016 dinner with then-opponent Hillary Clinton, offered her advice about her speech. “He said if I get stuck for laughs, just brag about his accomplishments. It really killed at the U.N.”

Haley said she learned a lot during her tenure at the U.N. Despite the serious disagreements and differences among the 193 member nations, “at one point, every single one of them was paying Paul Manafort,” she laughed.

Haley said her parents emigrated from India “legally, but I keep them at an undisclosed location, just in case.” She said when Trump heard she was an Indian American, “he asked if I was from the same tribe as Elizabeth Warren.”

Despite the lighthearted tone of the event, the clergy sex abuse scandal and its fallout hung in the air and were addressed head-on by the speakers. In his invocation, Cardinal Dolan, the dinner's host, asked God's mercy “on a Church we have also blushed at” for its response to the issue.

Haley said sexual abuse is not limited to the Catholic family, and the Church “recognizes its deep responsibility to address this moral failing.”

“It would be tragic to allow the abuse scandal to blind anyone to the amazing good works the Catholic church does every single day,” Haley said. “In the



New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan delivers the invocation at the beginning of the 73rd annual Alfred E. Smith Memorial Foundation Dinner in New York City Oct. 18.

last two years, I have been to some very dark places where human suffering is on a level hard for most Americans to imagine.”

She described a South American border area where church organizations are the sole providers of food and a refugee camp in central Africa where

the Church is on the forefront of those seeking change.

“Just about everywhere I've been, I've come across the Catholic Church doing incredible work that lifts up millions of desperate people. It is serving God's will,” she said.

Gaffigan said 1928, the year Al Smith ran for president, “was

a tough year to be a Catholic,” as was 2018. Introducing himself, Gaffigan said, to applause, “Unlike many Catholics in America who were raised Catholic, I am still Catholic and I still go to church every Sunday. Mostly, I'm afraid to tell my wife I don't want to go.”

Gaffigan and his wife are both from large Catholic families. “She is one of nine and they do everything together,” he said. A movie outing at Christmas included 30 people. “That's not a group, it's a flash mob. People thought we were from a church. To put in perspective, Jesus only walked around with 12.”

The comedian said he and his wife “have recreated the chaos of our childhoods” by raising a young family of five in Manhattan. He said the real reason he accepted Cardinal Dolan's invitation to emcee the dinner was the optimistic hope that the cardinal would “write some recommendations” for his children.

During the dinner, Lowell C. McAdam, chairman and former chief executive officer of Verizon Communications, received the Happy Warrior Award. The dis-

inction recalls the nickname given to Al Smith by Franklin D. Roosevelt at the 1924 Democratic Convention. The award recognizes someone who epitomizes Gov. Smith's character, grace and leadership by making a positive impact on others.

Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio of Brooklyn offered the benediction.

The media's rush to publish

I wonder if I am alone in worrying about a side effect of our two most recent public discussions of sexual abuse.

I mean, of course, the confirmation of Justice Brett Kavanaugh and the latest abuse scandal in the Church. My concern is that the media, sensing an appetite for stories of this kind and a willingness to credit them, will be too quick to publish charges against innocent people.

Don't get me wrong. The Church crisis is a crisis because some bishops have not been consistently willing to act against abusive priests. And though I know Justice Kavanaugh well enough to say he is a good and decent man, it is right that the Senate investigated the claims against him. The accompanying media circus, on the other hand, was not good for anyone.

A woman who describes a history of abuse to her therapist or social worker should be believed. One who makes an allegation to a Title IX coordinator at her school, or the human resources department at her job, should be taken with the utmost seriousness. In both instances, the reported allegations need to be thoroughly investigated before declaring the accused guilty.

But we need to keep in mind that allegations of sexual misconduct or abuse are also particularly harmful to people they are made against — even if they are unsubstantiated, indeed even if they are proven false. When Raymond J. Donovan, President Ronald Reagan's secretary of labor, was acquitted of larceny and fraud after an eight-month trial, he famously said, "Which

office do I go to to get my reputation back?"

The taint of sex-crime allegations is much worse.

We need to be especially careful before we broadcast such charges. There are people (bishops, the Senate Judiciary Committee, therapists, employers, law enforcement) who need to see and act with discretion on information that might be inconclusive. It's different when the media publish salacious stories for the sake of attracting readers or viewers. It's different still when those with no duty to act engage in watercooler gossip.

The New Yorker once was famous for the care of its fact-checking department. But it published a sexual allegation against Justice Kavanaugh by a woman who admitted to some uncertainty about the facts, despite lacking a second source to corroborate. *The New York Times*, acting on the same tip, refused to publish the story after failing to corroborate the charge. *The New Yorker* published it anyway.

Likewise, the Church's scandal has generated whispering campaigns against some priests and bishops. It's mostly word-of-mouth, but some allegations end up in print.

The very real abuses that have come to light do not make all such tales true. When they are not true, someone is badly hurt. And the legal and cultural climate today encourages a rush to publish before we have all the facts.

Under *New York Times v. Sullivan*, the First Amendment protects the media even for



JOHN GARVEY

INTELLECT AND VIRTUE

publishing false reports about "public figures" (like judges and bishops), unless they act with actual malice. The effect of this venerable precedent is multiplied by advances in technology that extend to the humblest blogger an enormous power to publicize things that might be true or false.

Then there is the increasing politicization of news reporting. The Pew Research Center's media polarization report rates *The New Yorker's* audience as "consistently liberal." Fox News is right of center. Aggregators like the Drudge Report and the Huffington Post deliver only right- or left-wing feeds, creating echo chambers not subject to the discipline of the market of ideas.

I don't mean to deflect us from these issues — especially from those in the Church, which we have only begun to address. I only want to sound a warning about the need for care and honesty in taking them up.

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

Finding peace in a turbulent world

It is easy to feel anxious and stressed in the tumultuous world today. Not only are we busier than ever before, but we have stresses unique to the modern world. Technology such as email and texting make us available to others, including bosses, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. With instantaneous communication often comes the expectation for us to answer questions and requests within minutes of receiving them. What's more, social media instantaneously creates comparison with others. Are we living up to what we should be? Are others more successful, efficient, prudent, smart, creative, etc. than we are? Even people with the best intentions can get caught up with competition spurred by the virtual world.

What's more, the world is clamoring for our children's attention. Many vices abound, ready to entrap them. Videos, music, some of their acquaintances, current styles and dress ... Not only are there stresses and pressures that come simply with modern life, but there is turmoil in politics, displayed prominently in the headlines and on television. There are troubles in our communities, our schools, even some situations in the Church. Good men and women trying to live holy lives need to discern daily right attitudes and actions. No wonder there is more anxiety being reported than ever before.

The saints counsel us not to worry.



THERESA A. THOMAS

EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

"Anxiety is the greatest evil that can befall a soul, except for sin. God commands you to pray but forbids you to worry," said St. Francis de Sales.

"Let nothing disturb you, let nothing frighten you, all things are passing away: God never changes. Patience obtains all things. Whoever has God lacks nothing; God alone suffices," St. Teresa of Avila tells us.

And Padre Pio said, "Pray, hope and don't worry. Worry is useless. God is merciful and will hear your prayer."

These are good reminders, but often we need tangible strategies to help manage the most worrisome situations. Here are some strategies gleaned from a variety of sources to help beat anxiety.

1. Exercise. Getting our blood flowing brings oxygen to the brain, helping us think clearly. When we move, our muscles stretch and become strong, leading to a feeling of well-being. A body in motion tends to stay in motion. When we exercise we beat lethargy and sadness. Hormones such as endorphins are released during exercise that contribute to an overall feeling of

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The Lord continues to come to the aid of His people



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Mark 10:46-52

The Book of Jeremiah provides this weekend's first reading. A few facts about Jeremiah are known from the book itself: He was from Anathoth, a village only a few miles from Jerusalem, and he was the son of Hilkiah, a priest. He acted as a prophet for over 40 years.

Being the son of a priest, he, in all likelihood, was quite familiar with ancient Hebrew religious traditions. He would have been particularly aware of the importance of the Exodus, the flight from Egypt and slavery

that molded the Hebrews into one distinctive race, and which resulted in their settlement in the Holy Land. He would have thought that the Hebrews did not escape Egypt simply because they were lucky, or because they were clever. To the contrary, they succeeded in fleeing the miseries they had endured in Egypt only by the mercy and power of God.

Jeremiah saw events in his lifetime as threatening, or as awful, like the plight of his people centuries earlier in Egypt. He lived to see Babylonia completely overtake the Hebrew homeland, and he saw the coercion brought to bear upon his people by Babylon and other imperialistic neighbors.

He addressed these threats, and the humiliation and destruction of being conquered, with faith that the merciful God of the Exodus again would rescue the people. This weekend's reading is a powerful and expressive acclamation of God's power and goodness, and of the assurance that once more God protects and leads the people.

As is typical of this book, this reading is moving literarily, in its eloquence and feeling.

For its second reading, the Church presents a selection from the Epistle to the Hebrews.

This New Testament Scripture is abundant in its references to ancient Jewish beliefs and customs. Its author is unknown, but obviously the author knew Judaism and Jewish life in the first century A.D. very well.

Supreme in Jewish cult, and in many other aspects of Jewish life in the first century A.D., was the high priest, descending in office from Aaron, the brother of Moses. The high priest acted for the entire nation as he offered sacrifices in the temple.

The Epistle to the Hebrews sees Jesus as the great high priest of the new era of salvation, the era of Christianity. Jesus acts for all humankind in sacrificing to God, bringing reconciliation and a new bonding after sin tore humanity away from God.

St. Mark's Gospel furnishes the last reading. It is the story

of Bartimeus, a blind man who begged by the roadside in Jericho.

It is no wonder that Bartimeus had to beg in order to survive. At the time of Jesus, persons with severe physical challenges, such as blindness, were reduced to begging unless their families assisted them.

Blindness, as all other bodily difficulties, had a spiritual component for the ancient Jews. God willed nothing evil or heartless. Disease and incapacity were signs of a grave sin that had been committed. Thus, when Jesus healed, the effects and power of sin also were overcome.

The key to Bartimeus' being healed was his faith.

Reflection

Jeremiah was hardly the only ancient Hebrew writer who concentrated on the mercy of God as seen in the Exodus. God's mercy is everlasting, because God is eternal and unchanging.

God is not forgiving and blessing in one instance, but

punitive and angry in another.

Just as hardships and great worries troubled the ancient Hebrews long after they had left Egypt, so sadness and difficulties confront us today.

We cannot do everything ourselves, but the loving God of the Exodus, with us because of the reconciling death of Jesus, still comes to our aid. The key is that we, as Bartimeus, love God and trust in the Lord.

READINGS

Sunday: Jer 31:7-9 Ps 126:1-6 Heb 5:1-6 Mk 10:46-52

Monday: Eph 4:32—5:8 Ps 1:1-4, 6 Lk 13:10-17

Tuesday: Eph 5:21-33 Eph 5:2a, 25-32 Ps 128:1-5 Lk 13:18-21

Wednesday: Eph 6:1-9 Ps 145:10-14 Lk 13:22-30

Thursday: Rv 7:2-4, 9-14 Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6 1 Jn 3:1-3 Mt 5:1-12a

Friday: Wis 3:1-9 Ps 23:1-6 rom 5:5-11 Jn 6:37-40

Saturday: Phil 1:18b-26 Ps 42:2-3, 5cdef Lk 14:1, 7-11

Hope for the future of the Church

Almost every day, the question is asked: How can the Catholic Church remove the sexual scandal from its ranks? Can the Church retain or regain its moral standing? How can the Church hierarchy place a meaningful priority on the plight of the victims? How does the Church move forward with the assurance of having priests who live their lives in a manner that is in the best tradition of Jesus' call to discipleship?

Often overlooked in the reporting and commentary on the scandal is the reformation initiated by St. John Paul II in seminarian formation and education following the scandal in Boston in the early 2000s. In some ways, this may prove to be John Paul II's best act of service to the Church and the whole world.

That reformation led the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, in 2005, to adopt a new seminarian and priestly formation process. That process requires a more thorough vetting at time of application to the seminary, a more critical assessment of a young man's social and psycho-sexual development at time of application, ongoing formation and discernment throughout all of seminarian life that furthers and continues this vetting process and an overall educational environment that nurtures not only one's spiritual growth, but also his human, intellectual and pastoral growth. The purpose of this process is to assure that all seminarians, upon being ordained, will always serve in the best traditions of the priesthood. This reformation has had a top-to-bottom effect beginning with the rectors in our seminaries down to the vocational directors within each diocese. It is a process that was embraced by the late Bishop John M. D'Arcy.

In Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades we have an individual who was a seminary rector himself. The priority he places on the discernment process and its adherence to the reforms adopted in the mid-2000s is part of the reason we have seen an increase in vocations within the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Similar increases, for similar reasons, can be seen in a number of other dioceses nationwide. The young men who have been ordained over the last five to 10 years represent, in many ways, the initial response of the Catholic Church in assuring a future priesthood that seeks only to emulate Christ in the service of others. It is no coincidence that credible allegations of sexual abuse as to currently active clergy have literally reached a point of nonexistence within our diocese.

We ourselves are the parents of a current seminarian with the Fort Wayne-South Bend diocese. We know what our son will face as he progresses towards ordination. We know his priesthood

will always have an additional burden because of the wrongs committed by some of those who have come before him. We know there will be more investigations that follow the one recently conducted in Pennsylvania. We know that, in many ways, the hammer has yet to fall on this portion of Church history. We are neither ignorant nor immune from the problems facing the Catholic Church.

Through it all, we continue to see happiness in the hearts of our son and those of his classmates in seminary. In Bishop Rhoades, our currently active priests, deacons and seminarians, we see a true faith that seeks only good and not evil: A faith that is abundant in mercy with a sole desire to help others. It is a faith that asks the question posed by St. Peter almost 2,000 years ago – "Lord, to whom shall we go?" We also have seen the effects of this process on the very victims it seeks to heal as it moves forward. We see hope for the future.

Bishop Rhoades is not only a shepherd for the victims in our diocese, but he is also the gatekeeper and shepherd for the men discerning and being formed for the priesthood. We have devoted priests and deacons in our parish communities that desire nothing more than to provide care, support and spiritual guidance to all they serve. We have, with the intercession of our Blessed Mother, Mary, Mother of Jesus, young men who are in seminary or discerning application to the seminary that seek nothing but a life of holiness and a life that is ready to be sacrificed for others. In short, we see throughout our diocese the kind of priest, both existing and those to be formed, that was sought by the victims of sexual abuse at a time when it was most needed in their lives. God willing, that type of priest will once again enter their lives to bring God's love and mercy to not only the victim, but the loved ones of the victim who have been hurt as well.

None of this should be construed as being ambivalent to the victims of sexual abuse or a desire to see anything less than a full and complete effort to correct the wrongs of the Church. We simply see matters not solely rooted in the past sins of the Church, but also rooted in the future of its existing and future clergy. We have seen that future in sermons from the pulpit over these past months from our priests, both young and old alike, and in Bishop Rhoades' decision to identify past clergy of this diocese who have had credible allegations of sexual abuse brought against them. We have seen the care given by our diocese to victims of sexual abuse, and we have also, personally, witnessed a victim's joy in knowing there is abundant good

GUEST COMMENTARY

TOM AND BARB NIEZER

that stems from the formation of young men who seek only to be holy men of God.

We continue to pray for victims of the sexual abuse scandal and to pray for our Church. We pray that the Church always keeps the victims at the forefront of all that she does. We pray that the Church remains able to ordain holy men of God that are able to provide a saving grace for the victims of the sexual abuse scandal, and their families, in the years and generations to come. Admittedly, some will say prayer is not enough. We agree, but to say prayer is all the Church is doing belies a truth and a reality that can be found in how young men are being formed for the priesthood.

Barb and Tom Niezer are the parents of Deacon Daniel Niezer, who is in his fourth year of theology studies at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

THOMAS, from page 12

well-being. Getting up and moving goes a long way in alleviating stress.

2. Get outside. Nature is healing. The wind on our skin, the sun on our faces, the sights and sounds of birds and clouds and sky are all invigorating and restorative. God gave us the brilliant colors and sights and sounds of His creation to restore us. We can get outside to exercise, killing two birds with one stone. Or we can do one of my favorite things, porch-sit, in the sunshine, with a loved one and engage in some simple conversation. Just talking goes a long way in restoring peace in the heart and banishing stress.

3. Garden. Get your hands in God's green earth. Do yard work.

4. Pray. The secular world advises that contemplation and meditation help soothe the soul. How much better when these activities take place in the ultimate communication with God, prayer. The rosary is an ideal method of communication that also embodies meditation. Focusing on the mysteries of each decade centers our thoughts on God's will for our lives and enables us to release our worries to Him. I love to pray when I walk outside. The cadence of my footsteps helps me keep time with the rhythm of prayer.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Readings for October 28, 2018

Hebrews 5:1-6; Mark 10:46-52

Following is a word search based on the Second and Gospel readings for the 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B: the priestly ministry of Jesus. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

OFFER	GIFTS	SINS
WEAKNESS	HONOR	CALLED BY GOD
AARON	BEGOTTEN	FOREVER
MELCHIZEDEK	BLIND	ROADSIDE
NAZARETH	CRY OUT	DAVID
MORE	GO YOUR WAY	FAITH
SIGHT	FOLLOWED	ON THE WAY

CALLED

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

Sometimes I enjoy praying first thing in the morning as I sip a cup of coffee in the dark, before anyone rises. Find your time for prayer. Concentrate on just being present with God, and let Him speak to you in the quiet.

5. Stretch. Stretching releases tension. The bodies God gave us need time and attention to operate properly. According to the Harvard Health letter, "Stretching keeps the muscles flexible, strong, and healthy, and we need that flexibility to maintain a range of motion in the joints. Without it, the muscles shorten and become tight. Then, when you call on the muscles for activity, they are weak and unable to extend all the way. That puts you at risk for joint pain, strains and muscle damage." And stress. Take the time to warm up with stretches each day before you dive in to your many duties and responsibilities.

6. Take deep breaths.

7. Get plenty of sleep

8. Help others. Focusing outward, not inward is virtue-building and stress relieving.

9. Keep a "To-Do" list. If you write it down, it's out of your mind. Also, writing things down helps organize your thoughts, and when you see literally on paper what you need to do or what concerns you, it automatically seems easier to cope with.

10. Take a hot bath, enjoy

some quiet time alone. We are not machines. We are human beings. God provides rest and the need for sleep so we can restore.

11. Put down the smartphone and computer. Turn off the television, radio and all other devices. Seek the peace in silence.

Finally, pick up the Bible and open up to a few passages God has just for you: Philippians 4:6-7, Psalm 94:19, Isaiah 41:10, Psalm 23:4, Peter 5:6-7, Luke 12:22-26, Psalm 55:22, Deuteronomy 31:6, Mark 5:36.

Living in the world can be very stressful, but we have some wonderful saints to encourage us. We have strategies to cope. We must look at the stresses in life as opportunities to grow in virtue — to develop fortitude and patience, for example. We can utilize various common-sense strategies to soothe our bodies, minds and souls. Be assured that God is with us, in all trials and tribulations. Even in our suffering, He is there. All suffering, including anxiety, when offered to Christ and united to Him on the cross, becomes redemptive. We must do what we can to reduce stress and anxiety, and what remains we give to Him. Therein we find joy, and peace, even in this tumultuous world.

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

Books explore young adult outreach in face of today's challenges

BY PATRICK T. BROWN

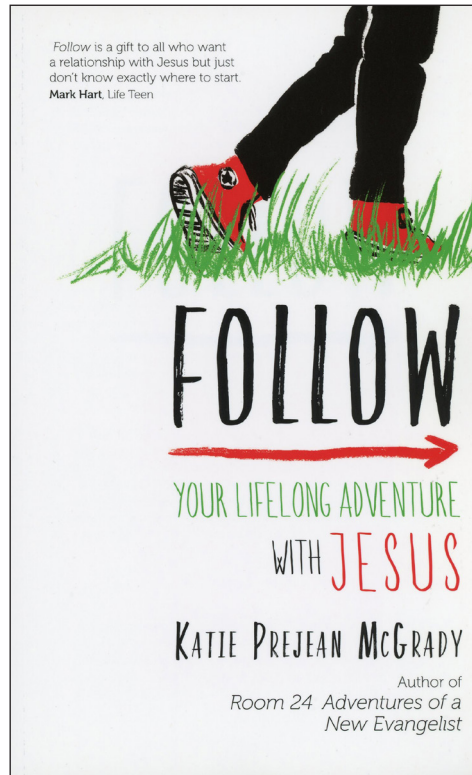
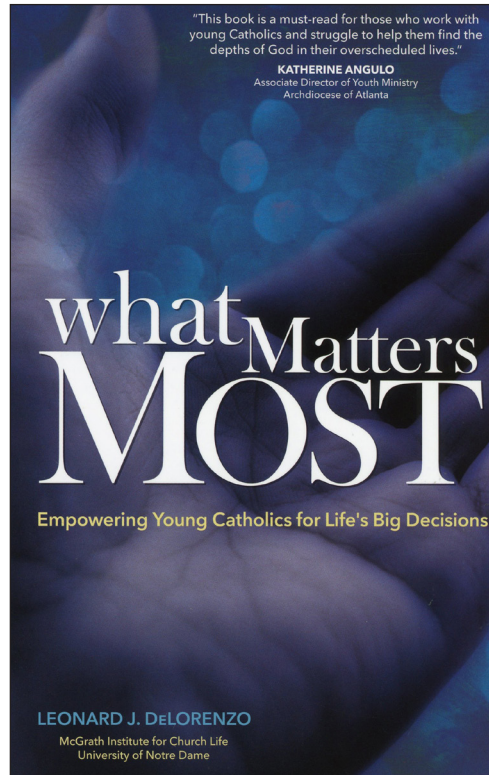
"What Matters Most: Empowering Young Catholics for Life's Big Decisions" by Leonard J. DeLorenzo. Ave Maria Press (Notre Dame, Indiana, 2018). 224 pp., \$16.95.

"Follow: Your Lifelong Adventure with Jesus" by Katie Prejean McGrady. Ave Maria Press (Notre Dame, Indiana, 2018). 160 pp., \$13.95.

The foreign policy texts and mass-market spy thrillers of the late 1980s often inspire a feeling of "if only they knew." Examining the strengths of the Soviet bear in the last years before its collapse gives us reading now a sense of uncomfortable premonition, that we know something the authors didn't, trapping the analysis in amber no matter how sound the writing or scholarship.

That same feeling starts to arise when reading two new books about Catholicism and young adults that were written before the summer of the Pennsylvania grand jury report and the revelations about retired Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick. Their diagnosis of the spiritual emptiness facing many teens and young adults might be spotless, their prescriptions sound, but even books published in early 2018 feel a little bit from another era.

Saying this is not meant to slight the authors of these books at all. Katie Prejean McGrady, one of three young adult delegates selected to represent the United States at last March's pre-synod convocation at the Vatican, and Leonard DeLorenzo, a University of Notre Dame theology professor who leads an annual summer program for hundreds of high school students, both have a finger firmly



These are the covers of "What Matters Most: Empowering Young Catholics for Life's Big Decisions" by Leonard J. DeLorenzo and "Follow: Your Lifelong Adventure with Jesus" by Katie Prejean McGrady. The books are reviewed by Patrick T. Brown.

CNS

on the pulse of what young people are looking for.

McGrady's book, "Follow: Your Lifelong Adventure with Jesus," takes a direct approach, offering favored prayers, routines and practices to teenagers or college students interested in deepening their relationship with Christ.

"Follow" is a conversational read, detailing stories from McGrady's dating experiences, including a divinely inspired meet-cute story about her future husband, her professional career and moments along her spiritual journey.

She offers sound advice for developing a spiritual life, including an introduction to the practice of "lectio divina" (a form of prayerful meditation on the word of God) that is pitched just right for beginners, and weaves

personal anecdotes about the power of prayer into prompts to encourage a deeper relationship with Christ. High school students interested in deepening their personal prayer practices couldn't pick up a book better suited for them.

"What Matters Most: Empowering Young Catholics for Life's Big Decisions," written by DeLorenzo, is a more pastoral book, aimed at parents and youth leaders in the position to offer counsel and advice to teens and young adults. DeLorenzo challenges readers to think about how the tools we use shape us, from the internet to cellphones to even the tyranny of a morning alarm clock.

"To form young people to be free and brave, to become capable of true vocational discernment and missionary dis-

cipleship," he writes, "we have to reclaim the power of patience."

Patience is required for moving outside the daily stream of nonstop information and activities to build space for students and young adults to truly listen to their call, DeLorenzo writes. If we examine the unthinking assumptions that make up our day-to-day responsibilities, we may just find ourselves contributing to a culture that prizes workaholicism, materialism and utilitarianism. Those values are antithetical to the more humanist view of authentic flourishing for which DeLorenzo would advocate.

"What Matters Most" is intended for a more limited audience, perhaps especially for those who find themselves (or the students they mentor or teach) at risk of being seduced by a

meritocratic view of society that treats material and reputational success as its own reward, rather than a means of facilitating our ability to do good. DeLorenzo's book is a bracing corrective to that fallacy, and a positive view of how Catholics can be a distinct leaven in the world, offering a bold alternative rather than a conformist echo.

Both of these books feel necessary and needed. They also feel, through no fault of their own, of slightly of a different time, given how much the ground has shifted since their writing.

Outreach to young adults is a challenge even in the best of times -- and these are far from the best of times.

The millennials and members of Generation Z who are McGrady's and DeLorenzo's direct and indirect intended audience weren't tuned into the clergy abuse revelations of 2002. The summer of 2018 was their first true taste of gut-punching revelations on a seemingly daily basis, and their trust in the Church has been shaken like never before.

The Church as an institution may struggle to combat disillusion, distrust and apathy in the wake of these revelations, yet the long-term existential spiritual needs detailed by the two authors are not going away.

Rebuilding trust in the Church may require more dramatic measures than can be found in "Follow" and "What Matters Most," but that does not mean DeLorenzo's keen insights and McGrady's warm, personable approach can be ignored.

Patrick T. Brown is a graduate student at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs.

TODAY'S CATHOLIC



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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

WHAT'S HAPPENING carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. View more Catholic events and submit new ones at www.todayscatholic.org/event. For additional listings of that event, please call the advertising sales staff at 260-399-1449 to purchase space.

St. Joseph Parish Holiday Craft BOO!zaar
MISHAWAKA — The St. Joseph Parish Choir will sponsor a Holiday Craft BOO!zaar on Saturday, Oct. 27, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. Joseph School, 217 W. Third St. This family friendly event features 80 booths of crafts, collectibles, holiday items and direct sales vendors, plus trick-or-treat, a balloon man, face painting, raffles, kettle corn, hot spiced cider, lunch and a Rosary Society bake sale and raffle. Bring a nonperishable food item for the St. Vincent de Paul pantry and receive an entry for the mini-affle for each item donated. Contact Nancy Brubaker at 574-286-1906.

Pro-Life Apologetics Workshop
FORT WAYNE — A Pro-Life Apologetics Workshop will be Saturday, Oct. 27, from 9 a.m. to noon at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, 10700 Aboite Center Rd., where participants will be equipped by Mike Spencer of Life Training Institute to speak confidently and graciously to the most pressing moral injustice of our time: legalized abortion. Register at www.ichooselife.org/evnt/ldaw or call 260-471-1849. Cost is \$5. Coffee and doughnuts provided.

Fancy Fair craft bazaar and cookie bar
ROME CITY — The St. Gaspar Rosary Sodality will sponsor a craft bazaar, cookie bar and lunch from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the parish hall, 10871 N. SR 9. Homemade cookies, soup, sandwiches and desserts will be offered. Contact Carol Sievert at lsievert@embarqmail.com.

St. Joseph School to host Pumpkin Festival
GARRETT — St. Joseph Catholic School will host a Pumpkin Festival on Sunday, Oct. 28, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Events include a children's carnival and a homemade chicken and noodle dinner served in the lunchroom. Tickets are \$10. Children's meals are \$5. Carryout and drive-up service will be offered. A hot dog meal for children will also be available. A Home and School Association raffle will be held with a variety of cash and prizes. Unlimited games wristband will be available for \$10. Individual game tickets are \$.25 each. For more information call 260-357-5137 or visit www.stjosephgarrett.org.

Technology and Teens: dangerous mobile apps
FORT WAYNE — Parents are invited to a free Technology and Teens Parent Workshop on Sunday, Oct. 28, from 6:15-7:45 p.m. at St. Charles Church, 4916 Trier Rd. This workshop will explore the way that smartphones impact a young person's brain. This workshop is presented by Clinton Faupel, co-founder and executive director of RemedyLIVE. Website: <http://www.stcharlesfortwayne.org>.

Discover Saint Joseph High School day
SOUTH BEND — Eighth-grade students from Saint Joseph partner schools are invited to discover Saint Joseph High School, 453 N. Notre Dame Ave., Nov. 2, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Guests will

attend mini-classes, visit with students and meet freshmen faculty. Families with children enrolled at other schools or who will be new to the area may contact the admissions office at 574-233-6137, ext. 524.

Knights of Columbus fish fry
SOUTH BEND — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521 will have a fish fry at the South Bend Francis Club, 61533 Ironwood Rd., on Friday, Nov. 2, from 5-7 p.m. Shrimp and chicken strips are also available and pizza for \$1 per slice. Prices for all meals: adults \$9.50, children 5-12 \$3.50, children under 5 free.

REST IN PEACE

Auburn
Mary Schrader, 80, Immaculate Conception

Decatur
David A. Bowers, 61, St. Mary of the Assumption

Eugene A. Braun, 91, St. Mary of the Assumption

Fort Wayne
Teresa M. Glosson, 91, St. John the Baptist

Richard L. Arend, 87, St. John the Baptist

Dorothy May Brown, St. Jude
Judith Holzinger, St. Vincent de Paul

Valeria I. Ripley, 90, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Ferome K. Castillo, 63, St. Therese

Charlene Ann Pettit-Didier, 91, St. Vincent de Paul

Huntington
Mario A. Alvizures, 63, St. Mary

Norma L. Durbin, 88, SS. Peter and Paul

Kendallville
Josephine Blackwood, 86, Immaculate Conception

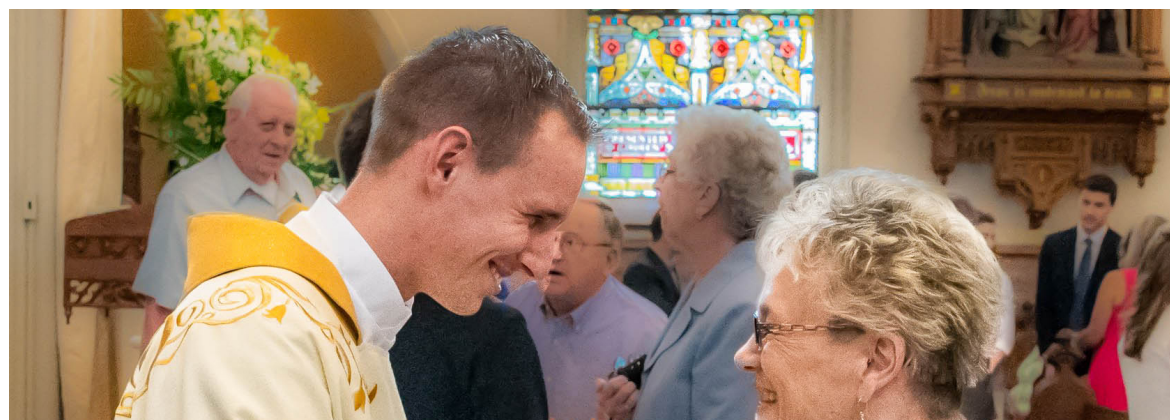
New Haven
Donald A. Minick, St. John the Baptist

Notre Dame
Mary Freel, 91, Our Lady of Holy Cross Chapel

Yoder
Joseph H. Schuhler, 91, St. Aloysius

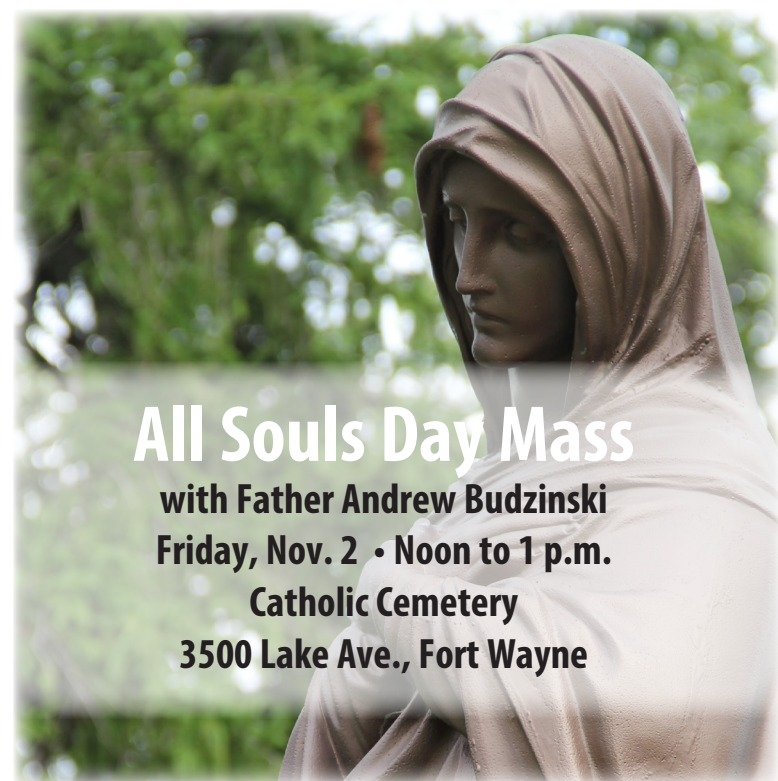
Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls)
FORT WAYNE — On Friday, Nov. 2, All Souls Day, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 1502 E. Wallen Rd., will celebrate a Mass for the souls of all the faithful departed at 6:30 p.m. in the church. A reception will follow in the gathering space. Visit www.saintv.org.

Little Flower Holy Hour
FORT WAYNE — Pray for vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life on the first Tuesday of each month from 7-8 p.m. at the Mother Theodore Guerin chapel. Tuesday, Nov. 6, will feature prayers led by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades



OCTOBER 28 IS PRIESTHOOD APPRECIATION SUNDAY

HOW DO YOU APPRECIATE YOUR PRIEST?



All Souls Day Mass
with Father Andrew Budzinski
Friday, Nov. 2 • Noon to 1 p.m.
Catholic Cemetery
3500 Lake Ave., Fort Wayne

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

COMMITTAL, from page 1

committal service, Divine Mercy Funeral Home and Catholic Cemetery divided a mausoleum crypt into separate niche spaces for the funeral urns and boxes containing families' cremated loved ones.

The crypt was named "All Souls Remembered" rather than listing the names of the people placed inside it, because Divine Mercy staff expect some of the cremated bodies will be moved to a new burial space in future years after a spouse or other family member dies, Miller said.

The brief committal service took place in one of the funeral home's visitation rooms. Msgr. Robert Schulte, pastor of nearby St. Jude Parish, officiated.

Those present placed their loved ones' cremation urns and boxes in a row on a long, wooden table along one wall of the room. A red rose lay on each cremation container.

A large wooden crucifix stood in the middle of the table while candles burned in two holders behind it.

Msgr. Schulte began with prayer and then read the names of the 10 individuals being laid to rest. He spoke about the message in the Gospel of John in which God the Father says all who receive His Son and believe

in Him will be raised from the dead on the last day.

After closing prayers, Msgr. Schulte and the participants moved outside to the black-walled mausoleum in Catholic Cemetery behind the funeral home. Along with leading additional prayers, Msgr. Schulte blessed each cremation urn or box and sprinkled each container with holy water.

Family members holding a loved one's cremation urn or box then stepped forward, one at a time, to hand the container to Miller, who worked with the cemetery's director of maintenance, Scott Guerrero, to place each urn or box in a separate niche space in the crypt.

When all the loved ones had been set in the crypt, Msgr. Schulte concluded the burial.

"May Almighty God bless you all," he said to the families, before they walked slowly to their cars to go home.

Miller said Divine Mercy Funeral Home will offer the free committal service again, possibly every two years.

Publicity about the committal service also inspired a few families to purchase niches at Catholic Cemetery so they can lay a cremated loved one to rest now and later be buried beside their loved one, Lonergan said.

ALL-SCHOOLS, from page 1

sion for the suffering. That's what it means to be Catholic."

One way the plight of those who suffer was directly addressed at the event was through a food drive. Students dressed as saints brought forward donated food along with the gifts during the offertory. Those gifts were but a small amount of what had been donated by the students that day, however: Barrels of food bound for Community Harvest Food Bank overflowed at the entrance to the expo center.

A special part of the bishop's homily featured interviews with two fourth-grade students from St. Mary of the

More photos are available at www.todayscatholic.org



Assumption School, Avilla. "Don't be nervous, there are only ... 3,000 people here," he warmly teased, as he guided the conversation with the two about the saints they chose to represent with their costumes that day.

Fourth-grade students in each of the schools had researched and dressed as saints of their choosing. They sat together in chairs on the floor of the Memorial Coliseum, surrounded in the stadium-style arena by the rest of the students.

Later, Clara Liponoga, a fourth-grader at Most Precious Blood School, Fort Wayne, shared that her saint, St. Clare of Assisi, had sheltered a group of nuns who were endangered by invaders to her city. She held up a monstrance, "and they were suddenly scared away they could have killed her!" Clara said.

The All-Schools Masses are sponsored by the You Can Lend



Photos by Nate Proulx

Fourth-grade students present gifts of food to Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades during the All-Schools Mass in Fort Wayne Oct. 17. Students who attended the Mass overflowed collection barrels at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum with donations for Community Harvest Food Bank.

a Hand program, said Kelli Stopczynski, director of marketing for Quality Dining, Inc. The Fitzpatrick family, owners of the company, grew up in the Catholic schools and so appreciated their own educational experiences that they wanted to give back to the cause. Dan Fitzpatrick, now chairman and CEO, learned of some suboptimal situations in his then-area

Catholic schools and started a dialogue, trying to find a way to help. From that, the coupon book fundraiser was started.

Now \$3 apiece and sold every February, schools use the funds raised for everything from playground equipment to new technology, raising \$11 million in the 37 years of the program's existence



Photos by John Martin

Msgr. Robert Schulte, pastor of St. Jude Parish, Fort Wayne, prays a prayer of blessing at a mausoleum in Catholic Cemetery during a committal service Oct. 17. The cremated remains of several families' loved ones were interred during the service.



Casey Miller, superintendent of Catholic Cemetery, speaks before the committal service.



The bishop prepares to share his microphone with a fourth-grade student chosen to elaborate on the life of the saint he chose to depict at the Mass.