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# TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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TODAYSCATHOLIC.org

## Like Mary, be 'influencers' for God, pope urges at World Youth Day vigil

BY JUNNO AROCHO ESTEVES

Although Mary would not be considered an "influencer," like many social media personalities, she still became the most influential woman in history by trusting "in the love and promises of God, the only force capable of making all things new," Pope Francis told young people at the World Youth Day prayer vigil Jan. 26.

"Are you willing to be an 'influencer' like Mary, who dared to say, 'Let it be done'?" he asked. "Only love makes us more human and fulfilled; everything else is a pleasant but useless placebo."

Despite sweltering temperatures in Panama City, hundreds of thousands of young men and women made their way to St. John Paul II Park on the penultimate day of World Youth Day. They brought sleeping bags and tents, prepared to spend the night at the field — praying the rosary, making new friends — before celebrating Mass with Pope Francis at 8 a.m. Jan. 27. The pope did not spend the night, but returned later in the evening to the apostolic nunciature.

WYD, page 7



Michael O'Sullivan

Pilgrims from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend — wearing Marian blue in honor of the World Youth Day theme of Mary's fiat, or 'yes' to the Lord's will — are all smiles at Santa Maria la Antigua Field, Panama City, Panama, prior to a World Youth Day Mass.

## Massgoers pray for conversion of hearts as New York expands abortion

ALBANY, N.Y. (CNS) — New York state "has become a more dangerous one for women and their unborn babies" with the passage of a bill to expand abortion called the Reproductive Health Act and Gov. Andrew Cuomo's signing it into law, said the New York State Catholic Conference.

"Today, New York state has added a sad chapter to this already solemn date of Jan. 22, the anniversary of Roe v. Wade," the conference said in a statement.

"Many of the state senators and Assembly members who voted for this abortion expansion are mothers themselves, who felt



People pray during a Holy Hour Jan. 22 at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. The service and Mass that followed it comprised a Prayer Vigil for Life marking the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. Jan. 22 is the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision in 1973 that legalized abortion across the nation, and is now also the date on which the state of New York greatly increased the circumstances under which it can be performed.

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CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz

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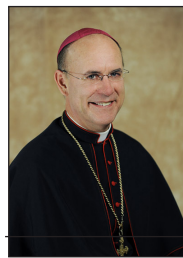
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# World Youth Day in Panama



## IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

**O**ur diocesan pilgrimage to World Youth Day in Panama was a beautiful journey of faith under the motherly mantle of Mary, whose response to God's call was the theme of WYD 2019: "I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done unto me according to your word" (Luke 1:38).

It was a great joy for me to be with the wonderful faith-filled young people of our diocese on the pilgrimage to Panama. Together with our priest and seminarian pilgrims, young newly-professed Sisters of Saint Francis, youth group leaders/chaperones and our diocesan leaders, we joined young people from around the world and experienced the universality, diversity and dynamism of the Church. It was a joyful celebration of our faith, in the presence of our universal pastor, Pope Francis.

Our pilgrimage in Panama began with Sunday Mass on Jan. 20 in the hotel after our arrival. The Sunday Gospel of the Wedding Feast at Cana was an appropriate reflection for our first day, as we heard of Our Lady's intercession for the young newly-wed couple. Her words to the waiters, Mary's last recorded words in the New Testament, are also addressed to us: "Do whatever He tells you." Our Lady teaches us, by her words and example, to listen to her Son and to obey Him. In doing so, miracles happen in our lives — we experience joy and peace in our hearts, true human fulfillment.

We began the next day with Mass at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Heart of Mary on the feast of the young virgin and martyr, St. Agnes. I shared with the pilgrims the example of this courageous young woman whose love for Christ, her spouse, led her to embrace the call of virginity and to defend it even at the cost of her own life. I invited our young people to consider their calling and to be open to the Lord's call to discipleship, especially listening to Him in their prayers during World Youth Day.

After Mass we traveled to the Gamboa Rainforest, where we spent the day together enjoying the exotic vegetation and diverse wildlife — including a butterfly farm, a frog pond, an orchids center and a sloth sanctuary. We took a ride on an aerial tram from which we saw a wide variety of birds and beautiful scenery of the jungle of the Soberania National Park. We enjoyed a boat ride on the Panama Canal, where we saw crocodiles and capuchin and white-face monkeys.

The next day, Jan. 22, we visited the Panama Canal, an amazing engineering feat linking the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, which was inaugurated in 1914. We spent a couple hours at the Miraflores Locks and watched a few large ships move through the locks. We returned to Panama City late in the morning to prepare for the Opening Mass of World Youth Day.

The opening Mass and later WYD events took place along the Cinta Costera, the coastal beltway along downtown Panama City. The Metropolitan Archbishop of Panama, José Domingo Ulloa, celebrated the Mass and welcomed the pilgrims from around the world. His welcome resounded and mirrored



Provided by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

**The Cinta Costera, a highway that runs along the coast of beautiful Panama Bay in Panama City, Panama, connected the World Youth Day pilgrims to event sites and local points of interest.**

the welcome we had already received from the friendly and hospitable Panamanian people since our arrival.

True Christian joy was everywhere during WYD. The music, singing and dancing expressed that joy. Archbishop Ulloa spoke about the patron saints of WYD and how they show us that "a life of holiness is possible in every culture and ethnic group, without distinction of gender, nor age." He said that "a giving of one's life for God and neighbor is the road to sanctity." The archbishop reminded us that a saint "seeks justice, prays, lives and loves the community, is happy, has a sense of humor, always is in the struggle, leaves mediocrity behind, lives the mercy of God and shares it with the neighbor." He encouraged the young people: "Don't be afraid, be courageous to be a saint in today's world." I think Archbishop Ulloa's passionate message resonated with the idealism of the young people.

The youth gathered the next three mornings for catechetical sessions and Masses in various locations around Panama City. After the catechesis on Jan. 23, I joined up again with our diocesan youth for the Fiat Festival for English-speaking youth at the Figali Convention Center. The afternoon and evening program, hosted by the USCCB, the Knights of Columbus and FOCUS, included witness talks by various bishops and young people, as well as music by various bands. The Fiat Festival ended with Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction, after which our rather weary pilgrims returned to the hotel for a good night's sleep.

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, arrived in Panama on Jan. 23 and took a motorcade through the city. On Thursday, Jan. 24, we had the official Welcoming Ceremony for Pope Francis at the Santa Maria la Antigua Field along the Cinta Costera in the early

evening. He arrived on the popemobile to an enthusiastic welcome by the estimated 250,000 young people. Amid festive music and the waving of the flags of so many countries, the popemobile passed through the crowd.

During the ceremony on the main stage, the WYD cross and Marian icon were brought to the stage by young people. Five youth from the five continents greeted the Holy Father. Young people from Panama presented the pope with a stole made of "mola," a traditional handmade textile of the indigenous Kuna people with colorful artistic designs.

In Pope Francis' address at the Welcoming Ceremony, he encouraged the young people to bring the joy of the Gospel to the world by showing that God's love extends to all people and excludes no one. He said that Christianity is not merely a collection of truths or set of rules, but "is a person who loved me immensely, who demands and asks for my love. Christianity is Christ. It means pursuing the dream for which He gave His life: loving with the same love with which He loved us."

Friday, Jan. 25, our diocesan group went to Casco Antiguo, the old city which was moved there after English pirates destroyed the older, first Panama City. The Metropolitan Cathedral of Santa Maria Antigua, the patroness of Panama, has been under restoration for several years. Deacon Daniel Niezer and I were able to receive a tour of the beautifully restored cathedral in which Pope Francis would dedicate the altar the next day. We were able to pray before the statue of Santa Maria Antigua in the cathedral.

Our whole diocesan group gathered for Mass in the late morning at the 17th-century

# Funeral services planned for Sister M. Rose Agnes Pfautsch

BY SISTER M. ANGELA MELLADY

MISHAWAKA — The Lord called Sister M. Rose Agnes (Ruth Mary) Pfautsch to her eternal reward on Friday, Jan. 25. Sister M. Rose Agnes died at Our Lady of Angels Convent in Mishawaka, surrounded by her sisters.

The eucharistic funeral liturgy for Sister M. Rose Agnes will be on Friday, Feb. 1 at 10 a.m. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will be the celebrant. Burial will follow in the convent cemetery.

Ruth was the second oldest of seven children born to George and Clara (Wilding) Pfautsch in Berger, Missouri, on May 14, 1933. She was preceded in death by her parents, her sister Dorothy and her brother Johnny. She is survived by three brothers, Gene, George and Robert, and her sister Marilyn.

Ruth attended Assumption School in Morrison, Missouri, for grades one and two, St. Paul School in Berger for grades three through eight and St. George High School in Hermann, Missouri, for two years. She completed high school after entering the convent aspirancy.

She entered the convent on Sept. 8, 1949, and received the habit on Aug. 12, 1950, along with the name Sister M. Rose Agnes. She professed perpetual vows on Aug. 12, 1957.

Sister M. Rose Agnes received a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education from St. Francis College and a Master of Science degree in education from DePaul University. She completed post-graduate work at St. John College

in Cleveland, Ohio, the College of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota, Viterbo College in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, the University of Notre Dame and Indiana University. She served in the elementary schools of the province for 16 years, 10 years as a teacher and six as principal in Huntington, Indiana, and in Southfield, Michigan. She served as director of education for the province for 12 years.

Sister M. Rose Agnes served in some form of leadership for 56 years, from 1963 until the time of her death. She was a local superior for 14 years, college treasurer, provincial treasurer, formation director for the Junior Sisters, a member of the



SISTER M. ROSE AGNES PFAUTSCH

Provincial Council for 18 years, provincial superior from 1986-98 and a member of the General Council of the Congregation from 2004-15, serving as general treasurer for six of these years. She was invaluable to the congregation in many ways, with her knowledge of German. She also served on numerous boards and committees.

Sister M. Rose Agnes served on the board of trustees of the University of Saint Francis for 27 years. During her years as provincial she served as the chairman of the board. She was a member of the board of trustees of Franciscan Alliance (formerly Sisters of St. Francis

Health Services) from 1974 until the present. Since the beginning of the Franciscan Leadership Enhancement Program, Sister M. Rose Agnes provided a session to each group on the foundress of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, Blessed Mother Maria Theresia Bonzel. And as she did everything, she did it with much joy and enthusiasm.

One of the questions on her application for entrance to the convent in 1949 was, "Are you willing to subject yourself to any kind of work?" At the time she marked 'yes', although no doubt she had no idea what was in store for her. However, the daily witness she provided to her sisters was evidence of the fact that no task was unimportant or beneath her. She worked in the convent library, the archives, cleaning in the serving room after meals and in so many ways. She was very faithful to her hours of eucharistic adoration and took care of the daily adoration schedule. Her

knowledge of canon law and her knowledge of the order's history was an invaluable resource. She was highly organized and could produce anything requested, either from one of her beloved binders or a flash drive. She was quite adept on the computer.

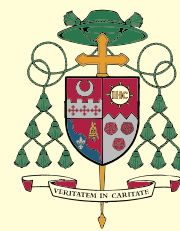
She gave many presentations over the years and she did so with enthusiasm. Her joy seemed to come from serving and trusting in Divine Providence. She never stopped serving the community and she never stopped being excited about the community, whether the past, the present or the future. She was an avid "prayer" for vocations. She kept an ongoing list of young ladies that she knew were discerning religious life and prayed for them daily.

There is a saying that one should not allow themselves to be "burnt out" but to be "burnt up," like a candle. As much as she did, she never became burnt out or gave up. The sisters learned so much from her and now she passes the torch on to each one of them.

Her pastor in Hermann, Missouri, Father Roger Niemeyer OFM, wrote in his letter of recommendation many years ago: "I heartily recommend Miss Ruth Pfautsch to you. With her great love for the Eucharist, her sincere piety and a love for virtue, she has ever been a model to her many friends. Yes, we all consider her a very lovable character. Her sincerity in her endeavor to follow Christ in the narrower and steep climbing paths of virtue I do not question."

Sister M. Rose Agnes loved life: She was grateful for her faith, her family and her congregation. She was a tireless promoter of the life and charism of Blessed Mother Maria Theresia Bonzel. She enjoyed playing euchre and regularly putting out candy for the sisters. She loved to read and to engage in conversations on subjects both serious and lighthearted. She endeared herself to sisters of all ages.

On her application to enter the convent, Sister M. Rose Agnes wrote: "I wish to become a religious with the intention of better attaining my final end, of loving God more entirely, of serving God more devotedly, and thus striving more earnestly to secure the eternal happiness of heaven. I wish to enter this religious community to dedicate my life to the service of God." And indeed, she did.



## Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Sunday, February 3: 11 a.m. — Mass, St. Aloysius Church, Yoder

Tuesday, February 5: 11 a.m. — Meeting of the Priest Personnel Board, Sacred Heart Rectory, Warsaw

Tuesday, February 5: 6:30 p.m. — Theology on Tap, Mishawaka Columbus Club, Mishawaka

Friday, February 8: 7:45 a.m. — Pastoral Visit to Bishop Luers High School, Fort Wayne, with Mass at 12:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 9: 7:45 a.m. — Morning prayer and Mass with Aspirants to the Permanent Diaconate, Sacred Heart Church, Warsaw

Saturday, February 9: 7:30 p.m. — World Youth Day Catechesis and Adoration for Diocesan World Youth Day Youth Conference, Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne



CNS photo/Paul Haring

Clerics performs before Pope Francis' arrival for the World Youth Day welcome ceremony and gathering with young people in Panama City Jan. 24.

### IN TRUTH, from page 2

church of Saint Joseph (Capilla San José) in Casco Antiguo, the old city. The beautiful baroque wooden high altar is gilded in gold. I celebrated the Mass and Father Terrence Coonan preached the homily on this Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. After Mass and some more touring around Casco Antiguo, we departed for the Way of the Cross with Pope Francis back at the Santa Maria Antigua Field.

World Youth Day is a jubilant event, but the Via Crucis was more solemn as we reflected on the Stations of the Cross. I was struck by the silence of the young pilgrims as representatives of 15 American nations led the reflections. Besides the Creole language of the Haitians and the English of the United States pilgrims, the reflections were all in Spanish. I was proud and excited that one of the two young speakers representing the United States was from our diocese: Dane Litchfield of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Avilla. He did a great job. Also, Renate Kurtzweg of Our Lady of Good Hope Parish, Fort Wayne, was chosen to be one of the U.S. youth to carry the cross! It was

great that two young people of our diocese had such roles. The U.S. led the 12<sup>th</sup> Station of the Cross focused on Mary at the foot of the cross. At each of the Stations, we prayed for various suffering people around the world who share today in the Passion of Christ. Each significant event of Jesus' crucifixion was especially linked to a current theme or issue affecting young people, particularly in Latin America.

At the end of the Way of the Cross, Pope Francis spoke of how the Way of the Cross perdures in those who suffer abuse, abandonment, exploitation, marginalization and violence. He encouraged the pilgrims not to be indifferent to human suffering and pain. He encouraged us to look to Mary, who stood beneath the cross and accompanied the suffering of her Son. The Holy Father prayed: "Lord, teach us to stand, at the foot of the cross, at the foot of every cross."

On Saturday, Jan. 26, we gathered with pilgrims from the Archdiocese of Boston and elsewhere for a Mass celebrated

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**IN TRUTH, from page 3**

at the Carmelite Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, a beautiful Gothic church not far from the hotel where our diocesan group was staying. Cardinal Sean O'Malley was the principal celebrant. In his homily, the cardinal spoke about Sts. Timothy and Titus, whose feast was that day, and how they were part of St. Paul's missionary team. He spoke of how we need friends who share our faith and accompany us as missionary disciples, like St. Paul had friends who were his fellow workers, Timothy and Titus and others.

After Mass and breakfast back at the hotel, our pilgrims readied for the 15-mile trek to the St. John Paul II Field, the site of the Saturday night Vigil and Sunday morning Mass with Pope Francis. The pilgrims would spend the night sleeping outdoors, while we bishops were bused to and from the site. So I spent Saturday afternoon touring the architectural site of old Panama City (Panama Viejo), the original

Spanish settlement located in the suburbs of today's city. It was the first European settlement built on the Pacific coast of the Americas. Among the ruins, the tower from the old cathedral still stands and is a famous image of Panama today. As a history buff, I enjoyed touring the ruins and museum, learning about the settlement that was founded in the year 1519. The Welsh pirate Henry Morgan defeated the city's militia and sacked the old city in 1671. The people then moved and built the new city a few miles away at what is now called the Casco Antiguo, the historic district we visited on Friday.

The Saturday Vigil and Sunday Mass are always the climax of World Youth Day. At the Prayer Vigil, three young people offered their testimonies before the Holy Father and hundreds of thousands of young men and women. A Panamanian mother spoke of the fear and difficulties she faced when she learned her pregnancy was at high risk and she was carrying an unborn daughter with Down syndrome. She shared how she and



Provided by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

**Bishop Rhoades and all bishops present were invited to concelebrate the World Youth Day closing Mass.**

her husband put the situation in God's hands and decided to love their daughter with all their hearts. A 20-year old Panamanian man shared his experience of falling into a life of drugs and crime and was arrested and sent to prison. When released, he was assisted at a Catholic halfway house and received encouragement and help in his reintegration into society. He related how God loved him and did not abandon him. Finally, a young Palestinian woman shared how she had become distant from her Christian faith until she participated in World Youth Day in Krakow in 2016. She is now a practicing Catholic and her faith is strong.

After the moving testimonies of the young people, Pope Francis spoke about how their stories reflect the risk that Mary took in saying "yes" to God. He invited the young people to see their personal stories as part of God's love story and encouraged them to place their trust in God, especially in moments of uncertainty, doubt and trial. The Holy Father spoke of how Jesus helps us to stand up again after we have fallen. He said that the

worst fall that can ruin our lives is to remain down and not allow ourselves to be helped up.

After his talk and as the sun set, the Pope led the crowd in silent prayer during Eucharistic Adoration. After Benediction, he departed amid the joyful music and cheers of the young people. The youth remained and slept outside awaiting the Holy Father's return in the morning for Sunday Mass. We bishops left our hotel at 4:15 a.m. to concelebrate the Closing Mass with the Pope that began at 8 a.m., scheduled early so as to avoid the heat of the day (though it was still hot!).

The final Mass was beautiful and I was fortunate to have a great seat in the second row. At the end of the Mass, they announced that the next World Youth Day in 2022 will be held in Lisbon, Portugal. I am already hoping to organize another diocesan youth pilgrimage! The Portuguese youth erupted with applause and cheers when their country was announced as the next WYD host.

In his final remarks, Pope Francis said: "I ask you not to let the fervor of these days grow cold. Go back to your parishes and communities, to your families and your friends and share this experience, so that others can resonate with the strength and enthusiasm that is yours." This is also my hope and prayer for the young pilgrims from our diocese, that they will return home to share the wonderful experience of WYD and that it will bear fruit in their lives. May they and all the young people from Panama and around the world live their faith with joy and with the spirit of Mary as servants of the Lord who courageously say "yes" to His will! In the words of Pope Francis: "May your 'yes' continue to be the gateway for the Holy Spirit to give us a new Pentecost for the Church and for the world!"

On Sunday evening, we gathered for a delicious Panamanian dinner at a local restaurant, our final meal together. I expressed my gratitude to our young pilgrims, including our priests and seminarians and Sisters of St. Francis for their faith-filled participation in WYD, and especially to our wonderful chaperones and diocesan leaders who worked so hard to make this a pilgrimage we will never forget.



CNS photo/Alessandro Bianchi, Reuters

**A Portuguese flag is seen near Pope Francis as he greets the crowd before celebrating Mass for World Youth Day pilgrims in Panama City Jan. 27. Lisbon, Portugal, will host the 2022 World Youth Day.**

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# Senate hears testimony on reform of payday lending industry

One by one, they described the devastation that they believe one industry has inflicted on the most vulnerable people in Indiana.

They represented churches, veterans' groups, social service organizations and community coalitions from across the state. And when they met at the Indiana Statehouse last week, these advocates were united around one goal: supporting Senate Bill 104, which would place limits on the payday lending institutions that charge consumers an annual percentage rate of up to 391 percent on the short-term loans that they offer.

The Indiana Catholic Conference supports the bill, which would cap the interest rate and fees that a payday lender may charge at 36 percent APR, in line with 15 other states and the District of Columbia.

Among those called to testify during the more than three-hour Senate committee hearing on the bill was Glenn Tebbe, executive director of the ICC, the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Indiana.

"Lending practices that either intentionally or unintentionally take unfair advantage of one's desperate circumstances are unjust and violate moral principles," Tebbe said during the Jan. 23 hearing of the Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions committee. "We also believe that the state's purpose

and the state's duty is to protect and facilitate the common good. The weakest members of our society should be helped to defend themselves against what one might consider usury. We cannot continue to allow forms of predatory lending to exploit the poor and vulnerable among us."

Senate Bill 104, co-authored by Sen. Greg Walker (R-Columbus), targets the fee structures and finance charges that enable the payday lending industry to reap exorbitant interest-rate payments from consumers. A similar bill proposed by Walker last year did not receive a hearing, so advocates were eager in this session to state their cases against payday loans, also known as cash advances.

Erin Macey, senior policy analyst for the Indiana Institute for Working Families, described the consequences of the payday lending industry once it was cleared to operate by the state legislature in 2002.

"Following the passage of this legislation, lenders quickly set up shop in our communities, offering what they marketed as emergency short-term credit," Macey said. "We now have 300 storefronts in Indiana and in 2017, they made 1.2 million loans and drained \$60 million in fees from Hoosiers' bank accounts. Seventy-five percent of those fees were from borrowers taking 10 or more loans in a year."

Macey characterized the

## INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE



BY VICTORIA ARTHUR

industry's business model as having a "perverse incentive" to target the working poor. She explained that payday lenders are allowed direct access to a borrower's checking account as security for the loan and they know the date that a borrower will be paid. A person living paycheck to paycheck or relying on Social Security or disability payments can quickly become entrapped in an endless cycle of debt.

"Close to 50 percent of borrowers will eventually default on these loans and upon default they will experience aggressive collection tactics and damaged credit," Macey said. "This will lead to barriers to jobs, housing and other affordable (loan) products in the future."

The payday loan industry would be "effectively eliminated" by passage of Senate Bill 104, Macey said.

But she and other supporters of the bill emphasized that there are many alternatives for needy individuals and families and that in states that have enacted simi-

lar bans on payday loans, most consumers do not miss them.

Steve Hoffman, president and CEO of Brightpoint, a community action agency serving northern Indiana, described how his organization offers loans of up to \$1,000 at 21 percent APR. The monthly payment on the maximum loan is \$92.

"That is a key figure, because families that are in financial distress are not suddenly going to be able to repay a payday loan in two weeks," Hoffman said. "They get caught in a trap and they get out of this trap by getting help — from family, friends, churches and organizations like my own. This bill is important for all Hoosiers. Polling shows that 90 percent of Hoosiers, both Republicans and Democrats, want a 36 percent rate cap. More than nine out of 10 of our low-income families at Brightpoint say they never want to use these loans again. Public opinion doesn't come much stronger than that."

A handful of opponents — all lobbyists representing the payday loan industry — spoke out against the bill. Presenting on behalf of Check Into Cash, Brian Burdick said that eradicating the industry would not solve the dilemma of people in financial distress needing quick access to money. He also emphasized that the payday loan industry is regulated and that in the absence of that option, consumers often turn to unregulated loan sources



SEN. GREG WALKER

— such as internet lenders — with even higher fees.

"You have to look at the laboratory of the marketplace," Burdick said. "Several states have passed

these bills and the payday lending industry has effectively left those states. That did not solve in any capacity the demand for those loans. In fact, in those communities people went to online lenders, the 'tribal' lenders, the guy out in the parking lot. In Oregon, when a similar bill passed, consumer complaints against unregulated internet lenders doubled. But that is where the market goes."

In concluding the lengthy hearing, Sen. Eric Bassler (R-Washington), chairman of the committee, stated that the status quo regarding the payday industry cannot remain indefinitely.

"I would challenge both sides on this issue to figure out a good, appropriate and just solution," Bassler said.

No further hearing or vote on the bill has been scheduled to date.

To follow Senate Bill 104 and other priority legislation of the Indiana Catholic Conference, visit [www.indianacc.org](http://www.indianacc.org).

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# NEWS BRIEFS

## Mexican bishops pray, priests celebrate funerals after pipeline explosion

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — Mexico's bishops offered prayers for the victims of an explosion in which dozens of villagers in the central state of Hidalgo perished after rushing to get some of the gasoline gushing from what appears to have been an illegally tapped pipeline. "This situation has provoked a commotion throughout the country," the bishops wrote in a Jan. 19 statement, "so we join the prayers and the tears shed by everyone who is suffering and crying at this time." Priests in the Diocese of Tula provided spiritual support, visited the injured and started the process of saying funeral Masses for the deceased. But some priests and bishops have voiced support for a government crackdown on fuel thefts, a crime that has sent the homicide rate soaring in several states. The newspaper *Reforma* quoted Father Arturo Santos said at a funeral Mass as saying: "We pray so we never have this sad, painful and — why not say it — shameful experience again." The explosion occurred at 6:50 p.m. Jan. 18 in the town of Tlahuelilpan, 55 miles north of Mexico City, claiming 89 lives and sending dozens more to the hospital, said Hidalgo Gov. Omar Fayad.

## After fatal shooting in parking lot, church responds in prayer, action

HOUSTON (CNS) — The morning after a man gunned down his estranged wife and critically wounded their daughter, visitors and parishioners gathered Jan. 18 for a Mass inside the Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church, just yards away from the parish parking lot, where the shooting took place. The "beautiful" Mass was "well-attended," according to Father Sean Horrigan, pastor. The quiet gathering was a stark contrast to the previous night that was shattered by gunshots: Arthur Edigin, 62, had shot into the car of his wife, Graciela Torres, 66, his daughter Penny Edigin-Zapata, 31, and his 17-month-old granddaughter. "The reality of the evil of domestic violence played itself out in our presence last night, but we cling to the love and goodness of God in times of such trials," Father Horrigan said. "We seek to be bearers of light and peace in the world, and work to provide a place of safety and surety for all who face such realities in their homes." Even though the shooting victims were not parishioners at the northwest Houston church, Father Horrigan gave his assurance the Catholic Church stands with and for them and all affected by domestic violence. "God brought them to us and we will respond as Christ to

## Philippine Catholic church explosion



CNS photo/Armed Forces Of The Philippines via Reuters

A Philippine army member inspects damage inside the Cathedral of Our Lady of Mount Carmel following a bomb blast in Jolo Jan. 27. The explosion, just before morning Mass, killed at least 20 people and wounded dozens of others. Pope Francis denounced the bombing and entrusted the victims of the attack to Jesus and Mary.

them," he said. "If you or anyone you know is experiencing such physical or emotional abuse

## Bishop Smith, who headed the Diocese of Trenton 1997 to 2010, dies at 83

TRENTON, N.J. (CNS) — Retired Bishop John M. Smith of Trenton died Jan. 22 in Morris Hall Meadows, a long-term care facility in Lawrenceville, after a long illness. He was 83. Bishop David M. O'Connell, who succeeded Bishop Smith as head of the diocese in 2010, told the diocese in a statement it was his "sad duty" to announce the death of his predecessor. St. Mary of the Assumption Cathedral in Trenton received the late bishop's body the afternoon of Jan. 25. The celebration of the Mass of Jesus Christ the High Priest took place that evening. A funeral Mass was celebrated Jan. 26. Afterward, Bishop Smith was entombed in the mausoleum of St. Mary Cemetery in Trenton. Bishop

Smith, a New Jersey native, headed the Trenton Diocese from 1997 to 2010. Before that, he was coadjutor bishop from two years and then he succeeded his predecessor, Bishop John C. Reiss, when he retired. Before returning to his home state as a bishop, Bishop Smith headed the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, Florida, from 1991 to 1995 and before that, he was an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Newark for three years. Newark was his home archdiocese; he was ordained a priest there May 27, 1961.

## World Youth Day offers glimpse of Church's diversity to Indiana pilgrims

PANAMA CITY (CNS) — Panama City has skyscrapers, bumper-to-bumper traffic, and a population of 880,000 within the city limits — more than 1.5 million in the metropolitan area. Yet a group of pilgrims from Indiana found warmth and the diversity of the

Catholic Church while attending World Youth Day in the bustling city center. From encountering friendly and welcoming Uber drivers and watching other pilgrims dance to sharing the Catholic faith and spirit, the experience has been a joyful one, said a group from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana. They spoke to Catholic News Service Jan. 23 at the FIAT Festival, an event aimed at U.S. pilgrims. "It's a unique experience," said Leo Patiño of Warsaw, Indiana, a city of about 14,700. Patiño, attending World Youth Day for the first time, said he had found exactly what Archbishop Jose Ulloa Mendieta spoke about at the event's opening Mass — the warmth of the Panamanian people. "Everyone has been very friendly," said 17-year-old Sophia Rodriguez of South Bend. Even when the group went looking for hard-to-find Mexican food in Panama City, particularly tortillas, which are not a staple food here, Panamanians told them to call ahead of time and they would do what they could to accommodate them.

## Search for Christian unity is making progress, Vatican official says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Despite some new tensions, "practically the whole of Christianity is in a process of advancing beyond the controversies and competition of the past, toward greater understanding, trust and solidarity," said Bishop Brian Farrell, secretary of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. Writing in *The Tablet*, a London-based international Catholic weekly, Bishop Farrell said, "Pockets of mutual rejection and contention remain, but most of the world's Christians have come to recognize one another as brothers and sisters in Christ, united in a common baptism and giving a common witness in serving the needs of suffering humanity." The bishops' article was published Jan. 24 during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. To illustrate how "not all is plain sailing" in the search for Christian unity, Bishop Farrell pointed to the challenges posed by a dispute within Orthodoxy over the question of authority and by a controversy within the Catholic Church over allowing the husband and wife in a Catholic-Protestant marriage to receive Communion. The tensions within the Orthodox Church, particularly between the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople and the Russian Orthodox Church over the ecumenical patriarch's recognition of the independent Orthodox Church of Ukraine, have implications for the Catholic-Orthodox dialogue as well, the bishop said.

## Panama mosque offers free water to World Youth Day pilgrims

PANAMA CITY (CNS) — Thousands of World Youth Day pilgrims stopped by the Jama Mosque Jan. 24 en route to catch a glimpse of Pope Francis. "Brothers, sisters, you need water," Hashim Bhana yelled at them from under a tent that announced a "hydration center" outside the mosque, a place where pilgrims could pick up free water, or catch some needed shade and a smile as they struggled to stay hydrated under the blazing sun. "This is an event for the good of young people, it benefits them so how could we say no" to helping them, said Bhana. While hundreds of vendors sold water to the thirsty, the Muslim community at the oldest mosque in Panama City gave it away for free near a banner that said, "Welcome Pilgrim Friends." By the time Pope Francis had arrived at Santa Maria la Antigua Field, they had handed out 15,000 bottles and were looking for more because of the demand, said Bhana. In Panama City, people of different religions get along well, he said, so the gesture was not unusual.

## Panel discussion on pornography and human trafficking at USF

FORT WAYNE — Josephine's Hope is an annual novena of prayer and awareness against human trafficking, especially sex trafficking, on the campus of the University of Saint Francis. The particular focus this year is on pornography as part of the sex trafficking industry.

Group prayer took place Wednesday, Jan. 30. The Division of Student Affairs and Josephine's Hope also will present Pizza and Politics, a panel discussion on human trafficking and pornography, on Tuesday, Feb. 5, from 5-6:30 p.m. on the campus in the Doermer building, Room 156AB. Panelists will be Aaron Brown of Destiny Rescue; Dr. Carl Jylland-Halverson, a member of the USF faculty; Chris and Beth Carlin, USF faculty; and Alyssa Ivanson, News Channel 15. All are welcome to attend.

Copies of "The Burning Building," a prayer book for the novena written by project director William Duffy and illustrated by Emily Napier, a junior art education major, are available. To obtain one, or for more information about the Pizza and Politics session, contact Duffy at [wduffy@sf.edu](mailto:wduffy@sf.edu).

# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## Notre Dame to cover historic Columbus murals



CNS photo/Matt Cashore, courtesy University of Notre Dame

Murals by Luigi Gregori adorning the ceremonial entrance to the University of Notre Dame's main building, depicting the life and exploration of Christopher Columbus, are seen Oct. 10, 2015. Father John I. Jenkins, CSC, president of the university, has determined the murals will be covered, saying he feels they marginalize certain groups. They were painted in 1882-84, not long after a devastating fire and reconstruction of the structure, he wrote in a letter released Jan. 20. The paintings "reflect the attitudes of the time and were intended as a didactic presentation, responding to cultural challenges for the school's largely immigrant, Catholic population," he explained. "In recent years, however, many have come to see the murals as, at best, blind to the consequences of Columbus' voyage for the indigenous peoples who inhabited this 'new' world and at worst demeaning toward them."

## WYD, from page 1

Arriving in his popemobile, Pope Francis made his way through a sea of colorful flags and banners people waved excitedly.

After the pope took his place on the stage, young adults from Panama and the Palestinian territories gave their experiences of finding faith and hope amid doubt, sickness and addiction.

Erika de Bucktron, a 42-year-old mother of four from Panama, spoke of the fear and difficulties she faced when doctors said her pregnancy was at high risk after diagnosing her unborn daughter with Down syndrome.

Throughout her pregnancy, she said, she and her husband abandoned themselves in God's hands and, after the birth of their daughter, decided "to love her with all our hearts, without making any difference with our other children, who also welcomed her with so much love."

Panamanian Alfredo Martinez Andrion, 20, recalled his experience of falling into a life of drugs and crime. His addiction, he said, ultimately led to a 12-month prison sentence. Despite attempts to reform following his release, he fell back again into drug use.

Ultimately, he found help at a Catholic-run halfway house that helped and encouraged him "in



CNS photo/Paul Haring

## Pope Francis prepares to bless the crowd with the monstrance during the World Youth Day prayer vigil at St. John Paul II Field in Panama City Jan. 26.

my path toward reintegration."

"I want to tell the young people of the world that God loves us and never abandons us. We are the masters of our own actions, but if we are with God, everything will be OK," Martinez said.

Nirmeen Odeh, a 26-year-old Palestinian woman, gave the final testimony of the evening, recalling that despite being born and raised in the Holy Land, she was apathetic to Christianity, especially coming "from a place where many of my simple rights are violated."

"I thought it was better to be distant from Christianity so as not to be bothered by others," Odeh said. "With all the struggles and weariness of daily life, I wasn't interested in faith. However, I was curious about

the idea of God! It fascinated me."

After participating in World Youth Day 2016 in Krakow, Poland, Odeh said she took a "leap of faith" and began receiving the sacraments.

"And here I am today, three years later in Panama, excitedly praying for him (God) to lead me on my next journey," she said.

After listening to their experiences, Pope Francis addressed the youths, saying that their experiences reflected the risk Mary took to say "yes" to God.

The salvation that God wishes to give His children, he said, isn't a file in the cloud waiting to be downloaded or the latest app, but rather is an invitation to be "part of a love story interwoven with our personal stories; it is alive and wants to be born in our

midst so that we can bear fruit just as we are, wherever we are and with everyone all around us."

However, Christians can only obtain this salvation by placing their trust in God, especially in moments of uncertainty, doubt and trial.

Recalling the experience given by de Bucktron, the pope said the fears and difficulties the couple faced with the birth of her daughter meant embracing life, even "in accepting things that are not perfect, pure or 'distilled,' yet no less worthy of love," he said.

"Is a disabled or frail person not worthy of love?" the pope asked. "Is a person who happens to be a foreigner, a person who made a mistake, a person ill or in prison, not worthy of love?"

God begins to write His great love story precisely through people's problems, frailties and flaws, the pope said. Just as He embraced Peter after his denials, Jesus helps Christians stand up when they have fallen, the pope added.

Thanking Martinez for his testimony, Pope Francis said the experience of the young Panamanian shows that, without strong roots that are firmly grounded, "it is impossible to grow."

Older people, he continued, must ask themselves what found

dations they are providing to help young people grow instead of lobbying criticisms against them.

"It is easy enough to criticize and complain about young people if we are depriving them of the jobs, education and community opportunities they need to take root and to dream of a future," he said.

"Without education, it is difficult to dream of a future; without work, it is very difficult to dream of a future; without a family and community, it is almost impossible to dream of a future."

The pope said that young men and women also need to be rooted in a community and a home that prepares their hearts and give them a sense of belonging.

Odeh's experience, he explained, is proof that this belonging also gives a sense of identity that allows young people to "live the joy that comes from being found by Jesus."

Pope Francis encouraged young people to not be afraid of opening their hearts to Christ and "embrace life with all its frailty and flaws, but also with its grandeur and beauty."

"Do not be afraid," he said, "to tell Him that you, too, want to be a part of his love story in this world, that you are ready for something greater."

# ALLEN COUNTY MARCHES THROUGH ST

Sponsored by Allen County Right to Life on Jan. 25, the Allen County March for Life was a peaceful protest of the 1973 Supreme Court ruling that legalized abortion across the country through all nine months of pregnancy.



A crowd gathers at the University of Saint Francis Performing Arts Center.

## RESPECT LIFE

“Even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God’s creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect.”

—Pope Francis

**St. Patrick Church**  
ARCOLA

Photos by John Martin

David Bereit, keynote speaker and the founder of 40 Days for Life, addresses the audience at the University of Saint Francis Performing Arts center preceding the 45th annual Allen County March for Life Jan. 25.

Above, left, Cathie Humbarger, executive director of the Allen County Right to Life, speaks during the rally.



Young children hold signs during the Allen County March for Life.

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-Pope John Paul II

ST. LOUIS BESANCON

"All life has inestimable value even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the

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# Volunteers are 'all in' to Rekindle the Fire

BY KEVIN KILBANE

Volunteer organizers hope months of planning will lead to a great day of spiritual renewal for all attending the Rekindle the Fire Men's Conference Feb. 16 in South Bend.

While the volunteers put in a lot of work organizing the event, they always get more out of it, said Joe Brown, a Rekindle the Fire founder and longtime volunteer.

"There is such joy created that day," said Brown, a member of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne.

Scheduled speakers include author Scott Hahn, returning favorite Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers, and Catholic convert and Marian religious order member Father Don Calloway. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades also will host a question-and-answer session and celebrate Mass at the 13th annual conference.

The theme for this year's event is "Am I All In?" Brown and other volunteers certainly can answer, "Yes!"

The idea for Rekindle the Fire grew out of several men's involvement in the Christ Renews His Parish program at St. Vincent de Paul. Brown and fellow parishioner John Faylor left their retreat weekend in the fall of 2004 with their faith on fire, Brown recalled. Eager to keep that flame burning, they joined the team meeting weekly to plan the next men's CRHP weekend at the parish. They led that retreat, "then nothing," Brown said of the days afterward.

They wanted to continue



Provided by Rekindle the Fire

**Men from around the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend have gathered to hear speakers, pray and renew themselves spiritually during past Rekindle the Fire Men's Conferences. This year's conference takes place Feb. 16 at the Century Center in South Bend.**

studying Scripture and growing in faith, Faylor said.

That yearning sparked creation of the Rekindle the Fire ministry at the parish. The program seeks to help men rekindle the fire of Christ's love within themselves and to become better husbands, fathers, sons and leaders through prayer, faith, fellowship and spiritual service to their family, parish and community, according to the group's mission statement.

Members of the St. Vincent de Paul group since have helped men start Rekindle the Fire ministries at about 15 parishes around the diocese. The St. Vincent de Paul members also began organizing an annual conference, which now alternates yearly between Fort Wayne and South Bend, to provide a similar

spiritual opportunity for men whose parish doesn't have a Rekindle the Fire group, he said.

"It is just a very, very spiritual, uplifting day," Faylor said.

Planning for this year's conference began in July and grew gradually from meeting once a month to meeting three times a month. More than 60 volunteers will take part in planning and presenting the event, said Al Scagnoli, also a St. Vincent de Paul Parish member and longtime Rekindle the Fire organizer and volunteer.

Scagnoli and Faylor serve as assistant treasurers and also assist the conference speakers who sell books and CDs. Faylor also helps with the sound system, while Scagnoli works with the diocese to make all arrangements for Bishop Rhoades' Mass

## 'Am I All In?'

**WHAT:** The 13th annual Rekindle the Fire Men's Conference will inspire men in their Catholic faith. The event can accommodate 1,200 participants, is shaped around the theme "Am I All In?" and includes speakers, reconciliation, eucharistic adoration and Mass with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.

**WHEN:** 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Feb. 16

**WHERE:** Century Center, 120 S. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. in South Bend

**COST:** \$45 adults, \$25 for students in middle school, high school or college. Register at [rekindlethefire.net](http://rekindlethefire.net).

**VOLUNTEER:** To help with the conference, call Joe Witulski at 260-452-6875.

### SPEAKERS:

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will host a Q-and-A session and celebrate Mass at the Rekindle the Fire conference. He currently is chairman-elect of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Doctrine and a board of directors member of Catholic Relief Services.

Scott Hahn of Steubenville, Ohio, is the author or editor of more than 40 books, including popular titles such as "Rome Sweet Rome: Our Journey to Catholicism," "The Lamb's Supper: The Mass as Heaven on Earth" and "Hail, Holy Queen: The Mother of God in the Word of God."

Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers of Portland, Oregon, is a passionate Catholic evangelist, author and radio show host known as the "Dynamic Deacon." He is a Benedictine Oblate of the Mount Angel Abbey and Seminary in Saint Benedict, Oregon.

Father Don Calloway is a former high school dropout who converted to Catholicism. He now is a member of the Congregation of Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of Stockbridge, Massachusetts, and serves as vocation director at the order's site in Steubenville, Ohio.

at the conference. In the past, Scagnoli has scheduled priests to be present to hear confessions.

For the past couple of years, Brown has lined up financial sponsors for the event so the admission cost stays affordable, he said. He also goes to the venue the day before the conference to help set up.

At the conference, "We all fill about a dozen different duties that day," Faylor said of himself,

Brown and Scagnoli.

They volunteer each year because they enjoy the camaraderie during the planning. They also see the impact the conference has on the men who attend.

"It's the stories we hear afterward of people's life being changed," Brown said. "When you hear stories like that, you know you are doing the Lord's work."

# St. Joseph Community Health Foundation promotes immigrants' rights with grant

FORT WAYNE – A bold initiative to educate immigrants and the public about immigrants' legal rights in northeast Indiana will get a jump-start with a \$100,000 grant from the St. Joseph Community Health Foundation.

In celebration of its 20th anniversary, the foundation is announcing that Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic will receive the esteemed Compassionate St. Joseph Award to fund the Immigrant Outreach Program. The grant will help fund a series of informational forums for immigrants about the immigration system, tips on interacting with law enforcement and tools to enforce their constitutional rights, regardless of their legal or undocumented status. The program also will provide information sessions for nonimmigrants, including many in the faith and business community,

addressing immigrants' personal stories and nonpartisan dialogue about relevant laws and policies. Organizers anticipate offering eight to 12 forums in 2019.

The legal clinic's outreach efforts are needed now more than ever, according to Desiree Koger-Gustafson, an attorney and the clinic's director. After fleeing wars, famine, crime and political corruption in the countries from which they fled, many immigrants now fear life in the United States.

"They face the risk of raids in their homes and workplaces, increased deportations, rapidly changing immigration policies, expiration of work-authorization documents and distressful rhetoric from media and government alike," Koger-Gustafson said.

After piloting the model, the legal team has discovered that the educational forums act as

a safe place where immigrants and nonimmigrants can come together with understanding about evolving legal policy and processes. Participants also

are empowered with the knowledge of how they can legally navigate and compassionately assist others.

The legal clinic was among 20 applicants for the Compassionate St. Joseph Award, which was created in 2018 to mark the 20th anniversary of the foundation's reorganization to serve Allen County's poor. The award also commemorates the 150th anniversary of when the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ,

the foundation's sponsoring religious community, came to the United States in 1868. The foundation offered the special grant to help local agencies make a

long-term impact through compassionate service to vulnerable residents, said Meg Distler, the foundation's executive



director. The \$100,000 award will be disbursed over the next three years.

The immigrant population in Greater Fort Wayne totals 28,228 and accounted for 24.7 percent of population growth in Northeast Indiana from 2011 to

2016, according to a report from New American Economy. Of the total immigrants living in the region, 8,429 are undocumented and face additional barriers for employment, enforcing their rights, and navigating everyday life in Allen County.

Currently, the legal clinic and Catholic Charities provide legal services for individual immigrant cases. The new educational forums, however, will offer a proactive and communitywide approach to the issue.

Their outreach makes a personal impact for those they serve. For instance, the legal clinic may help an undocumented worker who feels extreme anxiety after his employer suddenly fires several other undocumented workers. By connecting with the legal clinic

# Plan for St. Andrew Church preservation achieved

BY CHRISTOPHER LUSHIS

St. Andrew Church, a historical fixture on Fort Wayne's east side for over 100 years, has not functioned as a parish church since 2003 and currently stands in need of significant repairs. Originally built in 1911 to serve the local German- and English-speaking Catholic communities, it is now primarily home to the cloistered Poor Sisters of St. Clare, who live in the adjoining former rectory.

While an impressive Gothic-style structure, the cost of needed repairs and maintenance to the church currently exceed \$2 million, a heavy financial burden for the diocese since there is no parish community means of support. For this reason, though quite regrettably, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades announced last fall his decision to have the church torn down.

Although a parish community has not been present at St. Andrew for more than a decade, it remains a treasured memory to former members and those who attended St. Andrew grade school. In 2010 some life returned when the Franciscan Friars Minor moved into the former convent and held daily Masses in the church, which the public was able to attend during the week. While it remained in use, and even saw full attendance on occasion, offertory collections were not usually taken up for its continued operational support. Due to transitions among the Franciscan Friars, St. Andrew's has once again become vacant and unused for public Masses.

After the announcement of the church closing, many lay faithful gathered for a final Mass on the Transitus of St. Francis, followed by a somber celebration that reflected on the church's

storied history. In the weeks following, a nonprofit group, JAGH Restoration, contacted the diocese to inquire about possibly saving and renovating the building. After due diligence and negotiations between JAGH and the diocese, a Memorandum of Agreement was signed to ensure its continued existence. Father Mark Gurtner, vicar general of the diocese, revealed that "the next step is to survey the property and do a transfer of ownership. JAGH will be fundraising for the project for the next couple of years and then begin renovation work in 2021."

Bryan Hamilton, a contractor for JAGH, said the nature of the organization is to help preserve historic properties and explore the possibility of returning them to use. Speaking specifically on the required renovations to St. Andrew Church, he stated: "Definite repairs are needed on the exterior. We've discussed many scenarios, but the most important thing in any project is to insure the building is adequate for use — bringing mechanicals to code and taking care of any other 'safety' concerns. We have basic plans in place, and a more specific procedure will be developed over the course of this project."

"Our goal is never to become responsible for a property or project which we do not see being completed," he shared.

"Fundraising is very important to the success of any endeavor such as this. We feel there are still many people who have an affinity for St. Andrews even though there is no parish community. Our expectations would be that those who love not only St. Andrews but the Catholic Church in this area will support our endeavors to preserve this building. We'll have a dedicated team working toward the best solutions, not only for this



Today's Catholic file photo

**St. Andrew Church in Fort Wayne has been saved from demolition and will undergo restorations so it can be utilized as a Catholic oratory.**

church but for the diocese and larger community as a whole."

For any wondering about the future uses of St. Andrews, Hamilton is reassuring about potential future utilization of the church.

"The church will remain a Roman Catholic oratory throughout JAGH's ownership of the



Ignacio Silva

property. The diocese will have permission to conduct Mass, as will any other duly authorized Catholic order or group at the

discretion of our organization." The arrangement is similar to that between the diocese and Women's Care Center, which, although privately owned, is allowed to reserve the presence of the Eucharist on its property. In addition, Hamilton stated, "the [Poor Clare] sisters will pay no rent to us and will take care of their utilities. Any proceeds in excess of the needed funds to restore and maintain the property will be used solely for the mission of the organization."

Hamilton expressed gratitude, sharing that the diocese, Bishop Rhoades, vicar general Father Gurtner and others have been very accommodating and have made the transfer far less difficult than it sometimes can be. The diocese and the bishop have a genuine concern for the house of worship, the sisters, friars, and the Catholic community in Fort Wayne, he feels.

Father Gurtner also expressed a desire "to convey the gratitude of Bishop Rhoades for JAGH's willingness to step forward to save St. Andrew's Church," adding that "the memorandum with JAGH would limit the buildings' use to Catholic events and would give the diocese the first right of refusal should JAGH ever want to relinquish control."

The arrangement has triggered sighs of relief in those for whom the salvation of a property is near and dear to their hearts. While it will require the collaboration of the larger community to accomplish full renewal, the outpouring of local support in the face of the church's potential demolition revealed a continued openness to heed Christ's initial call to St. Francis: "Rebuild my Church!"

**For more information** about JAGH, visit <https://jaghpreservation.com/>.

## GRANT, from page 10

where attorneys can explain immigration options, as well as workplace rights and his rights at home — the individual now knows where to find answers for legal questions. He might also be connected to other trustworthy entities such as faith communities, health care providers and area nonprofits who will support immigrants with vitally needed resources while they learn how to legally navigate American laws and policies.

Distler said the Compassionate St. Joseph award committee reviewed several inspirational proposals but was impressed with the clinic's in-depth research in response to "this crisis in the immigrant community." The legal clinic already has begun to develop a network of faith communities, service providers, nonprofits, volunteers and corporate partners



Provided by Mark Burkholder

**St. Joseph Community Health Foundation's Compassionate St. Joseph Award committee present the \$100,000 anniversary award to Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic staff to develop their Immigration Outreach Program.**

to help sustain the outreach program in the future, she noted.

The award committee also was excited about similarities between today's Immigrant Outreach Program and the Poor Handmaids' original mission in the United States. Long before establishing the foundation, the religious community led by St. Katharina Kasper, sent eight Poor Handmaids from Germany in 1868 to the Fort Wayne area, their first settlement in America. Their assignment? To address the needs of German immigrants struggling here.

"It is of interest that the very first Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ mission in the USA was to assist and relieve the immigrant population," said Sister Germaine Hustedde, PHJC, who served on the award committee. "It is right and fitting that this legacy of our foundress St. Katharina continues through the foundation in this way."

# The full implications of our adoption by grace

It is an article of Catholic faith that, through the regenerating grace of baptism, we are made sons and daughters of God. What Jesus, by nature, proclaimed by the unseen Father and manifested by the Spirit at the Jordan — Son of God — is imparted to those who are washed in the waters of rebirth. Jesus, the eternal Son of the Father made flesh, extends His filial relationship with the Father to those who are now, by grace, His brothers and sisters and thus children of the Father. His Father becomes our Father.

What Jesus is and experiences by nature, we are granted by grace: Our relationship to God the Father is now like Jesus' relation to His Father. The same intimacy and freedom of access, or boldness (what the language of the New Testament calls *παρρησι*), which Jesus shares by virtue of His eternal and natural Sonship become ours, not by nature (that's true only of the eternal Son), but by grace.

This is what St. Paul means when he uses the language of our being "in Christ." It's as if we're permitted by grace to stand in Jesus' sandals, so to speak, and address and love the Father as Jesus does. Further, it is precisely the Father's love, received by the Son and returned to the Father, that we receive by being "in Christ." The Father loves us with the same love, and we return that love to the Father by the grace and power of the Holy Spirit — who is nothing other

than Jesus' spirit, given to His followers.

What we are sometimes apt to forget is that while our baptism does something radical, it establishes us in an entirely new way of relating to God, and more; enabling us to call God "Abba," or Father. This, St. Paul teaches, is accomplished in us by the Holy Spirit.

Baptism also establishes us in a new relationship with Jesus' Mother. We profess each Sunday that Jesus is consubstantial with the Father (that is, Jesus is fully and essentially God, just as the Father is); but by the Son assuming a complete human nature, Jesus is also and at the same time consubstantial with us. He shares in our nature, too. He is fully and essentially human, just as we are — but without sin. And this nature He assumed came from none other than Mary, His Mother. All His human traits and characteristics are naturally drawn from her own.

The corollary to this is simple: Marian devotion is not, for a baptized person, a mere luxury, option or "add-on" for those who may happen to be so inclined. If we take seriously the full meaning of the Incarnation, we cannot but be in awe of the fact that, just as by the grace of our baptism we become sons and daughters of God, so, too, we share a new relationship with Mary, His Mother. What Mary is for Jesus by nature (His Mother), she becomes for us by grace. Cultivating devotion to Mary is



MSGR. MICHAEL HEINTZ

## THE HUMAN CONDITION

about developing and nurturing a relationship in our life that began at our baptism. We truly become sons and daughters not only of God, but, since Jesus is fully divine and fully human, and His humanity is that of His Mother, Mary, we also become sons and daughters of the Mother of God.

But there is one further new relationship to consider. We know that St. Joseph was not the natural father of Jesus; Mary is ever-virgin. He and Mary never had relations. He was, however, chosen by God and entrusted as the foster-father of Jesus and as the guardian of the Holy Family. So too, by our baptism, St. Joseph becomes the guardian and protector of all those who have become sons and daughters in the Son, and whose Mother by grace is Jesus' Mother, the Virgin Mary.

We should delight in cultivating a living relationship with St. Joseph, who cares for us, as we now share in the life of his Son, by adoption, Jesus. Our adoption through grace by the eternal

HEINTZ, page 13

# One man's meat

One of our girls gave me a book for Christmas, "One Man's Meat," by E.B. White. We agreed to start a little book club, just the two of us — coffee once a month to talk about it.

The book is a collection of monthly columns White wrote for *Harper's* after leaving Manhattan to take up farming in Maine. That was the appeal for our daughter, who spent one summer on a farm in Maine and loves revisiting it in her imagination.

For me, the attraction was White's prose. Adults identify him with *The New Yorker*, where he wrote for almost 60 years. Our children know him as the author of "Charlotte's Web" and "Stuart Little." Grammar enthusiasts associate him with "The Elements of Style," which he wrote with his old English professor from Cornell, William Strunk Jr.

In all of these works, White's writing is clean, brief and engaging, a conversation with the reader. Here he is talking about his new brooder stove for keeping his chicks warm: "The thermometer now registers 68 degrees and the chicks are standing round with their collars turned up, blowing on their hands and looking like a snow-removal gang under the El on a bitter winter's midnight."

Compare that with a passage from another of our presents, the GE Universal Remote instruction manual: "Sometimes the first code that 'works' with your device may operate only a few functions of your device. There



JOHN GARVEY

## INTELLECT AND VIRTUE

may be another code in the code list that performs more functions. Continue the auto code search as directed above until the best code is found."

The contrast between these two accounts tells us something useful about what college students should study. STEM majors (science, technology, engineering and math) are increasingly popular, as are pre-professional tracks like nursing and business. The humanities (philosophy, history, English, languages, arts) now account for only 11 percent of degrees at elite research universities.

This is a bad trend, and not just for the faculties who teach students how to write. When I was a young man representing the government in the Supreme Court, I noticed that the surest test of a good lawyer was the ability to explain really complicated laws (ERISA, Medicare and Medicaid, energy regulation) in language my mom could understand. The most persuasive arguments are also the plain and simple ones.

Clear expression isn't just essential for getting one's point across. When I am teaching a

GARVEY, page 13

# If we are in the Lord, those who fight against us will not prevail



## THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

### Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Luke 4:21-30

The Book of Jeremiah is the source of this weekend's first reading. Regarded as one of the major Hebrew prophets because of the extent of his recorded writings, and the brilliance with which he wrote, Jeremiah descended from priests. He was from a small village, Anathoth, only a few miles away from Jerusalem.

As was usual for prophets, Jeremiah was not universally popular, to say the least, among his contemporaries. His prophecies drew sharp rebukes. Critics accused him of

blasphemy, a crime that had death as its punishment in the Hebrew code of law. It was this tradition that centuries later led to some of the demands for the crucifixion of Jesus.

Despite the rejections and denunciations based on falsehoods, Jeremiah never paused in his prophetic mission of insisting upon faithfulness to God and of demanding loyalty to God as a personal, and national, imperative. Furthermore, despite all the criticisms, he never doubted that he was on a mission from God.

When God called Jeremiah to the mission of prophets, during the reign of King Josiah, who ruled the Kingdom of Judah from 640 to 609 B.C., God told Jeremiah to be prepared for hostile responses to Jeremiah's prophesying.

As its second reading for this weekend, the Church offers us a passage from the First Epistle to the Corinthians. It is one of the loveliest, and best known, sections of the entire corpus of Pauline literature. It is a beautiful explanation of

love, and few better definitions of love, this ability unique to humans in nature, exist in human literature. It is clear and straightforward.

Paul reveals what happens when a person embraces the Gospel. Imperfections fade away. Knowledge increases. Maturity is reached. The insecurities and smallness of youth pass.

St. Luke's Gospel is the source of the last reading. Jesus, as the story states, appears in the synagogue in Nazareth. In earlier verses, not part of this weekend's reading, Jesus stands to read a section of the Book of Isaiah. In this section, Isaiah recalled his own calling to be a prophet. He gives details as to what this calling meant. It meant that he was God's spokesman, sent by God to bring liberty to the oppressed, hope to the poor and sight to the blind.

Then, continuing, in the passage read this weekend, Jesus declared that this prophecy had now been fulfilled. In other words, Jesus is the long-awaited spokesman of God.

At first, the audience is

impressed, but then Jesus recalled an incident, mentioned in the Old Testament, in which God showed mercy to gentiles. This mention of divine favor for anyone outside the Chosen People infuriated the audience in the synagogue so much that they tried to murder Jesus. He, of course, escaped.

## Reflection

The readings very much put us, as humans, in our place. It is a place that we do not readily acknowledge. We are quite limited, as a human race, and as individual humans, in our ability to perceive and to judge. Thus it was with the contemporaries of Jeremiah. Thus it was with the persons whom Jesus offended in the synagogue.

We also occupy another place: a place of intimate bonding with Jesus, of receiving eternal life through Christ. The mysteries revealed in the liturgies of Christmas, Epiphany and the Lord's Baptism proclaimed that God has not left us to our doom. He supplies what we lack

because of our limitation. He gives us strength. He gives us Jesus, the light of the world.

As the Gospel says, no one is beyond God's mercy, but we must do our part. We must love others, with love as pure and unquailed as that described by Paul.

Salvation is not imposed upon us. We must accept Jesus into our hearts.

## READINGS

**Sunday:** Jer 1:4-5, 17-19 Ps 71:1-6, 15, 17 1 Cor 12:31—13:13 Lk 4:21-30

**Monday:** Heb 11:32-40 Ps 31:20-24 Mk 5:1-20

**Tuesday:** Heb 12:1-4 Ps 22:26b-28, 30-32 Mk 5:21-43

**Wednesday:** Heb 12:4-7, 11-15 Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 18-18a Mk 6:1-6

**Thursday:** Heb 12:18-19, 21-24 Ps 48:2-4, 9-11 Mk 6:7-13

**Friday:** Heb 13:1-8 Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9c Mk 6:14-29

**Saturday:** Heb 13:15-17, 20-21 Ps 23:1-6 Mk 6:30-34

# The welcome outreach of perinatal hospice

During the course of pregnancy, receiving an adverse prenatal diagnosis can be a tremendously jolting experience for parents. In severe cases, physicians may tell them that their unborn child has a condition that is “incompatible with life.”

While some children with this diagnosis may still receive helpful treatments and manage to live or even thrive for years, in other cases, no realistic treatment options exist and they may live only a matter of minutes or hours following their birth, particularly when they are born with severely damaged or missing vital organs. Sometimes it can be preferable to refer to the situation as one in which the unborn child is “affected by a lethal condition.”

Prior to the development of prenatal screening technologies and genetic testing, doctors who delivered stillborn or terminally ill babies would often shuttle them away from their mothers to die, leaving the parents and family without a sense of closure or resolution. These losses were basically viewed and treated as “nonevents” and the emotions and grief experienced by the family received little attention or notice. In recent years, there has fortunately been a growing awareness of the grief associated with all forms of perinatal loss, whether from miscarriage, stillbirth, newborn death, or direct abortion.

The prenatal diagnosis of a lethal anomaly creates a challenging and unusual situation for many families when they are informed of their baby’s terminal condition weeks, or even months before their child’s death. What was once a surprise miscarriage or a surprise loss after birth becomes an anticipated and foreseen event.

In the wake of the diagnosis, medical professionals will sometimes recommend and pressure parents to abort their unborn child. This unsatisfactory choice often relegates them to never reaching meaningful closure with respect to the difficult pregnancy they have traversed.

It also tempts them to act contrary to every protective parental instinct they have, and deny the reality of their newest family member, as if he or she can simply disappear through the termination.

Many hospitals and obstetrics programs, however, are now offering an improved alternative known as “perinatal hospice.” This approach seeks to set up a particular supportive environment within the hospital or another setting in which all the members of the family can receive the child following delivery, hold and name the newborn, and fully acknowledge his or her brief but meaningful life.

Perinatal hospice support staff will typically inquire as to what the parents and family would like to see happen, and try to tailor the experience accordingly. Families can invite a religious leader into the room. They can make arrangements for baptism. They can take a mold of their infant’s footprints in clay. They can take photos of the child in the arms of other family members. If their baby will be born with a significant physical defect, like a tiny skull from microcephaly, the staff can arrange for a small winter’s cap to cover the child’s head if the family prefers. They can sing lullabies and pray together. Perinatal hospice staff remain nearby and available to provide emotional support or pain medication for a baby who appears uncomfortable, even as the child may shortly yield the breath of life and pass on.

In some cases, infants will have conditions that are not immediately fatal, and they may be able to go home to be with family for a few days or weeks before passing on. Hospice care continues during this time, with ongoing input and support from the neonatal team.

Drs. Nathan J. Hoeldtke and Byron C. Calhoun, two pioneers in the field of perinatal hospice, sum up this supportive and consoling form of care this way:

Perinatal hospice differs in emphasis, though not necessarily in kind, from other modes of



## MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

perinatal health care. It focuses on the persons involved, rather than on the fetal pathology, and places the family in the central arena of care. It provides a continuum of support for the family from the time of diagnosis until death and beyond. It is marked by a cognizance that “dying involves real people, even unborn fetuses; [and that] significant relationships are disrupted and familiar bonds are severed.” Hospice allows time — time for bonding, loving, and losing; time so that the entire course of living and dying is a gradual process that is not jarringly interrupted ... We believe that a structured and compassionate approach, such as that embodied in perinatal hospice, can be woven into the mainstream of pregnancy care to best facilitate the challenging, yet rewarding, task of helping these families cope with the death of their youngest member, in comfort and with dignity.

Perinatal hospice offers an invaluable model of medical and interpersonal outreach, one that hopefully will continue to expand in the context of modern neonatal care.

**Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D.** serves as the director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.

essential to success in all the disciplines that young people are flocking to these days. As White and his old professor put it, “Although there is no substitute for merit in writing, clarity comes closest to being one.”

**John Garvey** is president of The Catholic University of America in Washington. Catholic University’s website is [www.cua.edu](http://www.cua.edu).

### GARVEY, from page 12

class, I find that if I can’t translate my ideas about the law into another idiom, I don’t really understand it myself.

Part of my job, now that I am president of Catholic University, is getting reports and reviewing the work of finance and accounting professionals — the university’s audited financial statements, the judgments of credit rating agencies, the recommendations of our board and professional advisers about the allocation of our investment portfolio. I am no expert in these matters, but

I am responsible for how they are managed. For that reason, I prefer to hire people who can express themselves in words I can understand.

It’s the same in science and medicine. People like Carlo Rovelli and Atul Gawande are influential in large part because they can make themselves understood in clear prose. And when I go to the doctor, I like to know what he is going to do to me and why.

This is not to say that everyone should major in English. It is to say, though, that learning to speak and write clearly is

## SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for February 3, 2019

Luke 4:21-30

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C: when Jesus went home to Nazareth. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

SCRIPTURE QUOTE	YOUR HEARING DO HERE	GRACIOUS WIDOWS
ISRAEL	ELIJAH	THREE
YEARS	FAMINE	SIDON
ELISHA	NAAMAN	SYRIAN
SYNAGOGUE	THE HILL	TOWN
BUILT	HURL HIM	MIDST

### DO HERE

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

## Saint of the Week

### St. Blaise

Fourth Century

This bishop and martyr lived in the fourth century in Turkey and Armenia. For a time St. Blaise lived in a cave to escape persecution. On his feast the Church recalls a miracle cure associated with him and celebrates the blessing of the throats. Blaise apparently saved the life of a boy who was choking on a fish bone. The



Feast: February 3

saint said that anyone who lit a candle in his memory would be free of infection, thus candles are used in the traditional throat blessing. He is listed among the Fourteen Holy Helpers, saints revered as healers.

### HEINTZ, from page 12

Father is mirrored in the order of redemption by our adoption by St. Joseph, who loves the Son whom the Father entrusted to him, and who cares for and protects those who are his sons and daughters through the adoptive grace of the Father. This is, by the way, why St. Joseph is the patron and guardian of the Universal Church. As he was entrusted by God to protect His eternal Son-made-flesh and His Son’s Mother (who is always a figure of the Church as well), so too St. Joseph intercedes for the Church on earth. This is perhaps why in the litany devoted to him, one of his titles is “terror of

demons”; the Church in our day, as in every era, no doubt can benefit from his particular help.

By the grace of our baptism, we are brought into a remarkable new way of relating to God. We become, as it were, members of God’s family. We are also simultaneously brought into a new relationship with the Holy Family: Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

A final suggestion: In the year of grace 2019, deepen and cultivate your relationship with Mary and Joseph.

**Msgr. Michael Heintz** is on the faculty at Mount Saint Mary’s Seminary, Emmitsburg, Md.

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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](http://www.todayscatholic.org/event). For additional listings of that event, please call the advertising sales staff at 260-399-1449 to purchase space.

**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, Feb. 1, 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.

**Day of reflection**  
**MISHAWAKA** — A day of reflection will be held at St. Francis Convent, 1515 W. Dragoon Trail, Wednesday, Feb. 6, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The theme for the day is "God of Gathering." Bring a Bible. The cost of the day is \$20 and includes lunch. Register with Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at 574-259-5427 by Friday, Feb. 1.

**Mission Possible: Healthy Marriages**  
**SOUTH BEND** — Celebrate National Marriage Week with a workshop for couples followed by a candlelight dinner. Mission Possible: Healthy Marriages will be held on Saturday, Feb. 9, from 3-7 p.m. at St. Augustine

Parish, Community Hall, 1501 W. Washington St. The workshop will be presented by Terri and Andrew Lyke, authors of "Marriage on a Lampstand." The cost is \$20 per couple, and registration is required by emailing your names and contact information to Deacon Mel Tardy at [mtardy@nd.edu](mailto:mtardy@nd.edu).

**Trivia night**  
**GOSHEN** — A trivia night will be Saturday, Feb. 9, from 6-9:30 p.m. at St. John the Evangelist Parish school gym, 109 W. Monroe St. Trivia will begin at 7 p.m. There will be tables of eight players at \$80 per team or \$10 a person. For more information call 574-533-3385.

**Theology on Tap - Sexual Abuse Crisis: What Can We Do?**  
**MISHAWAKA** — Theology on Tap, A Catholic speaker series where young adults can share in food, fellowship and faith will begin the series: "Confronting a Broken World." Join Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades Tuesday, Feb. 5, for the topic, "Sexual Abuse Crisis: What Can We Do?" at the

Mishawaka Columbus Club, 114 W. 1st St. Visit [www.diocesefwsb.org/tot-sb](http://www.diocesefwsb.org/tot-sb) or contact Sean Allen at 574-234-0687 [sallen@diocesefwsb.org](mailto:sallen@diocesefwsb.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, Feb. 5, will feature Father Thomas Shoemaker. For information, contact Christine Nix at [cbonahoom-nix@diocesefwsb.org](mailto:cbonahoom-nix@diocesefwsb.org).

**Human Dignity, Liturgy and the Catholic Social Tradition**  
**NOTRE DAME** — On Thursday, Feb. 7, from 7:-8:45 p.m. Jessica Keating, M.Div. of the Office for Human Dignity and Life Initiatives at the University of Notre Dame's McGrath Institute for Church Life will speak on Human Dignity, Liturgy and the Catholic Social Tradition at Holy Cross College Driscoll Auditorium as part of the Diocesan Winter/Spring Catholic Social Doctrine Series.

## REST IN PEACE

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Ronald Shady, 96, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Don Fisher, 68, St. Therese

**Mishawaka**  
 Janine Squadroni, 86, St. Bavo

Sister M. Rose Agnes Pfautsch, OSF, 85, Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration

Joshua John Comeau, 41, Queen of Peace

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# PILGRIMAGE

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# Heart of St. John Vianney visits Notre Dame

BY JENNIFER MILLER

Once again, as during his own lifetime, crowds of the faithful stood in lines waiting to pray with their beloved Cure of Ars. At the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, on the campus of the University of Notre Dame, the first-class relic of the incorrupt heart of St. John Vianney (1786-1859) was venerated throughout the day on Sunday, Jan. 27. This visit was one on a tour led by the Knights of Columbus.

In prayer-filled silence, a peace permeated the space. From 10 a.m., through all the morning Masses until Vespers in the late evening, hundreds of people stood in line to pray with the relic of St. John Vianney, both in the Basilica and in the parish crypt below. He is the patron saint of parish priests, a renowned confessor, simply educated priest and humble, holy man. A certain calm solemnity and urgent petitioning plea of the people quietly filled the air, during this time of turmoil in the Church, as the snow and cold fell outside. Although not still beating, there remained a warmth and love of his heart which radiated God's love so clearly for years and still drew people close to their Creator.

Father Brian Ching, CSC, assistant rector of the basilica and chaplain to the Notre Dame Knights of Columbus Council No. 1477, explained, "John Vianney was a contemporary of Father Moreau, founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross (the Order of Priests and Brothers that founded the University of Notre Dame), so it seemed especially appropriate to welcome his heart onto campus. Also, basilicas are meant to be places of pilgrimage and hosting the relic allows it to welcome pilgrims from throughout the region for this special event."

"It can be easy to find the idea of a relic, especially a relic



Photos by Jennifer Miller

**Jose Mendez and son traveled from St. Michael Parish, Plymouth, on a pilgrimage to pray with the relic of St. John Vianney. Their extended family of aunts, uncles and grandparents joined them.**

like the heart of John Vianney a little unsettling. It is a very physical, tangible sign of our connection to someone holy. Yet at the same time, that's the beauty of a relic, that it allows us to recall the life of someone who has lived the faith well and it inspires us to do the same. To be close to the heart of a man who spent 12-15 hours in the confessional each day, dispensing God's love and mercy was incredibly moving."

"Although our world may look different from St. John Vianney's, his love and charity and desire to bring God's mercy into the world speaks volumes to the modern Catholic. In our world, which is often fought with division and where winning one's

point seems to take pride of place over charity, the Cure d'Ars life is a reminder that it is love and mercy that move the life of faith. His priestly charity is still something for the modern priest to aspire to and is a profound witness to the power of the sacraments lived with charity in our Church," Father Ching said of the special visit.

Families, religious, clergy and single people alike all visited to venerate the relic.

St. Matthew parishioner, wife and mother Zhutian Zhang came with her three high school-aged children. She reflected: "When I just found out about the news that St. John Vianney's incorruptible heart was coming to Notre Dame, I was so overwhelmed



**The faithful waited in patient prayer to venerate the incorrupt heart of St. John Vianney at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Notre Dame, Jan. 27. Many especially came to pray for their priests and Church bishops.**

with joy. This is such a special gift that God has given to me, to my family and friends, but most of all, to the suffering Church of America. The patron saint of priests, his heart is coming to the bishops and priests of America in this most difficult time of crisis of the Church! What a powerful and comforting sign the Lord has given to us!"

Zhang and her family came to the basilica for Mass, and at first were dismayed to discover that the only available seats were right up front.

"After I sat down and looked up, I saw the relic right in front of me," she said. "I whispered a big 'thank you' to the Lord, and had the privilege to gaze upon the heart through the Mass. This simple parish priest, his life stories, his struggles, his sacrifices, his gentleness and obedience, and above all his Love as a shepherd for his sheep all came to my mind. I begged him to pray for me, that my heart of stone may be changed to a heart like his, meek and humble. I prayed for my husband and my children, I prayed for many of my friends that are suffering. But above all, I prayed for our priests and bishops, that they may truly be good shepherds for the flocks that the Lord has entrusted to them. I pray that the Church of America

may be purified and renewed through the Mercy and power of the Lord," she said.

During the 10 and 11:45 a.m. Masses, Father Peter McCormick, CSC, offered the homily on the power of God's love to transform our lives. Reflecting on both the witness of St. John Vianney and Martin Luther King Jr., whose holiday was celebrated this past week, he preached: "Rejoicing in the Lord must be our strength. We do not look to power, privilege or worldly possessions for our strength. We do not fear that we are somehow falling behind or that someone else is getting ahead. The invitation now, and always, is to rejoice in the Lord."

Father McCormick described the world when St. John Vianney lived, one of indifference at best to God, how he was the fourth of six children, educated and received the sacraments of Eucharist and confession in secret and how his priesthood was outstanding. He made himself available to the souls in his care, daily and without reservation. Father McCormick featured a quote of St. John Vianney's, which spoke to how the saint was able to witness; "When the heart is pure and simple it cannot help loving, because it has discovered the source of love which is God."

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their child toss, turn and kick in their womb, and delighted in the progress of their pregnancy," the conference continued.

"Many others, as well as our governor, are fathers, who held their partner's hand as they viewed the ultrasound videos, watched their child squirm and rejoiced at the first sound of a heartbeat," it said. "Many of these same officials were themselves born into less-than-perfect conditions — poverty, health problems, disabilities, broken families.

"All overcame these issues to rise to leadership in our state, because their parents chose life for them," it added.

The new law, which was fully backed by Cuomo, a Catholic.

Ahead of the final vote, Albany Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger issued an open letter to Cuomo published Jan. 19 at evangelist.org, the website of *The Evangelist*, Albany's diocesan newspaper.

He had urged Cuomo not to let the bill, which he termed a "Death Star," become law and he warned that he and many fear it will lead to the determination that one day "being pro-life" will be "a hate crime in the state of New York."

Two days before his letter appeared, the New York State Catholic Conference released a statement signed by all the Catholic bishops of the state urging the bill not be passed.

Among its provisions are: granting nondoctors permission to perform abortions; removing protection for an infant acciden-

tally born alive during an abortion; and allowing late-term abortions.

In its Jan. 22 statement, the Catholic conference thanks all who partnered with the Catholic Church "in the 12-year-long fight to stop this horrendous policy, and all pro-life New Yorkers who made their voices heard in an effort to stop it."

"Let us all pray for the conversion of heart for those who celebrate this tragic moment in the history of our state," it said. "And we pray in a special way for the lives that will be lost, and for the women of our state who are made less safe under this law."

The conference represents the state's Catholic bishops in public policy matters.