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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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TODAYSCATHOLIC.org

Bishop to catechumens, candidates: 'Prepare for something amazing'

BY DEB WAGNER

The Rite of Election of Catechumens and Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates took place at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne on March 3, with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades as the presider.

In this rite, which traditionally takes place at the beginning of Lent, the Church recognizes the catechumens, who have been preparing for baptism, confirmation and Eucharist. Candidates, those who have already been baptized but are preparing for the sacraments of confirmation and Eucharist, are also recognized and called to complete their initiation into the Church by receiving confirmation and Eucharist.

The rite begins the period of purification and enlightenment, a time of intense spiritual preparation for the sacraments of initiation.

In his homily, Bishop Rhoades encouraged the catechumens and candidates — along with their godparents and sponsors — “to be really spiritually focused during this upcoming season of Lent. Through prayer and reflection, be focused on what is about



John Martin

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades signs a Book of the Elect during the Rite of Election of Catechumens and Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, on March 3.

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Catholic youth learn significance of ashes in fiery Lenten tradition

BY KATIE RUTTER

COLUMBUS, Ind. (CNS) — Smoke billowed from a small fire pit, rising nearly as high as the steeple of St. Bartholomew Church in Columbus.

About 100 students watched from a safe distance March 4 as church staff stoked the flame and periodically tossed in handfuls of dry palm branches.

The smoldering ashes that remained were destined to mark the foreheads of parishioners Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, which is March 6 this year.

Church tradition prescribes

ashes used on this day be made from the palm branches blessed on Palm Sunday.

By involving children in the process of creating these ashes, the staff of St. Bartholomew hoped the young people would better understand the rich symbolism contained in the tradition.

“I just think this is such an opportunity to teach them, to get them involved and get them hands-on rather than just talking about it in the classroom,” said Connie Sandlin, coordinator of liturgy at the parish.

Ash Wednesday kicks off the penitential season of Lent, a time when Catholics are challenged to

prayer, fasting and almsgiving to express repentance for their sins. Ashes are placed on the foreheads of the faithful to externalize the request for forgiveness.

“It’s a pretty graphic reminder that our time is limited, and that we need to take seriously the Lord’s call to change our lives,” said Father Michael Witczak, associate professor of liturgical studies and sacramental theology at The Catholic University of America, in a phone interview with Catholic News Service.

Father Witczak said the tradition dates back to about the ninth century and evolved from early practices of public pen-

ance. Today, creating the ashes from palm branches is meant to emphasize the weakness of humanity.

“We recognize our ability to be people who praise God for his goodness and people who turn our backs on God and when the going gets tough,” Father Witczak said.

Biblical readings on Palm Sunday outline the triumphant entry of Christ into Jerusalem, as well as His rejection and passion, he said.

“This transition from ‘Hosanna!’

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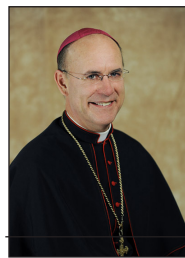
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This Lent, refrain from sins of the tongue



IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

Jesus' words in the passage from the Sermon on the Plain, which we heard in last Sunday's Gospel (Luke 6:39-45), offer us important counsel as we begin the season of Lent.

First of all, Our Lord says: "No disciple is superior to the teacher; but when fully trained, every disciple will be like his teacher." Lent is a time of training, training in virtue and holiness. Isn't that why we pray and fast and give alms? Our Lenten resolutions should be things that will help us to become more like our Teacher, more like Christ. It's good to think of what we can do during Lent that will help us better imitate Jesus.

Lent is also a time to remove the wooden beam from our eye. Jesus called those who want to remove the splinter in their brother's eye without noticing the beam in their own eye "hypocrites." The Greek word "hypocrite" means an actor who plays a part on a stage. We're hypocrites like the Pharisees when we judge others' faults while ignoring our own faults.

How often we're tempted to accuse others, to point out their sins and shortcomings, not in order to help them, but to put them down, sometimes to their face or sometimes behind their back to other people. This is the sin of detraction, and it can be a mortal sin if it causes serious harm to another – disclosing someone's faults and failings to others without an objectively valid reason. Detraction can destroy another person's reputation and honor and is a sin against justice as well as charity. There are also other sins of the tongue like calumny, in which one says false things about others, harming their honor and reputation. And the sin of rash judgment: assuming as true, without sufficient foundation, the moral fault of a neighbor.

Oftentimes gossip involves these sins – malicious talk about other people. When we rob people of their honor and reputation, we are doing harm to them. Pope Francis preaches a lot about this and calls Christians who gossip this way "killer Christians." He says, and I agree, that this is an evil and a sickness in the Church. It sows division in parishes and even hatred towards others. Pope Francis has used even stronger language, saying that "to make gossip is terrorism." He once said: "Whoever gossips is like a terrorist that throws a bomb and if it goes off, destroys, destroys with the tongue." He says they're not suicide bombers, because they protect themselves in the process.

We must resist the temptation to speak ill of others and learn to bite our tongue when we are tempted to commit these sins of the tongue. We must learn to bridle our tongues. Or bridle our hands, since these sins often are committed by writing uncharitable, even hateful, remarks in letters, tweets or blogs. When we think about giving something up for Lent, it's much more important to give up the sin of gossip, to give up detraction or slander, than candy or desserts. When we are tempted to speak ill of others or to write derogatory things about others, we should try to hear Jesus saying to us: "You hypocrite! Remove the wooden beam from your own eye first."



Wikipedia

In the Sermon on the Plain, Jesus emphasizes to His disciples the importance of training in order to achieve the virtue and holiness of one's spiritual teachers. This Lent, our training might begin with resisting the temptation to speak ill of others. If our hearts are purified, our speech will be purified as well.

We must stop thinking that sins of the tongue are of little importance. Though not every sin of speech is a mortal sin, such sins can be, depending on the harm that is intended or done. Jesus once said: "But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken" (Matthew 12:36).

I am speaking about this topic because sins of the tongue like detraction, calumny and rash judgment seem to abound in our society today and even in the Church. There is a lot of uncharitable and malicious speech. Social media is filled with these things – reviling others, name-calling, and backbiting. Some social media forums delight in these things. Polarization in both the Church and in society is caused or worsened by this constant speaking negatively of and attacking others. Many don't think twice about robbing people of their honor or reputation.

What do you do when you are in a situation where you begin to hear this type of harmful speech from someone you are with or when you are in a group? St. John Vianney said: "If something uncharitable is said in your presence, either speak in favor of the absent, or withdraw, or if possible, stop the conversation."

"A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit. For every tree is known by its own fruit," Jesus says in this Sunday's Gospel. In Lent, we should examine the tree of our lives by examining the fruits: our words, our deeds, our conduct. Do we find good fruit, the virtues? Or do we find rotten fruit, vices, sinful words and deeds? If we're honest, we probably find both. We need to get rid of the rotten fruit by going to confession. We can produce good fruit, with the help of God's grace, through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Most important, of course, is the tree – our lives and what is in our hearts. All our external Lenten practices should be aimed at interior purification, true conversion.

Jesus says: "A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good, but an evil person out of a store of evil produces evil." A good person has an interior store of goodness, and from that store produces good conduct, just as a good tree produces good fruit. Good or evil flows from one's inner self. When there's something rotten in the tree, in our hearts, we will bear rotten fruit. We need to pray with the repentant King David: "A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me" (Psalm 51). In His mercy, the Lord will hear and answer this prayer if we offer it with true repentance, which means we humbly recognize the beam that is stuck in our own eye.

These are the last words of Jesus in the Gospel lesson: "for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks." The mouth expresses what the heart contains. If our mouths are filled with harsh attacks on others, detraction, rash judgments, calumny and harmful gossip, there's definitely something rotten within us. That rot is sin. If our hearts are purified, our speech will be purified.

The goal of Lent is to become like our Teacher. As Jesus said, "when fully trained, every disciple will be like his teacher." We all need this training. That's what Lent is about. It is a time of prayer a time to more deeply absorb Christ's teaching. It is a time of mortification and self-denial, following the example of our Teacher who fasted in the desert for 40 days. It is a time to heed our Teacher's instruction to take up our cross and follow Him along the way of self-giving love. Almsgiving is an expression of this love.

May the disciple most like the Teacher pray for us during this season of Lent! That disciple is Mary His Mother. May her example inspire us to grow in virtue and holiness as true disciples of her Son!

Catholic's deafness no obstacle to practicing a corporal work of mercy

BY JENNIFER NEVILLE

HAMPTON, Va. (CNS) — "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Those words from Chapter 4 of St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians are words by which Melanie Paul lives.

Deaf since she was 12, Paul has had a successful career as a guidance counselor and has helped countless people through her volunteer work, most notably her animal-assisted therapy, which has provided emotional and physical support to people in health care facilities for 19 years.

A native of Pennsylvania, Paul lost her hearing after being prescribed the antibiotic Streptomycin, which in rare instances can cause deafness, according to the Mayo Clinic's website. She became deaf within three months of starting the medication.

Despite her disability, Paul, a member of St. Joseph Parish in Hampton, persevered. Returning to the Catholic school she had attended since first grade, she quickly learned to lip read and remained at the school until eighth grade after which she entered a public high school.

There, teachers encouraged her to pursue a vocational track rather than an "academic" one. Their discouragement of her aspiration to go to college didn't deter her. In fact, she said, it mustered her will to prove them wrong.

"I am an optimist when it comes to setting goals for myself and never back down when things become hard," Paul told *The Catholic Virginian*, newspaper of the Diocese of Richmond. "As a matter of fact, I love challenges."

She has accomplished an impressive amount.

"I pray a great deal for strength to do what I set out to do," Paul said.

She earned her bachelor's degree in psychology and sociology at Gallaudet University in Washington and a master's degree in educational counseling and guidance from Western



CNS photo/Jennifer Neville, The Catholic Virginian

Hailey McConnell is enamored with Lothair at Langley Air Force Base, adjacent to Hampton and Newport News, Va., Feb. 13, 2019. The girl was with her mother, Melissa, waiting for her brother Caleb's pediatric appointment. Melanie Paul, right, brings her Shetland Sheepdogs, Lothair and Locksley, to the hospital once a week to provide animal-assisted therapy to inpatients and outpatients.

Maryland College. She also has an educational specialist degree in educational administration and supervision from William and Mary College where, she said, she was the first deaf person to graduate. Paul worked in education for 30 years, mostly as a guidance counselor.

A self-taught photographer, she won "Best in Show" awards at 14 American Daffodil Society national shows for photos of her daffodils.

Believing in the importance of serving others, especially the call from the corporal works of mercy to visit the sick, Paul has immersed herself in volunteer work. She said St. Clare of Assisi's words, "We become what we love, and who we love shapes what we become," motivate her to reach out to the community.

She served on the Hampton Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities for 10 years

and is presently on the Hampton Animal Control Advisory Committee. For 10 years, she taught new recruits in Hampton's police department how to interact with and help persons with hearing impairment. In 2009, she taught sign language to students at Christopher Newport University in Newport News for one of their plays.

In 2000, she began providing animal-assisted therapy. Her Shetland sheepdogs — Shiloh, now deceased, Molly, Lothair and Locksley — have been certified through Therapy Dogs International, which requires them to pass a test that evaluates their obedience, socialization and manners, Paul said.

Lothair, who is deaf, brings a bonus; he knows more than 20 words in sign language.

Paul's dogs have provided comfort and joy to individuals in hospitals, nursing homes,

and retirement and rehabilitative facilities. Once a month they help struggling readers ages 6 to 10 and special education students through the Paws to Read program that she created at the Hampton Public Library in 2003.

According to her, children are able to hone their reading skills by reading to the dogs who are "nonjudgmental."

For many years, Paul and her dogs went to schools and taught students about canines and "the good manners" the children should have when interacting with them. They also worked with the Hampton Clean City Commission to teach children about caring for the environment, she said.

In addition, Lothair and Locksley continue to make weekly visits to inpatients and outpatients at Langley Air Force Base's hospital and Sentara CarePlex Hospital in Hampton, Paul said.

"I love sharing my dogs," she said. "The reward I receive is seeing the look of joy and happiness which my dogs give to others."

When the dogs walk into a hospital room or school, "smiles alight on the faces" of everyone — patients, students, staff and visitors, she said, adding, "They smile and reach out to pet the dogs. It gives them a warm feeling."

Paul and her dogs have been



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Sunday, March 10: 9:30 a.m. — Mass, St. Casimir Church, South Bend

Sunday, March 10: 2 p.m. — Rite of Election, St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend

Monday, March 11: 1 p.m. — Meeting of United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Doctrine, Washington, D.C.

Monday, March 11: 5:30 p.m. — Meeting of United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Religious Liberty, Washington, D.C.

Tuesday-Wednesday, March 12-13: Meeting of United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Administrative Committee, Washington, D.C.

Wednesday, March 13: 3 p.m. — Meeting of Catholic Relief Services U.S. Operations Committee, Baltimore, Maryland

Thursday, March 14: 8 a.m. — Meeting of Board of Directors of Catholic Relief Services, Baltimore, Maryland

Saturday, March 16: 5 p.m. — Mass, Dinner and Auction for Marian High School, Mishawaka

recognized for their service in animal-assisted therapy. WAVY-TV 10 and its partner organizations recognized Paul and Shiloh for their outstanding volunteer service in Hampton Roads in 2007, and Lothair and Molly received the Virginia Veterinary Medical Association's Animal Hero Award.

Paul said her faith has carried her through life's challenges.

She starts each day by praying at breakfast and while walking her dogs. She worships at Sunday Masses by following along with a missal because she cannot hear the songs, prayers or homilies. She thanks God for her many blessings — among them her husband, Philip, who has retired from the Air Force, her friends and her dogs.

"Throughout my life, my faith has never wavered. We must believe that God does have a plan for each of us. We may question it, but it is still His plan," Paul said. "I have often asked God why I became deaf, but if I had not become deaf, I would very possibly have had a very different life. I hate being deaf, but I made a wonderful life for myself despite that fact."

Jennifer Neville writes for The Catholic Virginian, newspaper of the Diocese of Richmond.

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to 'Crucify him!' is part of the reality in those palms," Father Witczak said, a meaning that is retained even when the palms become ashes.

"They're kind of like a sign that God's our king, because that's what they, the people of the town, did when God made his entrance," summarized Morgan Johnson, a sixth-grade student who receives religious education at St. Bartholomew Church.

Morgan and eight of her classmates helped St. Bartholomew

parishioners complete the first step in their ash-making process March 3.

Announcements made at the parish in prior weeks led parishioners to return enough palm branches to fill six baskets. Staff members knew from experience that long palm strands were difficult to burn, so they enlisted the middle schoolers to cut the branches into smaller pieces.

As the young people worked at the palms, Sandlin and several other religious educators explained the process and symbolism of the ashes. They also challenged the students to

commit themselves to charitable actions during Lent.

"It's important that they learn that the whole celebration of Lent is more than just about giving something up, but it's about others too," said Deacon Bill Jones, kneeling on the floor next to the students.

Staff members estimate that they have made their own ashes for at least two decades. While their process has been cemented with repetition, there are no official Church guidelines about how the ashes are created.

"There is no required norm for burning the ashes, and there is

no specific rite that accompanies it," Timothy O'Malley, academic director for the Center for Liturgy at the University of Notre Dame, told CNS.

Church law "kind of leaves all of those details to the local church to figure out how they're going to do it," Father Witczak said.

At many parishes, the pastor or a staff member burns the ashes without accompaniment. A large portion of churches simply purchase ready-made ashes from a religious goods supply store.

Should ashes need to be disposed, they should be "returned

to the ground," O'Malley said.

To complete the palms-to-ashes transition in Columbus, the sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade classes from St. Bartholomew Catholic School gathered behind the church building March 4. Deacon Jones led the young people in prayer and a student delivered a short Scripture reading.

Then, the palms were ignited.

"It shows that we are dust and to dust we shall return," said Ricardo Roman, an eighth-grade student at St. Bartholomew Catholic School. "It's our soul that matters and we should be focusing on it."

Retrouvaille helps couples listen, talk, rebuild trust

BY GINA CHRISTIAN

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — Seven years ago, Jim and Jane were on their second marriage counselor, and both were seriously considering divorce after almost 20 years as husband and wife.

“Our counselor was nice, but she was no match for us,” said Jim, a retired financial executive. “We were combative with each other and with her.”

Work, parenting and the demands of daily life had brought the couple to a breaking point. The counselor, a devout Catholic, recommended that they attend Retrouvaille, a Christian marriage program founded by Catholics to heal hurting marriages.

Eventually, the couple researched the option and decided to attend a weekend session.

“I didn’t have any hope that it would help, but I wanted to say I’d done everything possible,” said Jane, a consultant.

At the time, the nearest available session for the northern New York City couple was in the Diocese of Metuchen in New Jersey. They made the 90-minute drive “in complete silence, white-knuckled,” said Jim.

Over the next two and a half days, in a series of sessions led by three other couples and a priest, Jim and Jane experienced the meaning of the French word for which program was named: “rediscovery.”

“Anger fell away, and we found a level of trust and comfort,” said Jim. “We found a beginning; we saw the possibilities.”

Retrouvaille (pronounced “retro-vai”) gives couples in distressed marriages, including those who are separated or divorced, a practical strategy for improving their communications skills and reconnecting with each other.

The ministry was started in 1977 by lay Catholics in Quebec

and remains a lay initiative that works with both Catholic and Christian clergy. Currently the nonprofit, all-volunteer outreach is active in Canada, the United States, Central and South America, and Europe, as well as the Caribbean and the Western Pacific.

Based on Judeo-Christian beliefs and morality, the ministry welcomes couples of all faiths and those with no faith tradition. The Retrouvaille program is structured in three phases: a weekend experience, generally held at a retreat center or hotel; a six- to 12-week series of follow-up sessions; and a monthly support group. Mass or a devotional service is celebrated during the weekend gatherings. All are invited, but attendance is optional.

The program is funded entirely by modest registration fees and by donations that cover the costs of accommodations and meals. According to the ministry’s website, www.helpourmarriage.org, tens of thousands of couples have benefited from the outreach.

The lay presenters have worked through their own marital difficulties with the help of the program, and share their insights with participants. The Retrouvaille volunteers stress that they are “wounded warriors” rather than trained counselors, and direct couples to professional resources for issues such as addiction, domestic violence and mental health concerns.

Spouses interested in a Retrouvaille weekend are first interviewed individually by team members to ensure they are both willing and ready to attend.

Although presenters reflect on their own experiences, Retrouvaille is not a group sharing session. Participants are not asked to disclose the details of their situations; instead, the outreach focuses on restoring

couples’ communications skills.

And that’s where the true work of healing begins, according to Franciscan Father Frank Berna, a Retrouvaille chaplain for more than five years.

“It gets them to dialogue about their feelings,” said Father Berna, who directs the graduate religion program in theology and ministry at La Salle University in Philadelphia. “And it teaches them a method of real communication.”

Activities such as the program’s “10-10 exercise” help participants engage in honest conversations about their feelings. Spouses write for 10 minutes in response to a given question, then read each other’s answers twice — “once for the head, once for the heart,” said Father Berna.

Afterward they discuss their responses in private for 10 minutes, a time limit that keeps the conversation from becoming too overwhelming.

The goal is to get the couple

to reconnect with the affective dimensions of their relationship, then share those emotions in a positive, non-threatening way, Father Berna told Catholic Philly.com, the news outlet of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

“Men don’t talk about feelings until they’re angry, and then they just shout or throw things,” he said. “Women have the feelings identified, but they don’t know how to talk to their spouses about them, so they talk to their friends or to their mother.”

For Jim and Jane, the 10-10 exercise became an increasingly rewarding part of their daily routine. After they returned from their initial Retrouvaille weekend, the couple committed to devoting 30 minutes each evening to the practice.

“It made us feel so much better about each other, our lives, our God,” said Jim.

That sense of renewal continued as the couple attended the follow-up sessions, which became a date night that includ-

ed pizza at a nearby restaurant.

Father Berna noted that participants’ body language visibly changes during the weekend sessions. Couples often start out seated apart on Friday evening; by Sunday, many are holding hands, hugging and “rediscovering the authentic love they first had for one another,” he said.

For Jim and Jane, the journey back to each other has led them to become Retrouvaille presenters. They view their efforts as a way of “paying it forward,” and they encourage struggling couples to seek assistance through the ministry.

“We’ve seen it work in all types of situations,” said Jane. “If you’ve already invested several years in your marriage, you have nothing to lose by trying one weekend to help save it.”

Gina Christian is the senior content producer at CatholicPhilly.com, the news outlet of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

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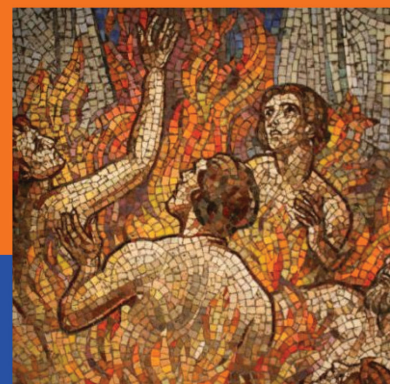
Penance Service: **March 21** 7:00 pm



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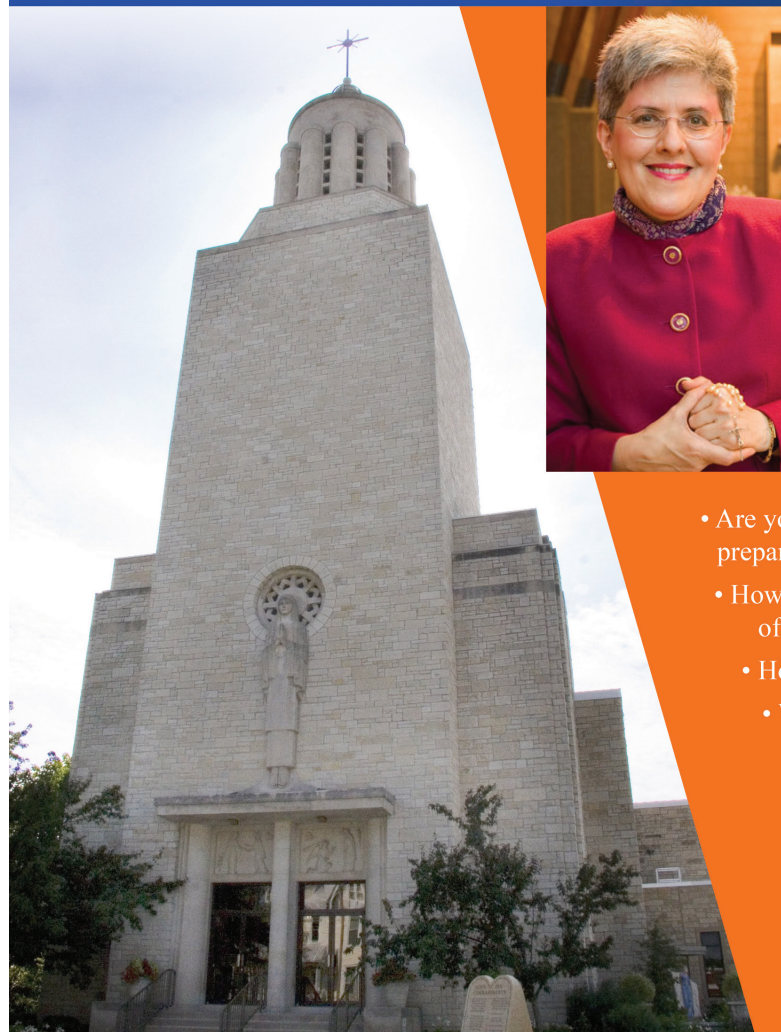
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Payday loan votes 'potentially devastating' for most vulnerable

Conference and other advocates for the poor vow to keep up their fight following two recent votes in the Indiana Senate that in effect would dramatically expand predatory lending in the state.

In a close vote, lawmakers defeated Senate Bill 104, which would have placed 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. But even more troubling to opponents of the payday loan industry was the passage of Senate Bill 613, which would introduce new loan products that fall under the category of criminal loansharking under current Indiana law.

Both votes occurred Feb. 26, the final day before the midway point in the legislative session, when bills cross over from one chamber to another. Senate Bill 613 – passed under the slimmest of margins – now moves to the Indiana House of Representatives for consideration.

"We have to do everything we can to stop this from moving forward," said Erin Macey, senior policy analyst for the Indiana Institute for Working Families. "This bill goes way beyond payday lending. It creates new loan products and increases the costs of every form of consumer credit we offer in Indiana. It would have a drastic impact not only on borrowers but on our economy. No one saw this coming."

Macey, who frequently testifies before legislative committees

about issues affecting Hoosier families, said she and other advocates were blindsided by what they considered an 11th-hour introduction of a vastly altered consumer loan bill by its sponsors. She said the late maneuver was likely in anticipation of the upcoming vote on Senate Bill 104, which would have capped the interest rate and fees that a payday lender may charge to 36 percent APR, in line with 15 other states and the District of Columbia. Had it become law, the bill likely would have driven the payday lending industry out of the state.

The Indiana Catholic Conference had supported Senate Bill 104 and opposed Senate Bill 613. Among other provisions, the revised Senate Bill 613 would change Indiana law governing loan companies to allow interest charges of up to 36 percent on all loans with no cap on the amount of the loan. In addition, it would allow payday lenders to offer installment loans up to \$1,500 with interest and fees up to 190 percent, as well as a new product with 99 percent interest for loans up to \$4,000.

"As a result of these two votes, not only has the payday lending industry been bolstered, but now there is the potential to make circumstances even worse for the most vulnerable people in Indiana," said Glenn Tebbe, executive director of the ICC, the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Indiana. "The outcomes are potentially devastating to poor families who become entrapped in a never-ending

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE



BY VICTORIA ARTHUR

cycle of debt. Much of the substance of Senate Bill 613 rises to the level of usury."

But proponents of the bill, led by Sen. Andy Zay (R-Huntington), say that the proposed loan products offer better alternatives to unregulated loan sources – such as internet lenders – with even higher fees. They also maintain that they are a valid option for people with low credit scores who have few if any other choices for borrowing money.

"There are one million Hoosiers in this arena," said Zay, the bill's author. "What we are trying to accomplish is some stair-stepping of products that would create options for people to borrow money and even build credit."

Senate Bill 613 passed 26-23, just meeting the constitutional majority for passage. Opponents of the bill, including Sen. Justin Busch (R-Fort Wayne), argue that there are many alternatives to payday and other high-interest rate loans for needy individuals and families. Busch points to the example of Brightpoint, a community action agency serving northern Indiana, which offers loans of up to \$1,000 at 21 per-

cent APR. The monthly payment on the maximum loan is \$92.

"Experience has shown that organizations like Brightpoint can step into the void and be competitive," said Busch, who serves on the organization's board of directors. He added that his legislative office did not receive one phone call in support of Senate Bill 613 "that wasn't associated with payday lending outfits."

Tebbe emphasized that the Catholic Church and other religious institutions also stand ready to help people in desperate circumstances. Now, the ICC and other opponents of predatory lending are poised to continue advocating against the bill as it moves through the House.

"We were obviously disappointed by the outcome of both of the recent votes in the Senate," Tebbe said. "But the close votes indicate that there are serious concerns about predatory lending practices in our state."

Macey said that her agency

will engage state representatives on what she terms a "dangerous" bill that was passed "without proper study."

"I was incredibly shocked, both because of the substance of this bill and because of the process by which it moved," Macey said. "We still don't know the full implications of parts of this bill. We will meet with as many lawmakers as possible to educate them on the content of the bill and mobilize as much public pressure as we can to stop this from happening."

To follow priority legislation of the ICC, visit www.indianacc.org. This website includes access to I-CAN, the Indiana Catholic Action Network, which offers the Church's position on key issues. Those who sign up for I-CAN receive alerts on legislation moving forward and ways to contact their elected representatives.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Border bishops say real emergency is how to take care of migrants

EL PASO, Texas (CNS) — Bishops from Texas and Mexico called for a solidarity with migrants as a Catholic response to the national emergency declared at the U.S.-Mexico border. They also questioned if the emergency — declared by U.S. President Donald Trump to free up funds for building a border wall — was as urgent as attending to the waves of migrants seeking asylum in the United States, but who are forced to wait months to make their claims. “Our nation, the United States, has expressed that it is in a national emergency. ... We went to the border yesterday. The emergency is not here,” Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller of San Antonio said Feb. 27 at the closing of a border bishops’ meeting on immigration issues. “The emergency is what people are going through to try to come here to have peace, to have understanding, to have respect and have a genuine welcome. All the rhetoric that has been building up about how bad the ‘other’ people are has built up to this national emergency, which is a lie,” Archbishop Garcia-Siller added. “The emergency is how we are going to take care of those who are discriminated and those who are disadvantaged.”

Missouri House OKs bill to ban abortions after fetal heartbeat detected

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (CNS) — The Missouri House of Representatives Feb. 27 passed the Missouri Stands for the Unborn Act, an omnibus bill that bans abortion when the heartbeat of an unborn child can be detected, which could be as early as six weeks “depending on the method used.” The measure, H.B. 126, also limits late-term abortions after five months of pregnancy; declares the state of Missouri a “sanctuary of life”; bans abortions based on sex, race or Down syndrome; and requires abortion doctors to have adequate malpractice insurance. Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of the national pro-life group Susan B. Anthony List, said the state House’s “bold action shows the growing momentum to humanize our laws and challenge the radical status quo of Roe v. Wade. The United States is one of only seven nations — including China and North Korea — that allow abortion on demand through the moment of birth,” she said in a statement. “Ultimate passage of this compassionate bill would make Missouri the 21st state to stop cruel late-term abortions and enact some of the strongest protections in the country for unborn children and their mothers.”

Catholic Charities ‘ready to be a part of’ tornado recovery



CNS photo/Scott Fillmer via Reuters

People clear fallen trees and debris on a road following a tornado in Beaugard, Ala., March 3. At least 23 were confirmed dead in Lee County after a tornado whipped through Alabama and other parts of the South: Mobile Archbishop Thomas J. Rodi asked for prayers for “those who lost their lives and their loved ones as well as those who have lost homes and businesses. The catastrophic tornadoes in the Archdiocese of Mobile have brought loss of life and devastating damage,” said the archbishop in a March 4 statement. He added that as recovery efforts begin, Catholic Social Services of the Archdiocese of Mobile has reached out to the pastors of the affected areas to offer assistance for those in need and Catholic Social Services “stands ready” to be a part of the recovery.

500 religious groups, leaders seek end to ‘Remain in Mexico’ policy

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Calling the federal government’s migration protection protocols — also known as the “Remain in Mexico” policy — “baseless and immoral,” a coalition of 500 religious organizations and leaders have asked Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen for an immediate end to the policy. In a Feb. 26 letter to Nielsen, the religious groups and individuals said the policy “returns vulnerable asylum-seekers to Mexico and puts them at risk of further harm while they wait for their case to be processed in the

United States. Our diverse moral teachings find consistency in the absolute value of the human person and our obligation to protect the most vulnerable among us,” the letter said. “We call on you to uphold our country’s asylum law and respect asylum-seekers and others seeking protection as the human beings they are.” The letter cited two main reasons for ending the policy: It “puts people fleeing danger back in harm’s way,” and it “jeopardizes access to counsel, due process and (the) overall ability for a person to find safety in the United States. Our country’s asylum laws are based upon the international principle of non-refoulement — a promise that we as the United States will not send people back to countries where their lives or freedom will be at risk,” the letter said.

Dozens of religious orders and at least six Catholic Charities affiliates were among the Catholic signatories to the letter, as were the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, the Franciscan Action Center, the Catholic social justice lobby Network, the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, and Pax Christi USA. Likewise, dozens of women and men religious were among the individual signers to the letter.

Speaker says word games by Planned Parenthood hide reality of abortion

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. (CNS) — Alison Centofante, representing the pro-life advocacy

group Live Action, declared to an audience gathered in suburban Washington: “The biggest scam in our society today is that we are allowing a conversation about abortion to happen without making people define what an abortion is.” And so began a Feb. 28 conversation at the annual Conservative Political Action Conference with Centofante, Matt Smith of Catholic Advocate, U.S. Rep. Jody Hice, R-Georgia, and Mary Vought, an author and political consultant. The talk covered Planned Parenthood and how in the speakers’ view, the organization has desensitized both politicians and Americans in general to abortion. They also focused on various “scams” they said Planned Parenthood uses to lull people into ignorance about the organization does. The abortion provider uses word games, Centofante said. “(They) want a woman’s ‘right to choose’ what? What are you choosing to do?” Politicians who support a right to abortion and the media continue to lap up Planned Parenthood’s rhetoric, according to Centofante. “We have members of Congress that are voting (against) ... (anti) infanticide bills. ... We have a media that is allowed to talk about abortion in euphemisms ... ‘byproduct of conception’ ... ‘termination of pregnancy.’”

Ohio quintuplets continue school tradition in a way not seen before

COLUMBUS, Ohio (CNS) — When it comes to upholding tradition and pride in a particular school, the Whalen family of suburban New Albany takes a back seat to no one. The Whalens stand alongside families in which it’s not unusual for three and even four generations of students to have attended the same Catholic high school in the Diocese of Columbus. But come June 1, the family will rise to the top of the class when the 33rd and 34th family members graduate from St. Francis DeSales High School — and the 35th, 36th and 37th, too. Gina Whalen gave birth to Ben, Mary Kate, Grace, Emma and Alex in 2000. They will be the first set of five siblings to graduate from DeSales since its 1960 founding. They also are believed to be the first quintos to graduate from any of the diocese’s current 11 high schools. Their graduation will occur a little more than a month after their 19th birthday — April 22 — which also will be the 24th wedding anniversary of their parents and the 48th birthday of their father, Mike Whalen. The quintos have a younger sister, Lindsey, who turned 10 Feb. 6. Gina said she always has thought of the five as individuals rather than a unit, never doing things such as dressing them alike — and it’s readily apparent. Without being told they are quintuplets, someone might never realize it because each one has distinctive features.

Lenten prayer and music service planned for April 8

ST. MEINRAD — Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology will present a service of Lenten prayer and music called "Song of the Shadows."

It will be held on Monday, April 8, at 7 p.m. Central time in the school's St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel, St. Meinrad, Indiana. The service is free and open to the public.

Tenebrae is a Holy Week service that is at least 1,000 years old. Originally, Tenebrae was sung each day of the Triduum in a church lit only by 15 candles. These were extinguished one by one until the church was left in darkness.

At that point, a loud noise would be produced — with special hammers, the slamming of hymnals and doors, or by stomping on the floor — symbolizing the earthquake after Christ's death.

Like the "lessons and carols" services familiar at Christmas, Tenebrae consists of hymns and readings. Until the mid-1950s, when the Easter Vigil was revived, nearly every parish in the United States sang Tenebrae on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. Today, churches with Tenebrae services usually sing them once on a Lenten evening.

At the end of the service, there would be total darkness signifying Christ lying in the tomb. The word "Tenebrae" is Latin for "shadows" or "darkness." It can also be translated as "night" or "death." In recent years, the readings have been replaced with hymns in the form of a cantata introduced by a narrator.

The Saint Meinrad community offers a modified Tenebrae service

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Football state champs honored



Jodi Marlin

Members of the Bishop Dwenger High School football team enjoy lunch with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center in Fort Wayne on Feb. 27. The invitation to a pizza party was extended following the Saints' historic, four-overtime win against Evansville Central in 4A state playoff action during the fall.

by eliminating the candles and their sequential extinguishing. This change was made to be principally compliant with the history of the service, as the seminarian community is not on campus during Holy Week.

Over 40 seminarians, monks and community members will

be offering their talents for this Lenten service.

Parking is available in the Guest House and student parking lots. For more information, contact Mary Jeanne Schumacher during business hours at 812-357-6501. For updates on the day of the performance, call 812-357-6611.

'Rebuilding the Path to Christ' mission planned

NEW HAVEN — St. Louis, Besancon Church, 15535 Lincoln Hwy E., will have a parish mission, "Rebuilding the Path to Christ," on Sunday, March 17, in the hall. A

light supper will be from 5:15-6:30 p.m. An opening prayer service with speakers Brad and Elaine Smith on the topic, "Rebuilding the Path to Christ with Faith," will be followed by a small group discussion.

On Monday, March 18, following a light supper in hall from 5:15-6:30 p.m., the mission will move to the church for speaker Dan DeMatte. He will speak on the topic, "Rebuilding the Path to Christ with Prayer," followed by adoration.

On Tuesday, March 19, a light supper will be followed by a penance service/examination of conscience with speaker Father Jay Horning, who will speak on the topic, "Rebuilding the Path to Christ with the Sacrament of Reconciliation." Several priests will be available.

On Wednesday, March 20, a 5:30 p.m. Mass will be followed by speaker Father Andrew Budzinski, who will give a presentation on the topic, "Rebuilding the Path to Christ with the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist." Supper will follow in the hall.

Parish Lenten retreat

SOUTH BEND — Christ the King Parish, 52473 S.R. 933, will offer a Lenten retreat, "Our Family in Faith at Prayer" Sunday, March 17, through Tuesday, March 19, at 7 p.m. in the church.

Retreat Leaders are Bishop William Wack, CSC, and Father Neil Wack, CSC.

With the Holy Family as a guide, the retreat hopes to help the parish grow as a family at prayer. Bishop Wack and Father Wack grew up at Christ the King Parish and graduated from the parish grade school. Come for reflections on life in prayer as a family at faith. Visit www.christthekingonline.com for information.

New employees begin service in diocesan secretariats

FORT WAYNE — The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has welcomed three new employees who will assist in the functions of their respective offices.



CRYSTAL SERRANO-PUEBLA

Crystal Serrano-Puebla serves the diocese as associate director of Young Adult and Campus Ministry in the Secretariat for Evangelization and Discipleship.

Born and raised in Chicago, Serrano has a bachelor's degree in psychology with a double minor in theology and human resource management from Lewis University, as well as a master's degree in theology from the University of Notre Dame.

During her two years of post-graduate study in the Echo program she served the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana in the Office of Family Life and Hispanic Ministry, after which Serrano was national formation coordinator for Pastoral Migratoria, or Hispanic Immigrant Social Ministry, for the Archdiocese of Chicago. She looks forward to working with the young adult and campus ministry community in the greater Fort Wayne area.

Elisa Smith is the controller for the diocese, in the Business Office of the Secretariat for Administrative Services. Her responsibilities include working with parishes in reviewing financial statements and internal controls to ensure accuracy, com-



ELISA SMITH

pleteness and compliance with diocesan guidelines.

She formerly served as director of planned giving for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend from 2003-11. With over 30 years of experience in accounting and taxes, Smith said she feels that "if parishioners know their parish has a transparent and accountable financial

process, then trust is gained among the pastor, parish staff and parishioners."

"Our Catholic faith teaches us to serve others. What better way for me to do that than to serve parishes," she expressed.

In the Office of Development, Elizabeth Long brings a wealth of knowledge and experience from the financial industry, most recently at Raymond James & Associates. She serves the Secretariat for Stewardship and Development as parish liaison for the Annual Bishop's Appeal and Seminarian Education Fund Appeal, assists parishioners with Annual Bishop's Appeal pledges, tax information and questions, and assists both parishioners and financial advisors with gift stock transfers to the Annual Bishop's Appeal, capital campaigns, schools and the Seminarian Education Fund. She also will follow through to make sure gifts are properly allocated and acknowledged, and assist with obtaining information to

apply for grants.

A Fort Wayne resident for many years, Long graduated from Snider High School and is a member of the Hand Bell Choir of her parish, St. Charles Borromeo. She hopes to apply her experience in the financial industry to that of her new position while providing parishes and the faithful with efficiency and reliability.



ELIZABETH LONG

You Can Lend a Hand luncheons celebrate Catholic Schools

BY JENNIFER MILLER

Thirty-seven years of support by Quality Dining, Inc. for Catholic schools has made an immeasurable difference in the lives of students and their families. On Jan. 31 in Fort Wayne and March 1 in South Bend, the company also thanked Catholic school teachers and administrators for their dedication and excellent work, at the annual You Can Lend a Hand luncheons.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Amy Johns and Carl Loesch, head of the Secretariat for Catholic Education, presented several prestigious awards at the event.

The Light of Learning Award recognizes one teacher from each Catholic school in the diocese. The nominees are educators who communicate well the ultimate goal of Catholic education, which is ensuring that the light of Christ is brought to every student, and that each student learns the importance of prayer, liturgy and service in their daily lives. "These educators do whatever is necessary to help children grow in the faith, develop their God-given gifts, and be formed as disciples — students who know, love and serve Christ," Johns said.

Light of Learning recipients are chosen by their fellow faculty and staff members, school parents, their parish councils and school administrators. Each Light of Learning recipient was recognized at the school level, as well as with an invitation to the luncheon.

Also honored were recipients

of the annual Msgr. J. William Lester Award: Carol Cornell, Fort Wayne, and the Fitzpatrick family of South Bend. Both Cornell and the Fitzpatricks mirrored Msgr. Lester's lifelong passion, tenacity and unselfish enthusiasm for and dedication to local Catholic schools.

Msgr. Lester was a longtime priest in the diocese who served as superintendent of Catholic schools and was a champion of Catholic education. Bishop John M. D'Arcy said at his funeral that "no priest has done more for our diocese than Msgr. Lester," Quality Dining CEO and Chairman of the Board Dan Fitzpatrick remarked.

Cornell began teaching religion at Bishop Dwenger High School in 1973, retiring in 2003. She still shares Church history by giving lectures for RCIA classes and teaching religious education at St. Vincent de Paul Parish.

Believing "a Catholic education is worth every dime," Cornell and her husband, Lyle, were generous in providing scholarship funding. Since Lyle's passing in 2000, Carol established, and she and her friend, have funded the Lyle Cornell Scholarship in his memory.

The Fitzpatrick family has been an integral part of Marian High School, Mishawaka, the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and, since its inception, the You Can Lend a Hand program. Born and raised in Toledo, Ohio, the seven siblings attended Catholic elementary and high schools. Raised with "servant hearts," they learned the value and importance of hard work at a very young age.

Through their careers at



John Martin

The annual Light of Learning Award is given to a teacher in each school in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend who makes an outstanding effort to help students grow in the Catholic faith.

Quality Dining, the Fitzpatricks built upon that foundation of dedication and leadership. The company mantra is, "Love the Guest, Help Each Other." QDI is headquartered in Mishawaka and owns and operates more than 225 restaurants, employing nearly 10,000 people in seven states. Through the You Can Lend a Hand program, they have raised almost \$11 million over the years to support area Catholic schools.

Addressing the teachers and administrators present at the luncheon, Bishop Rhoades compared the joy he witnessed at the recent celebration of World Youth Day in Panama to the joy he frequently sees when he visits the schools of the diocese.

"As schools of the Gospel, joy should be a hallmark of true Christian communities," he said, noting that this joy was also present in the early Christian communities, as evidenced in the

Acts of the Apostles. Even amid persecution, early Christians continued to be "filled with joy" (Acts 13:52).

"As I mentioned, I often see this spirit of Christian joy in our Catholic schools," he said. "That spirit is a good sign that the school is living its Catholic identity."

"Education of the mind should not be at the expense of the heart. Good teachers help students to enjoy learning and the discovery of new things. They are mindful of their students' struggles and seek to help them. They facilitate joy and enthusiasm, not anxiety and depression. Our Catholic schools aim to foster our children's healthy growth and development: mentally, physically, emotionally, and spiritually. The education in the faith, the centrality of God and His love in our lives, is the most powerful force for healthy growth and the cultiva-

tion of the joy that is a primary characteristic of true disciples of Jesus Christ."

"Catholic schools are to be nurturing environments in which young people can grow and prosper at their own pace, balancing high standards with realistic and compassionate expectations. Can we not be A-ranked schools without sacrificing the joy of learning?" he asked. "What matters most in life is not an 'A.' There are other things we must value more in our Catholic schools: faith, integrity, determination, the well-being of our students, creativity, thirst for knowledge, respect, compassion, confidence, kindness, and love. With these virtues and attitudes comes joy."

We must never put Christ or the dignity of the human person aside or in second place, the bishop said. "We don't just 'fit' Christ into the program. He is the vital principle and center, the Teacher, in an authentically Catholic school. When He is, the joy of His Gospel will be evident in the community. Pope Francis says: 'The joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus.' Our Catholic schools are to be communities where this holy encounter takes place."

The very name of the You Can Lend a Hand program focuses particularly on the values of kindness and love, by a person's choice to help others in need, said John Firth, president of Quality Dining.

"There is so much more than needs to be done. There are so many ways people can help! If you are a painter, we need you to paint. If you can come out and volunteer at a school, please do. If you can find a way to lend a hand, we'd love to have you!"



Tracy Martin, Quality Dining, Inc.

The South Bend-area winners are, in no particular order: Christ the King School, Beth Fenske; Corpus Christi School, Justin Koselke; Holy Cross School, Deanna Finfrock; Holy Family School, Brittany Korpala; Our Lady of Hungary School, Kelly Jones; St. Adalbert School, Mary DeMott; St. Anthony de Padua School, South Bend, Katherine Alexander; St. John the Baptist School, South Bend, Julie Malenda; St. Joseph School, South Bend, Rachel Schroeder; St. Jude School, South Bend, Jessica Sheehan; St. Matthew Cathedral School, Anita Hunckler; Queen of Peace School, Mishawaka, Kerri Thilman; Mishawaka Catholic School, Angie Penn; St. Thomas the Apostle School, Carrie Olen; St. Vincent de Paul School, Elkhart, Cynthia Zyniewicz; St. John the Evangelist School, Goshen, Joscelyn Acosta, and administrator awardee Mattie Willerton; St. Pius X School, Granger, Elizabeth Murphy; St. Michael School, Plymouth, William Bailey Combs; Marian High School, Mishawaka, David Rosenbaum; Saint Joseph High School, Andrew Oross; St. Stanislaus Kostka School, Michigan City, Cindy Johnston; and St. Mary School, Niles, Lisa Bentley.



Photos by John Martin

Light of Learning Award winners in Fort Wayne and the surrounding area are, in the front row, from left: Julianne Grignol, Our Lady of Good Hope School; Karen Tippmann, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton; Peggy Beuchel, St. John the Baptist, New Haven; Brandy Scrogam, St. Mary of the Assumption, Avilla; Jessica Howard, St. Joseph; Bishop Rhoades; Jessica Sharp, St. Rose of Lima, Monroeville; Kristy Beachy, St. John the Baptist; Chad Hormann, St. Therese; Julie Ramp, Huntington Catholic, Huntington; and Cristy Jordan, administrative award recipient, St. Joseph. In the second row are Secretary for Catholic Education Carl Loesch; Matthew VanRyn, St. Vincent de Paul; Virginia Simpson, Queen of Angels; Elaine Smith, St. Louis Academy, New Haven; Maria Pittenger, St. Charles Borromeo; Angela Zumbaugh, St. Bernard, Wabash; Tracy Miller, St. Aloysius; Rachael Fravel, St. Joseph, Decatur; Heather Briggs, Bishop Luers High School; Stephen Yackley, St. Jude; Carol Sarasien, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel; Alisa Korte, Most Precious Blood; Patricia Faroh, Sacred Heart, Warsaw; Donald Cochran, Bishop Dwenger High School; and Assistant Superintendent of Catholic Schools Amy Johns.



Carol Cornell, Fort Wayne, receives the Msgr. J. William Lester Award from Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.



The You Can Lend a Hand program supports Catholic schools throughout the diocese. To date, over \$11 million has been donated.



Father James Schafer, left, and Father Jay Horning await the start of the luncheon that will recognize their schools' teachers for excellence in instilling the Catholic faith in students.



Cristy Jordán, principal of St. Joseph School, Fort Wayne, poses with Bishop Rhoades after receiving the Fort Wayne-area Light of Learning administrative award.

Bishop welcomes Catholic-Lutheran dialogue during musical performance at Notre Dame

BY JENNIFER MILLER

Surrounded by the divine in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart and aided by superior acoustics and an attentive audience, the National Lutheran Choir performed on Thursday evening, Feb. 28, at the University of Notre Dame. A special feature of the choir's 2019 Winter Tour performance was "The Holy Spirit Mass," a stirring musical setting for voice and strings set to the traditional Mass parts and created by Norwegian composer Kim Andre Arnesen.

In attendance and offering a welcome at the performance were Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and Bishop William Gafkjen of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

The "Holy Spirit Mass" was commissioned in honor of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, as well as 50 years of Catholic-Lutheran dialogue. It followed the spirit of the 2017 document "From Conflict to Communion," which called upon Roman Catholics and Lutherans, divided by the Reformation, to seek unity rather than that which divides, in order to strengthen what is held in common. The text of the piece includes words from the Mass and those of a hymn, "Veni Creator Spiritus," that are held in common. The seven-movement work for strings and choir also includes a stanza of Luther's hymn, "Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord."

"Music can be a channel that leads to God and helps us to encounter Him and touches our hearts and uplifts our minds to the One who is the Supreme



Jennifer Miller

Baptism is one of the sacraments of initiation, and one held in common for both Catholics and Lutherans — following Jesus' example. Here, the National Lutheran Choir performs the Holy Spirit Mass before the baptismal font at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Notre Dame.

Beauty. I thank this wonderful choir," Bishop Rhoades offered. "Listening to you truly lifts our minds and hearts to God, the supreme composer."

He spoke of the unity, as well as the pain of separation, experienced in the past 500 years, encouraging all Christians to seek Jesus and put Him at the center of the dialogue as they remain open to the power of the Holy Spirit.

"Speaking of the spiritual value of the art of music, I also wish to mention how it instills hope in the human spirit, which is so often scarred and wounded by our earthly condition," he said. "This is particularly true when I think of the wounds to Christian unity. This con-

cert instills hope — here we are together this evening as brothers and sisters in Christ, listening to a Lutheran choir singing a composition of the Holy Mass here in a Catholic basilica.

"Our division seems small when we pray together and when we are together uplifted by this music to the beauty of our Creator. The ties which bind us seem stronger tonight. The goal of full unity seems closer when we pray together. This is a movement of the Holy Spirit, who is the real protagonist in our quest for the restoration of full communion."

Bishop Rhoades' reminder followed in the footsteps of Pope Francis' historic visit to Sweden in 2017, marking the

500th anniversary and giving Sweden — a country that experienced extreme Catholic-Lutheran turmoil in its history — a new Catholic cardinal.

"It is good to give thanks for the significant ecumenical progress these past five decades," said Bishop Rhoades. "It is important not to lose our ecumenical resolve nor our hope for Christian unity, but to pray and work with renewed fervor for this cause. This is part of our fidelity to Christ, who prayed to the Father that all His disciples may be one. I thank the National Lutheran Choir for this concert, which not only strengthens the bonds of communion between us

CHOIR, page 11

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Jennifer Miller

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, left, and Bishop Wililam Gafkjen of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America applaud during a performance of "Holy Spirit Mass" by the National Lutheran Choir at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Notre Dame, Feb. 28.

CHOIR, from page 10

but also is itself a great prayer for Christian unity."

Hailing from the Twin Cities in Minnesota, the National Lutheran Choir is under the direction of conductor, composer, and organist Dr. David Cherwien. The 60-member choir features vocalists with incredible voice, range and ability, and follows the Lutheran choral tradition while including pieces of modernity. Many of the adults in the choir had developed their talents during college, in classic musical training programs like the one at

St. Olaf College.

Carolyn Pirtle, Christ the King, South Bend, parishioner and a Catholic musician herself, felt that "the choir and orchestra performed the piece really well, and that the music's focus on the Holy Spirit made a strong statement in favor of ecumenical unity.

"I was struck in particular by the moment near the conclusion of the piece when the choir was singing almost improvisationally," she said. "It created an effect like a rushing wind or like the choir was singing in tongues — a pneumatic musical moment."



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95.7 FM Michiana Sharathon
March 20-22

	Wednesday, March 13	Thursday, March 14	Friday, March 15
8:00 am	Women's Care Center	St. Therese Fort Wayne	Our Sunday Visitor
9:00 am	St. Mary Decatur	Franciscan Center	
10:00 am	St. Patrick Arcola	Double Your Dollar Tippmann Hour	Queen of Angels Fort Wayne
11:00 am	Our Lady of Good Hope Fort Wayne	St. Joseph Hessen Cassel	
Noon	St. Vincent de Paul Fort Wayne	St. John the Baptist Fort Wayne	Allen County Right to Life
1:00 pm	Most Precious Blood Fort Wayne	St. Charles Fort Wayne	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Fort Wayne
2:00 pm	Huntington Catholic	St. Jude Fort Wayne	St. Paul of the Cross Columbia City
3:00 pm	St. Louis, Besancon New Haven	St. John the Baptist New Haven	St. Robert Bellarmine North Manchester
4:00 pm	Saint Anne Communities	Blessed Sacrament Albion	Bishop Luers High School
5:00 pm	Catholic Medical Guild	St. Henry Fort Wayne	St. Anthony of Padua Angola
6:00 pm	106.3 Business Underwriter Hour	106.3 Sport Hour	Rekindle the Fire

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Congress and infanticide

Catholic philosopher Peter Kreeft once found himself arguing with an abortion supporter, and said to her: "Give me one argument that defends abortion that doesn't also defend infanticide."

He was pleasantly surprised when she later said he had convinced her. "Congratulations," he said, "you've seen the logic." "Yeah," she replied, "now I'm for infanticide."

As Kreeft says at the end of his story, "sometimes logic is dangerous."

The logic of the campaign for abortion is becoming clearer. New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo has enthusiastically signed a state law that rescinds all meaningful limits on abortion throughout pregnancy — and protection for a child born alive during an attempted abortion. Other states face similar proposals.

And in Congress, Democrats in both chambers have blocked a bill that, like the old New York law, would protect live-born babies. Only three Senate Democrats voted to let it move forward.

The shifting boundary between abortion and infanticide has a history, beginning with the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision in 1973. The court went beyond all 50 state laws to authorize abortion after "viability" (when a child can survive outside the womb). Live delivery is always an alternative in such cases — so the decision seemed to support not only a right to end a pregnancy, but a right to a dead child.

Courts then acted on this logic, nullifying charges against doctors accused of fatally neglecting a

child born alive during an abortion (the Edelin case in 1975) or of actively killing one (the Waddell case in 1978). The Supreme Court itself invalidated Pennsylvania's efforts to ensure that during a post-viability abortion, a second physician be present to care for a child who survived.

Dissenting from such a decision in 1986, *Thornburgh v. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists*, Chief Justice Warren Burger said he had signed the majority opinion in *Roe* believing it would not lead to abortion on demand, much less results like this. Appalled by the court's extremism, he suggested that *Roe* itself be reconsidered.

In his book "Rachel Weeping," Father James Burtchael writes that courts had begun to see the dividing line of birth "as somewhat like a state border, which an officer of one jurisdiction may disregard if he is following a fugitive in hot pursuit."

Later, policymakers pulled back from this brink. The public learned of a late-term "partial-birth abortion" technique that kills the child already partly outside the womb. Congress banned it in 2003, with even "pro-choice" senators like Daniel Patrick Moynihan saying it was too close to infanticide — and the Supreme Court upheld the ban in 2007. Pennsylvania refined its law protecting newborns, and it remains in effect. Late-term abortionist Kermit Gosnell was convicted of violating that law in 2013, after killing children born alive during attempted abortions.

And in 2002, with little



A MORE HUMAN SOCIETY

RICHARD DOERFLINGER

dissent, Congress passed the "Born-Alive Infants Protection Act" that simply said a child showing signs of life outside the womb after delivery, miscarriage or abortion is a "person" under federal law. During House debate, abortion advocate Rep. Jerrold Nadler complained only that he had to "put on a show" of approving something everyone already agreed on.

But now a "Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act" would simply implement what Congress said in 2002: Because the child surviving an abortion is a person, you may not intentionally kill the child, and you must provide the same care as you would for other newborn children of that gestational age. And abortion supporters, with a renewed appreciation for their own logic, are working to defeat it.

Slogans about women controlling their own bodies, a choice to "terminate" unwanted pregnancies, etc., are falling away, so the logic of abortion can be seen for what it is — simply anti-life.

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

The ones who weave: repairing the social fabric

When David Brooks travels the country, he seeks out the good news. The bad news is all too easy to find.

As a *New York Times* columnist writing about the social sciences, Brooks logs many miles for his reporting and speaking circuit. The 57-year-old father is keenly aware of the deep political fissures that upend kitchen tables and family reunions. He hears from parents whose children took their own lives. He talks to families whose loved ones overdosed on drugs. And he asks himself: What now?

"Aren't we all called at moments like these to do something extra?" Brooks wrote last month in a column.

Despite the isolation darkening and defining our era, he noticed, every community has "weavers" who stitch together the social fabric. There's the vet he met in New Orleans who helps other mentally ill vets, the Chicago woman looking out for neglected kids in her neighborhood, the guy who runs a boxing gym in Appalachian Ohio, where he teaches young men about boxing and about life.

Brooks founded a program called "Weave: The Social Fabric Project" to help us more broadly replicate these community builders. He has synthesized their observations: "The phrase we heard most was 'the whole person.' Whether you are a teacher, a nurse or a neighbor, you have to see and touch the whole person — the trauma,



TWENTY SOMETHING

CHRISTINA CAPECCI

the insecurities and the dreams as much as the body and the brain."

This language rings of Catholic social teaching, though the program is secular in scope. And Brooks points the way by identifying a crucial skill of weavers: the ability to listen.

The weavers who come to mind, when I consider this classification, are Catholic sisters. This March, as part of Women's History Month, we celebrate their impact with National Catholic Sisters Week. While laypeople honor their legacy, women religious are hosting events of their own — not to pat themselves on the back but to pay it forward, to continue their work of healing a fractured nation. Many center on listening.

Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Dubuque, Iowa, for instance, are launching a "Listen Up!" campaign to encourage deep listening among people of all backgrounds. The Sisters of Charity Foundation in Cleveland, Ohio, meanwhile, will lead a workshop on civil

CAPECCI, page 13

Return to God and repel sin, as Jesus did



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

First Sunday of Lent Luke 4:1-13

The Book of Deuteronomy provides the first reading for this first Sunday of Lent. Deuteronomy recalls the flight of the Hebrews from Egypt, where they had been slaves. This trip, called the Exodus, was filled with risks and hardships. The Egyptians pursued them. The Sinai Peninsula, through which they passed, was unforgiving, harsh and sterile of the necessities of life.

Even so, Deuteronomy is not a story of doom and gloom. It is hopeful. Always ahead is the Promised Land. Always, God intervenes with mercy, provisions and guidance.

The people, however, did not always repay God with their faithfulness. They rebelled against God, and they doubted God. Nevertheless, God again and again came to their aid.

For its second reading this weekend, the Church provides us with a reading from Paul's powerful Epistle to the Romans. The Apostle wrote this epistle, or letter, to the Christians living in Rome, the imperial capital and the center of the Mediterranean world in the first century A.D.

These Christians of Rome, a group of converts from Judaism as well as former pagans, lived in a culture that was utterly at odds with the Gospel. The conflict was decidedly more pronounced since Rome literally was the center of everything. It became a dangerous city for Christians when politics and the law turned against them.

Paul urged the Romans to be strong by uniting themselves to God through faith in Jesus. Strong in his own faith, Paul told the Romans that if they trusted in the Lord, none would be put to shame. Paul expressly

mentioned the resurrection, the miracle by which Jesus, crucified and dead, rose again to life.

Finally, Paul insisted, God's mercy and life, given in Christ, are available to all: Greeks and foreigners, as well as to Jews, who were the Chosen People.

St. Luke's Gospel gives us a scene also depicted in Mark and Matthew, namely a story of the temptation of Christ by the devil.

Here, the two figures, Jesus and the devil, stand in bold, dramatic contrast. The devil, so often depicted at least in myth and lore as so very powerful, as indeed the devil is, comes across as indecisive and struggling. For instance, the devil realizes the identity of Jesus, but he cannot fully grasp what it all means. So, Satan seeks to tempt Jesus to not be faithful to God, but rather to succumb to the lure of material things.

Jesus, "filled with the Holy Spirit," is serenely in control. He is the Son of God. He also is human, however, so the devil used food to tempt Jesus. Jesus was fasting as a discipline.

Defeated for the moment,

the devil did not relent but only waited for another opportunity to frustrate the Lord's mission of redemption.

Reflection

Several days ago, on Ash Wednesday, the Church invited us to use the season of Lent as a means to holiness. In so doing, it was not asking us to begin a walk along an imagined primrose path. Always frank and direct, the Church told us what holiness requires. Being holy means turning to God, entirely. We must avoid sin. We must recognize our human vulnerability in the face of temptation.

Evil happens because people sin. The devil is real. Sin is alluring. Falling for its seeming appeal is part of being human. We need the Lord's perception and strength when temptation comes.

This reading from Mark reveals to us the fact that devil is no match for Jesus.

In Lent, the Church calls us to turn to Jesus. If we have strayed

from God, as did the Hebrews in the Sinai, God welcomes our return and embraces us.

We, however, must return to God, without qualification, and repel sin the way the Lord put Satan in his place.

READINGS

Sunday: Dt 26:4-10 Ps 91:1-2, 10-15
Rom 10:8-13 Lk 4:1-13

Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18 Ps 19:8-10,
15 Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday: Is 55:10-11 Ps 34:4-7,
16-19 Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10 Pd 51:3-4,
12-13, 18-19 Lk 11:29-32

Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25 Ps
138:1-3, 7c-8 Mt 7:7-12

Friday: Ez 18:21-28 Ps 130:1-8 Mt
5:20-26

Saturday: Dt 26:16-19 Ps 27:1, 7-9,
13-14 Phil 3:17—4:1 Lk 9:28b-36

Heart work for Lent

Recently I was captivated by an opinion editorial in *USA Today* titled "I've played a role in toxic public debate" by CNN political analyst Kirsten Powers. I am not familiar with the author and have not watched her on television. Powers took a leave from social media to reflect on her role in the "increasingly toxic public square."

Her subsequent assessment: "I cringed at many of the things I had written and said. Many I would not say or write today, sometimes because my view has changed on the issue and sometimes just because I was too much of a crusader, too judgmental and condemning. ... I will continue to stand on the side of equality and justice, but also mercy and grace. My goal is to speak in a way that remembers the humanity of everyone involved."

Our society is not shy about expressing our opinions as people resort to the many channels of social media to give these the loudest amplification.

We opine quickly before we see all the angles, nuances of context and underlying complexity. We gloat in acerbic mockery and derive certain satisfaction in the public humiliation of offenders. We forget that we are dealing with human beings and not surprisingly fail miserably in our ability to address any serious issue, may it be global warming, immigration, health care, gun safety, etc.

Among the many blueprints

for our Lenten observances, Powers' conversion is definitely on the mark. She withdrew from a practice that she sensed to be polarizing and divisive.

Powers had the humility to acknowledge how her lifelong professional, creative and heart-felt work may have been an obstacle. By so doing, her priority pivoted toward "the other" as she recognized the importance of grace and mercy: ultimately the grammar for constructive discourse.

Powers set the tone for Lent by seeking to recover in her writing "the humanity of everyone involved." Taking the cue from her, our goal for prayer, fasting and almsgiving can reorient us toward a way of thinking, communicating and acting that restores the barren and scorched commons in our own civil neighborhoods for thoughtful and caring dialogue.

In our prayer, we ask God to help us hear Him, recall His image particularly in the people we dismiss or denigrate, and heed His call for mercy. Understanding our own limits, we pray for His help to imitate His tenderness, and mind His warning to leave the judging to Him. We seek His imagination to address the fears and insecurities that harden us and pitch us against the other.

Fasting invites us to look at our appetites and dependence on anything other than God. Most of the things we go overboard on, like food and comfort, have



OUR GLOBAL FAMILY

CAROLYN WOO

some positive value that then lures us beyond healthy portions. When we look only to ourselves as the source of wisdom and the arbitrator of what is acceptable or unacceptable to God, we have gone too far. We can fast from an indulgence in our own righteousness and unchecked appetite for winning.

Almsgiving turns us to the needs of others. There is so much we can give to the other: attention, genuine listening, understanding of their positions and the fears that padlock these in place, legitimacy of their needs, and the dreams we hold in common.

Lent is the season for heart work: from heart of stone to heart of flesh. It is an invitation to cultivate our humanity toward each other so that we do not make a mockery of Christ's ultimate sacrifice for all of us.

Carolyn Woo is the distinguished president's fellow for global development at Purdue University.

baseball team. The 89-year-old dynamo who stands less than 5 feet tall will be perched behind a massage chair near the stadium's front entrance, loosening strained muscles. But she treats the whole person. Her healing touch extends beyond her strong hands to her listening ear.

Some people air their grievances with the Catholic Church. Others lament the state of their marriage and their bank account.

"People need to talk," Sister Rosalind said. "They need to share some of that pain. They'll

say, 'While you're massaging me, will you pray for me?' And everybody gets a hug in the massage chair."

Yes, these are the weavers, the ones who knead our knots as they knit us together. In these troubled times, they are our hope.

Christina Capecci is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota.

CAPECCHI, from page 12

discourse, providing tools to address controversial topics. And Carmelite sisters in Baltimore are inviting teens to their monastery for a retreat that will help them learn to listen to God's voice. This has become more difficult now that young adults have cell phones, "a 24/7 public-opinion poll in their pockets," said Sister Cecilia Ashton, a retreat organizer.

Here in my hometown, Sister Rosalind Gefre, CSJ, is gearing up for her 27th season with the St. Paul Saints, a minor league

Saint of the Week



Frances of Rome

1384-1440
Feast March 9

This laywoman and foundress, born a Roman aristocrat, married Lorenzo Ponziano when she was 13; they had several children. In 1409, their palazzo was pillaged by Neapolitan soldiers and Lorenzo was exiled for five years, returning home a broken man. He died in 1436. Frances, known for her great charity during epidemics and civil war, organized a ladies society dedicated to self-denial and good works. It became the Oblates of Tor de Specchi, which she directed for her last four years. She is the patron saint of motorists, perhaps because she was guarded for 23 years by an archangel visible only to her. Her last words were: "The angel has finished his work. He is beckoning me to follow."

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for March 10, 2019

Luke 4:1-13

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the First Sunday of Lent, Cycle C: Jesus in the desert with temptation. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

SPIRIT	JORDAN	FORTY DAYS
TEMPTED	NOTHING	SON OF GOD
COMMAND	BECOME	BREAD
WRITTEN	NOT LIVE	SHOWED
WORSHIP ME	THE LORD	TEMPLE
THROW	ANGELS	FOOT
AGAINST	A STONE	TO THE TEST

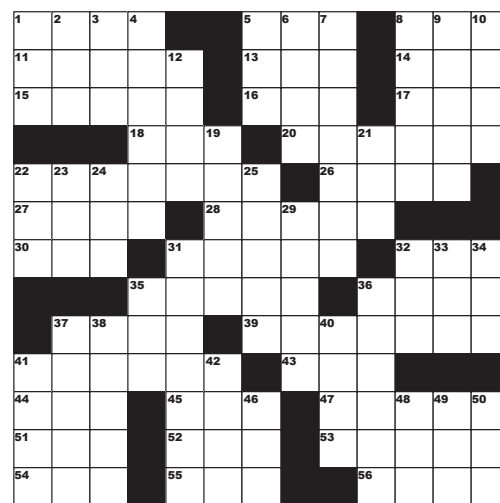
BY THE DEVIL

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

The Cross Word

March 3 and 10, 2019

- 52 Able
- 53 Tempted Jesus
- 54 Blessed ___ you"
- 55 Noah's boat
- 56 Where a yoke goes



DOWN

- 1 Her
- 2 British drink
- 3 Colony insect
- 4 White meat of chicken
- 5 Easter month
- 6 Manger
- 7 Chinese grapefruits
- 8 Sub-continent
- 9 Harm
- 10 Uncollected
- 12 Pen fillers
- 19 Promising beginner
- 21 She
- 22 Deli order
- 23 Common pope name

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Readings: Sir 27:4-7 1 Cor 15:54-58 and Lk 6:39-45 and Dt 26:4-10; Rom 10:8-13; Lk 4:1-13

ACROSS

- 1 Plunge knife
- 5 American College of Physicians (abbr.)
- 8 ___ Jima
- 11 Saint-___, Montreal
- 13 Not against
- 14 Today
- 15 The apple was
- 16 Edge of jar
- 17 Owed
- 18 Dog registry
- 20 "Get ___ me, Satan"
- 22 Flower head

27 Purple season

- 28 Ursa ___
- 30 Digit
- 31 ___ Christ
- 32 "Strong hand and outstretched ___"
- 35 Christmas song
- 36 Epiphany light
- 37 Stack of paper
- 39 Brother's sons
- 41 Corruptible
- 43 School group
- 44 Terminal abbr.
- 45 Next Vatican Council
- 47 Glide
- 51 Distress call

- 24 We believe in ___ God
- 25 Brick worker
- 29 Mint ___
- 31 Caribbean nation
- 32 Jesus ___ nothing for 40 days
- 33 Uncooked
- 34 Mr.'s wife
- 35 Mouse catcher
- 36 When the sieve is ___
- 37 Part of a brake
- 38 Rub out
- 40 Stress disorder
- 41 Plateau
- 42 Fibber
- 46 Pen stuff
- 48 ___ Maria
- 49 Twitching

Answer Key can be found on page 15

'Examination of Conscience,' streaming on Netflix

BY CHRIS BYRD

NEW YORK (CNS) — The recent Vatican summit on clergy sexual abuse called for more urgent, concrete and specific action to manifest the church's unequivocal commitment to zero tolerance. The scandalous revelations that preceded — and necessitated — that unprecedented gathering make the Netflix docuseries "Examination of Conscience" all-too timely.

The unsettling but important and powerful three-hour film is currently streaming in Spanish, with English subtitles. Written and directed by Albert Sole, "Examination of Conscience" investigates sexual abuse in Spain's Catholic schools, seminaries and summer camps. Notably, Sole doesn't limit his scrutiny to transgressors among the clergy, but also explores abuse by lay employees.

Sole utilizes dramatic reenactments, contemporary video, still photographs and archival film footage to amplify the story of the horrific violation of children by people employed to protect, nurture and edify them. But it's the statements of survivors — and, in one remarkably

exceptional instance, an abuser — that most vitally inform "Examination of Conscience."

In the series' quietly immersive prologue, 36-year-old child psychologist Miguel Hurtado decides to confront Benedictine monk Andreu Soler. Two decades ago, Soler abused Hurtado while the latter was part of the scouting program Soler ran in the 1990s in the Montserrat mountain range of Spain's Catalonia region.

Raised a staunch Catholic, Hurtado, an emigre to Britain who has been living in London for six years, once considered entering the priesthood. But after Soler victimized him, Hurtado says, "My world collapsed. My belief system crumbled. I was left rudderless. And then, from the ruins, I had to rebuild my life plan."

In doing so, this affable, thoughtful — though understandably intense — mental health practitioner became an activist on behalf of his fellow survivors. His quest to connect with them shapes his narrative.

Thus we're introduced to the story of Emiliano Alvarez. When Alvarez, who's now in his 50s, was a student at La Baneza seminary in northern Spain in

the 1970s, he, like many others, fell prey to one of the instructors there, pederast Jose Manuel Ramos Gordon.

By day, Alvarez explains, Gordon possessed "the face of a good guy, the perfect saint." At night, however, the blonde cleric turned into a "demon," prowling for adolescent boys to molest. By Alvarez's estimate, of the 80 students in the school's dormitory, only 20 were left untouched.

In a series replete with memorable moments, Alvarez's confrontation with his abuser may impress viewers most enduringly. Meeting Gordon on the street outside his home, Alvarez says: "After all that, my life was nothing more than drugs and trouble, Mr. Angel."

In response, Gordon, until recently a priest in good standing in the Diocese of Astorga, behaves as if he's suffering from amnesia where the grievous pain he inflicted on his former student is concerned. It's an attitude that will trouble, sadden and perhaps astonish the audience.

"Examination of Conscience" occasionally features some strong language, though this doesn't register as at all gratuitous, given the context. And

substance abuse and suicide are necessarily prominent themes. Add to these elements the program's candid discussions of graphic sexual matters, and it becomes clear that the show is most appropriate for adults.

By contrast with the celebrated, Academy Award-winning 2015 film "Spotlight," which focused on the shoe-leather journalism that revealed the sexual abuse cover-up in the Archdiocese of Boston, "Examination of Conscience" concentrates on survivors and their moving, articulate testimony. But Sole succeeds in going even further, bravely adding the reflections of an offender as well.

Joaquin Benitez used his former position as a physical education teacher at Les Corts, a Barcelona high school run by the Marist brothers, to abuse several boys. His comments on his own wrongdoing may help viewers better understand what drives people to commit such sinful crimes. And comprehending

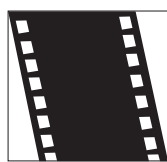
pedophiles' motivation may help the Church better prevent predatory behavior.

The film's generally fair-minded approach breaks down briefly with the appearance of psychologist Pepe Rodriguez, who sweepingly asserts: "Every case around the world is structured identically. Bishops cover it up the same way."

Such a statement not only overgeneralizes a global phenomenon, but ignores the genuine progress that has been made in combating the problem.

Overall, though, "Examination of Conscience" offers an outstanding and eloquent examination of a profoundly disturbing topic. The program may make for uncomfortable viewing, especially for faithful Catholics. But the subject it explores can only benefit from being exposed, however belatedly, to the light of day.

Chris Byrd is a guest reviewer for Catholic News Service.



MOVIE CAPSULES

NEW YORK (CNS) — Following are capsule reviews by the Office for Film & Broadcasting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World" (Universal)

Visuals are sumptuous, but the story scant as writer-director Dean DeBlois wraps up a trilogy of animated adventures in all three of which, based on books by Cressida Cowell, he has had a hand. Now the ruler of the community of Vikings whose aversion to dragons he cured, the lad (voice of Jay Baruchel) at the center of the franchise continues his romance with his true love (voice of America Ferrera) even as he battles a villain (voice of F. Murray Abraham) intent on ensnaring his beloved pet fire-breather. There's a melancholy feel to the script's ultimate lesson in altruism, though, like the values throughout, it's a message in keeping with a Christian perspective. Yet the dialogue often breaks down into wooden declarations so self-satisfied they're grating. Still, it's a feast for the eyes that's safe for all but timid tots and those too impressionable for the vaguely pagan milieu. Characters in peril, much thoroughly stylized combat, mythological references,

fleeting childish scatological humor. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

"Fighting With My Family" (MGM)

The fact-based story of a tight-knit British family obsessed with the sport of wrestling makes for an entertaining comedy-drama, written and directed by Stephen Merchant. Saraya-Jade Bevis (Florence Pugh) is inspired by her parents (Lena Headey and Nick Frost), both former wrestlers, and her brother and erstwhile sparring partner (Jack Lowden), to pursue her talent in the ring. Facing seemingly insurmountable challenges, she is invited by the World Wrestling Entertainment

empire to compete under the name "Paige." Although the film's rough edges, including streetwise cursing and sexual banter, place it out of bounds for younger viewers, an exception might be made for mature adolescents who would benefit from this uplifting picture's positive messages about perseverance, forgiveness and the bonds of friendship and family. Occasionally violent wrestling action, an out-of-wedlock pregnancy, drug references, sexual innuendo, some profane and crude language. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

Interpreter to be at Mass

FORT WAYNE — An interpreter from Deaflink, a service of The League for the Blind and Disabled Inc., will be present for the 11:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Feb. 10, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne, 1122 S. Clinton St. An interpreter will sign in American Sign Language every second Sunday of the month. An interpreter from Community Services All Deaf will sign in American Sign Language at 11 a.m. at the St. Matthew Cathedral, 1701 Miami St. South Bend. Contact Allison Sturm in the Secretariat for Evangelization at asturm@diocesefwsb.org or 260-399-1452.

St. Patrick Parish plans fish fry

ARCOLA — St. Patrick Parish, 12305 Arcola Rd., will have an all-you-can-eat fish fry on Friday, March 8, from 4-7 p.m. Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches available for children. Tickets are adults \$10, seniors 60 plus \$9, children 5-10 \$5 those 4 and under free. Drive-through and carry-outs available.

Fish fry at St. Dominic

BREMEN — A fish fry prepared by Tyner IOOF will be Friday, March 8, from 4-7 p.m. at St. Dominic Church, 803 W. Bike St. Cost at door is \$9 for adults and \$4 for children ages 4-12.

Queen of Angels Lenten fish fry

FORT WAYNE — Queen of Angels Parish will have a Lenten fish fry on Friday, March 8, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. at 1500 W. State Blvd. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$5

for children 6-10, and 5 and under are free. Carryout is also available.

Lenten fish fry in Garrett

GARRETT — Knights of Columbus Council No. 1790 will hold a fish fry every Friday during Lent from 4:30-7 p.m. in the school gym. Tickets are \$9 per person or \$5 for kids under 12.

Drive-through fish fry

FORT WAYNE — Knights of Columbus Council No. 12379 will host a drive-through only fish fry on Friday, March 8, from 4:30-7 p.m. at St. Joseph - Hessen Cassel School, 11521 Old Decatur Rd. Tickets are \$9. Fish-only meals are also available. Contact Andy Litchfield at 260-450-6730.

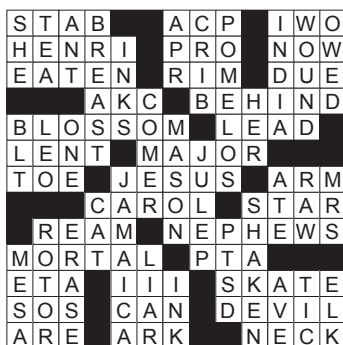
Bishop Luers youth soccer camp

FORT WAYNE — The Bishop Luers Boys Soccer team will host a two-day camp for boys in grades 5-8, Saturday and Sunday, March 9-10. Campers will receive instruction from the coaching staff and receive a camp T-shirt. Price: \$35. Contact LuersBoysSoccer@gmail.com.

Bingo at St. Joseph - Hessen Cassel

FORT WAYNE — Bingo will be held at St. Joseph - Hessen Cassel, 11521 Old Decatur Rd., on Sunday, March 10. Doors open at 2 p.m. and games start at 2:30 p.m. Cost is \$25/person and includes 10 games with payouts from \$25 to \$100. Must be 18 to play. Bring items for the food bank to receive extra door prize tickets.

The CrossWord
March 3 and 10, 2019



REST IN PEACE

Angola

Melanie Sutter, 63, St. Anthony of Padua

Mary A. Young, 76, St. Anthony of Padua

Fort Wayne

David Hecke, 66, Most Precious Blood

Catherine Justice, 94, St. Vincent de Paul

Elkhart

Imelda Martinez Bravo, 63, St. Vincent de Paul

Sharon M. Willard, 82, St. Vincent de Paul

Philip H. Huff, 86, St. Vincent de Paul

Lynn. M. Snyder, 56, St. Vincent de Paul

Mishawaka

Emma Van Vooren, 94, St. Bavo

South Bend

Irene Beelaert, 93, Holy Family

James Swartz, 63, Holy family

Waterloo

Elizabeth A. Crooks, 85, St. Michael the Archangel

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to happen in your life. You are preparing for something amazing, an encounter with God that is life-changing," he told them.

The readings of the liturgy give guidance regarding the attitude they should strive to cultivate during the remainder of their period of preparation, he noted.

"First, there is the attitude of fear of the Lord, actually one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit we receive in baptism and confirmation. I encourage you to approach the Easter Vigil with the fear of the Lord," he said, "(which) means approaching God with deep reverence. It means recognizing how great God is and how small we are before Him."

When we have the fear of the Lord, we are humble and respectful," he went on to say. "We are poor in spirit. We abandon ourselves into the hands of the Father and His love. When we have fear of the Lord, we allow ourselves to be conquered by the love of God.

"When we have fear of the Lord, we desire to praise and thank Him, and we are led to follow Him with humility, docility, and obedience," he continued. "Also, an alarm bell goes off within us when we are tempted

to offend Him. We realize that one day all things will come to an end and we will have to give an account of our lives to God."

The reading from the book of Sirach spoke to the fear of the Lord as being the beginning of wisdom. It contains an exhortation for those who fear the Lord, that they should hope for good things, everlasting joy, and mercy. "Think of the saints, especially those you have chosen as your confirmation names," Bishop Rhoades encouraged. "They were men and women who feared the Lord, who died in the hope for good things, as Sirach says, and who now experience the fulfillment of that hope for joy and mercy. So, as you approach the Easter Vigil with fear of the Lord, I encourage you also to do so with hope."

Bishop Rhoades then told the catechumens and candidates that they would not be freed of afflictions or become exempt from suffering, but rather that they would have the grace of God to endure suffering and the grace of the sacraments to help to sustain and support them with what St. Paul calls "the hope that does not disappoint," because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us."

Following the homily, parish

RCIA directors came forward and called the individual catechumens from their own parishes. The catechumens had previously inscribed their names in a "Book of the Elect" kept by each parish. These books were then presented for Bishop Rhoades to sign as the parishes were presented. After participating in the Rite of Election, the catechumens were referred to as "the elect" because they have now been officially declared ready to receive the sacraments at the Easter Vigil on April 20.

At the invitation and enrollment of the names, Bishop Rhoades quizzed the catechumens. "Do you wish to enter fully into the life of the Church through the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and Eucharist?" They replied, "We do."

The presentation of candidates for full communion took place in the same manner, after which the assembly prayed a song of thanksgiving.

For the convenience of parishes located on the western half of the diocese, a second Rite of Election of Catechumens and Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates will take place in South Bend on March 10.



Photos by John Martin

Godparents and sponsors stand with the catechumens and candidates during the Rite of Election of Catechumens and Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates, which took place at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, March 3.



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades signs a Book of the Elect.

Child leads mother, siblings into the Church

BY DEB WAGNER

Gretchen Espich and her three sons will be baptized and make their full initiation into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. She was raised in a Methodist family, but little value was placed on religion by her parents. They wanted to allow her to choose her faith denomination as an adult, and then be baptized.

From 1997 through 2006, Espich coached at Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne. This was her first exposure to the Catholic faith. When it was time for her oldest son, William, now a seventh-grader, to begin preschool, his babysitter recommended Queen of Angels School, and the family's relationship with Queen of Angels developed their faith. In fact, Gretchen said, they have been coming to Mass for a long time: Until recently,

though, it never seemed to be the right time to go through RCIA despite the fact that she loved the traditionalism of the Catholic faith and felt in her heart she was "home." As a wife, mother and career woman, the time never seemed to be there.

William was "a big, driving force for us to join the Catholic Church this year," said Gretchen. He told them: "I am really excited, because I'm getting baptized. I'm so excited to finally be a part of the Church. I've wanted to join the Catholic Church since preschool." He added that his classmates were going to be like his "godbrothers."

William's biological brothers, fifth-grader Ian and fourth-grader Zach, also are excited to become Catholic through the Easter sacraments.



Gretchen Espich and her sons William, Ian and Zach have received formation in the faith and declared their intention join the Catholic Church by being baptized and receiving confirmation and the Eucharist at the Easter Vigil Mass.