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# TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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## Students baptized by Bishop Rhoades on feast day of St. Joseph

BY CHRISTOPHER LUSHIS

**L**ook to St. Joseph!" This was the heart of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades' message during a pastoral visit to Saint Joseph High School, South Bend, on March 19.

Highlighting the virtues of the school's patron saint, especially his faithfulness, humility and chastity, Bishop Rhoades offered the young men and women in attendance his own advice for beginning and cultivating romantic relationships.

Acknowledging that such a homily isn't a usual occurrence, he began with an inquiry that he imagined the students had at that moment: "Bishop, you're giving us dating advice?" He continued emphatically: "Yes, and I hope you think about it seriously."

Based on conversations with his own nieces and nephew, he stressed: "Young women, look for a man who is righteous like St. Joseph, who desires to keep God's commandments, who is honorable, who seeks to do God's will and is charitable toward others. Young men, this is real manhood."

The bishop continued by emphasizing the importance of

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Derby Photography  
**Aaliyah Lax, a senior at Saint Joseph High School, South Bend, is baptized by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades on the feast day of St. Joseph, March 19. It was the first time in the history of the school that several students received sacraments of initiation during an all-school Mass.**

## Faith and generosity sustain flood victims in Omaha archdiocese

BY MIKE MAY

OMAHA, Neb. (CNS) — For Naoma Borgmann, the first sign of trouble was the look on her husband's face.

Although 60-mile-per-hour winds were howling and 4- to 5-foot waves were crashing on the banks of the Missouri River near their home March 13, it was the sight of the water on the ground that shocked her husband the most.

"He said, 'Naoma, I don't know how to tell you this, but we are surrounded by water.'"

So, she and her husband, Hubert, witnessing the sud-

den rise of floodwaters, quickly took refuge in the upper level of their home in far northeastern Nebraska, where they prayed and waited for help.

Strong faith and generous spirits are now helping the Borgmanns and other Catholics across the Omaha archdiocese overcome and recover from the historic flooding in the state.

Conditions in mid-March were ideal for significant floods. With the ground still frozen and rivers choked with ice, heavy rains and melting snow swelled creeks and rivers, causing flooding along major rivers.

The flooding affected more than two-thirds of Nebraska's

counties, including many within the archdiocese, destroying or damaging homes, businesses, roads and bridges, crippling water and sewage systems and killing livestock.

The floods also killed at least three people and stranded thousands of others.

"We believe in prayer and we have a deep faith," Naoma said. While they awaited rescue, they prayed The Lord's Prayer and the rosary and gazed upon a crucifix she placed on the table.

"As we were leaving, I looked at that cross, and there was my strength," she said.

Members of St. William Parish in Niobrara, the Borgmanns are

thankful for the local farmer and his father who rescued them and the generosity of friends who helped them by providing a rent-free, temporary home in Creighton about 37 miles to the south, where their floral and home decor business is located.

This was not the first time the couple has faced tragedy. Their teenage daughter died in a car crash 25 years ago and their previous home was destroyed in a 2011 flood.

"You do question why this is happening again," Naoma Borgmann said, "but you have to look at what it could have been.

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PUBLISHER: Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

## Editorial Department

PUBLICATIONS MANAGER: Jodi Marlin

PAGE DESIGNER: Francie Hogan

BRAND SPECIALIST: Molly Gettinger

NEWS SPECIALIST: Mark Weber

## Business Department

BOOKKEEPING/CIRCULATION: Geoff Frank  
circulation@diocesefwsb.org

## Advertising Sales

Jackie Parker

jparker@diocesefwsb.org

Website: [www.todayscatholic.org](http://www.todayscatholic.org)

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MAIN OFFICE: 915 S. Clinton St., Fort Wayne, IN 46802. Telephone 260-456-2824. Fax: 260-744-1473.

BUREAU OFFICE: 1328 Dragoon Trail, Mishawaka, IN 46544. Telephone 260-456-2824. Fax 260-744-1473.

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## Today's Catholic may be reached at:

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

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# Art tour initiative celebrates 'embrace' of century-old church's beauty

BY ANTHONY D. ALONZO

HAMMOND, Ind. (CNS) — Catholic culture is alive in working-class Hammond, specifically in the city's downtown, through an initiative to tell the history and share the beauty of the Romanesque Revival-style St. Joseph Church.

The effort involves a guided art tour that highlights the tangible reminders of what generations of faithful Catholics have gifted to today's parishioners.

Parishioners and volunteers hope the tour, titled "Labor in Faith," will become a regular Sunday feature sandwiched between the 9 a.m. Mass and the Tridentine Mass at 11 a.m.

Early on, it has attracted longtime neighbors and first-time visitors.

"This church is big enough to feel awe-inspiring when you walk in. That's how I feel, but it's not so large that it feels cavernous," said Joan Crist, associate professor theology at Calumet College of St. Joseph and tour coordinator.

A dozen people gathered in the right transept of St. Joseph Church on a recent Sunday. Unlike most Mass attendees who had left the building after the liturgy, others from East Chicago, Hammond and Munster stayed for the tour.

Crist quickly began to build the story of the church from its forerunners to the features that make it one of northwest Indiana's most distinctive and well-preserved worship spaces.

"According to parish history, this was the first church in Hammond, and it was the largest dome in the Chicagoland area unsupported by pillars when it was built," Crist explained. "We kept the original bells from the 1879 (wooden church)."

Crist directed the visitors' attention to the "intentionally modern" 1940s fresco above the apse of the sanctuary, which depicts the labors of constructing the church against the backdrop of the region's gritty industrial landscape. Archbishop John F. Noll of Fort Wayne, who died in 1956 at age 81, is depicted in the scene viewing a rendering of the church plans.

Tour-goers learned the altar was created from four kinds of Italian marble and completed in 1914. But some guests continued to crane their necks to view the church's 52 stained-glass windows.

From Marian themes, to the Holy Trinity, to scenes of Jesus' life and ministry, Crist said she could only point out a few details of the large rectangular windows on the walls of the nave and in a rose stained glass on the east side.



CNS photos/Anthony D. Alonzo, Northwest Indiana Catholic

**Pictured is the sanctuary of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Hammond, Ind., July 30, 2015. Parishioners and local college instructors volunteer to host a weekly guided tour at the circa-1912 church to highlight the features of the National Register of Historic Places building.**

The parish is celebrating the 100-year anniversary of the commissioning of their "priceless" collection of stained glass, which was created in Munich.

Crist said she wishes to share the beauty of St. Joseph Church while giving a nod to various ministries in the parish that have contributed to the downtown Hammond neighborhood. She explained that the parish has been a warm and inviting place where she and her husband have raised two boys and a girl.

The tour ended in the choir loft, which features a rose window of St. Cecilia, patron saint of musicians. Parishioner Lindy Hernandez provided a reflection on the glass, describing the instruments and flowers that speak to the saint's lore. She credited the beneficence of the Young Ladies Sodality, the then-sponsors of the window's commission.

The church has been a bedrock in downtown Hammond's business corridor, which once boasted ornate theaters, men's clothiers and discount retailers. Most businesses that drew large crowds are gone, though nearby Franciscan Health has expanded, and medical and legal offices, a federal courthouse, a grocery store and a few restaurants dot the corridor.

Parishioners who believe the strong economy could translate into a revitalization of downtown Hammond said the words painted in gold leaf on the apse of the sanctuary, "God with us," give them optimism and a sense



**Parishioner John Latko Jr. takes a closer look at a rose window of St. Cecilia during an art tour at St. Joseph Church in downtown Hammond Feb. 17. Calumet College of St. Joseph theology professor Joan Crist coordinates the "Labor in Faith" weekly guided tour initiative at St. Joseph.**

of place in the church.

Others have expressed their affinity for the worship environment of St. Joseph: The traditional design and countless scriptural lessons told in frescos and stained glass create a sacred "embrace" and "homey" environment.

"Religiosity may be changing, but there is something in the human heart always seeking, and St. Joseph is different from more modern church structures,

with the stained-glass windows and other things," parishioner and lector Joseph Dou told *Northwest Indiana Catholic*, newspaper of the Diocese of Gary. "St. Joseph (has) a deeper structure that touches the human heart and the existential needs of the spirit."

*Alonzo writes for Northwest Indiana Catholic, the newspaper of the Diocese of Gary.*



# 'ava's grace' healing retreat addresses infant loss

FORT WAYNE — Couples and individuals who have experienced the acute and haunting pain of losing a very young child came together at Sacred Heart Parish Center, Notre Dame, on March 23 to begin a journey of healing.

Lisa Everett, director of Marriage and Family Ministry for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and coordinator of the new ministry "ava's grace," designed the one-day retreat to help couples be more intentional about turning toward each other, and to God, in their grief.

"When we're suffering a loss so profound, it's tempting to think that God is far away. But we know by faith that God actually draws near, comes close to us when we suffer," Everett said. "When Jesus was handed the scroll of the prophet Isaiah in the synagogue in Nazareth, he found the place where these words were written and proclaimed that today they were fulfilled: 'The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; He has sent me to bring good news to the afflicted, to bind up the brokenhearted.'"

It was her hope for the day, she said, that those words would once again be fulfilled.

"Jesus desires to bring good news to couples and families afflicted with grief and bind up their broken hearts. This is what He did for the first married couple canonized together in the Catholic Church: Louis and Zélie Martin, the parents of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, who lost four children: three in infancy and one in early childhood. Even now, they inspire and intercede in a special way for other couples whose pilgrimage to the house of the Father passes by way of such a painful cross as losing a beloved child before or after birth."

John and Mary O'Callaghan, parishioners at St. Matthew Cathedral Parish, South Bend, witnessed about their journey in faith through the loss of several children due to miscarriage and stillbirth. Their talk was followed by a discussion.

"I think both of us were absolutely blindsided," Mary said, of herself and her husband after experiencing the loss of their third child, Mary Elizabeth, who died at 7 months gestation. "First, we hadn't imagined that anything like this could happen to us, and second, we were devastated by the depth of our pain. If anyone had said that we would have our hearts ripped out by the death of a child we had never met, I'm not sure I would have believed them. But it makes sense, of course, and speaks of the deep bond especially between mother and infant before birth, that the pain of separation is so great. ... Anyone who has gone through this knows of the hor-



**A vase of pink roses and baby's breath is a gesture by parents of entrusting their children to Mary. The flowers were placed at the Lourdes Grotto at Notre Dame during a day retreat offered by "ava's grace," a diocesan ministry offered for those who have suffered the loss of a baby before or after birth.**

rors we experienced during this time — having to give birth to a child who has died, being up on the delivery unit with other mothers and their babies, seeing an empty hospital basinet in the corner during labor and being acutely aware that there is none of the usual bustle of a delivery room as staff gets ready for a live baby, and finally leaving the hospital with empty arms."

A fourth pregnancy also ended in miscarriage. A fifth happened right before the couple became familiar with NaProTECHNOLOGY, an approach to reproductive health that seeks to uncover and treat underlying causes of women's reproductive problems, and Dr. Thomas Hilgers, who developed it. The connection and method enabled the couple to conceive and bring to term three children, although several more miscarriages also ensued.

"There were multiple occasions during our losses when I felt that we had been entirely abandoned by God," Mary admitted. "The one time I remember most clearly was during labor with Mary Elizabeth — I was walking the halls hooked up to an IV of pitocin to induce labor, and I remember feeling the most desolate I had ever felt. Every part of me cried out as Christ

had on the cross asking God why He had forsaken us." It seemed a mystery to her that "when we feel most abandoned by God, when we cry out to Him in the depths of our suffering because we do not feel Him near, we are actually sharing, by the power of the Holy Spirit, in the inmost life of God."



## Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Sunday, March 31: 10:30 a.m. — Confirmation Mass, St. Dominic Church, Bremen  
 Monday, April 1: 8 a.m. — Meeting of Indiana Bishops and Major Superiors, Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, Indianapolis  
 Wednesday, April 3: 10:30 a.m. — Presbyterate Meeting, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Warsaw  
 Thursday, April 4: 9 a.m. — United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Doctrine Symposium, Washington, D.C.  
 Friday, April 5: 4 p.m. — Mass with Installation of Lectors, Mount St. Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg, Maryland  
 Saturday, April 6: 10 a.m. — Mass with Installation of Acolytes, Mount St. Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg, Maryland

"For me it was a revelation to think that I could be closest to the heart of God when I felt most abandoned by Him in this suffering. And that this grace was won for us by Christ's incarnation and death on the cross."

It also seemed that sometimes God manifested His presence to the family in other ways, she said. Small ways, perhaps, but they were unmistakable signs of His presence, giving them hope.

"And so, while there were moments when we felt abandoned — and yet were still held in the heart of God — we also learned to look for the small consolations God gave us that He was near."

"We must always, of course, be ready to step out in faith, to know of God's goodness when we cannot see it," she concluded. "But it is one of the tender mercies of God that sometimes in the depths of our sufferings He offers us a glimpse of Him so that we can keep going."

The participants were given direction on how to turn to each other and share, heart-to-heart, what they each felt when they lost their child. They were encouraged to share things they had not previously talked about

with each other, as well as what was going on in their minds and hearts at the time — and since then.

Opportunities also were provided for the participants to talk with each other about the similarities of their losses, and for them to experience how the Lord draws near when they are distressed and distraught.

At the end of an hour of eucharistic adoration, each participant took a fresh rose and carried it to the Lourdes Grotto on campus, symbolically entrusting their child to Our Lady.

"The speakers were so insightful and really brought our own problems into perspective. If they survived, we can too," said Andy Helms, who attended the retreat with his wife, Emily. "Too often we keep our emotions bottled up. I think bringing up our miscarriage in the past felt like reopening an old wound that never fully healed."

It was great to hear stories of others who have experienced similar losses and to know she wasn't alone," Emily acknowledged at the end of the day. "I felt such a peace and comfort throughout the day that I haven't felt in months."



**Participants pray in Sacred Heart Parish Chapel, Notre Dame, during the retreat.**

Photos by Lisa Everett



# Bishops say 'sweeping regulations' of Equality Act will harm society

BY JULIE ASHER

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In a joint letter to Congress March 20, the chairmen of three committees of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops said they oppose the Equality Act because while it is meant to provide protections to those who identify as LGBT, it would impose "sweeping regulations to the detriment of society as a whole."

The measure would add the new terms "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" to the definition of "sex" in federal civil rights laws, they said. Such a move would have "wide-reaching impacts" on health care, women and girls' legal protections, charitable services to needful populations, schools, personal privacy, athletics, free speech, religious liberties and potentially parental rights, the prelates said.

The Equality Act was introduced in the House and Senate March 13. It also is known as H.R. 5 and S. 788.

The letter was signed by Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Florida, chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice

and Human Development; Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, chairman of the Committee for Religious Liberty; and Bishop James D. Conley of Lincoln, Nebraska, chairman of the Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage.

Regarding individuals who identify as LGBT, "each and every person should be treated with dignity and respect," the chairmen said. "Part of that dignity, as Pope Benedict stated, is every person's right to gainful and decent employment free of unjust discrimination. Also included is each person's right to services that address their needs for health and safety."

However, "rather than offering meaningful protections for individuals," the Equality Act "would impose sweeping regulations to the detriment of society as a whole," they explained.

"The act's definitions alone would remove women and girls from protected legal existence," the prelates said. "Furthermore, the act also fails to recognize the difference between the person — who has dignity and is entitled to recognition of it — and the

actions of a person, which have ethical and social ramifications." They added, "Conflating the two will introduce a plethora of further legal complications."

Archbishop Kurtz and Bishops Dewane and Conley outlined several areas they said the bill would have the most impact if it becomes law, including:

— Regulating "thought, belief and speech." "We treasure the First Amendment freedoms of speech, association, conscience and religious exercise," they said. "The Equality Act puts these at risk by requiring uniform assent to new beliefs about human identity that are contrary to those held by many — believers of diverse faiths and non-believers alike would have the most impact if it became law would have the most impact."

— "Explicitly" retracting religious freedom. "By exempting itself from the bipartisan Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 — an unprecedented move — the Equality Act represents an explicit departure from one of the founding principles of the United States, the freedom of religion," they said.

— Hindering quality health

care. "Those experiencing gender dysphoria or incongruence must be treated with care and compassion and should receive from health care professionals the same quality of services and moral protection from harm that is due to everyone," the bishops said. "The Equality Act, however, would force many health care professionals to perform certain treatments and procedures associated with "gender transition" against their best medical or ethical judgment with respect to a patient."

— Threatening charitable services. The measure "would force a multitude of charitable services to either violate their principles or shut down," they said in the letter. "With the lack of gender criteria, shelters would be required to house vulnerable, sometimes traumatized, women with biological men." Foster care and adoption agencies also "would be expected to place children with same-sex partners, regardless of some birth mothers' wishes and children's best interests," they added.

Archbishop Kurtz and Bishops Dewane and Conley also said the measure would endanger privacy

since it lacks "firm criteria for 'gender identity.'" and could lead to emotional or physical harm against individuals "in highly personal sex-segregated spaces such as restrooms and locker rooms."

They also see the legislation having an impact on people's career choices and livelihoods. They pointed to the case of the Colorado cake maker who was sued because he would not make a wedding cake for a same-sex couple; baker Jack Phillips did not refuse outright service to the couple but would not make a cake for their wedding based on his Christian religious beliefs.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in his favor, affirming his religious freedom to refuse such an order. The court said the state "must not be hostile to religion," the bishops noted, but the Equality Act, they said, "would set up entrepreneurs of faith ... for destructive litigation nationwide" because in serving customers, they would not be allowed to "express messages with which they disagree."

The full text of the committee chairmen's letter can be found online at <https://bit.ly/2JrHsZA>.

## FLOODING, from page 1

We're here, we got out together and we're still together. You look at what you have and not what you've lost."

After the initial flooding began March 13, failure of the upstream dam the next day brought a destructive, 11-foot wave of water and huge slabs of ice into the small town of Niobrara, washing away or damaging many commercial buildings. Another bridge across the Niobrara River was also washed out, cutting off one route into town.

"Niobrara is like a war zone," said Father Kizito Okhuoya, pastor of St. William and St.

Wenceslaus parishes in Verdigre, a town south of Niobrara that also sustained major damage. But people are working hard to get things back to normal, he said.

"There's been an outpouring of generosity and kindness from neighboring towns," Father Okhuoya said, "and the community is coming together."

He said the parish held an ecumenical prayer service March 15 "to bring people together and speak a message of hope and faith ... knowing that even now, God walks with us through the waters, and reassuring people of God's love and presence."

Two days later the town held clean-up day with people from



CNS photo/Office of Governor Pete Ricketts handout via Reuters

**A damaged road is seen March 16, after a storm triggered historic flooding in Niobrara, Neb. Gov. Pete Ricketts and the Nebraska National Guard surveyed flooded farms, homes, bridges and highways, damage Ricketts called "devastating" and perhaps the worst seen in a half-century.**

other towns coming over to help.

Both churches he serves are located on high ground, so they did not sustain damage and were able to hold Sunday Masses, he said. These parishes are raising money for relief efforts.

"This is the time we need to turn to God in prayer," Father Okhuoya said, "and although people are hurting, they are hopeful and are focusing on the big picture."

"They have faith that we're going to bounce back as a town," he said. "It could be worse, so people are thanking God but are grieving their losses and cleaning up. Their spirit is good overall, so I'm thankful to God for that."

Although not as heavily damaged, other nearby towns faced their own challenges.

Father Lloyd Gnirk, pastor of

St. John the Evangelist Parish in Valley, was stranded in his home and unable to hold weekend Masses March 16-17, but the church sustained no damage, he said.

As flood waters recede, Father Gnirk and his parishioners are joining other churches in the community to help with relief efforts, including providing meals for volunteers working on the cleanup.

"What the needs are and how we can help each other will be further revealed once we understand the extent of damage," the priest told the *Catholic Voice*, archdiocesan newspaper of Omaha.

"But there's a confidence that whatever happens, God provides," he said. "It offers that firm foundation of faith."

Francis and Carol Emanuel, whose farm near North Bend was unaffected, have been lending a hand to help people displaced by the flooding. In addition to their five children who still live with them, the Emanuels opened their home to relatives and another family for a total of 16 people and six dogs.

"A situation like this certainly brings people together," Carol Emanuel said. "It's one of those times when you're forced to slow down and enjoy the people around you."

She and her husband, members of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in North Bend, both grew up in very strong, Catholic families, she said.

"We grew up knowing that when somebody is in need you step up, so there was really no thought put into it at all. If somebody needs a place to stay, you say, 'Come on out, we have room.'"

The archdiocese also is extending its hand to help parishioners and communities affected by flooding.

Omaha Archbishop George J. Lucas asked parishes to conduct special collections for relief efforts during weekend Masses March 23 and 24. The collection will address immediate needs such as water, food, shelter and supplies, plus longer-term needs for tools and building materials.

**Donations can be sent directly to Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska by visiting <https://bit.ly/2UNhil7>; or to Catholic Charities USA for flood relief to the Midwest region by visiting <https://bit.ly/2FIW47y>.**

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# School safety bills include plans, funding for private schools

John Elcesser was a school superintendent in West Virginia on the day that changed everything.

He doesn't recall locked doors in his school facilities prior to April 20, 1999, and he certainly never dreamed of the need for active shooter drills. But the Columbine High School massacre in Littleton, Colorado, altered the trajectory of life as everyone knew it. As the nation nears the 20th anniversary of that grim day, which has been followed by even deadlier mass shootings, lawmakers around the country continue their quest to make schools safer.

In Indiana, these issues hit close to home last year with school shootings in Noblesville and Richmond. Now, three bills making their way through the General Assembly aim to heighten school security and offer critical mental health services for students to prevent future tragedies.

"Columbine made us look at things that we typically took for granted and forced us to rethink them," said Elcesser, who now serves as executive director of the Indiana Non-Public Education Association. "Today we have a whole new vocabulary. Sheltering in place, lockdown — these were not part of our vernacular or our practices back then. Now it is critical that schools have plans in place to keep people safe. This is one of the major areas of focus at the Statehouse this year."

The legislative session began in January with 16 bills related to school safety — an unprecedented number for one issue, according to Elcesser, whose organization, along with the Indiana Catholic Conference, has successfully advocated for private schools to be included in the enhanced safety proposals.

"We are pleased that our state recognizes that all students need to be protected, whether they

attend public, charter or private schools," said Glenn Tebbe, executive director of the ICC, the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Indiana.

Many of the school safety bills introduced this session were in response to a report issued in August by Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb in the wake of the May 2018 shooting at Noblesville West Middle School that injured a student and a teacher. Just three months earlier, school safety had once again dominated the national spotlight when a gunman opened fire at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, killing 17 students and staff members and injuring another 17 people.

The 2018 Indiana School Safety Recommendations report was the result of a task force led by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, the Indiana Department of Education and other state agencies. The 18 proposals in the report include requiring active shooter drills in every school, adding security equipment and technology in and around school buildings, increasing local law enforcement presence inside schools, and expanding mental health services for students.

House Bill 1004, one of the school safety bills moving forward in the legislature, encompasses these and other plans, but it's the last piece — mental health — that is the top priority of the bill's author, Rep. Wendy McNamara (R-Evansville). As a teacher and now school principal in the state's third-largest school district — Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation — she says she knows first-hand the importance of addressing students' mental and emotional well-being.

## INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE



BY VICTORIA ARTHUR

"There is nothing more important in a school's life than relationships," said McNamara in presenting her bill before the Senate Education Committee earlier this month. "We can put in all the bulletproof doors and windows, we can buy all the latest gadgets, and we can have a law enforcement officer walking down the hallway. But it all starts with relationships, and having a social worker or mental health professional available to our kids is, in my opinion, our No. 1 critical need."

Tebbe and Elcesser point out that one of the strengths of private schools, especially Catholic and other religious schools, is that they tend to be smaller and more attuned to individual students' lives and personal issues.

"I would contend that one of the strong suits of nonpublic schools — faith-based ones in particular — is that students don't get lost in the numbers, and we can better identify and address problems from the very start," Elcesser said. "In addition, the foundation of our faith-based schools is the values we teach, which guide our actions."

Elcesser added, however, that "no school is immune" to safety breaches and issues and that everything must be done to protect students and staff from harm.

In her Senate committee testimony, McNamara described the regular drills that are now routine in her school district — exercises that involve identifying an active threat, locking down the school, barricading students

inside classrooms, and, if necessary, fighting back. Every school statewide would be required to conduct one active-shooter drill within the first 90 days of the school year if her bill, which passed the House 96-2, is approved by the Senate.

"We need to do all that we can to secure our schools and help our kids feel safe when they come in through those doors every day," she said.

House Bill 1004 also would expand and adjust safety funding for schools, including Catholic and other nonpublic schools. The bill identifies two separate funds for school safety measures: The safe schools fund is for public schools only, while nonpublic schools are eligible for grants from the secured schools fund. In addition to funding safety equipment and personnel, the state-managed and taxpayer-funded monies also may be used to provide for mental health services as preventive measures.

The ICC and INPEA support the bill, which was scheduled for a vote by the Senate Education Committee at press time. Another mental health-related bill, Senate Bill 266, authored by Sen. Michael Crider (R-Greenfield), passed the Senate Appropriations Committee unanimously and continues to advance in the Senate.

A third piece of school safety legislation, House Bill 1225, passed unanimously in the Indiana House of Representatives and now is under consideration by the Senate. Authored by Rep. Gregory Steuerwald (R-Danville), the bill establishes an active warning system that would automatically notify all law enforcement and other emergency personnel within a county to

respond immediately in a crisis, even when they are off-duty. All schools, including Catholic and other nonpublic schools, would be included within the system.

In testimony before the Senate Homeland Security and Transportation Committee earlier this month, Porter County Sheriff David Reynolds described the benefits of the system, which has been in operation in the north-west Indiana county for four years. All 75 schools in Porter County are equipped with the alert system, including private schools.

"One of the problems in all school shootings is the lack of response time," Reynolds said. "This system does not circumvent 911 but notifies all on-duty and off-duty local, state and federal officers in the event of an emergency."

The ICC and the INPEA support the bill, which passed the committee by a 7-0 vote and was scheduled for a full Senate vote at press time.



REP. WENDY MCNAMARA



REP. GREGORY STEUERWALD

To follow priority legislation of the ICC, visit [www.indianacc.org](http://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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## Rector of Montreal oratory stabbed during televised Mass

MONTREAL (CNS) — Father Claude Grou, rector of St. Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal, was stabbed during a Mass March 22. The motive for the attack remains unknown. He was taken to the hospital and is in stable condition, said a statement from the Archdiocese of Montreal. During the 8:30 a.m. Mass in the crypt, a tall, light-skinned man wearing a white hat walked toward Father Grou and stabbed him in the stomach. "At the end of the psalm, just before the ... Gospel, there is this guy who comes from who-knows-where — I only film the front of the crypt — and who moves rather quickly," said Dinh Khoi Vu, who directed the morning Mass at the Oratory for Salt and Light Television. "Father Grou saw him coming with his knife. He had the reaction to move to the side, but he was still touched," he added. "The knife fell. The aggressor was no longer able to pick it up. Many faithful rushed to hold him back. "Father Grou got up, and members of the security service managed to control the attacker. "We are all shocked by this act of violence that has taken place in our city, in a space dedicated to peace," Montreal Archbishop Christian Lepine said in a statement. "We know that places of worship of many religions are targets of acts of violence. We must continue to follow the path of peace and love, believing that good will overcome evil through prayer and good works."

## Ireland considers plans for seminarians to spend more time in parishes

DUBLIN (CNS) — Under new plans being considered, Irish seminarians would spend most of their time working in parishes rather than in the traditional seminary environment. The plans would allow for more time involved in active pastoral work alongside priests and lay pastoral workers and would, according to one bishop, give them a more realistic insight into priesthood in contemporary Ireland. A committee appointed by the Irish bishops' conference is currently drawing up a new program for the formation of priests in Ireland. It is part of what Archbishop Eamon Martin, primate of all Ireland, has called "courageously moving the whole formation experience beyond past and present methods so that priests will be suitably prepared to engage with, and evangelize, the secularized contemporary culture." The document is known as the "Ratio Nationalis" and builds on "Ratio Fundamentalibus" guidelines on priestly formation published by the Vatican in 2016. Bishop Fintan Monahan of Killaloe told

# NEWS BRIEFS

## Bishops say EPA plan would harm the unborn



CNS photo/Ayesha Rascoe, Reuters

Smoke rises from two smokestacks at the American Electric Power Co.'s Mountaineer plant in New Haven, W.Va., Oct. 27, 2009. Unborn children would face greater health risks if the Environmental Protection Agency moves to rescind a rule regulating hazardous air pollutants emitted by power plants, said Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, chairman of the bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, and Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Fla., chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development.

*The Irish Catholic* newspaper he believed seminarians being formed in parishes "would be more practical" than the current model. He said it would give them "firsthand experience of working together with priests and laypeople. The seminaries (at present) are almost monastic in character, and it is a shock to the system for newly ordained priests when they come to the parish. Something based in the parish would help make it a more seamless transition."

## Survey: Number of Catholics concerned about Christian persecution rises

NEW YORK (CNS) — More than half of U.S. Catholics say they are very concerned about the persecution of Christians around the world, with this 58 percent figure up by 17 percent from a similar poll a year ago. When asked to rank their concerns about global issues, respondents considered persecution of Christians as a slightly more important problem than climate change (57 percent), but less important than human trafficking (82 percent), poverty

(74 percent) and the refugee crisis (60 percent). U.S. Catholics were asked for their views on Christian persecution in a survey conducted by Aid to the Church in Need-USA, a pontifical foundation based in New York, and McLaughlin & Associates, a national survey research company. The nationwide poll of 1,000 Catholic adults was conducted online with survey invitations distributed randomly within predetermined geographic units. Forty-six percent of respondents said the global persecution of Christians is "very severe," an increase of 16 percent compared to the 2018 poll. They ranked Iran as the country where Christians are most severely persecuted. Next were Iraq, Syria, China, North Korea, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

## New school choice federal tax credit bill introduced in House, Senate

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A new piece of legislation endorsed by Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos could put Catholic or other religious schools within reach of many families who would

otherwise not be able to afford them. The plan, called "Education Freedom Scholarships," is actually not a new federal program meant to redirect funds toward private school scholarships and away from public education or the like — though that is what some of its opponents portray it as doing. According to the program's website, the plan offers "a \$5 billion annual federal tax credit for voluntary donations to state-based scholarship programs." The website also explains that it will not take "a single dollar away from public schools and the students who attend them." Essentially, each state that decides to participate in Education Freedom Scholarships would structure its own program, including provisions for which scholarship students can apply and what schools those scholarships can be directed toward. The federal government's only role in making it work would be instituting the federal tax credit for those who donate to state entities which provide scholarships. Companion bills, called the Education Freedom Scholarships and Opportunity Act, have been introduced in the Senate and House of Representatives by Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, and

Rep. Bradley Byrne, R-Alabama, respectively. Cruz has said the idea "enables all students to access a personalized education experience that meets their individual needs."

## In divisive times, Chesterton inspires unity among Catholics, author says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — At a time when Catholics seem to be split between conservative or progressive factions, the life and works of English writer G. K. Chesterton can inspire men and women in the Church to rise above conflict, said U.S. scholar Dale Ahlquist. "People on the left and right both find things to connect to Chesterton," Ahlquist told Catholic News Service March 22. "Chesterton is a unifier," he said. "I think he did see the potential for the schism that is going on right now, the great division between people. But it's just a general splitting of society because we've lost our roots." Ahlquist's latest book, titled "Knight of the Holy Ghost," is "designed to introduce people to Chesterton," who lived from 1874 to 1936. "There are some excellent biographies out there that are very good. But sometimes, Chesterton can get lost in the details and I wanted to bring out the highlights, some of the most important features of his life so that he stands out," he said. Ahlquist, who serves as president of the Society of Gilbert Keith Chesterton, a Catholic lay apostolate inspired by the early 20th century writer, also makes the case for Chesterton's sainthood cause.

## Mary inspires, assists those seeking their vocation, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Signing his document dedicated to young people, faith and discernment, Pope Francis said Mary, the mother of God, is a source of inspiration and strength for everyone who seeks to understand their vocation and remain faithful to it. Greeting some 10,000 people, many of them families and young people, in Loreto, Italy, on the feast of the Annunciation, the pope said Mary can help all believers dedicate themselves to "the path of peace and fraternity, founded on welcoming and forgiving, on respect for others and on love as a gift of oneself. The pope chose to visit the Italian seaside town of Loreto on the March 25 feast day to sign his postsynodal apostolic exhortation — titled in Spanish, "Vive Cristo, esperanza nuestra," ("Christ, Our Hope, Lives"). The document, based on discussions and input garnered from the world Synod of Bishops on "young people, faith and vocational discernment," was to be released to the public April 2, the anniversary of the death of St. John Paul II.



## Grief counselor to present free seminars

FORT WAYNE — The Ramada Plaza Marquis Ballroom on Washington Center Road in Fort Wayne will be the location of two seminars for community members and professionals. On Tuesday, April 23, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., the topic presented for the general public will be “Loving from the outside in, mourning from the inside out: helping yourself heal when someone dies.” On Wednesday, April 24, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., the topic will be “When grief is ‘complicated’: a model to understand, identify and companion grievers,” for members of the professional caregiving community.



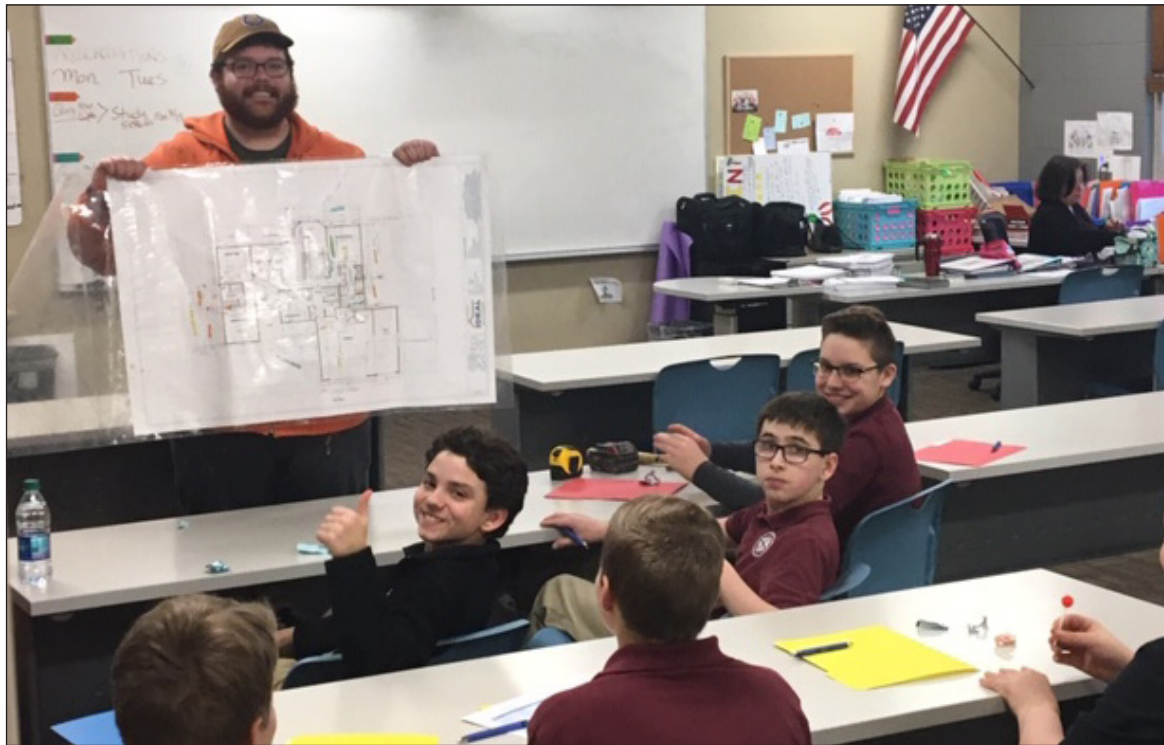
DR. ALAN WOLFELT

Dr. Alan Wolfelt, author, educator and grief counselor, will present the programs. A past recipient of the Association for Death Education and Counseling's Death Educator Award, Wolfelt is director of the Center for Loss and Life Transition located in Fort Collins, Colorado. He is known throughout the United States and Canada for his educational contributions in the areas of both childhood and adult grief.

For more information and to request a ticket, call D.O. McComb & Sons at 260-426-9494.

# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## Blueprint for a career path



Provided by Lois Widner

A middle school student at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, Fort Wayne, asks a question of Michael Shank of Shank Brothers — a heating, air conditioning and plumbing contractor — during Middle School Career Day on March 21. Twenty-one speakers gave presentations to the students and answered questions about vocations, education, the legal profession, Career Academy and more. Career Day was introduced at the school in order to meet new state standards and graduation pathway guidelines.

## University of Saint Francis annual Formula for Life 5K

FORT WAYNE — The 11th annual Formula for Life 5K, which raises funds to support the residential, nutritional and medical needs of orphans in Haiti, will be take place Sunday, April 14, at the University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne. The run/walk starts at 1 p.m. at Hutzell Athletic Center on the campus, 2701 Spring St.

Founded by a USF student who was inspired to help the situation in Haiti, funds raised support the children of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Orphanage, as well as neighboring families.

Registration is \$15 per person, or \$13 per person for families of three or more. To register, visit [runreg.com](http://runreg.com) or request a form via email from [aobringer@sf.edu](mailto:aobringer@sf.edu). The first 300 people registered will receive an event T-shirt.

The 5K is open to everyone, from competitive runners to casual walkers. High school seniors and full-time college students at any college who participate are eligible for \$1,000, \$500 or \$250 awards to be used for academic purposes. The more people the student registers, the better his or her chance of winning one of the cash awards. University of Saint Francis students regularly take mission trips to Haiti to help with medical, dental, mental health and veterinary needs. A group will make the journey again in May.

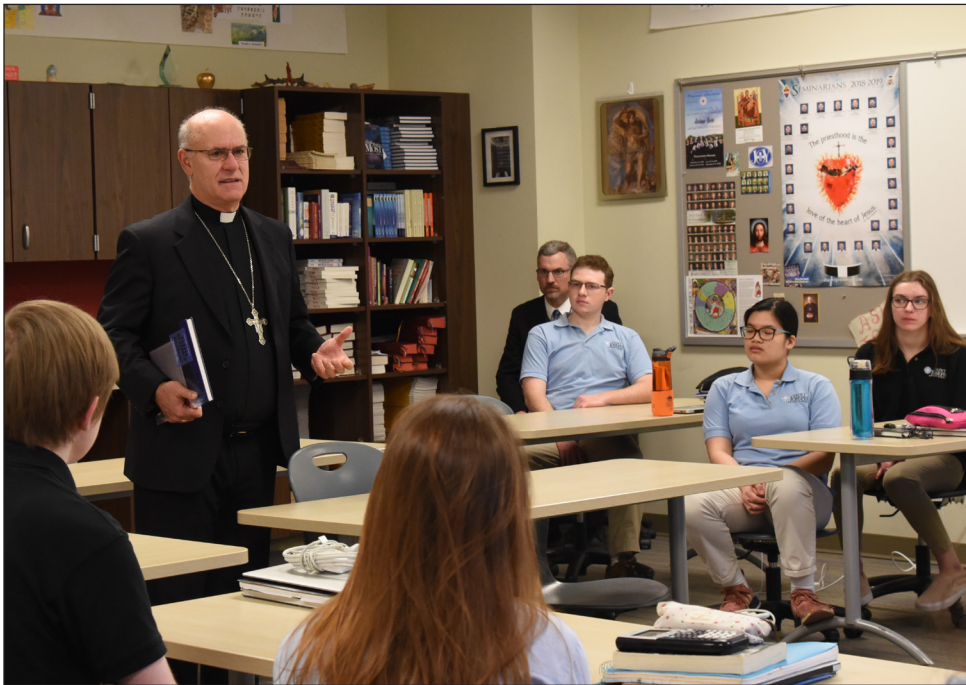


Provided by Mark Michuda

Leaders of the Knights of Columbus from across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend hosted Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades for vespers and a meeting on March 7 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Fort Wayne. A replica of the San Damiano Crucifix, made in Italy, was blessed by the bishop and presented to the leadership of each council. Several members of the Franciscan Friars Minor, who are in seminary at the Athenaeum of Ohio, were in attendance. The Knights presented the bishop with a donation of \$24,450 — making a total of \$170,150, over nine years, for the seminary education of the friars.



# PASTORAL VISIT OFFERS GLIMPSE I



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades visits Andy Oross' Faith and Science class during a pastoral visit to Saint Joseph High School on March 15. He took questions from the students and discussed Catholics' call to defend the relationship between faith and science.



Bishop Rhoades celebrates an all-school Mass along with concelebrating priests, from left, Father Glenn Kohrman, Father Robert Garrow, Father Terrence Coonan and Father Jim Fenstermaker.



Members of the senior class who were recognized as Saint Joseph Scholars pose with Bishop Rhoades and principal John Kennedy, left, following Mass. The students maintained an average GPA above 4.0 during their high school careers.



Bishop Rhoades addresses the student body during his homily, challenging the young men present to model themselves after St. Joseph and the young women to look for such men.



Students who were initiated into the Catholic faith or brought into full communion with the Church prepare for Communion. From left are Aaliyah Lax, Walter Wesson, Jessica Brandt and Nayeli Belmares, with their sponsors or godparents.



# ...NTO A LIFE OF HUMILITY, CHASTITY



Photos by Derby Photography



Above and below, Bishop Rhoades meets with student leaders at Saint Joseph to hear about servant leadership projects in which they have been taking part in this year. Student activities represented ranged from the Right to Life club to athletic teams and the National Honors Society.



Last year around this time, Bishop Rhoades mentioned during Mass, he made the decision to appoint John Kennedy, left, as principal of Saint Joseph High School. He was greeted with cheering and applause after asking if the student body was happy with the decision.

**SJHS, from page 1**

humility. “Young women, did you ever meet a guy who talks about himself nonstop, who brags all the time about his accomplishments and what he can do, and hardly listens to you or show much interest in your life? My advice — stay away! Think about St. Joseph. There is a lot he could have bragged about, but there was no such pride in him. His life was all about his wife and Son, about Jesus and Mary. Look for a guy who will care more about you than himself and who would be a loving, tender and protective father of your children. It takes strength and courage to put others first.”

Thirdly, he spoke of the virtue of chastity. “Joseph protected the virginity of Mary. He had total respect for Mary and would never use her as an object of his sexual desires. I encourage you to only go out with guys who respect you and your bodies, who will make a commitment with you to wait until marriage to enter into that sacred communion of your bodies in sexual union. And guys, in the struggle to live in chastity, ask St. Joseph

to intercede for you to obtain God’s grace and strength to be chaste. This really takes courage today since our culture not only doesn’t value chastity, it often ridicules it.”

Next he transitioned to a unique aspect of the day’s liturgical celebration, as four students joyfully received sacraments of Initiation. Aaliyah Lax and Walter Wesson were baptized into membership in the Catholic faith, Jessica Brandt was received into full communion with the Church and Nayeli Belmares, alongside the other three, received the sacrament of confirmation.

Bishop Rhoades exclaimed, “The aspects of these sacraments are pretty overwhelming. I pray Aaliyah, Walter, Jessica and Nayeli that you will always remember this day and that you will grow in God’s grace, in holiness, through the rest of your lives. May St. Joseph of Nazareth help us with his prayers to be faithful disciples of his adopted Son and to become saints.”

Lax, who chose the confirmation name Josephine after Josephine Bahkita, shared that she was first exposed to

Catholicism as a student at Holy Family School in South Bend. Her awareness of the faith and desire to enter the Church continued to grow as a Saint Joseph student. When one of her friends entered the Church last year, she “knew she had to do it.” She added that the Church’s focus on service and compassion toward the poor was a major factor in her decision, which she witnessed firsthand in the life and lessons of Saint Joseph theology teacher Kathy Kershner, whom Lax chose as her sponsor.

At the conclusion of Mass, students Jack Briggs and Alexis Kilcoin presented Bishop Rhoades with a check on behalf of the Saint Joseph community towards Catholic Relief Services’ Gift of Hope Program. Raised through a dress-down day collection, the funds will go toward the purchase of 70 fruit trees for those in need, donated in Bishop Rhoades’ name.

Find Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades’ homily to the students at [www.diocesefwsb.org/Bishop-Rhoades-homilies-and-talks](http://www.diocesefwsb.org/Bishop-Rhoades-homilies-and-talks)



National Honor Society President Claire Kloska next announced that Saint Joseph has been named as a Catholic Honor Roll School, a designation given by the Cardinal Newman Society. The school has earned it continuously since 2006, and this latest designation will extend through 2023. Kloska stated that “this status was awarded

to Saint Joseph for our strong integration of Catholic identity, including the integrity of our mission and the strength of our community and spiritual life. The honor roll also recognized our efforts in formation of students’ minds, bodies and spirits, as well as a comprehensive academic program which seeks to instill a Christian vision of the world, as well as human wisdom and culture.”

Saint Joseph principal John Kennedy presented the school’s monthly Community Awards to Jacob Moon, Kloska and chemis-

try teacher Dan Smith. Kennedy also recognized 39 students as Saint Joseph Scholars — those who have maintained an average GPA above 4.0, including valedictorian Thomás Aguilar-Fraga and salutatorian Isabelle Ortiz.

Continuing his pastoral visit, the bishop had lunch with members of the Student Council to discuss aspects of campus involvement and faith formation. He also visited a science classroom to speak with students on the intersection of faith and reason.

Bishop Rhoades additionally met with Kennedy, the theology faculty and campus ministry leaders to discuss aspects of Catholic identity, curriculum and programming. He concluded the afternoon with a speech addressed to the entire faculty and staff on the importance of personal prayer in maintaining an authentically Catholic culture and promoting a consistent prayer life as the animating principle of a Catholic educational experience for both teachers and students.



# How a daughter became victim of sex trafficking, lost her life

BY ELEANOR KENNELLY GAETAN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Yvonne Ambrose had one of the worst experiences any mother can suffer: Her daughter Desiree, age 16, was found in a garage on Christmas Eve 2016 murdered by a man who beat her, slashed her throat and left her to die, painfully alone, in the Chicago cold.

The internet was the key element that turned Desiree from a happy “A” student to a tragic victim of sexual violence.

First, she met a man in his early 20s on Facebook. He “groomed” her, a technique used by exploiters to earn trust to manipulate or control a potential victim of sex abuse.

Desiree ran away from home in late November that year.

Soon after, her new “boyfriend” sold her for \$250 to a pimp who took photos of her, advertised her on Backpage.com — an internet platform that earned the vast majority of its multimillion revenue from ads selling human flesh until it was shut down by federal investigators eight months ago — and drove her to “dates,” where she was raped for money.

It was a sex buyer, Antonio Rosales, 32, who murdered Desiree.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, child sexual abuse includes commercial sexual exploitation as well as using children in pornography and exposing them to pornographic material — whether or not there is physical contact.

In her new book “Invading the Darkness: Inside the Historic Fight Against Sex Trafficking in the United States,” former Congresswoman Linda Smith, R-Washington, describes how she first encountered girls and women kept as captives in brothels in Mumbai, India.

Touching the face of a child no older than 11, condemned to endless assault by men using her body, Smith committed herself to combating the phenomena of international sex trafficking. She started Shared Hope International in 2000 as a faith-based nongovernmental organization providing shelter and services for survivors abroad.

But “I was missing something essential,” she told Catholic News Service. “Something that made my blood run cold. The fact that child trafficking was happening in our own neighborhoods. I had a global view, not realizing this was a domestic issue too.”

Under U.S. federal law, any minor exploited in the commercial sex industry is a victim of human trafficking, but until about 10 years ago, especially at the state and local level, children who got caught up in prostitution were blamed for what happened to them.

“As a matter of routine, kids



CNS photo/Fabrizio Bensch, Reuters

Activists take part in a “Walk for Freedom” in 2018 to protest against human trafficking in Berlin. The Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2018 recently passed by Congress and signed Jan. 8 by President Donald Trump allocates \$430 million through 2022 to prevent and respond to human trafficking in the U.S. and abroad.

were being arrested, charged and convicted for prostitution,” recounted Smith, “They were called ‘bad kids,’ runaways, or worse. Yet, they were all victims.”

Shared

Hope

International did one of the first studies of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking for the U.S. Department of Justice in 2006.

She continued, “Meanwhile, a man would go to an ATM, drive to a designated location to receive the product he bought and commit a premeditated crime — the rape of a child — but instead of being seen as a

violent predator, he’s an anonymous ‘John.’ It’s the child who’s usually considered a criminal, while the ‘John’ goes home.”

To prevent child sex trafficking, Smith advocates for stronger state laws including harsher penalties against sex buyers to shrink the demand for vulnerable bodies.

In 2007, the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants

and Itinerant took a similar view about stronger laws directed at sex buyers, or “clients,” who the council said “need help in solving their most intimate problems and in finding suitable ways of directing their sexual tendencies.”

“Buying sex” does not resolve the problems that arise primarily from frustration and lack of authentic relationships, and from the loneliness that characterizes so many situations in life today,” it said. “An effective measure toward cultural change with respect to prostitution could derive from associating criminal law with social condemnation.”

The Catholic Church designated Feb. 8 as an annual International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking and invited people to host or attend a prayer service that fosters awareness of and support for victims of trafficking.

The annual day, created with Pope Francis’ encouragement in 2015, is the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita, who was kidnapped as a child and sold into slavery in Sudan and Italy.

Covenant House, which shelters homeless youth in 14 states most ages 16-20, estimates that 20 percent of the young people it serves have been victims of human trafficking. On the streets, too often, they have sold, or bartered, access to their bodies in exchange for food, drugs, alcohol or a bed.

Ninety-five percent of all sex trafficking victims reported childhood experiences of abuse, according to a study commissioned by Covenant House from the University of Pennsylvania’s Field Center for Children’s Policy, Practice & Research.

“Traffickers can sense (past sexual abuse),” said Angela Aufdemberge, president of Vista Maria, a social services organization in Dearborn Heights, Michigan, told an anti-trafficking conference in Washington last May. “The biggest need is to address maltreatment in homes and regulating who our kids are communicating with on the internet.”

Ten months ago, President Donald Trump signed a new law making it illegal for online platforms to knowingly facilitate sex trafficking. It was a law Yvonne Ambrose had helped lobby for in Congress.

Standing next to him as he signed the measure in the Oval Office was a bittersweet experience for her.

Ambrose told the president: “Our fight against online sex trafficking has made a change — a change that will save the life of someone else’s daughter.”



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# Music, faith intertwined for retired violinist now in ministry as deacon for Indianapolis archdiocese

BY SEAN GALLAGHER

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — Violinist David Bartolowits played his last concert with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra Dec. 23, 2016, winding up his 35-year musical career with a heartwarming Christmas concert.

A little more than a week later, he began ministry as director of catechesis for St. John the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis. Six months later, he was ordained a deacon for the Indianapolis archdiocese and has continued to serve at St. John since then.

Although he laid down his violin to minister in the Church full time, Deacon Bartolowits still makes beautiful music, a symphony of faith.

For him, music and faith are deeply intertwined. Each has sharpened his appreciation of the other.

"I don't know how someone who performs classical music cannot experience spirituality," Deacon Bartolowits said. "I can't see how you can separate that."

For him, entering into the great works of classical music is like reading sacred Scripture.

"When you read a passage of Scripture, it speaks to you differently each time you hear it," Deacon Bartolowits told *The Criterion*, newspaper of the Indianapolis archdiocese. "It's created for that."

"And it's the same with classical music. It's not a one-time experience. There's so much depth in the technique of writing a piece so that it has that depth that can speak to you in multiple ways, at multiple times over the course of a lifetime. There's a parallel there."

Deacon Bartolowits' love affair with music and his faith grew in different ways at different times.

He gained a passion for music while in high school in Pittsburgh. He later studied violin performance as an undergraduate student at Pittsburgh's Carnegie Mellon University.

After graduating in 1981, he was hired by the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra and stayed there until he retired.

"You're putting more of who you are as a human being into that music," Deacon Bartolowits said. "It's not just a way to make money or provide for your family. There's another level that goes into being a musician. Your soul is involved somehow."

Although raised as a Catholic and never one to miss Sunday Mass, he said that until about 20 years ago, he had



Deacon David Bartolowits, left, and Father Rick Nagel elevate the Eucharist during a Feb. 7 Mass at St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis.

only a "rudimentary faith."

When his children became young adults and began to question the faith, he began to delve more deeply into it.

A retreat at St. Meinrad Archabbey in St. Meinrad,

Indiana, eventually led Deacon Bartolowits to participate in the monastery's oblate program, a way for lay Catholics to practice Benedictine spirituality.

He later enrolled as a lay student at St. Meinrad



In this undated photo, David Bartolowits performs with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. He played with the orchestra for 35 years then became the director of catechesis at St. John the Evangelist Parish in 2017 and was ordained a deacon for the Indianapolis archdiocese that same year.

Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad, taking some courses there and others online.

During this time, praying about God's will for him took on greater importance. "(I) was always discerning, 'What is it that you're calling me to do?'"

This ultimately led to him considering that God might be calling him to be a deacon.

The archdiocese's deacon formation program, though, would be challenging for him. It meets one weekend per month most months of the year. And it's on weekends that the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra plays most of its concerts.

After speaking with the symphony's leadership, he found them amenable to him taking one weekend off per month.

"I said, 'Well, God, that piece of the puzzle's been solved,'" Deacon Bartolowits recalled.

During his year of formal discernment of the diaconate and four years of formation, he thought that, were he ordained, he would continue to be a violinist in the symphony, much like other deacons continue in their careers after ordination.

However, during his final year of formation, Deacon Bartolowits and his wife, Leslie, began considering his retirement from the orchestra. He found himself drawn more to ministry and had already accomplished most of what he wanted to do as a musician.

"We prayed about it," he recalled. "We took some time and sought some counsel. Although I wasn't prepared for that, over the years I had

always asked God to let me be open to His will."

Not long afterward, Father Rick Nagel, pastor of St. John, where Bartolowits was a parishioner, invited him to consider becoming the faith community's director of catechesis.

"It was God just stepping in and giving him the answer that he needed," Leslie said. "It was really amazing. It was an awesome decision. It was God saying, 'This is the right thing for you to do.'"

In his ministry, Deacon Bartolowits oversees catechetical programs for parishioners of all ages, its Rite of Christian Initiation and jail ministry.

He is currently helping 42 people, from ages 18 to 67, prepare to be received into full communion with the Church at the Easter Vigil.

"I am overwhelmed by the stories of people that are coming into the faith and searching for God," Deacon Bartolowits said.

He sees guiding each of these people, with their own unique journeys of faith, into a broader community of believers as like leading dozens of individual musicians with their own interpretations of a musical piece to unite in making beautiful music together.

"One of the goals of formation is to help them understand that participating and journeying with a community is what it means to be Catholic," said Deacon Bartolowits.

He also believes that practicing one's faith in a community enables "all of us to use our individual voices to engage in a harmony that allows us to see that Christ is truly present in an individual when that person lives within the reference of a living community."

Father Nagel appreciates how God used music to prepare Deacon Bartolowits for ministry at St. John.

"As much as Deacon Dave is gifted as a musician, he is equally gifted as a minister in the church," Father Nagel said.

"Like most people, God has the plan and the years before formal ministry were helpful for Deacon Dave to understand that all things good require discipline, rhythm and commitment. His time in the orchestra certainly challenged him to these virtues, which are now being used in ministry."

Gallagher is a reporter at *The Criterion*, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.



## Not so fast

I probably shouldn't admit this in front of my grandchildren, but I am a fan of McDonald's fish sandwiches. When I was a young lawyer in San Francisco, my firm's office was right across Market Street from a McDonald's, and every day for a year, I had two fish sandwiches and a chocolate shake for lunch. I am ashamed. But I still like them.

As it happens, the Filet-O-Fish was invented in 1962 for people like me. At that time, Catholics abstained from meat on all Fridays, not just during Lent. The owner of Cincinnati's first McDonald's needed something besides hamburgers to feed his largely Catholic clientele, and proposed the sandwich to Ray Kroc. It was a hit. Still is, with some people.

The business of fasting and abstinence has inspired some other, more theologically significant, menu alternatives, too. The Swiss Reformation began in 1522 over "the affair of the sausages," as it is called. Ulrich Zwingli, a pastor in Zurich, defended a local printer for eating sausage in violation of the Lenten fast.

This was long before the invention of the Filet-O-Fish, but I don't think it would have mattered to Zwingli. For him, there was a principle at stake. He thought, as Luther did, that we are justified by faith and not by works; and that the guide to Christian life is Scripture alone, not Church rules. Christians, he maintained, should do as they please about fasting.

It remains true that different Christian denominations have

different Lenten observances. For most Protestants, fasting is optional, and abstinence from meat is unheard of. Zwingli's anti-Lent streak is still a popular one. I recently read an op-ed by a thoughtful Reformed pastor encouraging Christians to "Repent of Lent." Jesus, he wrote, "fasted for 40 days in the wilderness on our behalf, so we wouldn't have to; not as a model, but as a substitute." On this basis he argued against fasting altogether.

But if we're going to look to Scripture for direction, there's little doubt about what we should be doing. Ash Wednesday Mass gives us the words of Jesus Himself. "When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites." And again, "But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that may not appear to be fasting, except to your Father who is hidden. And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you."

These instructions are bracketed with commands about how to give alms ("Do not let your left hand know what your right is doing") and how to pray ("This is how you are to pray: Our Father ..."). Prayer, almsgiving and fasting. These are the play-book for Lent.

Elsewhere in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus foretold not only His own death, but also His disciples' subsequent practice of penance and mourning: "The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast."

The solid scriptural basis helps explain why Christians fasted from the very earliest days



JOHN GARVEY

## INTELLECT AND VIRTUE

of the faith. In the mid-300s, the Synod of Gangra already treated "the fasts commonly prescribed and observed by the Church" as ancient, established practices.

Our mortifications were once quite severe. They have been significantly relaxed. (I doubt I get half credit for eating fish sandwiches on Fridays.) But fasting is something Jesus instructed us to do.

We would look askance at a Christian who worked on Christmas Day instead of reveling in seasonal joy. For similar reasons, we should welcome the modest penitential practices that the Church enjoins on us in the season leading up to Christ's passion.

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

## Losing our humanity to robots?

As a member of the Pontifical Academy for Life, I have attended its annual assemblies in Rome since 2012. Pope Francis has asked the academy to explore a range of issues with moral implications, in keeping with an "integral ecology" linking respect for human life with human solidarity and respect for creation.

Nonetheless, I was surprised to find that this year's assembly in February was on "Roboethics." How do issues arising from our use of robots link up with our concern about respect for human life? What I found was that, as Pope Francis has reminded us in "Laudato Si'": "Everything is connected."

One presentation was by Japanese robotics expert Hiroshi Ishiguro, who wants to develop robots who in conversation can convince others that they are talking with another human being (often known as the Turing Test).

Other speakers talked about giving robots the routine and repetitive tasks of an industrialized society, allowing humans to devote themselves to more interesting and creative activities.

But Ishiguro sees robots becoming our companions, caretakers and even romantic partners — preparing for a future where we become robots ourselves, acquiring an inorganic body and brain that can survive what we have made of our world.

Current experiments include the use of robots to converse



RICHARD DOERFLINGER

## A MORE HUMAN SOCIETY

with seniors in nursing homes, and even to "keep company" with patients who are close to death.

In one video, a robotic device strokes the arm of a dying woman, assuring her that "your family loves you very much." I reflected that the machine has been programmed to lie, since the family is too busy with its own concerns to be nearby.

Ishiguro claims this is necessary due to Japan's rapidly aging population. He says that in 50 years, the country's population will be half what it is now; predictions by others are less drastic but still alarming. There are not enough young people, or at least not enough who are willing, to keep company with the elderly.

In Japan, this "demographic winter" arose because many young adults have decided they lack the time, resources or energy for having children, or ultimately for getting married.

In recent years, many have lost interest in having intimate relationships with people. Increasingly, young Japanese men have turned to watch-

**DOERFLINGER, page 13**

## God rejoices in those who return to Him



### THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

### Fourth Sunday of Lent Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

This weekend the Church observes Laetare Sunday, the name being derived from the first word, in Latin, of the Entrance Antiphon. This word is "laetare." or "rejoice." The Church rejoices that salvation, finalized in the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus, is near.

Priests may wear rose, not pink, vestments. Rose is red and blue — purple — with a tinge of gold, reminding us of the first rays of the sun as they creep across the horizon after a dark night. Pink blends red and white. Gold, the color of daybreak, is essential,

reminding us that Christ, the light of the world, is coming.

The Book of Joshua, the first reading, looks far back to the time when God's people finished the long, threatening trip across the Sinai Peninsula. It was then, as it is now, bleak in sterility and danger.

Along the way, they disowned God, but God still rescued them from starvation, sending manna from the sky. Scientifically speaking, what was manna? No one knows, but it was real. Unexpectedly, it appeared. The people could not have created it. It was God's gift. With it, the people survived.

St. Paul's Second Epistle to the Corinthians furnishes the second reading. In the reading is Paul's urgent appeal to the Corinthian Christians to be reconciled with God in Christ. Imagine Paul's frustration as he saw the Corinthians toying with their old pagan ways. Of course, urgency literally flowed in his words. They revealed his belief that nothing else matters but life in union with God. Thus,

he implored the people to return to God to be "new creations" in Christ.

For its final reading on this weekend, the Church gives us, from Luke's Gospel, the reassuring parable of the prodigal son.

Much of the parable is self-evident, even to us in the 21st century. Quite clear is the unqualified, constant love of the wayward son's father, who is a symbol of God.

The parable best is understood by considering the ancient context. The prodigal son was not the older son, therefore, he was not his father's heir. The prodigal son had no right to an inheritance, whether he was good or bad. However, neither did he have a right to abandon his father. This especially would have disgusted Jews at the time of Jesus, who prized loyalty to parents.

Most of all, the prodigal son rejected the privilege of being part of the People of God. He repudiated the primary obligation of this status, to bear witness to

God. Finally, he consorted with prostitutes, scorning the sanctity of marriage, so precious to Jews, and risked defiling the pure stock of God's people by begetting children who would be reared by pagan, unbelieving mothers.

His sins brought him no reward. He had to serve not humans, not just animals, even, but pigs: filthy, ugly predators, the lowest of the low, in Jewish eyes.

Nevertheless, the father forgave all and lavishly gave him an undeserved inheritance.

### Reflection

The Church is joyful. Salvation, to be with God in and through, Jesus, is near.

Wisely, the Church realizes that all its members, to some degree, at some time, have been prodigal sons, wandering away as the Corinthians wandered.

Its message this weekend, however, is not of denunciation and divine revenge. Instead, in the reading from Joshua, precisely with its reference to the manna, and in the Gospel, with its thrilling

story of the forgiving father, the Church reassures us. Although we may sin, God never abandons the promise to protect us.

God loves us. He is forever merciful, regardless of how far we stray — if we repent.

In Jesus, the sacrificial victim of Calvary, God awaits us with the Eucharist, manna for our starving souls, for which there is no substitute and without which we starve.

### READINGS

**Sunday:** Jos 5:9a, 10-12 Ps 34:2-7 2 Cor 5:17-21 Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

**Monday:** Is 65:17-21 Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b Jn 4:43-54

**Tuesday:** Ez 47:1-9, 12 Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9 Jn 5:1-16

**Wednesday:** Is 49:8-15 Ps 145:8-9, 13c-14, 17-18 Jn 5:17-30

**Thursday:** Ex 32:7-14 Ps 106:19-23 Jn 5:31-47

**Friday:** Wis 2:1a, 12-22 Ps 34:17-21, 23 Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

**Saturday:** Jer 11:18-20 Ps 7:2-3, 9b-12 Jn 7:40-53



# It's not just about the frozen embryos

I remember a conversation I had with a married Catholic couple a few years ago. They were feeling lost and desperate over their inability to conceive a child. They were casting about for options. They understood there were moral concerns with doing in vitro fertilization, though they weren't sure about the specifics, so they asked: "Would it be OK for us to do IVF as long as we don't make any extra embryos and we're careful to implant all the ones we make?" The thinking behind their question was understandable and they clearly recognized it would be wrong to produce and then store their embryonic sons and daughters in the deep freeze. It's important to note, however, that the possibility of "spare" embryos ending up in "frozen orphanages" would not be the only reason, or even the main reason, that IVF is morally unacceptable. The immorality of IVF is primarily due to the fact that the process turns human procreation into a method of production in which children are made, not begotten.

Embryos certainly face grave risks whenever they are cryopreserved, and a significant percentage of them do not survive the steps of freezing and thawing. The cryostorage of embryos is a form of "collateral damage" that routinely occurs when IVF is done. Ethically speaking, doing IVF and making extra embryos would be more offensive than doing IVF without making extra embryos, in the same way that stealing jewels out of the bank vault and shooting the guards on the way out would be more objectionable than stealing the jewels nonviolently. Yet the action of absconding with the jewels remains seriously wrong in either case, apart from any considerations about whether the guards are harmed. Similarly, IVF does not become morally acceptable merely by eliminating the collateral damage associated with the process, whether it's the freezing of embryos, the "selective reduc-

tions" of twins and triplets, or any of the other objectionable practices that tend to be part of the process.

The heart of the IVF process itself, the practice of joining sperm and egg together in the fertility clinic, remains an intrinsic evil, flowing from the decision to allow our offspring to be "manufactured." The domain of procreation is a delicate arena, one in which our human vulnerability is uniquely laid bare. We have a particular responsibility to safeguard our own sexuality and the origins of our children from damaging forces in this arena, which implies a duty to respect the marital act as the unique locus and setting for the engendering of new human life.

IVF is not really a "treatment" for infertility, given that the couple remains as infertile after doing IVF as they were before they started the process, with the underlying cause of their sterility remaining unaddressed and unresolved. The procedure offers little more than a workaround to completely bypass the marital act — an expensive, complex, unwieldy substitute, not a genuine therapy.

Through IVF, husband and wife use their own (or even another person's) sex cells to become "donors," while constructing their own offspring through a kind of programmed project, with the marital act no longer a part of the equation. In the final analysis, however, only when the bodies of our children arise as the immediate fruit of our own bodily and spousal self-surrender can we say they have been freely and unconditionally received as gifts, rather than coerced into being as the result of human willfulness, financial planning, and scripted biological technologies. Only then can we say that we have not dominated the process of procreation nor preponderated over the origins of our offspring.

By yielding to the project of fabricating our children in the cold, clinical and commercial



## MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

venture that is in vitro fertilization, we act against the human dignity of our offspring by sanctioning inequality and setting up a subclass of those who originate in petri dishes and test tubes rather than in the intimacy of the mutual spousal donation that receives life within the protective maternal hearth.

These various explanations of the wrongness of IVF can seem distant and hard for infertile couples to accept. They yearn intensely for a child. The infertility industry appeals to their desire to be in control in an arena where control has been elusive, and part of the allure is also the carefully choreographed assembling of babies who have been planned, screened and quality controlled.

It is a tragic step when spouses opt for the production of their own offspring in glassware, because they move forward and violate the deepest meaning of their marital union, rather than holding firmly to the truth that their one-flesh communion is the unique and privileged interpersonal sanctuary in which a new and unrepeatable person appears by a Power and a Will that is not their own.

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

### DOERFLINGER, from page 12

ing anime, accessing internet pornography and playing video games, even having "virtual girlfriends."

The BBC has even aired a documentary titled "No Sex Please, We're Japanese." As one young man appearing in the documentary says: "Why would you get into something as messy, as troubling, as disorienting as a relationship when you could have a virtual girlfriend, a virtual experience, that maybe is even superior to the reality?"

The population of many industrialized nations, including the U.S., has dropped below replacement levels. Planned

Parenthood makes the self-serving claim that this is due to more effective contraception. But decreases in abortions and births in the U.S. have been most rapid among teens, who are engaging in less premature sexual activity.

That trend is welcome. But is it due to greater responsibility and self-control? Or in an age of immersion in social media, is it partly due to disengagement from face-to-face relationships with other people?

Will Americans, too, ultimately relate more easily to robots, as we find it too "messy" to bond with people who have minds and wills of their own?

Finally, what becomes of our

humanity when the repetitive and unwanted tasks we hand over to machines is the task of taking care of each other? And what then becomes of the unique respect we owe to human life? The academy is suggesting that we need to think about these questions now.

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

## SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for March 31, 2019

Luke 15:1-3; 11-32

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Fourth Sunday of Lent, Cycle C: the parable of two very different brothers. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

SINNERS	PHARISEES	EATEN
TWO SONS	FATHER	PROPERTY
BETWEEN	YOUNGER	COUNTRY
FAMINE	SINNED	HEAVEN
SERVANTS	LOST	FOUND
FIELD	MUSIC	DANCING
SAFE	ANGRY	FRIENDS

### PARTY?

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

## Saint of the Week



### Blessed Restituta Kafka

1894-1943  
Feast March 30

Born Helene Kafka in Moravia, she moved with her family to Vienna in 1896. Despite parental opposition, she joined the Hartmann Sisters, or Sisters of Christian Charity, a nursing order, taking the name Maria Restituta, after St. Restituta of Sora, who was beheaded in the third century. Seasoned by World War I, she gained renown as an operating room nurse and anesthetist in Modling, Austria. Arrested by the Nazis in 1942 for religious activities in her hospital, she was beheaded, the only nun so sentenced in the Nazis' German territories.



# Retired Sacramento Bishop Quinn, 97, dies; was oldest U.S. prelate

BY MICHAEL BROWN

TUCSON, Ariz. (CNS) — Retired Bishop Francis A. Quinn of Sacramento, California, who headed the Northern California diocese from 1980 to 1994 and later spent 13 years ministering to Native Americans in the Diocese of Tucson, died March 21 at age 97.

Vespers and a rosary will take place the evening of March 31. His funeral Mass will be celebrated at noon April 1. All services will be at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in downtown Sacramento.

The seventh bishop to head the Diocese of Sacramento, he was a much beloved figure in the Sacramento community.

"Bishop Quinn, at the time of his death, was the oldest Catholic bishop in the United States. A status he enjoyed sharing with the many who visited him," Bishop Jaime Soto of Sacramento said in a March 22 statement. "In his quieter moments though, Bishop Quinn was ready and eager to meet the Good Shepherd whom he had served faithfully during his 73 years as a priest, 41 of which as bishop."

"As he approached the divine threshold," he said, "Bishop Quinn's heart resonated with the words of Paul to the Philippians: 'It is not that I have already taken hold of it or have already attained

perfect maturity, but I continue my pursuit in hope that I may possess it, since I have indeed been taken possession of by Christ Jesus.'"

Many admired and loved Bishop Quinn, "Catholics and non-Catholics alike," Bishop Soto said. "He was always accompanied by friends and family throughout his long stay at Mercy McMahon (an assisted living residence). I am grateful to all those who were his companions during the final part of his sojourn.

"Let us continue to accompany him with our prayers. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord. May perpetual light shine upon him."

Francis Anthony Quinn was born Sept. 11, 1921, in Los Angeles. He attended St. Joseph Seminary in the Archdiocese of San Francisco, where he was ordained a priest June 15, 1946. He earned a master's in education from The Catholic University of America in 1947 and a doctorate in education from the University of California-Berkeley in 1962.

He taught in archdiocesan high schools until becoming assistant superintendent of Catholic schools in 1955. From 1962 to 1972, he was editor of the archdiocesan newspaper, the *San Francisco Monitor*.

Pope Paul VI appointed him as an auxiliary bishop for the archdiocese, and he was consecrated on June 29, 1978. Bishop Quinn was appointed by St. John Paul II



CNS photo/courtesy Diocese of Tucson

**Retired Bishop Francis A. Quinn of Sacramento, Calif., the oldest Catholic bishop in the United States, died at age 97 March 21, 2019, at Mercy McMahon Terrace assisted living center in Sacramento. Bishop Quinn is pictured in an undated photo.**

to Sacramento and was installed there in 1980.

While Bishop Quinn served 13 years as Sacramento's bishop, he made national news for his advocacy on behalf of the poor. He was known for giving money to the homeless, serving meals and washing dishes in a soup kitchen and visiting migrant labor camps in the summer.

A member of the Catholic peace movement Pax Christi, he called for nuclear disarmament

before the U.S. bishops issued their pastoral letter, "The Challenge of Peace." He helped spearhead a civic ecumenical partnership to build 1,000 homes for Sacramento's homeless population.

*The Sacramento Bee* newspaper lauded Bishop Quinn as "Sacramento's conscience."

"When he speaks for the poor and the homeless, he speaks with the authority of a bishop who ordered the sale of the church mansion and moved into the maid's quarters in the basement" of the cathedral rectory, said a *Bee* editorial.

Throughout his tenure, he also supported school choice legislation and support for Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops' overseas relief and development agency.

He often invited faith leaders from other denominations to services at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, including a joint baptism on Pentecost in 1989, and in 2000 delivered a benchmark address outlining "Beatitudes for an Ecumenical Era." He also issued in 1991 a new "Beatitudes for Elected Officials."

He retired in 1993, and the priests of the diocese gave him a recreational vehicle as a retirement gift.

He retired at age 73, two years before the age canon requires bishops to turn in their resignation to the pope. He was in good

health and said his reason for early retirement was that "I've done all the things I can think of."

A year later, he moved to Arizona to minister to the Yaquis and the Tohono O'odham in the San Solano Missions.

"A vocation is not a profession from which you retire," he said in 1994. "A vocation never ends."

Even in retirement he maintained a simple lifestyle, living in a trailer behind the residence of Tucson's bishop.

In 1999, he was one of eight bishops who signed a petition published in *The New York Times* calling for international debt relief in line with Pope John Paul II's designation of the year 2000 as a jubilee year.

In 2003, he underwent quadruple bypass surgery after serious coronary blockages were discovered following a routine angiogram.

In 2007, he stepped away from active ministry and returned to Sacramento. On that occasion, Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas, then head of the Tucson diocese, wrote: "What a blessing his presence has been! He is beloved among the people he served with such dedication and commitment, especially the people of the Pascua Yaqui Nation. ... I know all of us feel profound respect for Bishop Quinn and cherish his gentle, loving and unassuming manner. He is a deeply spiritual man who has left a permanent impact on all of us."

"It's been a very happy 13 years," Bishop Quinn said.

Bishop Quinn still was not done in the public spotlight. In 2015, at age 93, he became a first-time author, penning a "fictional memoir" called "Behind Closed Doors: Conflicts in Today's Church." He wrote the book during his first six years in Arizona. Proceeds from sales benefited a facility for the homeless, newly released prisoners and those just out of drug rehabilitation.

He retired to Mercy McMahon Terrace, a residence run by the Sisters of Mercy for seniors in Sacramento.

Bishop Quinn is survived by his sister-in-law, Betty Quinn, two nieces and numerous grandnephews and grandnieces and their families.

*Michael Brown is managing editor of Catholic Outlook, newspaper of the Diocese of Tucson.*

## Pro-life advocate, subject of 'Unplanned,' speaks at ND



Jennifer Miller

Abby Johnson shares stories from her life with a press audience at the Center for Ethics and Culture, University of Notre Dame, on Thursday, March 21. The stories also are shared in a new biographical movie, "Unplanned," that focuses on her decisions to become a pro-life advocate — and Catholic — after witnessing an abortion as part of her position as a Planned Parenthood clinic director. The movie is currently in theaters across the country.

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

**Lenten fish fry**

**HUNTINGTON** — The St. Mary Rosary Sodality is sponsoring a Lenten fish fry on Friday, March 29, at the school gymnasium, 903 N. Jefferson, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Adult Meals are \$10 and children 5 and older \$5. Fish is by Dan's Fish Fry with 50/50 raffle, desserts and a bake sale.

**Laetare Sunday concert**

**MISHAWAKA** — St. Bavo Church, 511 W. 7th St., will have a Laetare (rejoice) Sunday concert March 31, at 4 p.m. It will feature choral singing, talented soloists, congregational hymns and a reflection by pastor, Father Pete Pacini, CSC. There is no admission charge.

**Homeschool tea party**

**FORT WAYNE** — Homeschool parent-teachers and their children may attend a Tea Time Out, Thursday, April 4, from 10 a.m. to noon in the Msgr. John Kuzmich Life Center, 1502 E Wallen Rd. RSVP to Lisa at 260-637-1285 or [lcwinde@frontier.com](mailto:lcwinde@frontier.com).

**Legion of Mary ACIES Ceremony**

**NEW CARLISLE** — Active and auxiliary members of the Legion of Mary are invited to renew their promise to Our Lady at the ACIES Ceremony Sunday, March 31 at 2 p.m. at St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, 55756 Tulip Rd. Contact Elsie at 547-259-6215 for more information.

**Day of Reflection**

**MISHAWAKA** — A day of reflection will be held at St. Francis Convent Wednesday, April 3, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The theme for the day is "God of Gathering." Bring a Bible. The cost of the day is \$20 and includes lunch. Register by calling 574-259-5427.

**St. Louis Besancon spring rummage sale**

**NEW HAVEN** — The St. Louis Besancon spring rummage sale will run from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday, April 5, and from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 6, in the Parish Hall, 15535 Lincoln Highway E. Saturday will also be fill-a-bag for \$3 all day. A bake sale featuring home made goods

## REST IN PEACE

<p><b>Angola</b> Pamela C. White, 90, St. Anthony of Padua</p> <p><b>Decatur</b> Linda S. Richard, 69, St. Mary of the Assumption</p> <p>Paul R. Weaver, 93, St. Mary of the Assumption</p> <p><b>Fort Wayne</b> James Weber, 93, Most Precious Blood</p>	<p>Jerome A. Welch, 85, St. Jude</p> <p>Suzanne Beard, 70, St. Vincent de Paul</p> <p>Patricia Willson, 65, St. Jude</p> <p><b>Huntington</b> Father Thomas Fahey, 99, SS. Peter and Paul</p> <p><b>South Bend</b> Ashley Linner, 32, Christ the King</p>	<p>Mary Romak, 97, St. Anthony de Padua</p> <p><b>Wabash</b> Stella Zek, 87, St. Bernard</p> <p><b>Waterloo</b> Emerson L. Szeman, 89, St. Michael the Archangel</p>
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will also be taking place. All proceeds will benefit the St. Louis Besancon Rosary Sodality.

**Spring rummage sale**

**KENDALLVILLE** — The Immaculate Conception Rosary Sodality, 319 Diamond St., will have a rummage sale on Friday, April 5, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturday, April 6, from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The Saturday sale offers fill-a-bag for \$2.50.

**Respect Life Prayer Dinner**

**SOUTH BEND** — Join St. Joseph County Right to Life for a night of interfaith prayer, music and worship Tuesday, April 9, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Ray & Joan Kroc Corps Community Center, 900 W Western Ave., Cost is \$20. Clergy and religious attend free.

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with Father Thomas Zehr



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# Cursillo gives women the tools to spread Christ's love

BY CINDY KLEPPER

When Christine Koors attended a Cursillo weekend 18 years ago in Indianapolis, it changed her life.

"It was just a newfound relationship with Christ," she said. "I knew I had a relationship with Him, but now I actually call Him my friend."

She wanted everyone to find that relationship and, as rectora — retreat leader — of the recent Cursillo weekend at St. Felix Catholic Center in Huntington, she and her team led 32 women from across the Fort Wayne-South Bend diocese in deepening their friendship with Christ.

The women celebrated Mass on the final day of the retreat with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, who sent them on their way with an exhortation to share that friendship with others.

"The most important thing is that you go forth from here with the grace that you have received to spread the love of Christ with your families, in your homes, in your places of work," he said. "We're counting on you. God's counting on you."

Cursillo, pronounced "ker-see-yoh," is a Spanish word literally translated as "short course." The name is evidence of its roots in Spain, where it began in 1949 with a goal of bringing young men to know Christ better. Cursillo weekends now are held throughout the world for both men and women.

The women who gathered at St. Felix March 21-24 spent their time in prayer, attending Mass and adoration, participating in reconciliation and listening to more than a dozen priests and lay people reflecting on grace, growing in piety and taking action to share their faith with others.

The final day of the retreat fell on the eve of the feast of the Annunciation of Our Lord, when



Participants in a women's Cursillo weekend at St. Felix Catholic Center, in Huntington, pray during Mass on Sunday, March 24, the final day of the weekend.

Photos by Cindy Klepper

Mary learned that she would become the mother of the Son of God.

"Tomorrow's a beautiful feast," Bishop Rhoades told the women during the final Mass. "I think of that feast as you go forth today, hopefully with the spirit of Mary, who prayed those beautiful words. She was the most perfect disciple of her Son. 'Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done to me according to Your word.'"

"I pray you go forth from here with that obedient faith of Mary, with your hearts open to the will of God in your lives," Bishop Rhoades said.

That's what the weekend is all about, according to Koors, a Chicago native who lived in Carmel for 20 years before moving to Fort Wayne five years ago.

"When you make a weekend, you have the love of Christ and you want to spread that to every-

one. "You're making friends, you're being a friend, you're bringing friends to Christ. The Holy Spirit is in charge."

Koors' own Cursillo weekend left her wanting more.

"The love of the women there is so contagious. It was like a taste of heaven to me. I didn't want to leave ... I wanted to deepen my faith. I wanted to study more."

One of the goals of a Cursillo weekend is that the participants form small groups that will

continue to meet weekly, helping each other grow in faith by reflecting on Christ's presence in their lives and making plans to share that presence with others the following week, Koors said.

After moving from Carmel to Fort Wayne, Koors missed her group so much that she started her own group in her new hometown. Those group meetings support her and the other members in spreading the love of Christ.

"It helped me not be shy in my evangelization, just planting the seeds of God's faith," she said. Evangelization can happen anywhere, even at the grocery store, she noted, and can be as simple as wearing a crucifix or a Mary medal.

"If everyone would follow the Cursillo method, if every Catholic knew about it, Christ's love would be an overabundance. I just can't live without it."

St. Felix will be the site of several more Cursillo weekends for both women and men throughout the year.



Ann Gray leads the responsorial psalm during Mass.



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades presents the homily during Mass, to close the women's Cursillo weekend.

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