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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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TODAYSCATHOLIC.org

Young voices reflect joy of the Annunciation

BY BETHANY BEEBE

Announcing the Good News of the Gospel on the solemnity of the Annunciation, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated what he described as “a break for joy in the midst of Lent:” a Mass featuring worship music provided by the Pueri Cantores choir, who came together on the feast of Mary’s acceptance of her role in God’s plan of salvation.

At a Mass said at St. Charles Borromeo Church, Fort Wayne, the bishop was joined by students from across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend who participated in the annual choral event, lending their voices to the liturgy. Begun stateside in 1953, Pueri Cantores, the official “youth singing organization of the Catholic Church” offers students the opportunity to learn traditional Church music and culture, according to the organization and Brian MacMichael, director of the Office of Worship. This year approximately 350 fourth-12th-grade students, selected by their schools’ choral leaders, participated in the tradition, which has been embraced by the diocese since 2011. MacMichael described the Mass that serves as the culmi-



John Martin

Pueri Cantores, the official “youth singing organization of the Catholic Church” offered vocals throughout a Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at St. Charles Borromeo Church, Fort Wayne, March 25. The singers come together from parishes and schools across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend once a year for the Mass.

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Michelle Hittie: Devoted to the soul of Catholic education

BY JEANNIE EWING

It’s no small feat in the modern era to achieve a true balance between family and work, managing the home, finances and children while trying to serve God with the gifts He has provided. Former Superintendent of Catholic Schools Michelle Hittie achieved and even excelled at that balance, however, humbly serving both her family and God until passing away on Wednesday, March 27, at the age of 78.

Born in Pittsburgh, Hittie attended both high school and college in Pennsylvania. She completed a bachelor’s degree in edu-



MICHELLE HITTIE

cation in 1962, and after her first year of teaching, she decided to stay home and raise her children: William, Jr. (“Bud”), Mark, Craig, Carolyn and Sharon.

In 1980, she received a master of education degree from Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne. She served at St. John the Baptist School, New Haven, as a fifth- through eighth-grade teacher from 1981 to 1986, then a junior high language arts teacher there from 1987 to 1990, afterward attaining her administrator’s license from IPFW in 1990. She became principal at the school and remained in that capacity until 1994, when she lent her leadership to St. John the Baptist School

in Fort Wayne for a year, and then to St. Charles Borromeo School in 1995. She received her highest accolade as an educator — that of superintendent of Catholic schools for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend — in 2001.

She remained in the position until her retirement in 2006. During her tenure, she helped to initiate retreat days for principals through the Principal’s Association.

According to Mary Schreiber, a friend and colleague for 30 years, Hittie died peacefully, surrounded by her family, a day after receiving last rites from Father William

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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

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Education leader Norman Francis to receive Laetare Medal

NOTRE DAME, Ind. (CNS) — Norman C. Francis, who served as president of Xavier University of Louisiana for 47 years and has been a prominent voice in the civil rights movement for decades, will receive the University of Notre Dame's 2019 Laetare Medal at the school's graduation ceremony May 19.

"For more than 50 years, Dr. Francis has been at the center of civil rights advocacy by leveraging the power of Catholic higher education," Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins, Notre Dame president, said in announcing the award March 31.

"In bestowing the Laetare Medal upon him, Notre Dame recognizes his leadership in the fight for social justice through educational empowerment," Father Jenkins added.

The Laetare Medal is so named because its recipient is announced each year on Laetare Sunday, the fourth Sunday of Lent.

"I am honored by Notre Dame recognizing me in this way," Francis said in a statement released by the university. "I think the fact that I have the privilege of being among Laetare awardees is itself a hope and an inspiration, not just for the students, but for many others as well."

Francis led Xavier University of Louisiana to unprecedented growth during his long tenure; enrollment nearly tripled, the endowment increased 800 percent and the school produced the highest number of undergraduates who completed medical school. The school ranks first nationally in the number of African American students earning undergraduate degrees in biology, life sciences, chemistry, physics and pharmacy.

The only historically black and Catholic university was founded in 1925 by St. Katherine Drexel. She devoted her life to advancing racial equality for African Americans and Native Americans, primarily through education. The saint had a profound influence on Francis.

"I did not build Xavier. I was part of Katherine Drexel's mission to provide a quality education for all," Francis said. "All the people I worked with were part of this plan and mission, which was not only honorable, but was totally necessary when you look back at what the United States was at the time."

Francis was born in 1931 in Lafayette, Louisiana, and was one of five children in his family. His early education occurred in Catholic schools run by Spiritan priests and the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament and funded by St. Katherine Drexel's philanthropy during a period of segregation in U.S. Catholic parishes.



CNS photo/Shealah Craighead, White House

Norman Francis, who served as president of Xavier University of Louisiana for 47 years and has been a prominent voice in the civil rights movement for decades, is pictured being honored Dec. 19, 2006, by President George W. Bush with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor. He will receive the University of Notre Dame's 2019 Laetare Medal at the school's graduation ceremony May 19.

In 1952 he became the first African American to enroll in Loyola University Law School in New Orleans. The university noted that Bishop Joseph A. Francis, his late brother, also was a civil rights trailblazer, having been the fourth African

the first African American president of the university.

Francis became known as a civil leaders and statesman over the years. He advised eight U.S. presidents on education and civil rights issues and served on numerous boards

The University of Notre Dame gave him an honorary doctor of law degree in 1988 for his commitment to education and civil rights. He received a second honorary doctorate from Notre Dame in 2006 for working to rebuild his own institution and served as chair of the Louisiana Recovery Authority, established after hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Established at Notre Dame in 1883, the Laetare Medal has been awarded annually at Notre Dame to a Catholic "whose genius has ennobled the arts and sciences, illustrated the ideals of the church and enriched the heritage of humanity."

Past award recipients include President John F. Kennedy, Dorothy Day, Chicago Cardinal Joseph Bernardin, labor activist Msgr. George G. Higgins and jazz composer Dave Brubeck; Jesuit Father Greg Boyle, founder and executive director of Homeboy Industries; and Sister Norma Pimentel, a member of the Missionaries of Jesus, who is executive director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley in Texas and a longtime advocate for immigrants and refugees.

... the Laetare Medal has been awarded annually at Notre Dame to a Catholic "whose genius has ennobled the arts and sciences, illustrated the ideals of the church and enriched the heritage of humanity."

American to become a bishop when he became auxiliary bishop of Newark, New Jersey, in 1976.

Francis entered the U.S. Army after law school. When his military stint ended in 1957, he bypassed a law career to become dean of men at Xavier. Eleven years later, April 4, 1968, the day the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, Francis accepted an invitation to become

and commissions. He also has been a member of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, a member of The Catholic University of America's board of trustees, and a member of the board of directors of the National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice. President George W. Bush honored him in 2006 with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award.

Bishops condemn bills to expand abortion, repeal conscience protection

BY JACOB COMELLO

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The bishops from Illinois' six dioceses made a decisive stand March 28 against state legislators' efforts to remove all abortion restrictions in the state, as well as the right of physicians to object to the practice.

At a news conference livestreamed from the Illinois Capitol in Springfield, Catholic Conference of Illinois Director Bob Gilligan told reporters on no uncertain terms that "we are here today to oppose these bills."

Alongside Gilligan were Chicago's archbishop and the bishops of Belleville, Joliet, Peoria, Rockford and Springfield, as well as some Catholic health care professionals who practice in Illinois.

The Senate and House bills Gilligan is referring to are S.B. 1942 and H.B. 2495. Either, if passed, would greatly alter current Illinois law. In the text of S.B. 1942 are clauses that "(provide) that a fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus does not have independent rights under the laws of this state" and clauses that "repeal the Abortion Performance Refusal Act," current law that allows physicians to opt-out of providing abortion provided they have moral objections.

After Gilligan's introduction, Cardinal Blase J. Cupich of Chicago took the podium, explaining that his approach to human life has remained consistent across all political issues.

"Last year, you may remem-

ber, I came here to ask our elected officials to strengthen laws regulating the sale and possession of firearms," Cardinal Cupich said, claiming that shootings that had happened since then demonstrated "the consequences of prioritizing the unlimited right to own guns over the right to life of human beings."

He declared his mission on this day was essentially the same: "This morning, I come to question the unlimited right of one human being to end the life of another."

Cardinal Cupich also took specific issue with the proposed repeal of the Abortion Performance Refusal Act, asking: "Does the state of Illinois really want to become a place where people are forced to do things in their workplace that are against their most deeply held beliefs?"

"Wherever we turn today, we encounter mounting efforts to treat the lives of men, women, and children as mere means to a larger and allegedly more important goal," Cardinal Cupich concluded. "It is in this context that we must view this proposed legislation as the latest attack on human dignity."

Standing with the cardinal were Bishops Daniel R. Jenky of Peoria, Edward K. Braxton of Belleville, Thomas J. Paprocki of Springfield, R. Daniel Conlon of Joliet, David J. Malloy of Rockford.

After the cardinal's address, remarks were given by Dr. Jillian Stalling, an OB-GYN with OSF HealthCare, who also serves as the Illinois director for the

Catholic Medical Association.

Stalling condemned the bill as forcing health care professionals to choose between their conscience or career, and ended on a personal note, revealing her love of the profession: "I love taking care of women and delivering babies. If this legislation passes, I am not going to leave the medical profession ... but I will refuse to perform an abortion."

Mary Beth Miller, nurse director at St. John's Hospital in Springfield, also stepped up to the podium, relating the miraculous outcomes she has seen in her hospital's Newborn Intensive Care Unit that could be stifled if the bills pass: "The youngest baby born in our hospital ... was delivered at just 22 weeks and six days gestation. ... I am stunned at how the proposed legislation ... flatly states that an embryo of fetus has no independent rights."

Wrapping up was Joy Neubern of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Joliet, who reiterated that Catholic Charities has always stood behind women who find themselves in unexpected pregnancies.

"We are here when life gets tough and when you have to make difficult decisions" Neubern said, "If we can't help you, we know who can."

The House and Senate bills in question have 39 and 14 sponsors in their respective bodies, all Democrats, and have each been referred to at least one committee so far.



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Sunday, April 7: 4 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, St. Patrick Church, Ligonier
 Monday, April 8: 10 a.m. — Meeting of the Bishop's Cabinet, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne
 Tuesday, April 9: 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, St. Joseph Church, Garrett
 Wednesday, April 10: 10:30 a.m. — Visit of Bishop Dwenger High School Seniors to Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne
 Wednesday, April 10: 6 p.m. — Mass for Assembly of Catholic Foundations, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
 Thursday, April 11: 12 p.m. — Meeting of Annual Bishop's Appeal Committee, Sacred Heart Church, Warsaw
 Thursday, April 11: 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, Queen of Peace Church, Mishawaka
 Friday, April 12: 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, St. Vincent de Paul Church, Elkhart
 Saturday, April 13: 10 a.m. — Confirmation Mass, St. Vincent de Paul Church, Elkhart

HITTIE, from page 1

receiving last rites from Father William Sullivan of St. John the Baptist, New Haven. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 10:30 a.m. Monday, April 1, at the church. She was buried at Highland Park Cemetery on Wallen Road in Fort Wayne.

Known for her dedication, loyalty and fidelity to both her faith and her family, Hittie also had a great impact on students.

"It was her faith that drove her to work for our Catholic School system," said Schreiber. "She believed in doing all for the Catholic identity that distinguishes us from the public-school system. Attending Mass and reciting the rosary was important to her growth in her relationship with God."

Hittie was well-known for her professionalism, organizational skills and preparation for whatever task she had to tackle. "She placed high expectations

on everyone around her and believed we are all capable of achieving life's goals with dedication, hard work and focus," the family wrote. Schreiber described her as the "consummate professional" who was honest, but with a sense of humor.

Hittie met with friends every third Tuesday of the month to pray for principals as they continued to lead the Catholic schools of the diocese, Schreiber said.

She leaves behind a husband of 56 years, William "Bill" Hittie, two sisters, her five children and eight grandchildren.

"My life has been enriched by knowing Michelle. I will miss her dearly," said colleague and friend Carolyn Kirkendall, adding that although her parting leaves a hole in Catholic community of the diocese, her legacy remains indelibly etched into its history and into the lives of her loved ones.

DMOCESE OF FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND

Chriasm Masses

The oils of Sacred Chriasm, catechumens and the sick will be blessed, and clergy of the diocese will renew their priestly promises, at the following public Masses.

Monday, April 15 at 7:30 p.m.
 St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend

Tuesday, April 16 at 7:30 p.m.
 Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception,
 Fort Wayne



We need to talk: Why children need to hear from the Church about abuse prevention

BY ELIZABETH A. HEIDT KOZISEK, PH.D.

In the years since the first Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People was established by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, there has been much debate about the education of children in abuse prevention and personal safety. The debate looks at whether or not education by the Church contributes significantly to the safety, well-being and spiritual growth of children. What does education by the Church uniquely contribute to the physical, emotional and spiritual well-being of children?

Holding out the message of Christ

Sexual abuse can have a devastating effect on the spiritual development of children. When abuse occurs in a setting or at the hands of an individual not associated with the Church, it often raises questions about God's love or even God's existence. If an individual who abuses represents the Church, the impact becomes more devastating to children's spiritual development. Given the nature of children's thoughts, it is often difficult for youngsters to separate the actions of a fallible human being from the message and the institution that they represent. Children need to hear consistent messages that they are deserving of dignity and respect; that God and the Church want them to be safe and involved in right relationships; that the people around them want to help them if a relationship isn't right. Such messages can help children retain their faith in the face of disappointing or even devastating behavior of an adult.

Increased resiliency

One of the most damaging aspects of sexual abuse is the destruction it causes in how children interpret relationships. When a trusted adult uses a relationship with a child for selfish means, it challenges a child's

interpretation of the meaning of relationships. The more adults they encounter who model right relationships, the less likely they are to generalize their experience of abuse. All Catholics have the opportunity to be the face of God in a relationship that models the Gospel message of Christ. Communicating to children as Church helps to build safe, stable, nurturing relationships with adults, building children's resiliency in the face of adversity. Children who are victimized by sexual abuse have been found to experience better outcomes as adults if their disclosure of abuse is met with a supportive and protective response from an adult. Communicating as Church helps children to be confident that all of the significant adults in their lives will respond with the same support and protection.

Breaking through the silence

Often, there are barriers to keep children from disclosing abuse. The child victim likely has been held to secrecy by the perpetrator. Children may fear the consequences of reporting – fearful that they will be in trouble or that the perpetrator (whom they may care greatly about) may be in trouble, that their family will be devastated, that they will not be believed, that they will be rejected. Silence or failure to communicate about abuse gives the message that abuse is something that is not to be spoken about. One achievement attained in communicating to children as Church is breaking that silence. Children need to hear from the Church that they should report abuse even if the perpetrator is one of the Church's own. They need to hear that everyone in the Church wants them to be respected and protected, and that actions will be taken to keep them safe. If children are supported when reporting warning signs or indicators that a relationship isn't right, then the opportunity exists to monitor, problem-solve

and address concerns before an abusive relationship progresses to the point of physical harm or significant emotional injury.

What individuals can do

Find out more. Contact a local diocese or parish office to find out more about the Abuse Prevention Education and Comprehensive Safe Environment Program and training provided in the diocese.

Become involved. Participate in the Safe Environment Program of the diocese or parish. A key aspect of such programs is providing adequate supervision of children and educating adults to be aware of the signs of abuse and what to do in response.

Elizabeth A. Heidt Kozisek is the director of the Child Protection Office, Diocese of Grand Island, Nebraska.

#PROMISETOPROTECT

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH

Provide love, support & healing to abuse survivors.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR LOCAL DIOCESE TODAY

Every April, Catholic parishes and schools across the United States participate in National Child Abuse Prevention Month. While dioceses work year-round to prevent abuse, during this month a special emphasis is placed on the importance of learning how to protect the vulnerable from this evil.

Together, for the next nine days, let's pray that the vulnerable are protected from abuse, and that survivors of abuse may be accompanied on their paths to healing.

Novena for Protection and Healing from Abuse

Intercessions

- Day 1:** May the most vulnerable be protected from all types of abuse and exploitation.
- Day 2:** May those who have been sexually abused receive comfort and healing.
- Day 3:** May those who work with children and young people be vigilant in protecting them from harm.
- Day 4:** May those who provide help for the abused act with wisdom and compassion in their healing ministries.
- Day 5:** May all families strive to provide safe and nurturing environments for children and young people.

Day 6:

May all those who have committed abuse acknowledge the harm they have done, repent, and accept justice that ultimately comes from God.

Day 7:

May those who have been abused receive the courage to tell their story, and may they be believed and supported.

Day 8:

May Church leaders, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, promote justice and healing for survivors of abuse.

Day 9:

May our Holy Father, Pope Francis, fulfill his role as good shepherd and protect the most vulnerable in his flock.

Prayers

Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be, Prayer for Healing

Prayer for Healing

God of endless love, ever caring, ever strong, always present, always just: You gave your only Son to save us by the blood of his cross. Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace, join to your own suffering the pain of all who have been hurt in body, mind, and spirit by those who betrayed the trust placed in them.

Hear our cries as we agonize over the harm done to our brothers and sisters. Breathe wisdom into our prayers, soothe restless hearts with hope, steady shaken spirits with faith: Show us the way to justice and wholeness, enlightened by truth and enfolded in your mercy. Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts, heal your people's wounds and transform our brokenness. Grant us courage and wisdom, humility and grace, so that we may act with justice and find peace in you. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.



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Assisted-suicide legislation stalls in Indiana

Efforts to legalize physician-assisted suicide once again have failed in Indiana, but the Catholic Church and other pro-life advocates vow to remain vigilant as the practice continues to gain momentum in other parts of the country.

Last week, New Jersey became the eighth state to sanction assisted suicide, allowing adults deemed terminally ill to obtain and self-administer life-ending medication. Meanwhile, in Maryland, the state Senate blocked an assisted-suicide bill following intense debate that ended in a tie vote.

In Indiana, companion bills promoting assisted suicide were introduced early in the 2019 legislative session — one in each chamber of the General Assembly. The Indiana Catholic Conference opposed both bills and urged lawmakers to halt them. Neither bill received a hearing.

“We are grateful that these troubling bills did not advance, and we praise leaders in both the Indiana House and Senate for recognizing the detrimental effect the practice of physician-assisted suicide would have on our state,” said Glenn Tebbe, executive director of the ICC, the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Indiana. “Promoting the dignity and sanctity of life from conception to natural death is critically important, especially

in a culture that continues to erode at these basic moral values.”

Like similar attempts in recent years, House Bill 1184, authored by Rep. Matt Pierce (D-Bloomington), and Senate Bill 300, authored by Sen. Lonnie Randolph (D-East Chicago), both ran into roadblocks in the Republican-controlled legislature, which leans pro-life. The bills stalled when Rep. Cindy Kirchofer (R-Beech Grove) and Sen. Randy Head (R-Logansport) declined to have them heard in their respective committees, to which the bills had been assigned.

The ICC had spoken out against the proposed legislation in conjunction with other members of the Indiana Alliance Against Assisted Suicide. The coalition also includes the Indiana State Medical Association, which formally rejected physician-assisted suicide in 2016.

A Fort Wayne-based physician, Dr. Andrew Mullally, a member of the alliance and an outspoken opponent of assisted suicide for years, views this as the “future of the pro-life movement.”

“The whole guise of physician-assisted suicide severely marginalizes those who cannot speak for themselves,” said Mullally, a member of ISMA and the Catholic Medical Association.

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE



BY VICTORIA ARTHUR

“Obviously, the unborn have no voice, but this also extends to the disabled and the elderly in many cases. As a society, we are all less safe when this type of legislation passes anywhere.”

New Jersey now joins California, Colorado, Hawaii, Montana, Oregon, Vermont, Washington and the District of Columbia in allowing assisted suicide. In addition to Maryland, New Mexico is another state that has come close to legalizing the practice, which proponents often describe as “death with dignity” and a means of avoiding a painful, prolonged death when a person faces a terminal, debilitating illness.

Mullally and other opponents of assisted suicide maintain that hospice care and palliative care offer patients true dignity in such situations, providing comfort measures and compassion in the most difficult circumstances. In addition, Mullally points to the countless ethical issues and dilemmas posed by assisted suicide.

“If we as physicians have to be arbiters of life and death,

that presents us with an inherent conflict of interest,” said Mullally, who operates Credo Family Medicine, a pro-life practice affiliated with the Dr. Jerome Lejeune Catholic Medical Guild of Northeast Indiana. He points to increasing cost-control efforts in health care as potentially damaging for the most vulnerable patients, as doctors opt to provide them with less care or, at the most extreme, a means to end their lives.

“The protection of human life is crumbling around us at a rapid pace that many people don’t appreciate,” he said.

The biggest national organization driving the assisted-suicide movement is Compassion and Choices, which claims that it “improves care and empowers everyone to chart their end-of-life journey.” Barbara Lyons, who counsels Indiana and other states on ways to combat the movement, offers a stark counterpoint to this description.

“This organization has a stated goal of having lethal drugs available to half the population of the United States,” said Lyons, coalitions director of the Patients Rights Action Fund. “They are very well-funded, and they have a concerted effort to assault states with their agenda and messaging.”

Lyons, who helped establish the Indiana Alliance Against Assisted Suicide, said she was “deeply disappointed” although not surprised by the recent devel-

opments in New Jersey.

“Compassion and Choices had long wanted a major state on the east coast,” Lyons said. “They’re looking at big-population states, and they come into these states with lots of money, and with stories that help them sell their concept.”

While Indiana is not one of the group’s primary targets, and the topic appears to be closed for this legislative session, Lyons and others say that no one can be complacent in the current climate.

“We have worked hard to build a good coalition here in our state to combat this movement,” Mullally said. “But we are always one election away from things changing. We need to be ready to mobilize at a moment’s notice.”

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

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African floods 'wiped out entire villages' after cyclone, says Jesuit

NAIROBI, Kenya (CNS) — More than 2 million people in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi have been affected by a cyclone that has killed more than 700 people, with hundreds still missing in Mozambique and Zimbabwe. The scale of devastation is enormous, said Father Agbonkhianmeghe Orobator, president of the Jesuit Conference of Africa and Madagascar, noting that the "real devastation is the lives that have been lost." The cyclone, called Idai, lashed Beira, Mozambique with winds of up to 105 miles per hour March 14, then tore inland through Zimbabwe and Malawi. The floods it caused "have wiped out entire villages" and roads; hospitals and schools have been destroyed, Father Orobator said on the website of the Jesuits in the Zimbabwe-Mozambique province. Also on the March 25 website newsletter, Raul Chacuamba, a young Catholic in Beira, Mozambique's second-largest city that was almost entirely destroyed, said many people "are still with no food and water and it's dangerous."

Royal College of Physicians adopts neutral policy on assisted suicide

MANCHESTER, England (CNS) — The professional body for doctors in the U.K. dropped its traditional opposition to assisted suicide, despite a poll that found a majority of its members remain opposed to the practice. The Royal College of Physicians declared it has adopted a policy of neutrality, although a majority of doctors said they were against assisted suicide. In a March 21 statement published on the college's website, Andrew Goddard, college president, said: "Adopting a neutral position will mean that we can reflect the differing opinions among our membership. Neutral means the RCP neither supports nor opposes a change in the law." A poll of members conducted between Feb. 5 and March 1 found that 31.6 percent were in favor of the college adopting a pro-assisted suicide policy, while 43.4 percent were opposed and 25 percent were neutral. A question asking doctors if they would also like to see British law changed to allow assisted suicide was answered affirmatively by 40.5 percent, while 49.1 percent opposed a law change and 10.4 percent were undecided.

College students urged to help change hearts, minds about abortion

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The

City bars restaurant chain over marriage views



CNS photo/Rashid Umar, Reuters

Drink and sandwich containers are seen on a customer's table at a New York City Chick-fil-A restaurant Oct. 3, 2015. The Archbishop of San Antonio, Gustavo Garcia-Siller, has said to "let the marketplace decide," following his city's decision March 21 to ban a Chick-fil-A outlet at San Antonio's airport over its stand on traditional marriage. He said the issue reminded him of a statement made in 2012 "by my beloved former prelate, Cardinal Francis George of Chicago," over the same issue in that city. "Recent comments by those who administer our city seem to assume that the city government can decide for everyone what are the 'values' that must be held by citizens of Chicago," Cardinal George said at the time. "My understanding of being a Chicagoan never included submitting my value system to the government for approval."

nation's early feminists who fought for women's suffrage and other rights totally rejected abortion, Serrin Foster, president of Feminists for Life of America, told the Cardinals for Life student group at The Catholic University of America. So the notion today that true feminists support abortion is simply wrong, said Foster, who has led the Virginia-based Feminists for Life since 1994 and is the creator of the "Women Deserve Better" campaign. An audience of about 30 students — young women and men — listened to her speak the evening of March 20 on "The Feminist Case Against Abortion," a landmark address she has delivered over the last 20 years. Susan D. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, Victoria Woodhull, Alice Paul and many others advocated for women's right to vote and for equality in the law so they could be "self-sustaining and self-reliant" at a time when women weren't allowed to own property, control their own money or even sit on a jury. They also pushed

for an end to slavery. But to a woman, they condemned abortion "in no uncertain terms," said Foster. Modern feminists such as Betty Friedan, she explained, did not support abortion in their own fight for women's equality — until the male founders of what became the National Abortion Rights Action League, known today as NARAL Pro-Choice America, persuaded them to include "abortion rights" in their platform.

Two auxiliaries for U.S. military archdiocese ordained at national shrine

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Waves of eager chatter filled the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. Then, a triumphant organ chord pierced the air and the procession began. Knights of Columbus in neat sashes, priests and bishops in pristine white

vestments, and three American cardinals paced prayerfully down the aisle and slowly ascended to the shrine's magnificent sanctuary in the Great Upper Church. In their midst were Bishops-designate William J. Muhm and Joseph L. Coffey — two men who would walk out of the church the same day with brand new miters and crosiers, and new responsibilities to their flock that is the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services. Army and Navy families, as well as kin of the two to be ordained bishops, packed the middle of the national shrine and waved excitedly as their beloved priests walked by. And so began the afternoon Mass March 25 celebrating the episcopal ordinations of the two men who would soon be officially auxiliary bishops. Their ordination fills the spaces left by former Auxiliary Bishop Robert J. Coyle, who was transferred to the Diocese of Rockville Centre in New York, and Auxiliary Bishop Richard B. Higgins, who is retiring.

Bishop Brennan honors generations-long faith heritage at installation Mass

COLUMBUS, Ohio (CNS) — Paying tribute to his family history of faith, Bishop Robert J. Brennan of Columbus urged the people of the diocese to appreciate their own faith heritage and pass it on to future generations through everyday sacrifice and concern for others during his installation Mass. "My grandfathers handed on a priceless legacy of faith, hope and love that was passed on to us by my parents," Bishop Brennan said during his homily at St. Joseph Cathedral March 29. "These are the great treasures, aren't they? Here for us in the Diocese of Columbus, we too are the heirs ... to a wonderful legacy of faith. We stand on the shoulders of the people who built this up for us. And now it's our turn. It's our turn as the new generation. The faith they handed on to us — faith, hope and love — these aren't museum pieces to be admired and watched, but a living encounter with the risen Jesus Christ." About 800 people, including 35 other bishops, filled the cathedral for the nearly two-hour ceremony, at which Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States, read Pope Francis' Jan. 31 letter appointing Bishop Brennan as the diocese's 12th bishop. Bishop Brennan had been auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, New York, for nearly seven years. He has lived on Long Island his entire life.

Catholics urged to support Middle East Christians on Good Friday

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Iraqis and Syrians returning to their homelands and refugees living abroad need the help of all Catholics and people of goodwill, said the Congregation for Eastern Churches. "Greater cooperation and a generous commitment by Christians all over the world to their brothers and sisters of the Holy Land and the Middle East is needed," it said in its annual appeal, which the Vatican press office published March 28. In a letter sent to bishops around the world, Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, congregation prefect, asked for continued support for the traditional Good Friday collection for the Holy Land. The collection, taken up at the request of the pope, is administered by the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land — an administratively autonomous province of the Franciscan order — and the Congregation for Eastern Churches. The congregation monitors how all funds are used and supports projects in the Holy Land, Cyprus, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Turkey, Iran and Iraq.

Mission success isn't measured by numbers, pope says in Morocco

BY CINDY WOODEN

RABAT, Morocco (CNS) — The Christian mission is not about numbers of converts, but about changing people and the world by being witnesses of God's mercy and love, Pope Francis told missionaries in Morocco.

"Christians are a small minority in this country," much less than 1 percent, but the pope said, "to my mind, this is not a problem."

"Jesus did not choose us and send us forth to become more numerous," the pope said March 31 as he met Catholic priests and religious and leaders of other Christian churches in St. Peter's Cathedral in Rabat.

Jesus "called us to a mission. He put us in the midst of society like a handful of yeast: the yeast of the beatitudes and the fraternal love by which, as Christians, we can all join in making present His kingdom," the pope said.

The success of a Christian mission, he said, is not so much about the space Christians occupy, "but rather by our capacity to generate change and to awaken wonder and compassion."

"The problem is not when we are few in number," the pope said, "but when we are insignificant, salt that has lost the flavor

of the Gospel or lamps that no longer shed light."

In Morocco, where almost everyone is Muslim, the pope said Christians are called to be "a living sacrament of the dialogue that God wants to initiate and with each man and woman."

Sister Mary Elizabeth Donlon, regional superior of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, told Pope Francis that "in a spirit of faith, we pursue a dialogue of life through active collaboration with our Muslim brothers and sisters in teaching, public health, serving the disabled, single mothers and the many migrants that cross this country."

The religious, all foreigners, have been given the grace "to forge bonds of friendship and affection in deep respect with this people, despite the challenge of our diverse cultures," she said.

Before going to the cathedral, Pope Francis made a short trip out to Temara, on the outskirts of Rabat, to visit a social service center run by the Daughters of Charity. The sisters assist people with physical disabilities, offer meals to poor children, train women in tailoring and run a nursery and primary school. All of the students and most of the staff are Muslim.

Speaking later in the cathedral, Pope Francis said that



CNS photo/Paul Haring

Pope Francis greets a nun during a meeting with priests, religious men and women and the ecumenical Council of Churches at the cathedral in Rabat, Morocco, March 31.

dialogue is not a "fashion" or "strategy," but a way of imitating Jesus, who, moved by love, sought out everyone and began a dialogue with them.

Christians must not hide who they are or what they believe, but they must share their faith with respect for the faith of others, the pope said.

For Christians in Morocco, especially Catholic priests and religious, taking part in the dialogue that leads to salvation takes place first of all in prayer, by bringing others to the Lord in prayer.

Pope Francis told the story of a missionary he knew who, in his prayer, brought all the people he met to the Lord, because he knew he was sent in the midst of that non-Christian majority "not to govern but to love, and this led him to pray this prayer with special feeling.

"Dialogue, then, becomes prayer," he said. "A prayer that does not distinguish, separate or marginalize, but embraces the life of our neighbor. A prayer of intercession that says to the Father, 'Thy kingdom come,' not by violence, not by hatred, not by ethnic, religious or economic supremacy, but by the power of the compassion poured out on the cross for all mankind."

New head of CLINIC is experienced litigator, immigration law expert

BY MARK PATTISON

SILVER SPRING, Md. (CNS) — Many people might not have noticed that Anna Gallagher took over Feb. 1 as executive director of the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, known as CLINIC.

If they hadn't, they certainly would have March 8, when she called a Department of Homeland Security decision to not redesignate Temporary Protected Status for those fleeing war- and corruption-scarred South Sudan "morally reprehensible."

"Well, it was," she declared during a March 27 interview with Catholic News Service at CLINIC headquarters in the Washington suburb of Silver Spring.

Gallagher, 60, is herself the child of immigrants from Ireland. "They didn't have a sponsor, because you didn't need one back then," she said. "When my parents came to the United States, the immigration system was more welcoming. They simply had to submit proof that they would not be a burden to the country and were granted immigrant visas. Things are much different today."

Raised in Philadelphia, she got a bachelor's degree in political science and Latin American studies from Temple University in 1984. She earned her law degree at the Antioch School of Law in Washington three years later, and dove right into immigration law



CNS photo/Bob Roller

Anna Marie Gallagher, executive director of the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, known as CLINIC, gestures during an interview with a Catholic News Service reporter in Silver Spring, Md., March 27.

work — as well other matters — in the wake of the Immigration Reform and Control Act, which had become law in 1986.

She moved to Guatemala City in 1992 to take a job as deputy director for the Center for Human Rights Legal Action, known by its Spanish acronym as CALDH, which investigated many high-profile cases. "I investigated the Dianna Ortiz case," Gallagher said, referring to the case of the U.S. Ursuline nun who was ministering in Guatemala when she was kidnapped, jailed, tortured and raped in 1989. CALDH also investigated the case of Jennifer

Harbury, a U.S. human rights lawyer and activist whose husband, a Mayan guerrilla leader in Guatemala, was "disappeared" and later murdered.

"I also came back with a child from Guatemala," Gallagher said. While she was there, she adopted an 11-year-old boy who had been placed in an orphanage by his caretaking older sister, who had become sick and could no longer care for him.

"He would come by, looking for something, a little money, a little something to eat. I made him a sandwich. I told him I wasn't going to give him any-

thing else until he started to learn English," she said. "He returned for visits and I began to teach him English. After meeting his extended family, we agreed that I would care for him and my husband and I adopted him."

Even with Guatemala's civil war having ended two decades ago, "the government's as corrupt as it's ever been," she told CNS. Combined with gangs and a three-year drought, Guatemalans are leaving their homeland in greater numbers than ever.

As they journey northward, some Mexican gangs find more profit in kidnapping migrants than in trafficking drugs, Gallagher said. The gangs kidnap and hold refugees until their U.S.-based kin pay ransom. She added women traveling alone, and even with their children, are often subject to sexual assault.

Despite the deprivation and depravity they've suffered, they are often reluctant to tell an immigration judge those details. When asked why they came to the United States, they tell the judge, "I want a better life," which judges interpret as, "Oh, they're just here to make money," Gallagher said.

She vigorously disputes the notion put forth by the federal government that the border situation is at a crisis. On March 27, the same day Gallagher was interviewed by CNS, *The Washington Post* published an interview Kevin

McAleenan, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection commissioner, who said the U.S. immigration enforcement system along the Mexican border was at "the breaking point."

Gallagher had attended a border summit the month before in El Paso, Texas. "A priest working with migrants in Saltillo (Mexico) as they travel north spoke during the summit. He said, 'We can handle this. We can handle this. We can handle this.' He said it three times. I was very moved by what he had to say. If they can handle it, why can't we?"

Immigration judges, she said, would appreciate more lawyers representing immigrants: "They can get the initial master calendar hearings done in five minutes. They know the procedure." A judge having to explain each step of a hearing and the reason behind each question being asked to an unrepresented immigrant can easily take 15 minutes, thus creating bottlenecks in the system.

"People who leave their homes are very desperate," Gallagher said of immigrants. "But they are also very brave."

In her career, she has represented many seeking asylum. "Winning asylum for a client is a bittersweet victory," Gallagher said. "Of course, I'm happy that the individual is safe. However, it is bittersweet because she has lost her country and her country has lost a brave and resilient citizen."



Students from across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend came together March 25 at St. Charles Borromeo Church, Fort Wayne, for the annual Pueri Cantores Mass.



Photos by John Martin

The joy of the Annunciation, as expressed by the young vocalists, lies both in the promise of the Savior's birth and in Mary's role as the Blessed Mother.

The fourth- through 12th-graders performed liturgical music celebrating the solemnity of the Annunciation.





Concelebrating the Mass with Bishop Rhoades are, from left, Father Thomas Shoemaker, Msgr. Robert Schulte, Father Jason Freiburger, Father Zachary Barry, Father Bruce Piechocki and Father Jay Horning. Deacon José Arroyo, front, assists.

Conductor Dr. Richard Robbins rehearses the choir Monday afternoon.



PUERI CANTORES, from page 1

nation of their hard work and practice as helping the students get a sense of “everything Church music and liturgy could and should be.”

Dr. Richard Robbins, director of choral activities at the University of Minnesota Duluth and choir director of the Cathedral of Christ the King, Superior, Wisconsin, serves as conductor for the American Federation Pueri Cantores. Speaking to *Today's Catholic* at St. Charles, he echoed the importance of the fine arts in the Mass. “I hope the students walk away with a renewed sense of reverence and beauty that is the Mass,” he said. “It is so heartening for me to see young people joining their voices together in song.”

Local representatives of the diocese agreed that beyond the opportunity to enjoy beautiful music at Mass, the program is good for the students. Terry Broberg-Swangin, associate for liturgy in the Office of Worship, said, “This opens up doors for them that might not normally be open.” Among those open doors is the opportunity to study music they may not have been exposed to otherwise: They also get the chance to meet students from other diocesan Catholic schools, a benefit appreciated by Amy Johns, associate superintendent for the Catholic schools. “What I love about it is that it brings both sides of our diocese together ... in unity,” Johns said.

United in the notion that the event was more than just a day to get outside the classroom, the participating students appreciated many aspects of the opportunity. Michael Urbahns, a seventh-grade vocal enthusiast at St. Jude School, Fort Wayne, saw the experience as an outlet for individual expression. “You can be yourself. You can do what you want to do.” Fellow seventh-grader Amarea Chandler, from St. Aloysius School, Yoder, saw it as a chance to deepen her faith. “I ... think it is beautiful to sing to Jesus,” she said.

Although the transferrable social skills gained by the Pueri Cantores Mass, noted by many as important, Ryan Michaels, a

sixth-grader at St. Pius X School, Granger, also hoped to learn something that would make him better on the electric guitar he is learning to play. “It’s good for guitar — for learning the notes,” he shared.

Parental support of Pueri Cantores goes beyond the small participation fee, which is picked up by Notre Dame Federal Credit Union if a family is overly burdened by the cost. “I feel like it is a little piece of heaven to hear children sing,” said Billie Lima of Sacred Heart Parish, Warsaw, as her son was rehearsing prior to the Mass.

In addition to the reminder provided by the students of the beauty of the liturgy, Bishop Rhoades spoke of the holiness of the Divine Child remembered on the solemnity, the day Gabriel announced to Mary that she would become the Mother of the Son of God.

The joy of today’s feast is evident in your beautiful singing, the beautiful music of this Mass today. It reminds me of the beautiful music and celebration

“I ... think it is beautiful to sing to Jesus.”

AMAREA CHANDLER, ST. ALOYSIUS, YODER

of the Jewish people when they would go up to Jerusalem and to the temple. Why were they so joyful? Because the temple was the dwelling place of God,” and the resting place of the Ark of the Covenant, the “special place of God’s presence in the exodus from

Egypt and later in the Jerusalem temple.”

At the Annunciation, he said, Mary became “the special dwelling place of God in the new exodus.”

“Mary is the new Ark of the Covenant and the new Tabernacle of the Lord. In her womb she carries not the Ten Commandments, but the Word of God made flesh. She doesn’t carry the manna from the desert, she carries the Bread of Life from heaven. She doesn’t carry the staff of Aaron the high priest, but she carries the heavenly High Priest, Jesus.”

While all in attendance may have been thankful for the sound of the Pueri Cantores choir, Bishop reminded them of an ultimate reason for joy: “We can thank Mary today for saying ‘yes’ to being His dwelling place on earth.”

The male and female students who comprise the Pueri Cantores vocalists are recommended by their schools and choir directors in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend for the once-yearly opportunity to provide accompaniment at a Mass with Bishop Rhoades.

Wounded warriors: HEROs combating 'epidemic' of child pornography

BY ELEANOR KENNELLY GAETAN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As a result of losing both legs while sweeping for bombs on his third deployment in Afghanistan, Justin Gaertner could no longer serve as a Marine.

But he found a new mission as a "human exploitation rescue operative," or HERO, with the Department of Homeland Security, pursuing predators who collect and trade child pornography — more accurately termed, child sexual abuse imagery — on the internet.

"I fought hard to get back overseas with my platoon and once that wasn't happening, I was able to find a way to keep serving my country" by rescuing children, Gaertner told Catholic News Service.

Gaertner, 29, was trained as a computer forensic analyst in 2012, one of 17 former military in the inaugural class of the HERO Child Rescue Corps. Few had prior experience with computers.

HEROs were then deployed across the country, integrated into investigation offices of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, to combat what ICE describes as the "growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse."

Since over half of all child-pornography collectors are hands-on offenders, law enforcement can apprehend them by following the cyberspace trail of images — considered "crime scene photos" by investigators. Disturbingly, 83 percent of perpetrators seek images of pre-pubescent children, 39 percent want toddlers, and 19 percent: babies in diapers.

Within months of his assignment in Tampa, Florida, Gaertner — always accompanied by his service dog, Gunner — was mobilized in a case that wound up rescuing over 130 children.

Melvin Bridgers, 37, posing as a teenage girl, used multiple Facebook accounts to entice girls between the ages of 10 and 16 to send him sexually explicit pictures. He then coerced the children, threatening to tell their parents unless they sent him even more graphic images.

A mother in Houston tipped authorities about the predator based on a disclosure from her 12-year-old daughter that she was being pressured to send pornographic pictures of her 7-year-old sister.

Gaertner was with the ICE team that searched Bridgers' house. His job is to collect electronic devices and secure illicit material stored on them.



CNS photo/courtesy Justin Gaertner

Justin Gaertner, a former Marine who lost both his legs while sweeping for bombs on his third deployment in Afghanistan, is pictured in an undated photo. Gaertner now has a new mission as a "human exploitation rescue operative," or HERO, with the Department of Homeland Security, pursuing predators who collect and trade child pornography on the internet.

Investigators found over 28,000 images and videos on Bridgers' cellphone, including a substantial number of new victims.

Each digital image has "fingerprint."

DHS has access to a library of all pornographic images already identified (images collected and traded between criminals) so the first step in an investigation is comparing the material found on a suspect's electronics to the ones in the digital library.

Gaertner and a colleague then had to identify and locate previously unidentified victims seen on Bridgers' phone, using data from his Facebook history as well as hints provided by the pictures themselves.

He traveled with agents who interviewed parents, getting consent to examine electronic devices used by their children.

The HERO program has helped facilitate an impressive increase in arrests of people sexually abusing children via the internet and, possibly, helped suppress demand for child sexual abuse imagery.

Brand new to the job, Gaertner remembers, "I was shocked. I didn't know what to think."

"I was excited to be helpful in finding these kids, but you don't realize the severity of this case-work until you are knee-deep in it," said the former Marine, who also conducts internet safety classes at schools for DHS.



The prime mover in getting the HERO Corps launched in 2013 was the National Association to Protect Children, or PROTECT, a nonprofit organization based in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Working with the U.S. Congress, federal government, and private tech firms that helped custom design digital tracking tools, PROTECT helped pass enabling legislation and lobby for funding to bring battle-savvy talent to the task of hunting predators.

PROTECT approaches the grotesque reality of child sexual abuse as a strategic threat that requires the intensity of a military campaign to eradicate it — which is why employing veterans is critical.

An extremely disturbing child pornography case, unfolding as the HERO Corps was under consideration, convinced policymakers a much stronger counterforce against child predators was required.

A Worcester, Massachusetts, man was sentenced to 27 years in federal prison for plotting to kidnap a child in order to rape, cook and eat him. Investigators discovered he had built a dungeon in his house for the purpose of torturing children and had over 20,000 images and videos of children including babies being violently raped.

"These terrorists exclusively target children and they are easy to find," explained Camille Cooper, PROTECT's director of government affairs and an expert in internet crimes against children, who helped design the HERO program.

"We didn't know if the idea of employing veterans would work but it became one of DHS's most successful programs. They needed a new mission, and children needed rescue," Cooper explained.

She added, "The Department of Defense spent millions on their initial military training to make them very resilient. They have an advanced ability to compartmentalize what they see," including disturbing images of

rape and torture. Some 80 percent of the images involve rape while over 20 percent involve torture.

The HERO program has helped facilitate an impressive increase in arrests of people sexually abusing children via the internet and, possibly, helped suppress demand for child sexual abuse imagery.

According to data from ICE and the Internet Crimes Against Children task forces, a national network that coordinates federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies, arrests of sex offenders trafficking in child abuse imagery increased from 2,040 in 2006 to over 10,300 in 2017. "Child pornography is illegal, abusive, and a form of human trafficking because of a child's inability to consent," the U.S. bishops said in their 2015 pastoral response to pornography, "Create in Me a Clean Heart." "There are many reasons why a child might become a victim of child pornography, including extreme poverty, deplorable neglect by his or her parents or guardians, or manipulation by child pornographers."

"Children and youth exploited in this way face serious side effects and need plentiful

resources for emotional, psychological and physical healing," they said. "Most of all, they need to know that the abuse was not their fault or choice, no matter how their abusers deceived them."

The U.S. is no longer the No. 1 consumer of child pornography.

"China and Russia have surpassed the U.S. in terms of number of IP (internet protocol) addresses seen trafficking in child sexual abuse images over peer-to-peer file sharing networks," according to Cooper.

Gaertner, who has interacted with predators during investigations, said he cannot discern a pattern common to all offenders.

"We have arrested a wide spectrum of people, from high-level officials to people sitting at home all day," he said. "To try to define it would give you a false sense of security."

"Some of them say, 'Oh, you finally caught me,' but most of the time they don't get it," observed Gaertner. They don't comprehend the harm they cause or the criminality they perpetuate.

Mary Anne Layden, director of the sexual trauma and psychopathology program in the University of Pennsylvania's psychiatry department, has studied — and treated — men who sexually abuse minors, physically and via the internet.

"We don't know a great deal about perpetrators. We know some things," she cautioned.

"We know that perpetrators are typically repeaters. In some studies it's in the 70 percent range that rapists, for example, are repeat rapists. We know there are certain factors such as sexual narcissism and sexual entitlement — belief systems that are 'permission giving' for this behavior," Layden continued.

"So when you work with perpetrators, they say things like, 'Well, sex is a need, and I have a right to have sex with anyone I want, because it's a need,'" she told CNS. "They talk as though it is a need like air or food. Their belief is: I'm entitled to do this."

Layden explained sexual narcissism as the attitude that "my pleasure is more important than anyone else's pleasure. My pleasure is more important than anyone else's pain." It is a quintessential permission-giving belief.

She also described belief systems in which perpetrators put the responsibility on the child, claiming children seduce adults or they "enjoy it."

"There is a strong cognitive element to this. A bunch of beliefs that say, 'This is OK,' and the belief gives you permission to do it," Layden added.

Cooper cut to the quick: "Are you going to reason with these people? The only prevention is prison."

Brother priests mark 60th year of ordination with Mass — and a snowstorm

BY MATTHEW DAVIS

NEW TRIER, Minn. (CNS) — For 60 years of priesthood, no amount of snow has stopped Fathers Leonard and Martin Siebenaler from celebrating Sunday Mass at their respective parishes.

“They didn’t ever let a blizzard stop them from getting to church (even if) they had to load up a sleigh to get here,” said Father Cole Kracke, a second cousin of the priests and pastor of the brothers’ hometown parish, St. Mary’s in New Trier.

A Mass to mark the brothers’ milestone anniversary was celebrated at St. Mary’s Church — and the day was marked by a snowstorm.

“It was kind of interesting that today was a day where they probably could have used a sleigh,” added Father Kracke, 44.

Fathers Leonard and Martin concelebrated the Feb. 24 Mass, which took a hit in attendance from the snow and strong winds. Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda of St. Paul and Minneapolis had planned to attend, but Father Martin encouraged him not to come because of the weather. He extended greetings from the archbishop to those in attendance.

But about 125 people attended the Mass and reception, including three of the brothers’ six living siblings: Raymond, Edward and Donna Neisen.

“What’s most amazing is how quickly the last 10 years went



CNS photo/Dave Hrbacek, Catholic Spirit

Father Cole Kracke, pastor of St. Mary’s Parish in New Trier, Minn., visits with Father Leonard and Father Martin Siebenaler Feb. 24, 2019, after a Mass at St. Mary’s Church celebrating the siblings’ 60th anniversary of ordination.

by. It seemed like just the other day we celebrated 50 years,” said Father Leonard, 85.

Retired since 2002, Fathers Martin and Leonard live in Hastings and serve there as chaplains for Regina Hospital and at Regina Senior Living, where they held another anniversary celebration Feb. 26.

“We are helping out part-time on a volunteer basis. Several Masses every week,” Father Martin, 86, told *The Catholic Spirit*, the archdiocesan newspaper.

The brothers grew up on a dairy farm and attended the parish’s school, now closed. Their parents, Mathias and Christine, placed them in the same grade.

St. Mary’s pastor at the time, the late Father Peter Schirmers, encouraged the brothers’ vocations, as did the principal at the school and School Sisters of Notre Dame serving there. Mathias and Christine supported it, too.

“They were OK with it even though they were losing a couple of farmhands,” Father Leonard said.

Mathias and Christine also supported the vocations of a younger brother, Father John Siebenaler, a retired archdiocesan priest who was ordained two years after his brothers. A sister, Therese Siebenaler, lived in religious life for a decade.

Four vocations from the

Seibenalers’ nine children did leave work to be done on the farm by those who remained, said Edward, 75.

“That was a big hole in the family when they left,” he said.

But vocations run in the family. Three great aunts were religious sisters. A great uncle, Father John Gores, served as a priest for the archdiocese and, later, the New Ulm Diocese after it formed in 1958.

In addition to attending elementary school in the same grade, the brothers together attended high school at the now-closed Nazareth Hall Preparatory Seminary and St. Paul Seminary, both in St. Paul.

“I think we supported each other for the seminary years,” Father Leonard said. “As a priest, we’d call each other on occasion just to ask for advice or something of that nature.”

Archbishop William O. Brady ordained the two brothers at the Cathedral of St. Paul in St. Paul Feb. 22, 1959. Ordinations normally occurred during the summer.

“We had early ordinations those years due to many, many baby boomers whose confessions we had to hear and help out in parishes for those last three months of our studies,” Father Martin said. “We were ordained three months earlier due to the lack of priests for all the population out there to be served.”

Edward said the 60th anniversary Mass brought back memories of his brothers’ first Masses of thanksgiving at St. Mary.

“I think I was an altar server for one. I was in the choir for the other,” said Edward, who was a teenager at the time.

The brothers began their first assignments as assistant priests in the summer of 1959. After about 10 or 12 years, they became pastors. Between the two of them, they served at about a half dozen parishes. When they retired, Father Martin was pastor of St. Joseph in Waconia and Father Leonard was pastor of St. Michael in the town of St. Michael.

Father Martin said ministering to families in the wake of tragedy stood out to him. That included helping families who lost sons fighting in Vietnam.

“Those funerals are so impressive to a priest, and capable of giving much comfort and strength to mourners,” Father Martin said.

“I especially enjoyed parishes that had grade schools,” Father Leonard said. “I enjoyed parish work, but I was especially enlivened by having large schools connected and having children around.”

After retiring, the brothers returned to the area where they grew up, and they continue to serve in the community.

The “increasing graces” from daily Mass helps them to keep ministering even in retirement, Father Leonard said.

Davis is on the staff of The Catholic Spirit, newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Florida man starts new podcast on Catholics in sports

BY MARK PATTISON

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A Florida man with a five-year track record in podcasting has started a new series on Catholics in sports. Its title is deceptively simple: “Catholic Sports Radio Podcast.”

Bruce Wawrzyniak (pronounced WARS-knee-ack) has had the idea in the back of his mind for some time, he told Catholic News Service in a telephone interview from Tampa, Florida, where he lives.

“I had the idea a couple of years ago and actually registered the domain name csr.net. And then I sat on it for a couple of years, unfortunately, I kept renewing the domain but never doing anything about it,” he said. “For some reason — it was not a New Year’s resolution, but when the calendar flipped over to Jan. 1 — it was in my head. It was something I passionately believed in.”

Then came the work of finding sports figures to interview. Wawrzyniak had been able to secure a bevy of performers, primarily from the world of music,

for his first podcast, “Now Hear This Entertainment,” which he still does.

Wawrzyniak said he told himself, “I know I can parlay this into success for Catholic Sports Radio, and I can’t delay this any longer.”

Listeners may think it’s just Wawrzyniak behind the microphone and a control board, but he told CNS he has one helper: “My Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It’s me, myself and I, and a lot of prayer. ... He really is helping me. I wrestled for quite a while with Satan wanting to take me down and not wanting this project to go through, not wanting this project to succeed.”

But through the podcast’s first eight installments — a new one gets posted every Monday morning at www.CatholicSportsRadio.net as well as being carried by a raft of streaming services that include iTunes, Spotify, Google Podcasts, Stitcher and TuneIn — he’s found some intriguing people. The most notable of them is Joe DeLamielleure, a Pro Football Hall of Fame guard for the Buffalo Bills who was part of the “Electric Company” offensive line that helped O.J. Simpson



CNS photo/Rick Tauceda, courtesy Bruce Wawrzyniak

Bruce Wawrzyniak, who has a five-year track record in podcasting, started a new series on Catholics in sports, titled “Catholic Sports Radio Podcast.” He is pictured in an undated photo.

accomplish some of the greatest rushing feats the sport has seen.

But does the podcast conversation turn to O.J., and Simpson’s tabloid-scarred life after football? No. Rather, Wawrzyniak gets DeLamielleure to talk about his growing up as one of 10 children in the small Detroit suburb of Center Line, Michigan, in a house with just one bathroom and one bathtub.

DeLamielleure said he was pushed into sports by his parents because at the Catholic school he attended, they had athletic facilities with showers.

“To be honest with you, most of these people find the topic (of faith) refreshing,” Wawrzyniak told CNS. “I think most of them are used to being interviewed about wins and losses and statistics. I think this is something new to them. Twenty-five minutes on the telephone, they’re more than happy to do it.”

“I’m just an ordinary guy who’s doing these things for the glory of God,” Wawrzyniak said. “If my podcast helps someone, then I feel I’ve served the kingdom of God that day.”

Scary prayers that are good for you

I have a short list of scary prayers.

Scary prayers are prayers where even the very words you say seem to convict you.

Most prayers are prayers of petition, prayers where we are asking God for His intervention. I have two friends who are battling breast cancer, and I try to pray for them daily.

I tend to take a shotgun approach with such prayers: praying for healing, or for a beatable form of the cancer, or for smart doctors, and always ending with “if it be Your will.” Those last five words can qualify as a scary prayer, because we really, really want healing to be God’s will, and thinking it might not be God’s will is, well, scary.

There are also prayers of praise and thanksgiving. I think of all the blessings I’ve received, gifts so extravagant I can never hope to repay, if that were even possible. My wife, my children, my friends, all those providential events in my life that in retrospect were unmerited blessings from a generous God.

And while you won’t find this category in the catechism, don’t forget prayers of whine and moping. Such prayers of complaint are hilariously parodied in a great Matthew Kelly line: “Listen Lord, Your servant is speaking.” But scary prayers are something different. They are prayers where the very words can turn to dust in my mouth. The Lord who knows all must surely know all the times I have given the lie to the very words I am uttering.

The prototypical scary prayer is actually the Our Father. “Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive others.” Uh huh, right.

Forgiving others is tough work. The person who mistreated me, or betrayed me, or lied to me: Lord, forgive me my trespasses as I forgave these people. Too often I know how unforgiving I can be. Of course it is easy to forgive someone who loves me or is kind to me or can help me. Even the pagans do that, as Jesus reminds us. But the Lord’s Prayer is asking for something much more.

Another scary prayer is the “Litany of Humility” by Cardinal Rafael Merry del Val, who served as secretary of state for Pope Pius X. The columnist J.F. Pisani first introduced me to this prayer. Pisani wrote that “I realize my deficiencies most of all” when praying it.

A few of the lines:

“That others may be more loved than I, Make it Jesus my desire. That others may be preferred to me ... That others may grow in the opinion of the world and I may diminish ... That others may be preferred to me in all ...”

It is both an examination of conscience and an antidote to vain ambition and narcissistic strivings. Another part of the prayer says: “From the fear of being despised, free me, Jesus. From the fear of being calumniated ... From the fear of being ridiculed ...” Hard words in these days of vigilante social media and self-appointed scourges roaming the Catholic Twittersphere.

Similarly, the “Litany of Trust,” written by Sister Faustina Maria Pia of the Sisters of Life, exposes our desire to wriggle away from what God may be asking of us: “From the fear



AMID
THE FRAY

GREG ERLANDSON

that trusting You will leave me more destitute, Deliver me, Jesus. From refusals and reluctances in accepting Your will ... From the fear of being asked to give more than I have ...”

Scary prayers are good but tough. They remind me of the road I still have to travel. They dispel comfortable illusions. And on most days, they are exactly what I need.

Greg Erlandson, director and editor-in-chief of Catholic News Service, can be reached at gerlandson@catholicnews.com.

Giving joyful witness: how the Holy Spirit stirs the restless

When Pope Francis talks about evangelization, his poster child may well be an immigrant in North Dakota.

Sister Brenda Hernandez Valdes, a 34-year-old Daughter of Immaculate Mary of Guadalupe, lives more than 1,500 miles from her home in Coahuila, Mexico, serving the sprawling Diocese of Bismarck, North Dakota, and ministering to the Hispanics working in its booming oil industry.

Sister Brenda’s smile embodies the pope’s call for joyful missionary disciples: Her eyes disappear and dimples appear at each upturned corner of her mouth. There is something magnetic about the small woman in the gray habit. She is Exhibit A for Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation, “Evangelii Gaudium,” (“The Joy of the Gospel”) and a reminder for all Catholics of how to effectively evangelize.

Most of the Hispanics who relocated to North Dakota to work at an oil field are young. Some are only 18. Many are single, others are new parents. All are yearning for a sense of home.

Among the makeshift homes and temporary work, the early mornings and the English lessons, they are seeking something stable, something familiar. It is a more extreme version of a search we all undertake: the quest for something more.



TWENTY
SOMETHING

CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

Sister Brenda recognizes their quest, and Pope Francis names it. “The world of our time,” he writes in “Evangelii Gaudium,” is “searching, sometimes with anguish, sometimes with hope.” The “desolation and anguish” of a secular life, he writes, offers an entryway for evangelists – for “the Holy Spirit works on restlessness.”

When the restless meet Sister Brenda, her joy is irresistible. They can’t help but wonder, “How do I get that? Where does that come from?”

These encounters are only possible because Sister Brenda has ventured “out on the streets,” as Pope Francis put it, unafraid to get “bruised” and “dirty.” For her, that means the Walmart parking lot, where she carries grocery bags and distributes fliers, extending a personal invitation to each shopper to join her for Mass.

She approaches with humility. She is not there to dispense wisdom. She believes she can learn even more than she’ll teach.

That begins by listening, according to “Evangelii”: “We

CAPECCHI, page 13

Sin is real, but so is God’s loving mercy



THE
SUNDAY
GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Fifth Sunday of Lent John 8:1-11

The Book of Isaiah supplies the first reading for this weekend in Lent. The reading is from the second part of Isaiah, written at a time that was not the best period in the history of God’s people.

The people had been rescued from exile. They, or their parents or grandparents, had survived the conquest of the Hebrew kingdoms by the Babylonians, the conquest that resulted in the exile.

By no means was all well, however. The land was not overflowing with milk and

honey. To the contrary, it was lifeless and desolate. This starkness easily prompted people to be cynical and to deny that God cared for the people, the tendency even to say that God did not exist.

With great power and clarity, this section of Isaiah insisted that God will make all things right. He is almighty. He will not forsake the people. He will cause rivers of life-giving water to flow through the arid land.

For the second reading, the Church presents a passage from the Epistle to the Philippians. The Christians of Philippi had this in common with Christians living in every other major city of the Roman Empire. They were few in number, by comparison, and their devotion to Christ drew them into a lifestyle and way of thinking utterly opposite the culture. Furthermore, hostility, official and unofficial, engulfed them.

So, this epistle, as the other epistles, encouraged but also challenged the Christians. It is

eloquent in its message, using the imagery of racing. Paul says that he has not yet finished the race, but he has his eyes on one goal alone, namely the finish line. When he crosses this line, in other words when he dies an earthly death, he will have won the race because he will enjoy life everlasting.

For its third reading this weekend, the Church gives us a selection from John’s Gospel. John’s Gospel is a literary gem. It tells its version of the life and teaching of Jesus with remarkable brilliance and appeal. Its eloquence and relevance captivate the minds of readers.

Certainly, such is the case in this reading. The danger before the woman, and also the mercy of God in Christ, are so evident.

By way of explanation, the woman had been caught in the act of adultery. Jewish law and custom were very hard on female adulteresses, not to victimize women, but rather to secure the racial integrity of the people who were chosen to be God’s special

people. If an adulterous woman gave birth to a child conceived outside her marriage, then fraud would upset the family’s line of descent, and the identity of the people might be in jeopardy.

Ultimately, it was a trick. The opponents of Jesus knew that to show mercy to the woman would be in accord with the Lord’s teaching, yet any semblance of downplaying her misconduct would appear to disregard the law of Moses and ancient Jewish custom.

Fearlessly, Jesus came to the woman’s rescue by forgiving her. He also upheld the sinfulness of adultery by admonishing her not to sin again.

Reflection

Next weekend, the Church will observe Palm Sunday. Only two weeks of Lent remain.

The Church reminds us that there is still time to repent and to refine our determination to follow Christ. Our own sins haunt us. Temptations

still may be strong. We know our imperfections quite well. Abandoning them will not be easy. This reading tells us that Christ will forgive all, even terrible sins. He will strengthen us, support us and protect us if we endeavor not to sin again.

Sin is real. So is Divine Mercy. God will help us to renounce sin and to turn to Christ. Nothing else matters. We need the Lord.

READINGS

Sunday: Is 43:16-21 Ps 126:1-56 Phil 3:8-14 Jn 8:1-11

Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 Ps 23:1-6 Jn 8:12-20

Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9 Ps 102:2-3, 16-21 Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95 (Ps) Dn 3:52-56 Jn 8:31-42

Thursday: Gn 17:3-9 Ps 105:4-9 Jn 8:51-59

Friday: Jer 20:10-13 Ps 18:2-7 Jn 10:31-42

Saturday: Ez 37:21-28 (Ps) Jer 31:10-13 Jn 11:45-56

Frank Gehry and transcendence

Though I reside in Santa Barbara, I am in Los Angeles a good deal for meetings and other events. When I'm in the city, I like to walk the downtown neighborhood. My favorite building to look at while I'm on these strolls is the Disney Theatre, home base of the LA Philharmonic and the creation of Frank Gehry, probably the best-known architect in the world. Like many of Gehry's other buildings, the Disney is marked by shimmering metallic surfaces, curving planes, and an overall playfulness of design. Some have suggested that the theatre's exterior looks like the pages of a score that have just fallen from the conductor's podium. That it is a captivating work of art is testified to by the crowds that regularly gather round it to gaze and to take photographs. Soon after I arrived in the LA Archdiocese, I heard that Gehry was actually one of the finalists in the competition to design the new Cathedral here. To say the very least, it would have been interesting to see what he would have done with that assignment.

This connection came vividly to mind when I read a recent interview with Gehry, conducted in advance of his 90th birthday. After ruminating on his long and productive career, the architect said that he still harbored a great desire: "I would like to design a church or a synagogue. A place that has transcendence. I've always been interested in space that transcends to something — to joy, pleasure, understanding, discourse, whatever a space can do to be part of the dialogue."

We can easily recognize in this statement what I would call the "Augustinian longing." The great Church Father, Augustine of Hippo, long ago wrote, "Lord, you have made us for yourself; therefore our heart is restless until it rests in you." Whether we like it or not, whether we explicitly acknowledge it or not, all of us are marked by the hunger and thirst for a good that transcends the goods available in this world. As C.S. Lewis observed, this desire of the heart reveals itself particularly in moments of intense joy, for it is precisely

when we have achieved a great worldly value — fame, pleasure, power, money, etc. — that we realize that we still want and need something more. This is the beauty and goodness to which religion points, the transcendence to which it is meant to order us.

But here's the rub. As he elaborated on the meaning of "transcendence," Gehry said this: "Forget the religion aspect. How do you make a space feel transcendent? How do you create a sense of ease with the universe, the rain, the stars and the people around you? It's comforting to sit in a big room and listen to the rain." In stating it this way, the architect revealed his perspective as a pagan one. Please don't misunderstand me; I have a deep respect for pagan religion. In fact, my mentor, Msgr. Robert Sokolowski, once told me, "If you stop being a Christian, I'd recommend becoming a pagan. Paganism is a noble religion, for it has to do with honoring the great natural necessities." He meant that this ancient spiritual tradition, available in both mythic and philosophical expressions, had to do with ordering human beings toward a right relationship with the earth, the sea, the natural processes of life and death, etc. This was the "transcendence" that paganism evoked. I put the word in quotes because it did not signal, in that context, values that go beyond the world — only values that go beyond the self.

There is a poetic and ecstatic passage in St. Augustine's Confessions that articulates the fundamental difference between a biblical and a pagan conception of transcendence. The spiritual searcher wonders what is the object that truly corresponds to the aching within his heart:

"What is the object of my love? And I asked the earth and it said: 'It is not I.' I asked all that is in it; they made the same confession. (Job 28:12f). I asked the sea, the deeps, the living creatures that creep, and they responded: 'We are not your God. Look beyond us.' I asked the breezes that blow and the entire air with its inhabitants said: 'Anaximenes was mistaken; I am not God.' I asked



WORD ON FIRE

BISHOP ROBERT BARRON

heaven, sun, moon, and stars; they said: 'Nor are we the God whom you seek.' And I said to all those things in the external environment: 'Tell me of my God who you are not, tell me something about him.' and with great voice they cried out 'He made us.'"

To understand that citation is to grasp the difference between biblical religion and paganism. Augustine makes it eminently clear that, even as he reverences the goods of nature, he knows that his heart wants something more, indeed something infinitely more.

One of the distinctive marks of our time is a secularism that has got us stuck within the world that we can see and measure. What this ideology does with the Augustinian longing for God is to turn it into the neo-paganism evident in Frank Gehry's statement. It is as though the desire that pushes us beyond this world to its Creator gets stifled, limited, corralled, so that we end up effectively worshipping "the universe, the rain, the stars." Mind you, I think that biblical believers carry an awful lot of the blame for the re-emergence of paganism, for we have obviously presented the Creator God in such an unconvincing manner to the culture. The Church ought to sing the transcendence of God to Frank Gehry as it once sang it to Giotto, Michelangelo, Caravaggio, Dante, Gaudí and the architect of Chartres Cathedral.

Once the great architect realizes that the deepest desire of his heart is for the living God, I would love to see the church he would build.

Bishop Robert Barron is an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and the founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries.

different needs," she said. "Our people sacrifice a lot by living in small spaces, leaving their family or bringing it to live in extreme weather conditions."

She takes her time with each encounter, heeding one of the most practical tips in "Evangelii": "Evangelization consists mostly of patience and disregard for constraints of time."

The teenagers ask about her habit and she talks freely, happily about religious life. Her message is bold: "Do not be afraid to open the doors to Christ!"

She encourages their parents, too. "It is very important to strengthen the vocational culture in parents," she said.

Sister Brenda lives with two other Daughters of Immaculate Mary of Guadalupe. This spring they hosted a gathering for Hispanic youth at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Dickinson, North Dakota, to share their stories and perform a concert. Together they made beautiful music.

Standing in the Walmart parking lot, greeting them at church, Sister Brenda is a guidepost for the lost and lonely. "In the Church," she said, "they find family."

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

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for April 7, 2019

John 8:1-11

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for Fifth Sunday of Lent, Cycle C: the story of the woman caught in adultery and brought to Jesus. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

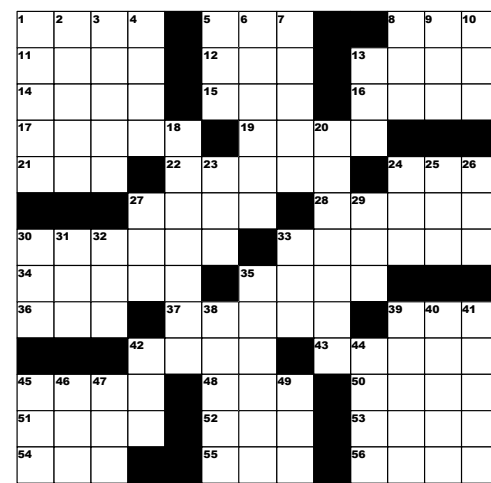
MOUNT	OF OLIVES	MORNING
TEMPLE	SAT DOWN	WOMAN
ADULTERY	STAND	THE LAW
MOSES	TO STONE	TEST HIM
BENT DOWN	FINGER	GROUND
AWAY	ONE BY ONE	ALONE
NO ONE	CONDEMN	FROM NOW ON

CAUGHT

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

The CrossWord

April 7 and 14, 2019



- 51 Not who
- 52 Flightless bird
- 53 Enclosed section of window
- 54 Consume the bread
- 55 Nail
- 56 Leaf bud

- DOWN**
- 1 Associate (abbr.)
 - 2 Caught in adultery
 - 3 "I consider everything ____" (2 words)
 - 4 Picnic bear
 - 5 Peter cut one off
 - 6 Jesus wrote on
 - 7 Birds that make a gaggle
 - 8 Compass point
 - 9 Promissory note
 - 10 Moses ____ the Hebrews
 - 13 Not on
 - 18 Leaned
 - 20 Galled
 - 23 Roman three
 - 24 Estimated arrival time
 - 25 Sun's name
 - 26 Finale
 - 27 Least amount
 - 29 Before, poetically
 - 30 Empty space
 - 31 Self-esteem
 - 32 Kitten's cry
 - 33 Possessive pronoun
 - 35 Our Lady of ____
 - 38 Christ has ____
 - 39 Chocolate tree
 - 40 Group of trees
 - 41 Days in tomb
 - 42 Shade tree
 - 44 Sports channel
 - 45 Ram's mate
 - 46 Expression of surprise
 - 47 Decay
 - 49 U-boat

Readings: Is 43: 16-21; Phil 3:8-14; Jn 8:1-11
Lk 19:28-40 ; Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Lk 22:14-23:56

- ACROSS**
- 1 "____ in a Manger"
 - 5 Easter symbol
 - 8 Nix
 - 11 Fly alone
 - 12 "Blessed ____ you"
 - 13 Band instrument
 - 14 Air pollution
 - 15 "____ v Wade"
 - 16 Clan fight
 - 17 Fertile desert area
 - 19 Fly corps
 - 21 Catholic News Service
 - 22 Jesus' body wrapped in
 - 24 East southeast
 - 27 Her eyes on her mistress'
 - 28 Mount a horse (2 wds)
 - 30 Space mission
 - 33 Angel is one
 - 34 Clerk
 - 35 Peter was seated near
 - 36 Captured soldier
 - 37 Take away
 - 39 Central Standard Time
 - 42 Rewrite
 - 43 Jesus was condemned to
 - 45 Duke
 - 48 Bro.'s sibling
 - 50 Former wound

CAPECCHI, from page 12

need to practice the art of listening, which is more than simply hearing. Listening, in communication, is an openness of heart which makes possible that closeness without which genuine spiritual encounter cannot occur."

This enables Sister Brenda to enter into their world, because "an evangelizing community gets involved by word and deed in people's daily lives," Pope Francis writes in "Evangelii."

For Sister Brenda, that begins by fielding questions about warmer jackets and better cellphone plans.

"They approach the Church for



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Prayer in memory of those who gave their lives for the Gospel

SOUTH BEND — In many parts of the world Christians, even at the risk of their own lives, do not cease to proclaim the Gospel of Christ's peace. In memory of these martyrs, the Community of Sant'Egidio will host a Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral, 1701 Miami St., South Bend, on Palm Sunday, April 14, at 4 p.m. Father Emmanuel Katongole will preside.

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Under Caesar's Sword project, St. Matthew Cathedral Parish and Catholic Peace Fellowship will co-sponsor the Mass. For more information contact Richard LaSalvia at richard_lasalvia@sbcglobal.net or Shawn Storer at ssorer@diocesefwsb.org.

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Taste of Life to benefit Women's Care Center

ANGOLA — Taste of Life, an event benefiting the Women's Care Center, will be Saturday, April 6, from 6-9 p.m. at Steuben County Event Center, 100 Lane 101. Taste the region's finest wines and craft beers while enjoying a delicious dinner, trying to win "A Few of My Favorite Things" from local celebrities. Test your baby knowledge to win \$500. Tickets are \$40 per person and can be purchased online at bit.ly/wcc2019. Must be 21 or older to attend. Contact Ann Freeman 260-333-7117.

Not Your Grandma's Family Planning

FORT WAYNE — Compare natural and artificial methods of avoiding and achieving pregnancy in this engaging and informative presentation Thursday, April 11, from 7:45-8:45 p.m. at Queen of Angels Parish, 1500 W. State Blvd. Contact Stephanie Hamilton at 260-610-3777.

Family symposium: Strengthening Families by Loving Your Neighbor

FORT WAYNE — A family symposium, Strengthening Families by Loving Your Neighbor, will be held on Saturday, April 13, at the Fort Wayne Stake Center, 5401 Saint Joe Rd., from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Everyone 12 and older is invited.

A charge of \$15 per person or \$25 per family of up to six will include a box lunch and refreshments. Preregistered babysitting for children ages 2 years and older is available for \$2 per child. Register by April 8 at 2019family-symposium.eventbrite.com. The Symposium is sponsored by the Fort Wayne Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Contact Nicole Kurut 260-422-5625, or nkurut@ccfwsb.org.

St. Adalbert sisters' auxiliary bake sale

SOUTH BEND — St. Adalbert sisters auxiliary bake sale will be Saturday, April 13, from 8

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<p>Fort Wayne Virginia Ackerman, 86, St. Charles Borromeo</p> <p>Martin Tierney, 83, St. Jude</p> <p>Helen Marie Shank, 94, St. John the Baptist</p> <p>Margaret Donovan, 59, St. Charles Borromeo</p>	<p>Herman Wissing, 90, St. Vincent de Paul</p> <p>Mishawaka Roy Mammolenti, 86, St. Joseph</p> <p>New Haven Michelle Hittie, 78, St. John the Baptist</p> <p>South Bend Valerie Kramer, 64, St. Jude</p>	<p>Sylvia Redd, 81, Christ the King</p> <p>Frances Brooks, 81, St. Therese, Little Flower</p> <p>Mary Flowers, 91, St. Therese, Little Flower</p> <p>Peter Tran, 76, St. Anthony de Padua</p>
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a.m. to 1 p.m. in the St. Adalbert Heritage Center, 519 S. Olive St. Sweet-sour cabbage, Polish noodles, homemade Pierogi and all kinds of baked goods for Easter will be available. Lunch will be available. Lamb cakes will be sold on a prepaid, preorder basis only. The deadline for the preorders is Friday, April 5. Cost is just \$18 each. The Easter Bunny will be visiting from noon until 12:30 p.m. Bring your camera. Call Linda, 574-288-5708, ext. 203.

The CrossWord

April 7 and 14, 2019

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Mastodon Catholic students pray with Bishop Rhoades

BY JOSHUA SCHIPPER

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades prayed vespers, the evening prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours, with members of the Mastodon Catholic group from Purdue University Fort Wayne on March 28. During his homily, the bishop talked about the unique, intimate relationship that Christians have with God.

"We are called to submit to God, but He's not a stern ruler — He is a God of compassion, mercy and love. He is our father," he said. To illustrate this point, the bishop recalled the story of a Muslim girl he knows. "She fell in love with Christ. She was having a very difficult time in her Muslim religion. She just didn't believe. When she was introduced to Christianity, and the concept of God as Father, it turned her world upside down."

After the conclusion of vespers, Bishop Rhoades and the students met in the St. Charles Borromeo Parish youth ministry center, Fort Wayne, for refreshments and a Q&A session. The first question asked was about balancing schoolwork with working for the good of the Church.

"It's good to discern and pray about it," Bishop Rhoades said. "What is God calling you to do? What would help you to grow in your relationship with Christ by doing this? Where is the greatest need?"

He also commented: "I think it's better to do a few things well, than do a lot of things and not be faithful to it."

Another question revolved around New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo's failure to veto extreme abortion legislation in early 2019, and why the Church has not excommunicated him. The bishop responded that there is much debate in the Church on the issue of excommunication in such circumstances.

The bishop said that at the least, in such a grave matter, the person should not be allowed to receive Holy Communion. He also explained that excommunication is a medicinal penalty, a medicine that helps someone to convert; to change.

After several addendums to the question of excommunication, the students asked Bishop Rhoades about the differences between the Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church, specifically in terms of the reception of Communion.

"The Orthodox are not in full communion with Rome, yet they have valid sacraments. They have valid Eucharist. They have valid priests. They have valid bishops. If you're traveling in an Orthodox country and you can't get to Mass, you should go to the Orthodox liturgy because it's a valid Eucharist," he said. He stressed, though, that this should only happen when it is not possible to go to a Catholic



A Catholic student at Purdue University Fort Wayne prays vespers at St. Charles Borromeo Church, Fort Wayne, March 28 with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.

Photos by Joshua Schipper

most fundamental. Our teaching on marriage is not bigotry, it's respecting God's plan and will regarding marriage, and God is the author of marriage."

After the session concluded, Mastodon Catholic member Gabby Cheever commented: "It was great to have the bishop at our Thursday night Mastodon Catholic meeting. It really shows to me that he cares for all his flock, young and old. We had a great question-and-answer session that was really informative. We are truly blessed to have a bishop that cares."

"I really enjoyed the night. I especially liked the community evening prayer," said Jacob Schroeder, a sophomore at Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne. "Bishop Rhoades' homily on the closeness of our Christian God made me feel grateful for belonging to the Catholic Church."



Bishop Rhoades answers questions posed by Mastodon Catholic students following the vespers service.



Church. The students continued to ask questions about the differences between the two Churches, and about the differences between the Latin and Eastern rites of the Catholic Church.

The next topic of discussion was the Church's stance on same-sex adoption. "The reason that we do not agree with it isn't that they might not be good parents, or that they're not good people. It would be because we believe a child deserves a father and a mother: that there's something you receive from a father as you're being raised, and other qualities that you learn from your mother," the bishop said. "In the case of same-sex marriage, one of the problems is the lack of having a father and a mother; the other is that it's an illicit relationship that is not setting a good example for the child being raised — they're being raised in a way where they're learning that same-sex marriage is OK. We want what is best for the child."

"In your generation, it's probably the teaching of the Church that is most unpopular, from what I've experienced when I'm with young people," he said. "It is important to emphasize that the Church is love, and to have compassion for those with same-sex attraction, because that's

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