

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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Holy Week begins
Liturgies, devotions recall
Christ's ultimate sacrifice
Pages 8-9

**Archbishop Wilton
Gregory**
Appointed to lead
Archdiocese of Washington
Page 2

**Pontifical Good Friday
Collection**
Pope, Bishop Rhoades
ask for support of
Holy Land Christians
Page 3

**Indiana protects
the unborn**
Two pro-life bills pass
General Assembly
Page 5

Pope: Church, world need the gifts, enthusiasm of young people

BY CINDY WOODEN



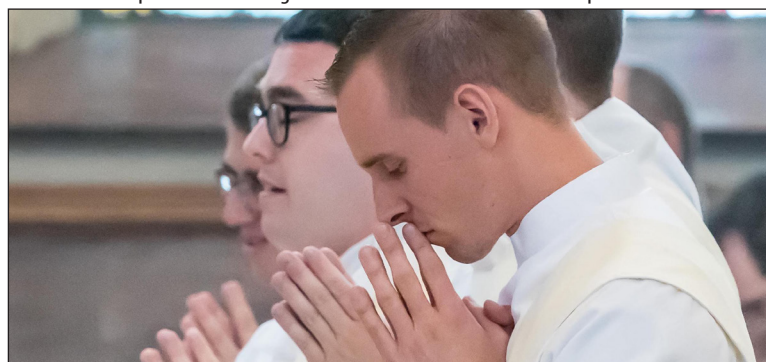
CNS photo/Paul Haring



NS photo/Jon L. Hendricks



Michael O'Sullivan



Joe Romie

Above left, Cardinal Lorenzo Baldisseri, secretary-general of the Synod of Bishops, holds Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation, "Christus Vivit" (Christ Lives), during a news conference for its presentation at the Vatican on April 2. The document contains the pope's reflections on the 2018 Synod of Bishops on young people, the faith and vocational discernment, encouraging parishes to embrace young people and support their vocations, whether to marriage, religious life or other service. Clockwise from that photo, a groom and bride hold hands on their wedding day in 2010; diocesan priests pray at the beginning of their Mass of ordination to the priesthood in June; and a young Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend pilgrim expresses joy at World Youth Day in Panama.

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The life of a young person and the vocation to which God calls each one is "holy ground" that pastors and parents must respect, nurture and encourage, Pope Francis wrote in a new apostolic exhortation.

"Christus Vivit" ("Christ Lives"), the pope's reflections on the 2018 Synod of Bishops on young people, the faith and vocational discernment, is a combination letter to young people about their place in the Church and a plea to older members of the Church not to stifle the enthusiasm of the young, but to offer gentle guidance when needed.

In the document, released April 2, Pope Francis talked about how the sex abuse crisis, a history of sexism and an overly narrow focus on just a handful of moral issues can keep young people away from the Church.

But he also said many young people want to know and understand the teachings of the Church and, despite what many people think, they long for and need times of silent reflection and opportunities to serve their communities.

"A church always on the

EXHORTATION, page 4

Faith fortifies Rwandan refugee community

Twenty-fifth anniversary of genocide approaches

BY JILL A. BOUGHTON

On April 7, 1994, Rwanda's Hutu militia began systematically slaughtering members of the Tutsi tribe. Three months later, over a million Rwandans, mostly Tutsis, were dead. It's been 25 years, but several Michiana survivors will never forget the horror of losing scores of friends and family members in the genocide.

Why did we survive, they wonder. Marie-Rose Semuhungu was a college student in Switzerland at the time, but her twin sister was killed, as well as a brother with whom she had spoken on

the phone two days before his death. Immaculee Songa lost her husband, two daughters and siblings; including a brother who was a priest, killed at a retreat center. With her 1-year-old son strapped to her back, she herself came face-to-face with the killers six times. She's convinced God spared her for a reason: to make sure this sort of genocide never happens again.

Raised in strong Catholic families, both women's faith was shaken by the genocide. How could God permit this to happen to their faithful family members?

Semuhungu remembers hearing her father's rosary beads clacking when she woke up in the

middle of the night, and Songa recounts how her brother made sure the small quantity of milk available to them went to seminarians instead, rather than to his own family.

For months afterward, they couldn't study, work or go to church. They felt unsafe remaining in or returning to Rwanda and eventually wound up in the United States, where Songa felt obligated to have Masses offered for her family members. She knew they were still looking down on her and expected she would do this, she said.

Semuhungu joined her fiancé here, and knew she wanted a sacramental marriage and a Catholic

upbringing for her children. They found a supportive community on the west side of South Bend, not only with other Rwandans but also in their parishes.

"Thank God, who doesn't give up on us. He knows how to bring His children back," said Semuhungu, now a nurse at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center. "I love Him so much."

Armel Iradukunda is the son of Rwandan genocide survivors, Seventh-day Adventists who were living in Kenya at the time. He regrets never having a chance to get to know his grandparents, aunts and uncles who were killed.

RWANDANS, page 16

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Atlanta archbishop named new leader of Washington archdiocese

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Francis has named Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory of Atlanta as the new archbishop of Washington.

The appointment was announced April 4 in Washington by Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the Vatican nuncio to the United States.

Archbishop Gregory, 71, a former president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops who helped navigate the conference through the clergy sexual abuse crisis in 2002, is the first African American to be named to head the Washington archdiocese.

He succeeds Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl, whose resignation was accepted by Pope Francis in October, nearly three years after he turned 75, the mandatory retirement age for bishops. Cardinal Wuerl continued as apostolic administrator until his successor was named. The cardinal headed the Washington archdiocese from 2006 to 2018.

Archbishop Gregory will be installed as the seventh archbishop of Washington May 21 at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle.

"I am deeply grateful to Pope Francis for this appointment to serve the Archdiocese of Washington and to work with all of the members of this faith community," Archbishop Gregory said. "I look forward to encountering and listening to the people of this local church as we address the issues that face us and continue to grow in the love of Christ that sustains us."

Cardinal Wuerl welcomed his successor's appointment "with great joy."

"I join all who appreciate his pastoral abilities, his intellectual gifts and his leadership qualities," he said in a statement. "I have known Archbishop Gregory for many years. In working with him on a range of pastoral initiatives and programs, I have come to recognize how generously he shares his talents and his love for the church."

As the Washington archdiocese "opens a new chapter and looks to the future," Cardinal Wuerl added, "we can all, with great confidence and enthusiasm, welcome our new shepherd."

The archdiocese's three auxiliaries, Bishops Mario E. Dorsonville, Roy E. Campbell Jr. and Michael W. Fisher, also issued statements expressing their joy and gratitude to the pope for appointing Archbishop Gregory to Washington.

"This appointment reflects the Holy Father's love for our local Church, for each one of us, and, especially, for our immigrant families in the archdiocese," said Bishop Dorsonville.

"I have come to know



CNS photo/Bob Roller

Atlanta Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory concelebrates Mass during the Catholic convocation in Orlando, Fla., in this July 2, 2017, file photo. On April 4, Pope Francis named Archbishop Gregory to head the Archdiocese of Washington.

Archbishop Gregory over the past two years and have had the good fortune to work with him as a member of the black Catholic bishops of the United States," said Bishop Campbell, a Washington auxiliary since 2017. "I look forward to working closely with him in his ministry of leading and healing all who make up this Church and this community."

Bishop Fisher added: "His experience and guidance as president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops during the adoption of the 'Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People' will be essential in our Church's continued commitment to healing and accountability. The new archbishop will be shepherding diverse and vibrant parishes with zealous and faith-filled clergy and laity ready to assist him in his ministry."

Archbishop Gregory has served in Atlanta since 2005. He previously was bishop

of Belleville, Illinois, for 11 years, beginning in 1994. He was named auxiliary bishop of Chicago in 1983. In the Archdiocese of Chicago, he served as associate pastor of

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Glenview; a faculty member at St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein; and as master of ceremonies for Cardinal John P. Cody and Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin.

In moving to Washington, the archbishop steps into a high-profile position. The area that comprises the archdiocese includes the halls of

power in Congress, the White House and the U.S. Supreme Court, the many embassies of governments from around the world, and nonprofit and lobbying organizations that advocate on a wide range of public policy issues. He also automatically becomes chancellor of The Catholic University of America's board of trustees.

Archbishop Gregory comes to an archdiocese with a rich ethnic diversity that includes a vibrant Hispanic community of 270,000 and historic parishes that date to the 19th century serving 100,000 people of African and Caribbean descent. Overall, the archdiocese has nearly 659,000 Catholics throughout the District of Columbia and five Maryland counties.

The archbishop served as USCCB president from November 2001 until 2004, a period that was perhaps one of the most difficult in the conference's history.

Under his leadership, the bishops adopted the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young Adults" and essential norms for handling accusations of sexual abuse by priests or other Church personnel; established a lay board to review how cases have been handled; commissioned an extensive analysis of the factors involved in the crisis; and created a staff office to oversee those efforts.

When he was elected in 2001, much of the attention focused on the fact that he was first African American to head the conference. Before that he served three years as vice president of the conference. He was the third African American to be named archbishop of Atlanta.

A Chicago native, Archbishop Gregory was born Dec. 7, 1947. Though not raised as a Catholic, his parents enrolled him at St. Carthage Catholic School for the sixth grade. Within weeks he had decided he wanted to be a Catholic, and by the end of the school year he had been baptized, made his first Communion and been confirmed.

He graduated from Quigley Preparatory Seminary South, Niles College of Loyola University and St. Mary of the Lake Seminary. After his ordination in 1973, he obtained a doctorate in sacred liturgy from the Pontifical Liturgical Institute in Rome.

Since arriving in Atlanta, Archbishop Gregory has seen the archdiocese grow to about 1.2 million Catholics in the 69 counties it covers in northern and central Georgia. In addition, nine parishes were elevated and six missions established, 64 priests and 152 permanent deacons were ordained, nearly 150,000 infants, children and adults were baptized, and more than 16,000 people were brought into full communion with the Church, according to the archdiocesan website.

Archbishop Gregory has issued pastoral statements on the death penalty, euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide and has published numerous articles discussing liturgy, especially within the African American community.



The Pontifical Good Friday Collection

Dear Friends in Christ:

During Holy Week, the Gospel readings come to life in a special way as we gather to celebrate the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. The readings remind us of our special connection to the land where this great story unfolded. Soon, like Simon of Cyrene, you can help to carry the cross in the Holy Land.

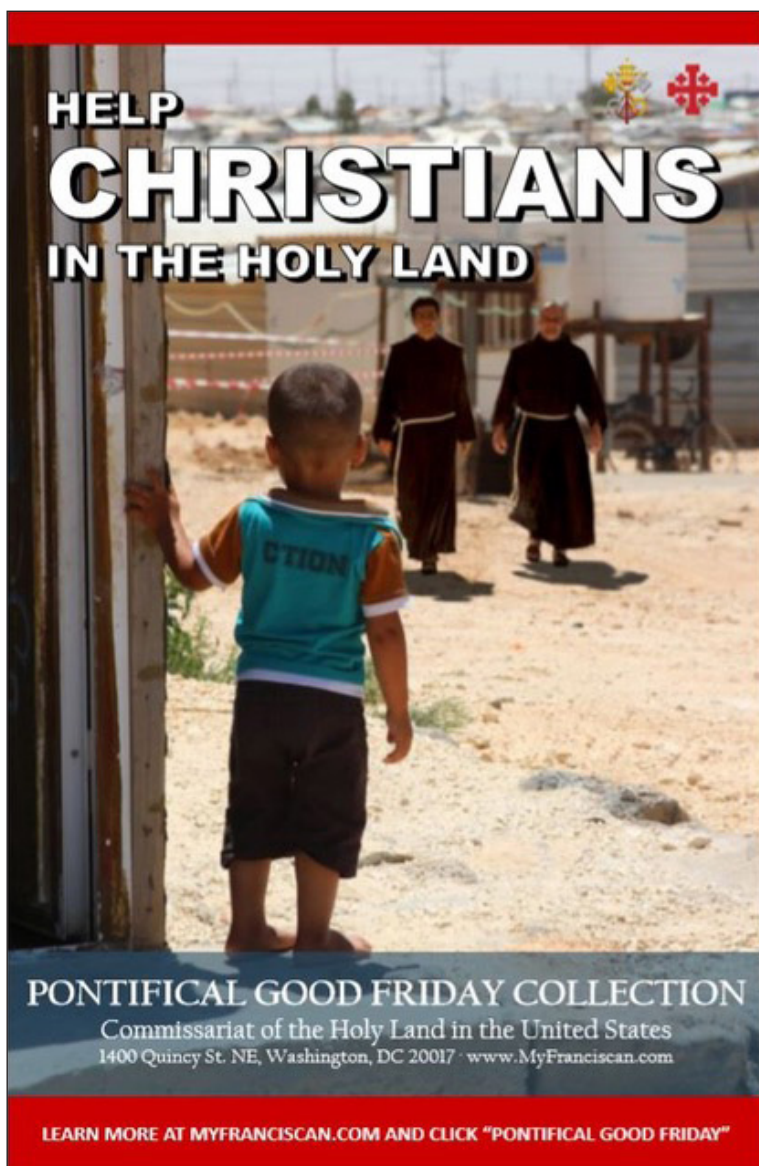
The annual Pontifical Good Friday Collection is requested by Pope Francis. His request continues a longstanding commitment to helping Christians in the Holy Land. In the Acts of the Apostles, we read that even St. Paul urged his missionary Churches not to forget the needs of the Church in Jerusalem. We are called to continue the legacy of supporting our brothers and sisters who live in the land made holy by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

Christians living in the Holy Land today are descendants of those who first believed the Christian faith.

Today, there are new persecutions – many of which we hear about on the daily news. The political, religious and military challenges in the Holy Land are more complex than ever, and they are especially hard on Christians.

There are hopeful signs as well. The 29 parishes in the Holy Land lead worship, offer Christian formation and education and provide housing and food for the poor. The Christian shrines that directly connect us to the life of Jesus and the Apostles are maintained. But those serving there need our help.

Soon, you will be invited in your parish to contribute to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection. This Collection offers all Catholics an opportunity to express their solidarity with Christians in the Holy Land. A donation to the Holy Father's annual appeal is a direct way to



make a difference in the lives of those caught up in war, violence and instability in this region.

Through the Good Friday Collection, you join with Catholics around the world to stand in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land. And, you become an instrument of peace in a troubled land.

It is important that Christians continue to live, work and pray in the Holy Land. Please be

generous when called on to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection this year.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Kevin C. Rhoades

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

Asylum-seeker from Nicaragua credits new home in Iowa to prayers

STORM LAKE, Iowa (CNS) — Darwin Josue Mejia Montoya could have been shot during protests in Nicaragua last year. He also could still be languishing in a detention center in Arizona, after escaping the violence. But Montoya credits prayers — particularly to Mary — for enabling him to be one of the few individuals granted asylum in the United States from the Central American country. Speaking through interpreter Araceli Reyes, assistant for Hispanic ministry at St. Mary Parish in Storm Lake, Montoya recalled his calmness while waiting to hear if he would be granted asylum. "I was never nervous that day," he told *The*

Catholic Globe, newspaper of the Sioux City diocese. "I had previously been nervous at the other court dates, but that day, I earlier turned to Psalm 70 and just knew whatever was going to happen, I would be all right." The youngest of six children, Montoya grew up in Boaco, Nicaragua. His parish is Parroquia de Santiago Apostol (Parish of St. James the Apostle) — where he received the sacraments of baptism, Communion and confirmation. One of the priests who served at Santiago was Father Sergio Antonio Alvarez Aleman, with whom "Darwin is a good friend," explained Father Tim Friedrichsen, pastor of St. Mary in Storm Lake and Sacred Heart in Early. "Padre Sergio is now the pastor at Santa Lucia," Father Friedrichsen said of his church's sister parish. "I met both

Padre Sergio and Darwin when I first visited Nicaragua in January of 2016."

Cardinal O'Brien turns 80; U.S. left with nine cardinal electors

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — U.S. Cardinal Edwin F. O'Brien, grand master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, celebrated his 80th birthday April 8, meaning he is no longer eligible to enter a conclave to elect a new pope. His ineligibility leaves the College of Cardinals with 121 members who are under 80 and could enter a conclave. Eighteen of the voters were made cardinals by St. John Paul II; 46 by Pope Benedict XVI; and 57 by Pope Francis.



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Sunday, April 14: 9 a.m. — Palm Sunday Mass, St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend
Monday, April 15: 7:30 p.m. — Chrism Mass, St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend
Tuesday, April 16: 7:30 p.m. — Chrism Mass, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
Thursday, April 18: 7 p.m. — Holy Thursday Mass, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
Friday, April 19: 1 p.m. — Good Friday Service, St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend
Saturday, April 20: 9:15 p.m. — Easter Vigil Mass, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne

National Religious Retirement Office offers gratitude for generous support

March 27, 2019

Dear Bishop Rhoades:

Sincere thanks for your diocesan check of \$153,677.42 in support of the 2018 Retirement Fund for Religious collection. Please extend our heartfelt gratitude to your parishioners for their ongoing support of senior religious and their communities. Since the collection was launched, contributions from your diocese have totaled \$4,179,111.90.

Generosity to the collection enables our office to distribute financial and educational assistance that help religious communities provide for older members while continuing to serve the People of God. Proceeds offer much-needed support for medications, nursing care, and other day-to-day necessities. A portion of the appeal also underwrites programming and education that promote long-term retirement planning. These resources focus on helping communities to reduce costs, enhance eldercare, and identify additional sources of income.

Joined with the 32,000 elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who benefit from the Retirement Fund for Religious, I offer a daily prayer of thanksgiving for all whose love and sacrifice make the work of our office possible. May God bless you and your parishioners.

With gratitude,

Sister Stephanie Still, PBVM Executive Director

Chrism Masses



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

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

Diocesan policy on reporting incidents of child abuse or neglect

FORT WAYNE — The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend shares the conviction of Indiana legal authorities, all concerned adults and the Church that every effort should and must be made to report child abuse or neglect to the appropriate authorities. Incidents of physical, emotional or sexual abuse or neglect of children, unfortunately, occur with regularity throughout our society.

Very often the victims of this abuse are too young to relate to others the fact of occurrence or are too frightened or ashamed to reveal the identities of those responsible for the abuse or neglect. Therefore, only when concerned individuals report those facts that give them reason to believe an incident of child abuse or neglect has occurred can this distressing problem be brought forward for legal redress as well as psychological assistance and spiritual rehabilitation. This diocesan policy on reporting child abuse or neglect is intended to promote awareness of the laws of the State of Indiana already in effect for all, and thus enhance pastoral awareness of, and response to, this grave problem.

Indiana law requires that all persons, without exception, make an immediate oral report to a local law enforcement agency or Department of Child Services if that person has "reason to believe" that a child may be a victim of child abuse or neglect (unless that person knows a report of the incident has already been made). The obligation to report exists regardless of who the accused may be. This duty applies to all diocesan personnel:

- All priests, deacons, can-

didates for ordination and the religious life, and other religious personnel,

- All school and parish personnel, paid and volunteer (including counselors)
- All other employees and volunteers of the diocese or any of its affiliated organizations.

The diocese expects and requires that all its priests, deacons, candidates for ordination and the religious life, paid personnel (lay and religious) and volunteers, especially those who work in diocesan programs that are directly and immediately involved with children, recognize and report child abuse and neglect in accordance with Indiana law. The diocese expects and requires that the report be made regardless of when the suspected abuse or neglect is claimed to have occurred.

Where a person suspects that a child may be a victim of abuse or neglect but is unsure whether he or she has sufficient "reason to believe" to make a report, that person should always err on the side of caution and report. The key is to report rather than not report.

For the full policy, see:

<https://bit.ly/2VIVkpD> (English)
<https://bit.ly/2OPx1he> (Spanish)

For more information and resources, visit www.d21.org.

REPORTING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

HOW DO I REPORT?

Report to the police or child protective services, or both. Generally, if the suspected offender is in the home with the child, it is better to contact child protective services.

IF THE CHILD IS IN IMMEDIATE DANGER CALL 911

State laws require that you have reasonable suspicion that abuse is occurring. That means you do not need proof of sexual abuse to make a good faith report to authorities.

Reasonable suspicion means you have witnessed physical or behavioral signs of maltreatment, either in the child or parent/caregiver, or both. OR, you have received a disclosure from a child about abuse, neglect, or boundary violations toward them.



WHAT INFORMATION DO I NEED TO MAKE A REPORT?

Necessary Information

- Child's name, address and age
- Parents' name and address
- Nature of the abuse

Helpful Information*

- Perpetrator's name
- Details of the abuse

*If the child does not readily supply this information, do not continue to question or investigate. It could interfere later with the investigation.

A child just disclosed sexual abuse to me. WHAT DO I DO NOW?

1. Say, "I believe you," and "It's not your fault."

- DO remain calm.
- DO ask open-ended questions: "Then what happened?"
- DON'T make promises. Say, "We're going to get the help we need."

2. Conduct a "minimal fact" interview.

- DO let them use their own words.
- DON'T ask leading questions or probe for details.

3. Report immediately.

- DO tell law enforcement and/or child protective services.



FALSE SEXUAL ABUSE REPORTS MADE BY CHILDREN ARE RARE

Source: D21.org/Statistics

Do not ask the child leading questions or try to draw out information.

Asking too many questions about abuse may cause distress in the child, and can interfere with prosecution of the alleged offender.

Some guidelines for reporting abuse:

- Do not investigate on your own - Especially do not investigate physical signs beyond those that can be seen in daily interactions.
- It is best not to contact parents about your report, especially if a parent or household member is the suspected abuser. This could put the child at further risk or lead to the destruction of evidence.
- Even though your report may not result in legal action, the investigation may cause other services to take place, like counseling or the provision of necessities for the child.

Sometimes the investigating professionals may not be able to gather enough evidence to act on your report. Still, your report may become part of a series of reports that can lead to action later.

EXHORTATION, from page 1

defensive, which loses her humility and stops listening to others, which leaves no room for questions, loses her youth and turns into a museum," Pope Francis wrote. "How, then, will she be able to respond to the dreams of young people?"

Young people have a natural desire to improve the life of the Church and the world around them, the pope said. If older people in the Church will let the young people try, it will keep the Church youthful, too.

"Let us ask the Lord to free the church from those who would make her grow old, encase her in the past, hold her back or keep her at a standstill," Pope Francis wrote. "But let us also ask him to free her from another temptation: that of thinking she is young because she accepts everything the world offers her, thinking that she is renewed because she sets her message aside and acts like everybody else."

The core of the pope's message to young people was that

they remember they are loved by God and saved by Jesus, who continues to live and act in the world and in their lives.

"His love is so real, so true, so concrete, that it invites us to a relationship of openness and fruitful dialogue," even when one is angry with God, the pope said. "He does not get upset if you share your questions with him. He is concerned when you don't talk to him, when you are not open to dialogue with him."

Drawing on the final documents from the synod and from a pre-synod gathering of young people in Rome, Pope Francis urged parishes and dioceses to rethink their youth and young adult programs and to make changes based on what young people themselves say they want and need.

"Young people need to be approached with the grammar of love, not by being preached at," he said. "The language that young people understand is spoken by those who radiate life, by those who are there for them and with them. And those who, for

all their limitations and weaknesses, try to live their faith with integrity."

Directly addressing young people, he said, "Take risks, even if it means making mistakes. Don't go through life anesthetized or approach the world like tourists. Make a ruckus!"

And, he told them, reach out to other young people, do not be afraid to mention Jesus and to invite friends to church or a church-sponsored activity.

"With the same love that Christ pours out on us," the pope said, "we can love him in turn and share his love with others in the hope that they too will take their place in the community of friendship he established."

Youth ministry cannot be elitist or focused only on the teens and young adults already active in the Church's life, he said. It must be "a process that is gradual, respectful, patient, hopeful, tireless and compassionate," as Jesus was when He walked with the disciples on the road to Emmaus.

Parents, pastors and spiritual guides must have "the ability to

discern pathways where others only see walls, to recognize potential where others see only peril. That is how God the Father sees things; he knows how to cherish and nurture the seeds of goodness sown in the hearts of the young."

"Each young person's heart should thus be considered 'holy ground,' a bearer of seeds of divine life, before which we must 'take off our shoes' in order to draw near and enter more deeply into the mystery."

A long section of the document is focused on discerning one's vocation, which, he said, always is a call to serve God and serve others, but always in a unique way.

Discovering one's vocation, he said, "has to do with finding our true selves in the light of God and letting our lives flourish and bear fruit."

"Within the vocation to marriage we should acknowledge and appreciate that 'sexuality, sex, is a gift from God. It is not taboo. It is a gift from God, a gift the Lord gives us,'" he wrote. Sexuality "has two purposes:

to love and to generate life. It is passion, passionate love. True love is passionate. Love between a man and a woman, when it is passionate, always leads to giving life. Always. To give life with body and soul."

Pope Francis also encouraged young people not to dismiss out of hand the fact that God may be calling them to priesthood or religious life.

God's call to each person is individual, made-to-measure just for him or her, the pope said, so discovering that call can be done only with calm, silence, prayer and the wise help of someone who truly knows how to listen and ask the right questions.

A vocation, he said, is a gift that "will help you live to the full and become someone who benefits others, someone who leaves a mark in life; it will surely be a gift that will bring you more joy and excitement than anything else in this world. Not because that gift will be rare or extraordinary, but because it will perfectly fit you. It will be a perfect fit for your entire life."

Pro-life victories at Statehouse could have national implications

The Indiana General Assembly's passage of two major pro-life bills represents a "milestone moment" that not only will save the lives of unborn children in the state but possibly lead to a long-term impact on a national scale.

That is the appraisal of Mike Fichter, president and chief executive officer of Indiana Right to Life, who hailed the legislation that now awaits the signature of Gov. Eric Holcomb. House Bill 1211 bans dismemberment abortion, a later-term abortion method that involves tearing a live fetus apart in the uterus and extracting the unborn child piece by piece. Senate Bill 201 expands conscience protection rights beyond physicians and hospital employees to nurses, pharmacists and physician assistants, ensuring that they do not have to participate in abortion procedures if they object on moral grounds. The Indiana Catholic Conference supported both bills and actively lobbied for their passage.

"These were both hard-fought victories that will have far-reaching effects," Fichter said. "For the first time since the Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion in 1973, a broad range of health care professionals in Indiana will be protected from being forced to violate their personal beliefs. This is so important, because chemical abortion is rapidly rising, and it puts many pharmacists and nurses in the position of having to act against their conscience. In the long run, this will make Indiana a very attractive place – a magnet – for pro-life health care professionals."

The landmark Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision paved the way for unfettered access to all types of abortions, including the method that House Bill 1211 now prohibits except in cases where a physician "reasonably believes" that performing the procedure is necessary to prevent serious health risks to the mother or to save her life. Dismemberment abortion, also known as dilation and evacuation abortion, is a particularly brutal procedure that occurs in the second trimester of pregnancy, when the first-trimester methods – suction abortion and the abortion pill – are no longer possible because of the unborn child's growing size.

"It's tragic that it took 46 years to get to this point, but House Bill 1211 will immediately save lives in Indiana and could in the long term be a vehicle for bringing about the end of Roe v. Wade," Fichter said.

That's because the American Civil Liberties Union and Planned Parenthood, the nation's leading provider of abortions, have vowed to challenge the bill upon its passage. Fichter said he is encouraged by the "more conservative nature of the Supreme Court" today as legal challenges to legislation like this make their way through the court system.

"We can expect a lawsuit, and Indiana should not be afraid of that suit," Fichter said. "We are on very solid constitutional ground."

Glenn Tebbe of the Indiana Catholic Conference described the passage of House Bill 1211 and Senate Bill 201 by both chambers of the General Assembly

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE



BY VICTORIA ARTHUR

as a "monumental step forward" for the pro-life cause in Indiana.

"There is nothing more important than protecting the sanctity of human life, and this groundbreaking legislation speaks volumes about the values that the majority of people in this state hold dear," said Tebbe, executive director of the ICC, the public policy arm of the Catholic Church in Indiana.

Tebbe applauded the efforts of the lawmakers who brought the legislation forward. Sen. Liz Brown (R-Fort Wayne) was the primary author of Senate Bill 201, which she has described as essential to updating the state's quarter-century-old conscience protection laws. In particular, she has cited the 2000 launch of RU-486, the so-called "abortion pill," as a driving force for extending conscience protection beyond doctors and hospital employees to nurses, pharmacists, and physician assistants.

House Bill 1211 was authored by Rep. Peggy Mayfield (R-Martinsville), Rep. Ben Smaltz (R-Auburn) and Rep. Christy Stutzman (R-Middlebury). If Gov. Holcomb signs the legislation, as he is expected to do, Indiana will

join 10 other states in banning dismemberment abortion, which is considered the method of choice to terminate a pregnancy after the first trimester.

"Many people think abortion is a tidy little procedure that's simple and safe," said Mayfield, the bill's lead author. "When I had to explain dismemberment abortion in our caucus, I tried to avoid the graphic nature of it, but it was impossible. There were people who had their heads in their hands as they listened to the details."

The legislation's passage comes at a pivotal time, as the movie "Unplanned" – which shines a light on the inner workings of the abortion industry – is exceeding all expectations at the box office. The film chronicles the true story of Abby Johnson, a former Planned Parenthood clinic director, who fled the organization after being asked to assist with an ultrasound-guided abortion and witnessing a 13-week-old fetus fight against the instruments used in the procedure.


"All of a sudden, she said the scales fell from her eyes," said Jodi Smith, a lobbyist for Indiana Right to Life and a personal friend of Johnson. "For the first time, she saw the baby behind the procedure."

Smith texted Johnson – now an outspoken pro-life advocate – to congratulate her before the film's March 29 nationwide release. Its unexpected success at the box office speaks to the power of the pro-life movement at the grassroots level, according

to Smith. Indiana Right to Life affiliates drew significant crowds to theaters around the state for preview screenings ahead of the movie's official opening, as well as in the days that followed. Smith says that the film could not have come at a better time given the momentum at the Statehouse.

"Indiana is ripe for this legislation," said Smith, who also serves as state director of the Susan B. Anthony List, a national organization that supports pro-life lawmakers and educates Americans about where their legislators stand on protecting the unborn. "I'm so proud and so excited that Indiana is finally taking these bold steps."

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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Court won't hear appeal by pro-life activist sued by Planned Parenthood

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Supreme Court April 1 decided against hearing an appeal by pro-life activist David Daleiden, founder of the Center for Medical Progress, of a lower court's decision not to dismiss a Planned Parenthood civil suit against him over undercover videos filmed in 2015. Planned Parenthood sued Daleiden in 2016, claiming among other things fraud, invasion of privacy and trespassing. The videos by Daleiden and his colleague Sandra Merritt showed Planned Parenthood officials discussing fees related to fetal tissue. The two posed as representatives of a mythical fetal tissue procurement firm. Planned Parenthood said monies it received were standard reimbursement fees charged to researchers and that any allegations it "profits in any way from tissue donation is not true." But in the fall of 2015, Cecile Richards, then the CEO of Planned Parenthood, announced the organization would no longer accept the reimbursements. In January 2016, Daleiden and Merritt were indicted in Texas for filming medical providers without their consent, but all charges were dropped seven months later.

Minnesota sister, 92, honored for lifetime of fighting for human rights

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) — Sister Alice Zachmann thinks of herself as being more of a peacemaker than a history maker. She is both, according to the National Women's History Alliance, an organization based in Santa Rosa, California, that promotes greater understanding of women's contributions to American society. The alliance selected Sister Zachmann as a 2019 honoree, and the 92-year-old sister planned to attend the March 30 awards luncheon in Washington. Sister Zachmann, a Minnesota native and Mankato resident, is among 11 honorees named this year; six are living, and five are deceased. She is being acknowledged for her life commitment in support of peace and human rights — issues that she began publicly advocating for in the 1960s and '70s while working as a teacher at various parish schools within the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Honoring saints can heal body, soul, says priest leading relics tour

MIDDLESEX, N.J. (CNS) — Father Carlos Martins preaches that for Catholics to reach heaven, they

Catholic leaders urge US to declare TPS for Venezuelans



CNS photo/Ferley Ospina, Reuters

Riot police block the way to the Colombian side in the Colombian-Venezuelan border in Cucuta April 2. Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Austin, Texas, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Migration, and Sean Callahan, president and CEO of Catholic Relief Services, have asked the U.S. government to designate Temporary Protected Status for Venezuela for 18 months. With the "ongoing political unrest, violence and shortages" in Venezuela causing millions of citizens to flee their country, the U.S. government should designate TPS for that country, U.S. Catholic officials said in a letter to then-Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen Nielsen and Secretary of State Michael Pompeo. "Conditions in the country and existing political instability have created a situation in which Venezuelan nationals cannot be safely returned home at this time," wrote Bishop Vasquez.

must possess forgiving hearts, participate in the sacraments and live their Christian identities to the fullest. The priest, a member of the Companions of the Cross community, travels around the United States and beyond speaking about the faith, and — perhaps more importantly — providing people with tangible evidence to pursue their devotion in the exposition and veneration of sacred relics. On a Saturday afternoon in March, Father Martins visited Our Lady of Mount Virgin Church in Middlesex to speak and host a special exposition, "Treasures of the Church." With more than 150 relics in an A-Z list — from St. Agnes to St. Zelle Guerin, the mother of St. Thérèse of Lisieux — the unique collection also included relics of well-known saints such as St. Maria Goretti, St. Francis of Assisi and St. Thomas Aquinas. As Father Martins' presentation made clear, the experience was unlike anything that most attendees had witnessed. While non-Catholics might find the veneration of rel-

ics unusual or even strange, it is solidly rooted in Scripture and an important tradition of the Catholic Church, the priest explained during a 60-minute presentation before the exposition. Saints and their relics are not worshipped, but honored in a manner that acknowledges God's work in their lives, he said.

Cardinal defends Vatican-China agreement amid criticism

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Critics of an agreement signed between the Vatican and the Chinese government must be patient and not quick to judge a deal that is meant to protect religious freedom, the Vatican secretary of state said. After addressing a symposium on religious freedom April 3, Cardinal Pietro Parolin told journalists that the agreement was signed "to advance religious freedom in the sense of finding (some) normalization

for the Catholic community" as well as other religious minorities. "Our hope is that it will help, not limit, religious freedom. But we should be patient," he said, "I know that people want things immediately. History was not built in one day; history is a long process. And I think we have to put ourselves in this perspective." Cardinal Parolin was among several guest speakers at the "Stand Together to Defend International Religious Freedom" symposium hosted by the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See. Also present was Callista Gingrich, U.S. ambassador to the Holy See.

After unrest and anger, new Washington archbishop wants to rebuild trust

HYATTSVILLE, Md. (CNS) — Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory, set to become the new head of the Archdiocese of Washington, promised to serve with truth,

love and tenderness in a region where he acknowledged "unrest and anger," after the downfall of former Washington Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick and the Church's current sex abuse scandal. "I want to offer you hope. I will rebuild your trust," Archbishop Gregory said during an April 4 news conference. "I cannot undo the past, but I sincerely believe that together we will not merely address the moments we've fallen short or failed outright, but we will model for all the life and teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ and we will reclaim the future for our families, for those who will follow us. That is my greatest, indeed, it is my only aspiration." Archbishop Gregory was introduced to media gathered for the announcement at the Archdiocese of Washington's pastoral center in Hyattsville by Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl. Pope Francis accepted Cardinal Wuerl's resignation as Washington's archbishop in October and named him apostolic administrator. The cardinal, now 78, had submitted his resignation, as is mandatory, to the pope when he turned 75, but it had not been accepted until last fall. Cardinal Wuerl had faced pressure to resign following an Aug. 14 grand jury report detailing past sexual abuse claims in six Pennsylvania dioceses, which showed a mixed record of how he handled some of the cases when he was bishop in Pittsburgh from 1988 until 2006.

Extension crowdfunding campaign begun for Texas migrant shelter on border

CHICAGO (CNS) — Chicago-based Catholic Extension has launched a crowdfunding campaign to raise \$25,000 for a new emergency migrant shelter at the U.S.-Mexico border in Laredo, Texas. The national Catholic organization, which raises money on behalf of poor Catholic churches in the United States, started an emergency fundraiser for San Francisco Javier Church April 1. The shelter opened its doors to migrants in late March as an urgent response to an influx of asylum-seekers in the area. The first \$10,000 has been sent to the church from funds raised from Catholic Extension in the first two days of the campaign. The Diocese of Laredo, which includes San Francisco Javier Church, is urging people to continue to donate to the campaign during this time of crisis. "I am very grateful for any assistance you can provide for the Diocese of Laredo's migrant outreach," Laredo Bishop James A. Tamayo said in an appeal to donors. "Your support will go directly to helping these vulnerable families seeking protection from violence, a warm meal, and the compassion of a welcoming church." More information about the campaign and how to donate can be found at <https://www.catholicextension.org/laredo>.

Spirituality of St. Katharina Kasper program

DONALDSON — Join Sister Germaine Hustedde, PHJC, on Tuesday, May 7, for a day program on the spirituality of St. Katharina Kasper, foundress of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ. This program will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. EDT at Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center. Check-in is at 8:30 a.m.

Sister Germaine will recount St. Katharina's deep love of Christ with her compassionate service to the poor, the sick and the needy. Themes of "Student of the Holy Spirit," "Mystical Experience of Saint Katharina," "The Hidden Saint" and "Our Shared Heritage" will be explored. Participants will be encouraged to imitate ways that portray St. Katharina as a courageous and persevering role model, an example of how to accept and live God's will daily. Living life in a committed way and walking in St. Katharina's footsteps allows this to come to fruition. The reflections, prayer and sharing will enable each participant to mirror the mystery that enfolded St. Katharina in her simplicity and humility.

Cost for the retreat is \$35 and includes Mass and lunch. Register at Lindenwood.org by May 1. For more information, email lindenwood@poorhandmaids.org or call (574) 935-1780.

Located at 9601 Union Road, Plymouth, Indiana, Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center is a part of The Center at Donaldson, and a ministry of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ.

Holy Spirits Pilgrimage on the Bourbon Trail

MISHAWAKA — The Abbey of Gethsemani, the Trappist monastery where Thomas Merton was a monk, is nestled in the heart of the Bourbon Trail, the historical

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Lenten Stations of the Cross



Geoff Frank

Father David Violi leads a Stations of the Cross devotion on the first Friday of Lent, March 8, at St. Joseph Church, Bluffton. The parish held Stations of the Cross each Friday during Lent at 7 p.m., preceded by a meatless soup supper from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

epicenter of bourbon production. Young adults of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend are invited to renew their spirits and explore the intersection of faith and culture, sacred and profane, and spiritual and physical refreshment on a June 7-9 pilgrimage to the abbey and other local areas of interest.

Highlights of the trip will include the opportunity to explore the history and spirits

of the Bourbon Trail, with tours and tastings at local distilleries; pray with the monks at the Abbey of Gethsemani; and discover the Basilica of St. Joseph Proto-Cathedral in Bardstown, Kentucky, the first cathedral west of the Allegheny Mountains.

Departures will take place from both Fort Wayne and South Bend. The registration fee includes transportation from either loca-

tion, lodging, preparation materials, activities and most meals. Participants must be at least 21 years old. The first 20 people to register will receive a discount. To register, visit diocesefwsb.org/yam-pilgrimages.

For more information, contact Young Adult and Campus Ministry Director Sean Allen at sallen@diocesefwsb.org or (858) 354-9006.

Diocese to host conference on ministry to those with disabilities

FORT WAYNE — The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend will host the National Catholic Partnership on Disability's 2019 Great Lakes Regional Meeting on Monday, July 15 and Tuesday, July 16 at Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center, Donaldson.

Directors within each diocese of the Great Lakes Region will attend the conference to consider how offices and ministries within the diocesan structure can work together with parish staffs, educators and parents to serve adults and children with disabilities in their faith communities. Participants will hear from a keynote speaker, attend breakout sessions and have opportunities for networking and to attend Mass.

For information contact Allison Sturm, Office of Evangelization and Ministry with Persons with Disabilities, at asturm@diocesefwsb.org or 260-399-1452.

Shroud of Turin exhibit visits Elkhart



Jonathan Acierito

Parishioners from St. Thomas the Apostle, Elkhart, had the opportunity to view a Shroud of Turin exhibit in the school gym the week of March 18. A full-size reproduction of the shroud was on display, as well as a life-size crucifix based on details provided by the shroud.

'Rejoice and Come Together'



Provided by Deacon Mel Tardy

Father Canon A. Gerard Jordan, O. Praem, of Chicago, Ill., beams with joy while preaching to a diverse crowd of 50 at St. Augustine Church, South Bend, on the theme "Rejoice and Come Together: The Unshakable Joy of Father Augustus Tolton." Father Jordan is promoter of the cause for sainthood for Servant of God Father Tolton. The Lenten prayer service, held on Tolton's birthday, April 1, and just after Laetare Sunday, was co-sponsored by the Black Catholic Advisory Board of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and the Tolton Society of St. Augustine Parish.

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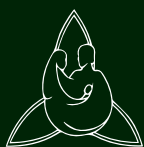
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Holy Week and Easter Mass Times with Bishop Rhoades

Palm Sunday

SOUTH BEND: Palm Sunday Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral on Sunday, April 14, at 9 a.m.

Chrim Mass



SOUTH BEND: Chrim Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral on Monday, April 15, at 7:30 p.m. *This Mass Interpreted for the deaf.*



FORT WAYNE: Join Bishop Rhoades as he celebrates Chrim Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Tuesday, April 16, at 7:30 p.m. *This Mass Interpreted for the deaf.*

Holy Thursday

FORT WAYNE: Join Bishop Rhoades as he celebrates Holy Thursday Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Thursday, April 18, at 7 p.m.

Good Friday



SOUTH BEND: Good Friday service at St. Matthew Cathedral on Friday, April 19, at 1 p.m. *This Mass Interpreted for the deaf.*

Easter Vigil

FORT WAYNE: Join Bishop Rhoades as he celebrates Easter Vigil Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Saturday, April 20, at 9:15 p.m.

Easter Sunday

PIERCETON: Easter Sunday Mass at St. Francis Xavier, 408 West Catholic St., on Sunday, April 21, at 9 a.m.

Additional Holy Week and Easter Masses interpreted for the deaf

Palm Sunday



SOUTH BEND: Palm Sunday Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral on Sunday, April 14, interpreted for the deaf at 11 a.m.



FORT WAYNE: Palm Sunday Mass interpreted for the deaf will be at 11:30 a.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Good Friday



FORT WAYNE: Good Friday service will be interpreted for the deaf at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception at 1 p.m.

Easter Sunday



FORT WAYNE: A Mass interpreted for the deaf will be at 11:30 a.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.



SOUTH BEND: A Mass interpreted for the deaf will be at 11 a.m. at St. Matthew Cathedral.

Family tradition: Carrying the cross on Jerusalem's Via Dolorosa

BY JUDITH SUDILOVSKY

JERUSALEM (CNS) — For four decades, Mousa Kamar has taken his place at the head of the heavy wooden cross used during the Franciscan Good Friday procession on the Via Dolorosa.

Kamar, 55, can be seen every year at the front left of the cross, the same position where his father used to carry the cross. His grandfather also helped carry the front of the cross. The scores of old black-and-white pictures, color photographs and magazine photos Kamar has collected and uploaded onto his Facebook page attest to the long-held family tradition.

"We do this not only because it is the tradition, but because we are religious and we truly believe in it," said Kamar, looking over some of the photographs scattered on a coffee table as he sat in his mother's living room in Jerusalem's Old City, near the ninth station of the cross. This is the home where he grew up and where his paternal grandmother was born.

It takes about 20 men to carry the 3-meter (3.3-yard) cross on Good Friday, and traditionally each position on the cross was taken by a representative of a different family. Kamar is the only one who has continued with the tradition. As the older generation died off, the younger members of the other families did not continue with the tradition, he said.

The cross, though still large and heavy, is smaller than the one used generations ago, he said.

Even in the pushing and shoving of the procession, which sees local Catholics and pilgrims packing the cobblestone streets of the Old City as they make their way along the Via Dolorosa, Kamar said he is able to find a space within himself where he can reflect on the significance of the moment and on the life of Jesus.

"When I am carrying the cross I remember Jesus, how He died for us and how He walked all this way by Himself," said

Kamar. "We are 20 people carrying it, and he carried it by Himself. Especially as we stop at each station and it is mentioned where He fell (or other detail), it makes me feel like I am following the footsteps of Jesus."

Kamar's parents had run a family grocery store near the eighth station of the cross, and Graciella Matulleh Kamar, today 83, recalled the pride she felt as she would stand in the doorway of their shop on Good Friday and watch as her husband carried the cross during the procession. Her husband, Kamar's father, was killed during the 1967 war in which Israel took over control of Jerusalem from the Jordanians.

"After he was killed, I couldn't watch the procession anymore. It was too painful," she said. Only when Kamar, at age 15, stepped in to fill his father's place was she able to once again watch the procession, she said.

Kamar was 5 when his

father was killed.

"Especially on Good Fridays, my mother would tell me about how my father carried the cross and that one day I would carry it, too," he said. "The first time I carried it I couldn't sleep the night before, I was so excited about carrying the cross and filling that space my father had."

Several years ago, Kamar's oldest son, Youssef, 20, also joined the group of men carrying the cross, but during the procession, he steps aside to let others take their turn. More recently, Kamar's youngest son, Ramez, 15, began taking part in the carrying of the cross. One of the pictures shows a 13-year-old Ramez at the end of the cross, his head barely peeping over the top of the cross among the crowd of men surrounding it. With his dark curly hair and full cheeks he looks just like his father did in earlier pictures.

"It was very exciting to be able to carry the cross," said Youssef Kamar. "In the future maybe I and my (future) sons will continue the family tradition. Although this is a tradition,

"Especially on Good Fridays, my mother would tell me about how my father carried the cross and that one day I would carry it, too.

The first time I carried it

I couldn't sleep the night before,

I was so excited ...

filling that space

my father had had."

MOUSA KAMAR



CNS photo/Debbie Hill

Mousa Kamar, front right, and his son, Youssef, back left, carry the large wooden cross during the Good Friday procession on the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem's Old City on March 25, 2016. Mousa Kamar and his sons are carrying on the tradition of his grandfather and father, carrying the cross on Good Friday.



CNS photo/courtesy Kamar family

A photo shows Mousa Kamar's father, Youssef Kamar, right front, carrying the cross during the Good Friday procession.

it also helps me feel closer to Jesus and what he went through before being crucified.

"It is also a burden and an honor to do this," he added. "Since I was young, I heard stories about this family tradition and, since my father, and his father and his grandfather have done this, I think it is important to keep the tradition and to keep our religion alive."

In preparation for the procession, Mousa Kamar spends Holy Week in prayer, visiting the Church of the Holy Sepulcher

every day after work and participating in the liturgical ceremonies, including the traditional veneration of the pillar of Jesus' flagellation, the washing of the feet pilgrimage to the Cenacle, and holy hour on Holy Thursday at Gethsemane.

He said he uses the time to meditate and pray for Christian unity and a strengthening of Christian religious identity, which he feels is being lost.

"All week I am praying, preparing to carry the cross, linking how Jesus suffered for us to the

Palestinian situation. He fought for us, sacrificed himself for us but, unfortunately, we are losing our Christianity. I always pray for that, that people will return to the foundations of Christianity," he said noting that Christians in the Middle East are living a difficult reality with close to 50 percent of the Christian population having emigrated. "We love Jesus and we feel we are a part of Jesus. Every corner, every stone in Jerusalem is directly about Jesus."

Internet, online porn seen as enabling sexual exploitation of children

BY ELEANOR KENNELLY GAETAN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The internet facilitates sexual exploitation, a category of child abuse, according to experts in this field interviewed by Catholic News Service.

The internet also, they say, enables near universal access to violent pornography, with a range of negative implications, including normalizing sexual aggression and the dramatic increase in children abusing other children.

In a recent report on the role of technology in sex trafficking, as reported by the Justice Department's Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking studies and based on interviews with 260 survivors, Vanessa Bouche, a political science professor at Texas Christian University, found the internet facilitated prostitution, through online ads, in 75 percent of the cases.

The average age of entry was 15. Young victims, under 1 through age 10, were exploited by family members (76 percent), while older minors were exploited by members of their social network or strangers, far more often than by family.

According to Mary Anne Layden, director of the sexual trauma and psychopathology program in the University of Pennsylvania's Department of Psychiatry, our society is at the point of "almost universal exposure" of children to pornography, which gives them "massive mis-education about intimacy and sexuality."

Children "learn that sex is non-intimate, violent, adversarial, that it is non-relational,



CNS photo/Mariana Bazo, Reuters

An illustration shows a teenager looking over her Facebook page. The internet facilitates sexual exploitation, a category of child abuse, experts in this field told Catholic News Service.

it is degrading and it is narcissistic," she told CNS. "Almost 90 percent of pornography coded by researchers is violent, so boys are being taught: Women like to be forced, women like to be raped, fisted, choked, gagged and slapped."

Women are depicted as enjoying, or having a neutral response, to maltreatment.

"Everything pornography says is a lie, but it is a massively effective teaching tool — of toxic



learning," Layden explained.

The U.S. Catholic bishops addressed these harmful effects on children in their 2015 pastoral letter on pornography, "Create in Me a Clean Heart."

"Being exposed to pornography can be traumatic for children and youth. Seeing it steals their innocence and gives them a distorted image of sexuality, relationships, and men and women, which may then affect their behavior," they wrote. "It can also make them more vulnerable to being sexually abused, since their understanding of appropriate behavior can be damaged."

One result of exposure to this violence of pornography is an "explosive" increase in children who are assaulting other children.

Layden said it is more likely for a daughter to be assaulted by her brother than by her stepfather in a "blended" household.

Dawn Hawkins concurs with Layden. Hawkins is senior vice president and executive director of the National Center on Sexual Exploitation, or NCOSE, known as Morality in Media until 2015. "NCOSE believes the increase

in children with 'harmful sexual behavior' — a term that includes rape — is due to early exposure to hardcore porn," said Hawkins.

Hawkins said there's little data, for one reason, in school settings sexual abuse between children is not reported, but the damage to victims is real.

The lawyer for an 8-year-old girl raped multiple times by a 13-year-old male neighbor consulted NCOSE recently. The boy — a consumer of violent pornography — had lined up his younger siblings, and the victim's sibling, to serve as an audience for his illicit performance.

"We know child sexual abuse leads to depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, self-harm, PTSD, risky sexual behaviors, poor physical health and other difficult struggles," summarized Hawkins. "It often predates an individual's entry into prostitution."

"So the trauma experienced by that group of children, caused by an immature brain's exposure to pornography, could take years, even decades, to unravel," she added.

Hawkins recommends the

website Protect Young Minds, protectyoungminds.org, for guidance on inoculating them from harmful imagery online. Another such site is www.faihand-safety.org, created by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Department of Communications and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

A data set released Nov. 30 by Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri, found that in almost half of its 2017 child abuse cases, boys ages 11 to 15 years were the perpetrators, physically and sexually attacking girls ages 4 to 8 years old. Nurses traced the phenomena to exposure to pornography.

One potentially positive note in the disturbing trend regarding peer assault is that, unlike adult perpetrators, young offenders who receive treatment do not appear to re-offend into adulthood.

"The good news on treatment means we need mandatory reporting of these cases, so kids get help," observed NCOSE's Hawkins.

She also is excited that after "many meetings" with Google, the internet giant has quietly added a "safe search" feature, allowing a setting that automatically screens out graphic sexual imagery from popping up.

Private companies as well are beginning to respond to evidence of the harmful impacts of pornography and to federal law enforcement crackdowns on it.

The social networking site Tumblr, now owned by Verizon, announced in early December it would block all pornography and "adult content" from its site beginning Dec. 17, as a result of child pornography — a federal crime treated with great severity — getting past its filters.

And Starbucks announced it will block customers from perusing pornography while on the store's free Wi-Fi, as a result of pressure from the South Carolina-based advocacy group Enough is Enough.

Some of these changes are a result of consumer pressure, according to Hawkins.

"The general public is becoming more aware of the public health harm," she told CNS. "Parents are concerned about the harm to their young kids."

She added, "There is a connection between pornography and violence against women. ... The general public is becoming aware of this and demanding an end to the violence and sexual abuse of children."

Hawkins also cited 40 peer-reviewed studies since 2001 that stated the detrimental impacts of pornography. "There is much more widespread awareness of the harms, which have been swept under the rug and not talked about," she said.

Mark Pattison contributed to this story.

As you seek for ways to share Christ's love within you, please consider leaving a part of your legacy to the Church.

For more information about how you can include your parish or the Diocese in your will or estate plan, contact Michael Shade, executive director of the Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana at 260.949.2441.

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Lay missionary in Salvador works toward root causes of emigration

BY MEINRAD SCHERER-EMUNDS

LAS DELICIAS, El Salvador (CNS) — Halfway up the back slope of San Salvador volcano, Cesar Hernandez wakes up at 4 a.m. and leaves his family's home on a coffee plantation at 5. He makes the hourlong walk down the mountain to the community of Las Delicias, where he catches the bus for another hour's ride to San Salvador.

On the way through his town, he must be careful to whom he speaks. Not only are gang members watching everything and everyone, the police or military frequently come up the dirt roads "looking for gang members." To them, every young man from the community is a suspected gang member.

Violence, including murder, is common in communities like Las Delicias. While murders have decreased since 2015-16, when El Salvador had the world's highest murder rate, disappearances have increased, and the murder rate remains among the worst in the world.

Hernandez makes this long commute to reach the Jesuit-run University of Central America El Salvador, where he studies mechanical engineering. That Hernandez, whose family has very limited economic means, is able to have this opportunity is due in no small part to the support and mentoring he has received through a youth program developed by Maryknoll lay missionary Larry Parr.

Sometimes, when it is too dangerous for Hernandez to make the long trip back to his house on the other side of the volcano, he even stays overnight at Parr's family's home, close to the university.

Parr has been working in Las Delicias for the past 11 years. Together with community members and with the support of Maryknoll Lay Missioners and a local community foundation, he has created a variety of programs designed to provide safe spaces and alternatives for young people so they can become educated, stay out of gangs and develop into leaders and role models for their community.

The odds are stacked against them.

"With all that violence in the community, it is not safe for kids to walk around alone," Parr says. "It is very difficult for kids in marginalized communities to have opportunities."

Only about 40 percent of Salvadorans graduate from high school and fewer than 10 percent from college. Even though public education is free, many families cannot afford to pay for books and supplies or the 40-minute bus ride to the nearest high school. Schools in poor communities have few resources, so the education that young people receive there is far inferior to



Cesar Hernandez, William Mendez, Maryknoll lay missionary Larry Parr and Yadira Quilzapa wait outside the community library in Las Delicias, El Salvador.

that in wealthier areas.

To help improve educational opportunities for the young people in Las Delicias, Parr's youth program provides tutoring and mentoring as well as scholarships both for high school and for university students. Many of the scholarship recipients lead community projects.

The most popular is a soccer program, which will celebrate its 10th anniversary in May. Called Playing for Peace, it provides a safe place for young people, ages 6-21, to play soccer and participate in tournaments. The program is run by young people from the community, who serve as role models and mentors.

"Our motto is 'First, God. Second, studies. Third, sports,'" Parr explained. "God is always first. We always pray and give thanks to God, and we always read the Bible before each practice. Then we focus on the importance of studying, and finally sports."

The scholarship recipients help lead many of the program's activities.

"I love teaching kids sports and arts," Hernandez said. "We not only help them develop athletically, but we are also helping them develop their talents and teach them how to deal with their problems, family crises or difficulties they may have at school. These programs help to relieve their stress. Being able to help others gives me great satisfaction and joy. Together, we will

make this a better community."

His favorite is the breakdance program, through which he passes on his own passion for breakdance to younger kids, who

embrace it just as eagerly.

Parr said he is concerned about the U.S. plan to cut off aid to El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala.

"In my time living and working in El Salvador," he said, "I have seen that U.S. foreign policy has had a considerable effect on the current reality and violence in Central America."

He said he believes "it is very important that the U.S. works together with our Central American brothers and sisters to help local programs that provide opportunities, reduce violence, and work toward a more just and compassionate reality here. The U.S. aid is crucial to help the Northern Triangle reach their goals of making their countries more safe."

On a recent morning, as Parr, Hernandez and two other scholarship recipients walked through Las Delicias, grade schoolers greeted Parr and the college students, sharing their news, discussing progress at school and anticipating their next activities in the program.

At the grade school, Ismelda Carballo, the school's custodian, had prepared a letter for Maryknoll Lay Missioners.

"This program is a great blessing," wrote, "not only for my children but for many young people in this community. From the bottom of my heart, I give thanks to God and to all who, with their great hearts, have given us the opportunity to have projects like this one to help improve our school and our community."

Meinrad Scherer-Emunds is communications director of Maryknoll Lay Missioners.

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Celebrating mercy during Easter

Easter is a time of great joy, hope and celebration, so why does the Church emphasize our sinfulness and great need for mercy on the Second Sunday of Easter, “Divine Mercy Sunday”? The Gospel reading on that day and Jesus’ words to St. Faustina Kowalska make it clear that the connection is quite fitting and always appropriate: Jesus suffered and died for our sins so that we might receive His mercy and the joy of eternal life.

The destruction of life through abortion, assisted suicide and euthanasia are among the gravest of sins. Yet Jesus says that even those who have committed great sins can not only be forgiven, but have priority. St. Faustina, a Polish nun canonized by St. John Paul II in 2000, recorded the words of Jesus in her journal: “Let the greatest sinners place their trust in my mercy. They have the right before others to trust in the abyss of My mercy... I cannot punish even the greatest sinner if he makes an appeal to my compassion, but on the contrary, I justify him in my unfathomable and inscrutable mercy” (Diary of St. Faustina, Divine Mercy in My Soul, 1146).

As related in John’s Gospel (Jn 20:19-31) proclaimed on the Second Sunday of Easter, the resurrected Jesus appeared to the disciples. They had been gripped by fear, but rejoiced when they saw Him and received the Holy Spirit, peace and the power to forgive sins. God invites us, like the disciples, to be moved from

fear into great joy. Despite our great sinfulness, we can receive forgiveness, grace and healing in the sacrament of reconciliation and be inspired to show mercy to others.

Now is the perfect time to consider how we can receive God’s mercy and extend mercy to others. One option is to pray the Divine Mercy novena from Good Friday to Divine Mercy Sunday. Jesus Himself asked St. Faustina to pray the novena during this time. Also, the Church grants a plenary indulgence for celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday. All who do so, according to the usual conditions, receive the Holy Spirit and “foster a growing love for God and for their neighbor, and after they have obtained God’s pardon, they in turn might be persuaded to show a prompt pardon to their brothers and sisters” (Decree of Indulgence, Apostolic Penitentiary, 2002). By receiving mercy, we can be more merciful towards others.

Pope Francis reflected on the challenge of finding joy despite the experience of sin in his description of the women who entered Jesus’ tomb that Easter morning. They came face to face with Christ’s death and of their own existence as sinners in need of God’s forgiveness. At the same time, they encountered His love, which is greater than the greatest of sins. The power of the resurrection gives us the courage to face our sins, confess our mistakes, and then humbly receive God’s forgiveness and accept the joy that comes with new life in



GUEST COMMENTARY

MARY MCCLUSKY

Christ.

On Good Friday, in our celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday, throughout the Easter season, and beyond, may each of us be inspired to repent of our sins, receive forgiveness through the sacrament of reconciliation, and be empowered by Christ to be merciful towards others. Let us pray fervently that many will seek and receive God’s infinite gift of Divine Mercy.

Mary McClusky is assistant director for Project Rachel Ministry Development at the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. For confidential help after abortion, visit www.hopeafterabortion.org or www.esperanzaposaborto.org.

God in our future

At a cafe in Chicago, I was chatting with a British former journalist and economist who is currently director of social responsibility and sustainability at a large European company.

We covered the major challenges facing our human family and the list was overwhelming: the accelerating pace and effects of global warming, massive inequality, gun violence in the U.S., racial and ethnic intolerance, nationalism, and economic policies and corporate practices that privilege profits over people.

We turned to the question, “What gives us hope?” I blurted out, “I have hope because I am a Catholic.”

It was the most inarticulate answer I could give! I certainly do not intend to be smug, as faith means too much to me, nor denote that I belong to an exclusive club or superior community that has all the solutions, does all the right things and loves people without fail.

In fact, the headlines every day showcase our faults and frailties as humans and as an institution. So how would I say it better the next time?

I have hope because I believe that God is with us, present and probably weeping in all these messes that we create. Not only present, but God dwells within each of us and gives us His own body to partake in His divinity and capacity to love.

No matter how often we fall short, God stays with us and answers our betrayal with an



OUR GLOBAL FAMILY

CAROLYN WOO

invitation to love anew. He sees and coaxes the good He knows we are made of.

God is real, physical and tangible in the many people whose immense kindness and generosity have shown the physics of God in action. I know I stand on sacred ground when I behold deep suffering, because God is definitely there.

From every misery in our human family, I believe God can make good happen despite the boundaries of my own patience, understanding and imagination.

Grace, God’s signature, is as prevalent as we care to look. Just last Sunday in a Lutheran church at a routine piano recital by kids (and me), our teacher expressed condolences for fellow students, three Muslim sisters whose relatives were slain in the Christchurch, New Zealand, massacre. It was a small gesture, but a large message to all who were gathered: We are one family; when one suffers, we all do.

With short notice, she urged me to play “Let There Be Peace on Earth.” Always overcome with nervousness about making

WOO, page 13

Jesus submitted to His death to secure our salvation



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Palm Sunday Luke 22:14-23:56

The Church this weekend leads us to the climax of Lent, the observance of Holy Week, by offering the impressive liturgy of Palm Sunday.

Recalling the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem — for Luke the utter apex of the entire ministry of the Lord, since in Jerusalem the crucifixion and resurrection would occur — these readings bring us to the heart of the Church’s teaching regarding salvation. Jesus is eternal Lord and Savior.

When the palms are blessed, and the solemn procession forms — ideally of all in the congregation — the Church

offers us a reading from Luke. This reading recalls the plans for the arrival of Jesus in the holy city as well as the arrival itself. An element of inevitability, of providence, surrounds the event. Jesus tells the Pharisees who object to it all that even if the disciples were silent, the very stones would shout the good news of salvation in Christ. God wills that we have, in Christ, everlasting life.

For the first reading in the Liturgy of the Word, the Church gives us the third of the four “Songs of him Suffering Servant” from the third section of Isaiah. Scholars debate the identity of this servant. Was he a prophet? A collective symbol for the people of Israel? In any case, Christians have always seen in these songs the image of the innocent, constantly loyal servant of God, the Lord Jesus.

The second reading is from Philippians. These verses are thought to have been an ancient Christian hymn, used in early liturgies, eloquent in declaring intense faith.

As its last reading, the Church

dramatically offers a passage from Luke’s Passion Narrative. The very rubrics provide for the congregation to be involved.

Each Gospel contains a highly detailed and lengthy account of the trial and execution of Jesus. Each evangelist was an individual person who had his own insights into what happened on the first Good Friday.

In general, Luke’s Gospel sees Jesus as the embodiment of God’s mercy: literally God in human flesh, the son of Mary; a woman, not an angel or a goddess. Jesus bears eternal life. He makes all things right. He seeks out the wayward and the despondent. He reconciles sinners with God. All this is completed in the Lord’s sacrificial death on Calvary, so everything so far has been a prelude to those final days in Jerusalem.

Jesus had His enemies. People are obtuse, at times devious, and even vicious. Still, the love of God will not be thwarted. Salvation will come. It is God’s will for us.

Reflection

Few sections of the Scriptures are as powerful as the four Passion Narratives presented to us in the successive Gospels. Luke’s Passion Narrative is definitely among these in its capacity to teach us and to call us to Christ.

The readings from Third-Isaiah and Philippians brilliantly focus our minds upon Jesus. He is Lord!

On Palm Sunday, the crown of the Liturgy of the Word is the awesome proclamation of the Passion of Jesus as presented by St. Luke. The Church takes us most movingly to the Lord’s entry into Jerusalem. He is destined to redeem the world. Salvation had to come. He was promised. He is king. Some people responded. Some did not, burdened by their ignorance, sin or pride.

Finally, magnificently, the Passion Narrative reveals of the depth of the Lord’s giving of self despite the intrigue of the trial and the awfulness of the crucifixion. We are flawed

by our own sin. Figuratively, because of our sins, we stand with the enemies of Christ. God nevertheless loves us with a perfect, uncompromising, unending love. He forgives us, offering us eternal salvation if simply we turn to God with love.

READINGS

Sunday: Lk 19:28-40 (procession) Is 50:4-7 Ps 22:8-9, 17-18a, 19-20, 23-24 Phil 2:6-11 Lk 22:14—23:56

Monday: Is 42:1-7 Ps 27:1-3, 13-14 Jn 12:1-11

Tuesday: Is 49:1-6 Ps 71:1-4a, 5-6ab, 15, 17 Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

Wednesday: Is 50:4-9a Ps 69:8-10-, 21-22, 31, 33-34 Mt 26:14-25

Thursday: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14 Ps 116:12-13, 15-16c, 17-18 1 Cor 11:23-26 Jn 13:1-15

Friday: Is 52:13—53:12 Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-17, 25 Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9 Jn 18—19:42

Saturday: Vigil: 1)Gn 1:1—2:2 2)Gn 22:1-18 3)Ex 14:15—15:1 4)Is 54:5-14 5)Is 55:1-11 6)Bar 3:9-15, 32—4:4 7)Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28 8)Rom 6:3-11 9)Lk 24:1-12

Why you need a rule of life

Socrates famously stated that the unexamined life is not worth living. After 2,500-ish years, those words still ring true. However, the Christian Event (the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ) has changed things. We should be striving not only for an examined life, but an ordered life in Christ.

Jesus Christ brought order back to creation and part of our life as His followers is allowing Him to reorder our lives, our desires and our actions. The disorder had its start in the first sin. After the Fall, things were no longer how they were in the beginning. For example, no longer do Adam and the dirt get along; Adam must toil for the land to bear fruit. Also, a fundamental disorder is shown in the relationship between Adam and the woman. Adam does something he had not done yet (and probably didn't think to do before) — he gives the woman the name Eve. In the perfect relationship they had before, he would not have done this because only God could have. Now disorder has entered and the way Adam and Eve relate is changed (not for the better).

But Christ undoes this disordering and invites us into His new life.

So ... what does this have to do with a rule of life? Freedom, here again, rears its splendid head. If we want to enter into the life in Christ, we need to practice this reordering so that our hearts are made ready for God's work. This is where a rule comes in. It is a tool intended to draw us to Christ by drawing us out of ourselves. What is a rule?

A rule of life is simple, it is a set of expectations that one lives

by. Every religious order lives a Rule (most are in some way related to St. Benedict's Rule, which is subtly one of the most influential documents in the history of Western Civilization). A rule can be simple or complex, but it is intended to simplify life. It is really beneficial when you live in community because it becomes a standard that all strive for and are answerable to.

How a rule works can be seen by way of example in Lenten penances. Before Lent, we know that prayer, fasting and alms giving are the pillars of the season, so we make decisions about how we will live those more intentionally for the duration of Lent. Making that choice at the beginning of Lent actually gives us immense freedom. Instead of having to think of new ways to live those three pillars and choose to do it every day, we know exactly how we are being called to act (assuming the choice of penitential acts where chosen with proper discernment). It frees us to grow by giving order and clarity.

In a very similar way, a rule gives freedom because it frees you to die to self in a specific way.

So now the question is: How do I do this? I do not think it is necessary to plan out every moment of your day or every action. For people living a vocation to matrimony, life is unpredictable in a lot of ways. Therefore, the best way to start is in general. What a rule does is spell out the most important aspects of your life so that all other decisions are made based on the essential aspects of your life. So start there. Here's a suggested list to begin with:

- 1) Our family/I will go to Mass



A VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS

MARK HELLINGER

- every Sunday and Holy Day.
- 2) Our family/I will go to confession at least twice a year/once a month/every other month.
- 3) Our family/I will eat a meal together at least __ times a week.

Or you could also be more a little more specific, like:

- a) The TV and computer will be turned off in my home at 9 p.m. each night.
- b) I will pray (or my spouse and I will pray) for at least 10 minutes a day in (insert specific place).

The whole point is, once you have discerned and set out those things which are essential to your life, you are free to live instead of constantly having to choose in the moment. One example of the application of this: Will the invite to this event make it hard or impossible to go to Mass on Sunday? Answer: I am committed to going to Mass every Sunday, so I can't go to that event unless I can also get to Mass.

Start small, discern and pray about it. Then let the rule free you as it shapes your life.

Mark Hellinger is a seminarian of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. He is studying at Pontifical North American College in Rome.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for April 14, 2019

Luke 19:28-40

Following is a word search based on the Processional Gospel reading for Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion: the entry into Jerusalem. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

BETHPAGE	BETHANY	OPPOSITE
BRING IT	HERE	FOUND
THE ROAD	MOUNT	OLIVES
WHOLE	PRAISE	MIGHTY
THE KING	COMES	PEACE
HEAVEN	GLORY	HIGHEST
TEACHER	REBUKE	STONES

ON THE ROAD

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

WOO, from page 12

mistakes at recitals, I did so recognizing that it was not a performance, but a prayer.

Later in the day, we gathered at a Faith in Indiana assembly to urge elected officials to seek treatment and police training, instead of incarceration, for addicted and mentally ill offenders. The auditorium at the Sinai Synagogue overflowed with supporters from all faiths, races and ethnicities: God's family in attendance.

On the following Wednesday, I spoke at the gathering of 800 people from all the parishes of the Diocese of Camden, New Jersey. It was the culmination of one year of reflection and planning under the banner, "Living as Missionary Disciples." There was much spirit as people raised the roof and celebrated in full voice and rhythm with an African-American gospel choir.

They could not and would not let the Good News go silent, and they have their action plans to show it.

Later in the week, a colleague in his early 40s shared with me his great joy in his upcoming marriage to a woman who is beautiful both inside and out. For their wedding, they would like to set up a nonprofit foundation so that gifts can be used for others as their blessings already overflow.

All these just in one week!

Easter presents the call to move forward with renewed imagination that places God in our future: our reason for hope.

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



Saint of the Week

Benedict Joseph Labre

1748-1783
 Feast April 16

Born in France the eldest of 15 children of a prosperous shopkeeper, Benedict tried unsuccessfully to join a religious order. He was rejected as too young, too delicate and too eccentric. After a pilgrimage on foot to Rome around 1770, he spent several years wandering among Western Europe's Catholic shrines, begging as he went. From 1774 on, he stayed in Rome, spending his days praying in churches and his nights in the ruins of the Colosseum. The Roman people esteemed this mendicant pilgrim, whose health finally failed, as a "new St. Francis."

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'The Best of Enemies'

BY JOHN MULDERIG

NEW YORK (CNS) — "The Best of Enemies" (STX) is an appealing fact-based drama that promotes humane values and Gospel-guided behavior. On that basis, many parents may consider it a rewarding film for older teens, the inclusion of some mature material notwithstanding.

Set in 1971 Durham, North Carolina, writer-director Robin Bissell's adaptation of Osha Gray Davidson's 1996 book — subtitled "Race and Redemption in the New South" — traces the evolving relationship between no-nonsense civil rights activist Ann Atwater (Taraji P. Henson) and C.P. Ellis (Sam Rockwell), the head of the local Ku Klux Klan.

The two, who initially want nothing to do with each other, are forced to spend time together as leading participants in an arbitration process deciding

the future of the city's still-segregated educational system. A damaging fire at a black school has brought the issue to a head and Bill Riddick (Babou Ceesay), an expert in mediation, has been brought in to try to achieve consensus.

He sets up a series of meetings collectively called a charette, at the end of which a panel made up of an equal number of blacks and whites will vote on whether to maintain the status quo. As the process unfolds, Ann and C.P. gain insights into each other's lives and characters.

C.P. begins to question his racist views — which are based, in part at least, on the fact that he has always avoided having any dealings with African Americans. The gas station he owns, for example, will not serve black customers.

For her part, fiery Ann comes to see that C.P. is not entirely evil. In fact, in some respects, he's quite vulnerable.

This is particularly true with



CNS photo/STXfilms

Sam Rockwell, Babou Ceesay and Taraji P. Henson star in a scene from the movie "The Best of Enemies." The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned.

regard to one of his three sons, a developmentally disabled lad confined to a home for whom C.P. cannot afford the kind of care he would like. Ann, who carries a Bible with her and says grace before each meal, intervenes with a friend on the staff of the facility where the boy lives to bring about an improvement in his situation.

Though C.P. at first reacts to this thoughtful gesture with disdain, not wanting to be indebted to Ann in any way, in the long term it becomes an important turning point in the evolution of

his outlook. His gradual change of heart, which will ultimately have very positive consequences, also is encouraged by his sensible wife, Mary (Anne Heche).

Bissell evokes strong performances from his fine cast and his picture's themes of reconciliation and equal dignity for all will be on target for believing moviegoers. The story he tells might seem pat if it were not derived from real events. As it is, viewers can come away from "The Best of Enemies" hopeful, despite the many fraught and contentious circumstances of our own era.

The film contains some non-graphic violence, including gunplay and the threat of rape, an act of sexual aggression, a few uses of profanity and of crude and crass language and racial slurs. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

John Mulderig is on the staff of Catholic News Service.



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MOVIE CAPSULES

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

"Dumbo" (Disney)

Lush but insubstantial live-action reimagining of the 1941 animated classic, set in 1919, in which the young elephant of the title becomes a pawn in a struggle to profit from the fact that his outsized ears enable him to fly. Out to protect him are a wounded and recently widowed World War I veteran (Colin Farrell), his two children (Nico Parker and Finley Hobbins) and the manager (Danny DeVito) of the circus for which he works. The owner (Michael Keaton) of a lavish amusement park has more devious ideas which are not necessarily shared by his amiable

girlfriend (Eva Green). Director Tim Burton brings visual flair to screenwriter Ehren Kruger's story but the impression it leaves is less than lasting while constant peril, the mistreatment of animals and several sad plot developments make this too challenging for little kids. Characters in danger, cruelty to animals. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

"Shazam!" (Warner Bros.)

Endowed by a wizard (Djimon Hounsou) with the ability to transform himself, by dint of the titular exclamation, into a superhero with the body of an adult (Zachary Levi), a 14-year-old foster child (Asher Angel) does battle with a formidable villain (Mark Strong) who wants the lad to surrender his newfound powers to him. Though it eventually becomes almost exclusively an action picture, director David F. Sandberg's DC Comics-based

origin story begins with an enjoyable overlay of comedy as the protagonist and his physically challenged best friend (Jack Dylan Grazer) marvel at his ability to shoot electricity from his hands and perform similar nifty stunts. Family life is exalted over egotistical self-reliance as Angel's character learns to use his gifts responsibly, and viewers of faith will appreciate brief scenes of prayer and an implicitly pro-life message about the dignity of the disabled. Some mischief enabled by the main character's grown-up guise, however, makes this questionable fare even for older teens. Much stylized violence with a few gruesome sights, underage drinking, brief sexual humor, some of it involving a strip club, at least one use of profanity and a milder oath, about a dozen crude and crass terms. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

St. Hedwig Rosary Society bake sale
SOUTH BEND — The Rosary Society of St. Hedwig and St. Patrick is having a Palm Sunday bake sale April 13-14 at St. Hedwig Memorial Center, 331 S. Scott St. It will be held before and after 4 p.m. Mass at St. Hedwig, after 9 a.m. Sunday Mass at St. Hedwig and before and after 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Patrick. A variety of pastries will be available: lamb cakes, Paczkis, pies, cookies and more. Ham and sausage sandwiches are also available for \$3.

'The Second Greatest Story Ever Told': documentary by Father Michael Gaitley
HUNTINGTON — View and learn more about the powerful and historic events from Father Michael Gaitley's DVD series: "The Second Greatest Story Ever Told." Sunday, April 14, from 1-6 p.m. at St. Felix Catholic Center, 1280 Hitzfield St. Contact Linda Leist at 260-224-5602.

Devotion of Tenebrae
ELKHART — St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 1108 S Main St., will offer Tenebrae Friday, April 19,

from 8:30-10 p.m., modeled after traditional Catholic liturgies for Holy Week. The candle-lit devotion features hymns, readings and psalms in English, as well as chant and polyphony sung by the choir in Latin.

Tenebrae at St. Vincent de Paul
FORT WAYNE — St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 1502 E Wallen Rd., will offer Tenebrae, a musical meditation on the seven "last words" of Christ on the cross, on Good Friday, April 19, at 9 p.m. in the church, 1502 E Wallen Rd. Visit www.saintv.org.

Easter bake sale supports St. Rose
MONROEVILLE — St. Rose Altar and Rosary Sodality will have an Easter bake sale on Saturday, April 20, from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m., at the Monroeville Fire Station located at 205 W. South St.

Immaculate Conception rummage sale
AUBURN — Immaculate Conception Parish, 500 East Seventh St., will have its annual rummage sale Friday, April 26, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, April 27, from 9 a.m.

to noon. Bag sale on Saturday.

St. Vincent de Paul widows' retreat
FORT WAYNE — St. Vincent de Paul Parish widows' grief support group, Safe Harbor, will host a widows' retreat on Saturday, April 27, from 9 a.m. to noon at the parish, 1502 E Wallen Rd. Kay Cozad, certified grief educator, will present "The Ebb and Flow of Grief." You may attend Mass at 8 a.m. in the church — retreat begins at 9 a.m. with continental breakfast in the Spiritual Center. Reservations are required — contact Judy at 260-489-4875 or judymockenhaupt@hotmail.com. Freewill donations will be accepted. Visit www.saintv.org.

REST IN PEACE

Angola
 Michael J. Bragg, 74, St. Anthony of Padua

Jacquelyn T. Wooley, 64, St. Anthony of Padua

Bremen
 Paul Winslow, 82, St. Dominic

Bristol
 Joyce Chapman, 88, St. Mary/Annunciation

Jerry Edman, 75, St. Mary/Annunciation

Decatur
 Edward Cornejo, 77, St. Mary/Assumption

Jeanine C. Rue, 70, St. Mary/Assumption

Garrett
 William L. Molargik, 94, St. Joseph

Fort Wayne
 Patricia Frost, 70, St. Charles Borromeo

Mary Farmer, 94, St. Charles Borromeo

Ricky Martin, 66, St. Vincent de Paul

Andrew Strite, 23, St. Vincent de Paul

Granger
 Sue Scofield, 81, St. Pius X

Johnathan Hamby, 39, St. Pius X

Monica Casbon, 63, St. Pius X

Chet Kaminski, 65, St. Pius X

Mishawaka
 Francis DeNeve, 96, St. Bavo

Mary Thomas, 95, St. Bavo

William Stauffacher, Jr., 69, St. Bavo

South Bend
 Joseph Vance, 94, Holy Cross

Mary Beth McCarthy, 64, Holy Cross

Georgianne Whelan, 65, Holy Cross

Florence Bilinski, 95, Holy Cross

Theresa Liwosz, 92, Holy Cross

Donald Beitler, 87, Christ the King

Christofer Jackowiak, 74, Holy Family

Albert Dolan, 82, Holy Family

Joseph Farkas, 103, Christ the King



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 Visiting Nurse

RWANDANS, from page 1

A senior at Marian High School, Iradukunda experienced more survivor guilt in 2017, when his mother and another passenger died as the result of an auto accident. The Rwandan community gathered around and supported his family for a week afterward. On the way home from the cemetery, "Auntie Immaculee" brought him to the adoration chapel of the Sisters of St. Francis in Mishawaka. He returned there again and again, eventually deciding he was being called to become Catholic. The youth group at St. Therese, Little Flower Parish and Sister Marie Morgan, OSF, at Marian High School where he attended, were important in this process. He was baptized earlier this year, in February, and confirmed during Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades' pastoral visit to the school the same month.

In addition to Songa,

Semuhungu and Iradukunda, about 300 Rwandans — survivors and descendants of survivors, Catholic and otherwise — live in Michiana. Most years they hold a "walk to remember" in downtown South Bend; the theme for the walk is "Kwibuka," which means "Remember."

This year they will gather April 26-27 for the 25th Commemoration of the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi, which includes an all-day symposium on Friday and an exhibit of images at the University of Notre Dame's McKenna Hall on Saturday. The symposium will examine the past, present and future: how the genocide happened, how rebuilding is possible and how future generations, with the help of God, can make sure genocide never occurs again. The organizers urge everyone, from high school students to scholars, to participate. For details, go to <http://racofmidwest.org/>.



Provided by Immaculee Songa

Survivors hold a Walk for Remembrance in South Bend in 2017. Rwandan refugees from across the Midwest will gather there again April 26-27 for events commemorating the 25th anniversary of the deaths of more than 1 million Rwandan people during a campaign of genocide in the African country.

Parishes-in-Need grants approved

FORT WAYNE — The Annual Bishop's Appeal of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend includes a funding program to assist less affluent parishes. A Parishes-in-Need Fund Committee met recently to review parish requests for financial assistance with church projects, and recommended a total of \$201,718 be granted to 14 parishes for 16 essential projects — enabling them to arrive at a more stable existence. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades approved the grants.

Because the diocese cannot meet every request submitted by the parishes, the nature of each request is carefully considered in light of the total needs and financial resources of the parish, as well as the other parishes in the diocese requesting funding assistance. If all or part of a request cannot be met, often the committee will recommend the parish apply to another fund or financial resource in the diocese or community, or seek other alternatives.

Some funds usually remain in the account for use throughout the year by parishes when a new need arises. If all the money is not used in 2019, it will be carried over and allocated to next year's Parishes-in-Need fund.

"Hopefully, this money will strengthen these parishes financially, increase their outreach and improve their ability to do the work of Christ," Bishop Rhoades has said of Parishes-in-Need grants in the past.

This year's allocation of Parishes-in-Need funding brings the amount granted to \$6,639,515 from the Annual Bishop's Appeal to parishes in need during the 32 years of the Annual Bishop's Appeal.



ST. MICHAEL, PLYMOUTH

This year's disbursements and the primary parish projects are:

Fort Wayne

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception — \$10,000 subsidy to help Burmese students attend Catholic schools

Queen of Angels — \$15,905 to replace school fluorescent lighting with LED

St. Henry — \$6,500 to reseal asphalt parking lots; \$5,000 for concrete repair to walkways and rectory driveway; and \$5,000 to paint, seal and caulk exterior

St. Joseph — \$20,000 for heating and cooling units for the school

St. Joseph - Hessen Cassel — \$8,500 to install loop system for people with hearing aids

Fort Wayne area

St. John the Baptist, New Haven — \$5,000 to replace old doors

St. Mary of the Assumption, Avilla — \$15,000 for parking lot

refurbishment

St. Mary, Huntington — \$7,515 to replace the kitchen floor for the school

South Bend

Holy Cross — \$7,798 for new fire alarm panel for the school

St. Adalbert — \$30,000 for repairs to masonry on the church

St. Anthony de Padua — \$22,000 to complete replacement of school roof

St. John the Baptist — \$15,000 to repair roof on the school

St. Patrick — \$22,000 for bell tower masonry repairs

South Bend area

St. Michael, Plymouth — \$6,500 to renovate and repair bathrooms in church basement



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, NEW HAVEN



Peter Ringenberg

Armel Iradukunda, the son of Rwandan genocide survivors and a student at Marian High School, Mishawaka, accepted the invitation to come to know God more intimately through the sacraments, converting to Catholicism and receiving the sacraments of initiation in February.