



### Congratulations, Class of 2019!

Local Catholic students are valedictorians, salutatorians

Pages 12-15

### In memorial

Superintendent Marsha Jordan served students for over 40 years

Page 5

### Candidates for ordination to the priesthood

Get to know Deacons  
St. Louis, Arroyo, Niezer

Pages 8-9

### Catholic Education Honor Roll

Marian High School  
recognized

Page 15

# TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Volume 93 No. 20

50¢

TODAYSCATHOLIC.org

## Two lay down lives to imitate Christ in Sacred Order of the Diaconate

BY CHRISTOPHER LUSHIS



Nate Proulx

During a Mass of Ordination to the Sacred Order of the Diaconate May 18 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, seminarians Stephen Felicichia, left, and Daniel Koehl prostrate themselves before the altar during the Litany of Supplication.

“Our diocese rejoices today that these two young men, Daniel and Stephen, are being ordained as deacons of the Church. Our priests and deacons rejoice that we will be blessed with two more workers in the vineyard of the Lord. Dan and Stephen’s parents, along with their families and friends, rejoice today that Dan and Stephen will receive an outpouring of God’s grace in being raised to the order of the diaconate.”

With elation, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades praised the courageous witness of seminarians Daniel Koehl and Stephen Felicichia, who freely laid down their lives for Jesus Christ and the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in their ordination to the Sacred Order of the Diaconate.

The men were formally presented to Bishop Rhoades by Deacon José Arroyo Acevedo, who will be ordained to the priesthood on June 1. Diocesan vocation director Father Andrew Budzinski affirmed that the candidates were sufficiently prepared and disposed to serve the Church as ordained ministers.

Recalling the words of Christ, Bishop Rhoades emphasized the

DIACONATE, page 10

## Pro-life leaders applaud passage of abortion bill in Alabama

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (CNS) — By passing a bill to ban abortion in nearly all circumstances, the Alabama Legislature has recognized that abortion is “the extinguishing of a unique human life,” said the president and CEO of Americans United for Life.

“From conception to natural death, every single human life deserves to be protected by law. The violence of abortion is never the answer to the violence of rape,” said Catherine Glenn Foster in a May 15 statement. “Like other states that have passed laws concerning when life begins, Alabama has relied upon scientific and medical facts.”

The state Senate passed

the measure late May 14 in a 25-6 vote. The state House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved it in early May.

It includes exceptions for when the life or health of the mother is seriously threatened and when the child has a fatal disease. It bans abortion in all other circumstances, including rape and incest, and makes performing an abortion at any stage of pregnancy a felony punishable by up to 99 years in prison.

Gov. Kay Ivey signed the measure into law late May 15. “To the bill’s many supporters,” she said in a statement, “this legislation stands as a powerful testament to Alabamians’ deeply held belief

that every life is precious and that every life is a sacred gift from God.”

Alabama now has the most restrictive abortion law in the country. The Alabama arm of the American Civil Liberties Union already announced it would file a lawsuit against it. The law “become fodder for the swirling debate over if — and when — the Supreme Court might consider overturning the landmark Roe v. Wade ruling,” CNN reported.

Republican state Rep. Terri Collins said after the vote that bill was meant to challenge Roe v. Wade and protect the lives of the unborn, “because an unborn baby is a person who deserves love and

protection.”

In the debate leading up to the vote, Senate Minority Leader Bobby Singleton, an opponent of the bill, called it “a sad day in Alabama. You just said to my daughter, you don’t matter, you don’t matter in the state of Alabama.”

Afterward, he was quoted as saying the state and supporters of the measure “ought to be ashamed.” Singleton added: “Women in this state didn’t deserve this. This is all about political grandstanding.” Other opponents called the bill cruel

ALABAMA, page 4

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# US Church leaders in favor of new rules on sexual abuse reporting

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — U.S. Church leaders welcomed the norms issued by Pope Francis May 9 giving clear direction to the global Catholic Church about reporting abuse and holding Church leaders accountable, saying it confirms what they already have in place and also gives them a way forward.

The document — which among other things, requires all Catholic priests and women religious to report sexual abuse by clergy and Church leaders and provides whistleblower protection for those making allegations — was described as a “blessing that will empower the church everywhere to bring predators to justice,” said Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Other bishops echoed his sentiment, issuing statements and speaking out on Twitter about their gratitude for the pope's action. Several said that the norms directly address needed improvements to the Church's response to abuse by requiring all dioceses around the globe to establish a public, accessible and reliable system for reporting crimes of clergy sexual abuse and any cover up of abuse within one year.

New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan described the norms as a sign of the pope's “desire to institute reform, promote healing, and insure justice” and said they were a “much-needed and tremendously important step forward for the Church universal.”

For U.S. Church leaders, the pope's willingness to hold bishops as well as priests accountable was important in light of their own efforts this past year. They have been dealing with the fallout associated with the release of a Pennsylvania grand jury report last summer detailing hundreds of allegations of abuse over a 70-year period and the defrocking of one of their own earlier this year: Theodore McCarrick, a former cardinal and retired archbishop of Washington, in the wake of credible abuse allegations.

Last fall, U.S. bishops had planned to vote on their response to the clergy sex abuse crisis during their general assembly in Baltimore, but they didn't do so at the urging of the Vatican, which had asked them to wait until after the February summit on clergy abuse with the pope and presidents of the bishops' conferences around the world.

Boston Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley said the pope's document, “Vos estis lux mundi” (“You are the light of the world”) was a fulfillment of Pope Francis'



CNS Photo/Robert Duncan

**Bishop Juan Ignacio Arrieta, secretary of the Pontifical Council for Legislative Texts, speaks at a news conference presenting Pope Francis' new document, “Vos estis lux mundi” (“You are the light of the world”) at the Vatican May 9. The document, which goes into effect June 1, establishes and clarifies norms and procedures for holding bishops and religious superiors accountable in protecting minors as well as in protecting members of religious orders and seminarians from abuse.**

pledge at the Vatican's February summit on protection of minors to provide “concrete measures” to respond to the clergy sexual abuse crisis in the Church.

At the end of the February meeting, the Vatican promised to provide direction for how bishops and religious superiors should handle abuse allegations and how they should prepare the relevant documents for the doctrinal congregation when an accusation is found to be credible.

Now that the global Church has the required steps they need to follow in front of them in terms of abuse response, U.S. Church leaders are determined to discuss their implementation of the norms at their upcoming June meeting in Baltimore.

Chicago Cardinal Blase J. Cupich said in a May 9 statement that the new rule “validates many of the procedures already in place in the Archdiocese of Chicago and in the United States” but it also “provides a framework for the bishops in this country to adopt measures at our June meeting that will both implement the pope's executive order and address the issue of holding everyone in the church accountable.”

The U.S. bishops have a boil-erplate to begin further work in response to the abuse crisis, but they also know from the pope's document that they are hardly alone in directly confronting this problem.

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin of Newark, New Jersey, pointed out on Twitter May 9 that the pope's new rule reflected his belief “that a worldwide problem demands solutions that apply to the whole church” and “having this new law already available in seven languages is a good start!”

Susan Reynolds, assistant professor of Catholic Studies

at Emory University's Candler School of Theology in Atlanta, echoed this view.

She said the norms “offer a global response to a global crisis,” noting that one of the challenges of February's Vatican summit on abuse was that, for years “clergy sexual abuse has been erroneously regarded by many in the Church as a Western problem” with Church leaders in many parts of the world saying clergy sexual abuse was “simply not occurring in their countries or regions.”

In an email to Catholic News Service, Reynolds said that some Church leaders right up to and during the Vatican summit were suggesting that the “development of universal guidelines on abuse reporting would be impossible because of global cultural differences.”

But now, these new guidelines from the pope on the heels of the February meeting, shows the pope “acting decisively to address abuse on a global scale. This is a major stride,” she said.

Kurt Martens, a canon law professor at The Catholic University of America in Washington, similarly noted the global nature of the pope's action saying in a May 9 Twitter thread that the “universal law shows that the abuse crisis is not simply an American problem but concerns the whole church.”

“We are finally moving from darkness into light on a world scale,” he added.

Martens also said the law, along with the companion March 26 Vatican law stipulating jail time for any public official of the Vatican who fails to report abuse, “sets an unmistakable new course. Voices of the victims are heard; there is no turning back now.”

He also said the law means

the Church, in the U.S. as well as the world, has to get to work.

“We cannot rest. We must embrace and implement,” this document, he said, adding that the pope reminds Catholic leaders that they should not “merely treat this as technical positive law, but this must be accompanied by a full ecclesial spirit, common purpose and conversion.”

Amid the praise for the pope's document, given “motu proprio,” (on the pope's own initiative), some have said further steps need to be taken.

Kim Smolik, CEO of Leadership Roundtable, said she welcomed the pope's action for going “further than any previous Church laws in its scope of accountability and its global reach” but she said the document doesn't “address the breadth of culture change necessary to address the root causes of the crises of abuse and leadership failures.”

The Leadership Roundtable was formed in the wake of the 2002 abuse scandal in the Archdiocese of Boston, by lay, religious and ordained leaders to help the Church address the abuse crisis and promote best practices and accountability in all areas.

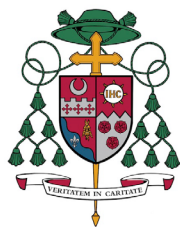
The survivor's network, SNAP, said in a May 9 statement that it was skeptical of this new law, but it recognized “some good things within it.”

The group said it was “glad that the Vatican is specifically recognizing the plight of vulnerable adults by acknowledging ‘the abuse of authority,’ regardless of a victim's age” and it was pleased the Vatican pledged to move quickly on internal investigations

“A lack of policies or procedures has never been the main problem in the clergy sex abuse scandal,” the group's statement added. “Rather, it has been a lack of accountability for hierarchs who conceal sex crimes and a deficit of courage and willingness to take immediate, decisive action on those who have enabled those crimes to occur.”

Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, who has instituted new reforms in his archdiocese that implemented changes planned by the U.S. bishops as a whole, acknowledged that the work of Church leaders is not yet done.

“As Church leaders continue on the path of repentance, reform and renewal for our entire Church,” the archbishop said, “we must continue to remain vigilant and to seek new ways of advancing transparency, accountability and healing for those harmed by members of the Church.”



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Dear Friends in Christ,

In this season of Easter, we are living the encounter with Our Risen Lord not only as something of the past, but in the present communion of the faith, liturgy, and life of the Church. Through the power of the Holy Spirit we are able to live this communion and to bear witness to the Risen Christ in our lives of faith, hope and charity.

On the feast of Pentecost, the apostles received the power of the Holy Spirit to witness to Christ and to bring His Gospel to the world. Through the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, we too have received this power. The Holy Spirit made the Church missionary from its very beginning. The Spirit who filled the apostles at Pentecost guarantees the handing on of the faith in the Church throughout the ages. He equips us for our mission of evangelization today.

Each year on Pentecost Sunday we take up a special collection for the education of our seminarians. It is an appropriate feast for this collection since the Holy Spirit is the source of all ministry, the Author and Giver of the spiritual and pastoral strength of those called to be priests. At ordination, our seminarians will be equipped by the Holy Spirit for the work of priestly ministry.

We need funds to support the seminary education of the young men of our diocese whom the Lord is calling to the priesthood. They are being educated and formed in the seminary to become like Christ the Good Shepherd in order to serve the Church, to serve you through the proclamation of the Word and the celebration of the Sacraments. By giving generously to the Pentecost collection, you are supporting these young men and their formation in the seminary, their preparation to receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at ordination.

The Lord continues to bless our diocese with priestly vocations. On June 1, eight days before Pentecost, I will ordain three men to the priesthood. Thank you for your generosity in the past, which helped fund their seminary education. I ask for your continued generosity to support the men behind them who also are receiving an excellent formation for the priesthood.

Let us continue to pray to the Holy Spirit for priestly vocations in our diocese! May God bless you with joy next weekend as we celebrate the extraordinary outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Kevin C. Rhoades*

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

# Not ruling on apparitions, pope allows pilgrimages to Medjugorje

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Parishes and dioceses are now allowed to organize official pilgrimages to Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina, but it must be clear that the Catholic Church has not recognized as authentic the alleged Marian apparitions there.

Polish Archbishop Henryk Hoser, the pope's apostolic visitor to Medjugorje, and Archbishop Luigi Pezzuto, the nuncio to Bosnia-Herzegovina, announced the pope's decision to lift the ban on official pilgrimages May 12.

Alessandro Gisotti, the interim director of the Vatican press office, confirmed the change, but said care must be taken to ensure the pilgrimages are not "interpreted as an authentication of well-known events, which still require examination by the Church."

In 1981, six young people from Medjugorje claimed that Mary had appeared to them. Some of the six say Mary still appears to them and gives them messages each day, while others say they see her only once a year now.

Pope Francis acknowledged



CNS photo/Paul Haring

**A statue of Mary is seen outside St. James Church in Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina, in this Feb. 27, 2011, file photo. Pope Francis has decided to allow parishes and dioceses to organize official pilgrimages to Medjugorje; no decision has been made on the authenticity of the apparitions.**

that pilgrims to the Marian site deserve spiritual care and support, but he also expressed doubts about claims that the apparitions have continued for more than 35 years.

During his flight to Rome from Fatima, Portugal, in May 2017, the pope told journalists that, regarding the Medjugorje commission's work, "three things need to be distinguished."

"About the first apparitions,

when (the 'seers') were young, the report more or less says that the investigation needs to continue," the pope said, according to the English translation posted on the Vatican website.

"Concerning the alleged current apparitions, the report expresses doubts," he said. Furthermore, "personally, I am more 'mischievous.' I prefer Our Lady to be a mother, our mother, and not a telegraph operator



## Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Sunday, May 26: 10:30 a.m. — Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Warsaw

Tuesday, May 28: 6:30 p.m. — Mass with Dedication of Altar, Our Lady of Good Hope Church, Fort Wayne

Wednesday, May 29: 6 p.m. — Prayer Service and Reception for Seminarians and Donors, St. Pius X Church, Granger

Thursday, May 30: 7 p.m. — Baccalaureate Mass for Marian High School, St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend

Friday, May 31: 3 p.m. — Baccalaureate Mass for Northeast Indiana Catholic Educators, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne

Saturday, June 1: 11 a.m. — Priesthood Ordination, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne

Sunday, June 2: 2 p.m. — Baccalaureate Mass for St. Joseph High School, St. Pius X Church, Granger

Monday-Friday, June 3-7: Annual Priest Retreat, Potawatomi Inn, Pokagon State Park, Angola

Saturday, June 8: 5 p.m. — Adult Confirmation Mass, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne



## Priest transfers

The Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, has made the following assignments of priests, effective June 18, 2019:

**Reverend Philip DeVolder** from Residence, St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Fort Wayne, to Parochial Vicar, SS. Peter and Paul Parish, Huntington.

**Reverend Lourdino Fernandes** from Pastor, St. Rose of Lima Parish, Monroeville, to retirement.

**Reverend Osman Guzman, F.M.**, to Pastor, St. Joseph Parish, LaGrange, and St. Gaspar del Bufalo Parish, Rome City.

**Reverend Patrick Hake** from Parochial Vicar, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Elkhart, to Parochial Vicar, St. John the Baptist Parish, Fort Wayne.

**Reverend Eloy Jimenez** from Parochial Vicar, St. John the Evangelist Parish, Goshen, to Parochial Vicar, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Elkhart.

**Reverend Maical Lobo** from Parochial Vicar, SS. Peter and Paul Parish, Huntington, to Pastor, St. Rose of Lima Parish, Monroeville.

**Reverend Levi UC Nkwocha** from Administrator, St. Bernard Parish, Wabash, to Pastor, St. Bernard Parish, Wabash.

**Reverend Ryan Pietrocarlo, C.S.C.**, to part-time Chaplain at Saint Joseph High School, South Bend.

**Reverend Bernard Ramenaden, O.S.B.**, from Pastor, St. Gaspar del Bufalo Parish, Rome City, to return to Benedictine Community in Sri Lanka.

**Reverend Alven Salada, F.M.**, to Parochial Vicar, St. Joseph Parish, LaGrange, and St. Gaspar del Bufalo Parish, Rome City.

**Reverend J. Steele, C.S.C.**, from Administrator, Blessed Sacrament Parish, Albion, to Pastor, Blessed Sacrament Parish, Albion, and from Pastor, St. Joseph Parish, LaGrange, to Pastor, Immaculate Conception Parish, Kendallville.

**Reverend James Stoye** from Pastor, Immaculate Conception Parish, Kendallville, to retirement.



## Deacon Assignments

The Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, has made the following assignments of transitional deacons for the summer of 2019:

**Deacon Stephen Felicichia** to diaconal ministry at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Elkhart.

**Deacon Daniel Koehl** to diaconal ministry at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Fort Wayne.

who sends out a message every day at a certain time — this is not the mother of Jesus."

Pope Francis said his "personal opinion" is that "these alleged apparitions have no great value."

The "real core" of the com-

mission's report, he said, is "the spiritual fact, the pastoral fact" that thousands of pilgrims go to Medjugorje and are converted. "For this there is no magic wand; this spiritual-pastoral fact cannot be denied."

ALABAMA, from page 1

and a "war on women."

Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of the Susan B. Anthony List, a national pro-life group, called passage of the near-total ban on abortion "a landmark victory for the people of Alabama who, like most Americans, overwhelmingly reject the extreme status quo of abortion on demand imposed nationwide by Roe v. Wade."

"Across the nation there is growing momentum, informed by science and compassion, and spurred on in reaction to abortion extremism in New York and Virginia, to recognize the humanity of the unborn child in the law," she said.

"It is clearer than ever that Roe is far from being settled law in the eyes and hearts of the American people, and this is increasingly reflected in state legislatures," she added.



CNS photo/Tyler Orsburn

A pro-life sign is displayed during the 2019 March for Life rally in Washington Jan. 18. By passing a bill to ban abortion in nearly all circumstances, the Alabama Legislature has recognized that abortion is "the extinguishing of a unique human life," said the president and CEO of Americans United for Life. Subsequently, the Missouri Legislature passed a bill that limits abortion to before a heartbeat is detected.

**Militant posts video threat, saying he is in Canada to kill Asia Bibi**

MANCHESTER, England (CNS) — An Islamic militant has posted a video on the internet boasting that he has arrived in Canada to kill Asia Bibi. The death threat comes a week after Bibi, a Catholic mother of five, was permitted to leave Pakistan for Canada to join her family at a secret address. She had been convicted of blasphemy and spent nearly 10 years on death row until she was cleared by the Pakistan Supreme Court in October, sparking anger among hardline Islamic radicals. In the video, the would-be assassin sings an Islamic chant honoring Muhammad, the founder of Islam, and professes that he is a beloved believer of Islam who will slay "the blasphemer Asia Bibi." The man tells the "enemies of Islam and the Jew government that set Asia Bibi free" that he will kill her, according to a May 14 statement sent to Catholic News Service by the British Pakistani Christian Association. The association also said a number of churches in Pakistan have received threats from militants following Bibi's release May 8.

**Vanier funeral highlights God's love for each person**

TROSLY-BREUIL, France (CNS) — Gathered in a makeshift chapel around a simple pine casket, members of L'Arche communities and Faith and Light groups from around the world mourned the passing of Jean Vanier and celebrated his life, his wisdom, his holiness and humanity. In a message read at Vanier's funeral May 16, Pope Francis prayed that the L'Arche communities around the world would "continue to be places of celebration and forgiveness, compassion and joy, demonstrating that everyone, no matter his or her disability, is loved by God and called to participate in a world of brotherhood, justice and peace." Vanier died May 7 at the age of 90. During the offertory procession, a little Noah's ark was set on the casket, honoring the name Vanier chose in 1964 when he formed a home with two men with intellectual disabilities, launching a movement that would grow to 154 communities in 38 countries. A large bowl of oranges — and orange peels — also was carried forward. Vanier was known to toss peels to or at community members at the end of a meal. Although subdued in the context of a Mass, peels from the bowl were tossed into the congregation, eliciting laughter and applause.

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# Catholic schools Superintendent Marsha Jordan dies

BY JODI MARLIN

A 40-year veteran of Catholic schools of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Marsha Jordan, passed away Thursday, May 9 at the age of 67. Jordan had battled cancer for many years.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated May 17 at St. Vincent de Paul Church, Fort Wayne, with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and concelebrant Father Zachary Barry officiating.

A lifetime parishioner of Queen of Angels Parish, Fort Wayne, Jordan attended the parish elementary school and Central Catholic High School. Following graduation in 1969, she enrolled at Indiana University, Bloomington, graduating in 1973 with a bachelor's degree in education. That year she began her career in education, teaching biology and serving as dean of girls at Wawasee Preparatory School for two years. From 1975 to 1984 she taught seventh- and eighth-grade science at St. Vincent de Paul School, Fort Wayne, meanwhile obtaining a master's degree in education from IU.

She transferred to nearby Bishop Dwenger High School in 1984, serving as Science Department chairman, dean of girls and a biology teacher for 10 years.

After a family leave during which she also completed a Certification in Elementary and Secondary Administration and Supervision from Indiana



MARSHA JORDAN

University-Purdue University Fort Wayne, Jordan returned in 2000 to lead Queen of Angels School, Fort Wayne, as principal. In 2010 she joined the Catholic Schools Office as assistant superintendent. She was named superintendent of Catholic schools in 2014, a capacity in which she was serving at the time of her death.

Jordan's leadership in the Catholic Schools Office testified to her conviction that the position of superintendent can directly impact students' academic success by "ensuring that schools are committed to improving student learning on a continual basis." Writing in 2009, she said: "Schools must be held accountable for providing students with qualified teachers who continually strive to improve teaching practices and methods. The Superintendent

must be a leader in ensuring that students are provided with a research-based curriculum that is responsive to their diverse needs. The curriculum must be linked to standards through a purposeful, coherent system that includes both a vision and an action plan. Best practices must be identified, and this, in addition to professional development, must be promoted among teachers to address areas of need. ... There must be meaningful accountability to ensure that students have the skills and knowledge necessary for success."

That said, she added: "We must never lose sight of the individual student. As Catholic schools, we must focus on our students ... Each day we must reaffirm our mission, our ministry and our focus."

Jordan was honored with several awards during the trajectory of her career. The Heritage Registry of Who's Who included her in the 2006-07 edition, and she was a 2007-08 recipient of the diocesan Light of Learning Award. She was perhaps most touched earlier this year when her fellow principals presented her with the gift of a papal blessing from Pope Francis.

The state of Indiana recognized her contributions to the field of education shortly thereafter, bestowing on her the prestigious Sagamore of the Wabash honor April 5.

Mary Glowaski, special assistant to Bishop Rhoades, was inspired by Jordan's dedication to students.

"Marsha was inspiring in

generosity and devotion in her care for the young people and teachers of our diocese. Her faithfulness, passion, faith and love have touched and changed so many lives including mine. I along with many others will miss her profoundly," she said.

"Our diocese has been blessed by Marsha's faithfulness, hard-work, and commitment to Catholic schools for over four decades, said Secretary of Education Carl Loesch. "From her early days teaching in Wawasee, to teaching Latin at St. Vincent's and science at Bishop Dwenger, and to her service as an administrator at Bishop Dwenger, Queen of Angels and several schools as interim principal, Marsha loved Catholic schools.

"She held herself and others to a high standard. She delighted in seeing students develop their talents in the classroom and in the things like the Pueri Cantores

choir festival. I am personally grateful for her example of dedication and faithfulness to her vocation as a teacher and administrator. May she rest in peace."

Her husband, Denver C. Jordan, passed away in 2013. Marsha is survived by Emily Skylar Jordan of Fort Wayne, along with sisters Dianna Shaffer of Portland, Oregon; Mary (Robert) Lung of Auburn; Carole (Robert) Elder of Fort Wayne; Jeanne (Kenneth) Reighter of Yoder; Maureen (Randy) Gonser of Auburn; Annette (Richard) Leeuw of Avilla; and Michele (Tracy) Lemmon of Columbus, Ohio; as well as 15 nieces and nephews; 21 great-nieces and -nephews; and many cousins. She was also preceded in death by parents Allan and Wilma Shaffer.

Interment took place at Catholic Cemetery, Fort Wayne.

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# NEWS BRIEFS

## U.S. bishops 'gravely disappointed' with House passage of Equality Act

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Five U.S. bishops, chairmen of U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops committees or subcommittees, said May 17 they were “gravely disappointed” with the U.S. House of Representatives passage of the Equality Act. In an 236-173 vote, the House approved the measure, H.R. 5, which would add the new terms “sexual orientation” and “gender identity,” as well as “pregnancy ... or a related medical condition,” to the definition of “sex” in federal civil rights laws, the bishops noted. It also would expand the types of entities covered under those laws and it exempt itself from the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993. “Rather than offering meaningful protections for individuals, the Equality Act would impose sweeping new norms that negatively impact the unborn, health care, charitable services, schools, personal privacy, athletics, free speech, religious liberties and parental rights,” said the chairmen. Signing the statement were: Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas City, chairman of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities; Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Florida, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development; Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, chairman of the USCCB Committee for Religious Liberty; Bishop Michael C. Barber of Oakland, California, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Catholic Education; and Bishop James D. Conley of Lincoln, Nebraska, chairman of the USCCB Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage.

## No more Sunday games for Detroit Catholic parish, school sports teams

DETROIT (CNS) — As part of a new pastoral note encouraging Catholics in the Archdiocese of Detroit to keep Sunday as a day of holiness, rest and family togetherness, Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron introduced a new policy requiring Catholic parishes and schools to stop scheduling athletic games and practices on Sundays. “In shifting away from the hustle of required sporting activities on Sunday, we will reclaim this holy day and create more time for families to choose activities that prioritize time spent with each other and our Lord,” Archbishop Vigneron wrote in “The Day of the Lord,” released May 15 as the fourth in a series of teaching notes supporting the themes of his 2017 pastoral letter, “Unleash the Gospel.” The policy, which goes into effect Aug. 1, is not meant

## Priest killed in El Salvador



CNS photo/courtesy of Father Edwin Banos

Priests carry the casket of Father Cecilio Perez Cruz during a May 20 funeral for the Salvadoran priest in Sonzacate, El Salvador. Parishioners found Father Perez dead in his residence in Juayua early May 18 with a note nearby that said he had not paid “rent,” a euphemism for extortion money. Preliminary Salvadoran police reports presume he was killed by gangs.

to lessen the archdiocese’s commitment to youth athletics, said Father Stephen Pullis, director of the archdiocese’s Department of Evangelization, Catechesis and Schools. “At the synod, the question came up about how we can best live our life as a Church together, to bear witness to the world about what we believe,” Father Pullis told Detroit Catholic, online news source for the archdiocese. “What came through very clearly was that athletics are a wonderful part of the life of our local church, but they’ve also in some ways taken a disproportionate amount of time and attention for families.” He added, “We really needed to say that Sunday is about being for and with the Lord, for and with the family, and for and with those in need.”

## Top Vatican diplomat grants interview to Chinese Communist tabloid

HONG KONG (CNS) — The Vatican’s top diplomat told Chinese state-run media that Vatican-Beijing talks are focused on achieving concrete results for China’s Catholics while avoiding differences between the two “systems.” Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, granted an exclusive interview to *Global Times*, an international tabloid run by the ruling Chinese Communist Party, reported ucanews.com. *Global Times*’ special correspondent Francesco Sisci and staff reporter Zhang Yu initially focused questions

on the provisional agreement between the Vatican and Beijing regarding bishop appointments, signed Sept. 22. In the interview, Cardinal Parolin said the agreement is a starting point between both parties. “There is confidence that a new phase of greater cooperation can now be opened for the good of the Chinese Catholic community and the harmony of the whole society,” Cardinal Parolin said. “The channels of communication are working well. There are elements which demonstrate an increased trust between the two sides,” he said. “We are inaugurating a method which appears positive and which will still have to be developed over time, but which, for now, gives us hope that we can gradually arrive at concrete results.” The cardinal pointed out what was not being discussed with Chinese officials.

## Two attacks in two days leave 10 Catholics dead in Burkina Faso

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso (CNS) — Catholic leaders in Burkina Faso appealed for unity and solidarity after two attacks on Catholics in two days left nine laypeople and a priest dead. “We have been working together for years — Muslims, Protestants, Catholics and followers of traditional religions, always walking hand in hand,” said Archbishop Seraphin Rouamba of Koupela. “In view of this, it isn’t necessary for such tragic acts to divide us.” The archbishop was preaching at the May 13 funeral of Father Simeon Yampa, a diocesan representative for interreligious dialogue, who was shot dead with five parishioners when Islamists attacked their church at Dablo during Mass May 12. Bishop Theophile Nare of Kaya described the murdered Catholics as “martyrs for the faith” and said the “despairing community” had been comforted by a May 13 message of sympathy from Pope Francis. The bishop said those responsible for “barbaric acts at the moment of consecration” were “attacking God himself,” who would ultimately triumph if Catholics showed “courage and faith. We must continue to pray, since what is happening today isn’t just a war against Christians, but a declaration of war on Jesus Christ,” he said.

## ‘Every abuse case one too many,’ but confession bill no solution

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Saying that “confession is sacred to every priest and every Catholic,” Los Angeles Archbishop Jose H. Gomez is calling on Catholics to tell their state senators to vote “no” on a bill that “would order priests to disclose information they might hear in confession concerning the sexual abuse of minors.” The measure, known as S.B. 360, “is a mortal threat to the religious freedom of every Catholic,” he said in a column published May 15 in the *Angelus*, the archdiocesan news outlet. “Catholics believe that in the confessional, we can tell God everything that is on our heart and seek his healing mercy,” Archbishop Gomez said. “The priest is only an instrument; he stands in the ‘person of Christ.’ We confess our sins — not to a man but to God. “The privacy of that intimate conversation — our ability to speak with total honesty from our lips to God’s ear — is absolutely vital to our relationship with God.” In California, priests, along with teachers, social workers, doctors and other professionals, are “mandated reporters.” That means they are required by law to report any case of suspected abuse to authorities. Currently, there is an exemption in the law for any clergy member “who acquires knowledge or a reasonable suspicion of child abuse or neglect during a penitential communication.”

## Ancilla College celebrates 52nd graduating class

DONALDSON — Ancilla College graduated its 52nd class in school history on Saturday, May 4, at Ancilla Domini Chapel. State Rep. Jack Jordan addressed the audience that came to celebrate the 142 graduation candidates, of whom 83 walked in the ceremony.

"You carry within you a thumbprint that is unique and is the core of the mission of Ancilla College," said Ancilla President Dr. Michelle Dvorak, PHJC. "It is rooted in values of integrity and service to others. That thumbprint stays in your hearts."

Vice President of Academic Affairs Sam Soliman continued the message of service, stating, "In selflessness, self-fulfillment is attained."

A reception followed, as Ancilla faculty, staff, students and their families gathered in Cana Hall for fellowship and refreshments.

## 'Mornings of Reflection' for liturgical ministers planned

FORT WAYNE — The diocesan Office of Worship will host "Mornings of Reflection" for liturgical ministers Saturday, June 15, in Fort Wayne and Saturday, June 22, in Mishawaka.

In the Fort Wayne area, attend Saturday, June 15, from 10 a.m. to noon at St. John the Baptist Church, 4500 Fairfield Ave., Fort Wayne. For those in the South Bend area, attend Saturday, June 22, from 10 a.m. to noon at St. Monica Church, 222 W. Mishawaka Ave., Mishawaka.

# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## Students present college readiness plans to parents



Provided by Lois Widmer

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, Fort Wayne, offered an evening in early May for middle school students to show parents PowerPoint presentations on their individual College and Career Readiness goals. The students' College, Career and Civic Life presentations are part of new graduation pathway requirements. Pictured are seventh-grade student David Anderson; at left; Joanne Leja, middle school resource teacher; and Natacha Anderson, David's mother.

Led by diocesan seminarians, events like "Mornings of Reflection" can serve as an annual retreat experience for diocesan extraordinary ministers and lectors, although anyone is welcome to attend. They are free of charge and no preregistration is required.

## Learn to give thanks at retreat

PLYMOUTH — Sister Barbara Jean Franklin, ASC, will present "Give Thanks in All Circumstances" at The Center at Donaldson Monday, July 8, from 8:30 a.m. through Tuesday, July 9, at 4 p.m. EDT. All conference talks will be held at the Catherine Kasper Home. Registration fee is \$100.

These two days of prayer are an invitation to live out of the logic of abundance instead of the logic of scarcity, to open oneself to God's great love without any assumptions or presumptive expectations, to accept as gift all that God so generously offers.

Sister Barbara Jean has been a member of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ for over 50 years. Her ministry has included serving as teacher and principal in Catholic elementary schools, serving her religious community in various administrative and leadership roles, writing, and offering reflection days and retreats on various topics to members of religious communities and lay Catholic groups. She currently serves on the Community Life Team at the Ruma Center, a retirement facility for members of her community.

Register at [Lindenwood.org](http://Lindenwood.org) by July 1. For more information, email [lindenwood@poorhandmaids.org](mailto:lindenwood@poorhandmaids.org) or call (574) 935-1780.

## Eighty-eight trees planted at Catholic Cemetery



Provided by Casey Miller

Forty London Plane and 48 Sunset Red Maple trees were planted along the south portion of Catholic Cemetery April 24. With 35 additional Sunset Red Maple trees planted last fall, a total of 123 2-inch caliper trees now have been added for the continued beautification of the cemetery. Additionally, the historic iron fence that once graced the front of the cemetery has been reinstalled along the south property line to beautify the original "Circle" portion. "These enhancements, along with the addition of Divine Mercy Funeral Home, makes Catholic Cemetery one of the most historically significant and beautiful Catholic cemeteries in the Midwest" said Casey Miller, executive director. From left are Marquis Billingsly, Brandon Payton, Scott Guerrero, Justin Nikirk, Miller, Carlos Botero and Larry Hermann on the day of the planting. At right, Nikirk and Guerrero prepare to put one of the trees in the ground,

## St. Louis sure of path God has for him

BY SAMANTHA ROHLOFF

Deacon Spenser St. Louis, who will be ordained into the priesthood on June 1, comes from the city of Fort Wayne. Having always been Catholic and grown up in a Catholic family, his grounding in the faith was derived from his parents and grandparents.

"My family always took the faith seriously and made it a priority to pray together each day; the rosary, novenas and prayer at meals and especially to attend Sunday Mass together," he said. "I was always encouraged to pray about my vocation, being told that I would be the happiest in life doing what God wanted me to do."

Deacon St. Louis has a wide educational background. An alumnus of Bishop Dwenger High School, he attended Maple Creek, Perry Hill and Oak View schools in the Northwest Allen County Schools system during his early years.

"I entered college seminary after graduating from Bishop Dwenger and was assigned to go to the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio. I am completing my fourth year of five at the Pontifical North American College in Rome, Italy, having studied at the Gregorian University for my Bachelor of Sacred Theology degree and the Angelicum University for my Licentiate of Sacred Theology degree," he said.

He first heard the call to a vocation in elementary school, and again in middle school. He



SPENSER ST. LOUIS

regularly spent time in eucharistic adoration and frequently attended weekday Mass. Being an altar boy greatly encouraged his interest in the Mass, too. "These experiences, coupled with an active family prayer life and reading the Bible, were the seedbed of my vocation."

After much prayer and college seminary "Come and See" visits, by his senior year of high school Deacon St. Louis realized he indeed was being called to attend seminary.

He said he is sure of the path that God has for him. "Also as a part of preparation for holy orders we go on a retreat, and it was amazing to pray with the Rite of Ordination. We have been practicing the sacraments by working through the rites so that we will be able to know what we are doing when the time comes," he said.

"I have had a great amount

of joy and excitement, especially planning for my first Mass," he shared. Some of the anticipated highlights of priestly ministry include, for him, "celebrating the sacraments, especially the Eucharist and reconciliation. The sacraments are the greatest area where a priest can aid the spirituality of others, and I'm excited to be a part of others' lives in this way."

He is especially eager for the ordination Mass itself. "A few things that I am most looking forward to are the Litany of Saints, receiving the paten and chalice from the bishop and the moment of the fraternal embrace from the priests," he said. Deacon St. Louis also pointed out that because the Mass is only celebrated annually, and because it is liturgy unlike any other, "it is an amazing way to experience a Mass filled with symbolism, tradition and the beauty of the faith culminating in the Eucharist."

Thinking of future priests, Deacon St. Louis recommended: "Pray for an increase in men's hearts being open to the gift of the priesthood" and "pray for the holiness of our priests, deacons and seminarians."

Enthusiastic and fluent regarding the call to the priesthood, he explained the imperative to constantly pray for those who are called to the duty of all that the priesthood entails.

"Our diocese will continue to have strong vocations by keeping our eyes focused on Christ, our hearts open to His words and our desire to continually grow closer to His merciful heart."

## Vocation 'an adventure of love' for Deacon Arroyo

BY JOSHUA SCHIPPER

Deacon José Arroyo Acevedo was raised in Luquillo, Puerto Rico. There, his home parish was San José, and in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend his home parish is St. Joseph, Fort Wayne.

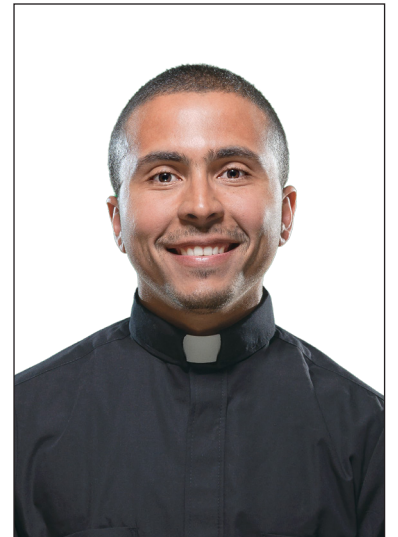
Deacon Arroyo Acevedo earned a B.A. degree in philosophy from Regina Cleri Seminary at the Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico. He earned more degrees while studying at St. Joseph's Seminary, Yonkers, New York. One degree was a bachelor's in sacred theology, a degree granted by the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome. The other two degrees received were from St. Joseph's, a Master of Divinity and a Master of Arts in theology. The former is an ecclesiastical degree and the latter an academic one.

Deacon Arroyo Acevedo has three brothers, the younger of whom competed in the 2008 Beijing Olympics as boxers and continue to participate in professional boxing to this day. His mother works as a high school physical education teacher and his father, a U.S. Navy veteran, is a high school math teacher.

Deacon Arroyo Acevedo describes his vocation to the priesthood as "an adventure of love. I was 9 years old and preparing to receive my first holy Communion in New London, Connecticut, when my mother first asked me — apparently jokingly — if I wanted to be a priest, to which I responded, 'No!' My father, who was next to her, then asked me, 'Why? Do you want to get married and have your own family?' To which I said, 'Yes!' Later on, as I had an encounter with the Lord when I was about 15 years old, I took my faith much more seriously and started to get more involved in my parish community, including altar serving, youth groups, youth choir and a missionary group."

While Deacon Arroyo Acevedo prepared to be confirmed, a group of seminarians left some vocational materials at the parish. "I was fascinated that they were young men, like myself, who were considering the possibility of being priests. I thought they were kind of like Boy Scouts for priests."

Eventually, Deacon Arroyo Acevedo heard of Blessed Father Solanus Casey, a friar who spent 10 years in Huntington at St. Felix Friary. He said he "felt at home within the Franciscan family. I joined the Franciscans when I was 18 years old. I loved working with the poor and living in foreign missions, but a highlight for me was the opportunity to be the caregiver of the



JOSÉ ARROYO ACEVEDO

late Father Benedict Groeschel, CFR, who made his novitiate in Huntington where I eventually lived. He is now buried in Newark, in the same place where I did my novitiate."

Arriving in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend three years ago, Deacon Arroyo Acevedo planned to become a friar. However, the Lord seemed to intervene.

"I joined the diocese directly and was sent to Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland, for a year. I was ordained a deacon and sent to St. Joseph Church in Fort Wayne, where I am able to use my bilingual skills, preach and teach both at the school and in the greater parish community."

This past January, Deacon Arroyo Acevedo participated at World Youth Day in Panama.

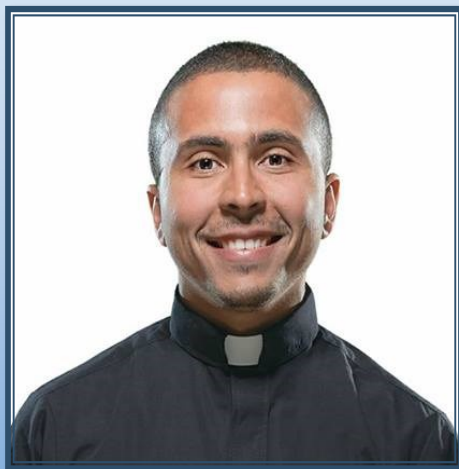
"My experience at World Youth Day in Panama was awesome! I had been to only one World Youth Day before: Cologne, Germany, in the summer of 2005. Pope Benedict XVI went to his native Germany, and this time Pope Francis went to his native Latin America. The opportunity to celebrate our Catholic life with so many people from around the world and with our young people, young adults, diocesan staff, clergy, religious and seminarians was a great blessing and encouragement to be a good, holy, healthy and happy priest!"

"I want to thank God above all," he said, as well as "my family for their unwavering support; Msgr. Michael Heintz, for helping me much at the seminary; Father Evaristo Olivera, pastor at St. Joseph, who was my mentor during this pastoral year; and the innumerable number of benefactors and prayerful supporters including the clergy, religious and laity. I am so grateful to all, and I ask everyone to continue to pray for me."

Deacon Arroyo Acevedo celebrates his first Mass at St. Joseph Church, Fort Wayne, on Sunday, June 2, at 11:30 a.m.



### St. Joseph Catholic Church Fort Wayne, IN



**Congratulations**  
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Arroyo Acevedo*  
*On your ordination  
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*May you always have the same zeal and joy for your ministry.*



# Parents, World Youth Day aided in discernment

BY DEB WAGNER

Deacon Daniel Niezer anticipates his ordination to the holy priesthood at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on June 1. He has been formally preparing for this day throughout the last seven years of his education. The seed of a vocation was planted and cultivated much earlier than that, however.

He was raised Catholic and was born the same year that his home parish, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Fort Wayne, was built. His parents were committed to raising their family in the faith by catechetical education offered in the parish and at home, and by receiving the sacraments. Deacon Niezer says he "did not personally understand nor invest in the faith given to me," though, in his early years. He attended the public schools of Haverhill Elementary and



DANIEL NIEZER

Summit Middle School in Fort Wayne before attending and graduating from Bishop Dwenger High School. It was not until he graduated from high school and began thinking about what path he should take that he began discerning a vocation.

Deacon Niezer said his parents were certainly a catalyst in his decision to enter the seminary, and they have been his ongoing supporters. They are people of great faith, perhaps greater than his at the time, he said.

When he graduated from high school, he initially did not plan on participating in his faith other than by going to Mass on Sundays. But his parents encouraged him to go on a pilgrimage to World Youth Day in Madrid, Spain, during the summer of 2011. Other young people, priests and religious from throughout the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend went also. Deacon Niezer said that throughout the pilgrimage he "received great graces, which opened up a whole new life of faith in the Catholic Church. This happened because of the encouragement of my parents, and through this experience, I was able to enter college with a very graced perspective on life and discernment."

The joy he witnessed among millions of young Catholics at World Youth Day pushed him to re-examine his faith with a renewed spirit. He was led to a life of prayer and consequently to consider the seminary.

It was then that his pastor, Father James Shafer, took him under his wing and guided him through the discernment process. Deacon Niezer said, "He was instrumental in my decision to enter the seminary, and ever since I started my studies seven years ago, I can't tell you the countless priests from our diocese who have been exemplary role models, confessors and guides in my discernment."

During the Rite of Ordination he will make promises to the bishop and his successors to assume the responsibility of the office of the priesthood.

"These promises have been daily reminders of my lifelong obligation to the Lord and His Church, and I have no doubt that

by having striven to live these promises here in my last year of seminary, the Lord will continue to support me as I am ordained a priest to faithfully and lovingly carry out these promises."

Deacon Niezer never lost joy or zeal about pursuing the priesthood and striving in holiness during his days in the seminary, he said, and he can't wait until he becomes a priest. He is very much looking forward to holding the Lord in his hands each and every day as a priest.

"Through the sacraments of the Eucharist and penance, I am most looking forward to living intimately with Christ as His priest who is privileged to say, 'This is my body,' and 'Your sins are forgiven.' To know that there will be many people seeking Christ, seeking His love and mercy, and to know that I will be given a role in that encounter as His priest ... it is truly exciting to think about."



The Mass of ordination to the priesthood will be celebrated Saturday, June 1, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 1122 S. Clinton St., Fort Wayne, at 11 a.m.

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# Deacons ordained to ministry of V



Nate Proulx

Daniel Koehl and Stephen Felicichia listen to Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades speak May 18, during his homily at their Mass of ordination to the diaconate, about aspects of the life of service on which they are about to embark.

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Rev. Mr.  
Stephen Felicichia



Rev. Mr.  
Daniel Koehl

*on their ordination to the diaconate  
and congratulates*



Rev. Mr.  
José Arroyo



Rev. Mr.  
Daniel Niezer



Rev. Mr.  
Spenser St. Louis

*on their upcoming ordination to the priesthood.*



The Father Solanus Casey Vocation Society members are to pray for and promote vocations to the ministerial priesthood and the consecrated religious life in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Members are encouraged to support priests and deacons in their sacred ministry.

Find us on Facebook: [facebook.com/fscvs](https://www.facebook.com/fscvs)

## DIACONATE, from page 1

Gospel requirement of sacrificial love for the successful spread of the kingdom of God.

"Jesus said: 'Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.' Jesus is conveying a message about Himself; He died so that we might have eternal life. At the same time, Jesus' words were also a message for His disciples, leading them to lay down their lives in fruitful imitation of Him.

"Today Dan and Stephen will receive an outpouring of God's grace as they say 'yes' to the call of the Lord to ordained ministry in His Church. They place their lives in the Lord's hands, promising Him obedience and making a permanent commitment to celibacy for the sake of the kingdom of heaven."

He continued, "From this day forward, they will belong to Christ in a special way. They will seek Him, be at His disposal, walk with Him, and live with Him. They will live in the mystery of His Cross and Resurrection and enter, in a very real way, into the mystery of the grain of wheat. The life and ministry of the ordained is a particular way of discipleship, of taking up the cross. It is giving one's life in loving service 'just as Christ loved the Church and handed Himself over for her.' Stephen and Dan are choosing not to live life for themselves. They are choosing to serve God and those to whom God sends them."

Following their promises of celibacy and obedience to Bishop Rhoades and his successors, the two candidates laid prostrate on the floor of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, a literal sign of offering their lives for Christ, as those present chanted the Litany of the Saints. Bishop explained the significance of this dramatic action, which emphasizes the humility necessary for following Christ faithfully.

"Lying on the ground, Dan

and Stephen recognize their own inadequacy and weakness. They know that they need God's grace to be His good and faithful servants and that they need the prayer of the Church, the prayers of the Church on earth and of the Church in Heaven."

After the invocations, the men knelt before the bishop, who laid his hands upon them and offered the Prayer of Ordination. The new deacons then were vested with the outward signs of their new ministry: the diaconal

More  
photos are  
available at  
[www.todayscatholic.org](http://www.todayscatholic.org)



stole and dalmatic. Both men then received the Book of the Gospels, symbolizing the task of the deacon to proclaim the Gospel in liturgical celebrations and to preach the faith of the Church in word and deed.

Bishop Rhoades reminded them to approach the Word with a humble and prayerful heart, listening in prayer for the direction of the Holy Spirit.

"Remember that you will proclaim the word as ministers, as servants, as sharers in the prophetic authority of Christ and the Church. The Holy Spirit guides the Church in the proper interpretation of the Scriptures, so in your preaching and teaching, you are to transmit the Gospel in its fullness, docile to the living Tradition of the Church and to her Magisterium."

Highlighting their additional role as ministers of the altar, the bishop further expressed: "You will help the faithful participate more fully, consciously and actively in the eucharistic sacrifice. You will be ordinary ministers of baptism, preside over public prayer, assist at and bless marriages, bring Viaticum to the dying and conduct funeral rites. Your service of the liturgy is a call to sanctification, to your own growth in holiness. There should be a deep unity between the exercise of your ministry and

your spiritual life. And, of course, the Holy Eucharist has the truly central place in the ministry and spiritual life of the ordained. In this diaconal year leading up to your priestly ordination, I especially encourage your prayer before the Blessed Sacrament because it is in the Eucharist that we truly learn from Christ to lay down our lives, to love as He loved, to enter into the mystery of the grain of wheat, the mystery of Our Lord's death and resurrection."

Bishop Rhoades concluded by highlighting their role as "ministers of charity" as integral to their service of the word and the liturgy.

"We must always remember, as our Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI said so strongly: 'Love for widows and orphans, prisoners, and the sick and needy of every kind, is as essential to the Church as the ministry of the sacraments and preaching of the Gospel.'" Bishop Rhoades also entrusted the men to Mary under her title "Handmaid of the Lord," reminding all those who were present that "Mary gave herself wholeheartedly to the service of the Lord and in her humility was raised up to heaven. May she intercede for you, that you may be faithful and holy servants of the Lord!"

Following Mass, Deacon Koehl, who has been assigned to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Fort Wayne for the summer, expressed his appreciation and excitement as a newly ordained minister. "At our rehearsal last night, Father Andrew preached about the permanence of the sacrament, the solidity of Christ in us, emphasizing "Christ the servant." I have a lot of peace, and I've never had this much joy — and it's only just beginning!"

Deacon Felicichia, assigned to St. Thomas the Apostle in Elkhart, also shared his enthusiasm and gratitude as he undertakes this new role.

"It's amazing! It is wonderful and very peace filling, I am very grateful to the people of Fort Wayne, to my parents, family and for the prayers of the diocese."

# Word, altar and charity



John Martin

Stephen Felicichia kneels before Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades as he promises respect and obedience to the bishop and his successors.



Nate Proulx

Deacons Felicichia and Koehl assist with the Liturgy of the Eucharist following their ordination.



John Martin

Deacon Koehl receives the Book of the Gospels, a symbol of his ministry to preach the Gospel.



John Martin

Patrick and Andrea Koehl, front, and Bob and Joan Felicichia, parents of the ordinands, bring the gifts to the altar.

CONGRATULATIONS TO  
REV. MR.  
STEPHEN FELICICHIA

ST. THERESE PARISH, FORT WAYNE,  
CONGRATULATES

*Rev. Mr. Stephen Felicichia*

ON HIS ORDINATION TO THE DIACONATE.  
GOD BLESS YOUR MINISTRY.

## Congratulations!



Rev. Mr Stephen Felicichia  
St. Therese  
Catholic Church



Rev. Mr. Daniel Koehl  
St. Vincent de Paul  
Catholic Church

Barrett McNagny congratulates  
Rev. Mr. Stephen Felicichia and Rev. Mr. Daniel Koehl  
on their ordination to the Diaconate.



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## TOP GRADS MARK BEGINNINGS AND ENDINGS

By Jeannie Ewing

### Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne

## Valedictorian Christopher Wilkins

**F**aith and science are compatible and express the vastness of God's intelligent design of creation. Bishop Dwenger High School valedictorian Christopher Wilkins will embark on his college studies at Brown University this fall to study chemistry and astronomy, subjects which interlock his interests in science fiction and how the universe operates.



**CHRISTOPHER  
WILKINS**

Honor Society his junior year and NHS president his senior year; Spanish Club all four years, serving as club secretary his senior year; a member of Student Council during his junior and senior years; Ping Pong Club freshman and sophomore years; Bishop Dwenger baseball all four years and travel baseball all four summers; umpiring St. Joe Little League during the summers; volunteering as a Conservation Crew Member at Fort Wayne Children's Zoo the summer after junior year; and serving as a volunteer at Saint Anne Retirement Communities and Turnstone Center all four years.

Likely the most monumental achievement of his high school career is co-founding the Sustainable Environmental Action Club his junior year and serving as its president. In this capacity, Wilkins and the club members organized a fundraising event for the construction of a well at Millennium School in Uganda, which is run by Catholic religious and laity. His most cherished high school memory, he said, is meeting with Sister Milly of the Ugandan school and watching a video of the well being built on-site — construction that was made possible by a SEA Club donation of \$1,300.

He explained that his Catholic faith has increased his awe at the mysteries that still exist in space.

"Faith has allowed me to explore the interface between the micro and the macro through intelligent design. It has unveiled the connection between molecules and the cosmos, as God's hand bears a striking resemblance on both the largest and smallest magnitudes. This intelligent design is precisely what gives purpose to learning, or else knowledge would be meaningless."

Part of Wilkins' faith involved service exercised through various clubs, sports and ministries during his career at the Fort Wayne high school, including National

### Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne

## Salutatorian Tavehon McGarry

**H**igh school extends beyond mere academics, as Bishop Dwenger High School salutatorian Tavehon McGarry will say. For him, high school solidified a natural tendency toward curiosity about science, especially chemistry, but also deepened his Catholic faith.

Because he attended a Catholic high school, McGarry was able to participate in myriad opportunities for enriching his faith, including all-school Masses, lunchtime opportunities for confession and hourly prayer before class. The entire experience shaped his character and allowed him to hone his study and time-management skills, too.

McGarry's faith, which was instilled through formal education at St. Jude School and Bishop Dwenger, both in Fort Wayne,



**TAVEHON  
MCGARRY**

and at home, influenced the many ways he dedicates his gifts and talents to God's service. He assists at Vincent Village, The Franciscan Center, the Rescue Mission, Community Harvest Food Bank, Associated Churches Warehouse, GiGi's Playhouse and the Euell Wilson Center. He also tutors at the Brandon Foundation.

"I have been an auxiliary member of the St. Jude Social Action Committee since I was in elementary school. I've aided in organizing church events with this committee," he said, demonstrating his passion toward caring for the Earth and its people. Because of these experiences he plans to major in environmental chemistry and be a field researcher in global sustainability at Columbia University in New York City this fall.

A football aficionado, McGarry played on Bishop Dwenger's team all four years. He eventually served as team captain, earned his third varsity letter and assisted in his team's 4A State Championship win in 2018.

He also ran track sophomore through senior years, serving as a team captain for the 2018 season and being named Academic All-State in track and field that year as well. He was a member of Student Council for all four years. In McGarry's junior year, 2017-18, he was student body vice president and was elected president his senior year.

His pastimes include cooking, especially for and with his family. McGarry said that "with all of our busy schedules, it's nice at times to laugh and spend time together making and then eating meals." He and his father have intellectually stimulating conversations over these meals, he said, often discussing history and debunking common myths about it.

McGarry said he wants to remember these moments, as well as the memories he created with friends and classmates; the joking and laughing that got them through challenging moments of rigorous academics and helped them look forward to coming to school each day.

### Marian High School, Mishawaka

## Valedictorian Mackenzie Mencias

**F**or Marian High School valedictorian Mackenzie Mencias, there's a healthy balance between being challenged and being overwhelmed. She described both as being under pressure, but explained, "Whenever school seemed to be too difficult or the pressures of life seemed to be too drastic, I always tried to relax and remember to trust in God's plan for my life. Learning to trust in my faith has helped me grow closer to God, and this will help me for the rest of my life."

Because she faced many challenges throughout high school, it became her motto to trust God and relinquish her fears and



**MACKENZIE  
MENCIAS**

frustrations into His care. And instead of focusing on the difficulties, she chose to look at the pressures in her life as motivations to push her toward excellence, both academically and spiritually.

As a high school student burgeoning into young adulthood, Mencias expressed her gratitude for those moments that, she believes, are leading her to study pre-medicine at the University of Notre Dame starting this fall. "Over the summer I worked at a surgery center as an orderly and was able to watch multiple procedures and then assist in cleaning up the operating rooms. This job opportunity really interested me because it allowed me to gain experience in the field that I want to go into."

The importance of leisure and recreation is not lost on Mencias.

She participated in a variety of sports — volleyball and golf, as well as swim team manager — and hangs out with her friends to see movies, attend football games or go shopping. She is a member of National Honor Society, Spanish and Greek Club and Quiz Bowl. She also has been consistent in her commitment to serve her home parish, St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend, by volunteering as an altar server for eight consecutive years.

Mencias' cherished memories of high school include "meeting up to work on projects and study for tests [with classmates], attending football games and tennis matches with my friends, and enjoying the field trips and spirit activities with my classmates that allowed us all to become closer."

### Saint Joseph High School, South Bend

## Valedictorian Tomás Aguilar-Fraga

**F**or some, math is a formidable academic subject, but not for Saint Joseph High School valedictorian Tomás Aguilar-Fraga. It's not only one of his strongest subjects, but also one



**TOMÁS AGUILAR-  
FRAGA**

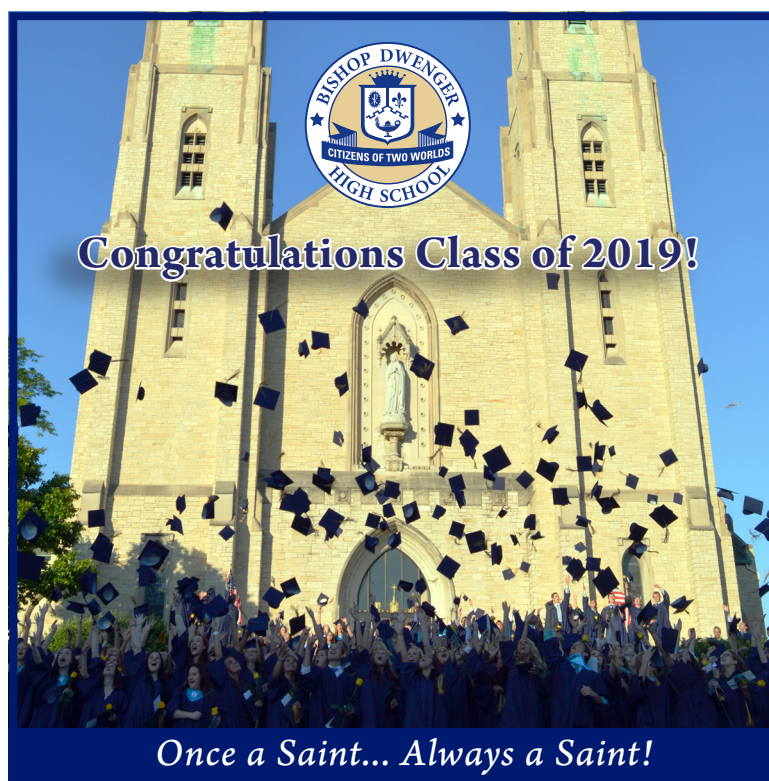
he enjoys as a pastime.

"I'm very interested in mathematics — I have recreational mathematics books in my room," he said. He hopes to pursue a professorial position in mathematics one day and will enter Harvey Mudd College in the fall to major in math.

Aguilar-Fraga's love of numbers is also why he has been passionate about the Quiz Bowl

team at Saint Joseph, which is his primary extracurricular activity.

"I was a member of the Quiz Bowl team for four years, and we won the state championship four times. We also won various tournaments, and I placed ninth individually in a solo competi-



**Bishop Luers High School, Fort Wayne**

# Salutatorian Olivia Neher

Being part of a community that stands for life is important to Bishop Luers High School salutatorian Olivia Neher. When she was young, she dreamed of attending a National Right to Life March in Washington, D.C.; as a high school student, she finally was able to go. The experience was surreal, she said; she was part of a pilgrimage that included crowds no one could count, and the energy was high as she stood among other like-minded people who shared her belief in protecting defenseless human life. "I was proud to stand there with everyone and have a voice to express what I believe is right. This experience really showed me the power of unity," she said.



OLIVIA NEHER

Honor Society. She said one of her favorite memories from high school was on the soccer field.

"I'm a defender, but at the end of a game we were winning by something like 5-0 and my coach put me in as forward so I could try to score. All the girls on my team were yelling and screaming and cheering me on. They continually gave me the ball so I could try to score. I didn't end up getting a goal, even though I was so close; but it was so much fun for me and the whole team."

Neher is a burgeoning pianist. She plays mostly classical pieces such as Schubert, Mozart and Bach, but also studies music theory, key signatures and scales, chord progressions, terms and aural theory. She said she feels as though her practice and hard work playing piano is starting to pay off, because now she is capable of more complex pieces.

In addition to her experience at the National March for Life, Neher said hosting a Japanese exchange student made a huge impact on her faith because she had to be intentional in explaining the parts of the Mass and

the significance of what happens during the liturgy. She elaborated that "with the language barrier, it was hard to communicate to her what we were doing, but it also helped me to take a step back and reflect on each part of the Mass and the significance of it. By trying to explain it to Rina, I was reflecting myself on what it all meant and why we go to Mass. I learned as much from Rina as she did from me." By building a relationship with the Japanese student, Neher also was able to experience Fort Wayne through the eyes of a tourist, going places such as Sky Zone and DeBrand, playing laser tag and visiting the Botanical Gardens and the mall.

With plans to attend Butler University this fall to study health sciences, Neher shared why the field of study is important to her.

"My faith will help me to be a compassionate, giving health care worker. It has always been taught to care for the sick, and I want to be able to do that while also treating them as a child of God — with compassion and kindness."

**Bishop Luers High School, Fort Wayne**

# Valedictorian Joshua Dippold

Joshua Dippold, who graduates from Bishop Luers High School this month, knows how to incorporate his Catholic faith into everyday life.



JOSHUA DIPPOLD

The Bishop Luers valedictorian attributes his faith formation from the foundation his parents offered to him from first grade onward. In many ways, his high school experiences have inspired him to study either theology or pre-health at the University of Notre Dame this fall.

Dippold described a unique experience related to his faith in this way: "Some of my friends joined me on spring break to Siesta Key and agreed to accompany me to Mass. The rest of the week was a blast, because we encountered the Son before the sun."

Participating in a wide range of extracurricular activities, from sports to youth events to volunteering, Dippold is a well-rounded student whose life experience of service and team spirit now carry him into his chosen field of study. His extracurricular involvement includes baseball, serving as captain senior year; being a three-year Student Council member; participating in Sodalitas as a leader and a four-year member, and National Junior Honor Society as president, and a three-year member; Student Ambassador; four years of participation in Science, Math and Interdisciplinary Academic

Super Bowl; Knights in Japan, for which his family also hosted a student; volunteering as a freshman mentor; participating in Future Business Leaders of America, Key Club, Knights for Life and World Culture Club; volunteering at Kingston Nursing Home, St. Mary's Soup Kitchen, Project Linus, Community Harvest Food Bank and at St. Henry Church, where he built wooden box gardens, filled the boxes with dirt and soil and planted strawberries. He also volunteered with Agape Baseball League, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Fest, as a server at Mass during his freshman year, at the Franciscan Center and as a scorekeeper for Catholic Youth Organization basketball league.

He doesn't have a lot of extra time for hobbies and personal pursuits, but Dippold has a few memories he cherishes from high school.

He was privileged to serve as a "Knight in Japan," which he feels has expanded his appreciation for people of other cultures and languages. "They taught me that you don't need to know anything about somebody to be welcoming and friendly to them," he said.

Another unforgettable moment occurred during the seventh inning of what the Bishop Luers baseball team believed would be another loss for them in the 2018-19 season: Then Dippold struck out a Bishop Dwenger player, which resulted in Bishop Luers winning the game. He remembered this as "my first victory over Bishop Dwenger in any high school sport."

**Marian High School, Mishawaka**

# Salutatorian Margaret Cook

Life is far more than just skating through school to achieve perfection for Margaret Cook. The Marian High School salutatorian was touched by fear at an early age, like most adolescents, but unlike most, she looked at her life through the lens of her faith. That foundation she received as a child carried her through the halls of high school as a freshman.



MARGARET COOK

into every aspect of her life. Cook noted that her participation in Marian's Annual Service Day inspired her to use her talents and hobbies for a greater good: She volunteered at the Women's Care Center, with adults with special needs at ADEC and with students at local grade schools. "These opportunities that Marian gave me allowed me to show my community just how valuable my faith is to me," she said.

One of her avocations is crocheting, because its rhythmic patterns are calming and help her relax. As a member of the National Honor Society, Cook formed a group of students who crochet hats and scarves for Catholic Charities — another testament to her faith in action. She also faithfully offered her time as an altar server at her home parish, St. Matthew Cathedral, for six years.

Her hobbies include playing banjo, piano, guitar and ukulele. The outdoors, especially walking and exploring the woods close to her home, also is dear to her.

A life-changing experience for her happened during her junior year. Cook joined Marian's Advanced Science Research class

and Research Team, where she connected with a local eye doctor to study the effectiveness of two types of eye surgeries. She presented her work at several science competitions and won five awards. This influenced her decision to study chemistry, eye surgery or oncology at Johns Hopkins University, where she will attend this fall.

Cook understands more than most that it's important to cherish the time spent with family and friends.

Her favorite memory of high school was the five-year anniversary of her mother beating breast cancer. She said, "to celebrate, my sister and brother-in-law drove in from Chicago to surprise her. We sliced cake to hand out to Marian students during lunch hours and asked for donations for cancer research. I was surprised when I found several hundred dollars in the donation box. The generosity of the students showed their compassion for the plight of my families and thousands across the world. This day will always stick with me as a reminder of one of Jesus' central teachings: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"



**ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON**  
Catholic Church

is pleased to recognize

**Joshua Dippold**

2019 Valedictorian  
Bishop Luers High School

We congratulate you  
and wish you every blessing!

Congratulations to ALL the graduates, from TODAY'S CATHOLIC!

## Saint Joseph High School, South Bend

# Salutatorian Isabel Ortiz

Life consists of mainly faith, soccer and school for Saint Joseph High School salutatorian Isabel Ortiz. She and her family moved to Indiana



ISABEL ORTIZ

when she was in fifth grade, at which point her parents decided to enroll her in Catholic school instead of the public schools she had formerly attended. This made a strong impact on Isabel and the impression she had of the difference between the two.

"My experience in a Catholic grade school is what helped me make the decision to attend St. Joe and continue learning in an environment rooted in faith. It has been such a blessing to attend a Catholic high school, because it allowed me to grow in so many ways during my four years — not only as a student, but as a person."

In addition to personal growth, Ortiz believes her expo-

sure to ongoing faith formation throughout high school has provided her with opportunities for service she would not otherwise have had. This passion for service has led her to become involved with several clubs and sports during her four years at Saint Joseph, including soccer for four years, a two-year membership in both National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society, serving as a peer mentor and a member of the board of peer mentors and participating in student government as a Junior Class representative and student body vice president. Ortiz was also on a mock trial team for three years, serving as captain junior year; she helped coach a freshman mock trial team senior year and was a student ambassador for three years. Outside of school she volunteered as a leader at Reins of Life, a local nonprofit that provides therapeutic horse rides for children and adults with disabilities and just recently began volunteering in the intensive care unit at Memorial Hospital. She attended

two week-long mission trips with her youth group at St. Joseph Church and played club soccer for about eight years.

Some of Ortiz's most valued memories of her high school experience involve soccer, mainly because the team went to the state championship during her junior and senior years. Despite losses both times, Ortiz said she forged incredible bonds with her teammates, who became her friends, as well as with others she met while traveling.

"I've made friends I will have for the rest of my life, and I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to play with such an amazing group of people. Whether it be running jog-sprint-jogs on hot summer days or huddling up together at half-time during cold October games, I wouldn't trade my four years at Saint Joseph High School for anything."

Ortiz plans to attend the University of Notre Dame this fall and hopes to major in pre-health to possibly pursue a medical degree.

## Elkhart Central High School, Elkhart

# Valedictorian Thomas Coates

Elkhart Central valedictorian Thomas Coates knows it's not always easy to be a Catholic in a public high school. In a way, the role his faith has played in his high school experience and personal formation is more obvious to him precisely because he is in an environment, day in and day out, in which most of his peers do not share his beliefs.

"I pray every day before breakfast and lunch, and I'm kind of known for being well-mannered and not swearing. I've been lucky enough to grow up knowing to resist the temptations of drinking and smoking



THOMAS COATES

and instead focus on forming healthy friendships and developing strong study habits. Thanks to my faith, I've become the person I am today."

Like most teenagers with high academic achievements, Coates has been very busy these last four years. His extracurricular involvement included mostly musical endeavors; marching band for four years, including being on the leadership team his junior and senior years and serving as captain of the front ensemble as an upperclassman; participating in Winter Percussion band his sophomore through senior years and captain of the Front Ensemble as an upperclassman; and participating in Blazeline and Symphony Orchestra his junior and senior years. He also was inducted into the National Honor Society as

a senior, the same year he was a Rotary Guest Student; he was a Boy Scout all four years and Patrol Leader of Pack 750 as a freshman; and he participated in the youth group at his parish, St. Thomas the Apostle, Elkhart, all four years.

Coates' pastimes are mostly quiet activities, since he spends his days busy with school and music. He likes to draw in his notepad, which he carries with him everywhere, or jot down inspired thoughts and ideas. He also values the supportive friendships he has forged, noting that "I'm fortunate to have found a wonderful group of honest, kind people who hold similar values as I do — a rare trait in a public school."

Coates plans to pursue a degree in computer science at the University of Notre Dame this fall.

their homework and generally supervising them. "I respect the faith in many ways, particularly the emphasis on love, giving back and helping immigrants," he shared.

At Saint Joseph, Aguilar-Fraga was able to learn about the Catholic faith and understand more clearly what Catholics believe. He explained: "I was able to recognize the many good parts of the Catholic Church and the many parts I agree with, and therefore was able to establish common ground when talking about faith with others."

He will cherish most of his high school memories, which included time with his family and the close-knit group of friends made at Saint Joseph. He particularly loved working with the Quiz Bowl team and with the incredible teachers who opened him up to new ways of thinking about different subjects. He said that by working late on labs with friends, he was challenged to try to "understand new concepts in a different way," which Aguilar-Fraga believes will serve him throughout his life.

### FRAGA, from page 12

tion. I was also a member of the Mathletes club for four years, in which we competed in fun math tournaments at schools like Trine and Huntington."

Aguilar-Fraga has incorporated his knowledge of the Catholic faith into volunteer work for La Casa de Amistad, a South Bend community center focused on helping the Latino community. He also worked in the Crece Conmigo program, helping kids in grades K-6 with

## Penn High School, Mishawaka

# Valedictorian Aidan Kaczanowski

A creative professional and scientist at heart, Aidan Kaczanowski is valedictorian of Penn High School. He hopes to combine his love of computer programming into a potential career in computer science at Purdue University, West Lafayette, beginning this fall.

Computer programming has been Kaczanowski's main hobby throughout high school, as he tinkered with writing code for applications including "desktop applications, mobile apps, web development, to writing scripts that run on microcontrollers." He's hoping his internship programming for CTS Corporation in Elkhart this summer will help him build the necessary skills to remain atop the competition in a fast-changing industry.

Aside from his love of computer science, Kaczanowski has been very active in his home parish, St. Thomas the Apostle, Elkhart. He has participated in youth group; the National Right to Life March, twice; and volunteered as a religious education instructor for kindergartners when he was a freshman and sophomore and for fourth grad-



AIDAN KACZANOWSKI

ers his junior and senior years. He shared how strongly being a catechist has impacted his life. "Having the opportunity to pass my faith on to youngsters and teach them to listen for the voice of Christ in their hearts has been a powerful experience for me. On a less visible and deeper level, my faith has been a great source of strength throughout all of the struggles, successes and failures of high school."

Kaczanowski's hobby is playing chess. He believes that by honing his chess-playing skills instead of spreading himself more widely across various interests, he can improve his technique. During high school he has taken weekly chess lessons from a professional player to improve his skills, and he regularly attended several community chess organizations including the South Bend Chess Club, the Downtown Elkhart Chess Organization and occasionally the Chicory Cafe Chess Club. He competed regularly on the weekends, traveling to many of the major cities in the Midwest to attend chess tournaments. At school, he has been captain of the Penn High School chess team for four years and has "worked hard to teach the younger players and get them more involved in chess."

## Heritage High School, Monroeville

# Valedictorian William Oberley

After attending St. Louis Academy for eight years of Catholic education, Heritage High School valedictorian William Oberley embarked on a new venture in the realm of public high school. The experience was not without its moments of testing his faith.

"[My faith] has given me the strength I needed to persevere, even when I felt that I may have had too much on my plate," he said. "It has also assisted in my endeavors to make friends. I think my strong beliefs made me more approachable and friendly to people I met. High school also gave me my first real experience in telling others about God, because I had been surrounded by Catholics nearly all my years prior. That allowed my own faith, and hopefully the faith of those around me, to grow."

Oberley's main interests involve "hard sciences," which influenced his decision to attend Purdue University, West Lafayette, in the fall to pursue an aerospace engineering degree



WILLIAM OBERLEY

with a minor in software engineering or business. For fun, he reads and watches movies about space, technology and exploring. He also enjoys discussing movies and music with

his friends.

His accomplishments include being a member of the Heritage High School Student Council for four years. In addition to rigorous academic pursuits, Oberley is an athlete as well, playing golf and soccer for four years — defense in soccer, lettering his senior year. In golf, he lettered during his last three years. His freshman and sophomore years he also played basketball, which he traded to participate in an indoor soccer team with Heritage players during junior and senior

OBERLY, page 15

**OBERLY, from page 14**

years. He was also a member all four years of the Grillers, a group of students who met early and tailgated before football games. He participated in his church youth group at St. Louis, Besancon and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes for four years.

Oberly has a few special memories he hopes to carry with him as he enters adulthood. The long bus trips with his teammates going back and forth to games were natural conduits for casual conversation and lots of laughter. He remembers, too, that Honors English classes, though challenging, were less so because he was among good friends who helped lighten the load. His parish youth group trips to Cedar Point were both recreational and an opportunity for him to be among like-minded teens who encouraged his Catholic walk, he said.

**Baccalaureate Mass and graduation times**

**Bishop Dwenger**

Bishop Dwenger High School baccalaureate Mass will be at 5:30 p.m. May 22 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne with celebrant Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. A graduation ceremony will take place at 6 p.m. May 24 at the Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne.

**Bishop Luers**

Bishop Luers High School baccalaureate Mass is scheduled for 10 a.m. May 24 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne. The celebrant will be Bishop Rhoades. A graduation ceremony will take place at 4 p.m. on May 24 at the University of Saint Francis Robert Goldstine Performing Arts Center, Fort Wayne.

**Marian**

Marian High School baccalaureate Mass will be at 7 p.m. May 30 at St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend, with Bishop Rhoades celebrating. A graduation ceremony will begin 7 p.m. May 31 at the Morris Performing Arts Center, South Bend.

**Saint Joseph**

Saint Joseph High School baccalaureate Mass will take place at 2 p.m. on June 2 at St. Pius X Church in Granger, with Bishop Rhoades celebrating. The graduation ceremony will be at 7 p.m. June 3 at Purcell Pavilion in South Bend.

**'Honor Roll' distinction goes to Marian**

BY WILLIAM SCHMITT

**M**arian High School has been added to a prestigious list in Catholic education, but its principal says the announcement holds importance mostly for the journey that led to the recognition and the results seen in students' lives.

The Cardinal Newman Society, whose mission "to promote and defend faithful Catholic education" includes the placement of elementary and secondary schools on its national Catholic Education Honor Roll, reported in April that it had approved Marian as the 51st institution on the roster.

"This is a select group," said Dr. Denise Donohue, coordinator of the honor roll, in a news release. She noted that the Mishawaka school's application had demonstrated success "in meeting the key principles that guide Catholic education."

One other school in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Saint Joseph High School in South Bend, is currently on the honor roll, which is posted at the Cardinal Newman Society website. The society names schools to the list on a rolling basis and grants the status for a five-year period.

Marian principal Mark Kirzeder called the recognition "a blessing" that capped the self-reflective process of completing the application over a one-year period. He said it also reflects the school's much longer path of continuous improvement in living out its Catholic identity and vision in everyday life.

"Our focus was an invitation to analyze all of our programs and policies and invite people to think about how we're doing these things in light of our Catholic faith," said Kirzeder. School leaders proactively pursued the application as "a way for us to ensure we're being faithful to our mission."

The process ultimately reflected the fruits of various approaches embraced over time by administrators, teachers and others, including the student body, now numbering about 640, he said.

"You don't build a culture overnight," Kirzeder explained. "It takes a long, concerted effort."

Many dimensions comprise that culture-building endeavor, including a sense of identity and mission focused on the fullness and clarity of Catholicism. "We don't want to be a great private school that also teaches religion," the principal said. "Religion is integrated within our approach in every subject."

Judges of the application wanted to see the presence of faith spanning codes of conduct, student life, course descriptions and more.

Kirzeder remarked that, when



Provided by Mark Kirzeder

**Marian High School, Mishawaka, has earned inclusion on the Cardinal Newman Society's Catholic Education Honor Roll, an honor given due to its path of continuous improvement in modeling and living out its Catholic identity and vision in everyday life.**

hiring members of the approximately 50-member faculty, he tells a candidate, "I'm looking for a minister of the faith who also happens to teach calculus."

Faith formation and professional development bring the teachers into closer collaboration, said Kirzeder. He cited faculty participation in programs such as the University of Notre Dame's Science & Religion Initiative, which helped provide "a common vocabulary" so students would see reinforcement between the reasoning of the Church and scientists, between culture and faith.

The school's daily prayer life is modeled after the Liturgy of the Hours, starting in the morning. Spiritual practice and reflection have an annual thematic focus, this year's being the gifts of the Holy Spirit. During the Easter season, students have been singing the Regina Caeli ("Queen of Heaven") prayer in honor of Our Lord and the Blessed Virgin Mary. Recitation of the Angelus and a blessing precede lunch.

"It's a chance for our kids to interact with Catholic culture, to learn some of our prayers, history and traditions," Kirzeder said. "They learn what each of the [Holy Spirit's] gifts mean and how we can use them."

During their four years of study, young people can experience "constant conversion" through Masses and retreats and

the other practices. Together, they point toward a life of discipleship and virtue, Kirzeder said.

This culture connects with an annual

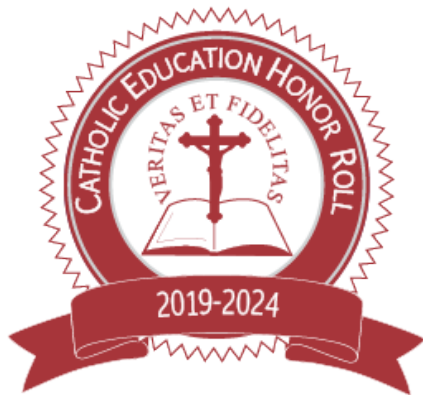
schoolwide day of service and many other contributions to the community outside school walls.

"Our kids serve over 50 agencies each year, such as South Bend's Center for the Homeless and Our Lady of Road (a drop-in site offering food and renewal for the poor), according to Kirzeder. He emphasized these activities do not spring from a metrics-based service requirement at the school. "They're tied to reflection on Gospel values and integration into Catholic mission — why we are serving. We want it to be much more than checking off the hours."

For all these reasons, Marian High School will proudly publicize its new Catholic Education Honor Roll placement but expects students will experience it through school spirit and as a lifetime influence, "more than the award itself," Kirzeder said.

"Because we're being faithful to our mission, the Lord blesses us in countless ways with regard to student achievement and vocations that come out of the school," he said. The benefit for students "affects their relationships with peers, their families, how they interact with the world, how they treat one another — all wrapped up in the Gospel values that are exemplified in the Honor Roll status."

The journey for the students continues after the recognition has been bestowed, Kirzeder pointed out. And the same future focus is true for the whole school, he added, while expressing gratitude for the application process and the school leaders' desire to validate their path. "This is a great road map for us."



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## Graduation, diplomas and degrees: What is your identity?

This time of year is always marked by transitions. Whether it be graduations, weddings or simply traveling for the summer, we often find ourselves moving from one place to another or from one state of life to the next. And what do we typically do? We seek to commemorate these things in some way. We have diplomas to certify our accomplishments, marriage certificates signed and sealed and pictures taken in the places we have been.

These are all great things, and indeed things to celebrate. It makes me think of the new college graduate who is able to display his fresh new diploma in a mahogany frame in his or her brand-new cubicle. Certainly, moments such as these offer a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment.

So, what is the greatest accomplishment in your life? Graduation? Your career? Athletic or fitness accomplishments? Look at the walls in your home or office. What do they display most prominently?

It seems to me all of these things are a mere drop in the bucket compared to our identity as beloved sons and daughters of God. Degrees and diplomas are fine, but they cannot be our fundamental benchmark for success. Likewise, we can be the most athletic and fittest person in the room, but we all face the deterioration which comes with age. And even the most successful

and stable careers are fleeting.

What is not, though, is your baptism as a son or daughter of God. On that day, whether you were an unconscious child or an adult, God the Father breathed His Spirit into you, configured you to His Son's body, and claimed you for His own. In such an act, which we can do absolutely nothing to earn, God indelibly marked our souls for all eternity to indicate that we are His.

So, I propose two means to reclaiming our identities as sons and daughters of God.

First, call the parish where you were baptized and ask them to send you a copy of your baptismal certificate. If you have been confirmed, received first Communion, were married or ordained, all of these things also will be noted. Then go buy a nice frame for it and hang it in a prominent place in your home or office. After all, this is not a mere diploma that attests to a degree, but rather a certificate that attests to your destiny with the Father in heaven. I can't think of any greater reminder to hang on your wall.

Once you do this, I suggest making a daily renewal of your baptismal vows first thing in the morning. Perhaps with a little holy water font next to your baptismal certificate, you could bless yourself with the holy water and recite the Creed, or simply say: "I am a beloved child of God. Thank you, Lord, for calling me to heaven."



### A VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS

BRIAN ISENBARGER

Lastly, as we look to Jesus in the Eucharist, let us not forget this fact: While we were adopted by God the Father in our baptism, through Christ's most holy body and blood, which mingles with our very own bodies and blood, we truly become sons and daughters of God. Our fragile bodies take on His own glorious body, and our own blood mingles with the blood of the resurrected Lord. In short, as we look at Jesus in the Eucharist, we see the clearest indicator of who we are now and who we are called to be in eternity.

That, my friends, is your truest identity.

**Brian Isenbarger** is a seminarian of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. He is studying at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

## The destination must direct the way

Many people say that they don't hear too many sermons about hell anymore. I believe this is true in general, but I will say that I preach about it a good bit. However, I would like to point out that the same could be said about sermons on heaven. Try to remember the last time you heard a sermon that dealt with the topic, let alone inspired a longing for heaven.

Too many sermons focus on this world: how to live in it, how to deal with moral and ethical problems, and how to be happier in it. It is not wrong to preach about such things as long as it does not divert focus from our ultimate destination: heaven or hell. To be vague, uninspiring or silent about our goal and desired destination is spiritually disastrous.

To illustrate, consider a man who sets out in his car for New York City from Washington, D.C. His destination guides every turn he takes, every navigational decision he makes. If he sees a sign that says, "South to Richmond," he knows not to take that exit. He doesn't have to deliberate; the answer is clear because his destination is clear. Consider, though, what might happen if he were uncertain about where he was going or forgot: The road signs might cause stress and confusion. He might think, "Perhaps this is the way I should go ... or maybe not. How do I know? Maybe there will be fun



### COMMUNITY IN MISSION

MSGR. CHARLES POPE

things to see and do along that route." Soon enough he might be driving all over the map, lost in diversions, distractions, and — ultimately — dead ends. He might in fact see some pleasant sights along the way, but deep down he would begin to sense that none of this driving around was adding up to anything.

Without a destination we are lost, confused and worried. To live without a clear goal is stressful because we have little basis on which to make good decisions; every choice seems difficult. With little ability to determine what is truly good for us, we focus on temporary pleasure, becoming easy prey for the hucksters of this world. So, our credit cards are maxed out, our hearts are divided and we feel unmoored.

Where are we going? When was the last time we really thought about it? Too many of us are living unreflective, directionless lives. We don't really know where we are going, but we're sure in a big hurry to get there!

Have a goal: heaven! Focus

POPE, page 17

## Peace will be with those who love God



### THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

### Sixth Sunday of Easter John 14:23-29

The Acts of the Apostles again provides the first reading for a weekend in the Easter season.

As it grew, Christianity not only expanded beyond its original base in the Holy Land, but it also drew gentiles as well as Jews. Diversity was a characteristic early in the evolution of the Church.

This increasingly multicultural nature of the Christian community, however, presented problems, and these problems are evident in this weekend's reading.

A dispute arose in Antioch, located on the Mediterranean Sea north of the Holy Land, at

the time one of the major cities of the Roman Empire.

In Antioch's recently formed Christian community, people from all backgrounds were present. Jews would have been among them, but others were not of Jewish background. Still, the major figures among Christians at the time, most certainly including the Apostles who had known Jesus, or their earliest followers, were Jews.

The argument was about circumcision, the ancient and requisite ritual followed in Judaism for Jewish males even to this day. Evidently, some Antioch Christians were demanding that converts from paganism submit themselves to this ritual.

Neither Antioch's Christian leaders, nor Antioch's individual Christians, resolved the dispute. The debate raged. It was a source of division, and probably hard feelings, for the Christians. Apparently, things were not improving. So the question was sent to Jerusalem for review by the Apostles.

Replying, the Apostles called the Antioch Christians "brothers," one and all, without any

distinction. The Apostles said that this Hebrew ritual need not be imposed upon converts. They based their decision on their own authority, conferred upon them by the Holy Spirit.

The Book of Revelation furnishes the second reading. This reading is poetic and highly symbolic. The city, of course, is heaven, but it is called the "heavenly Jerusalem." This heavenly city awaits all who love God. On each of its four sides are three gates, open and available to anyone wanting entry. Three was a perfect number. The four sides refer to the four corners of the earth. In other words, everyone is welcome.

The names of the 12 tribes of Israel appear on the city's walls, another symbol to say that salvation is offered to all. No tribe is excluded.

St. John's Gospel gives this weekend the third eloquent reading. It makes three points.

Jesus calls upon the disciples to love each other. It will not be easy all the time, but following Christ will not be impossible, as the Holy Spirit will assist and strengthen the faithful.

Finally, for those who truly love God, peace will be with them. Peace is not simply an absence of conflict, or necessarily involving only societies or nations. It is the reward enjoyed by an individual human heart and soul that comes from knowing that God is present and merciful.

### Reflection

The Church is directing us to Pentecost, but it is far from merely pointing us to an anniversary. The Church is telling us that if we accept Jesus and live by the Gospel, God will be with us in the presence of the Holy Spirit.

The Church gives us very practical advice. Since being with God in the heavenly Jerusalem is the only true source of peace, and being separated from God is death, we reach God's heavenly Jerusalem by our daily decisions to follow Jesus.

The route to heaven requires voluntary commitment to Christ but also letting the Lord illumine each step of our personal path. Relying upon Christ and upon

the Lord's Apostles, the Church now shows us the way, guiding us with Christian faith and love.

As we look ahead to Pentecost, the Church calls us to strong faith, but also to realism. We need the Lord's guidance. Without Jesus, we stumble and wander.

### READINGS

**Sunday:** Acts 15:1-2, 22-29 Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8 Rv 21:10-14, 22-23 Jn 14:23-29

**Monday:** Acts 16:11-15 Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b Jn 15:26-16:4a

**Tuesday:** Acts 16:22-34 Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8 Jn 16:5-11

**Wednesday:** Acts 17:15, 22-18:1 Ps 148:1-2, 11-14 Jn 16:12-15

**Thursday:** Acts 18:1-8 Ps 98:1-4 Jn 16:16-20

**Friday:** Zep 3:14-18a (Ps) Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 Lk 1:39-56

**Saturday:** Acts 18:23-28 Ps 47:2-3, 8-10 Jn 16:23b-28



# On the composting of thee and me

In Herman Wouk's novel, "War and Remembrance," Warren Henry shocks his Bible-reading father, the novel's hero, by claiming that human beings are "microbes on a grain of dust ... and when it's over we're just dead meat." The Washington state Legislature has now topped the cynical young Henry by declaring that we're useful meat, as in potential compost, such that one can legally choose to be composted after death, then used for fertilizer.

The case for composting thee and me is put in reassuring ecological terms. "There are significant environmental problems with burying ... bodies," according to state Sen. Jamie Pedersen, author of the human composting bill. Katrina Spade, the founder of "Recompose" (the company promoting human composting) described the process by which her firm does its grubby business as "the same process happening on the forest floor as leaf litter, chipmunks, and tree branches decompose and turn into topsoil." Lynn Carpenter-Boggs, a Washington State University researcher who tried Spade's process on six cadavers, told the *Washington Post* that "the material we had, at the end, was really lovely; I'd be happy to have it in my yard."

There, now: doesn't that make you feel better?

Anyone paying attention to the churnings of American politics knows that the coastal strip of the Pacific Northwest, between Eugene, Oregon, and the northern suburbs of Seattle, is an asylum of political correctness, fueled by what a cultural anthropologist might call substitute religions. What was already the most unchurched part of the country when I lived there from 1975 to 1984 has experimented, over the past four decades, with various ultramundane religious-

ties — from socialism to radical feminism to gender theory to the most esoteric forms of environmentalism — often layering one mania on top of another. With human composting, this madcap exercise has now been turned inside out, demonstrating the ancient truth that the worship of false gods — in this case, Gaia, or the Earth — is a sure prescription for lethal incongruity.

In the biblical view of things, men and women, created in God's image and likeness, have a God-given dignity that implies a responsibility to care for God's creation, the Earth. Exercising that responsibility is a good thing here-and-now; it's also an act of generosity toward future generations, who should inherit the Earth as a garden to cultivate, not a garbage dump to manage. But if men and women are, in the final analysis, compost — "a cubic yard of soil," as Spade told the *Post* — why should we possess a unique dignity? Why should we bear any special responsibility to treat the Earth and other living creatures well? If we're just compost-waiting-to-happen, why should we treat nature with respect?

If human beings have no special dignity within creation, then we have no special responsibility for creation. By declaring us proto-fertilizer, the human composters implicitly deny our innate and distinctive spiritual qualities — our ability to reason and to choose, to love, to sacrifice, to act altruistically and to rise above self-indulgence and violence. Logically, then, don't the human composters undercut their own case for the care of the Earth and its creatures? Radical environmentalism in the form of human composting leads to an ecological nihilism antithetical to the moral case for "sustainability."

Turning each other into com-



## THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

GEORGE WEIGEL

post also vitiates the ancient human instinct to create special places for the dead, where loved ones may be visited and their memory honored. To gut that instinct by composting relatives and friends for use in Lynn Carpenter-Boggs's yard suggests that the bonds of love, friendship and community that exist in life really aren't really significant: If we're just fertilizer, why should we be valued in life and cherished in death?

It's long been obvious that certain forms of radical environmentalism are an ersatz religion, with an ersatz sacred text (Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring"), ersatz sacraments (those multiple recycling bins), an ersatz Satan (Big Oil), an ersatz theology of the Kingdom (the aforementioned "sustainability"), and an ersatz moral theology (using plastic straws being the latest example of an eco-mortal sin). It was only a matter of time before this ersatz religion's false anthropology and cosmology — its denial of the unique status of human beings in a natural order that's created, not accidental — would lead to the grotesque. With human composting, gussied up as a matter of ecological responsibility, the grotesque has most assuredly arrived.

George Weigel is Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.

### POPE, from page 16

on it. Dream about it. Long for it. Make it direct your "modus vivendi." We should want to die loving God and our neighbor so that we can go home to heaven and be with God forever. Let every decision you make be in service of this one, clear goal. Carefully review your life and ask yourself, "Am I moving closer to my goal? How? What things have hindered me or diverted me from it?"

Consider this beautiful meditation from Pope St. Gregory the Great, which is in the Office of Readings this week: "If anyone enters the sheepfold through me, he shall be saved; he shall go freely in and out and shall find good pasture. He will enter into a life of faith; from faith he will go out to vision, from belief to contemplation, and will graze in the good pastures of everlasting life.

"So our Lord's sheep will finally reach their grazing ground where all who follow him in simplicity of heart will feed on

the green pastures of eternity. These pastures are the spiritual joys of heaven. There the elect look upon the face of God with unclouded vision and feast at the banquet of life for ever more.

"Beloved brothers, let us set out for these pastures where we shall keep joyful festival with so many of our fellow citizens. May the thought of their happiness urge us on! Let us stir up our hearts, rekindle our faith, and long eagerly for what heaven has in store for us.

"To love thus is to be already on our way. No matter what obstacles we encounter, we must not allow them to turn us aside from the joy of that heavenly feast.

"Anyone who is determined to reach his destination is not deterred by the roughness of the road that leads to it. Nor must we allow the charm of success to seduce us, or we shall be like a foolish traveler who is so distracted by the pleasant meadows through which he is passing that he forgets where he is going. (From a homily on the

Gospels by Pope St. Gregory the Great, Hom. 14, 3-6: PL 76, 1129-1130).

In his Letter to the Philippians, St. Paul wrote, "This one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize of God's heavenly calling in Christ Jesus. Whatever was an asset to me I count as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things as loss compared to the surpassing excellence of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him ... Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been perfected, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me" (Phil 3: 7-9; 12-14).

Onward, upward, to the goal!

Msgr. Charles Pope is the pastor of Holy Comforter — St. Cyprian Catholic Church, Washington, D.C.

## SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for May 26, 2019

John 14:23-29

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for Sixth Sunday of Easter, Cycle C: Part of Jesus' Last Supper address to his disciples. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

MY WORD	MY FATHER	COME TO
LOVE ME	HEAR	NOT MINE
SENT ME	ADVOCATE	SPIRIT
REMINDE	PEACE	I LEAVE
I GIVE	THE WORLD	HEARTS
TROUBLED	AFRAID	HEARD
REJOICE	GREATER	BELIEVE

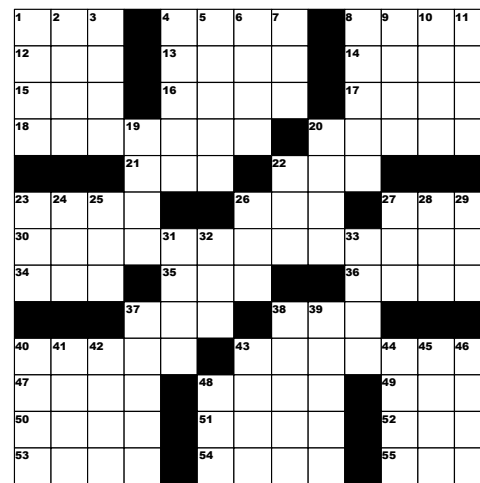
### I LEAVE PEACE

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

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## The Cross Word

May 19 and 26, 2019



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Readings: Act 14:21-27; Rev 21: 1-5a; Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35 and Acts 15:1-2, 22-29; Rev 21:10-15, 22-23; Jn 14:23-29

### ACROSS

- 1 Farming club (abbr.)
- 4 Son of Man wore \_\_\_\_\_ of gold
- 8 Organization for civil liberties (abbr.)
- 12 Chrism
- 13 Gym place
- 14 \_\_\_\_\_ *ex machina*
- 15 Clock time
- 16 Disorderly retreat
- 17 Pen fillers
- 18 Lystra, Antioch & \_\_\_\_\_
- 20 Known as Simon
- 21 Canoe propeller
- 22 Energy unit

- 23 Competition at the Greek games
- 26 Sister for short
- 27 This "was no more" of \_\_\_\_\_
- 30 Claims illness when not
- 34 Appropriate
- 35 Flee
- 36 \_\_\_\_\_ of the Apostles
- 37 "Son of \_\_\_\_\_"
- 38 Seven
- 40 Ar (gas)
- 43 Abducts
- 47 Pairs
- 48 Upon
- 49 Fixed charge
- 50 Lotion ingredient
- 51 Red mark


- 52 Manned
- 53 Crimson
- 54 Snaky fish
- 55 "The \_\_\_\_\_ order has passed away"

### DOWN

- 1 Central points
- 2 State treasury
- 3 Singing voice
- 4 Antioch, Cilicia & \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 'Love' (Italian)
- 6 Filthy film
- 7 Shake
- 8 Bye
- 9 Coin
- 10 Author of Acts
- 11 Russia
- 19 Taboo
- 20 Stress disorder
- 22 Grain holder
- 23 Expression of surprise
- 24 Swindle
- 25 Choose
- 26 "\_\_\_\_\_ of man"
- 27 Attack
- 28 Feed
- 29 American Cancer Society (abbr.)
- 31 \_\_\_\_\_ berry
- 32 Attila was one
- 33 Shower
- 37 The Law-Giver
- 38 Alive
- 39 Heathen gods
- 40 6th month (Jewish calendar)
- 41 The Golden \_\_\_\_\_
- 42 "The \_\_\_\_\_ News"
- 43 Genuflect joint
- 44 70s hairdo
- 45 Church bells do
- 46 Do with representatives
- 48 IOU part

Answer Key can be found on page 19

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**Laughter Tim Conway 'gave world will never be replaced,' says daughter**

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Tim Conway, who died May 14 in Los Angeles at age 85, was probably best known for his 11 seasons on TV's "The Carol Burnett Show," where he delighted viewers with outlandish sketch comedy and physical humor. Others remember him from his four-year stint on the sitcom "McHale's Navy." "I'm heartbroken," Burnett said in a statement. "He was one in a million, not only as a brilliant comedian but as a loving human being. I cherish the times we had together both on the screen and off. He'll be in my heart forever." In the years leading up to his successful TV career, Conway had a lot of ups and downs, but he once told Catholic News Service in an interview that he was able to weather it all because of his Catholic faith. "If I didn't have that, I would be crying constantly," Conway said in a 2007 interview with CNS Media Editor Mark Pattison. "I've always had a good sense of humor and not looked at life too seriously. My life, compared to the Big Bang, is quite minute. I've always had faith, and somebody to communicate with, too, when things are falling apart around you," he said. "I've always had a very, very strong belief. That's something to hold onto. ... You have to have somebody or something to turn to. Faith just kinda relaxes things a little bit."

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

**Viva! bilingual concert**

**FORT WAYNE** — A night of bilingual music, testimonies, and prayer will be Saturday, June 1, at Bishop Luers High School gym, 333 E. Paulding Rd. Doors open at 6 p.m. for concessions and vendors. Concert begins at 7 p.m. Corazón Puro, Jackie Herrera Ministries, and Jorge Rivera will make this an inspiring event. Bishop Luers High School will raffle a \$500 scholarship.

6, 7-8:30 p.m., with Dr. Jeff Feathergill, Psy.D., who will share insights based in faith and psychology that offer help on the difficult road of recovery from grief and loss. A remembrance service for loved ones will follow. Light refreshments will be served following the presentation. Visit <https://www.stpius.net/grieving-with-hope> for information or contact Michael Rubbelke at 574-272-8462.

**St. Pius X grief series: Journeying with Faith through Grief and Loss**  
**GRANGER** — The St. Pius X "Grieving with Hope" series will conclude Thursday, June

**Saints Open golf outing**  
**FORT WAYNE** — The 23rd annual Saints Open golf outing will be Friday, June 7, at noon at Cherry Hill Golf Club. Cost of \$100 per

player must be paid in full by Thursday, June 6, at noon. Contact Molly Schreck at 260-496-4775.

## The Crossword

May 19 and 26, 2019



## REST IN PEACE

**Auburn**

Charley Mitchell, 78, Immaculate Conception

**Decatur**

Arlene R. Bentz, 86, St. Mary of the Assumption

Brea Zoll, 39, St. Mary of the Assumption

Carmen R. Hurst, 76, St. Mary of the Assumption

**Elkhart**

Terry Stewart, 77, St. Thomas the Apostle

Edward Gastonguay, St. Thomas the Apostle

Irma Frick, 95, St. Thomas the Apostle

Louise Bibbo, 90, St. Thomas the Apostle

**Fort Wayne**

Thomas R. Jones, 83, St. Charles Borromeo

Caroline Demetroff, 93, St. Jude

Daniel Wagner, 73, St. Jude

Robert Kosiarek, 83, St. Vincent de Paul

William Bieker, 80, St. Charles Borromeo

Dolly M. Packer, 97, St. Joseph - Hessen Cassel

Terrence Ward, 83, St. John the Baptist

Marsha Jordan, 67, St. Vincent de Paul

Catarina Guevara, 82, Cathedral/Immaculate Conception

Gordon A. Eichman, 82, Cathedral/Immaculate Conception

**Mishawaka**

Sylvia Van Duyse, 76, St. Bavo

Jean Forte, 92, St. Joseph

Dominic Bartolini, 92, St. Joseph

**South Bend**

Frances A. Thomas, 91, St. Anthony de Padua

Margo Bell, 72, Christ the King

Joseph McFarland, 37, Christ the King

Dennis Heck, 71, Christ the King

Dolores Billisitz, 90, Christ the King

Jean Ann Cohen, 89, Christ the King

**Waterloo**

Edith Walker, 82, St. Michael the Archangel



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Stephanie Howe, Personnel Assistant, Catholic Schools Office  
260-422-4611 x 3335 | [showe@diocesefwsb.org](mailto:showe@diocesefwsb.org)

or visit [www.DioceseFWSB.org/Job-Openings/Administrator-Positions](http://www.DioceseFWSB.org/Job-Openings/Administrator-Positions)

Applications available at [www.DioceseFWSB.org/Administrative-Application](http://www.DioceseFWSB.org/Administrative-Application)

Application Deadline: May 24, 2019



**NOW HIRING**  
Director of Faith Formation  
Our Lady of Grace, Noblesville

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, Noblesville, Indiana, seeks to hire a Director of Faith Formation (DFF). The DFF will report to the Pastor and will oversee six staff members serving in the areas of Elementary Religious Education, Youth and Young Adult ministry, and the RCIA. The DFF will have direct responsibility for all Adult Formation programming in the parish, be responsible for developing and facilitating a unified overall vision for faith formation in the parish, and serve as a liaison and support to all other parish ministries that engage in any form of faith formation. Resumes should be sent to the parish office at [churchoffice@ologn.org](mailto:churchoffice@ologn.org) by June 15, 2019.

Our Lady of Grace is a parish of 1500 households in the county seat of Hamilton County, just north of Indianapolis, Indiana, in the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana.  
[www.ologn.org](http://www.ologn.org)

*Give your family peace of mind with an affordable, preplanned Catholic funeral and burial.*

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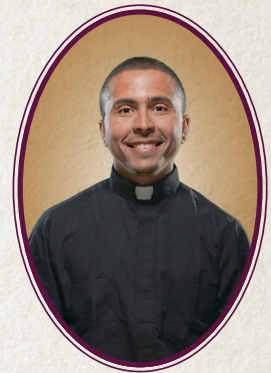


## ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON Catholic Church



The prayers and joy of everyone at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish are with our Son of Seton

**Rev. Mr. Daniel Niezer**  
and his classmates, Rev. Mr. José Arroyo and Rev. Mr. Spenser St. Louis, and their families, on the occasion of their ordination to the priesthood of Jesus Christ.



*For the flock he is a shepherd...he devotes himself to the mission not fifty or sixty percent, but with all he has.*

Pope Francis

# Glory and Praise Forever



*Rev. Mr. Spenser St. Louis  
will be ordained to the Holy  
Priesthood June 1, 2019*

*With God's help, you will continue to  
succeed in your leadership and in your duties,  
because Our Lord's work is accomplished not  
so much by the multitude of workers as by the  
fidelity of the small number whom He calls.*

-St. Vincent de Paul

A parish son who has made us proud  
and for whom we wish a Priestly ministry  
filled with joy, peace and eternal fruitfulness.

**REV. DANIEL SCHEIDT  
REV. JAY HORNING  
REV. POLYCARP FERNANDO  
AND THE ENTIRE  
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL, FORT WAYNE PARISH FAMILY**

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